

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
AT  
BRIERLEY, LEOMINSTER,  
HEREFORDSHIRE



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## **Desk-based assessment of Brierley Reservoir, Leominster, Herefordshire**

Andrew Mann

### **Summary**

A desk-based assessment was undertaken at Brierley, Leominster, Herefordshire on behalf of Agri Management Solutions Ltd, who intends to construct a reservoir on the site for which a planning application has yet to be submitted (centred on NGR SO 491 566).

This report describes and assesses the significance of the heritage assets (and potential heritage assets) that are potentially affected by the application. The setting of heritage assets is considered. The potential impact of the application, and the need for further on-site evaluation, is assessed.

The development is considered likely to impact on potentially significant Iron Age and Roman settlement remains and Holocene palaeoenvironmental deposits relating to the complex geomorphological history of the River Arrow and Little Arrow. The development is unlikely to affect the setting of the surrounding heritage assets as it will be screened from the surrounding landscape by tree planting. Where the development may be visible it is thought not to be significant.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken at Brierley, Leominster, Herefordshire (NGR SO 491 566) (Fig 1). It was undertaken on behalf of Agri Management Solutions Ltd, who intends to construct a reservoir on the site for which a planning application has yet to be submitted.

The proposed development site is considered have the potential to include heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. The settings of the nearby Ivington Camp hillfort, a scheduled monument (SAM no 21624, MHE408/905) and many listed buildings may also be affected by the development.

The project conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2012).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IfA 2008) and *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire: issue 1* (Herefordshire Archaeology 2004).

The event reference for this desk-based assessment given by Herefordshire HER is EHE2042.

#### 1.2 Planning background

Present government planning policy is contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This is supplemented by detailed guidance which had related to earlier government policy but which is at least partially still relevant to the present policy (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010).

### 2 Aims

The general aims of this assessment are to:

- establish the nature and extent of the heritage assets;
- assesses the significance of the heritage assets within the application site and affected by the proposed development;
- assess the impact of the application on the heritage assets.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Andrew Mann (MA); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2004 and has been practicing archaeology since 2001. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (MA AlfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

All relevant information of the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Herefordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Historic maps, published sources and archives were consulted at Herefordshire Archives Service and Herefordshire HER. A comprehensive desk based assessment previously undertaken of an adjacent site in 2004 was also consulted and provides a good summary of the medieval and post-medieval development of the surrounding landscape (Border Archaeology 2004).

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The results of the HER search are mapped on Figure 2 and the relevant historic maps are reproduced in Figures 3-8. The details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1. Event records have been omitted where this would repeat information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment. HER references have been used throughout this assessment.

### 3.3 List of sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- Map of Leominster (1831) 2 inch to 1 mile, Lieut. R Dawson (W14/1)
- Plan of Brierley Estate (1837) (E40/17)
- Tithe plan of Leominster (1850)
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map (1891) (Herefordshire 19 NE)
- OS 25 inch map (1904) (Herefordshire 19.7)
- OS 6 inch map (1952) (Herefordshire 19 NE)
- Map of Hereford (1817) Henry Price
- Map of Herefordshire 1.5 inch to 1 mile (1835) Bryant

#### *Aerial photographs*

- Herefordshire HER CM\_00-MB-0232
- Herefordshire HER CM\_00-MB-0276
- Herefordshire HER CM\_00-MB-0608

#### *Documentary sources*

- Border Archaeology, 2004 *Desk-Based assessment Brierley Court Farm, Brierley, Leominster, Herefordshire*, unpublished report **BA0407SAPBR**
- Brown, D, L, 1990 The Romano-British settlement at Blackwardine, *Transactions of the Woolhope naturalist field Club*, **No 46**
- Dalwood, H, Pearson, E and Ratkai, S, 1997 *Salvage recording at Ivington Camp, Leominster*, HWCCAS unpublished internal report **No 570**
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*, Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage
- Dorling, P, 2007 *The Lugg Valley, Herefordshire: Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation*, **Herefordshire Studies in Archaeology 4**, Orphans Press, Leominster
- English Heritage 2011 *The setting of heritage assets*, English Heritage
- Herefordshire Archaeology 2004 *Standards for archaeological projects in Herefordshire: issue 1*, Herefordshire Council Planning Services, document dated 27 August 2004
- IfA 2008 *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Thorn, F, and Thorn, C, 1983 *Domesday Book - Herefordshire*, Chichester

- WA 2012 *Proposal for an desk-based assessment of the proposed reservoir, Brierley Court, Brierley, Leominster, Herefordshire, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 12 July 2012, P3904*
- White, P, 2003 *The Arrow Valley, Herefordshire: Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation, **Herefordshire Studies in Archaeology 2**, Orphans Press, Leominster*

### 3.4 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 26 September 2012 under very wet conditions, while significant areas of the site were flooded.

Consultation was undertaken with Julian Cotton (Herefordshire Archaeology) on the 25 September 2012 to establish the key issues of importance in decision-making in response to the planning application.

### 3.5 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used.

<p><b>Major Beneficial:</b> Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset of the highest order (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. Designated assets will include scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value). It may also be in better revealing a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area's significance.</p>
<p><b>Beneficial:</b> Demonstrable improvement to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of improvement will demonstrably have a minor affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).</p>
<p><b>Not Significant:</b> Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
<p><b>Minor Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect on the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>



<p><b>Moderate Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Major Adverse:</b> Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or harm to a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p> <p>Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm or loss will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p>
<p><b>Severe Adverse:</b> Substantial harm to, or loss of, a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks, World Heritage Sites or the loss of a building or other element that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Unknown:</b> Where there is insufficient information to determine either significance or impact for any heritage asset, or where a heritage asset is likely to exist but this has not been established, or where there is insufficient evidence for the absence of a heritage asset. For instance where further information will enable the planning authority to make an informed decision.</p>

*Table 1: Impact assessment criteria for heritage asset*

## 4 The application site

### 4.1 Location and size

The study area included the application site (Fig 1), though heritage assets were considered within 1km of the site in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context (Fig 2). Significant heritage assets outside of the 1km search area were also considered.

## **4.2 Topography, geology and soils**

The site consists of five large fields in the township of Brierley, in the parish of Leominster Out, approximately 5km south of Leominster. The site's northern edge runs up to the Little Arrow, while its southern limit is a road. The site lies in the eastern end of the Arrow Valley, at the confluence of the Little Arrow and the Arrow. The site is relatively flat and lies at approximately 68m AOD, although there is a gentle slope to the north. Between the southern field and the four northern fields the terrace edge can clearly be seen running east to west. At this point there is an approximate 2m drop to the north onto the floodplain at approximately 66m AOD (Plates 1 and 2).

The underlying soils are of the Escrick 1 association that are comprised of deep, well drained loamy soils that are prone to seasonal waterlogging. The northern corridor of fields, abutting the Little Arrow, overlays Holocene alluvium deposited from the Arrow and Little Arrow. The underlying solid geology is of lower Old Red Sandstone. The southern field lies on the upper terrace of the River Arrow.

## **4.3 Current land-use**

The majority of the site, which runs next to the Little Arrow, is currently under a modern tree plantation and scrub (Plates 1-5). The larger south field is currently used to grow potatoes (Plate 6).

## **4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character**

The site falls in the Central Herefordshire Character Area, and has been classified as an adaptive landscape, where the current pattern of enclosure has a definable origin, such as an earlier open field system. This can be observed in the current layout despite later realignment of boundaries (White 2003). Using map regression it can be seen that Brierley was surrounded by open common arable fields until it was enclosed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1837 Brierley estate map shows a large number of strip field boundaries still existed although these were largely removed before the drawing of the 1850 tithe map (except in fields 1003-1007; Figs 4 and 5). The lack of any strip fields next to the Little Arrow on the 1837 Estate map suggest that the flood plain had probably always been used as pasture with the arable cultivation, in strip fields existing on the higher terraces.

# **5 Heritage assets**

## **5.1 Designated heritage assets**

### *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

There are no scheduled monuments within 1km of the site. Ivington Camp hillfort (MHE 408/905, SAM 21624) is located 1.7km to the south-west (Plates 5, 7 and 8). This is a large (c 24 acre) multivallate enclosure situated on the south-western end of a wooded ridge aligned north-east to south-west, at an approximate height of 171m AOD. This enclosure is thought to date to the 6<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>h</sup> centuries BC and was later remodelled to incorporate elaborate east and south-east approaches, probably in the 4<sup>h</sup> century AD.

Although no excavations have taken place at the fort a small watching brief undertaken in 1996 on a pipe trench (Dalwood *et al* 1997, HWCM 24085), yielded numerous Iron Age features and finds including significant quantities of Malvernian wares of the Middle to Late Iron Age. A small amount of Roman material found during the watching brief also suggested the presence of a settlement locally during the Roman period. In 1900 twenty graves, of possible Iron Age date were discovered in a limestone quarry to the northern corner of the hill fort.

### *Listed buildings*

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There are eleven listed buildings within 1km of the site, all of which are grade 2 listing. The majority of these (five) are associated with Brierley Court Farm which includes two barns (DHE 5565 and 5566), a farmhouse with attached hop kiln (DHE 5564) and a granary (DHE 5568). This forms part of a historic farm (MHE 21072) recorded within the Herefordshire Historic Farmsteads Characterisation Project. Brierley contains four other listed buildings, including Brickhouse Farm and barn (DHE 5562 and 5563 forming MHE 21073), cottages and stock barn (DHE 5561) and a 16<sup>th</sup> century cottage (DHE 5571). Although the latter is of 16<sup>th</sup> century date the majority of the listed buildings within Brierley are of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Broadward to the north-east of the site contains Broadward Hall (DHE 5569) a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brick built house and Broadward Lodge farmhouse (DHE 5570) a 17<sup>th</sup> century painted brick building. These are also associated with a 17<sup>th</sup> century pigeon house, which is currently not listed (MHE 1921).

#### *Parks, Battlefields and Wrecks*

There are no designated parks, battlefields or known wreck sites in 1km of the development site.

## **5.2 Undesignated heritage assets**

### *Prehistoric*

Prehistoric flints have been located in three locations around the southern half of the site during field walking in 1983 (MHE 4171/9239, 4301/9389 and 4308/9399). These are potentially of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Neolithic settlement activity may also have occurred on the hilltop subsequently occupied by Ivington Camp, as two stone axes were discovered there in 1764 (Dalwood *et al* 1997).

### *Bronze Age*

Other than the possible flint find spots mentioned above, possible Bronze Age activity has been identified approximately 1km to the north on the northern edge of the River Arrow floodplain. Here three ring ditches and linear features have been identified in an aerial photograph and are believed to be Bronze Age in date (MHE 13601/31805). To the north-east a hoard containing four Middle-Late Bronze Age spear heads was also found at Broadward (MHE 1047/2559).

### *Iron Age*

Part of an Iron Age settlement, immediately south of the development site was excavated in 2004 (Border Archaeology 2004; EHE 1891/MHE 17218/42834). The excavation contained a penannular ditch and numerous light industrial features, such as grain driers. No habitation structures were identified and it is believed this area may represent a small part of a large rural settlement.

As pottery remains appeared to be greater to the west of the excavated site and as an evaluation in 2010 undertaken immediately to the east of this site had negative results (EHE 2039/51593) it is thought the main settlement may lie to the west.

### *Roman*

Significant Roman features, including field boundaries and stone lined corn driers were excavated in 2004 immediately to the south of the site (Border Archaeology 2004; EHE 1291/42301). Significant amounts of Roman pottery and building material was also collected during the field walking undertaken in 1983 (EHE 1826/51964) to the south-east of the development site. The latter may represent a continuation of the settlement excavated in 2004 to the west.

### *Medieval*

There are two deserted medieval villages (DMVs) within the surrounding area. These included the deserted medieval village at Broadward (MHE 5241/12022), recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (MHE 8054/24355). The second is the deserted medieval village to the south and east of Brierley Court (MHE 10032/30290), also recorded in Domesday (MHE 8051/24351). The latter is visible in aerial photographs that show house platforms and associated field systems (Plate 9). Medieval ridge and furrow next to the deserted medieval village at Brierley (MHE 2947/7018) is also seen in aerial photographs. It is probable these represent the shrinking of the villages after the 'Black Death' plague of the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval water meadows between Ivington and Broadward (MHE 8723/26804) are also thought to be of medieval date, located on the floodplain between the River Arrow and Little Arrow.

### *Post-medieval*

There are a further three buildings that, although unlisted, are recorded on the HER. These include a farm outbuilding at Brickhouse Farm of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (MHE 1928/5218), 17<sup>h</sup> century cottages at Brierley (MHE 1929/5219, 1931/5221, 1932/5222) and a 17<sup>th</sup> century barn at Brierley Court (MHE 1930/5220). The other post-medieval HER entries include a quarry (MHE 11508/39690) and Broadward bridge (MHE 16916/41993) built in 1802.

### *Modern*

The only modern entries on the HER are the fish pools immediately to the east of the site (MHE 10915/31007).

### *Undated*

The only undated HER entry is a quarry (MHE 5941/18231) to north of site. There is however likely to be a road running in an east to west direction to Ivington through the southernmost field of the development site. This is visible on the 1831 and 1837 maps (Figs 3 and 4), but appears to have gone out of use by the time of the 1850 tithe plan (Fig 5). As the road does not appear to run to the east of the development site it may only be a farm track. This road is no longer visible other than towards the west by Ivington.

It is possible a palaeochannel is also preserved within the floodplain area as a broad roughly east to west aligned depression was seen during the site visit. Occasional undulations within the plantation may be of anthropogenic origin, however due to the undergrowth and flooding it was not possible to survey these features.

## **5.3 Potential heritage assets**

The majority of the site is located within the floodplain of the Little Arrow and River Arrow and is therefore unlikely to contain medieval or post-medieval settlement remains. There is nothing visible on any map, post 1831 and remains of this period within the floodplain are usually water management features or water meadows such as MHE 8723/26804 to the west. It is possible similar features may be identified within the development area although none were observed during the site visit.

The development area is likely to contain significant palaeoenvironmental remains, including a possible palaeochannel seen during the site visit. The complex geomorphological history and potential of the Arrow valley to produce such remains has previously been shown by White (2003). Studies to the immediate west of the site dated three palaeochannels to between 390 BC – 880 AD, suggesting the presence of an anastomosing river system (White 2003). Two channels planned in White's study appear to run into the development area and may have been seen during the site visit.

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Although it is thought that the core focus of the Iron Age and Roman settlement is likely to be to the west of the 2004 excavations (EHE 1291/42301), in the area of the 1983 field walking finds (EHE 1826/51964) the presence of similarly dated remains within the fields to the north cannot be ruled out. The presence of prehistoric remains may be more likely within the southernmost field, as this lies above the floodplain on Terrace 1. However prehistoric and Roman remains have been found sealed below alluvium within the Lugg Valley (Dorling 2007) so their presence and the presence of a buried archaeological landscape in the Arrow floodplain cannot be ruled out.

A road recorded on the cartographic sources is likely to run through the southernmost field. This may just be a farm track as it does not appear to run anywhere other than to Ivington. It no longer exists in the development area but can be seen in the fields beyond, towards Ivington. It is also possible that Bronze Age remains may exist within this field as they do at this level on the other side of the valley (MHE 13601/31805).

## **6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets**

### **6.1 Designated assets**

#### **6.1.1 Scheduled ancient monument**

By definition scheduled ancient monuments are of the greatest importance at a national level. Although the nearest, Ivington Camp is 1.7km to the south-west of the site there is potential its setting may be affected by the development. From the northern to eastern side of the development the views to the development site and beyond to Ivington Camp will be screened by the remaining plantations that will not be removed and by the ridge on which the hill fort sits. The development site cannot be easily seen when looking at the hill fort from the west and are completely obscured by the ridge when looking from the south.

The tree lines that will be planted surrounding the reservoirs should also provide a significant screen when looking from the southern side of the development site from the elevated position at Ivington Camp. These has previously been used to great effect at the fish ponds to the east of the development site are screened by scrub and trees and are not noticed until standing next to them.

#### **6.1.2 Historic buildings**

Grade 1 listed buildings are also of the greatest importance at a national level. The development is unlikely to detract from the importance of any of the surrounding listed buildings. Most lie at least 1km from the centre of the development and are screened from the development by the topography and the local vegetation. Where there is intervisibility between the buildings and the development site the tree planting around the reservoirs should provide a sufficient screen. Those properties at Broadward will definitely be screened by the remaining plantation to the north and east of the development site.

As the majority of the listed buildings are farm buildings they are inherently linked to their surrounding farmland setting. Their inhabitants would have not only been engaged in farming the surrounding landscape but would have been part of it creation and layout. Although the development plans to remove some of the fields, their layout and hedged boundaries will be preserved between the reservoirs. Although this may not be appreciated on the ground when looking at the cartographic sources and aerial photographs the historic layout and evolution of the field systems in the surrounding setting should still be evident.

### 6.1.3 Sites of archaeological interest

#### *Nature of the archaeological interest in the site*

The site has the potential to contain archaeological remains from the Neolithic through to the post-medieval period as significant remains from all periods have been located within the vicinity of the development site. It is also possible that significant Holocene palaeoenvironmental remains will be encountered within the floodplain of the Little Arrow and Arrow valleys.

The site is most likely to produce remains of Iron Age and Roman date as significant archaeological remains of those periods have been discovered immediately to the south and west of the site. These remains were indicative of peripheral settlement remains such as corn driers and field boundary ditches. It is thought the core settlement area lies to the north, south or west and given the significant quantities of pottery found to the west this is more likely. However the presence of such remains within the development area, specifically the southern field cannot be ruled out.

Although ridge and furrow has been identified to the south-west at Brierley none was observed during the site visit, and the majority of the site is unlikely to be suitable for arable farming as it is prone to flooding. It is possible ploughed out remains do exist within the southern field as this sits above the floodplain on Terrace 1, although none were identified within the evaluations and excavations to the south. The 1850 tithe plan also illustrates the change of use between the floodplain and terrace as the field names on the floodplain are indicative of pasture and meadows. While those field names on the terrace are more indicative of crops including Ryeland and Old Hopyard. These are likely to reflect ancient and established farming regimes.

#### *Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site*

The site has the potential to produce important archaeological remains of Iron Age and Roman date. These are not particularly rare locally as five Iron Age farmstead enclosures have been found within the Arrow Valley alone and two Roman Farmsteads have been found within 5km of the development site at Pembridge (White 2003) and Stoke Prior (Brown 1990). However the settlements at Brierley have the potential to provide information regarding the use of the hinterland surrounding a significant Iron Age hill fort during later prehistory and the Roman period.

The north of the site is also important as excavation there has the potential to find well preserved archaeological landscapes that may contain waterlogged organic material. There may also be evidence for medieval and post-medieval water management practices.

#### *Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site*

The remains within the southern field are not likely to be buried at any significant depth, approximately 0.40-0.50m below the current ground surface. Remains within the flood plain may however be buried by deep alluvial deposits, up to 3.00m deep (White 2003).

## 7 The impact of the development

The development has the potential to have a **Minor Adverse** impact on potentially significant buried archaeological remains and **No Significant** impact upon the settings of listed buildings and a scheduled monument. The impacts of the development upon the latter are likely not to be significant due to planting around the reservoirs that should provide a suitable screen to the intervisibility between the hill fort and the development site. This has previously been shown with the planting surrounding the fish ponds to the east of the development site that are screened by tree and scrub cover and are not noticeable until directly next to them.

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The natural topography and tree cover should also provide a significant screen to the intervisibility between the listed buildings and the development site, although this may be reduced from the upper floors of those buildings. The preservation of the field boundaries within the development site also provides the ability to establish the progression of the landscape in which these buildings were constructed and in which their inhabitants worked.

### 7.1 Impacts on sustainability

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131).

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141). Should the development proceed it provides a significant opportunity to further establish the development of the river valley and greater understand human-river interactions within the valley.

### 7.2 Residual impacts

The proposed development will have the following impacts on setting of heritage assets outside of the development area, the listed buildings and Ivington Camp.

English Heritage guidance on the setting of Heritage Assets (2011) defines setting as the surrounding in which an asset is experienced and that all heritage assets have a setting irrespective of the form in which they survive and whether they are designated or not. Elements of this setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the setting of an asset. These include

- **View:** the views to and from an asset will play an important role in how it is appreciated.
- **Environmental factors:** the noise, dust and vibration experienced while appreciating an asset.
- **Spatial associations:** the understanding of the historic relationship between historic assets.

Any changes to any of those elements of setting of a heritage asset will need to consider the implications for the public appreciation of the asset. Although the visibility of the heritage asset may be effected briefly during the construction of the reservoirs the tree planting surrounding them should provide a sufficient screen to their visibility as to make their impact not significant. The reservoirs will not produce any negative environmental factors and the retention of the field boundaries preserves the spatial association the listed building have with the historic field systems, whose origins from earlier open strip systems will still be observable.

## 8 Recommendations

The assessment has identified the high potential of the site to produce significant archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman date. The development site also has the potential to remove significant Holocene palaeoenvironmental remains. It is suggested that an evaluation is undertaken to establish whether the Iron Age/Roman settlement identified to the south extends into the development area and also the depth at to which it is preserved. The implementation of suitable evaluation of the site and subsequent mitigation would change the impact of the development to **Beneficial**.

As these remains are more likely to exist within the southernmost field it is important to establish their depth as this field is not being turned into a reservoir and it may be possible to mitigate the impacts of the development. This field will become a store/bund for the excavated material from the reservoirs to the north. Establishing the depth of any remains is important as it may be possible to preserve any archaeological remains in-situ, depending upon the development strategy and soil strip required/undertaken in that area.

The evaluation is also suggested for the northern fields/reservoir area to establish the depth of any significant palaeoenvironmental deposits.

## **9 Publication summary**

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*A desk-based assessment was undertaken at Brierley, Leominster, Herefordshire on behalf of Agri Management Solutions Ltd, who intends to construct a reservoir on the site for which a planning application has yet to be submitted (centred on NGR SO 491 566). The development is considered to be likely to impact upon potentially significant Iron Age and Roman settlement remains and Holocene palaeoenvironmental deposits relating to the complex geomorphological history of the River Arrow and Little Arrow.*

*The development is unlikely to affect the setting of the surrounding heritage assets as it will be screened from the surrounding landscape by tree planting. Where the development may be visible it is thought not to be significant.*

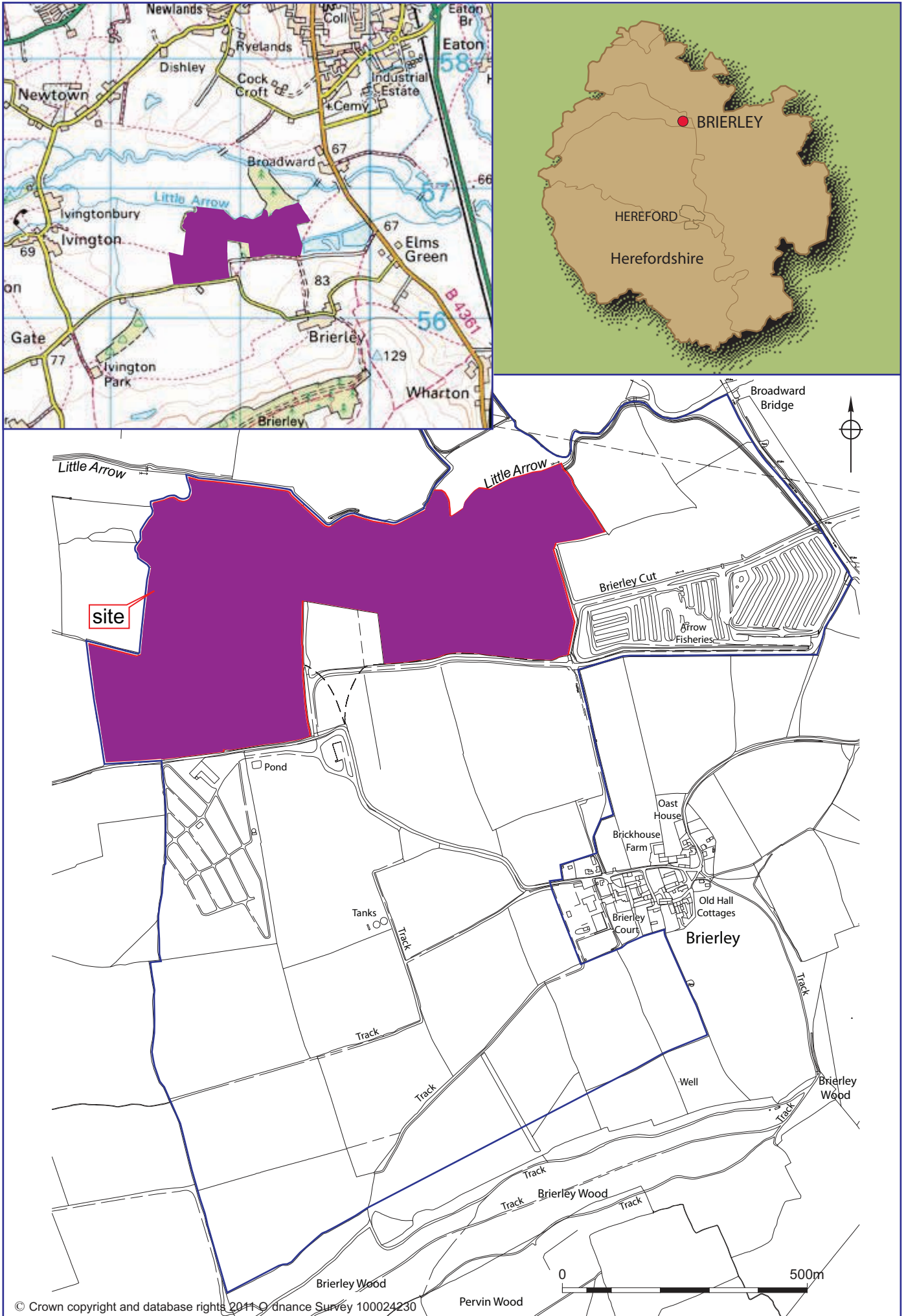
## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Peter Gwynne (Agri Management Solutions), Melissa Seddon and Julian Cotton (Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Council)



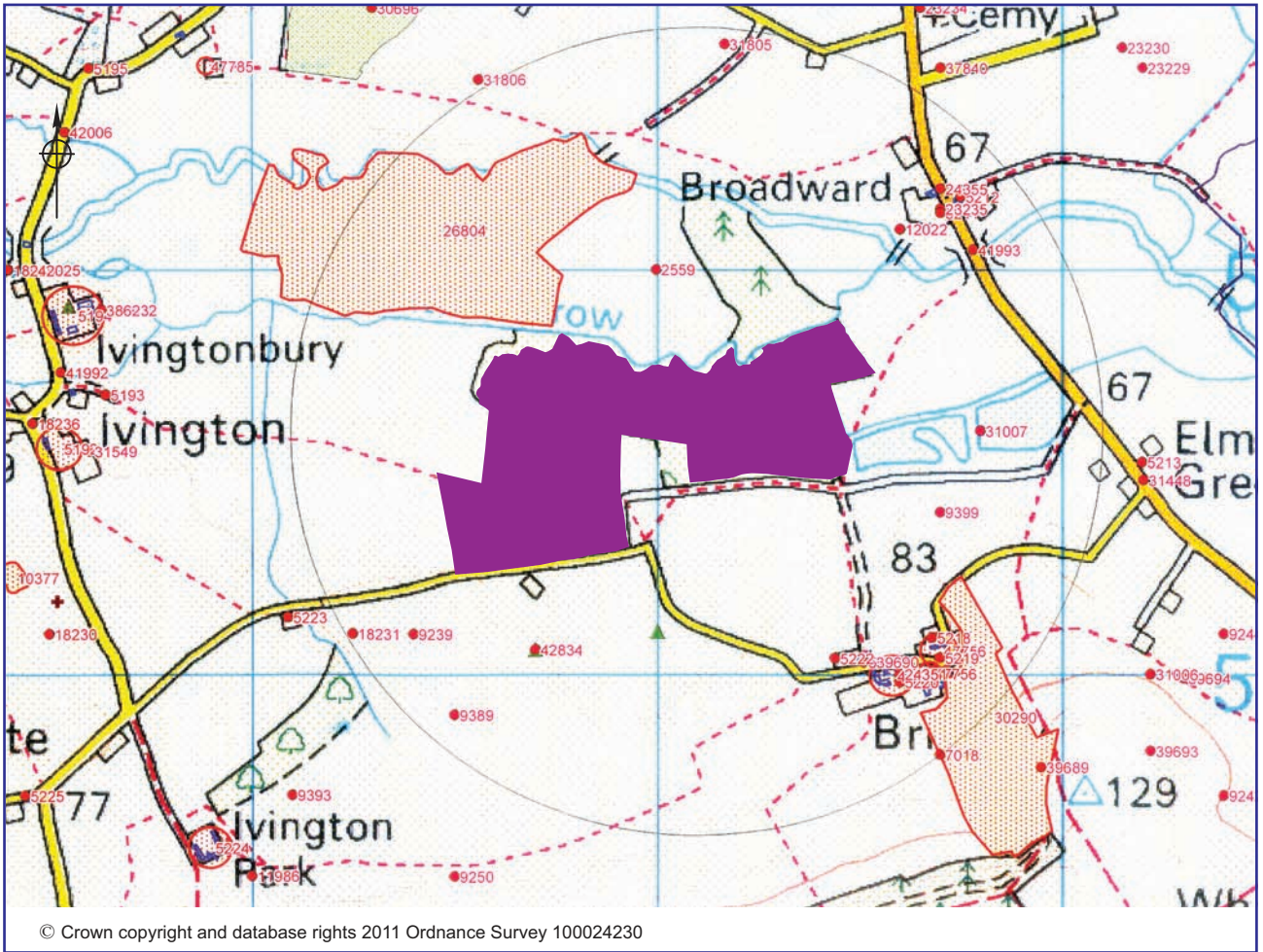
**Figures**





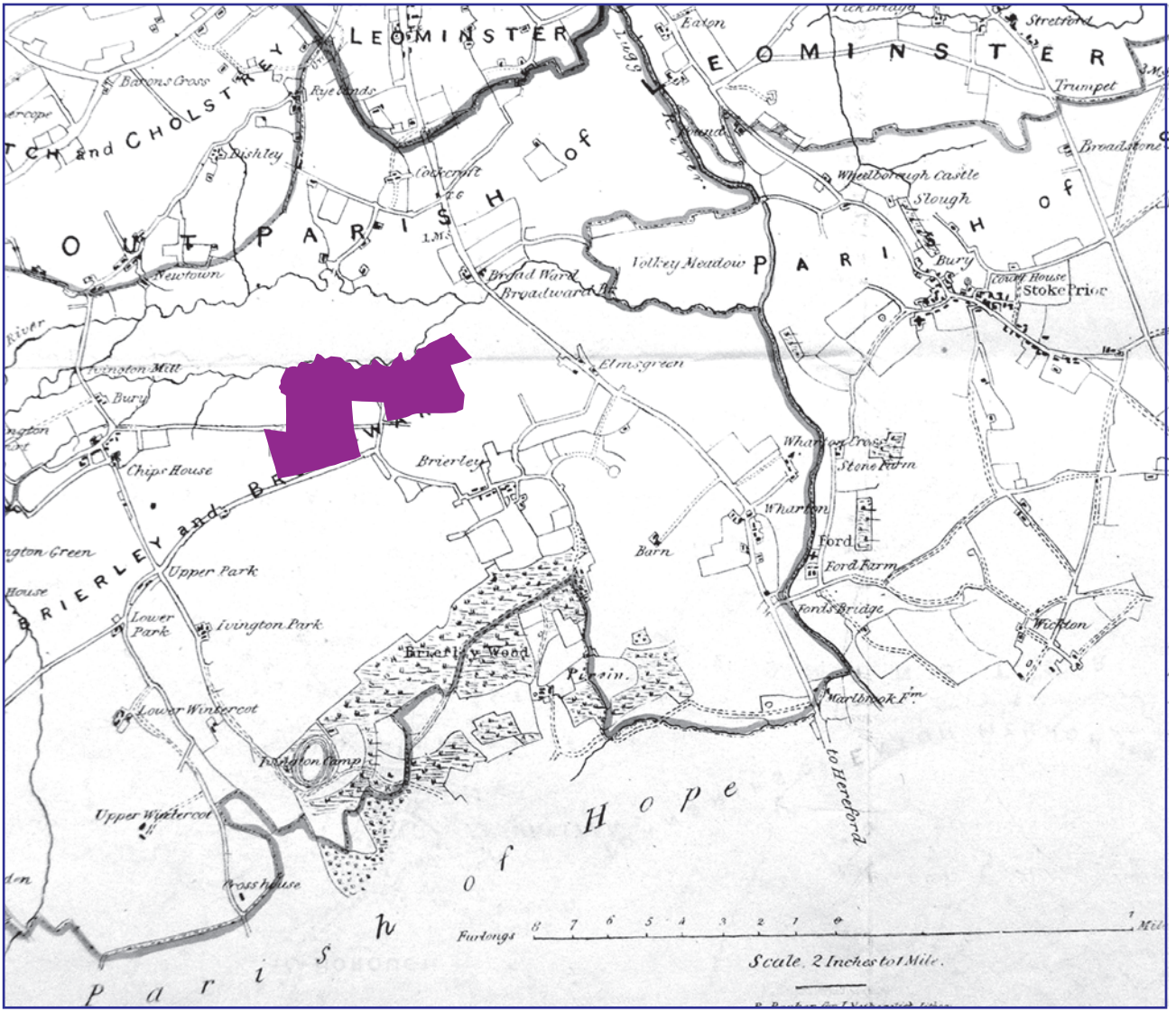
Location of the site

Figure 1



Sites recorded on the HER

Figure 2



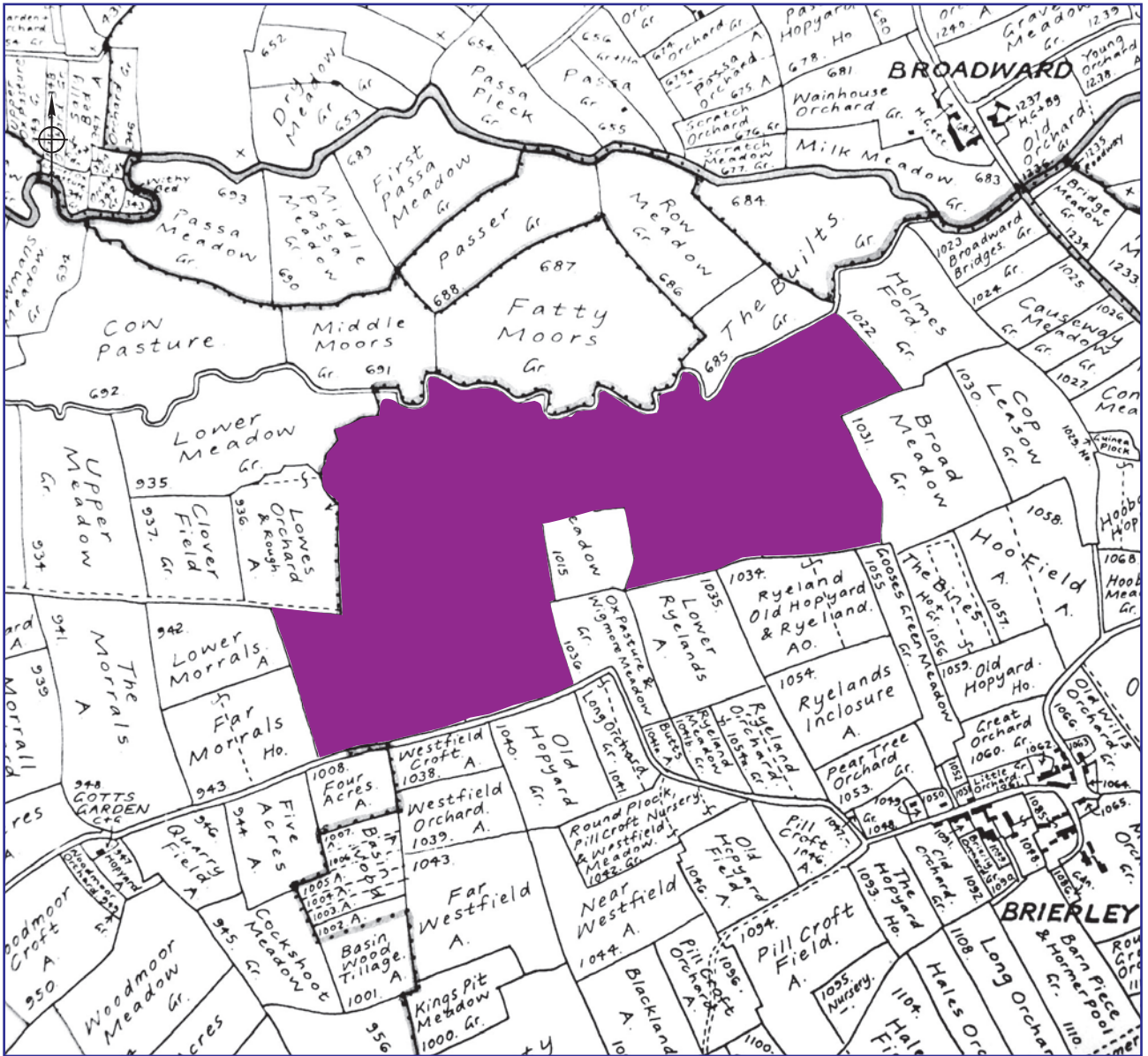
Extract from 1831 map of Leominster

Figure 3



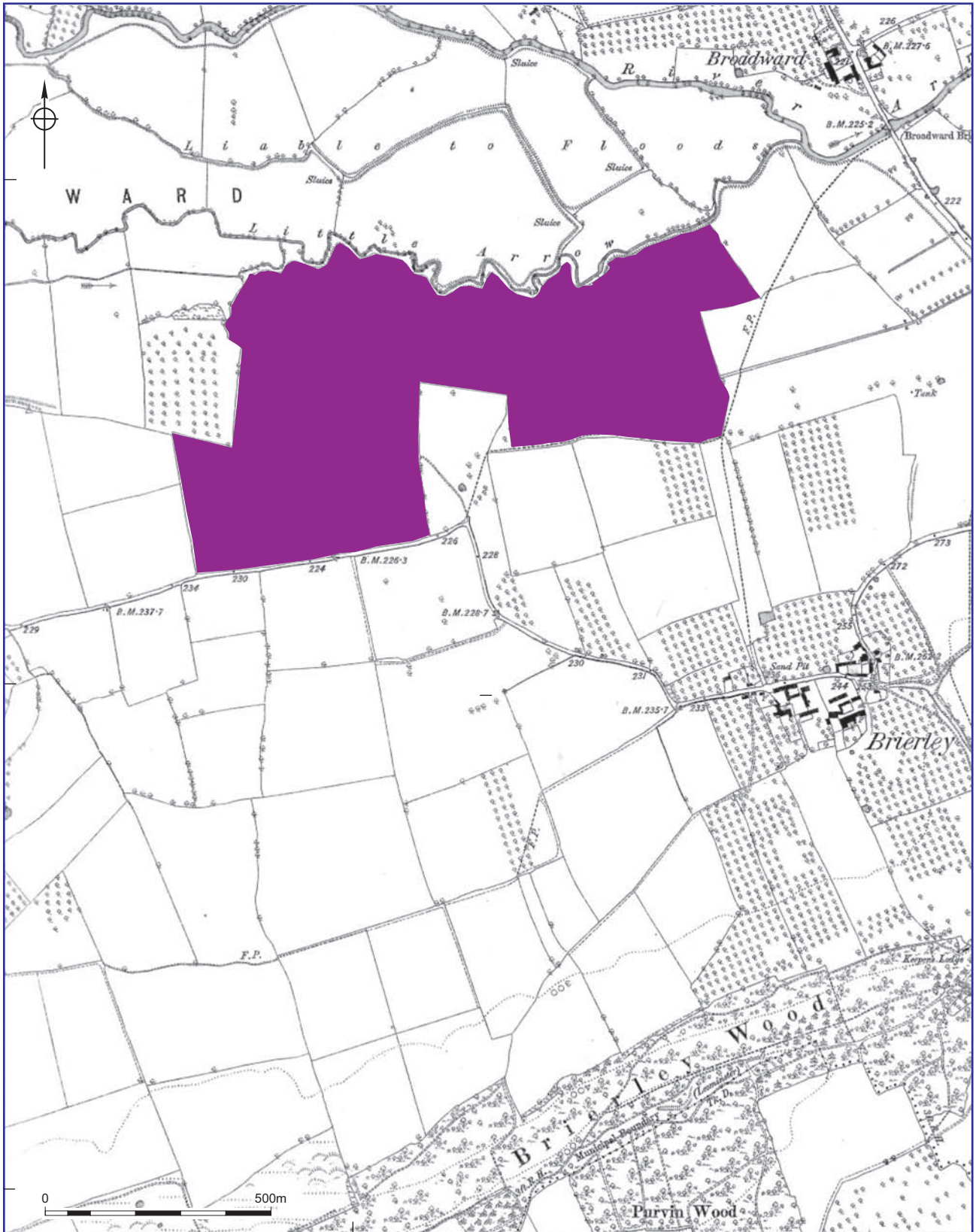
Extract from Estate Map, 1837

Figure 4



Extract from Tithe 1850

Figure 5

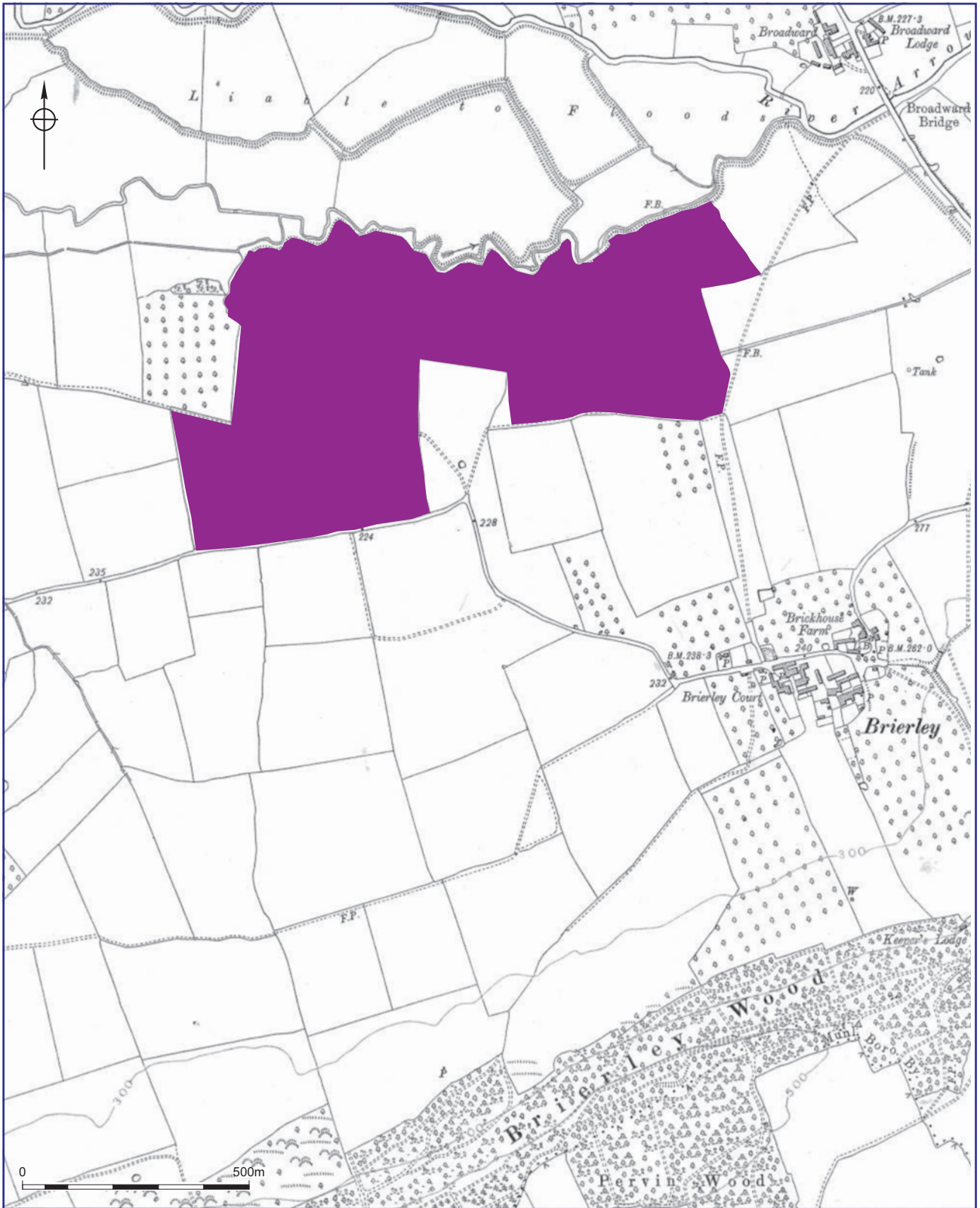


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*Extract from 1st edition OS, 1891*

*Figure 6*

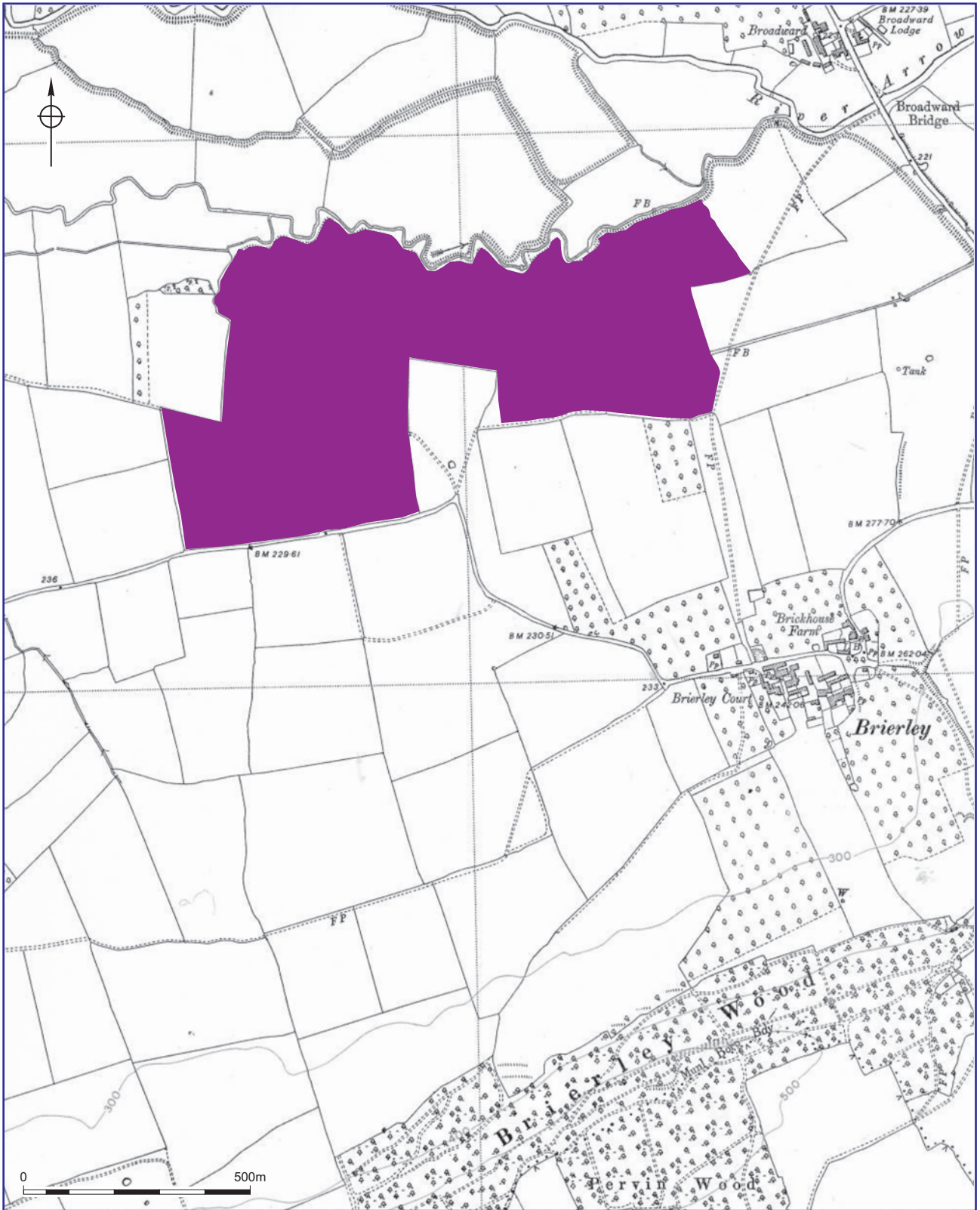




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*Extract from OS, 1904*

*Figure 7*



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*Extract from 1952 OS*

*Figure 8*

## Plates



*Plate 1 Plantation facing east with terrace edge to right*



*Plate 2 Plantation facing west with terrace edge to left*

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*Plate 3 Plantation facing north-west*



*Plate 4 Southern field facing east with plantation to the left*

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*Plate 5 Aerial photo of plantation (bottom of image) and Ivington Camp on the tree lined ridge in the centre of the image, facing south. (Courtesy of Herefordshire HER; 06-CN-0621)*



*Plate 6 Southern field facing west*



*Plate 7 Aerial photo of Ivington Camp hill fort, facing south west (Courtesy of Herefordshire HER; 06-CN-0622)*

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*Plate 8 Southern field facing south west, with Ivington Camp on the ridge in centre of image*



*Plate 9 Aerial photo of the DMV at Brierley facing west (Courtesy of Herefordshire HER; 05-CN-1935)*

## Appendix 1 Heritage assets registered with the Historic Environment Record (those within the application site are indicated in bold)

HER number (and legal status)	Site name	Grid reference	Record type	Date	Description
<b>Scheduled Monuments</b>					
MHE 408	Ivington Camp	SO 485 547	Monument	Iron Age	Multivallate hill fort
<b>Listed Buildings</b>					
DHE 5565	Barn at Brierley Court	SO 49539 56015	Listed Building	17-18 C	Threshing barn
DHE 5566	Barn at Brierley Court	SO 49634 55954	Listed Building	17 C	Threshing barn
DHE5563	Barn at Brickhouse farm	SO 49685 56066	Listed Building	19 C	Timber framed barn
DHE 5562	Brickhouse farm house	SO 49709 56076	Listed Building	19 C	Brick farm house
DHE 5564	Brierley Court House and Hop Kiln	SO 49543 55990	Listed Building	18 C	Sandstone built farm house
DHE 5569	Broadward Hall	SO 49669 57189	Listed Building	18 C	Brick House
DHE 5570	Broadward Lodge	SO 49744 57167	Listed Building	17-19 C	Painted brick house
DHE 5567	Gate and railings	SO 49573 55977	Listed Building	19 C	Gate and railings of Brierley Court
DHE 5568	Granary at Brierley Court	SO 49624 56002	Listed Building	18 C	Sandstone granary
DHE 5561	Old cottages and stock barn	SO 49669 55963	Listed Building	17 C	Timber framed cottages
DHE 5571	Walnut Tree Cottage	SO 49492 56034	Listed Building	17 C	Brick built house
<b>Non designated assets</b>					
MHE5241 MHE 8054	DMV	SO 496 571	Monument	Medieval	DMV at Broadward
MHE 5941	Quarry		Monument	Post-medieval	Place name evidence for a quarry
MHE 8051	DMV	SO 496 560	Monument	Medieval	DMV at Brierley
MHE 1047	Small Find	SO 49 57	Monument	Bronze Age	Four bronze spear heads
MHE 8723	Watermeadow	SO 484 570	Monument	Medieval	Watermeadow in the Arrow floodplain



MHE 10032	DMV	SO 49 55	Monument	Medieval	Brierley DMV
MHE 10915	Fish Ponds	SO 498 566	Monument	Modern	Modern fish ponds
MHE 13601	Ring Ditch	SO 49 57	Monument	Bronze Age	Barrow?
MHE 11508	Quarry	SO 4953 5603	Monument	Undated	Place name evidence for a quarry.
MHE 16916	Bridge	SO 4978 5704	Monument	19 C	Bridge at Broadward
MHE 17218	Settlement	SO 4870 5606	Monument	Iron Age and Roman	Iron Age and Roman settlement
MHE 21073	Brickhouse farm	SO 49694 56037	Building	Post-medieval	Brick built farm house
MHE 1921	Dovecote	SO 4970 5714 Building	Building	17 C	Dovecote associated with Broadward Hall
MHE 1928	Outbuildings	SO 4968 5609	Building	17 C	Outbuilding to Brickhouse farm
MHE 1929	Cottage	SO 4970 5604	Building	17 C	Cottage at Brierley
MHE 1930	Barn	SO 4960 5598	Building	17 C	Barn at Brierley court
MHE 1931	Cottage	SO 4970 5604	Building	17 C	Cottage at Brierley
MHE 1932	Cottage	SO 4970 5604	Building	17 C	Cottage at Brierley
MHE 2947	Ridge and furrow	SO 497 558	Monument	Medieval	Ridge and furrow
MHE 4171	Find scatter	SO 48 56	Monument	Prehistoric to medieval	Field walking finds
MHE 4301	Find scatter	SO 48 56	Monument	Prehistoric to medieval	Field walking finds
MHE 4308	Find scatter	SO 48 56	Monument	Prehistoric	Field walking finds