Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: PENTLOWS FARM, BRAUGHING, HERTFORDSHIRE

on behalf of English Courtyard Developments Ltd

Jonathan R. Hunn BA PhD MIFA

March 2007

ASC: 899/PFB/1

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REGISTERED · ORGANISATION
IFA

Site Data

ASC project code:	PFB		ASC Project No:	899
Event No:				
County:		Hertfordshire		
Village/Town:		Braughing		
Civil Parish:		Braughing		
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 3975 2530		
Present use:		Derelict farm		
Planning proposal:		Construction of 20 dwellings and one barn conversion		
Planning application ref/date:		Pre-determination		
Local Planning Authority:		East Herts District Council		
Date of assessment:		March 19th 2007		
Client:		English Courtyard Developments Ltd 2 Prospect House The Broadway Farnham Common Slough, SL2 3PP		
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CONTENTS

Appendix:

Figures:

Plates:
Cover: Pentlows Farm looking WNW

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

Summary

In March 2007 Archaeological Services and Consultancy carried out a desk-based assessment of land at Pentlows Farm, Braughing, Hertfordshire, in order to inform a planning application for the residential development of the farm complex. No archaeological deposits have been recorded on the site, other than the listed farm buildings on the eastern side of the site. However, the possible route of a Roman road crosses the pasture field to the west of the farm, and the walkover survey revealed at least one possible house platform in this area. In addition, the land adjacent to the river Quin could contain significant environmental deposits, or structures built to manage or exploit water resources.

1 Introduction

1.1 In March 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Pentlows Farm, Braughing (NGR TL 3975 2530: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by English Courtyard Developments Ltd, and was carried out according to ASC's standard desk-based methodology (Appendix 1).

1.2 *Location*

The site is located in the civil parish of Braughing, in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It comprises a roughly rectangular area 2.6ha (6.5 acres) in extent, situated on the northern edge of Braughing to the west of the road to Furneux Pelham, and east of the river Quin, *c*.100m north of the parish church. The assessment site comprises a single pasture field and the now disused farm buildings and yards of Pentlows Farm (Figs 2, 3). The farmhouse, between the farm buildings and Pelham Lane, is occupied, and is not part of the assessment site.

1.3 *Geology & Topography*

Pentlows Farm stands on the upper slopes of the valley of the river Quin, at an altitude of about 85m AOD. The terrain slopes westwards from the farm to *c*.75m AOD at the stream edge. The soils belong to the Melford Association, described as '*deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils*', derived from Chalky till (Soil Survey 1983, 571o). However, the area in the immediate vicinity of the farm is likely to have experienced considerable modification to the soil levels. Those to the west of the farm buildings appear to have been built up while those beneath the buildings appear to have been truncated. The area between the farm buildings has been covered in concrete, the depth of which is not known.

1.4 *Planning Background*

This desk-based assessment has been undertaken to inform proposals for redevelopment of the site. These currently comprise residential conversion of one barn, demolition of the remainder and the construction of 20 dwellings (Fig. 4).
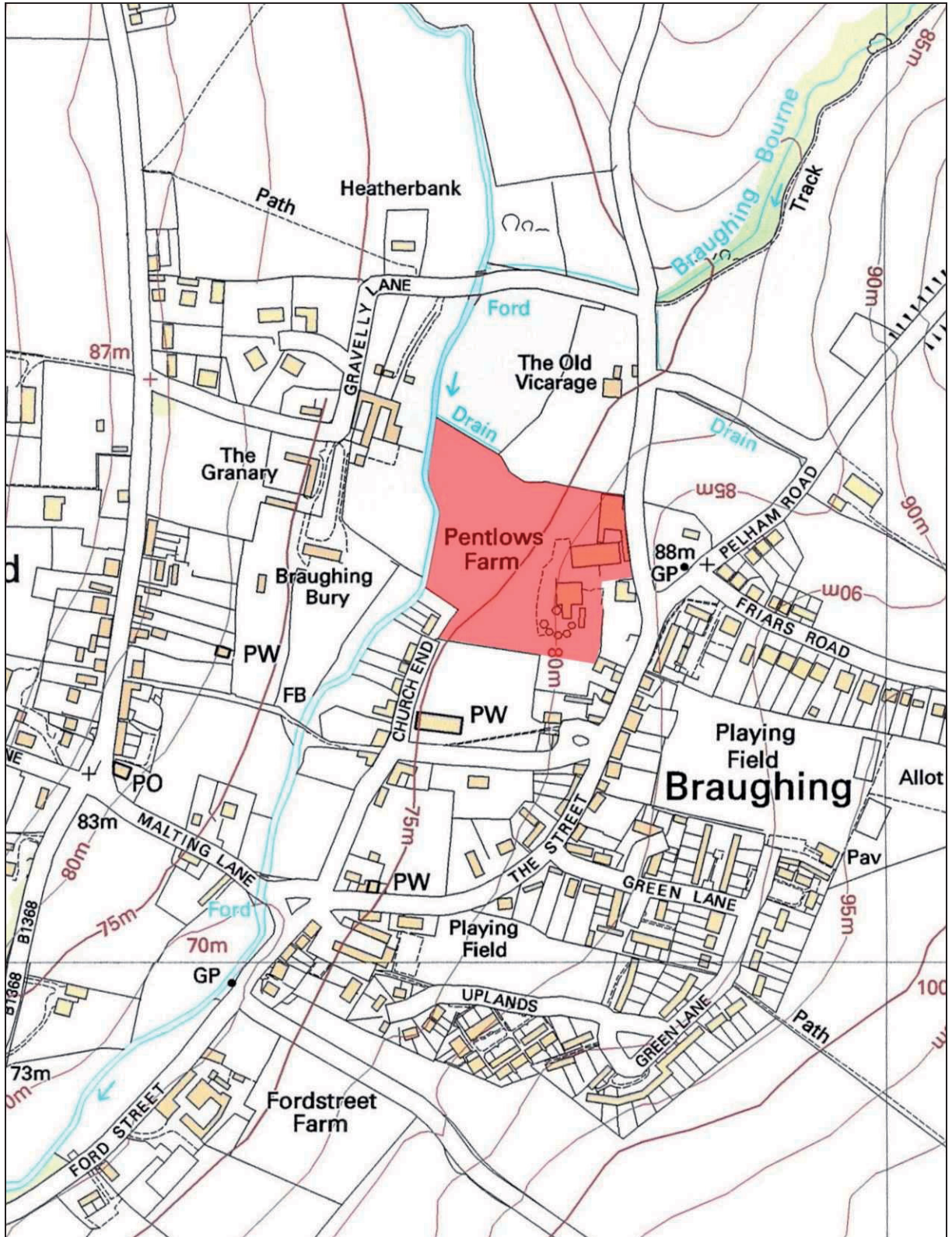
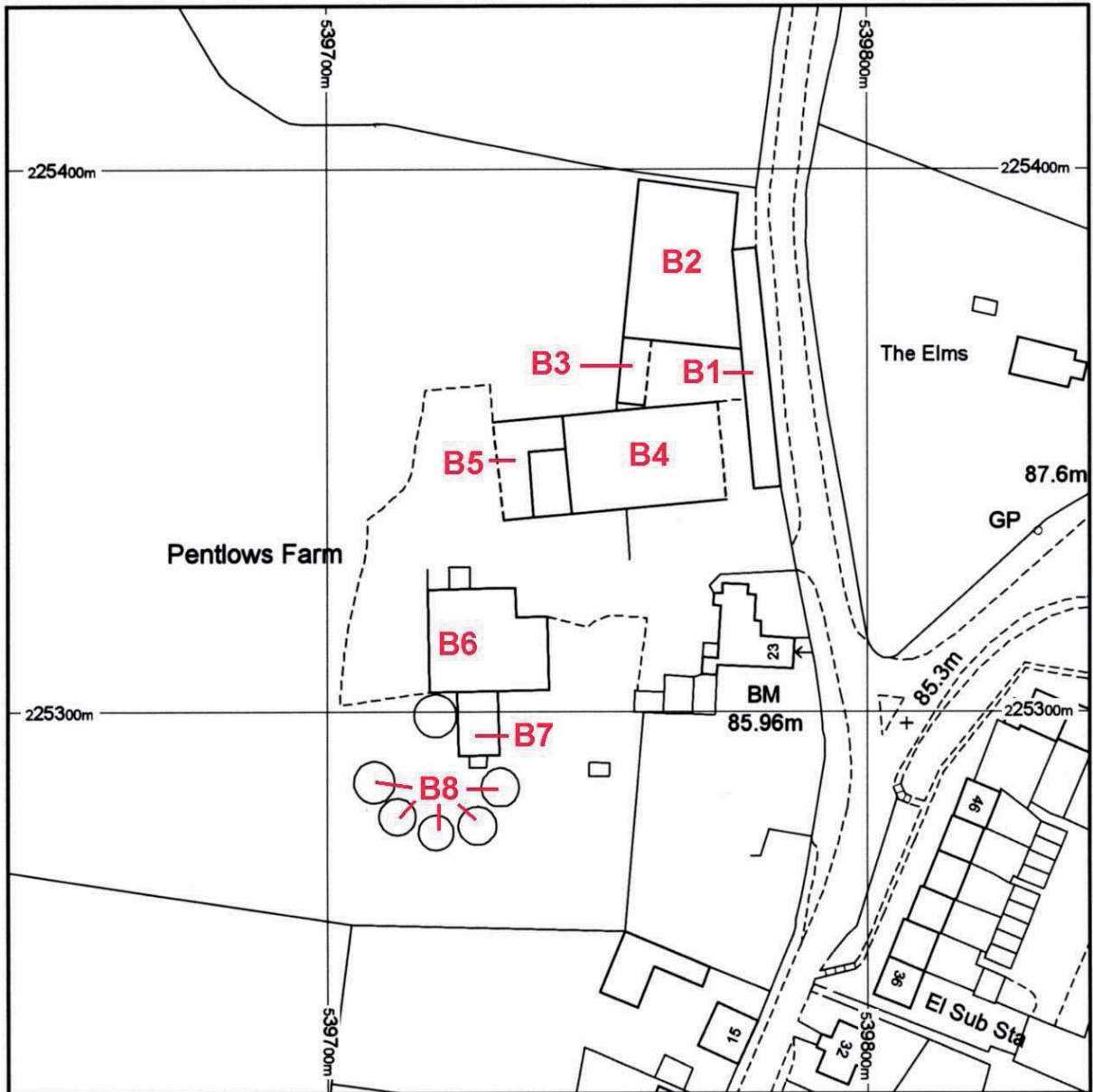**Figure 2:** Site location and extent (*scale 1:5,000*)

Figure 3: Site plan showing numbered buildings and structures (s*cale 1:1,250*)

Figure 4: Proposed development (not to scale)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 'Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing 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' (IFA 2000).

2.2 The assessment was carried out according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001), and ASC's *Method Statement for Desk-Based Assessments* (Appendix 1).

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 *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record* (HER), at Hertford. The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately 1 km 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 *Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies Library* (HALS), at Hertford.

2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was HALS.

2.3.4 *Air Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, air 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. The principal source consulted was the collection held by HALS. Due to the partly built-up nature of the site it was not considered worthwhile to consult other aerial photographic collections, such as those held at the National Monuments Record (Swindon) or those held by the Committee for Aerial Photography (Cambridge).

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.

2.3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

The principal sources consulted were the *Braughing Extensive Urban Survey* (Thompson 2002), HALS, and ASC's own library.

2.4 Walk-Over Survey

As part of the assessment a walk-over survey of the site was undertaken on March 6th 2007, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.

- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.

- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the local planning authority.

The results of the walkover survey appear in Section 4.

3   Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1   The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development 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 Historic Environment Record is shown in Fig. 4, and details are listed in Section 9.

3.2   *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

3.2.1   *Prehistoric   (before 600BC)*
There is little recorded evidence for human activity in the study area prior to the late Iron Age. Early prehistoric activity, evidenced by finds of flints and pottery, has been recorded north-west of Green End, Braughing, *c.*400m north-west of the assessment site. Evidence for Bronze Age activity is marginally better. Five ring ditches (ploughed-out burial mounds) are recorded within the study area. Three (HER 2341, 2364, 7569) are located on high ground to the west of Braughing, overlooking the valley of the river Rib, one (HER 2971) is on the outskirts of Braughing, immediately north-west of the assessment site, and the other (HER 4719) lies about 1km east of Pentlows Farm. Adjacent to the latter is an enclosure visible as a crop mark (HER 2437) which is tentatively assigned a Bronze Age date.

3.2.2   *Iron Age   (600BC-AD43)*
While there is again for the Iron Age relatively slight evidence for activity in the study area, one of the principal sites of this period within Hertfordshire lies just to the south of Braughing. This is the enclosure at Gatesbury Farm (HER 0110), 1.5km south of the assessment site, where middle Iron Age pottery was discovered (Partridge 1979, 116; 1981, 27, 349). It has been suggested that Gatesbury, along with sites at Wood End and Raffin Green, represents the early colonization of the clayland plateaux (Bryant 1995, 24). The location of early settlement at Gatesbury was doubtless influenced by the natural defensive qualities of the area. The nearby confluence of the rivers Quin and Rib would provide a naturally favourable location for settlement. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that the Rib was larger in the prehistoric and Roman periods (Partridge 1975, 140; Thompson 2002, 3).

According to Thompson (2002, 3) the settlement pattern around Braughing was characterised by scattered farmsteads at the beginning of the 1st century BC. Around 30 BC settlement seems to have been concentrated in the valley and around Wickham Hill, extending over an area of *c.*120ha (300 acres). Evidence from excavations on the Wickham Hill site of Skeleton Green suggest that settlement had become urban in character (Partridge 1981). This settlement attracted the import of Italian and Gaulish pottery on a scale not matched elsewhere in the region (Niblett 1995, 16; Bryant & Niblett 1997). In

addition fragments of coin moulds have been recovered on the west bank of the river on the track to Gatesbury Mill (Partridge 1979, 128-30, Thompson 2002, 4). Furthermore, some 400m upstream from this site there has been a recent discovery of early coin moulds (Landon, *pers. comm.*), which also indicates the existence of a high status valley floor settlement. It has been suggested that the settlement extent may be defined to the south by ditches at Station Road, where contemporary inhumations have been excavated (Partridge 1979, 28-97; 2002, 2; HER 6465). On the Ermine Street excavation, about 1.5km south of Puckeridge, pre-Roman evidence consisted mainly of pits and two parallel ditches containing general domestic rubbish, including coins and Arretine and Gallo-Belgic wares (Potter and Trow 1988, 7). Further afield, other dispersed elements are represented by the probable late Iron Age farmstead at Ralph Sadlier School, Puckeridge (HER 2152; Partridge 1977, 87).

One aspect of the late Iron Age occupation in the Braughing area was that riverside locations were often the focus of settlement activity. Flood deposits of mid-1st century AD date were identified on both the Ermine Street and Skeleton Green sites (Partridge 1981, 35; Potter and Trow 1988, 13). Whatever the cause of the flooding, it was not sufficient to deter occupation in what today would be classified as a 'flood zone'. These areas retained their attraction, for whatever reason, well into the Roman period.

3.2.3 *Roman* *(AD43-c.450)*

The settlement at Wickham Hill, Braughing remained in use and continued to develop in the Roman period, a network of streets being established by AD 80 (Partridge 1975, 146, fig.13; Niblett 1995, 55). There were buildings on either side of Ermine Street in the 1st and 2nd centuries (Stead 1970; HER 1099). Elsewhere on Wickham Hill the occupation evidence has been entirely of 3rd century date, while to the south 4th century evidence was recovered (Potter and Trow 1988; Thompson 2002, 5). Settlement was not confined to Wickham Hill, but also extended into the river valley and to Wickham Kennels (HER 6519).

The most recent interpretative plan of Roman Braughing shows structures including a corridor building, a market hall, and a possible temple. To the north is a bath house beside the river Rib (HER 6189), while to the south is a possible mill (HER 1700) and west of Ermine Street there are burials (*ibid.*). To the north of the town, beyond the confluence of the rivers Rib and Quin, there was a cemetery at Larks Hill south-west of Braughing (Thompson 2002, 7; HER 1703). Further cemeteries have been identified to the south of the town at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981; HER 1099) and to the west (HER 1099 and 2763). There is a reputed tessellated pavement from Larks Hill (HER 1097) and building material from a site north-east of Braughing (HER 9241). To the west of the town there is a Roman villa at Mentley Farm (HER 4222), which lasted into the 4th century. With regard to the road system, Ermine Street has already been mentioned. The HER also records the possible existence of a road north-eastwards to Great Chesterford, following Station Road to the centre of Braughing and continuing north-eastwards, past the

church and to the west of Pentlows Farm, traversing the pasture field forming the west part of the assessment site and continuing up the Quin valley.

3.2.4 *Saxon   (c.450-1066)*
Braughing was of some importance in the post-Roman period because it gave its name to an administrative unit known as the hundred of Braughing, and also became an ecclesiastical deanery. It has been argued that this was due to it once having formed part of the ancient demesne of the Crown (Raven 1912, 291, 306). An Anglo-Saxon charter of *c.*830 and the will of Aethelgifu of *c.*990 indicate that Braughing was a minster church (Short 1987, 13; Thompson 2002, 8). This designation implies that Braughing was, in administrative terms, of relatively high status. 'It seems probable that most Middle Saxon territories had minster churches, created by the joint action of kings and bishops, although not necessarily at the same location as the *villae regales'* (Bailey 1989, 121). In the 10th century Braughing was referred to as '*monasterium',* which again highlights its importance (Raven 1912, 306). A minster precinct has been postulated by Thompson (2002, fig. 4). This is defined by 'The Street' to the east and 'Malting Lane' to the south, bordering on the B1368 road to the west and curving round to include the site of Pentlows Farm on its north side.

The name 'Braughing' is believed to derive from 'The people of *Br(e)ahha'* (Gover *et al* 1938, 189). This type of place name is considered to represent secondary colonization (Dodgson 1966; Gelling 1979, 109). However, recent scholarship has argued that only the plural form of *–ingas* refers to 'people of' and that the singular form *–ing* refers to a '*son of"*, such as is found in Anglo-Saxon royal genealogies (*ibid.*). That Braughing may represent a mid-Saxon grant to the son of a minor king is quite possible. There is sufficient evidence to argue that Braughing may be based on a Roman administrative unit, which continued well into the Anglo-Saxon period and beyond (Short 1987; Bailey 1989, 121).

In terms of physical evidence there is very little compared to previous periods. The only recorded Anglo-Saxon find is a brooch fragment, discovered to the south of Braughing (HER 9243).

3.2.5 *Medieval   (1066-1500)*
The Manor of Braughing is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086), along with the subsidiary holdings of *Bozen* and *Cockhamsted.* There was land for 23 ploughs, and low number of swine, implying that there was not much of a woodland resource. A single watermill was recorded and meadows for 5.75 plough teams, with sufficient pasture for the livestock (Morris 1976, sections 17,12; 17,13; 17,15; 20,12; 33,11). About half the population appear to have come under Braughing, and the rest under the other two holdings. To what extent these numbers were concentrated in their respective locations is debateable. More likely, as Thompson suggests (2002, 10) much of the inhabitants were dispersed in scattered farmsteads rather than in nucleated settlements.

By the late 13th century Braughing (including Bozen) was a relatively wealthy settlement, expressed in terms of what each taxpayer paid, with 35 taxpayers paying £21 11s and 4¾d (1290 Lay Subsidy NA: E.179 120/2). This would make it one of the more wealthy parishes in the county. By 1334 Braughing was assessed at £5 7s 2¾d (Brooker & Flood 1998, 161). There are no returns for the number of taxpayers so we can only compare the amount that each township was assessed. At this date Braughing would appear as an upper middle-ranking township, on a par with such places as Hertford and Welwyn, but below Ashwell and St Albans (*ibid.*). A grant of a market in 1311 to neighbouring Puckeridge may also denote a gradual economic shift away from Braughing in the 14th century. The data for the 15th century remains sketchy and, with the exception of work on the church at Braughing (Thompson 2002, 12), the settlement looks as though it was stagnating at best.

3.2.6 *Post-Medieval*   *(1500-1900)*

With the Dissolution in the 1530s came a transfer of ecclesiastical assets into lay hands and the consequent development of new estates such as Hamels and Upp Hall (Thompson 2002, 15). To what extent this had an impact on Braughing is debateable, at least in the short term. For the 16th century there are a series of Lay Subsidies which, though rarely complete, permit some assessment of the fortunes of Braughing. In terms of tax, Braughing appears to be above average in terms of wealth in 1524 with 68 individuals who paid £20 8s 8d (NA: E.179 120/114). By 1575 Braughing paid only £20 0s 1d in taxes. However, this decline was only relative and the muster rolls suggest that Braughing was able to raise 24 individuals for military service between 1580-98 (King 1996, 104-5).

Despite the development of coaching routes through Braughing in the 17th century (Thompson 2002, 17) the village and parish continued to be eclipsed by neighbouring settlements, such as Standon and Puckeridge. It is in this period that many of the existing buildings in Braughing were constructed. These have been itemised in Thompson (2002, 17-33) so will not be replicated here. It is probable that in this period much of the layout we see today came into being. The road called Church End to the west of the church almost certainly continued up the valley parallel with the Braughing Bourne. It fell out of use in favour of the present course, which swings round the church to the east. The layout of Braughing is indicative of a slow evolutionary process, which has resulted in a somewhat haphazard and irregular plan. Elsewhere in the parish, much of the present landscape is dominated by the effects of Parliamentary enclosure in the early part of the 19th century (Tate 1956). The building of the railway in 1860 cut Hull Lane and caused the diversion of the river Quin (Thompson 2002, 31). While the railway helped to reduce the cost of transporting goods and improved communications, it had comparatively little impact on the development of the village, and its effects were not sufficient to compensate for the decline in the coaching trade with all its dependent resource requirements.

3.2.7   *Modern*   *(1900-present)*
For much of the 20th century Braughing remained in a state of picturesque decrepitude. Efforts were made to improve the availability of dwellings for the local inhabitants through the provision of council houses in 1910-12 (Thompson 2002, 33). Piped water was not introduced till 1930 and electricity in 1931: mains sewerage only arrived in the 1960s (*ibid.*). The railway line closed in 1965 (Cockman 1978, 4), and not longer after the road system to the south was improved.

3.3   *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

3.3.1   *Prehistoric*   *(before 600BC)*
There is no information of this period relating to the assessment site.

3.3.2   *Iron Age*   *(600BC-AD43)*
There is no information of this period relating to either Pentlows Farm or its immediate area.

3.3.3   *Roman*   *(AD43-c.450)*
The route of a possible Roman road from Braughing to Great Chesterford (HER 4672) crosses the assessment site (Fig 4). On the ground it is marked by a low bank crossing the pasture field west of the farm buildings on a south west to north east alignment.

3.3.4   *Saxon*   *(c.450-1066)*
There is no known evidence of this period on the assessment site. The name 'Pentlow' may be of Saxon origin, since it combines the personal name element *Penta* or *Pant* with the *hlaw* suffix which means 'barrow' or 'tumulus' (Eckwall 1977, 363). Although it would be extremely unwise to infer the presence of archaeology on this basis, it does at least point to the fact that the name itself is of some considerable antiquity.

3.3.5   *Medieval*   *(1066-1500)*
There are no physical remains of this period associated with the assessment site. The earliest reference to the name 'Pentlow' occurs in the late 13th century in an Assize roll of 1287, when a *John de Pentelowe* is mentioned (Gover *et al* 1970, 191). In 1307 Henry de Pentelowe paid 4s 9¼d in tax, the fifth highest out of a taxable population of 46 individuals in Braughing (Brooker & Flood 1998, 17). The same individual is named in the Feudal Aid list for 1303 relating to the manor of Queenbury (Raven 1912, 309). The name *Pentelowes* also appears in 1390 in a court roll (Gover *et al* 1970, 191, fn 7.).

3.3.6   *Post-Medieval*   *(1500-1900)*
The earliest record of the assessment site dates from 1691, when there is a reference in a deed to 'two messuages called Pentlows Farm' (HALS: 79374). In 1713 another deed described 143 acres at Pentlows Farm (HALS: 79375). At this date the farm was part of the Hamells estate. The only surviving structures from this period are a range of timber buildings of 18th century date or earlier on the eastern side of the site (Fig. 3, B1; Plates 1-4).

The earliest plan showing the layout of the farm is the enclosure award of 1820 (Fig. 6). At that date the tenant was J.A. Houblon. The farm buildings then comprised three ranges, north, west, and east, set around a series of yard areas, with the house in its own grounds to the south. The farmhouse and timber-framed stables (B1) are the only buildings surviving from this period. The field to the west of the farm was at this time divided in two by a boundary on the same alignment as the possible Roman road mentioned above. By 1878 (Fig. 7) this boundary appears to have migrated westwards, and twenty years later had disappeared altogether (Fig. 8). From the trade directories of the 19th and early 20th centuries, listed in the following table, it is evident that the tenancy of Pentlows Farm changed hands with some regularity.

Date	Tenant	Reference
1878	Mrs Thomas Cole	Kellys Directory, 473
1898	Ezekiel W. Martin	Kellys Directory, 62
1911	J.O. Messenger	IR/146 no.75
1914	Thomas Oberlin Messenger	Kellys Directory
1937	Ernest Walter Supsil	Kellys Directory

3.3.7   *Modern   (1900-present)*
From the available cartographic evidence (Figs 7-10) it is evident that Pentlows Farm retained its essential character, in terms of layout, until after WWII. By the time of the first available aerial photographs in 1970 the farm had assumed much of its present form, as shown on the 1975 Ordnance Survey sheet (Fig. 10). The group of silos south of the farm buildings (Fig. 4, B8) were not constructed until the late 1970s.

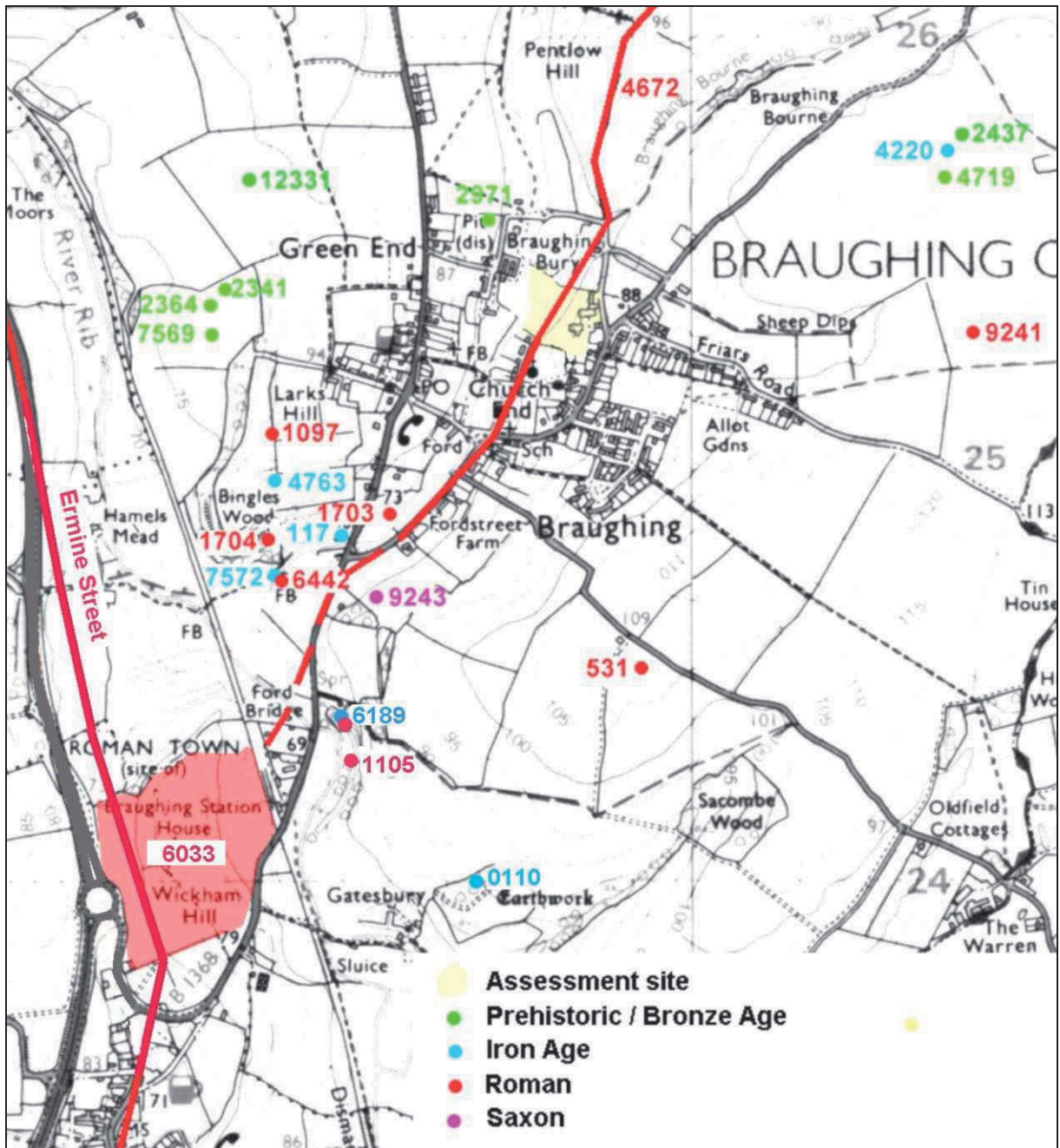**Figure 5:** Sites recorded in the Hertfordshire HER in the study area *(not to scale)*

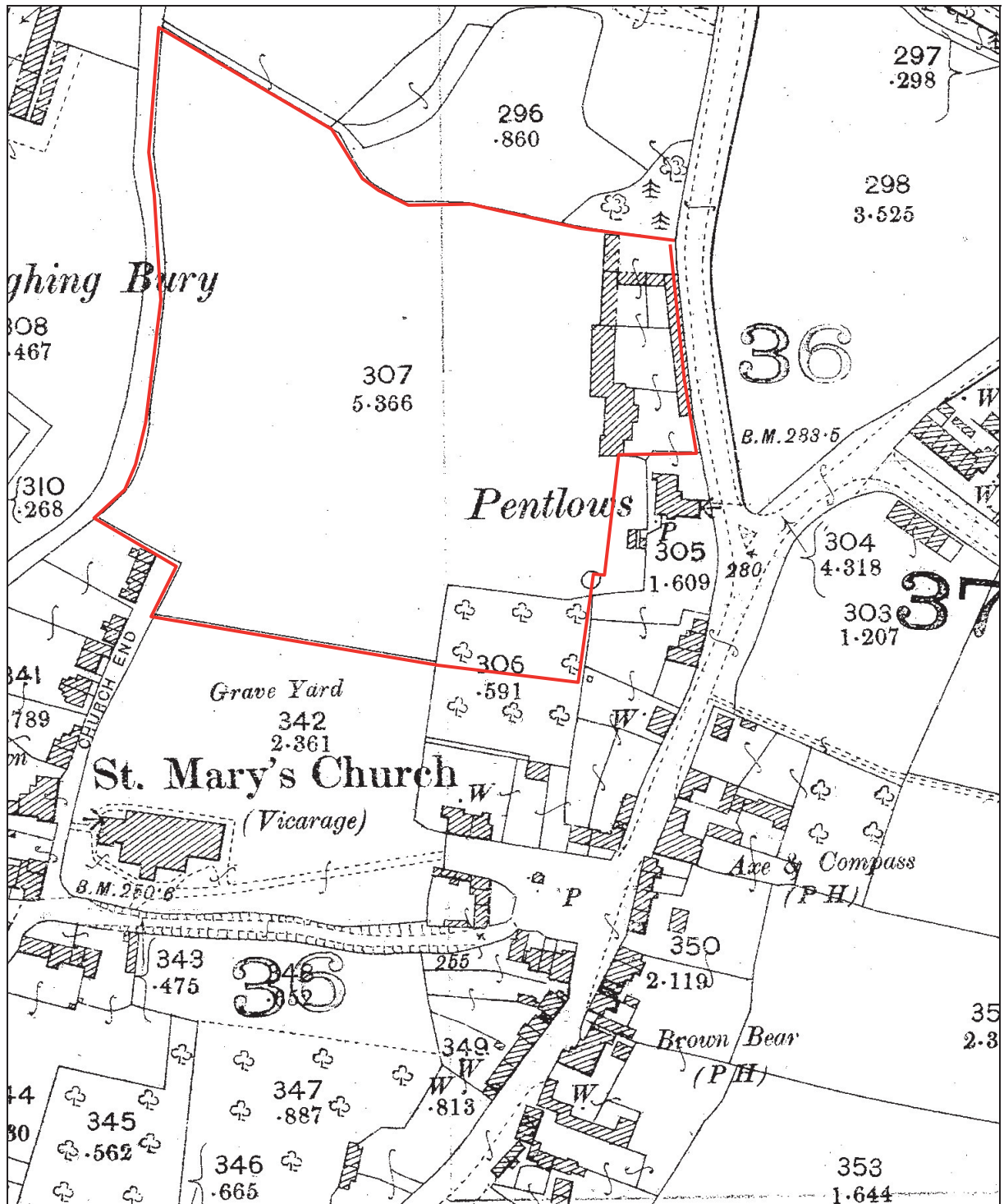**Figure 6:** Pentlows Farm in 1820 (HALS: D/Enc/1)

Figure 7: Pentlows Farm in 1878 (HALS: OS 25" sheet XIV.14)
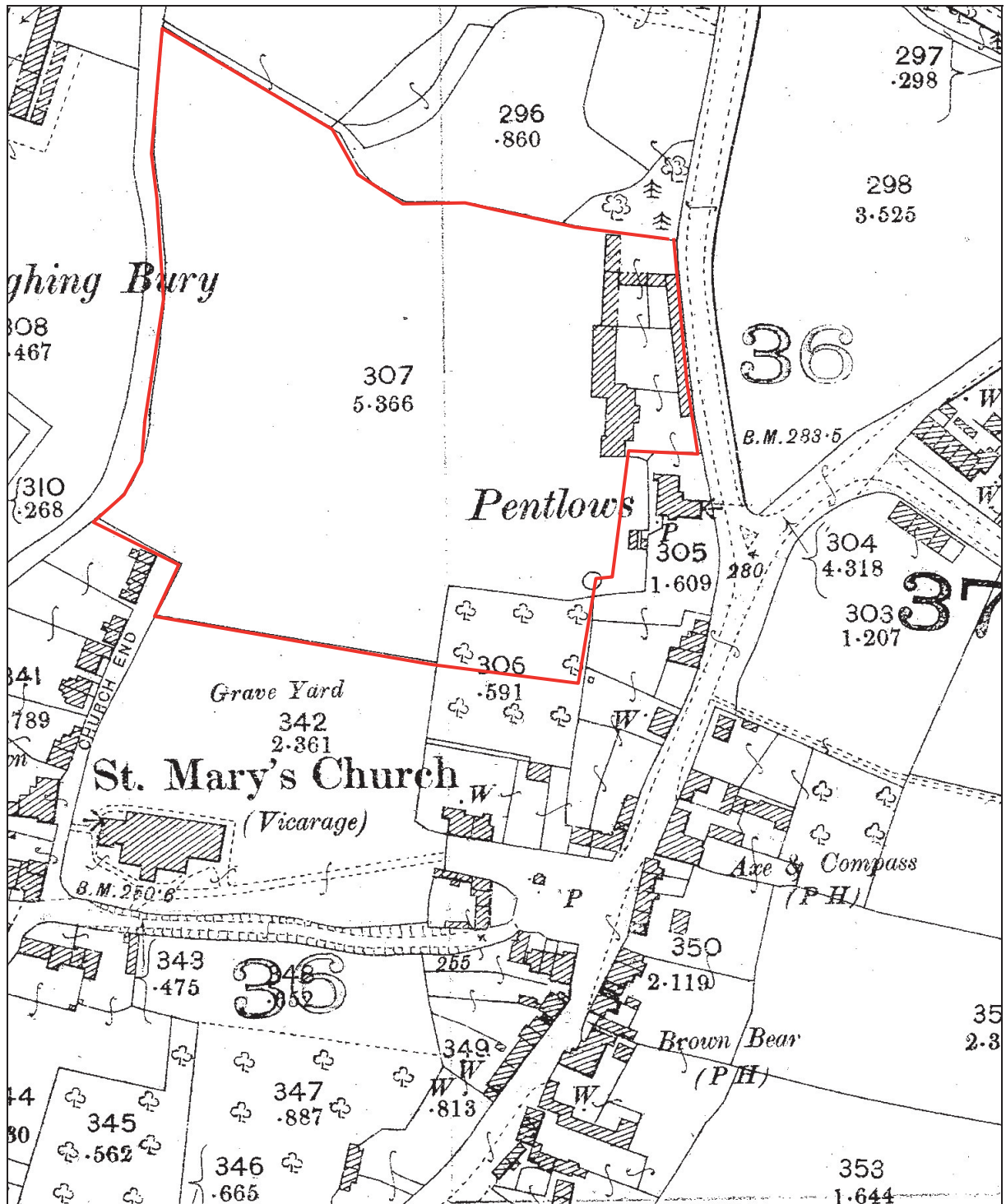
Figure 8: Pentlows Farm in 1897 (HALS: OS 25" sheet XIV.14)
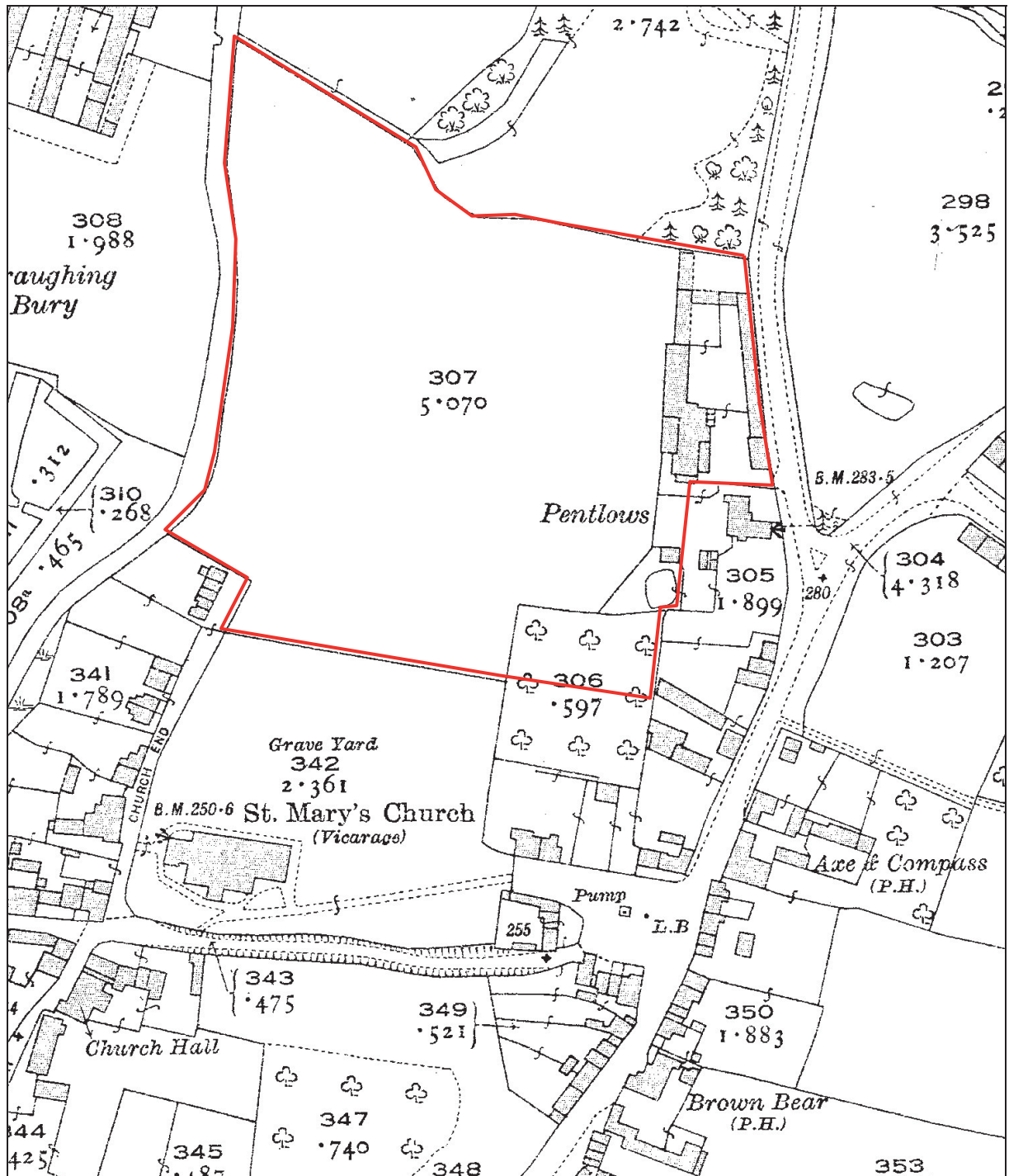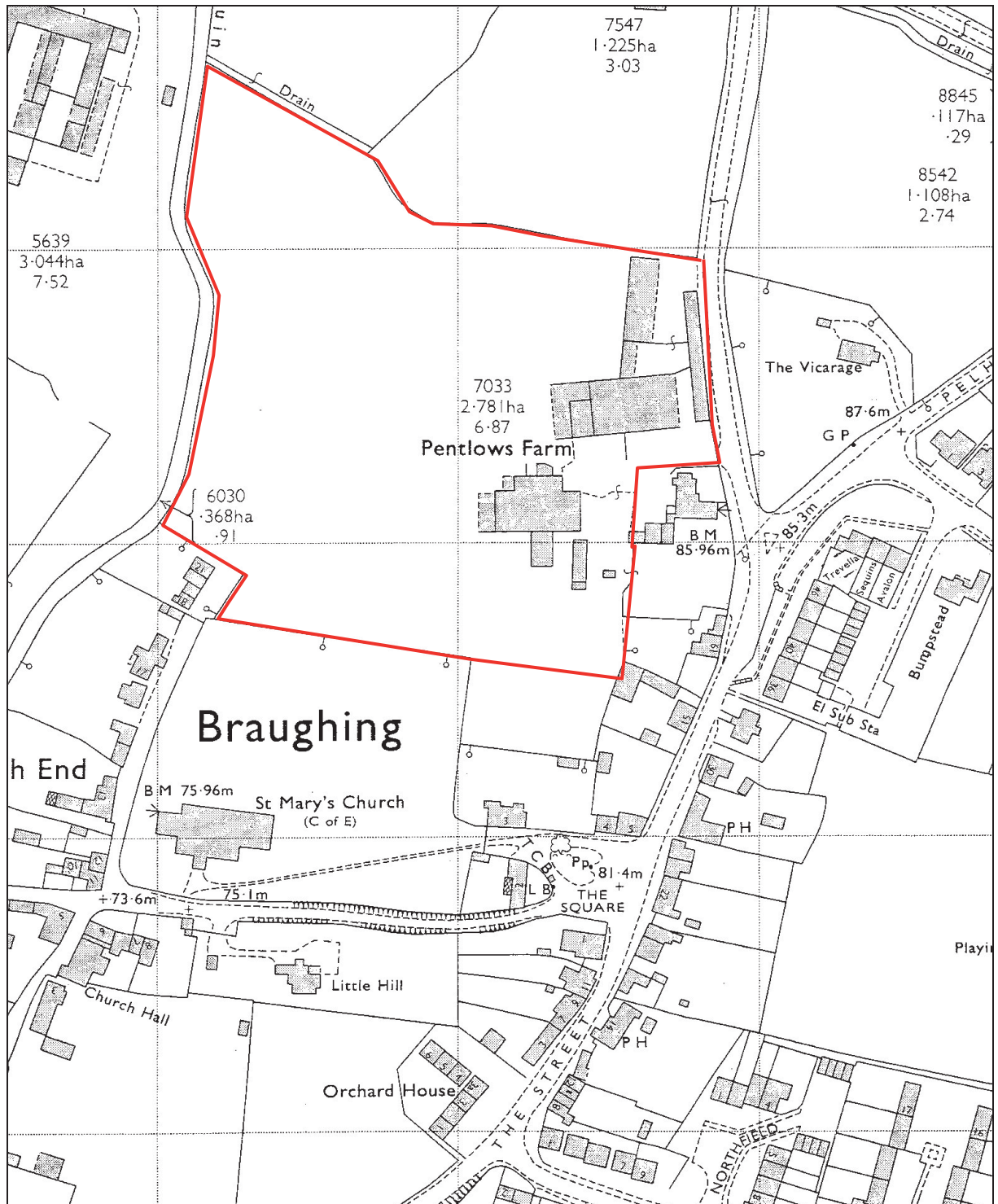
Figure 9: Pentlows Farm in 1921 (HALS: OS 25" sheet XIV.14)

Figure 10: Pentlows Farm in 1975 (HALS: OS 1:2500 TL 3925)

4 Walk-Over Survey

4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use*

The site is no longer in agricultural use. The extent of the present study area is 2.63ha (6.5 acres). Access is gained from the lane to the east.

4.2 *Buildings*

The farm buildings occupy the east part of the site. For ease of description they have been numbered (Fig. 4, B1-B8), and are illustrated below (Plates 1-10). The only building of any historic merit is the timber-framed, weatherboarded stable range (B1), fronting the lane. It is Grade II listed and is described in Section 5.5 below. The rest of the buildings (B2-B8) are a mix of modern brick and steel-framed barns and silos. The areas between the buildings are covered in concrete though on the western side the surface consists of a loose hard standing.

4.3 *Services*

No major services crossing the site. There are likely to be local buried services (electricity, water, drainage) relayed to the present farm buildings. These have not been mapped.

4.4 *Impact of Existing Development*

The establishment and development of Pentlows Farm has impacted upon the landscape of the site, and this must be taken into account. The area occupied by the farm buildings and yards has been subject to varying degrees of terracing, while the levels of the western edge of the farmyard area have evidently been built up. The extent of these impacts is shown in Fig. 11.

4.4 *Agricultural Land*

The western part of the assessment site, about two-thirds of the total area, is open farmland. This consists of a single field, currently down to pasture, bounded by wire fences to the east, south and north. Its western boundary is defined by the river Quin. The site is largely treeless, though there are some deciduous trees on the northern boundary of the site and along the southern boundary with the churchyard.

Figure 12 shows the various types of terrain making up this area, as revealed in the walkover survey. The western part of the field (**1**) is wet and low-lying, with evidence of artificial water channels. These could either be for watering meadowland or, less plausibly, for watercress growing. Within this area, (**2**) is a close-mown, smooth area that has a somewhat artificial feel to it, and could represent some form of human activity. The eastern part of the field (**3**) appears to be well drained, and not subject to flooding. Within this area, (**4**) is a flat, level area, which could represent the site of a former house platform. The boundary (**5**) between zones 1 and 3 follows the line of a boundary recorded on the 1820 enclosure map (Fig. 6), and also identified as the possible route of a Roman road (section 3.3.3, above). This linear feature also appears on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1980 and 1990 (HCC TL 3835/3925 no. 256).

Plate 1: Timber building (B1) looking north from lane

Plate 2: Southern end of timber building (B1)

Plate 3: Timber stables (B1)

Plate 4: Timber building (B1) looking south east

Plate 5: B2 looking north

Plate 6: Internal view of B2

Plate 7: Area to the east of B3

Plate 8: Southern end of modern buildings B4 and B5

Plate 9: Buildings 6-7 and silos looking south west towards St Marys

Plate 10: View south west across corn silos (B8)

Plate 11: Pasture field west of Pentlows Farm looking north

Plate 12: Flooded area of valley floor in pasture field
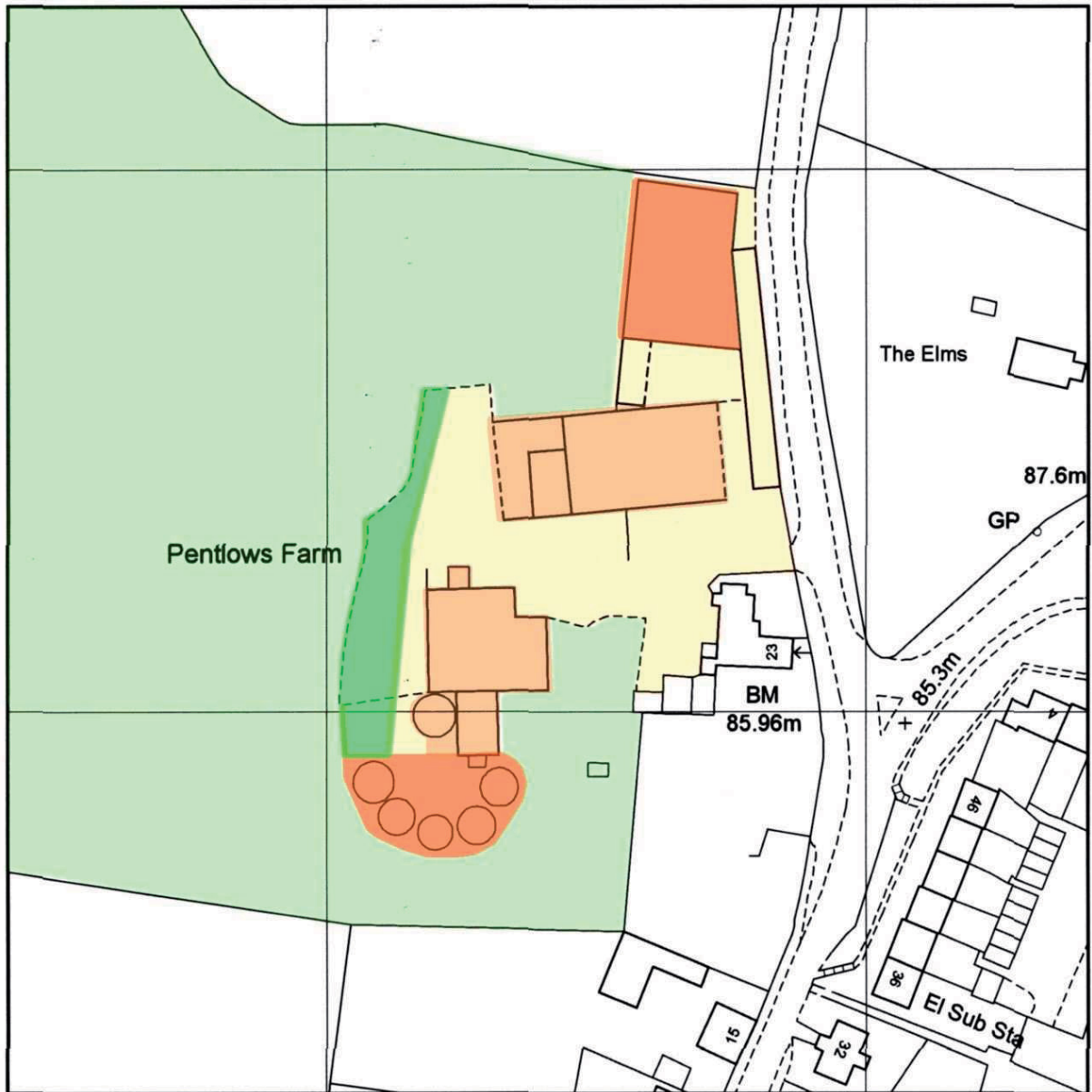
Figure 11: Extent of disturbance by existing development *(scale 1:1,250)*

KEY

Undisturbed ground levels	Light green		Severe terracing	Dark orange
Built up area	Dark green		Moderate terracing	Medium orange
			Slight terracing	Cream
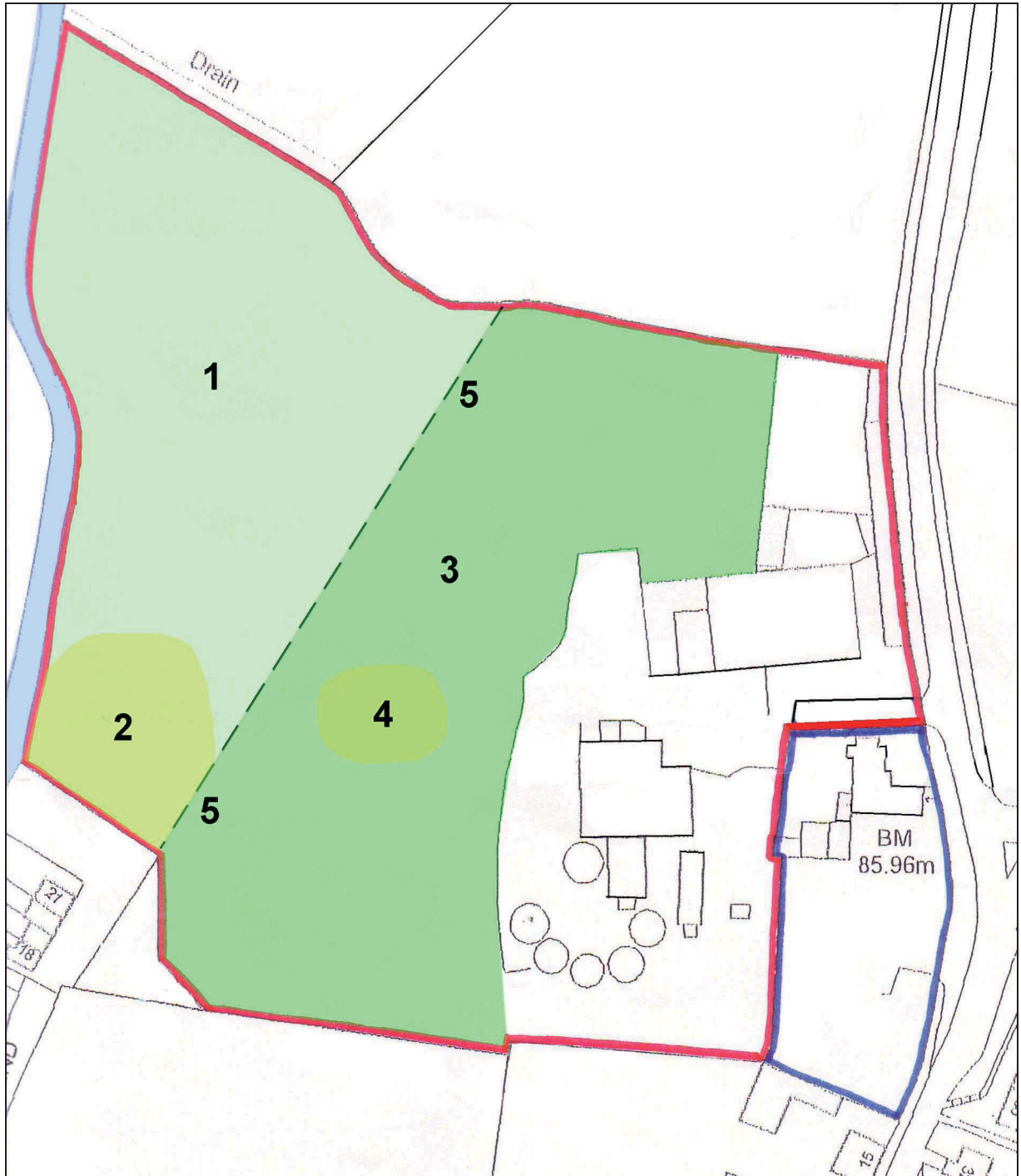
Figure 12: Results of walkover survey *(scale 1:1,250)*

5   Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1   A range of planning constraints is in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

5.2   *Conservation Areas*

The site falls within the Braughing Conservation Area, as designated by Hertfordshire County Council.

5.3   *Areas of Archaeological Significance*

`The site falls within an Archaeological Alert Area, as designated by Hertfordshire County Council.

5.4   *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

There are no scheduled ancient monuments either within or adjacent to the assessment site.

5.5   *Listed Buildings*

The building designated B1 (Fig. 3; Plates 1-4) is Grade II listed. It is described as follows:

   Outbuilding. C18 or earlier. Timber frame weatherboarded. Plinth in tarred brickwork. Steep pitched roof now of corrugated iron with a gable to west front near northern end. Small rectangular building which faces west into yard and forms a picturesque feature along the lane (DOE 1984, 9/59)

Pentlow farmhouse, which lies outside the assessment site, is a listed building of 17th century or earlier date (DOE 1984, 9/58).

6 Conclusions

6.1 *General*

The assessment has shown that Pentlows Farm lies within an area of archaeological interest, with particular reference to the Iron Age and Roman periods. While no archaeological deposits or artefacts have been recorded on the assessment site itself, consideration should be given to the possible presence of a Roman road, crossing the pasture field west of the farm buildings. It should also be noted that this same alignment was also followed by a field boundary that was extant until the late 19th century, the remains of which are still visible as a low bank. Based on visual examination and available evidence, it is not possible to say whether the boundary followed an earlier Roman road, or whether the line of the former boundary has been misinterpreted as a Roman road alignment.

The establishment of Pentlows Farm, probably in the 17th century, and its subsequent development and use, have affected the landscape of the assessment site, and consequently the likelihood of survival of any buried archaeological remains. The walkover survey has shown that much of the eastern part of the site, where the farm buildings and yards are located, has been terraced to varying degrees. This will inevitably have truncated or removed any buried archaeological deposits in this area. Conversely, the small part of this area that has been built up may have preserved any archaeology present.

Much of the site is currently under pasture, and therefore any buried archaeological remains in this area are likely to have a better potential for survival. It is not known whether any of this land has been under cultivation in the past, in which case archaeological deposits could have been affected by ploughing or land drainage schemes. The walkover survey has identified possible human activity within the pasture area, comprising water channels in meadowland alongside the river, and a house platform, presumably of late Saxon or medieval date, near the centre of the assessment site.

With regard to standing buildings, the assessment and walkover survey have demonstrated that little remains of the original Pentlows Farm buildings complex, as shown on early maps. The only surviving buildings are the farmhouse, which lies outside the assessment area, and the timber-framed, weatherboarded stable range adjacent to the lane (Building B1). Both of these structures are listed Grade II. All other buildings on the site are modern, and of no historic significance.

6.2 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

In order to inform the proposals for development at Pentlows Farm, an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site has been made, based upon the evidence compiled in the assessment and walkover survey. The results of this are presented graphically in Fig. 13. Areas of the site are assessed as having low, moderate or high potential for archaeology. These terms are relative to the site and are used in the sense of predicting the likelihood of surviving archaeological deposits.

The proposed redevelopment of the site (Fig. 4) is largely located within or adjacent to the immediate vicinity of the existing farm buildings. The northern and middle sections of the proposed development should fall largely within the present built footprint. The southern end of the development area looks to be partly on undisturbed or made up ground. In neither area can the presence of archaeological deposits be entirely dismissed.

6.3   *Planning Framework*

The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning.* Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, East Hertfordshire District Council, acting on the advice of the Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council.
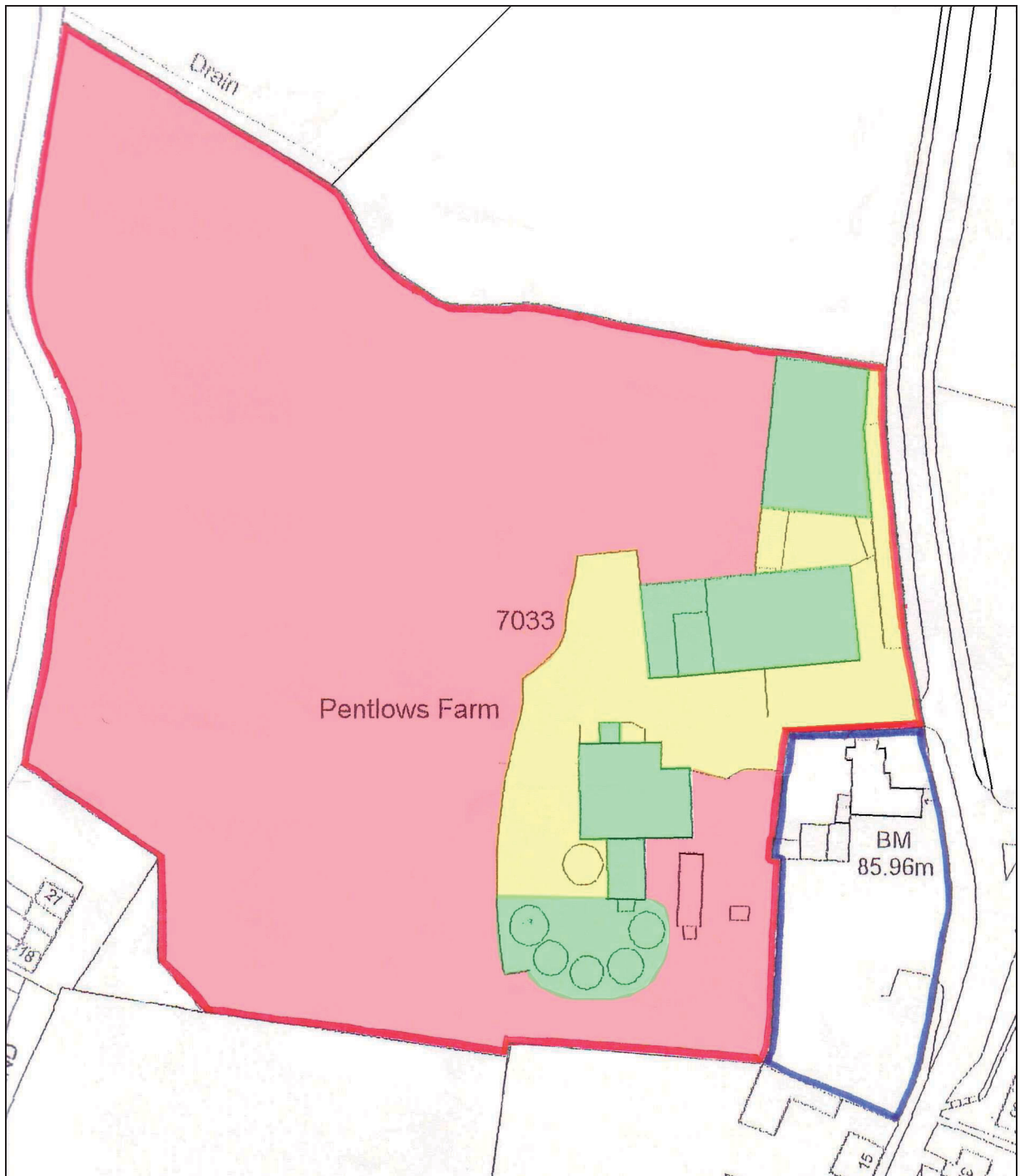
Figure 13: Archaeological potential of the site *(scale 1:1,250)*

(Green = low potential; yellow = moderate potential; red = high potential)

7   Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to James Sinclair of English Courtyard Developments for commissioning and funding this assessment. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson of the Historic Environment Office, Hertfordshire County Council for providing access to the HER data. The assistance of the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies Library is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walkover survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by the author. The report was edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

8   Sites & Monuments Data

The following data has been provided by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record for
the study area, comprising a 1km area around Pentlows Farm

Number	Period	Class	Type	Location	Grid Ref
115	late Iron Age	coin	gold	Larkshill	39 25
117	late Iron Age	coin	bronze	Griggs Bridge	392-248
531	E. Roman - Med.	occupation	pot, b.mats	Haven End Field	3985-2450
1097	Romano-British	occupation	tesselated pav.	Larks Hill	39 25
1703	Romano-British	occupation	pottery	Ford Street	3930-2488
1704	Romano-British	occupation	pot, b.mats	Bingles Wood	3905-2480
2341	Bronze Age	crop mark	ring ditch	Nuttings Plantation	3886-2539
2364	Bronze Age	crop mark	ring ditch	Nuttings Plantation	3886-2528
2437	Bronze Age ?	crop mark	enclosure	Braughing	406-258
2660	Post-Roman	documentary	written	Braughing	3950-2515
2971	Bronze Age	crop mark	ring ditch	Braughing	3948-2628
4220	Iron Age?	crop mark	enclosure	Braughing	4060-2576
4332	Medieval	building	church	Braughing	3962-2520
4672	Romano-British	feature	road	Braughing	3935-2500
4719	Bronze Age	crop mark	ring ditch	Braughing	4059-2565
4763	IA/RB	object	horse harness	Braughing ?	3900-2500
5051	post-med	object	mile stone	Griggs Bridge	3920-2485
5163	post-med	structure	bridge	Quinbury	3965-2609
5170	post-med	structure	bridge	Griggs Bridge	3919-2480
5369	post-med	building	ma;ting	Malting Lane	3940-2509
5665	post-med	structure	well head	The Square	397-252
5983	post-med	structure	windmill	Larks Hill	391-251
6442	Romano-British	occupation	tiles, pot, stone	Oxmeads Field	391-248
6443	medieval-postmed	documentary	written	Hull lane	3900-2524
7568	undated	crop mark	linear	East of Hay St.	39493-26302
7569	Bronze Age	crop mark	ring ditch	W of Green End	38855-25410
7572	IA/RB	crop mark	enclosures	N of Green End	39904-25537
9103	medieval	earthwork	lynchet	Pentlow Hill	3970-2590
9241	Romano-British	occupation	b. mats	Braughing	40700-25300
9243	Anglo-Saxon	object	brooch	Ford Street	39200-24700
10323	post-med	earthwork	water meadow?	Braughing	3957-2590
10721	post-med	features	gullies?	Upland Road	3970-2500
11102	post-med	building	model farm	Braughing Bury	3949-2540
11103	post-med	building	model farm	Braughing Bury	3956-2546
11104	post-med	building	model farm	Ford Street	3939-2487
11467	post-med	building	vicarage brewhouse	Braughing	3977-2550
11778	post-med	building	vicarage brewhouse	Braughing	3976-2548
12248	post-med	building	manor	Braughing Bury	3951-2534
12249	post-med	building	public house	14 The Street	3975-2513
12250	post-med	building	house	3 Church St	3972-2513
12251	post-med	building	house	19 Green End	3934-2533
12252	post-med	building	house	22 The Street	3977-2518
12253	post-med	building	house	13 Church End	3958-2521
12330	post-med	earthwork	ornamental canal	Old Vicarage	3970-2543
12331	prehistoric	objects	flint work, pot frag	Green End	3891-2564
12459	undated	documentary	written	Green Hill common	3949-2505
12868	post-med	building	school	Jenyns, The Street	3956-2503

9   References

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10   Cartographic Sources

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

Date	Reference	Description
1766	Drury & Andrews	Hertfordshire Record Society 2004
1820	HALS: D/Enc/1	Inclosure Award map
1878	OS sheet XIV.14	25 inch scale 1st edition
1898	OS sheet XIV.14	25 inch scale 2nd edition
1911	IR/146 no.75	Map accompanying Tax reference book IR2 17/1
1916	DEX 58/P1	Hamels estate map
1921	OS sheet XIV.14	25 inch scale 3rd edition
1975	OS TL 3925	1:2500 scale
2007	OS site map	Central coordinates 539741-225330

11   Air Photographs

The following photographs were examined in the course of this assessment:

Identification	Date	Type (O/V)	Description/comments
-	1947-48	nil	No coverage exists for this area in HALS archive
HALS	Late 60s early 70s	O	Ref no. 228373 B/W of site
HALS	1980	V	TL 3825/3925 no. 256 (May)
HALS	1990	V	TL 3825/3925 no. 256 (May)

12   Other Information

Information regarding the recent discovery of clay coin flan moulds was supplied by Mark Landon.

Appendix 1: ASC Method Statement for Desk-Based Assessments

Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing 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 (IFA 2001).

1   *Standards*

The desk-based assessment will be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000). This specification has been prepared with reference to the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2   *Aims*

In general terms, the aims of the desk-based study shall be:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of the historic environment of the site, from documentary sources;
- To provide a comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests, and to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site;
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains likely to be present on site, and to assess their significance;
- To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of an appropriate strategy for the management and/or investigation of the historic environment of the site.

3   *Methods*

Any of the following sources of information may be consulted for the desk-based assessment, providing that they are readily available:

3.1   *Archaeological Databases*
Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area.

SOURCE TYPE:	Archaeological Excavation & Survey Records, National Monuments Records, National Buildings Records, County Sites & Monuments Records, Listed Buildings Lists, Scheduled Ancient Monuments Lists, Regional Inventories, Public & Private Collections of Artefacts and Ecofacts.
SOURCE LOCATION:	National Heritage Bodies, Royal Commissions, Local Authorities, Museums, Archaeological Trusts & Units, Universities, Ordnance Survey, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.

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 potential for further detailed documentary research will also be considered in the assessment.

SOURCE TYPE:	Charters, Registers, Manuscript Collections (secular and ecclesiastical), Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Electoral Rolls, Contemporary Published Accounts (e.g. County & Agricultural Surveys), Industrial Investigations, Trade Directories.
SOURCE LOCATION:	Public Record Office, Parish Records, Estate Collections, Museums, National & Local Libraries, County & District Archives, Study Centres, Press Libraries, Ordnance Survey, British Library.

3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*
This is normally a very productive area of research.

SOURCE TYPE:	Early Maps, Prints and Paintings, Inclosure & Tithe Maps, Ordnance Survey maps, Estate Plans, Goad Maps.
SOURCE LOCATION:	Public Record Office, Parish Records, Estate Collections, Museums, National & Local Libraries, County & District Archives, Press Libraries, Ordnance Survey, Private Collections, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.

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.

SOURCE TYPE:	Air Photographs.
SOURCE LOCATION:	National Registers of Air Photographs (inc. RAF & OS flights), Museum Collections, National Heritage Bodies, Sites & Monuments Records, University Collections, Private Collections.

3.5 *Geotechnical Information*
A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs will be 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 / palaeoenvironmental deposits.

SOURCE TYPE:	Borehole & Test-Pit Logs, Site Surveys, Geological Maps.
SOURCE LOCATION:	Client's Engineers Records, Ordnance Survey, British Standards Institute, British Geological Publications.

3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

SOURCE TYPE:	Regional & Period Archaeological Studies, Landscape Studies, Local Knowledge, Dissertations, Policy Statements and Research Frameworks, Legislative documents, European Directives, Local Government Plans, Constraints Maps.
SOURCE LOCATION:	Libraries, Local Landowners, Local & National Museums, Universities, Academic Journals, Monographs & Other Publications, Local Archaeological & Historical Societies.

3.7 *Preliminary Walk-Over Survey*
As part of the assessment a preliminary walk-over survey of the site will be undertaken with the following aims:

1. To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
2. To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
3. To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required.
4. With regard to (3), to carry out a Heath & Safety Risk Assessment of the site.

4   *Staffing*

The assessment will be managed by ASC's Manager, **Bob Zeepvat   BA MIFA**, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork, post-excavation and publication work in both rural and urban environments. Research and reporting for the assessment will be carried out by one of ASC's Project Officers, all of whom are members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA or AIFA), with demonstrable track records in a wide range of fieldwork and assessment projects. Further details are available on ASC's website (www.archaeological-services.co.uk).

5   *Reporting*

The assessment report will normally be prepared within four weeks, and will typically include:

- a concise non-technical summary of the results
- information relating to the circumstances of the project
- background information about the site
- a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
- the results of the research detailed above, supported by appropriate illustrative material
- a predictive model of the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological material on the site revealed by the assessment
- the contents and location of the archive
- a database of information and a full bibliography

Copies of the report will be provided as required

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