



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Observation and  
Recording at Gypsy Lane, Wolvey,  
Warwickshire  
NGR: SP 43376 89329**

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No. 2014-223

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**Archaeological observation and recording on land at  
Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, Warwickshire**

**NGR: SP 43376 89329**

**Nathan Flavell**

**For: Mr J R Mac**

**Planning application no. R13/0497.2**

Checked by

Signed:



**Date:** 14.04.2016

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## **Archaeological observation and recording on land at Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, Warwickshire (SP 43376 89329)**

Nathan Flavell

### **Summary**

*Archaeological observation & recording was carried out on land at Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, Warwickshire (SP 43376 89329) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 27th October 2014 and 6th April 2016. The work was carried out on behalf of Mr J R Mac in advance of the proposed erection of a new stable building. A foundation trench for an L-shaped building totalling 136 square metres was excavated in 2014 with a further U-shaped trench was excavated in 2016 for the moving of the new stable block. The site archive will be held by Warwickshire County Council Museum Services under an accession number T/1405.*

### **Introduction**

This document constitutes the final report for archaeological observation and recording carried out on land at Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, Warwickshire (SP 43376 89329). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr J R Mac by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 27th October 2014 and 6th April 2016. The planning consent is for the erection of a stable building to include four stables, tack room and store and the construction of a ménage. The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches. The construction of the ménage did not involve groundworks to a greater depth than 50mm while some of the area was built up so was not subject to archaeological observation and recording.

The work was requested by the Warwickshire County Council in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation and Recording (watching brief) Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, LE10 3HQ* (Clay 2013).

### **Geology and Topography**

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain website, Sheet 200 (Stratford-Upon-Avon), indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of deposits of Mercia Mudstone (gbs.ac.uk).

### **Historical and Archaeological Background**

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest, close to where within prehistoric finds have been recovered, and a large number of possible round barrows and a possible long barrow have been identified, in the vicinity of the site (Appendix I).

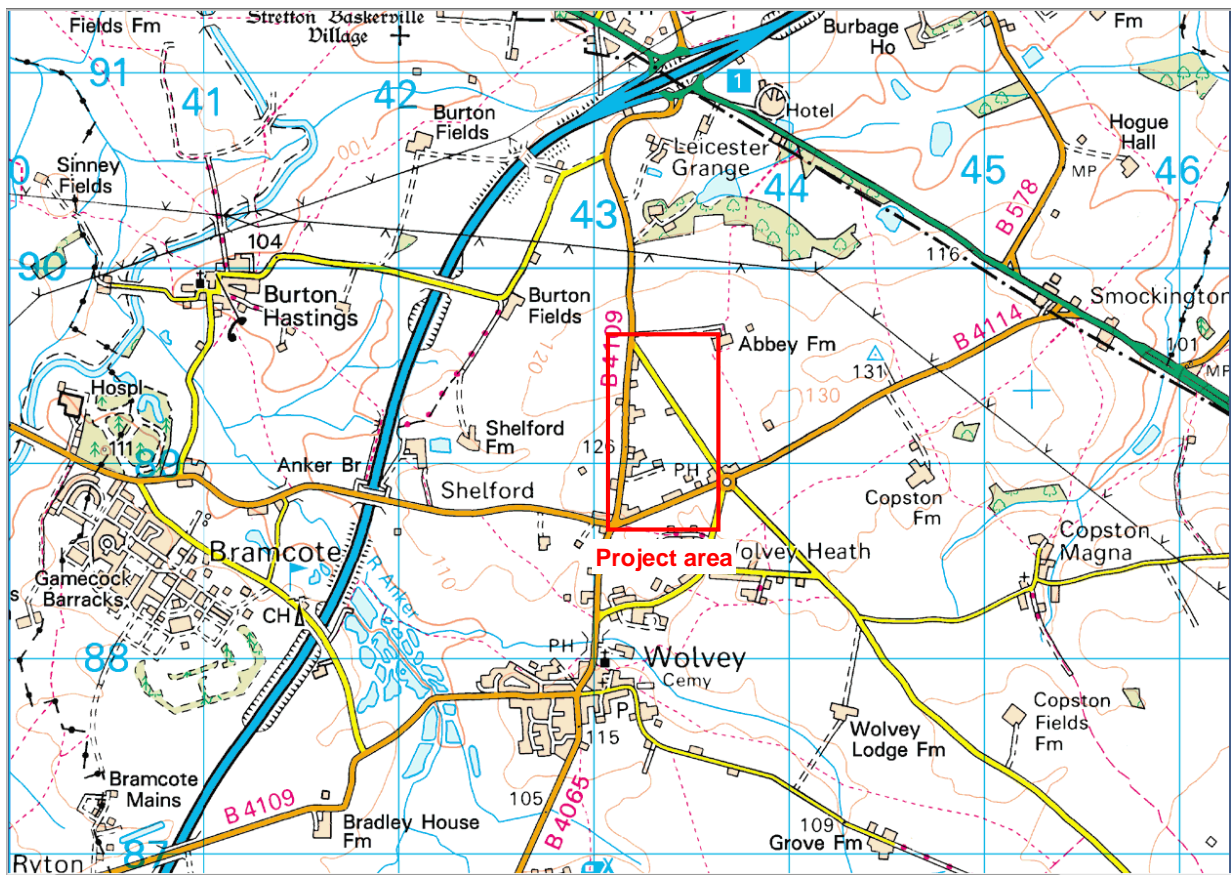


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits or earlier building remains.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the proposed works.
- To record any archaeological deposits/ structural evidence to be affected by the works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## Methodology

The foundation trench was excavated using a 13 tonne tracked digger with a c.0.6m wide, ditching bucket. The trench was for an L-shaped building 0.6m wide to a depth of approximately 1.m below ground level. The area within the building footprint was reduced by a further 0.2-0.3m.

The trench, other exposed areas, sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features, if present, were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the evaluation. Field notes were recorded on pro-forma ULAS trench recording forms whilst all stratigraphic units would be given a unique context number and recorded on pro-forma ULAS context sheets if deemed appropriate. Archaeological features if present would be drawn to a scale of 1:20, trench plans to a scale of 1:50 and sections to a scale of 1:10. The trench was located in relation to prominent features within the property and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

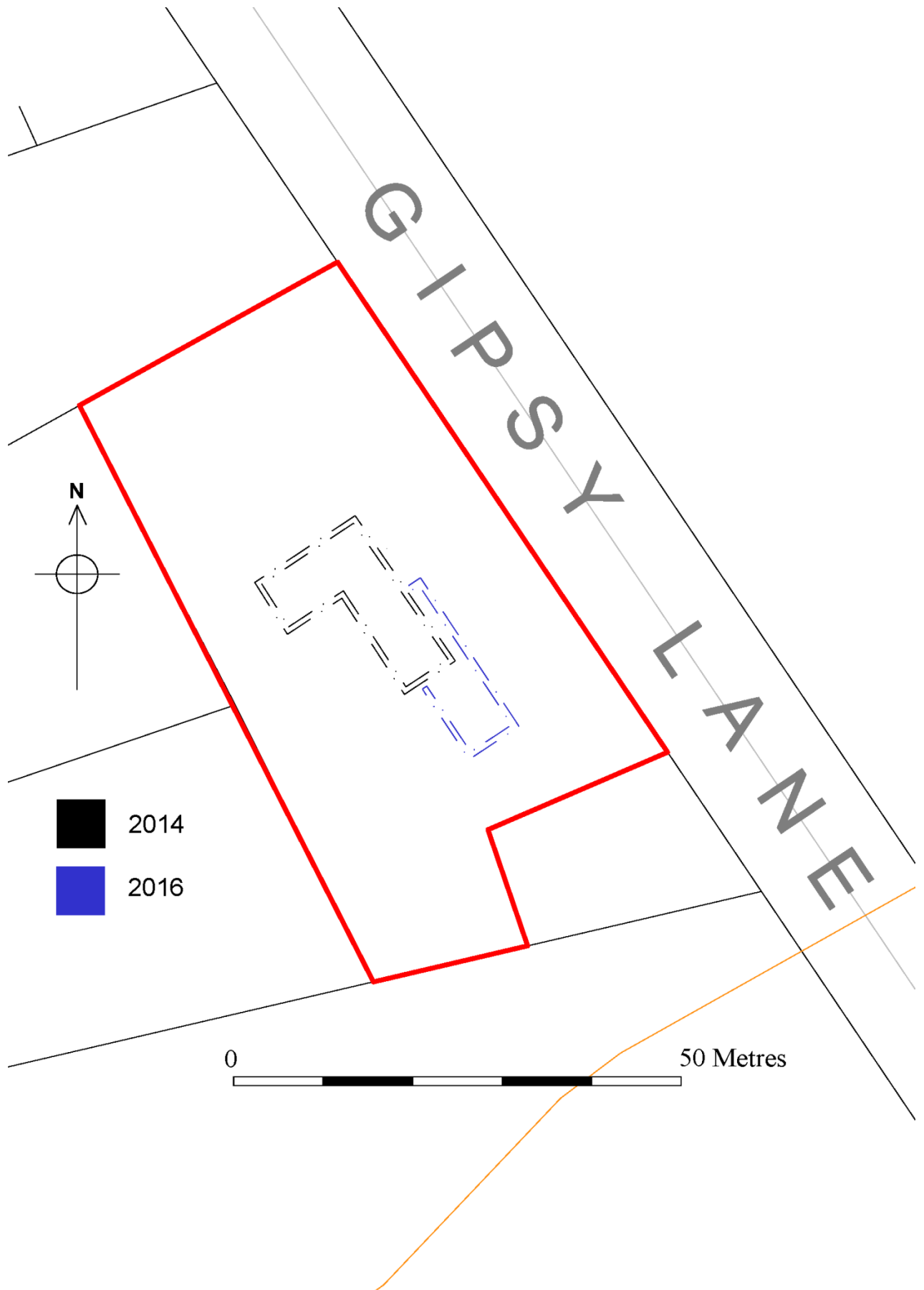


Figure 2: Site plan showing trench location.  
*Plan adapted from architects plan provided by client.*

All work followed the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a)



and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014b).

## Results

Natural geology of reddish-brown clay sand was encountered at a depth of 0.50m below ground level. Overlying this was a layer of mottled grey-yellow-orange silty-sand with frequent pebble inclusions 0.25m thick. This could be another deposit of the natural geological substratum. This was overlain by soft grey-brown sandy-loam mixed with small pebbles 0.32m thick forming the topsoil.

A further foundation was excavated directly to the east of the stable as it was built in the wrong place. The north-east trench (Fig. 7) was 19.9m long, the south-west trench was 10m long, and the south-east trench was 6.7m long (Fig. 6). All the trenches were 0.6m wide and 0.6m deep. Natural geology of yellow-orange pebbly sand was encountered at a depth of 0.37m deep. The subsoil was yellow-orange silty-sand, 0.1m thick. The topsoil was red-brown pebbly sandy-loam 0.1m thick.



Figure 3: Trench section





Figure 4: Trench section



Figure 5: Reduced level of building interior





Figure 6: New foundation section looking north-west



Figure 7: New foundation trench looking north-west

## Discussion

There were no archaeological deposits or finds encountered within any of the foundation trenches or within the spoil excavated on both visits to the site. This at least seems consistent with OS maps showing farm land.

## Bibliography

CIfA 2014a *Code of Conduct* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2010). Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Clay, P., 2013, *Written Scheme of investigation for archaeological observation and recording (watching brief) Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, LE10 3HQ*

## Archive

The site archive consists of: Two A4 watching brief recording form, and digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Warwickshire County Council Museum Services under an accession number t/1405.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS no.	universi1-242542
Project Name	Gipsy Lane, Wolvey, Rugby, Warwickshire
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Matthew Morris & Nathan Flavell
Previous/Future work	Unknown
Current Land Use	Pasture
Development Type	Ménage
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 43376 89329
Start/end dates of field work	27/10/14
Archive recipient	Warwickshire
Study Area	c. 136 square meters

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken by Matthew Morris (2014) and Nathan Flavell (2016); the report was

prepared by Nathan Flavell and the project was managed for ULAS by Patrick Clay.

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08/04/2016

**Appendix I: Appendix I: Heritage assets in the vicinity recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER)**

MonUID	RecordType	Name	MonType	Period	Summary
MWA5483	MON	Undated linear feature	LINEAR FEATURE	Undated	
MWA3710	MON	Site of Poss Ring Ditch 300m SE of Five Lane Ends	RING DITCH	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age	A possible ring ditch of Neolithic or Bronze Age date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. The site is located 300m south east of Five Lane Ends.
MWA4963	MON	Mesolithic flint scatter	FLINT SCATTER, FINDSPOT	Mesolithic	
MWA4962	MON	Possible Round Barow 400m NW of Abbey Farm	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Bronze Age	The site of a possible round barrow, a circular mound of earth usually built to conceal a burial. It is thought to be Bronze Age in date and is visible as an earthwork. The site is located 400m north west of Wolvey Heath.
MWA3576	MON	Possible Round Barrow 100m S of Abbey Farm	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Bronze Age	
MWA4967	MON	Possible Round Barrow 100m SW of Heath Farm	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Bronze Age	The site of two round barrows, circular mounds of earth usually built to conceal a burial. They are thought to be Bronze Age in date and they are partially visible earthworks. The site is located 200m north east of Five Lane Ends.
MWA4964	MON	Possible Round Barrow 300m NE of Heath Farm	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Late Neolithic to Early Iron Age	The site of a possible round barrow, a circular mound of earth usually built to conceal a burial. It is thought to be Bronze Age in date and is partially visible as an earthwork. The site is located 100m north of Smockington Lane.
MWA2764	MON	Possible Round Barrows 900m W of Five Lane Ends	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Bronze Age	The site of two possible round barrows, circular mounds of earth usually concealing a burial. They probably dated to the Bronze Age. The site is located 500m east of Shelford.
MWA3595	MON	Post Medieval punishment place, Wolvey Heath	EXECUTION SITE	Post-medieval	



MWA3577	MON	Site of Medieval Hermitage at Wolvey Heath	MONASTERY, HERMITAGE	Medieval	
MWA5477	MON	Site of Moat at the Hermitage, Wolvey Heath	MOAT	Medieval	
MWA2249	MON	Bronze Age Round Barrow	ROUND BARROW, BOWL BARROW	Bronze Age	The site of a Bronze Age (2600-600BC) round barrow, a mound usually constructed to cover a human burial. The barrow has been partially excavated but survives as an earthwork. It is situated 300m north of the junction of Hinckley Road and Gipsy Lane.
MWA5618	FS	Findspot - Mesolithic and Neolithic flint	FLINT SCATTER	Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic	
MWA4959	FS	Findspot - Mesolithic to Neolithic flint	FLINT SCATTER	Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic	
MWA4960	MON	Possible Round Barrow 300m N of Abbey Farm	ROUND BARROW, BARROW	Bronze Age	
MWA4961	FS	Findspot - Neolithic to Bronze Age flint	FLINT SCATTER	Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age	Findspot - a flint scatter comprising flint artefacts of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was found 300m east of Hinckley Road.
MWA2774	MON	Shelford Deserted Medieval Settlement	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	Medieval	The Medieval deserted settlement of Shelford. The settlement is known to have existed from documentary evidence and some areas are visible as earthworks. The settlement is situated 1.5km south east of Burton Hastings.
MWA5337	MON	Possible Fishpond at Shelford	FISHPOND	Medieval to Post-medieval	The site of a possible fishpond, used for storing and breeding fish. It is of Medieval or Post Medieval date and is visible as an earthwork. It is situated at Shelford.
MWA5338	MON	Site of a Moated Manor House at Shelford	MANOR HOUSE, MOAT, HOUSE	Medieval	
MWA3571	MON	Undated hearth	HEARTH	Undated	
MWA3712	MON	Undated cropmark enclosure	ENCLOSURE	Undated	An enclosure of unknown date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It is situated 1km north east of Five Lane Ends.
MWA4853	MON	Undated Linear Feature 1300m E of Burton Hastings	LINEAR FEATURE	Undated	A linear feature of unknown date is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It is situated 500m north of Shelford.
MWA3586	MON	Windmill at Heath Farm	WINDMILL, WINDMILL MOUND	Imperial	

MWA4854	MON	Undated linear cropmark	ENCLOSURE, LINEAR FEATURE, QUARRY	Undated	The site of an enclosure and linear features of unknown date. The features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Documentary evidence suggests that the features may be associated with a quarry. The site is located 500m east of Hinckley Road.
MWA3711	MON	Undated cropmark enclosures	ENCLOSURE	Undated	The site of three enclosures of unknown date. They are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The site lies 300m west of Ashpole Spinney.
MWA9978	MON	Possible Long Barrow	LONG BARROW?	Early Neolithic to Late Neolithic	
MWA10085	MON	Possible burial mound in Wolvey	MOUND	Undated	
MWA12659	MON	Leicester Grange	LANDSCAPE PARK, GARDEN	Modern to Unknown	Parkland, rectangular pond, avenue, woodland.
MWA5089	FS	Findspot - Palaeolithic handaxe and flint artefacts	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	
MWA5098	FS	Findspot - Palaeolithic flint handaxe	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	
MWA5099	FS	Palaeolithic handaxe found near Wolvey.	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	
MWA5100	FS	Findspot - Palaeolithic handaxe, Hinckley Lane, Wolvey.	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	
MWA4455	FS	Findspot - Prehistoric Flint Arrowheads	FINDSPOT	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age	
MWA9649	MON	The site of an anti aircraft installation north of Wolvey	ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY	Modern	
MWA9932	FS	Find of Roman items in Wolvey	FINDSPOT	Romano-British	
MWA9972	FS	Findspot - Prehistoric Flints	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric	
MWA9973	FS	Findspot - Prehistoric Flints	FINDSPOT	Late Mesolithic to Early Iron Age	
MWA9974	FS	Findspot - Prehistoric Flint Blade	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric	
MWA9977	FS	Findspot - Barbed and Tanged Arrowhead	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	
MWA12808	FS	Palaeolithic cores from Burton Fields Farm, Burton Hastings	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	Two Quartzite chopper-cores from Burton Fields Farm, Burton Hastings
MWA12837	FS	Palaeolithic handaxe from Burton Field Farm, Burton Hastings	FINDSPOT	Palaeolithic	Flint subcordate handaxe from Burton Fields Farm, Burton Hastings



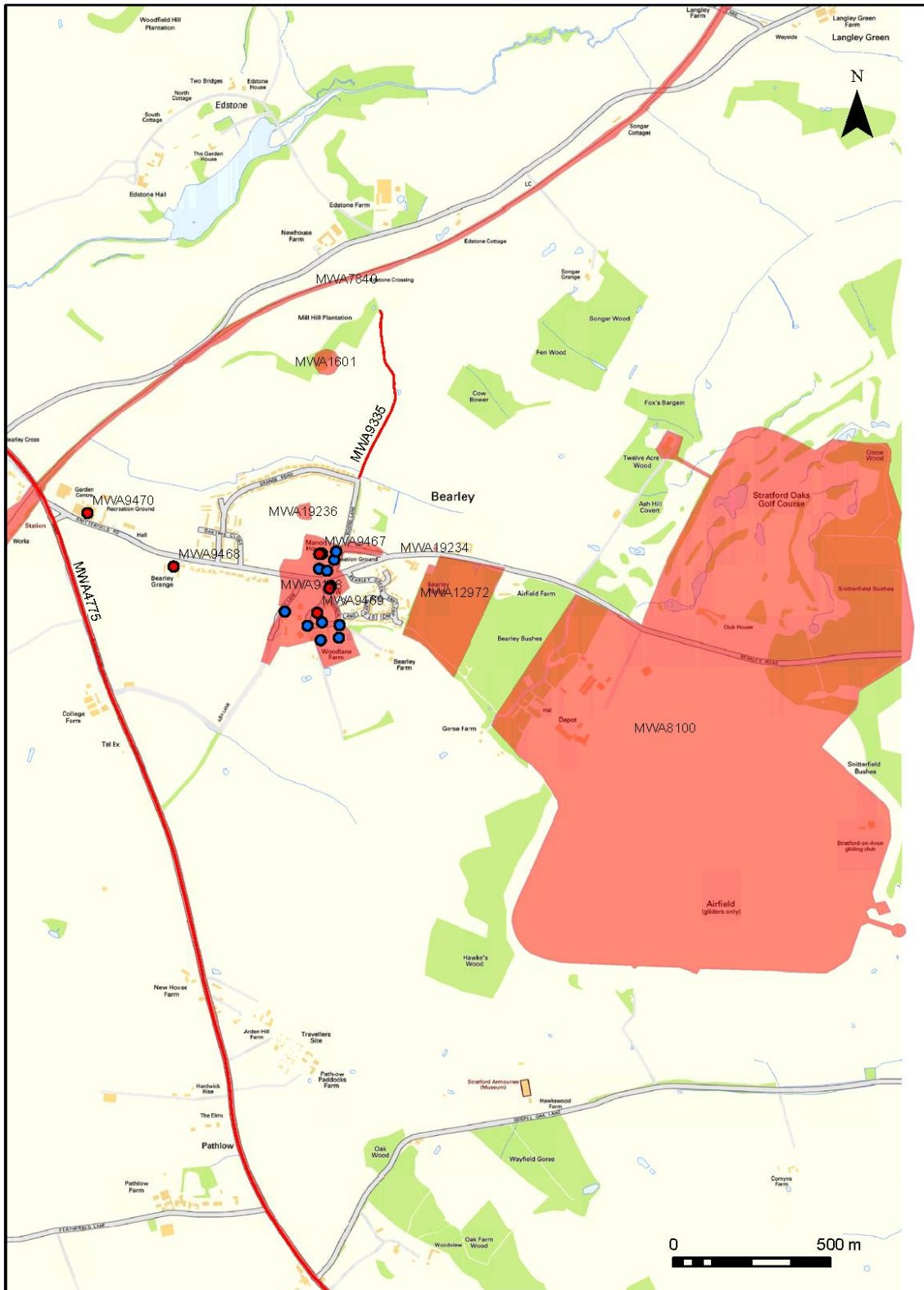


Figure 8: HER finds locations



## Appendix II: Historic Maps



Figure 9: 1887 OS Map (6 inch to 1 mile)

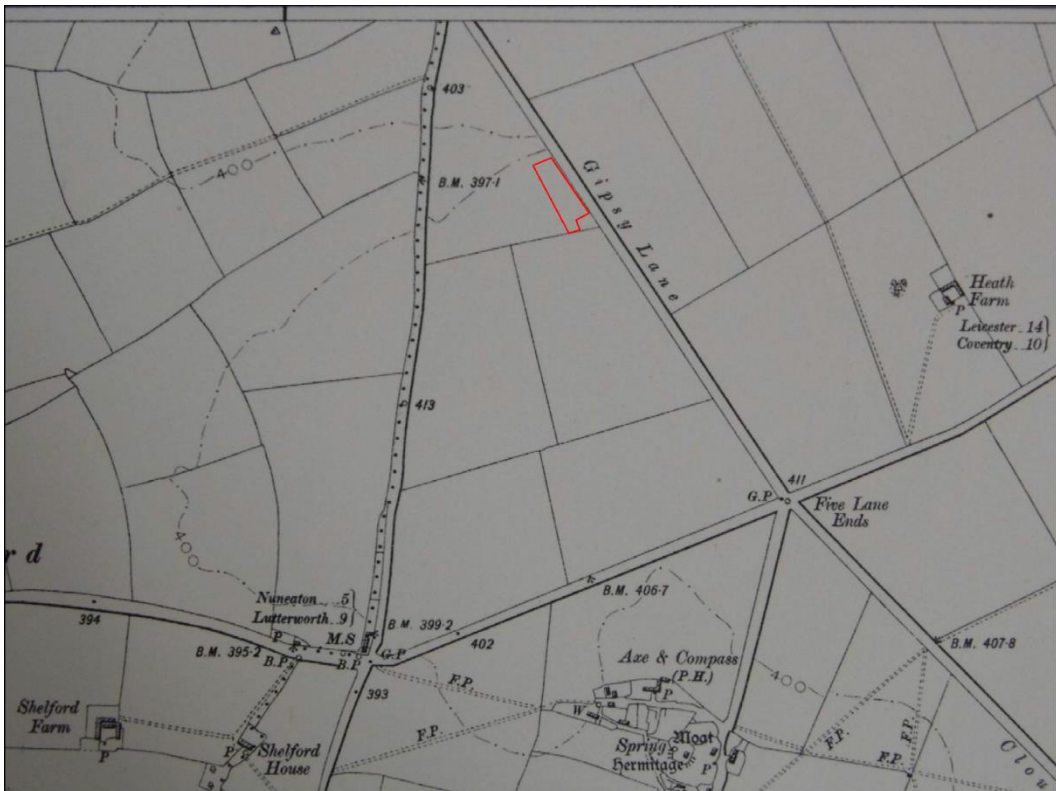


Figure 10: 1904 OS Map (6 inch to 1 mile)

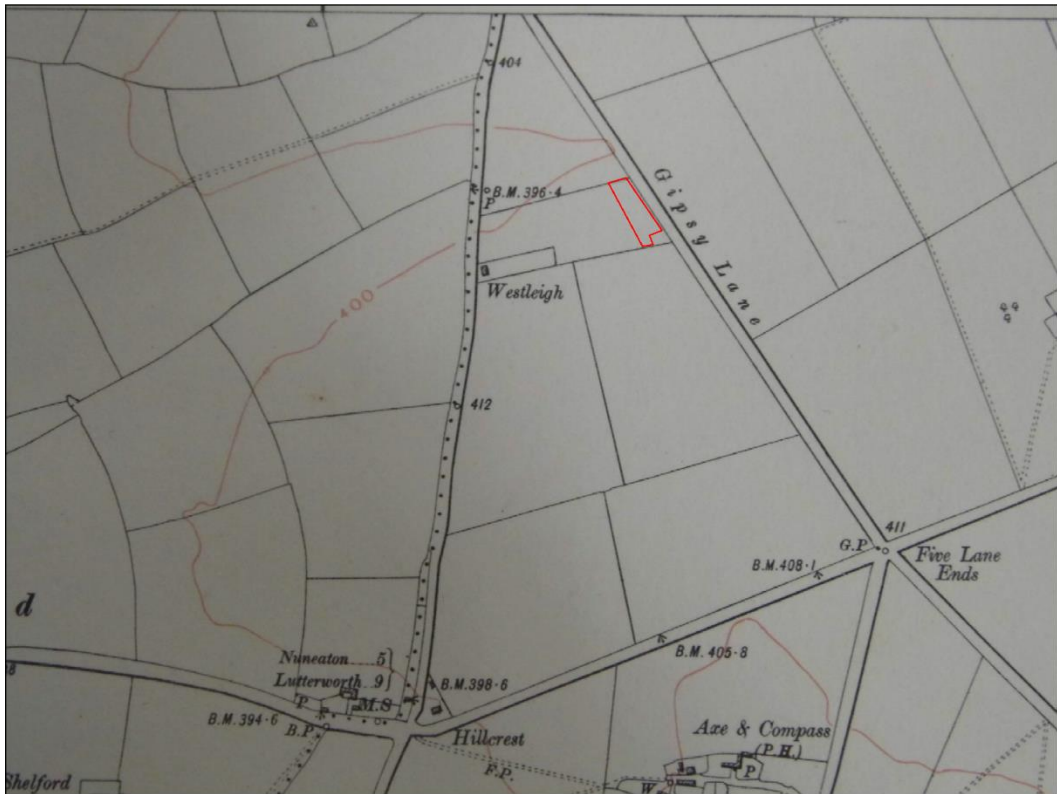


Figure 11: 1926 OS map (6 inch to 1 mile)



Figure 12: 1968 OS map (6 inch to 1 mile)



Figure 13: 1983 OS map (6 inch to 1 mile)



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