
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND AT HALL FARM, STANFIELD ROAD,
WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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NGR: TG 1369 0028	Report No: 3812
District: South Norfolk	Site Code: -
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4378
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Hall Farm, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>In May 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at Hall Farm, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk (NGR TG 1369 0028). The assessment was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Ken Hamilton, dated 13/04/2011), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 18/04/2011).</i></p> <p><i>The 1882 OS map identifies Hall Farm as Stanfield Green suggesting that it is of medieval origin. A putative curvilinear cropmark has been identified immediately to the south and may be associated with the green (NHER 53328), and a possible cropmark on a 1988 aerial photograph may relate to this feature. A scatter of multi-period artefacts, including Saxon and medieval metal work and pottery, has been recovered from the fields to the east and north-east of the assessment site (NHER 29341, 55433 and 54963).</i></p> <p><i>Parallel line cropmarks on the assessment site are almost certainly post-medieval land divisions, as the most westerly one corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1882 OS map (NHER 53327). Two possible linear boundaries and a small enclosure to the south of Hall Farm are probably associated with the post-medieval farm (NHER 53328). The Wymondham to Fornsett railway line ran east-west across the assessment site (NHER 13580). It closed in 1951.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	-		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4378</i>	Site code	<i>n/a</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural</i>		
Planned development	<i>Mineral extraction</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>South Norfolk</i>	<i>Wymondham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (NHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	<i>c.30ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TG 1369 0028</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 42-45m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Ken Hamilton)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	-		
Funded by	<i>Longwater Gravel Company Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Hall Farm, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk. An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i>		
Authors	<i>Thompson, P</i>		
Report no.	<i>3812</i>		
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

In May 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at Hall Farm, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk (NGR TG 1369 0028). The assessment was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Ken Hamilton, dated 13/04/2011), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 18/04/2011).

The 1882 OS map (Fig. 9) identifies Hall Farm as Stanfield Green suggesting that it is of medieval origin. A putative curvilinear cropmark has been identified immediately to the south and may be associated with the green (NHER 53328), and a possible cropmark on a 1988 serial photograph may relate to this feature (Plate 2, Fig. 12). A scatter of multi-period artefacts, including Saxon and medieval metal work and pottery, has been recovered from the fields to the east and north-east of the assessment site (NHER 29341, 55433 and 54963).

Parallel line cropmarks on the assessment site are almost certainly post-medieval land divisions, as the most westerly one corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1882 OS map (NHER 53327, Plate 1, Figs. 9 and 12). Two possible linear boundaries and a small enclosure to the south of Hall Farm are probably associated with the post-medieval farm (NHER 53328, Figs. 3 and 12). The Wymondham to Fornsett railway line ran east-west across the assessment site (NHER 13580). It closed in 1951.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at Hall Farm, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk (NGR TG 1369 0028; Figs.1 - 2). The assessment was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Ken Hamilton, dated 13/04/2011), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 18/04/2011), and approved by NCC HES. The desk-based assessment aimed to determine the nature of past land use of the site and its environs, and to assess the impact that any proposed development may have upon potential archaeological remains.

Planning policy context

1.2 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 Wymondham is located approximately 10km south-west of Norwich and is adjacent to the A11 which links Thetford with Norwich. The Hall Farm site is 2km south-east of Wymondham and 1km east of the A11 and comprises fields divided by Bridge Road. The main part of the site is bordered on the north by the B1135 Stanfield Road, and on the east by Bridge Road, with small fields belonging to Hall Farm located in the angle of the two roads. The southern part of the site is bounded by fields and a stream, and the western side is adjacent to a small industrial yard or compound. The fourth field making up the site lies across Bridge Road and is the proposed Plant Operations Area. It is bordered to the east and south-east by an agricultural complex with open fields to the north and south. The course of a former railway line (crossing the main part of the site) borders the northern edge, and the parish boundary between Wymondham and Bracon Ash demarcates the east side.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by the development and to characterise the archaeology of the area. This included examination of the holdings of the Norfolk Aerial Photographic Library.

3.1.2 Relevant sites are described in the text (Section 4.2) and all sites within a 1km radius are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Figure 3.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Norfolk Millennium Centre, Norwich and the Heritage Centre, Norwich. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 4 and reproduced in Figs. 4 – 11.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Norfolk Millennium Centre, Norwich and the Heritage Centre, Norwich as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Site visit

3.4.1 On conclusion of the desk-based assessment a physical walkover of the site was undertaken on 16th May 2011. The site visit had the following purposes:

- to examine the areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment, in particular, with a view to gauging the likely survival or condition of the archaeological remains, and
- to consider the significance of above ground structures (e.g. industrial archaeology), historic buildings, historic landscape features, their settings and potential impacts for the proposed development.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 The site lies at 42-45m AOD in the slight valley of a stream which joins the River Yare in an area of gently undulating open countryside. The south side of the Hall Farm site follows the course of the south-west to north-east flowing stream. The local soils are of the Beccles 1 and Burlingham 1 Series and the underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk.

4.1.2 In more detail the subsoil of central South Norfolk comprises Boulder Clay mainly of Lowestoft and Anglian Tills. It is described as stiff grey glacial till rich in chalk stones which overlies coarse textured outwash and is covered by a thin layer of wind blown sand (Wade 1994). This generally impermeable subsoil would have created a heavy, wet and probably densely wooded landscape in antiquity.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (c. 900,000 BC – 4,500 BC)

4.2.1 Norfolk contains the earliest evidence for human occupation in Britain. Flint tools unearthed from sediments beneath the Cromer Fossil Beds at Happisburgh on the coast, to the north-east of Norwich, are believed to have been deposited either 840,000 or 950,000 years ago. They were probably left by hunter-gatherers of the species *Homo antecessor* on the edge of an extinct course of the river Thames and subsequently washed downriver to the Happisburgh site. During the Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer communities were small, dispersed and itinerant and the nearest prolific stone tool sites to the Hall Farm site lie along the River Yare, most notably at Keswick and Whitlingham to the west of Norwich (Wymer 1994).

4.2.2 The picture is similar for the succeeding Mesolithic period when Britain became heavily forested following the end of the last Ice Age over 10,000 years ago, and conditions caused changes in hunting strategies and tool technology. Hafted flint axes and microlith barbs were among the characterising innovations, and occupation sites were largely along river banks (Wymer 1994a). One of the nearest sites to Hall Farm is at Great Melton, which would then have been deeper in the forest and was probably a temporary hunting camp. A Mesolithic axe head was found at Wymondham (NHER 51741).

Neolithic (4,500 – 2,300 BC)

4.2.3 The Neolithic saw the development of farming societies between 4,500 and 4,000 BC which introduced a more settled way of life with the planting and growing of crops, rearing of stock and use of pottery. Occasionally house remains are found, whilst changes in tool use includes the introduction of quern stones and sickles, and flint axes were ground for re-sharpening (Wymer 1994b). The earliest ceremonial and burial monuments that still survive in the landscape appeared at this time although remains are fairly sparse in Norfolk. The closest is Arminghall Henge to the south-east of Norwich, whilst the nationally-important Late Neolithic (to Bronze Age) flint mines of Grimes Graves are located to the south-west near Brandon. Early Neolithic farmers preferred light soils and well drained valleys although they would also have utilised the heavily wooded central clay lands to some extent, especially in areas containing pockets of sand and gravel (Ashwin 2005).

4.2.4 Fragments of polished axe heads have been found in the surrounding area within 2km of the site (NHER 9431, 9958, 9959 & 30891). They may have derived from Grimes Graves, although a closer flint source is known at Great Melton 8km north of the site (Brown and Murphy 1997). A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint working site has also been identified 2km north-west of Stanfield Hall (NHER 33779). The closest Neolithic occupation site is approximately 1.1km to

the west near the A11 junction for Wymondham, where Neolithic pits and ditches containing pottery and flint tools were identified (NHER 41125). Several other stone tools of possible Neolithic date have been found nearer the site at not closely specified locations. Potentially the closest find spot is a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint scraper from east of Hall Farm (NHER 25892 & 54963).

Bronze Age (c.2,300 – 700 BC)

4.2.5 Metal tools first appeared in Norfolk c.2,500 BC, becoming more common after c.2,100 BC and by the Late Bronze Age metalwork find spots are spread almost uniformly across most of Norfolk (Ashwin 2005a). They represent the presence of extensive and industrious farming communities with the best evidence for daily life coming from the post-axe factory stage at Grimes Graves (Lawson and Wymer 1994). The earliest manmade monuments to become prevalent on the landscape date to this time in the form of round barrows showing more emphasis on individual burials compared with the Neolithic communal long barrows. This may imply greater social hierarchy as only a small percentage of the population was buried beneath them. Aerial photographs of cropmarks have indicated a concentration of possible round barrow ring ditches around Wymondham which include NHER 31470, 3666, 16658, 36403 and 16657. Norfolk lacks stone circles mainly datable to this period, but 'Seahenge', a timber circle at Holme-next-the-Sea dated to 2049 BC, indicates the presence of less durable equivalents. In the Late Bronze Age some areas saw dramatic woodland clearance seen for example in research from the Waveney Valley, whilst barrow construction ceased, although secondary burials were sometimes added to existing ones (Ashwin 2005a).

4.2.6 A burnt mound and ditches containing Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery were excavated at the Neolithic settlement site approximately 1.1km to the west (NHER 41125). A bronze palstave was recovered from almost 1km south-west of the site (NHER 18384), and a fragment of socketed axe came from the vicinity of Hall Farm (NHER 29341). Pot boilers which were most frequently used in the Bronze Age have also been recovered from the surrounding area (NHER 25892 & 9952).

Iron Age (c.700 BC – AD 43)

4.2.7 The Iron Age is not well understood in Norfolk, but is a period that generally saw more intensive exploitation of the landscape with "hill forts" appearing as the most distinctive visible monuments although these are sparsely represented and mainly confined to the west of the county. The presence of other large mainly unenclosed settlements indicates a rise in population. Continuing from the Late Bronze Age however, the earlier part of the Iron Age sees a dearth of human remains and it is probable that excarnation and water burials took place at this time. Iron replaced bronze as the chief metal used for tool and weapon production whilst Norfolk is particularly noted for its metal torcs, horse

harness and coin hoards. By the Late Iron Age the landscape was being intensively exploited by the very late Iron Age tribes of Norfolk (the Iceni).

4.2.8 The central clay lands were agriculturally exploited more than ever before and an industrial settlement has been excavated at Park Farm, Silfield just over 2km south-west of the Hall Farm site. This was an open area with material spread over 25,000 square metres suggesting that the focus of occupation shifted over time (Hutcheonson and Ashwin 2005). Evidence for iron smelting and horn and antler working and a lack of domestic debris suggests that it was a seasonal or part time enterprise (Bryant 1997). Further evidence for Middle to Late Iron Age settlement comprising pits, ditches and post-holes has come from the multi-period site at the A11 Wymondham junction (NHER 41125).

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

4.2.9 Over three and a half centuries of Roman rule saw unprecedented change in the landscape, social environment and infrastructure of Britain. A network of forts, towns and roads crossed much of the country with the material culture becoming more organised and visible, particularly seen in the introduction of masonry buildings, a largely coin based economy, and other durable materials. The closest defended town was *Ventor Icenorum* or Caistor St Edmund to the south of Norwich which was founded c. AD 70 (NHER 9786). The majority of settlements in Norfolk comprise individual farmsteads with the largest and highest status examples classed as villas. The closest sizeable villages to the Hall Farm site were at Long Stratton to the south and Crowthorpe to the west (Gurney 1994).

4.2.10 An aisled structure of probable Romano-British date was identified at the multi-period A11 Wymondham junction site, along with other Romano-British finds including pottery, coins and knives (NHER 41125 & 25892). Metal detecting at not closely recorded locations to the east of the Hall Farm site recovered Roman coins, furniture fittings and pottery (NHER 54963).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1065)

4.2.11 The end of Roman rule is officially dated to AD 410, and with it came the collapse of the infrastructure, the end of town and villa life and a decline in population. At this time Anglo-Saxon immigration occurred whether invited or not, although much of the existing population must have remained in place. Due to a change to a less archaeologically visible material culture settlement evidence is hard to detect, but the general picture is one of continuity of smaller farmsteads but often with the introduction of Anglo-Saxon style sunken featured buildings (SFBs) and timber halls. The pattern of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement is similar to the prehistoric and Roman pattern being thinly spread across Norfolk's central Boulder Clay plateau. In some areas however, extensive field systems have now been identified dating back at least to the Romano-British period which were

taken over, or continued in use, during the Anglo-Saxon period (Penn 1994).

4.2.12 A probable SFB is recorded from the A11 multi-period site near Wymondham Junction and an Early Saxon brooch was metal detected from that area (NHER 41125 and 25892). In the Middle Saxon period (c.650-850) there were changes in settlement patterns including the re-emergence of nucleated settlements and trading emporia, as seen at Norwich, which led to town development in the Late Saxon period (c.850-1066). It is suggested that at this time occupation of the Norfolk uplands was completed although they were probably not heavily exploited. A small amount of Late Saxon coins and pottery has been recovered by metal detectorists from not closely specified locations within 1km of Hall Farm (NHER 25892 and 54963). The earliest surviving record for Wymondham dates to 1086 as *Wimundham* meaning 'homestead of a man called Wigmund' (Mills 1991). The name may derive from Wigmund son of Wiglaf King of Mercia who controlled East Anglia in the 9th century, and Wigmund himself may have ruled briefly in 840.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.13 In 1066 the local manors were owned by Stigand Bishop of the East Angles but by Domesday were in the possession of William d'Aubigny. In 1107 his grandson founded a priory for 12 monks at Wymondham which was largely completed by 1130. It was dedicated to St Mary and St Thomas and subordinate to the Benedictine house at St Albans but achieved abbey status in 1448 before being suppressed in 1538. Most of the buildings were demolished but the church has remained because it was used as the parish church (Wymondhamabbey.org.uk). Moot Hill to the north-east Wymondham is the remains of a motte and bailey castle built by the d'Aubigny's between 1088 and 1139 (NHER 9438). In 1204 the town was granted a weekly market which was reaffirmed in 1440 although the Market Cross was lost in Wymondham's great fire of 1615.

4.2.14 The current Stanfield Hall to the north of Hall Farm stands on the medieval moated manor site of the d'Aubigny's and later the Bigod Earls of Norfolk. In 1216 a chapel was recorded there and a 16th century bridge spans the moat (NHER 9457). To the west of the hall is another possible moated site but the now destroyed features may simply have represented drainage features (NHER 9452). A medieval moated site in Silfield parish with an adjacent fishpond stood approximately 1.2km to the south of Hall Farm (NHER 9952). The site is now destroyed but yielded pottery, although little building material was recovered. Approximately 1.2 km further south-west of this moated site is the location of a medieval deer park named *Oxehage* containing two more possible moated sites (NHER 52767, 9943 & 52767). Approximately 2km south-east of the Hall Farm site is the deserted medieval village and church of Little Wreningham (NHER 9942), whilst 2km to the east of Hall Farm is the site of another possible medieval enclosure (NHER 9991).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

4.2.15 Wymondham was the home town of Robert Kett who in 1539 led a rebellion against land enclosure. His forces occupied Norwich before being defeated in battle at Dussindale, Robert Kett was executed in Norwich and his brother William was hung from the tower of Wymondham's St Mary and St Thomas Church. The current Stanfield Hall is a Grade II* country house built in the 18th or early 19th centuries (NHER 9457). The house was the scene of a famous double murder when the owner Isaac Preston and his eponymous son were shot and two ladies of the house were wounded. The culprit was believed to be James Blomfield Rush who was tried and found guilty at Norwich despite conducting his own 14-hour closing speech. Rush was executed before a crowd of at least 12,000, some brought in on special trains from London.

Modern (1900+)

4.2.16 The line of the former Wymondham to Fornsett railway runs west to east across the main part of the site, and forms a boundary between the northern and two southern fields. The disused railway line also forms the northern boundary to the smaller eastern part of the site. This line was opened in 1881, closed to passengers in 1939 and closed to goods in 1951 (NHER 13580). The site of Hethel WWII USAAF airfield is located east of Stanfield Hall which was also used briefly after the war as an RAF Station (NHER 9522). A post-medieval brick kiln is also recorded at this location (NHER 15396). In 1966 Lotus Cars established a factory on the airfield site which covers some 220 square metres.

Undated

4.2.17 Crop marks of possible features have been noted on or close to the Hall Farm site (Plates 1 & 2, & Fig.12). Two very faint possible linear ditches have been suggested to the south of the Hall Farm field and just outside the northern boundary of the assessment site (NHER 53328). One possible ditch runs parallel with Bridge Road and the other runs at a right angle from it suggesting that they are post-medieval field divisions. The third and faintest cropmark is on a slightly different alignment which runs NW-SE before curving in a WSW-ENE direction and is thought to predate the linear boundaries (Plate 2). It could therefore be of medieval date and connected with an inferred settlement at Stanfield Green (discussed below).

4.2.18 In addition to the above, a group of three or four possible ditches are located in the north-west corner of the assessment site, just to the south of Stanfield Road (NHER 53327 & Plate 1). Two faint lines and one more substantial line run parallel to each other and are set approximately 40m apart, and are almost certainly post-medieval field boundaries. A similar group of three possible ditches are located to the north across Stanfield Road (NHER 53326). Further cropmarks are located just outside the Hall Farm site. Undated

curvilinear banks and ditches are visible in the parish of Bracon Ash to the east of the Hall Farm site (NNER 53329). They are of similar appearance to the linear parish boundary separating Wymondham and Bracon Ash and so are thought to be contemporary and indicative of a medieval or post-medieval date. Close to these is a linear N-S running cropmark of a ditch which joins at right angles a field boundary shown on the 1882 OS Map (NHER 53330 & Fig. 9). A curvilinear ditch also joins a drainage channel here and could be medieval, post-medieval or modern in date.

4.3 The assessment site

Early maps of Suffolk

4.3.1 The earliest map is Faden's work of 1797 which shows Hall Farm located on Bridge Road and a zig-zagging field boundary running down the assessment site parallel with the road (Fig. 4). Silfield to the south is shown as *Sinfield*, Browick is *Braithwaite*, whilst Stanfield Hall appears to be located in the wrong place being too far north. Bryant's map of 1826 shows Stanfield Hall in the right place, and Hall Farm is depicted as Stanfield Farm located between Bridge Road and the parish boundary (Fig 5). Five small buildings are shown in the angle between Bridge Road and Stanfield Road at the north-east corner of the site. The earliest map to show detail of the field layout is the 1810 Enclosure map (Fig. 6). The curvilinear boundary running roughly parallel to Bridge Road is probably the zig-zag line shown on the 1797 Faden map. The 1837 Stanfield Hall estate map which is largely based on the Enclosure map shows clear detail of the lay out of the fields, stream, and buildings at Hall Farm (Fig. 7). The main change compared to the Enclosure map is that the N-S curvilinear boundary has gone, whilst a small enclosure is shown to the south of the existing one to the west of Bridge Road. The building immediately to the north across Stanfield Road is shown as the Lodge (to Stanfield Hall). Quarrying appears to have taken place at the western edge of the assessment site. The 1839 Tithe shows that a north-south aligned field boundary with a dog-leg has disappeared and a W-E field boundary extended to reach Bridge road (Fig. 8). The farm at this time was occupied by James Blomfield Rush and the fields were used for mixed arable and pastoral farming, but have no names assigned to them.

4.3.2 The 1882 First Edition OS map shows the Wymondham and Fornsett Branch railway line crossing the site (Fig. 9). The area in the angle between Stanfield Road and Bridge Road is named Stanfield Green and there are significant changes to the field layout with two or three boundaries disappearing and a large N-S boundary introduced running down the assessment site. Gravel pits and a quarried area are shown just beyond the south and west boundaries of the assessment site. The 1906 OS map shows little change to the First Edition, a saw pit is marked in the Stanfield Green area of Hall Farm (Fig. 10). The 1938 OS emergency edition does not show the entire site but again indicates little

change (Fig. 11). By the time of the modern map the northern part of the main N-S field boundary dividing the fields, has been removed and the small enclosure south of Stanfield Green has gone (Fig. 1 & 2).

4.4 Constraints

Scheduled Monuments – none

Registered Parks or Gardens – none

Areas of Archaeological Potential – none

Listed Buildings - There are six Listed Buildings within 1km of the Hall Farm site. The closets are Silfield Mill and Limetree Farmhouse to the south (NHER 9456 and 48596) (Fig 3).

Conservation Areas – none

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric (< AD 43)

5.1.1 During the prehistoric period it is probable that the heavy boulder clays of central south Norfolk were only lightly exploited and no cropmarks indicative of this period have been noted. There is no evidence for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains within the assessment area. The closest Neolithic occupation site is over 1km to the west of the assessment area near the A11 junction for Wymondham, where pits and ditches containing pottery and flint tools were identified (NHER 41125). This was a multi-period site also occupied during the Bronze Age and Iron Age. Another open Iron Age settlement/industrial site covering an extensive area was located at Park Farm, over 2km to the south-west of the assessment site.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

5.1.2 In some areas extensive field systems have been identified on the heavy clay soils which date back at least to the Romano-British period. An aisled structure of probable Romano-British date was excavated at the Wymondham A11 junction site, and a light scatter of Roman stray finds of metalwork and pottery have been recovered by metal detectorists in the area (NHER 41125, 25892 and 54963).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

5.1.3 The pattern of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement is similar to the prehistoric and Romano-British pattern being thinly spread across Norfolk's central Boulder Clay plateau. A probable SFB is recorded from the A11 multi-period site (NHER 41125 and 25892). It is likely that by the Late Saxon period occupation of the Norfolk uplands was completed although not heavily exploited. A small number of Late Saxon coins and pottery has been recovered by metal detectorists from not closely specified locations within 1km of Hall Farm (NHER 25892 and 54963).

Medieval (AD 1066-1539)

5.1.4 Documentary research from Suffolk for settlements around greens indicates that they are usually medieval foundations from the 12th century onwards, and are usually located on the periphery of their parish suggesting secondary settlement within the landscape (Martin 1999). The 1882 First Edition OS map (Fig. 9) depicts a 'Stanfield Green' at Hall Farm suggesting that its origins are medieval. The faint curvilinear cropmark to the south of Stanfield Green, identified by the Norfolk HER from aerial photography, may therefore represent a medieval boundary relating to this settlement (NHER 53328). A possible curvilinear soil mark on Plate 2 may relate to this crop mark. Further cropmarks of curvilinear banks and ditches are visible in the parish of Bracon Ash immediately to the east of the of the Hall Farm site, which potentially may also be medieval (NHER 53329). Just to the south-west of these is an undated curvilinear ditch which joins a drainage channel (NHER 53330).

Post-medieval to Modern (AD 1539+)

5.1.5 It was not until the later post-medieval period that the introduction of ceramic field drains and use of heavy machinery created the modern arable landscape (Wade Martin 1994). Two very faint possible linear ditch cropmarks located at right angles to each other have been noted to the south of the Stanfield Green enclosure (NHER 53328). It is probable that they are post-medieval field divisions associated with Hall Farm (or Stanfield Farm as it was formerly known). In the same area a small enclosure south of the larger Stanfield Green enclosure has disappeared since the issuing of the 1938 OS map. Three or four possible ditches are located parallel to each other in the northern part of the site (Plate 1), the most substantial ditch is located in the same place as a field boundary shown on the 1882 OS map (NHER 53327 and Fig. 9). Further possible post-medieval field boundary ditches are located to the north across Stanfield Road (NHER 53326), and to the east of the assessment site (NHER 53330). The line of the former Wymondham to Fornsett railway runs west to east across the main part of the site and forms the northern boundary to the smaller eastern section (NHER 13580).

5.2 Previous Ground Disturbance

5.2.1 The Stanfield Hall Estate map indicates quarrying has occurred to the west just outside the assessment site (Fig. 7). The OS maps show that gravel pitting has taken place to the west of the site in the area now built over, and that further gravel pitting and quarrying has occurred to the south just outside the assessment site (Figs. 9 -11, Plate 2). A swathe across the site is likely to have been intruded upon with the construction of the railway line in 1881 (NHER 13580 and Fig. 9).

5.3 Archaeological Potential

5.3.1 The definition of the archaeological potential of the site is hindered by the lack of previous archaeological investigations.

5.3.2 Based on the known archaeological evidence, the archaeological potential of the site may be described:

Prehistoric – Low

Roman – Low

Anglo-Saxon – Low

Medieval – Moderate: The presence of a probable medieval settlement at Hall Farm (Stanfield Green), and a curvilinear boundary cropmark to its south suggests the possibility of medieval remains on the assessment site (NHER 53328).

Post-medieval – High: The evidence from cropmarks and historic maps shows the presence of field boundaries and enclosures on the site (NHER 53327, 53328, Plate 1 and Fig. 12). The Wymondham to Forncett railway line also ran across the site (NHER 13580).

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 During the prehistoric period it is probable that the forested heavy boulder clays of central south Norfolk were only lightly exploited and no cropmarks indicative of this period have been noted. It was probably not until Late Saxon times that the landscape was fully occupied although not heavily exploited.

6.2 The 1882 OS map (Fig. 9) identifies Hall Farm as Stanfield Green suggesting that it is of medieval origin, and probably founded as a secondary settlement to the moated medieval manor site of the d'Aubigny's at Stanfield Hall

(NHER 9457). A putative curvilinear cropmark has been identified by the Norfolk HER immediately north of the assessment site and south of Hall Farm (NHER 53328). A possible cropmark on a 1988 aerial photograph may relate to this (Plate 2, Fig. 12). A scatter of multi-period artefacts, including Saxon and medieval metal work and pottery, has been recovered by metal detectorists from not closely recorded locations in the fields to the east and north-east of the assessment site (NHER 29341, 55433 and 54963).

6.3 Crop-marks of three or four linear boundaries on the assessment site are almost certainly post-medieval land divisions, as the most westerly one corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1882 OS map (NHER 53327, Plate 1, Figs. 9 and 12). Two possible linear boundaries located at right angles to each other in the same area as the possible curvilinear boundary (above), are probably post-medieval field divisions related to Stanfield Farm (NHER 53328 and Fig. 3). A small enclosure is also shown here on the historic maps (Figs. 6-12). The Wymondham to Fornsett railway line ran east-west across the site which closed in 1951 (NHER 13580).

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client Mr Simon Smith, Operations Director of Longwater Gravel Company Ltd.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Ms Sarah Howard, Assistant HER officer of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and staff at the Norfolk Millennium Centre, Norwich and the Heritage Centre, Norwich

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

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WEB SITES

RAF Hethel

Wymondhamabbey.org.uk

APPENDIX 1 HER INFORMATION

SHER Number	National Grid Reference	Details
<i>Bronze Age 2,300 BC – 700 BC</i>		
18384	127 997	Bronze Age palstave found in a field
29341	14 00	Late Bronze Age socketed axe fragment
<i>Medieval AD 1066-1539</i>		
9457	1434 0102	Stanfield Hall: medieval moat and site of medieval manor with a chapel recorded in 1216. Current house is Grade II* and late 18 th /early 19 th century
34445	12 00	Metal detecting recovered medieval objects including an ampulla and buckle and post-medieval buckle and cloth seal
54073	1459 9944	12 th -13 th century pot and a coin of Henry VII (1485-1509)
55433	14 00	Medieval to post-medieval artefacts including medieval coins and jettons and med or post-med knife and cauldron lug
<i>Post-medieval AD 1539-1900</i>		
9456	1281 0008	Silfield Mill: Built in 1850 now converted into a house Grade II listed
13578	18366 73587	Eastern Union Railway Norwich to Diss line opened 1849 and built over in 1980s
13580	13670 00385	Route of Wymondham to Forncett railway line opened 1881 and closed to goods in 1951
16214	1274 0115	Banhams Farm, Browick built 1570 Grade II listed
18441	1433 9935	High Common Cottage early 16 th Grade II listed
19482	1455 9932	High House Farmhouse 16 th -mid 17 th Grade II* listed
32308	131 014	Post-medieval or earlier ditches, banks and scarp and possible toft at Browick. They are shown on the 1806 Enclosure Map and are probably earlier features
34168	1280 0119	Wiffen' Farm 17 th century Grade II listed
48596	12868 00052	Limetree Farmhouse c.1730 with later alterations Grade II listed
<i>Modern 1900+</i>		
9522	140 0048	Hethel World War II USAAF airfield
<i>Multi-period</i>		
25892	12 01	Multi-period finds from metal detecting: Includes Possibly Neolithic scrapers and burnt flint, Roman coins, pottery and harness fittings, Early Saxon brooch, Late Saxon pennies, medieval pot, bronze vessel rim and shearboard hook, post-medieval coins, pottery and clapper bells

54963	14 00	Multi-period finds from not closely specified locations including: Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint scraper; Roman coins, pottery and furniture fittings; Late Saxon to medieval pottery; medieval buckles, strap ends and book clasp; post-medieval harness mount and crotal bell
<i>Undated</i>		
9452	139 009	Possible moated site but could be drainage ditches and ponds. Now destroyed surviving only in cropmark earthworks
53324	1417 0100	Earthwork ditch and ploughed out bank south-east of Stanfield Hall moat and possibly associated with it
53325	1423 0077	Linear cropmarks of a possible boundary. It may have demarcated woodland
53326	1352 0075	Three undated ditch cropmarks
53327	1352 0052	Faint cropmarks of three possible ditches south of Stanfield Road
53328	1388 0033	Cropmarks of possible linear and curvilinear ditches south of Stanfield Road and possibly relating to post-med Stanfield Farm. The most substantial ditch may represent a field division related to Stanfield Green
53329	1431 0031	Curvilinear soil marks of possible medieval to post-medieval banks and ditches. They may be contemporary with the Wymondham and Bracon Ash parish boundary
53330	1416 0017	Land south of Wymondham Road: Possible medieval to post-medieval linear field boundary ditch and curvilinear drainage channel of medieval to modern date
5331	1307 0089	Undated possible double ditched trackway east of Stanfield Road. Could be recent agricultural activity

APPENDIX 2: CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Fig. No.	Map type and Source/ Location	Date	Scale
1	Site location (OS Explorer)	Modern	1:25,000
2	Client's detailed site location	Modern	1:2,500
3	HER information (AS)	Modern	1:10,000
4	Faden's Map of Norfolk (Barringer 1989)	1797	
5	Bryant's Map of Norfolk (Barringer 1998)	1826	
6	Enclosure Map (Norfolk Heritage Centre C/SCA 2/345)	1810	
7	Stanfield Hall Estate Map (Norfolk Heritage Centre BR 276/1/1099)	1837	
8	Tithe Map (Norfolk Heritage Centre DN/TA 448)	1839	
9	First Edition OS Map (Norwich Millennium Centre LXXXVI & LXXIV)	1882	1:2,500
10	OS Map (Norwich Millennium Centre LXXXVI & LXXIV)	1906	1:2,500
11	OS Map: Special emergency edition (Norwich Millennium Centre 74 SE)	1938	1:10,560
12	Site location with cropmarks and field boundaries superimposed (AS)	Modern	

APPENDIX 3: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph	Source	Date
Plate 1	Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (RAF)	11 March 1946
Plate 2	Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (TG138002 B DSK13 Flight No. 13)	20 July 1988

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
*View NE from southern side of site, with
Bridge Road on the right of the picture*



2
*View NW from southern side of site, on
Bridge Road*



3
*View W along southern edge of site, from
Bridge Road*



4
*View E along southern edge of site, from
Bridge Road*



5
*View NE from southern edge of site, on
Bridge Road*



6
*View S from crest of bridge on Bridge
Road*



7
View W from crest of bridge on Bridge Road



8
View N from crest of bridge on Bridge Road



9
View W from near north-eastern corner of site, on Bridge Road



10
View SW from near north-eastern corner of site, on Bridge Road



11
View S, from Stanfield Road, adjacent to Hall Cottages



12
Vies SW from Hall Cottages, with Stanfield Road on the right of the picture



13
*View SE from northern edge of site, on
Stanfield Road*



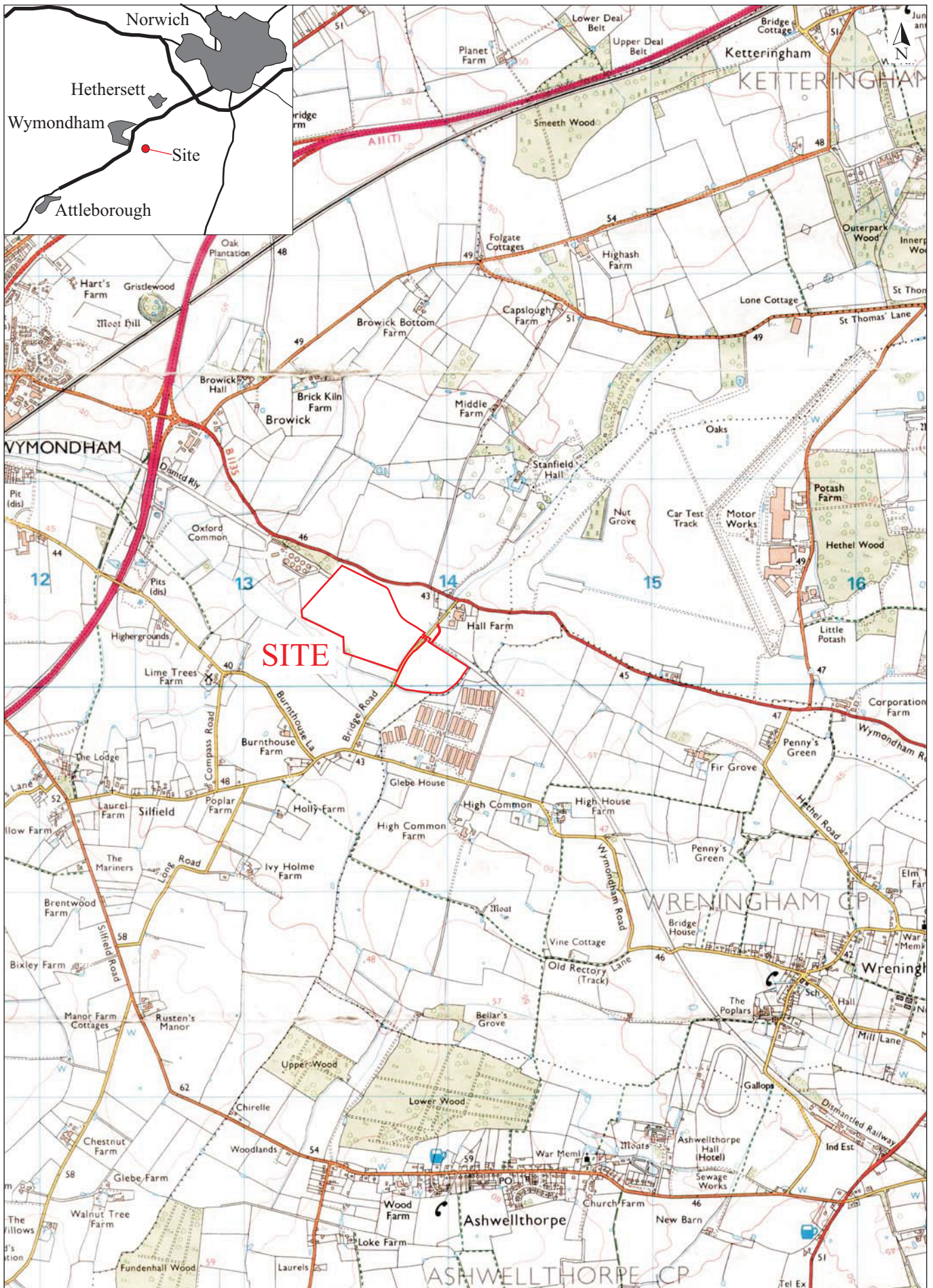
14
*View SW from northern edge of site, on
Stanfield Road*



15
*View W from northern edge of site, on
Stanfield Road (to the right of the picture)*

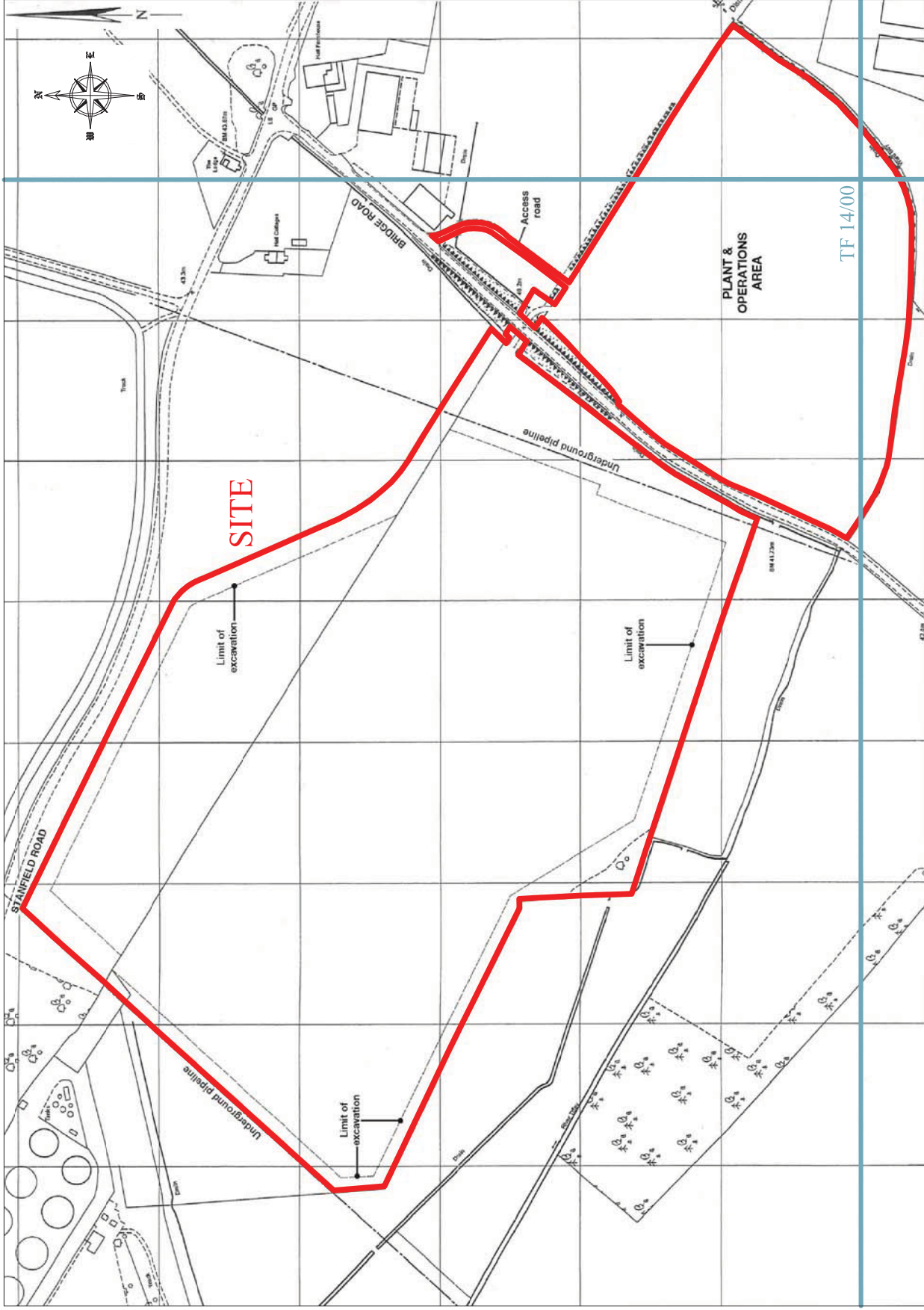


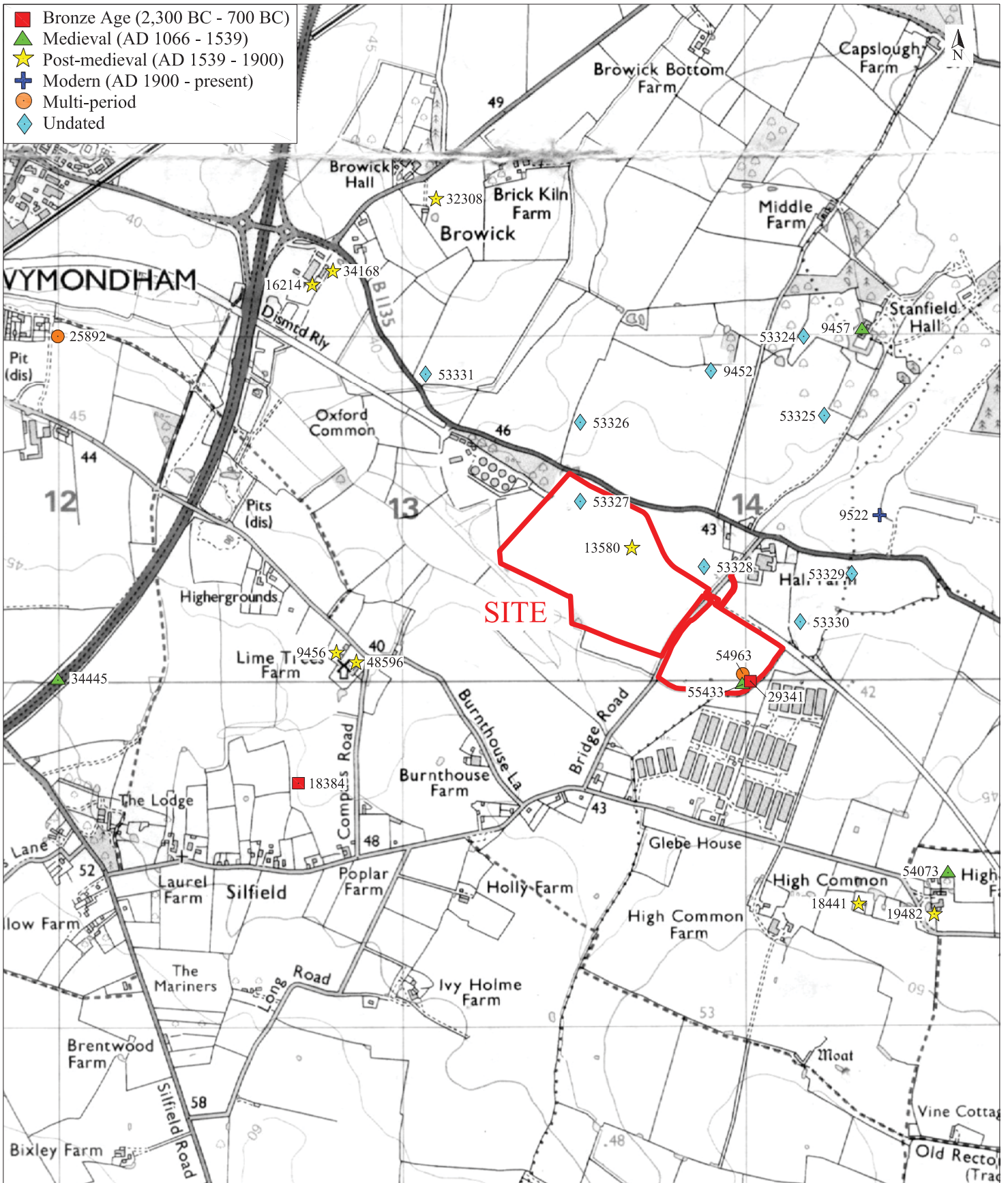
16
*View SE from Stanfield Road, of road
bridge over former railway*



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



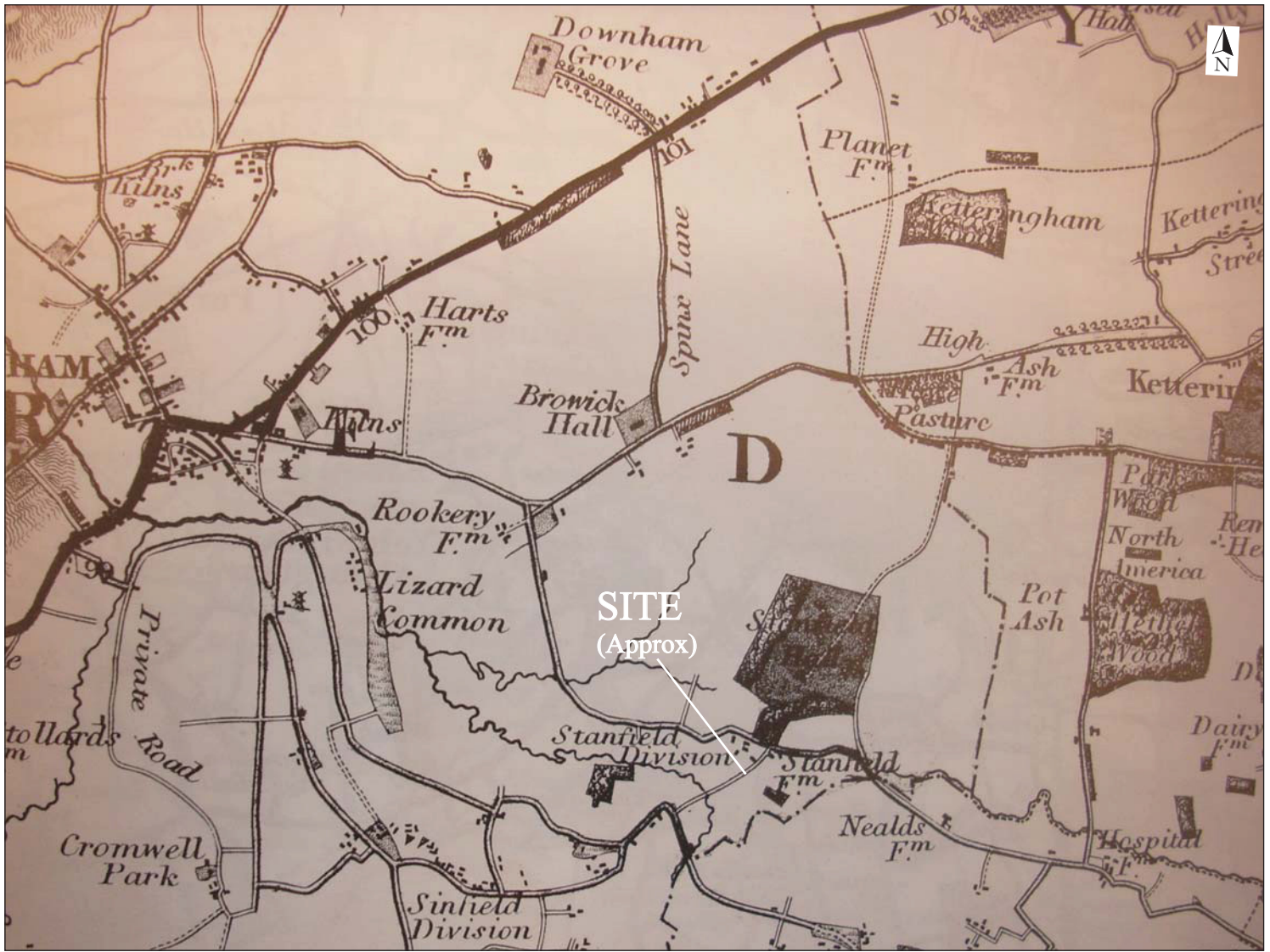


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Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:15,000 at A4



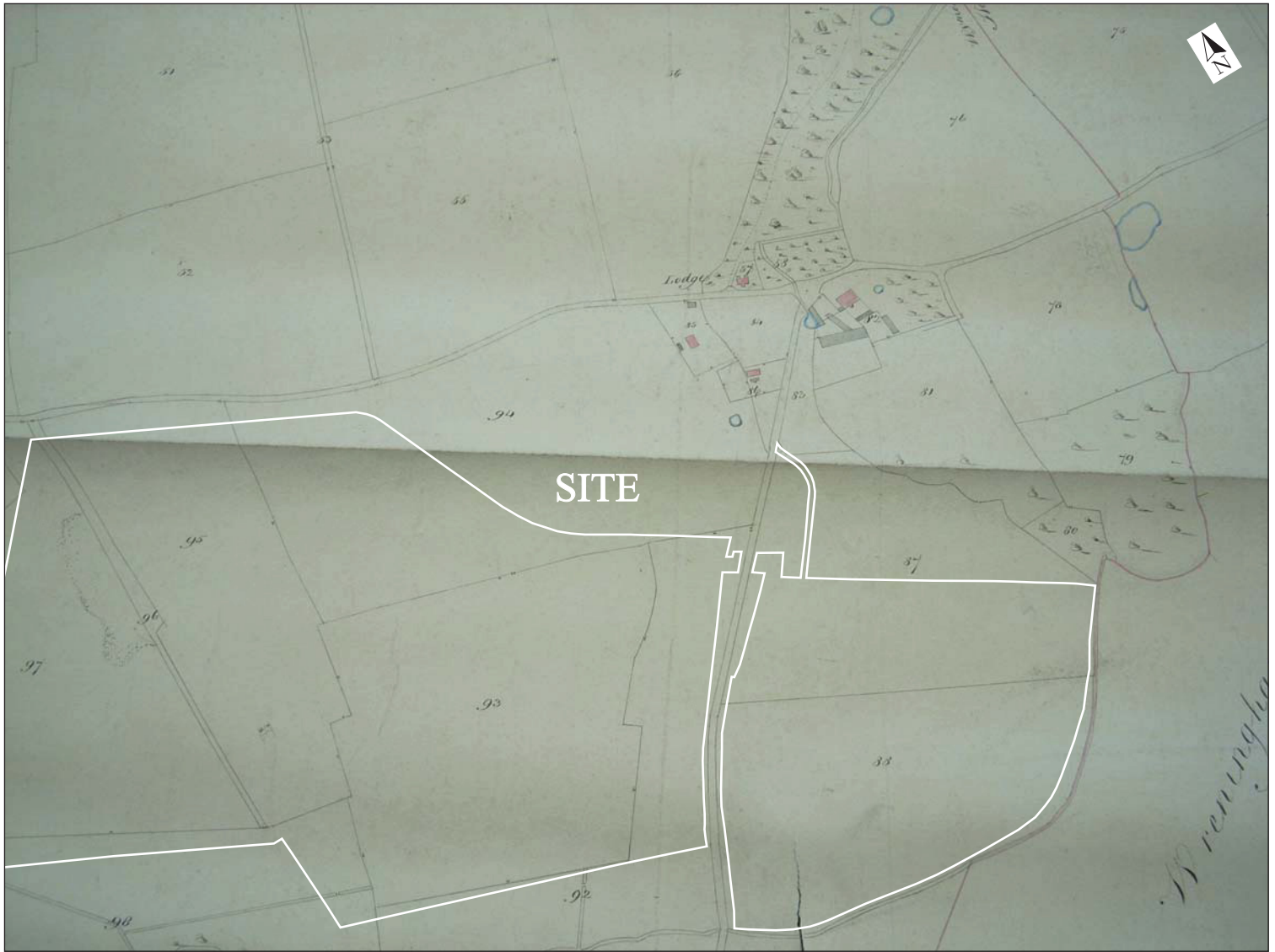
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Fig. 4 Faden's map of Norfolk, 1797
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Bryant's map of Norfolk, 1826
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 Enclosure map, 1810
Not to scale



SITE

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Fig. 7 Stanfield Hall estate map, 1837
Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 8 Tithe Map, 1839
Not to scale



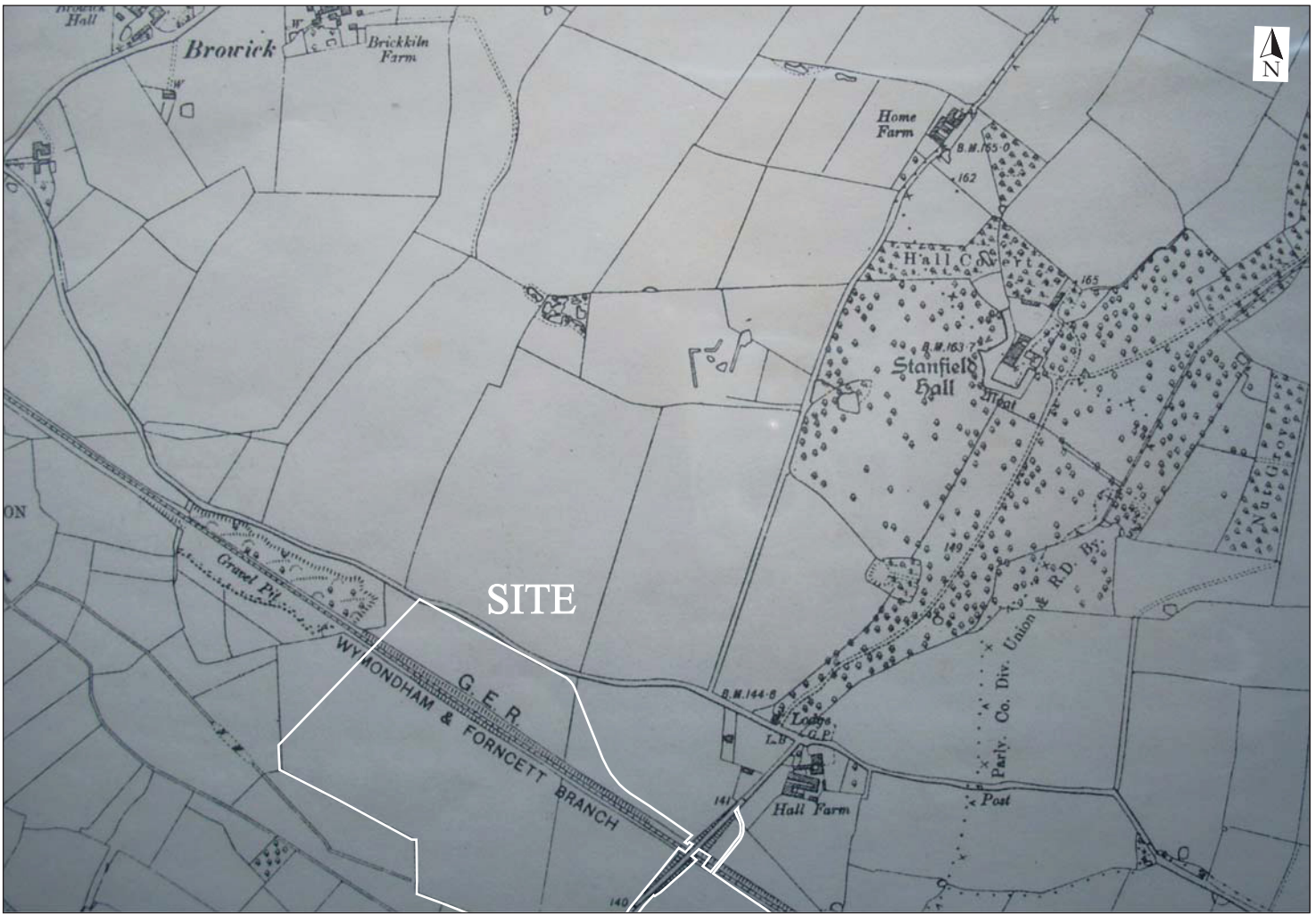
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Fig. 9 First edition OS map, 1882
 Not to scale



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Fig. 10 OS map, 1906
 Not to scale



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Fig. 11 OS map, special emergency edition, 1938
Not to scale