

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
REDBRICK FARM BARN
HARDWICK
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

NGR TL 3738 5856

On behalf of Camstead Homes

Joe Abrams BA AIFA



October 2002

ASC/HRF02/2

© Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



SITE DATA

ASC site code:	HRF02	Project No	425
County:	Cambridgeshire		
District:	South Cambridgeshire		
Village/Town:	Hardwick		
Parish:	Hardwick		
NGR:	TL 3738 5856		
Total extent of site:	0.439ha		
Present land use:	Disused Farm Yard and Barns		
Planning proposal:	Offices		
Planning application ref:	S/1131/02/F		
Client:	Camstead Homes, 1 Chequers Court Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3NB		
Contact name:	David Middleton		
Telephone:		Fax:	

CONTENTS

Summary.....	3
1. Introduction & Setting.....	3
2. Aims & Methods	4
3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence	8
4. Cartographic Evidence	12
5. Selected Maps Showing Site Location	13
6. Conclusion	18
7. Acknowledgements	18
8. Sites & Monuments Data.....	19
9. References	20
10. Cartographic Sources.....	20

Figures:

1. Location within County	2
2. General Location	2
3. Site Location.....	2
4. Development Area - prior to development	6
5. Proposed Development.....	6
6. Enclosure Map (1837)	13
7. Tithe Map (1838).....	14
8. Ordnance Survey Map (1886)	15
9. Ordnance Survey Map (1901)	16
10. Auction Plan (1908)	17

Plates:

Cover

1. Access to site	7
2. Central part of site	7
3. Courtyard within barns	7
4. Access to courtyard area.....	7
5. Barns to the east of the Access Road.....	7
6. Pond in the western part of site	7

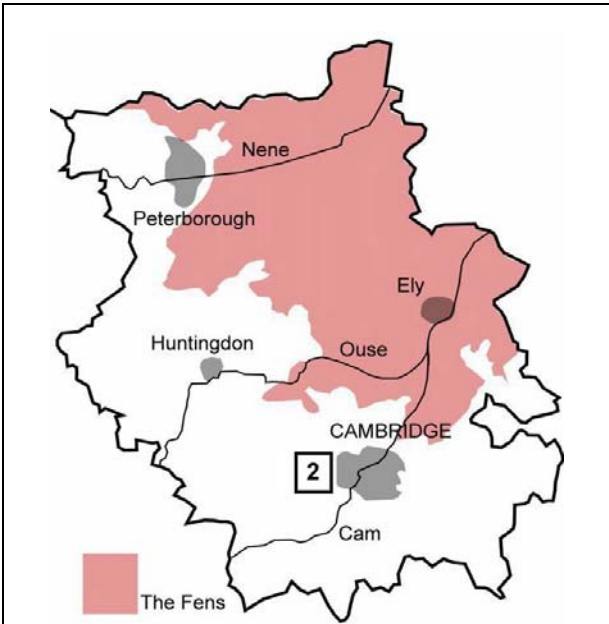


Figure 1: Location within County

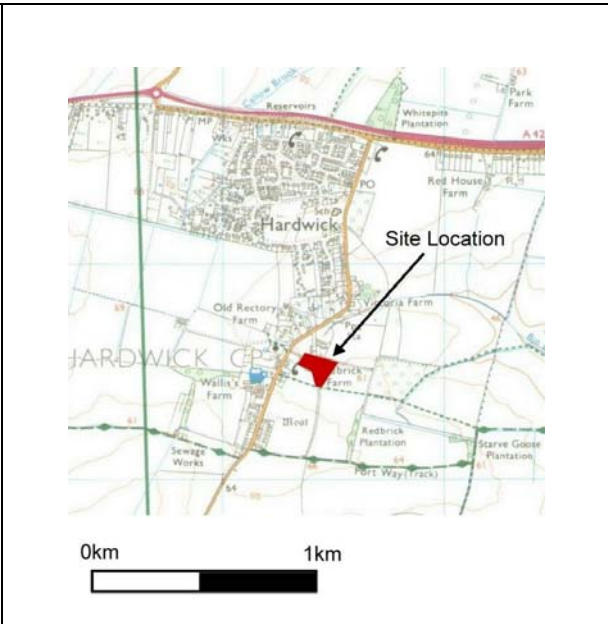


Figure 2: General Location



Based upon the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown Copyright ASC Ltd - Licence No. AL52133A0001

Figure 3: Site Location

Summary

A desk-based assessment of land at Redbrick Farm Barns, Hardwick, Cambridgeshire revealed that the potential for archaeological features from a variety of periods exists on the site. In particular it is considered possible that occupation features dating to the medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon periods may be present, as the site is located close to the suspected core of settlement during these periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 During October 2002 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Redbrick Farm Barns (NGR TL 3738 5856: Fig. 3). The project was commissioned by Camstead Homes, and was carried out according to a brief prepared by Jeremy Parsons of the Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office, and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Abrams 2002).

1.2 Setting

- 1.2.1 The site is an irregular shaped plot 0.439ha in size. It is located in the historic core of Hardwick village, within the parish of Hardwick.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at an elevation of *c.*61 to *c.*65m OD, on a relatively flat piece of terrain. The underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983), being 'slowly permeable calcerous clayey soils' overlying boulder clay.
- 1.2.3 The boundaries of the site consist of open fields to the south and east, a pond and detached dwelling to the west and the Kings Road and a neighbouring farmhouse to the north.
- 1.2.4 Access to the site is from the north via Kings Road. The northern part of the site is covered by concrete slabs forming a yard and providing access to a steel barn which lies immediately east of the access road. On the west, disused agricultural buildings surround a courtyard. This courtyard is partially covered with concrete; the remainder has become overgrown with thick undergrowth. Rough grassland covers the remainder of the southern and eastern parts of the site.

2 Aims & Methods

- 2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing archaeological, historical and topographical information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered.
- 2.2 The desk-based assessment was carried out according to the Brief, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1999).
- 2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

2.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Cambridgeshire Sites & Monuments Record (SMR). The study area employed in the SMR search includes the site, and a surrounding area of 750m radius.

2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the Cambridgeshire County Records Office (CRO).

2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was the County Records Office (CRO) in Cambridge.

2.3.4 *Aerial Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, aerial photographs can reveal buried features in the form of crop and soil marks. They can also provide an overview of and more specific information about land use at a given time. In the case of this site this was not considered a productive area of research.

2.3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

2.4 *Preliminary Walk-Over Survey*

As part of the desk-based assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on 20 September 2002, with the following aims:

- 2.4.1 To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during the research, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- 2.4.2 To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- 2.4.3 To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, as required by the CAO.

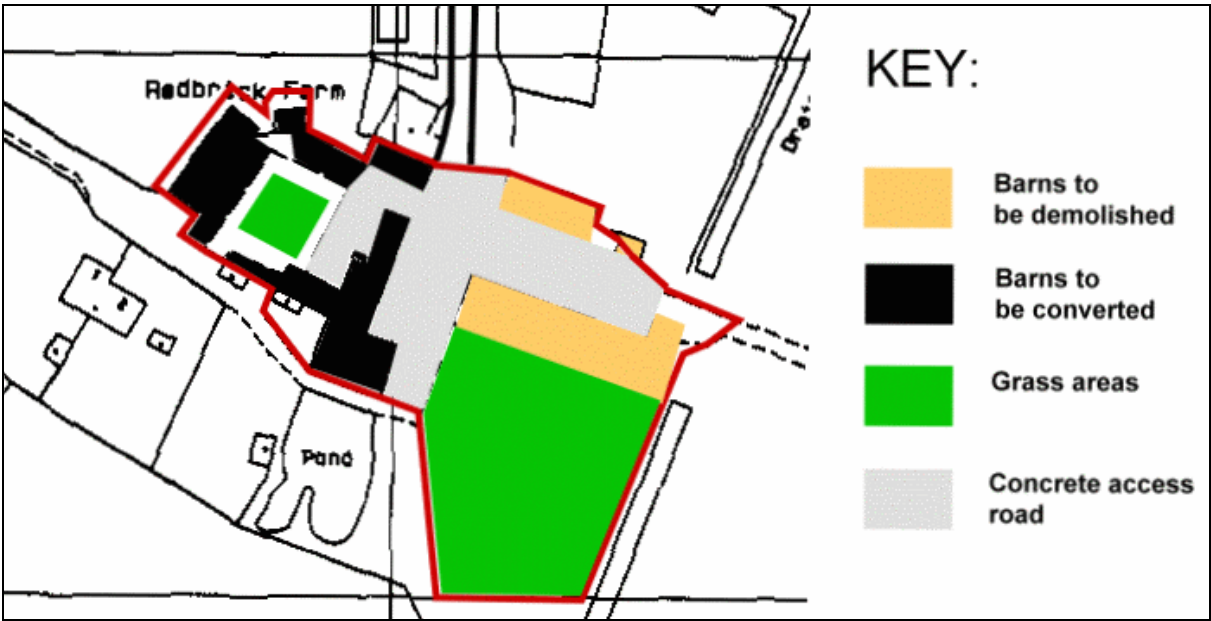


Figure 4: Development Area - prior to development (not to scale)

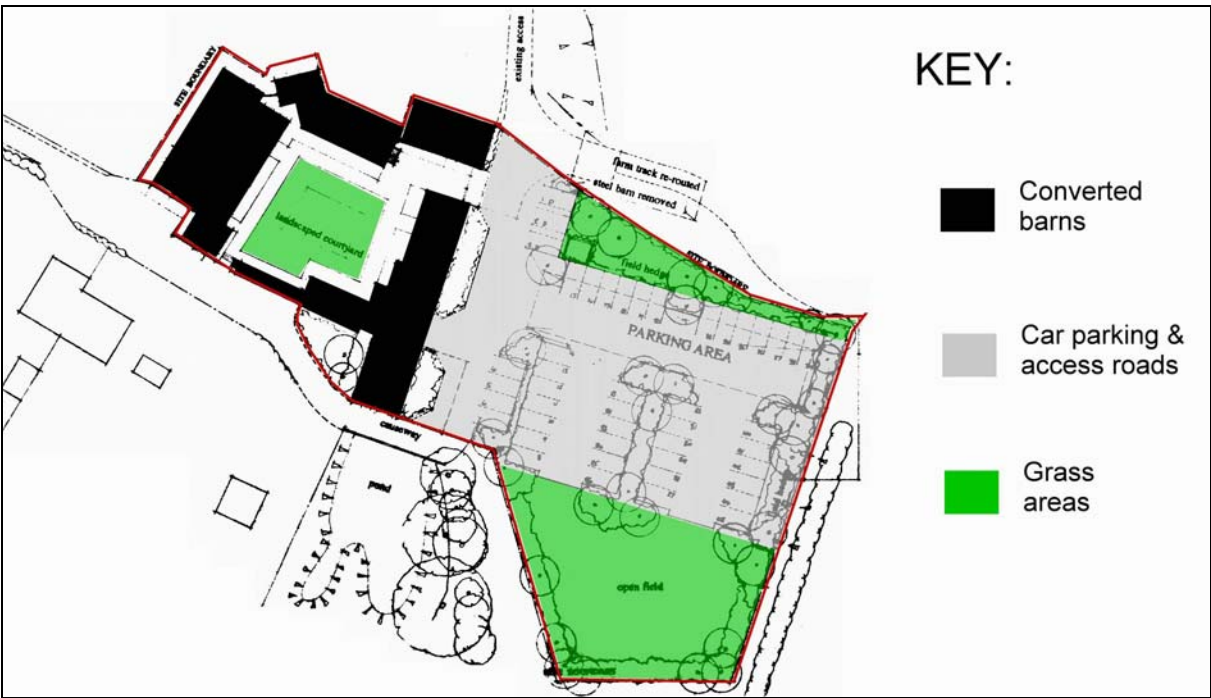


Figure 5: Proposed Development (not to scale)



Plate 1: Access to site, facing north.



Plate 2: Central part of site, view from southeast.



Plate 3: Courtyard within barns, facing southwest.



Plate 4: Access to courtyard area, facing northwest.



Plate 5: Barns to the east of the Access Road.



Plate 6: Pond in western part of site to the rear of the barns.

3 Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1 *Iron Age (650BC – AD 43)*

The SMR records the existence of earthworks (SMR 03226) c.50m west of the site which may date to the Iron Age or Roman periods. These are the curved northern boundaries of closes 90 and 92 visible on the 1838 Tithe Map (Fig. 7). There is apparently no artefactual evidence to back up the suggested Iron Age or Roman date, and it is possible that these are medieval or later in origin.

No definite sites dating to this period have yet been identified within the study area. However, in the neighbouring parish of Caldecote an extensive area of settlement activity dating to the Iron Age has been recorded over recent years (Kenney 2001, Redding 2002). The focus of this activity lies c.2km west of the site at Caldecote Highfields, on land which also has heavy clay soils and shares a similar elevation to Hardwick village. Similar activity within the vicinity of Hardwick cannot be entirely ruled out.

Due to the proximity of the site to earthworks recorded by the SMR, evidence of Iron Age activity within the development area is considered a possibility.

3.2 *Romano-British (AD 43-410)*

No definite sites dating to the Roman period are recorded within the parish. It has been suggested that a Roman Road running between St Neots and Cambridge may have run directly through the core of the village (Taylor 1997). The suggested alignment of this road is northwest to southeast located immediately south of the site and running immediately north of St Mary's Church to the west. Although this is a projected route and therefore may be inaccurate the possibility of features related to it must be considered during the evaluation.

Other sites of interest in relation to the Roman period are the earthworks discussed above (SMR 03226) which have also been assigned a possible Roman date and the recent excavations at Caldecote Highfields, c.2km west of the site (Kenney 2001), which recorded settlement features and a possible vineyard dating to the Roman period.

Due to the proximity of the site to earthworks recorded by the SMR and close to the route of a possible Roman Road, evidence of Roman activity within the development area is considered a possibility.

3.3 *Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)*

The earliest documentary reference to a settlement at Hardwick, or *Herdouic*, records that it was willed to Ely priory in AD 997 by Ealdorman Beorhtnoth, who was killed in a battle with the invading Danes (Talyor 1997). The development area is located c.150m east of St Mary's Church, which contains decorative elements thought to date to this period (SMR 03252). These consist of several crosses within the church marked in stone and/or plaster, and painted red. Settlements of this period often

cluster around the parish church and therefore the site lies within an area of relatively high potential for remains of this period, although none have been recorded to date.

Due to the proximity of the site to St Mary's Church and the suspected core of Saxon settlement, evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity within the development area is considered a possibility.

3.4 Medieval (AD 1066-1520)

Throughout the medieval period the village remained in the possession of Ely. This was confirmed by Edward the Confessor and remained effective until AD 1600 (Pugh 1967). The Domesday survey refers to a settlement in Hardwick (Morris 1981) and records a relatively low population of eleven. Despite being named *Herdouic*, meaning sheep farm (Reaney 1943), the economy of the village and parish was predominantly arable farming throughout the medieval period. The heavy and notoriously wet clay soils of the area were unsuitable for sheep farming on a large scale (Pugh 1963).

The population of this settlement grew throughout the early medieval period until it reached 43 tenants in AD 1279. In 1377 eighty-one poll-tax payers are recorded, and by the end of the medieval period in the 16th century, only 14 families were recorded.

Several sites of this date are recorded by the SMR. Perhaps most significant of these are a moated homestead (SMR 01100) and the parish Church of St Mary's (SMR 04217). The moated site lies c.300m southwest of the site and was partially excavated by a team from Durham University (no report available), during 1974-75. This revealed cobbled surfaces and pottery sherds dating to the 13th century as well as loom weights, knives, nails, horseshoes and animal bones. It is suggested that this was the manor house belonging to the bishops of Ely, referred to in a detailed account of their holdings made in AD 1251.

The majority of St Mary's Church dates to the 14th to 15th century (Pevsner 1970) with one window on the south side of the chancel being early medieval or possibly earlier. Other medieval elements within the church include a sundial, a font and a set of wall paintings portraying the seven deadly sins.

The Portway, an important communications route, ran c.100m to the south (Taylor 1997) of the site, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. The route ran between Bourn to the west and Coton to the east.

The SMR also records the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks immediately south of the site (SMR 03437) and c.400m to the west (SMR 09572).

Due to the proximity of the site to various locations of medieval interest, evidence of Medieval activity within the development area is considered a relatively high possibility.

3.5 *Post-Medieval (AD 1520-1900) & Modern (AD 1900 – present) periods*

In AD 1600 Hardwick was forcibly confiscated from Ely by the Crown, after which it was sold to a succession of private landowners (Taylor 1997). In the late 17th century the manor and its associated lands were donated to support the Bishop of Ely, Matthew Wren who had been imprisoned by Cromwell. Following the restoration Wren gave the land to Pembroke College in order to help build another Chapel.

The population grew gradually throughout this period, until by 1871 there were 248 inhabitants. However, the local economy was still based on arable agriculture and therefore a decline in population followed the agricultural depression, so that by 1901 there was only 112 inhabitants. During this period the area was known locally as ‘Hungry Hardwick’ (Pugh 1967), due to the infertility of the land. Its general prosperity and development was further hampered by poor communications, due largely to the fact that the village became unreachable during wet weather. In the year 1836, the local curate remarked that Hardwick was ‘a very poor place and the people very ignorant’ due to their isolation.

It was not until the 20th century and the creation of better roads that the village began to expand once again, a process that continued throughout the last century until the village had grown beyond all recognition and reached a population of 2,490 by 1996.

The SMR records several sites of interest around the village, which date to Post-Medieval period. Amongst these are the Chequers Inn c.100m southwest of the site, which is 16th to 17th century in origin.

Also of interest with respect to the site is the pond which lies immediately south of the assessment area. This is shown on the 1837 Enclosure Map (Fig. 5) and is likely to have earlier origins. Such ponds may have served several functions. During the medieval period they were sometimes used to store fresh fish or as places for watering and/or washing. They are sometimes the result of clay quarrying, as with the example located immediately north of St Mary’s Church (SMR 03265).

Due to the proximity of the site to various locations of Post-Medieval interest, and the presence of the Post-Medieval Barns on the site, evidence of Post-Medieval activity within the development area is considered a certainty.

3.6 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

The Medieval barns which are to be converted as part of the development program are of historical and archaeological significance, but there are no known negative archaeological features or archaeological findspots within the site. However, there is the potential for the presence of negative archaeological features from several earlier periods.

Of particular interest would be the presence of roadside ditches or possibly field boundary ditches running off the route of a Roman Road towards the south of the site. Also, there may be occupation features related to either the Anglo-Saxon or Medieval periods during which the site lay close to if not within the settlement core.

It should be noted that a previous evaluation c.200m northwest at Rectory Farm recorded the presence of only two undated features. No significant dateable archaeological features were recorded despite the fact that this area also lies close to the historic core of the village (Roberts 1999).

4 Cartographic Evidence

Selected historical maps illustrating the changes occurring on the site and in the general vicinity from the 19th century onwards are presented below (Figs 6 – 10).

4.1 *Enclosure Map, 1837 (Fig.6)*

Two barns are visible in the centre of the development area adjacent to a lane. These correspond to the barn buildings still present at the site and located adjacent to the concrete access road. The lane which crosses the centre of the site in a north south alignment joins Kings Lane leading to the centre of the village immediately north of the site. The majority of the land appears to be open and it is very likely to have been in agricultural use. The pond shown immediately to the south of the site is still present today.

4.2 *Tithe Map, 1838*

Little changed in the year between the production of these maps. The curved earthwork field boundaries on the northeastern edge of plots 90 and 92 are clearly visible immediately north of the site. The SMR records that these earthworks may date to the Iron Age or Roman periods (SMR 03226); if this were the case then it is of significance that the western part of the site lies within part of plot 90.

It is also of significance that the moat visible on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1886 is not visible on the Tithe or Enclosure Map, leading to speculation that the moat was Post-Medieval in date (SMR 01100). However, excavations have since recovered 12th – 14th century pottery from this feature, suggesting that it was simply missed during the production of this and the earlier map (Section 8).

4.3 *Ordnance Survey Map, 1886*

Several buildings have been constructed in the western part of the site by this date, and the present day layout of the courtyard and barns in this area is clearly shown.

4.4 *Ordnance Survey Map, 1901*

No further construction had taken place by the date this map was produced.

4.5 *Auction Plan, 1908*

Again, little had changed on the site by the time this map was produced for the sale of Redbrick Farm in 1908. St Mary's Church and Hardwick school are clearly visible to the west of the site and two different brewing companies were using land a short distance to the south of the site for agricultural purposes.

5 Selected Maps Showing Site Location

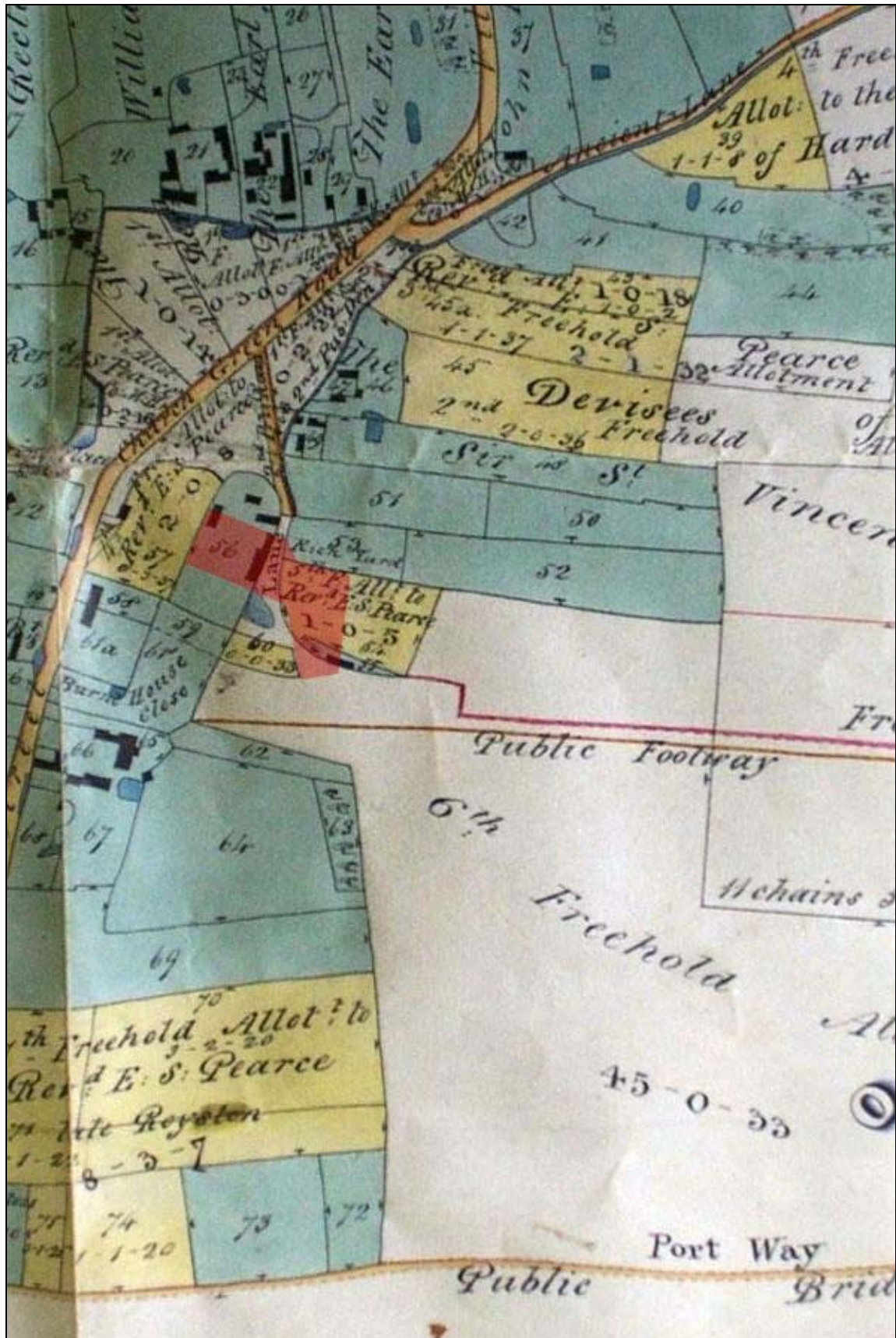


Figure 6: Enclosure Map, 1837

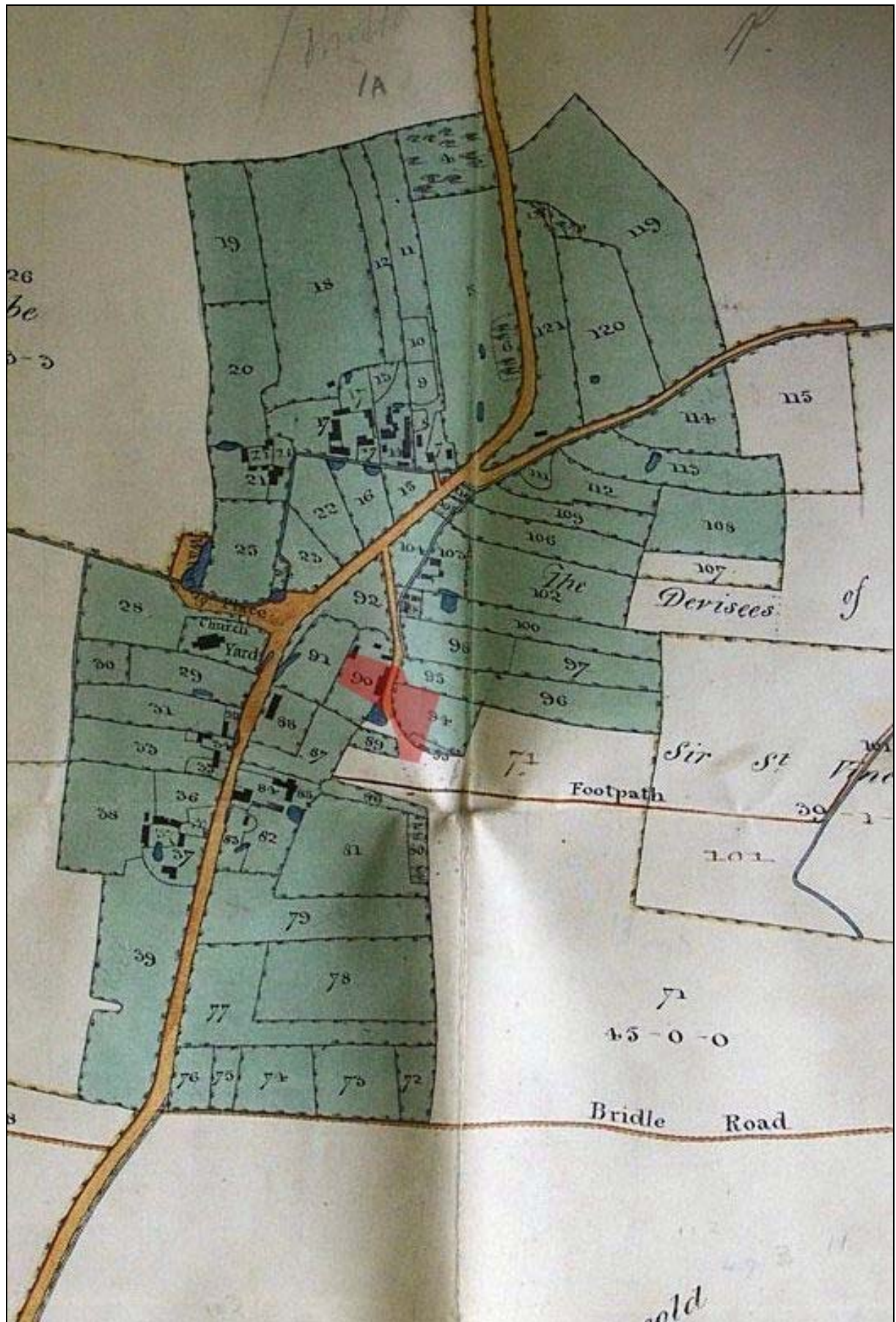


Figure 7: Tithe Map, 1838

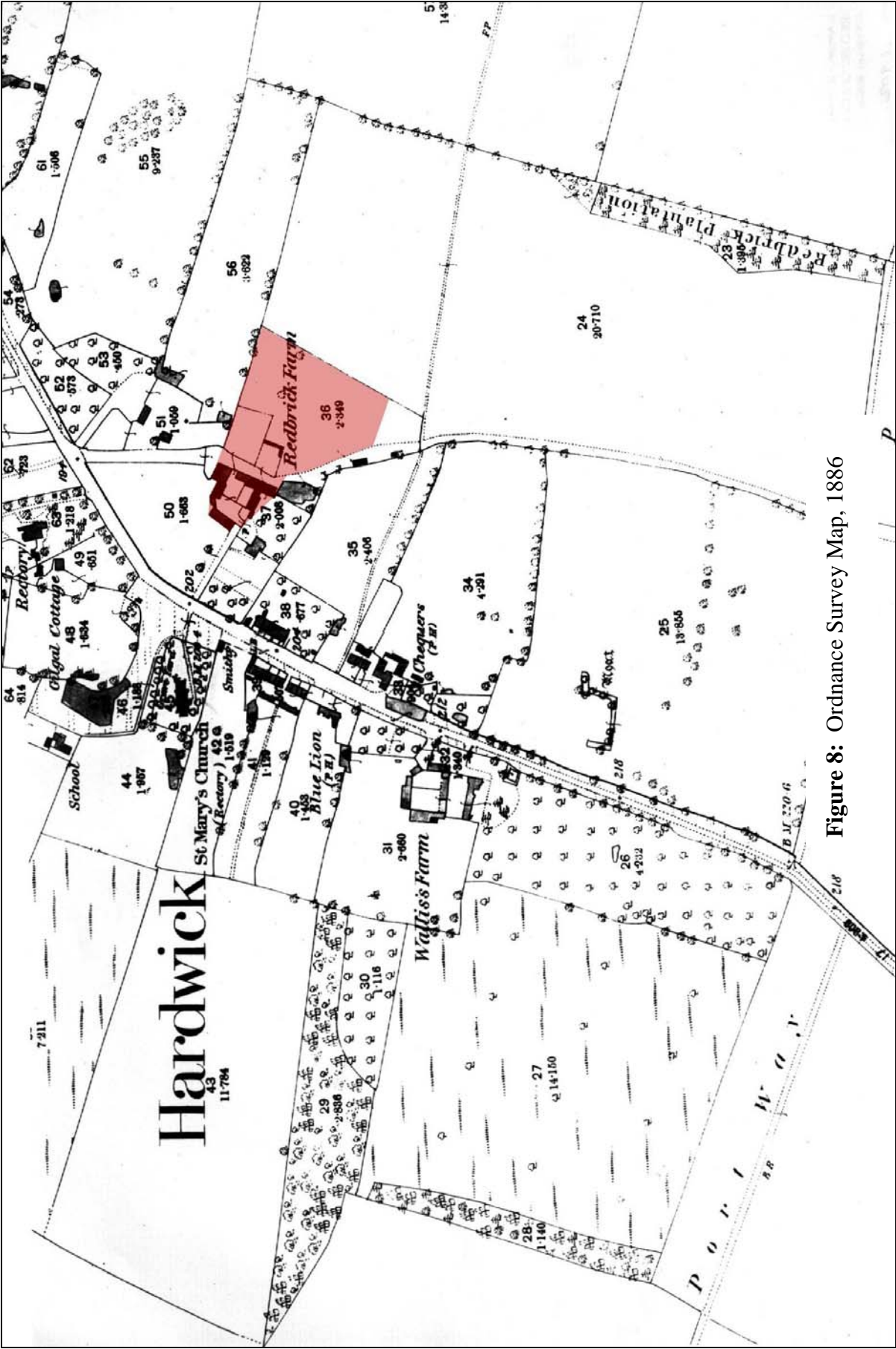


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map, 1886

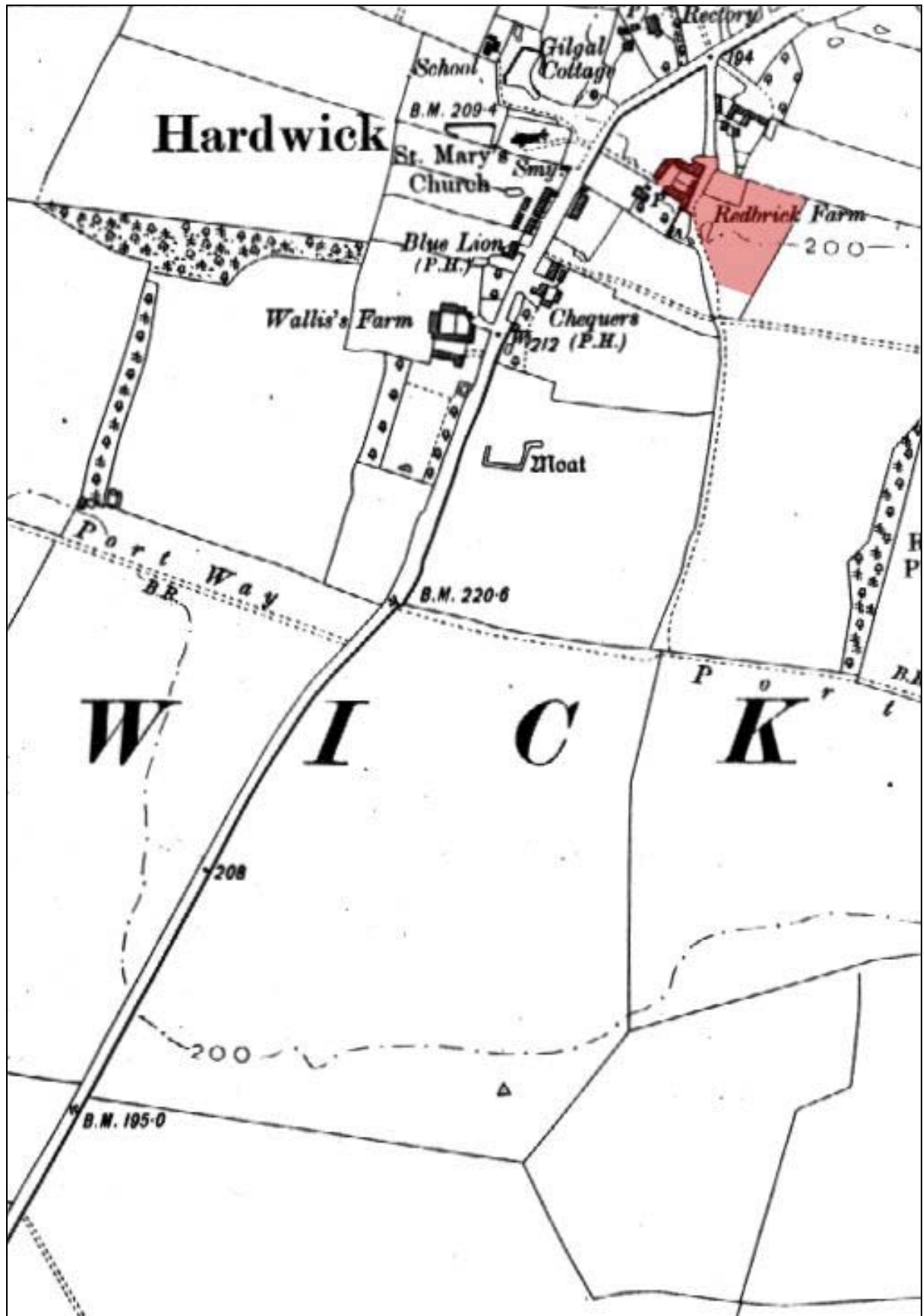


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Map, 1901

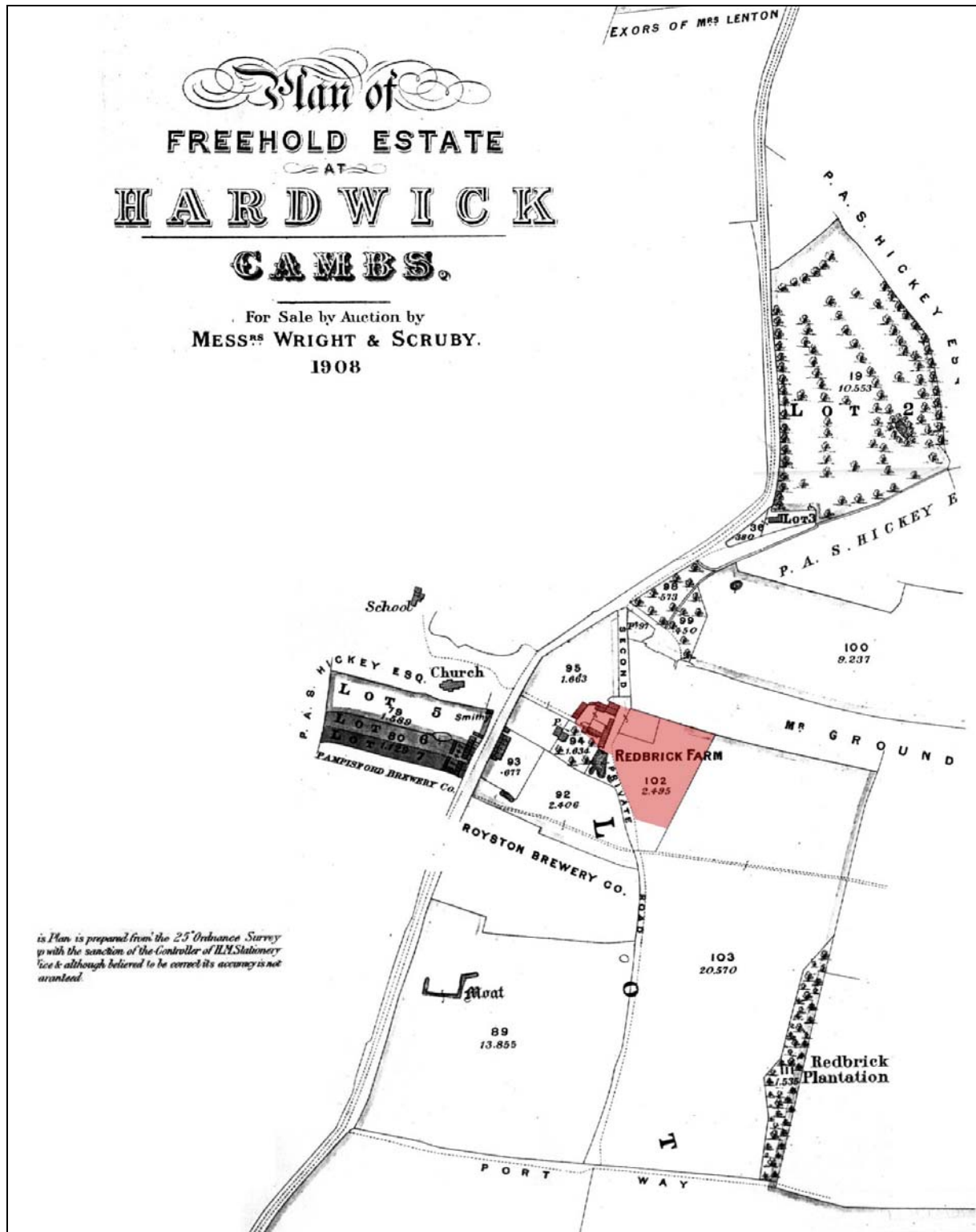


Figure 10: Auction Plan, 1908

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This project has indicated that the development area is located in land which may contain archaeological features from various periods. It is considered particularly likely that Post-Medieval features related to activities taking place in and around the Barns will be recorded. There is also the possibility that occupation features dating to the medieval and possibly Anglo-Saxon periods may be present, as the site is located close to the suspected core of settlement during these periods.

7 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to David Middleton, Camstead Homes, for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Quinton Carroll of the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office concerning the Sites and Monuments data. Also to Jewel Shapland at the Cambridgeshire County Records Office concerning the cartographic data.

8 Sites & Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within 750m of the study area:

SMR No	NGR	Period	Type	Description
09385	TL 372 586	Post-Medieval	Findspot	Pound stone at the entrance of the village animal pound. Now incorporated into the base of the village sign.
09572	TL 370 585	Medieval	Cropmark	Ridge and furrow is visible in many fields surrounding Hardwick village and throughout the parish.
11237	TL 374 586	Post-Medieval	Earthwork	Likely to be the remnant of now defunct ponds which are visible on the 1186 OS map.
11238	TL 375 587	Post-Medieval	Earthwork	Irregular earthworks visible in the field East of Redbrick Farm, unknown function
11239	TL 373 584	Medieval/Post-Medieval	Earthwork	Village pond east of main street.
01100	TL 372 583	Medieval	Earthwork	A rectangular area 106ft east to west is surrounded by a ditch 13ft to 25ft wide. Excavations by Durham University (no report) have produced 12 th to 14 th century pottery. This is thought to have been a homestead moat.
03226	TL 373 586	Iron Age/Roman	Earthwork	Closes 90 and 91 (Fig.7) appear to follow the boundaries of the earthworks on their northeast boundaries.
03252	TL 372 586	Anglo-Saxon/early medieval	Monument	Crosses marked in stone or plaster within St Mary's Church. These are usually painted in red.
03265	TL 373 587	Post-Medieval	Documentary evidence	Public clay pit north of Church.
03336	TL 375 588	Post-Medieval	Extant Building	Victoria Farm – this is of 16 th to 17 th century origin.
03363	TL 3725 5846	Post-Medieval	Extant Building	Chequers Inn – this is of 16 th or 17 th century origin.
03437	TL 373 584	Medieval	Earthwork	Ridge and Furrow earthworks are visible in the closes around the village.
04217	TL 3724 5860	Medieval	Extant Building	St Mary's Church – the majority of the building is 14 th and 15 th century in origin. However, one window on the south side of the chancel is earlier and may suggest that this church replaced an earlier stone church on the site. Medieval elements include wall paintings of the seven deadly sins, a sundial and a font.
04217a	TL 3724 5860	Post-Medieval	Extant Building	St Mary's Church – Various tombstones and artefacts such as a pewter flagon and a weathervane date to this period.

9 References

The following references were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Kenney S 2001 *Iron Age Settlement and a Roman Vineyard on Land off Hall Drive, Caldecote: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Cambridgeshire County Council Report 200.

Morris 1981 *Domesday Book: Cambridgeshire*. Phillimore

Pevsner N 1970 *The Buildings of England: Cambridgeshire*

Pugh R B 1967 onward. *Victoria History of the Counties of England. Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. Vols 1-9*. Univ. of London Inst. Of Historical Research (London)

Reaney PH 1943 *Place Names of Cambridgeshire & The Isle of Ely*. The English Place-Name Society No 19 (Cambridge).

Redding, M 2002 *Archaeological Excavations at Land East of Highfields Road, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridgeshire*. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 482.

Roberts J 1999 *Rectory Farm, Hardwick: An Archaeological Evaluation*. Cambridgeshire County Council Report B64.

SMR. Sites and Monuments Record of Cambridgeshire County Council

Soil Survey 1983 *The 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن)

Taylor A 1997 *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire, Vol 1: South-west Cambridgeshire*. Cambridgeshire County Council.

10 Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1837	Enclosure Map	Extract
1838	Tithe Map	Extract
1886	OS 6"	Ordnance Survey of Cambridgeshire
1901	OS 6"	Ordnance Survey of Cambridgeshire
1908	Auction Plan	Sale of Redbrick Farm
1999	OS 1:25000	Ordnance Survey of Cambridgeshire