

**BYDEMILL FARM,
HANNINGTON,
SWINDON,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 418317 192852

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

March 2022
Report No. 1474



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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Author: A. Hood BSc MCIfA

Date: 9th March 2022

Approved: R. King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: T. Michaels BSc MCIfA

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SUMMARY

On 9th and 10th August 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Bydemill Farm, Hannington, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: 418317 192852). The project was commissioned by the landowner Hardy Klindt.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of a mechanical strip related to the construction of a riding manege.

The strip penetrated into topsoil and subsoil layers, which formed extant ridge and furrow, to an average maximum depth of 0.45m below Modern ground. No archaeological features or natural deposits were revealed; however, residual datable artefacts recovered from the excavated soils included small assemblages of probable Prehistoric flints and abraded Roman pottery, as well as Post-medieval ceramics. The recovered finds therefore constitute limited evidence for Prehistoric and Roman activity within, or in the vicinity of, the site.

The greater proportion of the Post-medieval finds are likely to have been deposited as manuring detritus and are likely to have been associated with Bydemill Farm. The presence of Post-medieval finds within topsoil and subsoil layers suggested that the area around the site had remained under the plough until at least 17th – 18th century and possibly later.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (aOD above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on 9th and 10th August 2021 at Bydemill Farm, Hannington, Swindon, Wiltshire (NGR: 418317 192852). The project was commissioned by the landowner Hardy Klindt.
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2021), as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995).
- 1.3 The CIfA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**Reference Number: S/21/0393/SASM**) was granted for the construction of a riding manege and associated works at Bydemill Farm. The archaeological officer for Wiltshire Council required a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during associated intrusive groundworks.
- 2.2 The study area is situated approximately 650m southeast of Hannington and around 1km to the west of Highworth. It is located immediately northwest of Bydemill Farm complex, and at the time of the fieldwork, it formed part of a pasture field, which contained extant ridge and furrow earthworks. The 12th century Church of St John the Baptist is located approximately 120m to the southeast.
- 2.3 The site is located towards the base of an east facing slope, with the land around the site area sloping gently downwards from 88.60m aOD at the west to 87.27m aOD at the east. The Bydemill Brook is located approximately 240m to the east of the site. The underlying geology is recorded as *Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston Formation* (undifferentiated) - sandstone, siltstone and mudstone (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.4 The name Hannington derives from Old English and it means either *Cock Hill* or *Hana's Hill*; 'hana' meaning 'cock' in Old English; although it can also appear as a personal name. The 'ton' element derives from 'dun', meaning 'a hill'. There are several charters in the *Liber terrarum and Index chartarum* of Glastonbury Abbey relating to Hannington; the earliest dating to King Alfred, which demonstrate that there was an estate there during the latter part of the 9th century and that there may potentially have been a settlement within this location from much earlier in the Saxon period.

- 2.5 The village of Hannington (MWI6807) is listed in the HER as a Medieval Settlement within the vicinity of the church, although a Saxon origin is evident. After the Norman conquest of 1066, Hannington is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being held by Glastonbury Abbey, who also held the land in the time of King Edward. The Grade II* listed church of St. John the Baptist (DWI12427/1023330) lies some considerable distance to the southeast of the existing village core, which may be suggestive of a shift in settlement; although, no deserted/shrunken Medieval village remains are known from around the church. No physical evidence is known for the location of either the Saxon or the Medieval core of the village and, of the core elements of a contemporary village (church, manor and 'settlement'), only the 12th century church is certain. Under normal circumstances it would be anticipated (though there are exceptions) that the village would have grown up around the manor and church, as part of a process of nucleation, but the date of the church may suggest that any nucleation had already occurred beforehand and, indeed, a settlement shift may have already occurred from the Saxon core (which may itself not be the same as the initial Saxon settlement) to a Medieval settlement.
- 2.6 The site area is also within an area of Medieval to Post-medieval ridge and furrow (MWI174941). This area extends to the west, north and east of the site area.
- 2.7 A findspot of Roman pottery sherds (MWI16775) is recorded approximately 110m to the west of the site area. There is currently no evidence for Roman features close to the site, so it is possible that these were stray finds; however, a series of undated ditches located approximately 350m to the southeast of the site were identified by geophysical survey in 2018 (MWI176361) and it is possible that these might be of Roman origin.
- 2.8 The site therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the works against recording evidence relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to record, prior to their destruction, any identified archaeological deposits within the monitored areas, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the monitored areas;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The penetrative groundworks associated with the construction of the manege consisted of a mechanical strip, which was conducted whilst under constant archaeological observation. Mechanical excavations were undertaken by use of a 360° excavator, equipped with toothless grading bucket.

4.1.1 During the mechanical strip, the spoil was loaded directly into a dumper and taken off site and was therefore, subject to very limited scans for finds.

4.2 All archaeological investigation, excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The site area was approximately rectangular and measured 40m long by 20m wide, as shown in Figure 2. The mechanical strip was graded into the natural slope and it was, therefore, deeper at the west (up-slope), where it penetrated to an average depth of 0.45m below the Modern ground. At the east, the strip extended to an average depth of 0.20m. The profile of the extant ridge and furrow within the site was largely removed towards the west; however, at the east of the site, the ridge and furrow extended below the base of the development impact and it was, therefore, partly preserved *in-situ*. The excavations at the west penetrated into, but not below, the subsoil, whilst the excavations at the east exposed the topsoil-subsoil interface.

5.2 Subsoil (102), average 0.25m thick, consisted of a light yellow brown clay silt, which contained a mixture of Roman, Post-medieval and unidentified pottery, along with probable Prehistoric struck flints, two fragments of possible building stone, fragments of glass and fragments of animal bone. The subsoil was sealed by a brown clay silt topsoil (101), average 0.20m thick, which contained a mixture of Roman, Post-medieval and unidentified pottery, along with probable Prehistoric struck flints, fragments of possible industrial waste,

a fragment of probable building material, which was possibly plaster, part of an iron spike or nail and a fragment of animal bone.

- 5.3 No archaeological features were present within the investigated area; however, it should be noted that, due to the shallow depth of excavations, any potential features or deposits situated below the subsoil were not revealed.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The excavations related to the construction of the manege were very shallow and did not penetrate below the subsoil horizon. Little, therefore, can be said in relation to the presence, or otherwise, of any archaeological features within the site. However, the residual datable artefacts recovered from the excavated soils indicated the potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains to be present within, or in the vicinity of, the site.
- 6.2 The greater proportion of the Post-medieval finds are likely to have been deposited as manuring detritus and are likely to have been associated with Bydemill Farm. The presence of Post-medieval finds within topsoil and subsoil layers suggested that the area around the site had remained under the plough until at least 17th – 18th century and possibly later.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Swindon Museum, under Accession Code SWIMG:2021.9. An OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CAS. 1995. *Standards for Field Evaluation and Assessment in Wiltshire*. Unpublished.

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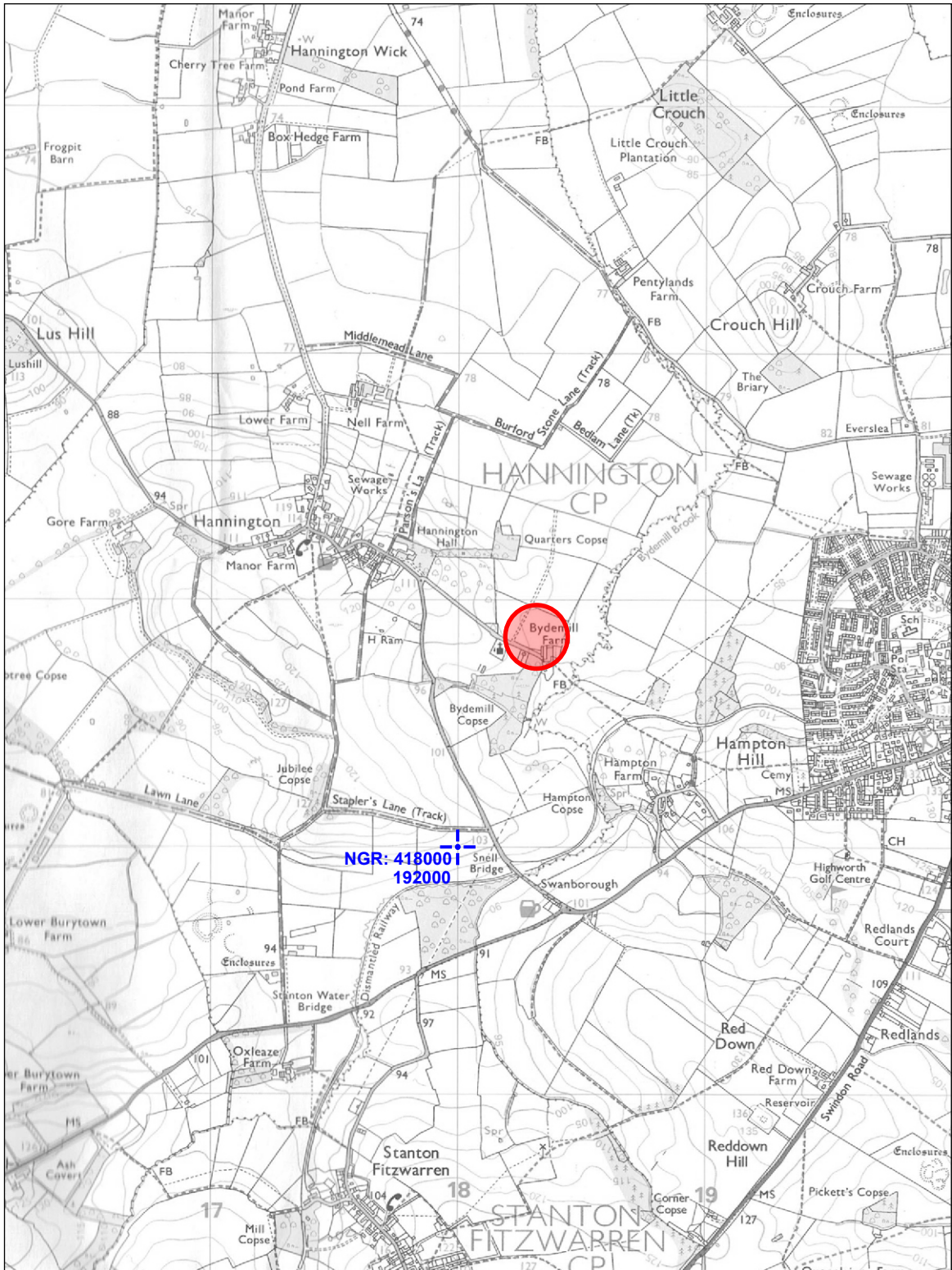
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service, Hardy Klindt, the landowner and the staff at Bydemill Farm for their help during the course of the project.

APPENDIX 1: Finds List

Compiled by A. Hood

Context	Description
101	1 x fragment of iron spike or nail. 21g.
101	18 x sherds of ROMAN pottery. 91g. Heavily abraded.
101	13 x sherds of POST-MEDIEVAL pottery. Mix of 17th - 18th century earthenwares and 18th - 19th century porcelain. 225g.
101	12 x sherds of unidentified pottery. 93g. Moderately abraded.
101	1 x fragment of probable building material, possible plaster. 18g.
101	1 x fragment of possible industrial waste. 17g.
101	2 x fragments of possible industrial waste. 22g.
101	1 x fragment of animal bone. 6g.
101	10 x pieces of flint, at least 4 of which have been struck. PROBABLY PREHISTORIC . 53g.
102	4 x fragments of animal bone. 214g.
102	13 x sherds of ROMAN pottery. 73g. Heavily abraded.
102	1 x sherd of POST-MEDIEVAL pottery. 17th - 18th century glazed earthenware. 14g. Moderately abraded.
102	9 x sherds of unidentified pottery. 88g. Moderately abraded.
102	2 x fragments of blue-green glass. 25g.
102	8 x pieces of struck flint. PROBABLY PREHISTORIC . 102g.
102	2 x fragments of possible building stone. Roughly shaped? sub-square fragments of beige sandstone, up to 125mm by 115mm by 25mm. 997g (total).



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Site Code: BFH21
Accession Code: SWIMG:2021.9

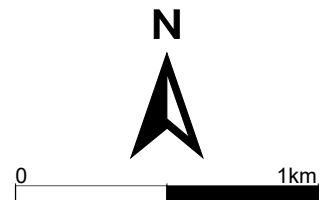


FIGURE 1: Site Location

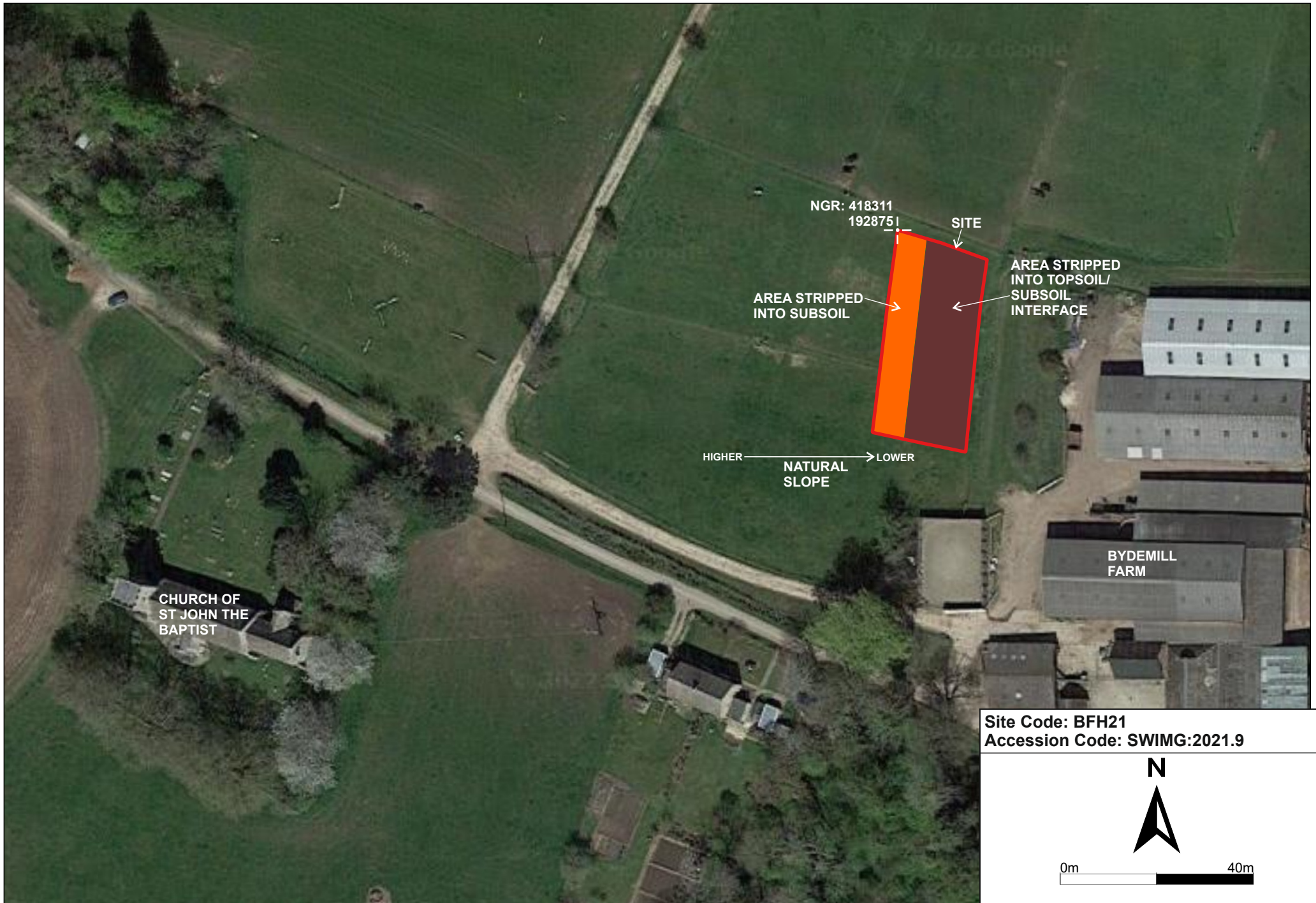


FIGURE 2: Site Plan