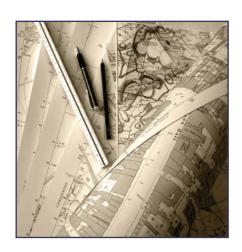
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Canewdon Solar Farm



Desk-Based Assessment



September 2014

Client: UK Solar Assets Limited

OA East Report No: 1676 OASIS No: oxfordar3-191340

NGR: TQ 86817 94695



Canewdon Solar Farm

Desk-Based Assessment

By Michael Green BA

Editor: Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD, MlfA

Illustrator: Charlotte Davies MPhil

Report Date: September 2014

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1676 **Report Number:**

Canewdon Solar Farm Site Name:

HER Event No: n/a

Date of Works:

Client Name: UK Solar Assets Limited

Client Ref:

Planning Ref: n/a

TQ 86817 94695 **Grid Ref:**

Site Code: tbc

Finance Code: XEXCAN14

Receiving Body: **Essex County Stores**

Accession No: TBA

Michael Green Prepared by: Position: supervisor September 2014 Date:

Checked by: Paul Spoerry BTech, PhD, MIfA

Position: Regional Manager

Date: 30/9/14

Signed:

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Table of Contents

Summary	5
1 Introduction	6
1.1 Planning Background	6
1.2 Location, Geology and Topography	6
1.3 Acknowledgements	6
2 Archaeological and Historical Background and Sources	7
2.1 Historical Background	7
2.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Archaeological Investigations	8
2.3 Listed Buildings	10
2.4 Aerial Photographic Surveys, Cropmarks and Earthworks	10
3 Deposit Mapping	11
3.1 General	11
3.2 Prehistoric	11
3.3 Iron Age and Roman	11
3.4 Saxon	11
3.5 Medieval	11
3.6 Post-medieval and modern	11
4 Degree of Survival	12
4.1 General	12
4.2 Rating	12
5 Discussion and Conclusions	13
5.1 General	13
5.2 Impact on Heritage Assets	13
Appendix A. Bibliography	14
Appendix B. OASIS Report Form	15



List of Figures

Figure 2 Map showing proposed development area (red), from data supplied by client

Figure 3 Result of HER search showing distribution of monument records

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Summary

In August 2014 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) were commissioned by AAH Planning Consultants to undertake a desk-based assessment for an area of land East of Fambridge road, Canewdon. The aim of this report is to assess the presence, nature and extent of any heritage assets likely to be affected by the proposed site development.

The site comprises an area of former agricultural land enclosed by ditches. The current proposal is for a solar farm development on the site.

Cartographic sources were only available from the early 19th century onwards in digital form, which indicate that the site has not been occupied or developed in any way since that time. Although the late 19th century maps depict small boundary changes following enclosure with two east to west ditches, no significant change in land use or development is in evidence.

A study of Essex's Historic Environment Record, which considers the distribution of known finds, listed buildings and archaeological investigations, indicates that no archaeological interventions have taken place within a 500m radius of the site. Investigations further afield have revealed remains from the Roman period. The presence of a possible Red Hill deposit site and associated saltern is of interest, however this is located 500m to the West of the development area. The proximity to the tidal river Crouch (to the North) is also of note as the area may have been utilised for salt production and other activities associated with this environment.

This assessment of the distribution of EHER records, cartographic evidence and historic background in the vicinity of the site indicates that it has a low potential for the survival of archaeological remains. However, the lack of previous investigations in close proximity means that the survival of archaeological remains within the development site cannot be ruled out.



1 Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East were commissioned by Kevin Robinson of AAH Planning Consultants to carry out this desk-based assessment prior to the submission of a planning application for a proposed Solar Farm development on the site.
- 1.1.2 The site lies to the west of Canewdon which developed during the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods and east of a Red Hill monument recorded on the EHER (HER.19926). The site also lies close to Ashingdon, the historic settlement of Ashingdon was very small until the 1930s and is the possible site of the battle of Assendune in 1020 (HER. 19959). The client has therefore requested that this desk-based assessment be submitted along with the planning application for the site.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area, hereafter referred to as "the site" or "development area" is located in the western part of Canewdon on the East side of Fambridge Road (TQ 86817 94695) (Figure 1). To the North of the site lies the tidal River Crouch with associated flood plain deposits. The site itself is an irregular rectangle in plan, set back one field West of Fambridge Road and accessed via a track from the road (included in the development area depicted on Figure 2).
- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology is primarily of the London Clay Formation compromising Clay, Silt and Sand. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period, with the local environment previously being dominated by deep seas.
- 1.2.3 The superficial deposits comprise Tidal Flat Deposits including Clay And Silt. The superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The local environment was previously dominated by shorelines (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk).

1.3 Acknowledgements

1.3.1 OA East would like to thank Kevin Robinson of AAH Planning Consultants for commissioning this desk-based assessment. Research, collation of material and photography was undertaken by the author. Thanks to Charlotte Davies for creating the figures and to the staff at Essex Records Office and Historic Environment Record for their assistance in collecting the data.



2 Archaeological and Historical Background and Sources

2.1 Historical Background

Village Development at Canewdon

- 2.1.1 The village of Canewdon lies 3km east of the site (TQ 899 945). It is reported on the EHER as a historic settlement (HER. 19926) the information below is taken from the EHER.
- 2.1.2 Canewdon means 'The hill of Cana's people' in Old English and is evidence for a Saxon settlement, presumably founded, or at some stage led, by Cana. The Domesday Book records Canewdon at the very end of the Saxon period in 1066 when it belonged to Swein of Essex, the principal land-holder of the Rochford area. At that date there was a total 28 households in Canewdon, 12 plough-teams and the pasture for 600 sheep (although only 336 sheep were kept). The location of the settlement is unproven, but comparison with other sites would suggest that a number of households would have been clustered close to the church (EHCR 13599-601; TQ89669454) and hall (EHCR 14990; TQ89709461) with the remainder scattered throughout the parish in individual farms and cottages. There were also a further 18 households, 2½ plough-teams and the pasture for 160 sheep (though 205 were kept) within the four manors that made up Pudsey. Pudsey is also an Old English name, meaning Pud or Puda's landing-place. It is probable that the four later medieval manors of Pudsey Hall (TQ88099514), Apton Hall (TQ88839289), Scotts (TQ89559317) and Lambourn Hall (TQ91259423) mark the location of the four Early Medieval manors. The sheep pasturage recorded would have been on the extensive salt-marsh, the high number of plough-teams and low number of pigs and cattle recorded would suggest that the remainder of the land was largely under tillage.

Village Development at Ashingdon

- 2.1.3 The village of Ashingdon lies 2km south of the site (TQ 858 941). It is reported on the EHER as a historic settlement (HER. 19959) the information below is taken from the EHER. As well as the small settlement it is the possible location of the battle of Assendune in 1020.
- 2.1.4 The Domesday Book records Ashingdon at the end of the early medieval period. It is clear that it was a tiny settlement comprising two households, one of Robert the landholder and the second of a smallholder and the pasture for 40 sheep, probably on the South Fambridge marshes. It is probable, on the basis of comparison with other small settlements, that Robert's holding was on the site of the later Ashingdon Hall (EHCR 34914; TQ86419346).

The settlement of Ashingdon in the medieval period remained very small, with only two households in 1086, one of which was that of the new landholder Roger. By 1777 this had increased to six dwellings, and it is not thought that the later medieval population of Ashingdon much exceeded this. These included the farms of Chamberlaynes, which was associated with Richard le Chamberleyn in 1326 and Moons, associated with John le Mone in 1327 (Reaney 1935). The farm of Rouncefall, was known as Runcyvall in 1579, it may have been a possession of the Hospital of Our Lady of Rouncevale, Charing Cross (1291) or alternatively be associated with a Geoffrey de Runceual who was linked with Ashingdon and Hawkwell in 1254 (Reaney 1935).

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The 1777 Chapman and André map shows Ashingdon as consisting of six dwellings, one beside the church, Ashingdon Hall and two properties sited next to it, and the isolated farms of Rouncefall, Chamberlaynes and Moons. There was only sporadic small scale development over the following century, most notably with the construction of the school on the old glebe lands in the north of the parish and the erection of a number of cottages adjoining Ashingdon Hall.

2.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Archaeological Investigations

- 2.2.1 A search of the county's Historic Environment Record (HER) was carried out over a 1km radius of the site.
- 2.2.2 The HER is a computerised database of all listed and other historic buildings and all known archaeological sites, historic parks and gardens and other historic landscape features in the county, plotted onto linked digital mapping and often supplemented by photographs, drawings and written accounts. The search was carried out by a member of Essex's Historic Environment team and all records falling within a 1km radius of the site were provided in descriptive form with corresponding datasets supplied as shapefiles to provide the exact geographic location of each record (Figures 2 and 3).
- 2.2.3 The results of the search are provided below, by period.

Prehistoric

- 2.2.4 Areas of the old prehistoric land surface, which pre-date the Neolithic transgression of the sea, are still visible in the sides of the creek banks of the South Fambridge marshes. There is at present no prehistoric remains from the area of the historic settlement, although this maybe simply a reflection of the lack of archaeological fieldwork in the area (Medlycott, M, 2003).
- 2.2.5 Mesolithic and neolithic finds including flint axe hoards have been found in the area mostly towards Canewdon which lies over 1km away to the East.

Iron Age and Roman Red Hills and Salterns

- 2.2.6 Two Red Hill/ Saltern sites are shown on the EHER data, the first lies 500m west of the site at East of Rectory Farm (TQ 863 948), the second lies near to South Fambridge Hall 1.12km to the North West.
- 2.2.7 The Red Hill/ Saltern at 'East of Rectory Farm' (SMR Ref. 13481) is described as a Red Hill with "possible later use" and is most likely representative of salt production during the late Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 2.2.8 The Red Hill/ Saltern at 'near to South Fambridge Hall' (EHER. 13534) is described as "Red hills north of Fambridge about 0.5 miles north of the church. Nothing visible on aerial photographs" and is most likely representative of salt production during the late Iron Age and Roman periods.
- 2.2.9 Red hills appear in Essex predominately associated with salt-making activities and generally are formed from layers of burnt red silts and clays with associated clay-lined pans and evaporating areas. One excavated example being at Stamford wharf showing the curious nature of these sites, "it might be regarded as curious that red hills, the residue of salt making, appear to be a particularly distinctive feature of Iron Age and Roman salt making in Essex" (Biddulph et al, 2012).



2.2.10 Roman material is also noted to be incorporated into the early medieval construction of the Church of St Andrew located 1km to the south (EHER. 13610) located on the edge of Ashington (TQ 8659 9359). This may point to a substantial Roman building in the area.

Saxon

2.2.11 The only evidence for Saxon activity is from the Church of St Andrew located 1km to the south (EHER. 13610) (TQ 8659 9359) where local tradition holds that Ashingdon church owes its origins as a Minster erected by King Canute to commemorate the dead of the Battle of Assendune in 1020. A Saxon silver penny of King Canute was found in the churchyard in 1928

Medieval and Post-medieval

- 2.2.12 The Parish church All Saints located 690m North East of the site was rebuilt in 1846. It is described as 'just a chapel' Nave and chancel only made from Yellow brick with lancets, Bellcote built in 1846 (HER. 13551).
- 2.2.13 The Church of St Andrew is located 1km to the south (TQ 8659 9359) of the development area. The church has Walls of ragstone and flint-rubble with septaria, Roman and 16th century brick. The dressings are in various limestones and brick and the roofs are tiled. This is a medieval example with later post medieval alterations in the 18th and 19th century (EHER. 13610).
- 2.2.14 At the Old Parsonage, north of Ashingdon (TQ 861 948) which lies 650m to the west medieval (14th to 15th century in date) and Post-medieval pottery was found on the site of the old parsonage. Finds also included brick, tile and clay pipes. A large amount of tile and brick reported by Mr J Squier to Southend Museum lying in field S of S Fambridge church. Investigation by South East Essex Archaeological Society showed these to be the surface remains of a parsonage erected in the later 17th century. Medieval pottery indicates an earlier building on the site. There were six sherds of medieval date, one glazed, the rest unglazed (HER. 13545).
 - At the same location post-medieval pottery (17th and 19th century) was found along with brick, tile and clay pipes. The finds are the surface remains of the parsonage erected in the 17th century and demolished in about 1870. The earliest documentary is of 1610, when it was stated that there was a parsonage with a kitchen, barn and that there was also a church house (probably built near the church) (HER. 13546).
- 2.2.15 Ridge and furrow was present to the north of the church and North West of the development area. These are a rare survival in Essex, unfortunately the majority of this area is now under the plough and it is unlikely that these traces will survive much longer.

Modern

- 2.2.16 The course of a former sea wall appearing as an earthwork on early vertical photography lies North of the site close to the river Crouch.
- 2.2.17 To the east of the site aprroximatly 1.14km away at the end of a track North of Lark Hill Road, Canewdon, are the surviving huts and structures of a WWII military camp. The site, located in lonely isolation in a small copse of trees, is known as Camp Farm. A 1954 O.S. map shows that originally the camp consisted of c.28 huts although many of them were linked to their neighbours to form complexes rather than individual buildings. Just seven now survive. A series of other WWII structures are noted around the area including pill boxes and flood lights but all are over 1km away from the site.



2.2.18 Two modern ditches seen on the 1873-1874 maps which no longer exist in the current field layout run roughly east to west and divide the development area into three smaller fields.

2.3 Listed Buildings

2.3.1 No listed building are present within 1km of the development area.

2.4 Aerial Photographic Surveys, Cropmarks and Earthworks

2.4.1 No new aerial photographic assessments or geophysical surveys were carried out for this desk-based assessment.

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3 Deposit Mapping

3.1 General

3.1.1 This section aims to broadly predict the existence of archaeological remains within the development area based on the mapping of the distribution of all known historic assets outlined in the previous sections.

3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 There is very little evidence of prehistoric activity close to the site.
- 3.2.2 There is therefore a low probability of encountering Prehistoric remains within the development site other than perhaps stray finds, however, as there have been no archaeological investigations close by, this cannot be entirely ruled out, especially within close proximity of the river Crouch.

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

- 3.3.1 The most reliable evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity derives from the presence of the Red Hill sites to the east and north of the site.
- 3.3.2 There is therefore a moderate probability of encountering Iron Age or Roman remains within the development site associated with the Red Hill deposits. However, as there have been no archaeological investigations within close proximity it is hard to fully ascertain the possibility of features relating to Red Hill deposits and salt making.

3.4 Saxon

- 3.4.1 There is little evidence of Saxon activity close to the site.
- 3.4.2 As a result there is a low probability of encountering Saxon remains within the development site. However, as there have been no archaeological investigations within close proximity, this cannot be entirely ruled out.

3.5 Medieval

- 3.5.1 Other than the pottery sherds from the old parsonage and the settlements of Ashingdon and Canewdon located over 1km away, there is surprisingly limited archaeological evidence of medieval activity within the search area.
- 3.5.2 There is a low probability of encountering medieval remains within the development site, with a slim chance of ridge and furrow being present. However, as there have been no archaeological investigations within close proximity, this cannot be entirely ruled out.

3.6 Post-medieval and modern

3.6.1 Due to the location near to the east coast and the recorded military camp to the east there is low to moderate probability of encountering modern remains within the development site associated with WWII activity. There is also a high possibility of finding the two modern in-filled ditches that can be seen from the 1873-1874 map.



4 Degree of Survival

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 This section broadly assesses the degree of likely survival of any archaeological remains within the site. It has not been possible to provide a detailed predictive deposit model as there have been (on present knowledge) no site investigation reports and there are no recorded finds from the site, therefore the following is intended as a guide only.
- 4.1.2 The site's prior use, as primarily agricultural/pasture land, indicates that the depth of deposits should not be greater than average. No buildings are known to have existed within the site from the mid 19th century until the mid 20th century. It is also unlikely that there were many buildings present within the development area during the medieval period, given its location outside the medieval core of the village.

4.2 Rating

4.2.1 Based on the distribution of known finds and other heritage assets and their likely degree of survival within the site, a broad rating for each period can be summarised as follows.

Period	Distribution	Survival
Prehistoric	Low	Good/Unknown
Iron Age/Roman	Moderate	Good/Unknown
Saxon	Low	Good/Unknown
Medieval	Low	Good/Unknown
Post-medieval	Low	Good/Unknown
Modern	Low-moderate	Good/Unknown

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5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The objective of this desk-based assessment was to assess the archaeological potential of the development site by drawing together all known documentary and archaeological evidence from the surrounding area.
- 5.1.2 Preservation of archaeological deposits on the site is dependent on any ploughing or farming techniques used on the site in the past.
- 5.1.3 There is a low probability of encountering prehistoric deposits. If they are present they are most likely to be finds scatters.
- 5.1.4 There is a moderate probability of encountering Late Iron Age and Roman remains given the proximity of the site to known Red Hill deposits less than 500m away.
- 5.1.5 There is a low probability of encountering Saxon deposits.
- 5.1.6 The most likely features to be encountered are medieval and post-medieval field boundaries.

5.2 Impact on Heritage Assets

5.2.1 Any below ground works necessary as part of the redevelopment of the site are likely to affect any archaeological features which may be present within the site. The greatest impact is likely to be from site preparation/landscaping.

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APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Medlycott, Maria, 2003, Ashingdon, Historic Settlement Assessment Report, Norfolk County Council

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APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Detail	S					
OASIS Number						
Project Name						
Project Dates (fie	eldwork) Start		Finish			
Previous Work (b	y OA East)		Future Work			
Project Reference	e Codes					
Site Code	Planning App. No.					
HER No.		Rela	ated HER/OASIS No.			
Type of Project/ T Prompt	Fechniques Use	d				
Development Typ	e					
Please select a	all techniques	used:				
DBA	•					
Aerial Photograph	y - interpretation		☐ Documentary Search			
Aerial Photograph	ıy - new		☐ Visual Inspection (Site Visit)			
Monument Types List feature types features were for	using the NMR		e Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no			
Monument			Period			
Project Locat	ion					
County			Site Address (including postcode if possible)			
District						
Parish						
ЦΕВ						
HER						



Project Origir	nators							
Organisation								
Project Brief Orig	jinator							
Project Design O	riginator							
Project Manager								
Supervisor								
Project Archi	ves							
Physical Archive			Digital A	rchive		Paper Archive		
Archive Conten	ts/Media	1						
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents		Digital Me	dia	Paper Media	
Animal Bones					☐ Database	Aeria	al Photos	
Ceramics					GIS		ext Sheet	
Environmental					☐ Geophysic	cs Corre	espondence	
Glass					☐ Images	☐ Diary	- /	
Human Bones					☐ Illustration	s 🔲 Draw	ving	
Industrial					☐ Moving Im	nage 🔲 Mani	uscript	
Leather					Spreadshe	eets	•	
Metal					Survey	☐ Matri	ices	
Stratigraphic					☐ Text	☐ Micro	ofilm	
Survey					☐ Virtual Rea	ality Misc		
Textiles						Rese	earch/Notes	
Wood						☐ Phote	os	
Worked Bone						Plans	S	
Worked Stone/Lithic						Repo	ort	
None						Secti		
Other						Surv	ey L	
Notes:								

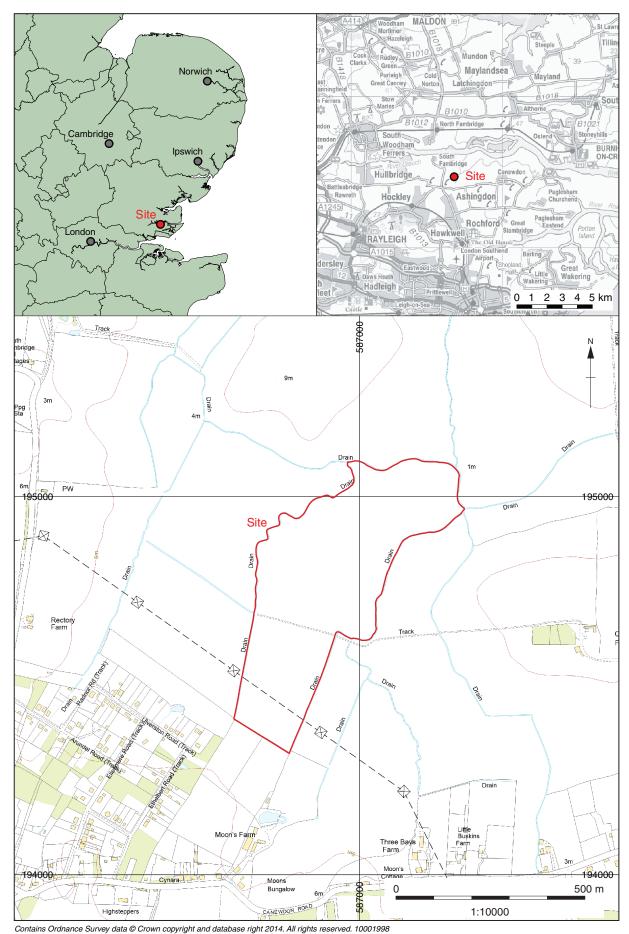
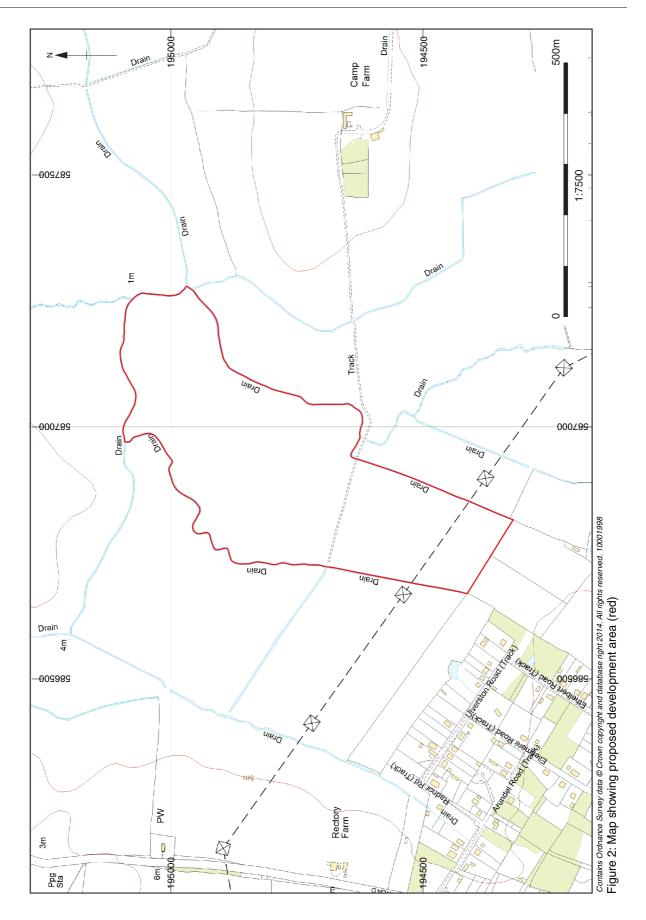


Figure 1: Site location







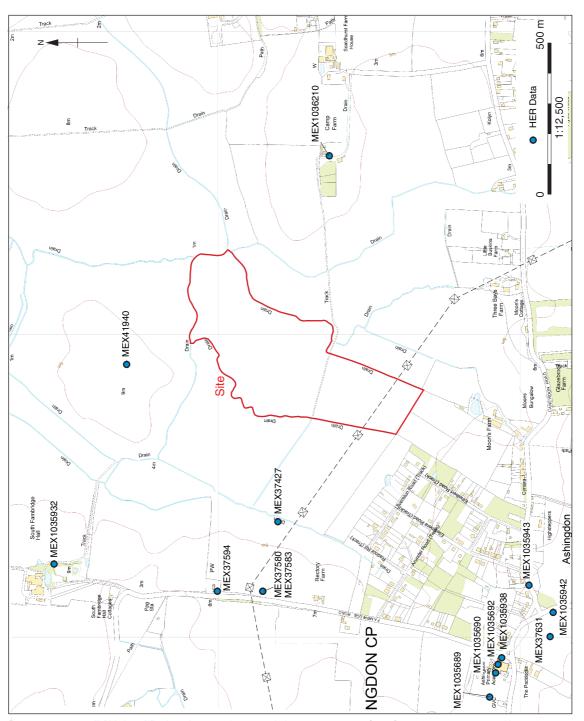


Figure 3: Result of HER search showing distribution of monument records

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