

**Archaeological Desk
Based Assessment**

Ian Pick Associates

Land at Sallings Farm
Middle Common
Bockleton
Worcestershire

WSM57449

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Cover: View looking NE across site of proposed poultry unit in field to E of Bockleton Road, with Sallings Farm in background

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1 Executive Summary

*The results of this archaeological desk-based assessment, based on a detailed consultation of available sources of archaeological and historical information, has determined that the potential for revealing significant archaeological remains, in broad terms, may be assessed as **Moderate**.*

- *It should be emphasized that the archaeological record for this area is extremely sparse; very few recorded archaeological interventions have taken place within the immediate vicinity of the study area and its surrounding locality.*
- *The potential for encountering evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. No recorded evidence of prehistoric or Roman occupation has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site (based on a 500m search radius), although it is worth noting that two substantial Iron Age hillforts, Garmsley Camp and Wall Hills, Thornbury, lie in the wider locality of the study area; consequently, the possibility of encountering evidence of late prehistoric/early Roman settlement in this area should not be overlooked.*
- *The potential for identifying evidence of medieval occupation within the study area has been assessed as **Moderate**. The study area lies on the south-eastern periphery of the small nucleated village of Bockleton, a settlement of Saxon origin recorded in Domesday Book as belonging to the Bishops of Hereford, who remained as overlords of the manor until the 17th century.*
- *The extent of the medieval settlement at Bockleton is not known but it appears to have been focused on the parish church of St Michael (of late 12th-13th century date) and the adjoining farmstead of Bockleton Farm, which appears to occupy the site of the manor house of Bockleton. The possibility that the settlement extended further to the SE within the fields on either side of the road towards the Dunhampton Brook (marking the county boundary between Worcestershire and Herefordshire) cannot be discounted, although examination of aerial photographs appeared to reveal no clearly discernible evidence for settlement features in this area.*
- *The potential for encountering evidence of post-medieval archaeology has been assessed as **Low**. Later 19th -century documentary sources and maps show that the study area lay within the N half of a field called Nighbridge Meadow, later known as Middle Nightbridge, its name probably being derived from its proximity to the High Bridge crossing the Dunhampton Brook.*
- *The pattern of field enclosure in this area appears to have been reorganized at some time between c.1806 and 1843, resulting in the establishment of three field enclosures to the E of the Bockleton Road, named Upper, Middle and Lower Nightbridge, all of which appear to have been under arable cultivation for a lengthy period (apart from an interlude in the middle decades of the 20th century). The fieldscape pattern in the vicinity of the study area appears to have remained largely intact until the early 1990s, when Middle and Lower Nightbridge were amalgamated to form a single large field enclosure.*
- *In view of the fact that there have been no archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the study area, it is impossible to determine with certainty what the depth of archaeological deposits and features might be. However, in view of the evidence suggesting that the study area lies within a field which has been extensively ploughed for a lengthy period, it is possible that any surviving features may have been disturbed, although the extent of such disturbance is difficult to quantify without further investigation.*

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Ian Pick Associates on behalf of Mr Colin Phillips, Romers Farm, Bockleton, Tenbury Wells to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment with regard to a proposed poultry unit on land to the SW of Sallings Farm Middle Common Bockleton Worcestershire.

The grid reference for the site is NGR SO 59776 61317 (*fig. 1*).

Copies of this assessment will be supplied to the client, to Mike Glyde Esq Historic Environment Planning Officer Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Record.



Fig 1: Site location plan (with proposed site of poultry unit denoted in red)

3 Site Description

The specific study area comprises the site of a proposed poultry unit, located within an arable field approximately 300m SW of Sallings Farm Middle Common Bockleton and approximately 330m ESE of the parish church of St Michael's Bockleton.

The site is bounded on its W side by Bockleton Road, an unclassified lane running SE from Bockleton village towards Hampton Charles, and on its N side by a hedge boundary.

3.1 Soils and Geology

The predominant soil type in the immediate vicinity of the study area comprises typical brown earths of the EARDISTON 1 series (541c), consisting of well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils over sandstone, shallow in places, especially on brows, with some reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone. The underlying geology is Devonian and Permo-Triassic reddish sandstone, silty shale and siltstone (SSEW, 1983).

To the E of the study area, the chief soil type consists of the stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the MIDDLETON series (572b), comprising reddish fine silty soils with slowly permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging over shale and siltstone, with some similar fine loamy soils and slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine silty soils in places. The underlying geology consists of Devonian reddish silty shale, siltstone and sandstone.

4 Methodology

4.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

4.1.1 Research Aims

This archaeological desk-based assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological resource within the study area and to establish its character, extent, quality and importance, within a local, regional and national context.

4.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this archaeological desk-based assessment consisted of the following elements:

4.1.3 Evaluation and Study of Archaeological Databases

The National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon and the Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) were both consulted and lists obtained of all known archaeological sites, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments in the study area (the search radius was defined as 500m from the approximate centre of the site at NGR SO 59776 61317).

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4.1.4 Evaluation and Study of Primary Sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area were consulted at the Worcestershire Record Office

4.1.5 Evaluation and Study of Secondary Sources

All published and unpublished works relating to sites and structures of archaeological and historical interest within the study area were examined utilising collections held at the Worcestershire Record Office and Worcester Library including relevant volumes of the *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*.

4.1.6 Evaluation and Study of Cartographic Evidence

Historic maps and illustrations dating back to the early 19th century were consulted at Worcestershire Record Office. Collections of aerial photographs relating to the study area dating back to 1959 were consulted at the Worcestershire Record Office and the National Monuments Record Swindon

5 Site Specific Analysis

5.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

This section analyses the information available from records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the specific study area and discusses its implications for the nature of the archaeological resource within the study area and the likely depth and survival of significant archaeological deposits and features

5.1.1 Conservation Areas

The site is located within an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), as designated by Malvern Hills Council.

5.1.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area. The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument to the study area is Garmsley Camp, an Iron Age hillfort located approximately 2.2km due ENE of the study area at NGR SO 6203 6182.

5.1.3 Archaeological Sites

The Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record were consulted to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the specific study area. For the purposes of this assessment, a search radius of 500m was defined, centred on NGR SO 59776 61317. A total of 15 monuments were identified within the designated search area; however, a small number of additional sites and archaeological events in the wider locality of the study area were also considered for contextual purposes. The results of the HER search are presented in Table 1 and Figure 2 below.

5.1.4 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on June 10th 2014 to determine the potential for surviving archaeological remains on the site.

- **Prehistoric and Roman**

No recorded evidence for prehistoric activity has been found in the immediate vicinity of the study area, based on consultation of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record. The nearest recorded site of prehistoric date is Garmsley Camp, a univallate hillfort of Iron Age date (WSM 05313; SAM Ref. No. 1002942) located approximately 2.2km ENE of the study area. Another larger univallate hillfort at Wall Hills, Thornbury (Herefs.), is located approximately 3.3km SE of the study area (Herefordshire SMR Ref. 913; SAM Ref. No. 1001748).

Similarly, no recorded evidence of Roman activity has been identified in the vicinity of the study area. Possible evidence of Roman occupation has previously been identified at Garmsley Camp, where some Roman bricks were reputedly found 'with the figure 10 scratched on them' (Phillips, 1893-4, 144).

The potential for encountering archaeological evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity has therefore been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. This is chiefly based upon the scarcity of recorded sites of prehistoric and Roman date within this area; however it also takes into account the presence of two substantial hillforts within the wider environs of the study area.

It should be noted that evidence of late prehistoric/early Roman settlement has been found in the wider locality of other nearby hillforts on the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border, including Risbury Camp and Ivington Camp; consequently, the possibility remains that similar occupation sites might be encountered within or in close proximity to the study area. It should also be emphasized that no archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the study area; consequently, the possibility of identifying evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation cannot be entirely discounted.

- **Medieval**

In comparison to the extremely meagre record for prehistoric and Roman occupation, evidence for medieval settlement is slightly more plentiful, although this chiefly consists of documentary references and built heritage assets (specifically the parish church of St Michael, of 12th-century date). The earliest documentary reference to Bockleton occurs in the Domesday Survey of 1086, in which it is referred to as 'Boclintun', probably denoting 'an estate or settlement associated with [the people of] Boccel', incorporating the personal name 'Beocca' and the place-name suffix '-ingtun' (Gover *et al.*, 1927, 41).

In 1086, the manor was assessed as containing 8 hides and valued at £4 (£6 before the Conquest). It was evidently heavily wooded: the Survey refers to an area of woodland measuring 1½ leagues long and half a league in width. At the time of the Survey, the estate was held by the Bishop of Hereford; prior to 1066 it appears to have belonged to a freeman named Turchil (Morris, 1982, f.174r). The overlordship of the manor remained in the possession of the bishops of Hereford until the 17th century (Page & Willis Bund, 1924, 241).

The study area lay within the bounds of the principal estate within the manor of Bockleton, which was held by the de Bockleton family as tenants of the bishop from the late 12th to the early 15th century. Other smaller estates at Grafton, The Hill (or Hull) and Sallings appear in documentary records by the mid-late 13th century; the etymology of the place-name Sallings (the earliest documented reference to which occurs as 'Saline' in a lay subsidy roll dated c.1280) appears to be derived from the OE word 'saegn' meaning 'willow tree' (Gover *et al.*, 1927, 42; Willis Bund & Amphlett, 1893, 52).

The core settlement at Bockleton appears to have been located in the vicinity of the parish church of St Michael (WSM 08192), located at the intersection with the road leading NW-SE from Tenbury Wells towards Hampton Charles and another lane running E-W from Kyre towards Grafton (the westward section continuing to Grafton is now little more than a trackway). The existing fabric (*Plate 1*) consists of a late 12th -century nave with two elaborately decorated N and S doorways, a mid-13th -century chancel with a N chapel added c.1560 and a W tower probably added in the 17th century (Brooks & Pevsner, 2007, 157). Two timber-framed lychgates on the N side of the churchyard appear to incorporate fabric of 15th -century date (WSM 36872). Although no reference to a church or chapel is made in Domesday Book, there may well have been an earlier pre-Conquest church occupying the site (WSM 08193), based on the evidence for wall footings faintly visible as parch-marks in dry weather on the N side of the churchyard (Brooks & Pevsner, 2007, 158).



Plate 1: View looking S showing Bockleton church with its Romanesque N doorway with blind arcading

The medieval pattern of settlement within Bockleton parish appears to have consisted of remote, dispersed farmsteads (Grafton, Hampton Charles, The Hill, Quintons) with a small nucleus of settlement focused on the church and Bockleton Farm. There also appears to have been an extensive swathe of common land surrounding the settlement nucleus, represented by place-names such as Sallings Common, Middle Common, Romers Common and Holloway Common. In broad terms, this settlement pattern has remained essentially intact until the present day, although significant tracts of common in Bockleton parish were enclosed by the late 18th -early 19th century. No parliamentary enclosure acts have been recorded for Bockleton parish so presumably these

areas were enclosed piecemeal at the initiative of private landowners, most likely the Baldwyn or Elton families who owned the Bockleton estate during the 18th and early 19th centuries (Page & Willis Bund, 1924, 242-43)

The extent of the medieval settlement nucleus at Bockleton is unclear but presumably it was focused on the church and the adjoining farmstead of Bockleton Farm (WSM 36873), a Grade II listed farmhouse of early 17th - century date with various mid-19th -century additions and alterations; it appears that the farm also represents the site of the manor house (Brooks & Pevsner, 2007, 158). Immediately to the N of Bockleton Farm, two field names recorded on the Bockleton tithe map of 1843, namely Castle Camp and Castle Camp Croft (WSM 33452; WSM 33506), may indicate the site of a possible fortification in this area, although there appears to be no positive confirmatory evidence from documentary sources or in terms of features visible as crop-marks or extant earthworks.

Examination of available aerial photographs of the specific study area, namely, the fields to the E of Bockleton Road (about 400m SE of the nucleus represented by the church and Bockleton Farm), revealed little positive evidence of settlement activity within the study area. Aerial photographs dated 1990 and 1999 show faint evidence for a trackway running SE from the NW corner of the field immediately N of the study area and then appearing to curve S (crossing the NE corner of the field containing the site), continuing SSE towards the Dunhampton Brook. However, no other features were identified that could possibly be interpreted as indications of medieval or earlier settlement/cultivation features. It is noticeable that there is a marked absence of evidence for ridge and furrow, suggesting that the fields E of Bockleton Road were previously unenclosed common or meadow in the medieval and early post-medieval periods before being enclosed and converted to arable cultivation in the late 18th or early 19th century.

The potential for encountering archaeological evidence of medieval occupation in the vicinity of the study area has been assessed as **Moderate**. It is difficult to determine whether the medieval settlement nucleus focused on the church and Bockleton Farm extended as far as the study area; however, there is no clear evidence from documentary and cartographic sources or from aerial photographs to indicate whether this was indeed the case.

- **Post-medieval**

Consultation of the Worcestershire HER identified only three sites of post-medieval date in the vicinity of the study area. Located immediately SE of the church is the site of a demolished farmstead first recorded on the OS map of 1816, consisting of a farmhouse oriented E-W and a loose complex of outbuildings immediately to the E (WSM 54377; WSM 62077). The farm is shown on the Bockleton tithe map of 1843 and the OS 1st-3rd edition maps but appears to have been demolished by the late 1970s.

Two extant built heritage assets are recorded to the NW of the study area. Sallings Farm comprises an unlisted, timber-framed brick farmhouse of probable 17th -century date (WSM 3655) with an associated group of post-medieval outbuildings ranged around two sides of a courtyard (WSM 54275). Located just to the N of Sallings Farm is another built heritage asset, Little Sallings Farm (formerly School Farm), consisting of a farmhouse of early 19th -century date, with an attached range of outbuildings of contemporary or later date (WSM 54397).

The closest recorded archaeological interventions recorded in the Worcestershire HER relate to farm buildings of post-medieval date, located some distance from the study area. A standing building recording survey was undertaken in December 2009 at Romers Farm, a farmstead of late 18th-early 19th -century date located about 1.1km N of the site (WSM 41771; Napthan, 2010) and a standing building survey and watching brief was also carried out at Grafton Farm, approximately 1.7km W of the site, which revealed evidence of a 17th -century

farmhouse and outbuildings incorporated into the later 19th -century farm buildings (WSM 34219, 34220; Williams, 2005). Consequently, it is extremely difficult to assess the potential for buried archaeological remains in this area. The study area has been under cultivation for a lengthy period; thus, it is possible that any surviving archaeological remains may have been disturbed by ploughing, although the extent of truncation is difficult to assess based on the available information.

The potential for encountering evidence of post-medieval archaeology has been assessed as **Low**; evidence of documentary records and historic mapping (discussed in more detail below) indicates that the study area lay within enclosed fields at the beginning of the 19th century, with no evidence for occupation in the immediate vicinity of the study area.

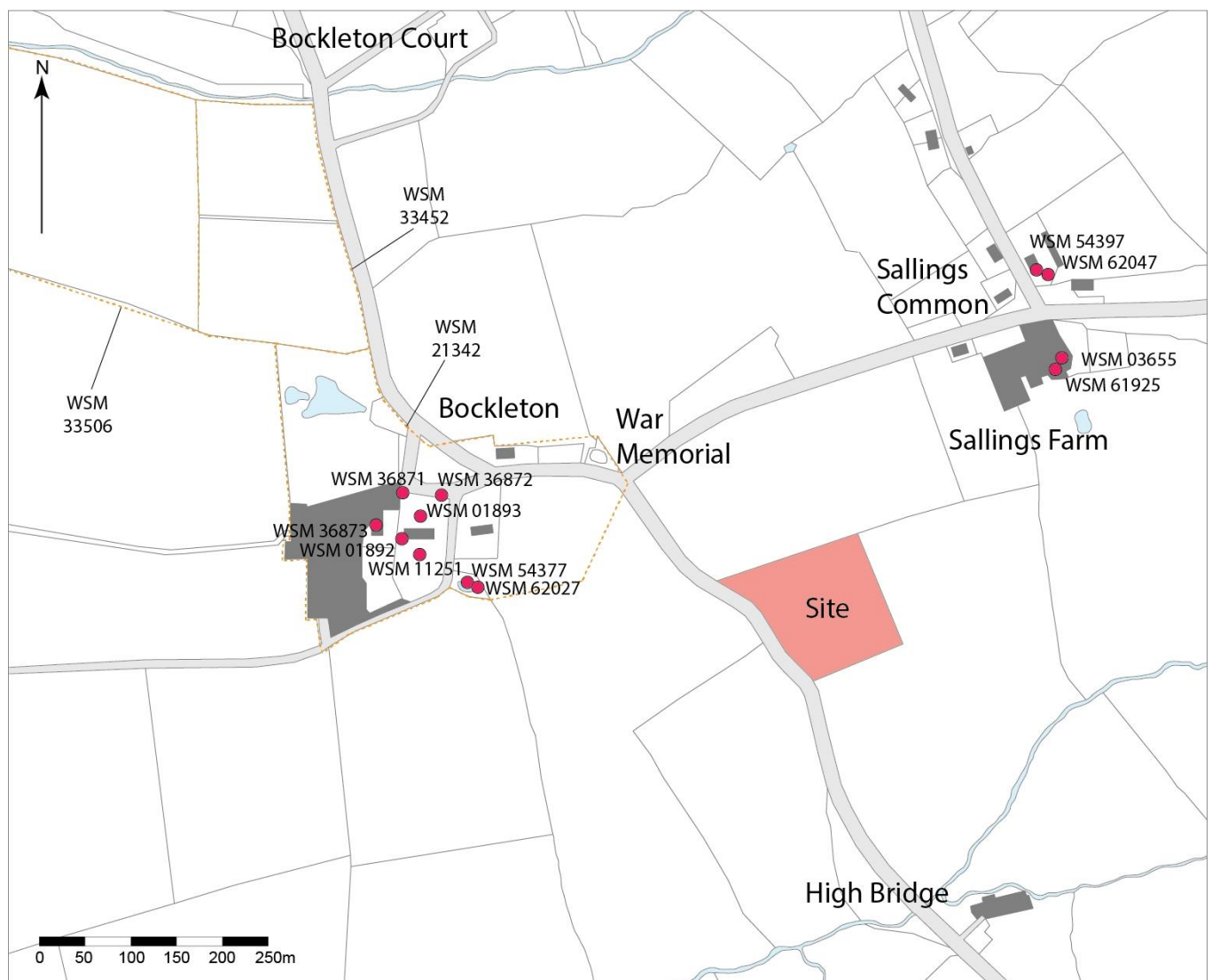


Fig. 2: Plan showing sites recorded in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record in the vicinity of the study area

Table 1: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site (within a radius of 500m centred on NGR SO 59776 61317)

<u>HER Reference</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>Date</u>
WSM 11251	Site of Shrunken Village at Bockleton	SO 5929 6139	Medieval
WSM 21342	Presumed Area of Saxon and Medieval Settlement at Bockleton	SO 5930 6146	Medieval
WSM 08192	St Michael's Church Bockleton (late 12 th -13 th century)	SO 5930 6142	Medieval
WSM 08193	Site of Saxon Church Bockleton	SO 5929 6142	Medieval
WSM 36871	Lych Gate about 50 yards NW of the Church of St Michael Bockleton (15 th century)	SO 592 614	Medieval
WSM 36872	Lych Gate about 60 yards to the NE of St Michael's Church Bockleton (15 th century)	SO 5932 6146	Medieval
WSM 33452	Field named Castle Camp Croft Bockleton	SO 591 617	Medieval
WSM 33506	Field named Castle Camp Bockleton	SO 589 618	Medieval
WSM 36873	Bockleton Court Farmhouse Bockleton (17 th -century with mid-19 th -century additions)	SO 592 614	Post-medieval
WSM 54377	Site of Farmstead SE of St. Michael's Church Bockleton (Monument)	SO 5935 6137	Post-medieval
WSM 62027	Site of Farmstead SE of St. Michael's Church Bockleton (Landscape Component)	SO 5935 6137	Post-medieval
WSM 03655	Sallings Farm - 17 th -century farmhouse and later outbuildings)	SO 599 616	Post-medieval
WSM 61925	Sallings Farm - Post-medieval farmstead (Landscape Component)	SO 599 616	Post-medieval
WSM 54397	Little Sallings, formerly School Farm - 19 th -century farmhouse and outbuildings (Monument)	SO 5999 6171	Post-medieval
WSM 62047	Little Sallings, formerly School Farm - 19 th -century farmhouse and outbuildings (Landscape Component)	SO 5999 6171	Post-medieval

5.2 Documentary Study and Map Regression

5.2.1 Medieval to c. 1800

Little specific documentary or cartographic information on the study area is available prior to the early 19th century. Although there are surviving medieval records relating to lands within Bockleton (with a particularly large collection of records being held by the Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral), it is difficult to tie these into specific properties. The study area lay within the estate of Bockleton Farm, the principal landholding within Bockleton parish, but it is not mentioned by name in a sale catalogue of the estates of Bockleton Manor and the Hill dated 1777 or in a later valuation of the Bockleton estate dated 1797 (WRO 705:365/BA 8901/3).

5.2.2 c.1800-1900

From c.1800 onwards, there is an increasing body of documentary and cartographic evidence relating to the specific study area. The earliest plan to show the study area with a reasonable degree of topographical detail is an OS surveyor's drawing of Bromyard and district dated 1816 (*fig. 3*).



Fig. 3: Extract from an OS surveyor's drawing of Bromyard and district dated 1816 showing the study area at Bockleton (Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

The 1816 map shows that the study area lay within the N part of a sub-rectangular field enclosure to the E of a lane leading SE from Bockleton towards Hampton Charles (corresponding to the alignment of present-day

Bockleton Road). The field is shown as bordered to the N by a rectangular field enclosure oriented roughly E-W, the shape of which approximately corresponds to the existing field enclosure, extending eastwards as far as Sallings Farm (marked as 'Salens'). To the S of the study area, the OS drawing shows another sub-rectangular field enclosure extending SE as far as the stream marking the county boundary.

The three fields to the E of the lane from Bockleton to Hampton Charles may be identified with three fields listed in a valuation of Bockleton Farm dated 1806 as Upper Nighbridge, Nighbridge Meadow and Lower Nighbridge. Upper Nighbridge (11a 3r 26p) evidently corresponds to the northernmost of the three fields; Nighbridge Meadow (10a 1r 12p) may be identified with the field immediately S of Upper Nighbridge while Lower Nighbridge (16a 35p) represents the southernmost field bordering the Dunhampton Brook.

The etymology of the place-name 'Nighbridge' presumably refers to the proximity of these fields to the crossing of the Dunhampton Brook further to the SE. The existing bridge, of brick construction, was erected by subscription in 1878 but evidently replaced an earlier structure of unknown date. It is possible that these fields may once have formed a western outlier of Sallings Common, an extensive area of unenclosed upland common extending to the E of the study area on either side of the road leading E from Bockleton towards Kyre.



Fig. 4: Extract from the Bockleton tithe map of 1843 showing the study area located within a plot named 'Middle Nighbridge'

(Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

The evidence of the Bockleton tithe map and apportionment of 1843 (WRO AP r971.2/ BA2664/5) shows a reorganization of the pattern of field enclosure within the three fields to the E of Bockleton Road had taken place since the beginning of the 19th century (fig. 4). The eastern part of all three fields had been apportioned to form

two new enclosures (listed as Plot Nos. 532 ('Part of Lower and Middle Nightbridge') and 537 ('Part of Upper Nightbridge')), which are recorded in the apportionment as meadows belonging to the tenant of the School House, one Richard Pymble. The long straight boundary marking this new division is typical of late 18th-19th - century survey planned enclosure.

The three fields immediately W of these new enclosures are listed as 'Upper Nightbridge' (Plot No. 530), 'Middle Nightbridge' (Plot No. 529) and 'Lower Nightbridge' (Plot No. 528); all three were under arable cultivation and in the possession of Mary Goode, the tenant of Bockleton Farm, the owner being listed as Reverend Thomas Elton Miller, who had acquired the manor of Bockleton at some time between 1824 and 1827 (Page & Willis-Bund, 1924, 242). 'Middle Nightbridge', the field comprising the specific study area, can probably be identified with 'Nighbridge Meadow' referred to in the 1806 valuation.

The acreages of these enclosures as given in the tithe apportionment differ somewhat from those given in the 1806 estate valuation; 'Upper Nightbridge' is recorded as containing 13 acres 26 perches, 'Middle Nightbridge' contained 12 acres 1 rod 38 perches while 'Lower Nightbridge' appears to have been reduced significantly in size, from 16 acres to 9 acres, 2 rods and 22 perches.

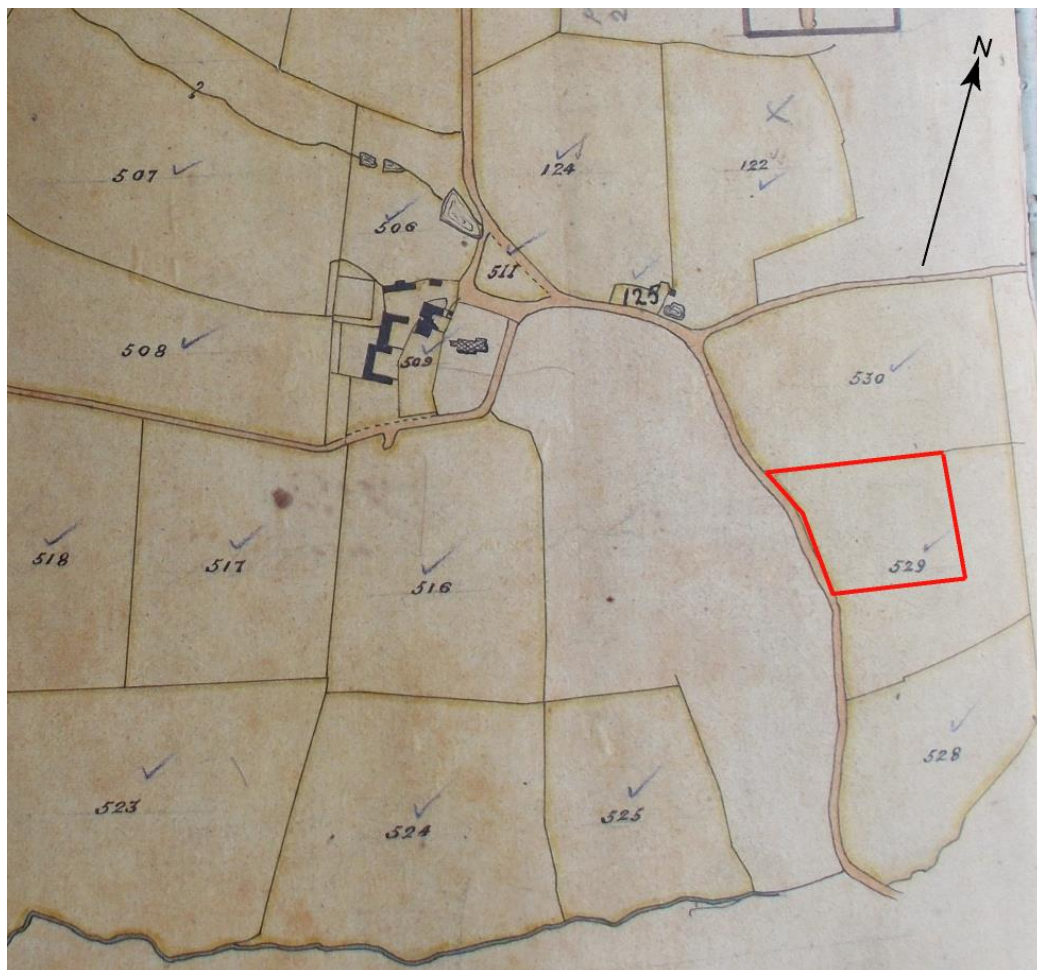
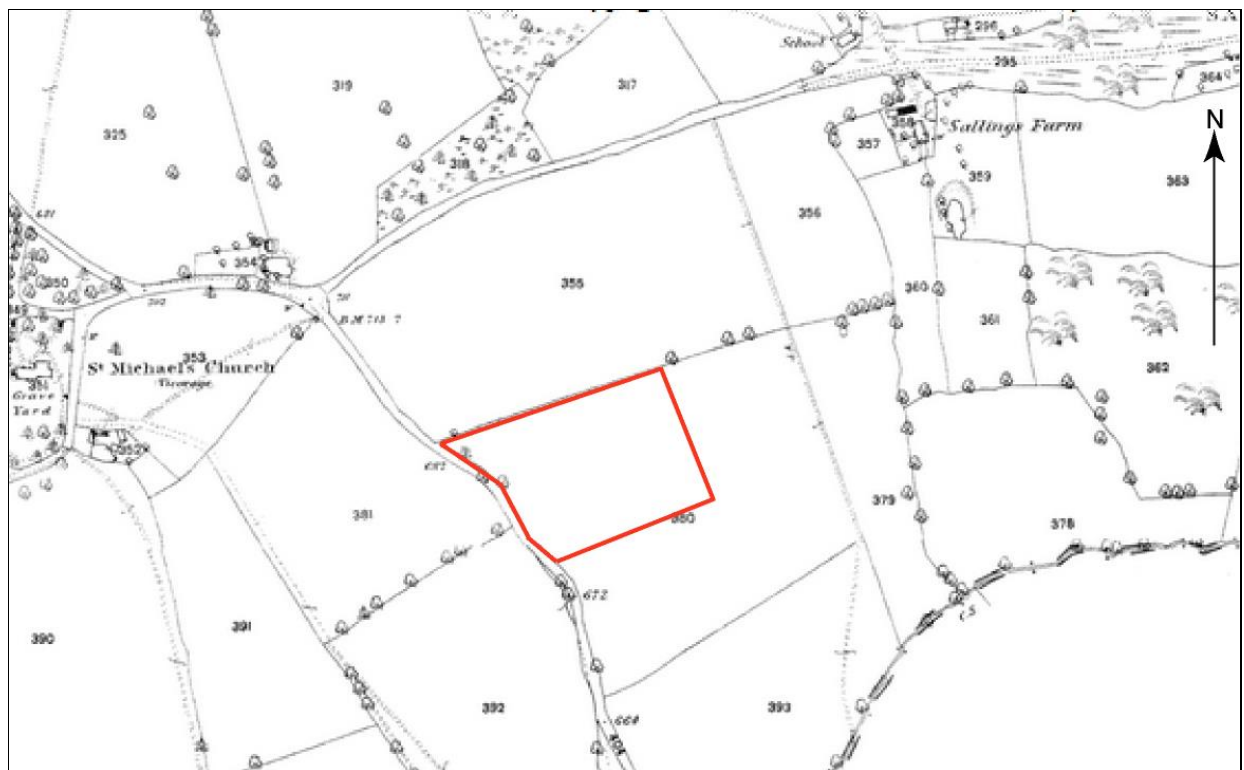


Fig. 5: Extract from a Valuation of Bockleton Estate and Manor by C. Cadle (1866) showing the study area located within 'Middle Nightbridge' (Plot No. 529)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

A detailed plan and valuation of Bockleton Manor surveyed by Clement Cadle in 1866, just prior to the sale of the estate, provides a valuable snapshot of the condition of the estate in the second half of the 19th century (*fig. 5*). The three fields to the E of Bockleton Road had remained unchanged in terms of acreage and land-use since the tithe survey (all three were still under arable); however, Cadle's valuation provides some revealing comments on the condition of the fields at that date. Cadle describes 'Middle Nightbridge' as 'a good open field, a little hedgerow timber should be felled', Upper Nightbridge is referred to as 'a good open field but rather hilly, might do for a hopyard', while Lower Nightbridge is described as having 'a brashy soil' (WRO 705:365/BA 8901/3).



*Fig. 6: Extract from the OS 1st-edition 25-inch map of 1885
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Worcestershire Record Office)*

Comparison between Cadle's survey of 1866 and the OS 1st-edition 25-inch map of 1885 (*fig. 6*) indicates that the boundaries of the three fields to the E of Bockleton Road remained unchanged during the intervening period. The 1885 map shows a footpath running along the E boundary of 'Upper Nightbridge' and 'Middle Nightbridge' fields and then striking SW across 'Lower Nightbridge' field, crossing the Dunhampton Brook about 150m E of High Bridge.

5.2.3 c.1900 to present

Examination of the OS 2nd-edition map of 1904 (*fig. 7*) shows that the pattern of enclosure within the study area had remained unchanged since 1885; the footpath running along the E field boundary of Upper and Middle Nightbridge is still visible. A record of sales particulars of the Bockleton Estate (which was put up for auction on 5th July 1905) shows that the three fields to the E of Bockleton Road were still under arable cultivation at that date (*fig. 8*). An OS 3rd-edition 6-inch map of 1930 (*fig. 9*) again shows no change to the fieldscape pattern in

this area; however, the Land Utilisation Survey map of 1937 shows that the land-use within the fields had changed from arable to permanent grassland.

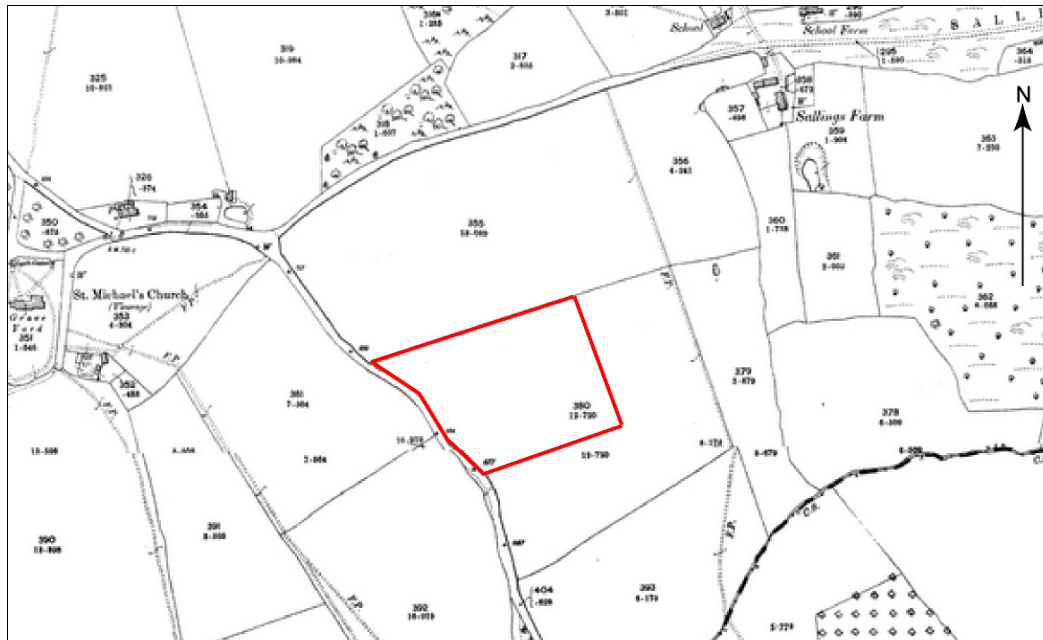


Fig. 7: Extract from the OS 2nd-edition 25-inch map of 1904
(Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

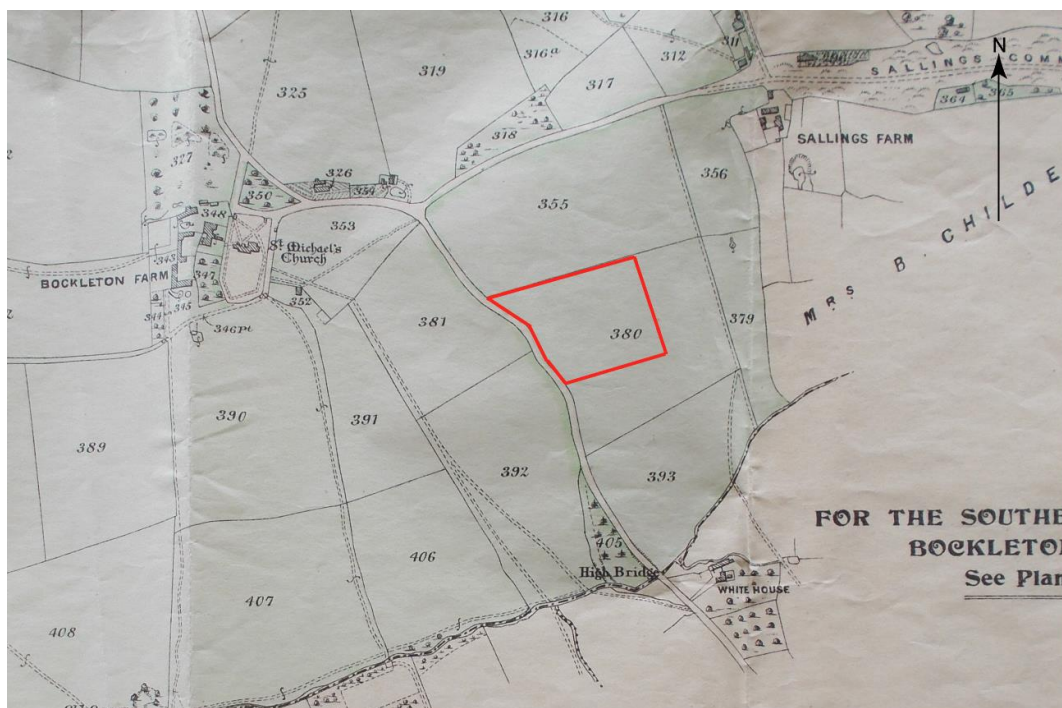


Fig. 8: Extract from a plan attached to sale particulars of the Bockleton Estate (1905)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

Later 20th century maps of the study area, in particular an OS provisional edition 6 -inch map of 1954 and an OS 1:2500 map of 1972, show that there had been no discernible change to the pattern of field enclosure in this area. However, a vertical photograph dated 2nd May 1990 (CUCAP Ref. RC8LS011) shows that Middle and Lower Nightbridge had been amalgamated to form a single large field enclosure, which was then under arable cultivation.

A subsequent aerial photograph dated 30th July 1999 shows that a sub-rectangular feature, presumably a pond or drainage sump, had been excavated in the NW corner of the field (within the proposed development area). However, a later aerial photograph dated 9th September 2005 shows that this feature had been filled in and another similar feature excavated further to the S (outside the bounds of the proposed development area).



Fig. 9: Extract from the OS 3rd -edition 6 -inch map dated 1930
(Reproduced by courtesy of Worcestershire Record Office)

6 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on June 10th 2014 to determine the potential for surviving archaeological remains on the site. The proposed development area, which covers an approximate area of 0.23ha, lies within the N half of a large, roughly quadrilateral -shaped field bordered to the W by Bockleton Road, an unclassified lane running NW-SE from Bockleton towards Hampton Charles. The W boundary (adjoining the road) is defined by a substantial tree-lined hedge.



Plate 2: View looking NNE towards N boundary of field, currently under the plough

The N boundary of the field (which also represents the northernmost extent of the site) is defined by a substantial linear hedge boundary running roughly E-W (partially tree-lined towards its E end) which appears to be long-established in form (*Plate 2*). The field slopes gently downhill from NW-SE towards the Dunhampton stream, which marks the historic county boundary between Worcestershire and Herefordshire (*Plate 3*). This field was originally divided into two separate enclosures. However, the two fields were amalgamated in recent years to form a single enclosure; no evidence of the former sub-division was noted. The entire field is under cultivation and has been heavily ploughed; no features were visible either within the development area (within the N half of the field) or the rest of the field.



Plate 3: View looking SE across field towards the S boundary, defined by the Dunhampton Brook

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(Vertical and oblique aerial photographs of the study area ranging in date from 1959 to 2010 were consulted at the Worcestershire Record Office, Cambridge University Centre for Aerial Photography and the National Monuments Record, Swindon)

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