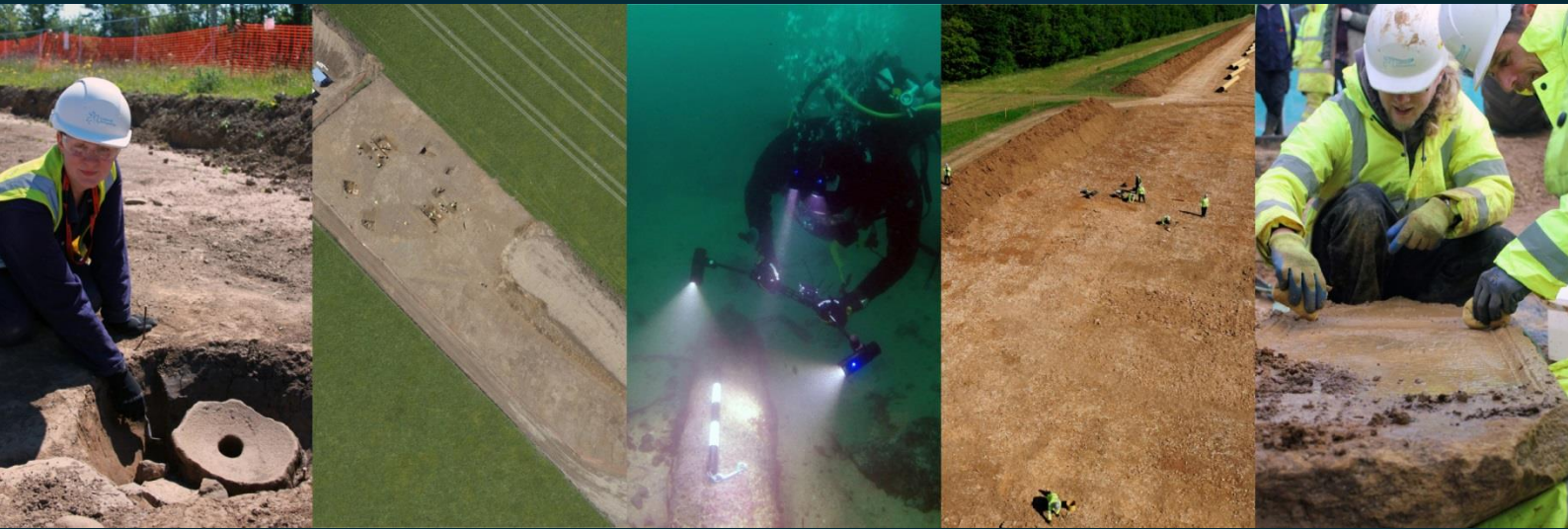


Land East of Fenny Road Stoke Hammond Buckinghamshire

*Archaeological watching brief on 7th-8th September
on geotechnical site investigation test pits*



for
Archaeology Collective
acting on behalf of
Mears New Homes (Mears Group PLC)

CA Project: 660770
CA Report: 16549
Site Code: FSH16

October 2016



Land East of Fenny Road Stoke Hammond Buckinghamshire

Archaeological watching brief on 7th-8th September
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CA Project: 660770
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. SITE BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. FIELDWORK RESULTS.....	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	7
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan, 1:25,000

Fig. 2 Plan showing location of test pits, 1:750



SUMMARY

Project Location:	Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire
NGR:	SP 88248 29641
Type:	Watching brief
Fieldwork date:	7th–8th September 2016
Location of Archive:	Buckinghamshire Museum Services
Site Code:	FSH16

In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations on land off Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire. The work, which was commissioned by Archaeology Collective, formed part of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of the residential development of the site by Mears New Homes (Mears Group PLC).

The geotechnical investigation comprised the excavation of twenty geotechnical test pits, machine-excavated to a depth of c. 3.5m. No archaeological remains were identified in the test pits and despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, there were no finds pre-dating the modern period.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations on land off Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire (site centred on NGR: SP 88248 29641; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by Archaeology Collective, formed part of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of the residential development of the site by Mears New Homes (Mears Group PLC).
- 1.2 The watching brief was requested by Phil Markham, Buckinghamshire County Council's Senior Archaeology Planning Officer (BCCSAPO), as the archaeological evaluation of the site carried out in 2015, comprising a geophysical survey (PCG 2015) and trial trench evaluation (CA 2015), had identified the remains of a Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead, possibly a 'ladder' settlement beside a local track, a medieval ditch and remnants of a medieval open field system. The scope of the watching brief was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by Archaeology Collective (2016).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The site, which covers an area of approximately 2.7ha, is situated in the north-eastern part of the village of Stoke Hammond, which is located c. 2km to the south of Water Eaton, Milton Keynes (Fig. 1). It comprises two pasture fields divided by a hedge and is bounded by Fenny Road to the west, housing to the north, the house and grounds of Tyrell's Manor to the south and farmland to the east. In its wider setting, the site is located on a gentle east-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Ouzel, a tributary of the River Great Ouse. The Grand Union Canal follows the valley northwards from Aylesbury, before heading westwards along the Great Ouse

Valley in the direction of Wolverton. The ground descends from approximately 84m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at Fenny Road in the south-western corner of the site to approximately 77m aOD at its eastern boundary.

- 2.2 The geology of the site comprises Jurassic mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by Quaternary deposits of diamicton (poorly-sorted sand and gravel of glacial origin) of the Oadby Member (BGS 2015).

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.3 The following is a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site presented in the WSI (Archaeology Collective 2016).

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.4 Cropmarks of possible Neolithic (4000–2400 BC) long mortuary enclosures and a Bronze Age (2400–700 BC) round barrow have been recorded c. 0.5km east of the site and an Early/Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC) farmstead was recorded during construction of the Stoke Hammond Bypass North Link, c. 0.5km to the west.

Roman (AD 43–410)

- 2.5 Part of a Roman field system, including evidence for boundary and driveway ditches, pits and an extensive cobbled or stone-surfaced area has been recorded at Three Locks Golf Course, c. 1.5km south-east of the site.
- 2.6 Archaeological evaluation of the current site (PCG 2015 and CA 2015) recorded the well-preserved remains of a ditched enclosure system and associated features. Associated artefactual material was almost entirely Late Iron Age or Roman in date, indicating that the site was occupied from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD. There was evidence of cereal-drying, animal slaughter and butchery. It is likely that the enclosures are associated with a Late Iron Age/Roman period farmstead, possibly a 'ladder' settlement beside a local road or track.

Medieval (AD410–1485)

- 2.7 The site lies immediately to the north of the former manor of Stoke Hammond, which probably dates from the late 15th century and was renamed Tyrell's Manor in 1676. The current house dates from the early 18th century with later alterations.

- 2.8 To the north-west of Stoke Hammond, cropmark and earthwork evidence for a possible hollow way and building platforms suggests that the medieval settlement extended further than the bounds of the modern village.
- 2.9 The presence of ridge and furrow earthworks within the northern part of the site indicates that it formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Stoke Hammond in the medieval period.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The general aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Archaeology Collective 2016), were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
- to record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site; and
- to record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.

3.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:

- to observe and record deposits exposed in the test pits;
- to clean the base and representative sections of the test pits and record them in both plan and representative section; and
- to partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date.

3.3 The objectives of the project were:

- to undertake the archaeological watching brief to provide further archaeological information;
- to undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines;
- to archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance;
- to analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
- to produce a written account to include: summary; site description;



deposit descriptions deposit levels (relative to ordnance datum)

conclusions and recommendations for further work;

- to disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological watching brief to produce as comprehensive a record as possible; and
- to provide an ordered archive.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (Archaeology Collective 2016), with the excavation of twenty geotechnical test pits monitored by an experienced archaeologist. The test pits were 0.6m wide and were excavated to a depth of c. 3.5m. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavators were equipped with a toothless bucket.

4.2 A photographic record of the project was maintained in high resolution digital images and included photographs of the general site and working shots. There were no finds and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis.

4.3 The archive from the project is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes; this will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Services (an accession number has been applied for). A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 The geotechnical investigation comprised the excavation of twenty geotechnical test pits, machine-excavated to a depth of c. 3.5m (Fig. 2). Grey mudstone was identified at the base of eight test pits at a depth of c. 3.3m–3.5m (TP 2, 5, 12–14, 16, 17 and 20). This was overlain by glacial deposits (diamicton), up to 2.4m thick, of dark or mid bluish grey clay with variable inclusions of flint nodules, flint pebbles and gritty sand; towards their interface with the overlying subsoil these deposits were oxidised and were light brown or orangey brown in colour. The subsoil ranged between

0.2m–0.3m thick and comprised mid brownish grey silty clay. The overlying topsoil, which was approximately 0.2m thick, consisted of dark brown clayey silt.

- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated spoil.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Consideration had been given in the selection of geotechnical test pit locations to avoid archaeological features shown on the geophysical survey results or identified in trial trenches. There was therefore little likelihood of archaeological remains being impacted by the geotechnical investigation, although features not detected by the geophysical survey (e.g. small pits and postholes, features masked by thicker deposits of overburden) may have been encountered. In the event, no archaeological remains were identified in the test pits and despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, there were no finds pre-dating the modern period.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Dixon. The report was written by Sam Dixon and the illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeology Collective 2016 *Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire: Written Scheme of Investigation*, project **AC00048B**, unpublished document

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 30 September 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, report **15729**

PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd) 2015 *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1	1000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	1001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	1002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			1.2
	1003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.2
2	2000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	2001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	2002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	2003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.3
	2004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			0.7
	2005	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.2
3	3000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	3001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	3002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay, medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	3003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.0
	3004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			0.9
	3005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.2
4	4000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	4001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	4002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	4003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.7
	4004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.1
	4005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.6
5	5000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	5001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	5002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	5003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.8
	5004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.2
	5005	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone			0.1
6	6000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	6001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	6002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.9
	6003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.9
	6004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.0
7	7000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	7001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.4

	7002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	7003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.6
	7004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			0.6
	7005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.7
8	8000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	8001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	8002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.6
	8003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.7
	8004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.1
	8005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.5
9	9000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	9001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	9002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.5
	9003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.1
	9004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			0.9
	9005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.4
10	10000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	10001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	10002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.6
	10003	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.7
	10004	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.3
11	11000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	11001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	11002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.7
	11003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.6
	11004	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey silty sand well sorted and loosely compact			0.8
	11005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.6
12	12000	Fill	Backfill	Re deposited topsoil subsoil and Geology mixed in together			0.8
	12001	Cut	Modern trench	Straight cut of modern trench	>3	>0.6	0.8
	12002	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.3
	12003	Deposit	Geology	Grey clayey silt well sorted and loosely compact			0.9
	12004	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.3
13	13000	Fill	Backfill	Re deposited topsoil subsoil and Geology mixed in together			1.0
	13001	Cut	Modern trench	Straight cut of modern trench	>3	>0.6	1.0
	13002	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.3
	13003	Deposit	Geology	Brown grey clayey silt well sorted and loosely compact			0.7

	13004	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.3
14	14000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	14001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.4
	14002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			1
	14003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.6
	14004	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.8
	14005	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.2
	15	15000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact		
15001		Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
15002		Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.7
15003		Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.6
15004		Deposit	Geology	Grey silty sand well sorted and loosely compact			0.8
15005		Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.7
16		16000	Fill	Backfill	Re deposited topsoil subsoil and Geology mixed in together		
	16001	Cut	Modern trench	Straight cut of modern trench	>3	>0.6	0.7
	16002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.5
	16003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.7
	16004	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.4
17	17000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	17001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	17002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.5
	17003	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.0
	17004	Deposit	Geology	Light brown silty clay loose compact and well sorted			0.6
	17005	Deposit	Geology	Mid grey mudstone formation			0.3
18	18000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	18001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.3
	18002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.7
	18003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.4
	18004	Deposit	Geology	Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			1.1
	18005	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.3
19	19000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	19001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	19002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact with flint flecks			0.8
	19003	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			1.0
	19004	Deposit	Geology	Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.1
20	20000	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt medium compact			0.2
	20001	Deposit	Subsoil	Brown grey silty clay medium compact			0.2
	20002	Deposit	Geology	Mid brown silty clay medium compact			0.9

				with flint flecks			
20003	Deposit	Geology		Mid brown silty clay well compact with flint inclusions			0.4
20004	Deposit	Geology		Mid blue grey clay with sandy patches and flint nodules			0.3
20005	Deposit	Geology		Dark blue grey glacial clay with large flint nodules			0.5
20006	Deposit	Geology		Mid grey mudstone formation			0.2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	The geotechnical investigation comprised the excavation of twenty geotechnical test pits, machine-excavated to a depth of c. 3.5m. No archaeological remains were identified in the test pits and despite visual scanning of the excavated spoil, there were no finds pre-dating the modern period.	
Project dates	7th–8th September 2016	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (PCG 2015); trial trench evaluation (CA 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire	
Study area	2.7ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 8825 2964	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Archaeology Collective	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA); Michelle Collings and Robin Densem (Archaeology Collective)	
Project Supervisor	Sam Dixon (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
	Accession no: tbc	Content
Physical	Buckinghamshire Museum	None
Paper	Services	Site records
Digital	Buckinghamshire HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16549		

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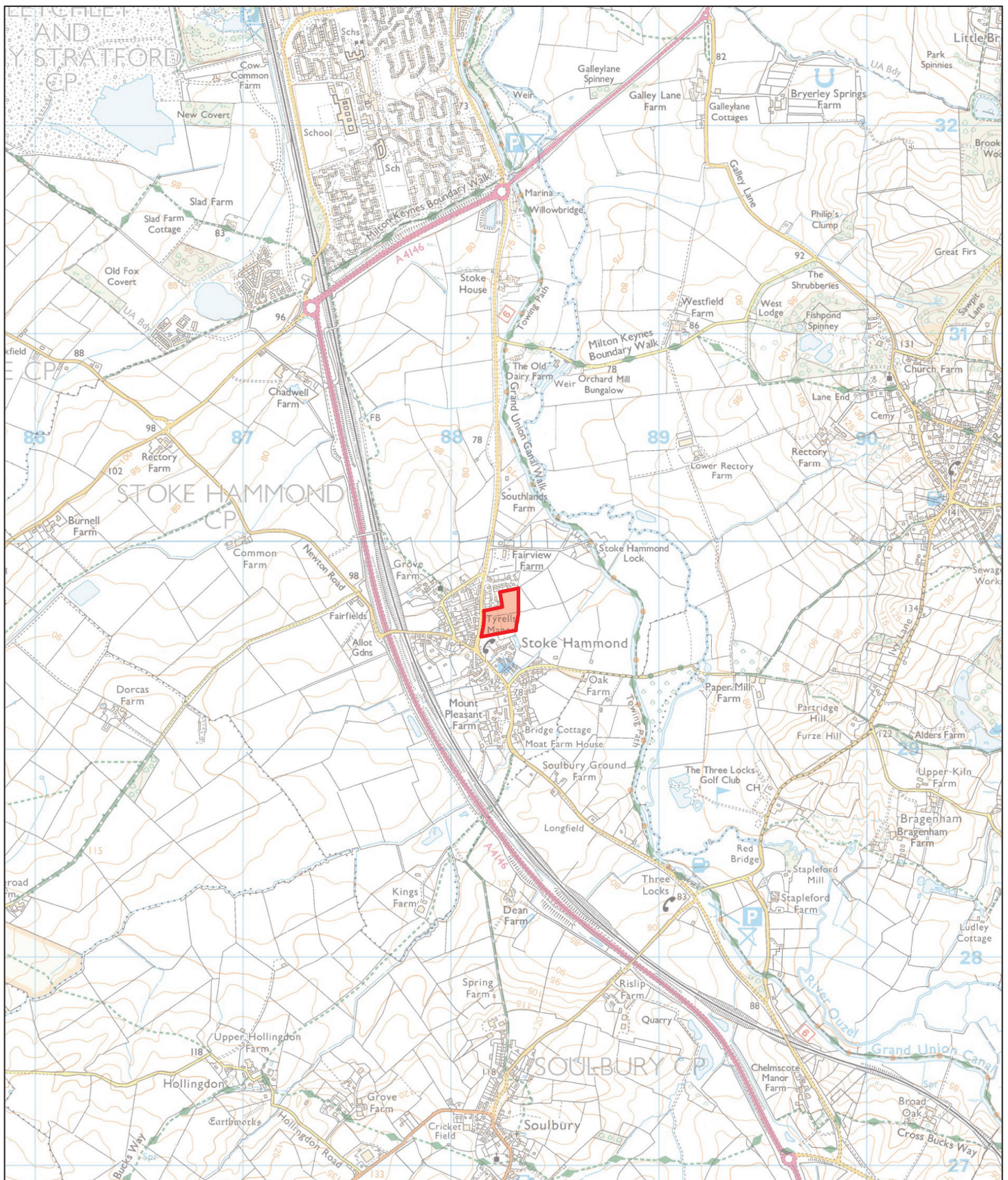
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PROJECT TITLE

Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire

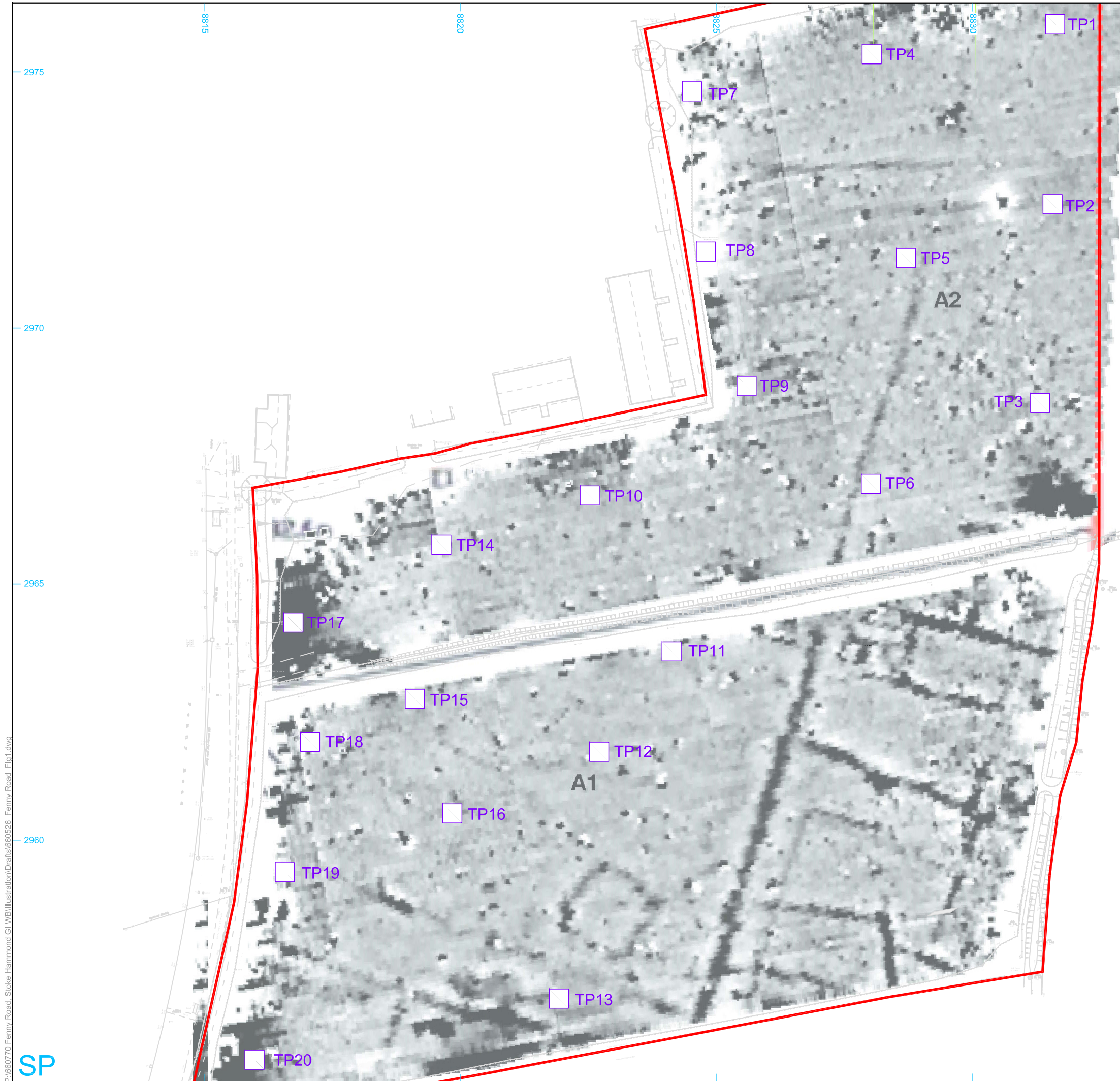
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	660526	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/09/15	1
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site boundary
- test pit

Geophysics Survey results
(pre-construct geophysics 2015)



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PROJECT TITLE
Land East of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammon, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan showing location of test pits

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	660770	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	04/10/2016	2
APPROVED BY	SCC	SCALE@A3	1:750	

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