

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BOWMAN'S MILL, ASTWICK,
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE**

A HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

Author: Peter Thompson MA	
NGR: TL 21685 38436	Report No. 4062
District: Central Bedfordshire	Site Code: N/A
Approved: C. Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4389
Signed:	Date: April 2012

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**98-100 Fore, Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
01992 558170**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
01284 765210**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party replies upon this report entirely at their own risk. Unauthorised copying, reproduction or distribution to other parties will constitute a breach of copyright and is prohibited

CONTENTS

	OASIS SUMMARY
	SUMMARY
1	INTRODUCTION
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
3	METHODOLOGY
4	THE EVIDENCE
	4.1 Topography, geology & soils
	4.2 Archaeological and historical background
	4.3 Cartographic sources
	4.4 Site Visit
	4.5 Constraints
5	DISCUSSION
6	CONCLUSION
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY
Appendix 1	Historic Environment Record data
Appendix 2	Listed Buildings
Appendix 3	Cartographic sources

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Bowman's Mill, Astwick, Bedfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In April 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a heritage assessment on the site of a proposed redevelopment at Bowman's Mill, Astwick, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 21685 38436). The assessment was commissioned by Briffa Phillips in support of a planning application for the project which includes re-development of the mill and farmhouse, the erection of new buildings and landscaping.</i></p> <p><i>A possible prehistoric ring ditch is located approximately 300m east of Bowman's Mill (BHER 16836). Cropmarks of a probable Romano-British villa or farmstead are located to the north of the assessment site and appear to extend to towards the site (BHER 3550). A Romano-British cemetery is recorded approximately 80-100m north-west of Bowman's Mill (BHER 503), and a scatter of Romano-British pottery was located between the cemetery and the settlement crop marks (BHER 15940).</i></p> <p><i>Bowman's Mill dated to 1847 is a Grade II listed building (BHER 1010). The 1804 Inclosure Map shows a large rectangular building on a north-south alignment at approximately the location of the mill and two or three other buildings on the site. The 1901 and 1924 OS Maps show the level has been modified, and the mill and Mill House are present. The mill has ancillary buildings to the west and north; most notably a rectangular structure abuts its north-west side, several buildings are grouped to the south-west, and a row of buildings or structures line the track to the north.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>n/a</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4389</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Heritage Asset Assessment</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Mill House and disused mill, grass and scrub</i>		
Planned development	<i>Re-development of existing buildings, construction of garages and workshop, and garden landscaping</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Astwick</i>
HER for area	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG5 4BJ</i>		
Area of site	<i>-</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 21685 38436</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>40m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Requirement of Central Bedfordshire Council</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Steve Hicks</i>		
Full title	<i>Bowman's Mill, Astwick, Bedfordshire, A Heritage Assessment</i>		
Authors	<i>Peter Thompson MA</i>		
Report no.	<i>4062</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2012</i>		

BOWMAN'S MILL, ASTWICK, CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

A HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

In April 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a heritage assessment on the site of a proposed redevelopment at Bowman's Mill, Astwick, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 21685 38436). The assessment was commissioned by Briffa Phillips in support of a planning application for the project which includes re-development of the mill and farmhouse, the erection of new buildings and landscaping.

A possible prehistoric ring ditch is located approximately 300m east of Bowman's Mill (BHER 16836). Cropmarks of a probable Romano-British villa or farmstead are located to the north of the assessment site and appear to extend to towards the site (BHER 3550). A Romano-British cemetery is recorded approximately 80-100m north-west of Bowman's Mill (BHER 503), and a scatter of Romano-British pottery was located between the cemetery and the settlement crop marks (BHER 15940).

Bowman's Mill dated to 1847 is a Grade II listed building (BHER 1010). The 1804 Inclosure Map shows a large rectangular building on a north-south alignment at approximately the location of the mill and two or three other buildings on the site. The 1901 and 1924 OS Maps show the level has been modified, and the mill and Mill House are present. The mill has ancillary buildings to the west and north; most notably a rectangular structure abuts its north-west side, several buildings are grouped to the south-west, and a row of buildings or structures line the track to the north.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a heritage asset assessment on the site of a proposed redevelopment at Bowmans Mill, Astwick, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 21685 38436; Figs.1 - 2). The assessment was commissioned by Briffa Phillips to support a planning application for the project which includes re-development of the mill and farmhouse, the erection of new buildings and landscaping. The assessment was required by Central Bedfordshire Council.

1.2 In 2011 Archaeological Solutions carried out a historic building appraisal recording at the assessment site on Bowman's Mill, the abutting despatch house on the north end of the mill, and the mill house (BHER 1010; Smith 2011).

1.3 The assessment was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by AS (dated 30/03/2012). The project also followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (revised 2008), and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Paper 14/ALGAO (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The objectives of the heritage assessment were to provide for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site, to consider the site within its wider archaeological context and to describe the likely extent, nature, condition, importance and potential state of preservation of the archaeology. The context of future development proposals for the site has been examined and areas of significant previous ground disturbance have been identified. Specific project objectives were:

- To determine the location, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of the site's historic environment from documentary sources
- To include an appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site.
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains present or likely to be present on the site, and include an appraisal of their significance.
- To assess any previous impacts on the site and the impact on any potential archaeological remains by any proposed development
- To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable management/investigation strategy for the site's historic environment in the light of any proposals.

Planning Policy

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

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

2.1 The small village of Astwick is located 5km north of Letchworth and 1.5 km north of Stotfold. It is 1km west of the A1(T) Great North Road, and 2km north of where the A1(M) ends.

2.2 Bowman's Mill is located 450-500m south-west of St Guthlac's Church and is accessed from Astwick Lane to the north via Mill Lane. The main part of the site proposed for development comprises Mill Lane and the enclosure at the end that contains Bowman's Watermill, the millhouse to the north-east and a group of houses to the north-west. The assessment site also includes land to the south of Bowman's Watermill, beyond the River Ivel, up to a leat or drainage ditch looping south from the river before re-joining it further to the east. The three fields immediately east and north of the Ivel are also included within the assessment site parameters.

3 METHODOLOGY

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within the district comes from the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (CBHER). Significant entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 4. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Services (Bedford). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 3 and reproduced in Figs. 5-12.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service (Bedford) 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 Geological/geotechnical information

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

3.5 Site Inspection

3.5.1 In the course of the heritage assessment, a site walk over was undertaken on 18.04/2012 (DPs 1-12). The inspection 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 and condition of archaeological remains; and
- to consider the significance of any above ground structures, historic buildings, and historic landscape features, and their potential impact on the proposed development.

4 The Evidence

4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

4.1.1 The assessment site is located at approximately 40m AOD on the north bank of the River Ivel which then turns south towards Stotfold. The land to the north is comparatively flat for approximately 750m before rising steeply. A large drainage ditch runs south-westwards from the A1(T) across the flat ground to join

the Ivel west of Astwick. To the south the ground is also fairly flat gradually rising in the vicinity of Stotfold.

4.1.2 The local soils is of the Kelmscot Association made up of calcareo-cambic gley soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). These are loamy or clayey soils, normally developed within or over permeable materials, that have prominently mottled or uniformly grey subsoils resulting from periodic waterlogging by a fluctuating groundwater-table (soilsworldwide.net). The underlying solid geology comprises Gault Clay of the Albian Series (Institute of Geological Sciences 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (Figs.4 & 4a)

Prehistoric (<500,000 BC –AD 43)

4.2.1 The most important earlier Palaeolithic deposits have been found in the Great Ouse Valley and the Chilterns, but there have been few finds discovered post-dating the early 20th century. There is also a paucity of Upper Palaeolithic finds from Bedfordshire (Oake 2007, 18). Neolithic and early Bronze Age remains are comparatively rare although there is a bias towards river valleys such as the Ivel due to the focus of field work activity (Oake 1007, 19). In the late Bronze Age and Iron Age there is much increased evidence for settlement, including late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age remains on a prominent hilltop at the former Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold. Remains include a large late Bronze Age enclosure, an adjacent cluster of pits and three late Bronze Age cremation burials. This phase of occupation was followed by a substantial 5th-4th centuries settlement including small enclosures, roundhouses, four-post structures and numerous storage pits, with some limited continuity of occupation succeeding into the middle Iron Age. Human remains and articulated animal skeletons had been deposited in several of the pits and pottery with unique forms of decoration, and atypically early rotary querns were present at this site (www.thehumanjourney).

4.2.2 Cropmarks immediately north of the assessment site, and approximately 250-300m east of Bowman's Mill are indicative of a possible Bronze Age Ring Ditch (BHER 16826). Cropmarks suggesting scatters of curvilinear and sub-angular enclosures have been noted alongside the River Ivel some 650m south of the assessment site (BHER 16827). There are no other finds of possible prehistoric date recorded from within 1km of the assessment site.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

4.2.3 Baldock was an important Romano-British town located on a major network of Roman roads. Roads from Roman Colchester and St Albans merged at Baldock and continued as a single road (the Great North Road) to Sandy and Godmanchester where it joined Ermine Street, the major route linking London with York (www.baldockhistory.org.uk). Approximately 500m north of the

assessment site is a series of rectilinear cropmarks whose very regular layout almost certainly indicates the presence of Romano-British archaeological remains (Figs. 5 - 9). This may represent the site of a substantial villa or other building, with the settlement linked to the Baldock-Sandy Roman Road by some 400m of straight ditched track (BHER 3550).

4.2.4 It is recorded that some time before 1886 a cemetery site was discovered adjacent to the assessment site. "Near Astwick, in digging of coprolites, large numbers of human skeletons were disinterred, and near these were samian vessels, all quite perfect, with potters names distinctly legible on most of them" (HER 503, Kennet 1972 45-51). At least one of the burials was accompanied by a Roman pot – a Castor beaker (Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat) of late 3rd to early 4th centuries date was recorded by the head of the skeleton. It is apparent however, that an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was also present at this site (discussed below, 4.2.6), and therefore two separate periods of burials are centred on the field to the north of Bowman's Mill (BHER 503). It is not clear precisely where the samian vessels were located and whether or not they were directly associated with any of the burials.

4.2.5 To the north of Astwick Road, between the Romano-British cemetery (BHER 503) and the probable Roman settlement (BHER 3550), was recovered a scatter of Romano-British pottery (BHER 15940). The assemblage comprised an abraded foot ring of a samian bowl, 2 colour coated sherds from a Nene Valley box, and 5 greywares and a flanged rim with an oxidised red exterior. A Roman copper alloy pin was also found at a not closely recorded location but probably from within 500m of the assessment site (BHER 18810). Metal detecting in the vicinity of Church Farm also recovered a Roman brooch and pin (BHER 19242).

Anglo-Saxon (410-1066)

4.2.6 At the same time that the Romano-British burials were found evidence for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the same location was also uncovered. "A sword and number of spearheads with divided haft, indicative of Saxon workmanship as distinguished from the usually welded haft of the Roman weapons were also found. One of these is very unusual type. There was also a shield boss in fragments, but when cleaned the pieces were easily put together" (HER 503, Kennet 1972 45-51). The principal finds were the sword, four 7th century spearheads, a 7th century shield boss and a lancehead. The latter is an unusual find in Britain but has parallels on the Continent such as late 5th-early 6th century examples at Krefeld-Gellep on the Lower Rhine (Kennet 1972). The interpretation for Astwick is that it was a small 7th century cemetery of around 20 individuals with perhaps 5 graves accompanied by weapon burials.

Medieval

4.2.7 At the time of the Domesday Survey the land that became Astwick Manor was held by Hugh de Beauchamp who had three tenants – Bernard holding one hide and one virgate, Wenelinc holding half a hide, and Ledmar who held half a hide including a mill which he had previously held from Earl Tosti during Edward the Confessor's time (Page 1908). Walter the Fleming also had a small holding in Astwick at the time of the Survey, when Hugh held of him 1 virgate and a mill which had formerly been held by Lewin, a thegn of King Edward, and this fee was held by his heirs the Wahulls. The mill is last mentioned in 1386. Hugh owned a second watermill which remained as part of Astwick manor; the appointment of the miller re-occurs in the Court Rolls. In 1265 John de Beaufort overlord of Astwick and last feudal baron of Bedford, was slain at the battle of Evesham and his sisters became heiresses to the manor. In 1328 the overlordship of the manor passed by marriage to William Latimer and in 1499 Richard Neville, Lord Latimer, conveyed the manor by fine to John, Archbishop of Canterbury (Page 1908).

4.2.8 While the Beauchamps were overlords the tenants of the manor took the family name Astwick and they gradually acquired most of the parish lands becoming lords of the manor. In 1479 William Astwick leased the manor to John and Robert Squire, and by 1487 Richard Sheldon held the manorial court. In 1499 his son also Richard, leased the lordship to Roger Slow and by 1539 it was in the possession of Edmund Kympton (Page 1908). Traces of another manor in Astwick are recorded in the 15th century where the will of one John Enderby mentions the owning of lands and tenements in Astwick. In 1471 this property was known as the Manor of Astwick of John de Jons. In 1497 John Enderby, recently come of age, is recorded paying homage to Richard Sheldon and in 1487 the manor was seized by Richard Sheldon on the death of a Richard Enderby. In the 16th century the Enderby lands passed to the Piggotts who defaulted as suitors of the manor.

4.2.9 A Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a medieval moat and associated outer enclosure is located approximately 40m north-west of the assessment site (BHER 502; SAM 11539). The moat is 75m by 50m in its maximum external dimensions and is 8m wide. The island within is accessed by a 2m wide causeway to the south-west and contains a post-medieval farmhouse, Astwick Bury, which is Grade II listed (BHER 2077). A leat at the south-east corner of the moat turns two angles to form a partially enclosed area to the east. A second moated enclosure is located on the south side enclosing an island 60m by 35m accessed by a 4m wide causeway in the north-west corner. It is delineated by a narrow drain on its south and west sides while the moat and its leat define the other two sides. The interior is deliberately mounded some 1.5m higher than the surrounding area, but there is no evidence for contemporary medieval buildings. The source of the water for the moat is unknown but it is located near to the River Ivel and so may derive from there. It is not known

whether this is the site of the manor of the Astwick or Enderby families, and it is possible it was owned by another wealthy family in the village. A group of earthworks identified on 1961 aerial photographs to the south and south-west of Astwick Bury may represent remains of the medieval village; they have since been ploughed out (BHER 2776).

4.2.10 The Grade II* listed Church of St Guthlac is a 15th century reworking of an older building which itself has been re-worked in later periods (BHER 1009). It is part of a larger building with the West Tower originally forming the central tower of a cruciform church (Page 1908). The church is believed to stand on, or close to, the site of an earlier church. A scatter of 28 medieval and post-medieval finds have been recovered during metal detecting to the north of St Guthlac's (BHER 18361). They include a late 12th-early 13th century coin, a late 13th-early 15th century bell, five 13th-mid 15th century buckles, and a 15th-16th century candlestick. A late 16th century Nuremberg jeton was also found to the south of the church, beside Astwick Road (BHER 1891).

Post-Medieval and Modern

4.2.11 In 1620 George Kympton is recorded selling the manor of Astwick to John Hudson of London and there were subsequently various owners, until the time of the Inclosure Act in 1804, when John Jackson was lord of the manor. The last reference to Astwick Manor is in 1822 when Robert Jackson and others was the lord.

4.2.12 In 2011 Archaeological Solutions carried out a Level 1 historic building recording at the assessment site on Bowman's Mill, the abutting despatch house on the north end of the mill, and the mill house (BHER 1010). The mill, which is Grade II listed, was constructed in 1847, but the attached despatch office was probably added ten or twenty years later. Similarity in architectural features suggests that the mill house was also built in its present form at the same time as the despatch office. The mill is exceptionally well preserved, having been kept in good repair during its long period of disuse. Although much of the machinery and many original fixtures and fittings are gone, the building may still be appreciated as an example of Victorian industrial technology and is an important survival for the county (Smith 2011).

4.2.13 In the 19th century fossil digging was a lucrative occupation in the Parish of Astwick and the surrounding villages. The industry began in south-east Suffolk and spread to the Hinxworth and Ashwell area near Astwick c.1857. These fossil deposits of dinosaur, mammal, lizard, and fish droppings, termed phosphate nodules, were dug from the Lower Cambridgeshire Greensand which outcropped in this area (www.bernardoconnor.org.uk). They were sought for their geological and palaeontological value as well as their phosphate content, and labourers could command above average wages for digging the pits, while scholars visited the sites to procure specimens. Coprolite yields averaged 250 tons an acre and

in 1862, one Mr Lawes is recorded leasing 10 acres of land in Astwick, part of a field called Fox Holes. The coprolite industry at Astwick is thought to have ended by c.1881.

Modern

4.2.14 To the south of the River Ivel and beside Astwick Road, three or four parallel ditches are probably modern drainage ditches as they discharge into a modern field drain (BHER 9097).

4.3 Cartographic Evidence

4.3.1 The 1804 Inclosure Map predates the construction of Bowman's Mill (Fig. 10). It shows that the Ivel forms an almost continuous river with only a small gap just to the south of Mill Lane. In the gap, and approximately in the location of the current mill house is a large rectangular building shaded grey on a north-south alignment. At the end of Mill Lane is another smaller rectangular grey building which is also present on the 1901 and 1924 OS Maps (Figs. 11-12), with a third building to its south-west. To the south of the third building appears to be a black almost square structure on the bank of the Ivel. The Tithe Map and First Edition OS Map were not available. The 1901 2nd edition OS Map shows the modifications to the Ivel are as today (Fig. 11). The mill and Mill House are shown. The mill has a number of ancillary buildings to the west and north. Most notably a rectangular structure abuts the north-west side of the mill, several buildings are grouped to the south-west, and a line of houses or cottages line a track to the north. A boathouse is shown to the south-east of the mill house. The 1924 OS shows no change to the arrangement of buildings on the assessment site (Fig. 12).

4.5 Site Visit

4.5.1 On the 18th April, 2012 the site was visited and the area proposed for development walked over (DPs 1-12). The area for proposed development contained the disused Bowman's Mill with exterior in good condition (DPs 6-8), Mill House (DPs 2 & 5) and the remains of outbuildings or small structures north-west of the mill (DP 4). Areas of hard standing are also present (DP 8), and the site is accessed from Astwick Road via the metalled road of Mill Lane (DP 2 & 3). The River Ivel runs across most of the site (DP 5), immediately west of the mill it is covered. The remainder of the assessment site to the south and east of the mill is largely overgrown with grass and scrub (DP 9-12).

4.6 Constraints

Listed Buildings – Bowman’s Watermill and despatch office is a Grade II listed building (BHER 1010 & LB 492461). Other Listed buildings within 500m of the site are listed in Appendix 2.

Registered Park and Gardens – There are no registered parks or gardens within 500m of the assessment site.

Archaeological Priority Area – The assessment site is not in a designated archaeological priority area but abuts areas of archaeological potential including BHER Sites 503, 16826 and possibly 2776 and 3550.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments – Astwick Bury moat and associated moated mound is a Scheduled Ancient Monument situated 40-50m north-west of the site (BHER 502 & SAM 11539).

Conservation Areas – The site is located within Astwick Conservation Area.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Impact of the Proposed Development

Previous Ground Disturbance

5.1.1 Earthworks possibly relating to Astwick Medieval Village located to the south and south-west of the Scheduled Ancient Monument medieval moated site have since been ploughed away (BHER 2776). The Parish of Astwick is recorded as undergoing coprolite digging in the 19th century. One site is close to the assessment site where prior to 1886 and probably 1881, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries were identified during digging for the fossil remains (BHER 503). However, the documentary evidence appears to place the main coprolite working sites to the north and north-east of Astwick village around Hinxworth. Sites mentioned include Loves Farm and Glebe Farm, and a coprolite pit is recorded on the 1931 OS Map on the west side of Topleys Hill by the A1(T) (www.bernardoconnor.org.uk). There is apparently no further documentary evidence for coprolite digging in the vicinity of the assessment site, and the historic maps likewise show no evidence for quarrying or pit digging (Figs. 7-9). The 1901 OS Map (Fig. 11) shows that there have been quite extensive changes or modifications made to the course of the River Ivel on the area around Bowman’s Mill since the Inclosure Act (Fig. 10). It also indicates buildings to the west and north of Bowman’s Mill shown on the 1901 and 1924 OS Maps which have since gone (Figs. 11 & 12).

Impact of the Proposed Development

5.1.2 The planned development includes erection of a new building west of the mill, a new garage and workshop to the north-west of the mill which will also incorporate existing structures, and a new garage east of the mill house. A basement will link the mill building with the garages to the north, and paving and other landscaping around the buildings is also to be set out. The existing buildings are to be re-developed which may involve excavation down to the foundations. The above works, causing ground reduction from the excavation of foundations and removal of ground deposits, will have an impact on any archaeological or historical remains, if present.

5.2 Archaeological Potential

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

Prehistoric – Low. A possible prehistoric ring ditch is located approximately 300m east of Bowman's Mill (BHER 16836) but there are no definite finds from within 500m.

Roman – Moderate to High. Cropmarks of a probable Romano-British villa or farmstead are located to the north of the assessment site extending to within 300-350m of Bowman's Mill (BHER 3550, Fig. 9). A Romano-British cemetery is recorded within approximately 80-100m north-west of Bowman's Mill (BHER 503). A scatter of Romano-British pottery has been found between the cemetery and the settlement crop marks (BHER 15940).

Medieval – High. A 7th century Anglo-Saxon cemetery site is located approximately 80-100m north-west of Bowman's Mill (BHER 503, SAM 11539). The Scheduled Ancient Monument of a medieval double moated enclosure is located approximately 50m north-west of Bowman's Mill (BHER 502). Earthworks thought to represent part of Astwick medieval village, since ploughed out, were located south and south-west of the moated site (BHER 2776).

Post-Medieval – High. Bowman's Mill is Grade II listed (BHER 1010) and the historic maps indicate that originally there were more buildings or structures on the assessment site both associated with, and predating the mill (Figs. 10-12).

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 A possible prehistoric ring ditch is located approximately 300m east of Bowman's Mill (BHER 16836) but there is a dearth of any proven finds from within 500m of the assessment site.

6.2 Prominent cropmarks of a probable Romano-British villa or farmstead are located to the north of the assessment site and appear to extend to within 300-350m of Bowman's Mill, and potentially may continue towards the assessment site (BHER 3550, Fig. 9). A Romano-British cemetery is recorded approximately 80-100m north-west of Bowman's Mill which may be associated with the settlement (BHER 503). A scatter of Romano-British pottery located roughly between the cemetery and the settlement crop marks reinforces the possibility that there could be a fairly extensive Romano-British settlement (BHER 15940) located in proximity to the Baldock to Sandy Roman Road.

6.3 Bowman's Mill dated to 1847 is Grade II listed and an important example of Victorian industrial technology (BHER 1010). The 1804 Inclosure Map predates the construction of Bowman's Mill (Fig. 10). It shows a large rectangular building on a north-south alignment at approximately the location of the mill. Another building is located at the end of Mill Lane which is also present on the 1901 and 1924 OS Maps, but is not shown on the detailed site location (Figs. 2, 11-12). One or two further buildings are shown to its south-west. The 1901 and 1924 OS Maps show the level has been modified and/or covered (Figs. 11-12), and the mill and Mill House are now present. The mill has a number of ancillary buildings to the west and north. Most notably a rectangular structure abuts its north-west side, several buildings are grouped to the south-west, and a line of buildings or structures line the track to the north. Coprolite digging is recorded in the location of the two cemetery sites to the north-west (BHER 502).

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Steve Hicks for funding the project and Ms Lisa Banim of Briffa Phillips for commissioning the work and arranging access.

Thanks are also due to Mr Stephen Coleman of the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record and the staff at Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

East Midlands Sheet 52⁰ N-02⁰ W 1983 Solid Geology Institute of Geological Sciences 1:250,000 Series

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*. IFA, Reading

Kennet, D. H. 1972 Bedfordshire Archaeology 1971-72 in Bedfordshire Archaeology Journal Volume 7, pp.45-51

Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M., & Murphy, P. 2007 Bedfordshire Archaeology Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy *Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9*

Page, W. 1908 *The Parish of Astwick A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2* Victoria County History pp.203-206

Smith, L. 2011 *Bowman's Mill and Millhouse, Astwick, Bedfordshire*. A Historic Building Appraisal Level 1, Archaeological Solutions Report 3833

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. Harpenden

Web resources

www.baldockhistory.org.uk – the Roman town of Baldock

www.bernardoconnor.org.uk – The Coprolite Digging in Astwick

www.thehumanjourney – Fairfield Park, Stotfield, Beds: Later Prehistoric Settlement in the Eastern Chilterns

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (CBHER).

BHER Number	National Grid Reference	Description
Roman		
3550	220 390	Cropmarks of a possible Roman villa north-east of Astwick: An extensive area of regular rectilinear cropmarks, linked to the line of the Roman road, now the A1, by at least one straight double-ditched track or road. The cropmarks represent the site of a substantial building complex, possibly a villa. Roman pottery (HER 15940) has been found in the area.
15940	217 387	Roman pot: A scatter of Romano-British pottery was found at Astwick. It comprised of 1 abraded samian bowl foot-ring, 2 colour coated sherds from the lid of a Nene Valley box, 5 sherds of greyware and a flanged rim with an oxidised red exterior. 3 sherds of post medieval pottery were also found
18810	21 38	Roman pin from Astwick: A copper-alloy pin of Roman date. It is 38.7mm long and has a large globular head measuring 12.9mm diameter by 11.6mm high. The head is decorated with three indented lines, two of which run horizontally around the lower half of the head, the other runs at right angles to these, across the top of the head. The underside of the head is convex. The shaft measures 27.1mm long and is circular in section, with a diameter of 4.1mm at the top widening to 4.3mm half way down the shaft, although it is unclear whether or not this is intentionally thickened. The shaft tapers to a point. The condition of the pin is good having a mid green patina but little sign of corrosion. Weight = 10.20g.
MBD 19242	21 38	Roman Brooch & Pin found near Church Farm
Medieval		
1009	2136 3856	St Guthlac's Church: 15 th century parish church with later alterations standing on the site of an earlier church. Grade II* listed 37799. It is a mixture of coursed limestone and cobbles and some ashlar dressings, with red brick repairs (including brick buttresses). Low-pitched slate roofs. The Chancel apparently has re-used C15 masonry. The Nave is C15 retaining some contemporary pews, with a later north wall. The West tower is reworked C15. It is thought to have been the central tower of the earlier cruciform church, with chancel in place of present nave and transept to the south served by large archway (now blocked).
502	2153 3849	Astwick Bury Moat, Bowmans Mill: Scheduled Monument

		<p>11539.</p> <p>The site comprises the remains of a medieval moat and associated outer enclosure. The moat is aligned east to west and measures approx 75m by 50m in maximum external dimensions. The island is surrounded by an 8m wide moat and is slightly raised above the surrounding area. It contains the upstanding remains of the Grade II listed post medieval farmhouse. The upstanding remains are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath the building is included. The entrance to the island is provided by a 2m wide causeway located at the south west corner. Modern footbridges, also excluded from the scheduling, cross the south and east arms of the moat. A leat at the south east corner of the moat turns two angles to create a partially enclosed area to the east.</p> <p>Outside the moat, on its south side, is an adjacent moated enclosure. It is delineated by a narrow drain on its south and west sides while the moat and its leat define the other two sides. The enclosed island measures approx 60m by 35m and is deliberately mounded some 1.5m higher than the surrounding area. There is no visible evidence for contemporary medieval buildings or features on this raised platform. The entrance to the interior is through a 4m wide causeway at the north west corner of the outer enclosure</p>
2776	214 385	Astwick Medieval Village: A group of earthworks reported to the south and south west of Astwick Bury, and visible on aerial photographs taken in 1961. Subsequently ploughed out.
1891	2133 3850	Medieval token: A token, thought to be a late 16th century Nuremberg jetton. Date and location of find spot not known
18361	21 38	Medieval & post medieval finds located by metal detector: Finds include coins, buckles, a bell, a pilgrim badge, jettons and strap ends.
Post-medieval		
1010	2167 3844	Bowman's Watermill: Water powered corn mill, dated 1847. Mill and despatch building. Local gault brick, slate roofs. Three storeys on upstream side, four storeys on downstream side, plus upper floor lit from gable ends. Five bay east and west elevations, three bay south elevation. Grade II listed 492461.
2071	2134 3865	The Old Rectory: Grade II listed house 37801, formerly the rectory. 2 brick tablets show "R. W. 1720". Vitrified brick with red brick dressings. Clay tile roof
2072	2132 3855	Barns Church Farm: Large Grade II listed barn. C17, reworked C19 and C20. Substantial timber framed structure clad in weatherboarding. Brick plinth. Half-hipped corrugated iron roof.
2073	2130 3853	Church Farmhouse: Grade II listed 37795 C17 or earlier house, with C18 and C19 additions and alterations. Timber framed construction with colourwashed roughcast render. Clay tile roofs, some with diamond patterning.

2074	2129 3851	Church Farm Granary: Grade II listed 37796 C18 granary. Timber framed structure clad in weather boarding on red brick plinth, located 30m south-west of Church Farm
2075	2127 3851	Dovecote: C18 dovecote, reworked C19 Grade II listed 37797. Upper part timber framed, much of lower part encased or rebuilt in brick. Brick areas partly rendered, timbered areas with colourwashed rendered infill. Clay tile roof, lower part hipped, upper part with gables. Plank door and inserted 3-light casement window to south elevation. East elevation has row of holes at eaves level to allow access for birds. Nesting boxes removed
2076	2145 3854	Barn Group and Outbuildings, Astwick Bury: A Group of Grade II listed 37803 C17 and C18 barns comprising substantial timber framed structures. Weatherboarded, with corrugated iron roofs. An L-shaped group, forming part of the north and west side of a courtyard. Contiguous structures, of 5, 6, 4 and 5 bays. To the centre of the north range is cart entrance to courtyard from road.
2077	2152 3851	Ashwick Bury: Grade II listed 37802 C18 house, reworked and extended C19. Red brick. Clay tile 2-span roof. Double-pile plan, 2 storeys and attics House stands on moated site, much of which is thought to be recent
2497	212 383	Brick Kiln: The site of a brick kiln known to have been in operation in 1847 when it was listed in Kelly's Directory. The First Edition Ordnance Survey, surveyed in 1881, shows the site as "Old Brickkiln" suggesting that it was out of use by this date.
2611	221 383	Taylor's Mill, Taylor's Road: Grade II listed 37916 mill and mill house, early C19, reworked later C19. Mill house red brick with some chequerwork patterning in flared headers. Mill timber framed and clad in weatherboarding. Main roof clay tiled, lower part slated
4367	313 385	Cottages alongside Church. Church Farm Cottage: C18 stud and plaster walls, panelled rendering with pargetting to rear elevation. Thatched gabled roof with central brick chimney stack. Casement windows arranged 4:4 in front elevation. Front elevation has 2 recessed doors under pediment hood with cut brackets. Extensions at back. About to be restored
8852	2136 3856	St Guthlacs Parish Churchyard
9097	213 382	Cropmarks north of Stotfield Common: Linear feature clearly seen on aerial photograph to be a drainage ditch. Modern field drains discharge into it
13342	213 385	Tomb chest 1m south of St Guthlac chancel, Grade II listed 37800. The Inscription on top shows a date of 1713. The remainder of the inscription and accompanying coat of arms is indecipherable. Ashlar, supported by low red brick plinth. Stands approximately 1 metre high. Sides and ends have carved panel decoration, some panels with ribbons and swags, some also with skulls and cross-bones.

13343	2126 3854	Barn 10m west of Dovecote, Church Farm: 18 th century barn located on Church Farm. It is a timber framed construction clad in weather boarding with a gabled roof. The barn has two large barn doors on the side and front elevation
15460	2211 3839	Ivel Mill, Taylor's Road: A post-medieval mill on Taylor's Road which has been converted to residential use
18624	21 38	Post-medieval finds, Stotfold Common: A toy gridiron and a post-medieval button found by metal detecting.
Multi-period		
503	2161 3852	Roman pottery and Anglo-Saxon burials: Finds recorded during digging for coprolites at prior to 1886 list as ten samian bowls, one small black jar, and iron weapons, found with inhumations. It is unclear how many inhumations were present or which finds accompanied them. The black jar was placed at the head of a skeleton, and is a Castor beaker of late 3 rd or early 4 th century date, but there is no indication of whether the samian vessels (which were of 2 nd century date) were with burials. The iron finds are all of 7 th century date, and include four spearheads, parts of a shield including a boss, two knives, and an unusual type of lance head. Taken together this would indicate the presence of Roman and Saxon inhumations, with the likelihood of occupation in the vicinity.
16826	219 384	Cropmarks east of Astwick: To the east of Astwick is a cropmark of a Ring Ditch of possible Bronze Age date. Nearby there are also rectilinear enclosures which are possibly medieval or post medieval in date, as they appear to be aligned to a modern road

APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

Number	National Reference	Grid	Name and Date
37802	2152 3851		Astwick Bury: Grade II listed 18 th century, reworked and extended in the 19 th century
492461	2167 3844		Bowman's Watermill: Grade II disused water powered corn mill c.1847
37795	2130 3853		Church Farmhouse: Grade II listed 17 th century or earlier house with 18 th and 19 th century additions and alterations
37799	2136 3856		Church of Saint Guthlac: Grade II* 15 th century reworking of an older building with later additions and modifications
37797	2127 3852		Dovecote: 30m west of Church Farmhouse. Grade II listed
37796	2129 3851		Granary 30m south-west of Church Farmhouse:
37803	2142 3854		Group of barns forming an L-shape 75m north-west of Astwick Bury. Grade II listed
37916	2210 3833		Taylor's Mill: Grade II listed mill and mill house, early 19 th century re-worked in the later 19 th century
37801	2134 3865		The Old Rectory: Grade II listed house c. 1720
37800	2137 3857		Tomb Chest c.1713 located 1 metre south of the chancel at St Guthlac's Church

APPENDIX 3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Number	Title	Date	Scale	Ref/Location
Fig. 1	Site location	Modern	1:25,000	OS Explorer
Fig. 2	Detailed site location	Modern	1:1,250	Briffa Phillips
Fig. 3	Planned Development	Modern	1:200	Briffa Phillips
Fig. 4	HER Information	Modern	1:20,000	AS
Fig. 5	Aerial Photo of BHER 3550	1974		BRK8/CBHER
Fig. 6	Aerial Photo of BHER 3550	1975		BVT27/CBHER
Fig. 7	Aerial Photo of BHER 3550	1957		VR69/CBHER
Fig. 8	Aerial Photo of BHER 3550	1951		GA65/CBHER
Fig. 9	Crop mark plan of BHER 3550	Modern		CBHER
Fig. 10	Inclosure Map	1804		MA33/2 / B&LA&RS
Fig. 11	OS Map	1901	1:25,000	23.5/B&LA&RS
Fig. 12	OS Map	1924	1:25,000	23.5/B&LA&RS

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1: View north from Astwick Road, north of Old Mill Cottage, towards Topler's Hill. The A1 former Baldock to Sandy Roman Road is to the right of the water tower. Cropmarks of BHER 3550 possible Roman settlement are located in the foreground



DP 2: View west towards the Mill House from the angle in Mill Lane



DP 3 View north from the angle of Mill Lane showing the access from Astwick Road



DP 4: View looking south-west across the western edge of the site where existing structures are to be incorporated car ports and spaces, a workshop and kitchen garden



DP 5: View north-east across the lvel from the public footpath towards Mill House. The area to it's left is contain a garage



DP 6: Bowman's Mill Grade II listed building taken from the south-west



DP 7: View of Bowman's Mill taken from the west with Mill House behind. The area in the foreground is proposed to contain a new building



DP 8: Bowman's Mill taken from the north-east near Mill House. There is an area of hard standing in the foreground



DP 9: View south-east from the public footpath south of Bowman's Mill



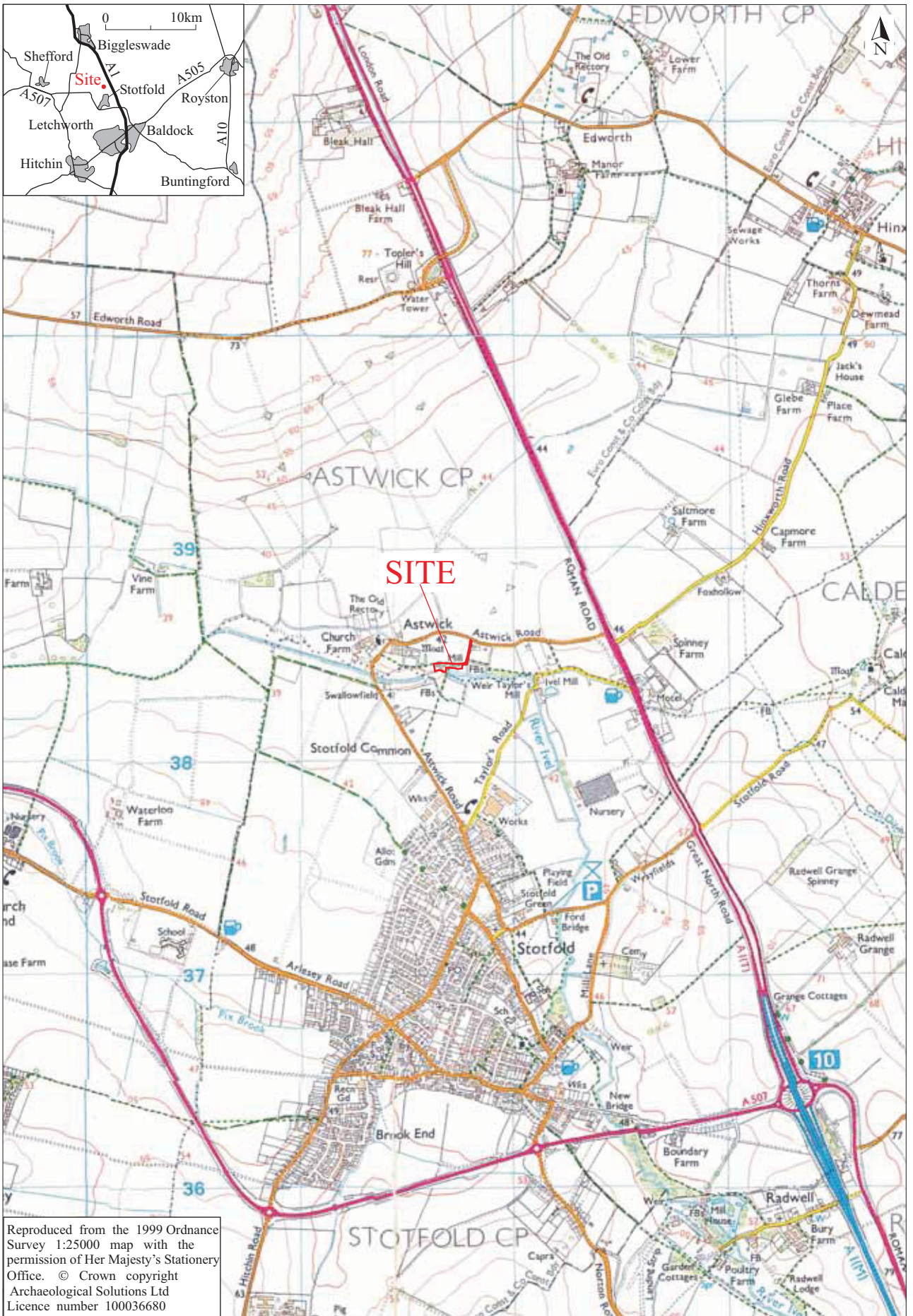
DP 10: View north-west from the public footpath at the southern end of the site



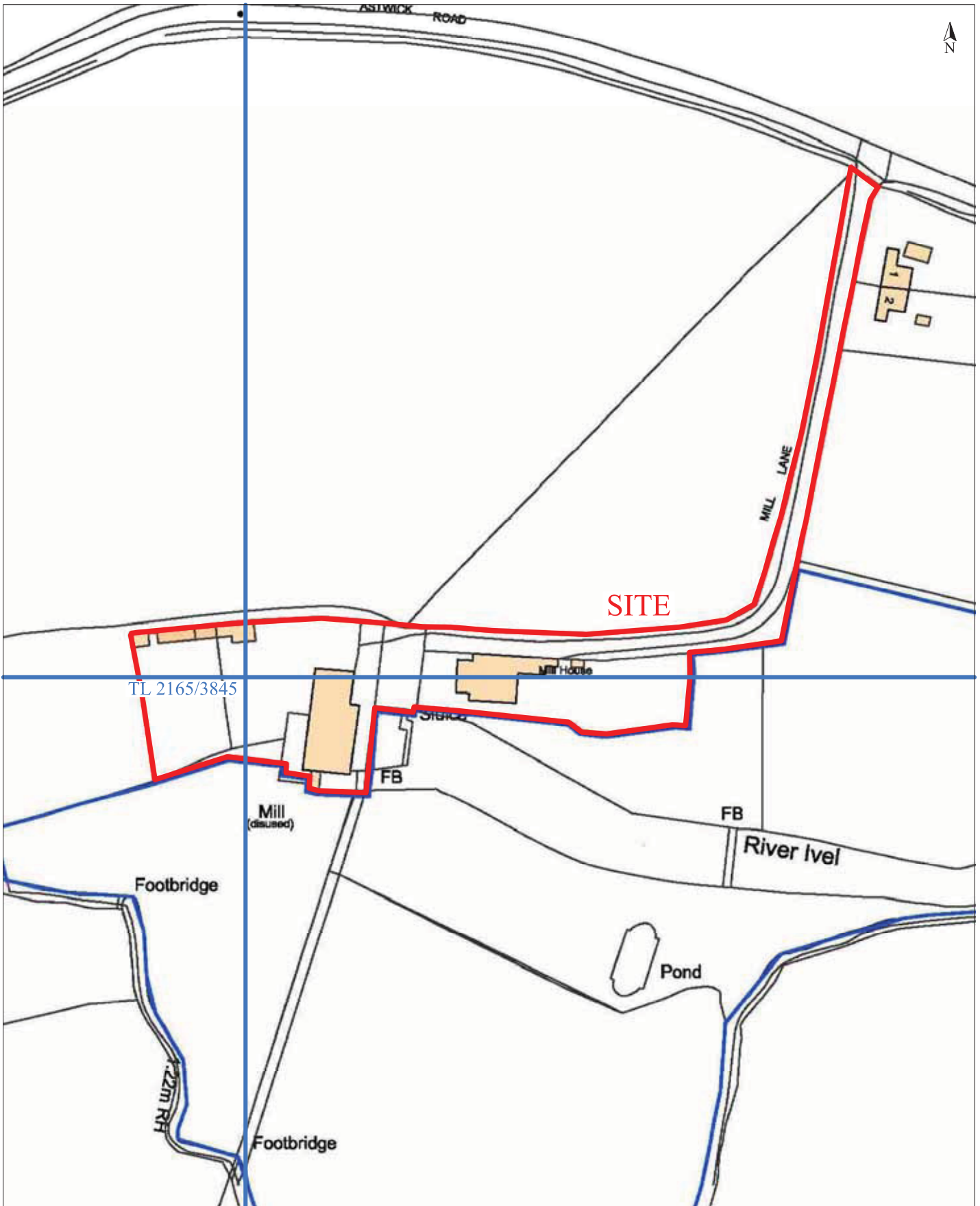
DP 11: View north-east from the public footpath at the southern end of the site



DP 12: View south-east of the site from the angle of Mill Lane

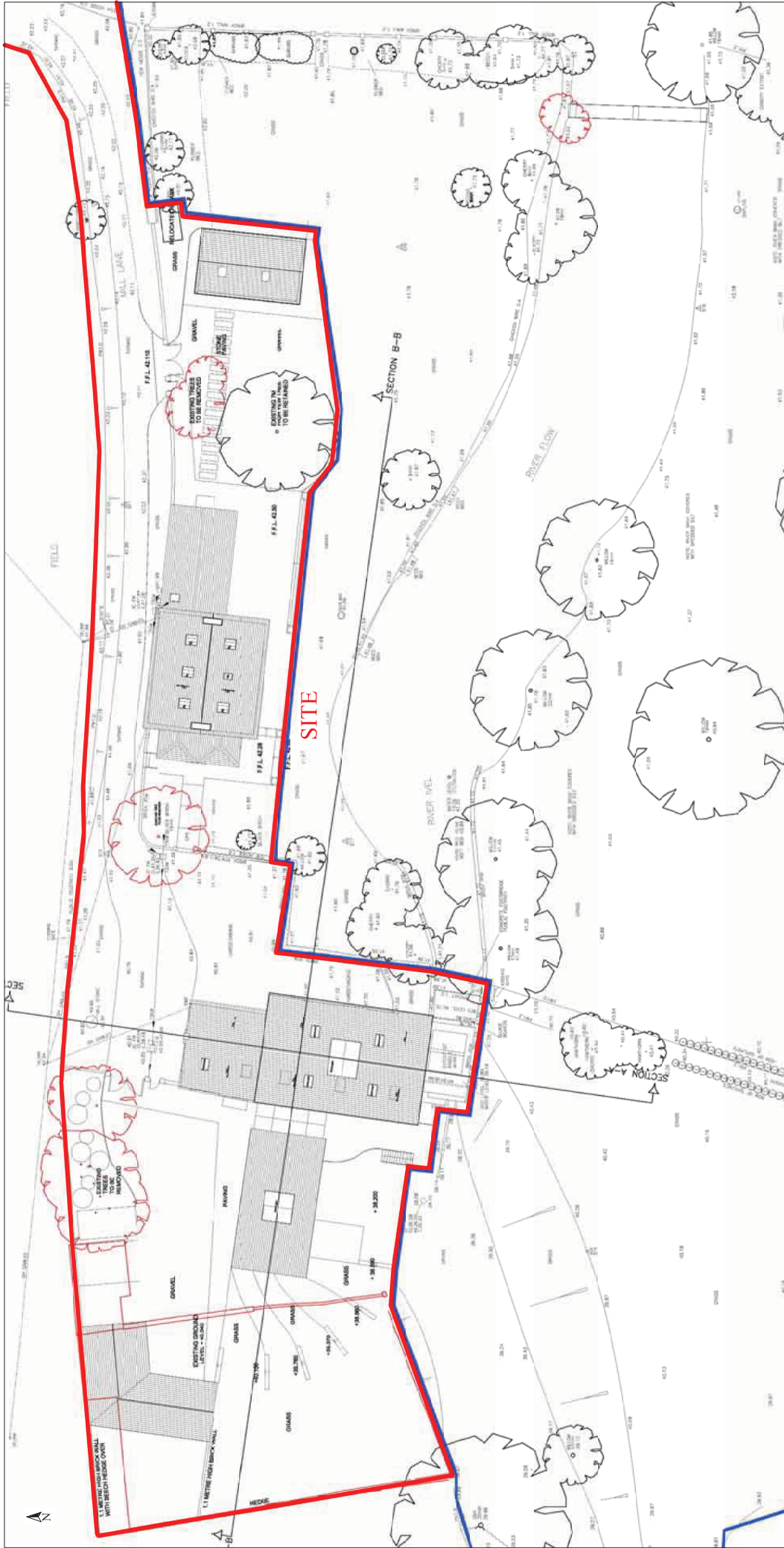


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

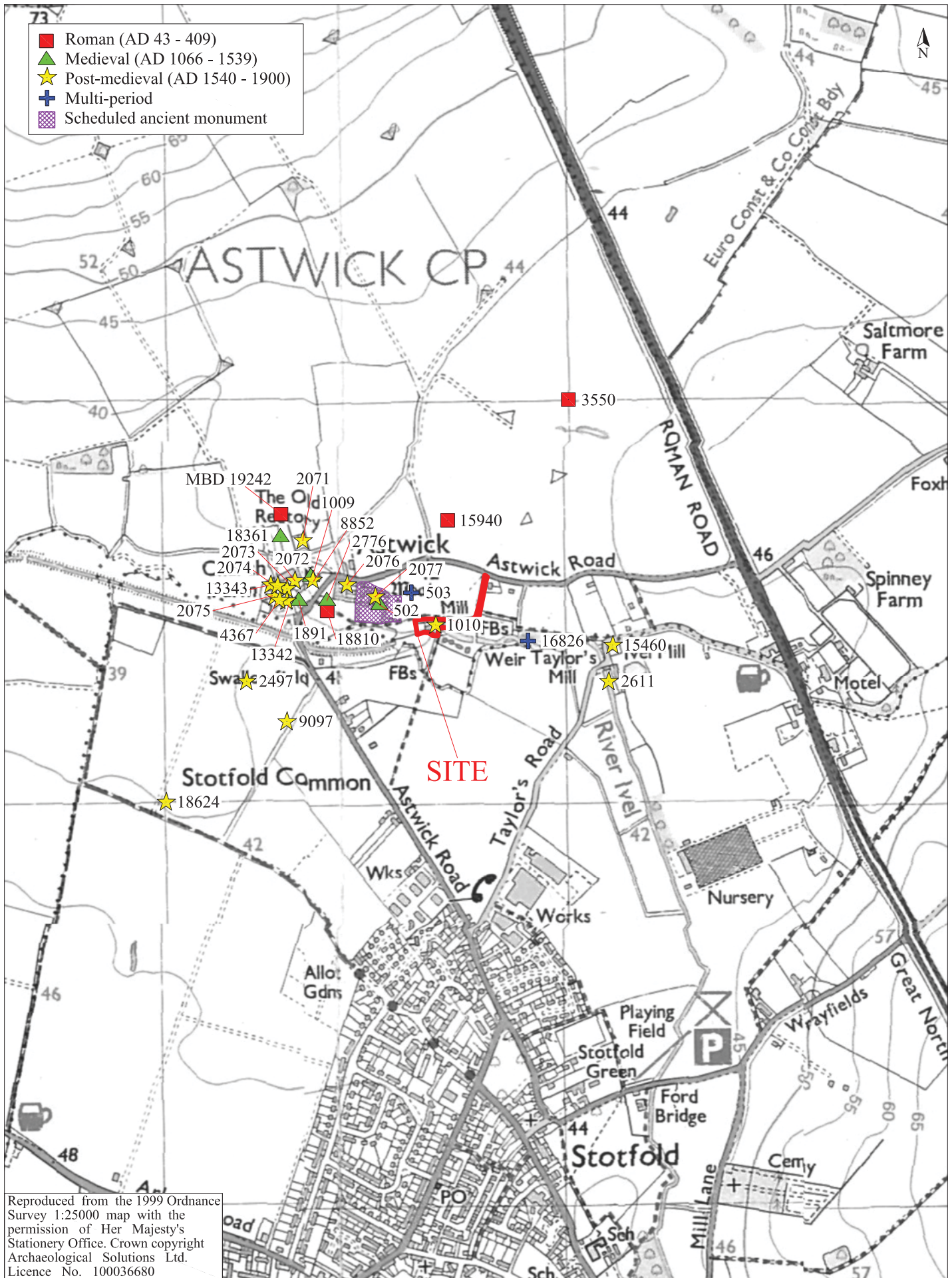


0 75m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4

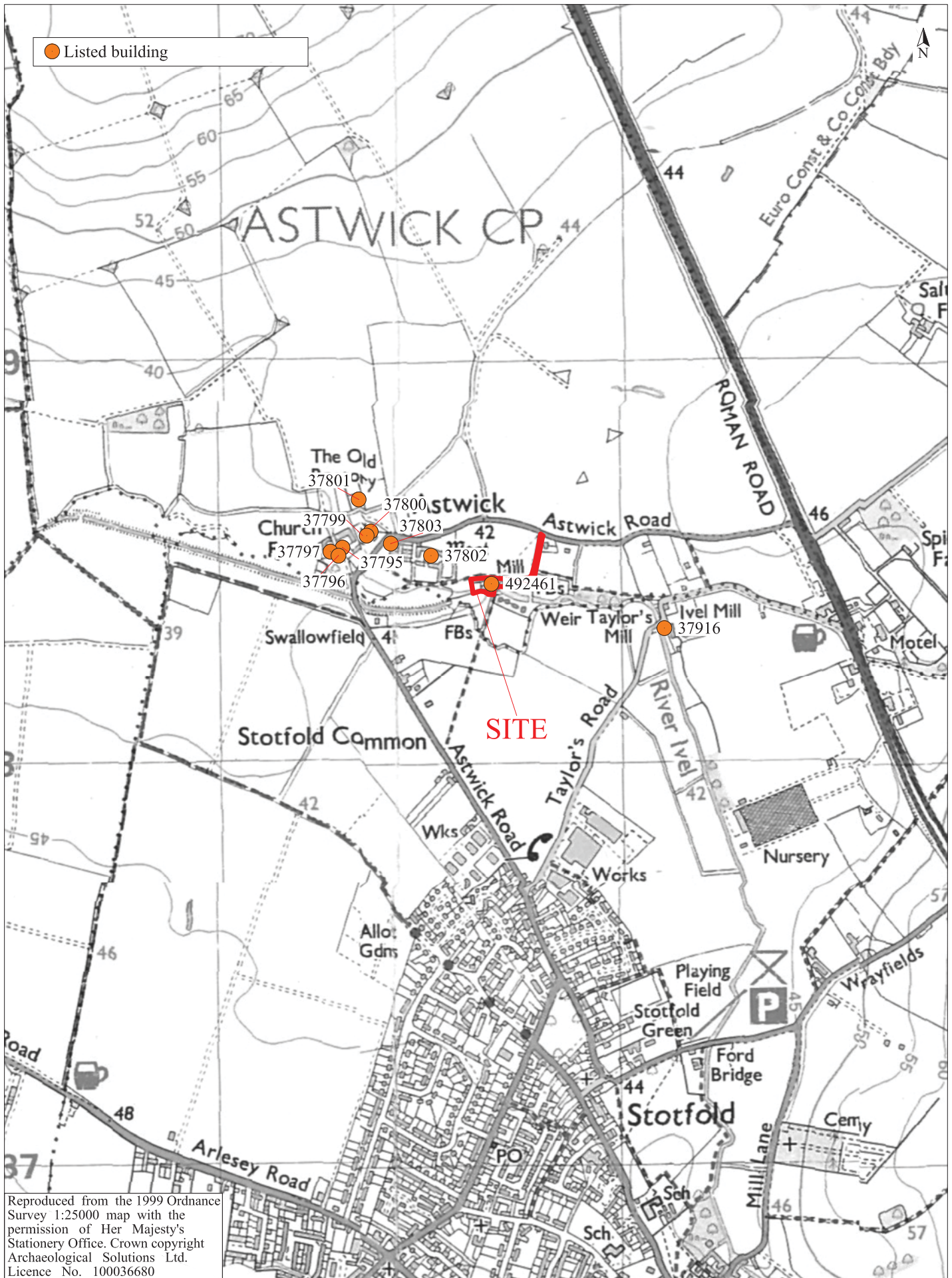


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Planned development
 Scale 1:400 at A4



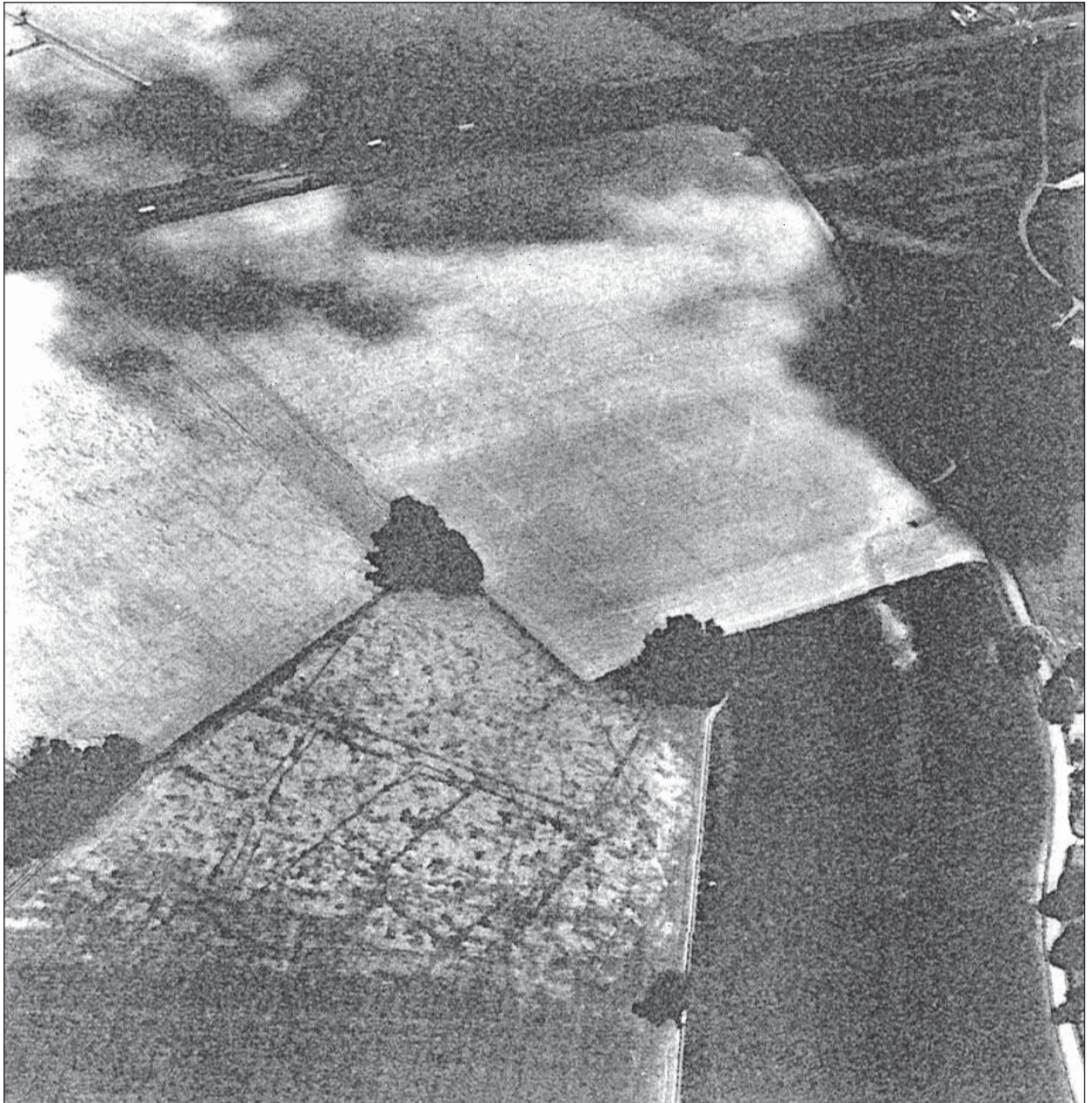
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 HER Data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

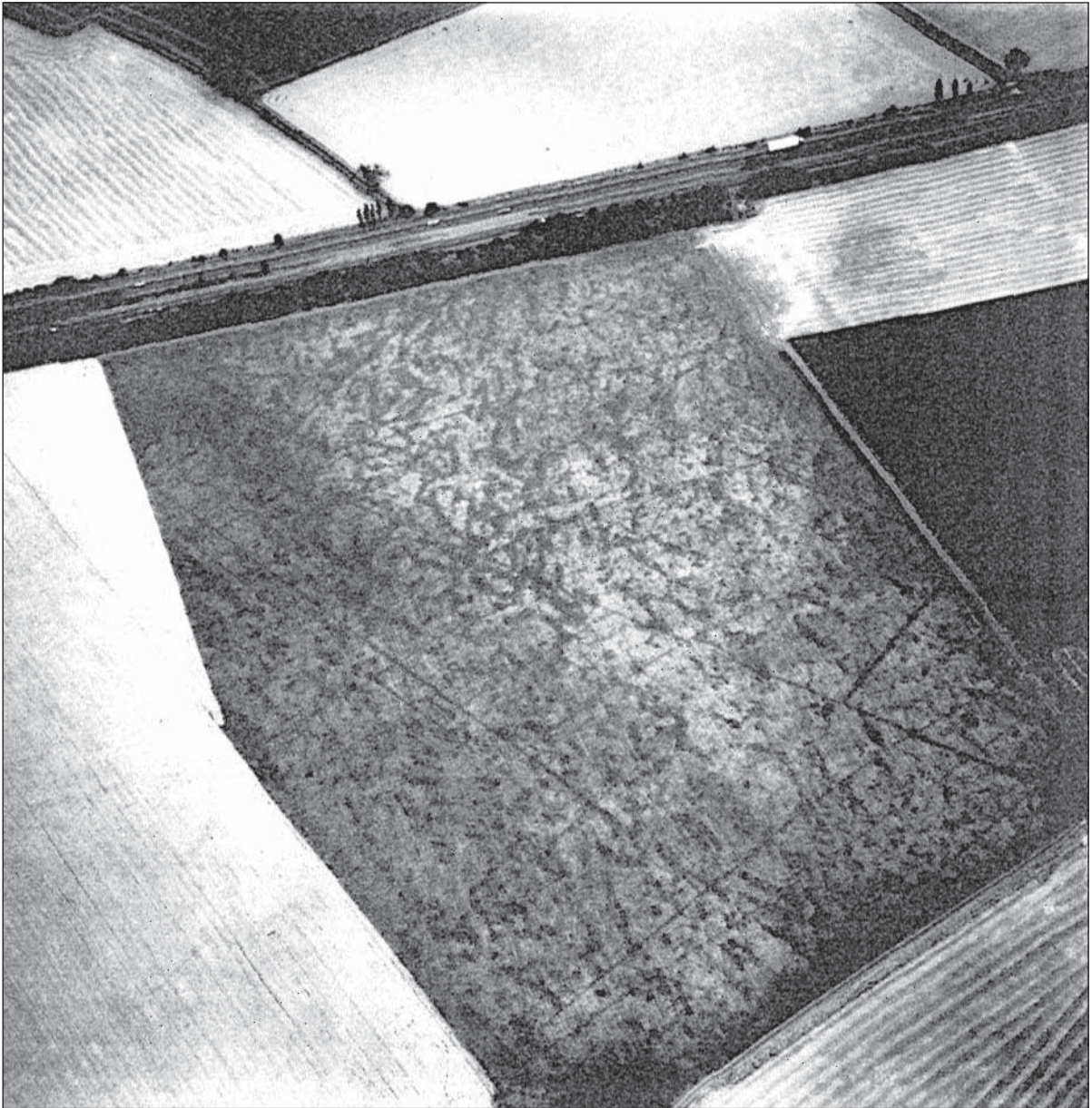
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4a Listed buildings
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 5 Aerial Photo of BHER 3550, 1974

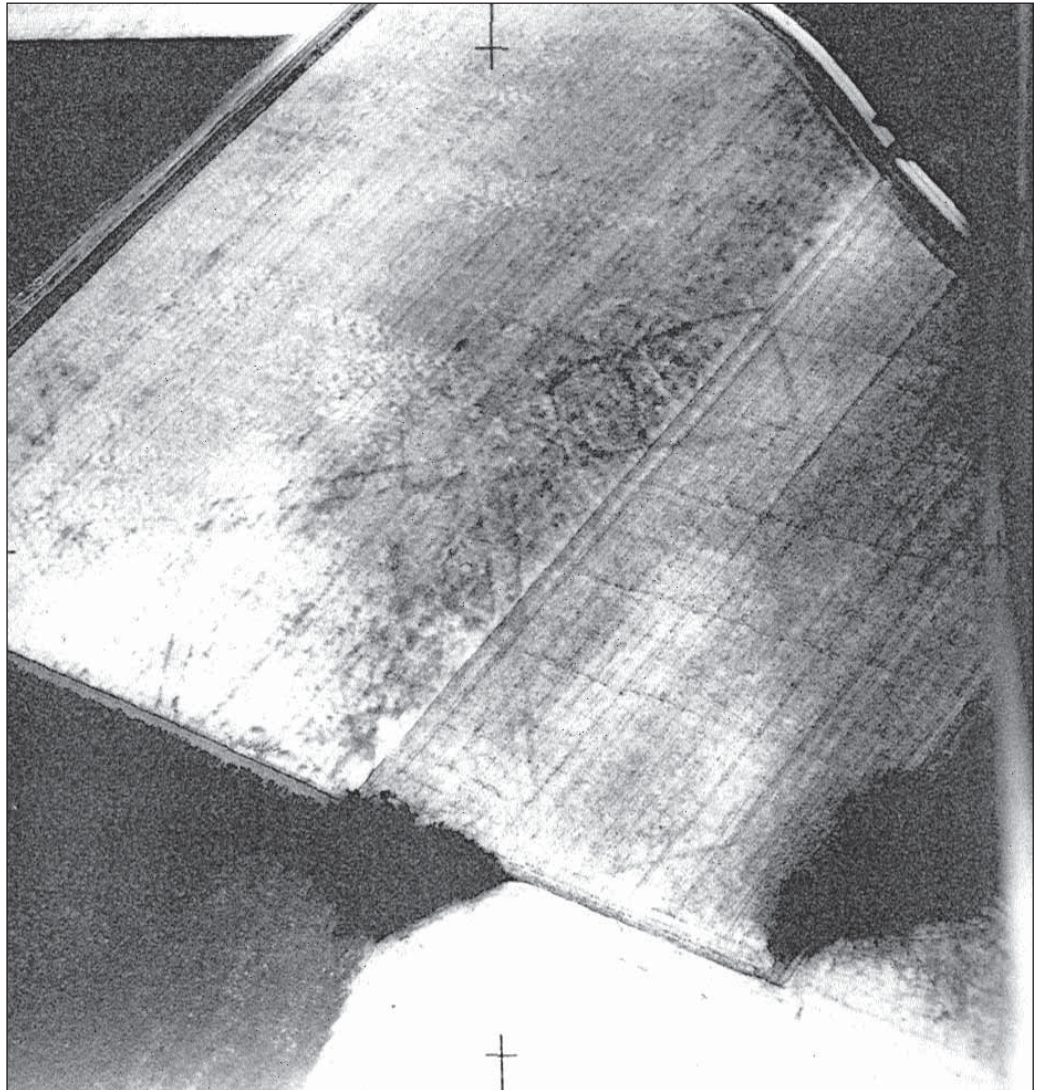
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 6 Aerial Photo of BHER 3550, 1975

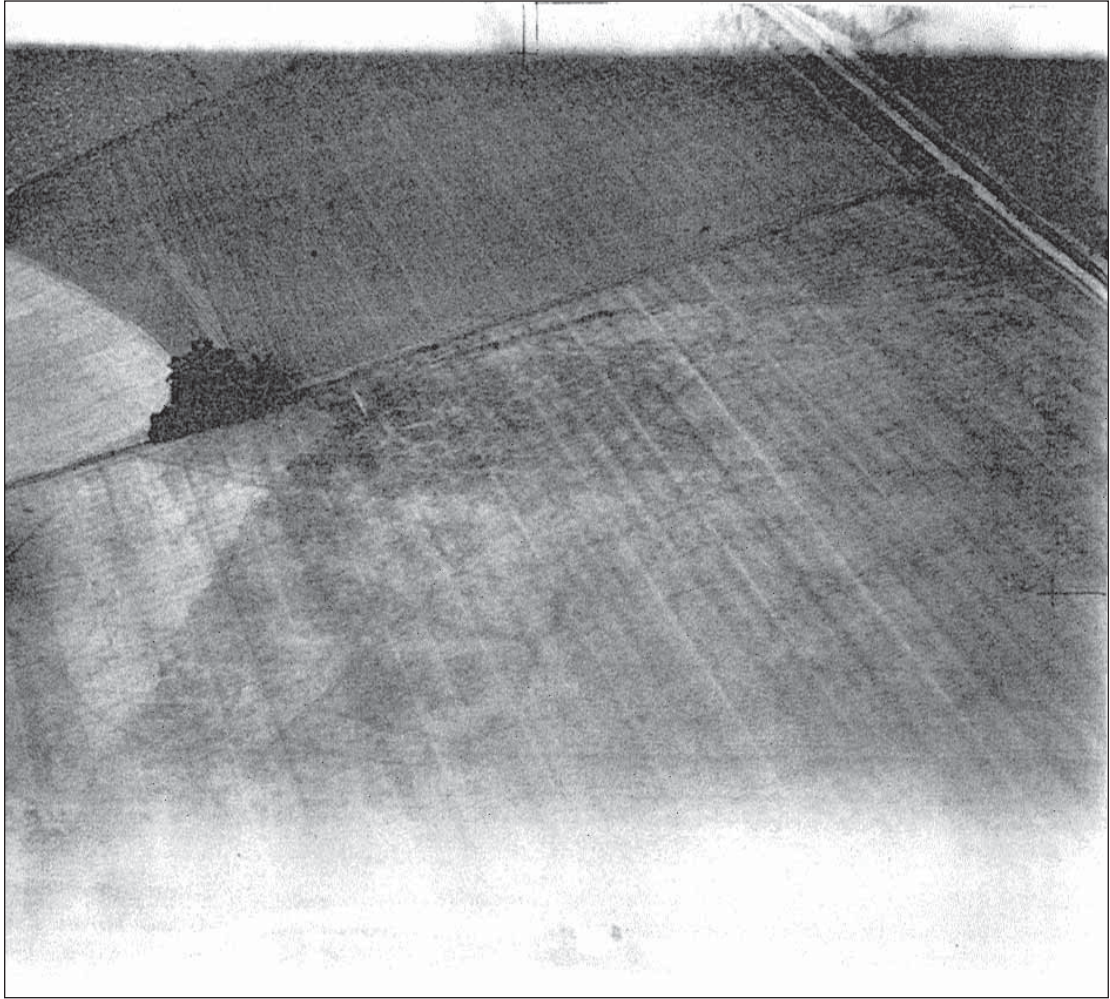
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 7 Aerial Photo of BHER 3550, 1957

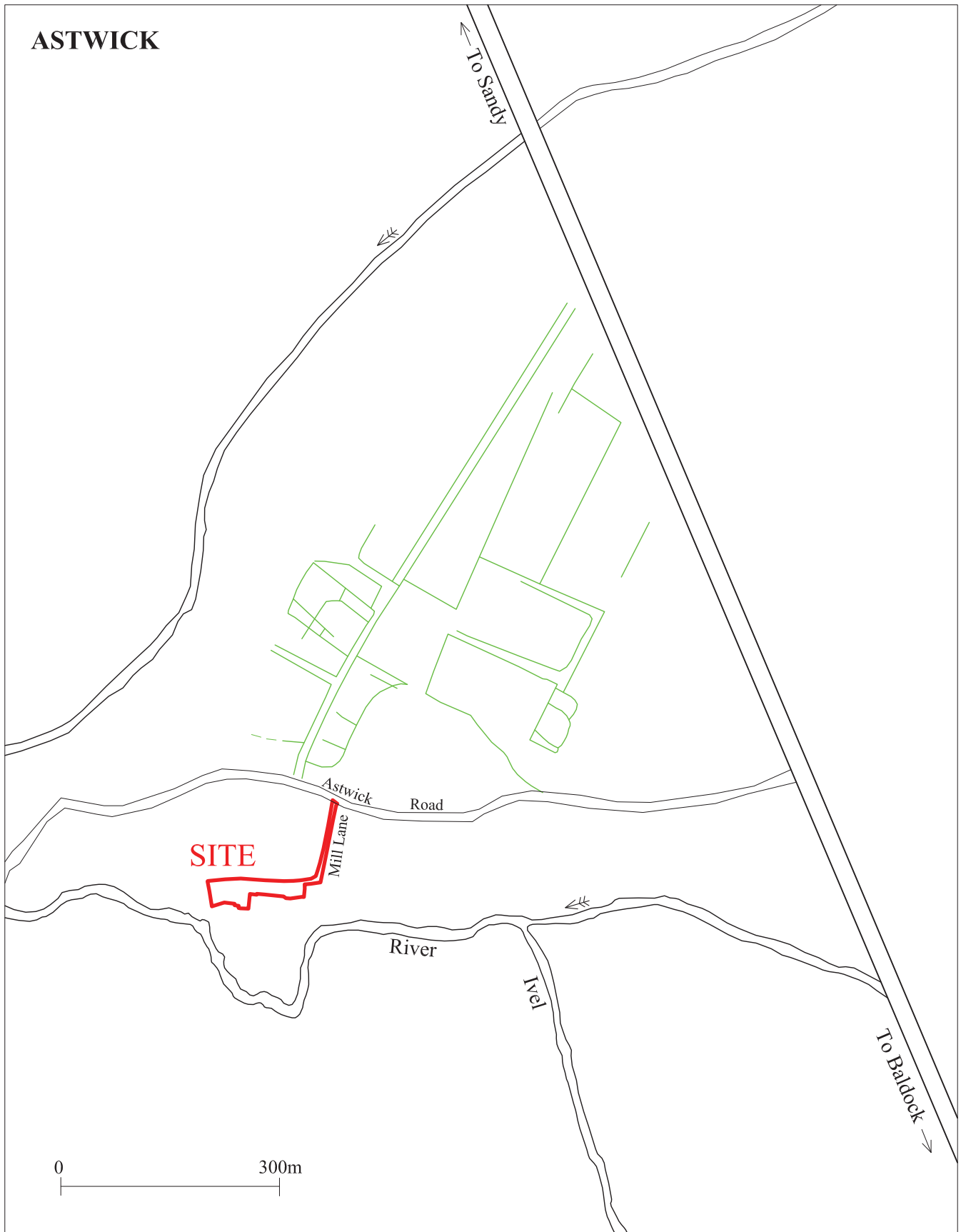
Not to scale



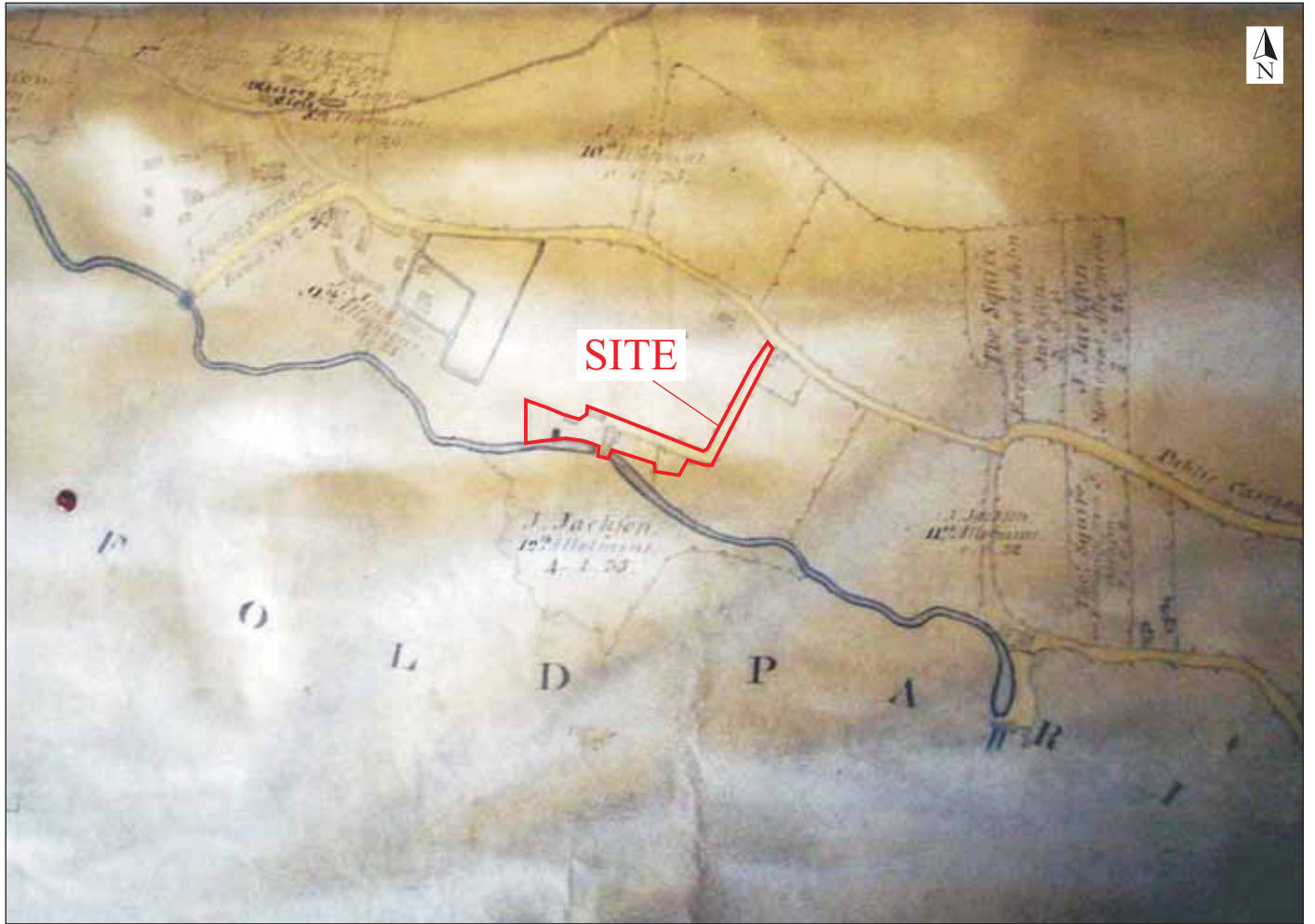
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 8 Aerial Photo of BHER 3550, 1951

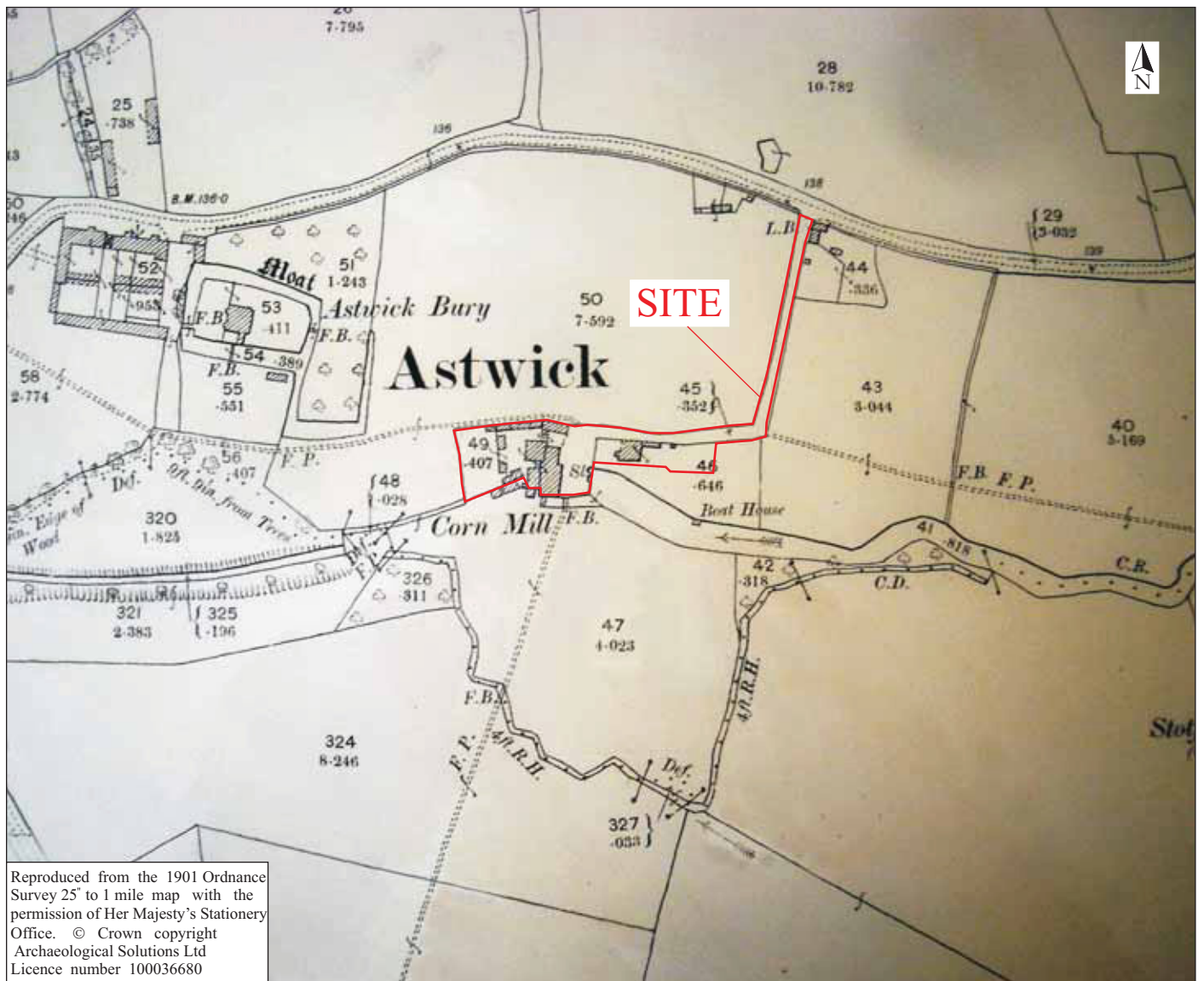
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 9 Cropmark location plan
Scale 1:7,500 at A4

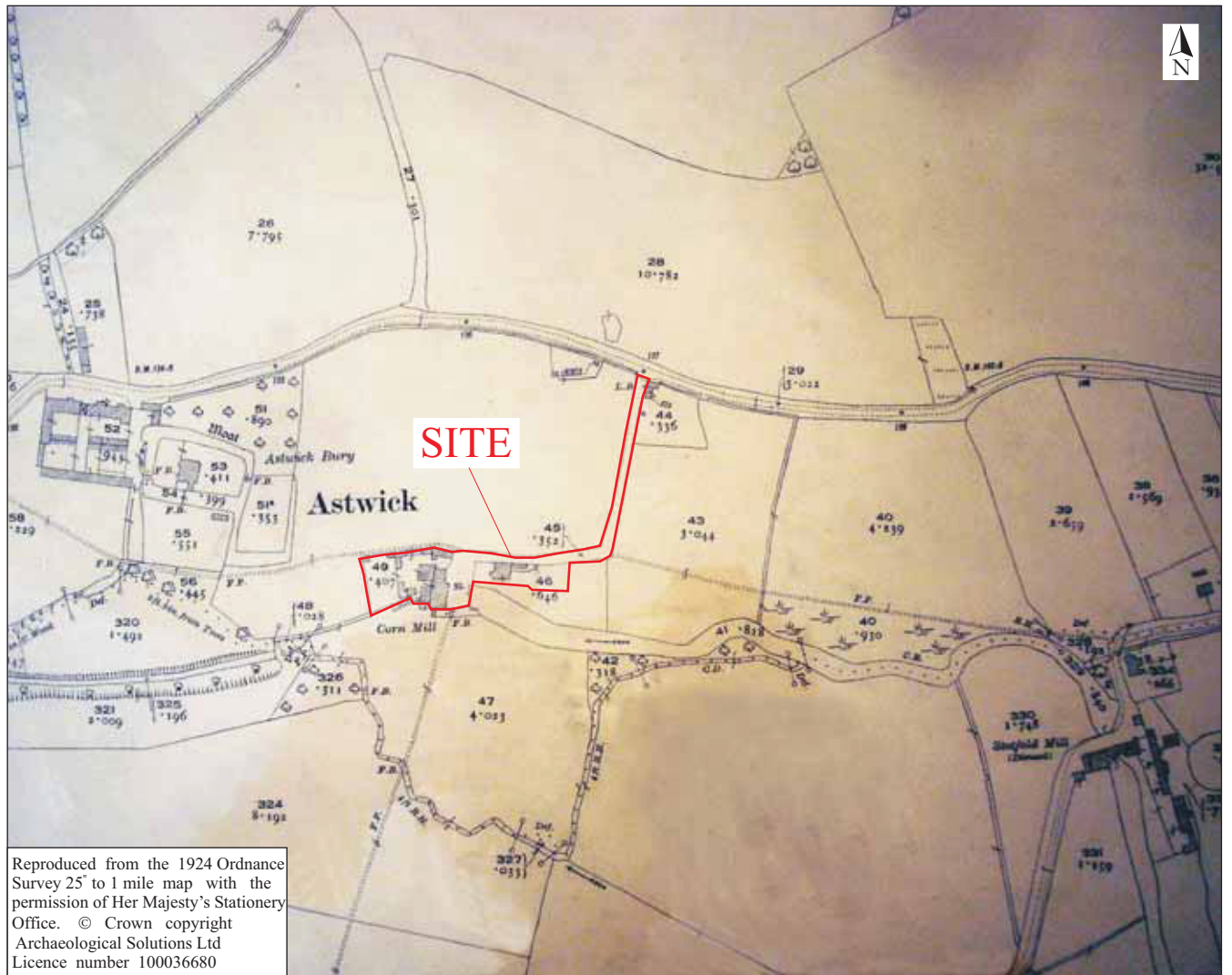


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 10 Inclosure map, 1804
Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1901 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Fig. 11 OS map, 1901
 Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1924 Ordnance Survey 25 to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 12 OS map, 1924
Not to scale