

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF
MAIN ROAD,
KEMPSEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Desk-based assessment of Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire

Tom Vaughan and Jonathan Webster

Summary

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85512 49903). It was undertaken on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd, who intends to undertake residential development for which a planning application will be submitted.

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 site lies to the east of Main Road, the A38 main road through the village of Kempsey, to the north of and outside both the historic medieval core and the 19th-20th century residential expansion. Its position on the gravel terrace, above the floodplain of the River Severn and adjacent to a stream, would have made it ideal for prehistoric transhumance and settlement activity. Cropmarks of enclosures and pit groups have been identified to the north, which are conjectured to be of Iron Age date, relating to farmsteads and stock enclosure. The Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester lies 200m to the east, along Holdings Lane and Roman Road. A possible shrunken medieval settlement has been identified adjacent to the Roman road around the junction with Brookend Lane.

No recorded archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the development site to date. It is considered likely that remains associated with, or of similar character to, the prehistoric (and potentially Roman) cropmark activity, Roman roadside activity and Brookend medieval settlement may be present within the site.

It is recommended that evaluation in the form of trenches, laid out on a grid array, be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains, prior to development, as per current *National Planning Policy Framework* guidelines.

Report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85512 49903). It was undertaken on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd, who intends to undertake residential development, for which a planning application will be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council.

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets with archaeological interest, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IfA 2008), relevant EIA guidance and Legislation, and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010). 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).

The event reference for this desk-based assessment given by the HER is WSM 48207.

1.2 Aims

The general aims of this desk-based assessment are to:

- collect relevant information relating to the archaeological potential of the proposed development area
- assess the potential significance of any archaeological remains and the built heritage
- assess the impact of the proposed development on these archaeological remains and the built heritage

1.3 Methods

1.3.1 Documentary research

All relevant information on the history of the site and past land-use was collected and assessed. Records of known archaeological sites and monuments were obtained from Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) in 2011. The HER Manager was consulted to determine if any additional archaeological information has been obtained since this time (pers comm Oliver Russell). Historic maps and published sources were consulted at the HER and Worcestershire Archive.

The results are mapped on Figure 2 and 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.

1.3.2 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1840 Kempsey tithe plan, R C Herbert surveyor Worcester, transcribed to 1:10,000 by David Guyatt 1999, WRO BA 248 s 269/84
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1887, Worcestershire XL NE, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
- 1905 Ordnance Survey, Worcestershire XL NE, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)

- 1930 Ordnance Survey, Worcestershire XL NE, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
- 1955, Ordnance Survey, sheet SO 84 NE, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)

Documentary sources

- Appleton-Fox, N, 1998 *Kempsey Flood Alleviation Scheme, Worcestershire: A Desk-Top Survey*, Marches Archaeology Series **033**, dated July 1998
- Atkins, M, 1995 *The Civil War in Worcestershire*, Alan Sutton Press, Stroud
- Bassett, S R, 1989 Churches in Worcester before and after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons, *Antiq J*, **69**(2), 225-256
- Beard, G R, Cope, D W, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, and Whitfield, W A D, 1986 *Soils of Worcester and the Malvern District*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet **150**
- British Geological Survey, 1976 Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift sheet, **182**, 1:50,000
- British Geological Survey, 1990 1:250,000 Series, Solid Geology sheet 52⁰N-04⁰W
- Jones, A E E, 1958 *Anglo-Saxon Worcester*, Ebenezer Baylis and Son Ltd, The Trinity Press, London
- Mawer, A, and Stenton, F M, 1927 *The place-names of Worcestershire*, Cambridge University Press, London
- Pevsner, N, 1968 *The buildings of England: Worcestershire*, Penguin Books, Middlesex
- Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**
- Thorn, F, and Thorn, C, 1982 *Domesday Book - Worcestershire*, Chichester
- VCH I, Page, W (ed), 1913 *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, **I**
- Vaughan, T M, and Webster, J, 2012 *Assessment and updated project design for the Kempsey Flood Alleviation Scheme, Kempsey, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, internal report, **P3708**, WSM 45802

The following sources have also been cited in this assessment

- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government, dated 27 March 2012
- 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
- English Heritage, 2011 *The setting of heritage assets*, English Heritage
- HEAS 2011 *Proposal for an archaeological desk based assessment at King's Hill and Brookend Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 11 October 2011, **P3773**
- IfA 2012 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists, updated 16 November 2012
- MHDC 2008 *Kempsey Conservation Area – Appraisal and Management Strategy*, Malvern Hills District Council, <http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/cms/pdf/mhc-planning-kempseyfinal -2.pdf>
- WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished report **604**, revised July 2012

1.4 **Hedgerows**

The consideration of the application of the *Hedgerows Regulations 1997* is intended to be indicative rather than definitive. Searches relating to the information necessary for the regulations are restricted to those that are readily available. For instance, the WA will not usually have undertaken exhaustive searches of documents (particularly textual documents) held by a Records Office. Wildlife and landscape criteria are also beyond the scope of this archaeological project and have not been considered.

1.5 **Other methods**

A site visit was undertaken on 18 October 2011. It has not been considered necessary to undertake a further visit for this revised report, as the area is understood to remain unaltered (pers comm Andy Faizey).

2. **The application site**

2.1 **Location**

The study area comprised the proposed development site (Fig 2), although heritage assets were considered within approximately 500m of the site (and beyond where considered necessary) in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context.

2.2 **Topography, geology and soils**

The study area comprises one irregular field and the southern end of another field open to the north. It is bounded by fields to the north, a tributary stream of the Hatfield Brook to the east, residential estates to the south-west and the A38 Main Road to the west. Topographically the site varies from approximately 16 to 25m AOD. It rises gradually from the lowest point at Brookend Lane to the south-east (Plate 1), up to the north-west (Plate 4), undulating across three broad plateaux. The lowest is at the south-west corner, the second is roughly a quarter of the site to the north, and the last is along the northern limit of the proposed development (Plates 1-6).

The soils are typical brown earths of the Hall and Wick series (Beard *et al* 1986). Brown earths of this subgroup (541) are permeable, well-drained, non-calcareous loams or clays. The underlying geology consists of Pleistocene and recent drift deposits of glacial origin forming the third terrace of the River Severn, overlying Upper/Middle Triassic Mercian Mudstone (formerly Keuper Marl; British Geological Survey 1976 and 1990).

2.3 **Current land-use**

The site is currently in use as an agricultural field.

3. **Heritage assets**

The following understanding on the development and evolution of the study area and the surrounding landscape has been derived from a range of different archaeological techniques. Whilst no single method can provide a complete picture of the potential heritage assets for a site this combined methodology is hoped to provide as clear an understanding of the known archaeological resource present as possible.

3.1 **Designated heritage assets**

There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or Conservation Areas either within or bordering on the proposed development site.

The nearest listed building lies 350m to the south, off Old Road North. This is Manor House, an early 19th century grade II listed building, a superb example of early Victorian construction techniques and ornate detailing, described as follows:

Grade II listed House. Early C19. Brick in Flemish bond with hipped slate roof. Three storeys, three bays. Windows are sashed with glazing bars and have gauged brick heads. The Tuscan timber pilaster doorcase, in the middle bay, has paterae, an open dentilled pediment, and a fanlight with Gothick glazing. Chimney to right behind ridge (WSM 42311, LB 1301497).

There are three Conservation Areas within Kempsey. The nearest, 'Old Road North Area', extends around either side of the junction between Church Street and Main Road, along the east side of Old Road North up to the junction with Brookfield Lane. This area has been designated as it contains many grand late 18th and early 19th century residences and embodies the early 19th century development of the village (WSM 36351; MHDC 2008, 9 and 14, fig 26).

3.2 **Previously unidentified heritage assets**

3.2.1 **Prehistoric**

The site lies within a very rich and fertile area which would have been ideal for early transhumance and settlement activity; comprising a free draining gravel terrace, above a seasonally waterlogged floodplain, alongside a tidal river, with associated tributary streams.

The earliest finds noted within the wider parish of Kempsey comprise two Neolithic flint tools, although they lie outside the immediate area of the site. The first comprised a sub-circular flint scraper that had extensive re-touching along its blade edge and appears to have been modified prior to its discard or loss (WMID 5584). The second was a flake from a possible broken blade which had a notch knapped into one edge for reasons unknown (WMID 5585). There is known to have been occupation in the area from at least the Bronze Age, as a handled beaker (WSM 02119) was recovered from a gravel pit in the 1930s and further unstratified pottery (WSM 10421) was found during the widening of the M5 motorway to the east. Thirty-one cropmarks have been noted around the village that are thought to be prehistoric in date and three round barrows are known to the north-east.

Within the more immediate vicinity of the study area three groups of cropmarks have been recorded from aerial photographs, along the gravel ridge which the proposed development site also occupies. The first two lie in fields to the east of the A38. Cropmark (WSM 02211) is an enclosure comprising two sides with rounded corners, of unknown date 275m north-east of the site. The second cropmark, (WSM 02210), is of a very regular double ditched rectangular enclosure 225m further north. The last (WSM 02212) comprises groups of pits within a large complex of enclosure ditches, which extends to within approximately 150m north-east of the site. Although of unknown date, it is considered on basis of morphological comparisons with similar cropmarks which have been excavated that they are of Iron Age date and represent farmstead settlements and stock enclosures.

3.2.2 **Romano-British**

Little Romano-British activity is recorded within Kempsey and there is at present no direct evidence of intensive settlement activity, although occupation of the enclosures identified above may extend into the Roman period.

The main feature is the Roman road between Worcester (*Vertis*) and Gloucester (*Glevum*) (WSM 30539). First identified by the antiquarian Jabez Allies, the approximate alignment of the road has been pieced together by a combination of cropmarks, visible earthworks, excavation evidence and conjecture. The north to south route lies to the east of the present village, along the approximate alignment of the southern portion of the present Holdings Lane and Roman Road, 200m to the east of the site.

A number of stray Roman finds have been recovered around the village. Pottery has been recorded off Lyf's Lane to the south-west (WSM 02125), and during the widening of the M5 (WSM 10422) to the east. A Roman milestone, possibly associated with the aforementioned road, and Roman tiles, were found incorporated into an early 20th century wall at Court House

(formerly Parsonage Farm), off Lane's End also to the south-west (WSM 02121), bearing an inscription thought to relate to the Emperor Constantine (306-337 AD). This has been taken as evidence of 'a Roman camp of great antiquity', conjectured to have occupied the terraced area around St Mary's church (Jones 1958, 26-28). There are also stories of an apparently rich Romano-British cemetery located to the north-east of the church, although this is unsubstantiated and there is no reference to such within the Historic Environment Record, so its existence is dubious (*ibid*).

Finally a number of Roman coins have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the parish, including a denarius of Julia Soaemias minted between 218 and 222 AD (WAW OBA697) and a group of four radiates or *nummi* of late 3rd or 4th century date (WAW 7E3C23).

3.2.3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

The place-name of Kempsey has been recorded in various forms over time, as *Kemesei* in 799, *Cymesig* in 977, *Kymesei*, *Chemeshege* and *Kemesige* in the 11th century. In the Domesday Book of 1086 it was recorded as *Chemesege*, although in other documents of the same year it was *Camesi* and *Cameseia*. In the 13th century it was recorded variously as *Kemeseia* and *Kemseye*, while in 1615 it was *Kemsey*. The name is thought to derive from a personal name as the prefix and a suffix descriptive of the 'island' of higher ground on which the original settlement stood (Mawer and Stenton, 1927, 144).

The earliest known mention of Kempsey in the documentary evidence is in 799 AD when King Coenwulf is recorded to have given 30 manses to the *monasterium* at Kempsey. This was followed by the granting of all the monasteries of Worcester to the monks of Worcester in 814. Kempsey (and specifically the manor) was given by the monks of Worcester to Bishop Denebeht (798-822) who in turn passed in on to his successors Bishops Eadbeht and Aelhun. Bishop Aelhun gave the manor back to the monks in 844 although this was returned to him in 847.

The *monasterium* is thought to have been a minster church, an important ecclesiastical centre endowed by royal charter with the obligation of maintaining the daily office of prayer. It is thought that this minster was located on the site of, or immediately to the west of, the present St Mary's church (WSM 02123) 700m to the south-south-west of the site. It is unknown when the minster was superseded by a Bishop's Palace (WSM 07192; Appleton-Fox 1998).

The present St Mary's church is a multi-period structure, with the earliest fabric dating from the 12th century (Pevsner 1968). Recent excavations undertaken by WA have revealed evidence for a substantial graveyard of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval date extending westwards beyond the boundary of the present churchyard (WSM 45802; Vaughan and Webster 2012).

St Mary's has been an important seat in the county through much of its existence, initially as the only church in a large parish that included Kempsey, Norton, Stoulton and Whittington. As such it received all burials from these locations until individual chapels were constructed from around the 12th century onwards. The church however kept control over the other chapels in the region until the 19th century when the parishes of Norton and Stoulton broke away (Bassett 1989, 235).

The Domesday entry of 1086 for Kempsey noted that it was within the Oswaldstow hundred, with the following details:

In this hundred the bishop of this church holds Kempsey
24 hides which pay tax, of these hides 5 are waste.
In the lordship 2 ploughs.
15 villagers and 27 smallholders with 16 ploughs
a priest, 4 male and 2 female slaves.
Meadow, 40 acres, woodland 1 league long and half league wide.
In lordship 13 hides
Value before 1066 £16, now £8 (Thorn and Thorn, 1982).

It is recorded that Henry II held court in Kempsey and it is likely that this was within the Bishop's Palace. During his stay here he issued a charter concerning Inkberrow that was witnessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, three other bishops and several nobles (Appleton-Fox 1998).

In 1189 Richard I granted a licence to assart 161.5 acres in the manor of Kempsey, which was confirmed by King John in 1199. King John's advisor John de Marisco became the rector of Kempsey in 1212, before going on to become the Chancellor in 1214 and the Bishop of Durham in 1217. One note of interest during this period was the tale of John de Draycot who having quarrelled with the bishop's bailiff in 1253 had his head chopped off and placed on a pole at the entrance gate of the palace. Unfortunately the reasons for the argument were not recorded.

In 1255 Henry III permitted the bishop of Kempsey 'free warren' in his manor providing that it did not lie within the King's forest. Edward I is known to have been a frequent visitor to Kempsey and guest of Bishop Giffard, and on the eve of the battle of Evesham in 1265 Henry III was brought to the Bishop's Palace where he spent the night as a prisoner of Simon de Montfort. In 1288 Bishop Giffard made the church at Kempsey a prebendal church of the college of Westbury near Bristol. This link was strengthened further when the Bishop John Carpenter gave the college control of the living in Kempsey in 1473. The chantry of the current church is known to have been built by John de Kemesey who was treasurer of Hereford cathedral during the reign of Edward II (*Ibid*, 5).

With the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 the rectory of Kempsey fell to the crown and was given to Sir Ralph Sadler, although in 1547 this was restored to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester cathedral.

The focus of the medieval settlement of Kempsey lies to the south of the proposed development site (WSM 27891). Further medieval settlement, now largely shrunken and deserted, has been postulated at Brookend, around the junction of Brookend Lane and Holdings Lane (the Roman road) approximately 200m to the east of the site (WSM 25281 and WSM 32554). The area was recorded as *Le Broke* in 1182, *de la Brok* and *atte Brok* in 1275 and 1327 (WSM 25281).

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded a number of medieval finds within the parish including jewellery, part of a horse's saddlery and a number of silver coins, which may be argued to reflect the wealth of Kempsey probably due to the influence of the Bishop's Palace and associated minster (WSM 39539).

3.2.4 **Post-medieval and modern**

It is not known when the Bishop's Palace was demolished although it is clear that the power and wealth of Kempsey waned after the dissolution of the monasteries. The last known record of the palace was in 1620 when Edmund Wilde leased it from the bishop, although from the description of the building at the time it is not clear that it was the same building as the palace of Kempsey's "Golden Age". It was certainly demolished long before the creation of the first detailed maps in the 19th century, as for example the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 only tentatively marks the location of the former palace (Vaughan and Webster 2011; Appleton-Fox 1998, fig 1).

During the Civil War (1642-51) Kempsey was a Parliamentary stronghold, especially during the siege of Worcester in June 1646 when it was used as a strategic base to prevent access to the south. Kempsey was the scene of an intense skirmish in early July of the same year when the Royalist defending forces from Worcester attempted to capture the Parliamentary Colonel Betsworth who was based in the village. Shrapnel and bullet scars from this skirmish can still be seen on the walls of St Mary's church.

In 1659 Kempsey became the focus of a political and economic argument when a land owner was fined £400 for growing and curing 400 poles of tobacco. This had been heavily discouraged in England in an attempt to protect the value of tobacco holdings in Virginia.

Despite the prosecutions and political pressures the industry survived in the area until the end of the 17th century (Atkins 1995). It is unknown where exactly in the village this took place.

To celebrate the victory of William of Orange's 'Glorious Revolution' in 1688, elm trees were planted around the village of Kempsey. These were however felled in 1779 before they had reached maturity. Their exact location is unknown.

300m to the west of the site a system of managed water meadows lay across the floodplain of the River Severn. Located in an area currently known as Upper Ham, these meadows provided fertile pastureland throughout the post-medieval period (WSM 11391). They are indicated on the Kempsey tithe plan of 1840 all along this stretch of the river bank, as Upper Meadow, Calsow (Common) Meadow, Kempsey Upper Meadow, Midsummer Meadow, The Ox Leasow and Lords Meadow (Fig 3).

The site of a post mill type windmill has been identified near the junction of Windmill Lane and King's Hill off Main Road, 200m to the west of the site. The windmill is recorded as having burnt down in the 1870s. The remains comprising timbers and the windmill base were rediscovered during garden clearance (WSM 22976).

The later post-medieval period in Kempsey is one of slow and progressive development of the settlement along either side of Main Road, the modern A38.

The tithe plan is the earliest detailed source to show the layout of the proposed development site (Fig 3). The site covers a number of fields between Main Road and a stream, including Over Brook Field, Lower Brook Field, Brookend Common Piece and others un-named alongside the watercourse. A road lies along the north boundary of the site, off main Street, which leads east across the stream to Little Brookend Farm and Holdings Lane.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 and subsequent editions (Figs 1, 4-6) reveal the layout of the development site through into the modern period.

By 1887 the road which previously connected Little Brook Farm with Main Road is no longer in evidence and Over Brook Field had been amalgamated with Eight Acres and Tagnalls fields to the north (Figs 3 and 4). The smaller fields alongside the brook had been amalgamated within Lower Brook Field, although the trees which occupied the field boundaries are still shown as extant at this time. To the south, Five Acres field had been developed as The Limes and Brookfield properties, set within orchards along Brookend Lane. By 1930 the southern portion of the former Over Brook Field adjacent to The Limes had been subdivided into two smaller plots, one of which was laid to orchards (Fig 6). These southern plots were developed as The Limes residential estate in the latter half of the 20th century, along with houses alongside the A38, Main Road, itself. Also in the latter half of the 20th century, Lower Brook Field was opened into one larger field with Over Brook Field (Fig 1).

3.3 **Potential heritage assets**

There are currently no known or recorded archaeological sites within the site. However absence of evidence cannot be taken as evidence of absence and it is possible that remains of archaeological significance could be present. This may take the form of previously unknown remains, although it is considered to be most likely to be associated with identified adjacent activity, namely:

- Cropmarks of prehistoric activity, conjectured to represent Iron Age settlement and stock enclosures, identified within the fields adjacent, to the north. There is the *moderate* potential for peripheral activity related to these sites to extend into the development area, or for further as yet unidentified enclosures to exist along the rest of the gravel terrace.
- The existence of the Roman road, approximately 200m to the east of the Brookend Lane site, indicates that there is the *low* potential for roadside activity within the study area. In addition the aforementioned enclosures may have continued in use into the Roman period.

- The site of a possible deserted (or shrunken) medieval settlement of Brookend around the junction of Brookend Lane and Holdings Lane, approximately 250m to the east of the site, indicates that there is a *low* potential for remains of associated settlement activity to survive within this site.

4. **Summary of significance**

4.1 **Designated heritage assets**

4.2 **Assessment of significance**

The desk-based assessment has identified the potential archaeological interest within the proposed development sites. As a result, an assessment of the significance can be made in terms of the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological interest in the study area as a whole.

Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

Whilst no archaeology has been recorded within either proposed development site, it is clear that there was occupation of the gravel ridge within the immediate vicinity in the prehistoric period, which may have extended into the Roman period. Activity associated with the identified cropmarks, or of a similar nature, may therefore exist within the proposed sites.

Additionally remains associated with the shrunken medieval settlement of Brookend may survive within the site.

Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

It is considered that these remains would be of low to moderate rarity within the region and low to moderate potential for archaeological research, although this would depend on the state of preservation of archaeological deposits, structures and horizons.

Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

It is at present unclear what the physical extent and survival of potential archaeological remains may be on the site, as no intrusive archaeological investigations (or reported geophysical works) have been undertaken to date.

Activity peripheral to the adjacent cropmark enclosures is likely to take the form of widely dispersed small discreet features (pits or postholes), or shallow ditches and gullies. However additional settlement enclosures could comprise sequences of moderate sized ditches, potentially recut, with evidence of internal zoning, and structural remains (ring ditches, pits and postholes).

Activity associated with the shrunken medieval village of Brookend may take the form of remains of tofts and crofts, paddocks and enclosures with structural and occupation activity.

The depth of the archaeology is not known, although their present use as arable fields, and previous work in the area indicates that it may exist relatively close to the surface and remain undisturbed below the plough soil.

4.3 **Hedgerows (Figs 2-6)**

The *Hedgerow Regulations* 1997 sets out the archaeological and historical criteria for determining 'Important' hedgerows (wildlife and landscape criteria are beyond the scope of this report). The hedge must fulfil the first criterion and at least one of the succeeding criteria in the table below.

It is considered that none of the hedgerows on the proposed development site meets the archaeological and historical criteria as specified below. Therefore none can be considered to be important.

Hedge/criteria	Southern Hedge	Western Hedge	Northern Hedge	Eastern Hedge
Hedge has existed for 30 years or more	No	Yes – shown on map of 1887. Though hedges are not usually explicitly identified on historic maps it is considered likely that the field boundaries were hedged	No	Yes – shown on map of 1887. Though hedges are not usually explicitly identified on historic maps it is considered likely that the field boundaries were hedged
On parish boundary (pre-1850)	No	No	No	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a scheduled ancient monument*	No	No	No	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a site registered with the HER (pre-24 March 1997)*	No	No	No	No
Marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor registered with the HER (pre-24 March 1997), or is visibly related to a building or other feature of such an estate or manor	No such pre-1997 registrations held by Worcestershire HER	No such pre-1997 registrations held by Worcestershire HER	No such pre-1997 registrations held by Worcestershire HER	No such pre-1997 registrations held by Worcestershire HER
Marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor in a document held by a Record Office (pre-24 March 1997), or is visibly related to a building or other feature of such an estate or manor	No	No – none known	No	No – none known
Recorded in a document held by a Record Office (pre-24 March 1997) as an integral part of a field system predating the Inclosure Acts, or is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system (the system must be substantially complete) or part of a historic landscape characterisation adopted for development control purposes pre-24 March 1997)	No	No – none known	No	No – none known

* can be wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, such sites, and must be associated with such sites.

Table 1, Importance of hedgerows

5. **The potential impact of the application**

It is considered that the proposed development has the potential to have a negative impact on possible archaeological remains, notably prehistoric (and Roman) activity associated with the cropmarks located to the north.

6. **Assessment of need for further on-site evaluation**

No recorded archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken on the proposed development site. The full extent of the groundworks associated with the developments is currently unknown. There is the potential for previously unknown remains, or remains associated with identified adjacent activity to exist within the site. Therefore in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* guidelines (DCLG 2012, 128) it is recommended that on-site evaluation be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains prior to development. This should take the form of evaluation trenches excavated on a grid array across both sides.

The exact scope and specification of the evaluation, and any possible subsequent mitigation works required, should be agreed with Historic Environment Planning Officer of Worcestershire County Council.

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required would be concluded by production of an archaeological report (and appropriate publication) to be deposited for public consultation with the Historic Environment Record (HER) and a project archive to be deposited at a local museum.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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 on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd of land off Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 85512 49903).

The site lies to the east of the A38 Main Road through the village of Kempsey, to the north of and outside both the historic medieval core and the 19th-20th century residential expansion. Its position on the gravel terrace, above the floodplain of the River Severn and adjacent to a stream, would have made it ideal for prehistoric transhumance and settlement activity. Cropmarks of enclosures and pit groups have been identified to the north, which are conjectured to be of Iron Age date, relating to farmsteads and stock enclosure. The Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester lies 200m to the east, along Holdings Lane and Roman Road. A possible shrunken medieval settlement has been identified adjacent to the Roman road around the junction with Brookend Lane.

No recorded archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the development site to date. It is considered that remains associated with, or of similar character to, the prehistoric (and potentially Roman) cropmark activity, Roman roadside activity and remains associated with Brookend medieval settlement may be present within the site.

It is recommended that evaluation in the form of trenches, laid out on a grid array, be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains prior to development.

8. **Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Andy Faizey (Lioncourt Homes Ltd) and Oliver Russell (Historic Environment Record Manager, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service).

9. **Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Tom Vaughan and Jon Webster. The site visit was undertaken by Jon Webster. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

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

HER number & legal status	Site name	NGR	Record type	Date	Description
WSM 42311	Manor House, Old Road North, Kempsey	SO 8539 4943	Dwelling	19 th century	Brick built extant building
WSM 27891	Medieval Settlement area	SO 8514 4910	Unplanned development	1066 to 1539AD	Cartographic and Documentary evidence for settlement
WSM 11391	Water Meadow system, Callow End	SO 8429 4997	Field System	1540 to 1900AD	Post-medieval water meadow system
WSM 32554	DMV/SMV (Possible site of), Brookend, Kempsey	SO 8599 4980	Deserted Settlement, Shrunken Village	1066 to 1539AD	Conjectural evidence for possible DMV/SMV
WSM 30539	Roman Road from Gloucester to Worcester	SO 8683 4528	Roman Road	43AD to 410AD	Roman Road
WSM 25281	Brookend, Kempsey	SO 8584 5000	Settlement	1066 to 1539AD	Documentary evidence of settlement
WSM 22976	Site of Windmill, Windmill Lane, Kempsey	SO 8519 4980	Windmill	1540 to 1900AD	Windmill sub-surface remains
WSM 02211	Enclosure E of A38, E of Open barn, kempsey	SO 8540 5023	Enclosure	Undated	Cropmark evidence
WSM 02212	Cropmarks W of A38, S of Open Barn	SO 8524 5012	Enclosure, pits	Undated	Cropmark evidence
WSM 37203	World War 2 bombing Incident	SO 8606 4903	Bomb Site	1939 to 1945AD	Documentary evidence

Plates



Plate 1 The south-eastern end of the site and gate off Brookend Lane, view north-east



Plate 2 The site, view north



Plate 3 The southern end of the site, view north-west from The Limes



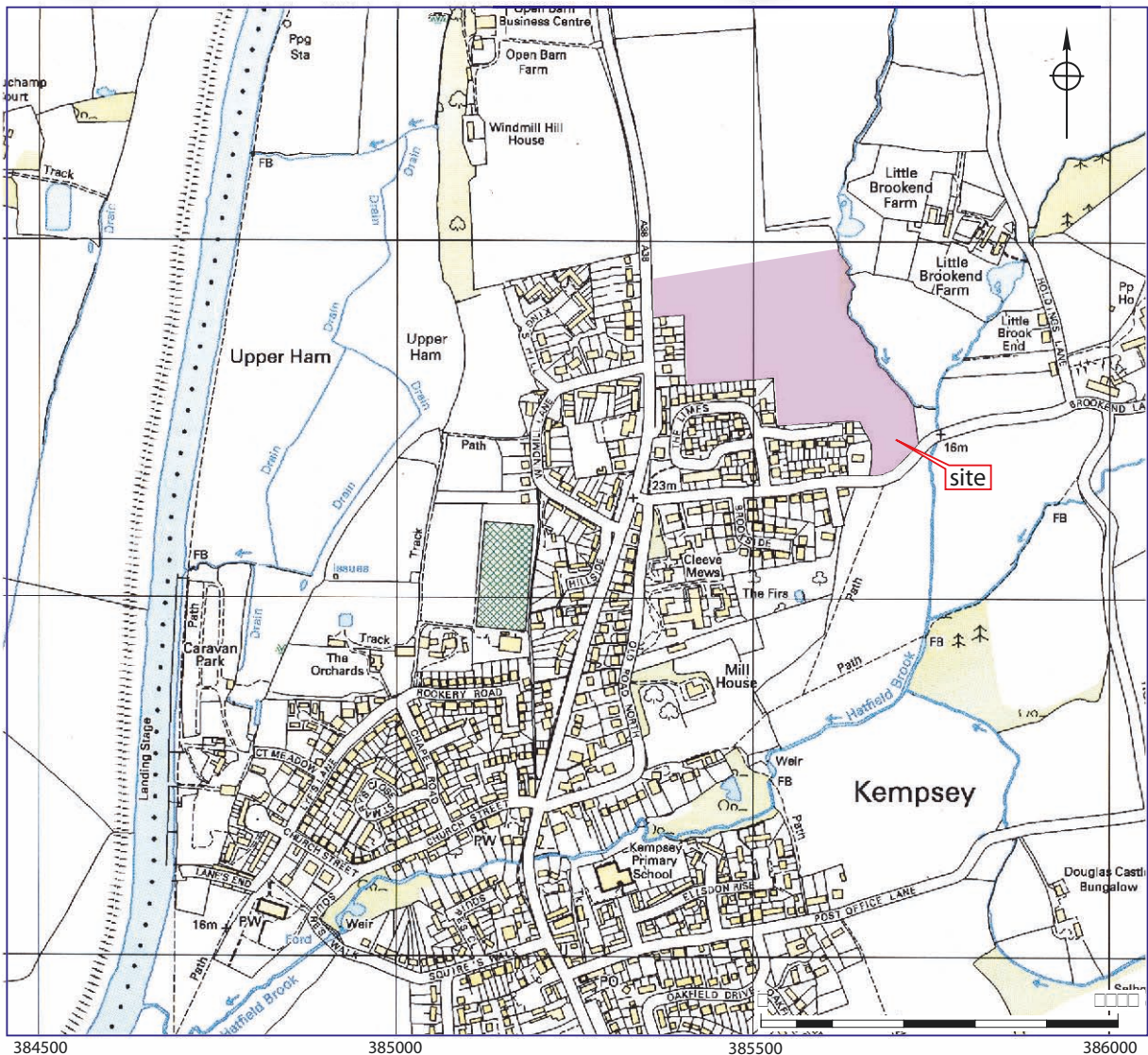
Plate 4 The western portion of the site, view north-west to the A38, Main Road

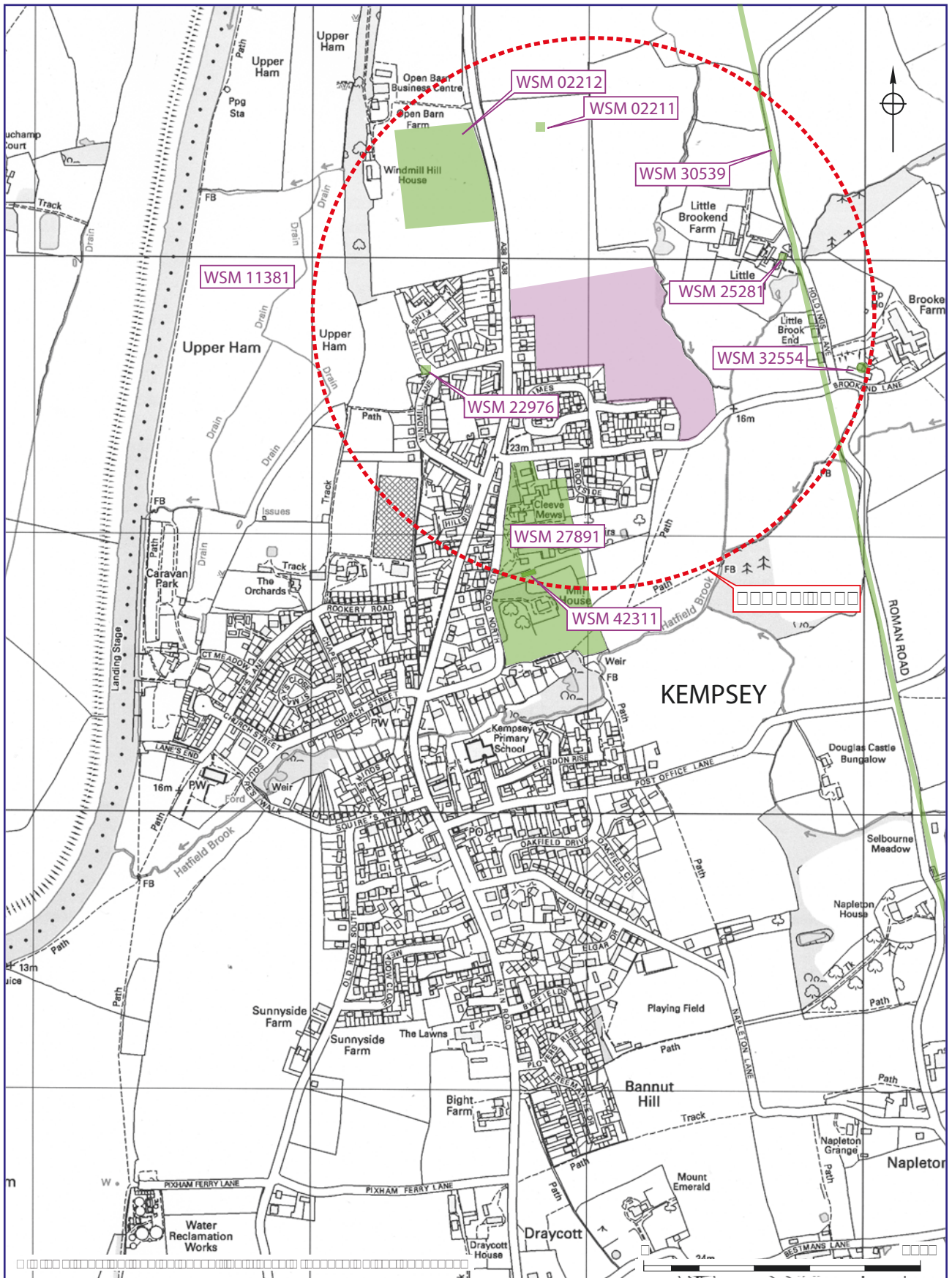


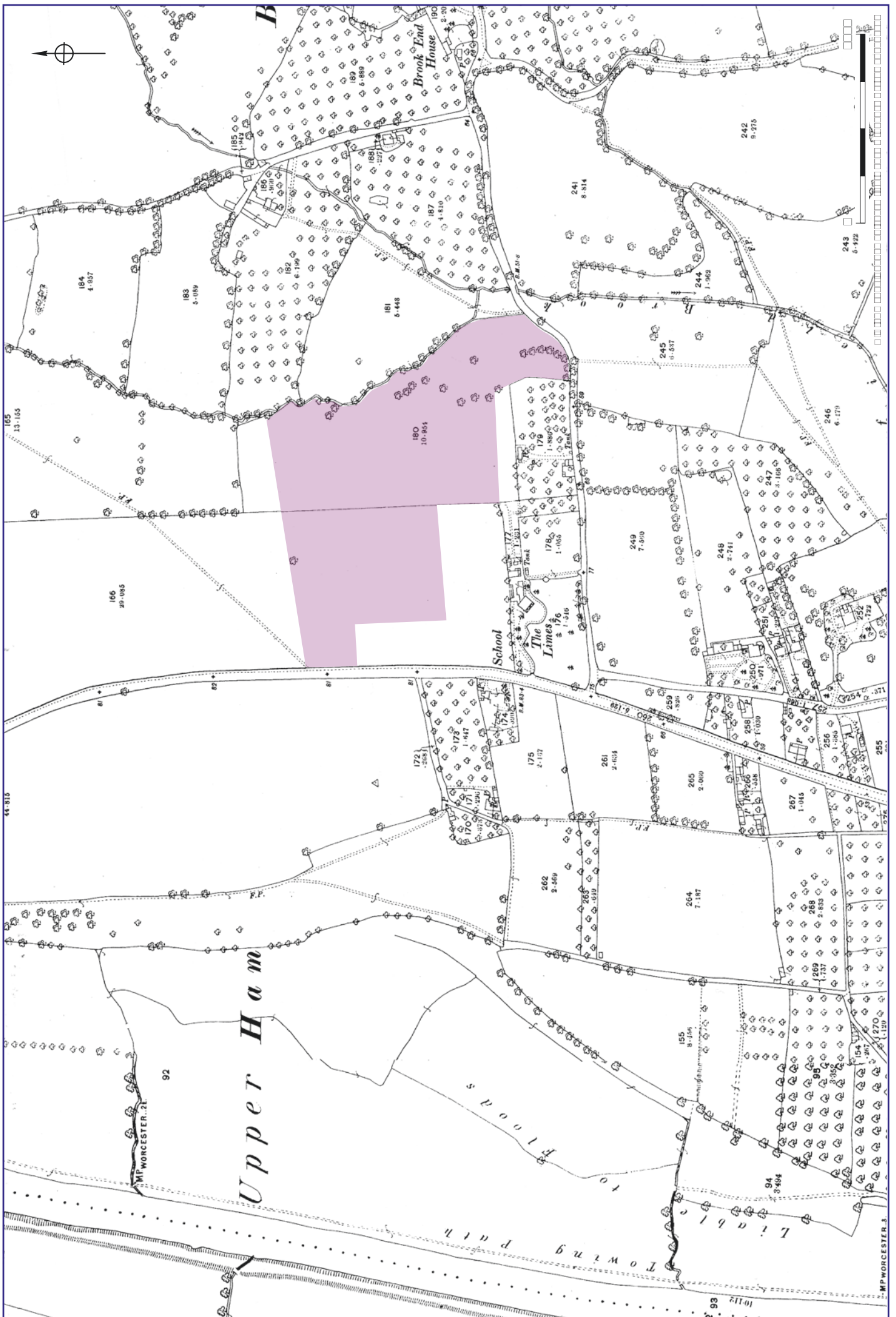
Plate 5 The southern portion of the site, view east from The Limes

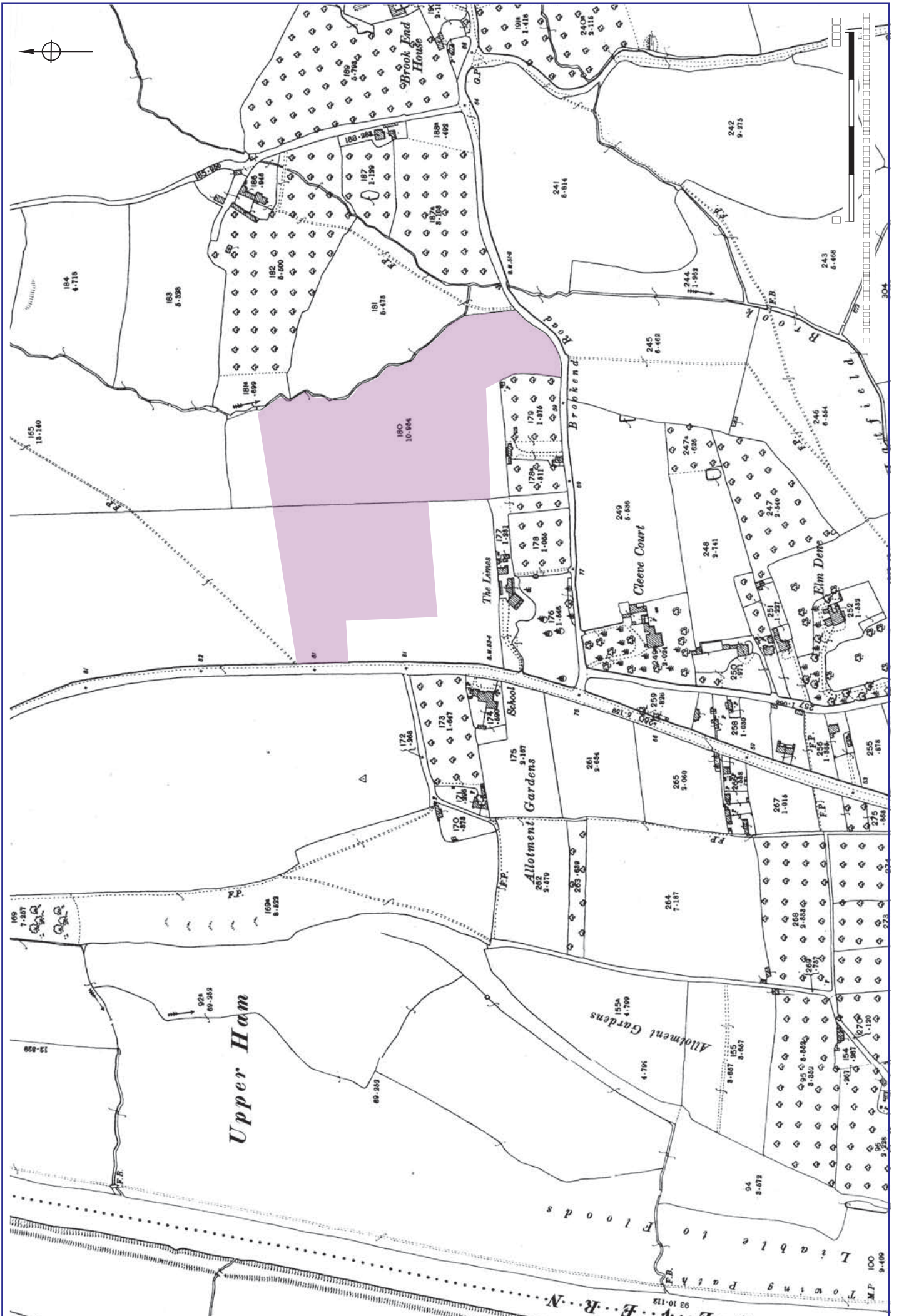


Plate 6 The north-eastern side of the site, view east to the brook









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Upper Ham

The Limes

Cleeve Court

Elm Dene

Allotment Gardens

Allotment Gardens

Leasdale Floods

Brook End

Brook End House

D. V. F. R. N. 93 10 119



