



Whitehouse Farm, Back Lane, Aston, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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Whitehouse Farm, Back Lane, Aston, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology has been commissioned by Beard to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment for a parcel of land adjacent to and south of Back Lane, Aston, Oxfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference SP 33938 03281. The proposed development is for the construction of a children's home.

This desk-based assessment has identified that the site has a low potential for prehistoric remains. There is moderate potential for Romano-British remains to be present, as settlement activity of this date has been recorded 150m to the south-west. The site is possibly on the edge of this settlement and may have been used for agriculture. The village of Aston was founded by the mid-10th century and the site is located in the triangular green that forms the focus of the medieval village. The site therefore has a low-moderate potential for medieval settlement remains.

The site contains two earthwork banks aligned NE-SW which were recorded during the walkover and the LiDAR analysis. Since it continues into the field to the north-east it is possible that the northerly bank represents a former course of Back Lane. The function of the southerly earthwork is less certain, but it may have been a property boundary or the isolated remains of medieval ridge and furrow. The site has high potential for medieval agricultural remains and it is possible that these earthworks represent late Saxon or later medieval estate boundaries. Any remains of late Saxon/later medieval banks are likely to be of medium significance, whereas any remains of ridge-and-furrow earthwork, are likely to be of low (local) significance.

The site was used as a pasture field in the later post-medieval period, and two hedgerows within the site were removed during the later 19th century. Any post-medieval agricultural remains are likely to be of low (local) significance. The northern part of the site was disturbed by the construction of a small shed and livestock pen in the late 20th/early 21st century along with the deposition of an area of spoil. It is possible that the earthwork recorded at the northern part of the site may have been truncated during this activity and subsequently by trample by livestock.

The proposed scheme will result in significant groundworks that have the potential to have an adverse impact upon any archaeological remains that might be present within the site. Given the undeveloped nature of the land, it is likely that an archaeological trial-trench evaluation will be required to sample the two earthwork banks that were recorded during the walkover survey and the LiDAR analysis. An evaluation would also establish whether the site contains evidence for late Saxon/later medieval settlement activity or for agricultural activity of later medieval/post-medieval date. The evaluation would clarify the presence (or absence) and significance of any archaeological deposits that might be damaged or removed by the proposed scheme and would inform a suitable mitigation strategy if required.

The requirement and scope of all archaeological work will need to be agreed with the Oxfordshire County Archaeologist.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Beard to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed development of a children's home south of Back Lane in Aston, Oxfordshire. The site is centred at NGR SP 33938 03281 and its location is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and the following guidance and good-practice documents:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessments (2017);
 - Planning Policy Guidance (2019), Historic Environment, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; and
 - Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Advisory Document (2019).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the scope of the assessment (OA 2020) was submitted to and agreed with the Oxfordshire Planning Archaeologist prior to the commencement of work. His response included the suggestion that this report pay particular attention to LiDAR data for the area of the possible DMV noted just south of the site (HER PRN 16745; MOX12500). This site has been designated as OA 19 in the report and will be discussed in Section 7.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the northern edge of Aston, a village located 2km east of Bampton and 16km west of Oxford. Until the later 19th century, Aston was part of the parish of Bampton. In 1866, Aston and Cote formed their own parish and the village is now part of the parish of Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney within the district of West Oxfordshire.
- 2.1.2 The site comprises approximately 0.3 hectares (ha) of land currently under pasture. It is bounded to the north-west by Back Lane, to the west by several houses and to the south and north-east by fields.
- 2.1.3 The site is situated on a plateau of higher ground to the west of Aston at c 70m aOD. The northern part of the site slopes gently down towards the north-east, reaching a height of c 68m aOD in the north-east corner.
- 2.1.4 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (mudstone), a sedimentary Bedrock formed c 157–166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The bedrock of the southern part of the site is overlain by Summertown-Radley sand and gravel (BGS 2020).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The purpose of this desk-based assessment is to determine, as far as reasonably possible, from existing records and observations, an understanding of the historic environment within the site and in the surrounding study area in order to:
- assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains within the site;
 - assess the significance of known and predicted archaeological remains;
 - describe the character and significance of the historic-landscape character of the site;

- assess the likely impacts of previous development upon the survival of any archaeological remains;
- assess the potential for impacts from the proposed development upon the surviving archaeological resource and the historic-landscape character; and
- present outline proposals for the most likely strategy for any further evaluation and/or mitigation of any impacts identified.

3.1.2 The Oxfordshire County Council Lead Archaeologist Richard Oram suggested that this report pay particular attention to LiDAR data for the area of the possible DMV noted just south of the site (HER PRN 16745; MOX12500). This site has been designated as OA 19 in the report and will be discussed in Section 7.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 National Planning Policy

4.1.1 Section 16 of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as issued in February 2019 sets out the Government's planning policies in relation to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

4.1.2 Paragraphs 189 and 190 state:

189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

4.1.3 Paragraphs 193 and 194 state:

193. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

194. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) *grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;*
- b) *assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and*

gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional (non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets).

4.1.4 Paragraphs 195 and 196 state:

195. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

196. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

4.1.5 Paragraph 197 states:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset

4.1.6 Paragraph 199 states:

Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

4.2 Local Planning Policy

4.2.1 The West Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan was formally adopted on the 27th September 2018 and sets out the overall planning framework for the district until 2031. Those policies considered relevant are outlined below.

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2018–2031

POLICY EH9: Historic environment

All development proposals should conserve and/or enhance the special character, appearance and distinctiveness of West Oxfordshire’s historic environment, including the significance of the District’s heritage assets, in a manner appropriate to their historic character and significance and in a viable use that is consistent with their conservation, in accordance with national legislation, policy and guidance for the historic environment.

In determining applications, great weight and importance will be given to conserving and/or enhancing the significance of designated heritage assets, including:

- *the outstanding universal values for which Blenheim Palace and Park is inscribed as a World Heritage Site (WHS), as guided by its WHS Management Plan (see also Policy EW9);*
- *the special architectural and historic interest of Listed Buildings, with regard to their character, fabric and their settings;*
- *the special architectural and historic interest, character and/or appearance of the District's Conservation Areas and their settings, including the contribution their surroundings make to their physical, visual and historic significance;*
- *the special archaeological and historic interest of nationally important monuments (whether Scheduled or not), both with regard to their fabric and their settings;*
- *the special cultural, architectural and historic interest of Registered Parks and Gardens, including the contribution their surroundings make to their physical, visual and historical significance.*

Significant weight will also be given to the local and regional value of non-designated heritage assets, including non-listed vernacular buildings (such as traditional agricultural buildings, chapels and mills), together with archaeological monuments that make a significant contribution to the District's historic environment.

All applications which affect, or have the potential to affect, heritage assets will be expected to:

a) use appropriate expertise to describe the significance of the assets, their setting and historic landscape context of the application site, at a level of detail proportionate to the historic significance of the asset or area, using recognised methodologies and, if necessary, original survey. This shall be sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the asset's historic, architectural and archaeological features, significance and character;

b) demonstrate that the proposal would, in order of preference:

- *avoid adverse impacts on the significance of the asset(s) (including those arising from changes to their settings) and, wherever possible, enhance or better reveal the significance of the asset(s);*
- *minimise any unavoidable and justified (by the public benefits that would accrue from the proposed development – see below) adverse impacts and mitigate those impacts in a manner proportionate to the significance of the asset(s) and the nature and level of the impact, investigate and record changes to or loss of physical fabric, features, objects or other remains and make the results publicly available.*

c) demonstrate that any new development that would result in the unavoidable and justified loss of all or part of a heritage asset would proceed within a reasonable and agreed timetable that makes allowance for all necessary safeguarding and recording of fabric and other remains, including contingencies for unexpected discoveries.

Designated assets

Proposals which would harm the significance of a designated asset will not be approved, unless there is a clear and convincing justification in the form of substantive tangible public benefits that clearly and convincingly outweigh the harm, using the balancing principles set out in national policy and guidance.

Non-designated heritage assets When considering proposals that affect, directly or indirectly, the significance of non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be made having regard to:

- *the scale of any harm or loss;*
- *the significance of the heritage asset; and*
- *the public benefits of the development. If it is determined through the relevant evidence that currently non-designated buildings, structures, historic landscapes or archaeology are of national significance, those elements of this policy for designated heritage assets will apply.*

Record and advance understanding

Where development that would result in substantial harm to or loss of the significance of a heritage asset is permitted, developers will be required to record and advance understanding of the significance of that asset, in a manner appropriate to the nature of the asset, its importance and the impact, and publish that evidence and make it publicly accessible. *(For the avoidance of doubt, the ability to mitigate loss of significance through investigation and recording will not contribute to the balancing judgement of whether such a loss is justifiable under this policy.)*

POLICY EH10: Conservation areas

Proposals for development in a Conservation Area or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area will be permitted where it can be shown to conserve or enhance the special interest, character, appearance and setting, specifically provided that:

- *the location, form, scale, massing, density, height, layout, landscaping, use, alignment and external appearance of the development conserves or enhances the special historic or architectural interest, character and appearance of the Conservation Area;*
- *the development conserves or enhances the setting of the Conservation Area and is not detrimental to views within, into or out of the Area;*
- *the proposals are sympathetic to the original curtilage and pattern of development and to important green spaces, such as paddocks, greens and gardens, and other gaps or spaces between buildings and the historic street pattern which make a positive contribution to the character in the Conservation Area;*
- *the wider social and environmental effects generated by the development are compatible with the existing character and appearance of the Conservation Area; and*
- *there would be no loss of, or harm to, any feature that makes a positive contribution to the special interest, character or appearance of the Conservation Area, unless the development would make an equal or greater contribution. Applications for the demolition of a building in a Conservation Area will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated that:*
 - *the building detracts from or does not make a positive contribution to the special interest, character or appearance of the Conservation Area; or*
 - *the building is of no historic or architectural interest or is wholly beyond repair and is not capable of beneficial use; and*
 - *any proposed replacement building makes an equal or greater contribution to the special interest, character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Wherever possible the sympathetic restoration and re-use of buildings that make a positive contribution to the special interest, character and appearance of a Conservation Area will be encouraged, thereby preventing harm through the cumulative loss of features which are an asset to the Conservation Area.*

POLICY EH16: Non-designated heritage assets

When considering proposals that would affect, directly or indirectly, non-listed buildings, non-scheduled, non-nationally important archaeological remains or non-Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, as such assets are also irreplaceable, the presumption will be in favour of the avoidance of harm or loss. A balanced judgement will be made having regard to this presumption, the significance of the heritage asset, the scale of any harm or loss, and the benefits of the development. Proposals will be assessed using the principles set out for listed buildings, scheduled monuments and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens in Policies EH11, EH15 and EH14.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Scope and Sources Consulted

- 5.1.1 A 500m search area (hereafter, the 'study area') has been used to identify designated and non-designated heritage assets that could be affected by the proposed development. The study area and a list of sources have been agreed with OCC's historic environment advisor (OA 2020). The assessment was informed through both a desk-based review and a site visit.
- 5.1.2 The following sources were consulted to inform this assessment:
- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for designated heritage assets;
 - Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER) for non-designated heritage assets, archaeological events and historic-landscape character data;
 - Groundsure Mapping for historic Ordnance Survey maps;
 - Oxfordshire History Centre for historic maps of the site;
 - Online repositories, including Google Earth, Britain from Above, and OCC's Picture Oxon websites for aerial photographs and satellite imagery;
 - National Mapping Project (NMP) data (supplied by OHER on behalf of Historic England);
 - LiDAR data as held by the Environment Agency;
 - Geotechnical data as held by the client and the British Geological Survey; and
 - Other relevant primary and secondary sources including Heritage Gateway and published and unpublished works as held by OA and relevant libraries.
- 5.1.3 For ease of reference, each heritage asset identified has been allocated a unique OA number. This is included in the heritage gazetteer provided in Appendix A, referred to in the text where relevant, and marked on Figures 2 to 4. A full list of sources consulted can be found in Appendix B. Historic mapping for the site is depicted on Figures 9 to 12.

5.2 Assumptions and Limitations

- 5.2.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.
- 5.2.2 The records held by the OHER are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further heritage assets that are, at present, unknown.
- 5.2.3 Due to the ongoing public health crisis (COVID-19, August 2020) some of the standard archives that would normally have been consulted are closed to the public or have reduced hours. Consequently, it was not possible to examine aerial photographs and NMP data held by

Historic England. However, aerial photographs and satellite images available from the online repositories noted above were viewed where possible.

6 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 6.1.1 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on the 3rd August 2020 in order to assess the current character and condition of the site and to inform the assessment of any previous impacts. All areas of the site were accessed during the survey.
- 6.1.2 The site was accessed via a gate in the north-western corner of the site (Plate 1). The site comprises part of one large sheep field, though no livestock were present during the visit. The steeple of St James's Church could be seen to the south-east along with several farmhouse cottages along North Street (Plate 2). Several undulations could be seen in the main part of the field, but these did not form coherent patterns at ground level.
- 6.1.3 The western part of the site adjoins a property just farther west with several fence lines and a hedgerow (Plate 3). A hedgerow runs for 20m just beyond the southern edge of the site. There is no fence line that defines the southern edge of the site and it forms part of the pasture field to the south.
- 6.1.4 The eastern edge of the site is bounded by a post and wire fence (Plate 4). This northern and north-eastern part of the site was particularly undulating.
- 6.1.5 The site is bounded by a line of trees and scrubs along the northern edge (Plates 5 and 6). A 1m height difference was observed between the northern edge of the site and the road to the north. The slope of a bank and a ditch covered in vegetation was also observed immediately north of the site. The top of this feature was aligned SW–NE (OA 36) and was observed within the northern part of the site (Plates 5 and 6). The bank was about 3m wide and 0.4m high and it extended parallel to Back Lane to the north. Several eroded patches were noted at the base of the bank, which may have been caused by livestock. The eroded patches contained areas of small yellow-white gravel in a matrix of light-brown soil overlain in several areas by grey-stone gravel chips within a darker grey soil. In one of the eroded patches, a sherd of pottery was observed on the surface (Plate 7). This has been tentatively dated to the later medieval period, c 1100–1500 (J Cotter pers. comm.). The sherd was left where it was found.
- 6.1.6 A handful of concrete slabs measuring c 0.5m x 0.5m were recorded at the north-western edge of the site. These appeared to be modern in date.
- 6.1.7 Another bank and ditch was observed 100m south-west of the site and to the south of Back Lane (Plate 8). The bank was c 5m wide and 1m high and covered in vegetation. A possible ditch was observed to the west of the bank and next to the road, but this was infilled with vegetation. This suggests that there may have been an earthwork along the eastern side of Back Lane.
- 6.1.8 During the walkover there was no obvious sign of the SW–NE aligned earthwork (OA 37) recorded on the LiDAR survey in the centre of the site.

7 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The nature of the archaeological resource within the site and the surrounding study area is discussed by period below. The locations of designated heritage assets and Aston Conservation Area are shown on Figure 2, the locations of non-designated heritage assets are

shown on Figure 3 and previous archaeological investigations are shown on Figure 4. Historic-landscape characterisation (HLC) is shown on Figure 5 and historic mapping is shown on Figures 9–12. Further details of all sites are provided in Appendix A.

7.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the site. Eleven Grade II listed buildings are present within the study area, the closest to the site being the 17th-century Thatched Cottage Farmhouse (OA 6) located 100m to the south-east. Other listed buildings within the study area are located along the High Street (OA 3–5, OA 2, OA 10 and OA 11), along North Street (OA 7–8) and along Cote Road (OA 1 and OA 9). The Church of St James (OA 1) dates from 1839 and is located 200m south-east of the site.

7.3 Archaeological Investigations

- 7.3.1 There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the site, but there have been seven within the study area comprising three watching briefs (OA 29, OA 32 and OA 34) and four evaluations (OA 30, OA 31, OA 33 and OA 35). One of these investigations (OA 33) recorded no archaeological deposits. The rest of the investigations recorded Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity and are discussed, where relevant, below.

7.4 Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP–AD 43)

- 7.4.1 There are no OHER records of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity within the study area. In 1975, a Neolithic transverse flint arrowhead (OA 12) and a Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead (OA 13) were found in a garden 250m south of the site.
- 7.4.2 The NMP and the OHER record a number of possible later prehistoric/Roman cropmark sites on the outskirts of Aston. This includes a rectilinear enclosure containing several circular features (OA 15) located 200m west of the site, several linear and sub-circular enclosures with pits (OA 28) located 300m north-west of the site and a possible trackway and field system (OA 27) located 250m north-east of the site. A cropmark complex (OA 14) has been recorded 550m south of the site. These cropmarks are undated but some of them could represent later prehistoric activity.

7.5 Romano-British Period (AD 43–410)

- 7.5.1 A number of Roman roadside settlements have been recorded in the wider area at Wantage, Frilford, Asthall and Gill Mill. The Roman road of Akeman Street connecting Alchester (near Bicester) to Corinium (Cirencester) was located 20km north-west of the site. Extensive excavations at Gill Mill, 5km north-east of the site, have recorded a late Iron Age–early Roman settlement and an early 2nd-century nucleated settlement that extended over 10ha. The settlement was characterised by ditches enclosures containing a number of structures and paved roads extending along and across the Windrush Valley (Booth and Simmonds 2018).
- 7.5.2 The remains of a Roman settlement (OA 29) have been recorded 150m south-west of the site during a watching brief at Barry House on Back Lane in 2002. Several features were recorded including a NW–SE aligned ditch and several pits and postholes that contained pottery dating from the late 1st/early 2nd century to the early 3rd century (JMHS 2002). This evidence represents a previously unknown Roman occupation site (OA 16). The focus of the settlement may have been west of Back Lane, in the area of the 2002 watching brief (OA 29). Another watching brief (OA 32), undertaken 75m west of the site in 2007, recorded a series of rectilinear ditches (OA 18) that were thought to represent a Romano-British field system. Few of the ditches were excavated and were thus undated, though two pits dated to the Roman

period (JMHS 2007). In 2005, an evaluation (OA 30) located 250m south of the site recorded one possible Roman ditch (OA 17). The cropmarks (OA 14, OA 15, OA 27 and OA 28) recorded on the outskirts of the modern village may also include Roman features.

7.6 Early Medieval Period (AD 410–1065)

- 7.6.1 Aston formed the eastern part of the principal manor of Bampton in the late Saxon period, its name translates as 'east-tun' or eastern enclosure or farmstead. Aston is mentioned in a charter of 958 and this may be the first documentary reference to Aston. In AD 984, King Aethelred granted 2 cassati (hides) to his 'minister' Aelfwine. The hide was a measurement of land taken to mean 120 acres or 48.5 ha (Turner 1823, 196). The boundaries of Aston were described in grants dating to the 10th–11th century, and the village may have been founded during this period. Aston was not listed in the Domesday survey as it was part of the manor of Bampton (Baggs *et al.* 1996, 62–6).
- 7.6.2 LiDAR analysis indicates a number of NW–SE- and NNW–SSE-aligned earthworks located within the northern part of the study area (Figures 6–8). Several are over 500m long and may represent boundary banks. A number are truncated by ridge-and-furrow earthworks, which suggests that they pre-date the medieval agricultural features (see below).
- 7.6.3 During the walkover, a 3m-wide earthwork (OA 36) was observed at the northern end of the site. This possible bank was aligned NE–SW, parallel and adjacent to Back Lane to the north. The earthwork was c 0.4m high, and eroded patches of earth and gravel were recorded towards the base of the feature. The bank sloped down towards Back Lane with a drop of 1m and a possible ditch was located at the base of the bank which was filled with vegetation. Another 1m-high bank and an associated ditch filled with vegetation were recorded during the walkover 100m south-west of the site on the eastern side of Back Lane. This is likely to be the same ditch recorded by the HER at this location (OA 19). LiDAR analysis shows that the bank may have originally continued north-eastwards from the site to join North Street, because a faint trace of it can be seen in the field to the north-east of the site where it is truncated by a series of ridge and furrow, which therefore clearly post-date the feature. A piece of later medieval pottery (c 1100–1500) was recorded as a surface find in an eroded patch of soil towards the base of the earthwork.
- 7.6.4 LiDAR analysis indicates that another eroded earthwork (OA 37) aligned NE–SW is located within the site. This possible bank is c 10m wide and located 15m south-east and parallel to the other boundary bank (OA 36). This earthwork was not recorded during the walkover, but a number of undulations were observed across the site. The northerly earthwork may represent a boundary bank delineating Back Lane and the other bank may represent an earlier extent of the village, a bank representing a property boundary, or may be an isolated ridge relict from an earlier field system. It is possible that some or all these earthworks were contemporary with the origins of the village in the 10th–11th century.

7.7 Later Medieval Period (AD 1066–1550)

- 7.7.1 By the later 13th century, Aston and the nearby village of Cote had around 70 households (mostly in Aston). In 1377, 156 inhabitants had paid the Poll Tax, suggesting that the population was fairly stable between the late 13th and late 14th centuries, despite the onset of the Black Death through the later part of the period. The medieval road network of Aston probably formed a rough triangle as it is now. This included Bampton Road from the west leading eastwards to the High Street and onwards to Cote and North Lane lead north-eastwards to Ducklington. Prior to the 19th century, Bull Lane was the main route to Cote until Cote Road was built in the early 19th century (Baggs *et al.* 1996, 62–6).

- 7.7.2 Aston and Cote were part of Bampton parish in the later medieval period, and there was no church in the village during this period. The focus of the medieval settlement was probably along the High Street and Bull Lane, with a number of houses and farmsteads extending northwards along Back Lane and North Lane. Evidence for medieval activity has been recorded west of Back Lane, west of North Street and north of the High Street. This includes 11th–12th-century pits (OA 16) recorded 150m south-west of the site and medieval pits (OA 18) recorded 75m west of the site. A medieval pit (OA 21) was recorded 200m south-east of the site, west of North Lane and a possible medieval ditch (OA 17) was located 250m south of the site, just north of the High Street.
- 7.7.3 The HER records a number of hollow-ways, house platforms and a ditch (OA 19) c 100m south of the site as part of a possible deserted medieval village. The HER records that this information comes from a site visit made to this area by Oxfordshire County Council Archaeologist Hugh Coddington in 2015. The ditch (OA 19) is discussed above in association with the earthwork bank and ditch to the east of Back Lane. Satellite imagery, LiDAR, OS maps and aerial photographs were reviewed for this area and no house platforms or hollow-ways or obvious DMV features were noted in this area. The fields south of the site contain NW–SE-aligned and partially levelled ridge and furrow. The field to the north-east of the site also contains ridge and furrow on a NW–SE alignment. More ridge and furrow is recorded on the LiDAR to the north of Back Lane and within the northern part of the study area. These open-field systems appear to have superseded an earlier complex of raised earthwork banks (see above).

7.8 Post-Medieval Period (AD 1550–1900)

- 7.8.1 The 1841 tithe map (Fig. 9) shows that Aston had expanded by this date along Bull Lane to the south-east of the village. The main concentration of houses were along the High Street and at the junction of Back Lane and North Street. Cote Road was built in the early 19th century. A handful of houses were located either side of Back Lane and North Road. The Church of St James (OA 1) was built in 1839 and is located 350m south-east of the site. A Baptist chapel (OA 8) was also built in 1845 and is located 200m south-east of the site. A number of other post-medieval listed buildings are recorded in the village (OA 2–7 and OA 10). The closest to the site is Thatched Cottage, a 17th-century farmhouse (OA 4) located 150m south-east of the site.
- 7.8.2 The tithe map of 1841 (Oxfordshire History Centre, tithe map 18/M) (not illustrated) shows that the site was a rectangular field located east of cottages and a garden owned by John Baker. The site is labelled as '1460' on this map but the corresponding land-parcel information could not be found in the accompanying apportionment list (18/A). The southern part of the site was defined by a hedgerow, while another bisected the eastern part of the site. A small shed was located just to the north-west and outside the site boundary. The tithe map shows that there was another building located 100m south-east of the site. This was a C-shaped building located just west of Thatched Cottage (OA 6). Remains of this building (OA 21) may have been found during an evaluation (OA 31) in 2006.
- 7.8.3 The altered tithe map of 1857 (Oxfordshire History Centre, tithe map 18A/M+A) (Fig. 9) shows the same arrangement for the site and the rectangular field of the site is labelled as 35. The fields to the east had been amalgamated and were labelled as 36. Both the site and the fields to the east were under pasture and were owned by Henry Hippisley Esquire. The Hippisley family of Lambourne in Berkshire had inherited the manor of Aston and Cote in 1838. They owned a large amount of land in Aston and Cote in the 19th century. The manor remained in their family until 1920 until it was sold to local tenants (Baggs *et al.* 1996, 66–9).

- 7.8.4 Aston was enclosed in 1853 and several smaller fields on the outskirts of the village were amalgamated into larger fields. The 1880 OS map (Fig. 10) shows that the two hedgerows in the vicinity of the site were still extant, though these had been removed by 1898, including the one which defined the southern part of the site and bisected the eastern part of the site (Fig. 11). The site became part of a larger pasture field to the north-west of White House Farm.

7.9 Modern (20th century)

- 7.9.1 Historic OS mapping (Figs 10 to 12) indicates there has been little change to the site since the late 19th century and no clear changes occurred between 1898 and 1956.
- 7.9.2 An aerial photograph of the site dated from the 1960s (Picture Oxon, POX0450449) indicates that two linear features aligned NE–SW recorded on the LiDAR directly to the south of the site may be modern. These appear on the photograph as possible trenches, perhaps service pipelines that had been infilled leaving straight, dark areas of soil. The banks recorded in this area may be spoil related to these trenches.
- 7.9.3 Satellite imagery suggests that there has been some modern disturbance at the northern end of the site. This includes a 10m x 5m shed that was located 10m east of the entrance gate. This had an associated pen for livestock and concrete slabs to its south, which would explain the eroded patches of soil in this area and the loose concrete slabs that were viewed during the walkover. In addition, satellite imagery shows that there was a dump of spoil at the north-eastern part of the site.

7.10 Aerial Photographs

- 7.10.1 Historic England's Archive in Swindon was not open during the writing of this report, so the aerial photographs held there were not viewed. A review of aerial photographs (APs) held at Picture Oxon was carried out. Only a handful of these images show the central part of the village. One image dating from the 1960s showed the site in detail (Picture Oxon, POX0450449). This image shows the site as a pasture field with two linear features directly south of the site. These are the possible service pipelines mentioned above. The photograph also shows a number of ridge-and-furrow earthworks within the northern part of the study area (see below).

7.11 LiDAR

- 7.11.1 The LiDAR data utilised in this report was captured by the Environment Agency (EA) and made available via the EA online archive¹. Digital Terrain Model (DTM) tiles and composite data for Ordnance Survey Sheet SP30 SW were downloaded and surveyed at 1m intervals. The DTM data was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolkit (RVT) and visualisations were created using hillshade, slope, simple local relief model, sky-view factor, open-positive, open-negative, sky illumination and local dominance visualisation techniques. Figure 6 illustrates the data as multi-hillshade, and Figure 7 illustrates the data as a Simple Local Relief Model. Figure 8 illustrates visualisations of the LiDAR data and a sketch plot of the features identified within the site and the study area.
- 7.11.2 Within the site, a NE–SW-aligned feature (OA 37) was observed on the LiDAR in the centre of the site. This feature appears to be the faint trace of an earthwork c 10m wide, possibly an eroded boundary bank or the isolated remains of ridge and furrow (see above).

¹ Downloaded from <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>

- 7.11.3 Two earthworks recorded on the LiDAR plots just south of the site may be NE–SW-aligned ridge and furrow, or the remains of modern service trenches as observed on an aerial photograph (discussed above). Partially levelled ridge and furrow is also recorded on the LiDAR in the fields to the south-west and north-east of the site.
- 7.11.4 A number of boundary banks (several over 500m long) have been identified across the northern part of the study area. In most cases, these were truncated by later ridge and furrow. The boundary banks may relate to the organisation of land around Aston in the 10th–11th century.

8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 Archaeological potential

- 8.1.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity within the study area, the only recorded finds being a small group of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints found 250m south of the site. A number of cropmark sites on the outskirts of the village could represent later prehistoric or Roman settlement activity. There is a low potential for prehistoric remains to be present within the site.
- 8.1.2 In 2002, part of a Roman settlement (OA 29) was recorded during a watching brief 150m south-west of the site, and in 2007 another watching brief (OA 32) undertaken 75m west of the site recorded further signs of Romano-British activity. Therefore, there is a moderate potential for remains of Roman date to be present within the site.
- 8.1.3 The walkover and the LiDAR analysis have suggested that two NE–SW-aligned earthworks may be located within the site. The northerly bank and associated ditch (OA 36) are located at the northern end of the site and this may continue north-eastwards into the field to the north-east of the site. This bank has been subjected to modern disturbance in the form of a livestock shed and pens, livestock trample and a modern dump of material. The surface find of medieval pottery was located in an area of modern disturbance and may be residual. The other earthwork (OA 37) was also aligned NE–SW but does not appear to continue north-eastwards into the next field.
- 8.1.4 Aston was founded by the 10th century and during the late Saxon and later medieval period it formed part of the principal manor of Bampton. The extent of the late Saxon and medieval village was probably concentrated around the triangular green formed by the High Street, Back Lane and North Street. It is possible that the site contains evidence of late Saxon/late medieval settlement activity given its position just south of Back Lane. The two earthwork features mentioned above are likely to be of late Saxon/late medieval date and predate the later medieval ridge and furrow found across the area. The site, therefore, has a low–moderate potential to contain medieval settlement remains and a high potential for medieval agricultural remains. Any surviving settlement evidence or remains of estate-boundary earthworks will be of medium significance, whereas surviving ridge and furrow will be of low (local) significance.
- 8.1.5 During the post-medieval period, the site was under pasture and the fields were part of Aston manor. The site was bounded by a hedgerow at the southern site and was bisected by a hedgerow on the eastern side. These hedgerows were removed by the later 19th century and the site became part of a larger pasture field associated with White House Farm to the south-east of the site. The site has a high potential to contain the surviving remnants of the former hedgerows, though these are of low archaeological significance. In the later 20th/early 21st

century, a shed was constructed within the northern part of the site and a dump of spoil was situated in this area.

8.2 Historic Landscape

8.2.1 The Oxfordshire HLC Project records the HLC of the site as part of the village of Aston, created 1200-1797 (Fig. 5). It is possible that the area designated as the core of the village may contain archaeological remains of 10th–11th century date. The fields around Aston were enclosed in the mid-19th century but the site became part of a larger field in the later 19th century. The existence of several earthworks within the site suggests that it may contain surviving late Saxon or later medieval elements. The site probably also contains the remains of two pre-enclosure, hedgerow field boundaries below ground. The historic landscape within the site could be of medium (regional) significance if the site contains evidence of late Saxon/medieval estate boundaries.

9 PREVIOUS IMPACTS AND SURVIVAL

9.1.1 The site was used primarily as agricultural land during the late Saxon and later medieval periods, though it is possible that remains of settlement activity are present given its position within the triangular green that forms the focus of the village of Aston. The site contains evidence of two NE–SW-aligned earthworks, one associated with a ditch that extends parallel to Back Lane and another located across the centre of the site. The site was under pasture during the post-medieval and modern periods. Since the land has not been substantially ploughed during these later periods, the site has good potential for earlier remains to have survived. If medieval ridge and furrow is present, then pre-medieval remains may have been truncated.

9.1.2 The construction and removal of a livestock shed in the north-western part of the site may have truncated archaeological remains within its footprint, while the presence of livestock may have caused some trampling damage. Other than this potential disturbance, it is anticipated that the archaeological horizon is likely to remain intact across the site.

10 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

10.1.1 The proposed development is for the construction of a children's home measuring 30m x 20m across. This will have a car park area to the north-west and a small garden area to the south-east of the building (Fig. 13). Detailed proposals of the development have yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated that it will involve the construction of the new building, roads and associated service infrastructure. A general assessment of likely impacts is outlined below.

10.2 Archaeology

10.2.1 It is anticipated that the archaeological horizon remains largely intact throughout the site, and the proposed development has the potential to have an adverse impact upon any surviving archaeological remains.

10.2.2 Archaeological remains, if present, could be damaged or removed by groundworks associated with the following construction activities:

- landscaping and grading of the site to create level ground;
- the piling or excavation of trenches for the foundations of the new building;
- excavation of trenches for new services, soakaways and other attenuation features;

- ground modification for infrastructure; and
- any other intrusive groundworks.

10.3 Historic Landscape

10.3.1 The proposed development of the site will require the removal of one fence line within the eastern part of the site. There may have been a former hedgerow at this location, but this was removed by the later 19th century. Two former hedgerows lay within the site, though any potentially surviving remains would be of low historical significance.

11 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK

11.1.1 The effect of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains and the historic landscape will be a material consideration in the determination of a submitted planning application. The site has a high potential to contain archaeological remains as it is situated in the triangular green which forms the core of the historic village of Aston. The site contains two earthwork features aligned NE–SW, which may be former boundaries of late Saxon or later medieval date. The northernmost of the two banks appears to continue north-eastwards and may represent an earlier route of Back Lane. A medieval pottery sherd (c 1100-1500) was recorded at the eroded base of this feature during the site visit. The southerly earthwork could be a bank representing a previous extent of the village, forming part of a property boundary set back from Back Lane, or may be a relict feature from a former field system.

11.1.2 The proposed scheme will result in significant groundworks that have the potential to have an adverse impact upon any archaeological remains that might be present within the site. Given the undeveloped nature of the land, it is likely that an archaeological trial-trench evaluation will be required. This evaluation will test the two earthwork features that were recorded during the walkover survey and the LiDAR analysis. An evaluation would also establish whether the site contains evidence for late Saxon/late medieval settlement activity or agricultural activity of later medieval/post-medieval date. The evaluation would clarify the presence (or absence) and significance of any archaeological deposits that might be damaged or removed by the proposed scheme and would inform a suitable mitigation strategy if required.

12 CONCLUSION

12.1.1 This desk-based assessment has identified that the site has a low potential for prehistoric remains. The site has a moderate potential for Roman remains as settlement activity of this date has been recorded 150m south-west of the site. The site may have been located on the edge of this settlement and may contain agricultural activity of this date. The village of Aston was founded by the mid-10th century and the site is located in the triangular green which forms the focus of the medieval village. The site therefore has a low–moderate potential for medieval settlement remains.

12.1.2 The site contains two earthwork banks aligned NE–SW which were recorded during the walkover and the LIDAR analysis. Since it continues into the field to the north-east, it is possible that the northerly bank represents a former course of Back Lane, while the function of the southerly earthwork is less certain. The site therefore has a high potential for medieval agricultural remains and it is possible that these earthworks may represent late Saxon/medieval estate boundaries. Any remains of late Saxon/medieval estate earthworks

are likely to be of medium significance whereas any remains of ridge-and-furrow earthworks, are likely to be of low (local) significance.

- 12.1.3 The site was used as a pasture field in the later post-medieval period and two hedgerows within the site were removed during the later 19th century. Any post-medieval agricultural remains within the site are likely to be of low (local) significance. The northern part of the site was disturbed by the construction of a small shed and livestock pen in the late 20th/early 21st century along with deposition of an area of spoil. It is possible that the earthwork recorded at the northern part of the site may have been truncated during this activity and subsequently trampled by livestock.
- 12.1.4 The site has remained undeveloped and the proposed scheme has the potential to have a adverse impact upon any archaeological remains that might be present within the site. It is likely that an archaeological trial trench evaluation will be required to further investigate the site.
- 12.1.5 Two earthwork features were recorded on the site during the walkover survey and the LiDAR analysis. The evaluation will be required to test the nature of these earthworks and establish the character and potential date of these features. An evaluation would also establish whether the site contains evidence for late Saxon/late medieval settlement activity or for agricultural activity of later medieval/post-medieval date. The evaluation would clarify the presence (or absence) and significance of any archaeological deposits that might be damaged or removed by the proposed scheme and would inform a suitable mitigation strategy if required.
- 12.1.6 The Oxfordshire County Archaeologist will need to agree the requirement and scope of all archaeological work for the site.

APPENDIX A GAZETTEER OF KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Abbreviations

LB	Listed Building	FS	Findsport
EVE	Event		
MON	Monument		

OA Number	List Entry	HER Ref	PRN No.	Name	Summary	Grade/Type	Period	Eastings	Northing
1	1052435	N/a		Church of St James	Church. 1839, by Thomas Greenshields; sanctuary added 1862 by J. Clarke; further alterations of 1885-9 by H. Drinkwater	LB - II	Post Medieval	434223	203062
2	1052436	N/a		The Elms	House. Early/mid C17	LB - II	Post Medieval	434060	202998
3	1052437	N/a		West End Cottage	House. Mid C17	LB - II	Post Medieval	433892	203028
4	1052438	N/a		West End Farmhouse	Farmhouse, now house. Late C17/early C18 with later C18 extension	LB - II	Post Medieval	433873	203040
5	1052439	N/a		Westerleigh	House. Late C17, with C19 alterations.	LB - II	Post Medieval	433872	203022
6	1052472	N/a		Thatched Cottage	Farmhouse. Late C17 and early C17	LB - II	Post Medieval	434070	203226
7	1052473	N/a		Aston House	House. c.1730, with mid C19 alterations.	LB - II	Post Medieval	434059	203088
8	1284380	N/a		The Old Chapel and attached outbuilding	Baptist chapel, now house. Datestone 1845.	LB - II	Post Medieval	434063	203102

9	1368225	N/a			Chest tomb and railed enclosure approximately 7 metres south of nave and 5 metres west of porch of church of St James	Chest tomb. Early C19.	LB - II	Post Medieval	434219	203046
10	1368226	N/a			Post Office	Shop and house. c.1839	LB - II	Post Medieval	434032	203018
11	1453276	N/a			Aston War Memorial	Aston War Memorial, Oxfordshire, of 1919,	LB - II	Modern	434061	203030
12	N/a	MOX1865			Neolithic and Bronze Age Arrowheads (in Gardens N of High Street)	Found in 1975. Neolithic transverse flint arrowhead, bifacially flaked	FS	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age	433915	203035
13	N/a	MOX1865	4479		Neolithic and Bronze Age Arrowheads (in Gardens N of High Street)	Found in 1975. Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead	FS	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age	433915	203035
14	N/a	MOX1848	3195		Later prehistoric to Roman cropmarked complex	Known only from APs	MON	Early Neolithic to Roman	434182	202238
15	N/a	MOX1849	3215		Later Prehistoric Cropmarked Complex	Known only from Allen Aps. Consists of rectangular enclosure with 3 circular enclosures and linear features	MON	Later Prehistoric	433614	203303

16	N/a	MOX12684	16909	Roman and Medieval activity in Aston	Late C1-C3 Roman occupation and C11-12 tanning evidence found in village	MON	Roman to Medieval	433820	203190
17	N/a	MOX12688	16913	Roman and Medieval features found in Aston	Evaluation located two poorly preserved ditches, and few finds.	ELE	Roman to Medieval	433970	203060
18	N/a	MOX23446	26098	Romano British field system at Clematis Cottage, Aston	Romano British field system was recorded along with a number of Medieval and undated storage pits. Associated with PRN 16909.	MON	Roman to Medieval	433850	203250
19	N/a	MOX12500	16745	Deserted Medieval Village Earthworks at Aston	Series of hollow-ways and building platforms.	MON	Early Medieval/Dark Age to Medieval	433920	203150
20	N/a	MOX12501	16746	Small area of Medieval Settlement Earthworks	Small area of settlement earthworks, probably associated with PRN 16745.	MON	Medieval	433900	202980
21	N/a	MOX23132	17172	Medieval to Modern features at White House Farm, Aston	Evaluation uncovered a medieval pit, undated pits, possible post medieval wall or floor foundation and field boundaries.	MON	Medieval to 20th Century	434050	203220
22	N/a	MOX27481	29105	Medieval and later field system	Medieval and later linear features and single pit thought to represent an organized landscape of fields and paddocks	MON	Medieval to Post Medieval	434490	203250

23	N/a	MOX26877	28550	Post-medieval building foundations and medieval ditches	In the southern part of the site were the only remains: Post Medieval building foundations and C11-13th ditches.	ELE	Medieval to Post Medieval	433927	203032
24	N/a	MOX1832	488	Clay Pit and Brick Kiln	Shown on 1st ed OS map.	MON	Medieval to Post Medieval	434000	203500
25	N/a	MOX1896	11651	Baptist Chapel	Dressed stones in courses, quoins and slate roof. Over the door is a plaque: Baptist chapel 1845. Formerly used as school	BLD	Post Medieval	434060	203110
26	N/a	MOX1840	1638	Wheelwrights Shop, Aston	Plans, notes, photographs and correspondence in DRF.	BLD	Post Medieval	434014	202995
27	N/a	MOX1943	15173	Undated Trackway and possible Field System	Identified only from RCHME overlay. Appears to consist of single trackway flanked on E by linear features that may be part of field system	MON	Unknown	434321	203568
28	N/a	MOX1944	15174	Undated Linear Features and possible Pits	Identified from RCHME overlay. Appears to consist of vague linear features with ?Pits	ELE	Unknown	433679	203556
29		EOX1430		Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjacent to Barry House, Back Lane, Aston, Oxon	Watching brief by JMHS in 2002 revealed previously unknown Roman occupation as evidenced by enclosure ditches, pits and postholes, which indicate timber structures (either fencelines or buildings). Comparative lack of Roman finds suggest	Event	Roman, Medieval	433820	203190

30	EOX1437	The Cottage, High Street, Aston nr Bampton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation	that pits may be used for storage. Tanning may be indicated by rectangular medieval pit.	Eval by TVAS in 2005. Two trenches. Recorded were two probable ditches, one possible Roman and one medieval. Likely that parts of site have been landscaped or disturbed in relatively recent past. Presumed low archaeological potential, despite proximity to core of medieval town.	Event	Roman, Medieval	433970	203060
31	EOX1847	White House Farm, Aston: An Archaeological evaluation.		The evaluation by OA in 2006 consisted of four evaluation trenches totalling 60m in length, forming a 2% sample. Two trenches were excavated to the north of the farm and two to the south. One medieval pit and a number of post medieval features were recorded.	Event	Medieval/post- medieval	434050	203220

32	EOX2113	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to Clematis Cottage	<p>A watching brief by JMHS in 2007 carried out on during the groundworks for a new dwelling recorded the remains of a Romano British field system, probably associated with PRN 16909. Ditches not excavated, only observed via sectioning where footings for new build cut them. Although results of recording action are quite limited, they indicate potential quality and extent of archaeology still buried within village.</p>	Event	Roman	433850	203250
33	EOX2259	Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane	<p>Three trenches were excavated by TVAS in 2008 ahead of redevelopment of the site (estimated site area: 4000 sq m). Trench 3 had to be repositioned and shortened as a result of several live services. Despite potential for archaeological deposits to have survived, no archaeological deposits were recorded. Possible potential for archaeological deposits surviving to N and S of access road.</p>	Event	Negative	434020	202920

34	EOX5949	3 High Street	Watching brief. John Moore Heritage Services 2014. Across the majority of the development area there were no significant or important archaeological remains. No prehistoric or Romano-British period remains were noted, however, medieval and later remains did exist within the southern part of the investigation area.	Event	Medieval/post-medieval	433927	203034
35	EOX6556	Land North of Cote Road	22-trench evaluation of c.19ha site by JMHS in 2017 prior to development. Linear features and a single pit were identified. Although finds spanned Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods, it is considered that all of the features are probably of medieval or later date	Event	Roman, Medieval/post-medieval	434485	203250

36					<p>A 3m wide earthwork observed at the northern end of the site - aligned NE-SW - parallel to the road. This was only 0.5m high. This may be an eroded boundary bank as another was observed 100m SW of the site and east of Back Lane. Patches of eroded soil were observed at the base of the bank with approx 20% gravel content. Pottery was photographed in one of the eroded patches at the base of the bank. The pottery may date to the late medieval period.</p>	Unknown	433939	203295
37					<p>A NE-SW aligned feature observed on the LIDAR in the centre of the site. This feature appears to be the faint trace of an earthwork around 10m wide - possibly an eroded boundary bank or remains of ridge and furrow.</p>	Unknown	433958	203267

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Oxfordshire County Council, 2019 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Advisory Document*

Turner, S, 1823 *The History of the Anglo-Saxons: Comprising the History of England from the Earliest Period to the Norman Conquest*, Volumes 1-2, 196



Figure 1: Site location

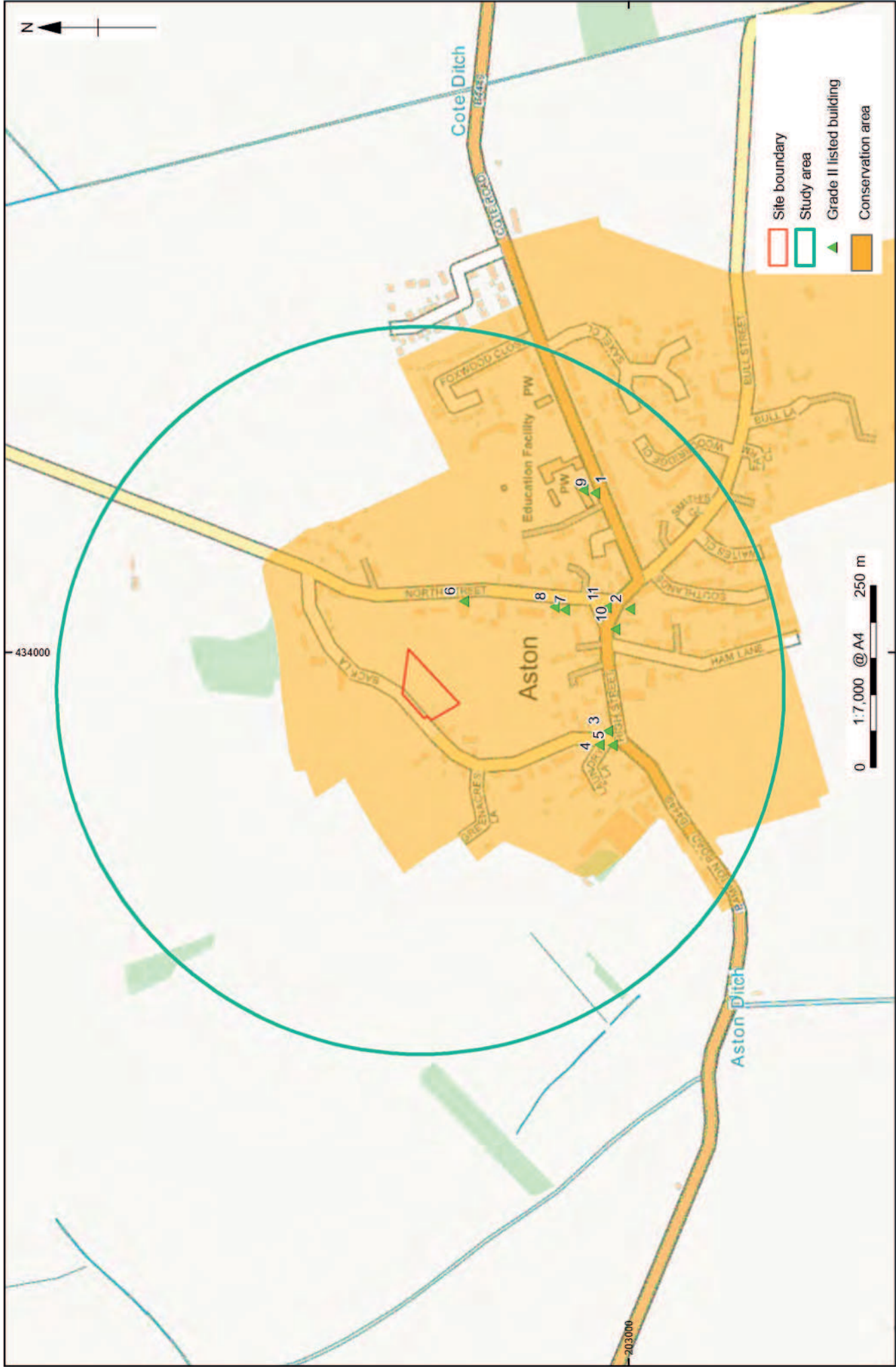


Figure 2: Designated heritage assets

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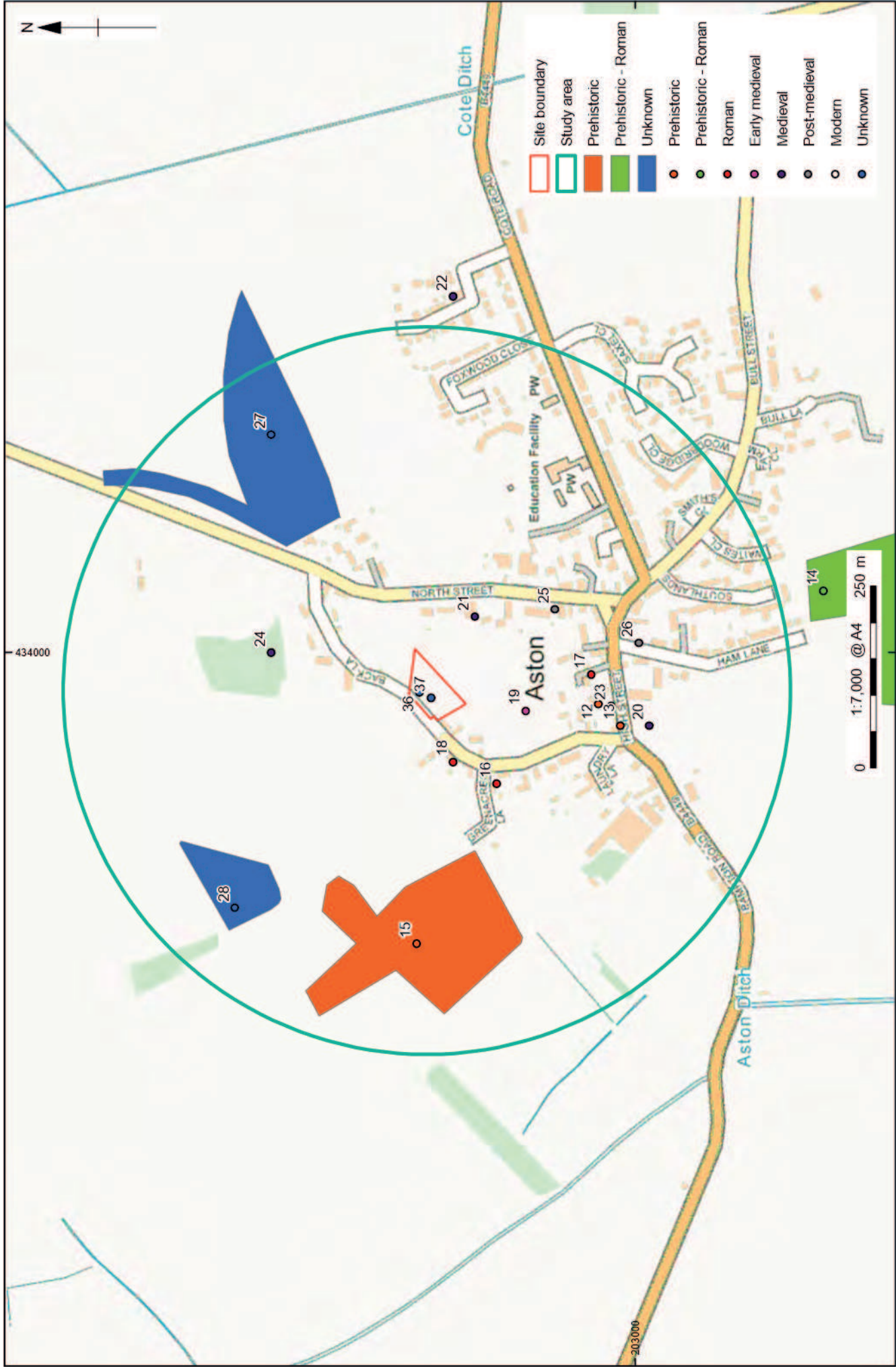


Figure 3: Non-designated heritage assets

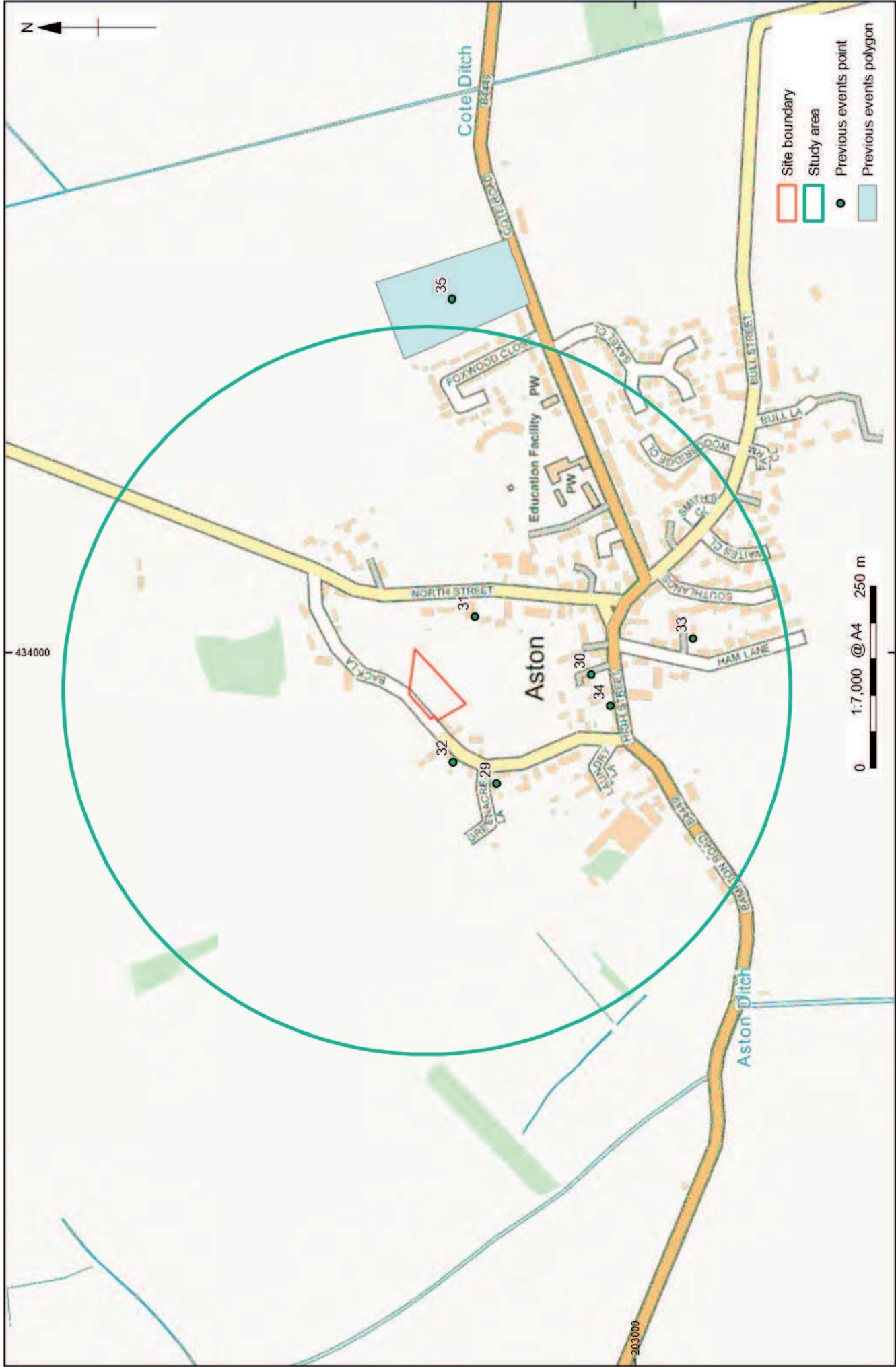


Figure 4: Previous archaeological events

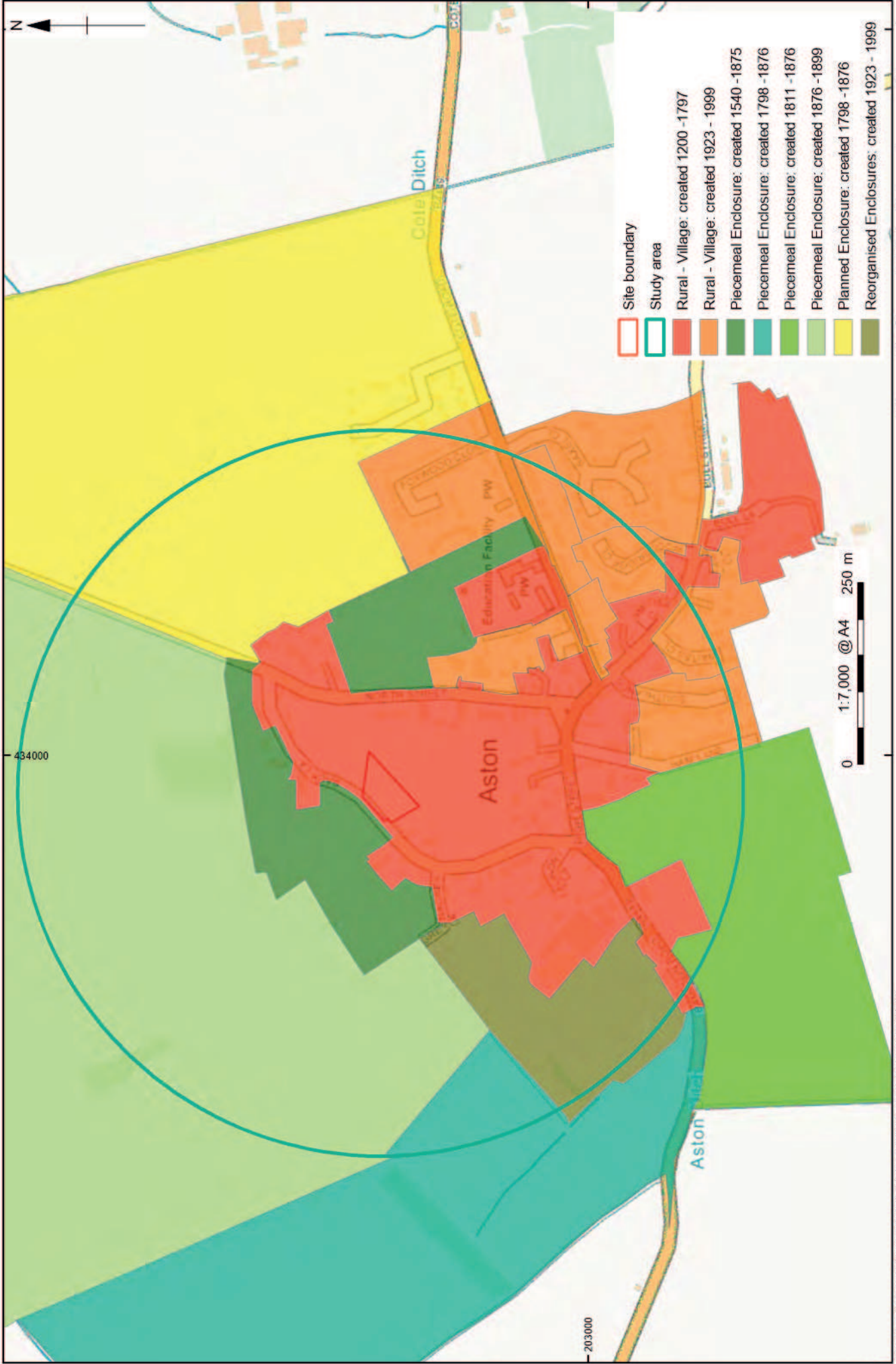


Figure 5: Current Historic Landscape Character

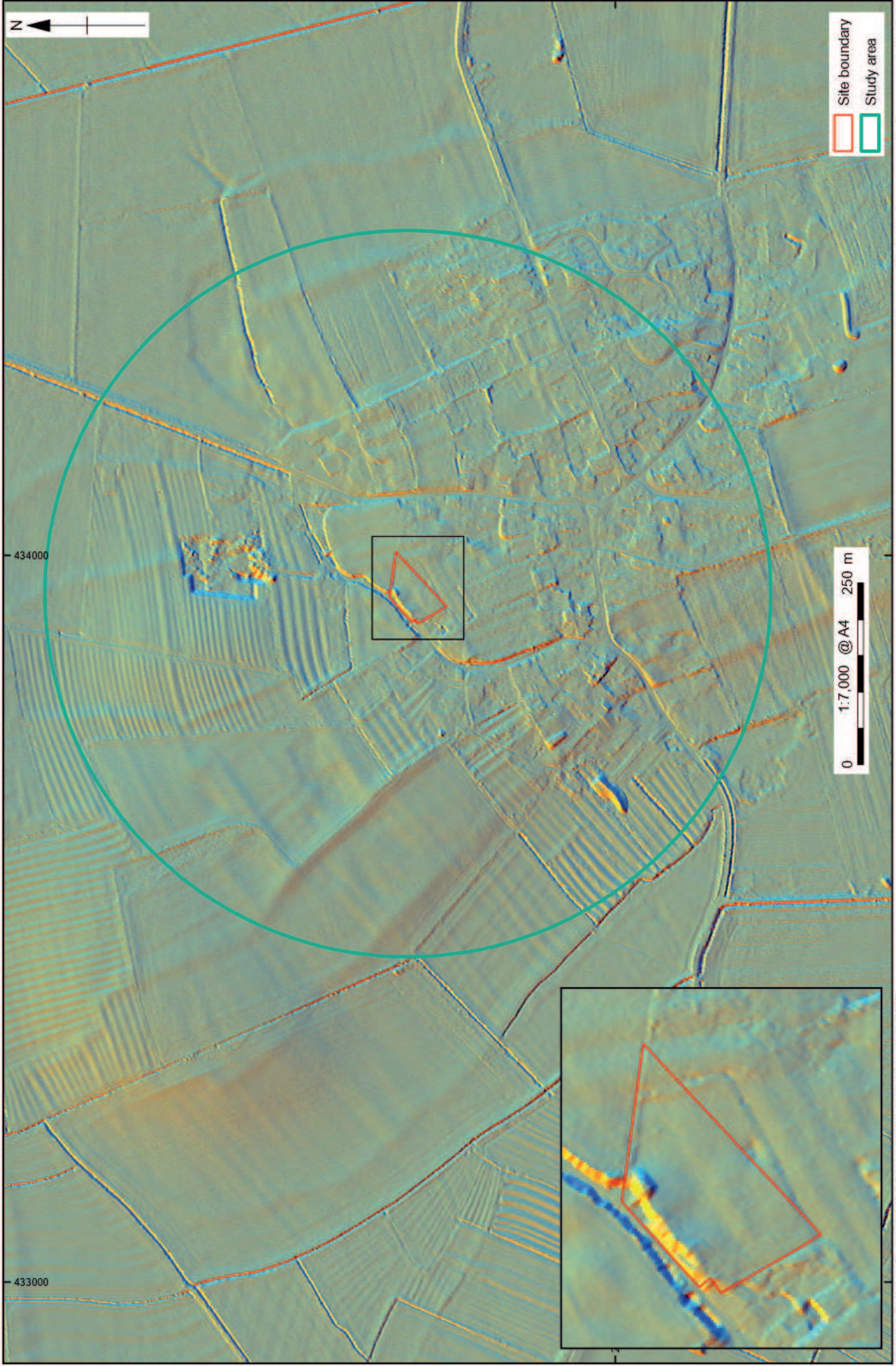


Figure 6: Environment Agency LIDAR DTM 1m, multi-hillshade

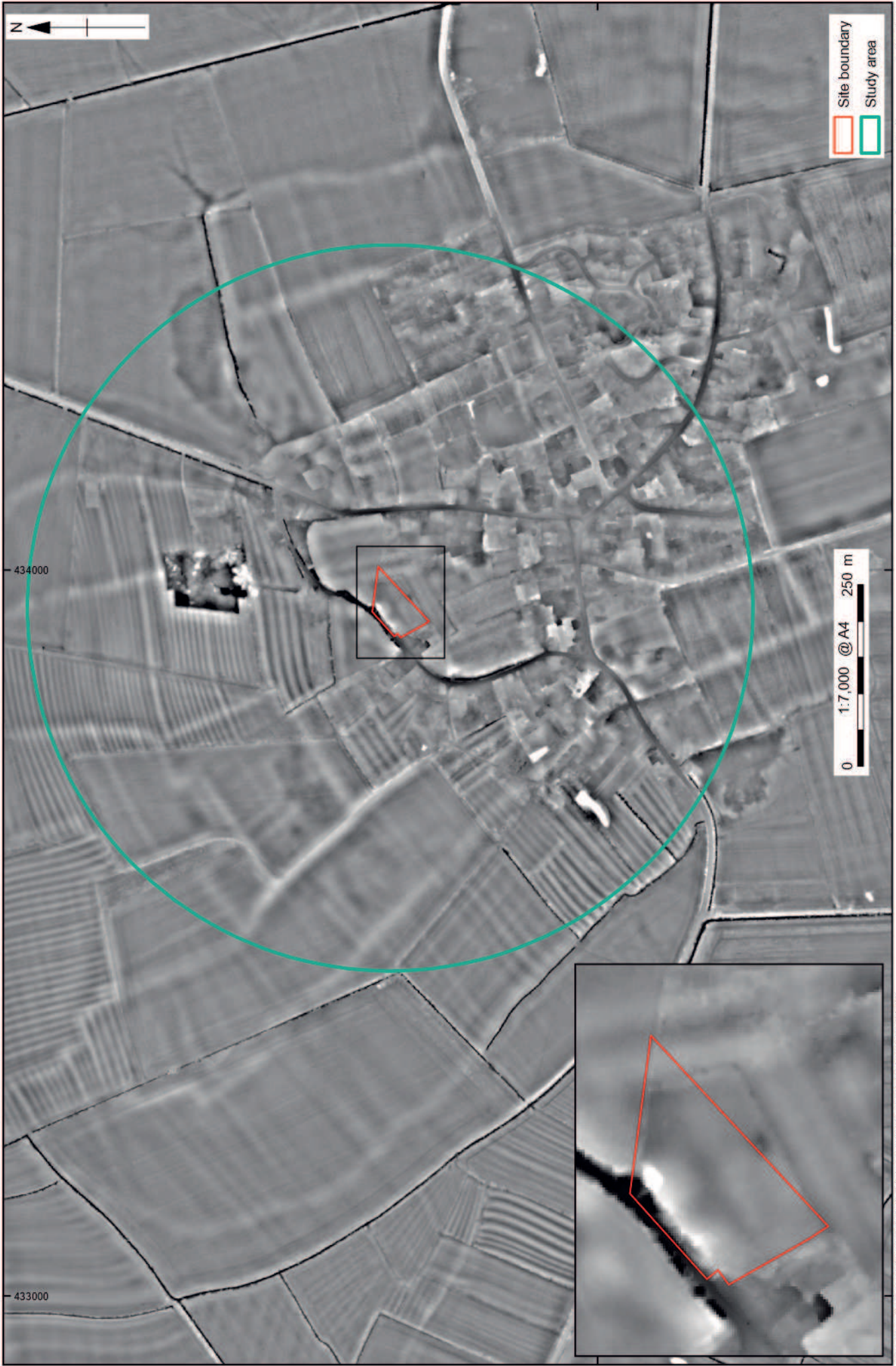


Figure 7: Environment Agency LiDAR DTM 1m, Simple Local Relief Model

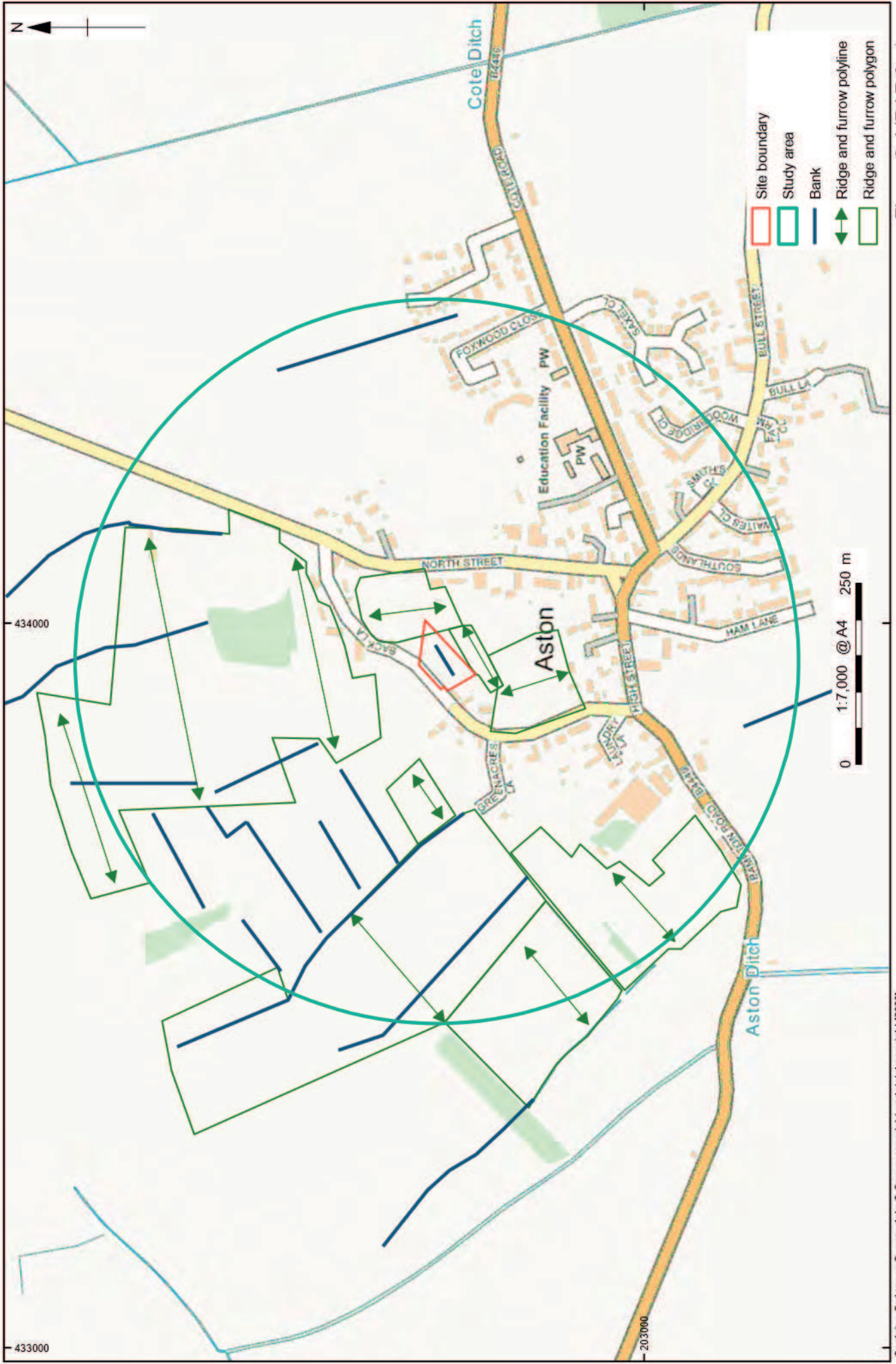


Figure 8: LIDAR features



Figure 9: Extract from the Aston tithe map 1857

Site Details:
 433947 951073709,
 203279.282876526

Client Ref: ASWFCD
Report Ref: GS-7012740
Grid Ref: 433954, 203269

Map Name: County Series
Map date: 1880
Scale: 1:10,560
Printed at: 1:10,560



Surveyed 1880
 Revised 1880
 Edition N/A
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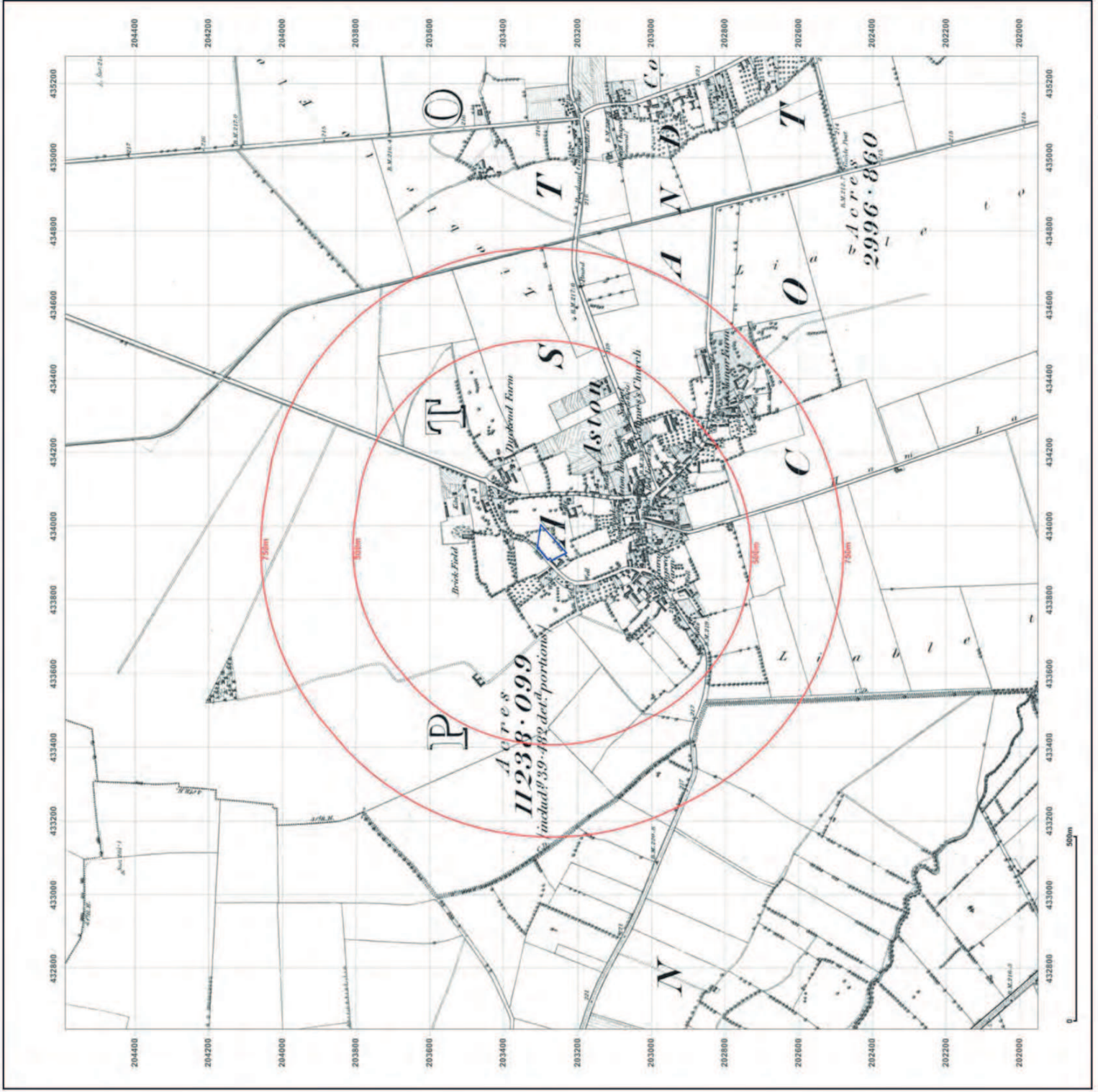


Figure 10: Extract from 1880 OS map

Site Details:
 433947 9510737709,
 203279.282876526

Client Ref: ASWFCD
Report Ref: GS-7012740
Grid Ref: 433954, 203269

Map Name: County Series
Map date: 1898-1900
Scale: 1:10,560
Printed at: 1:10,560



Surveyed 1876 Revised 1898 Edition N/A Copyright N/A Levelled N/A	Surveyed N/A Revised N/A Edition N/A Copyright N/A Levelled N/A
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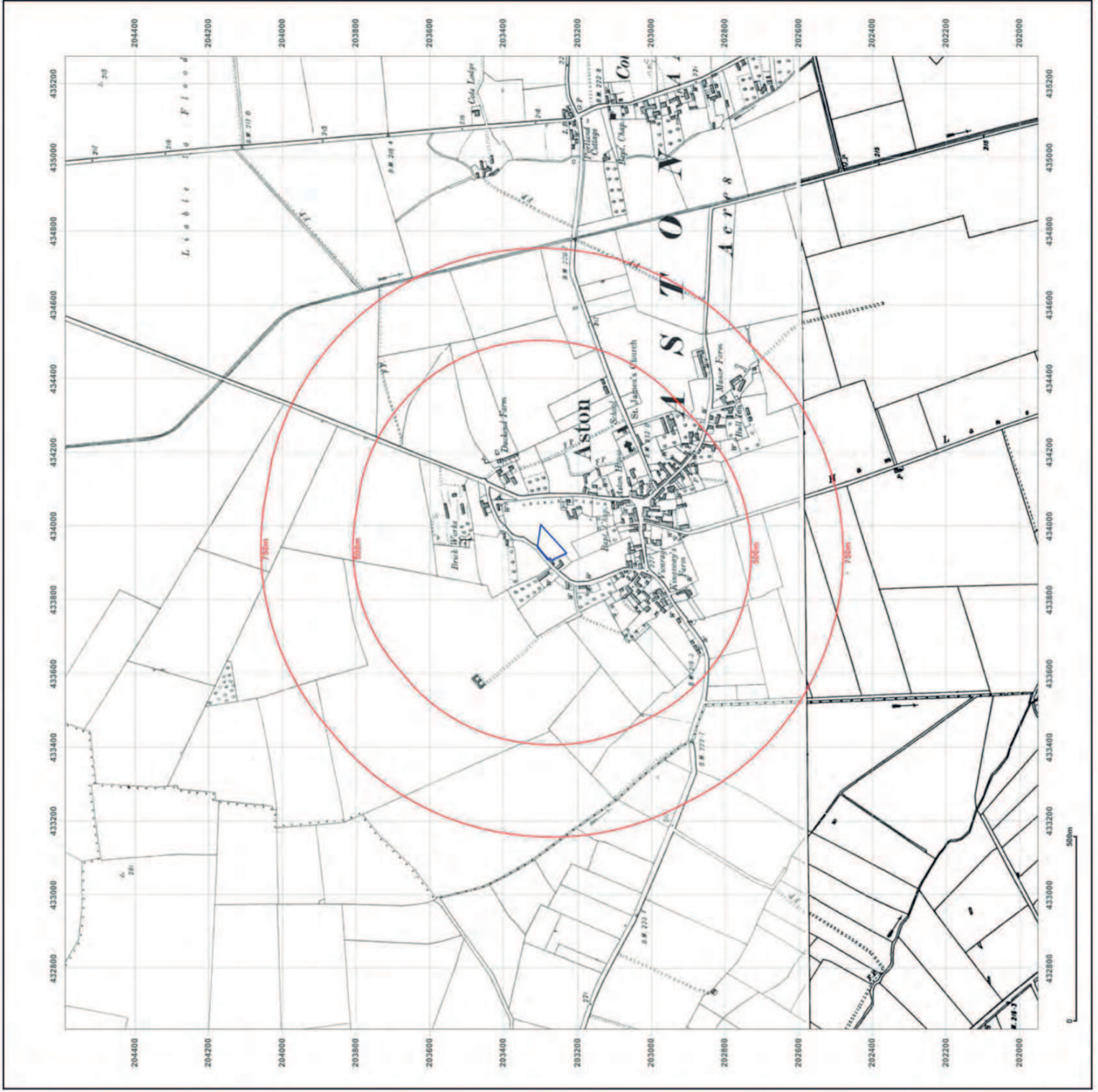


Figure 11: Extract from 1898 OS map

Site Details:
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 203279.282876526

Client Ref: ASWFCD
Report Ref: GS-7012740
Grid Ref: 433954, 203269

Map Name: Provisional
Map date: 1956
Scale: 1:10,560
Printed at: 1:10,560



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 Edition N/A
 Copyright N/A
 Levelled N/A

Surveyed 1956
 Revised 1956
 Edition N/A
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Production date: 01 September 2020

Map legend available at:
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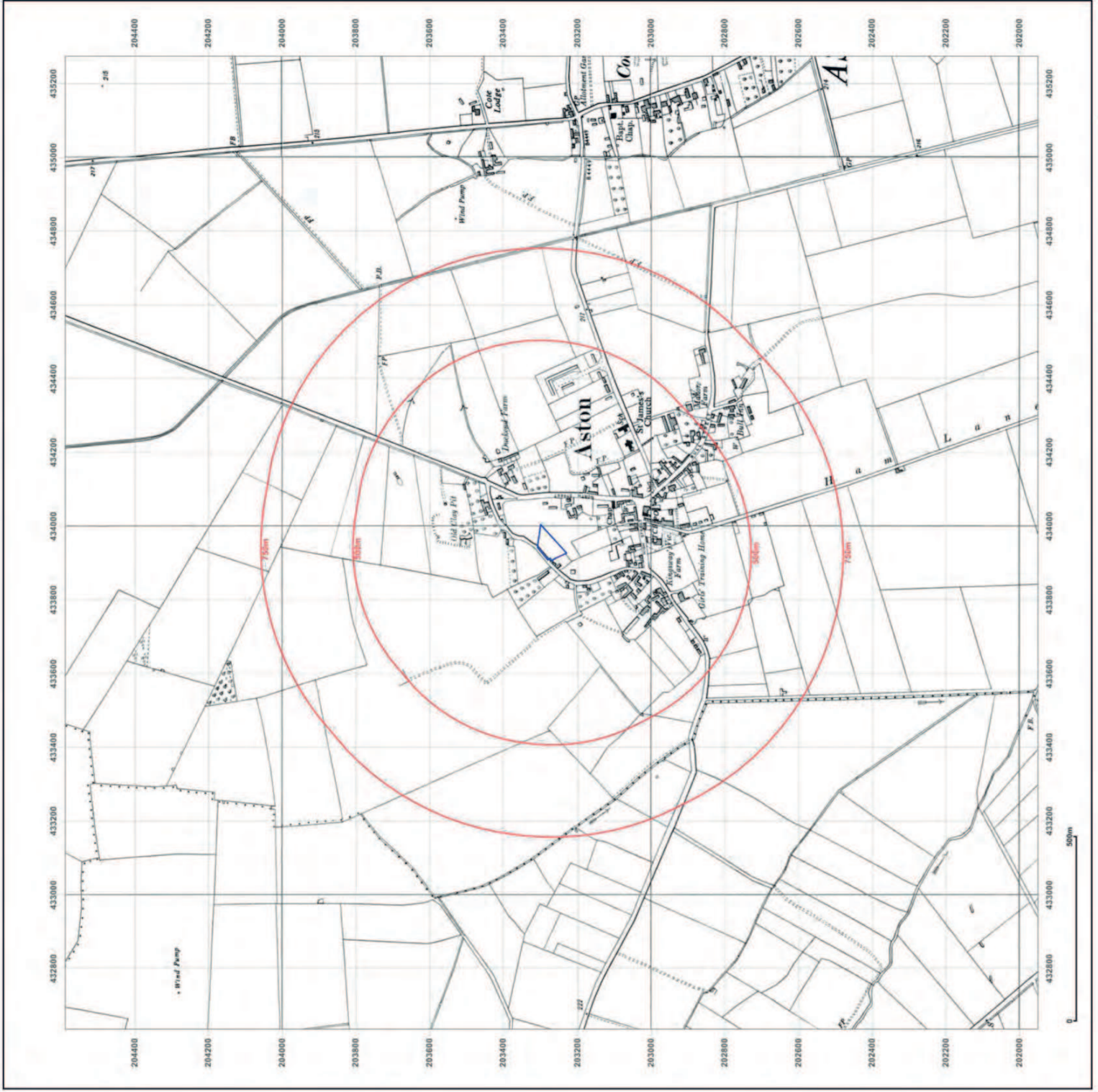


Figure 12: Extract from 1956 OS map

OPTION 3
SITE 1,495 SQM

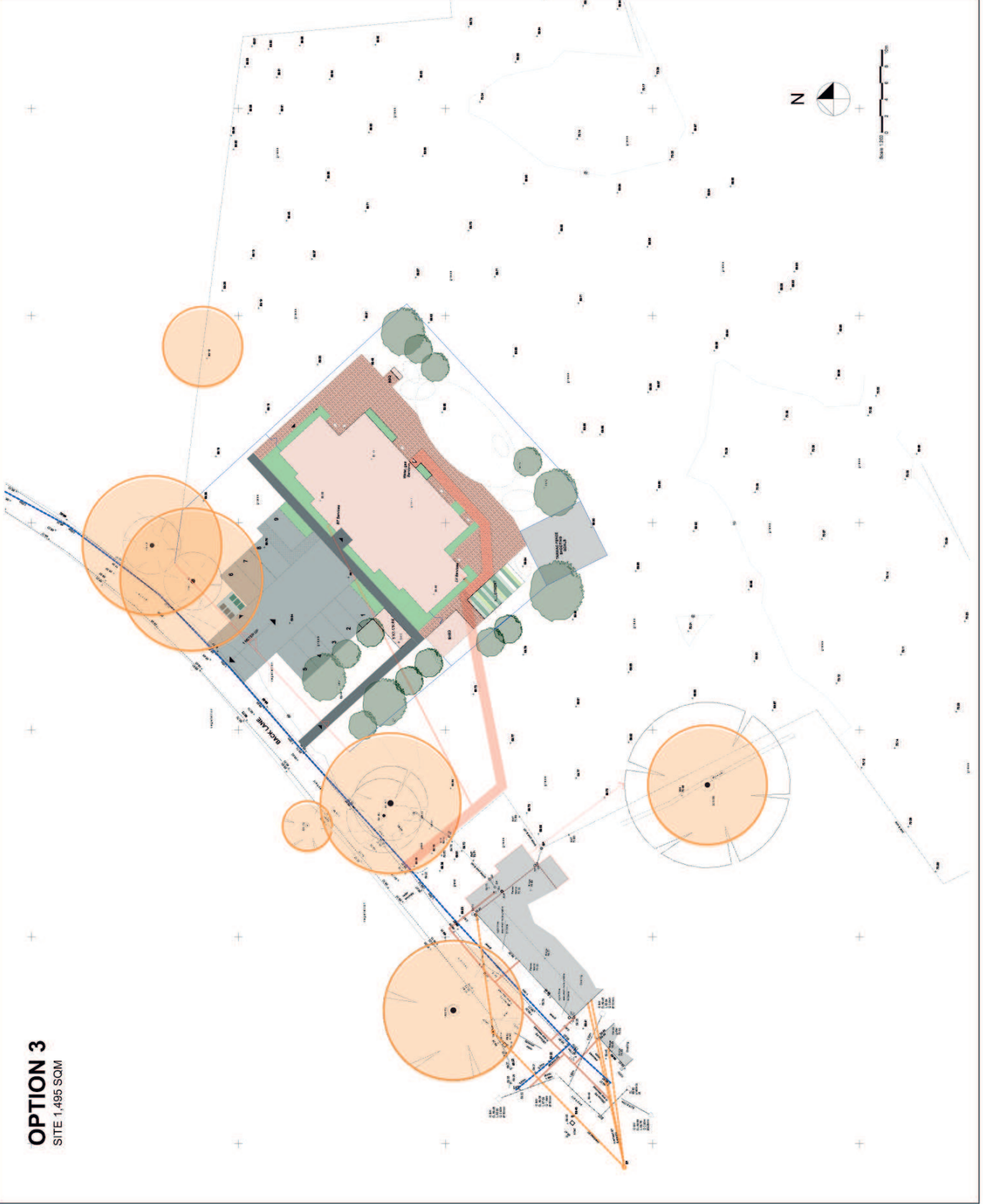


Figure 13: Proposed site plan



Plate 1: View of the entrance gate facing south-east



Plate 2: View across the site, facing south-east



Plate 3: View of the west part of the site, facing south-west



Plate 4: View looking north-west along eastern boundary



Plate 5: View of the possible eroded bank, facing south-west



Plate 6: View of the possible bank, facing north-east



Plate 7: A pottery sherd located at the eroded base of the possible bank



Plate 8: View of a bank earthwork, located 100m south-west of the site



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