

LAND EAST of J21 of M5

HAYBOW

BANWELL

SOMERSET

Results of an Archaeological Assessment



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no. 191206



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Land East of J21 of M5, Haybow, Banwell, Somerset Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal and Walkover Survey

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Work undertaken by SWARCH for Sutherland Property and Legal Services (The Agent)

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological assessment carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. for an area of land east of J21 on the M5, Haybow, Banwell, North Somerset, as part of a planning application for the site.

The site consists of two fields covering c.6.5ha immediately to the east of the M5 and north-east of Junction 21. The site is located within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Banwell, an estate first documented in the Will of Alfred in the late 9th century AD; it was subsequently held by the Bishop of Wells for most of the second millennium AD. The closest historic settlement is the former hamlet of St Georges (previously Puttingthorpe/Puttingworth); this may have been one of the sub-manors listed under Banwell in the Domesday Book. In c.1840 the fields belonged to Doubleton Farm, and the house there has medieval origins.

The site lies within the North Somerset Level, an extensive former wetland that was reclaimed in the later Roman period, reverted to saltmarsh with backfen in the post-Roman period, and was reclaimed again in stages during the early medieval and medieval periods. At depth there are peat deposits of Neolithic date that provide palaeo-environmental information. Much of the Roman land surface is buried beneath 0.5-1.0m of estuarine alluvium but in the backfen areas the earthworks of Roman field boundaries and palaeo-channels are preserved. It remains unclear, but it appears likely, that there was settlement on the Level during the Roman period, as indicated by the finds of Roman pottery in the area. During the early medieval period the saltmarsh was reclaimed in stages, starting with large but isolated oval enclosures; one of these (wortis) lay just to the west of the proposed site. The fields contain the ploughed-down earthworks of former drainage features of medieval and later date.

Based on the results of fieldwork in the surrounding area the archaeological potential of the site for medieval and post-medieval remains is low; the potential for buried Roman and Prehistoric archaeological remains and palaeo-environmental deposits is high. However, where and if present those remains would be sealed beneath c.0.5m+ of alluvium and 1.0m+ below the current ground level.



January 2019

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CONTENTS

<i>SUMMARY</i>	2
<i>CONTENTS</i>	3
<i>LIST OF FIGURES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF TABLES</i>	3
<i>LIST OF APPENDICES</i>	4
<i>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</i>	4
<i>PROJECT CREDITS</i>	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.5 METHODOLOGY	7
2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	8
2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY	8
2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT	8
2.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIDAR	11
2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	12
2.5 WALKOVER SURVEY	18
2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	19
3.0 CONCLUSION	20
4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES	21

LIST OF FIGURES

COVER PLATE: VIEW ACROSS THE SITE, FROM THE SOUTHERN TO NORTHERN FIELD; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).	6
FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1809 ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP.	8
FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE BANWELL TITHE MAP OF 1838.	9
FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1885 OS 1 ST EDITION 25" MAP.	10
FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1903 2 ND EDITION OS 25" MAP.	10
FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE 1931 3 RD REVISION OS 25" MAP.	11
FIGURE 7: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE TAKEN IN 1940.	11
FIGURE 8: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE TAKEN IN 2005.	12
FIGURE 9: IMAGE BASED ON ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LIDAR DATE (1M DSM).	13
FIGURE 10: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - MONUMENTS.	16
FIGURE 11: REVISED EVENT MAP FOR THE CENTRAL PART OF THE NORTH SOMERSET LEVEL.	18

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1838 BANWELL TITHE APPORTIONMENT.	9
TABLE 2: DATA EXTRACTED FROM BGS (2020) BOREHOLE INFORMATION.	14
TABLE 3: TABLE OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - MONUMENTS.	15
TABLE 4: TABLE OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - EVENTS.	17

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS – WALKOVER

22

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	LAND EAST OF J21 M5, HAYBOW
PARISH:	BANWELL
DISTRICT:	NORTH SOMERSET
COUNTY:	SOMERSET
NGR:	ST 38169 63041
SWARCH REF.	HHPR19

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Sutherland Property and Legal Services (the Agent) to undertake an archaeological assessment as part of a heritage statement for land east of Junction 21 of the M5, Haybow, Banwell, Somerset in advance of a proposed development. This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice and CIfA guidelines.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located to the north east of Western-Super-Mare, c.550m to the north-east of Junction 21 of the M5. The site comprises two fields covering an area of c.6.5ha immediately to the north-west of Haybow Farm Caravan Park. The site is mostly level at c.5m AOD. The soils of this area are the deep stoneless mainly calcareous clayey soils or marine alluvium of the Newchurch 2 association (SSEW 1983), with high groundwater levels controlled via a hierarchy of gries, ditches, rhynes and rivers. These soils overlie thick (20m+) superficial intertidal deposits belonging to the Wentlooge Formation. The Middle Wentlooge Formation is a 1m+ layer of woody peat that developed during the Neolithic period, located c.4m below current ground levels. At depth the site is underlain by mudstones and halite-stones of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2019).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Banwell in the Hundred of Winterstoke. Banwell (*Banuville*, meaning either *Banna's stream* or *murderer's stream*) is first mentioned in the late 9th century *Will of Alfred* as a minster site granted to the priest Asser, and there are a series of Anglo-Saxon charters (S373; S806; S825; S1042) for the estate, including one with an OE charter boundary. By Domesday the estate had been granted to the Bishop of Well, in whose hands it remained until the later 18th century. The closest settlement to the site is the hamlet of St Georges (perhaps one of the sub-manors valued at 1 hide listed under Banwell in the Domesday Book), formerly known as *Puttingthorpe/Puttingworth*. The site was owned in 1840 by one Thomas Emery and leased by Robert Hicks as part of the tenement of Doubleton Farm; this farmhouse has medieval origins (Rippon 2006, *passim*).

1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The North Somerset Levels is a dynamic coastal landscape, and one that has been reclaimed from the sea at least twice. The Middle Wentlooge peats contain important palaeo-environmental data and developed during the Neolithic (recent C14 dates from Locking Parklands indicate dates between 5900-4400 cal BC – Quest 2019). The area returned to intertidal conditions in the Early Bronze Age, and several Late Iron Age or early Roman salterns ('red hills') have been identified in the area. By the 3rd-4th century AD the Level had been reclaimed and divided into fields. This process may have been linked to the Roman villas identified in the area (Banwell, Locking, Wemberham), but as much of the Roman landscape is sealed beneath another 0.5-1.0m of post-Roman alluvium, the precise nature of the settlement pattern is poorly understood. Recent work

on the Level (Swarch forthcoming a; forthcoming b) has investigated long linear settlements at Locking Parklands and Oldmixon at the wetland/dryland interface, of later Iron Age and Roman date, but whether this will prove to be typical of the Level is as yet unproven, as these settlements probably relate to a large palaeo-channel that drained into the sea via Uphill Great Rhyne. The work of the North Somerset Levels Project (NSLP, published Rippon 2006) has investigated the earthworks of Romano-British fieldsystems in the backfen areas (e.g. Banwell Moor), and analysis of LiDAR data would suggest they are much more extensive than previously appreciated.



FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION (THE SITE IS INDICATED).

During the medieval period the Level was reclaimed for a second time. The work of the NSLP has determined that the first areas to be reclaimed were large oval enclosures ('summer ring dikes') created within a Level that was still subject to tidal inundation. One of these posited enclosures lies to the west of the proposed site at St Georges (previously Puttingworth, presumably from the OE *wyrth* meaning enclosure). Subsequently, and perhaps before 1086, sea walls were erected and the Level reclaimed. The early fields utilised existing formerly tidal creeks and the result is an irregular fieldscape; later reclamation with the backfen areas was more systematic and resulted in

more regular fieldsystems. These fields are drained by a hierarchy of gripes, ditches, rhynes and rivers and, then as now, are predominantly pastoral.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This work was undertaken in accordance with best practice. The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments* (Historic England 2017).

2.0 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.1 DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The site lies within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Banwell in the Hundred of Winterstoke. Banwell (*Banuville*, meaning either *Banna's stream* or *murderer's stream*) is first mentioned in the late 9th century *Will of Alfred* as a minster site granted to the priest Asser, and there are a series of Anglo-Saxon charters (S373; S806; S825; S1042) for the estate, including one with an OE charter boundary. By Domesday the estate had been granted to the Bishop of Well, in whose hands it remained until the later 18th century. The closest settlement to the site is the hamlet of St Georges (perhaps one of the sub-manors valued at 1 hide listed under Banwell in the Domesday Book), formerly known as *Puttingthorpe/Puttingworth*. The site was owned in c.1840 by one Thomas Emery and leased by Robert Hicks as part of the tenement of Doubleton Farm; this farmhouse has medieval origins (Rippon 2006, *passim*).

Three major linear infrastructure projects have occurred in this area: the creation of the Banwell River (formerly the *New Yeo*) in the medieval period (for drainage but perhaps also as a canal linking the Bishops residence at Banwell to the sea – see Rippon 2006, 89); the building of the Bristol to Exeter GWR line in the late 1830s; and the construction of the M5 in 1969-73.

2.2 CARTOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT

Early estate maps survive for some parts of the Level but the earliest cartographic source available to this study is the 1809 OS surveyor's draft map (Figure 2). These maps accurately depict roads and settlements, but the depiction of field boundaries is usually indicative rather than accurate.

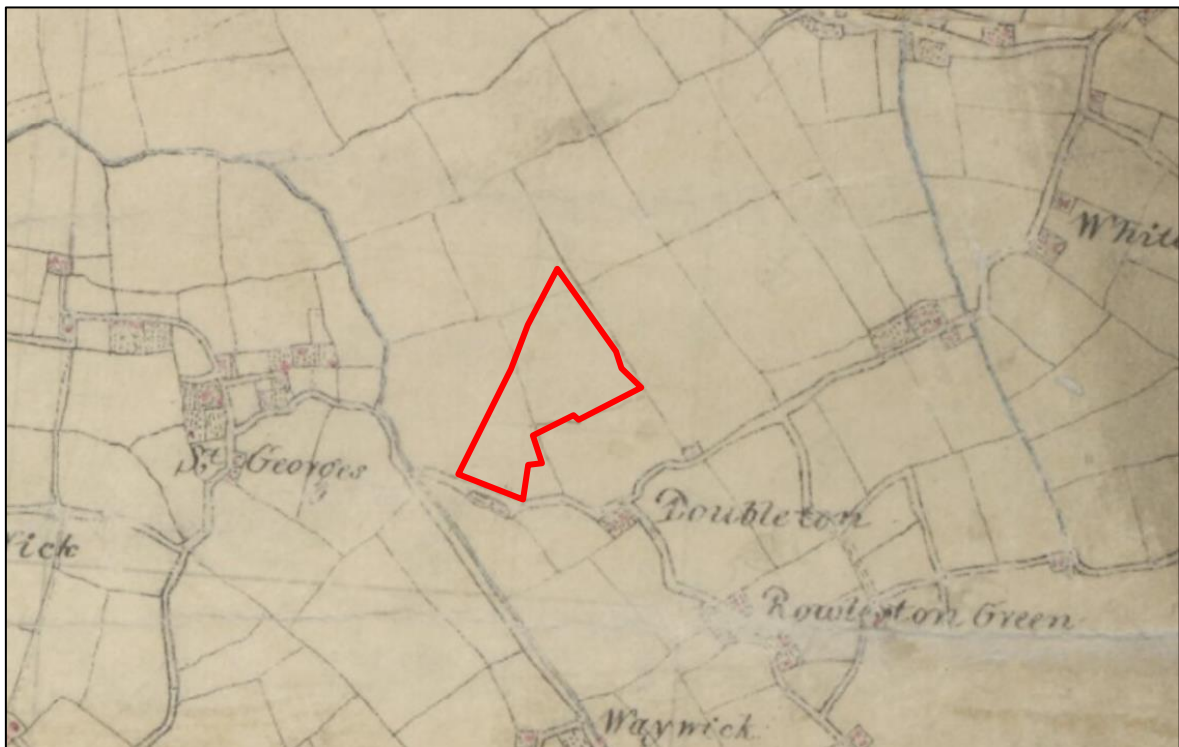


FIGURE 2: EXTRACT FROM THE 1809 ORDNANCE SURVEY SURVEYOR'S DRAFT MAP OF THE AREA (BL); THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

The first detailed cartographic depiction of the area is the 1838 Banwell tithe map (Figure 3). The proposed site incorporates seven fields (plot nos. 19, 161, 169, 169a, 170, 170a and 170b); these

fields belong to Doubleton Farm, which was owned by Thomas Emery and leased by Robert Hicks. The field names are descriptive and prosaic (see Table 1). The one clear contrast with the 1809 map is that the Banwell River north of Haybow Bridge has been straightened and canalised.

TABLE 1: EXTRACT FROM THE 1838 BANWELL TITHE APPORTIONMENT (PRO).

Plot number	Landowner	Tenant	Plot name
19	Thomas Emery	Robert Hicks	Oakey Paddock
160			Lower nine acres
161			Nine acres
169			Pains Orchard
169a			Haywards
170			-
170a			Ten acres
170b			
163	-	-	-
164	John Soper (Late Edwards)	John Soper (Late Edwards)	Seven acres
167			West four acres
168	William Beadon Buller Clerk	John Gill	Three acres
171	Mary Jones	John Soper	Butty eight acres
172			Wall Lease twenty acres
174			South four acres

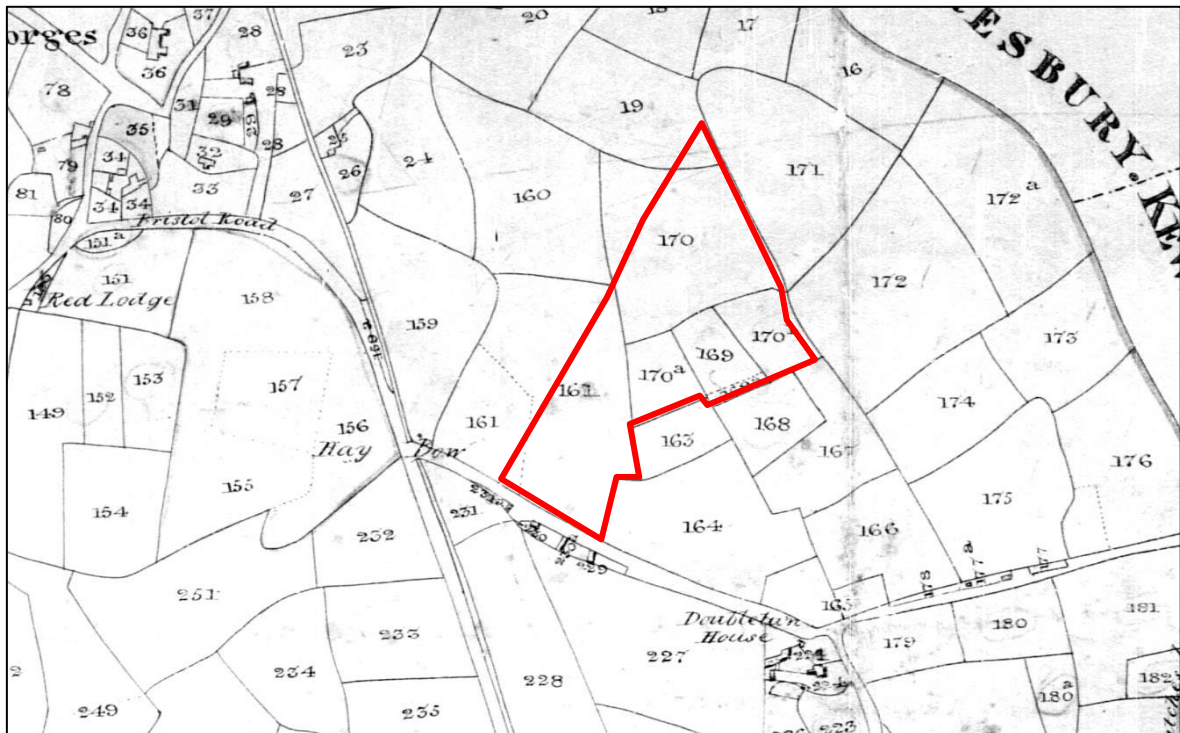


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM THE BANWELL TITHE MAP OF 1838; THE SITE IS INDICATED (PRO).

By 1885 the GWR line had been in existence for 40 years, and a series of changes are evident in this landscape. Most of these relate to the rationalisation of the landscape, the loss of field boundaries and the creation of larger fields. Field nos. 169, 179a, 170a, and 170b are shown as a single field, with the stipple for an orchard. A Baptist chapel is indicated to the south of the site.

Very little change is evident on the 1903 and 1931 OS maps (Figures 4-5), largely reflecting the long agricultural depression that commenced in c.1873 and continued until 1939. The only major change shown is the new road linking Haybow Bridge and the Woolpack Inn. Subsequent maps (not illustrated) show the first housing estates appearing at St Georges in the 1960s (Station Road, Willow Close) and 1970s (Vale Crescent, Trelawn Close), presumably due to the proximity of the railway station. In 1969×1973 the M5 was driven through the landscape, rerouting local roads and

destroying Haybow Bridge. In the 1980s another housing estate appeared on the edge of St Georges (Willow Gardens), and many of the historic buildings within St Georges appear to have been demolished and replaced by this date. In the early 2000s a series of major housing schemes to the north-east and west of St Georges linked the former hamlet to the greater Weston-Super-Mare. The early 2000s also saw the establishment of a caravan storage site at Haybow Farm, which eventually expanded to cover c.2ha. Between 1999 and 2005 a major pipeline was installed with an easement c.25m wide, approaching from the north to a terminus next to Haybow Farm.

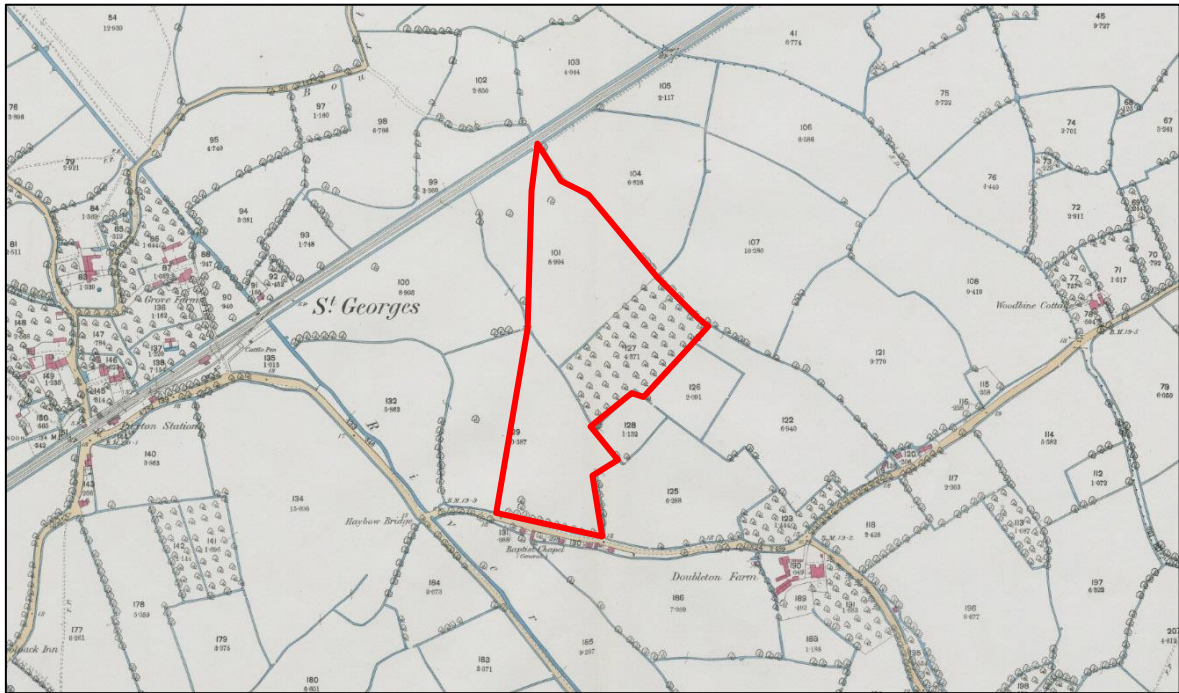


FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM THE 1885 OS 1ST EDITION 25" MAP; THE SITE IS INDICATED (NLS).

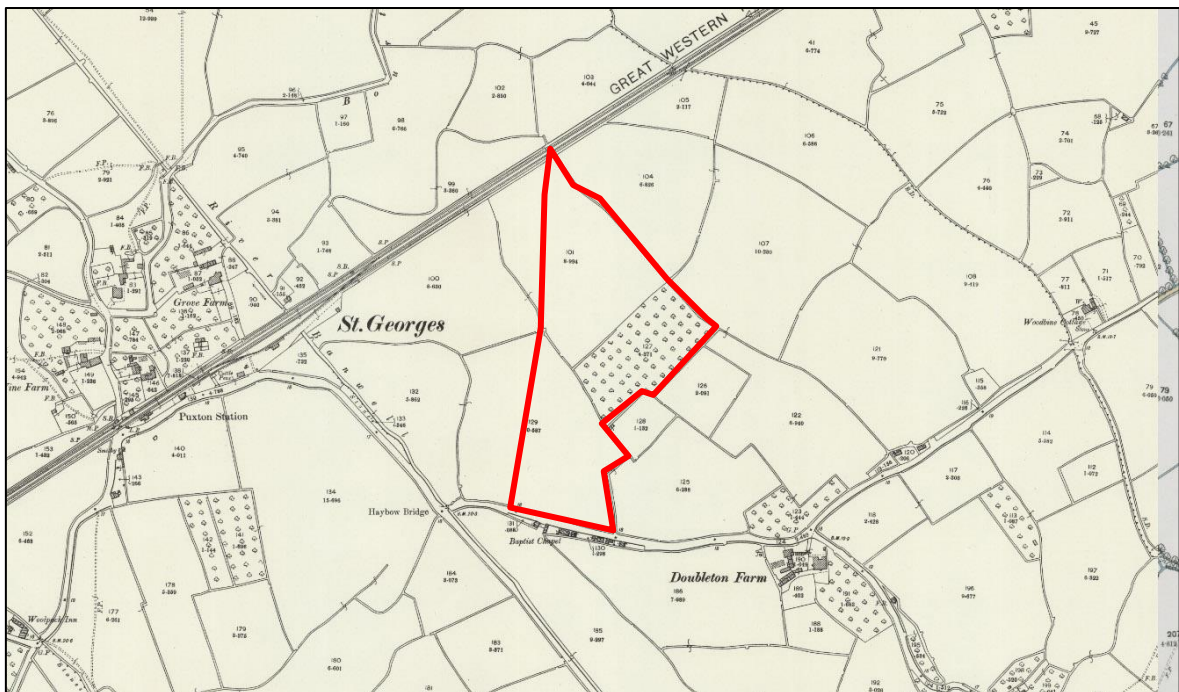


FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM THE 1903 OS 2ND EDITION OS 25" MAP; THE SITE IS INDICATED (NLS).

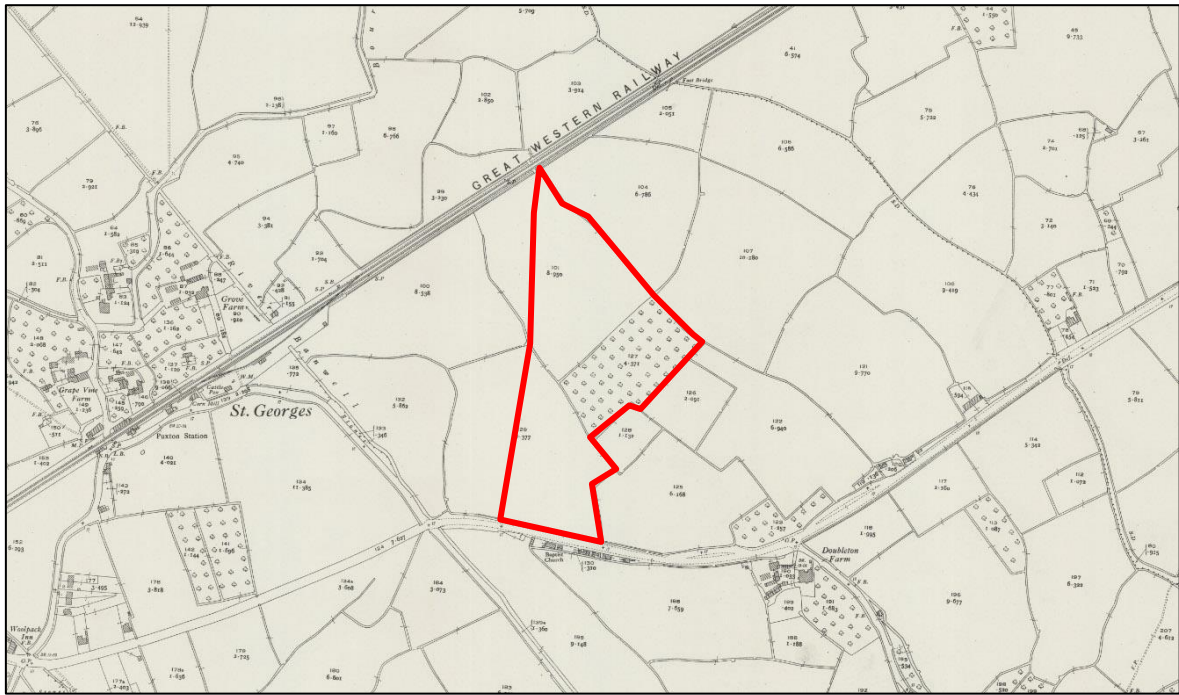


FIGURE 6: EXTRACT FROM THE 1931 3RD REVISION OS 25" MAP; THE SITE IS INDICATED (NLS).

2.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIDAR

Assessment of the readily available aerial photography (see Figures 7 & 8) indicates that the two fields were covered in drainage channels (shovel-depth gripes and also probably former field boundaries), but that by 2005 these had been plough-down and had become less pronounced. No other archaeological features are apparent.



FIGURE 7: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE TAKEN IN 1940 (NORTH SOMERSET HER); THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.



FIGURE 8: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SITE TAKEN IN 2005 (SOURCE GOOGLE EARTH; ©2018 INFOTERRA & BLUESKY); THE LOCATION OF THE SITE IS INDICATED.

Analysis of the LiDAR data for the North Somerset Level (see Figure 9) indicates the backfen areas are lower than the coastal areas by a significant amount, and in the backfen palaeo-channels and elements of a relict Romano-British landscape are detectable. However, the proposed site lies within an area that received more post-Roman alluviation and the only features visible are the ploughed-down gripes and ditches shown on the 1940s aerial photograph. That said, in relative terms it is lower than the fields around it, and in a comparable field immediately to the south-east of Junction 21 fieldwalking by the NSLP identified a cluster of Roman finds that might perhaps be associated with a possible enclosure here.

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Several recent interventions in the area have highlighted the archaeological potential of the dryland/wetland interface, most of which are ongoing or have yet to reach publication. A series of archaeological evaluations have been undertaken to the west of the M5 around St Georges and Grove Farm, and to the south around West Wick, which have produced mixed results.

A key consideration for the archaeological potential of this landscape is the deep historic stratigraphy of the area. The extensive former and current wetlands that fringe the Severn Estuary on both sides of the channel are underlain by the alluvial deposits that form part of the Wentlooge series, 20m+ thick in places (Rippon 2006, 33; Allen & Scaife 2010). The Middle Wentlooge Formation consists of a thick (1.0-1.5m) layer of peat (dubbed the *OD peat* as it lies at or just above sea level) that dates to the Neolithic period (e.g. RC dates from the base and top of the sequence obtained at the Locking Parklands site are 5900-4400 cal BC – Quest 2019). These peats are sealed by 4.0-5.0m of blue-grey clays and silty-clays labelled the Upper Wentlooge Formation. These are natural estuarine and intertidal deposits, but they accumulated during the occupation and modification of this landscape by human agency. At least two stabilisation layers have been identified during fieldwork in the wider area that appear to correlate with the reclamation of intertidal saltmarsh.

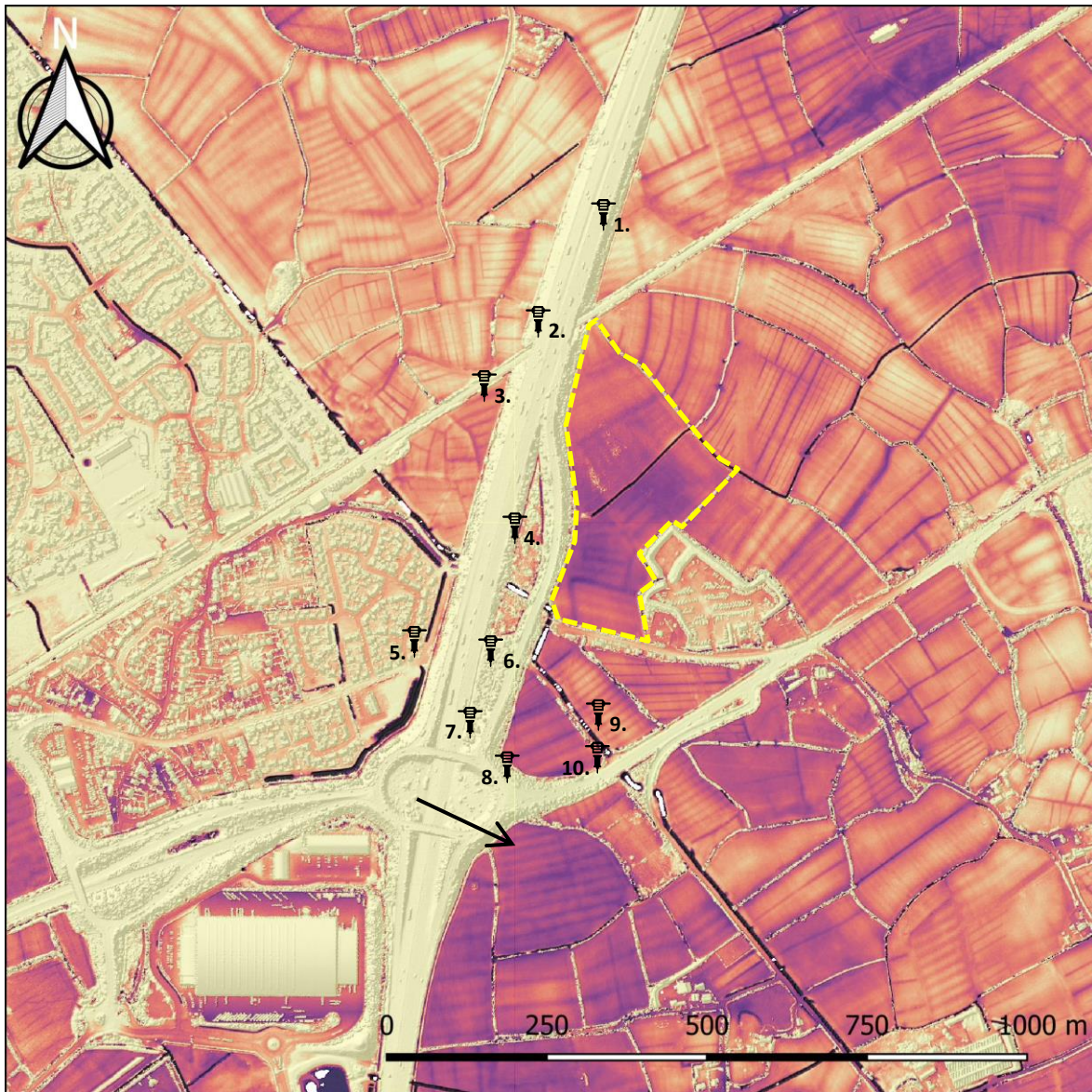


FIGURE 9: IMAGE BASED ON ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LiDAR DATE (1M DSM). SIMPLE SHADE INTERPRETATION OF BASE ASCII DATA FILES WITH SUPERIMPOSED HILLSLOPE FOR ROADS AND HOUSING. PURPLE = LOW GROUND; YELLOW = HIGHER GROUND. PROCESSED USING QGIS 3.8. USES DATA FREELY AVAILABLE UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE V.3.0 ©2020. THE SITE IS INDICATED, AS IS THE LOCATION OF THE ROMAN FINDS IDENTIFIED BY THE NSLP WITHIN A POSSIBLE ENCLOSURE (ARROWED). THE NUMBERED ENTRIES RELATE TO TABLE 2 (BELOW), THE LOCATION OF BOREHOLES.

They include evidence for a late Iron Age/early Romano-British saltmarsh landscape associated with salt production, succeeded by a later Romano-British reclaimed landscape. Rippon (2006) has investigated the earthworks of Romano-British fieldsystems in the backfen areas (Banwell Moor), and analysis of LiDAR data would suggest they are much more extensive than previously appreciated. Reclamation was perhaps associated with the several villa-type structures identified in the area (RAF Locking; Wemberham; ?Wolvershill Batch), but the Level was subsequently abandoned in the early medieval period, and the Roman landscape is sealed beneath by 0.5m-1.0m of estuarine alluvium. As a result, the precise nature of the settlement pattern is poorly understood. Recent work on the Level (*Swarch forthcoming a*; *forthcoming b*) has investigated long linear settlements at Locking Parklands and Oldmixon at the wetland/dryland interface, of later Iron Age and Roman date, but whether this will prove to be typical of the Level is as yet unknown, as these settlements probably relate to a large palaeo-channel that drained into the sea via Uphill Great Rhyne.

The Levels were embanked and reclaimed in the medieval period, with work by Rippon (2006 *passim*) suggesting that large oval enclosures ('summer ring dikes') were initially made within the saltmarsh, with piecemeal reclamation extending from these early settlements/infields. One of these posited enclosures lies to the west of the proposed site at St Georges (previously *Puttingworth*, presumably from the OE *wyrth* meaning enclosure). Subsequently, and perhaps before 1086, sea walls were erected and the Level reclaimed. Subsequent fieldwork has identified medieval settlements within but also outside these putative early enclosures indicating the picture is – inevitably – more complex.

The early fields utilised existing formerly tidal creeks and the result is an irregular fieldscape; later reclamation with the backfen areas was more systematic and resulted in more regular fieldsystems. These fields are drained by a hierarchy of gripes, ditches, rhynes and rivers and, then as now, are predominantly pastoral.

2.4.1 PREHISTORIC 4000BC - AD43

There are no prehistoric sites recorded by the HER within 1km of the site, although the salterns in and around St Georges could date back to the Late Iron Age (MNS8816; MNS8135). However, as noted above, the entire Middle and Upper Wentlooge sequence developed during the human occupation of this landscape, and thus buried palaeo-environmental remains are of clear interest. Ongoing fieldwork to the south-west at Locking Parklands and Oldmixon have identified Iron Age settlements around the edges of the Level, from which the resources of the wetland would have been exploited (SWARCH *forthcoming a*; *forthcoming b*).

Boreholes around the site have some potential to demonstrate its palaeo-environmental potential (see Table 2, below). These borehole records, subject to caveat, appear to demonstrate the buried peats are more variable than usually appreciated.

TABLE 2: DATA EXTRACTED FROM BGS (2020) BOREHOLE INFORMATION (SEE FIGURE 9).

No.	Location	Depth of Borehole	Peat
1	ST36SE66	9.14m	Trace peat at c.2.2m BGL
2	ST36SE67	20.72m	Organic silty peat at c.2.2m BGL and traces at c.5.6m BGL
3	ST36SE12	20.88m	Peat layer 3.51-3.9m BGL
4	ST36SE68	9.14m	Organic clay with peat bands 4.34-6.1m BGL; thin band above at c.2m BGL
5	ST36SE69	9.14m	Peat layer 3.81-4.42m BGL; trace peat above and below
6	ST36SE70	9.14m	Peat layer 4.11-5.56m BGL; trace peat above and below
7	ST36SE72	23.29m	Peat layer 4.42-4.9m BGL
8	ST36SE88	12.95m	No peat
9	ST36SE54	3.04m	No peat encountered; borehole collapsed
10	ST36SE71	9.14m	Trace peat at 2-3m BGL

2.4.2 ROMANO-BRITISH AD43 – AD409

During the earlier part of the Roman period the area was subject to tidal inundation and the only known sites are salterns (MNS8816; MNS8135; Cox & Holbrook 2009). The work of the NSLP has demonstrated that the Level was reclaimed and protected from flooding in the 3rd and 4th century AD, and settlements were established within the Level (probably MNS211; MNS5156; also, a pottery scatter immediately south-east of Junction 21 identified by the NSLP)

2.4.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL AD410 – AD1065

There is only one HER entry for activity during this period within 1km of the site: the *infield* at St Georges (MNS4470). However, several stages of reclamation had occurred by 1086, starting with the summer ring dikes and progressing to sea- and backfen walls. There is a posited summer ring dike to the west of the site at St Georges (*Puttingworth/Wortis*, Rippon 2006, fig.6.8b), and two small excavations in the silt fen have produced Saxo-Norman pottery (OA 2006; ACA 2016b).

2.4.4 MEDIEVAL AD1066 - AD1540

There are eight medieval sites recorded within 1km of the proposed site, the majority of which relate to farmsteads within St Georges, with evidence of a settlement at Way Wick. Medieval pottery was also found to the north-east of the site (ENS5244). During this period the area was fully enclosed and drained, and an undated (but probably medieval) area of earthworks to the west of the site has been identified as a possible ditched enclosure (ENS1771). Fieldwalking undertaken by the NSLP has determined that most of the fields outside of the backfen contain a light scatter of medieval pottery (Rippon 2006, fig.6.14c). The Banwell River was canalised during this period, as there are records from 1351 relating to its maintenance (Rippon 2006, 90). The built environment is also older than the HER records were suggest: analysis of farmhouses as part of the NSLP determined a relatively high proportion probably have their origins in the late medieval period, including Doubleton Farm (Rippon 2006, 163).

2.4.5 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN AD1540 – PRESENT

There are thirty-two post-medieval sites recorded on the HER within 1km of the proposed site, the majority of which relate to properties associated with St Georges or with the nearby farmsteads. Closer to the site, the Baptist chapel south of the site and a barn immediately east of the site are noted, with the barn having since been demolished. Most of the modern HER entries relate to the Great Western railway, built in the late 1830s. Haybow Farm first appears on the 1962 OS maps. The M5 was constructed in 1969×1973 and the old route of the A370 redirected over Junction 21.

Note that, in general, there is a trend to more and better archaeological fieldwork taking place in North Somerset, with academic underpinning provide by Rippon (2006). However, the physical difficulties of working in the Level (i.e. the depth of the Roman land surface in some areas, and waterlogging) have clearly limited the extent of post-determination fieldwork. Several evaluations have taken place in the St Georges/West Wick area that, despite encountering evidence for Roman and medieval occupation, did not lead on to significant archaeological works (most notably Cox & Holbrook 2009, but also OA 2005; CA 2010 etc.).

Some lacunae/errors in the NSHER data are worth noting: firstly, the Parklands Village magnetic susceptibility survey (ENS1971) took place to the west of the M5, not to the east. Secondly, the results of fieldwalking undertaken by the NSLP have yet to be integrated. Thirdly, the major pipeline between Yatton and Haybow Farm installed 1999×2005 does not appear to have initiated any fieldwork. A revised event map for the area is presented in Figure 11, based on recent and historic fieldwork and reporting in the area (NSHER plus ADS archives and the Planning Portal).

TABLE 3: TABLE OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - MONUMENTS (SOURCE: NORTH SOMERSET HER).

No.	Mon. ID	Name	Mon. Type
Monument Points			
1	MNS211	Roman and medieval pottery sherds, west of Villa Farm	FINDSPOT
2	MNS5156	Roman occupation site, St George	OCCUPATION SITE
3	MNS8135	Early Roman saltworks, St Georges	SALT WORKS
4	MNS8816	Possible Roman salt-workings	SALT WORKS?/DITCH
5	MNS4470	'Infield' at St George's	SITE
6	MNS1539	Chapel of St. George	CHAPEL, WORKHOUSE
7	MNS1777	Shrunken Settlement of Way Wick	SETTLEMENT, SHRUNKEN VILLAGE
8	MNS2521	Medieval Settlement	SETTLEMENT
9	MNS2865	Site of late medieval Grove Farm	FARMSTEAD
10	MNS5244	Medieval pottery 600m S of Manor Farm	ARTEFACT SCATTER
11	MNS6875	Double-ditched enclosure, Poplar Farm	DITCH
12	MNS6876	Medieval building 125m SW of Poplar Farm	FARMSTEAD?
13	MNS7814	Medieval core of former Grove Farm, St Georges	FARMSTEAD
14	MNS1540	Poor house	WORKHOUSE

LAND EAST OF J21 OF M5, HAYBOW, BANWELL, SOMERSET

15	MNS2840	Site of post medieval farmhouse, St Georges	FARMSTEAD
16	MNS2841	Straightened course of River Banwell	RHYNE
17	MNS2866	Site of post medieval Grape Vine Farm, St Georges	FARMSTEAD
18	MNS2869	Post medieval Poplar Farm, St Georges	FARMSTEAD
19	MNS2873	The Woolpack Inn, St Georges	PUBLIC HOUSE
20	MNS2874	Milestone at St Georges	MILESTONE
21	MNS3353	'Old House' field names, St Georges	HOUSE?
22	MNS3354	Site of post medieval building, Grove Farm	HOUSE?
23	MNS3355	Site of post medieval building south of Grove Farm	HOUSE?
24	MNS3356	Site of the Red Lodge, St Georges	HOUSE
25	MNS3358	Site of 'Hosiers House', St Georges	HOUSE
26	MNS3359	Site of Burges Bow bridge, St Georges	BRIDGE
27	MNS4467	Doubleton Farm, Banwell	FARMSTEAD
28	MNS6853	Brick House Farm, Way Wick	FARMSTEAD
29	MNS6854	Poplar farm, Way Wick	FARMSTEAD
30	MNS6855	House Farm, Way Wick	FARMSTEAD
31	MNS6861	Rolstone Manor Farm, West Rolstone Road	FARMSTEAD
32	MNS6862	Stuntree Farm GII, West Rolstone Road	FARMSTEAD
33	MNS6863	Site of buildings opposite Stuntree Farm	FARMSTEAD?
34	MNS6864	Site of building 100m south east of Doubleton Farm	FARMSTEAD
35	MNS6868	Former Baptist chapel, St George's	BAPTIST CHAPEL
36	MNS6870	Site of building 260m WSW of Villa Farm	HOUSE
37	MNS6871	Site of building W of Rose Cottage	HOUSE
38	MNS6872	Site of barn 330m NW of Doubleton Farm	BARN?
39	MNS6874	Site of building 160m NNE of Poplar Farm	BARN?
40	MNS6878	Ruined barn 80m S of Grape Vine Farm	BARN
41	MNS6879	14 mere stones, railway to old Bristol Road	MARKER STONE
42	MNS7374	Site of dwelling house, Rolstone, 1815	HOUSE
43	MNS7375	Site of dwelling house, Rolstone, 1815	HOUSE
44	MNS7376	Site of Jos. Haimons house, St Georges	HOUSE
45	MNS7377	Site of Haybow bridge, St Georges	BRIDGE
46	MNS1055	Puxton & Worle Crossing & signal box	SIGNAL OX
47	MNS1418	Puxton & Worle Station	RAILWAY STATION
48	MNS1771	Enclosure E of St Georges	ENCLOSURE
49	MNS4468	Undated rectangular enclosure, Puxton	ENCLOSURE

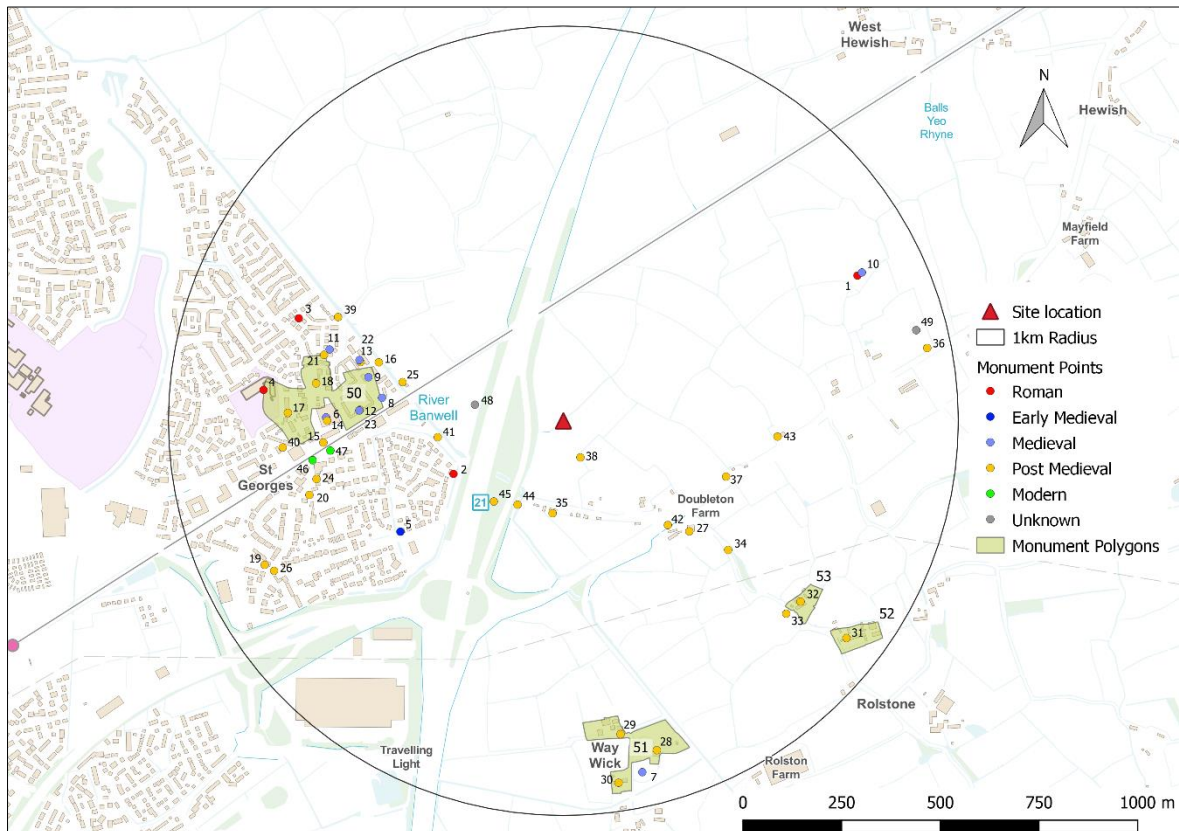


FIGURE 10: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - MONUMENTS (SOURCE: NORTH SOMERSET HER).

LAND EAST OF J21 OF M5, HAYBOW, BANWELL, SOMERSET

Monument Polygons			
50	MNS5441	St Georges	SETTLEMENT
51	MNS5471	Way Wick	SETTLEMENT
52	MNS5473	Rolstone Manor Farm, Rolstone	SETTLEMENT
53	MNS5474	Stuntree Farm, Rolstone	SETTLEMENT

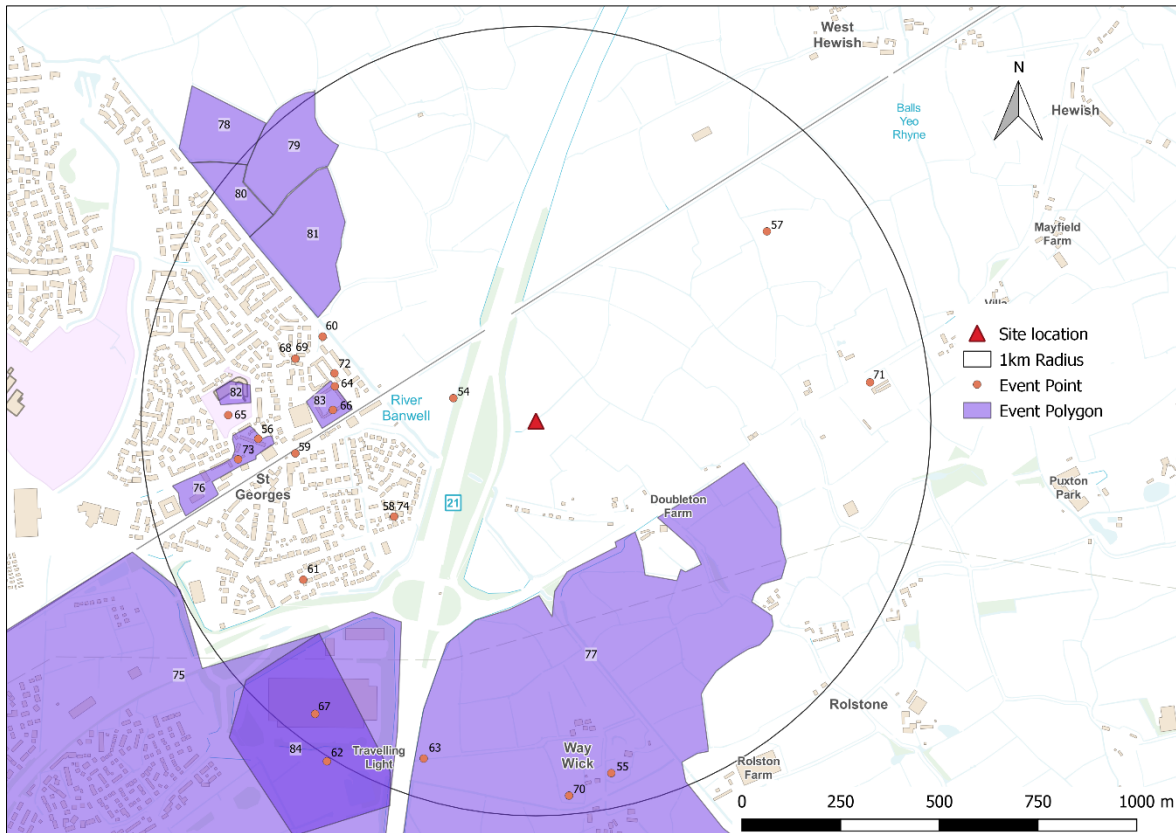


FIGURE 7: NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - EVENTS (SOURCE: NORTH SOMERSET HER).

TABLE 4: TABLE OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS - EVENTS (SOURCE: NORTH SOMERSET HER).

No.	Event ID	Name
Event Point		
54	ENS173	Enclosure east of St Georges (field survey)
55	ENS179	Shrunken settlement of Way Wick (field survey)
56	ENS1324	The Ridings, St. Georges, Weston-Super-Mare (DBA)
57	ENS2146	Land south of Wick Road (DBA)
58	ENS1058	Willow Close, St. Georges, Weston-Super-Mare (DBA)
59	ENS485	Puxton and Worle Signal Box (site visit)
60	ENS1397	Cox and Holbrook 2009
61	ENS1386	Former garage site, Willow Close, St. Georges (evaluation)
62	ENS1219	Locking Castle Business Park, Weston-Super-Mare (geo-techs)
63	ENS1559	Land at Junction 21 M5 Banwell (DBA)
64	ENS1131	Land at the former Grove Farm, St Georges, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare (evaluation)
65	ENS1653	Land to the east of Hedges, St Georges (geophysics)
66	ENS1163	Land to the south of the former Grove Farm, St Georges, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare (evaluation)
67	ENS1056	Locking Castle Business Park (WB)
68	ENS1130	Old House, St Georges, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare (Post-ex report)
69	ENS911	Old House, St Georges, Worle (evaluation)
70	ENS1668	Parklands Village (Way Wick), Weston-Super-Mare (DBA)
71	ENS1800	Puxton Park (design and access statement)
72	ENS1594	St Georges (Puttingthorpe) (Grove Farm) ()
73	ENS1418	The Ridings, St Georges, Worle (Rippon 2004)
74	ENS869	Willow Close, St Georges, Weston-Super-Mare (DBA)
Event Polygon		
75	ENS893	Locking Castle Development Area: Historical and Archaeological Perspective (DBA)
76	ENS899	The Ridings, St Georges, Weston-Super-Mare (DBA)
77	ENS1971	Parklands Village (geophysics)
78-81	ENS2111	River Banwell (geophysics)

82	ENS882	Land east of the Hedges, St Georges, Worle (evaluation)
83	ENS912	Land to the South of the former Grove Farm, St Georges, Worle (evaluation)
84	ENS936	Locking Castle Business Park, West Wick (WB)

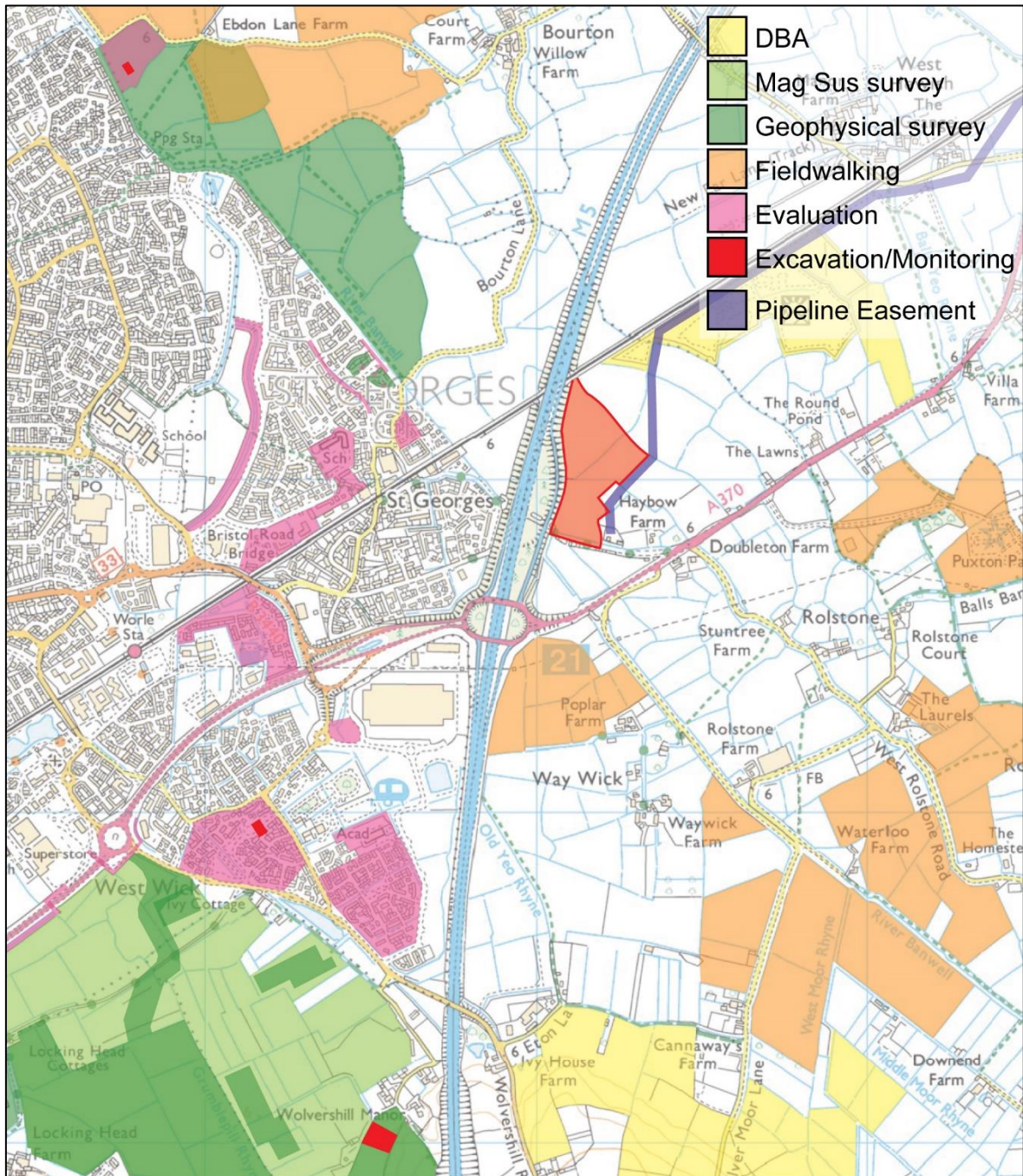


FIGURE 11: REVISED EVENT MAP FOR THE CENTRAL PART OF THE NORTH SOMERSET LEVEL (BASED ON ADS, PLANNING PORTAL AND NSHER RECORDS).

2.5 WALKOVER SURVEY

The proposed site covers two fields to the north-east of Junction 21 of the M5, covering an area of c.6.5ha. The southern field (Field A) is roughly rectangular with a more irregular southern end; the north field (Field B) is roughly triangular. The walkover survey was conducted by P. Bonvoisin on the 11th of October 2019; both fields were under pasture at the time of the survey. Additional photographs of the site can be found in Appendix 1.

The two fields are located within a predominantly pastoral lowland landscapes of fields defined by drainage ditches, not increasingly crowded by suburban and commercial development to the west. The western boundary of both fields is formed by an overgrown post-and-wire fence at the foot of the embankment of the M5 (built 1969×73). In Field A, and close to this fence, is a steel manhole cover set into concrete slab, indicating services cross this field.

Access to Field A is via two gateways from the former A370, now essentially a residential *cul-de-sac*. The gateway to the east is fitted with a galvanised six-bar gate and is partly overgrown; the gateway to the west is open, with a buckled six-bar gate laid beside it. Immediately to the west of this gate is a small enclosure with a large green utilities cabinet. The Banwell River doglegs up the side of the M5 here and borders the south-western corner of Field A; it is crossed at this point by a large surface pipeline. The eastern side of Field A is bordered by an overgrown field ditch, beyond which is an earth bund around a caravan storage facility. At its south-eastern corner is fenced compound where a large (c.1m diameter) pipe emerges from the ground; the easement for this pipeline is visible on aerial photographs and LiDAR data and exits the caravan facility to the north. The north-eastern and northern boundaries of the field is formed by a wide water-filled ditch, freshly cleaned of vegetation and presumably therefore a principal watercourse. Access to Field B is via a gateway at the western end of this ditch, where there is also a walkway and sluice gate.

Access to Field B is via the gateway in its south-western corner. It is separated from Field A by the water-filled ditch noted above, and from the fields to the east by an overgrown ditch. The very tip of the field extends to the former GWR line to the north.

Both fields contain the plough-down remnants of probable relict field ditches and gripes; some of these linear depressions held water at the time of the survey.

The tree-covered embankments of the M5 provide very effective screening to the west. Most of the hedged field boundaries in the vicinity are tall and somewhat overgrown; the lack of elevated viewpoints in this area amplifies the effect of the available screening.

2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The two fields are located within the North Somerset Levels. This former wetland consisted of an intertidal saltmarsh along the coast with a (largely) freshwater backfen to the east and south. The Middle Wentlooge Formation at c.4-5m BGL consists of woody peats that developed during the Neolithic period, succeeded by a return to intertidal conditions in the Bronze Age. The palaeo-environmental potential of the site is therefore *high*, although borehole logs would indicate the peat is less consistent than observed elsewhere.

During the Late Iron Age and early Roman period the saltmarsh was exploited for salt production, and in the later Roman period the Level was reclaimed and many of the interventions in this area have recorded a buried land surface associated with field boundaries. The settlement pattern during this period is unclear as outside the backfen the Roman landscape is concealed beneath a blanket of post-Roman alluvium. However, scatters of Roman pottery have been identified in the area that may relate to settlement, and there is at least one villa on the Level at Wemberham. The fields here are low-lying relative to other parts of the coastal silt fen, and it is possible the Roman land surface may not be too far beneath current ground levels. Based on the results of the NSLP, the Romano-British features would also have palaeo-environmental value. The archaeological potential of the site is therefore *high*, but the likelihood of encountering it is unknown.

During the later early medieval period the landscape was reclaimed a second time, starting with the large oval summer ring dikes, then with sea- and backfen walls. The site lies just to the east of

a posited early summer ring dike (*wortis*) and was probably enclosed during the medieval period. The larger relict field ditches present in the two fields may date to this, or a subsequent, phase of enclosure. The lesser drainage channels (the gripes) will be more recent in their current form. Work in the wider area has demonstrated that there are medieval settlements in the Level that did not survive (e.g. ACA 2016) but, on balance, the potential for medieval settlement is likely to be *low*.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The site consists of two fields covering c.6.5ha immediately to the east of the M5 and north-east of Junction 21. The site is located within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Banwell, an estate first documented in the Will of Alfred in the late 9th century AD; it was subsequently held by the Bishop of Wells for most of the second millennium AD. The closest historic settlement is the former hamlet of St Georges (previously Puttingthorpe/Puttingworth); this may have been one of the sub-manors listed under Banwell in the Domesday Book. In c.1840 the fields belonged to Doubleton Farm, and the house there has medieval origins.

The site lies within the North Somerset Level, an extensive former wetland that was reclaimed in the later Roman period, reverted to saltmarsh with backfen in the post-Roman period, and was reclaimed again in stages during the early medieval and medieval periods. At depth there are peat deposits of Neolithic date that will provide palaeo-environmental information. Much of the Roman land surface is buried beneath 0.5-1.0m of estuarine alluvium but in the backfen areas the earthworks of Roman field boundaries and palaeo-channels are preserved. It remains unclear, but it appears likely, that there was settlement on the Level during the Roman period, as indicated by the finds of Roman pottery in the area. During the early medieval period the saltmarsh was reclaimed in stages, starting with large but isolated oval enclosures; one of these (*wortis*) lay just to the west of the proposed site. The fields contain the ploughed-down earthworks of former drainage features of medieval and later date.

Based on the results of fieldwork in the surrounding area the archaeological potential of the site for medieval and post-medieval remains is *low*; the potential for buried Roman and Prehistoric archaeological remains and palaeo-environmental deposits is *high*. However, where and if present those remains would be sealed beneath c.0.5m+ of alluvium and 1.0m+ below the current ground level.

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BL: Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft map of 1809

NLS: 1885 OS 25" map (surveyed 1884), Somerset sheet X.10; 1903 OS 25" map (revised 1902), Somerset sheet X.10; 1931 OS 25" map (revised 1930), Somerset sheet X.10

PRO: Banwell tithe map and apportionment

APPENDIX 1: SUPPORTING PHOTOGRAPHS – WALKOVER



1. VIEW ACROSS FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



2. THE VIEW ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



3. THE SOUTH-WESTERN CORNER OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



4. THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).



5. THE SOUTHERN-EASTERN CORNER OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



6. THE MAST WITHIN THE GAS DISTRIBUTION STATION; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



7. THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).



8. THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (NO SCALE).



9. VIEW ALONG PART OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



10. DETAIL VIEW OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).



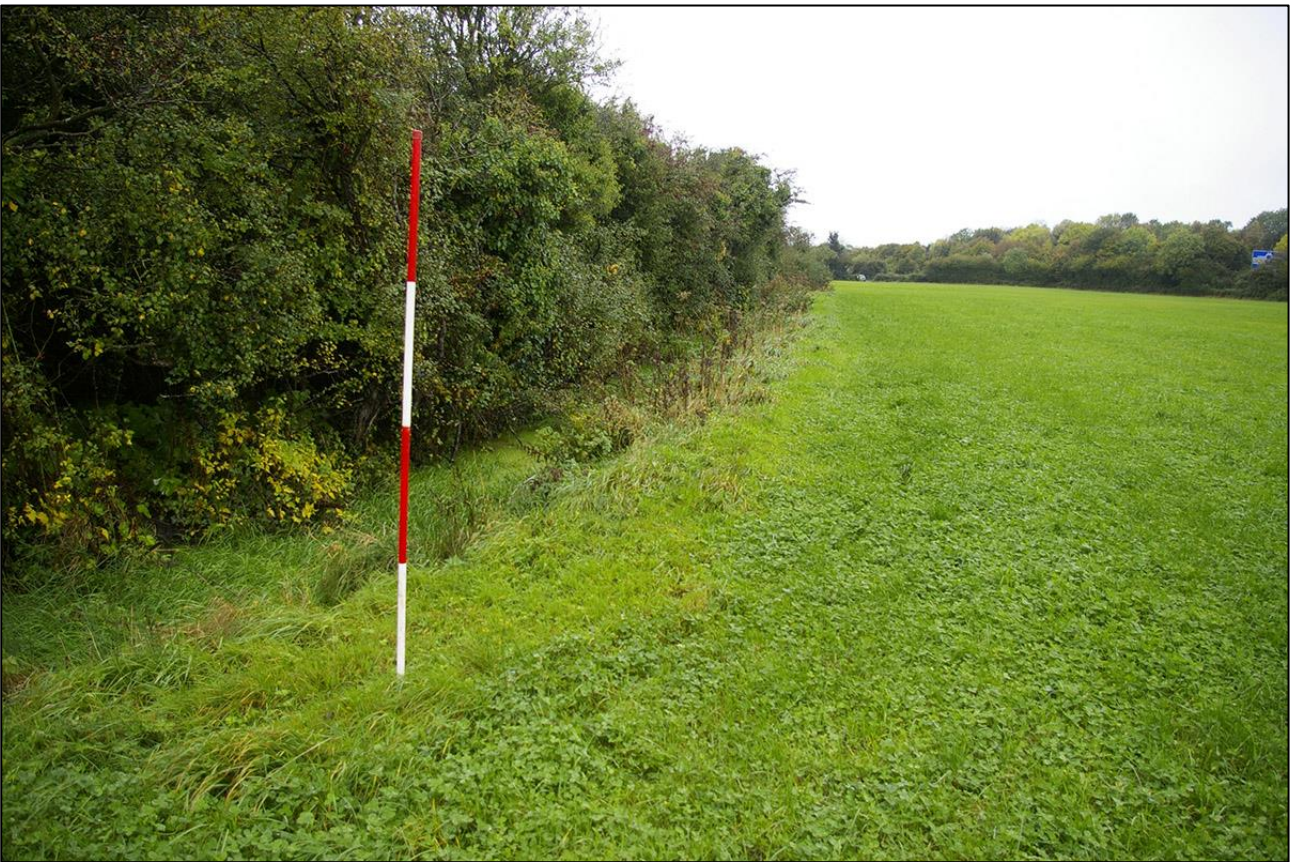
11. VIEW ALONG PART OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



12. VIEW ACROSS FIELD A TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE TO THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



13. VIEW ALONG PART OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (NO SCALE).



14. VIEW ALONG PART OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



15. VIEW OF THE EASTERN CORNER OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



16. VIEW ALONG NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



17. VIEW OF THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



18. VIEW ALONG THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (NO SCALE).



19. VIEW ALONG THE LARGE DITCH BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



20. VIEW ALONG THE LARGE DITCH BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



21. VIEW ACROSS THE LARGE DITCH BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



22. VIEW OF THE DRAIN AND SLUICE GATE AT THE END OF THE LARGE DITCH BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



23. VIEW ALONG THE NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD B; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



24. VIEW ACROSS FIELD B; VIEWED FROM THE EAST (NO SCALE).



25. VIEW OF THE NORTHERN CORNER OF THE SITE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



26. VIEW ACROSS FIELD B; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



27. VIEW ALONG WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD B; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



28. VIEW ALONG WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD B; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).



29. VIEW OF THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (NO SCALE).



30. VIEW THROUGH THE GATEWAY BETWEEN THE TWO FIELDS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



31. VIEW ALONG WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD A; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



32. VIEW OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF FIELD B AND THE MANHOLE COVER; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



33. VIEW OF ACCESS TO THE PIPE THAT CROSSES THE RIVER BANWELL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALE).



34. VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE TO FIELD B AND SITE ACCESS; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).



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