

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALKOVER SURVEY:
STOKE COMMON
STOKE POGES
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SU 988 853 (centre)

on behalf of the Corporation of London



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September 2013

ASC: 1579/SPC/1



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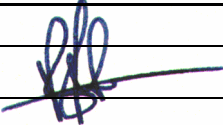
Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SPC	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1579
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeo12-158909	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	N/A
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Stoke Poges		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Stoke Poges		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SU 988 853 (centre)		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.83ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	Common and Heathland		
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Date of survey:</i>	March 2013		
<i>Client:</i>	The Corporation of London Open Spaces Department Hawthorn Lane Farnham Common Buckinghamshire SL2 3TE		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Helen Read		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	11 th September 2013
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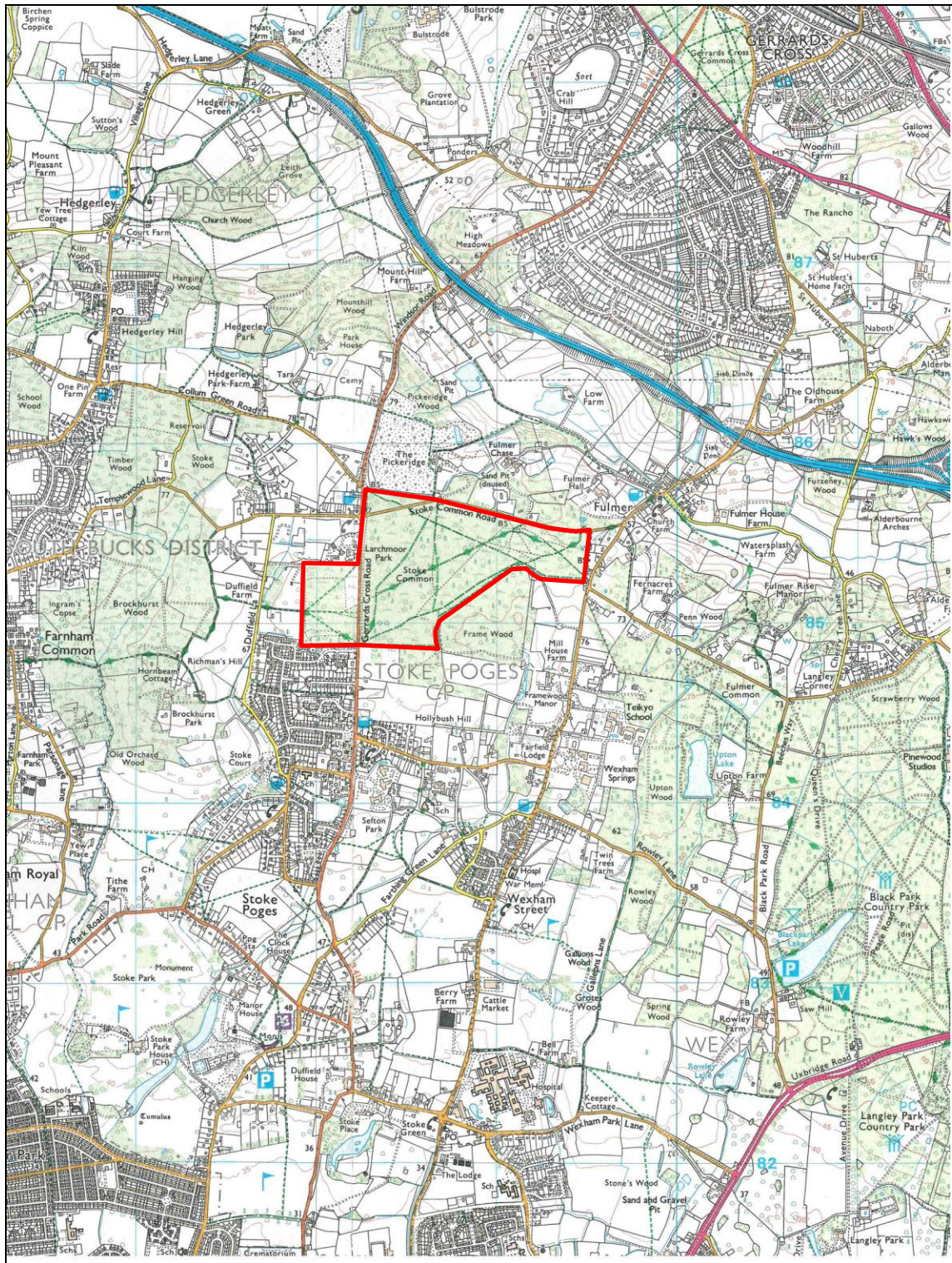


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2013 Archaeological Services and Consultancy carried out an archaeological field survey of Stoke Common, near Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, in order to aid the future management of the estate.

Stoke Common is owned by the Corporation of London and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment while preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 83ha, within which are areas of secondary oak woodland, grassland and bog, with the majority set as heathland. Because of this it has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Thirty-one individual archaeological features were observed during the survey, ranging in date from the medieval period to the 20th century. Most features fall into the category of land management, quarrying or World War II activity. The management and mitigation of the surviving archaeological record in relation to the Stoke Common Management Plan 2008-2018 is considered in some detail in this report.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological field survey of Stoke Common, near Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by the Open Spaces Department of the Corporation of London, in order to aid the future management of the estate.

The survey was undertaken along similar lines to a survey of Burham Beeches, carried out by ASC in 2009 (Fell 2009; Semmelmann 2009).

1.2 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.3 *The Site*

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

Stoke Common is situated just north of the village of Stoke Poges, in the administrative district of South Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The estate comprises three separate parcels of land, referred to as 'land compartments (LC)', subdivided by roads. The main body comprises a sub-rectangular area of predominantly heathland to the east of the B416, and south of the Stoke Common Road (Fig. 2, LC 2, 3, 5-7). Two smaller parcels are located to the west of the B416 (Fig. 2, LC 1) and to the east of the B416 and north of Stoke Common Road (Fig. 2, LC 4). The combined parcels of land cover an area of c.83 ha.

1.3.2 Geology & Topography

The natural soils of the area comprise the *Essendon Association*, namely slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged soils (Soil Survey 1983, 714d). The underlying geology comprises *Winter Hill Gravel* over *Reading and Upnor Formation* gravels (BGS 2005, 255).

The topography is mainly flat, forming a lowland heathland with marginal secondary woodland and marshland. The area lies at an average elevation of *c.75m OD*.

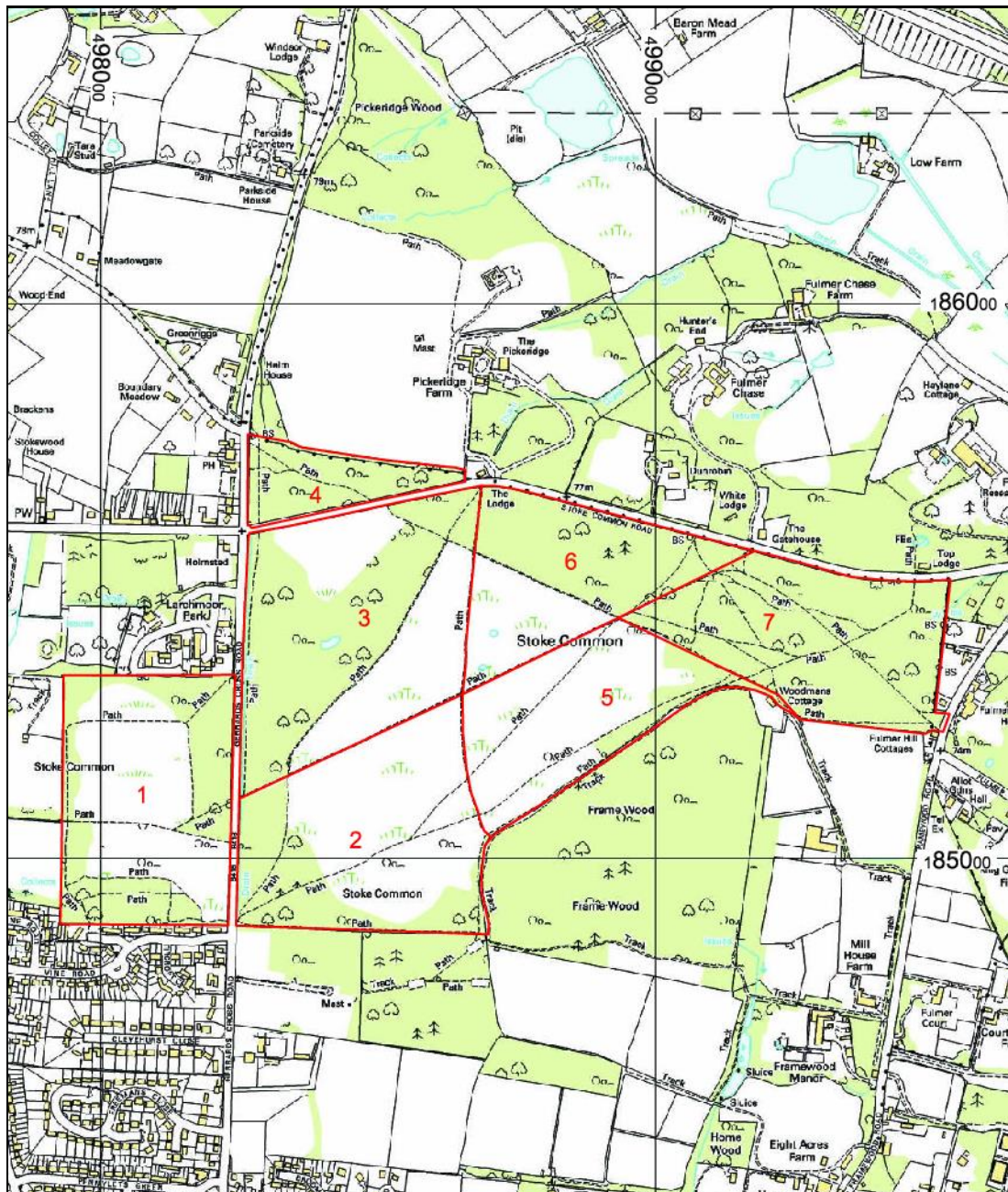


Figure 2: Site extent and land compartments (scale 1: 12,500)

2. Report Structure & Referencing

- 2.1 This report is intended to provide an overview of the archaeological and historical significance of the site, and to form part of a wider consultation framework to assist in the development and future management of the site. It is arranged in two parts, respectively comprising archaeological and historical background, survey results and their significance, and management and mitigation recommendations. The second section consists of a gazetteer containing monument summary tables and plans.
- 2.2 Copies of the report will be distributed to the following:
- 2 copies to the Corporation of London
 - 1 copy to the Buckinghamshire County HER

3. Aims & Methodology

3.1 Aims

The aim of the project was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, location, form, condition and function of archaeological earthworks or other features visible on the ground surface within the survey area. The survey was undertaken to RCHME landscape survey Level 1. The specific requirements were:

- Each land compartment (LC) to be examined for significant archaeological features (unless conditions preclude access)
- The location of features to be plotted onto an Ordnance Survey base plan (minimum scale 1:10,000)
- Appropriate photographs to be taken of each monument
- A brief written description to be provided of each feature. Their form and condition to be described and condition noted. Any obvious conservation issues to be raised
- A consideration of the impact of management prescriptions on identified features to be provided, referring to the Stoke Common Management Plan.

3.2 Standards

The work conformed to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

3.3 Methods

3.3.1 Archaeological Databases

The principal source consulted was the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Aylesbury.

3.3.2 Historic Documents

A published document, "The History of Stoke Common" commissioned by the Stoke Poges Parish Council and written by Lionel Rigby in 1975, has been assimilated into this report.

3.3.3 Cartographic

Cartographic sources from 1801 onwards were examined and assessed. These included the Tithe map and a sequence of Ordnance Survey maps.

3.3.4 Air Photographs

All aerial photographs of the site held at the *English Heritage Archive* were examined.

3.3.5 Walkover Survey

The survey was undertaken between 14th March and 21st March 2013. The estate was subdivided into compartments using the Stoke Common Management Plan (SCMP) land compartment map (Fig. 2) and then systematically walked. The locations of the monuments identified during the walkover survey are recorded by NGR (12 figures), and their relevant land compartment number.

3.4 ***Constraints***

The only significant constraint on the survey was the flooded condition of the area north of the Stoke Common Road. A full record could not be made of this area, though parts were examined where access allowed.

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

4.1 The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the HER are shown in Figure 3 and recorded in Table 1.

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Aylesbury, various published sources and information obtained from the internet.

4.2 *Prehistoric* (before 43AD)

Evidence from the prehistoric period is limited. A Bronze Age palastave (Axe) is the only prehistoric find recorded from Stoke Common (HER 1530).

4.3 *Romano-British* (AD43-c.450)

Little is known of Stoke Common during the Roman period. Evidence consists of a single find spot comprising a small pottery scatter located 370m south of the common (HER 2117).

4.4 *Saxon & Medieval* (450-1500)

Little is known of Saxon Stoke Poges but it is likely to have been of some significance as it gave its name to Stoke Hundred, a Saxon administrative unit. However, archaeological evidence of Saxon occupation is still lacking.

The history of the legal ownership of the lands has been carefully researched elsewhere and the following is a synopsis of the history of the estates and individuals most closely associated with the site. The history of the manor is detailed in the Victoria County History (Page 1925).

Within the Domesday Survey Stoke Poges is referred to as *Stoches* (Morris 1978). The old English term *Stoc* means an outlying farmstead or Hamlet (Mawer & Stenton 1925, 243-244), and sometimes has religious associations (Reaney 1960, 126-129).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the Manor of Stoke Poges (*Stoches*) consisted of 10 hides of land, which was held by Sigeraed, a man of Earl Harold. It was granted to William fitzAnsculf, who held the estate under the overlordship of the king. The land of the manor, and perhaps part of the common itself, must have been heavily wooded at this time as the survey records woodland for 500 pigs.

In 1269 Sir Robert Pugeys or Pogeys held the custody of Stoke, giving his name to the manor. From this time on the settlement was known as *Stoke Pogeys* (Page 1925). For the next 400 years the manor of Stoke Poges was embroiled in turmoil, with the passing of the estate from tenant to crown to tenant.

In 1331 the manor was passed to the treasurer of the king's chamber, John de Moleyns and his wife Gille. In 1332 de Moleyns was charged with irregularities regarding the money required for the siege of Tournay, and was sent to the Tower of London. His lands and

goods were seized and remained in the king's hands until 1345, when he was restored. He was made queen's steward, but got into trouble again in 1355 and was subsequently outlawed and imprisoned at Nottingham Castle. In 1360, after the death of her husband, Gille was pardoned and her lands were restored (*ibid*).

4.5 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1914)

In 1595 Edward Coke, who was then Attorney-General and afterwards Lord Chief Justice, purchased the manor of Stoke Poges. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1620 and a grant was issued for the removal of the property from his ownership. On his release soon after Sir Edward obtained a reversal of this grant (Page 1925).

In 1706 Robert Gayer inherited the manor from his father on condition that he paid his father's debts. This he could not do, and in 1723 the Court of Chancery decreed that the property should be sold. In 1729 the manor passed to Sir Richard Temple: following his death it passed to his widow, who was executed in 1760. Her executors sold the manor in 1761 to the Hon. Thomas Penn, son of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, who was succeeded by his son John Penn in 1775 (*ibid*).

John Penn played a significant part in regard to the history of Stoke Common. In 1810 Penn endorsed the Enclosure Act of Stoke Common, in which the common, of over 480 acres (c.194 hectares), was to be broken up and sold (Fig. 4: The extent of Stoke Common Pre & Post Enclosure Act). The proposed act caused outrage with local residents and, following lengthy legal battles, 200 acres (83 hectares) were set aside for continued use as common land. This area was handed to the trustees of a Poor Fuel Allotment Charity, and the local residents continued to collect turf as a fuel resource (Rigby 1972). The 200 acres consisted of two parcels of land either side of the road that ran north-south across the common.

In 1867 a parcel of land equating to 3.5 acres at the north-east corner of Stoke Common was sold by the trustees.

On two occasions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the common escaped having railways constructed across it, when proposals were withdrawn (Rigby 1972). During this time a number of gravel pits and quarries were in use in the vicinity of Stoke Common (Fig. 3).

4.6 *1914-1945*

During the First World War the army occupied part of the common, at the north-west corner, opposite the Fox and Hound pub. A gun emplacement, ammunition sheds, huts and other buildings were constructed, and to the west of the common a searchlight battery was erected. After the war the buildings were demolished.

During the Second World War the War Office requisitioned the area of common to the west of the A416 for agricultural use, and potatoes and later cereal crops were grown there as part of the "war effort" (*ibid*).

4.7 *1945 to date*

In 1967 Stoke Common was registered under the Commons Registration Act, and in 1972 the Nature Conservancy Council scheduled it as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

In 1993 South Buckinghamshire District Council purchased the Common from Stoke Poges Parish Council. In 2007 Stoke Common was acquired by the City of London and is now protected by the City of London's 'Open Spaces Act' allowing "access on foot to all areas by all persons at all times" (SCMP).

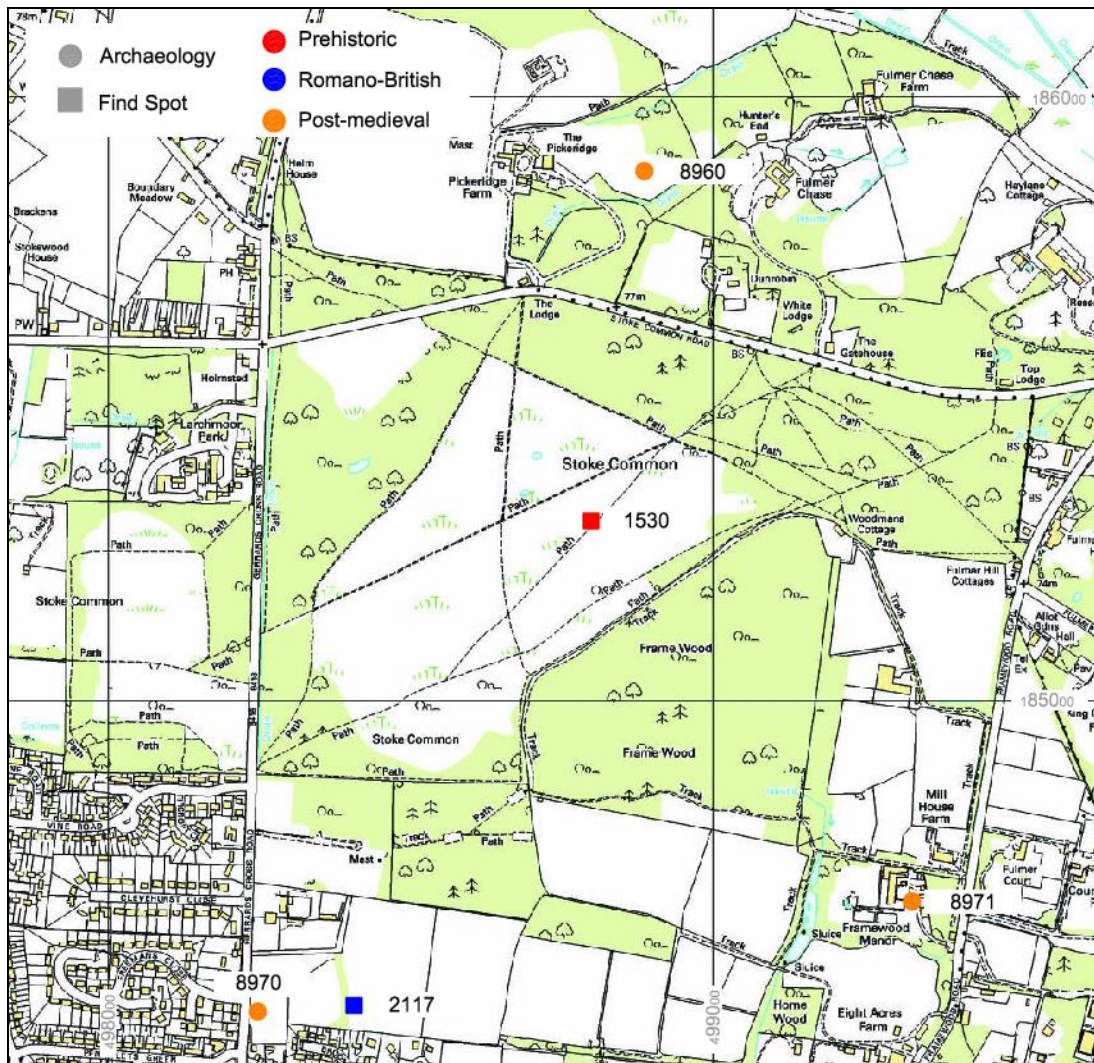


Figure 3: Historic Environment Record plot (scale 1:15,000)

Table 1: HER data shown on Figure 3

HER no	NGR	Period	Type	Description
1530	4988/1853	Prehistoric	Find spot	Bronze Age palastave. Loopless flanges continue almost to edge of plain, somewhat expanded blade. Broken.
2117	4984/1845	Roman	Find spot	Scatter of Roman pottery found on surface of field.
8960	498886/185876	Post-med	Doc Ev.	Gravel pit shown on 1875 OS map
8970	498247/184486	Post-med	Doc Ev.	Gravel pit shown on 1880 OS map
8971	499328/184669	Post-med	Doc.Ev	Gravel pit shown on 1875 OS map

5. Historic Maps & Aerial Photography

5.1 *Aims*

An overview of the ownership, use and management of a site is usually aided by studying old maps. In this instance the earliest maps, providing information regarding field names and Tithe apportionment, allow an insight into land management before the Industrial Revolution irrevocably altered western society and its environment.

5.2 *Pre-enclosure*

The 1760 Jeffreys' county map (not reproduced here) shows Stoke Common as it was prior to the Enclosure Act (Sec. 4.5). The common at this point covered a much greater area than it does today. Two roads, most likely the present B416 and Framewood Road (Stoke Poges to Fulmer) are shown crossing the common in a north-south direction. At this time the common is referred to as 'Stoke Heath'.

The extent of the common had changed little at the time of the 1801-1802 Freehold Estate map of Stoke Poges. A brick kiln belonging to John Penn is shown just outside the southern extent of Stoke Common (Fig. 4).

5.3 *1822 Enclosure (Inclosure) Map*

The 1822 Enclosure Map (Fig. 5) shows Stoke Common has changed very little over time. The three separate parcels of land and the present-day boundaries are clearly shown, apart from the present north-east boundary where, at this time, the common extended to the Stoke Poges to Fulmer road. The map is clearly labelled that Stoke Common is in the ownership of the "Trustees for the Poor of Stoke Poges".

5.4 *1839 Tithe map*

The tithe map (Fig. 6) shows the common, inclusive of Frame Wood, as a blank expanse. At this time it was classed as "waste land" and was not subject to a tithe. Interestingly, fields to the south and west that 17 years previous had been enclosed are not included as titheable land.

5.5 *1845 Extent of the Allotments to Trustees for the Poor*

The 1845 map shows the extent of the land owned by the Trustees for the Poor. No additional information is presented.

5.6 *Ordnance Survey Maps*

The 1880 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7) shows the three parcels of land divided by tracks and pathways with a small sub-rectangular enclosure located at the southwest corner of the main parcel of land. The north-east corner of the common had been sold off by this point (Sec 4.6), and a new boundary had been established further west from the Stoke Poges to Fulmer road, where the present-day boundary is still located. Further paths and tracks crossing the common are the only additional information to be presented.

5.7 *Aerial Photography*

Four features noted during the study of aerial photographs were not observed during the walkover survey:

1955 Aerial photograph

A sub-oval feature is present in the triangular parcel of land to the north, and a sub-oval feature with an internal circular feature appears at the north-east corner of the western parcel of common, close to Larchmoor House.

1960 Aerial photograph

Two circular features, interpreted as modern, are visible at the north-east corner of the main parcel of land. The character of these features is similar to monument 23, also identified on the 1960 aerial photograph (Sec. 6.6).

6 Survey Results

6.1 *Landscape*

The characteristics of the landscape at Stoke Common are a result of the geology and hydrology and the historical land use of the area. The common is flat, with heathland covering the vast proportion of the western and main parcels of land. Grassland and secondary woodland dominate the margins and the triangular parcel of land to the north.

The characteristic heathland for which Stoke Common is known is described in the Buckinghamshire Historic Landscape Characterisation as *open land traditionally used for rough grazing, collecting fuel and for certain industries* (www.buckscc.gov.uk).

6.2 *Features*

Archaeological features are present across the site, with the exception of the central heathland area (Fig. 8). The feature types recorded during the walkover survey can be divided into three categories: those related to World War 2, quarries and extraction pits, and linear features such as banks, ditches and trackways. Precise dating of individual features within each category was not possible within the parameters of the current brief, but most have been allocated to a particular period according to their morphology, orientation and location.

6.3 *Medieval* (Figure 9: Plates 6 & 7)

Table 2: Medieval features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
3	Bank and ditch	498653/185697-498327185761	3
18	Bank and ditch	498686/184867-499196/185301	21

The two features assigned to the medieval period define land boundaries (Table 2). The northern boundary (Monument 3; Plate 6) of LC4 is defined by an east-west bank flanked by two ditches. The southern ditch (2.8m wide, 0.4m deep) is located on the Stoke Common estate, and the bank (c.3m wide, 1m high) and the outer ditch are located just outside the Stoke Common estate. The boundary is depicted on pre- and post-enclosure mapping (Figs 4-7). It forms the parish boundary between the parishes of Fulmer and Stoke Poges, and is believed to be of antiquity.

Monument 18 (Plate 7) forms the boundary between Stoke Common and Frame Wood, an ancient woodland. It extends north-east from the south-east corner of LC2, finishing near 'Woodmans Cottage', an early 20th-century property at the eastern end of LC5. The boundary is defined by a curvilinear ditch, 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep, and a large bank measuring 2.5m wide and 0.8m high, located on the ditch's eastern side. The boundary is depicted on pre-enclosure and post-enclosure mapping and was originally the western boundary of a large sub-oval enclosure within which Frame Wood was incorporated (Fig. 4).

6.4 **Post-Medieval (1600-1900)** (Figures 10 & 11: Plates 8-11)

Table 3: Post-medieval features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
1	Bank & ditch	497927/184883-497932/185327	1
2	Ditch	497930/184876-498228/184880	2
7	Extraction pit/tree hole	498277/184925	7
26	Bank and ditch	499507/185356-499458/185365	41
27	Quarry	499478/185392 & 499499/185401	42
31	Bank and ditch	498245/184883-498686/184867	22

Bank and Ditches

Three of the four bank and/or ditch features assigned to the post-medieval period form land boundaries.

The rectangular western land compartment (LC1) is bounded by housing to the south, the B416 to the east, fields to the west and 'Larchmoor/Larch House', a 19th-century property, to the north. The western boundary (Monument 1) is defined by a bank (1.8m wide, 0.5m high) and a ditch (1.4m wide, 1m deep) located on the banks eastern side. The southern boundary (monument 2; Plate 8) is defined by a ditch (1.8m wide, 0.8m deep). The northern boundary was defined by a bank and ditch: however, these are located outside the Stoke Common estate and were therefore not recorded.

The southern boundary (Monument 31; Plate 9) of LC2 is defined by a bank (2.5m wide, 0.8m high) with a ditch (1.4m wide, 0.4m deep) located on the northern side.

Monuments 1, 2 and 31 are not depicted on pre-enclosure mapping, but are shown on the Enclosure map of 1822. These boundaries are most likely post-enclosure land divisions following the enclosure of the Common in c.1822

Quarrying, Extraction and related features

An irregular shaped area (c.0.13 hectares) of quarrying (Monument 27; Plate 10), 1.8m deep, is located in the northeast corner of LC7, close to the boundary that was established following the sale of an area of common in 1867. Monument 26 forms the southern boundary to the area of quarrying (27) and is defined by a bank (1.4m wide, 0.3m high) and an external ditch (1.4m wide, 0.3m deep). The area of quarrying (27) is not depicted on any mapping. The quarry may relate to the extraction of building materials used during the construction of properties located to the east, which occurred in the middle and latter stages of the 20th century.

A shallow sub-oval feature (Monument 7; Plate 11) is located in the southwest corner of LC2 and measured 6 x 4.5m and 0.3m deep. The feature is interpreted as an area of extraction or a tree hole caused by the uprooting of a large tree.

6.5 **World War II activity** (Figures 12 & 13: Plates 12-15)

Table 4: World War II features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
6	Foxhole	498309/184988	6
14	Trackway and mound	498623/184921-498660/184943	15
20	Foxholes	499059/185550 (centre)	24-32

Little is known of military activity on Stoke Common during the Second World War. The only recorded activity includes the requisition of the western parcel of the common for agricultural use.

Foxholes

Monument 6 (Plate 12), located in the southwest corner of LC2, and the twelve features that form Monument 20 (Plates 13 & 14), located at the northeast corner of LC6, are similar in size and shape. All are rectangular, c.2m in length, c.1m wide and 0.2m deep, with excavated material built up, either on two, three or four sides of the central depression. Two of the features associated with Monument 20 are located to the west, and the other ten to the east of a trackway (Monument 21; Sec 6.6).

Monuments 6 & 20 are similar in size and shape to infantry foxholes, defensive positions comprising a very shallow excavation allowing one man to lie horizontally while shielding his body from nearby shell bursts and small-arms fire (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_fighting_positions). These features indicate that Stoke Common may have been used for army manoeuvres during the Second World War.

Other features

Monument 14 (Plate 15) is located in the southeast corner of LC2. It comprises a rectangular mound of earth (7 × 5m, and 0.7m high) constructed of soil excavated from three sides located around the mound. Vehicle tracks lead away from the mound of earth in an easterly then northerly direction, running close to the boundary with Frame Wood. The vehicle tracks coupled with the age of the trees growing in proximity to the mound are the reasons for a World War II date being attributed.

6.6 **Modern** (Figure 14; Plates 16-21)

Table 5: Modern features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
8	Pond	498472/185167	8
9	Pond	498464/185139	9
10	Pond	498476/185138	10
11	Mound	498497/185170	11
12	Pond	498669/185090	12-13
13	Trackway	498490/184908-498977/185472	14
15	Pond	498647/184993	16
16	Pond	498684/185357	17-18
17	Pond	498708/185406	19-20
19	Pond	499032/185311	23
21	Trackway	499068/185575-498977/185472	33-34

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
23	Ditch	498778/185246 (centre)	37-38
24	Trackway	499689/185276-499310/185316	39
25	Pond	498484/185596-498419/185595	40
29	Mounds and hollows	498331/185524-498320/185515	44-45

Ponds

A number of ponds and small pools are located on the common. The pools were either constructed prior to or during 2001 when the Corporation took on the management of the Common and improved and increased their numbers (SCMP).

Monuments 8-10, 12, 13, 15-17, 19 & 25 comprise ponds, pools and associated spoil heaps (Plates 16 & 17).

Monument 11, defined by a small sub-oval mound of earth (5 × 6m, 0.3m high), lies in close proximity to Monuments 8-10, and may represent the up-cast material from the excavation of these small water-filled pools.

Trackways

Two small sections of trackway (Monuments 13 & 24; Plate 18), comprising parallel wheel ruts *c.*2m apart, were recorded at the southeast corner of LC2 and LC7. Young trees have since grown on both trackways, suggesting they fell out of use in the recent past. Neither trackway is identified on mapping or aerial photography.

A small section of trackway (Monument 21; Plate 19), *c.*2.5m wide, was identified to the north of LC6. The track runs between features associated with Monument 20 (Sec. 6.5). The trackway is first recorded on mapping in 1970, though aerial photography shows it was in existence by 1936.

Other features

A circular ditch, *c.*25.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep (Monument 23; Plate 20) is located at the centre of LC5, *c.*100m from the boundary with Frame Wood. There is no clear break in the ditch and no bank is present. The ditch is not recorded on any mapping; it is first visible on air photographs taken in 1960 and can be seen on present-day air photographs.

A number of mound and pit features (Monument 29; Plate 21) are located at the north-west corner of LC3. These features run alongside, truncate and therefore post-date ditch (Monument 28) to their south. They comprise a series of pits and associated mounds, 0.5-1.2m high, created from the excavated spoil with occasional large tree branches added to stabilise the mounds. The condition of the features suggests they have recently been created, possibly as ramps and other obstacles for use by BMX bikers.

6.7 *Undated* (Figure 14: Plates 22-24)

Table 6: Undated features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
4	Pond and ditch	498328/185723 & 498344/185716	4- 5
5	Pond	4983514/185722	n/a
22	Ditch and double Bank	499137/185549-499125/185571	35-36

No.	Type	NGR no.	Archive photo numbers
28	Bank and ditch	498419/185595-498296/185488	43
30	Trackway and ditches	498317/185399-498320/185367	46-48

Five monuments could not be categorised by date. Two water-filled depressions (Monuments 4 & 5; Plate 22) thought to be ponds are present in LC4. A shallow ditch feeds into one of the ponds (4) on its western edge. Both are located in established secondary woodland, and therefore do not relate to the ponds created by the Corporation in 2001, but are more likely constructed by the previous management team of South Buckinghamshire Council.

A small section of ditch (1.3m wide, 0.2m deep) was identified at the north-east corner of LC6 (Monument 22). The ditch is flanked by two banks, *c.* 1m wide and 0.3m high. The ditch runs south south-east from the northern boundary of the site, towards the “valley mire”, a boggy area maintained by the Corporation. The ditch most likely represents a post medieval or modern drainage or boundary ditch.

Monument 28 (Plate 23) is defined by a ditch (2m wide, 0.8m deep) and bank (1m wide, 0.4m deep) on the northern side. The ditch runs southwest from pond (25) towards the western boundary of LC3. Monument 28 is truncated by, and therefore predates, Monument 29, comprising modern pits and mounds. The ditch most likely represents a post medieval/modern drainage or boundary ditch.

A double trackway flanked by two ditches was observed close to the western boundary of LC3 (Monument 30; Plate 24), parallel with the B416. The eastern trackway is raised above the trackway located directly to its west. The raised trackway measures 5m wide and 0.3m high, whilst the lower trackway is 3.6m wide. The ditch located on the east side measures 3m wide and 0.1m deep and the western ditch measures 1m wide and 0.1m deep. The trackways and ditches are located in established secondary woodland and are not recorded on mapping or visible on aerial photography. The characteristics of this monument are similar to that of a Roman road. Roman roads are defined by two parallel ditches 5-15m apart, with an embankment (*agger*) of earth built between the ditches using material excavated from a scoop ditch, leaving a wide depression along one or both sides of the road (Bagshawe 1979, 13ff). The Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record does not record a Roman Road in the vicinity of Stoke Common. Further archaeological work is recommended to ascertain a date and function of this feature.



Plate 1: Heathland



Plate 2: Heath and pine trees



Plate 3: Secondary woodland: silver birch



Plate 4: Secondary woodland: oak



Plate 5: Waterlogged conditions in LC4



Plate 6: Double bank and double ditch (3)



Plate 7: Bank and ditch (18)



Plate 8: Ditch (2)



Plate 9: Bank and ditch (31)



Plate 10: Quarry (27)



Plate 11: Extraction hollow (7)



Plate 12: Foxhole (6)



Plate 13: Foxhole (20)



Plate 14: Foxhole (20)



Plate 15: Trackway and mound (14)



Plate 16: Pond and excavated material (12)



Plate 17: Pond and excavated material (16)



Plate 18: Trackway (13)



Plate 19: Trackway (21)



Plate 21: Mounds and pits (29)



Plate 23: Bank and ditch (28)



Plate 20: Circular ditch (23)



Plate 22: Pond and ditch (4)



Plate 24: Raised trackways and double ditch (30)

7. The Management and Mitigation of the Management Plan Objectives

7.1 Overview

The Stoke Common Management Plan (SCMP) is a comprehensive document aimed at providing a blueprint for the management team, and a basis for a long-term strategy for the successful management of Stoke Common (SCMP 2). The Management Plan maintains the aims of the Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, which ‘*allows access on foot to all areas by all persons at all time....and aims to protect and conserve Stoke Common for public recreation and wildlife conservation in perpetuity*’. It also takes into consideration the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and its responsibilities as a SSSI (*ibid*: pg 11).

The Plan aims to show how the City of London will work with the local people to protect and improve Stoke Common, and also provides a brief record of the history, ecology, land use and legal obligations. The management objectives and methodology are set out detail in Chapter 3 (SCMP 6-25) and are detailed in relation to the land compartments in Chapter 4 (SCMP 26-31).

7.2 The Management Objectives and Prescriptions

7.2.1 *To restore and maintain the heathland and associated habitats to favourable condition.*

Management and Mitigation:

The restoration of heathland planned by the eradication of encroaching birch trees would have a positive impact on archaeological remains. However this would be dependent on the method of eradication. Mechanical techniques and the excavation and removal of stumps may have a negative impact upon archaeological remains, whilst the destruction of tree stumps using herbicide would have a positive impact upon archaeology.

Monuments **4, 13, 19** and **28** would be impacted upon by the process of eradication of birch woodland.

The restoration of heathland using the method of soil stripping, and the spreading of the stripped soils in woodland areas would have a negative impact upon archaeological remains. Monuments **8-11** would be impacted upon by the process of soil stripping. However, these monuments consist mainly of modern pools and ponds and are classed as less sensitive than other monuments located on the site. Monuments located in woodland areas, where soil spreading is planned, would also be impacted upon.

The restoration of heathland through grazing, and the footfall created by this, could prove detrimental to archaeological remains. It is important that the archaeological remains are identified and evaluated, in order to define whether areas close to monuments should be restricted from grazing. Monuments **3, 6, 14, 18, 20** and **30** are those most likely at risk from grazing

- 7.2.2 *To encourage low-key public access at a level that is compatible with the conservation features of the reserve and to encourage local community involvement in the management of the Common.*

Management and Mitigation:

High levels of pedestrian footfall would have a negative impact upon archaeological remains. It is important that the archaeological remains are identified and evaluated. Only then will all the sensitive sites be known for their carrying capacity to be determined. Monuments **6, 7, 20** and **23** lie in close proximity to current footpaths. Pathways located close to archaeological remains should be defined and maintained in order to reduce erosion in their vicinity.

Community involvement in the preservation and possible further investigation of the archaeological remains would be beneficial, not least in increasing public awareness of the historic environment.

- 7.2.3 *To fulfil all legal obligations and to maintain estate structures in good condition*

Management and Mitigation:

Objective 3 states categorically that structures indicating past history of the site will be cared for whether they are scheduled or not, and potential damage will be prevented where possible. The works undertaken during this survey form the methodology to fulfil the relevant section of this objective.

8. Acknowledgements

ASC is grateful to Helen Read, Corporation of London, for not only commissioning this report but also her patience and assistance throughout the project. Thanks are also due to the staff at Burnham Beeches, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and the English Heritage Archive for their help in the background research.

The fieldwork for this report was undertaken by Martin Cuthbert BA AIFA and Ralph Brown BSc. The historical background was researched by Martin Cuthbert. The report was compiled by Martin Cuthbert and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

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URL. www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/burnham-beeches-and-stoke-common/Documents/Stoke%20Common%20management%20plan.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_fighting_position#cite_note-1

Maps

1760	Jeffreys' map of Buckinghamshire	
1801	Plan of freehold estates	
1822	Stoke Poges and Wexham Enclosure map	
1839	Tithe map	
1845	Extent of Allotments	198/25/162
1880	First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" sheet	L III. 6

10. ASC OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Stoke Common, Buckinghamshire	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-158909
Short Description:	In March 2013 Archaeological Services and Consultancy carried out an archaeological field survey of Stoke Common, near Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, in order to aid the future management of the estate. Stoke Common is owned by the Corporation of London and was purchased to provide an open space for public enjoyment while preserving the natural aspect of the site. It covers an area of approximately 83ha, within which are areas of secondary oak woodland, grassland and bog, with the majority set as heathland. Because of this it has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Thirty-one individual archaeological features were observed during the survey, ranging in date from the medieval period to the 20 th century. Most features fall into the category of land management, quarrying or World War II activity. The management and mitigation of the surviving archaeological record in relation to the Stoke Common Management Plan 2008-2018 is considered in some detail in this report.		
Project Type:	Archaeological Walkover Survey		
Previous work: (eg. HER refs)	N/a	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Open space	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	Common Land	Monument period:	Multi-phase
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	N/A		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SU988853 (centre)
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Stoke Common, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	80 ha	Height OD: (metres)	Variable
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	N/a	Project design originator:	N/a
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert BA AIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Corporation of London		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	March 2013	End date:	March 2013
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum	N/A	
Paper:		Record sheets, photos	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Walkover Survey: Stoke Common, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire:		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1579/SPC/1		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA AIFA		
Page nos	41	Date:	11 th September 2013

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Archaeological Features

No.	Type	NGR no.	Location: Management Plan Land Compartment	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
1	Bank & ditch	497927/184883-497932/185327	1	Bank=1.8m wide, 0.5m high Ditch=1.4m wide, 1m deep	Post-medieval	1	Western boundary to (LP) 1. Bank and ditch, bank on west side
2	Ditch	497930/184876-498228/184880	1	Ditch=1.8m wide, 0.8m deep	Post-medieval	2	Southern boundary to LP 1.
3	Bank and ditch	498653/185697-498327/185761	4	Ditch=2.8m wide, 0.4m deep Bank= 1m high	Medieval	3	Northern boundary to LP 4
4	Pond and ditch	498328/185723 &498344/185716	4	18x8m, 0.6m deep	Undated	4- 5	Pond and ditch
5	Pond	4983514/185722	4	50x10m, 0.6m deep	Undated	n/a	Pond/hollow
6	Foxhole	498309/184988	2	2x0.7m, 0.6m deep	WW2	6	Possible practice foxhole, defensive position
7	Extraction pit/tree hole	498277/184925	2	4.5x6m, 0.3m deep	Post-medieval	7	Small extraction pit/tree hole
8	Pond	498472/185167	2	4x4m, 0.6m deep	Modern	8	Pond/ hollow
9	Pond	498464/185139	2	4x4m, 0.6m deep	Modern	9	Pond/ hollow
10	Pond	498476/185138	2	4x4m, 0.6m deep	Modern	10	Pond/ hollow
11	Mound	498497/185170	2	5x6m,0.3m high	Modern	11	Slight mound, possibly created from the extraction of material associated with features 8-10
12	Pond	498669/185090	2	5x4m, 0.6m deep/0.4m high	Modern	12-13	Pond/ hollow and mound of associated excavated material
13	Trackway	498490/184908-498977/185472	2	2m wide, 10m long	Modern	14	Parallel wheel ruts, vehicle track way
14	Trackway and mound	498623/184921-498660/184943	2	7x5m, 0.7m high	WW2	15	Square mound built up from material excavated from three sides. Vehicle wheel ruts heading east from mound location
15	Pond	498647/184993	2	15x5m, 0.4m deep	Modern	16	Pond and mound of associated excavated material
16	Pond	498684/185357	6	20x10m, 0.4m deep	Modern	17-18	Pond and mound of associated excavated material
17	Pond	498708/185406	6	20x10m, 0.7m deep	Modern	19-20	Pond and mound of associated excavated material
18	Bank and ditch	498686/184867-499196/185301	2 & 5	Ditch=1.4m wide, 0.4m deep Bank=2.5m wide, 0.8m high	Medieval	21	Bank and ditch forming the eastern boundary to site.
19	Pond	499032/185311	5	18x8m, 0.5m deep	Modern	23	Pond
20	Foxholes	499059/185550 (centre)	6	1.8m-2.0m x 1-1.2m, 0.2m deep	WW2	25-32	Possible practice foxhole, defensive position
21	Trackway	499068/185575-498977/185472	6	2.5m wide	Modern	33-34	NE-SW aligned trackway running between monuments 020
22	Ditch and double Bank	499137/185549-499125/185571	6	Ditch=1.3m wide, 0.4m deep Banks= 1m wide, 0.3m high	Undated	35-36	Double bank and ditch
23	Ditch	498778/185246 (centre)	5	25.5m diameter, 0.2m deep	Modern	37-38	Circular ditch, no obvious break. Possible animal/tree enclosure?
24	Trackway	499689/185276-499310/185316	7	2.5m wide	Modern	39	Parallel wheel ruts, vehicle track way
25	Pond	498484/185596-498419/185595	3	20x30m, 0.5m deep	Modern	40	Large pond and mound of associated excavated material
26	Bank and ditch	499507/185356-499458/185365	7	Ditch=1.4m, 0.3m deep Bank=1.4m wide, 0.3m high	Post-medieval	41	Bank and ditch forming southern boundary of an area of quarrying (027)
27	Quarry	499478/185392 & 499499/185401	7	1.8m deep	Post-medieval	42	Area of shallow quarrying
28	Bank and ditch	498419/185595-498296/185488	3	Ditch=2m wide, 0.8m deep Bank=1m wide, 0.4m high	Undated	43	Bank and ditch, bank on NW side
29	Mounds and	498331/185524-498320/185515	3	Multiple sizes	Modern	44-45	Mounds and hollows, forming a possible BMX trackway

No.	Type	NGR no.	Location: Management Plan Land Compartment	Dimensions	Period	Photo No.	Description
	hollows						
30	Trackway and ditches	498317/185399-498320/185367	3	Upper track= 5m wide, 0.3m high Lower track=3.6m wide East ditch=3m wide, 0.1m deep West ditch=1m wide, 0.1m deep	Undated/ Romano British?	46-48	Double track way and flanking ditches, similar in shape to a Romano Road.
31	Bank and ditch	498245/184883-498686/184867	2	Ditch= 1.4m wide, 0.4m deep Bank=2.5m wide, 0.8m high	Post-medieval	22	Bank and ditch forming the southern boundary to LP 2. Bank on southern side

Appendix 2: Condition Survey

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
1	Bank & ditch	497927/184883-497932/185327	1	Western boundary to Land Parcel (LP) 1. Bank and ditch, bank on west side	Good	Stable	Low
2	Ditch	497930/184876-498228/184880	2	Southern boundary to LP 1.	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
3	Bank and ditch	498653/185697-498327/185761	3	Northern boundary to LP 4	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
4	Pond and ditch	498328/185723 & 498344/185716	4-5	Pond and ditch	Good	Slow deterioration	Low
5	Pond	4983514/185722	n/a	Pond/hollow	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
6	Foxhole	498309/184988	6	Possible practice foxhole, defensive position	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
7	Extraction pit/tree hole	498277/184925	7	Small extraction pit/tree hole	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
8	Pond	498472/185167	8	Pond/ hollow	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
9	Pond	498464/185139	9	Pond/ hollow	Moderate	Slow deterioration	low
10	Pond	498476/185138	10	Pond/ hollow	Moderate	Slow deterioration	low
11	Mound	498497/185170	11	Slight mound, possibly created from the extraction of material associated with features 8-10	Moderate	Slow deterioration	low
12	Pond	498669/185090	12-13	Pond/ hollow	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
13	Trackway	498490/184908-498977/185472	14	Parallel wheel ruts, vehicle track way	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
14	Trackway and mound	498623/184921-498660/184943	15	Square mound built up from material excavated from three sides. Vehicle wheel ruts heading east from mound location	Moderate	Rapid deterioration	Medium
15	Pond	498647/184993	16	Pond and mound of associated excavated material	Moderate	Stable	Low
16	Pond	498684/185357	17-18	Pond and mound of associated excavated material	Moderate	Stable	Low
17	Pond	498708/185406	19-20	Pond and mound of associated excavated material	Moderate	Stable	Low
18	Bank and ditch	498686/184867-499196/185301	21	Bank and ditch forming the Eastern boundary to site.	Moderate	Slow deterioration	medium
19	Pond	499032/185311	23	Pond	Moderate	Stable	Low
20	Foxholes	499059/185550 (centre)	25-32	Possible practice foxhole, defensive position	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
21	Trackway	499068/185575-498977/185472	33-34	NE-SW aligned trackway running between monuments 020	Moderate	Rapid deterioration	Medium
22	Ditch and double Bank	499137/185549-499125/185571	35-36	Double bank and ditch	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
23	Ditch	498778/185246 (centre)	37-38	Circular ditch, no obvious break. Possible animal/tree enclosure?	Good	Slow deterioration	Medium
24	Trackway	499689/185276-499310/185316	39	Parallel wheel ruts, vehicle track way	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
25	Pond	498484/185596-498419/185595	40	Large pond and mound of associated excavated material	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium
26	Bank and ditch	499507/185356-499458/185365	41	Bank and ditch forming southern boundary of an area of quarrying (027)	Good	Slow deterioration	Medium
27	Quarry	499478/185392 & 499499/185401	42	Area of shallow quarrying	Good	Slow deterioration	Low

No.	Type	NGR no.	Photo No.	Description	Condition	Stability	Vulnerability
28	Bank and ditch	498419/185595- 498296/185488	43	Bank and ditch, bank on NW side	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Low
29	Mounds and hollows	498331/185524- 498320/185515	44-45	Mounds and hollows, forming a possible BMX trackway	Moderate	Rapid deterioration	Low
30	Trackway and ditches	498317/185399- 498320/185367	46-48	Double track way and flanking ditches, similar in shape to a Roman road.	Bad	Slow deterioration	Low
31	Bank and ditch	498245/184883- 498686/184867	22	Bank and ditch forming the southern boundary to LP 2. Bank on southern side	Moderate	Slow deterioration	Medium



Figure 4: A plan of the Freehold Estates, 1801
Red= The original extent of Stoke Common (pre enclosure) (*not to scale*)



Figure 5: Stoke Poges and Wexham Enclosure Award map, 1822 (*not to scale*)



Figure 6: Tithe Map of 1839 (*Not to scale*)



Figure 7: 1880 Ordnance Survey Map (*Not to scale*)

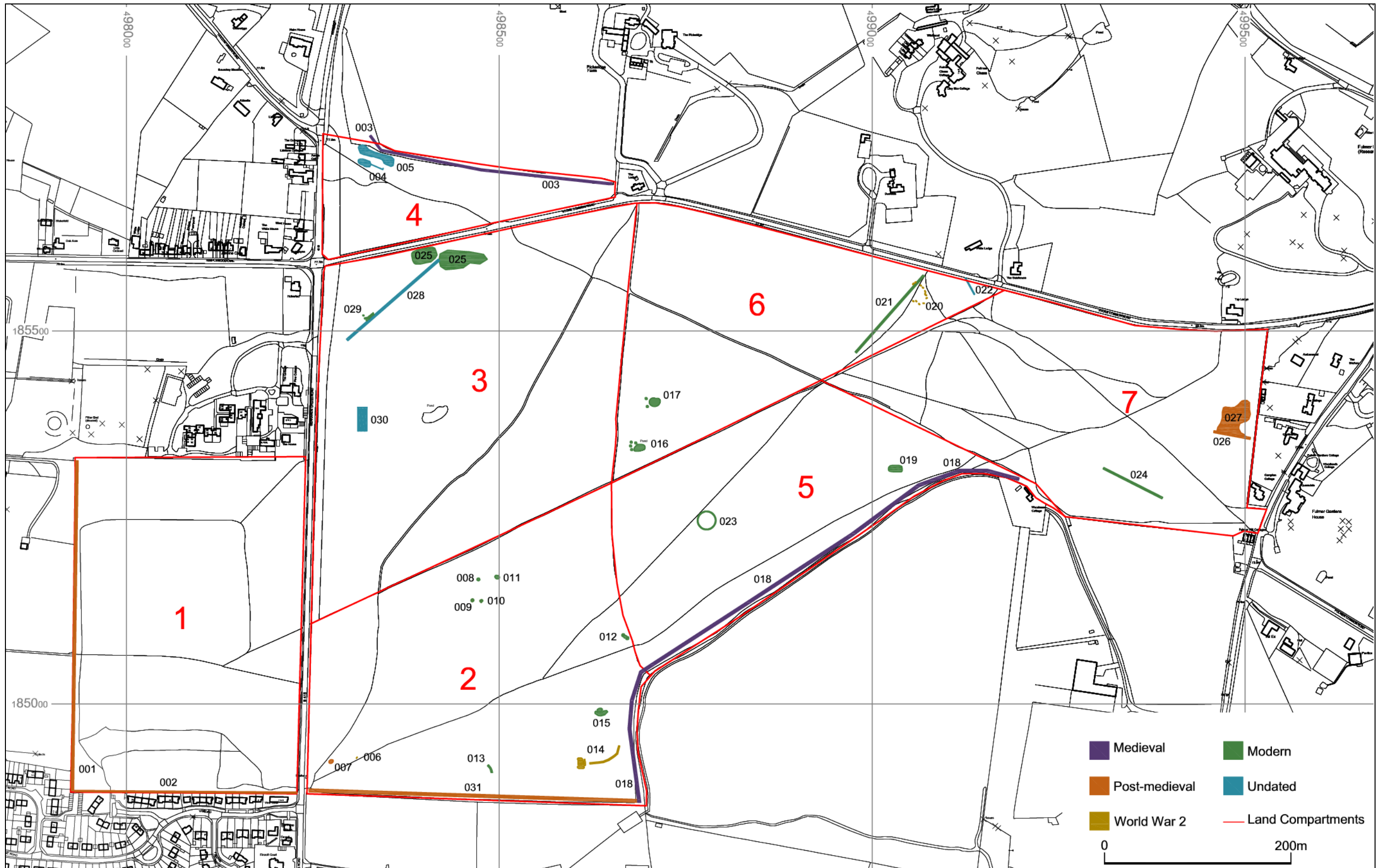


Figure 8: All features and Management Plan land compartments (LC) (Scale 1:5000)

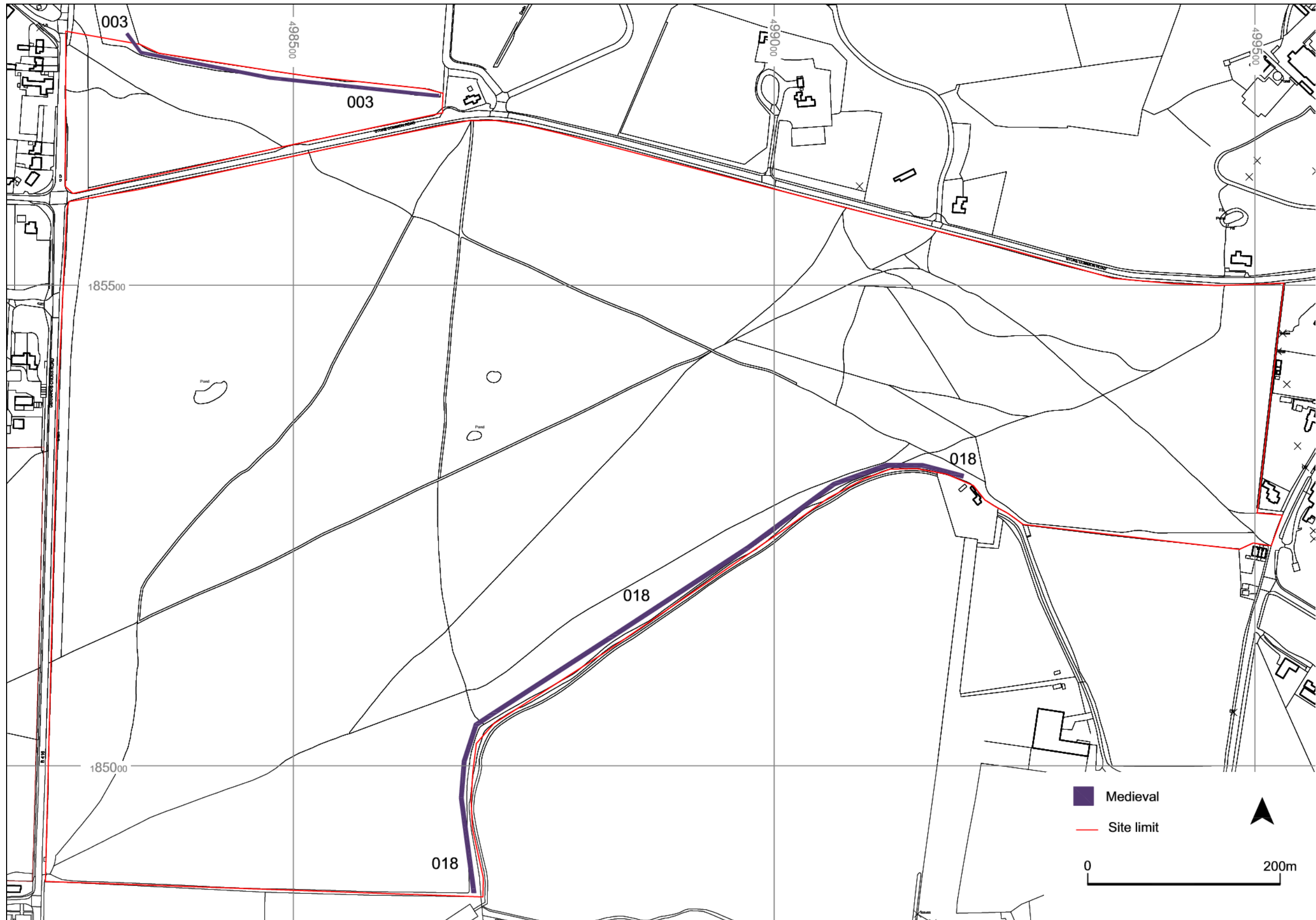


Figure 9: Possible medieval features (Scale 1:4000)

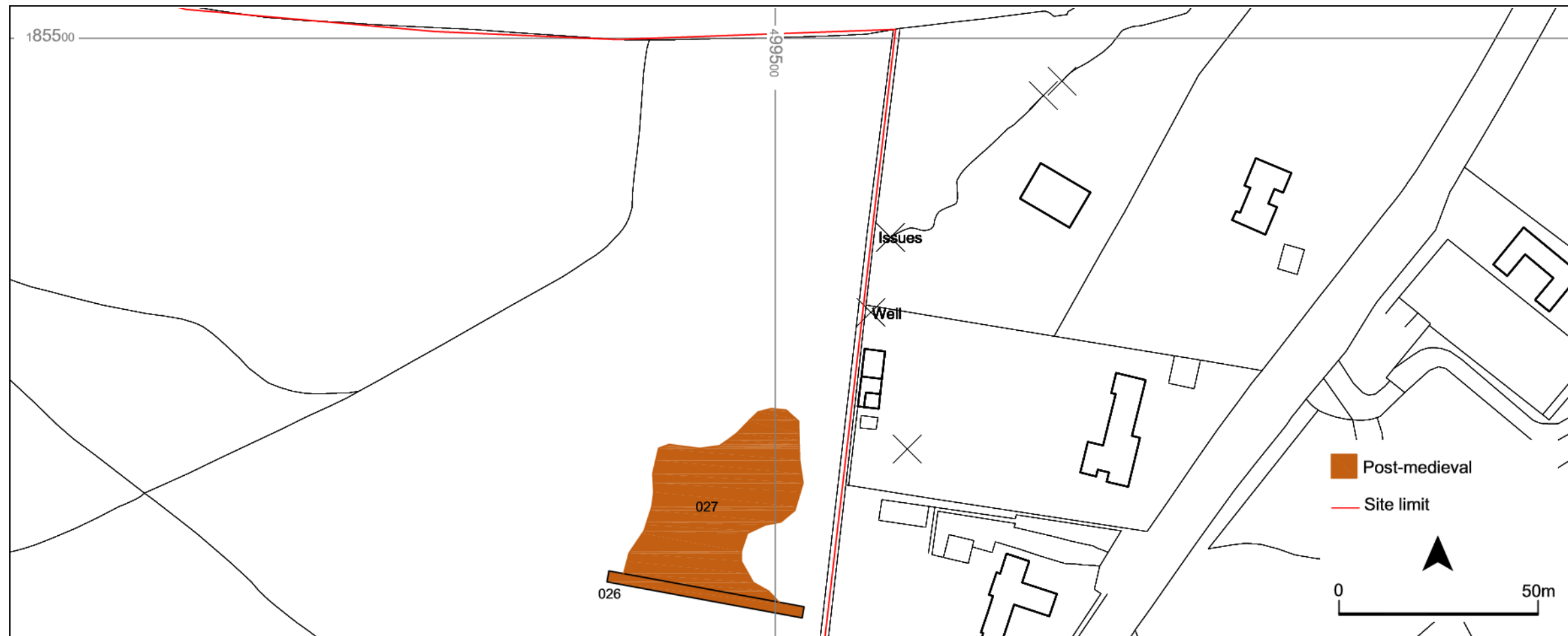


Figure 10: Possible post-medieval features (Scale 1:1250)

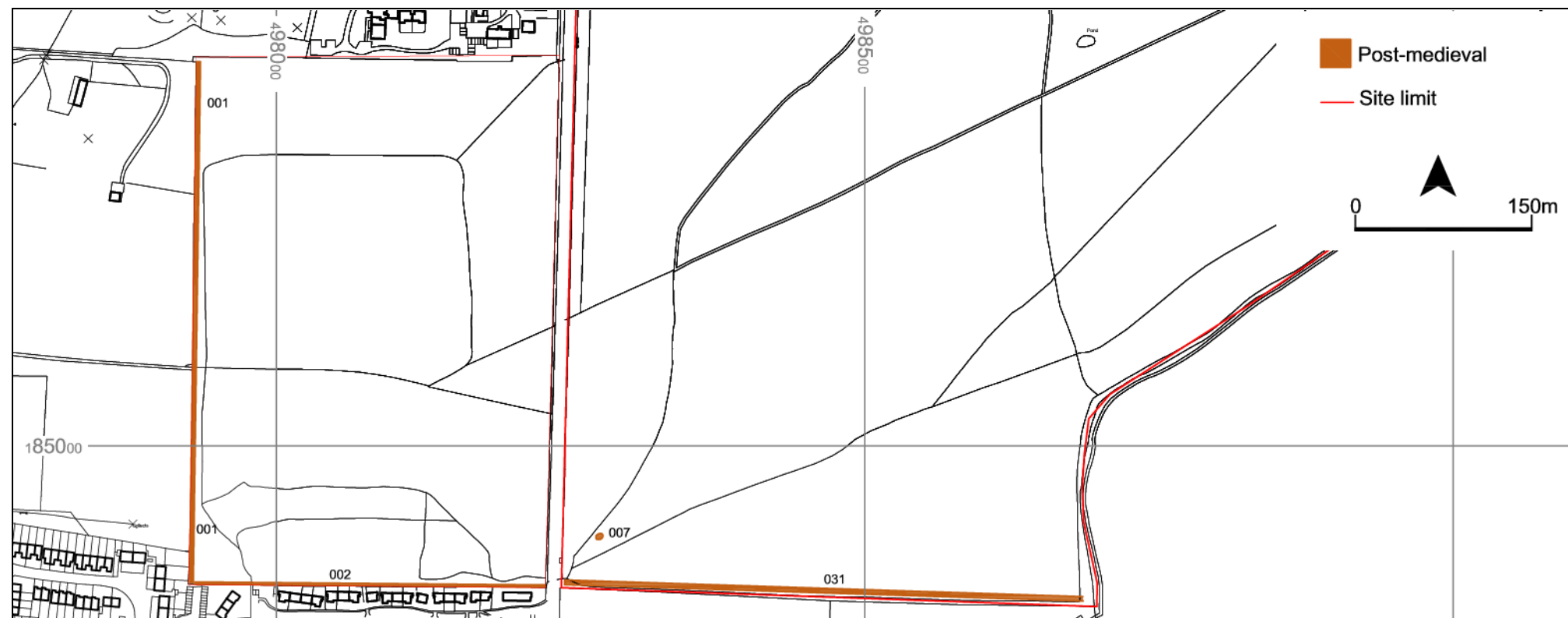


Figure 11: Possible post-medieval features (Scale 1:5000)

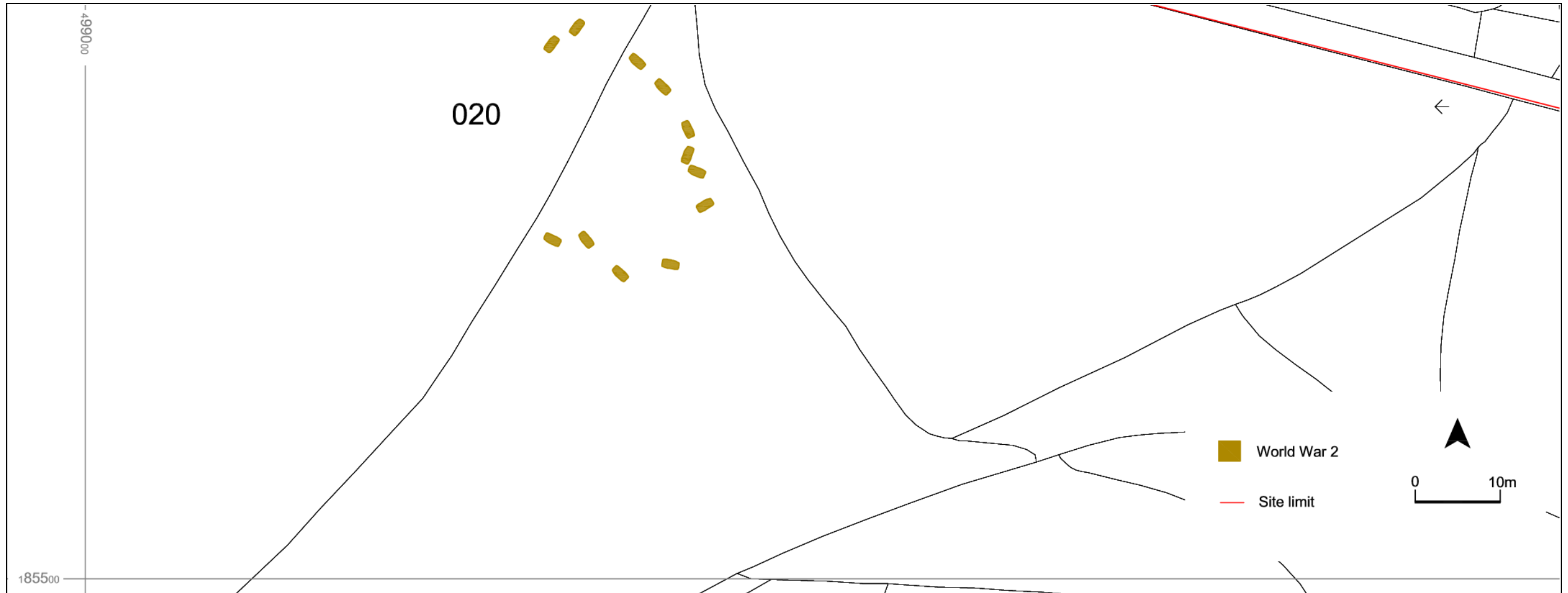


Figure 12: Possible World War 2 features (Scale 1:500)

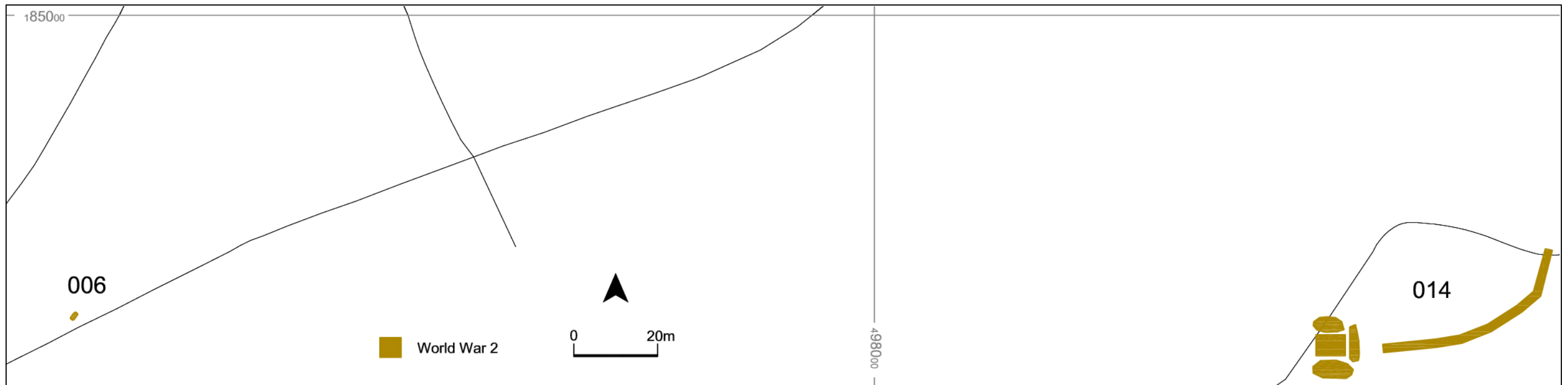


Figure 13: Possible World War 2 features (Scale 1:1000)

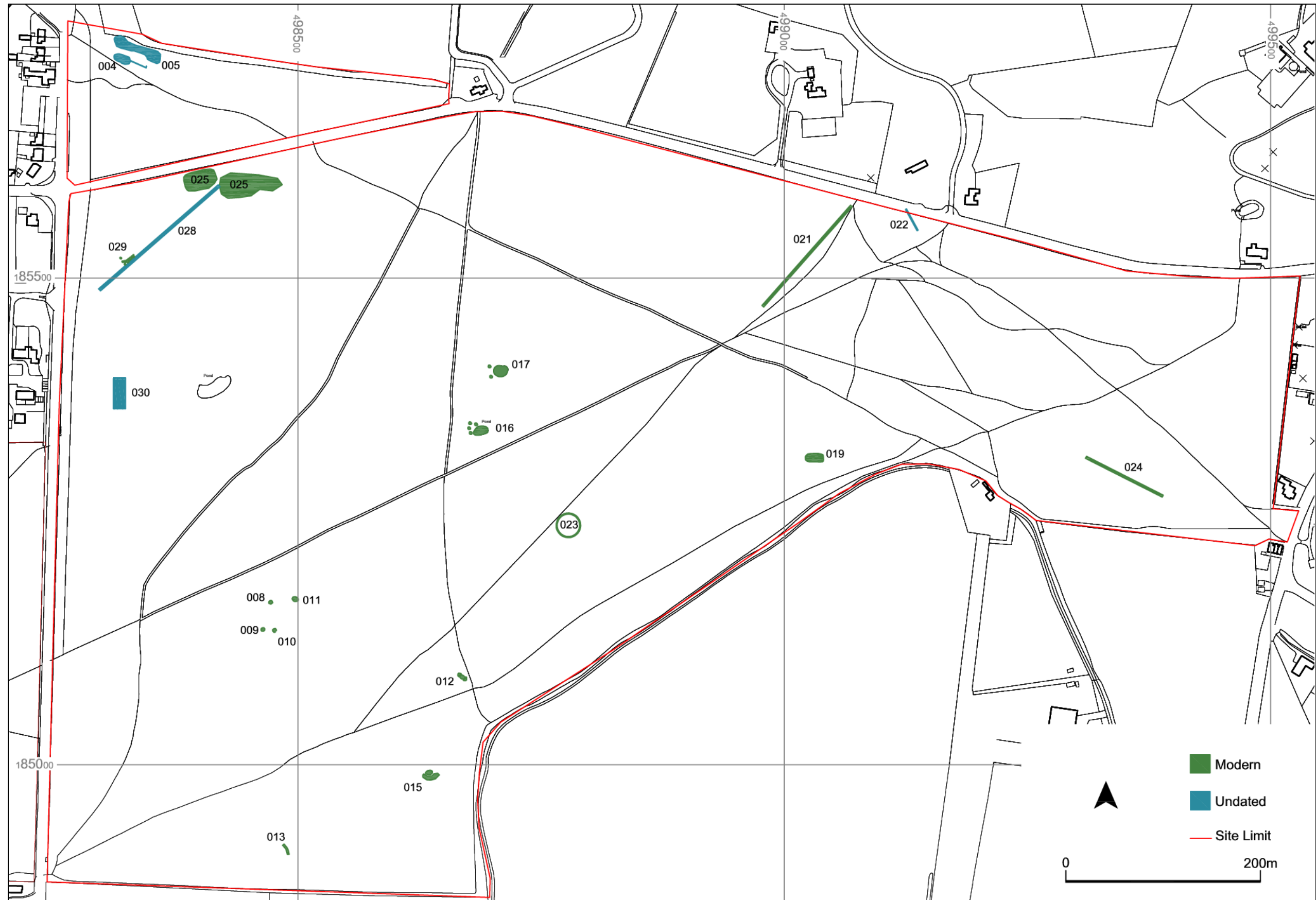


Figure 14: Modern and undated features (Scale 1:4000)