

HERITAGE NETWORK



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE **Cambridge Road, Hitchin**

HN478

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

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

Cambridge Road, Hitchin, Herts.

HN478

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment

Prepared on behalf of North Hertfordshire College

by

Helen Ashworth BA AIFA

Report No.249

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The cover photograph shows the southern elevation of Walsworth House, taken from the southwest

Acknowledgements

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Summary

Site name and address:	North Herts College, Cambridge Road, Hitchin SG4 0JD		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Herts D C
Village/town:	Hitchin	Parish:	Hitchin
Planning reference:	N/A	NGR:	Centred at TL 1984 2972
Client name and address:	North Hertfordshire College, Cambridge Road, Hitchin, SG4 0JD		
Project Reference:	HN478	Other reference:	N/A

Synopsis:

In order to assess the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to redevelop the site of the North Hertfordshire College, Cambridge Road, Hitchin, the Heritage Network was commissioned by North Hertfordshire College to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment of the site.

The map and aerial photographic evidence shows that the northern end of the study area was occupied by Walsworth House and its associated grounds. The southern end has remained largely undeveloped since at least the mid 18th century, and is likely to have remained so since the late medieval period. Archaeological remains of late prehistoric and Romano-British date have been recorded in the vicinity.

On the basis of the known evidence, there is a moderate risk that archaeological remains, of potential significance, could be preserved on the site, and would be damaged, destroyed or otherwise affected by its development. The actual nature of such remains, if they are present, can only be characterised with certainty by intrusive investigation.

1. Introduction

1.1 This study has been prepared at the request of *North Hertfordshire College*, as a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of a development site at the Cambridge Road Campus, Cambridge Road, Hitchin, Herts.

1.2 The study area comprises an irregularly shaped plot, measuring approximately 6.5ha. It lies on the eastern side of Cambridge Road, centred at NGR TL 1984 2972, and is bounded to the west by the line of a footpath running southeast to northwest, between Chaucer Way and Cambridge Road; to the north by the line of Cambridge Road; to the east by Purwell Common and the River Purwell; and to the south by the rear boundaries of properties fronting on to Chaucer Way (see Figure 1). The northern end of the site is currently occupied by college buildings, and the southern end by playing fields.

1.3 The Cambridge Road campus is located on the north-eastern side of Hitchin, close to the hamlet of Walsworth. Although no known archaeological remains are known from the site itself, finds of late Iron Age and Romano-British date have been recovered from the 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)
- Hitchin Museum (HITM)

- North Hertfordshire District Council Archaeological Archives
- Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)
- National Monuments Record (NMR)

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 present site lies within the Hitchin Gap, a glacially derived deep cutting, at approximately 56mOD. The solid geology is Lower Chalk, with a deep drift covering of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels of the Anglian phase of the Quaternary period. The chalk bedrock is present at considerable depths below the fluvio-glacial deposits. Locally the soils are derived from the St Albans Association and comprise a brown earth derived from the underlying sands and gravels (SSEW 1968).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Prehistoric

2.2 The archaeological evidence suggests that the area of the modern town was important in the prehistoric period. The proximity of the Icknield Way, a major prehistoric route between East Anglia and Wessex, would doubtless have drawn settlers to the region. The light fertile soils in the valley of the River Hiz would also have been attractive.

2.3 Most prehistoric activity in appears to have been concentrated on higher ground in the Highbury and Benslow areas, between 1km and 500m to the southwest of the study area. The majority of the evidence is in the form of chance finds of flint implements, many found during quarrying for gravel and brickearth in the 19th century. A number of flint implements of *Palaeolithic* date (c.450,00bc – 10,000bc), *Mesolithic* date (c.10,000bc – c.3,500bc), *Neolithic* date (c.3,500bc – c.2,000bc) and *Bronze Age* date (c.2,000bc – c.700bc) have also been recorded from this area (Palaeolithic: HSMR 279, 280, 283, 284, 1182, 1185 and 1186; Mesolithic: HSMR 288, 6454; Neolithic: HSMR 294 and 298; Bronze Age: HSMR 303, 307 and 308).

2.4 A small number of prehistoric artefacts have also been recovered from the area to the north and east of Hitchin, including numerous flint implements of Neolithic date from Letchworth (HSMR 539), within 1km to the northeast; a number of possible Neolithic flint scrapers from the Purwell area (HSMR 1194), within 1km to the southeast; and worked flints, of probable Neolithic date, from the garden of 35 Cadwell Lane (HSMR 11529), approximately 1km to the northwest. A flint scraper, of late prehistoric date (HSMR 309) was found at Purwell Mill, approximately 350m southeast of the southern boundary of the study area.

2.5 Aerial photography has revealed a number of cropmarks of probable prehistoric features in the fields to the south and east of the study area. These include a ring ditch of probable Bronze Age date approximately 900m to the east (HSMR 2558); undated rectilinear ditches approximately 900m to the southeast (HSMR 1641); linear ditches approximately 850m to the southeast (HSMR 1642); and a sub-rectangular enclosure, approximately 850m northeast, which forms the core of Archaeological Area 100 (HSMR 4397). Pottery and cremation burials, of unknown prehistoric date (HSMR 6194), were found at 'Fairfield', now part of the Purwell housing estate, approximately 650m east of the study area.

2.6 The study area lies to the east of the higher ground around Highbury and Benslow, which was disturbed by extensive quarrying during the 19th century, and close to the River Purwell. This is a terrain that is likely to have attracted prehistoric settlement. Although relatively few prehistoric artefacts are known from the immediate vicinity of the study area, cropmark evidence suggests the presence of prehistoric activity in the locality. The lack of finds, such as flint implements, may be a reflection of the lack of archaeological investigation in this area.

Iron Age

2.7 There is surprisingly little evidence for Iron Age activity in Hitchin. Sites of this period are known from the surrounding area, including hillforts at Ravensburgh Castle near Hexton and Wilbury Hill, Letchworth. A considerable late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement was also established at Baldock. Excavations at the eastern end of Portmill Lane, approximately 1.3km southwest of the study area, found slight evidence of Iron Age activity, including sherds of middle and late Iron Age pottery (HSMR 6455). A number of undated pits and postholes may represent the remains of structures dating to this period (G.Burleigh, pers. comm.). Other chance finds of late Iron Age artefacts have been recorded from the town, including a pottery urn (HSMR 4871) and a number of coins (HSMR 131; HSMR 4873).

2.8 Limited evidence for Late pre-Roman Iron Age activity has been recovered from the Walsworth and Purwell areas. High status pottery, including a butt beaker and two amphorae (HSMR 108) was found on the Purwell estate, approximately 550m to the east. These vessels possibly accompanied a burial of the same period (HSMR 6085). Coins issued by the Catuvellaunian chieftain *Cunobelin* (c.AD 10 – 40) have also been found in the locality, at Walsworth (HSMR 130), within 1km to the northwest, and on the site of a Roman villa (HSMR 466), within 1km to the southeast.

2.9 The lack of evidence may reflect a genuine lack of occupation, although the number of prehistoric findspots in the vicinity of the town suggests that it was an attractive spot for early settlement. It is more likely that remains of Iron Age occupation have yet to be uncovered.

Romano-British

2.10 The known settlement pattern of the Hitchin area in the Roman period suggests a landscape of farmsteads and villas, some of which undoubtedly had Iron Age antecedents. Evidence of occupation has been recorded from a number of sites around the town, including to the southeast of the Grammar School (HSMR 1420) and at Highbury Road, approximately 950m to the southwest (HSMR 1418). Settlement evidence, and an associated inhumation and cremation cemetery, has also been recorded at Foxholes, approximately 1km west of the modern town (HSMR 1184). Further cremation burials, with accompanying pottery vessels, were found at Taylors Hill on the southern side of the town (HSMR 1201) approximately 1.6km to the southwest.

2.11 Archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the town centre has also recovered limited evidence of Roman activity. Residual pottery sherds and coins were recovered from later features during excavations at The Biggin in 1969 (NHDC archives) and at Portmill Lane (HSMR 6474). Excavations

on the site of the former Hitchin Laundry on Queen Street uncovered a small number of Roman features, consisting of pits and postholes, which were located in the north-western corner of the site (Stirk, 2002). Large quantities of Roman pottery and building material were also recovered from later features on the site. Recent work by the Museum of London, on various sites in the town centre, has also revealed evidence for Roman activity in the town. A number of late Roman pits and ditches were identified during trial trenching in Portmill Lane and Biggin Lane (Aitken, 2003).

2.12 An area of intensive Roman occupation has been located to the southeast of the present site (Area of Archaeological Significance 150). The site of a substantial Roman villa at Ninesprings, Wymondley (HSMR 467 / Scheduled Ancient Monument 38) approximately 800m to the southeast of the southern boundary of the study area, was investigated in 1884 (Ransom, 1888, 43-4) and again in 1921. A settlement site, lying approximately 200m to the north of the villa and possibly associated with it (HSMR 468) was first identified in 1921 and further investigated by fieldwalking in 1978. The fieldwalking revealed a spread of Roman pottery sherds and building material. It has been suggested that the present site lies within the estate associated with the villa (Smith, NHDC Archives).

2.13 Other evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the study area includes a 2nd century coin, possibly of *Faustina Senior* who died AD 141, which was found in 1958 on the opposite side of Cambridge Road (HSMR 1416) approximately 150m to the northeast of the northeastern corner of the present site. Approximately 17 coins, ranging from *Gallienus* (AD 253-68) to *Helena* (AD 337-41), were found with a metal detector on spoil heaps during building along St Michael's Road in the 1970s (HSMR 460) approximately 100m to the west. A coin hoard, comprising approximately 8 coins ranging from *Victorius* (AD 269-71) to *Gratian* (AD 367-82) was found with a metal detector on the top of St Michael's Mount (HSMR 470) approximately 150m to the southwest. An inhumation burial, with associated 3rd century pottery, was found in a trench along Cadwell Lane (HSMR 1428) approximately 1.1km to the northwest.

2.14 The present site lies approximately 800m to the northwest of a villa site and associated dependent settlement, and possibly within the villa estate. These settlements appear to lie at the northwestern end of a group of Roman settlements and villas in the Wymondley area, including an extensive settlement approximately 2km to the southeast of Ninesprings villa (HSMR 471) and a Romanised farmstead at Wymondley Bury, approximately 4.5km to the southeast of Ninesprings villa (HSMR 101). Further evidence of Roman occupation has been identified at Cadwell, just over 1km to the northwest of the study area, along the River Purwell.

Anglo-Saxon

2.15 The name 'Hitchin' is believed to have stemmed from the name *Hicce*, the Anglo-Saxon tribe thought to have been established in this area by the 8th century AD. The Tribal Hidage, a Mercian tribute list of 7th/8th century date, documents two tribes in the area, the *Gifle* and the *Hicce*. The *Gifle* appear to have occupied the valley of the River Ivel in Bedfordshire and the *Hicce* settled in the region of the River Hiz (Friel, 1982).

2.16 The limited documentary sources available indicate that Hitchin was a Mercian royal estate by the 8th century and the Hicce formed one of the smaller clan units within Mercia. It has been suggested that Hitchin was an important strategic stronghold for the Mercian rulers from as early as the mid 7th century, as it lay on the southern border of the Mercian kingdom and guarded the route to London via a gap in the Chilterns (Offer, 2002).

2.17 Recent archaeological fieldwork at the old Laundry site on Queen Street, approximately 1.8km to the southwest, has revealed evidence for significant activity, which appears to range in date from the 9th century to the 13th century AD (Stirk, 2002). The main occupation on the site apparently consisted of a late Saxon defended enclosure. The defences appear to have later been dismantled, possibly in the 10th century at a time that *burhs* (defended settlements) were being established at Hertford, Bedford and Ashwell. New buildings occupied the space left by the demolished defences.

2.18 Place name evidence has identified the site of a possible Anglo-Saxon burial mound at Benslow (HMSR 1610) approximately 500m to the southwest. In 1556 the site was called *Benchelowe Pece*.

2.19 It has been suggested that a settlement had been established in the early/ middle Saxon period, centred on the present High Street and Market Place, and to the west and north-west of the church (Burleigh & Stevenson, 1994). This may have been delimited on the northern side by a cemetery at the junction between Bancroft, Brand Street and High Street. A late Saxon planned town has also been postulated, located to the north and west of the earlier settlement and established on a square town plan. It has been suggested that the eastern boundary was marked by the line of a series of alleys, approximately in line with Hermitage Road, that survived into the early post-medieval period (ibid.). This would indicate that the area of the present site lay well outside the Saxon town, but close to the hamlet of Walsworth.

2.20 Although no evidence for a Saxon settlement has, so far, been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the study area, the place name *Walsworth* indicates occupation of this period. Medieval records refer to the hamlet as *Waltonesford* (in 1294) or *Waltonford* (in 1377), i.e. the ford at Walton (Gower et al, 1970, 10-11). As Walsworth lay close to an important Saxon estate it is likely that the name Walton comes from the Old English *weala tun*, the ‘farm of the serfs or Britons’ (ibid).

Medieval

2.21 The Domesday Book of 1086 records that Hitchin, which included the hamlet of Walsworth, was held by the king (Morris, 1978). It answered for five hides of land (approximately 600 acres). Two of these hides (approximately 240 acres) were in the hands of the minster church. Ninety one males are recorded as living on the 3 hides (approximately 360 acres) of the king’s land, comprising 41 villagers, 17 smallholders, 22 cottagers and 12 slaves. This gives an estimated total population of between 350 and 450. Eleven males are recorded on the two hides belonging to the church, giving an estimated total population of between 45 and 60. The total estimated population for the manor was therefore between 400 and 600. This is quite a high density and suggests that there was an established and thriving community on the manor by the 11th century. As a royal manor the town would have provided a focus for people in the surrounding countryside, and an outlet for their produce. Four mills, worth 53s 4d, are

recorded on the manor. Grove Mill, which was called *Shackling* or *Shotting* mill, on the confluence of the rivers Purwell and Hiz, was almost certainly one of these. Meadowland, pastureland and woodland for 600 pigs, are also recorded.

2.22 The manor continued to be held by the Crown until the 17th century. At various times it was granted to relatives or courtiers, but always reverted to Crown possession. William Rufus granted Hitchin to Guy de Balliol, whose family held it until 1295, when it was confiscated following the rebellion of John de Balliol, king of Scots. The de Kendale family were granted the manor from 1311 until 1376, when the male line failed. It was then granted to Alice Perrers, the king's mistress. Richard II granted Hitchin to his uncle, Edmund of York, in 1387. It reverted to the Crown in 1460, following Richard of York's death at the Battle of Wakefield during the Wars of the Roses. The following year Richard's son was crowned Edward IV and he granted the manor to his mother, Cecily. Following her death in 1495, Henry VII gave Hitchin to his queen, Elizabeth of York, as part of her jointure. This set a precedent, and through the 16th and 17th centuries the manor formed part of the queen consort's jointure. After Catherine of Braganza's death in 1705, the manor was granted on a series of leases until 1843 when the last lease expired and the manor of Hitchin reverted to the Crown (Howlett, 2000).

2.23 Two mills were established in the vicinity of the study area during the medieval period. Grove Mill (HSMR 5768) approximately 800m northwest of the present site, was variously known as Shotting, Shotlyng or Shackling mill on old maps. It was renovated in 1471 and again in 1676. Purwell mill (HSMR 5793) was located approximately 350m to the southeast of the study area.

2.24 Little direct evidence of medieval features has been recorded from the vicinity of the present site. A possible small moat (HSMR 11416) has been identified at the northern end of modern Millstream Close, to the north of Grove Mill and approximately 1km northwest of the study area. Early post-medieval maps show that the study area was located immediately adjacent to the boundary between the hamlet of Walsworth and the township of Hitchin. The open field system, established during the medieval period, survived in Hitchin until at least the early 19th century.

Post-medieval

2.25 Although the size of the population increased significantly in the town during the post-medieval period, especially in the 19th century, Walsworth remained a separate hamlet, divided from the town by the unenclosed fields. Until the mid 19th century it consisted of cottages along the Cambridge and Woolgrove Roads and scattered farms. The census of 1811 recorded 159 people in Walsworth, most of whom were agricultural labourers (Walker & Watson, 1997) which had grown to about 400 by the 1890s (Watson, 1994, 1).

2.26 The two mills in Walsworth were reconstructed in the late 18th or early 19th century. Grove Mill became a silk mill and was owned by the Ransom family between 1813 and c.1838. It later became a water corn mill and then a chamois leather dressers. The present buildings at Purwell mill, including the mill house and associated cottage, are Grade II listed buildings (DoE, 1970). They were constructed during the 18th century and appear as Purwell Mill on Bryant's map of 1822 (Hodson, 1985, map 4).

2.27 The study area lay on the southeastern side of Baldock Road (now called Cambridge Road), one of the main routes into Hitchin. The road bridge over the Purwell, to the northeast of the site, was apparently not built until 1834, suggesting that wheeled and horse-drawn traffic had to ford the river at that point (Foster, 1987, 91). This may have been the site of the early ford indicated in the name *Waltonesford*.

2.28 Industry came to the area in the mid to late 19th century. The railway station (HSMR 5529) approximately 400m west of the present site was built in 1850. A number of railway bridges, spanning local roads, were constructed at the same time, including one over Cambridge Road bridge (HSMR 5609) approximately 300m northwest of the study area and over Woolgrove Road (HSMR 5617) approximately 700m northwest of the study area.

2.29 The coming of the railway meant that the raw materials for a number of industrial processes could be brought into the area. It also meant an increase of population on the northeastern side of the town and in the Walsworth area. In the late 19th century works associated with lime burning, ironworking and gas production were constructed on the western edge of Walsworth Common, immediately adjacent to the railway. At least four lime kilns and several associated quarry pits (HSMR 9217) approximately 400m southwest of the study area, were located to the southeast of the rail station, the area is now used as the station car park.

2.30 Herts Ironworks (HSMR 9215) approximately 300m northwest of the present site, was also located adjacent to the railway. The site is now partly occupied by modern Common Rise. The success of coal gas in providing light and heating in the 19th century meant that the old gasworks on Benge Mead (near the present day Bancroft Recreation Ground) could not cope and a new site was purchased in 1896 (HSMR 9216) approximately 400m northwest of the study area.. This was located to the north of the ironworks on the western side of Walsworth Common, with its own rail sidings for bringing coal in from the midlands. By the end of the century gas consumption had risen to thirty eight million cubic feet and in 1904 another gasometer had to be constructed on the site (Foster, 1987, 126-7). The gasworks moved to a new site in Cadwell Lane in 1964

Modern

2.31 Walsworth became part of Hitchin Urban District Council in 1921. Its population doubled in the early 1930s as the result of the construction of a number of new estates, including the privately built Common Rise to the northwest of the study area, the council estate called High Dane, the construction of Hampden Road and the development along Cambridge Road (Walker & Watson, 1997). Further large estates were built around the study area in the years after the Second World War, including the Purwell Estate, built between 1949 - 53, to the east and the Poets Estate, built 1974 – 83, to the west and south.

2.32 During the Second World War a number of pillboxes were constructed at significant junctions in the vicinity of the present site. These included one on Grove Road (HSMR 6910) at a point where road, rail and river ran close together approximately 900m northwest. Two others were located on road junctions, one at the Walsworth Road / Verulam Road junction (HSMR 6912) approximately 1.2km to

the southwest, the other was at the junction between Walsworth Road and Nightingale Road (HSMR 6913) approximately 750m to the southwest.

SITE SPECIFIC

2.33 The study area is located on the southeastern side of Cambridge Road (see Figure 1). It forms an elongated plot, located between Purwell Meadows to the east, the A505 Cambridge Road to the north and two housing estates to the west and south. The site currently forms the Cambridge Road campus of the North Hertfordshire College. The northern end of the site is occupied by college buildings, including the Grade II listed Walsworth House; the southern end is open land, used as playing fields.

2.34 The line of the main road, the modern A505 Cambridge Road, was the principal route between Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock in the post-medieval period, and undoubtedly before that. It is likely to have been established as a trackway since at least the Roman period.

2.35 It has recently been postulated that in the Roman period the study area lay at the northern end of the estate associated with the Ninesprings villa (Smith, NHDC Archives). The suggested boundaries to the estate extend northwards between the Wymondley Road and Cambridge Road, with the line of Purwell Lane and Willian Road forming the eastern boundary and the 200 foot contour, on the opposite side of the River Purwell, the western.

2.36 In the medieval period the site appears to have lain on the eastern edge of Purwell Field, one of the large open fields surrounding the township of Hitchin. It was located immediately adjacent to the boundary between Hitchin and the hamlet of Walsworth, formed by the river Purwell to the west. Early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps show the line of the boundary between Hitchin Urban District Council and Walsworth running along the eastern boundary of the study area. A map of the township of Hitchin in 1816, published as the frontispiece to Seebohm's work (1883) shows that the site lay on the eastern edge of Purwell Field, which extended from the Walsworth boundary in the east, to Priory Park in the west. Nineteenth century documents name the strips to the southwest of the study area as Long Shadwell Shot and Short Shadwell Shot.

2.37 To the west of the study area was a group of cottages known as Skimpot, which lay between two lanes running out to fields. The cottages were probably constructed in the mid 19th century to house railway workers and most of them were demolished in the 1970s (Walker & Watson, 1997). The origin of this name is unknown, but may refer to a shallow dish used to leave milk to stand before skimming off the cream, possibly suggesting that a dairy may once have stood in this area (West, 1998, 37). South of this was St Michael's Mount. A windmill was sited on the top of the hill in the 18th century, but this had apparently gone by the early 19th century as it is not shown on maps of that date. St Michael's Mount is now the site of the Poets Estate, which was developed between 1974 and 1983, partly as a council estate and partly as a private estate (ibid, 50-51).

2.38 To the east are Purwell Meadows, which were unnumbered on the Tithe map of 1844. These form a low lying river meadow, which was used for common grazing and was, therefore, not subject to

tithes. Purwell Meadows, including the area between the springs and the river adjacent to the study area, was known as *Lammas Land*, where stock could be pastured from old Lammas Day (August 13th) until old Lady Day (April 6th) (ibid, 51). Cattle are still grazed on the meadows today.

2.39 Although early maps of Hitchin concentrated on the urban area, the area between the town and Walsworth appears on early maps of the county. John Seller's map of 1676, shows Walsworth as a small settlement lying on both sides of the road from Baldock to Hitchin, the line of the modern A505 which runs along the northwestern side of the study area (Hodson, 1985, map 1). It is likely that the area of the present site is represented as part of the line of buildings along the Cambridge Road.

2.40 The present site was occupied by at least the mid 17th century by a property known as Walsworth House. Parts of the house may date back to the 16th century (Walker & Watson, 1997) although the listing details date the earliest wing to the 17th century (DoE, nd). The property consisted of the house, which had a large cellar, and 7 acres of grounds. These included a rose garden, lawns, a tennis court, barns, thatched stables, hot houses, a hen house and a piggery (Walker & Watson, 1997). Late 19th century photographs appear to show that the kitchen garden was located on the southeastern corner of the house (ibid, plate 6).

2.41 In the early 19th century it was owned by William Wilshere, MP for Hitchin and Steward of the Royal Manor of Hitchin. During the 19th century Walsworth House was leased to a number of tenants, including James Pack, Thomas Armstrong and William Gatty (HALS 60594 – 60611). The Wilshere family owned the property until the 1920s, when the occupier, Major F.H. Anderson, bought it outright.

2.42 On his death in 1953, Walsworth House was sold to the Provincial of the Assumptionist Congregation in England. Their seminary for trainee Catholic priests (St Michael's College) was moved here from the site of the present police station. In the 1960s it was acquired by Hertfordshire County Council as the site for Hitchin College of Further Education (Walker & Watson, 1997). The first phase of college buildings was completed by 1965, with a further phase in 1973 (HITM 8860). Works to refurbish Walsworth House itself took place in the 1990s.

2.43 Walsworth House has been listed as Grade II (DoE, nd). The listing gives limited details about the building: *A wing on the north extending east is probably of C17 origin, timber framed and plastered. Very large chimney stack with attached shafts at west end. There is a large C19 red brick house, with additions, on the west and south.*

2.44 A site visit as part of the present study ascertained that large-scale earthmoving had probably taken place across the study area in the 1960s and 1970s. Terracing of the natural slope appears to have been done across the playing fields, to provide a level surface and also to raise the ground in the area of the springs, which was undoubtedly boggy. A number of the college buildings to the north also appear to be sited on smaller terraces.

Cartographic

2.45 The earliest available map showing some detail of the study area is Dury and Andrews' *Map of Hartford-shire*, dated 1766. This shows two buildings on the site, one parallel to the road, the other at right angles to it (Figure 2). Two buildings are shown on the opposite side of Cambridge Road. There are no details of the grounds, but a windmill is shown to the west, on the top of St Michael's Mount.

2.46 An early 19th century map (HALS D/Eha P8) shows a complex of buildings around an irregularly shaped courtyard (Figure 3). The narrow entranceway from Cambridge Road was flanked by two long narrow buildings, the western one of which forms the oldest part of the present structure. It is possible that this was originally a farm, with barns and stables round the farmyard.

2.46.1. A cruciform building is shown on the southeastern side. This may represent a barn with opposing porches to allow a through draught for threshing. Alternatively, as this appears to be the largest building and was set back from the road, it may have been the dwelling house at this time.

2.46.2. The buildings are shown occupying Plot 722, with Plot 721 to the south. This was enclosed on the western, southern and eastern sides. To the west of the buildings was Plot 723.

2.46.3. The land to the south, now the college playing fields, was divided into plots of varying sizes, reflecting holdings in the open fields. The modern site boundary still largely follows the eastern boundary to plots 721, 726, 713, 712 and 711.

2.46.4. A cloverleaf-shaped feature is shown in the southeastern corner of plot 726. This was a springhead, feeding a small tributary of the river Purwell. It is still in existence today.

2.47 Some changes had occurred by the time the Tithe map was surveyed in 1844 (HALS DSA 4/53/2). The eastern end of the present house appears to have been demolished to widen the entrance, leaving a smaller T-shaped structure (Figure 4). The eastern range had been altered and extended to form an H-shaped building. A late 19th century photograph, taken from Cambridge Road, shows that the northeastern end of the northern range of this building consisted of small cottages. Later maps indicate four cottages in the terrace, adjoining a barn on the western side (Walker & Watson, 1997, plate 14).

2.47.1. Alterations to the boundaries around the present site had also occurred, with the division between the buildings and former Plot 723 going. A new boundary was inserted across the plot from the southeastern corner of the cruciform building, to make a small paddock.

2.47.2. A number of plots made up the study area on the Tithe map. The accompanying schedule (HALS D/P 27/1-13) lists the owners and occupiers and gives a brief description of the individual plots. William Wilshere is named as the owner and occupier of the present site, his property included Plot 811, called The Five Acres, which was used

for arable and measured 4 acres 1 rood 3 perches; Plot 813, called Meadow, was used for pasture and measured 3 roods 24 perches; Plot 814, described as house and homestead, measuring 1 acre, 3 roods and 22 perches; Plot 815, called the Home Close, was used as pasture and measured 3 roods 26 perches; Plot 816, described as woodland, measuring 1 rood 8 perches; Plot 818, called the Two Acre Field, was used for arable and measured 2 acres 1 rood 9 perches.

2.47.3. William Wilshere also rented two small strips, Plots 819 and 820, which lay adjacent to his property on the western side of the present site. These were owned by the Free School Charity. Plot 819 was called the Three Roods and was used for arable.

2.47.4. Other people also owned and occupied plots within the study area. Plot 817, which measured 1 acre 2 roods 3 perches, was owned by Joseph Sharples and occupied by John Ransom. It was called Windmill Piece and was used for arable.

2.47.5. Plot 810, which measured 3 roods 39 perches, was owned by Henry Baron and occupied by Henry Nash. It was called Acre Piece and was an arable strip.

2.47.6. Plot 809, which measured 2 acres 1 rood 30 perches, was owned by Frederick Lovell and rented by William Nash. It was called River Piece and was arable.

2.48 The OS 1st edition map, dated 1881, shows a number of changes had taken place since the 1840s (Figure 5). A new house had been constructed, adjoining the remaining part of the original western building and incorporating it as the east wing of the new building. This resulted in a roughly L-shaped structure, with a small enclosed yard on the southeastern side. The cruciform building, possibly the old dwelling, had been demolished and replaced by a new formal driveway from Cambridge Road. Other, smaller, buildings in its vicinity had also gone by the 1880s. The H-shaped building on the eastern side of the property may have been slightly altered.

2.48.1. Details of the grounds associated with the property show that the area of tree planting had been extended across the former strip called Windmill Piece (Plot 817 on the Tithe map). Trees had also been planted around the western and southern sides of the small paddock (Plot 815 on the Tithe map). An enclosed area, possibly for a garden, was established to the south of the H-shaped building. Two small structures were built on either side of the western boundary to this area. A public footpath ran along the southeastern boundary to the gardens, suggesting that the Walsworth House property did not extend into the fields beyond.

2.48.2. A number of footpaths are shown crossing the area now used for playing fields. Most of the strip boundaries from the medieval open fields survived into the 1880s, though the divisions between plots 107, 809 and 810 appear to have been removed to make a larger field by this period.

2.49 The OS 2nd edition map, dated 1898, shows that few changes had taken place on the site (Figure 6). The small enclosed area to the south of the outbuildings had been enlarged by the removal of the southern fence or wall, and a glasshouse erected in this area. A rectangular area, possibly a tennis court, had been enclosed to the rear of the property, resulting in the demolition of the eastern of the two small structures previously seen.

2.50 The OS 3rd edition map, dated 1923, shows a number of small changes to the layout of the study area (Figure 7). The southern end of the 19th century house was extended around the former enclosed yard. One wing, including a possible conservatory, ran east to the driveway, with another wing turning northwest, back towards the oldest wing of the house, parallel to the drive.

2.51 Other changes had occurred in the grounds, including the erection of a second glasshouse alongside the first one and the extension of the drive to the possible tennis court. The western boundary appears to have been moved further west, taking in the lane bordering Skimpot and part of the adjacent fields.

2.52 By 1966 the present site had become the Hitchin College of Further Education (Figure 8). Walsworth House itself had survived, with a few additions, such as the small extension on the southeastern corner and a small structure in the former enclosed yard. The property around the house had changed completely, with the demolition of the H-shaped outbuilding range, the disappearance of the formal drive, the apparent removal of the tree plantation and the disappearance of the tennis court and the area of the glasshouses. These were replaced by a large rectangular block, aligned northwest to southeast to the southeast of Walsworth House, a smaller rectangular to the southwest of this and a small square block to the west of Walsworth House. An irregularly shaped area was marked to the west of this block, possibly indicating car parking.

2.52.1. The college had probably acquired the area of the present playing fields by 1966. At the same time the western boundary to the present site appears to have been brought into line with the southwestern corner of the Walsworth House grounds, extending the study area to its present width. The eastern boundary continued to run along the former field boundaries. Landscaping of the playing fields is indicated by the hachures along the western side of the site on the OS map of 1973 (Figure 8).

2.52.2. The spring-fed tributary of the Purwell was used for watercress beds at this time.

Aerial Photographs

2.53 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. A number of aerial photographs, taken between the 1940s and 1980s, were consulted for the present study.

2.54 The earliest photographs consulted were taken by the USAF and date to 1943. Although taken from a considerable height, they show wartime allotments to the west of the study area

(US/7PH/EP/LOC 75). Traces of the open field strips are also visible in the area of the present playing fields. A number of plot boundaries recorded on the 1844 Tithe map were still extant, which show as hedges on the photographs.

2.55 Photographs taken in 1945 show some details of the Walsworth House grounds (RAF/106G/UK 961, frames 3028-9). A garden is visible to the south of the house. It was laid out with triangular beds, divided by paths, radiating out from a central point.

2.56 A number of changes occurred between 1964 and 1969. Oblique photographs taken in 1964 show the college buildings under construction, the tree plantation on the western side of Walsworth House still in existence and large scale ground moving in the area of the playing fields to the south of the new college buildings (HITM 6687/18 – 19). By 1969 the number of buildings at the northern end of the site had increased, most of the trees appear to have gone, the western boundary had been straightened and moved westwards and the area of the present playing fields enclosed (MAL / 69031).

2.57 The works associated with the construction of Chaucer Way to the south of the study area, are visible on a photograph taken in 1973 (OS/73060). Of significance to this report is a feature running southeast to northwest, between Chaucer Way and Cambridge Road, across the southeastern corner of the playing field. This may represent either the line of a drainage trench or a track for heavy construction traffic.

2.58 No evidence for underlying archaeological features could be identified on any of the photographs consulted. This may either reflect a genuine lack of such features, or that the ground conditions were not favourable for showing them.

3. Assessment of Risk

Prehistoric

3.1 The present site lies immediately adjacent to a springhead feeding the River Purwell, on a northeast-facing slope. Springs are known to have been foci for late prehistoric ritual and settlement activity. Evidence of activity of this period in the vicinity includes a number of Neolithic flints found within 1km southeast (HSMR 1194), a Bronze Age ring ditch (HSMR 2558) approximately 900m to the east and pottery and burials of unknown prehistoric date (HSMR 6194) approximately 650m to the east. However, no evidence of features that could be assigned to this date was seen on the aerial photographs.

3.2 On this basis, the risk of encountering features of prehistoric date in the course of development on the present site may be considered to be *Low*. However, the risk of encountering finds of prehistoric date, especially those of the later prehistoric periods, may be considered to be *Moderate*.

3.3 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 town. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of prehistoric date on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Iron Age

3.4 Some evidence for the Iron Age has been recovered from the vicinity of the study area. A number of finds, including high status pottery (HSMR 108) a burial accompanied by pottery vessels (HSMR 6085) and coins of Cunobelin (HSMR 130 and HSMR 466) have been found in the Walsworth and Purwell area. No features dating to this period have yet been recorded from the area.

3.5 On this basis, the risk of encountering features of Iron Age date on the present site may be considered to be *Low*. However, the risk of encountering finds of Iron Age date may be considered to be *Moderate*.

3.6 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 and settlement chronology. There is a dearth of Iron Age sites in the town, although archaeological evidence from other parts of the district shows that this area was well settled by this period. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Romano-British

3.7 The accumulated evidence suggests that Roman occupation in Hitchin consisted of a developed rural landscape, comprising a series of villas and farmsteads lying close to rivers and springs (G.Burleigh, pers. comm.).

3.8 A number of chance finds and sites have been identified in the vicinity of the study area. Evidence for Roman settlement has been recovered from Hitchin to the southwest and from Wymondley to the southeast, showing that this region was well settled during this period. An area of intensive Roman settlement has been recorded within 1km to the southeast, including a substantial villa at Ninesprings (HSMR 467) and its possible dependent settlement (HSMR 468). This may have provided accommodation for the farm workers and servants on the villa. Such an establishment is likely to have had a large estate, and it has been suggested that the area of this estate extended to the modern Cambridge Road, with its eastern boundary following Purwell Lane and Willian Road and its western boundary following approximately the 200 foot contour. This would place the study area within the postulated estate land.

3.9 Finds of Roman coins have also been made in the vicinity of the present site. During the construction of the Poets Estate in the 1970s, which lies immediately adjacent to the south and west of the present site, at least 17 coins were found by a metal detectorist (HSMR 460). A group of 8 coins, ranging in date from the late 3rd century to the late 4th century AD, were also found in the same area (HSMR 470). A single 2nd century coin (HSMR 1416) was found on the opposite side of Cambridge Road, approximately 150m to the northeast.

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

3.11 Hitchin is thought to have lain in a rural, rather than an urban, landscape in the Roman period. A number of relevant topics, including the investigation of small rural settlements such as farmsteads and relationship between town and country in the landscape, have been identified in the regional research framework (Going & Plouviez, 2000, 21 – 22). Despite the recent extensive work in the town centre, relatively little evidence of Roman occupation has been so far recorded in Hitchin. As the present site lies close to the villa site at Ninesprings, and to the possible riverside settlement in the area of Hitchin town centre, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Anglo-Saxon

3.12 The documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that Hitchin was important during the Saxon period. It was a Mercian royal estate from at least the 8th century, which appears to have continued as a royal possession into the 10th century. Evidence from archaeological fieldwork along Queen Street indicates that a substantial high status settlement was established on the eastern bank of the River Hiz, possibly representing part of the royal manor (Stirk, 2002).

3.13 Although chance finds of high status artefacts have been recovered from the town, none have been recorded from the Walsworth area. However, place name evidence suggests that there was a settlement in the vicinity during the Saxon period. This may have been located near to the ford on Cambridge Road, approximately 100m to the northeast, and to the Walsworth crossroads, approximately 200m northeast. However, no trace of such a settlement has been recorded during the later development of the area.

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

3.15 Chance finds of high status artefacts and recent archaeological excavations in the town centre, have demonstrated that Hitchin was clearly an important settlement by at least the 8th century AD. 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 thought possibly to lie close to a small rural settlement, probably associated with an important urban settlement, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Medieval

3.16 Although few finds or features of this period have been recorded from the vicinity of the study area, the place name evidence suggests that occupation had been established in the area since the Saxon period. However, no evidence of features that could be assigned to this date was seen on the aerial photographs.

3.17 During this period the study area was located immediately west of the boundary between Hitchin and the hamlet of Walsworth. It lay on the eastern edge of Purwell Field, one of the open fields surrounding the town, which physically separated Walsworth from Hitchin. The River Purwell marked the boundary between the two settlements.

3.18 On this basis the risk of encountering features and finds of medieval date, especially those relating to agricultural practices, on the present site may be considered to be *Low to Moderate*.

3.19 The present site was located on the boundary between two physically distinct, but related, settlements, one a town, the other a hamlet. It also lay within the medieval field system, which survived until the 19th century. A number of relevant research topics have been highlighted by the regional research framework, including rural settlement diversity; medieval field systems; the evolution of the medieval house and farmstead and the relationship between towns and their hinterlands (Wade, 2000, 23-26). As the present site was located in a rural hinterland to an urban area the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Post-medieval

3.20 Cartographic evidence has shown that the northern end of the present site was occupied by a house and associated outbuildings since at least the mid 18th century. The earliest map consulted, dated 1767, shows a small development, consisting of two buildings, along the Cambridge Road (Figure 2). The Tithe map of 1844 shows a number of possible changes to the layout, with further buildings to the south of the road (Figure 4). The Schedule attached to the Tithe Award describes the plot as a house and homestead. The listed owner, William Wilshere, was an important person in the town. He occupied this property and a number of adjacent plots. By 1881 the layout of the house and homestead had

changed, with the construction of the present Walsworth House, now part of the North Hertfordshire College campus (Figure 5).

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

3.22 During the 19th century the Walsworth House grounds included a range of outbuildings, a kitchen garden, tree plantations, paths, lawns and flowerbeds. Sketchy details of these appear on Ordnance Survey maps and later aerial photographs. The study of ‘vernacular gardens’, that is the study of small household gardens rather than the large parks and estates of the aristocracy, has been highlighted as a research topic in the regional research framework (Gilman et al, 2000, 39).

3.23 The playing fields to the south of the college buildings lay at the eastern edge of Purwell Field, one of the common fields surrounding the township of Hitchin. These fields had survived into the 19th century from the medieval period and the plot boundaries appear to have survived into the 20th century. The study of farming between 1750 and 1914 has been highlighted as a regional research topic in the regional research framework (Gilman et al, 2000, 39).

3.24 Evidence both for changes in the design of the garden and in agricultural practices could survive on the present site and, therefore, the potential significance of any such remains of this period on the site is considered to be *High*.

Modern

3.25 Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence shows that Walsworth House itself still stands today, however, its outbuildings and gardens have disappeared under the college buildings. The land to the south of the college, now the playing fields, underwent significant groundworks during the 1960s.

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

3.27 During the later 20th century the present site was used as offices. A number of changes were made to the property as a result of this use, including the construction of large office blocks structures, with probable associated service trenches, and the landscaping of the site. 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

3.28 The map and aerial photographic evidence shows that the northern end of the study area has been subject to significant changes since the early 19th century. This is likely to have disturbed underlying archaeological remains, especially the terracing of the natural slope that appears to have taken place in the 1960s, during the construction of the college buildings and the levelling of the playing fields.

3.29 Although the area of the present playing fields has remained open land since at least the late 18th century, a site walkover has confirmed that significant terracing of the slope may have taken place in the last forty years to create level spaces for buildings and playing field. In the area of the playing fields it is likely that, to accomplish this, soil was taken from the higher ground on the western side, and deposited on the lower ground on the eastern side of the site. This would have the effect of removing any underlying archaeological features on the western side of the playing fields, but of burying in situ those on the eastern side, possibly to a significant depth.

3.30 The northwestern corner of the site is likely to have been significantly disturbed by tree planting in the 19th and 20th centuries. Plantations are shown on maps dating from the mid 19th century in the area of the present staff car park and to the south, including a path known as the Beech Tree Walk which skirted the lawns to the south of the house.

3.31 There is a moderate to high probability that archaeological remains, of potential significance when considered in the context of the established research agenda for the region, are preserved in localised areas on the site, particularly on the eastern side of the playing fields. These may be damaged, destroyed or otherwise affected by any proposed development. The actual nature of any such remains could only be effectively characterised by intrusive investigation. It is likely that such an investigation would form an element in the requirements of the planning authority relating to any 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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North Hertfordshire District Council Archaeological Archives

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Tithe Map, 1844, Surveyed by J. Bailey Denton

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OS 1930 Hitchin Urban District Council Area, 6" scale

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10405 1953 Sale Catalogue, contents of Walsworth House

8860 1973 Leaflet commemorating the opening of Hitchin College new wing

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)

OS 1898, Hertfordshire Sheet XII.2, 2nd Edition, 1898, 25" scale

OS 1923, Hertfordshire Sheet XII.2, 3rd Edition, 1923, 25" scale

OS 1966, Sheet TL 1929, 1966, 1:2500 scale

OS 1973, Sheet TL 2029, 1973, 1:2500 scale

58882 1767 Plan of the Estates of the Reverend Thomas Whitehurst and others in the hamlet of Walsworth in the parish of Hitchin

58869 c.1800 Plan of an estate in the Parish of Hitchin belonging to William Wilshere Esq.

D/EWs P15 1806 Fields in the Parish of Hitchin occupied by William Wilshere

D/Ews P16 1818 Land in Hitchin occupied by William Wilshere

D/Eha P8 c.1811-18 Map of Hitchin and Surrounding Areas

D/Z 72 P1 late 18th century Tracing of untitled plan, Hitchin area

D/Epm P1 1817 Plans and Terrar of an Estate in Hitchin, the Property of the Reverend Wollaston Pym. Surveyed by Zachariah George Neale

DSA 4/53/2 1844 Hitchin Tithe Map, surveyed by J. Bailey Denton

D/P 27/1-13 1860 Copy of the Tithe Award

60594 – 60611 1853 onwards Sale Particulars, Walsworth House and Highover Farm

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

Run	Frame	Date
US / 7PH / EP / LOC 75	7018	11.11.1943
US / 7PH / EP / LOC 75	7019	11.11.1943
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	3027	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	3028	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	3029	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	4027	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	4028	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 961	4029	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / T / 15	6025	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / T / 15	6026	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / T / 15	6027	30.10.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 1013	7008	16.11.1945
RAF / 106G / UK / 1650	5177	10.07.1946
RAF / CPE / UK / 1897	3226	12.12.1946
RAF / 541 / 483	3021	07.04.1950
RAF / 541 / 483	3022	07.04.1950
RAF / 541 / 483	3023	07.04.1950
RAF / 541 / 483	4005	07.04.1950
RAF / 541 / 483	4006	07.04.1950
RAF / 58 / 1340	49	14.01.1954
RAF / 58 / 1340	50	14.01.1954
RAF / 58 / 1340	51	14.01.1954
RAF / 82 / 1006	189	31.08. 1954
RAF / 82 / 1006	190	31.08. 1954
RAF / 58 / 2164	49	08.05.1957
RAF / 58 / 2164	50	08.05.1957
RAF / 58 / 2164	51	08.05.1957
RAF / 58 / 4646	151	28.08.1961
MAL / 69031	145	05.04.1969
OS / 69362	4	22.07.1969
OS / 73060	338	30.04.1973
OS / 74172	94	21.07.1974
OS / 89065	16	30.03.1989
OS / 89065	17	30.03.1989
OS / 89064	135	30.03.1989
OS / 89064	136	30.03.1989
OS/89065	16	30.03.1989

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5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2a	Detail from Dury and Andrew's Map, 1766
Figure 2b	Tracing from Map of 1811-18
Figure 3a	Tracing from Tithe Map, 1844
Figure 3b	Tracing from 1 st edition OS, 25" scale, 1881
Figure 4a	2 nd edition OS, 25" scale, 1898
Figure 4b	3 rd edition OS, 25" scale, 1922
Figure 5a	OS, 1:1250 scale, 1965 and 1973
Figure 5b	OS map, 2004

Appendix 1

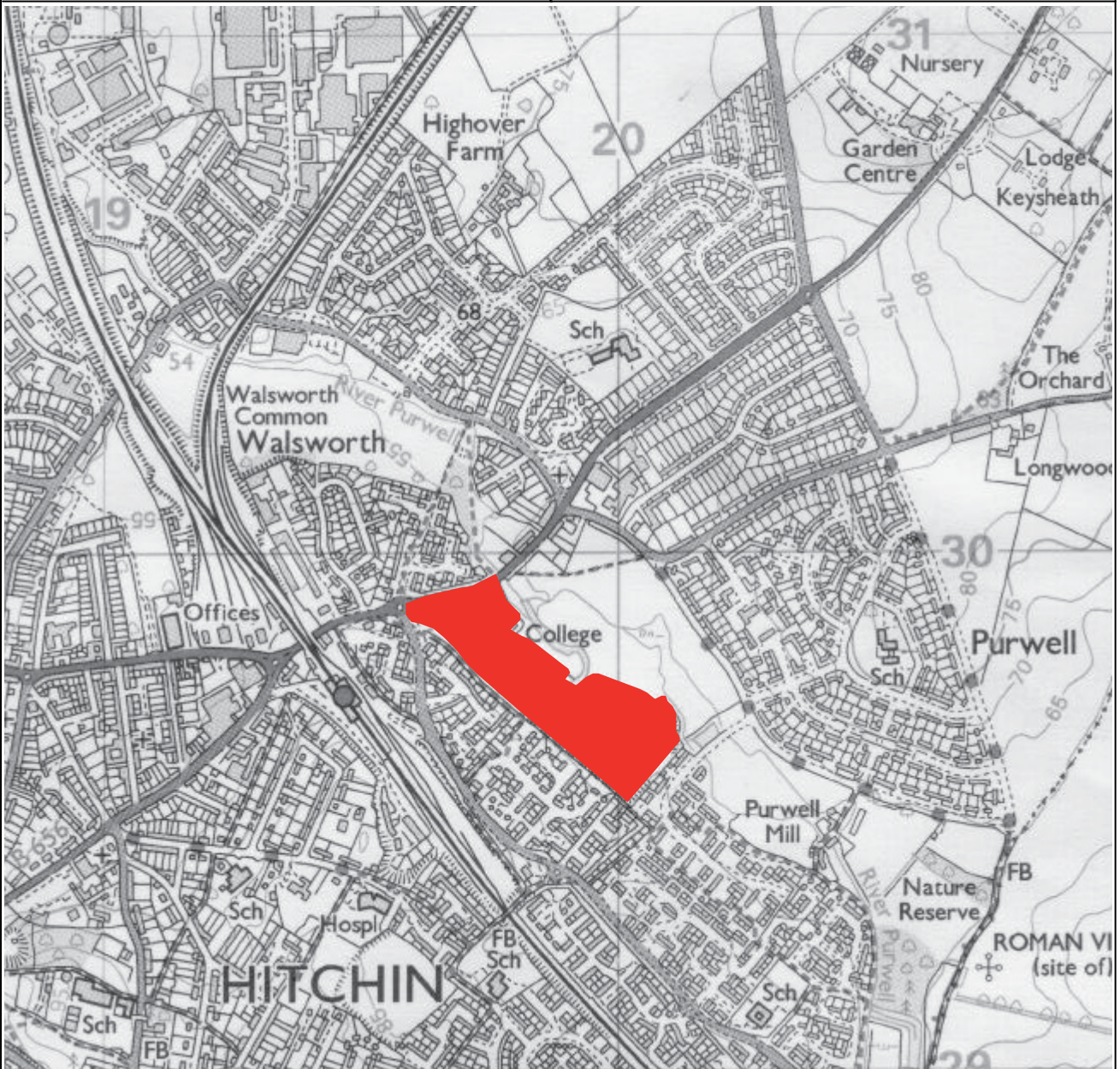
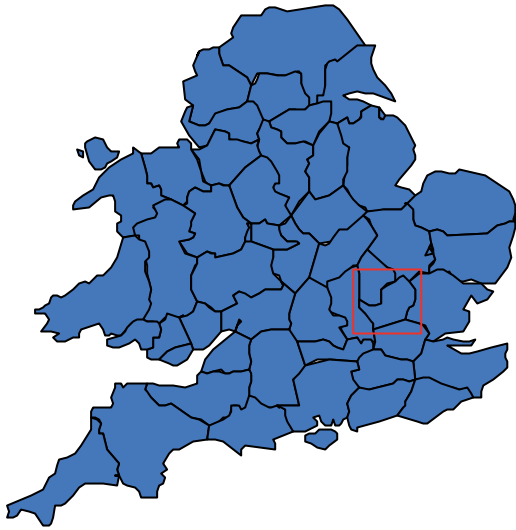
Extract from Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record

HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
108	TL 204 297	Late Iron Age	Butt beaker & 2 amphorae, found on Purwell housing estate (see also 6085).
130	TL 19 30	Late Iron Age	Bronze coin of Cunobelin (c.AD10 – 40), found at Walsworth in 1879. Evans type XII:9
131	TL 18 29	Late Iron Age	LPRIA coins from Hitchin, including a bronze stater of Tasciovanus & an unscripted gold stater.
191	TL 20 30	Earlier Iron Age	Bone spindle whorls from Letchworth
279	TL 19 29	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic flint implements, listed as: 2 Acheulian hand axes, a twisted ovate, 2 hand axes, 10 scrapers, 5 flint axes, 5 flint implement. Probably forms part of series of implements found at Hitchin c1880-1900.?Folly Pit
280	TL 193 288	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic flint implements from Highbury Pit, listed as: 4 Acheulian hand axes, 2 hand axes, 29 flint scrapers & 6 flint implements
283	TL 189 288	Palaeolithic	10 Palaeolithic flint axes found at Highbury, Hitchin and located at Verulamium museum.
284	TL 19 29	Palaeolithic	Palaeolithic implements comprising: 8 axes, implement, 7 trimmed flakes, 2 arrowheads, 80 flint implements. Found by W. Ransom. Probably forms part of series of implements found at Hitchin c1880-1900.
288	TL 195 288	Mesolithic	Barbed arrowhead & 5 microliths from field where 'Riddy Shott' now stands.
294	TL 1914 2903	Neolithic	A Neolithic black flint axe, roughly shaped, was found in the garden of 'Crofton', The Avenue, Hitchin. Hitchin Museum
298	TL 19 29	Neolithic	Neolithic flint axe found at Highbury Avenue.
303	TL 192 292	Bronze Age	A Bronze Age axe was found when digging the foundations for a house about 300 yards from W Ransom's home, Fairfield, in 1896.
307	TL 194 294	Bronze Age	Bronze Age axe and 4 flints from Benslow
308	TL 192 289	Bronze Age	Flint borer, Riddyfield, Hitchin
309	TL 20 29	Prehistoric	Flint scraper from Purwell Mill, either Neolithic or Bronze Age
310	TL 193 293	Neolithic Bronze Age	The OS record states that a Neolithic flint fabricator was found at Fairfield in 1885. The Morris Gazetteer dates the flint to the Bronze Age.
344	TL 20 30	Palaeolithic	Sixty six flint implements found at Khryn & Lahy Works in Letchworth
460	TL 196 298	Roman	About 17 coins found by metal detector, c.1976-7, on spoil heaps of building site, St Michael's Road, near Hitchin College. Range from <i>Gallienus</i> (AD 253-68) to <i>Helena</i> (AD 337-41). The group includes a coin of <i>Claudius II</i> (AD 268-70), several barbarous radiates & several of the House of Constantine.
466	TL 2072 2920	Late Iron Age	Bronze coin of Cunobelin, found 1891 on site of Ninesprings villa
467	TL 2073 2916	Roman	Site of Roman villa, partly excavated 1884 when 7 rooms & 3 hypocausts were uncovered. Further excavated by Westell in 1921-2. Coins ranging AD 193 – 392 were recovered from the site.
468	TL 208 294	Roman	Settlement site c.200m N of Ninesprings villa. Westell noted pottery in this area in 1921. Fieldwalking in Nov. 1978 revealed extensive spread of occupation material, including pottery sherds & building material
470	TL 198 295	Roman	Coin hoard found on top of St Michael's Mount, 1976-7 by metal detector. Approx. 8 coins ranging from <i>Victorius</i> (AD 269-71) to <i>Gratian</i> (AD 367-82)

HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
539	TL 20 30	Neolithic	Numerous flint implements from Letchworth, including flint axe & arrowheads
1182	TL 19 29	Palaeolithic	Acheulian hand axes: Middle or Upper Acheulian with Clactonian influence. Probably forms part of series of implements found at Hitchin c1880-1900.
1183	TL 189 284	Palaeolithic	Implements of the early upper Acheulian period were discovered between 1880 and 1900 in Ransoms brickfield and Jeeves brickyard at Folly Path, Highbury. Finds include numerous Hoxne type hand axes, a few cordate and ovate hand axes, several cleavers and a number of flake tools of High Lodge type. (Probably includes 0279, 0284, 1182).
1184	TL 1729 2905	Roman	Settlement evidence and associated inhumation cemetery, Foxholes, Pirton Road.
1186	TL 194 294	Palaeolithic	Flint implements from Benslow, Hitchin
1194	TL 20 29	Neolithic?	Six to eight flint scrapers found at Purwell
1200	TL 18 29	Roman	Roman glass vessels at Bancroft, Hitchin.
1201	TL 186 287	Roman	A Roman cinerary urn with cremation was found at Taylor's Hill. A similar urn was discovered on adjoining land.
1284	TL 20 30	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age coin, possibly of Tasciovanus, found in Letchworth, September 1915.
1301	TL 20 30	Unknown	Inhumation discovered in NE corner of factory owned by Shelvoke & Drewery Ltd during WWII. Skeleton removed by Cambridge University Archaeology Dept.
1302	TL 20 30	Palaeolithic	Acheulian ovate handaxe, found 1906, in Letchworth
1416	TL 1983 3007	Roman	A coin, possibly Diva Faustina, was found in Walsworth in 1958 (probably Faustina Senior, died AD 141)
1418	TL 1903 2923	Roman	Roman pottery or evidence of occupation, Highbury Road
1420	TL 1845 2940	Roman	Pottery and other evidence of occupation, SE of Grammar School
1428	TL 1918 3060	LPRIA/RB	Roman inhumation, found with 3 rd century pottery, in trench in Cadwell Lane. Sherds of LPRIA & early Roman pottery also found.
1459	TL 20 30	Roman	Roman pottery, 3 rd century in date, found in Letchworth. Described in SMR as on Graveley Road.
1464	TL 20 30	Roman	Lead spindle whorl
1610	TL 194 295	Early Medieval	Benslow is Benchelow Pece in 1556 (temp Ed VI Chantry, 1556 AOMB). This has been interpreted as the site of an Anglo-Saxon burial mound. Nothing visible in the area, which is now a housing estate.
1638	TL 2075 2922	Unknown	Cropmarks of 3 parallel, slightly curving, linear ditches aligned NE-SW. In immediate vicinity of ring ditch [6354], RB villa [467] & ditches [6122]
1641	TL 2085 2950	Unknown	Cropmarks of 3 rectilinear ditches, 2 of which have angled bends & may be part of same rectangular enclosure, which would be c.100m x 90m. To immediate S is RB settlement [468], villa [467], cropmarks [6122] & ring ditch [6354]
1642	TL 208 297	Unknown	Cropmarks of double, roughly parallel, linear ditch, aligned NE-SW. Length visible 270m. Interpreted as possible prehistoric trackway. Ring ditch [2558] in immediate vicinity
2558	TL 2079 2985	Prehistoric	Cropmark of small circular ditched enclosure, approx. 25m in diameter. Interpreted as ring ditch to plough-raised barrow. Possible trackway [1642] immediately to S.
4389	TL 1855 2900	Medieval	Site of the Gilbertine priory of The Biggin, founded in 1361-2 by Sir Edward de Kendale and dissolved in 1538.
4397	TL 205 303	Unknown	Cropmark of small sub-rectangular enclosure. Single ditch, no apparent entrance. Dimensions 30m x 20m. No internal features.

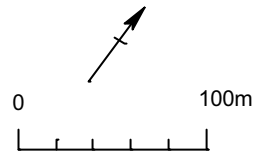
HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
4605	TL 1855 2964	Roman	The length of the Viatores road 210 through Hitchin from TL 1868 2769 to TL 1833 3133, just south of the Icknield Way (for the whole road see 4600). Not been confirmed by excavation.
4857	TL 20 30	Late Iron Age	Bronze coin of Cunobelin, found between Hitchin & Baldock
4862	TL 1903 2923	Roman	Pottery or evidence of occupation
4874	TL 1928 2905	Prehistoric	Flint implements, comprising an arrowhead and 4 microliths, found 'The Chilterns', Chiltern Road.
4886	TL 20 30	Saxon	A late 8 th century silver penny from Letchworth
4893	TL 20 30	Late Iron Age	Gold stater of Cunobelin found near Baldock
5529	TL 195 297	Post-medieval	Railway station, mid 19 th century date
5384	TL 182 288	Post Medieval	Wratten Road maltings.
5609	TL 194 298	Post-medieval	Railway bridge over Cambridge Rd. Built 1850, reconstructed 1900, widened 1927 & 1941.
5610	TL 1905 3030	Post-medieval	Railway bridge over Grove Road. Built 1850, reconstructed 1900, widened 1927 & 1941
5617	TL 1930 3046	Post-medieval	Railway bridge over Walsworth Road
5768	TL 191 304	Med/ post-med	Grove Mill. Site of medieval water mill called <i>Shotting</i> or <i>Shackling</i> mill. Present building early 19 th C in date, built as a silk mill owned by J & J Ransom from 1813 to ?1838. Later a corn mill, then a chamois leather dressers.
5793	TL 204 295	Med/ post-med	Site of medieval water mill. Present building 18 th /early 19 th C. Group of mill, mill house & cottage listed Grade II.
6085	TL 20 30	Late Iron Age	Late pre-Roman Iron Age burial, with butt beaker and 2 amphorae, found on Purwell housing estate
6194	TL 205 298	Prehistoric	Pottery & cremated human bone found at 'Fairfield'
6354	TL 208 293	Prehistoric	Cropmark of ring ditch, diameter c.35m. In immediate vicinity of Roman villa [647] and ditches [1638] and [6122]
6452	TL 189 295	Early Bronze Age	Flint Arrowhead from Sacred Heart Convent School (now Convent Close)
6454	TL 19 29	Mesolithic	Mesolithic flint flake and graver found at Benslow, Hitchin (Benslow lodge TL 194 294).
6455	TL 186 291	Earlier Iron Age	Excavation in advance of redevelopment by G Burleigh for N Herts museum in Portmill Lane revealed slight evidence for Iron Age occupation. The excavation also produced evidence of Roman (see 6474) and Post Medieval (see 6456) occupation.
6456	TL 186 291	Post Medieval	Excavation in advance of redevelopment by G Burleigh for N Herts museum revealed a series of cobbled yards and timber framed buildings fronting medieval Portmill Lane. Most of the yard surfaces and structural remains dated to the 17 th and 18 th centuries. The excavation also produced Roman (see 6474) and Iron Age material (6455).
6474	TL 186 291	Roman	Excavation in advance of redevelopment by G Burleigh for N Herts Museum recovered Roman pottery and coins from residual contexts. The excavations also revealed slight evidence for Iron Age occupation (see 6455) and Post Medieval structural remains (see 6456).
6790	TL 1925 3040	Post-medieval	Small brick single arch bridge carrying railway embankment over R. Purwell
6910	TL 1908 3034	Modern	Pillbox to E of road/rail/river junction in Grove Road
6912	TL 1900 2947	Modern	Site of pillbox on W corner of Walsworth Rd/Verulam Rd junction
6913	TL 1933 2979	Modern	Site of pillbox, island in centre of A505/Nightingale Rd/Walsworth Rd junction
9215	TL 1941 2990	Post-medieval	Site of Herts Ironworks just N of Hitchin station. Late 19 th C
9216	TL 1933 3009	Post-medieval	Site of gas works, built 1896, on Walsworth Rd. Adjacent to ironworks [9215]

HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
9217	TL 1960 2945	Post-medieval	Site of chalk pits and lime kilns next to railway
11416	TL 1904 3055	Medieval	1 st edition OS map, 1884, shows site of possible small moat to N of Grove mill
11529	TL 1918 3062	Prehistoric	Worked flints from garden of 35 Cadwell Lane, including 2 scrapers & several flakes.



Site Location

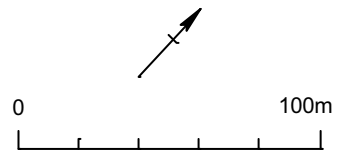
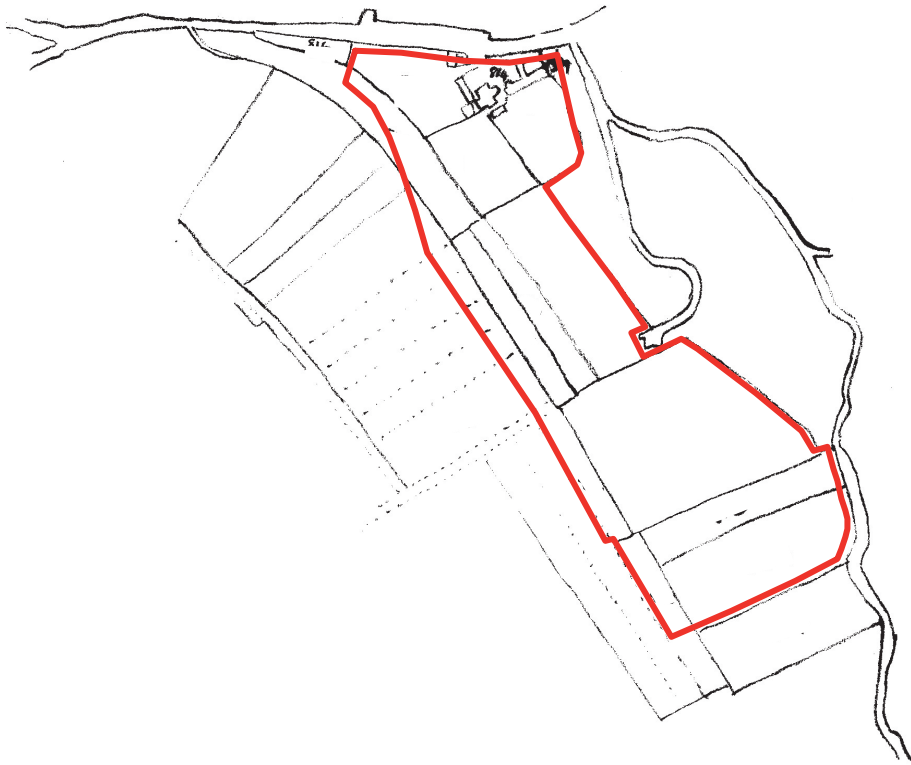
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Tracing from map of 1811-1818

Scale 1:4000

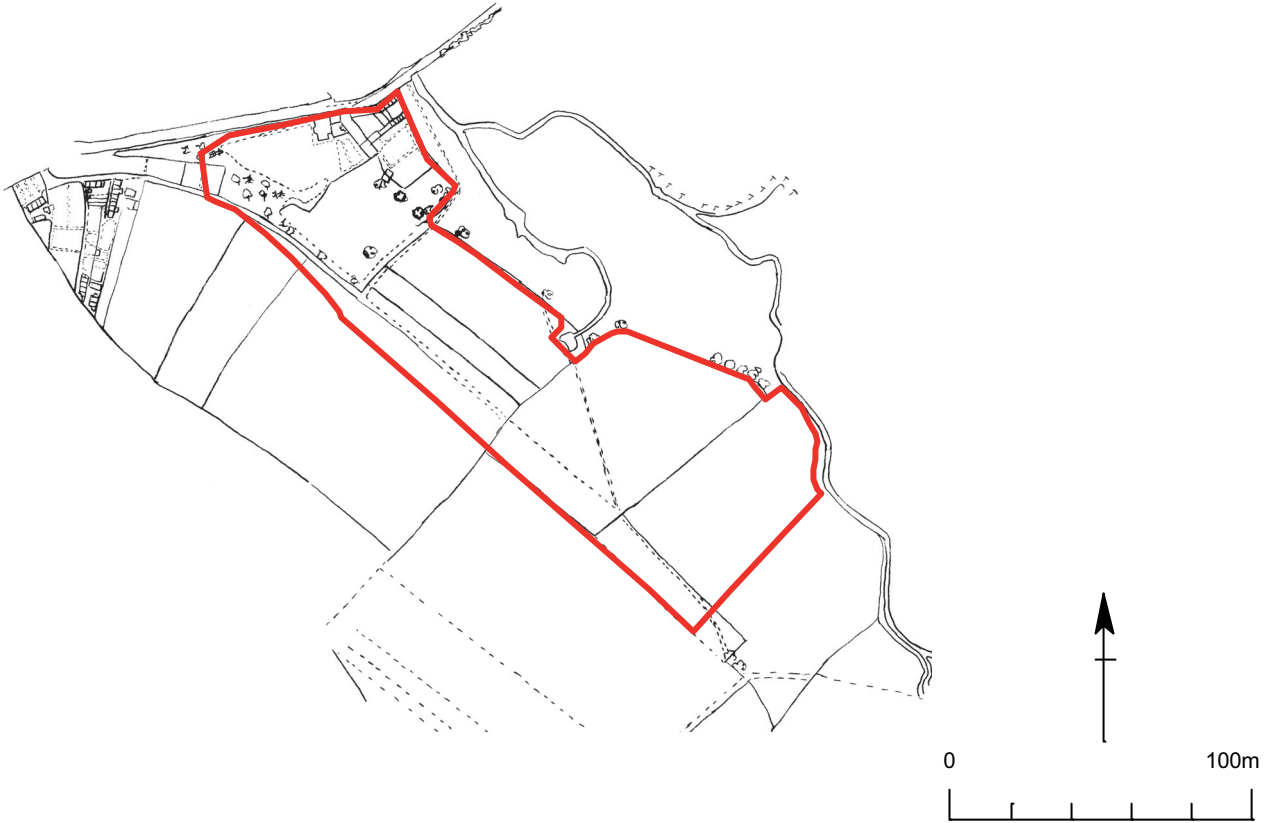
Figure 2a



Tracing from the Tithe Map, 1844

Scale 1:2500

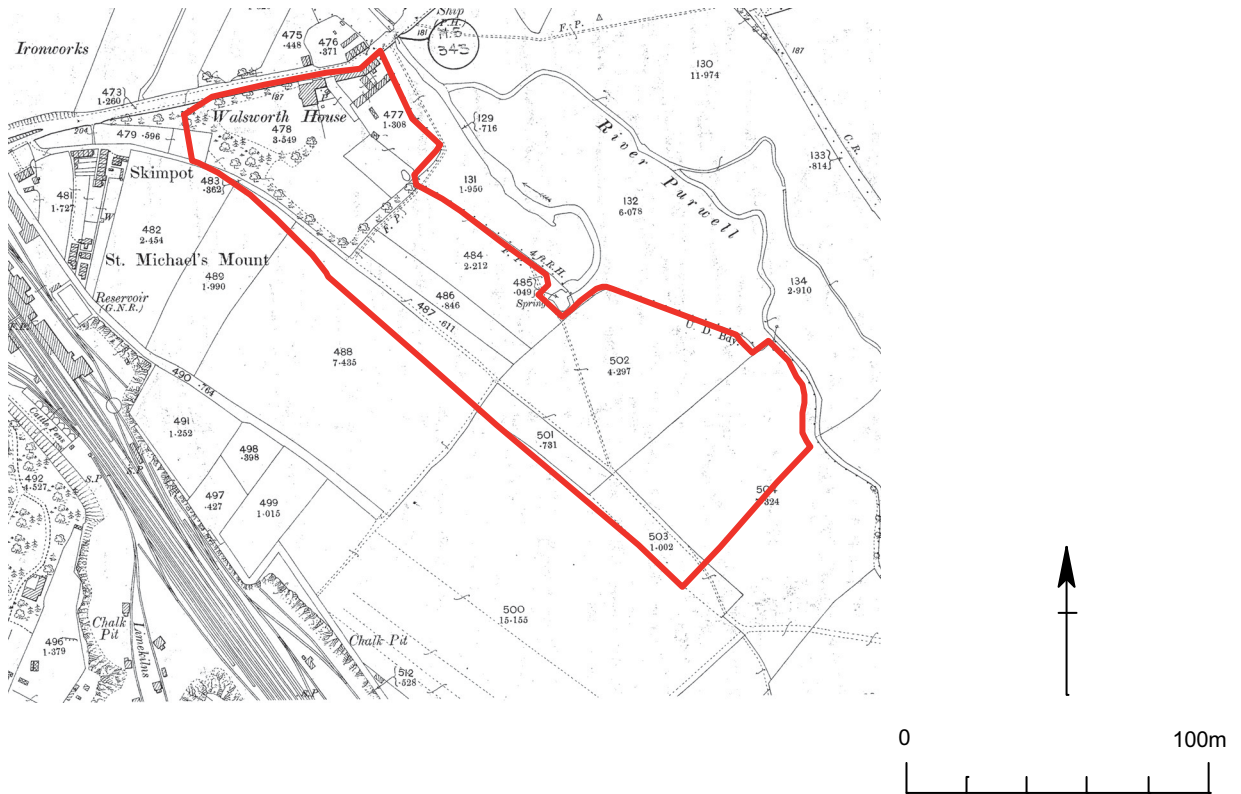
Figure 2b



Tracing from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1881)

Scale 1:2500

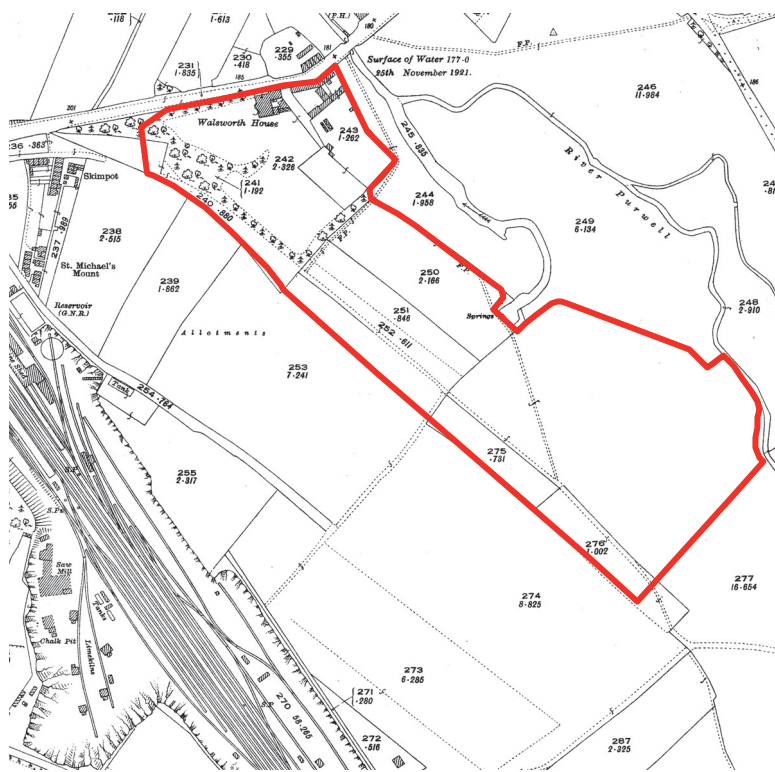
Figure 3a



Ordnance Survey map, 1898

Scale 1:2500

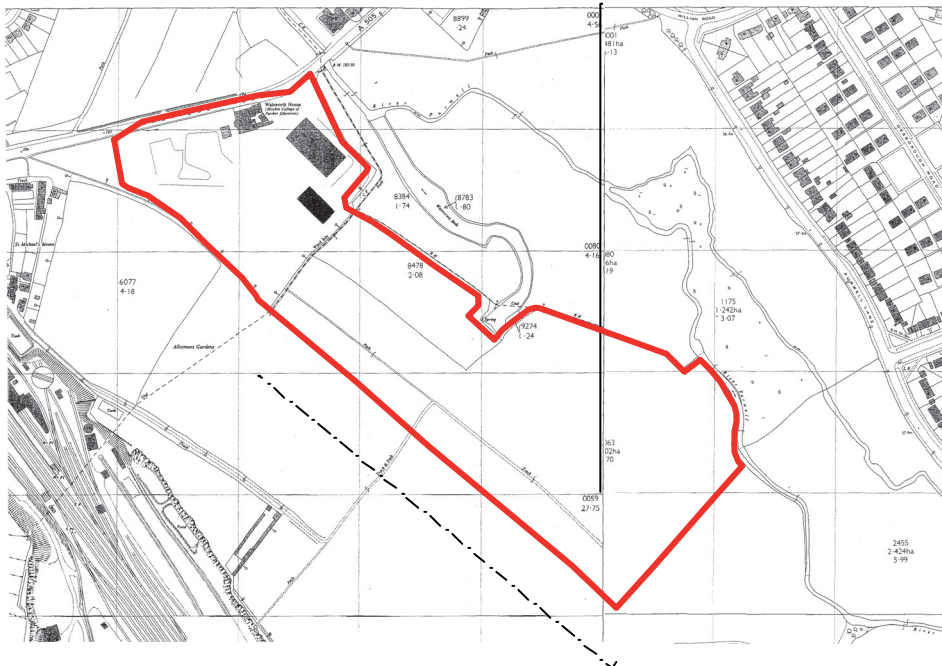
Figure 3b



Ordnance Survey map, 1923

Scale 1:2500

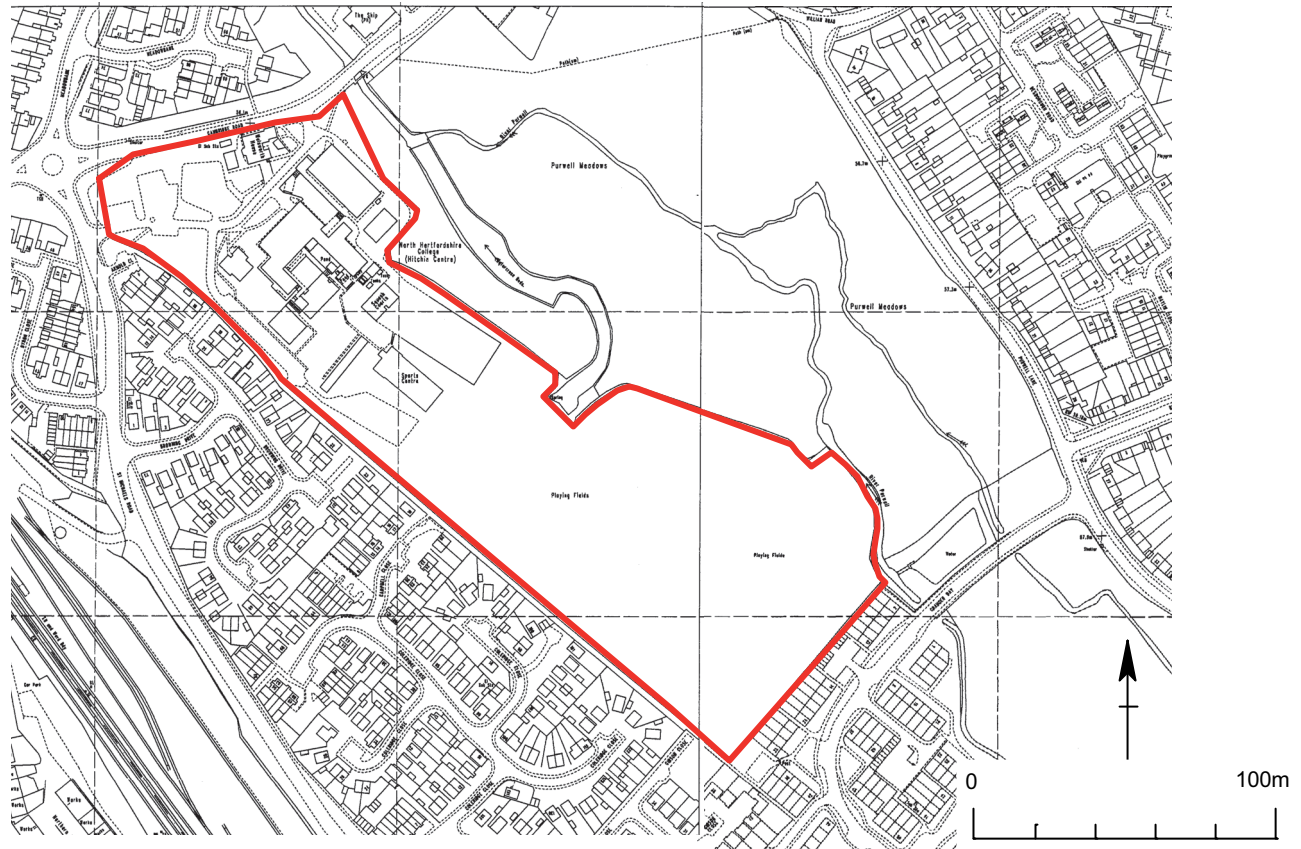
Figure 4a



Ordnance Survey map, 1965 and 1973

Scale 1:2500

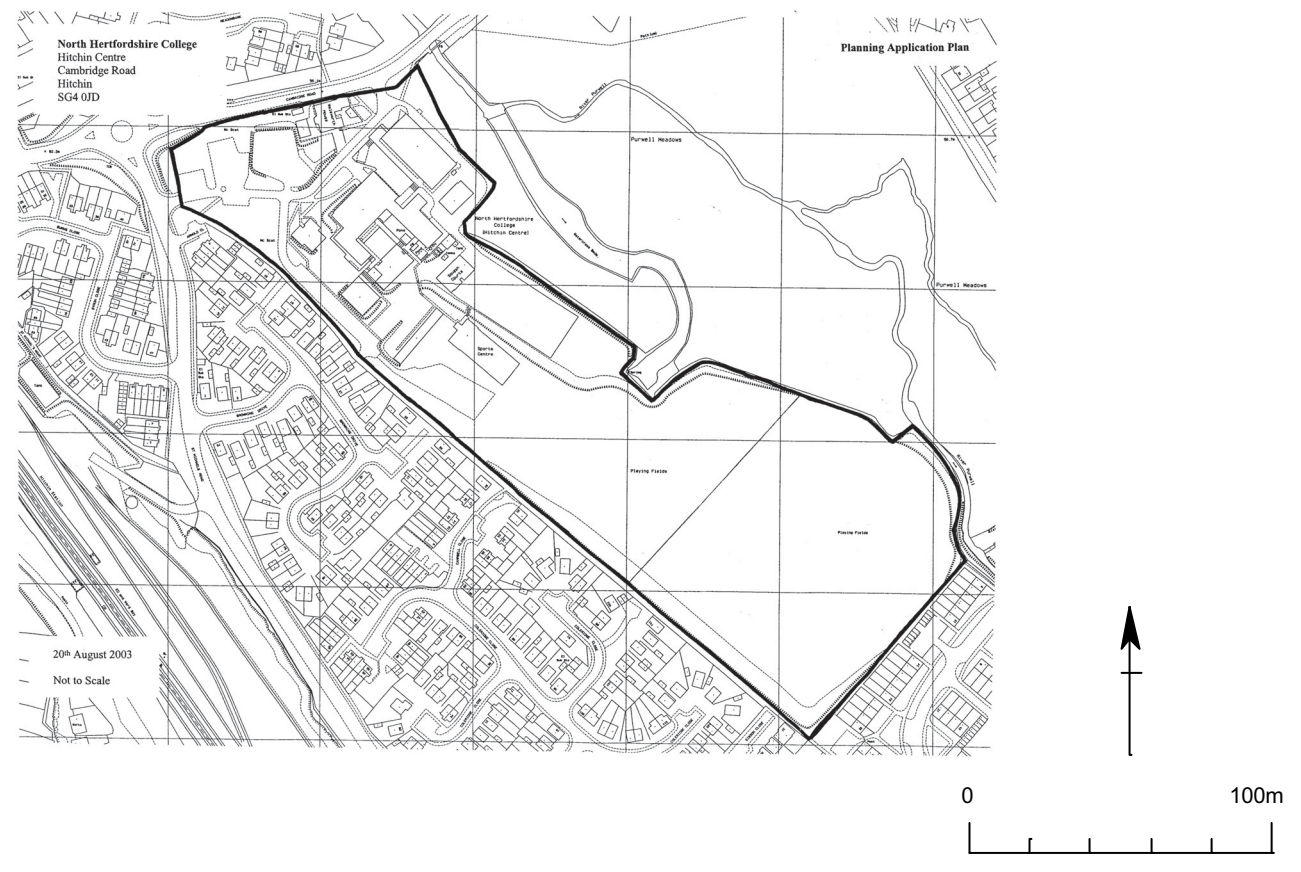
Figure 4b



Ordnance Survey map, 1995

Scale 1:2500

Figure 4a



Ordnance Survey map, 2004

Scale 1:2500

Figure 4b