



# HPS

Professional Archaeological Services

Site of Proposed Buckton Fields Free School, Brampton Lane, NN2 8EX

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**Client:** HSP Consulting

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**Project:** Desk-Based Assessment

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## Non-Technical Summary

In June 2018 Heritage Planning Services Ltd was commissioned by HSP Consulting (the client) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the site of the proposed Buckton Fields Free School (the study area).

The study area comprises part of two larger fields divided by a north-south aligned hedgerow, located in the civil parish of Boughton in the county of Northamptonshire. The study area lies on the south side of Brampton Lane at the upper edge of the Nene valley, where the land begins sloping down to the west. The parish of Boughton lies at the northern edge of the borough of Northampton.

Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity have highlighted the potential for Prehistoric and Roman activity, though it is not clear whether any of this extended into the study area. during WWII a searchlight battery was established just to the east of the study area; peripheral functions associated with this site may have spread into the eastern part of the study area.

Despite the favourable location of the study area, with extensive views of the Nene valley, there is no confirmed trace of past activity within the study area before the Post-Medieval period, when the present field system was laid out. This may have been due to a shortage of natural water sources. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed during the walkover survey.

Based on the available evidence it is concluded that while there is good background evidence for Prehistoric activity in the general area, there is little to indicate past activity within the study area prior to WWII, but this has yet to be tested fully by archaeological evaluation.

# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1. In June 2018 Heritage Planning Services Ltd was commissioned by HSP Consulting (the client) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the site of the proposed Buckton Fields Free School, NN2 8EX (hereafter referred to as the study area).
- 1.2. Planning permission is being sought for the development of the site as a school.
- 1.3. The DBA has been undertaken following a request from HSP Consulting for a Desk-Based Assessment, due to the possible historic environment implications of redeveloping the site.
- 1.4. This document has been compiled by David Etheridge BA, Mphil and managed by Sam Driscoll, MA, MCiFA and is completed under HPS project reference HPS276/18.

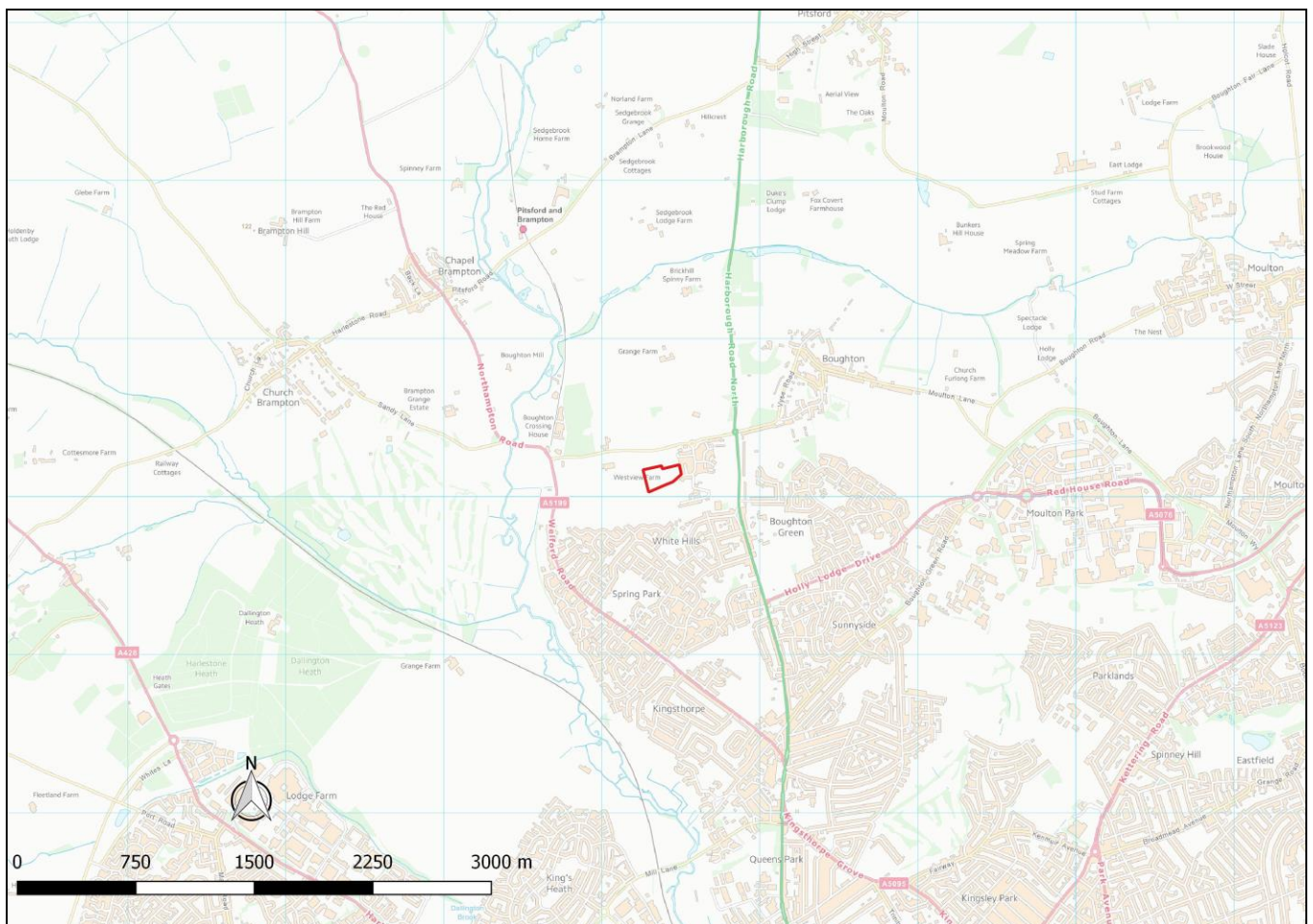


Figure 1. Location of the Study Area (indicated in red).

## The Study Area

- 1.5. The study area lies within the parish of Boughton, district of Daventry in the county of Northampton, c. 4.8km north of Northampton town centre and close to the northern edge of the Northampton conurbation. It is located on the south side of the unclassified Brampton Lane (at





NGR SP 7436 6523), which runs east-west between the A508 Market Harborough Road and the A5199 Northampton/Welford Road, both north/south routes on the north side of Northampton.

- 1.6. The study area comprises former agricultural land located on undulating ground between the 90 and 110m aOD contours, on the upper west facing slope of the upper Nene valley. The south flowing River Nene lies some 922m to the west at c. 65m aOD.
- 1.7. The general area is characterised by fields of arable farming, with both cereal crops, rape and market gardening in evidence. However, the site visit confirmed that land to the east of the study area has recently been developed as a housing estate.
- 1.8. The underlying geology of the study area would appear to be ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation (BGS 2018). To the south and east lie deposits of interbedded sandstone and siltstone of the Stamford Member; both dating to the Jurassic period (ibid.). No superficial deposits (drift) are recorded.



Figure 2: Detailed Site Location. Approximate boundary of the study area outlined in red.



## 2. Planning Policy

### NPPF

- 2.1. "In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary." Paragraph 128.

### Aims

- 2.2. The aim of this study is to:

- Identify the presence of designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets within the Study Area;
- Identify the potential of the study area to include archaeological deposits and to determine, where possible, their condition and likely level of survival;
- Provide an assessment of the known or predicted heritage assets considering their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests;
- Define the potential development impact to the archaeological resource.

## 3. Methodology

- 3.1. This document has been prepared in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (revised Dec 2014), which states that a DBA '*will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area*' and that in '*development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact*' (CIfA 2014: 4).





3.2. All work was carried out in line with the following standards and guidance-

- *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Guidance Document, University of Reading, Reading;
- *The Management of Archaeological Projects-2*. English Heritage, 1991;
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 128*. Communities and Local Government 2012.

3.3. The aim was to produce a document that not only considered the potential for archaeological remains on the Project Site, but to also put these into their historical and archaeological context.

3.4. The primary repositories for information consulted comprised:

- Northants Historic Environment Record;
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
- AMIE database/Pastscape;
- Geological Maps;
- Ordnance Survey maps of the site and its environs;
- Historical maps and documents held in the Northamptonshire Archives;
- Appropriate archaeological and historical journals and books;
- Unpublished research reports and archives, including those held by relevant museums and local societies.



## 4. Baseline Survey: The Site Visit

4.1. A site visit was carried out on the afternoon of 18 June 2018. The conditions were warm, dry and sunny, with little cloud cover.

4.2. The study area comprises a small portion of two

adjoining fields divided by a north-south aligned mature hedgerow on the south side of Brampton Lane, Boughton, Northamptonshire, at NGR SP 7436 6523 . For descriptive purposes the area to the west will be referred to as Area A, with the area to the east referred to as Area B.

4.3. In plan the study area is an irregular polygon on a roughly east west alignment, reflecting the underlying planning proposals and the alignment of the central hedgerow.

4.4. Access to Area A was obtained via an area of rough parking located on the south side at the western end of Brampton Lane, close to the junction with the Welford Road. This then entailed a walk uphill towards the study area over the intervening fields, which did not appear to be currently under crop. It was noted that where exposed, the soil of the lower slopes was richer than the soil within the study area; some Post-Medieval ceramics were also observed at the surface of the lower slopes; no finds were observed from Area A, despite careful observation of exposed and disturbed patches of soil.



*Photo 1. View towards and across Area A, looking east, with Brampton Lane behind the hedge on the left.*



*Photo 2. View from the study area to the north and west, with Brampton Lane behind the hedge on the left and the far side of the Nene Valley visible in the distance.*



*Photo 3. View south across the southern part of Area A towards the White Hills estate.*



4.5. Area A is close to the top of the eastern side of the Nene valley, and in places affords good views across the valley to the west, with slightly more limited views to the south; views to the north and east were restricted by high hedges. The land is undulating, forming the head of a shallow valley that falls westward towards the Nene, but also sloping down towards Brampton Lane. The latter appears to be carried on a causeway, so that the adjoining portion of Area A is lower than the road surface.

4.6. At present most of Area A is under long grass, with paths mown or trodden through. Field boundaries shown on current and former OS maps appeared to be largely absent. The more northerly boundary was marked by a change of mowing regime, with land more closely cropped/mown.



*Photo 4. View of the construction compound on Area B, looking north.*

4.7. The northern portion of Area A is a clear vantage point, with the highpoints offering views of the Nene valley and Brampton Lane. In principle therefore, this would have offered earlier settlers a useful location; however, the lack of running water was noted.

4.8. Area B is located on the eastern side of the hedge and was accessed from Home Farm Drive off the south side of Brampton Lane. The southern part of Area B is currently a construction compound, while the northerly section is open, but used for the storage and stacking of construction materials.



*Photo 5. View from the north-western edge of Area B, looking south towards the compound.*

4.9. The land here is generally level, but the ground has been disturbed by the passage of heavy plant whilst the soil was wet. Nothing of archaeological significance could be observed within the compound, as most of the ground was covered. A few sherds of Post-Medieval and modern pottery, together with one clay pipe stem fragment, were observed in the exposed topsoil of the northern area. Some of the topsoil here may have been scraped off previously.

4.10. There was enough finds material to suggest Post-Medieval settlement in the vicinity, though probably not within the study area.





## 5. Baseline Survey: Archaeological and Historical

### Introduction

- 5.1. The information presented here is derived from sources including the Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Record, the Historic England National Monuments Record database (PastScape), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), the Historic England Archive, and surviving cartographic resources, along with other published or documentary sources.
- 5.2. Trawls of the National Heritage List for England, Magic.gov.uk, PastScape, the Historic England Archive and the Northamptonshire HER have revealed the following:

### Statutory Constraints

- 5.3. No statutory heritage constraints have been identified within the study area.

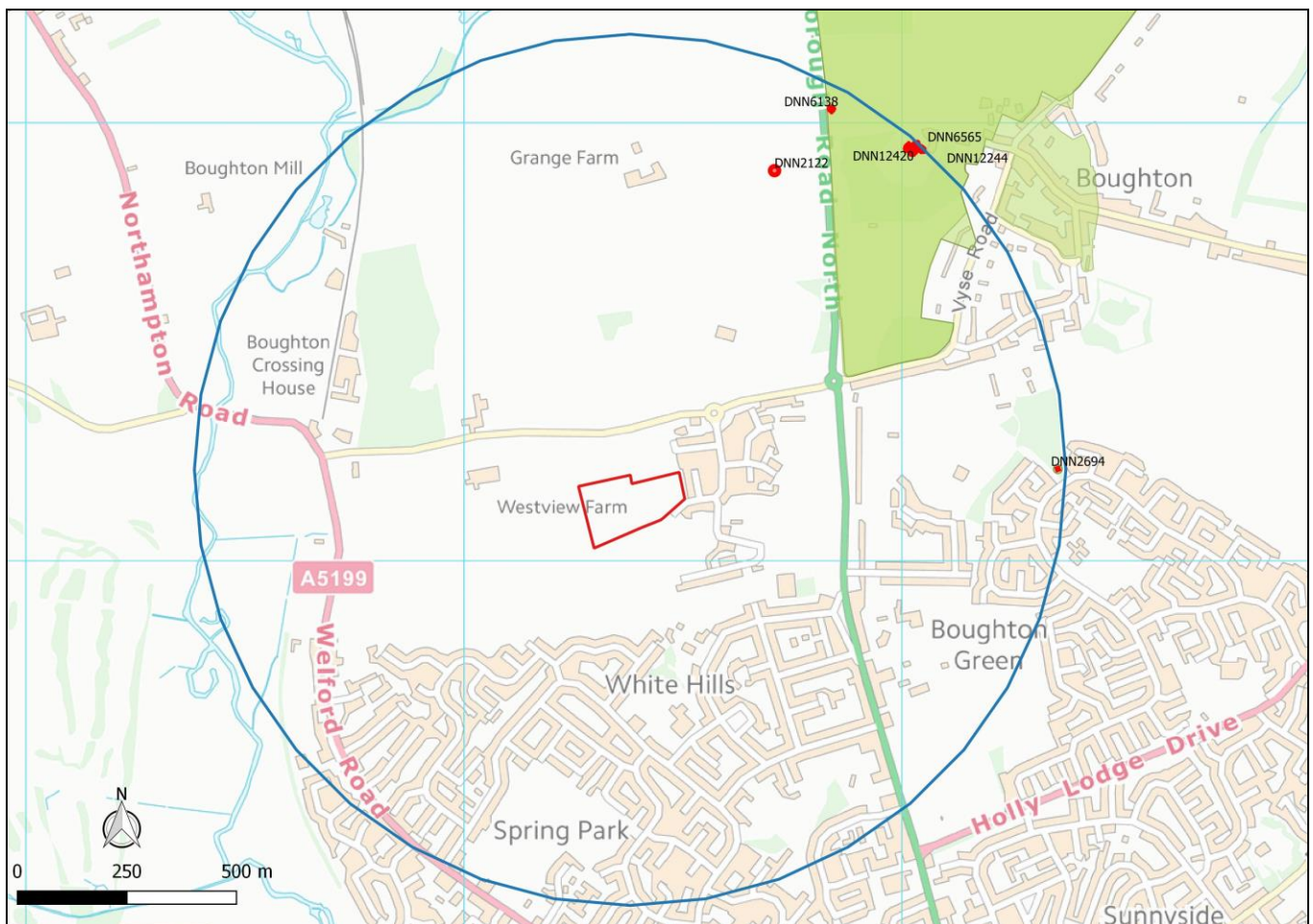


Figure 3. Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks & Gardens, citing Northamptonshire County Council HER DesigUID.



## **Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas**

- 5.4. There are no listed buildings within the study area, which does not lie within a conservation area. The nearest conservation area encloses the registered park and garden of Boughton Hall (see below).
- 5.5. There are three listed buildings within a 1km radius of the study area; two are clustered towards the northeastern edge of the trawl boundary. At 1km distance is the Grade II listed Boughton Hall, set within the Conservation Area and Registered Park and Garden. Also within the latter two, on the east side of Harborough Road, is the Grade II listed Hawking Tower, c. 865m from the study area.
- 5.6. The Grade II listed obelisk is located 855m east of the study area; now partially enclosed by the Boughton Green estate, and within a small detached enclave of the Boughton Conservation Area.

## **Scheduled Monuments and other Statutory Heritage Constraints**

- 5.7. The nearest Scheduled Monument (SM) is the Boughton Bowl Barrow, a Bronze Age tumulus that stands two metres high and is c. 20m in diameter; it is reported that in the 1970s Bronze Age pottery and worked flints were retrieved from the southern part of the field in which the barrow stood (HE 2018). The barrow stands 684m northeast of the study area, while the area of reported Bronze Age finds (not scheduled) lies c. 460m northeast of the study area.
- 5.8. The next nearest SM is the site of 'Old St Johns Church', located some 2.13km west of the study area.
- 5.9. The nearest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is the Cotswold AONB, which lies some 37km to the southwest, while the Chilterns AONB lies some 46km to the north.
- 5.10. Blenheim Palace, the nearest World Heritage site, lies some 56km to the southwest.
- 5.11. No other statutory constraints were located within a meaningful distance of the study area.

## **Non-Statutory National Constraints**

- 5.12. The nearest registered park and garden is the Grade II listed Boughton Hall, at its closest c. 436m ENE of the study area. The Grade I listed gardens of Holdenby House lie 5km WNW of the study area, while the Grade II\* gardens of Althorp lie 5km due west of the study area.



5.13. The nearest registered battlefield is the Battle of Northampton, AD1460, located c. 6km to the SSE. The Battle of Naseby, 1645, took place c. 14km NNE of the study area.

## Events

### **Desk-Based Assessments (DBA)**

5.14. Eight desk-based assessments or documentary recording events have been undertaken within a 1km radius of the study area (ENN14893, ENN19294, ENN101321, ENN103801, ENN104057, ENN104539, ENN104556, ENN104841). Record ENN103801 represents a joint desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that took place in 1999 over all or part of the study area; this report was not available to view in the Northamptonshire Archives. The next closest was a documentary search for records of the WWII searchlight battery (MNN4426) stationed in the field to the east of the study area (ENN101321). None of the other records appear to have any direct relation to the study area.

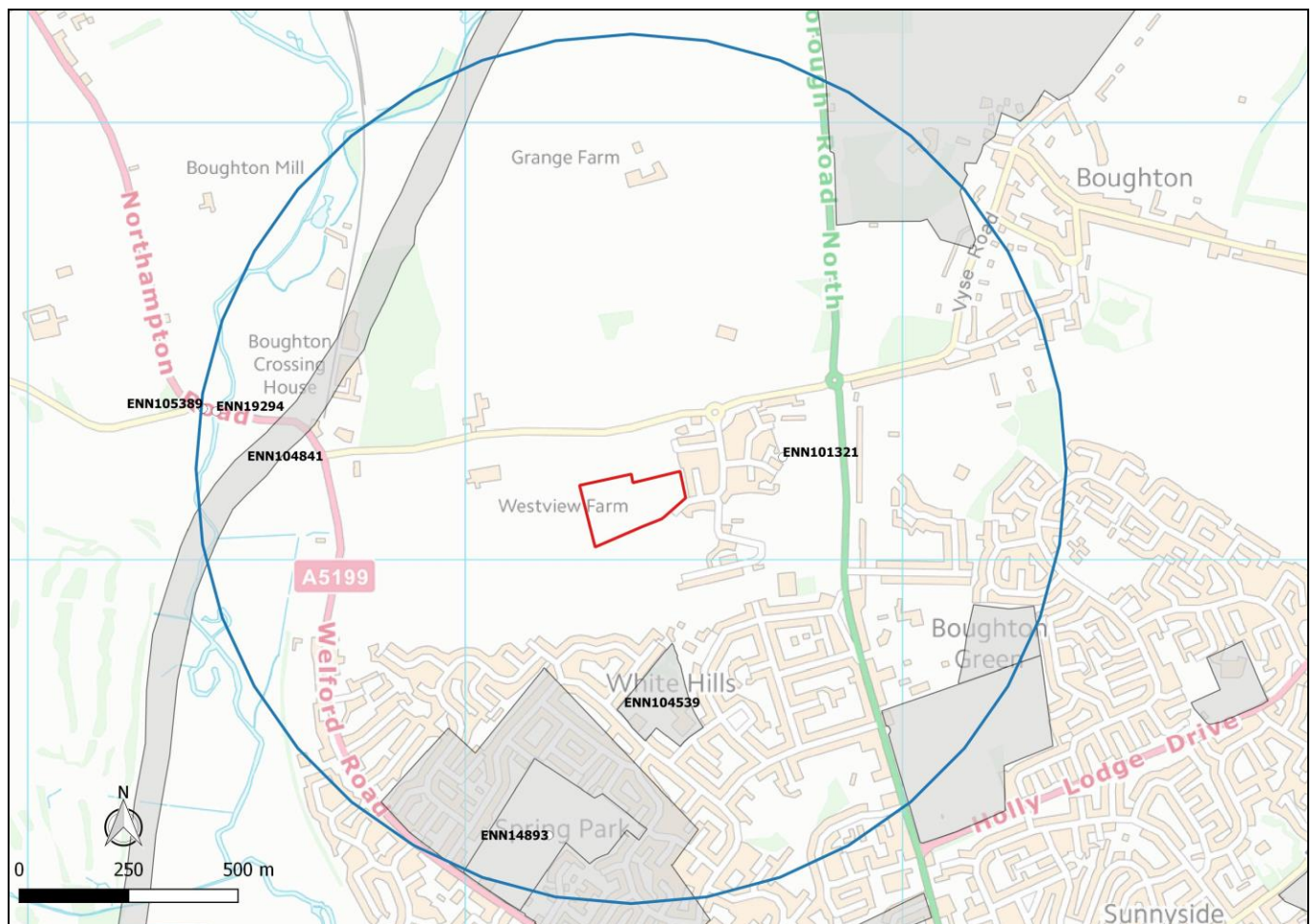


Figure 4. Distribution of Desk-Based Assessments in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire HER.

### **Geophysical Surveys**

5.15. Four geophysical surveys have been identified within a 1km radius of the study area. Two took place within part of the study area (ENN103801 & ENN104633); neither report was available to





view in the relevant section of the Northamptonshire Archives. The former took place in 1999 and may have encompassed the whole of the study area, though it certainly included the eastern side. The WWII features and several other features were identified. The second study took place in 2005 over the western side of the study area and identified seven potential sites, including a prehistoric trackway and settlement. A magnetometer survey was undertaken on land immediately west of the study area and identified similar results (ENN104634).

5.16. A magnetometer survey took place on land west of the A5199, but found nothing that could represent archaeological features (ENN107743).

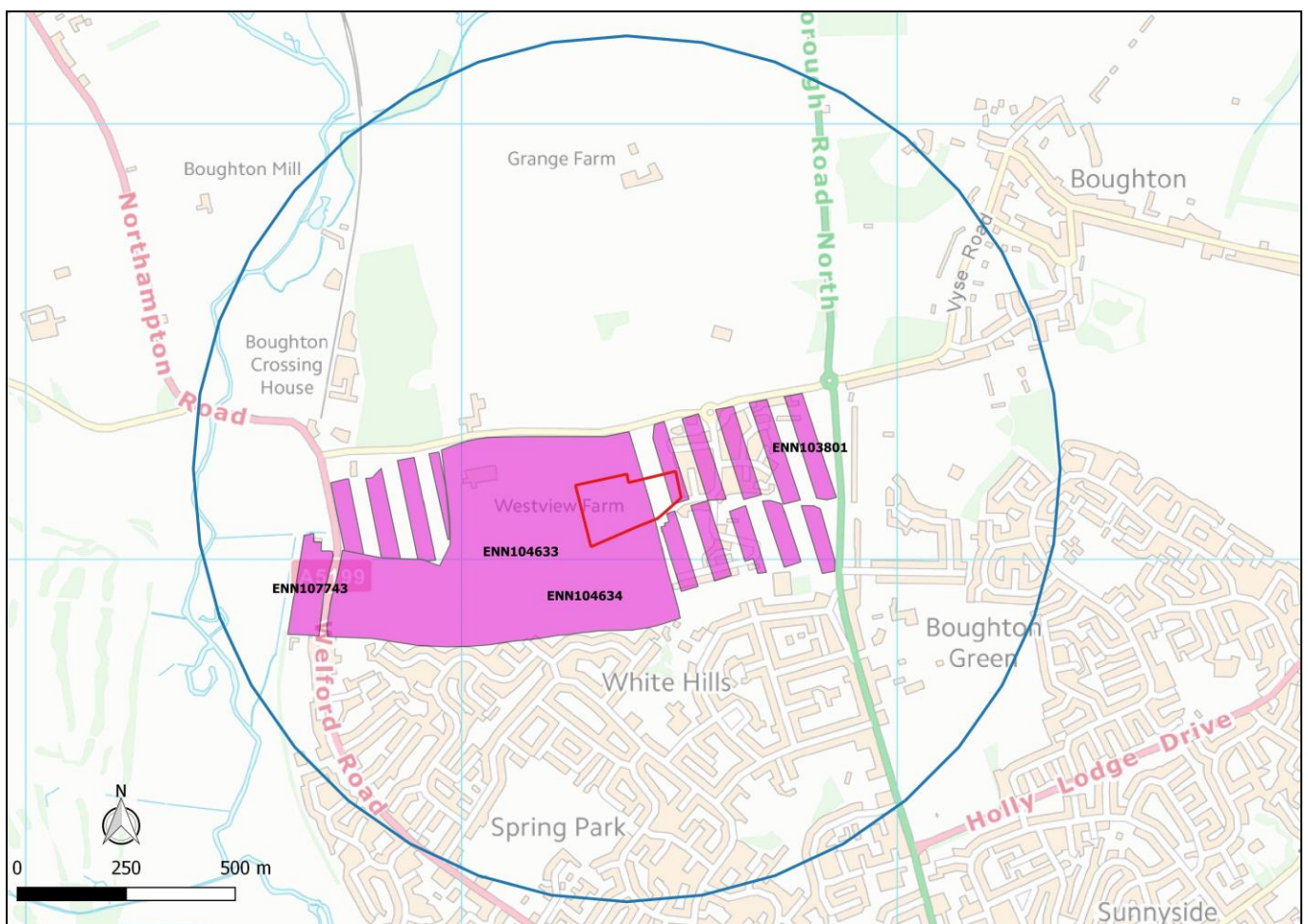


Figure 5. Distribution of geophysical surveys in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire HER.





## Evaluations (Trial Trenching)

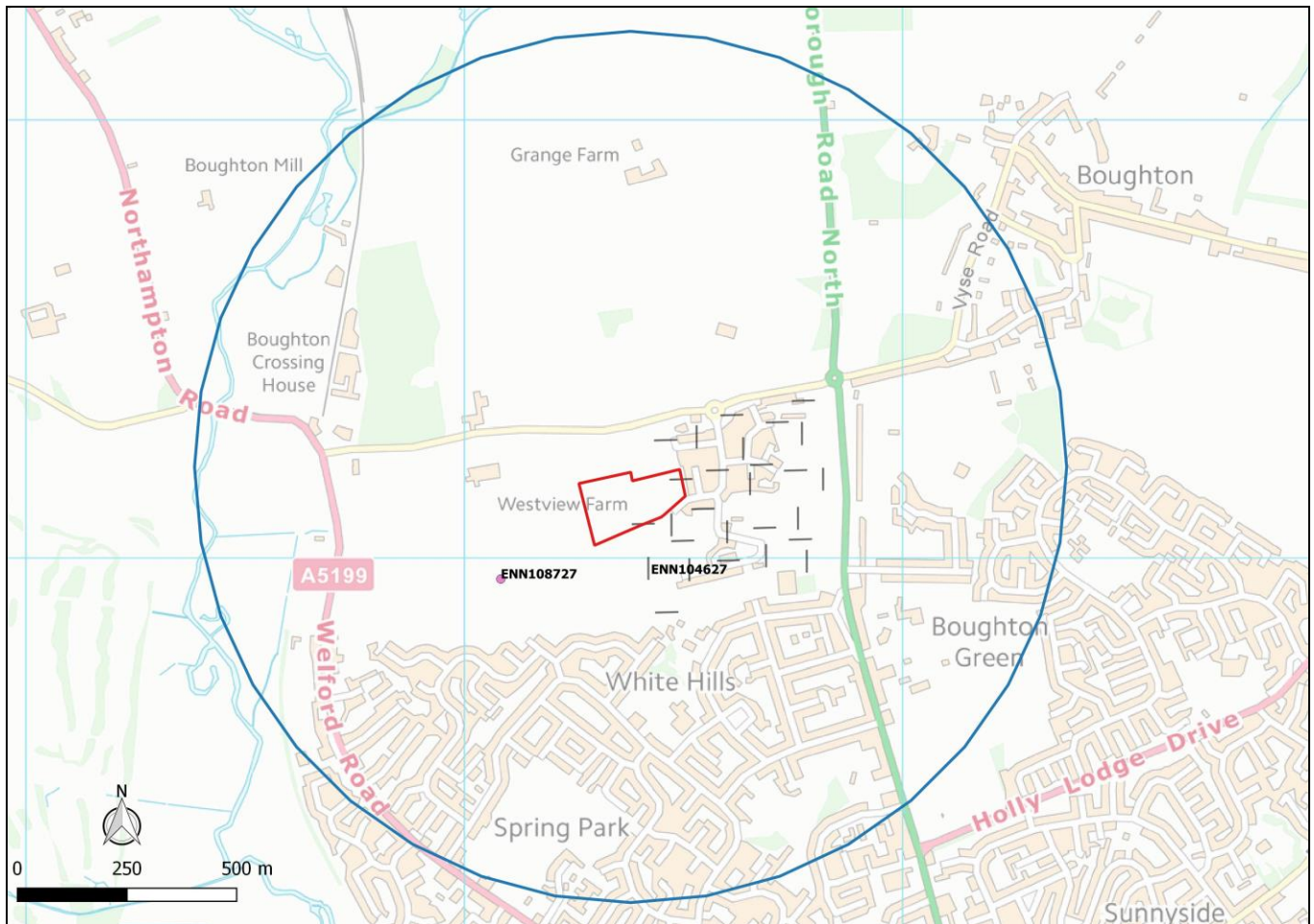


Figure 6. Distribution of archaeological evaluations in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northampton HER.

5.17. There have been two archaeological evaluations within a 1km radius of the study area. The first took place in 2006 (ENN104627). Twenty four trenches were excavated in the field that forms part of the eastern side of the study area, including two trenches within the study area itself; T26 on the southern boundary and T53 on the eastern side (Foard-Colby, Jones, and Simmonds 2006, fig. 3). Further trenches were indicated on land to the west of the study area (ibid. fig. 2), however the results of these were not forthcoming within the report. It would appear this section of the fieldwork is represented by ENN108727, trial trenching undertaken by Oxford Archaeology in 2017, the results of which are not currently available. The 2006 report indicated that with the exception of the WWII features, all other crop marks and geophysical features investigated appeared to be caused by the underlying ironstone geology; a single Mesolithic flint was found in trench 54 (ibid. 5-6).

5.18. It has been reported in the local press that archaeological evaluation of the Buckton Fields site is currently (early July 2018) underway (Lynch 2018); this is likely to be on land immediately adjoining the study area to the west. The results of this evaluation were therefore not available to inform this report.



## Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Briefs)

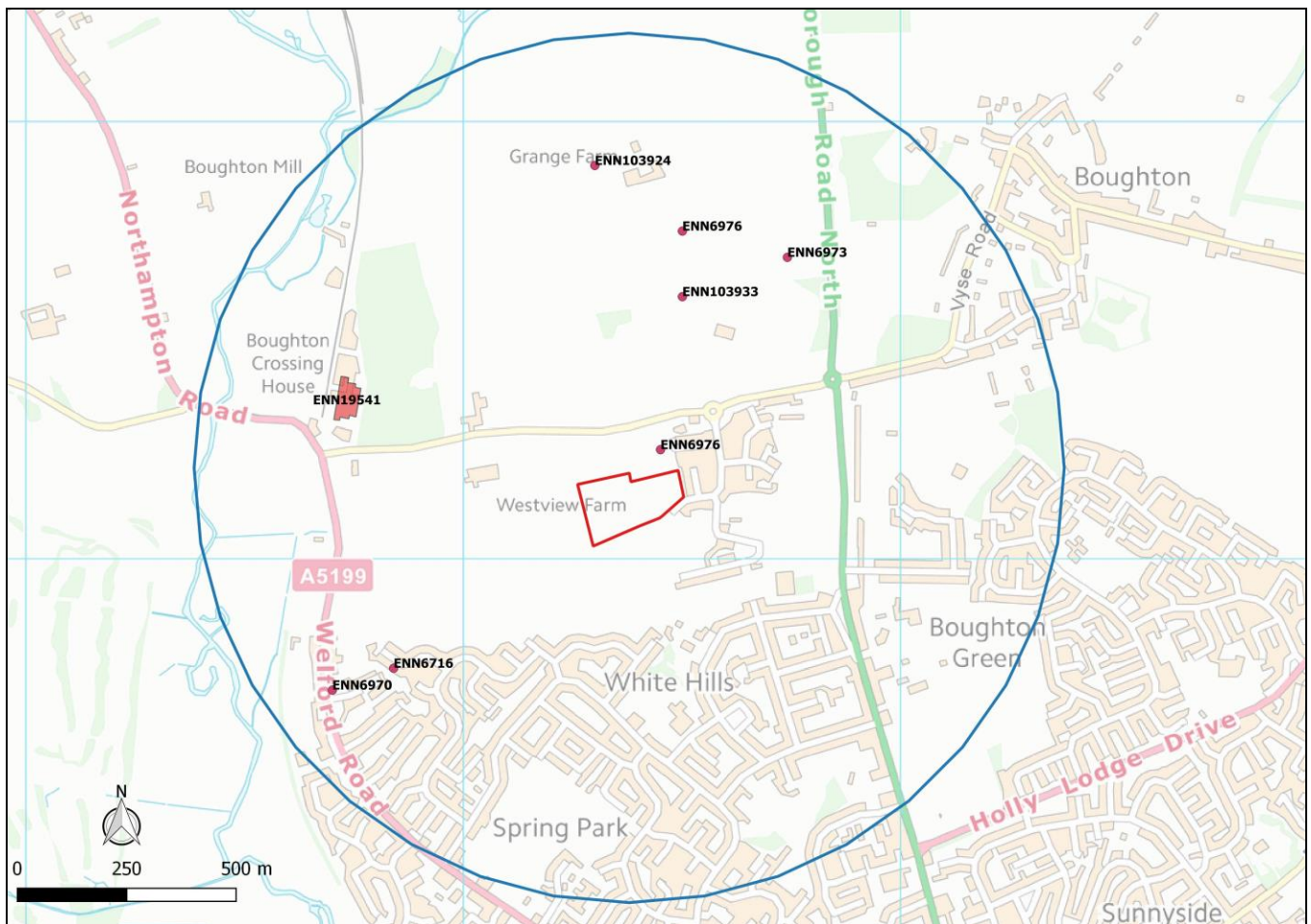


Figure 7. Distribution of archaeological watching briefs in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire HER.

5.19. Six archaeological monitoring events are indicated within a 1km radius of the study area. The closest event was the apparent discovery in 1936 of a well associated with Roman material. One potential location for this is on land just to the east of the study area; the other was on land later subjected to sand extraction (ENN6976); both locations are indicated on the accompanying map.

5.20. Quarrying in 1973 on land north of the study area revealed Bronze Age pits and ditches (EN6973). In 1978 there was an observation of Iron Age finds at no. 109 Sherwood Avenue (ENN6716). Event 19541 records a 1998 observation of the Boughton Cold Storage facility; however, the results of this exercise were not available.

5.21. Monitoring at Boughton Grange Farm and Spinney in 2005 revealed a number of building fragments of unspecified date (ENN103924 & 103933).



## Archaeological Excavation

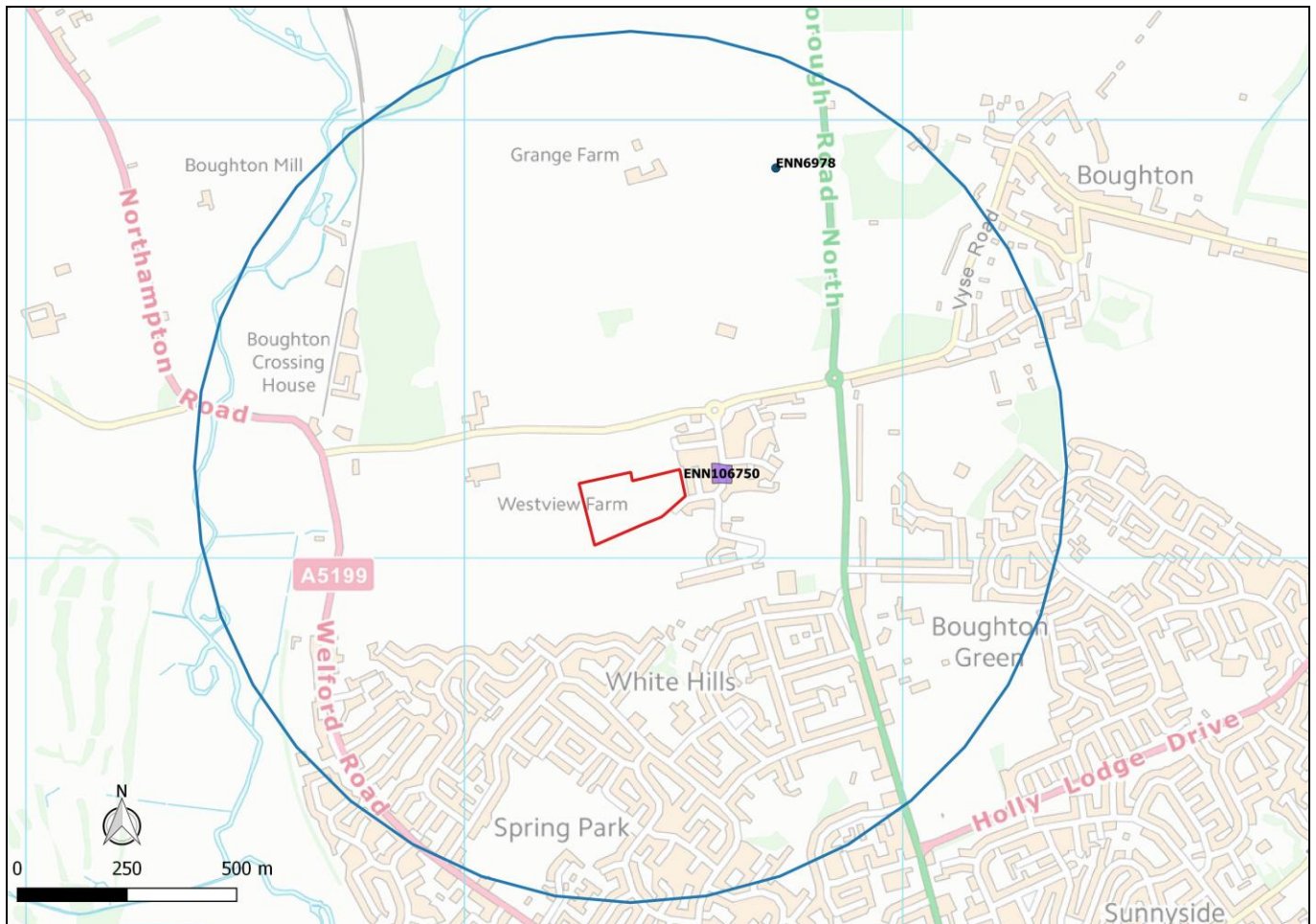


Figure 8. Distribution of archaeological excavations in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire HER.

5.22. Two excavations have taken place within a 1km radius of the study area. Record ENN6978 notes an attempt to excavate Boughton Barrow at some point before 1968; the attempt was abandoned due to tree roots. A 2013 excavation on a site east of the study area (visible on Google Earth), uncovered part of a WWII searchlight battery and evidence of Post Medieval agriculture.





## Findspots and Other Fieldwork

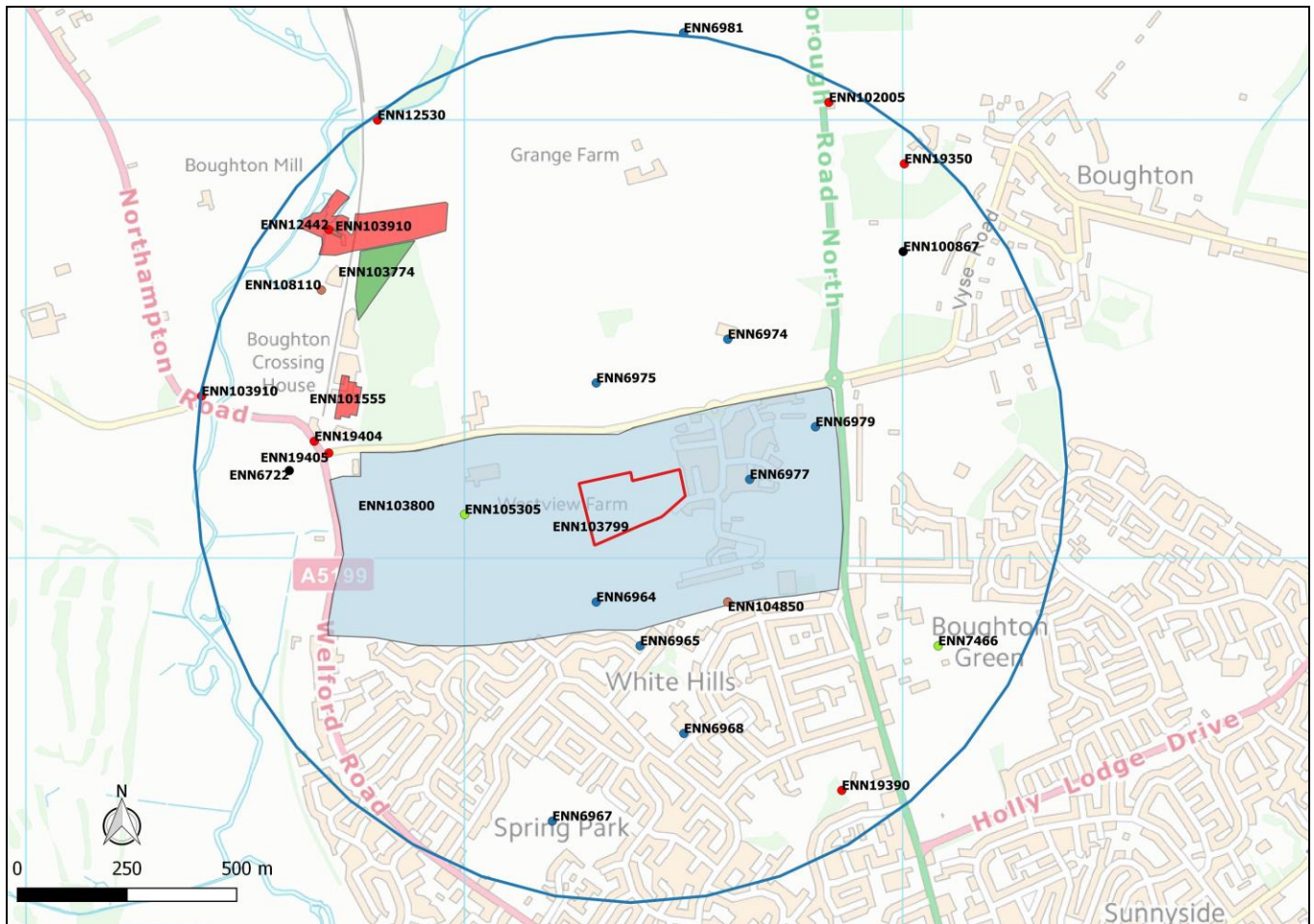


Figure 9. Distribution of findspots and other fieldwork in a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire HER.

- 5.23. Record 105305 notes the discovery of possible Romano British finds c. 350m west of the study area. Romano British and Prehistoric finds were also made during a 1992 field survey, c. 600m northwest of the study area (ENN103774).
- 5.24. Records of aerial survey over and around the study area indicate that aerial photographic coverage is extensive – see below for a review of the aerial photographic evidence.
- 5.25. There are records for eight standing building surveys within a 1km radius of the study area. However, all are close to the periphery and none would appear to indicate any impact upon the study area.



## Monuments

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5.26. No HER monument records fall within the study area.

### Prehistoric (before AD 43)

5.27. Eighteen Prehistoric monument records have been identified within the trawl radius. None of them fall within the study area.

5.28. The earliest Prehistoric activity evidenced dates from the Mesolithic. A single flint flake was found in a 2006 evaluation trench east of the study area (MNN142030 & 142031). There appears to be limited archaeological evidence from the Neolithic, a flint blade and flake were found c. 470m west of the study area in 1999 (MNN137351); Early Bronze Age flints were found at approximately the same location (ibid.). Geophysical survey in the same area identified potential Prehistoric features (MNN135696).

5.29. Cut features exposed in a quarry face c. 530m northwest of the study area yielded fragments of a Bronze Age collared urn (MNN24342). Flint flakes were found in the same area and a little further northward (MNN143617), suggesting Bronze Age activity in the area (MNN5996), which is c. 100m south of the Boughton Round Barrow, also thought to be Bronze Age (MNN24341).

5.30. A Bronze Age flint scatter was noted in 1999, c. 240m east of the study area. This area has subsequently been developed for housing; archaeological trial trenching in the vicinity did not locate further finds or associated features (ENN104627). No further archaeological fieldwork appears to have been undertaken in the vicinity.

5.31. Fieldwalking c. 670m southeast of the study area in 1969 revealed flint flakes including a barbed and tanged Bronze Age arrowhead (MNN28308), the latter possibly indicative of a disturbed Beaker burial.

5.32. Prehistoric flint flakes were found (MNN25096) c. 800m southwest of the study area; these are unlikely to date later than the Bronze Age.

5.33. Forty-one worked flints, including evidence for flint working, were found on land c. 600m northwest of the study area (MNN132150); they are thought to be indicative of Prehistoric settlement (MNN132148). The flints are otherwise undated, but unlikely to be later than the Bronze Age.

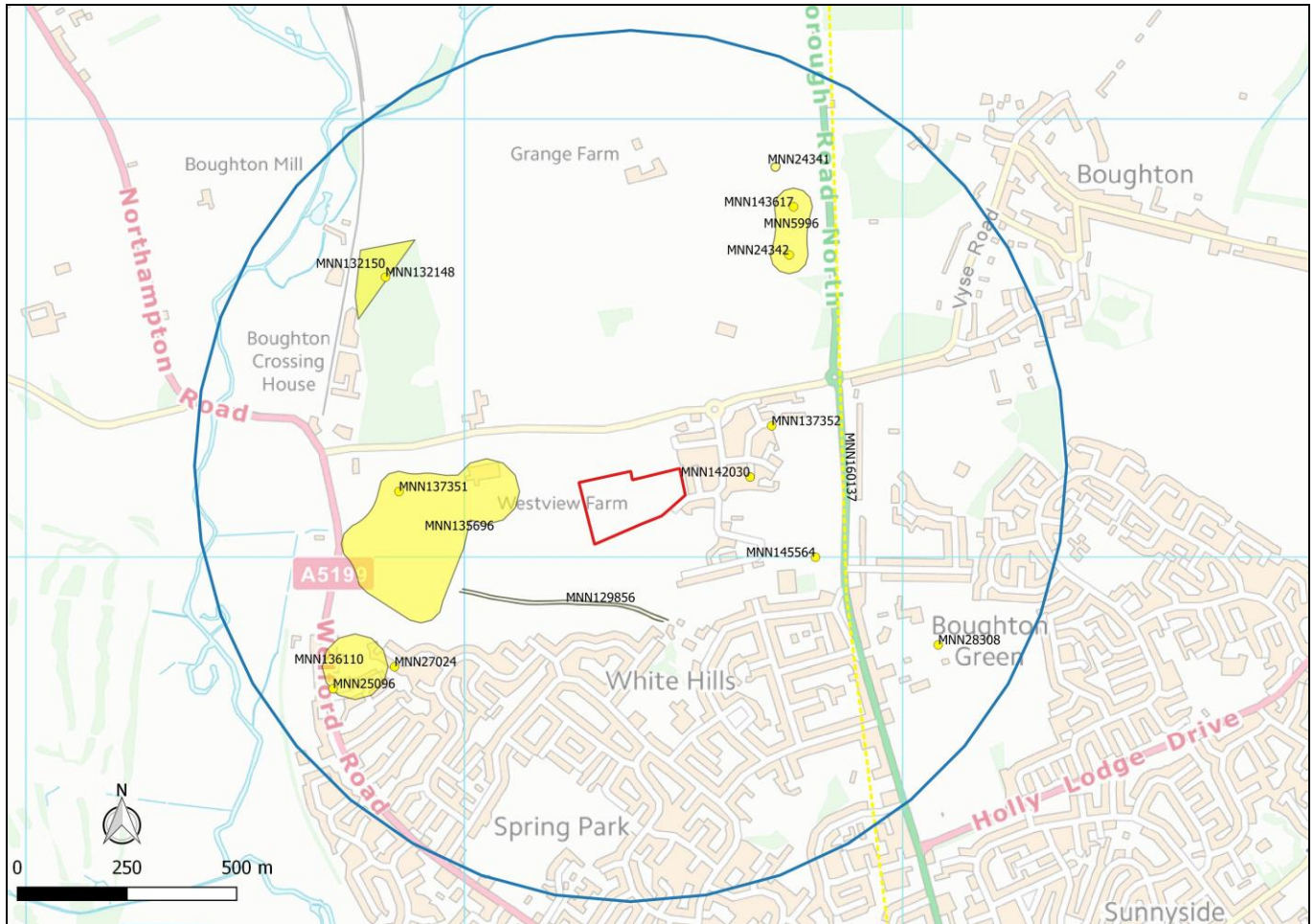


Figure 10. Prehistoric monuments and finds within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

- 5.34. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery were found in the garden of 109 Sherwood Avenue (MNN27024), c. 650m WSW of the study area. Their presence indicates possible Iron Age settlement (MNN136110).
- 5.35. Record MNN129856 represents two parallel cropmarks that appear to represent the ditches of a former trackway aligned roughly WNW to ESE; these features were seen on aerial photographs from 1963 and were corroborated by a geophysical survey in 2005. Since they do not appear to fit into the Medieval and Post-Medieval landscape, a later Prehistoric date of origin seems most likely, especially since the slightly irregular course would appear to exclude a Roman road.
- 5.36. Record MNN160137 represents the proposed course of a later Prehistoric routeway between Somerset and Yorkshire, known as the Jurassic Way. Much of the north-south route within the trawl radius is followed by the A508, c. 350m to the east of the study area. Not far from this routeway a later Bronze Age palstave was reported, c. 330m southeast of the study area.
- 5.37. The overall picture presented suggests that the study area and its surrounds were utilised in the later Prehistoric period, and particularly in the Bronze Age, with evidence for burial and settlement on the north side of Brampton lane.



### Romano-British (AD 44 AD 410)

- 5.38. One Roman period site (MNN170734) is indicated within the study area, but this appears to be a proposed area of activity based on the possible location (NGR SP745 657) of a Roman well on land east of the study area (MNN24344). No trace of Roman activity was observed during the field evaluation of that part of the study area (ENN103799). The other potential location for this well was north of the study area in land that has subsequently been quarried away (NGR SP745 675). The negative archaeological evidence at the first potential location would suggest that the second given location was the correct one, as implied by historic references to quarrying at that location.
- 5.39. Record MNN143813 records that in 1999 Roman pottery fragments and quern stones were on display in the garden of Westview Farm, but the provenance of these finds was not known. Another four sherds of Roman pottery were found c.178m west of Westview Farm (MNN137351), suggesting that the artefacts in the garden may have originated in the same area.
- 5.40. On land further to the west, adjoining the east side of the Welford Road (A5199), Roman pottery including Samian ware and ceramic tile were recovered from a construction site in 1953 (MNN25096); indicating a site of potential Romano-British settlement (MNN136110).
- 5.41. The given location of MNN132148 is marked as a possible Romano-British site, since 11 sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved in a fieldwalking exercise (MNN132150).
- 5.42. As recorded, the archaeological evidence for Romano-British activity would indicate a preference for settlement sites in the near vicinity of the Nene. The presence of a well of Romano British date to the east or northeast of the study area could indicate there was also settlement on the higher ground overlooking the river valley, but unfortunately further evidence to corroborate this has not been forthcoming.



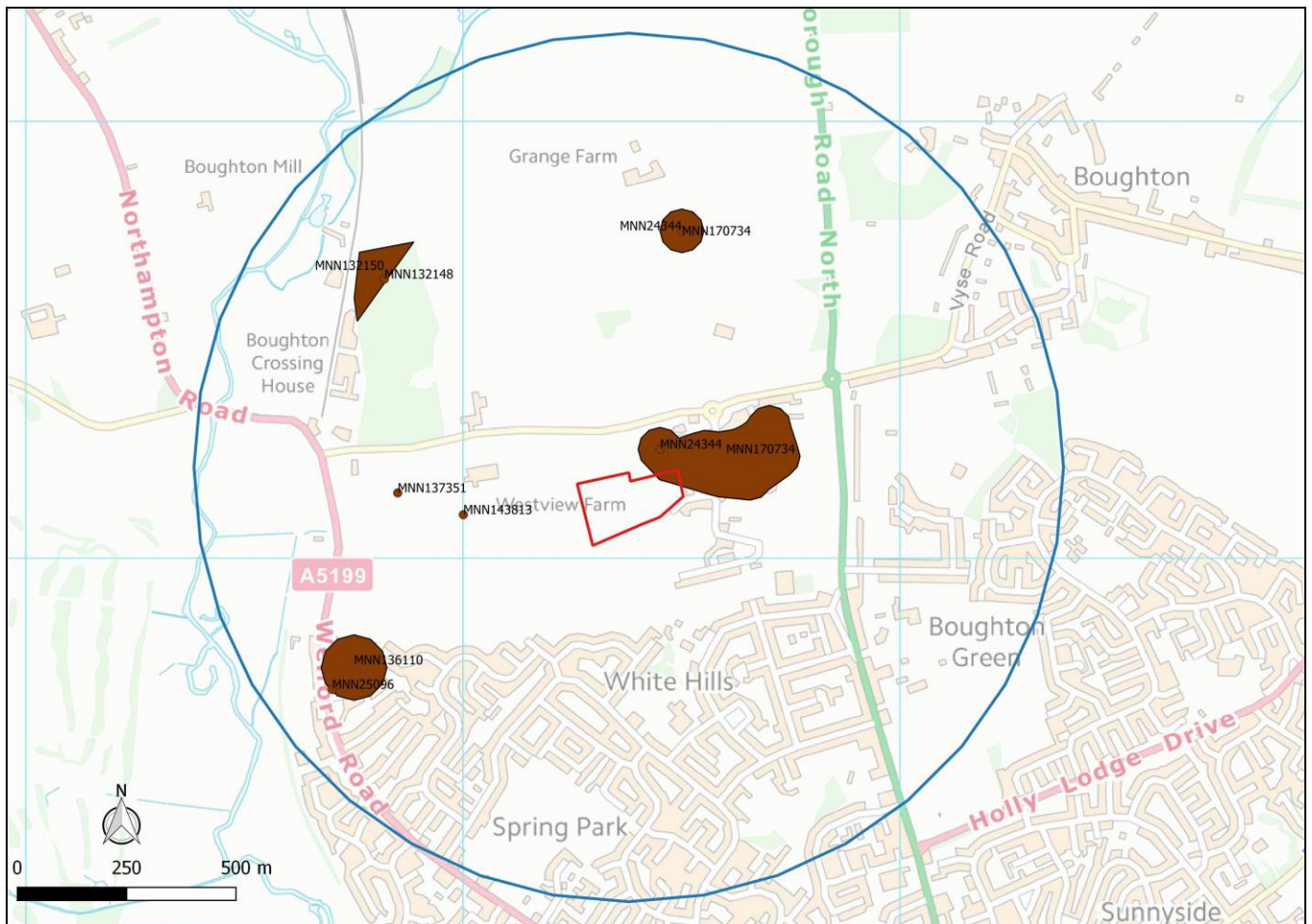


Figure 11. Roman monuments and finds within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

### Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

5.43. No specific evidence for Early Medieval activity has been recorded within a 1km radius of the study area.



## Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1539)

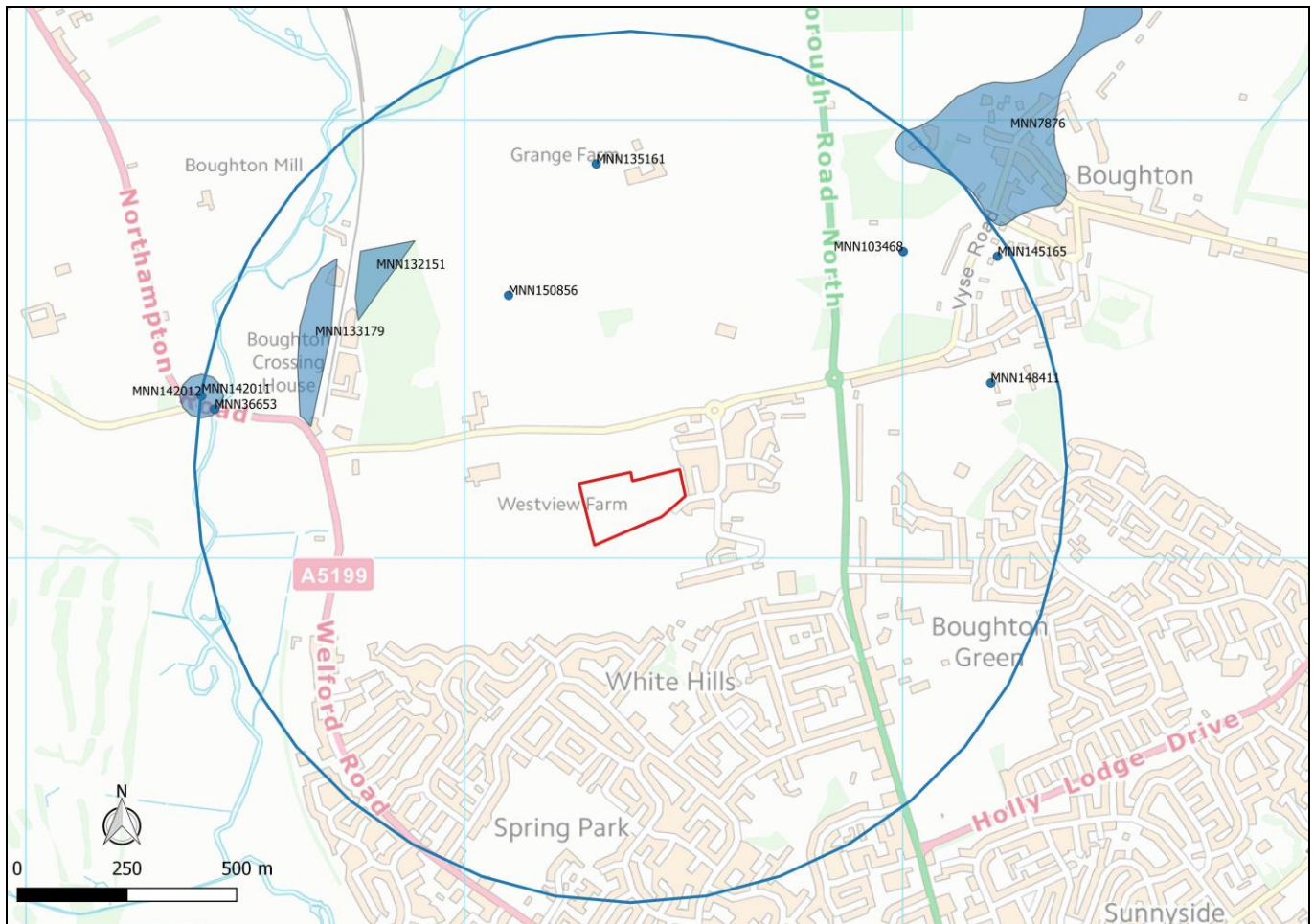


Figure 12. Medieval monuments and finds within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

- 5.44. Evidence for Medieval activity appears to be located towards the fringe of a 1km radius around the study area. An unstratified 13<sup>th</sup> century silver coin was found in the grounds of Boughton Hall in the year 2000 (MNN103469 & 145165), c. 728m northeast of the study area. Another 13<sup>th</sup> century silver coin was found c. 730m ENE of the study area, in approximately the same area as two Post-Medieval coins (MNN 148510 & 148542).
- 5.45. Fieldwalking on land c. 625m northwest of the study area yielded six sherds of medieval pottery, thought to represent a manuring scatter (MNN132151).
- 5.46. During repairs to 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings at Grange farm some good quality stones of Gothic tracery were observed, having been reused in or adjacent to the buildings; it is not clear exactly where these stones may have been sourced (MNN135161).
- 5.47. An area of surviving medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was identified c. 660m WSW of the study area. Further to the west record MNN36653 locates a standing medieval bridge over the River Nene.





5.48. Records 142011 and 142012 note the location of a corn mill on the River Nene, adjacent to the bridge, established in the Middle Ages and continuing in use into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

5.49. Towards the eastern edge of the trawl radius stands the core settlement of Boughton (MNN7876), probably founded in the Middle Ages, the polygon probably represents its maximum historic extent in the Post-Medieval period.

5.50. None of these finds and features are indicative of Medieval activity within the study area.

### Post-Medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1900)

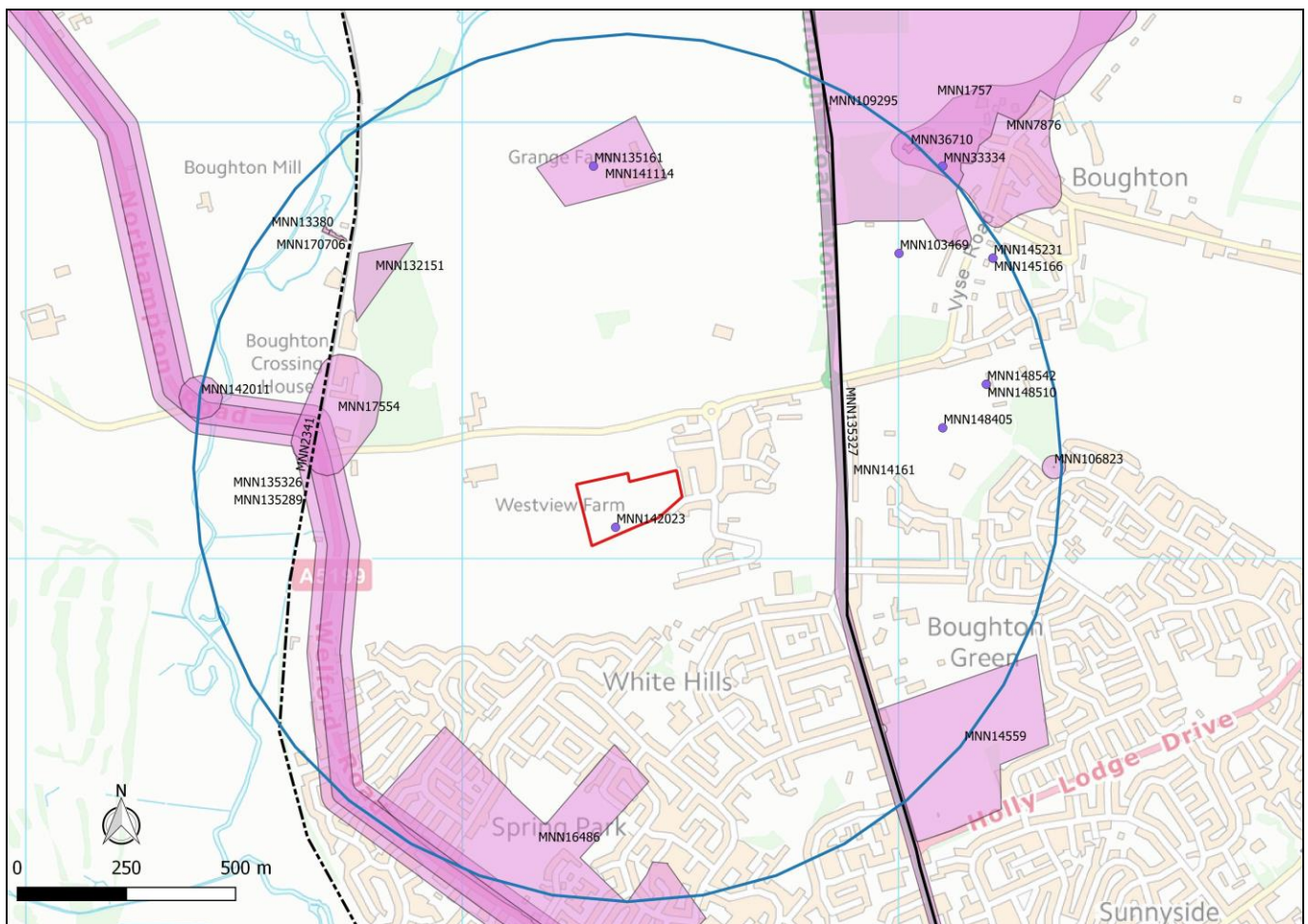


Figure 13. Post-Medieval monuments and finds within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

5.51. A linear geophysical anomaly (MNN142023) observed c. 43m west of the study area in 2005 is thought to relate to a former (Post-Medieval) field boundary, visible on maps of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (see below).

5.52. A Post-Medieval buckle was found in the grounds of Boughton Hall (an 18<sup>th</sup> century designed landscape, MNN1757 & 33334) in the year 2000 (MNN103469 & 145166), c. 728m northeast of the study area. A 17<sup>th</sup> century dagger was found c. 885m northeast of the study area (MNN145231). A hooked tag was found c. 625m east of the study area (MNN148405) and two



Post-Medieval coins (MNN 148510 & 148542) were found c. 730m ENE of the study area, in approximately the same area as 13<sup>th</sup> century silver coin.

- 5.53. Record MNN 141114 notes the location of Boughton Grange Farm (no details), c. 550m north of the study area. Fieldwalking in land c. 625m northwest of the study area yielded 19 sherds of Post-Medieval pottery, thought to represent a manuring scatter (MNN132151). A later Medieval badge was found c. 380m northwest of the study area (MNN150856).
- 5.54. Record MNN16486 notes the site of Pertaris Nursery with possible orchards, in existence in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continuing into the 20<sup>th</sup>. Part of the site is now developed and the remainder was utilised as a public park.
- 5.55. At this time several modern routeways become apparent: the course of the Welford Road (formerly a turnpike) to the west of the study area (MNN135289 & 135326); the London & North Western Railway (later LMS) from Northampton to Market Harborough (1859-1981; MNN7910 & 170706); and the Northampton to Market Harborough turnpike road (MNN135327). Associated with the Welford Road and the railway is Boughton Crossing (MNN17554), an area of Post-Medieval and modern settlement, industrial and other activities where the Welford Road passes over the railway, close to the River Nene.
- 5.56. Although Post-Medieval activity within a 1km radius of the study area was more extensive than the medieval, it was still largely limited to the periphery, and is therefore not necessarily indicative of Post-Medieval activity within the study area.



## Modern (post 1900)

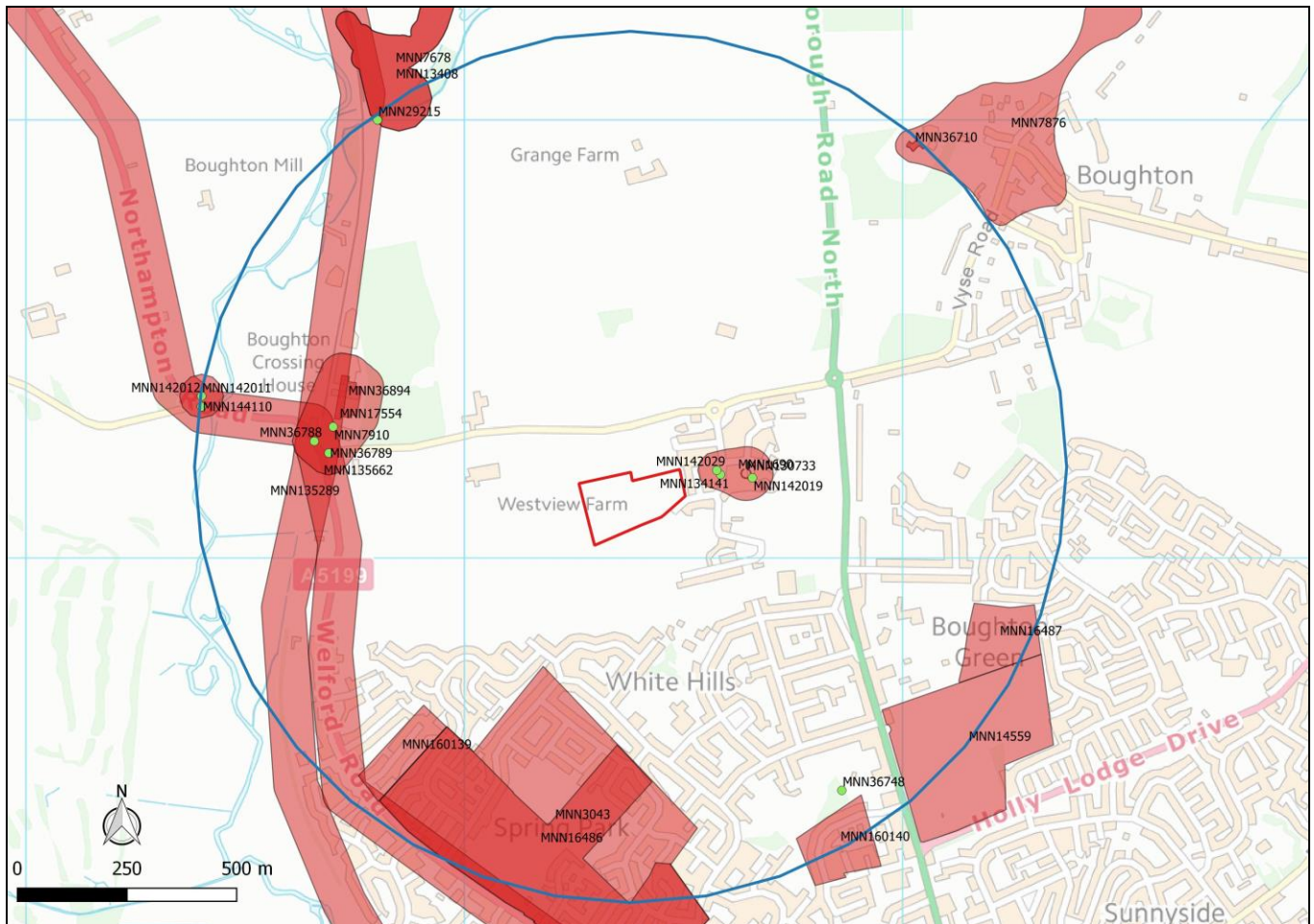


Figure 14. Modern monuments and finds within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

5.57. No post 1900 monuments are recorded within the study area.

5.58. Just to the east of the study area, Record MNN1690 defines the approximate area of a WWII searchlight battery, while MNN134141, 142019 & 142029 note modern and undated ditch features, which may be associated with this activity. There was a WWII road block c. 730m SSE of the study area (MNN36748) and two c. 635m west of the study area; one at the level crossing (MNN36788) and the other at the road junction (MNN36789). The other side of the crossing on the Northampton Road was a further road block (MNN144110).

5.59. Record MNN16487 notes the presence of the White Hill Allotments on the edge of Boughton Green, c. 700m southeast of the study area, immediately to the south of which lies the White Hills Cemetery (MNN14599), now Kingsthorpe Cemetery; no date is given, but the cemetery was probably founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.





5.60. Routeways are as noted in Post-Medieval, above. Associated with the railway was a mineral line (MNN13408) connecting the Pitsford quarries (MNN7678) with the main line, at a site north of Boughton Crossing.

5.61. The former Northampton Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital (MNN160140) was located c. 770m SSE of the study area, while the Kingsthorpe Infectious Diseases Hospital (MNN160139) was located c. 630m south west of the study area. Record MNN3043 notes the existence of Spring Park, probably created in the 1960s from the Pertaris Nursery site (MNN16486), but prior to that may have been a recreational ground associated with the latter hospital.

### Undated

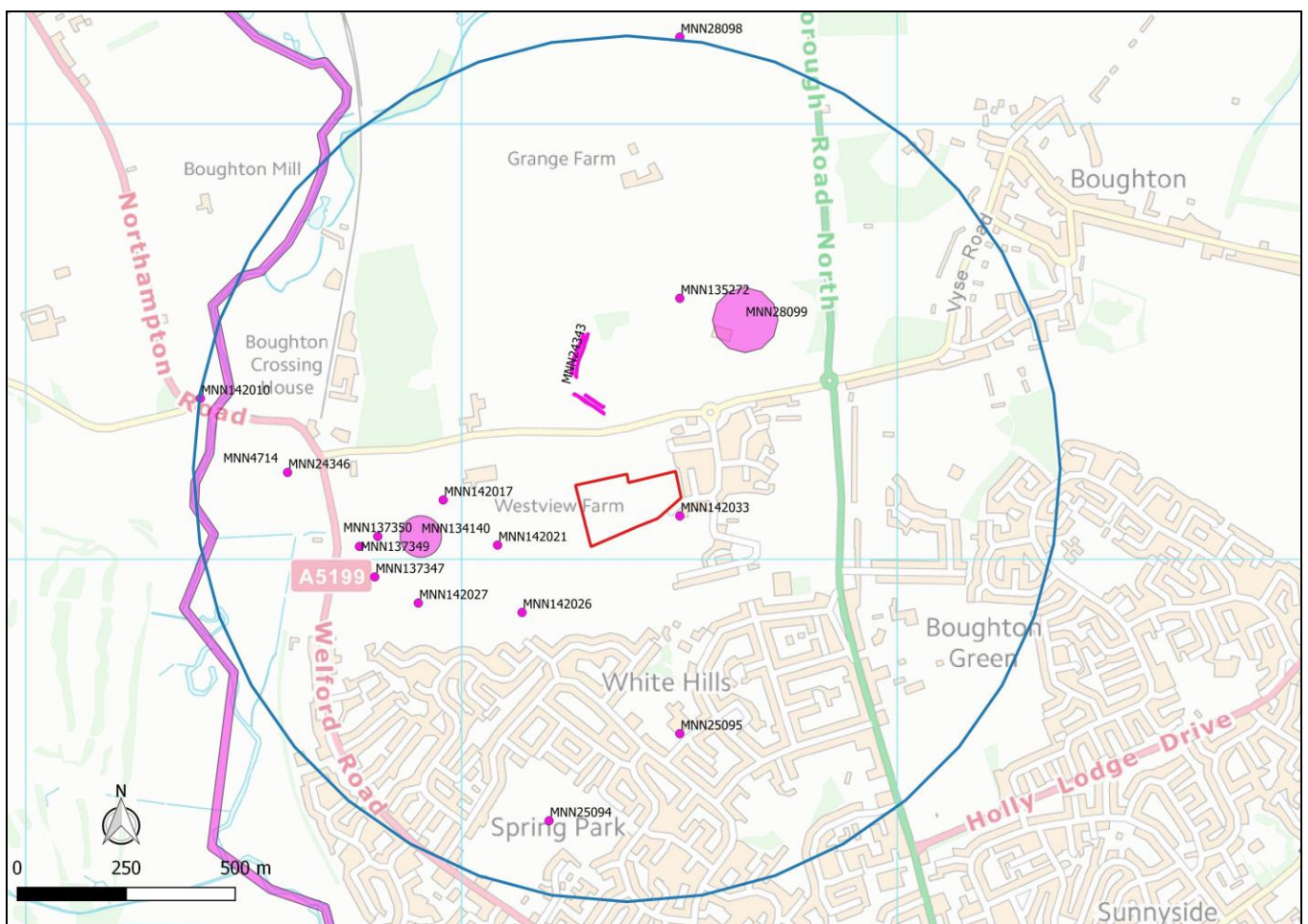


Figure 15. Undated monuments within a 1km radius of the study area. Data derived from Northamptonshire County Council HER.

5.62. The undated category includes features that are present but difficult to categorize by date, or natural features of the landscape that have both impacted the human use and/or been a resource for humans; chief amongst the latter is the River Nene (MNN4714), which flows southwards through the western side of the trawl boundary and represents the lowest point in the surrounding landscape. Until the 1850s the river was an artery of commercial transport, and remained a routeway until the 1960s.



- 5.63. Record MNN24343, although undated, almost certainly predates the present field layout. They appear to represent crop marks for two short sections of double-ditched trackway, similar to feature MNN129856. The author was unable to verify these features on vertical and oblique aerial photographs held in the Historic England archives (though MNN129856 was readily identifiable). They could represent sections of Prehistoric or Medieval trackway, but they could easily be the result of natural striations in the underlying ironstone bedrock. If archaeological in nature these features could be of some significance, since at their closest they are located less than 60m north of the study area.
- 5.64. A number of other recorded features were also generated by undated cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. Record MNN134140 represents an area of geophysical anomalies picked up during a 1999 survey; associated features could represent a sub-rectangular enclosure, oval enclosure, possible pits, ring ditches and other ditch-like features. These features are located approximately 400m west of the study area.
- 5.65. Crop marks suggestive of enclosures and other linear features were observed on historic aerial photographs of Spring Park c. 1972 (MNN25094). These are located some 700m SSW of the study area. Unclassified crop marks were observed in the White Hills area in 1963 (MNN25095), some 490m SSE of the study area.
- 5.66. An earthwork feature noted in 1995, c. 29m southeast of Area B, was evaluated in 2006 and found to be a result of the underlying geology (MNN142033).
- 5.67. Record MNN135272 notes the remains of a possible wall exposed in a badger sett on the edge of the quarrying, c. 324m northeast of the study area; the wall was estimated up to 2m thick. No dating evidence is given for this wall, but it is unlikely to be Prehistoric.
- 5.68. One kilometre north of the study area a possible enclosure cropmark was observed in the 1970s, however this feature could also have been formed by the underlying geology (MNN28098).
- 5.69. At c. 360m to the west of the study area, geophysical survey detected a possible ring ditch, boundary ditch and enclosure (MNN142017). Geophysical survey also detected a possible industrial site c. 317m west of the study area (MNN142021), a possible linear boundary ditch c. 625m west (MNN137349, a possible curvilinear ditch c. 590m west (MNN137350), a potential rectangular ditched enclosure measuring 80m by 50m, located c. 325m southwest of the study area (MNN142026) and possible rectilinear building remains c. 525m WSW of the study area (MNN142026). At the time of writing all these features have yet to be investigated by archaeological excavation.





5.70. It was suggested an area of disturbance c. 600m WSW may have been caused by underlying archaeology (MNN137347).

5.71. The find of a human skull was reported at a location close to the Boughton Crossing, c. 720m west of the study area. The date and context of this find are not reported in the HER record.

### **Aerial Photographic Evidence**

5.72. As part of this survey a review was undertaken of the available aerial photographic evidence. A 1km radius trawl of the study area was requested from the Historic England Archive (formerly the National Monument Record), and all available oblique and vertical aerial photographs were consulted on 22/6/2018. Aerial photography created in 1945 and between 2005 and 2017, which is currently available on Google Earth, was also consulted as part of this survey.

5.73. A number of above ground and potentially below ground features were observed. However, correlation with the HER trawl established that all potential archaeological features had already been logged, and in some cases tested, evaluated by geophysical survey and trial trenching. It was noted the underlying geology presents particular challenges, since features identified from aerial photography, confirmed by geophysics, on excavation have resolved to natural patterning and fractures in the surface of the underlying ironstone bedrock. However, in some cases aerial photography correctly identified archaeological features, while others have yet to be investigated.

5.74. The archaeological results of this survey are therefore outlined in the detailed trawl analysis above.

### **Conclusions from the Archaeological Overview**

5.75. There is currently no archaeological evidence to indicate the presence of substantial archaeological remains within the study area. However, there is strong background evidence for later Prehistoric activity in the general area, particularly from the Bronze Age. Previous archaeological evaluation within and adjoining Area B has not indicated Prehistoric activity at that location, but this might be different in Area A due to the change in aspect.

5.76. There is some past evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of Area B, but recent evaluation has failed to locate any trace of this; it is possible the location of this activity was misplaced, and the actual site located on the north side of Brampton Lane, in an area that has now been quarried.

5.77. A review of the aerial photographic evidence has indicated that while crop marks have been evident across and around the study area, the majority of these, when evaluated, have proved to be of geological origin. Ring ditches to the east of the study area were the result of WWII activity,



which was recorded on 1940s aerial photographs and does not appear to have impinged on the study area.



## 6. Historic Development of the Project Site

6.1. The study area currently lies within the civil parish of Boughton in the district of Daventry, county of Northamptonshire. Boughton lies on the northern edge of the borough of Northampton and the boundary between the two lies c. 227m south of the study area.

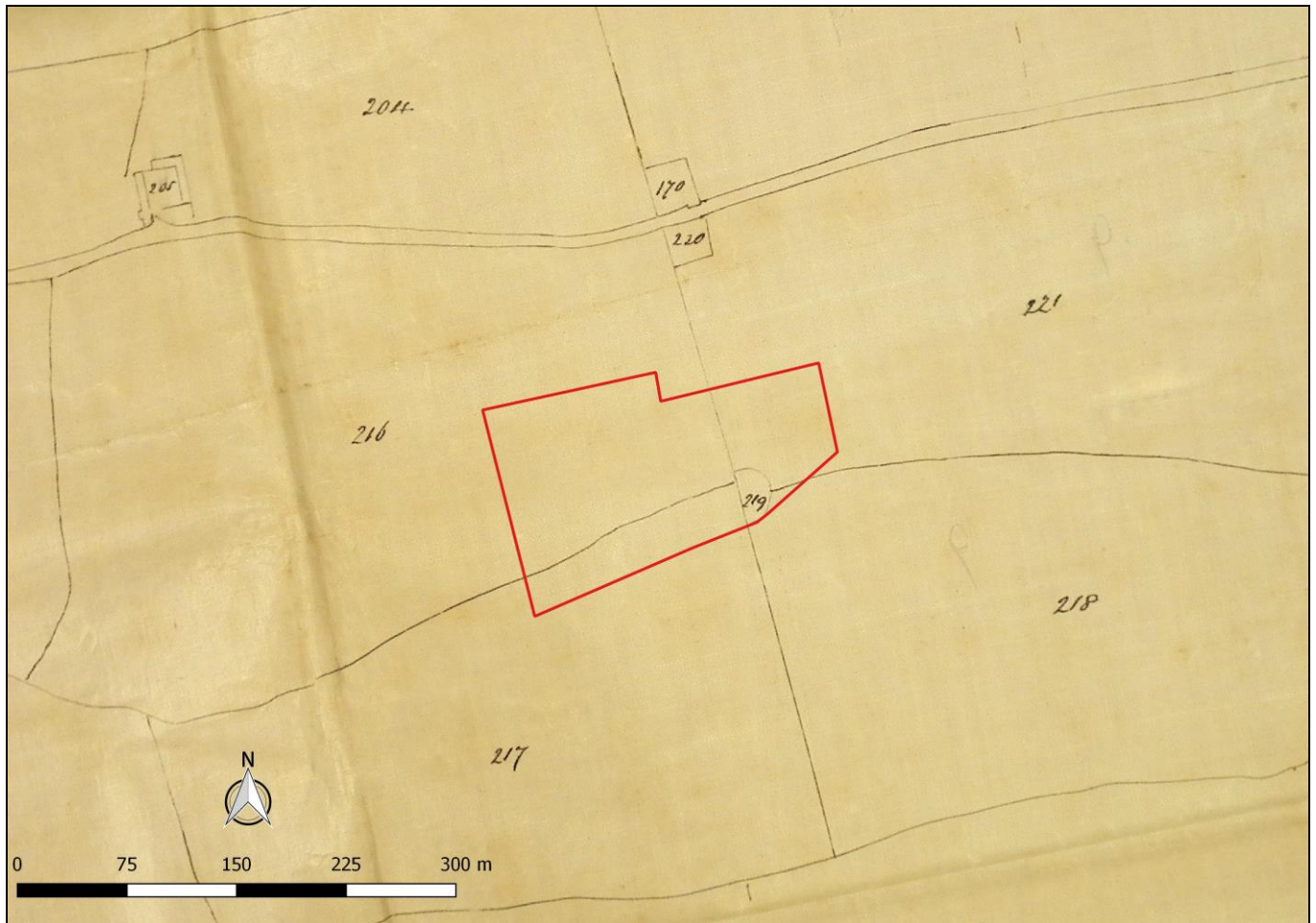


Figure 16. Extract from the 1865 'Plan of the Parish of Boughton and Lands in the Parish of Pitsford in the County of Northampton belonging to Colonel R Howard Vyse and Others (Northamptonshire Archives Map/1716, reproduced by permission).

- 6.2. The earliest mentions of Boughton appear to have been in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Salzman 1937, 76–81); it was mentioned four times in the Northamptonshire Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1979). The name appears to be a derivative of Buckton, implying the land was granted by a written charter at a time when this was still unusual (i.e. probably before the 11<sup>th</sup> century).
- 6.3. At the time of Domesday the chief landholders appear to have been Robert of Bucy and the Countess Judith. The latter had given land in Boughton to St Wandrille's Abbey, Normandy (Thorn



and Thorn 1979). Since the countess Judith had two holdings, there were effectively four manors of Boughton at the time of the survey.

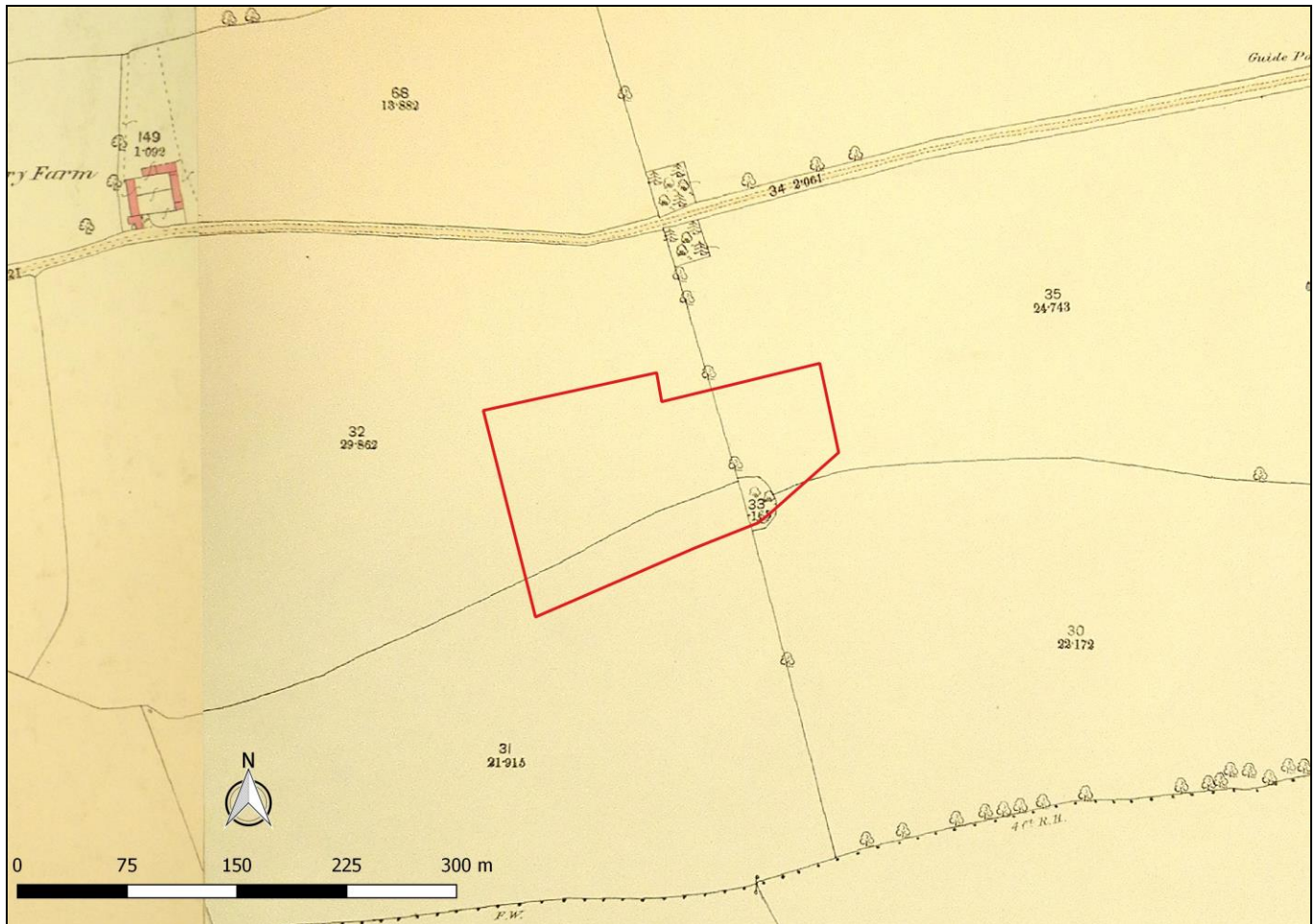


Figure 17. Extract from the OS 1885 1:2,500 map of Northamptonshire, sheets 37.16 & 38.13. Reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Archives.

- 6.4. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Abbey sold their manor to John de Boughton; he already held lands in Boughton and added these to the manor (Salzman 1937, 76–81). Through sale and descent this had passed into the hands of the Howard-Vyse family by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (ibid.). The Boughtons also appear to have been under tenants for one of the other Domesday manors (ibid.), so it is possible these lands were also added to their holdings.
- 6.5. A 1756 Inclosure Award for Boughton and Pitsford (NA 039P/19) has no accompanying map. As far as could be reasonably ascertained the field names mentioned below were not found within the award. It is possible they went by a different name at that time, but it would appear from the award that much of the two parishes had already been inclosed.

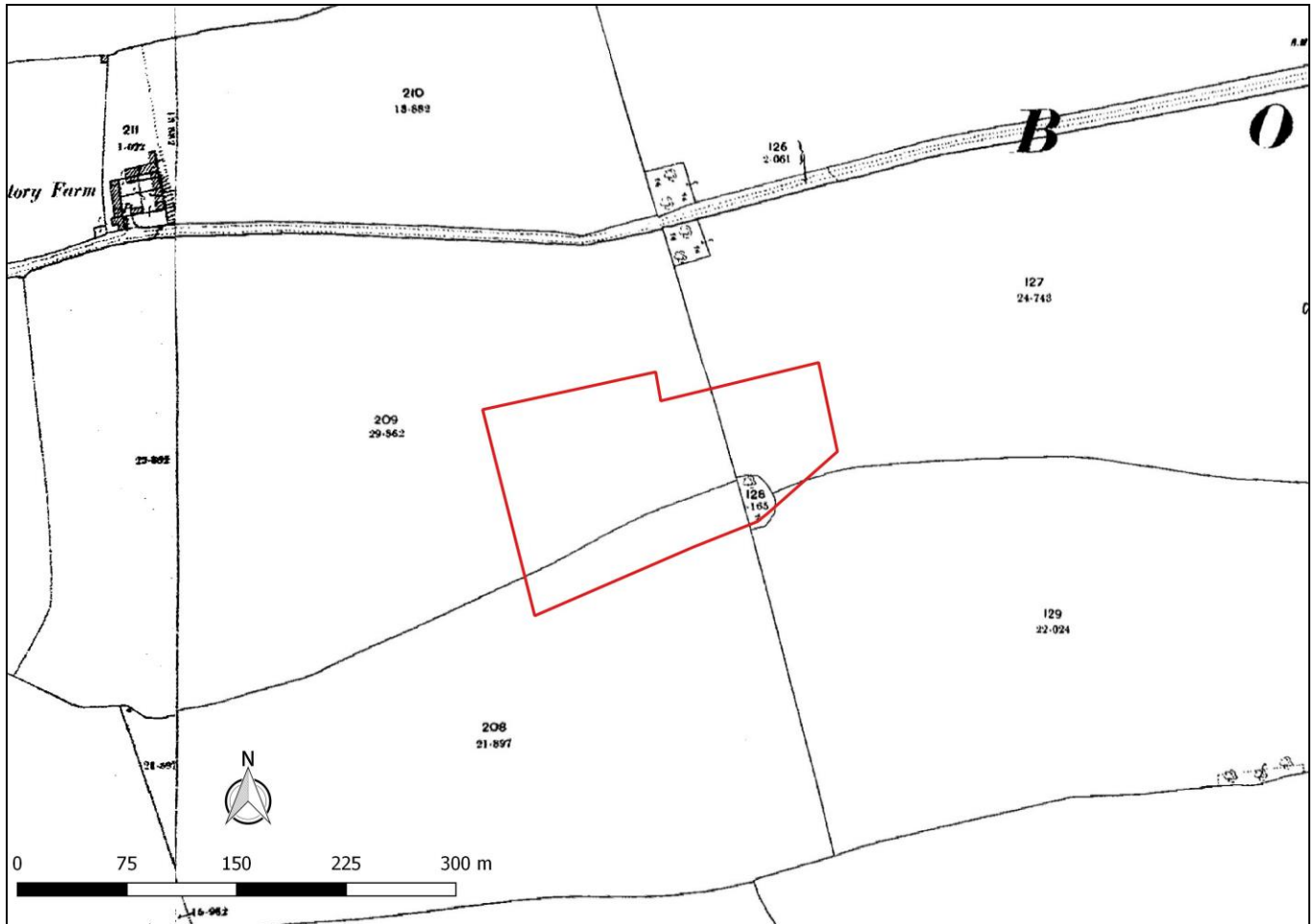


Figure 18. Extract from the OS 1900 1:2,500 map of Northamptonshire, sheets 37.16 & 38.13. Reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Archives.

6.6. There is no tithe map for the parish of Boughton; it would appear that most, if not all of the tithes had been commuted already by 1836 (Kain 1986, 469 & 510). This practice was common in Northamptonshire (Kain 1986, 350). As a result it is not possible to establish with certainty who the landowner and occupiers were in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and thus trace back the ownership of the study area), but since the earliest detailed depiction of the study area is an 1865 map of land belonging to the Howard-Vyse family and others (see Figure 16), it seems likely the study area was part of their manorial holdings. Although there are numbered plots on this map, there appears to be no surviving terrier in the Northamptonshire Archives.



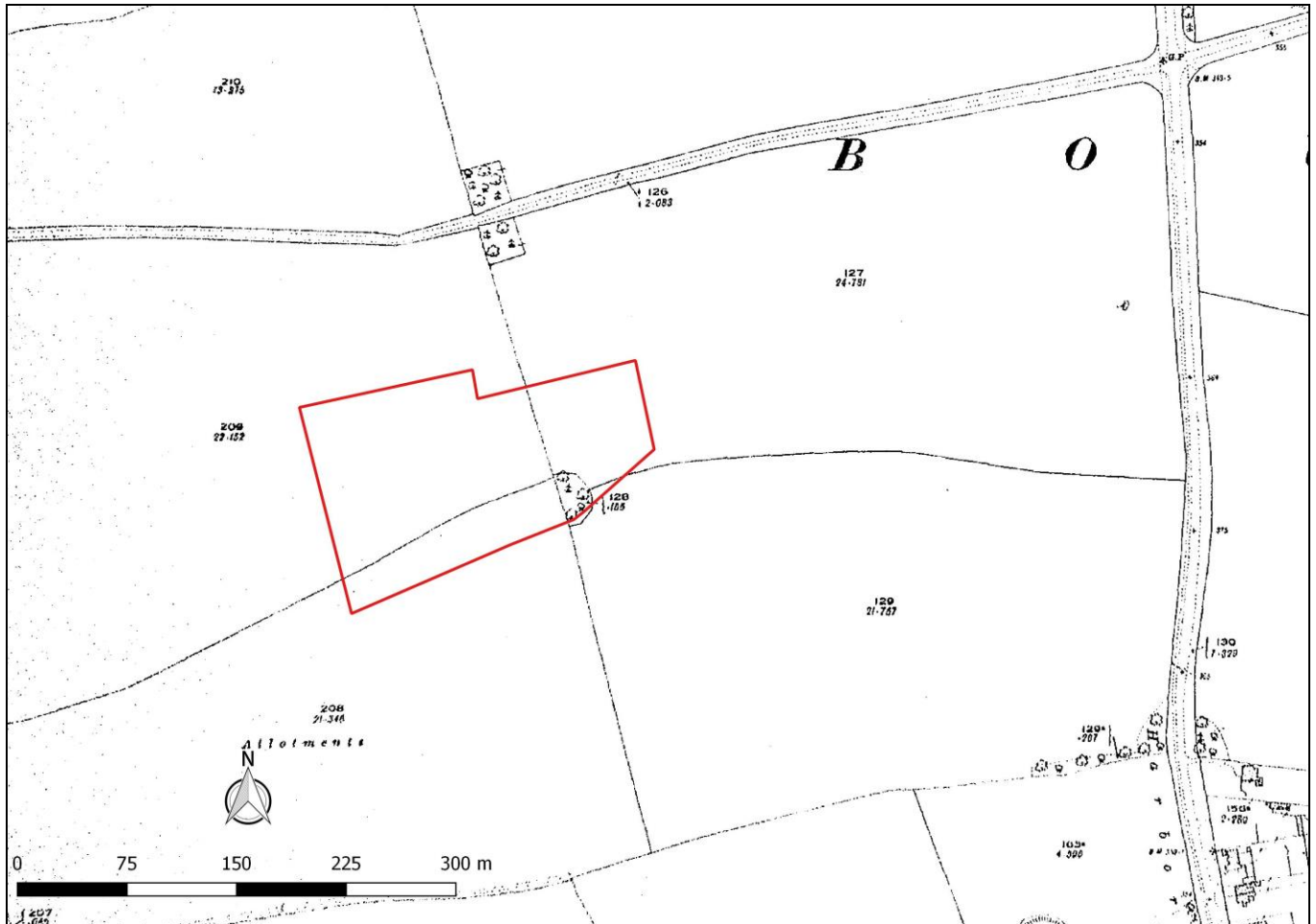


Figure 19. Extract from the OS 1926 1:2,500 map of Northamptonshire, sheet 38.13. Reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Archives.

- 6.7. The present study area occupies part of plots 216, 217, 218 and 221, with the whole of plot 219. It adjoins plot 220. A copy of the 1932 Boughton Field Name Map, held in the Northamptonshire Archives (no ref.), names plot 216 as *Long Close*, plot 217 as *Top Kingsthorpe Field* (Kingsthorpe was the adjoining parish), plot 218 as *Earth Close* and plot 221 as *Jackshole*. The source for these field names could not be ascertained.
- 6.8. It should be noted that the N-S field boundary that passed through the study area on this map appears on all subsequent maps and would appear to represent the present N-S field boundary.
- 6.9. The OS maps of 1885 are the next available detailed depictions of the study area (see Figure 17). These appear to show very little alteration in the study area, but they do show some more detail, in particular that Vyse plots 219 and 220 were both wooded. This suggests they were perhaps coverts for fox hunting. As noted above the parish boundary with Kingsthorpe is depicted running East-West to the south of the study area.

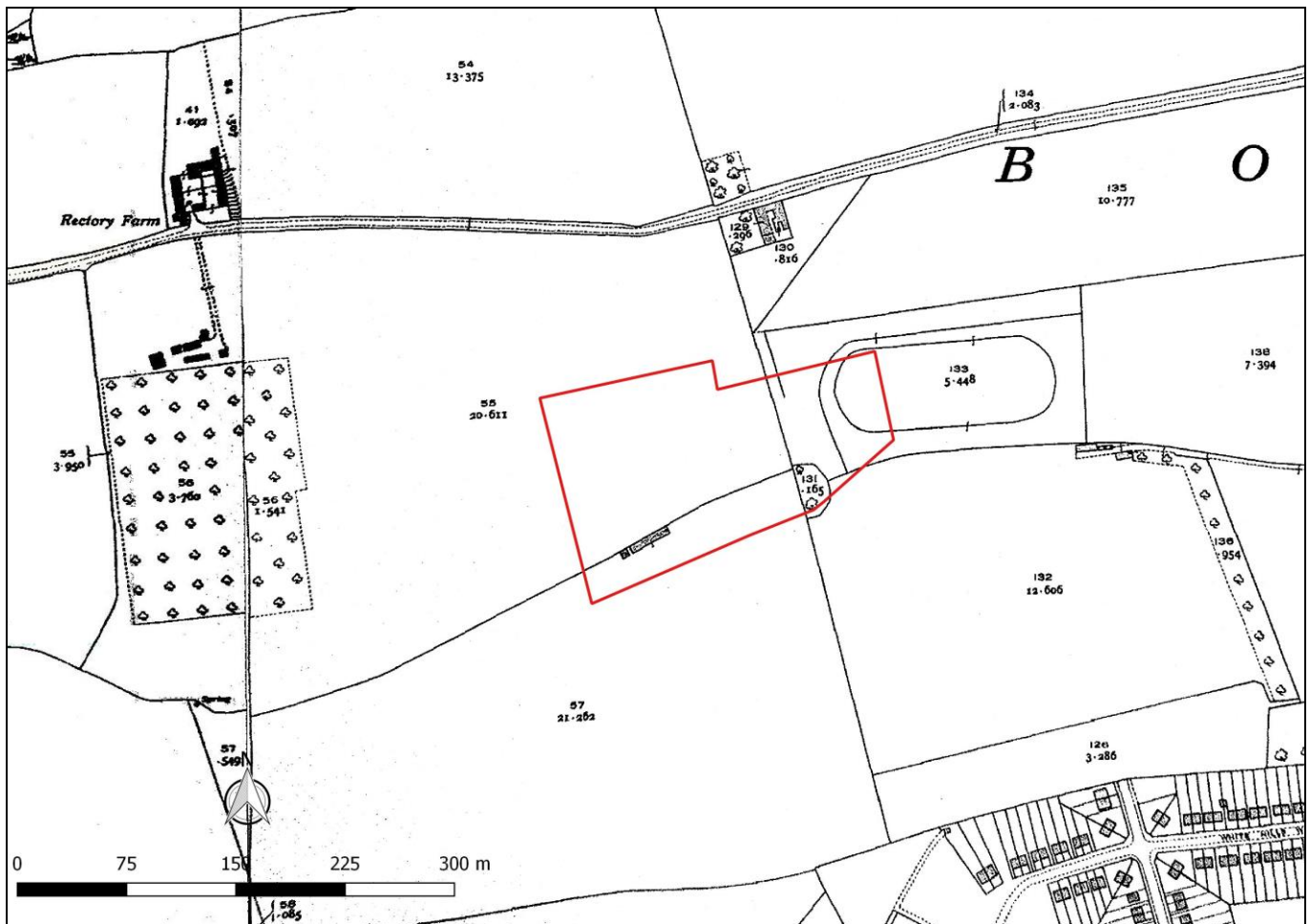


Figure 20. Extract from the OS 1937 1:2,500 map of Northamptonshire, sheet 38.13. Reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Archives.

6.10. No change to the study area was depicted on the OS map of 1900, though there had been some minor changes in the broader study area. To the south and east along what is now Harborough Road North some pitting for sand had taken place. Possibly the most notable change was the removal of the parish boundary with Kingsthorpe, which now ran well south of the study area. As a result the OS field parcel numbers had changed.

6.11. Again, very little change is noted on the OS map of 1926 (only sheet 38.13 was available). The most notable was that field 208, which includes the southwest corner of the study area, was labelled as allotments.

6.12. The OS map of 1937 shows some significant changes to the study area and its surrounds. Former OS plot 127 had been subdivided, with that part of the study area within plot 133. This appeared to have been laid out with an oval circuit suggestive of a sports track, but there is no accompanying label to explain this. Outside the study area, a house had been built adjoining plot 129 (Vyse plot 220). Some way to the west the beginnings of Westview Farm could be detected, with structures on the south side of the road, opposite Rectory Farm, and an orchard planted since





the previous survey. South of the study area another significant change was the development of the White Hills Estate, illustrating the encroachment of the Northampton conurbation northwards.

- 6.13. Further development of the study area and its surrounds is recorded in wartime and post war aerial photography and mapping (not illustrated). The earliest recorded aerial photograph was taken by the USAAF in April 1944. This shows an interesting development in the field that included Area B, which is shown in greater detail in an RAF photograph from September 1945. In the land to the east of the study area stood an east-west aligned row of huts and hut emplacements connected by a path. South of these were two circular earth embankments, connected to the huts by further paths. The western ring was smaller than the eastern one. Both appeared to be empty, but there seems little doubt this was the site of WWII anti-aircraft defences that had already been decommissioned by 1945. Previous documentary research indicates this would have been the 72<sup>nd</sup> Searchlight Regiment (ENN101321, citing TNA WO 166/3313, see above). The larger earthwork would have been for a light anti-aircraft gun emplacement, while the smaller housed the searchlight; the associated huts housed the crew and a generator (Brown and Lowry 1996, 63).
- 6.14. On later aerial photographs (from 1963 onwards) all the WWII structures, including the earthen embankments, have been completely removed. However, the embankments continue to appear on some aerial photographs as ring ditch cropmarks, suggesting they were constructed from soil excavated from a surrounding ditch. These features are also visible on Google Earth images from 2009-10, while the original earthworks are visible on Google Earth imagery from c. 1945. An undated 3D image from Google Earth, believed to be c. 2010-2016, appears to show the smaller ring ditch had been subject to archaeological excavation.
- 6.15. Google Earth imagery from 2017 indicates land adjoining the eastern side of the study area was already being developed for the present housing estate. The house to the east of the study area, on the south side of the road, had been demolished by this date.
- 6.16. Land to the northeast of the study area, adjoining the north side of Brampton Lane, has been subject to extensive quarrying. This is first evidence on OS aerial photographs from 1988. The quarrying became more extensive by the mid 1990s, and by 2001 had occupied almost the whole of that field. Google Earth imagery from 2004 suggests that quarrying had ceased, and the site was being restored (possible landfill); imagery from 2017 indicates this restoration is almost complete.



## 7. Summary

- 7.1. The desk-based assessment has confirmed that there are no statutory heritage constraints within the study area. There have been no previous reports of buried archaeology within the study area.
- 7.2. Prehistoric activity in the general area is well evidenced in the archaeological record, there is the possibility that undated features observed in the vicinity as crop marks may prove to be of this date.
- 7.3. There is some evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the study area, but a lack of clarity as to its exact location. One source places it immediately east of the study area, but previous archaeological investigation has failed to locate it. More likely it was in an area north of the study area that has since been quarried away.
- 7.4. Early Medieval activity in the broader area is very poorly evidenced, though Domesday indicates the manors of Boughton were extant by the mid to later 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.5. Later Medieval activity in the general area was more extensive, with likely settlement in Boughton village and a mill on the River Nene. Medieval artefacts have been found in the grounds of Boughton Hall while medieval carved building stone has been found at Grange Farm; a manuring scatter of medieval pottery was found to the northwest near Boughton Crossing. None of this material was found close to the study area which suggests it was very peripheral to medieval activity.
- 7.6. Not surprisingly Post-Medieval activity appears to be more extensive. There is limited documentation for the study area before the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was probably enclosed before the 1756 Inclosure Act. An approximation of the present field layout was in existence by the 1865 estate map, by which time Brampton Lane was also in existence. The evidence from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century would suggest the study area was agricultural land and had probably been so since at least the Middle Ages.
- 7.7. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century structures were built on a small parcel of land close to the study area along Brampton Lane, but these have since been demolished. During the Second World War a searchlight battery was established immediately east of the study area. By the 1980s most above ground traces of this had been removed. There is a possibility that peripheral activities associated with this site may have extended into the eastern part of the study area. More recently there has been archaeological investigation of the immediate surroundings, with a previous desk-based assessment covering a large area of Buckton Fields, followed by a number of geophysical surveys



and trial trenching immediately to the east of the study area. At the time of writing it is believed that archaeological investigations are underway on land immediately to the west of the study area.

7.8. A walkover survey of the study area did not reveal anything of archaeological significance.

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1. Overall the archaeological potential of the study area would appear to be low but has yet to be tested by a full evaluation in the field.

8.2. The western side of the study area appears suitable for field evaluation by geophysical survey followed by targeted and random trial trenching. The eastern side has recently been disturbed but is suitable for evaluation by trial trenching.



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## Methodology

This DBA has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2014), which states that a DBA 'will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area' and that in 'development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact (CIfA 2014: 4).

## Study Area

A 1km Study Area was established for the study area to contextualise the known and potential archaeological resource.

## Data Collation

The DBA involved consultation of available archaeological and historical information from documentary, cartographic, photographic and historic environment record sources. The aim was to produce a document that not only considered the potential for archaeological remains on the study area, but to also put these into their historical and archaeological context.



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