

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
OF LAND AT  
MORETON-ON-LUGG,  
HEREFORDSHIRE

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Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 2877  
Report 1410



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# Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire

**Darren Miller and Robin Jackson**

## Part 1: Project summary

This assessment addresses the archaeology and landscape character of an area of land at Moreton-on-Lugg in Herefordshire (centred on NGR SO 5065 4657). The land has been proposed for sand and gravel extraction by Tarmac Western Limited, as an extension to ongoing working of permitted areas at Wellington Quarry, Herefordshire. The report is intended to form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment, which in turn will form part of a planning application to Herefordshire County Council.

The report is based on sources held by Herefordshire County Council, reports and unpublished information on fieldwork undertaken by the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS), and information supplied by Tarmac. It is also informed by a walkover survey.

The results of the assessment can be summarised as follows. Based upon the results of previous archaeological investigations at Wellington Quarry, and of other work in the vicinity, it is virtually certain that significant archaeological remains lie beneath the surface within the proposed extension area. Remains of prehistoric seasonal occupation and activity are especially likely in the north of the proposed extension and may extend to the south, while remains of Late Iron Age and Roman settlement and/or land-use are also likely to be present. There is a lesser likelihood of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement remains. However, there is a strong potential for the extension of a former watercourse and significant associated Anglo-Saxon period activity into the proposed new extraction area from the east.

The survival of remains of all periods is likely to be good overall, and exceptional in places, due to long term waterlogging and alluviation of the Lugg Valley floodplain, and a long history of non-intensive land-use. These are liable to include palaeoenvironmental remains associated with former channels of River Lugg, its tributary the Wellington Brook, and artificial drainage channels. Such remains would be regarded as significant in their own right, and by association with known sites and finds in the vicinity.

The landscape character of the proposed extension reflects its location on the floodplain of the River Lugg and successive phases of pastoral land-use. In the post-medieval period, this formed part of an extensive watermeadow using water channelled from the Wellington Brook. This phase of land-use is clearly reflected in the present landscape, which retains the field pattern associated with the watermeadow and contains numerous relict channels. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this system went out of use, although the area continued to be managed as pasture and was provided with new hedges and hedgerow trees. Many of these hedges and trees survive, although they are generally in poor condition. In the last century, the historic character of the landscape has been eroded further by a move away from traditional farming practices.

In conclusion, the archaeological significance of the proposed extension centres on the likely presence of well preserved and important buried remains of the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. These are liable to be of both local and regional archaeological importance and in some instances may be of national significance. Appropriate steps should therefore be taken to investigate and assess the nature of this resource in more detail, before devising a formal mitigation response to the proposed extension. The visible and buried features associated with the post-medieval watermeadow are also significant, as they represent a regionally distinctive but poorly documented and under-researched form of land-use. They will also require further investigation, either before, or as part of any mitigation response.



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## Part 2: Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

The project was commissioned by Tarmac Western Limited, in order to contribute to an Environmental Impact Assessment being produced by SLR Consulting Limited for a proposed southwards extension to Wellington Quarry.

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to requirements set out in an Advanced Scoping Opinion sought by Tarmac from Herefordshire County Council. These state the need for an assessment of the archaeology and landscape character of the proposed extension.

The project also conforms to a proposal prepared by the Service (WHEAS 2006), and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IFA 2001).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the project were to allow the Environmental Impact Assessment to meet the requirements of Herefordshire Council's Adopted Scoring Opinion.

More specifically, the project aimed to:

- collect relevant information relating to the archaeological potential and historic landscape character of the proposed development area;
- assess the potential significance of any archaeological remains;
- assess the impact of the proposed development on these archaeological remains;
- support the production of a mitigation strategy to offset any detrimental effects of the development; or
- support the formulation of a strategy for further investigation where the character and value of the resource has not been sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be designed.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Desk-based research

The main sources of information were records, maps, and aerial photographs held in the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and reports on fieldwork undertaken in the area by the Service over the last 18 years.

The SMR records are summarised in Table 1, and illustrated on Figure 2. Other sources are listed below by type.

#### *Cartographic sources*

- Anon, 1843 *Wellington tithe map* (transcribed by G Gwatkin, 1988);
- Anon, 1845 *Moreton-on-Lugg tithe map* (transcribed by G Gwatkin, 1999);
- Ordnance Survey 1890, *Herefordshire, sheet 26 NE*;
- Tarmac Western Limited, 2005 (Topographical surveys of Wellington Quarry and proposed extension).

#### *Aerial photographs (held in SMR)*

- Vertical photographs 1968/166 frames 835 and 836;
- Oblique photographs in ring-binders for SO 54.

#### *Documentary sources*

Griffin, S and Jackson, R, 2003 *Evaluation at Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **1142**

Jackson, R, and Miller, D, 2004 *Wellington quarry, Herefordshire: investigations of a landscape in the lower Lugg valley*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **1230**

Jackson, R, Hurst, D, Jones, L, and Pearson, P, 2000 *Evaluation of the proposed environmental recycling area at Wellington Quarry, Wellington, Herefordshire*, WCC Archaeological Service, report **843**

Miller, D, 2003 *Programme of archaeological work at Moreton-on-Lugg rail loading facility, Herefordshire*, Historic Environment and Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **1195**

Miller, D and Griffin, L, 2002 *Archaeological evaluation at Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, report **950**

## 2.2 **Walkover survey**

A visit to the area was necessary in order to gain a first-hand impression of the landscape, and to identify any unrecorded but visible archaeological features which were present. The visit (on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006) took the form of a rapid “walkover” survey. Notes on land-use, field boundaries, and other features were made on a large-scale Ordnance Survey map, and photographs were taken of selected features.

## 3. **Results**

The results of the assessment are presented below, in text and figures. The SMR records are tabulated in Table 1, and illustrated on Figures 2, while Figure 3 summarises the results of evaluation and salvage recording across the already quarried and permitted areas of the quarry. Various aspects of the topography of the area are shown on Figures 4-6.



<b>Reference number</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Grid reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
HSM 5522	Wellington Quarry	SO 5080 4790	Reference number for fieldwork 1989-2005. Successive evaluations and programmes of salvage recording have identified significant remains of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval activity.	Multi-period
HSM 6543	“Hill Crest”, Marden	SO 5100 4700	Unquantified collection of pottery	Roman
HSM 6546	St Mary’s Church, Marden	SO 5110 4700	Iron bell found during pond-cleaning near church c1848	Medieval
HSM 6651	Church House Farm	SO 5040 4554	Moat shown on 19 <sup>th</sup> century maps and represented by earthworks	Medieval
HSM 6552	Dinmore Fruit Farm, Wellington	SO 5000 4900	Chance find of stone axe	Late Neolithic
HSM 6900	St Mary’s Church, Marden	SO 5117 4706	Church with tower and spire	Medieval
HSM 8429	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5000 4500	Stone axe reportedly found in gravel heap	Neolithic
HSM 8460	Marden	SO 5200 4700	Flint knife	Neolithic /early Bronze Age
HSM 8508	Moreton Bridge, Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5130 4590	Stone bridge with three arches	16 <sup>th</sup> century and later
HSM 8524	St Andrews Church, Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5043 4567	Church with tower and spire	Medieval and Modern
HSM 8525	Marden	SO 5180 4720	Cropmarks of field boundaries etc in field south of Marden church	Undated
HSM 8532	Marden	SO 5140 4710	Earthworks of buildings shown on map of c1720	Medieval
HSM 8968	Site of cottages, NW of Upper House Farm, Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5034 4568	Cottages shown on 1843 Tithe map.	Post-medieval /Modern

Reference number	Site name	Grid reference	Description	Date
HSM 9099	Laystone (formerly Wisteston) Bridge, Marden	SO 5180 4770	Stone bridge with four arches	Post-medieval
HSM 9227	Marden	SO 5195 4740	Earthworks and pond, possibly indicating abandoned tenements	Undated
HSM 10160	Wellington/Marden	SO 5112 4706	Spring and well	Undated
HSM 10162	Marden	SO 5188 4584	Fishponds associated with Freens Court	Medieval and post-medieval
HSM 10374	Wellington	SO 5000 4900	Cropmark of large single-ditched enclosure; rectangular, with rounded corners	Iron Age/Roman
HSM 10375	Brookhouse Farm, Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 4990 4630	Cropmark of double ditched, D-shaped enclosure	Roman?
HSM 23295	Marden	SO 5120 4720	Site of Catchpole's weir, documented in 1658	Post-medieval
HSM 23296	Marden	SO 5135 4730	Site of fishery, documented in 1658	Post-medieval
HSM 23299	Marden	SO 5125 4620	Site of Kings Mill, documented in 1717 and identified with mill documented in Domesday survey	Medieval and post-medieval
HSM 24559	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5070 4580	Park identified from 19 <sup>th</sup> century maps	Post-medieval
HSM 25784	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5050 4560	Manor of Moreton-on-Lugg, represented by Domesday Book entry	Medieval
HSM 25361	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5050 4570	Hopkiln	Post-medieval
HSM 25362	Brookhouse Farm, Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 4990 4630	Hopkiln	Post-medieval
HSM 25888	Wellington	SO 4900 4800	Manor of Wellington, represented by Domesday Book entry	Medieval
HSM 27089, 27629 and 27630	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5007 4648	Military depot, documented and represented by standing buildings	1942-1996
HSM 30837	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5104 4680	Railway junction associated with military depot	c1942-1996

<b>Reference number</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Grid reference</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
HSM 30838	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5123 4585	Railway station with two platforms, redeveloped as industrial estate	Modern
HSM 31033	Marden	SO 5200 46900	Cropmarks of rectangular ?building platforms	Undated
HSM 31184	Marden	SO 5130 4710	Landscape park associated with Marden Court	Post-medieval
HSM 31621	Wellington	SO 4900 4800	Cropmark of ditch running parallel to Wellington Brook	Undated
HSM 31652	Auberrow, Wellington	SO 4365 4445	Fragment of human skull and pottery sherds found during roadworks in 2001	Undated
HSM 31835	Moreton Park	SO 5048 4734	Reference number for field evaluation in 2001 of north-east part of ex-military depot. Slight evidence of Roman and post-medieval land-use recovered	Roman and post-medieval
HSM 32267	Wellington Quarry	SO 5080 4750	Reference number for phase of salvage recording in southern part of Wellington quarry, 2003 to 2005. Recovered evidence of Neolithic and Beaker period pits, Roman field boundaries and an Anglo-Saxon mill	Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon
HSM 32268 and 39316	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5030 4730	Reference number for field evaluation in 2002 of north part of ex-military depot and farmland to west. Sample trenching identified evidence for six phases of human activity and associated environmental change	Pre-historic-modern
HSM 33759	Wellington	SO 4900 4800	Line of road inferred from maps	Roman
HSM 35683	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5018 4601	Prisoner of War camp on site of military depot	1945-48?
HSM 36591	Moreton Park	SO 5050 4832	Reference number for watching brief in 2003 on north-west part of ex-military depot (same site as HSM 31835. Recovered slight evidence for post-medieval drainage	Post-medieval

Reference number	Site name	Grid reference	Description	Date
HSM 37139	Moreton Park	SO 5020 4560	Reference number for evaluation of south part of ex-military depot. Recovered evidence for partly-truncated alluvial profiles	Undated
HSM 37849	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5020 4590	Toll House shown on 19 <sup>th</sup> century maps	Post-medieval
HSM 38462	Marden	SO 5165 4680	Site of old school house documented in 1610 and shown on map of c1720	Post-medieval
HSM 38463	Marden	SO 5140 4681	Ridge and furrow earthworks	Medieval /post-medieval
HSM 38669	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5133 4620	Black poplar	Post-medieval
HSM 38670	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5133 4620	Black poplar	Post-medieval
HSM 38671	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5131 4625	Black poplar	Post-medieval
HSM 38737	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5031 4679	Black poplar	Post-medieval
HSM 38738	Moreton-on-Lugg	SO 5027 6478	Black poplar	Post-medieval
HSM 38865	Upper Paradise Farm, Marden	SO 5200 4740	Timber-framed farmhouse with brick extension, dating from c1620	Post-medieval
HSM 43223	Moreton Park	SO 5020 4760	Reference number for ongoing watching brief in north part of ex-military compound. A length of Roman road, and post-Roman building foundations have been found to date.	Roman and post-Roman

*Table 1: Summary of SMR records relating to the study area*

### 3.1 Topography

The proposed extension is shown in its local context on Fig. 1, and in more detail on Fig 2. Further details are shown on Figs 4-6, and on Plates 1-5.

As is evident from the figures, the proposed extension lies on the floodplain of the River Lugg. The land slopes gently from west to east, although this is barely perceptible on the ground. As shown on Fig 6 and Plates 1-5, the area is currently farmland, divided into seven fields by hedges and fences.

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## 3.2 Archaeology

There is a considerable amount of archaeological evidence from the area around the proposed extension (Table 1; Figs 2 and 3). Taken together with the topographical data, this provides a reasonable basis for inferring the character of archaeological remains within the proposed extension and the position of the area within changing patterns of settlement and land-use. These issues are best considered on a period-by-period basis.

### 3.2.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric activity is well-represented in the Wellington/Morton-on-Lugg area. Indeed, the evidence for prehistoric activity in this area is some of the most extensive and significant in the Midlands. This situation reflects utilisation of the area from at least the Neolithic period onwards and also in part the opportunities for discovery afforded by quarrying and other developments. However, although there is a relative abundance of local evidence for prehistoric activity, it is still insufficient to allow patterns of settlement and land-use to be reconstructed in any detail. For this reason, it is difficult to assess the potential for, or likely location of, any prehistoric remains in the proposed extension with any certainty. Nevertheless, it is possible to make some reasonable inferences.

In the first place, it is likely that remains of Neolithic and Beaker period activity are present within the proposed extension. In the evaluation of the northern part of the ex-military depot in 2002, a single pit, of early Neolithic date, was located close to the northern boundary of field 2 on Fig 6 (Griffin and Jackson 2003; see also Fig 3). Neolithic and Beaker period remains have been regularly found in discrete clusters in Wellington Quarry to the north-east (Jackson and Miller 2004, 70-76; Fig 3). Taken together, the evidence suggests a pattern of repeated visits to, and exploitation of, the same locality over several thousand years. The extents of the locality being exploited are unknown, but on present evidence, there is no reason to suppose that it did not include the proposed extension. One or more clusters of Neolithic and/or Beaker period features can therefore be inferred.

Secondly, it is reasonable to infer that evidence of Bronze Age activity survives beneath alluvium in the north of the area and possibly beyond. In the same piece of fieldwork mentioned above, Bronze Age pottery was recorded in a trench only 50m from the west boundary of field 1 on Figure 3 (Griffin and Jackson 2003, 10-11; see also Fig 3). Further significant evidence for Bronze Age activity was found 450m to the north-west (Griffin and Jackson 2003, 9-10). This evidence suggests that remains of this period occur over a wide area, and are likely to be found in the fields numbered 1-3 on Figure 6.

The potential for Iron Age remains is less easy to assess. There is some evidence for Iron Age activity from the Wellington/Moreton-on-Lugg area, but not enough to establish patterns of settlement and land-use. Nevertheless, the possibility that Iron Age remains are present cannot be ruled out. Judging by the evidence from Wellington Quarry, such remains are likely to be related to ritual activity around watercourses, or perhaps to farming, if the field ditches containing Roman pottery were laid out at an earlier date (Jackson and Miller 2004, 77-86).

Apart from the potential for evidence of prehistoric activity, there is also strong potential for the survival of plant and animal remains representing aspects of prehistoric environments. Such remains have been found in waterlogged deposits at Wellington Quarry and Moreton Park, both within archaeological features relating to specific periods of human activity and within former watercourses crossing the quarried area (Jackson and Miller 2004, 31-38 and 67-70; Griffin and Jackson 2003, 16-21). The topography of the proposed extension area suggests that similar remains might be present, especially if the two palaeochannels identified at Moreton Park continue on their apparent alignments (Fig 3). Moreover, the area will certainly contain alluvial deposits with the potential to provide information on prehistoric environments (Jackson and Miller 2004, 24-30).

### 3.2.2 Roman

Roman activity is well-represented in the Wellington/Moreton-on-Lugg area, mainly by the evidence from Wellington Quarry, but also through contemporary deposits at Moreton Park, and pottery found at Marden (HSM 6543). It is also likely that most of the cropmarks in the area are of Roman date. On this basis, it is reasonable to infer that some evidence of Roman activity will be present in the proposed extension. It should be noted in this connection that there are cropmark enclosures near the north, south, and south-east boundaries of the proposed extension (Fig 2). If these are indeed Roman (though not necessarily contemporary), they suggest a high density of settlement in the area. On this basis, it is possible that the proposed extension was settled in some form during the Roman period. If so, the remains might include enclosure ditches, building foundations, and a range of artefacts. At all events, it is likely that the area was farmed, and remains of this activity, in the form of field ditches and pottery scatters, can be expected.

### 3.2.3 Anglo-Saxon

The Wellington/Moreton-on-Lugg area has produced what is probably the most important evidence of Anglo-Saxon period activity in Herefordshire. Two watermills and a bone comb of this period have been found at Wellington Quarry. In addition, plant and animal remains of post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon date were found in the 2002 evaluation at Moreton Park (Jackson and Griffin 2003, 24). Further to the west, late Anglo-Saxon features have been excavated at Freens Court (HSM 30511). There is also a good documentary and toponymic context for settlement in the area from the late 7<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Sheppard 1979; Pretty 1989).

In this light of this evidence, it is possible that Anglo-Saxon remains might be present in the proposed extension. However, the possibility of finding settlement remains of this period seems remote. The topography of the proposed extension and the evidence from Wellington and Moreton Park suggests that it was wetland in the post-Roman centuries. Moreover, the historical and place-name evidence suggest that Anglo-Saxon settlements were located on the valley sides and interfluvies. If any remains of this period exist within the proposed extension, they are likely to relate to water-management (including the potential for further watermills), or to site-specific and local alluvial environments.

### 3.2.4 Medieval

Evidence for medieval agriculture has been found across the Wellington/Moreton-on-Lugg area. At Wellington Quarry, the evidence included buried ridge and furrow earthworks, pottery scatters introduced with manure, and (unusually) two field ovens for parching grain (Jackson and Miller 2004, 111-113). At Moreton Park, ephemeral linear features were tentatively interpreted as medieval field boundaries (Griffin and Jackson 2003, 11). Medieval or later agriculture is also represented in large parts of the area by the ploughed-out remains of ridge and furrow earthworks identified from the air (Miller 2003, fig 4). All this provides a context for similar remains being present in the proposed extension. However, there are grounds for believing that remains of this period are likely to be scarce and ephemeral. As in the Anglo-Saxon period, the proposed extension is likely to have been primarily uncultivated wetland. This suggestion is supported by the lack of ridge and furrow cropmarks within its boundaries, and by the field patterns and field names around the medieval village of Moreton-on-Lugg, which suggest that most of the village's arable land lay in fields to the west and south (Anon 1845). At most, medieval remains are likely to consist of field ditches (perhaps associated with waterlogged plant and animal remains), and occasional lost or broken artefacts.

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### 3.2.5 Post-medieval

For the post-medieval period, there is direct evidence bearing on the proposed extension itself. The most important evidence comes from the present landscape, recent aerial photographs, and the 1845 tithe map of Moreton-on-Lugg. From these sources, it is possible to infer that sometime during the post-medieval period, the proposed extension was converted into a watermeadow. The evidence for the watermeadow is visible on the ground and from the air in the form of field drains and relict channels. The system seems to have operated by taking water from the Wellington Brook (probably at a point around SO 5060 4770), channelling it into north-south carriers and from these into roughly evenly spaced east-west channels. The water was then taken off the fields and channelled into two tail drains emptying into the brook above Moreton-on-Lugg. It is uncertain when this system came into being, and when it was abandoned. However, recent (unpublished) research on Worcestershire watermeadows suggests that most were created in the period from c1650 to 1700, and that most were abandoned before the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Vanda Bartoszuk, pers comm). The field names on the 1845 tithe map suggest that the two northern fields had been wet grassland for some time, which may indicate that the watermeadow was defunct. At all events, the condition of the relict channels suggest that they have been unused for at least a century (Plate 5). The most likely date range for the watermeadow is therefore between c1650 and 1800.

### 3.2.6 Modern

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the land within the proposed extension seems to have been managed as pasture. It is likely that most of the present hedgerows and hedgerow trees date from the earlier part of this period. At all events, most of the hedgerow trees appear to be less than 150 years old, and a similar date can be suggested for the overgrown and leggy thorns in the hedgerows themselves (Plate 2). There is clear evidence on the ground for the recent introduction of new ditches and field drains. There is also indirect evidence that parts of the area have been ploughed in recent times, probably for reseeding grass. More specifically, the lack of earthworks associated with the watermeadow in the eastern fields suggests one or more episodes of ploughing. The latest changes to record in the area are the conversion of one field to arable land (field 5 on Fig 6), and the reinforcement of traditional hedges with post-and wire or wooden fences.

## 3.3 Landscape character

According to Herefordshire Council's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), the proposed extension lies in an area of riverside meadows (Hereford Council 2004, 58-9). As the terms suggests, riverside meadows are associated with alluvial floodplains. In the LCA, they are defined by the following characteristics:

#### *Primary characteristics*

- Pastoral land-use
- Well-defined linear patterns of willow and alder
- Tree cover represented by streamside and hedgerow trees
- Unsettled landscape

#### *Secondary characteristics*

- Wetland habitat
- River channel

- Hedge and ditch boundaries

Although this designation was arrived at by a broad-brush county-wide assessment, it is clearly appropriate to the proposed extension which has most of the primary and secondary characteristics. It should be noted, however, that the proposed extension has fewer trees than the designation implies, and only small pockets of wetland habitats (such as the pond in the north east corner of field 2 on Fig 6). As noted above, it also includes some arable land (field 5 on Fig 6), and a small parcel of woodland (in the north-east corner of field 3 on Fig 6). The lack of trees might reflect the previous management of the land as a watermeadow (trees are incompatible with this form of land-use), while the arable land and woodland can be seen as recent departures from traditional farming systems brought about by private initiatives and wider market forces. The landscape of the proposed assessment can therefore be characterised more precisely as a former watermeadow converted to pasture and partly to other forms of land-use.

#### 4. **Impact assessment**

Quarrying in the proposed extension would obviously remove all archaeological remains and transform its landscape character. Something approaching the former landscape character of the area might be effected by restoration, although this is not the preferred option at present (SLC Consulting 2005, 3).

#### 5. **Further investigation and mitigation**

In view of the high potential for significant archaeological remains existing within the proposed extension, further investigation is considered appropriate to better establish their potential extents, location, character, date, and significance. This would be with the specific aim of supporting determination of appropriate mitigation strategies for the proposed development area in the event of permission being granted for mineral extraction.

The scope of any such further investigation and mitigation should be determined by Herefordshire Council in consultation with Tarmac Limited, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service and SLR Consulting Limited.

#### 6. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, and unless directed otherwise, the following summary will be used as the basis for publication in appropriate local or national journals.

*A desk-based assessment of land at Moreton-on-Lugg in Herefordshire (NGR SO 5065 4657) was undertaken on behalf of Tarmac Western Limited. The land has been proposed for sand and gravel extraction as part of an extension to operations at Wellington Quarry. The assessment was concerned with the archaeology and landscape character of the proposed extension. It was based on a wide range of sources and informed by a walkover survey.*

*The results of the assessment can be summarised as follows. Based upon evidence from salvage recording within Wellington Quarry and other archaeological evidence from the surrounding area, it is virtually certain that significant buried archaeological remains lie within the proposed extension area. Remains of prehistoric activity are especially likely in the north of the area but may extend across the whole of the proposed extension, while remains of Iron Age and Roman settlement and/or land-use are also likely to be present. Although there is a lesser likelihood of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement remains, there is the potential for significant Anglo-Saxon remains to survive along a former watercourse which is believed to extend into the proposed extension area.*



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*The survival of remains is likely to be good overall, and exceptional in places, due to ancient waterlogging and alluviation, and a long history of non-intensive land-use. These are liable to include palaeoenvironmental remains associated with former channels of River Lugg, its tributary the Wellington Brook, and other drainage channel running from the west into the Lugg. Such remains would be regarded as significant in their own right, and by association with known sites and finds in the vicinity.*

*The landscape character of the proposed extension reflects its location on the floodplain of the River Lugg and successive phases of pastoral land-use. In the post-medieval period, the area formed part of an extensive water meadow using water channelled from the Wellington Brook. This phase of land-use is still clearly reflected in the present landscape, which retains the field pattern associated with the watermeadow and contains numerous relict channels. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this system went out of use, although the area continued to be managed as pasture and was provided with new hedges and hedgerow trees. Many of these hedges and trees survive, although they are generally in poor condition. In the last century, the historic character of the landscape has been eroded further by a move away from traditional farming practices.*

*In conclusion, the archaeological significance of the proposed extension centres on a high potential for the presence of buried remains of the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. The visible and buried features associated with the post-medieval watermeadow are also significant, as they represent a regionally distinctive but poorly documented and under-researched form of land-use. Both aspects of the proposed extension should be investigated further to inform any mitigation strategy that may be required.*

## 7. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to acknowledge the assistance of Malcolm Lawer and Jim Whitney of Tarmac Western Limited, and Jane Patton and Melissa Seddon of Herefordshire Council.

## 8. **Personnel**

The assessment was undertaken by Darren Miller. The report was written by Darren Miller and Robin Jackson, and the illustrations were drawn by Carolyn Hunt. The project manager was Robin Jackson.

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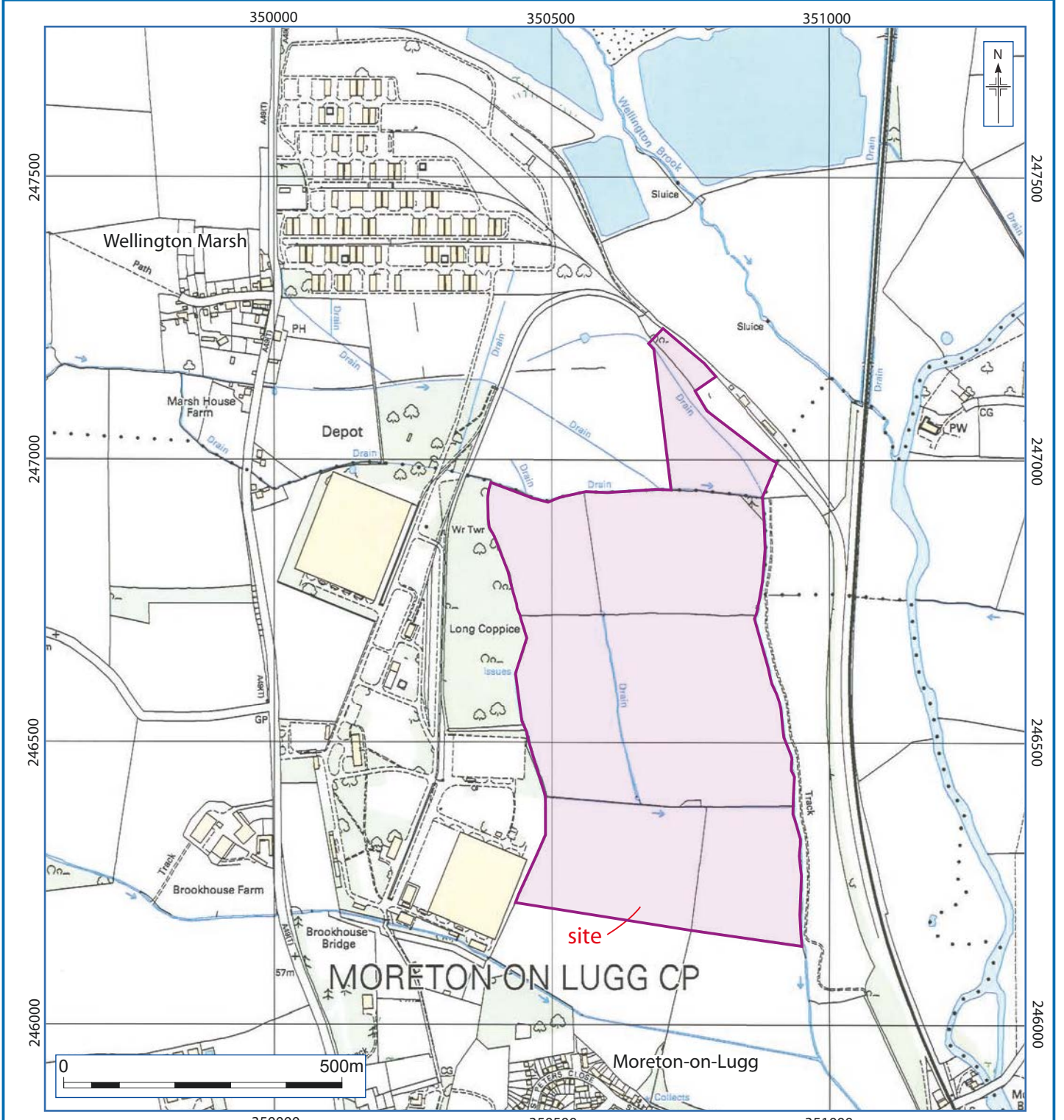
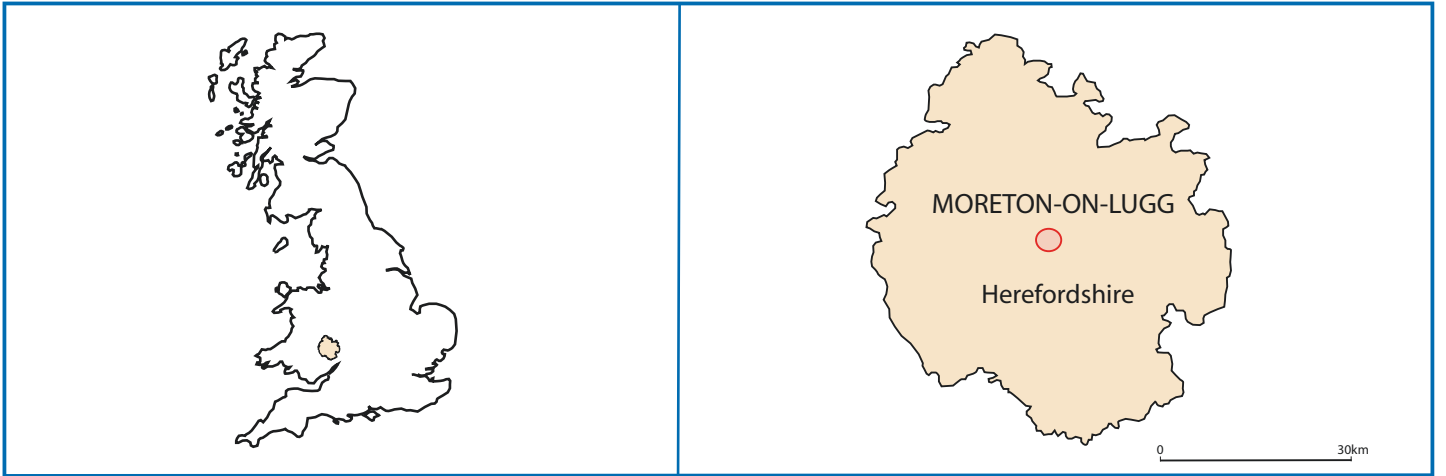
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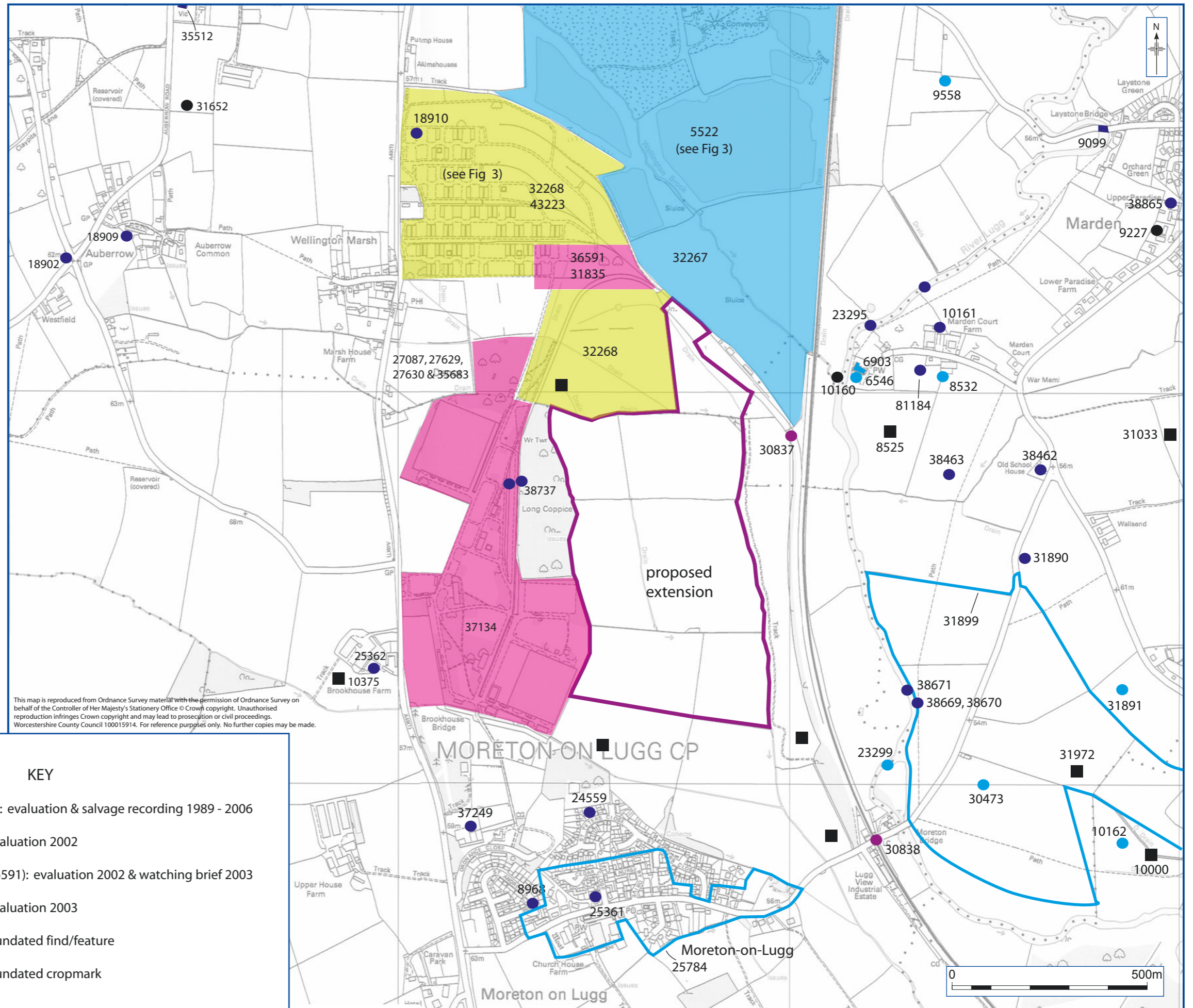


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Location of the site.

Figure 1



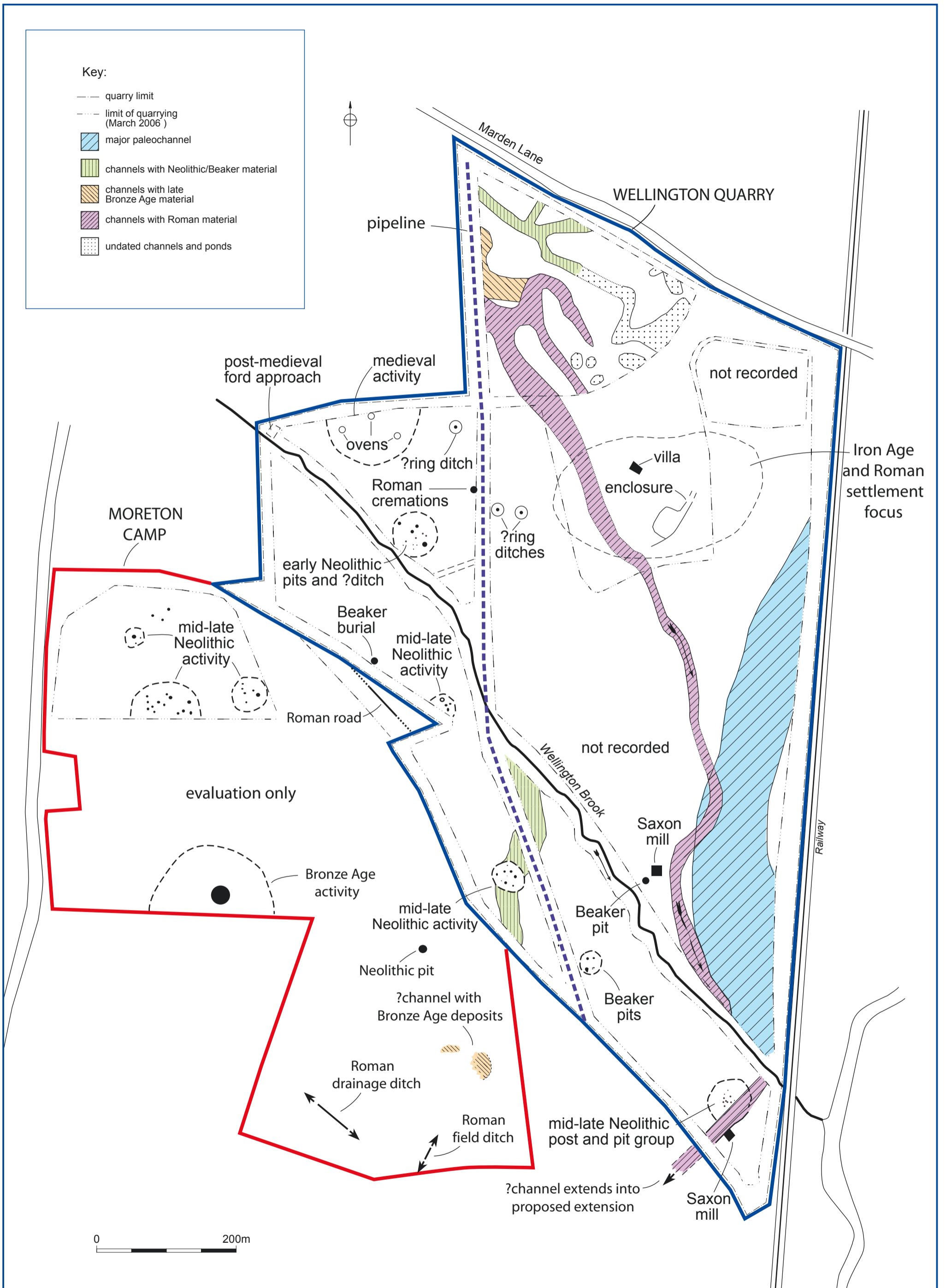


**KEY**

- Wellington Quarry (HSM 5522): evaluation & salvage recording 1989 - 2006
- Moreton Park (HSM 32268): evaluation 2002
- Moreton Park (HSM 318357, 36591): evaluation 2002 & watching brief 2003
- Moreton Park (HSM 37139): evaluation 2003
- medieval
- post-medieval
- modern
- undated find/feature
- undated cropmark

Location of nearby undated and historic sites (for Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon period, see Fig 3)

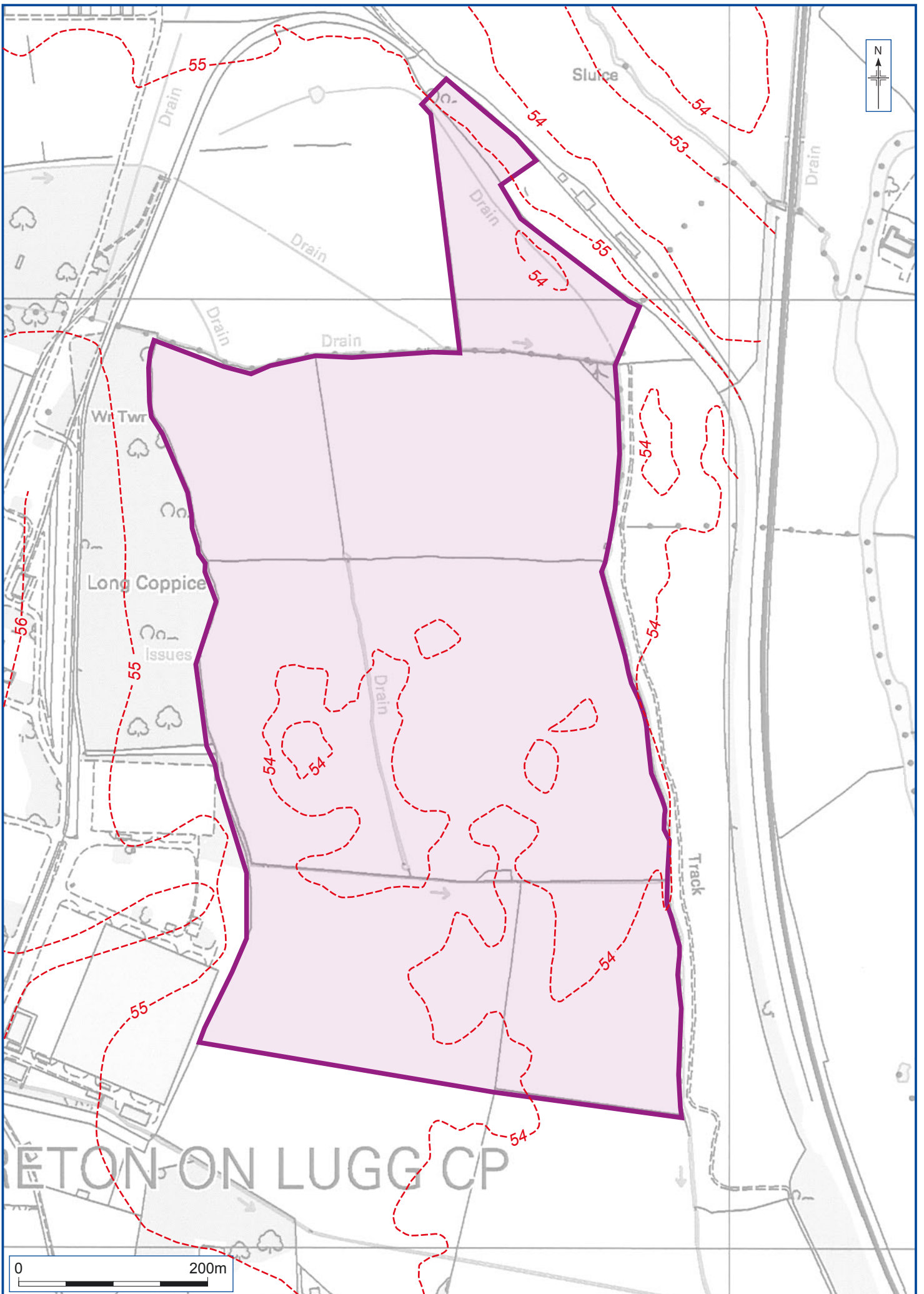
Figure 2



Summary of results from main quarry

Figure 3

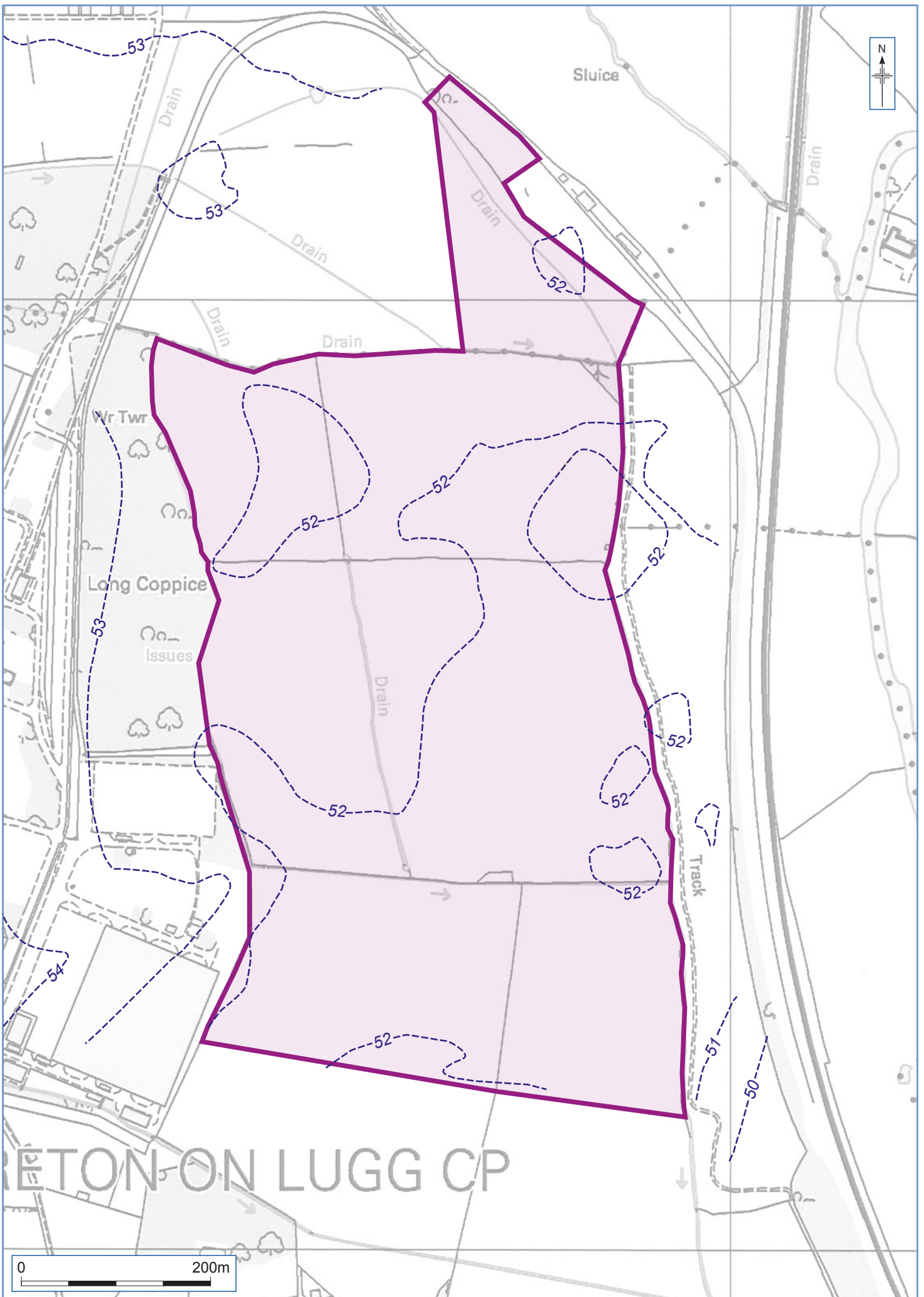




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Surface topography of proposed extension

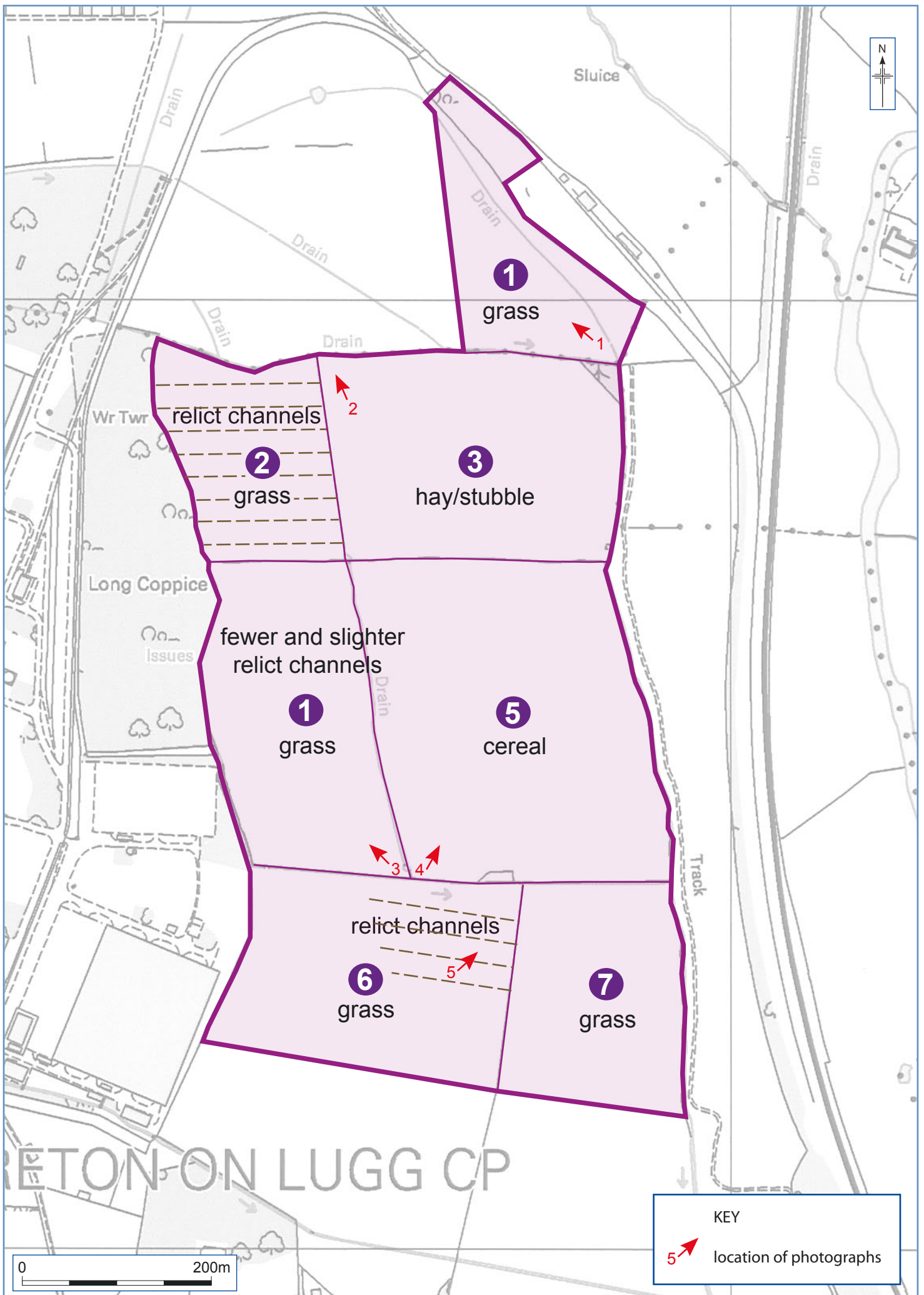
Figure 4



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Surface model of gravels in proposed extension (using borehole data)

Figure 5







*Plate 1: Field 1, facing north-east*



*Plate 2: Typical overgrown thorn hedge and pollard (field 2, facing north-west)*

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*Plate 3: Field 4, facing north-west*



*Plate 4: Field 5, facing north-east*





*Plate 5: Relict channels of watermeadow (field 6, facing north-east)*

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