

HERITAGE NETWORK



ATTIMORE HALL BARN Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City

HN491

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

ATTIMORE HALL BARN Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

HN491

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment

Prepared on behalf of Durkan Ltd

by

Helen Ashworth BA AIFA

Report No.250

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The cover shows an extract from Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire, 1766

Acknowledgements

The research for this project was carried out Helen Ashworth and Alison Hudson. Illustrations were prepared by David Kaye, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Attimore Hall Barn, Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Welwyn
Village/town:	Welwyn Garden City	Parish:	Welwyn Garden City
Planning reference:	N/A	NGR:	TL 2552 1279
Client name and address:	Durkan Ltd, Durkan House, 214-224 High Street, Waltham Cross, Herts, EN8 7DU		
Project Reference:	HN491	Other reference:	N/a

Synopsis:

In order to assess the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to convert a Grade II listed barn to domestic dwelling, and to build new dwellings at Attimore Hall Barn, Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Durkan Ltd to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment of the site.

The map evidence shows that the study area has been occupied by a farm since at least the late 18th century. The listed barn certainly pre-dates 1766 and roof timbers in the barn have been dated to the 17th century. Examination of aerial photographs of the site has revealed evidence that the study area may lie within a possible late Iron Age enclosure. Archaeological remains of late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval date have been recorded in the vicinity.

On the basis of the known evidence, there is a high risk that archaeological remains survive on the eastern side of the present site, which appears to have remained largely undeveloped since at least the late 18th century. The actual nature of any surviving remains can only be characterised with certainty by intrusive investigation.

1. Introduction

1.1 This study has been prepared at the request of *Durkan Ltd*, as a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of a development site at Attimore Hall Barn, Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

1.2 The study area comprises an irregularly shaped plot, measuring approximately 6230m². It lies on a triangular plot between Ridgeway and Black Fan Road, centred at NGR TL 2552 1279, and is bounded to the north and west by the line of Black Fan Road and Attimore Hall Public House; to the east by Safeway Supermarket; and on the south by the Shamrock Club (Figure 1). The southwestern side is currently occupied by Attimore Hall Barn, which is used as an Arts Workshop, whilst the remainder is undeveloped.

1.3 The site is located at the southeastern end of the industrial area in Welwyn Garden City, immediately to the west of the Panshanger estate (Figure 1). It forms part of the Attimore Hall complex, which possibly dates back to the 17th century. Significant finds of late Iron Age and Romano-British date have also been recovered from the immediate vicinity.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.4 The aim of the present document has been to provide:

- A comprehensive overview of the development of landuse on and in the vicinity of the study area from readily accessible sources;
- An assessment of the risk that development within the study area might encounter archaeological remains, and of the significance of such remains.

1.5 The research has followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and includes reference, where appropriate, to:

- Archaeological databases
- Historical documents
- Cartographic and pictorial documents
- Aerial photographs
- Geotechnical information
- Secondary and statutory sources

1.6 Repositories consulted include:

- Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR)

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- Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)
- National Monuments Record Air Photographic Library (NMR)
- Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP)

COMPETENCE

1.7 The Heritage Network is an independent practice specialising in archaeology and the historic environment. Founded in 1992, the company has undertaken a wide variety of commercial archaeological projects for clients involved in housing and industrial development, pipeline and road construction, agriculture and landscaping. As a *Registered Archaeological Organisation*, the company is monitored annually by the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that its work meets the highest professional standards.

1.8 Projects are administered and co-ordinated by David Hillelson, the Heritage Network's Archaeological Director, an established archaeologist with extensive experience of the management of archaeological projects in both urban and rural environments. He holds an honours degree in archaeology from the University of Durham, and is a Member of the *Institute of Field Archaeologists*. He has been the practice's principal officer since 1992.

1.9 Research projects are managed by Helen Ashworth. She holds a degree in English and History from Middlesex Polytechnic, a Post-graduate Diploma in Librarianship, a Post-graduate Certificate in Field Archaeology from the University of Oxford, and she is an Associate of the *Institute of Field Archaeologists*. She has over twenty years of practical archaeological experience in local government, with the Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England, and in private practice.

2. Evidence

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located on the northeast facing slope of the Black Fan dry valley, at approximately 80m OD. At this point the ground slopes away gently towards the north.

2.2 The present site appears to lie close to the junction between two bands of soil type (SSEW, 1983). One band, the Ludford series, runs northeast to southwest and comprises a glaciofluvial drift of well drained loamy and sandy soils. The other, the Hornbeam series, runs southeastwards from the Chilterns, and comprises a chalky till. The natural bedrock is chalk, possibly overlain by quaternary deposits (BRG, 1996).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Prehistoric

2.3 No evidence of activity pre-dating the Late Iron Age has, so far, been identified from the vicinity of the study area. This may either reflect a genuine lack of occupation, or indicate that the Iron Age activity was so intensive that it destroyed ephemeral evidence of earlier occupation.

Iron Age

2.4 No sites pre-dating the mid 1st century BC have, so far, been identified in the vicinity of the study area, suggesting either that the area was uninhabited before that time or that the later activity removed evidence of earlier settlement. Occupation in the Welwyn Garden City area appears to have started in the Late pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA). A considerable number of sites of this period have been recorded within 3 km to the north, south and west of the present site, including Crookhams, Grammar School, Sherrards Wood, Attimore Road and Brickwall Hill (Rook, 1968a, 52-3). These sites include ditched sites and burials.

2.5 The expansion of the new town of Welwyn Garden City during the mid 20th century, including the construction of the Woodhall, Heronswood and Panshanger estates, produced further significant evidence for Late Iron Age occupation within 1 km of the present site.

2.6 A cluster of LPRIA sites has been recorded to the north and northwest of Attimore Hall. The evidence from this area includes a small cremation cemetery, consisting of a 'Chieftain' burial and six satellite burials (HSMR 2815) approximately 500m to the northwest of the study area. The main burial, which has been dated to between 51BC and 10BC, contained a single cremation accompanied by a large number of grave gifts, including amphorae from the Mediterranean, 35 other pottery vessels, a silver cup, imported bronze objects, a set of glass gaming counters and the remains of several wooden vessels (Stead, 1967, 1 – 62). Other rich 'Chieftain' burials have been recorded from Welwyn village, approximately 3.7km to the northwest (ibid ; Saunders, 1977, 13).

2.6.1. Occupation evidence, including ditches, possible pottery kilns and large spreads of material, was revealed during the construction of houses at Grubs Barn on the Panshanger estate in the late 1960s (HSMR 2818) approximately 350m to the north. Further evidence, including a length of ditch, was recorded during the construction of Panshanger JMI School (SMR 2820) approximately 350m to the northwest. A number of pottery sherds, of LPRIA date, were found in a shallow feature, possibly a pit or ditch, during the construction of a pedestrian subway on the corner of Black Fan Road and Hens Lane (HSMR 2819) approximately 200m to the northwest.

2.7 Further to the northeast an enclosed site was identified at Nutfield, now part of the Welwyn Garden City golf course (HSMR 2154) at a distance of approximately 950m from the study area. Trial trenches were excavated across the enclosure ditch and across a shallow feature just outside the enclosure. The ditch measured over 1m in depth and over 3m in width and contained LPRIA pottery, burnt clay and charcoal (Rook, 1968b, 121-2).

2.8 A number of sites of this period have also been identified within 1km to the southwest of the study area. These include pottery sherds and a possible boundary ditch found at the former Heronswood School in 1954 (HSMR 858) at a distance of 650m and a large group of pottery found at 12 Shortlands Green in 1930 (HSMR 1576) at a distance of approximately 800m from the study area. An unspecified LPRIA site was also recorded at Salisbury Gardens (HSMR 2808) at a distance of approximately 900m from the study area.

2.9 The evidence suggests that the present site is located in an area of intensive LPRIA occupation. Several sites of this period have been recorded within 500m to the north, including occupation sites, possible pottery kilns and burials.

Romano-British

2.10 Finds of Roman artefacts from the vicinity of the present site suggest that settlement continued into the Roman period. Two sites in the Grubs Barn area (HSMR 2818 and 4245) between 200m and 300m to the north, revealed evidence of spreads of Roman material, including pottery, tiles, coins and quernstone fragments.

2.11 A pit, containing early Roman pottery, was discovered on Hens Lane (HSMR 6416) approximately 300m to the north. Roman vessels, including a 2nd century carinated bowl, were also found with the LPRIA pottery at 12 Shortlands Green (HSMR 1576) approximately 800m to the southwest.

2.12 Late Roman coins have also been recorded in the vicinity of the study area. A 3rd century coin, issued by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus (AD 276-282) was found in the garden at 136 Heronswood Road (HSMR 2821) approximately 550m to the southwest. A copy of a coin of Constantine II (c.AD355) was found at 105 Daniells, on the Panshanger estate (HSMR 11760) approximately 500m northwest.

2.13 The archaeological evidence indicates that activity in the area continued into the early Roman period, with occupation spreads and 1st – 2nd century pottery recovered from within 1km of the present site. Evidence for later Roman activity is limited to a finds of single coins. It has been suggested that Roman settlement in the Welwyn area gradually became focused near the centre of present day Welwyn village, approximately 4km to the northwest of the study area (Niblett, 1995, 62).

Anglo-Saxon

2.14 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity has, so far, been recorded from the immediate vicinity of the study area. This may reflect the slight nature of such remains, which do not easily show as cropmarks on aerial photographs and are easily destroyed by subsequent ploughing and development (Wingfield, 1995, 31). However, the evidence from the small Roman towns at Welwyn and Baldock suggests that some settlements contracted in size, indicating a shrinkage of the population in the early post-Roman period (Niblett, 1995, 119).

2.15 The first recorded reference to Tewin is in a document dated c.944-6, when it was called *terram Tiwingum* (Gower et al, 1970, 231-2). The name ‘Tewin’ could be interpreted as the people of Tiwa, or alternatively as the worshippers of the god Tiw.

2.16 The lack of archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation possibly indicates that, for much of this period, the area may have been scrub or woodland. However, this area appears to have been settled by the late Saxon period.

Medieval

2.17 By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 two manors are recorded with the name Tewin (Morris, 1976). The smaller landholding (Tewin Queen’s Hoo) was located in the Hundred of Broadwater, and the larger landholding (Tewin) in Hertford Hundred.

2.18 Tewin Queen’s Hoo was held by the Abbot of Westminster as an outlier of the manor of Stevenage. It was assessed at 2½hides (approximately 300 acres). Two cottagers are recorded as living on the land, giving an estimated total population of between 6 and 10. There was enough land for one plough team and pasture for the livestock. The area seems to have been largely wooded, with enough oak wood to support 50 pigs.

2.19 The larger estate, Tewin manor, was held by Haldane, a Saxon, from Peter of Valognes. There may have been some dispute over the possession of this manor between Haldane, described as King Edward’s thane, who held the manor before 1066 and Peter of Valognes. William I apparently granted the manor to Haldane and his mother for the soul of his (William’s) son Richard, but Peter claimed that he had the manor by the King’s gift and that Haldane held the manor from him.

2.20 It was assessed at 5½hides (approximately 660 acres). There was enough arable land for 5½ plough teams, of which 4½ were present (a plough team consisted of a plough and 8 oxen), pasture for the livestock and meadow for 2 ploughs. Fifteen people are recorded as living there, comprising 4

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villagers, 5 smallholders, 5 cottagers and 1 slave, giving an estimated total population of between 60 and 80. A mill and woodland for 50 pigs are also recorded.

2.21 By the mid 12th century the manor had been divided into two, held by Godfrey and Brian de Tewin (Page, 1971, 481). Godfrey's portion, which appears to be the manor of Tewin, was granted to the Prior and convent of St Bartholomew, Smithfield in the late 13th or early 14th century. The half-fee held by Brian de Tewin eventually passed into the lands of the priory of St Mary at Little Wymondley.

2.22 Only limited archaeological evidence of medieval activity has been recorded from the vicinity of the study area, including the remains a 13th century medieval hut, identified with LPR1A and Roman features during archaeological investigations at Grubs Barn (HSMR 2828) approximately 350m to the north. A silver penny, possibly of Edward III (1327 – 1377) was found on a builder's spoilheap at Barndicott House (HSMR 11761) approximately 650m to the southeast.

Post-medieval

2.23 Following the Dissolution of St Bartholomew's priory in 1540, the manor of Tewin was granted to Robert Fuller, the last prior, and after his death in 1544 became part of the holdings of the Wrothe family until 1620, when it was sold to Beckingham Butler. Tewin manor then passed through various hands until the mid 18th century when it was sold to George, 3rd earl Cowper, in whose family it remained until the early 20th century.

2.24 In the early 17th century Thomas Montford bought an estate, including Attimore Hall farm, from the lord of the manor of Tewin. This estate was called Tewin House and it remained in the possession of the Montford family until the later 17th century, when it was sold to Sir George Butler (Page, 1971, 484). In 1804 the Tewin House property was sold to Peter, 5th Earl Cowper, who purchased large amounts of land in the Welwyn area. By the time of his death he owned most of the Mimram valley between Hertford and Welwyn (Rook, 2001, 38-9). The property remained in the Cowper family until the early 20th century, the last Countess Cowper lived at Panshanger until her death in 1913, after which the estate was inherited by Lord Desborough through his wife, who was niece to the Countess. They sold parts of the estate in 1919 to pay death duties, following the deaths of two of their sons in the First World War (ibid).

2.25 The map evidence shows that Attimore Hall was surrounded by open land until the mid 20th century. The Hall itself (HSMR 12069) is a Grade II listed building, with probable 17th century origins (DoE, n/d). The granary and barn are also Grade II listed (ibid).

Modern

2.26 The new town of Welwyn Garden City was originally developed in 1920 on land purchased from the Panshanger estate in 1919 by Sir Ebenezer Howard. The present site appears to have lain just outside the plots auctioned at that time. The Garden City movement aimed to encourage a better standard of living for former city dwellers by providing detached houses, gardens and green spaces. The

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Second Garden City Ltd was formed in April 1920 to develop the site (www.rickmansworthherts.freeseerve.co.uk/howard1.htm).

2.27 The sites of a number of Second World War defences, including pillboxes and anti-tank obstacles, have been recorded in the vicinity of the study area (HSMR 6633, approximately 950m to the northwest; 6634, approximately 500m to the northwest; and 6635, approximately 1km to the south). Their distance from the study area suggests that the area was not built up at that period.

2.28 The Panshanger housing estate, on the northern side of Black Fan Road, was developed in the 1960s. The majority of Late pre-Roman Iron Age sites in the immediate vicinity of the study area were recorded during the construction of the new estate.

SITE SPECIFIC

2.29 The site of Attimore Hall was located on the southwestern edge of the parish of Tewin. It formed part of the manor of Tewin until the mid 17th century, when it was purchased as part of a new estate, called Tewin House. In 1804 this estate was bought by Peter, 5th Earl Cowper, owner of the Panshanger estate and the manor of Tewin. At that period Attimore Hall farm was valued at £139.00 (Piggott, Attimore Hall website, Chronology).

2.30 The study area remained part of the Panshanger estate until the mid 1950s. Maps accompanying the sale of parts in the estate in 1919 show various plots, but Attimore Hall was not included (HALS D/Ex 52.27). In July 1953 the remainder of the Panshanger estate was put up for auction, including Attimore Hall farm, which was assessed at 293 acres 2 roods 10 perches (Piggott, Attimore Hall website, Chronology). It was bought by J.Crawford, who owned it until 1957, when the farm was compulsorily purchased by the Welwyn Garden City Corporation (ibid). During the 1960s and 1970s the area around the present site was developed as Welwyn Garden City expanded eastwards. In 1975 Attimore Hall Barn was restored by the New Towns Commission, suggesting that it had fallen into a state of disrepair. The farmhouse became a public house in 1988.

2.31 Attimore Hall is a Grade II listed building and is described as a two storey, rough rendered, house, with 17th century origins, but which was much altered in the late 18th or early 19th century (DoE, n/d). Internal details, including 17th century ceiling beams and an 18th century staircase, are also recorded.

2.32 The granary and surviving barn are also Grade II listed buildings (DoE, n/d). The granary is weatherboarded, with a hipped slate roof and is probably early 19th century in date. The barn is also weatherboarded, with modern brick infilling to the plinth, but it has 17th century roof timbers and later restored timbers. They represent the surviving farm buildings.

2.33 At present the barn is occupied by the Digswell Art Trust. According to old photographs published on the Attimore Hall website, the barn housed 60 cows in 2 rows of 15 pens. A dairy was located at the northwestern end of the barn.

2.34 The area of the proposed new buildings, to the northeast of the existing barn appears to have formed part of the gardens and orchards to the rear of the farmhouse. The area of the proposed new bungalows to the southeast of the barn probably formed part of the yards between the farm buildings.

Cartographic

2.35 The earliest map consulted that shows the present site dates, to 1766 (Dury and Andrews, 1766) and shows the site wrongly called Grubs Barn (Figure 3a). This map, although unlikely to be exact, gives an impression of the area at the time. The Attimore Hall buildings appear to consist of three rectangular structures, located in a small enclosed area in the northwestern corner of a large field.

2.36 In 1808 Earl Cowper commissioned a survey of his property, including Attimore Hall farm (HALS D/EP P31). This map shows the site as located on the southern edge of the Panshanger estate and surrounded by open fields (Figure 3b). It was located on the eastern side of a road running on an approximate southeast – northwest alignment. The nearest properties were Hems Cottage and Grubs Barn, to the north of Attimore Hall. At that time the property was occupied by Francis Patience.

2.36.1. The layout of the farm buildings consisted of the farmhouse, Attimore Hall, on the northern side, with two rectangular structures to the south. These represent the existing barn, on the eastern side and, on the western side, the existing range fronting Ridgeway. No boundary is visible between the farmhouse and the farm yard.

2.36.2. An accompanying schedule also lists the field names, their sizes and, in some cases, descriptions (Appendix 2). The fields closest to the study area were listed as yard and garden (plot 1); orchard (plot 2); Home Attimore (plot 3); Baldwins (plot 8); and Well Field (plot 9). The total area for Attimore Hall Farm at this time was listed as 185 acres, 0 roods and 9 perches.

2.37 The Tithe map of 1838 (HALS DSA 4 /101 /2) shows very little change to the layout of the study area (Figure 4a), though the Attimore Hall Farm now included the areas of Hems Farm and Grubs Barn Farm on the earlier map. The property was still owned by Earl Cowper, but was occupied by Calcot Stokes. At this time Attimore Hall Farm measured 295 acres, 3 roods and 15 perches.

2.37.1. The accompanying schedule (HALS DSA 4 /101 /1) not only listed the field names and sizes, but also their state of cultivation (Appendix 2). The small orchard to the south of the barn, plot 239, was recorded as pasture, as was Slipe (plot 241) to the east of the farm yard. Plot 242, to the north of the farm buildings, was listed as arable. The name of this field had been changed, probably as the result of a misspelling, from Well Field to Hell Field. Most of the fields on the farm were listed as arable.

2.38 The 1st edition 6” scale Ordnance Survey map of 1884 calls the study area Attamore, rather than Attimore, Hall (Figure 4b). By this period a short row of possible cottages had been constructed along the road frontage, to the west of Attimore Hall.

2.38.1. The number of farm buildings had increased, changing the original layout. A southern range had been constructed, enclosing the southern end of the yard between the eastern and western barns. Although the original structure of the eastern barn appears to have remained unchanged, extensions had been added on the northwestern and eastern sides of the building.

2.38.2. Some changes are visible in the layout of the fields immediately adjacent to the farm. The field boundaries appear to have been straightened and some of the larger fields divided into smaller rectangular blocks. A pond is also shown on the southern side of the new building range.

2.38.3. A trackway, possibly hedged or fenced on the northern side, also appears to have been established between the farmhouse and the farmyard by this period. The (now dismantled) railway line is visible to the south of the farm

2.39 The 2nd edition 25” scale OS map of 1898 shows the study area in more detail (Figure 5a). Two yard areas had been established, the original one on the western side of the existing barn, which was U-shaped and bounded by the western and eastern barns and the southern range. This yard was subdivided into three smaller sections and appears to have been fenced and gated on the northern side. A smaller yard lay to the east of the surviving barn. This was bounded on the north and east by the eastward extension shown on the 1884 OS map and by a new eastern range. It was bounded on the south by a wall or fence and was subdivided into four smaller sections. A small open area lay to the north of the eastward extension.

2.39.1. The triangular area to the south of the farm buildings, described as orchard in the early 19th century schedules, appears to have become a small field by this period. The pond is located in this area, but no trees are shown. A small enclosed orchard is indicated to the northeast of Attimore Hall, within the rectangular plot that presumably marked the garden area.

2.40 The 25” scale OS map of 1939 shows a number of changes had occurred to the farm layout (Figure 5b). The early 19th century eastern extension had been widened, covering the small open area to the north. The southern end of the eastern range had been removed and some infill had occurred in the southeastern corner of the western yard. The pond to the south of the farm also appears to have been filled in by this time. The boundaries to the triangular plot to the south of the farm had also been slightly altered.

2.40.1. Some changes are also visible to the boundaries around Attimore Hall itself. Although the garden boundary has remained unchanged it appears that a further fence had been established the north and east of the original garden, enclosing an L-shaped area. Within the garden the formerly enclosed orchard had apparently been extended, and the boundaries removed.

2.40.2. Some development is visible to the south of the farm.. A factory for the manufacture of felts and damp courses is shown adjacent to the railway, with three residential properties, and associated gardens to the north.

2.41 The 1:2500 scale OS map of 1973 shows significant development in the vicinity of the study area (Figure 6a). The road layout had been altered, with the junction between Ridgeway and Black Fan Road established to the north of Attimore Hall. The line of the modern Ridgeway appears to have moved eastwards, presumably to allow for a wider and straighter road. The Shamrock Club had been erected to the south of the farm, in the area formerly occupied by the triangular orchard and the pond, whilst to the southeast of that was Hornbeams adult Training Centre.

2.41.1. Some changes are visible in the layout of the farm buildings. Part of the southern range had been demolished and some alterations had been done to the eastward extension.

2.41.2. The boundaries in the vicinity of the farm remained essentially the same. The line of the garden fence, visible on the 1898 and 1939 maps, continued on the northern and eastern sides of Attimore Hall. The boundary to the south of the Shamrock Club followed the line of the small triangular plot and this had been continued northwards, to form an eastern boundary to the farm. It joined the northern boundary to Attimore Hall on the western side of Black Fan Road.

2.42 Further changes have taken place to the study area since 1973 (Figure 2). The 19th century eastern extensions to the listed barn have been removed. This may have occurred at the time the New Towns Commission restored the barn in 1975. The small northwestern extension, known as the Old Dairy, is still present.

2.43 The OS map of 1973 showed part of the 19th century southern range still in existence, this has been extended further westwards, with the addition of a northern porch or has been replaced with a completely new structure.

Aerial Photographs

2.44 In favourable circumstances, aerial photographs can reveal potential underlying archaeological features, in the form of cropmarks, soilmarks or as groundworks. They also show the changes to the site layout over that period. The Aerial Photographic Collections of the National Monuments Record were consulted and a number of aerial photographs, taken between the 1940s and 1980s, were examined for the present study.

2.45 A series of aerial photographs taken in the 1940s and 1950s, before the study area was developed, show a possibly significant feature (Figure 6b). A substantial dark line, marking a possible sub-rectangular enclosure, is visible on RAF/ 540/ 674, frames 4025 – 7, taken in February 1952. It appears to lie on a southeast – northwest alignment and its western side is visible in fields on the opposite side of the road. Frame 4026 also indicates the possibility of an internal division within this postulated feature. The present site appears to be located at the southeastern end of this feature. Part of

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this suggested feature is also visible on photographs taken in November 1948 (RAF/ 58/ 149, frames 5021 – 5022). Although no date can yet be assigned to this possible enclosure, enclosed settlements of Late pre-Roman Iron Age date have been identified in close proximity.

2.46 Aerial photographs taken in 1969 (NMR OS / 69359) show that the modern road layout was established by that time. However, the original line of Ridgeway survived as an access road to the industrial area to the south. Development immediately adjacent to the study area was limited to the Shamrock Club, to the south of the farm. The land between Black Fan Road and Attimore Hall Farm still remained open. Relict field boundaries can also be seen in the playing fields of the school on the opposite side of Black Fan Road.

2.47 The holdings of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography were consulted. There were no photographs of the relevant area.

3. Assessment of Risk

General

3.1 A number of factors may affect the survival of underlying archaeological remains on any particular site. These include previous development, or changes to existing buildings and whether the site has been used for pasture or arable cultivation.

3.2 With regard to the present study area, a certain amount of development has taken place in the vicinity, but the land immediately adjacent to the standing buildings appears to have remained largely undisturbed. A number of changes to existing buildings have been identified on the site on 19th century maps, suggesting some disturbance of archaeological layers and features in the immediate vicinity of the barn.

3.3 The fields immediately adjacent to the study area were listed as being used for pasture in the Tithe Award of 1838 (HALS DSA4/101/1), suggesting that the area may not have been subject to significant ploughing, at least in the post-medieval period.

3.4 On this basis, the risk of encountering archaeological features in the course of development on the present site may be considered to be *High*.

Prehistoric

3.5 No evidence for Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or early Iron Age activity has been recorded within a kilometre of the study area. This may reflect either that the terrain was unsuitable for early settlement, or that later activity has destroyed evidence for these periods.

3.6 On this basis, the risk of encountering features and finds of prehistoric date in the course of development on the present site may be considered to be *Low*.

3.7 The regional research framework has identified the development of farming, and the integration of settlements and their associated fields during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods as an important research topic (Brown & Murphy, 2000, 10 – 12). Few sites of this type and period are known from the area. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of prehistoric date on the present site, should be considered to be *High*.

Iron Age

3.8 Significant evidence for Late pre-Roman Iron Age activity has been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the study area. This ranges from small assemblages of pottery, such as the sherds recovered from a shallow feature during the construction of the pedestrian subway at the corner of Black Fan Road and Hems Lane, approximately 200m to the northwest (HSMR 2819), to settlement sites. A number of occupation sites were recorded within a kilometre of the study area in the 1960s and 70s during the development of the Panshanger housing estate, including Grubs Barn (HSMR 2818)

Nutfield (HSMR 2154) and Salisbury Gardens (HSMR 2808). A small cemetery of seven cremations, including an extremely wealthy chieftain's burial, was also discovered (HSMR 2815) approximately 500m to the northwest.

3.9 A possible enclosure of this date has also been identified on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s and 50s. This appears to represent either a conjoined single ditched enclosure, or a large sub-rectangular enclosure with an internal division. At least 103 enclosed settlements of the this period are known from Hertfordshire, but most of them have had limited archaeological investigation (Hunn, 1996, 6-7). Two enclosures have been identified in the Welwyn area, at Nutfield and the Grammar school (ibid, 21, fig.4). Both are on sloping ground on valley sides.

3.10 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features of Iron Age date on the present site may be considered to be *High*.

3.11 A number of research topics have been highlighted for the Iron Age in the regional research framework (Bryant, 2000, 16-17). These include the development of farming, the organisation of the rural landscape, the development of settlements and the study of pottery assemblages. The present site is located within a possible enclosed settlement of this period, and in a landscape that shows evidence of being both well-settled and wealthy. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Romano-British

3.12 A number of sites of Romano-British date have been identified within a kilometre of the present site. Some of these sites started in the late Iron Age, including Grubs Barn (HSMR 2828) approximately 350m to the northwest and at Shortlands Green (HSMR 1576) approximately 800m to the southwest, indicating continuity of occupation in the area after the Roman conquest. It is possible that the postulated enclosure on the present site may have started life in the late Iron Age and continued in use into the Roman period.

3.13 Finds of Roman coins have also been made in the vicinity of the present site. A base silver coin of Marcus Aurelius Probus (AD 276 – 282) was found at Heronswood Road (HSMR 2821) approximately 550m to the southwest. A mid 4th century copy of a falling horseman type coin of Constantine II was found at Daniells (HSMR 11760) approximately 500m to the northwest. These coins are the only clear evidence for later Roman occupation from the vicinity of the study area, suggesting a possible shift in population towards the small town at Welwyn.

3.14 On this basis, the risk of encountering features and finds of early Roman date on the present site may be considered to be *High*. The risk of encountering finds and features of later Roman date may be considered to be *Moderate to High*

3.15 The study area is likely to have lain in a rural, rather than an urban, landscape in the Roman period, but probably formed part of the hinterland for the small town at Welwyn. A number of relevant topics, including the late Iron Age and Romano-British transition period, the survival of Iron Age

practices into the Roman period, the investigation of small rural settlements such as farmsteads and the relationship between town and country in the landscape, have been identified in the regional research framework (Going & Plouviez, 2000, 21 – 22). Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Anglo-Saxon

3.16 The documentary evidence suggests that settlements had been established at Welwyn and Tewin by the late Saxon period. However, no archaeological evidence has been recorded from the vicinity of the present site to indicate Saxon occupation. This may reflect the previously noted population shift in the later Roman period towards the small town at Welwyn.

3.17 On this basis, the risk of encountering features or finds of Anglo-Saxon date on the present site may be considered to be *Low*.

3.18 A number of relevant research topics have been highlighted in the regional research framework, including evidence for the transition between the Roman and Saxon periods, settlement patterns and the relationship between rural and urban settlements (Wade, 2000, 23-26; Ayers, 2000, 29-31). As the present site is located in an apparently unoccupied area, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Medieval

3.19 The present site was located on the southwestern edge of the manor of Tewin during the medieval period. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that there was arable land, meadow and pasture, as well as woodland and a mill on the manor. Very little evidence for medieval occupation has so far been identified in the vicinity of the present site, suggesting that it lay in the open fields. The remains of a 13th century hut were identified during archaeological fieldwork at Grubs Barn (HSMR 2818) approximately 350m to the north. As no other evidence for this period was recorded from the site it may represent an agricultural structure.

3.20 Although few finds or features of this period have been recorded from the vicinity of the study area, the place name evidence suggests that settlement had been established in the area since the Saxon period.

3.21 On this basis the risk of encountering features and finds of medieval date on the present site may be considered to be *Low*.

3.22 The study area appears to have lain in the open fields on the edge of the manor of Tewin. A number of relevant research topics have been highlighted by the regional research framework, including the ratio of arable land to pasture and woodland; the agrarian economy; evidence for rural settlement; and medieval field systems (Wade, 2000, 23-26). As the present site was probably located in the open fields surrounding the village of Tewin, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Post-medieval

3.23 Cartographic evidence has shown that the present site was occupied by a farmhouse and associated farm buildings since at least the mid 18th century. The basic layout, which consisted of the farmhouse to the north of two ranges of long barns, aligned north – south, to the south, remained in place until the late 19th century. The farmyard was open at the northern and southern ends.

3.24 The earliest map consulted, dated 1767, showed a small farm adjacent to the line of the Black Fan Road (later known as Ridgeway) (Figure 2). The Tithe map of 1838 showed very little change in the building layout or the field and property boundaries (Figure 4a). The Schedule attached to the Tithe Award describes the plot occupied by the farm as Attimore Hall, and gave its measurement as 2 roods and 38 perches. It was surrounded by open fields, totalling 295 acres, 3 roods and 15 perches. The OS 1st and 2nd edition maps (1884 and 1898) show that the farm apparently increased in size, by adding extensions to the existing farm buildings. An eastern extension was added to the eastern barn and a southern range, enclosing the yard at the southern end, was built before 1884.

3.25 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features, including farmyard surfaces, of post-medieval date may be considered to be *High*.

3.26 Cartographic evidence has demonstrated that the present site underwent some changes in layout during the later 19th century. The development of the farmstead between 1715 and 1914, including buildings, layout and design, has been highlighted as a research topic in the regional research framework (Gilman et al, 2000, 39). Therefore the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site is considered to be *Moderate to High*.

Modern

3.27 Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence shows that the farmhouse and some of the farm buildings have survived until the present. It remained a farm at least until the 1950s. By 1969 the study area lay between the modern line of Black Fan Road and Ridgeway, suggesting that it was no longer a farm by that time. The OS map of 1973 shows the 19th century extensions to the eastern barn still standing, but these have now been demolished. This building was restored by the New Town Commission in 1975, suggesting that it was in a poor state by then.

3.28 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features of modern date may be considered to be *High*.

3.29 During the later 20th century the surviving eastern barn has been the home of the Digswell Arts Trust. A number of internal changes were made to the property as a result of this use, including the insertion of panels to subdivide it into separate studios. No relevant research topics have been highlighted in the regional research framework and therefore the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site is considered to be *Low*.

CONCLUSION

3.30 The map and aerial photographic evidence shows that the buildings on the study area have been subject to a number of changes since the late 19th century. This is especially the case with the listed barn, which was extended eastwards before 1884, with a whole eastern range erected before 1898. The eastern range was demolished before 1973, and the remaining eastern extension demolished between 1973 and the present.

3.31 The developer's land survey shows that the land to the north and east of Attimore Hall itself, where the new block is proposed, is undeveloped, and consists of rough ground with trees and bushes. This area appears to have remained undeveloped since at least the late 18th century. The site of the proposed new bungalows, to the southeast of the existing barn, appears to lie in the area formerly occupied by the smaller eastern farmyard. It is currently rough ground, with trees and bushes. A concrete plinth is also marked. This area also appears to have remained largely undeveloped since the late 18th century, but farmyard surfaces and drains are likely to be present in this area.

3.32 There is a high probability that archaeological remains, particularly of Late Iron Age and Roman date and of potential significance when considered in the context of the established research agenda for the region, are preserved on the site, and would be damaged, destroyed or otherwise affected by its development. The actual nature of such remains could only be characterised by intrusive investigation. It is likely that such an investigation would form an element in the requirements of the planning authority relating to the proposed development of the site, either before the determination of a planning application, or as a condition on consent being granted.

4. Sources Consulted

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DSA4/101/2, 1838, Tithe Map, Tewin

D/EP P31, 1808, Book of miniature plans, showing parcels of land on Earl Cowper's estate, with surveyor Thomas Pallett

D/Ex 52.27, 1919, Sale Particulars, with maps, Panshanger Estate

D/EP P14, c.1790, Plan showing old road and proposed new road, Hertford to Welwyn

D/EP/T3322 – 4, 1719, Maps and book of reference, Panshanger estate, surveyor Jas. Mouse

OS, 1898, Hertfordshire Sheet XXVIII.12, 2nd edition, 25" scale, 1898

OS, 1939, Hertfordshire Sheet XXVIII.12, 3rd edition, 25" scale, 1939

OS, 1960, Sheet TL2512 NW, 1:2500 scale, 1960

OS, 1973, Sheet TL2512 NE, 1:2500 scale, 1973

English Heritage, National Monuments Record Air Photo Library (NMR)

Run	Frame	Date
RAF / 540 / 647	4024	12/02/1952
RAF / 540 / 647	4025	12/02/1952
RAF / 540 / 647	4026	12/02/1952
RAF / 540 / 647	4027	12/02/1952
RAF / 58 / 149	5021	10/11/1948
RAF / 58 / 149	5022	10/11/1948
OS / 69359	126	22/07/1969
OS / 69359	127	22/07/1969
OS / 69359	128	22/07/1969
OS / 69359	129	22/07/1969
RAF / CPE / UK / 2016	3258	17/04/1947
RAF / CPE / UK / 2016	3259	17/04/1947
RAF / CPE / UK / 2016	3260	17/04/1947
RAF / CPE / UK / 2016	3261	17/04/1947
OS / 65106	072	10/06/1965
OS / 65106	073	10/06/1965
OS / 65106	074	10/06/1965
OS / 65106	075	10/06/1965
OS / 85156	006	02/07/1985
OS / 85156	007	02/07/1985
OS / 85156	008	02/07/1985
OS / 85156	009	02/07/1985
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OS / 89065	226	30/03/1989
OS / 89065	227	30/03/1989

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MAPS

Dury, A. & Andrews, J., 1766, A Topographical Map of Hertfordshire
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5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3a	Dury and Andrews, 1766
Figure 3b	Map of 1808
Figure 4a	Tithe map, 1838
Figure 4b	1 st edition OS, 6” scale, 1884
Figure 5a	2 nd edition OS, 25” scale, 1899
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Figure 6a	OS 1:1250 scale, 1960/1973
Figure 6b	Tracing from air photograph RAF/540/674

Appendix 1

Extract from Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR)

HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
858	TL 2520 1220	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age pottery & possible boundary ditch discovered at former Heronswood School in 1954
1576	TL 2488 1239	Late Iron Age/ Roman	Late Iron Age and Roman pottery found at 12 Shortlands Green in 1930
2154	TL 257 138	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age enclosure at Nutfield, showing as cropmark on aerial photographs. Investigated by trial trenching in the 1960s, which revealed a ditch containing pottery and burnt clay. Additional survey work revealed other features just outside the cropmark.
2808	TL 248 123	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age site at Salisbury Gardens
2815	TL 2526 1316	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age cemetery of 7 cremation burials, including wealthy chieftain burial, found 1965 during excavation of gas-pipe trench in Daniells, on the Panshanger estate. Main grave, which contained cremation, amphorae, 35 other pots, a silver cup, bronze vessels, glass gaming counters & wooden vessels, dated to between 51 – 10 BC.
2818	TL 2550 1305	Late Iron Age Roman Medieval	Evidence of occupation revealed during construction of school & houses at Grubs Barn, Panshanger estate c.1968. Late Iron Age features include ditches & possible pottery kilns. Roman occupation material & a medieval hut also recorded.
2819	TL 2547 1295	Late Iron Age	Pottery sherds found in shallow pit or ditch when pedestrian subway made at corner of Black Fan Road & Hems Lane.
2820	TL 2540 1307	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age recorded during construction of Panshanger JMI School.
2821	TL 2538 1226	Roman	Roman coin, base silver Antoninianus of Emperor Marcus Aurelius Probus (AD 276-282) found in garden at 136 Heronswood Road.
4245	TL 253 131	Roman	Evidence of Roman occupation, including pottery sherds, tile fragments, a coin of Faustina II and quern fragments, were recovered by Lockleys Archaeological Society during building works at Grubs Barn.
6416	TL 255 131	Roman	Pit containing early Roman pottery and tile found at Hems Lane.
6633	TL 2470 1330	Modern	Site of pillbox & anti-tank obstacles, close to former railway bridge, Tewin Road.
6634	TL 2503 1291	Modern	Site of Watchmead pillbox, Unit 11, City Park. Until 1990 last remaining pillbox in Welwyn area, unusual form. Stood by railway line. Area redeveloped in 1990 & pillbox pulled down, remains still lie in undergrowth.
6635	TL 2540 1176	Modern	Site of pillbox at NE corner of junction between Sweet Briar & Cole Green Lane.
11760	TL 2525 1318	Roman	Roman coin found at 105 Daniells, Panshanger., a barbarous copy of coin (falling horseman type, c.AD 355.) of Constantine II.
11761	TL 2620 1262	Medieval	Silver penny, possibly of Edward III (1327-1377) found on builders spoilheap, Barndicott House, Panshanger Drive.
12069	TL 2550 1278	Post-medieval	Attimore Hall, shown as 'Attamore Hall' on 1 st edition OS map of 1880-1. House has 17 th century origins, much altered late 18 th or early 19 th C. Granary probably early 19 th C in date. Surviving barn has 17 th C roof timbers & later restored timbers.

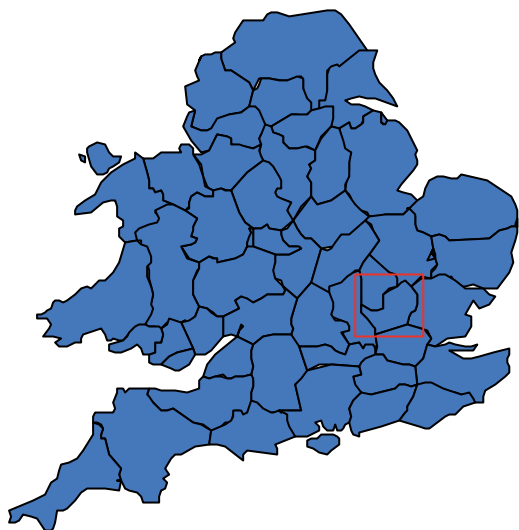
Appendix 2

Map schedules

Schedule to accompany the plan, dated 1808 (HALS D/EP P31)			
Plot number	Field name	State	Size
1	Yard & garden		0 acres, 1 rood, 35 perches
2	Orchard		0 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches
3	Home Attimore		13 acres, 3 roods, 32 perches
4	Home Meadow		1 acre, 3 roods, 20 perches
5	Little Attimore		9 acres, 0 roods, 38 perches
6	Great Attimore		25 acres, 3 roods, 1 perch
7	Long Lays		16 acres, 3 roods, 39 perches
8	Baldwins		14 acres, 3 roods, 27 perches
9	Well Field		11 acres, 0 roods, 2 perches
10	Theary Field		16 acres, 1 rood, 19 perches
11	Jackdaw Field		22 acres, 2 roods, 27 perches
12	Tewin Pasture		23 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches
13	Great Woodcots		19 acres, 3 roods, 25 perches
14	Little Woodcots		7 acres, 1 rood, 24 perches
			185 acres, 0 roods, 9 perches
Schedule to accompany the Tithe Map, dated 1838 (HALS DSA4 / 101/ 1)			
231	Tewin Pasture	Arable	23 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches
234	Part of Great Wood Croft	Arable	9 acres, 1 rood, 28 perches
235	Part of Great Attimore	Arable	18 acres, 0 roods, 13 perches
236	Little Attimore	Arable	9 acres, 0 roods, 38 perches
237	Home Meadow	Pasture	1 acre, 3 roods, 20 perches
238	Home Attimore	Arable	13 acres, 3 roods, 32 perches
239	Orchard	Pasture	0 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches
240	Attimore Hall		0 acres, 2 roods, 38 perches
241	Slipe	Pasture	1 acre, 0 roods, 32 perches
242	Hell Field	Arable	10 acres, 2 roods, 39 perches
243	Baldwins	Arable	14 acres, 3 roods, 27 perches
244	Long Ley	Arable	16 acres, 3 roods, 39 perches
245	Jackdaw Field	Arable	22 acres, 2 roods, 27 perches
246	Theary Field	Arable	14 acres, 1 rood, 19 perches
254	Seven Acres	Arable	7 acres, 0 roods, 13 perches
255	Upper Hilly Field	Arable	8 acres, 2 roods, 31 perches
256	Lower Hilly Field	Arable	7 acres, 0 roods, 13 perches
258	Ten Acres	Arable	10 acres, 0 roods, 17 perches

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259	Four Acre Field	Arable	7 acres, 0 roods, 22 perches
260	Watch Lights	Arable	4 acres, 2 roods, 30 perches
261	Fairey Field	Arable	2 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches
262	Hither Pond Field	Pasture	2 acres, 1 rood, 26 perches
263	Grubb's Barn		0 acres, 2 roods, 38 perches
264	Mundells	Arable	7 acres, 3 roods, 18 perches
265	Further Pond Field	Arable	3 acres, 1 rood, 1 perch
266	Grubb's Barn Field	Arable	13 acres, 0 roods, 33 perches
268	Further Six Acres	Arable	11 acres, 1 rood, 30 perches
269	Broom Fields	Arable	19 acres, 0 roods, 24 perches
270	Four Acres	Arable	4 acres, 2 roods, 8 perches
271	Orchard Field	Arable	7 acres, 0 roods, 34 perches
272	Wood Field	Arable	7 acres, 1 rood, 11 perches
273	Herns Field	Pasture	9 acres, 3 roods, 2 perches
273a	Herns Homestead		0 acres, 2 roods, 5 perches



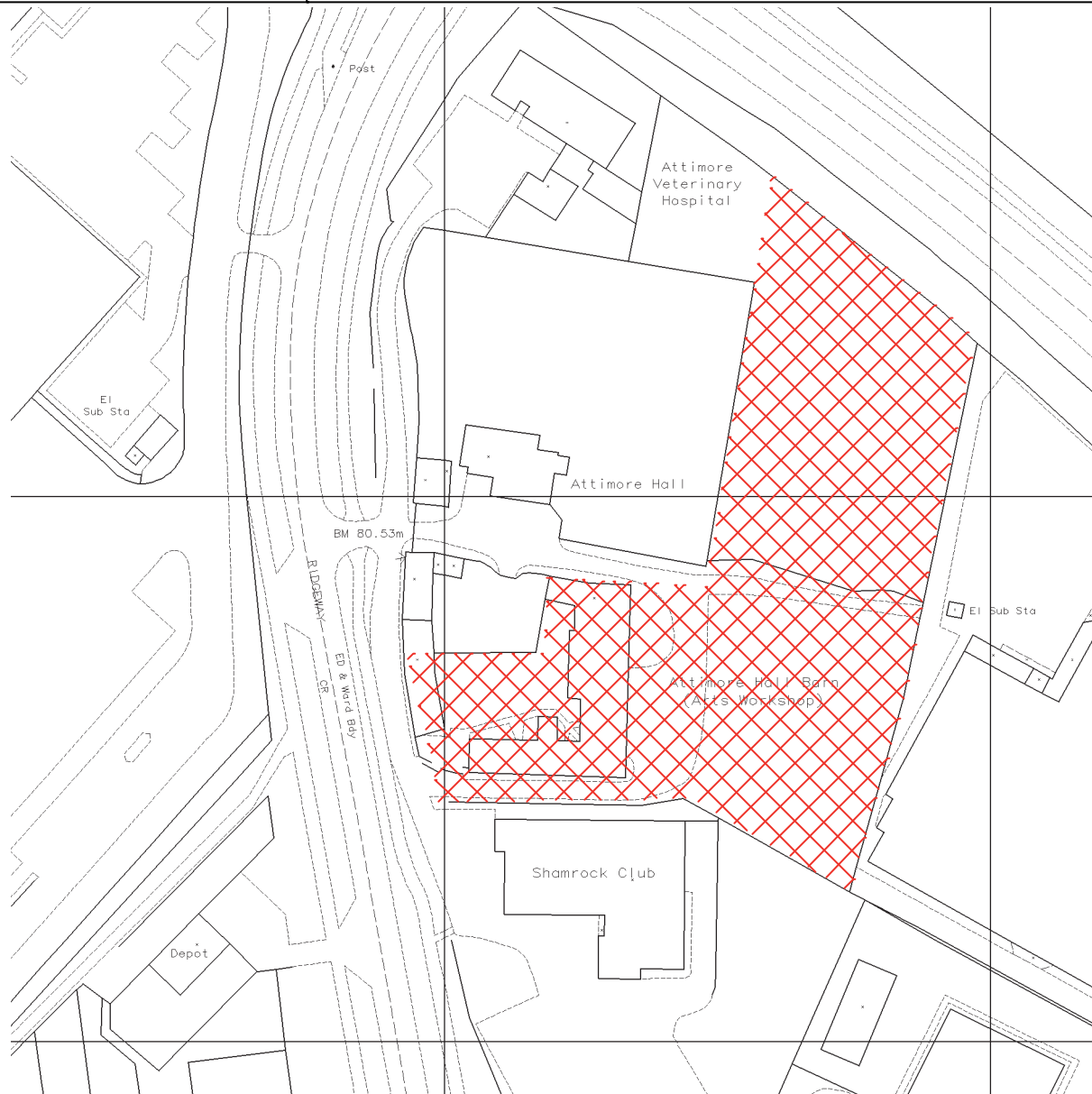
TL25



TL13

Site Location

Scale 1:2000



Site Layout

Scale 1:1250

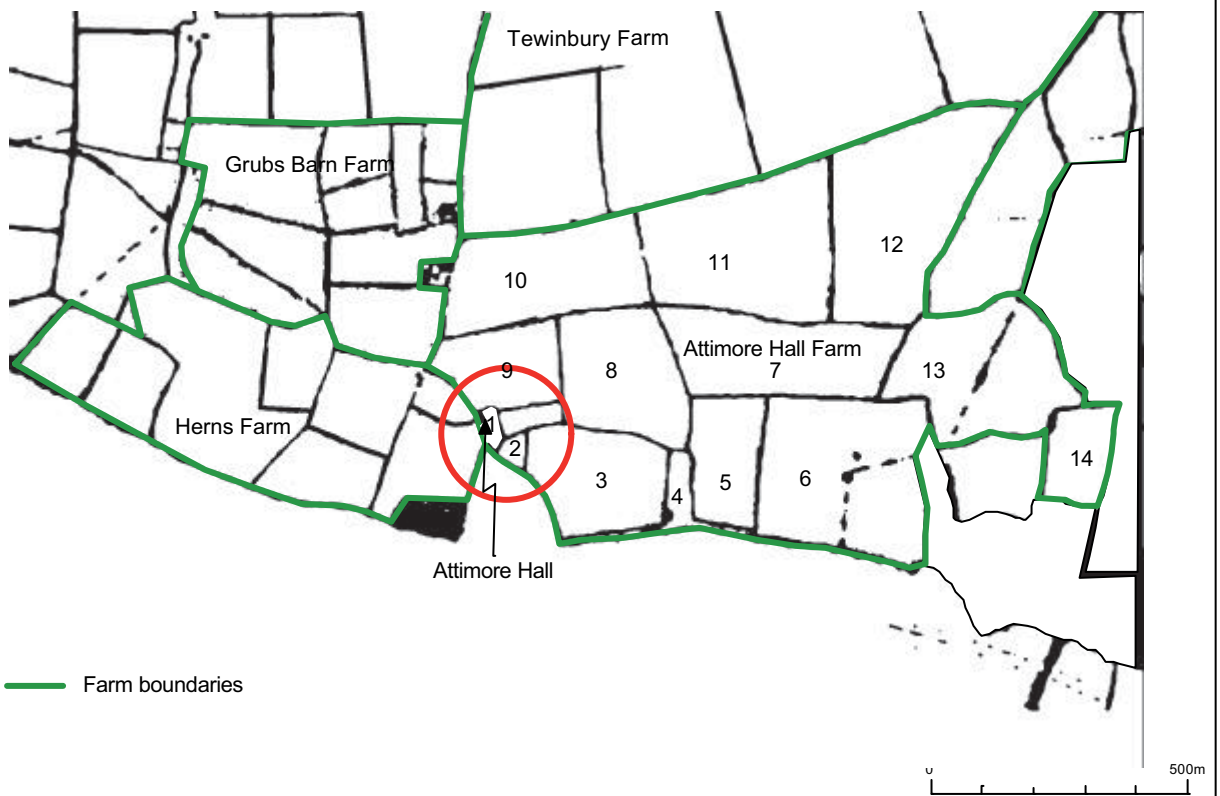
Figure 2



Dury and Andrews (1766)

Scale 1:50000

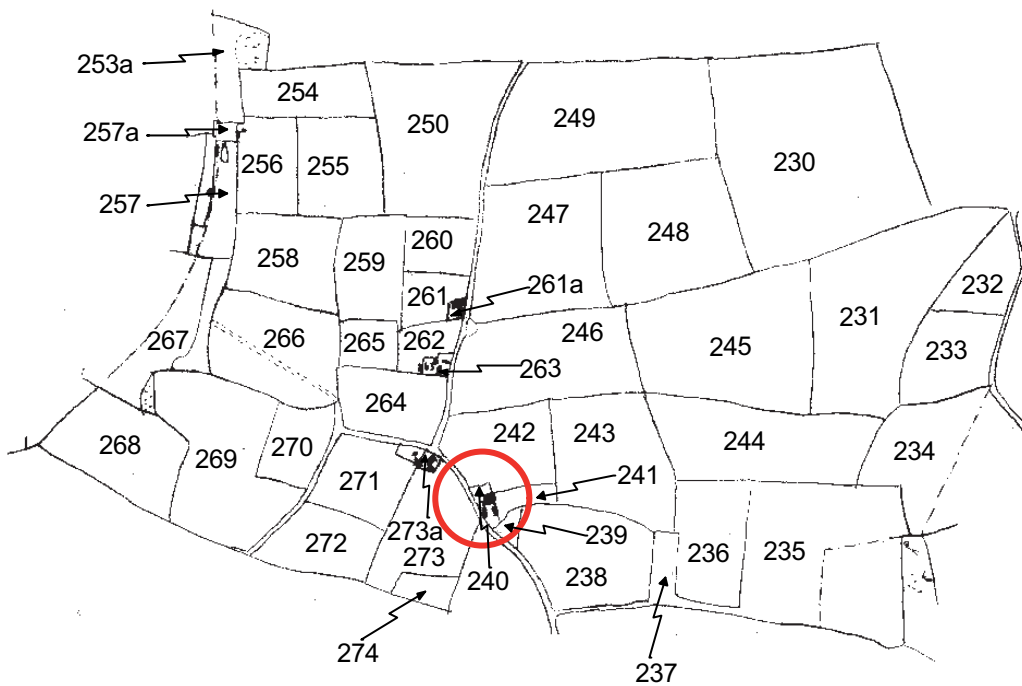
Figure 3a



Map of 1808

Scale 1:1500

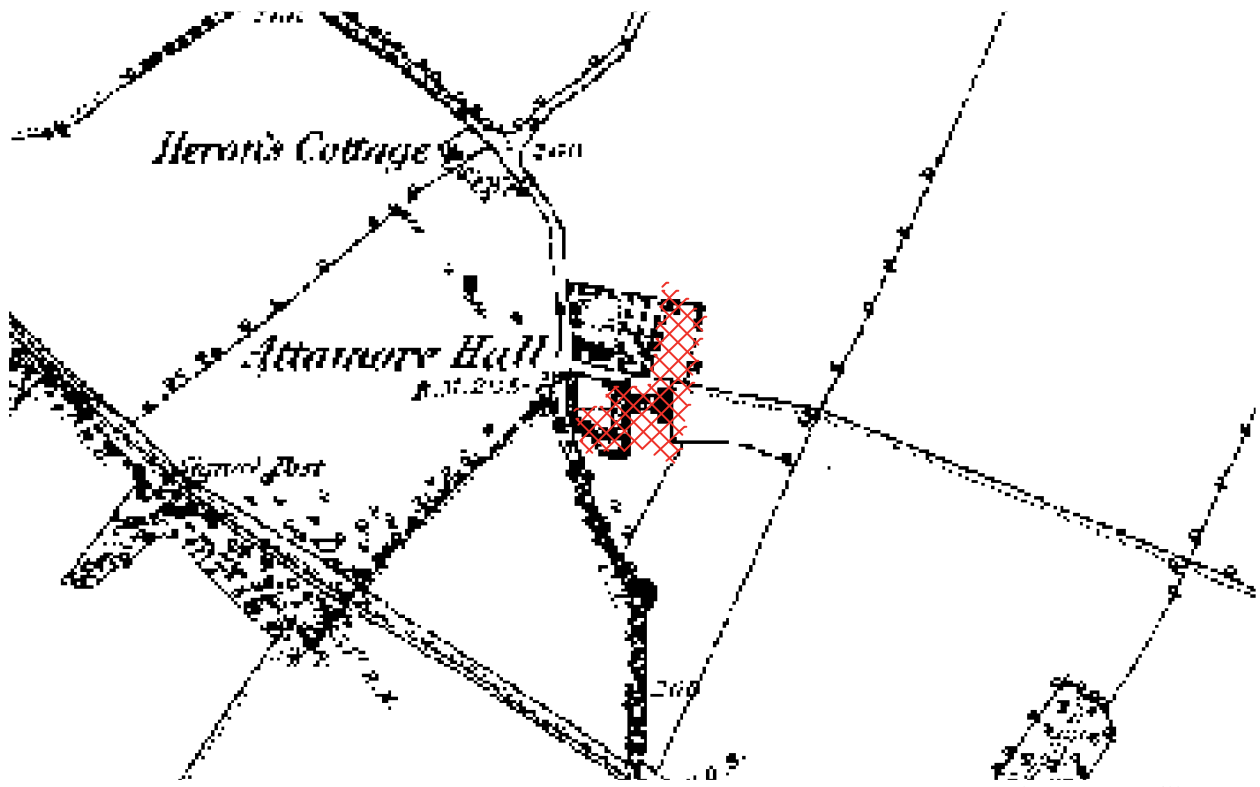
Figure 3b



Tithe map (1838)

Scale 1:15000

Figure 4a

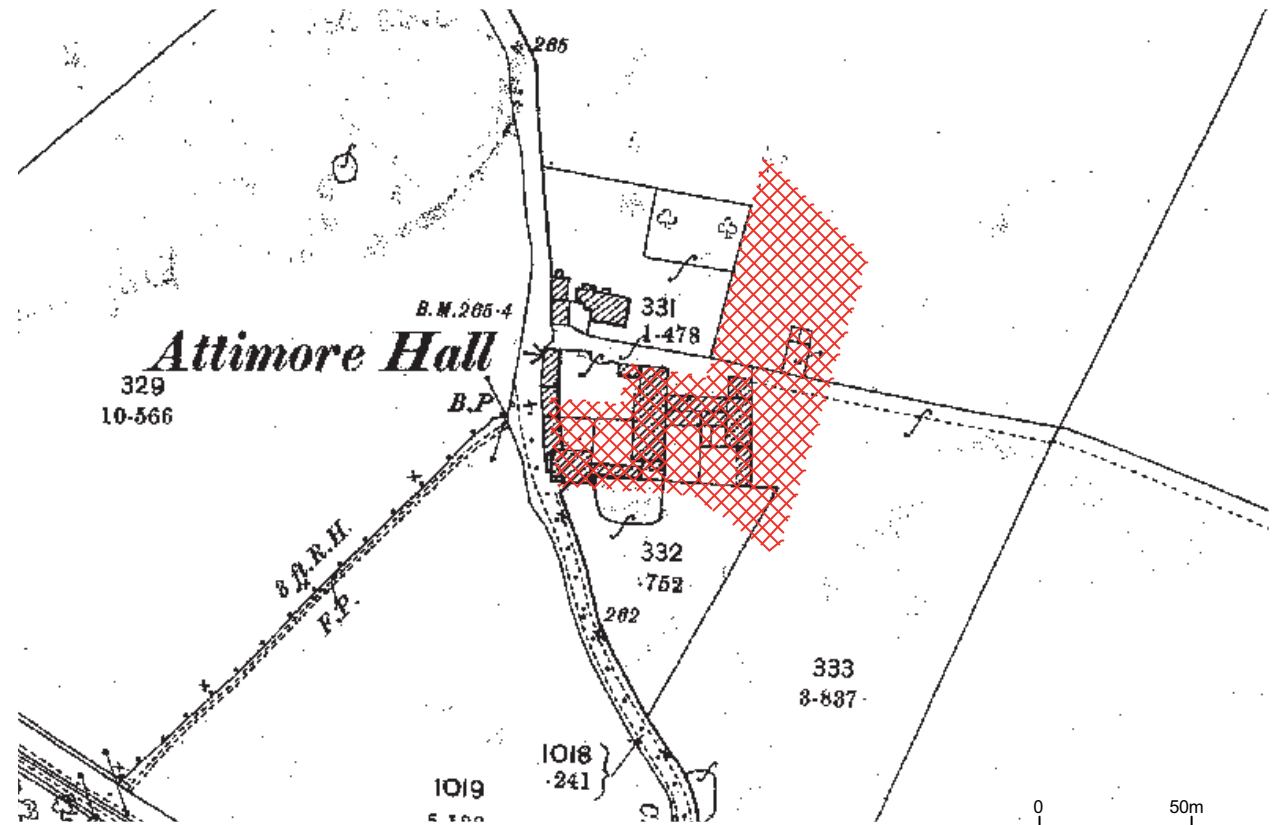


1st edition Ordnance Survey Plan (1884)

Scale 1:5000

Figure 4b

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2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map 1899

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Scale 1:2500

Figure 5a

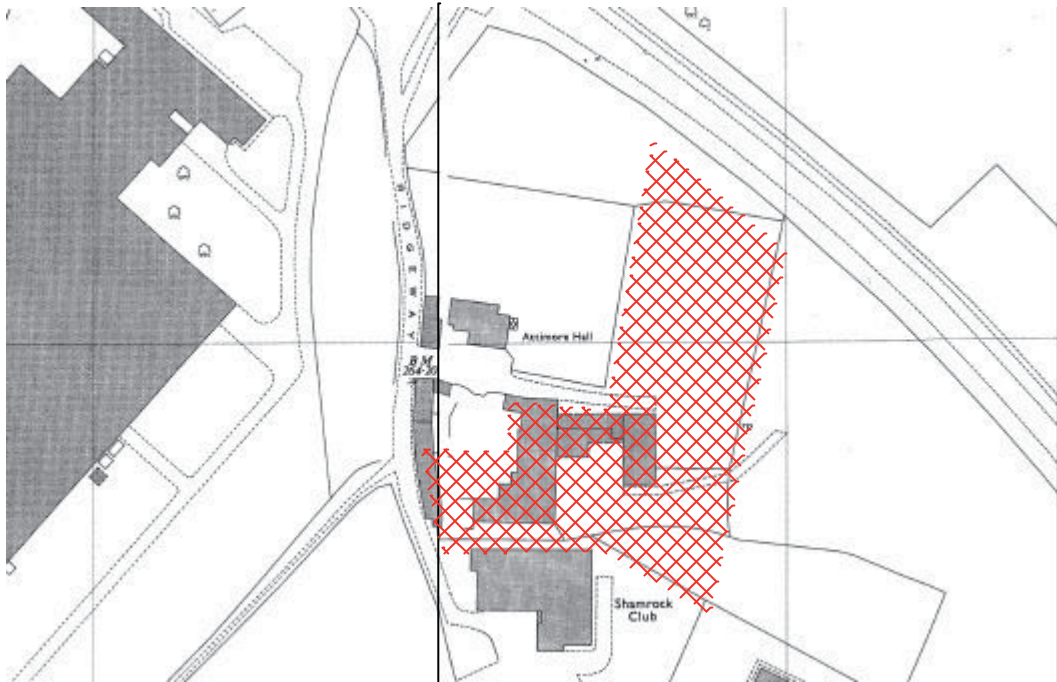


3rd edition Ordnance Survey Map 1939

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Scale 1:2500

Figure 5b



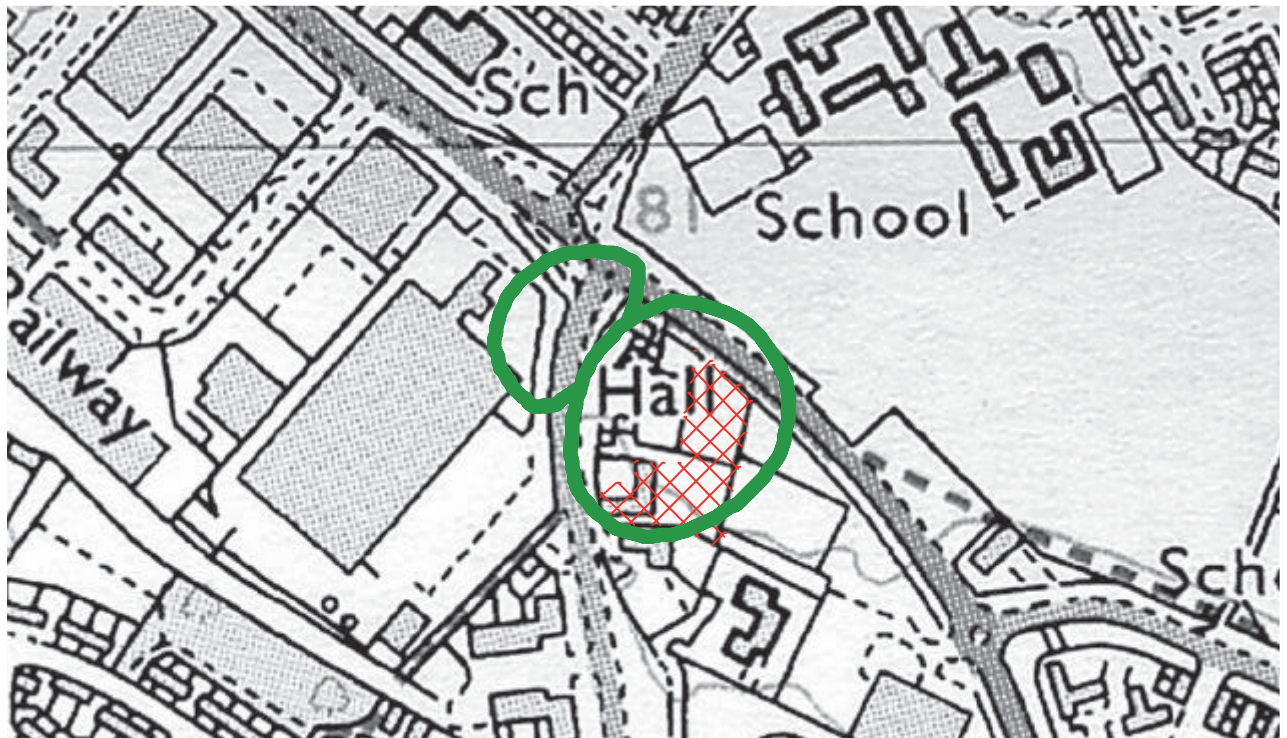
0 50m

Ordnance Survey 1:1250 (1960/1973)

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Scale 1:2000

Figure 6a



0 100m

Tracing from air photograph RAF/540/674 over Ordnance Survey map (1998)

(Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861)

Scale 1:5000

Figure 6b