
**HERITAGE STATEMENT
LAND AT
HANSLOPE ROAD,
HARTWELL,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**Work Undertaken For
Lark Energy Ltd**

January 2013

Report Compiled by
Gary Taylor BA (Hons) MA MSc

Planning Application No:
National Grid Reference: SP 792 489

APS Report No. **HS013**

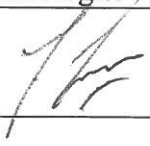
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control

Heritage Statement
LAND AT
HANSLOPE ROAD,
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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Research	Gary Taylor
Site Reconnaissance	Liz Murray
Illustration	Gary Taylor
Statement Prepared by	Gary Taylor

Approved by Senior Archaeologist

Date: 08/02/13

Tom Lane

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Heritage Statement

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Project Background.....	1
1.2	The Site, location and geology.....	1
2	METHODOLOGY.....	2
2.1	Aims and scope.....	2
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT.....	2
3.1	Introduction.....	2
3.2	Archaeological evidence.....	2
4	DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND PAST IMPACTS.....	5
5	POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HERITAGE RESOURCES.....	5
5.1	Physical Impact.....	5
5.2	Impact on Setting of Heritage Resources.....	6
6	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
6.1	Summary of presence and survival within the Site and impact on nearby heritage resources.....	6
6.2	Recommendations.....	7
7	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	7
8	REFERENCES.....	7
9	ABBREVIATIONS.....	8

Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity of The Site

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Site location plan showing archaeological sites

Figure 3: Results of walkover survey

- Plate 1** View across Field A towards buildings of Stonepit Farm, looking northwest
- Plate 2** View across Field B towards Milton Keynes Borough, showing spire of Hanslope Church (centre), and buildings of Roselane Farm (on left), looking south
- Plate 3** Field C, view towards Stonepit Farm House and associated farm buildings, looking south
- Plate 4** Field C, showing banded crop growth, looking southeast
- Plate 5** Field C, embanked hedgerow on northeast side, looking northeast
- Plate 6** View from Field C to field to the east, beyond The Site, showing slight bank (highlighted by arrows), looking east
- Plate 7** Field C, view towards motorway, showing stony area in foreground, looking northeast
- Plate 8** Field C, showing stone blocks in hedgerow bottom, looking northeast
- Plate 9** Field D, showing banded crop growth, looking southeast
- Plate 10** Field E, showing banded crop growth, looking west
- Plate 11** Field E, view towards stream, showing boundary bank and ditch on east side, looking north
- Plate 12** Field F, general view, looking southwest

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Heritage Statement

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Lark Energy Ltd to produce a Heritage Statement to be submitted in support of a planning application for a solar farm on land at Hanslope Road, Hartwell, Northamptonshire, hereafter 'The Site'.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

1.2.1 The Site is the proposed location for the construction of a solar farm on land at Hanslope Road, Hartwell (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The Site is located *c.* 1.5km southeast of the centre of Hartwell as defined by the parish church of St John Baptist, on the east side of Hanslope Road, immediately to the east of Stonepit Farm, at National Grid Reference SP 792 489. The village of Hartwell is 10km southeast of Northampton and 10km east of Towcester in the administrative district of South Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire. The town of Milton Keynes lies 12km to the southeast and the southern edge of The Site runs along the boundary with Milton Keynes Borough.

1.2.3 Located to the rear of the buildings of Stonepit Farm which front the street, The Site is an irregular block of land of approximately 36ha, currently used for arable agriculture and comprising several fields (Fig. 1).

1.2.4 Local soils are of the Hanslope Association, calcareous pelosols developed in chalky till (diamicton) (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 209). These drift deposits are extensive and mostly cover a solid geology of Jurassic Blisworth Limestone, Blisworth Clay, and cornbrash, though there are outcrops of these materials in the northwestern part of The Site. The Site is on a slight slope down to the northwest, declining from about 120m to *c.* 100m OD to a stream which runs alongside the northern edge of The Site.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and scope

- 2.1.1 The aim of this assessment is to establish the known and potential archaeological resource within the Site, which may be affected by the proposed development. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the principles presented by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012, 30).
- 2.1.2 This document does not comprise a full desk-based assessment but instead represents a tightly focused assessment of The Site. It seeks to identify the resource through consideration of previous discoveries, archaeological investigation and data, with a view to producing recommendations on the need for and appropriateness of further work in this area. Data obtained from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record has been used. In addition, data for archaeological remains in Milton Keynes Borough, located immediately to the south of The Site, was obtained from the Heritage Gateway online database. Details of archaeological remains, artefacts and investigations in the vicinity of The Site are shown in **Table 1**.
- 2.1.3 Reference has been made to guidance documents produced by English Heritage that deal with issues of setting (2011a; 2011b). It is acknowledged that these documents were produced to provide guidance with reference to *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5) and this has now been superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The guidance documents are in the process of revision but English Heritage comments that the guidance documents still contain useful advice. Therefore, pending the publication of the revised guidance, the existing guidance documents have been made use of for the present heritage impact assessment.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Few archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the Hartwell environs, though include examinations carried out a short distance to the east. However, there has been no previous investigation on The Site under consideration in this document. Copies of all Hartwell reports are available through the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, while reports on investigations slightly further away are held by the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record. The Site and its relationship with the broader area and associated archaeological context are illustrated in **Figures 2-4**.

3.2 Archaeological evidence

- 3.2.1 The Historic Environment Records for both Northamptonshire County Council and Milton Keynes Borough Council identify various archaeological sites at, or in close proximity to, The Site.

- 3.2.2 Previous research has suggested that a Roman road enters The Site from the southeast (Fig. 2, No. 1). The validity of this as an actual Roman road is, however, uncertain. The historic environment records for both Northamptonshire and adjacent Milton Keynes, indicate the route was one branch of Y-shaped arrangement that bifurcated almost 1km southeast of the site boundary, with the other branch then heading northwards. Investigations, by geophysics and trial trenching, on that north to south branch a short distance to the east of The Site on the east side of the M1 failed to find any trace of a road (Milton Keynes intelligence Observatory nd).
- 3.2.3 Possible deserted medieval hamlets are located near the centre of The Site (Fig. 2, No. 3) and around Stonepit Farm (Fig. 2, No. 4). In both cases these suggestions are based on documentary and map evidence of post-medieval date.
- 3.2.4 Immediately to the north and northeast of The Site is an area of deserted medieval settlement at Hartwell End (Fig. 2, Nos. 5-7). This is focused on Elms Farm (Fig. 2, No 8), Hartwell End Farm (Fig. 2, No. 9) and Hartwell End House (Fig. 2, No. 10). Within the deserted settlement are hollow ways, a possible moat, earthwork ditches and possible medieval buildings and medieval pottery (Fig. 2, No. 12) has been found in the area. Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record shows the area of medieval settlement extending into the northern tip of The Site. In addition, Hartwell End House is a Grade II Listed Building of early 17th century date with 18th century and later extensions and alterations. It is believed to have been built as a hunting lodge within Salcey Forest, a medieval royal hunting forest which extended to The Site (Fig. 2, No. 11).
- 3.2.5 To the west of The Site, on the opposite side of Hanslope Road, is the location of the deserted medieval village of Hartwell (Fig. 2, No. 1). The earthworks of the village have been degraded by ploughing but a hollow way and enclosure have been identified. At the southern end of the settlement was a chantry that was standing until the mid 19th century. Large quantities of medieval and post-medieval artefacts have been recovered from the village site, together with Saxon items. A quantity of Roman material has also been recovered, suggesting a possible location of Romano-British activity (Fig. 2, Nos. 14, 15).
- 3.2.6 A short distance to the north of Hartwell deserted medieval village, artefacts of Roman and medieval date have been recovered, suggesting another possible site of Romano-British activity (Fig. 2, No. 13).
- 3.2.7 A little to the southeast of The Site, in Milton Keynes Borough, are the locations of buildings shown on a map of 1815 (Fig. 2, Nos. 16, 17). Further south, by the village of Hanslope, is a village 'end' – a detached or peripheral settlement area (Fig. 2, No. 18). This is undated but probably medieval to post-medieval in origin. Close by are a post-medieval pump house and water tank (Fig. 2, No 19).
- 3.2.8 Site reconnaissance (undertaken on 30/1/13) examined The Site and viewed out to the surrounding area. The walkover involved a general rapid

examination of the entire area, though attention was paid to those parts of The Site where archaeological remains are referenced by the Historic Environment Record. For the purposes of description the separate fields were identified by code letters, A-F. With the exception of Field F, conditions for the observation of artefacts that might be present were ideal across the entire site.

- 3.2.8.1 **Field A:** Located immediately south of the buildings of Stonepit Farm (not in The Site). Newly harrowed and planted, wet. Buildings of Stonepit Farm and the adjacent dwelling, The Poplars, are evident just outside the boundary of The Site. The buildings are mostly of mid-late 20th century date but some older, probably 19th century, structures are also present (**Plate 1**). No evidence of any archaeological remains.
- 3.2.8.2 **Field B:** Located southeast of Field A. Newly harrowed and planted, wet. Crossed by overhead cables attached to poles. Farm buildings, mostly modern, evident south of The Site. South of The Site, in the distance, the spire of Hanslope church is also visible (**Plate 2**). No evident archaeological remains.
- 3.2.8.3 **Field C:** Situated north of Fields A and B and immediately east of Stonepit Farm (**Plate 3**). Field surface declines gently to the northwest. Crossed by overhead cables attached to poles. Very young crop, fairly dry. Linear bands of more advanced growth are evident and perhaps indicate the furrows of post-medieval steam ploughing, although there are no or only very slight earthwork remains (**Plate 4**). The field boundary at the northeastern corner is on a slight bank (**Plate 5**). In the field to the northeast, beyond The Site boundary, is another slight bank on a similar northwest-southeast alignment (**Plate 6**). Alongside the southeastern boundary of the field a cluster of stone roofing tile was noted (**Plate 7**). In the same area two pieces of medieval, probably 13th-14th century, pottery were observed. In the base of the adjacent hedgerow were several blocks of stone (**Plate 8**).
- 3.2.8.4 **Field D:** Located on the northeast side of Field C. Field surface declines gently to the northwest, wet. Very young crop, with linear bands of more advanced growth which probably indicate the furrows of post-medieval steam ploughing, although there are no or only very slight earthworks surviving (**Plate 9**). No other archaeological remains are evident.
- 3.2.8.5 **Field E:** Located at northern end of The Site, to the west of Field D. Field surface wet, gently sloping down to the northwest where there is a stream. Beyond the stream, and outside The Site, the land rises to the northwest. There is a very young crop which has linear bands of more advanced growth. This probably reflects the presence of furrows of post-medieval steam ploughing, but there are no distinct earthworks (**Plate 10**). Along the northeast side of the field there is a bank with adjacent ditch (**Plate 11**). No other archaeological remains were observed.
- 3.2.8.6 **Field F:** Situated south of Field E, west of Field D, and north of Field C. This field is separated from Field C by a row of stacked hay bales. The field surface is wet and it contains stalks of a remnant sweetcorn crop (**Plate 12**). Overhead cables attached to poles cross the field. No archaeological remains were observed.

4 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND PAST IMPACT

- 4.1 Development proposals for The Site involve the construction of a solar farm. This will have parallel arrangements of solar panels, normally located not less than 4m apart, across the development area. Impacts on below-ground deposits are restricted to piles for the frames supporting the solar panels, cable trenching, and concrete bases/plinths for inverter stations.
- 4.2 Poles for overhead cables were noted in various parts of The Site during the walk-over survey. The installation of these poles will have caused some very restricted and localised impact on any potential buried archaeological remains at their locations.
- 4.3 The site has had a prolonged period of agricultural use, as indicated by evidence of steam ploughing observed during the walk-over reconnaissance of The Site. This arable usage is likely to have caused some disturbance and impact, probably minor, to any potential buried archaeological remains within the part of The Site.

5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HERITAGE RESOURCES

5.1 Physical Impact

- 5.1.1 The Site lies within a general area which contains moderate archaeological remains, including a Grade II Listed Building.
- 5.1.2 There have been no previous archaeological investigations at The Site, with the result that its archaeological potential is not fully known. However, earthwork survival of archaeological remains of medieval to post-medieval date has been identified immediately to the north. This suggests that archaeological remains potentially lie at shallow depth. Data held by Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record suggests that a possible Roman road crosses the site. However, investigations on a related route just to the east found no evidence for a road. The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record also indicates that the Hartwell End deserted medieval settlement extends into the northern tip of The Site and that there are possible deserted medieval hamlets in the centre of The Site and by Stonepit Farm on the west side. However, despite ideal conditions for the observation of artefacts on the field surfaces no cultural material was identified in either area, suggesting that these are not the locations of former settlement. There was, however, a concentration of stone debris and medieval pottery on the east side of The Site which perhaps denotes the location of a building or similar occupation area. Cumulatively, the evidence suggests that the archaeological potential of The Site is LOW, though there is a localised area in the eastern part of The Site where the potential is MODERATE due to the possibility of a medieval occupation area.
- 5.1.3 Previous and continuing arable activity at The Site is likely to have caused some impact to any earlier archaeological remains within the area. This, however, is likely to be MINOR. The installation of poles for overhead cables will have caused deeper but spatially very restricted disturbance to any

potential archaeological remains. Consequently, they will have caused VERY MINOR impact on any buried heritage assets.

- 5.1.4 The proposed solar farm development will be constructed with rows of small driven piles, not more than 1.5m deep, for the frames supporting the solar panels, cable trenching, and plinth bases for inverter stations.
- 5.1.5 In light of the foregoing, it is considered that the proposed development is likely to have a LOW physical impact on buried heritage resources at The Site, and NONE on heritage resources beyond the limits of The Site.

5.2 Impact on Setting of Heritage Resources

- 5.2.1 Significant heritage resources in the vicinity of The Site are represented by a single Listed Building, Hartwell End House. This significant heritage asset is located to the northeast of The Site, beyond substantial hedgerows which block inter-visibility. As a result, the visual impact of the proposed development on the nearby Listed Building heritage asset is considered to be NONE.
- 5.2.2 Other, non-designated, heritage resources at and in the vicinity of The Site include a possible Roman road and several areas of deserted medieval settlement, although the validity of some of these is uncertain. The area of The Site perhaps formed parts of the field systems surrounding the deserted medieval hamlets. Most of the confirmed heritage assets are screened from The Site by existing hedgerows or variations in the natural topography. Consequently, the impact on their setting is NONE-VERY LOW.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of presence and survival within the site and impact on nearby heritage resources

- 6.1.1 The Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record identifies a number of heritage assets on and within The Site, although some of these are of doubtful validity. A Grade II Listed Building is located adjacent to The Site. Additionally, a localised concentration of stone and medieval pottery may define the location of an occupation site of the period.
- 6.1.2 The Site has had an arable function for an extended period and ploughing will have caused some minor impact to any buried archaeological remains. The insertion of poles for overhead cables will have also caused some impact, albeit restricted in extent, to potential buried heritage resources. However, any archaeological remains at The Site are likely to survive in good condition.
- 6.1.3 It is possible that further finds or features associated with medieval and post-medieval settlement, and perhaps a Roman road, may be located within The Site. However, the proposed development will involve limited construction groundwork. In consideration of this, the physical impact of proposed development upon the buried archaeological resource of The Site is therefore

assessed as LOW over most of the area but MODERATE in a confined part of the east side of the Site where evidence for possible medieval occupation was identified.

- 6.1.4 There is a significant heritage resource in the form of a Listed Building located in the vicinity of The Site. However, this is shielded from view of The Site by intervening existing hedgerows. Therefore, the impact that the proposed new development will have on the setting and visual integrity of this heritage asset is considered to be NONE.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 Based upon the available information it is recommended that any further archaeological investigation should be minimal. It is proposed that such investigation comprises localised, targeted programmes of archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) on: (i) the course of the postulated Roman road; (ii) the northern tip of The Site which may fall within the Hartwell End area of deserted medieval settlement, and; (iii) the area of stonework and medieval pottery identified, during the walk-over survey, on the east side of The Site. The nature and level of investigation should, however, be agreed with the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Service.

7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 7.1 Thanks are due to Lark Energy Ltd, particularly Julie Rankin and Mike Lee, who commissioned this work and supplied drawings of the site. Research was carried out by Gary Taylor and the site reconnaissance was by Liz Murray, both of Archaeological Project Services. Thanks are also due to the staff of Northamptonshire Historic Environment Service.

8 REFERENCES

DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

English Heritage, 2011a *The Setting of Heritage Assets*

English Heritage, 2011b *Seeing the History in the View*

Hodge, CAH., Burton, RGO., Corbett, WM., Evans, R., and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Milton Keynes intelligence Observatory, nd *HER No. 205102000, Viatores Road 172, 172A-B; HER No. 828200000, Site of building; HER No. 830700000, Site of building; HER No. 703200000, Chantry; 703301000, Village 'End'; 522200000, Pump house; 522201000, Water tank* [online] Milton Keynes intelligence Observatory. Available at: <http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/mapping.aspx?geoset=H_Archaeological_Heritage&MapWidth=40000&Easting=486000&Northing=242000> [Accessed 14 January 2013]

9 ABBREVIATIONS

DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government

OD Ordnance datum (height above sea level)

Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity of The Site

Map Code	HER Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
1	ENN8057 (MNN6238, 125139, 125148, 148190, 148741, 148487) 703200000(MK)	Deserted medieval village of Hartwell, centred on Chapel Farm; medieval hollow way and enclosure. Site of building shown on 1815 map; site of chantry destroyed by 1849	SP 7851 4888 SP 7853 4873
2	ENN8270 (MNN6241, 10676, 24815); 172b(MK)	Possible Roman road	SP 7972 4896
3	ENN8273 (MNN6236, 24803)	Possible deserted medieval hamlet with medieval/post-medieval closes	SP 793 491
4	ENN8274 (MNN6237, 24804)	Possible deserted medieval hamlet with medieval/post-medieval closes	SP 790 490
5	ENN8275 (MNN24797)	Hartwell End, possible medieval building	SP 792 497
6	ENN8277 (MNN160875)	Hartwell End, undated earthwork ditches	SP 793 496
7	ENN8278 (MNN125137, 125138)	Hartwell End, medieval/post-medieval hollow way, possible medieval moat	SP 792 496
8	ENN8280 (MNN1820, 12877, 28231, 150043)	Elms Farm, outbuilding converted to chapel (modern); unstratified medieval artefacts;	SP 7910 4974
9	ENN8282 (MNN1820, 24802, 29405, 160874)	Hartwell End Farm, recorded in 1538. Focus of deserted medieval settlement; possible medieval buildings, possible medieval earthwork ditches, open field system, ridge & furrow earthworks, unstratified medieval pottery	SP 7930 4950
10	ENN102889 (MNN110518)	Hartwell End House, early 17 th century with 18 th century extensions, Grade II Listed Building	SP 7943 4958
11	ENN105483	Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase	SP 8418 5409
12	ENN106163 (MNN150043)	Unstratified medieval finds	SP 790 497
13	ENN106164 (MNN148203, 148259,160876)	Unstratified Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds, possible site of Romano-British activity, medieval open field system	SP 786 493

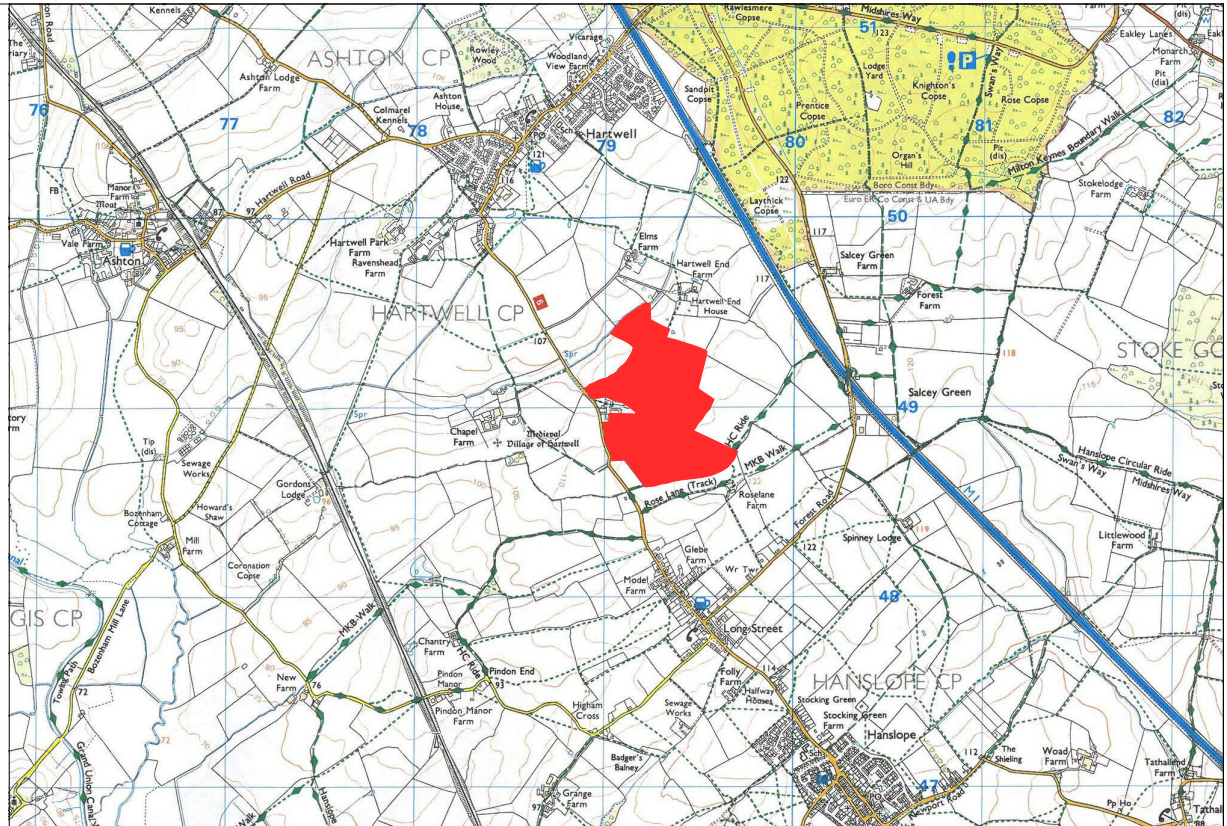
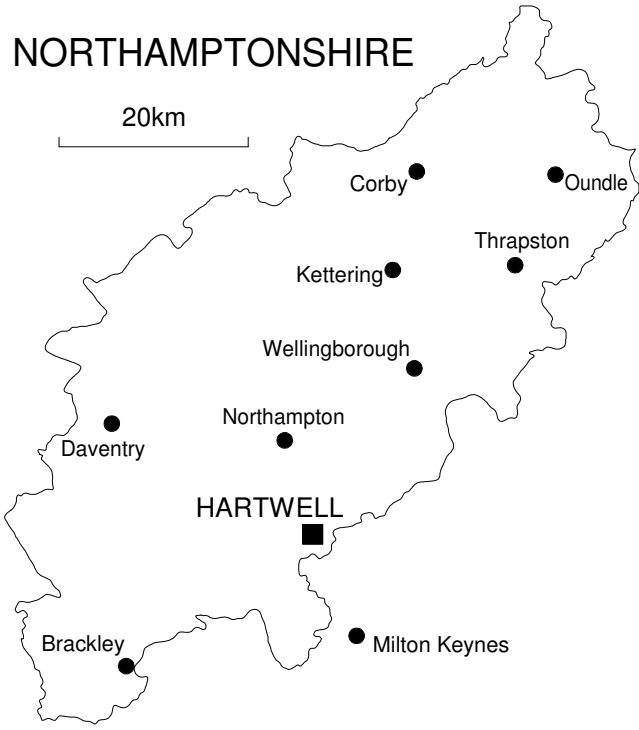
Map Code	HER Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
14	ENN106165 (MNN148487, 148741, 160878)	Unstratified Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds, possible site of Romano-British activity	SP 7879 4871
15	ENN106166 (MNN148190, 148741, 160878)	Unstratified Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds, possible site of Romano-British activity	SP 7879 4871
16	828200000(MK)	Site of building shown on 1815 map	SP 7997 4879
17	830700000(MK)	Site of building shown on 1815 map	SP 7989 4874
18	703301000(MK)	Village 'End', undated settlement	SP 7989 4825
19	522200000(MK) and 522201000(MK)	Post-medieval pump house and water tank	SP 7978 4810

Abbreviations:

ENN Event Number, Northamptonshire
MNN Monument Number, Northamptonshire
MK Milton Keynes record

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE


20km



SP

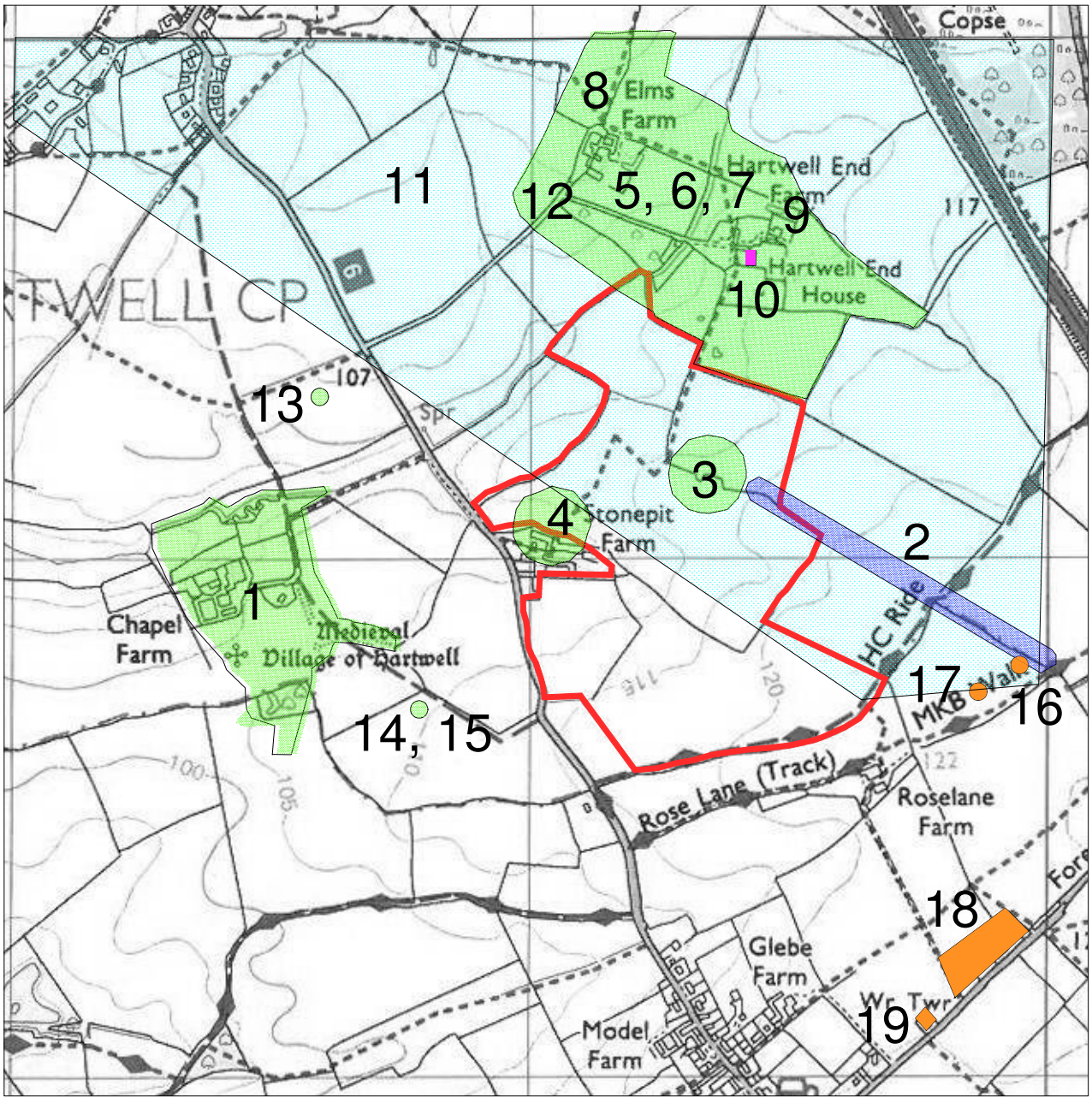
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Figure 1 Site Location Plan



SP

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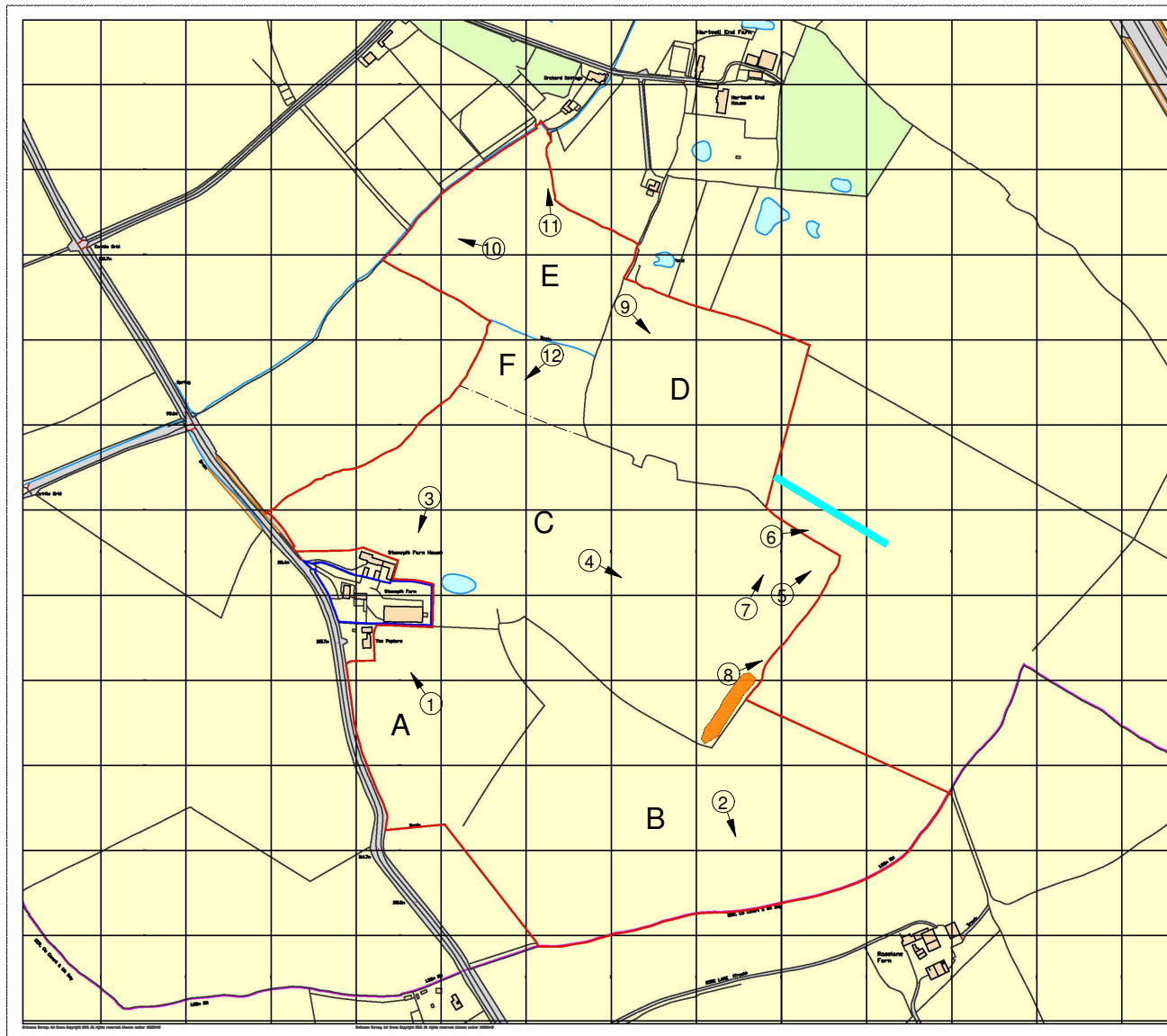





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Figure 2 Site location plan showing archaeological sites



- KEY**
-  Slight linear embankment
 -  Area of stone blocks, stone tile and medieval pottery
 -  Plate number and direction of view
 - A-F** Field identification letter
 -  The Site, boundary



	Archaeological Project Services	
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Scale 1:8000	Drawn by: GT	Report No: HS013

based on plan provided by client

Figure 3 Results of walkover survey



Plate 1 View across Field A towards buildings of Stonepit Farm, looking northwest



Plate 2 View across Field B towards Milton Keynes Borough, showing spire of Hanslope Church (centre), and buildings of Roselane Farm (on left), looking south



Plate 3 Field C, view towards Stonepit Farm House and associated farm buildings, looking south



Plate 4 Field C, showing banded crop growth, looking southeast



Plate 5 Field C, embanked hedgerow on northeast side, looking northeast



Plate 6 View from Field C to field to the east, beyond The Site, showing slight bank (highlighted by arrows), looking east



Plate 7 Field C, view towards motorway, showing stony area in foreground, looking northeast



Plate 8 Field C, showing stone blocks in hedgerow bottom, looking northeast



Plate 9 Field D, showing banded crop growth, looking southeast



Plate 10 Field E, showing banded crop growth, looking west



Plate 11 Field E, view towards stream, showing boundary bank and ditch on east side, looking north



Plate 12 Field F, general view, looking southwest