

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

for
Alliance Planning
on behalf of
Tingdene Marinas Ltd

Upton Marina
Upton upon Severn
Worcestershire

archaeological desk-based assessment

report 3102
March 2013

Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	Project background	2
3.	Landuse, topography and geology	3
4.	Site walk-over survey	3
5.	Historical and archaeological development	3
6.	The potential archaeological resource	7
7.	Impact assessment	7
8.	Recommendations	7
9.	Sources	7
Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record		9

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location and Historic Environment Record
Figure 2:	Site as existing
Figure 3:	Proposed development (illustrative)
Figure 4:	Extract from Speed's map of Worcestershire, 1631
Figure 5:	Extract from the Ripple Inclosure map, 1807
Figure 6:	Extract from the Upton upon Severn tithe map, 1841
Figure 7:	Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1887
Figure 8:	Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1905
Figure 9:	Extract from the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1930
Figure 10:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey edition of 1955
Figure 11:	General view of site, looking north-west
Figure 12:	North end of site, looking east
Figure 13:	Huts in the centre of the site, looking south-east
Figure 14:	Track leading to huts, looking north

1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, conducted in advance of a proposed development at Upton Marina, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire. The assessment comprised a search of pertinent documentary and cartographic records, records of archaeological interventions, the Historic Environment Record, and a site walk-over survey.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Alliance Planning and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The archaeological resource

- 1.3 There are no historic or statutorily protected buildings in the near vicinity of the site. The structures on site are of 20th-century date. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or in the near vicinity of the site.
- 1.4 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area, but the presence of activity in the surrounding vicinity indicates that an as yet unidentified resource has the potential to exist.
- 1.5 The proposed development area lies just beyond the edge of the medieval settlement of Holly Green to the east, and a possible medieval settlement at Rag House to the west. It is probable that the area was utilised in the medieval and post-medieval periods as agricultural land. Evidence relating to this, in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation and field boundaries, may survive below ground. However, it is possible that medieval settlement extended into the area.
- 1.6 The area has been ploughed in the later modern period, and this may have removed any earthworks that may have been present from earlier periods.
- 1.7 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through groundworks.

Recommendations

- 1.8 No archaeological deposits have been identified which require preservation *in situ*.
- 1.9 It is recommended that a geomagnetic survey of the area is conducted to provide information on the nature and extent of any archaeological resource that may be present.

2. Project background

Location (Figures 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The site is located at Upton Marina, Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire (NGR centre: SO 8588 4096). It is roughly L-shaped in plan, and covers an area of approximately 3.3 ha. To the west is an area of rough ground and then the existing marina, to the north is a field and the A4104, to the east are the settlements of Holly Green and Ryall, and to the south are fields leading to the River Severn.

Development proposal (Figure 3)

- 2.2 Planning permission already exists on the site for waterfront apartments adjacent to the existing marina, an extension to the marina itself, and hillside chalets. It is proposed to replace the latter with residential properties.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the proposed development.

Methods statement

- 2.4 The works have been conducted in accordance with standard Archaeological Services' procedures for assessments. The works comprised the study of pertinent cartographic and other historical sources, records of previous archaeological interventions, sites listed in the Historic Environment Record (Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Register, WSM) within 500m of the proposed development area, and a site walk-over survey. WSM references are referred to in brackets throughout the text of this report, and are listed in the Appendix.

Planning guidance

- 2.5 This assessment and its recommendations are a considered response to the proposed development in relation to Government policy, as it is set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Dates

- 2.6 The field visit took place on 28th February 2013. This report was prepared for March 2013.

Personnel

- 2.7 Research was conducted and this report prepared by Andy Platell, with graphics by David Graham. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

OASIS

- 2.8 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access** to the **Index** of archaeological investigation**S** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-145130**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

- 3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised a field of disused pasture that is developing scrub vegetation.

Topography

- 3.2 The proposed development area was on a south-west-facing slope with mean elevations ranging from approximately 13m to 20m OD. The slope reached a summit at the internal corner of the 'L' shape and the ground dropped gently again to the north-east of this point. To the west of the site, the ground levelled out towards the River Severn, about 250m beyond the site boundary.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The bedrock geology of the area comprises Triassic strata of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation, which are overlain by Quaternary river terrace sands and gravels, and alluvium at the foot of the slope (www.bgs.ac.uk). The soils in the area are Brown Soils on the river terraces and Ground Water Affected Soils on the floodplain.

4. Site walk-over survey

- 4.1 A walk-over survey was conducted, to help ascertain the potential of the proposed development area to contain any archaeological resource. The visit noted site topography, earthworks and areas of modern overburden, modern services, boundaries, buildings and other upstanding remains. A *pro forma* recording sheet was completed.
- 4.2 The site was covered in long grass and scrub vegetation, and appeared to have been ungrazed for some time (Figures 11 and 12). This vegetation rather obscured the ground surface.
- 4.3 Two large sheds were present on the summit of the slope (Figure 13). One of these was of 'Nissan hut' style construction. The other was of more conventional design, but of a similar age.
- 4.4 An overgrown track headed up the slope from the marina to the sheds (Figure 14).
- 4.5 Immediately to the south-west of the site, there was a band of rough ground covered in trees that was around 60m wide and rose 3m to 4m above the general ground level. This is an area of previous landfill. Beyond this, the ground was nearly level as far as the river bank.
- 4.6 No features of archaeological significance were identified during the walk-over survey.

5. Historical and archaeological development

Previous archaeological works

- 5.1 Ten previous archaeological events are recorded within the study area (Appendix 1). Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical boreholes for a flood prevention scheme has been carried out at Ryall Mead (Hughes 2008; WSM39863) and at New Road,

Upton (*ibid*; WSM39890). The former site included boreholes within the grounds of the marina, although outside the proposed development area. Other recorded events are an extensive urban survey of Upton upon Severn (Dalwood 1996, WSM29056), a desk-based assessment of land at Ryall North (Stoten 2004; WSM35025), a photographic survey of earthworks, including house platforms and ridge and furrow, at Rag House (WSM32417), a documentary study of fisheries on the River Severn (WSM32743), field observation at Ryall Court Farm (WSM34460), a Historic Environment countryside advice visit to Upton Ham (WSM41334), an archaeological survey of the banks of the River Severn (Hurst and Miller 2008; WSM41688) and an assessment of finds recovered from The Beeches, Upton (Williams 2011; WSM45090).

The prehistoric period (up to AD 43)

- 5.2 A group of possible enclosures and ditches are recorded to the east of Holly Green as aerial photographic cropmarks (WSM01398, WSM01405 and WSM06037). These are undated, but are possibly of Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age date. A Neolithic axe head has been recovered from the Upton upon Severn area, although its exact findspot is unknown (WSM19757). Although no similar cropmarks have been recorded on the proposed development site, the evidence indicates that the surrounding area was exploited in later prehistory, and this exploitation may have extended into the proposed development area.

The Roman period (AD 43 to 5th century)

- 5.3 A Romano-British farmstead has been excavated at Saxon's Lode, to the south of the study area (Cotswold Archaeology 2004a) and another one has been excavated at Hanley Castle to the north (<http://hanleyswan.net/tag/community-dig/>). Finds of Roman or Romano-British date have frequently been recovered by metal detectorists or during fieldwalking within the general area (WSM19757, WSM29773, WSM32244, WSM39574 and WSM39589), although the precise location of these is often not recorded.
- 5.4 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity in the proposed development area. However, there is evidence that the surrounding area was exploited, and elements of the later prehistoric settlement pattern would have continued into this period.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 5.5 An early medieval settlement has been excavated at Saxon's Lodge, to the south of the study area (Cotswold Archaeology 2004a). The study area lies on the border between the historic parishes of Ripple and Upton upon Severn; the proposed development area itself lay within Ripple but the rest of the area around the Marina lay within Upton. Both parishes are recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (VCH 1913, 487). They jointly formed a manor held by the Bishop of Worcester. Ryall, in the north of Ripple parish, is first recorded in the 12th century (*ibid.*) and 'atte Greene' (Holly Green by 1619) to the north again, is first documented in 1275 (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 158). The medieval settlement at Holly Green (WSM25274) has provisionally been plotted as being around Holly Green Farm, around 100m to the east of the proposed development area.
- 5.6 Other possible medieval settlement sites have been identified at the racecourse (WSM05944) and at Ryall (WSM25273). Remains of medieval ridge and furrow field

systems have been plotted in many of the surrounding fields (WSM05945, WSM05946, WSM05947, WSM05948, WSM05949, WSM10243, WSM10244, WSM24362 and WSM42250), including the field immediately to the west of the proposed development area (WSM05950). Earthworks have also been recorded around 100m to the west of the site near Rag House, which include house platforms and evidence for plots (which are visible on the later inclosure map, Figure 5) which may be the remains of a deserted medieval settlement.

- 5.7 The proposed development area lies between probable medieval settlement at Holly Green and Rag House, and as such may have been exploited as agricultural land in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence relating to this, in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation and field boundaries, may survive. It is also possible that medieval settlement extended into the development area, as some settlements are known to have shrunk during this period.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 5.8 Early maps of the area, such as Speed's map of 1631 (Figure 4), mark settlements such as Upton and Ripple, but do not provide any details on the surrounding area. The smaller settlements of Ryall and Holly Green are not marked on this map.
- 5.9 The common fields in Ripple parish were enclosed in 1807 (VCH 1913, 486) and the inclosure map (Figure 5) provides the earliest large scale plan of the proposed development area. It is shown as consisting of three fields, a larger one forming the southern half and two smaller ones forming the northern half. These are all identified as 'old inclosures', indicating that they had already been enclosed at some time before this date. In the surrounding area, the road pattern is similar to that of today. A few scattered buildings are present at Holly Green and at Ryall to the south, while the larger farm of Ryall Court is shown to the north. The area of the brick works (now the marina) is not shown as this lay in the separate parish of Upton.
- 5.10 A tithe map was not produced for Ripple parish. The Upton tithe map of 1841 (Figure 6) shows the area around the current marina formed part of Ryall Meadow (part of this meadow lay within Ripple parish and is named on that enclosure map). Some markings are present within the meadow, in the position of the clay pits. This may indicate that the brickworks were in place by this time, although they are not named.
- 5.11 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Figure 7) shows that the two fields previously within the northern half of the proposed development area had been amalgamated into a single one. The southern half still consists of a single field. Both fields (and many others in the area) are marked as orchards. The brickworks are shown, with a large clay pit approximately the same size as the current marina basin. There are brick kilns to the west of this, and to the south, directly along the river bank. Holly Green is a small, fairly dispersed settlement. Ryall, to the south, is a slightly more concentrated settlement.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 5.12 The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 (Figure 8) shows that a pair of cottages have been built along the roadside to the immediate east of the northern field. These survive today just outside the proposed development area. Behind these, the northern field has been divided into two, with the eastern half no longer

being marked as an orchard. The southern field is unchanged on this map. In the wider area, the brickworks have expanded in size slightly but there are only a few more houses at Holly Green and Ryall.

- 5.13 The third edition Ordnance Survey map of 1930 (Figure 9) shows that the easternmost of the two fields in the northern half of the proposed development area has been amalgamated with the southern field and is shown as orchard again. Some small sheds are present in the centre of the site. Otherwise, there are no changes to the proposed development area. The brickworks is now shown as disused but again there are few changes to Holly Green or Ryall.
- 5.14 During the Second World War, a system of aircraft landing obstacles and a pill box were constructed to the north-west and west of the site (WSM17331-2; WSM29264).
- 5.15 An aerial photograph of 1945 shows the southern field divided into two halves, both containing freshly planted orchard trees. A mature orchard is present in the western half of the northern field. The 'Nissan hut' is present in the centre of the site, to the east of the earlier minor sheds, and has a track leading to it from the north-east. Landfill operations are taking place in the eastern half of the field to the south of the site and there is an access track from the road to this area. In the wider area, Upton Bridge has been replaced by a new one a little way to the west.
- 5.16 On the Ordnance Survey edition of 1955 (Figure 10), only the eastern half of the southern field (and only the eastern half of the field to the south) are still marked as pasture. The western half of the field to the south now has earthworks from the landfill on it.
- 5.17 The 1970 Ordnance Survey plan (not illustrated) shows both of the sheds currently on the site (and the smaller ones to the west are still present). The landfill site to the south of the site is described as a 'refuse tip'. In the surrounding area the pumping station has been constructed to the west and there has been a considerable expansion to the settlements of Holly Green, Ryall and Upton. The marina and the housing estate of The Beeches, to the north-east of the proposed development area, are both first shown on the edition of 1987, although the minor sheds to the west of the Nissan hut are no longer shown on this edition. The access track to the sheds on the site is still from the north and was not replaced with the current southern track until after this date.

The buildings

- 5.18 The buildings within the site are of mid- to late-20th century date and are not regarded as archaeologically significant. There are seven Grade 2 listed buildings within the study area, three of which are in Holly Green, one in Ryall and the remainder are just over the river in Upton (Appendix 1). In addition, there are many more listed buildings just outside the study area in Upton upon Severn: these are unlikely to be affected by the proposed development.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.19 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the proposed development area, or the near vicinity. The northern edge of the Upton upon Severn Conservation Area lies 350m south-west of the boundaries of the proposed development area.

6. The potential archaeological resource

- 6.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area, but the presence of activity in the surrounding vicinity indicates that an as yet unidentified resource has the potential to exist.
- 6.2 The proposed development area lies just beyond the edge of the medieval settlements of Holly Green to the east, and a possible medieval settlement at Rag House to the west. It is probable that the area was utilised in the medieval and post-medieval periods as agricultural land. Evidence relating to this, in the form of ridge and furrow cultivation and field boundaries, may survive below ground. However, it is possible that medieval settlement extended into the area.
- 6.3 The proposed development area has remained as agricultural land throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The area has been ploughed in the later modern period, which may have removed any earthworks that were present from earlier periods.

7. Impact assessment

- 7.1 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through groundworks associated with the development.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 No archaeological deposits have been identified which require preservation *in situ*.
- 8.2 It is recommended that a geomagnetic survey of the area is conducted to provide information on the nature and extent of any archaeological resource that may be present.

9. Sources

Cartographic sources

- 1631 Speed, J, Map of Worcestershire
1807 Ripple inclosure map
1841 Upton upon Severn tithe map
1887 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 6" sheet 47 NE
1905 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 6" sheet 47 NE
1930 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 6" sheet 47 NE
1954 Ordnance Survey 4th Edition, 6" sheet 47 NE

Other sources

- Cotswold Archaeology 2004a *Saxon's Lode Farm, Ryall Quarry, Ripple, Worcestershire; post-excavation assessment*, unpublished report
Cotswold Archaeology 2004b *Ryall North, Upton on Severn, Worcestershire Cultural Heritage Assessment*, unpublished report
Dalwood, H, 1996 *Archaeological Assessment of Upton upon Severn, Hereford and Worcester*, unpublished report
Mawer, A, and Stenton, F, 1927 *The place names of Worcestershire*, English Place-Name Society

- Stoten, G, 2004 *Cultural heritage assessment of Ryall North, Upton-upon-Severn*, unpublished report
- Hughes, J, 2008 *Archaeological investigations at Upton Marina and adjacent to New Street, Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire*, unpublished report
- Hurst, D, and Miller, D, 2008 *River Severn bank-side survey Worcester to Tewkesbury*, unpublished report
- Williams, D J, 2011 *Finds report: The Beeches, Upton upon Severn*, unpublished report
- VCH 1913 *A history of the County of Worcestershire (vols 3 and 4)*, Victoria County Histories

Websites

Google Earth

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com~genmaps>

<http://hanleyswan.net/tag/community-dig/>

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer>

<http://www.bing.com/maps/>

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

www.english-heritage.org.uk

www.visionofbritain.org.uk

Aerial photographs

The 1945 RAF aerial photograph and modern images dated 1999; 2005 and 30/4/2007 on Google Earth were examined.

Geotechnical works

No records of geotechnical works within the proposed development area were identified for this assessment.

Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area (within an approximate radius of 500m from the site).

Historic Environment Record

(PRN = Public Record Number)

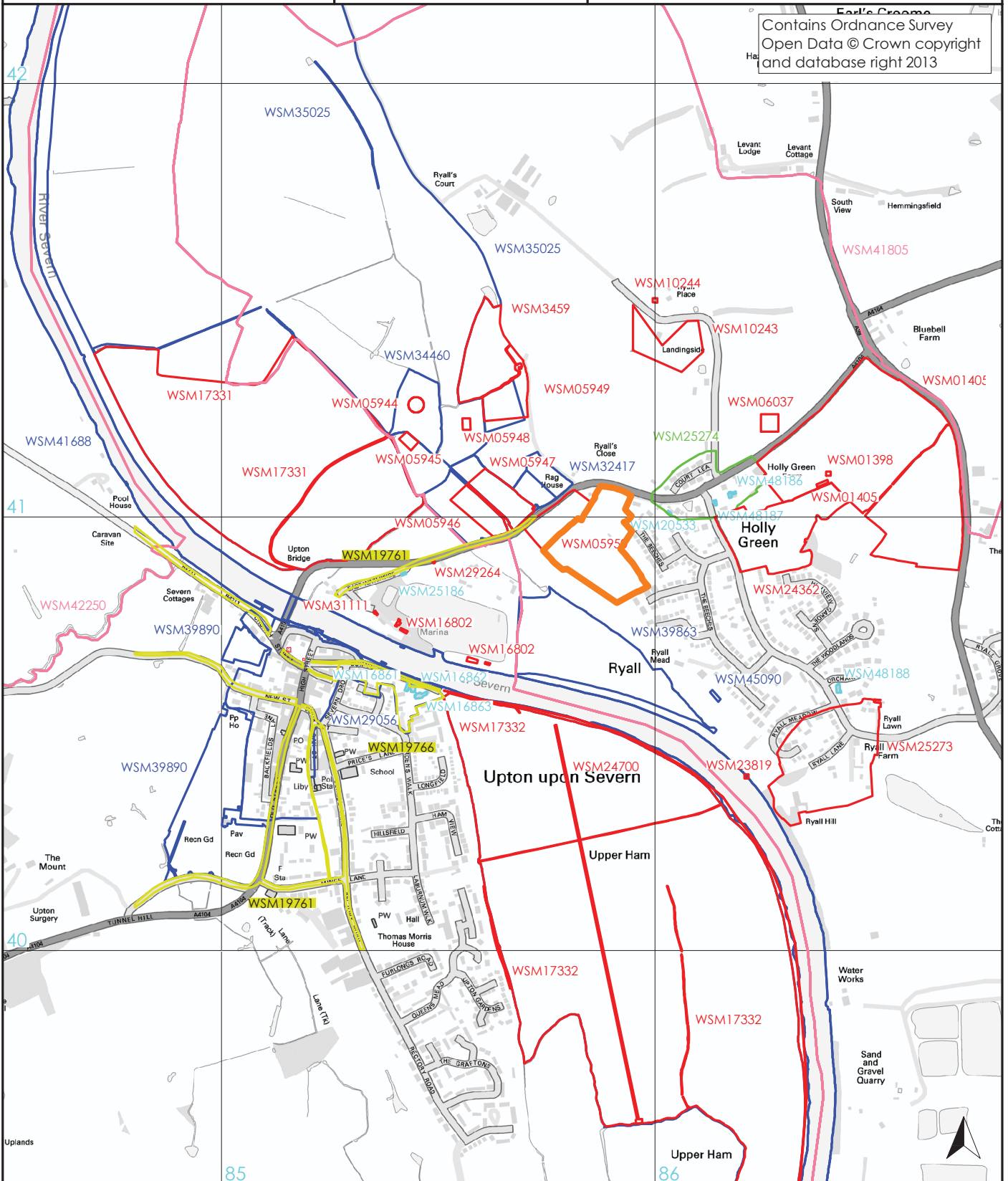
PRN	Description	Date
WSM01398	Cropmarks, NE of Holly Green, Ripple	unknown
WSM01405	Cropmarks, west of Grove Farm, Ripple	unknown
WSM05944	Platforms, Race Course, Ripple	medieval
WSM05945	Ridge and furrow, Ryall Court Farm, Ripple	medieval
WSM05946	Ridge and furrow, north of Upton Marina, Ripple	medieval
WSM05947	Ridge and furrow, southwest of Rag House, Ripple	medieval
WSM05948	Ridge and furrow, northwest of Rag House, Ripple	medieval
WSM05949	Ridge and furrow, northwest of Rag House, Ripple	medieval
WSM05950	Ridge and furrow, southeast of A4104, Ripple	medieval
WSM06037	Enclosure, west of Blue Bell Farm, Holly Green	unknown
WSM10243	Ridge and furrow, N of Holly Green, Ripple	medieval
WSM10244	Ridge and furrow, SE of Ryalls Court, Ripple	medieval
WSM16802	Brickworks (site of), Upton upon Severn	post-medieval
WSM17331	Aircraft landing obstacles, Fish Meadow, Upton	20th century
WSM17332	Aircraft landing obstacle, Upper Ham, Upton	20th century
WSM19757	findspots in the parish of Upton (exact locations unrecorded)	Neolithic-Roman
WSM19761	Road network, Upton upon Severn	Medieval-modern
WSM19766	Tenement plots, Upton upon Severn	post-medieval
WSM23819	Fishery (possible site of), Ryall, Ripple	medieval
WSM24362	Ridge and furrow, Holly Green, Upton	medieval
WSM24700	Site of rifle range, The Upper Ham, Upton upon Severn	19th century
WSM25186	Royal Engineers Bridgeworks Store, Upton Upon Severn	20th century
WSM25273	Ryall, medieval settlement	medieval-modern
WSM25274	Holly Green, medieval settlement	medieval-modern
WSM29264	Site of WW2 pillbox, A4101, Upton upon Severn	20th century
WSM29672	Pottery and other finds recovered during metal detecting in Ripple	Roman-post-medieval
WSM29773	Metal detecting finds, Ripple	Iron Age- post-medieval
WSM31111	Elm Cottage, East Waterside, Upton Upon Severn	post-medieval
WSM32244	Metal detecting finds, Ripple (duplicate of WSM28773)	Iron Age- post-medieval
WSM34591	Water meadows, south of Ryall Court, Ripple	Post-medieval
WSM35723	Aerial photographs within the parish of Ripple	n/a
WSM36247	Documentary record, WW2 bombing raid on Upton	20th century
WSM37217	Documentary record, WW2 bombing raid on Upton.	20th century
WSM39574	Parish of Ripple, Portable Antiquities Scheme recorded finds	Iron Age- post-medieval
WSM39589	Parish of Upton, Portable Antiquities Scheme recorded finds	Roman – post-medieval
WSM41097	Towpath, west bank of River Severn, Upton upon Severn	post-medieval
WSM41805	Documentary Information for the parish of Ripple	medieval-modern
WSM42250	Ridge and furrow survey, parish of Upton upon Severn	medieval

Listed buildings

PRN	Description	Grade
WSM16861	Barn, North-East of Malthouse, Waterside, Upton upon Severn	II
WSM16862	Severn House, Waterside, Upton upon Severn	II
WSM16863	Old Wall and Barn, Waterside, Upton upon Severn	II
WSM20533	Cottage range, Holly Green, Ripple	II
WSM48186	Holly Green Farmhouse, Ripple	II
WSM48187	Sunnybank Cottage, Ripple	II
WSM48188	Ryall Farmhouse, Ryall, Ripple	II

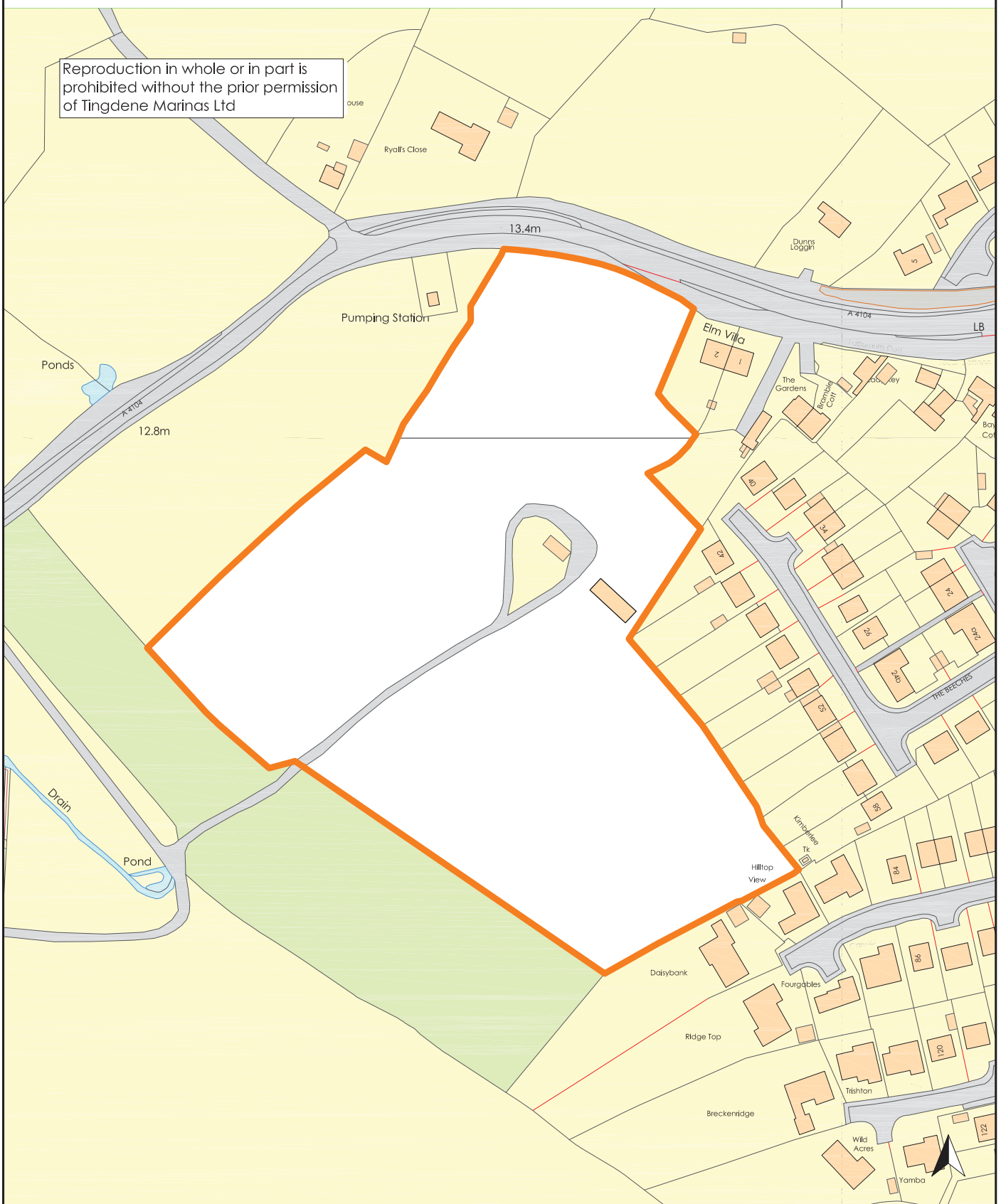
Previous archaeological interventions

PRN	description
WSM29056	Upton upon Severn, extensive urban survey
WSM32417	SW of Rag House, Holly Green, photographic recording of earthworks
WSM32743	Fisheries of the Worcestershire Severn, documentary survey
WSM34460	Ryall Court Farm, field observation
WSM35025	Ryall North, archaeological assessment
WSM39863	Ryall Mead, archaeological monitoring
WSM39890	New Road, Upton upon Severn, archaeological monitoring
WSM41334	Upton Ham, Historic Environment countryside advice visit
WSM41688	Banks of the River Severn, archaeological survey
WSM45090	The Beeches, Upton upon Severn, assessment of Roman finds



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
proposed development area

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scale 1:2000 for A4 plot

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 proposed development area

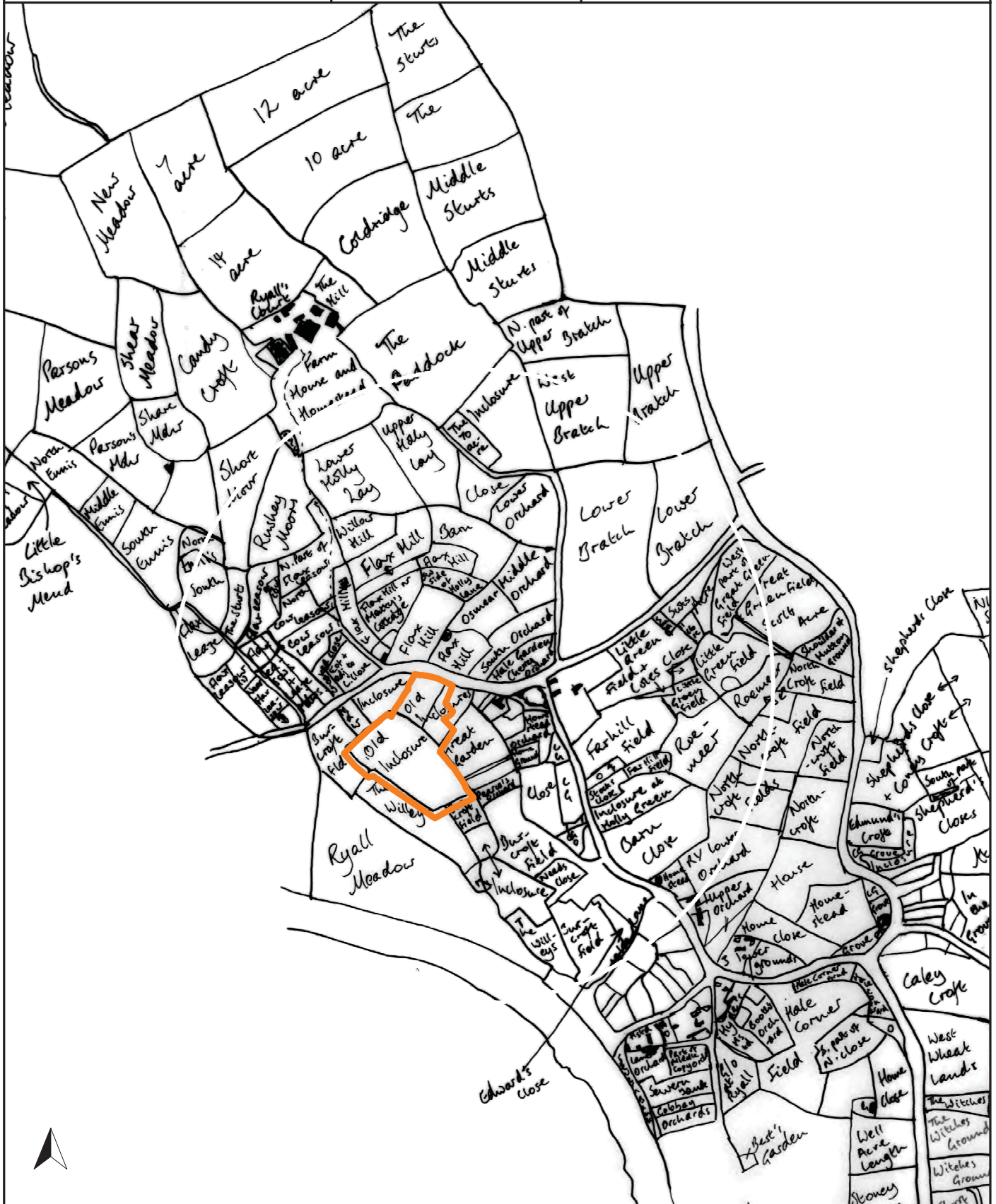
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




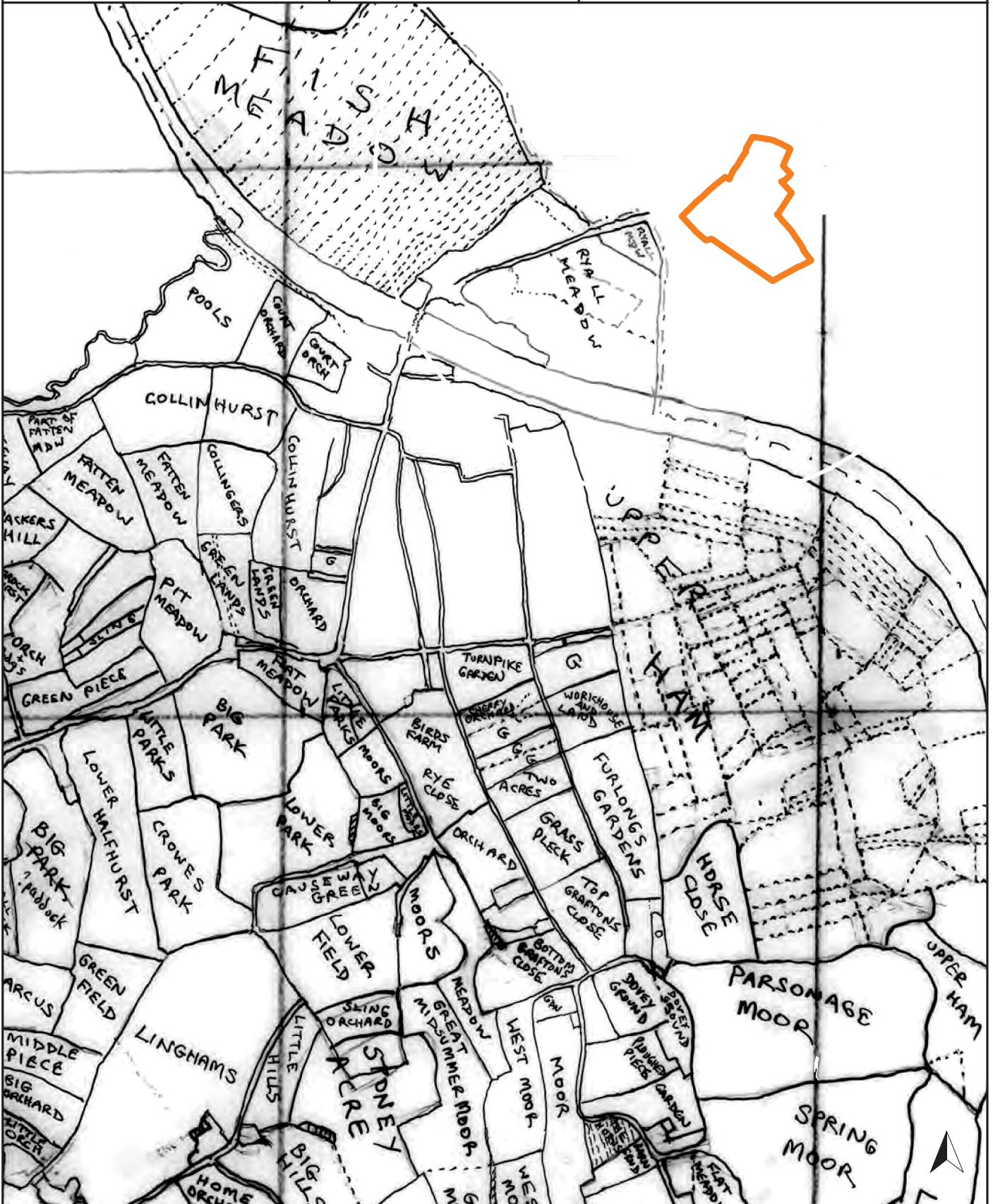
approximate location of the proposed development area

not to scale



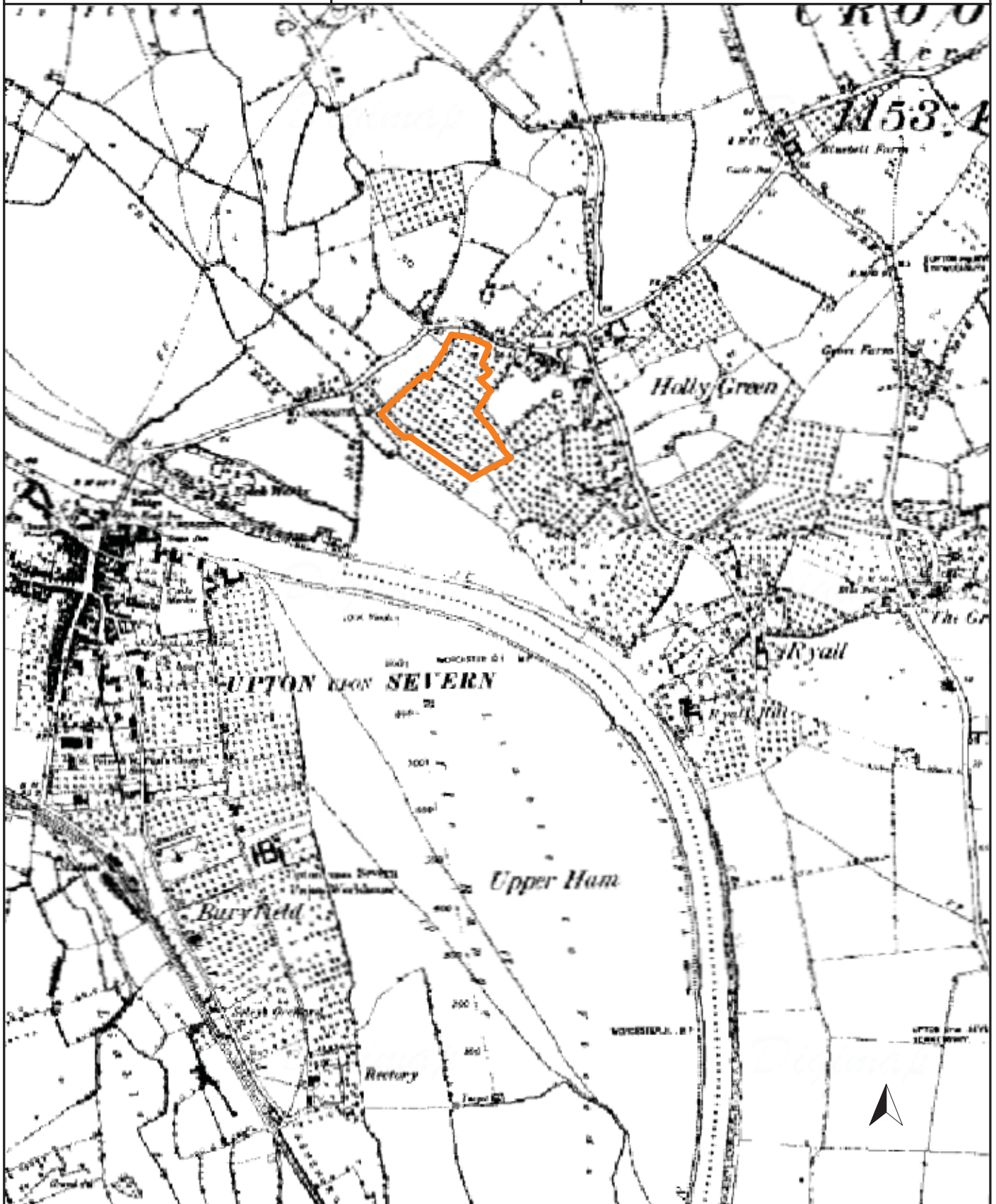
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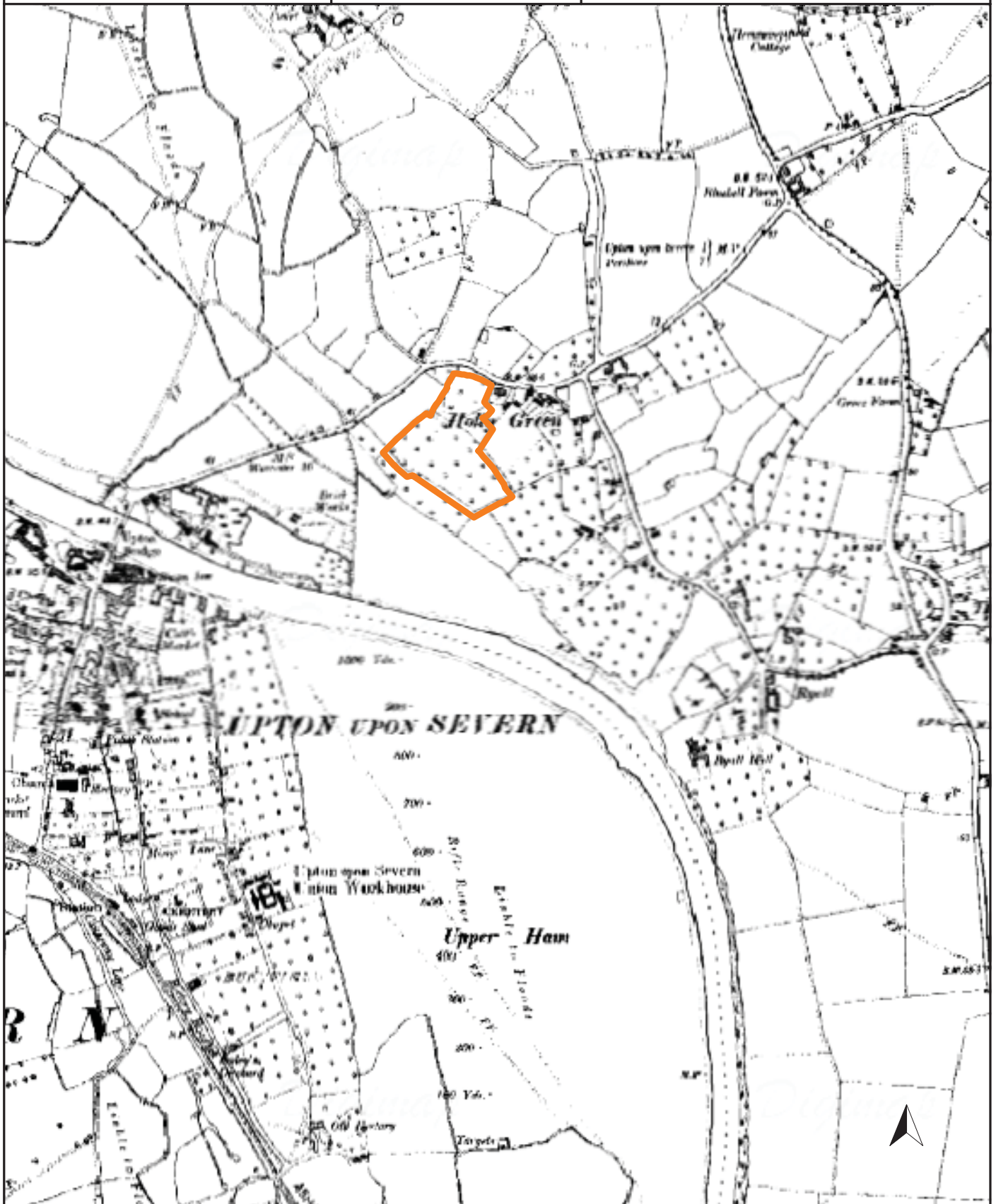
approximate location of proposed development area

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scale 1:10 000 for A4 plot



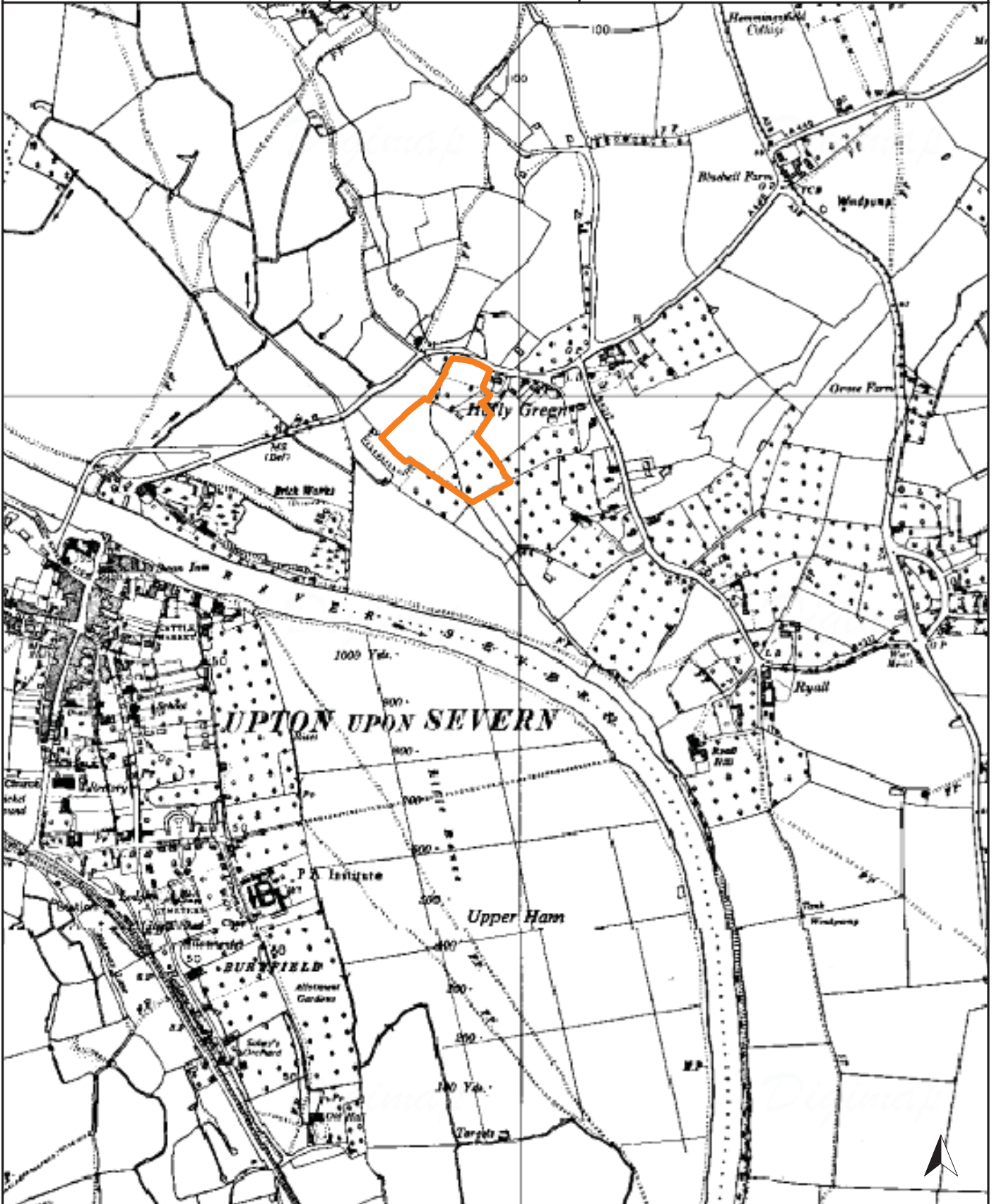
proposed development area


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proposed development area

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 proposed development area

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Figure 11: General view of site, looking north-west



Figure 12: North end of site, looking east



Figure 13: Huts in the centre of the site, looking south-east



Figure 14: Track leading to huts, looking north