

Desk-based assessment of  
Little Acre, Worcester Road,  
Broomhall, Kempsey,  
Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,  
The Butts, Worcester  
WR1 3PB

Date: 17 October 2013  
Author: Elizabeth Connolly, [econnolly1@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:econnolly1@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
HER reference: WSM 49794  
Illustrator: Laura Templeton  
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## **Desk-based assessment of Little Acre, Worcester Road, Broomhall Kempsey, Worcestershire**

Elizabeth Connolly

### **Summary**

A desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken of Little Acre, Worcester Road, Broomhall, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8530 5083). It was undertaken on behalf of John Kendrick Ltd., in advance of a submission of a planning application to Malvern Hills District Council.

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 comprises a triangular plot of land to the west of the A38 Worcester Road, between Kempsey and Broomhall to the south of Worcester. It is currently occupied by a bungalow and garden forming a part of a small cluster of houses set within a landscape of dispersed settlement.

The site lies on a gravel terrace above the floodplain of the River Severn, which predisposes the site to settlement of prehistoric and Roman periods. The survival of buried archaeological remains of these periods, including an enclosure and a road, has been demonstrated in a recent archaeological evaluation of the field which lies immediately north of the small settlement of which Little Acre is a part. The cropmark of a potentially prehistoric ring ditch has been identified 150m to the south of the site and the Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester lies 400m to the east.

The site is recorded as having been part of a World War Two depot for the storage of tyres and inner tubes. Ten huts are shown on Ordnance Survey maps from 1955 to 1966, one of which was located within the site.

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 remains recorded to the north, or related to the World War Two depot may be present within the site.

It is recommended that evaluation in the form of trenches be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains, prior to development, in line with current National Planning Policy Framework guidelines.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

A desk-based assessment was undertaken of Little Acre, Worcester Road, Broomhall, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8530 5083). It was undertaken on behalf of John Kendrick Ltd, in advance of a submission of a planning application to Malvern Hills District Council.

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

The project conforms to a project proposal prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (IfA 2012), and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

#### 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).

The following is drawn from the Malvern Hills Local plan 2006 which has two policies relevant to the historic environment and the development site.

##### **Policy QL13 – New development affecting the setting of listed buildings.**

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would harm the character or setting of a listed building.

##### **Reasoned justification**

The setting of a listed building is often an essential and integral part of its character and special interest. Many listed buildings have an intimate and historically or architecturally important relationship with their settings. The setting of a building can extend beyond the immediate curtilage of the building to include the relationship of the principal building with its curtilage buildings, nearby buildings which may be in separate or unrelated use, for example buildings in a street scene, or may extend much wider, for example, the parkland setting of country house, or distant views of building in the landscape. Inappropriate development within the setting can cause as much harm to the special interest of a listed building as an inappropriate alteration or extension. Care needs to be taken in development proposals to avoid isolating a building from its surroundings and to ensure that any new development is sensitively sited and appropriately designed.

4.4.16. The sub-division of space around a listed building, a change of use of space or the introduction of surfacing materials can also be damaging to the setting of listed buildings. The introduction of new boundaries to define new curtilages to converted buildings, for example, can isolate a building from its setting and can harm its relationship with associated buildings. The introduction of car parking can be harmful to the setting of a building by the presence of vehicles seen in context with the building and by the introduction of inappropriate surfacing materials to create the parking area.

4.4.17. Where the siting of new development is acceptable great care will be taken by the District Council to ensure that the design of the development is appropriate in scale, density, form, materials and detail to the quality of the setting.

##### **Policy QL14 – Scheduled ancient monuments and other archaeological sites.**

1. Development which would have a direct or indirect adverse effect on the site, setting or amenity value of a scheduled ancient monument, or other archaeological remains of

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national importance, will not be permitted as there will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of such remains in situ.

2. Development which would have a direct or indirect adverse effect on the site or setting of archaeological remains of regional, county or local importance will not be permitted unless it is clearly demonstrated that the following criteria are met: -
  - a. there is no reasonable alternative means of meeting the need for development appropriate to the level of importance of the archaeological site and its setting; and
  - b. the reasons for the development outweigh the archaeological importance of the site and its setting and the need to safeguard the wider stock of such settings.

### **Reasoned justification**

4.5.1. Archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. They occur in the form of below ground remains and upstanding structures and are evidence of human activity from all periods of the past. Government guidance in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 is clear in its advice to District Councils that the preservation of archaeological sites is a material consideration in the planning process and development proposals will be assessed against potential impact on these sites.

4.5.2. Malvern Hills District has a significant number of sites of national archaeological interest including Iron Age, Roman, Norman, Medieval and later periods. These known archaeological sites are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained and constantly updated by the County Archaeological Service. The Central Marches Historic Survey is compiling maps which indicate the extent of Areas of Urban Archaeological Interest. This information will be produced in the form of archaeological constraint maps to which the District Council will have regard when considering development proposals in such areas.

4.5.3. Many of the sites in the Plan area are statutorily protected by the Secretary of State through inclusion in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 requires that consent is required for the Secretary of State for any works affecting a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

4.5.4. Many other sites as yet not scheduled or recorded may be equally important and worthy of protection and evaluation. The evaluation of sites may vary from large scale rescue excavation through to watching brief work.

4.5.5. Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 states that in exercising its development control function the District Council must consider the effect of development proposals on archaeological sites as material to the determination of planning applications. Unsympathetic development can prejudice the use of these sites for education, leisure or tourist opportunities. Planning policies should seek to reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology.

4.5.6. The District Council places great importance on whether archaeological remains exist on potential development sites and the likely implications arising from the proposed development. To speed up the process and organise the scope for mitigation developers should seek to determine, prior to the submission of a planning application, the presence of and extent of archaeological remains on the proposed site. The first step in this respect would be to contact the County Archaeological Officer who holds the Sites and Monuments Record. Prospective developers should commission their own archaeological assessment by a suitably qualified consultant / organisation. Such an assessment does not necessarily involve field work and usually involves only desk based evaluation of existing information.

The basis for such an assessment should be an agreed brief initially prepared by the County Archaeological Service acting as advisors to the District Council. The District Council will consult the County Archaeological Officer on proposals for development likely to affect the site or setting of archaeological remains.

4.5.7. Should the site be of known or potential archaeological or the findings of an archaeological assessment reveal the presence of or potential for archaeological interest, then an archaeological evaluation will be required. In order to define the character and extent of potential important archaeological remains and to help identify options for minimising or avoiding damage the applicant must arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out prior to determination of the application. This usually involves ground survey and small scale trenching, carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

4.5.8. In order to preserve archaeologically sensitive sites the District Council will:

- a. ensure that where an archaeological field evaluation has been submitted and approved, its recommendations based on this evaluation have been taken fully into account;
- b. where appropriate, ensure that remains are preserved in-situ by the careful design, layout and siting of new development;
- c. seek to ensure that where an archaeological site does not warrant physical preservation but is nevertheless seen as important, appropriate provision for the excavation, recording and publication of the archaeological site is made; and
- d. approve proposals which encourage the enhancement and management of archaeological sites that develop the educational, recreational or tourism potential of the site provided this has no significant affect on the site or its setting.

4.5.9. Where archaeological excavation work is to be carried out on a development site a condition or Section 106 Agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) may be necessary to ensure satisfactory provision is made for excavation, recording and publication.

## **2 Aims**

The aims of this assessment are to:

- establish the nature and extent of the heritage assets;
- assess 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 Elizabeth Connolly MA; who joined WA in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 1999. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan MA, AIfA who joined WA in 2001 and has been practising archaeology since 1991. Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton BA, MIFA, who joined WA in 1988 and has been practising archaeology since 1985.

### **3.2 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).

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



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information in other record types, and would not materially affect the assessment. HER references have been used throughout this assessment but during its preparation additional heritage assets have been identified and their details are given in Appendix 2 (reference numbers have the prefix AHA).

### 3.3 List of sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1840 Kempsey tithe plan
- 1840 Kempsey tithe plan, R C Herbert surveyor Worcester, transcribed at 1:10,000 by David Guyatt 1999, CRO BA 248 s 269/84
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1885-1886, scale 25":1 mile / 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey, 1904, scale 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey, 1928, scale 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey, 1940, scale 1:2500
- Ordnance Survey, 1955, scale 6":1 mile / 1:10,560
- Ordnance Survey, 1963-1964, scale 1:10,560
- Ordnance Survey, 1966, scale 1:2,500
- Ordnance Survey, 1970, scale 1:2,500

#### *Documentary sources*

- 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
- Defence of Britain website <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/> accessed 16 October 2013
- EDP 2012 *Land South of Worcester, archaeological desk-based assessment*, The Environmental Dimension Partnership, unpublished document dated June 2012, ref **EDP1181-03b**
- English Heritage 2011 *The setting of heritage assets*, English Heritage
- IfA 2012 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Institute for Archaeologists, updated 16 November 2012
- Mann, A and Jackson, R, 2010 *Archaeological excavation and salvage recording at Clifton Quarry, Severn Stoke, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **1779**, P2902/EH PNUM 5714 ANL
- Rogers T V, 2010 *Archaeological excavation and watching brief at the former petrol storage facility, Bath Road, Worcester, Rev 1*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1629**, dated February 2010, **P2916**
- Vaughan, T M and Wainwright, J, 2012 *Archaeological evaluation of Plot 32 South Worcester, Worcester Road, Broomhall, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1924**, dated July 2012, P3859

- 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
- Vaughan T M and Webster J, 2013 *Desk based assessment of Main Road, Kempsey*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1994**, P3773
- WA 2013 *Proposal for desk-based assessment at Little Acre, Broomhall, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 19 September 2013, **P4201**
- WCC 2010 *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire*, Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **604**, amended July 2012
- Webster, J and Vaughan, T M, 2011, *Desk-based assessment at King's Hill and Brookend Lane, Kempsey, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1993**, dated October 2011, P3773
- Webster, J, 2012 *Archaeological evaluation at the South Worcester Development, Kempsey, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished report **1960**, P3871, WSM 47391

### 3.4 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 30 September 2013.

### 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>
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<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 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. Improvement may be in the asset's management, its amenity value, setting, or documentation (for instance enhancing its research value).</p>
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<p><b>Not Significant:</b> Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
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<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>
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<p>Partial removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
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<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>Removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</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 500m of the site in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context.

### 4.2 Topography, geology and soils

The proposed development site is located on the Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member, a terrace of the River Severn, overlying the Triassic Sidmouth mudstone formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 12th October 2013). The site lies immediately west of the A38 midway between the village of Kempsey and the southern edge of Worcester.

### 4.3 Current land-use

The proposed development site is currently occupied by a house and garden (Plates 1 and 2). The site is in a roughly triangular shaped plot bordering the Worcester Road (A38) to the east, agricultural land to the south and south-west and houses and sheds to the north and north-west. To the north-west of the site the border is of breeze-block walling fronted by Leylandii, and along the centre of the border is the wall of a large shed. Further to the east the border is marked by garden shrubs. The fencing to the south of the site is post and rail with some interspersing of hawthorns. Several mature ash trees have recently been felled at the centre of the site, and in the west of the site a young orchard has also recently been felled. The house is a bungalow, possibly of inter-war design, with a large fenced-in patio area behind. There is evidence of a septic tank west of the patio area (Plate 5). There are clear views to the south, of a large agricultural field currently under crop (Plate 3).

### 4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character

The site lies slightly over a kilometre to the north of the village of Kempsey which is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Chemesege*. The earliest known mention of Kempsey in the documentary evidence is in 799 AD when King Coenwulf is recorded to have given 30 manes to the *monasterium* at Kempsey. 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 (Vaughan and Webster 2013).

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).

The settlement pattern in the study area is described by the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Worcestershire as one of low level dispersal with some later expansion associated with mixed farming and riverside pasture contrasted with cereal and vegetable crop growing on the terraces. The site is approximately 300m south of an area characterised as an isolated farmstead (Clerkenleap Farm; Plate 7).

On the 1840 tithe plan of the parish of Kempsey (Fig 3), the site location is part of a field called 'Sixteen Acres' to the east of a long line of woodland on the edge of the gravel terrace called 'The Grove'. The field south of Sixteen Acres is called 'Windmill Bank'. Just to the north-east of the site location, a rectangular area is shown, at the junction of the eastern and southern roads. Clerkenleap Farm is shown on the map as 'Clarktonlip'.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1885-6, the line of the road running east-north-east to west-south-west shown on the tithe map is now shown as a plot of land with this orientation, leading to Kempsey Grove with a house and some outbuildings at the road. The line of the plot or track is shown curving slightly to the south-east just before it meets the road. In the north-east of the site there is a group of three irregular shaped buildings in a terrace, in a small, sub-trapezoidal plot. The rest of the site is shown to be part of a larger field. Mature trees are shown on the northern boundary of the site.

In the 1904 OS map the line of the northern boundary to the site remains the same, but the trees are no longer shown. The three buildings and their plot remain unchanged.

In the 1928 OS the three buildings are still shown, but the plot they are enclosed by has been changed to a larger one, sub-rectangular in plan, still respecting the curve to the north visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. A further building has been constructed to the south-west of the southern-most cottage and it shares an enclosing element. The building is in the shape of a reverse 'L'. In line with the southern boundary of the larger enclosing plot, a boundary extends west in the direction of Kempsey Grove, giving a sub-triangular shape to the field. A further boundary extends south-east from the south of the western point of this triangle giving the field below a triangular shape also.

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On the 1940 OS map the reverse 'L' shaped building has been squared off and now appears to be in its own distinctive plot. There is no further change shown to the terrace or to the shapes of the triangular fields.

On the 1955 OS map the field boundary immediately south of the development site has been removed, but the more southerly boundary remains. The plans of ten rectangular buildings are shown; the site of a Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) World War Two storage depot. One of the buildings is shown in the development site, while the others are in the field immediately to the south. The little terrace of cottages is still shown.

On the 1963-1964 OS map the site of the depot is still shown as is the terrace of cottages, and they are still visible on the 1966 map.

On the 1970 map the little row of cottages and the storage depot are no longer there, and the house on the site is called 'the Bungalow'.

On the modern map (Worcestershire County Council intranet) the present southern boundary of the site has been instated. An internal boundary is shown running roughly east to west to the north of the house. A smaller building is shown west of the house.

## 5 Heritage assets

### 5.1 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 (Grade II), Clerkenleap Farmhouse (WSM 43108, Plate 7) is located approximately 400m north of the development site, described in the HER as a late 16<sup>th</sup> Century timber-framed farmhouse. The building was substantially remodelled c 1840 in Tudor style. The remodelled house has an earlier late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century wing which became the kitchen wing to the 1840 house. In addition to this there is a c 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century long outbuilding.

### 5.2 Undesignated heritage assets

#### 5.2.1 Prehistoric

While there is no evidence in the study area of Palaeolithic human activity, it is recorded in the HER that the lower M3 tooth of *M Primigenius* (Woolly Mammoth) was discovered in a gravel pit in nearby Powick Farm in 1834.

Excavations at Bath Road (Rogers 2010, WCM101456), c 1.4km north of the site, revealed 33 struck flints, some scattered and some residual, which, in association with several pits, indicate a Mesolithic settlement with some flint knapping taking place. Some finds of Neolithic date were also found at Bath Road. Later prehistoric features at the Bath Road site included a partially excavated Iron Age enclosure.

Within the study area, the cropmark of an undated ring ditch (WSM10230) has been identified from aerial photographs approximately 150m south of the development site.

A large rectangular enclosure of unknown date (WSM02210) has also been identified from aerial photographs. This is described in the HER as a regular double ditched rectangular enclosure, and is approximately 300m south-east of the development site.

Possible prehistoric activity was recorded in an archaeological evaluation (Vaughan and Wainwright 2012) of the site almost immediately north of the present proposed site. A number of intercutting shallow ditches or gullies, probably defining enclosures, were found, with a scattering of pits and postholes within. A residual struck flint flake was also recovered from the site.

### 5.2.2 Roman

Extensive Roman activity within the field north of the site suggested by a geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2012) was confirmed by archaeological evaluation (Vaughan and Wainwright 2012). The survey and subsequent evaluation found 'evidence of a series of rectilinear enclosures arranged around the junction of a routeway aligned south-south-west to north-north-east along the east side and a secondary track perpendicular to the west' (Vaughan and Wainwright 2012, 1). This activity is 2<sup>nd</sup> to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century in date, and a single urned cremation excavated at the site dates to 133-345AD. Clear evidence was also found of intensive iron working.

At the Bath Road site an early Roman smithing area was found, indicated by a concentration of features containing industrial waste (Rogers 2010).

Evidence for Late Iron Age or early Romano-British activity in the study area was found in an evaluation near Kempsey in 2012 (Webster 2012); where two ditches and an associated pit were found, possibly representing occupation.

The conjectured line of the Roman road from Gloucester to Worcester (WSM30539) runs north-north-west to south-south east approximately 400m to the east of the development site. The line of this road was picked up by geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2012) and it was also found in the above mentioned evaluation (Webster 2012). Although the geophysical survey indicated that it appeared to be substantial, with ditches either side, the overall state of the road as observed in the evaluation would suggest that it had been little more than a gravel track.

### 5.2.3 Medieval

An enclosure of unknown date, associated with medieval ridge and furrow (WSM10227) has been identified 450-500m north-east of the development site as a cropmark from aerial photographs.

An area of medieval ridge and furrow (WSM36036) lies 400-500m west of the development site, on the opposite side of the River Severn, identified from aerial photography and LiDAR imagery.

Documentary evidence suggests that a medieval fish weir (WSM23814) may have existed on the River Severn approximately 400m north-west of the development site.

### 5.2.4 Post Medieval

Two areas of water meadow (WSM36034 and 36035) have been identified, on the opposite bank of the River Severn, 400 to 500m from the site. The more northerly area has been identified as late 11<sup>th</sup> century to 16<sup>th</sup> century in date, while the more southerly area (WSM36034) has been recorded more generally to be post-medieval.

A post-medieval bridge (WSM36028) lies approximately 500m south-west of the site, on the west side of the River Severn. It lies across a tributary of the Severn.

A timber-framed house, Laurel Cottage, (AHA 1, Plate 6), occupies a plot just north of the proposed development site. There is a house shown at this location on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map.

The Historic Farmsteads Project has identified three historic farms within the study area dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and one 19<sup>th</sup> century out-farm (HER search data).

### 5.2.5 Modern

Within the proposed development site and in the field immediately to the south Ordnance Survey maps of 1955 and 1966 depict 10 rectangular and sub-rectangular buildings (Fig 5). These are recorded on the HER as a Royal Army Service Corps Depot (WSM45451). One building, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east occupied a central position in the development site. This depot; Clerkenleap RASC; was comprised of Nissen huts and Romney huts (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/>) and was used for the storage of tyres, inner tubes etc. It is said to be a sub-depot of Chilwell. The depot was demolished between 1966 and 1970.

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### 5.3 Potential heritage assets

The survival of prehistoric and Roman remains on well-drained soils close to rivers is well known and is demonstrated in this area by sites at Clifton Quarry 2km south of Kempsey (Mann and Jackson 2010) and at the field immediately to the north of Little Acre (Vaughan and Wainwright 2012). The area has high potential for archaeological deposits from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods, with sites from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age, the Roman and the medieval and post-medieval all recorded in the vicinity.

In addition to these, the site of the proposed development is known to have been the location for a storage facility for the RASC during World War Two. Although the sheds that made up the facility had been demolished by the 1970s, there is a potential for remains from this period to exist at the site.

The location of a World War Two depot at this site does not imply that previous archaeological deposits have been destroyed. The sheds that made up the storage facility, being Romney huts and Nissen huts, probably had shallow foundations. It has been recorded at the nearby Bath Road site that significant archaeological deposits survived between the footprints of substantial petrol storage tanks of the same period (Rogers 2010).

## 6 Assessment of the significance of heritage assets

### 6.1 Designated assets

#### 6.1.1 Scheduled ancient monument

There are no scheduled ancient monuments, conservation areas, registered battlefields or registered parks or gardens within the study area.

#### 6.1.2 Listed building

There is one Grade II Listed building; Clerkenleap farmhouse (WSM43108); within the study area, 400m north of the proposed development site. It is currently shielded from the proposed development site by a line of trees. Without the trees, however, there would be a clear sightline both to and from the site. The landscape in the vicinity is one of dispersed settlement. It is considered that limited and appropriate residential development of the site would have a **not significant** impact on the setting of Clerkenleap Farmhouse.

### 6.2 Undesignated assets

#### 6.2.1 Historic buildings

Laurel Cottage (AHA 1), facing the road immediately to the north of the site is an unlisted timber-framed cottage, probably of 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The cottage is currently part of a small cluster of buildings which includes Little Acre. It is considered that appropriate residential development of the Little Acre site would have a **not significant** impact on the setting of the cottage.

#### 6.2.2 Sites of archaeological interest

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

Whilst no archaeology is currently known within the proposed development site, its location on a gravel terrace adjacent to a flood plain as well as the proximity to a known prehistoric and Roman settlement site adjacent to the north, and a probable prehistoric ring ditch (WSM10230) means there is a high potential for the survival of cut features which date from these periods. Furthermore, as the development site was formerly one part of a World War Two RASC storage facility (WSM45451) there is the potential for the survival of archaeological remains from this period, although the recorded Nissen and Romney huts are likely to have had a light footprint.

Immediately to the north, a substantial Roman site has been identified through geophysics (Archaeo-Physica 2012) and archaeological evaluation (Vaughan and Wainwright 2012). The Roman road (WSM30539) from Worcester to Gloucester runs c 400m from the development site.

There is significant evidence of medieval occupation in the area, with several areas of ridge and furrow, some with associated earthworks visible in the study area, as well as a possible fishing weir on the River Severn.

There is also significant evidence of activity in the post-medieval period, with water meadows, a bridge and a timber framed cottage just north of the site of the proposed development.

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

Should deposits related or similar to those recorded due north survive within the site, they would have the potential to contribute to the current understanding of the nature and form of settlement along the River Severn corridor during the late prehistoric and Roman periods.

The RASC wartime storage depot located within and to the south of the site has the potential to shed light on the local war experience and contribute information to the Defence of Britain project.

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

Although the extent and density of archaeological deposits on the site are not known, it can be surmised by the proximity of known remains that the potential for similar remains, or at least remains at a similar depth, is high. Prehistoric and Roman archaeological deposits uncovered at the site almost immediately north of the proposed development site were recorded at a shallow depth (0.23-0.40m) below the ground surface. Potential deposits at this site are likely to exist at a similar depth which would mean they would be vulnerable to disturbance from intrusive groundworks.

There is also a potential for the survival of below ground artefacts and remains associated with the World War Two RASC depot. The greater part of this storage depot was located to the south of the site, but one rectangular building is shown on the 1955 OS map lying roughly east to west across the site. The remains of foundations and other activity associated with this building may survive at a shallow depth.

The construction of the bungalow, associated services and a septic tank will have compromised the survival of archaeological remains within the site to an unknown, although probably limited extent.

## **7 The impact of the development**

### **7.1 Impacts during construction**

The impact of the proposed development has been ascribed as **unknown** (see Table 1) as the absence of significant heritage assets in the form of buried remains has not been established. Furthermore, the nature of the proposed development is not currently known, and therefore it is not possible to assess the potential impact on buried archaeological deposits. Archaeological evaluation immediately to the north of the site, has demonstrated the survival of prehistoric and Roman deposits immediately beneath ploughsoil. Were such deposits to survive within the development site these would be vulnerable to the type of groundworks associated with residential development, such as ground reduction, excavations for strip foundations and service runs which could potentially have a **minor to moderate adverse** effect on a heritage asset.

### **7.2 Impacts on sustainability**

The National Planning Policy Framework 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 (NPPF, DCLG 2012, Section 141).



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The recording of potential archaeological features at the proposed development site could enhance the knowledge and understanding of the local archaeological resource. Several prehistoric and Roman sites have been recorded in the vicinity in recent years, with the archaeological remains due north suggesting a site of regional importance as well as the existence of a Roman road some 400m to the east of the site. Below ground archaeological remains at this location would contribute to this research.

The remains of the RASC World War Two supply depot have the potential to add to the understanding of the local experience of the war.

### 7.3 Residual impacts

The landscape in the vicinity of Little Acre comprises farmland and dispersed settlement. Sympathetic development of the site which maintains this character may have a **not significant or minor beneficial** effect on the setting of assets which have a sightline to the site.

Implementation of the mitigation proposed above should ensure that there are no residual effects on the historic environment and archaeological resource from the proposed development. Mitigation should ensure that adverse impacts are restricted in scope to **not significant**.

## 8 Recommendations

The assessment has identified the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits of prehistoric, Roman or 20<sup>th</sup> century date which, if they exist, could be vulnerable to groundworks associated with development. Therefore in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework guidelines (DCLG 2012, 128) it is recommended that on-site evaluation is undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains prior to development. The scope and specification of mitigation works would be agreed with the Planning Advisory Service of Worcestershire County Council who provides archaeological planning advice to Malvern Hills District Council.

Any site investigation works 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.

## 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 for the historic environment was undertaken on behalf of John Kendrick Ltd., at Little Acre, Worcester Road, Broomhall, Kempsey, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8530 5083, HER ref WSM49794).*

*The site comprises a triangular plot of land to the west of the A38 Worcester Road between Kempsey and Broomhall to the south of Worcester. It is currently occupied by a bungalow and garden forming a part of a small cluster of houses set within a landscape of dispersed settlement.*

*The site lies on a gravel terrace above the floodplain of the River Severn, which predisposes the site to settlement of prehistoric and Roman periods. The survival of buried archaeological remains of these periods including an enclosure and a road have been demonstrated in a recent archaeological evaluation of the field immediately north of the site. The cropmark of a potentially prehistoric ring ditch has been identified 150m to the south of the site and the Roman road between Worcester and Gloucester lies 400m to the east.*

*The site is recorded as having been part of a World War Twodepot for the storage of tyres and inner tubes. Ten huts are shown on Ordnance Survey maps from 1955 to 1966, one of which was located within the site.*

*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 Roman remains recorded to the north of the site or related to the function of the site as part of a World War Two depot may be present within the site.*

*It is recommended that evaluation in the form of trenches be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains, prior to development, in line with current National Planning Policy Framework guidelines.*

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, John Kendrick (John Kendrick Ltd) and Tegan Cornah (HER Assistant, Worcestershire County Council).

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

HER ref. (and legal status)	Site name	NGR	Record type	Date	Description
WSM36028	Bridge, North-East, Beauchamp Court, Powick	SO 8481 5114	Building	Post-medieval	Bridge across a tributary of the River Severn.
WSM43108	Clerkenleap Farmhouse, Bath Road, Kempsey	SO 8540 5114	Building	16 <sup>th</sup> century	House, formerly a farmhouse. Circa late 16th century and 17th century; remodelled circa 1840.
WSM11391	Watermeadow System, Callow End	SO 8429 4997	Landscape Component	Post-medieval	Post-medieval water meadow system identified by aerial photographs. Survival is variable, but parts of it show up very well
<b>WSM26761</b>	<b>Site of an RASC Depot, Clerkenleap, Kempsey</b>	<b>SO 8521 5080</b>	<b>Landscape Component</b>	<b>World War Two</b>	<b>Site of a storage depot, possibly a sub depot to Chilwell, used by the RASC - Royal Army Service Corps. Site demolished post Second World War</b>
<b>WSM45451</b>	<b>Royal Army Service Corps Depot, Clerkenleap, Kempsey</b>	<b>SO 8522 5079</b>	<b>Monument</b>	<b>World War Two</b>	<b>Site of a storage depot, possibly a sub depot to Chilwell, used by the RASC - Royal Army Service Corps. Site demolished post Second World War</b>
WSM02210	Rectangular Enclosure East of A38, South of Broomhall, Kempsey	SO 8541 5047	Monument	Unknown	A regular double ditched rectangular enclosure.
WSM10227	Enclosure and Ridge and Furrow, North of Lower Broomhall Farm, Kempsey	SO 8575 5094	Monument	Unknown date (Enclosure) Medieval (Ridge and Furrow)	Small rectangular enclosure. Narrow ridge and furrow, aligned north-south.
WSM10228	Ridge and Furrow, Southwest of Lower Broomhall Farm, Kempsey	SO 8560 5049	Monument	Medieval	East to West (roughly) Ridge and Furrow as cropmark in 2 small fields
WSM10229	Ridge and Furrow, Southwest of Lower Broomhall Farm, Kempsey	SO 8570 5049	Monument	Medieval	Ridge & Furrow as cropmarks (roughly East-West)
WSM10230	Ring Ditch, North of Open Barn, Kempsey	SO 8525 5067	Monument	Unknown	Ring ditch as cropmark in northern part of field
WSM23814	Possible Fish Weir,	SO 8505	Monument	Medieval	Documentary evidence

Little Acre, Worcester Road, Broomhall, Kempsey, Worcestershire

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	River Severn, near Kempsey	5110			
WSM30539	Roman Road from Gloucester to Worcester (Margary 180).	SO 8683 4528	Monument	Roman	Conjectural evidence combined with cropmarks, documentary and earthwork evidence.
WSM36034	Water Meadow, East of Freemans Wells, North-East of Beauchamp Court, Powick	SO 8463 5093	Monument	Post-Medieval	Water Meadow
WSM36035	Water Meadow, North-East of Beauchamp Court, Powick	SO 8480 5095	Monument	Post-Medieval	Water Meadow
WSM36036	Ridge and Furrow, North-East of Beauchamp Court, Powick	SO 8472 5105	Monument	Medieval	Ridge and furrow

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**Appendix 2 Additional heritage assets identified by the desk-based assessment (those within the application site are indicated in bold)**

Additional heritage asset	Site name	NGR	Source	Date	Description
AHA 001	Laurel Cottage	SO 8583 5085	Site Visit	17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> century	Timber-framed cottage

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## Plates



*Plate 1, Bungalow at Little Acre, facing south-west*



*Plate 2, Proposed development site from A38, facing south-west*

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*Plate 3, View to the south from the site*



*Plate 4, View of site, facing east*

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*Plate 5, Septic tank, facing north*



*Plate 6, Laurel  
Cottage, from  
site, facing  
north*





*Plate 7, Clerkenleap farmhouse, facing south-west*

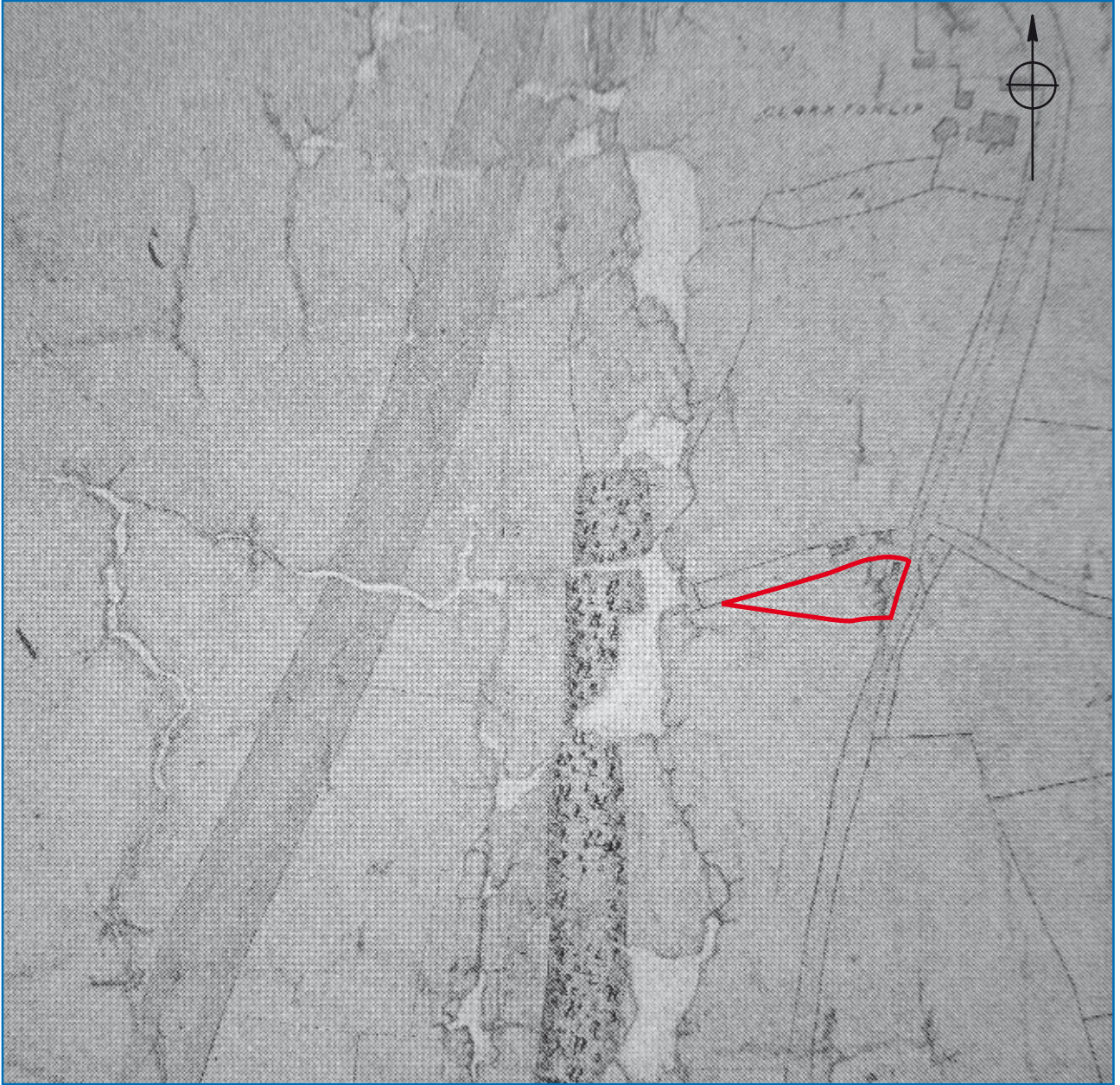


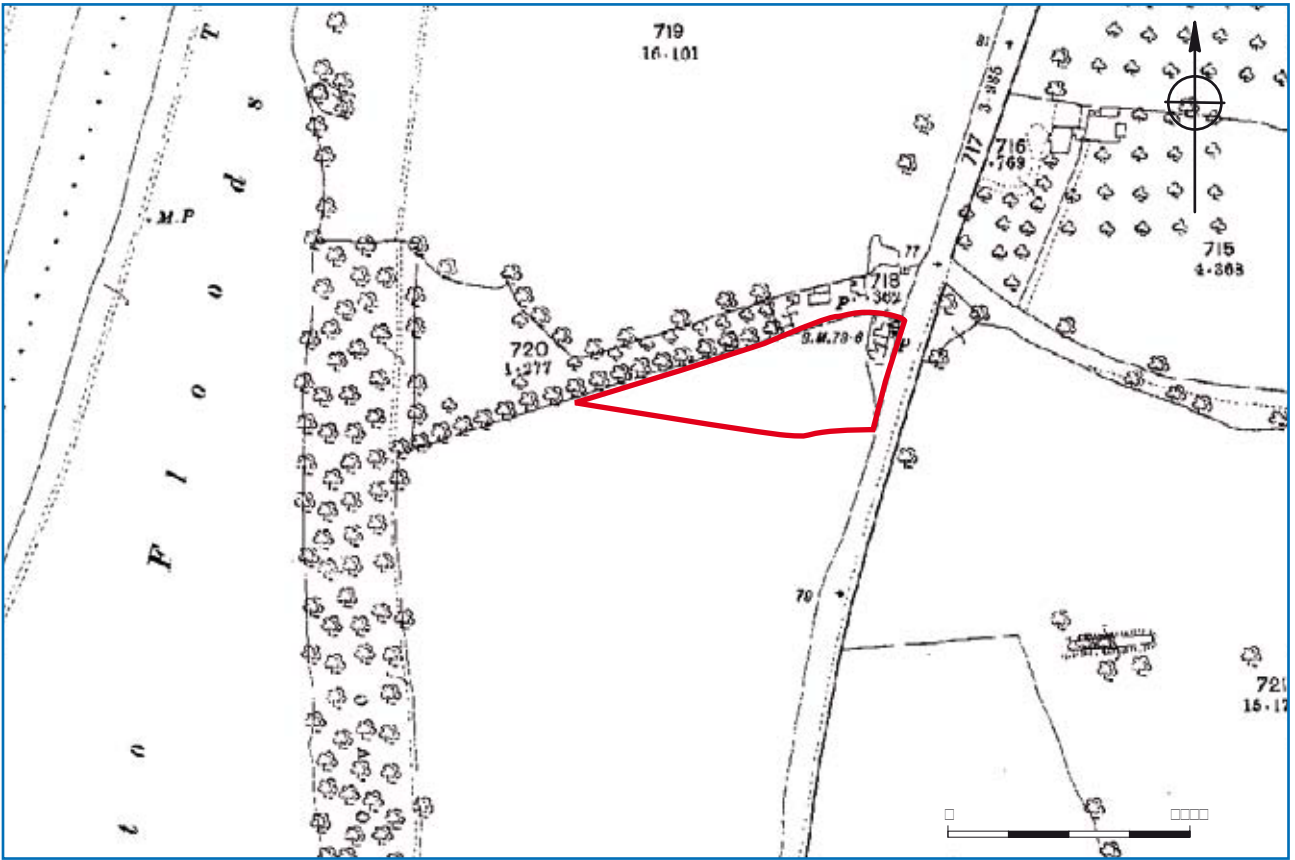
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