

# Desk-based assessment of King's Hill, Kempsey, Worcestershire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
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## **Desk-based assessment at King's Hill, Kempsey, Worcestershire**

Tom Vaughan, Jon Webster and Nina O'Hare

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Nina O'Hare

### **Summary**

An updated desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken of land off King's Hill, Kempsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR SO 85137 49827). It was undertaken on behalf of Rooftop Housing Association, who intends to undertake residential development, for which a planning application will be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council. The original desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2011 on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd and revised in 2013.

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 west of the A38 main road through the village of Kempsey, to the north of and outside both the historic medieval core and the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century residential expansion. Its position on the gravel terrace overlooking the floodplain of the River Severn makes it ideal for both 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 750m to the east. Recent excavations to the east of Main Road, between the application site and Roman road, revealed a Late Iron Age to Roman 3<sup>rd</sup> century enclosure, with three concentric ditches and a driveway. A possible shrunken medieval settlement has also been identified adjacent to the Roman road. In Broomhall to the north extensive Roman activity of 2<sup>nd</sup> to possibly early 4<sup>th</sup> century date has been identified. The site of a post-medieval windmill has been identified on the eastern edge of the site, off the junction of King's Hill and Windmill Lane.

No intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the development site to date, although a geophysical survey was conducted in 2014, which recorded no potential archaeological anomalies. If the survey results are correct, then there considered to be a low possibility that remains associated with, or of similar character to, the prehistoric (and potentially Roman) cropmark activity and the post-medieval windmill may be present within the site.

# 1 Background

## 1.1 Reasons for the project

An updated desk-based assessment was undertaken of land off King's Hill, Kempsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR SO 85137 49827). It was undertaken on behalf of Rooftop Housing Association, who intends to build affordable residential housing, for which a planning application will be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council. The original desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2011 on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd and revised in 2013 (WSM 46047).

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

For the original project, a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2011).

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (ClfA 2014) and *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2010).

The event number assigned by the Historic Environment Record (HER) to this updated assessment is WSM 69541.

## 1.2 Planning background

Present government planning policy is contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This is supplemented by detailed guidance (DCLG 2014) and local planning policies within the *South Worcestershire Development Plan* (SWDP 2016). Specific policies of the SWDP relating to the historic environment are as follows:

### **SWDP 6: Historic Environment**

*A. Development proposals should conserve and enhance heritage assets, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of SWDP 24. Their contribution to the character of the landscape or townscape should be protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of south Worcestershire.*

*B. Development proposals will be supported where they conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. In particular this applies to:*

*i. Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields, as well as undesignated heritage assets (25) .*

*ii. The historic landscape, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands and commons and historic farmsteads and smallholdings. 25 As identified in extant local lists and heritage assets recorded in Historic Environment Records 91 SWDP 6: Historic Environment*

*iii. Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes.*

*iv. Archaeological remains of all periods.*

*v. Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and trackways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries.*

*vi. The historic core of the cathedral city of Worcester, with its complex heritage of street and plot patterns, buildings, open spaces and archaeological remains, along with their settings and views of the city.*

*vii. The civic, religious and market cores of south Worcestershire's city, town and village fabric with their wide variety of building styles, materials and street and plot patterns.*

## 2 Aims

The general 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.

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

- update the original report with new information held in the Historic Environment Record.

## 3 Methods

### 3.1 Personnel

This report was updated by Nina O'Hare (BA, PCIfA), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2015. The original assessment was undertaken by Jon Webster and Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA, MA, ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc, PG Cert, MCIfA) and Nina O'Hare.

### 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) in 2017, updating the previous 2011 search. Historic maps and published sources were consulted at the HER and Worcestershire Archive.

The results are mapped on Figure 2, the details of individual features of the historic environment are given in Appendix 1 and recorded events are listed in Appendix 2. HER references have been used throughout this assessment.

### 3.3 List of sources consulted

#### *Cartographic sources*

- 1840 Kempsey tithe plan, R C Herbert surveyor Worcester, transcribed to 1:10,000 by David Guyatt 1999, CRO BA 248 s 269/84
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 1887, Worcestershire XL NE, scale 6":1 mile (1:10,560)
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- Vaughan, T M, and Webster, J, 2016 *Archaeological investigations on the Flood Alleviation Scheme, Kempsey, Worcestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **2189**, P3708, WSM 45802, revision 1, dated 21 March 2016

*The following sources have also been cited in this assessment.*

- ClfA 2014 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government, dated 27 March 2012
- DCLG 2014 *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment/> , accessed 24 November 2017
- 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**



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- MHDC 2008 *Kempsey Conservation Area – Appraisal and Management Strategy*, Malvern Hills District Council, [http://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/cms/pdf/mhc-planning-kempseyfinal\\_2.pdf](http://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/cms/pdf/mhc-planning-kempseyfinal_2.pdf)
- SWDP 2016 *South Worcestershire Development Plan*, <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/The-Adopted-SWDP-February-2016.pdf>, accessed 26 November 2017
- 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

### 3.4 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, Worcestershire Archaeology 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 report and have not been considered.

### 3.5 Other methods

A site visit was undertaken on 23 November 2017 to identify any changes which had occurred since the original site visit in October 2011. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM 69541.

In 2014, Stratascan were commissioned by Lioncourt Homes Ltd to undertake a geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2014; WSM 66602). The results of this survey are also discussed below.

This assessment is limited to consideration of heritage assets and potential assets that are relevant to the application site.

### 3.6 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 1 have been used in the impact assessment.

**Major Beneficial:** 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.

**Beneficial:** 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).

**Not Significant:** Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.

<p><b>Minor Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably have a minor affect on the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p> <p>Partial removal of a historically important hedgerow (after the Hedgerows Regulations).</p>
<p><b>Moderate Adverse:</b> Minor harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting) of the highest significance, or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest of demonstrable significance equal to that of a scheduled monument. For instance scheduled monuments, grade I/II* listed buildings, grade I/II* registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, protected wrecks or World Heritage Sites.</p> <p>Harm to a designated heritage asset (or its setting), or non-designated asset (or its setting) of archaeological interest such that the level of harm will demonstrably affect the area and its heritage resource, either at a local or regional level. For instance grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas and undesignated heritage assets important at a sub-national level.</p> <p>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 assets

## 4 The application site

### 4.1 Location and size

The study area comprised the proposed development site of approximately 1.7ha (Fig 1), 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.

### 4.2 Topography, geology and soils

The study area comprises a sub-rectangular plot of land, west of King's Hill and Windmill Lane, to the north of the village of Kempsey. It bounded by residential estates to the east, fields to the north, south and west. It lies on the edge of the gravel plateau at a maximum height of approximately 25m AOD, sloping down to the west to approximately 15m AOD to the floodplain along its western flank (Plates 1-4).

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

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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).

### 4.3 Current land-use

The site is currently rough grassland, crossed by a series of footpaths and a telegraph cable. At the time of the original assessment in 2011 the site was in use as agricultural land.

### 4.4 Historic land-use and archaeological character

The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Worcestershire classifies the site as settled farmland on river terrace (HWR 2554). Cartographic evidence (Figs 3-6) shows that the site has been enclosed agricultural land since the 1840 Kempsey Tithe Map. The site is thought to have formed part of farmland surrounding the medieval and post-medieval settlement at Kempsey.

## 5 Heritage assets

The following understanding of the development and evolution of the site and 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.

### 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 lies 350m to the south-east, off Old Road North. This is Manor House, an early 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century residences and embodies the early 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the village (WSM 36351; MHDC 2008, 9 and 14, fig 26).

### 5.2 Undesignated heritage assets

#### 5.2.1 Prehistoric

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

No evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within the site. The earliest finds noted within the wider parish of Kempsey comprise three prehistoric flint tools, although all lie outside the immediate area of the site. An early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age end scraper was found during a 2015 evaluation at The Firs, c370m to the south-east (WSM 67369), adding to the two Neolithic worked flints previously found in the village. 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, 400m 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 125m north-north-east of the site. Although of unknown date, it is considered on the basis of morphological comparisons with similar excavated cropmarks to be of probable Iron Age date and represent farmstead settlements and stock enclosures.

### 5.2.2 Romano-British

Kempsey lies east of 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, 750m to the east of the site.

Recent archaeological investigations at two sites between the Roman road and present A38, at the northern end of Kempsey, have revealed evidence of intensive Roman occupation. In 2015 Worcestershire Archaeology excavated a site east of Main Road, revealing three concentric rectilinear ditches and driveway extending to the south-east (WSM 66555 – Area 1, WSM 66556 – Area 2, WSM 66561 – Area 3). The innermost ditch dated to the Late Iron Age, whilst the heavily recut middle ditch dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and outermost ditch to the mid-1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. No internal features were identified within the enclosure, with the exception of several undated postholes (Lovett 2015a). Roman artefacts found further south at The Firs (WSM 67369, Lovett 2015b) indicate that this was an extensive area of Roman activity. It is also possible that occupation of the cropmark enclosures identified to the north may also extend into the Roman period.

A further Roman site was evaluated by Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012, at Broomhall, 1.25km to the north of the present site, also on the edge of the gravel terrace. This revealed a series of conjoined rectilinear enclosures arranged around route ways, of 2<sup>nd</sup> to later 3<sup>rd</sup> and possibly also early 4<sup>th</sup> century date (WSM 46461; Vaughan and Wainwright 2012).

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century date (WAW 7E3C23).

### 5.2.3 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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. The 'Site of Bishop's Palace' is indicated here on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, although this is erroneous and is now thought to relate to a manor house of the Bishop, rather than a palace (WSM 07192; Appleton-Fox 1998; Vaughan and Webster 2016, 12).

The present St Mary's church is a multi-period structure, with the earliest fabric dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1968). Recent excavations undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology 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 2016).

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 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The church however kept control over the other chapels in the region until the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (Thorn and Thorn 1982):

*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.*

It is recorded that Henry II held court in Kempsey and it is likely that this was within the Bishop's manor house. 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 manor house. 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 manor 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 700m 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). An archaeological evaluation at The Firs, south of Brookend Lane, recorded some medieval to post-medieval building material (WSM 67369, Lovett 2015a) and excavations north of Brookend Lane revealed three medieval or post-medieval field boundaries and pits (WSM 66556, Lovett 2015a)

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 manor and associated minster (WSM 39539).

#### **5.2.4 Post-medieval and modern**

It is not known when the Bishop's manor house 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 manor house 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 manor house of Kempsey's "Golden Age". It was certainly demolished long before the creation of the first detailed maps in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as for example the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 marks the 'Site of Bishop's Manor' (sic) (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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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).

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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 from 1840 is the earliest detailed source to show the layout of the proposed development site (Fig 3). The King's Hill site appears to have been an unnamed field with the same boundaries as at present. 'Windmill' is noted in the field adjacent to the north-east. The exact site of the windmill has been identified near the junction of Windmill Lane and King's Hill on the east boundary of the development area. The windmill is recorded as having burnt down in the 1870s. The remains comprising timbers and the base for a post mill type were rediscovered during garden clearance (WSM 22976).

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 and subsequent editions (Figs 1, 4-6) reveal that the boundaries of the development site have remained the same through to the present day. The plot was surrounded by fields and small areas of orchard, until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century when the residential estates were built to the east. Windmill Lane existed from at least the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was extended when the estate was laid out, which included the construction of King's Hill road along the east side of the site.

An 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century locally listed building, the Firs (WSM 67498), is located c370m south-east of the site and a 19<sup>th</sup> century outfarm at Open Barn Farm is recorded by the HER c300m to the north (WSM 50837), although its precise location is not given. Documentary evidence also shows that Kempsey was bombed during the Second World War (WSM 37203), most likely from raids aiming for the nearby bombing decoy site.

### 5.3 Potential heritage assets

There are currently no known or recorded archaeological sites within either the development site. A geophysical survey of the site, conducted by Stratascan in 2014 on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd, revealed no potential archaeological anomalies. Several magnetic spikes are thought to be buried modern rubbish and a linear anomaly across the north-western site corner is likely to be an underground service. As the gravel terrace of the River Severn is thought to give reasonable magnetometry readings, the survey is considered to be a fairly reliable indicator of the absence of archaeological features (Stratascan 2014, 5). However, absence of evidence cannot always be taken as evidence of absence, as geophysical surveys do not always detect archaeological activity.

#### Palaeolithic

Whilst no evidence of Palaeolithic activity has been found on or near to the site, the application area is partially covered by and adjacent to geological deposits considered as having the potential to contain Palaeolithic archaeology. Research for *Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER* (Daffern *et al* 2014) identified geology of the Worcester Member overlying the south-western corner of the site and extending further to the south. Palaeolithic material from similarly dated deposits elsewhere in the county indicates that there is some potential for such heritage assets to be present (WSM 56950). Immediately east of the site lie deposits of the Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member, which have the potential to contain evidence dating from Marine Isotope Stage 5d to 2, c113,000 to 12,000BC (WSM 56937). The site is therefore considered to have a **low potential** to contain Palaeolithic archaeology.

#### Later Prehistoric

Cropmarks of prehistoric activity, conjectured to represent Iron Age settlement and stock enclosures, have been identified within the fields to the north. In the light of the geophysical survey, there is considered to be a **low 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.

#### Roman

The existence of the Roman road, tripled ditched enclosure and driveway to the east, and extensive Roman activity c1.25km to the north indicate that Roman activity is present near to the site. However, an archaeological evaluation at 123a, Main Road, c70m to the south-east, recorded no archaeological evidence (WSM 49803), implying that the Roman activity does not extend as far west as the application site. There is considered to be a **low potential** for Roman activity within the development area, especially in light of the geophysical survey.

### **Medieval**

Given that the site lies outside the historic, medieval core of settlement at Kempsey, there is considered to be a **low potential** for the site to contain agricultural-related medieval archaeology, such as field boundaries, although the latter are usually detected during geophysical surveys.

### **Post-medieval**

The site of a post-medieval windmill has been recorded on the eastern edge of the site. There is the **moderate to high potential** that associated activity extends into the development area, as the geophysical survey in this south-eastern corner of the site was affected by magnetic disturbance, possibly from old metal fencing.

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

### **6.1 Designated assets**

#### **6.1.1 Listed building**

The Manor House is a grade II listed building. Listed buildings are graded in three tiers, as grade I, grade II\* and grade II, with grade I being of the greatest importance at a national level.

### **6.2 Undesignated assets**

#### **6.2.1 Sites of archaeological interest**

The desk-based assessment has identified a **low potential** for archaeological heritage assets to exist within the proposed development site. 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 the 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 site.

Additionally remains associated with the post-medieval windmill identified on the eastern edge of the site may extend within the development area.

#### *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 have been recorded to date. The absence of any geophysical anomalies with archaeological potential indicates that any archaeology present within the site is likely to be poorly preserved or limited to features of shallow thickness or artefact scatters.

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. Whilst additional settlement enclosures could comprise sequences of moderate sized ditches, potentially recut, with



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evidence of internal zoning, and structural remains (ring ditches, pits and postholes), such activity is considered unlikely in light of the geophysical survey results.

Activity associated with the post-medieval windmill may take the form of positive structural remains (foundations, walls or surfaces), or negative structural remains (foundation trenches, pits, or postholes).

The depth of potential archaeology is not known, although the ploughing of the site and previous work in the area indicates that it may exist relatively close to the surface. Given the geophysical survey results, any archaeological features present are likely to be relatively shallow.

### **6.3 Hedgerows**

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 in Table 2 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	Southern Hedge
Hedge has existed for 30 years or more	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	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	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	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a scheduled ancient monument*	No	No	No	No	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a site registered with the HER/SMR (pre-24 March 1997)*	No	No	No	No	No
Marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor registered with the HER/SMR (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	No such pre-1997 registrations held by Worcestershire HER

Hedge/criteria	Southern Hedge	Western Hedge	Northern Hedge	Eastern Hedge	Southern Hedge
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 – none known	No – none known	No	No – none known	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 – none known	No – none known	No	No – none known	No – none known

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

Table 2: Importance of hedgerows.

## 7 The impact of the development

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131). The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

### 7.1 Residual impacts

Setting is considered to be an important aspect of heritage assets (English Heritage 2011). The proposed development will have the following impacts on setting of heritage assets outside of the development area:

- As the Manor House (WSM42311; LB 1301497) lies c350m south-east of the site and there is no intervisibility between the two, the development is considered to have **no impact** on the setting of this heritage asset.
- The proposed development lies outside the Kempsey 'Old Road North' Conservation Area (WSM 36351) and lacks visibility to or from the designated area, therefore the development will have **no impact** on the setting of this Conservation Area.

### 7.2 Unknown impacts

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 and the post-medieval windmill located on the eastern edge of the site. Complete or partial loss of potential archaeological features, resulting from intrusive groundworks, re-landscaping and the movement of heavy machinery associated with construction, is considered likely to a **minor adverse** impact on the potential archaeology.

It is not possible to give a more definite assessment of the development's impact without establishing the reliability of the geophysical survey and nature of potential archaeological heritage assets within the site.

## 8 Recommendations

No archaeological investigations have recorded on the proposed development site and the reliability of the geophysical survey has yet to be tested. The full extent of the groundworks associated with the development is currently unknown. There is a low potential for previously unknown remains, or remains associated with identified adjacent activity to exist within the site. In accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* guidelines (DCLG 2012, 128), it is therefore recommended that on-site evaluation be undertaken to determine the presence or absence of remains prior to development. This should take the form of archaeological evaluation trenches.

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

Any site investigation works or watching briefs required should be concluded with the 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.

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*An updated desk-based assessment for the historic environment was undertaken of land off King's Hill, Kempsey, Worcestershire (centred on NGR SO 85137 49827). It was undertaken on behalf of Rooftop Housing Association, who intends to develop the site. The original desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2011 on behalf of Lioncourt Homes Ltd and revised in 2013.*

*The site lies to the west of the A38 main road through the village of Kempsey, to the north of and outside both the historic medieval core and the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century residential expansion. Its position on the gravel terrace overlooking the floodplain of the River Severn makes it ideal for both 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 to the east. Recent excavations between the site and Roman road revealed a Late Iron Age to 3<sup>rd</sup> century enclosure, with three concentric ditches, and a driveway. A possible shrunken medieval settlement has also been identified adjacent to the Roman road. In Broomhall to the north extensive Roman activity of 2<sup>nd</sup> to possibly early 4<sup>th</sup> century date has been identified. The site of a post-medieval windmill has been identified on the eastern edge of the site, off the junction of King's Hill and Windmill Lane.*

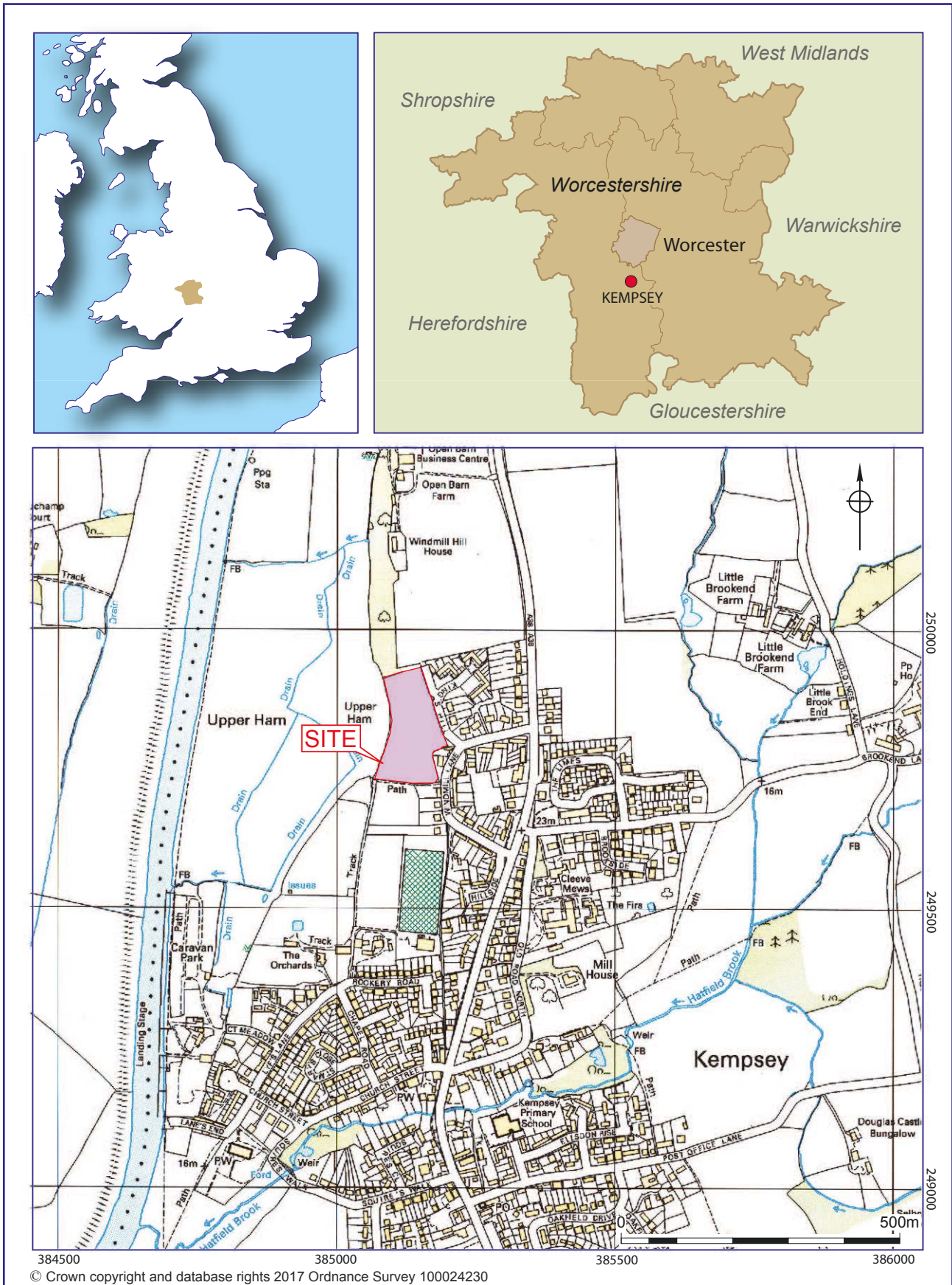
*No intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the development site to date, although a geophysical survey was conducted in 2014, which recorded no potential archaeological anomalies. If the survey results are correct, then there considered to be a low possibility that remains associated with, or of similar character to, the prehistoric (and potentially Roman) cropmark activity and the post-medieval windmill may be present within the site.*

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Rebecca Pitt (Rooftop Housing Group), Maggi Noke and Andie Webley (Worcestershire Historic Environment Record).



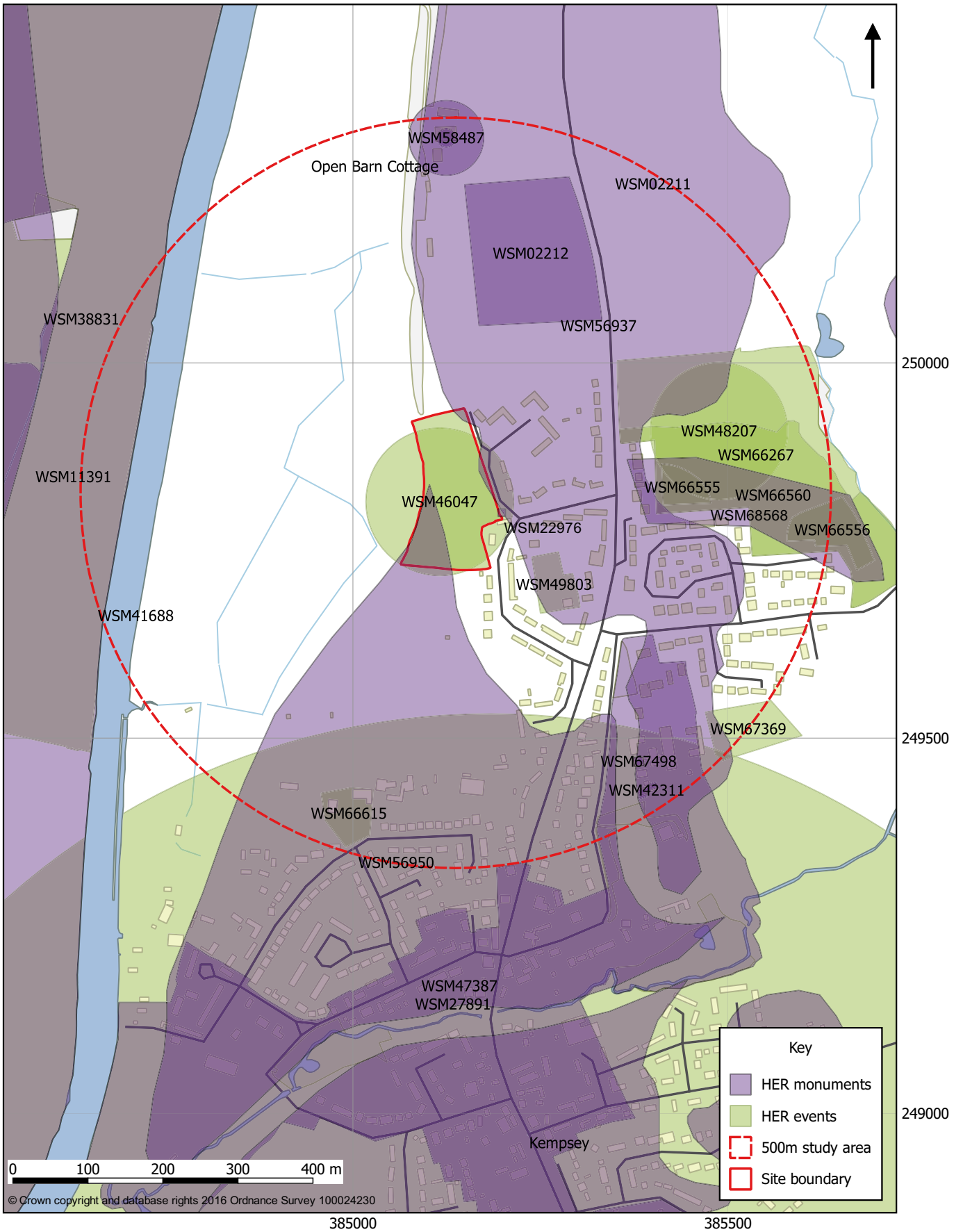
**Figures**



Location of the site

Figure 1

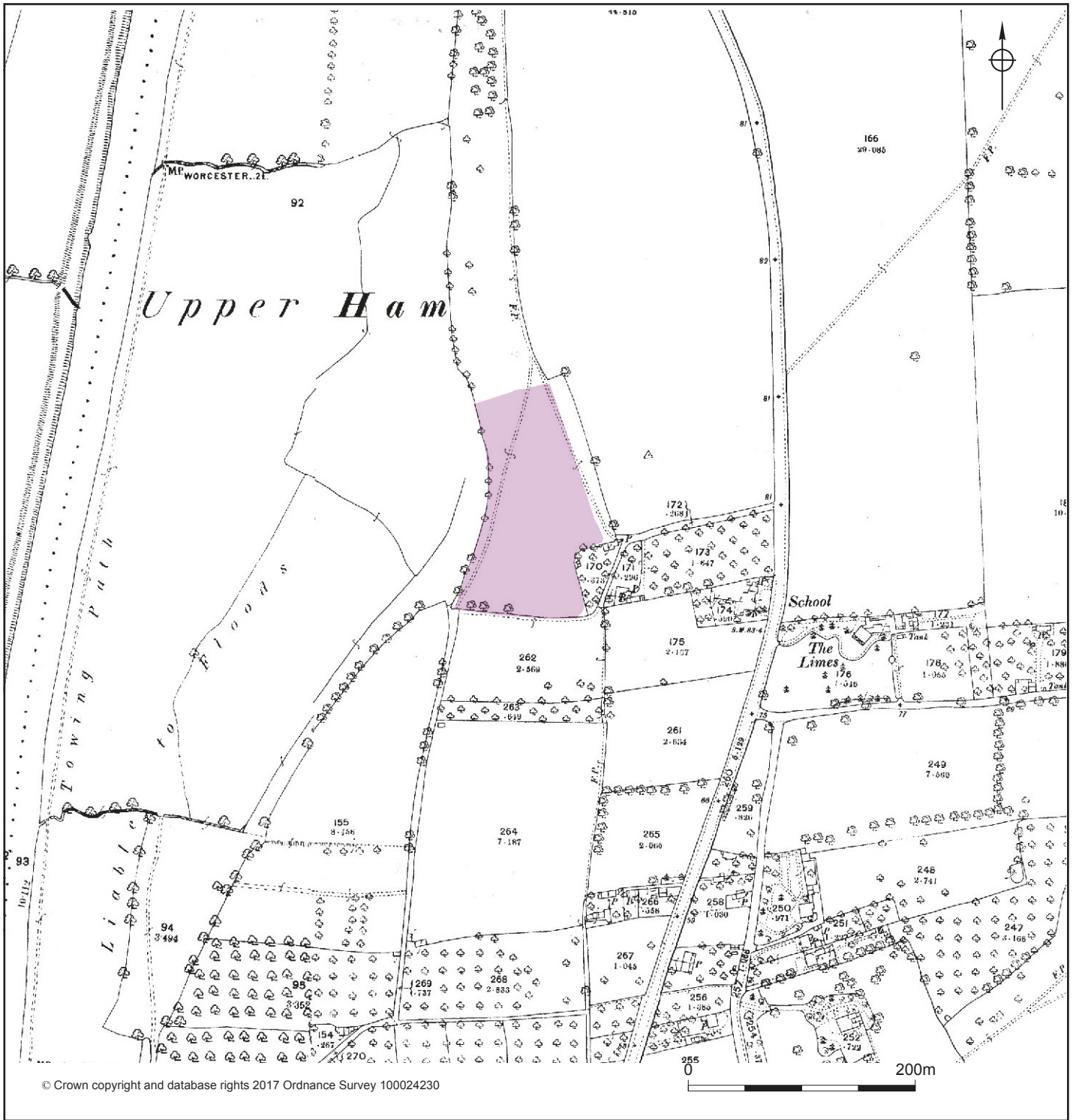




HER monuments and events within 500m study area of site

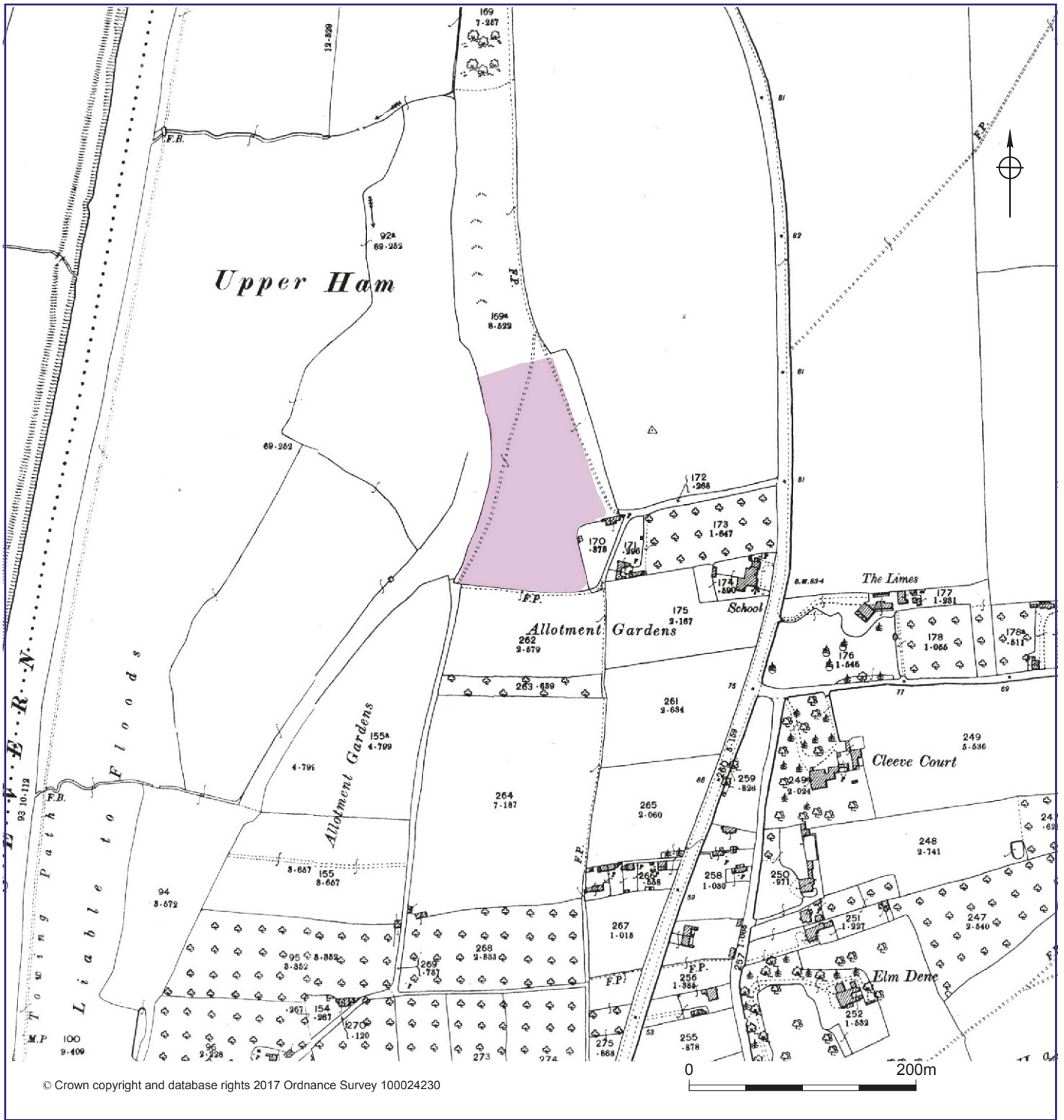
Figure 2





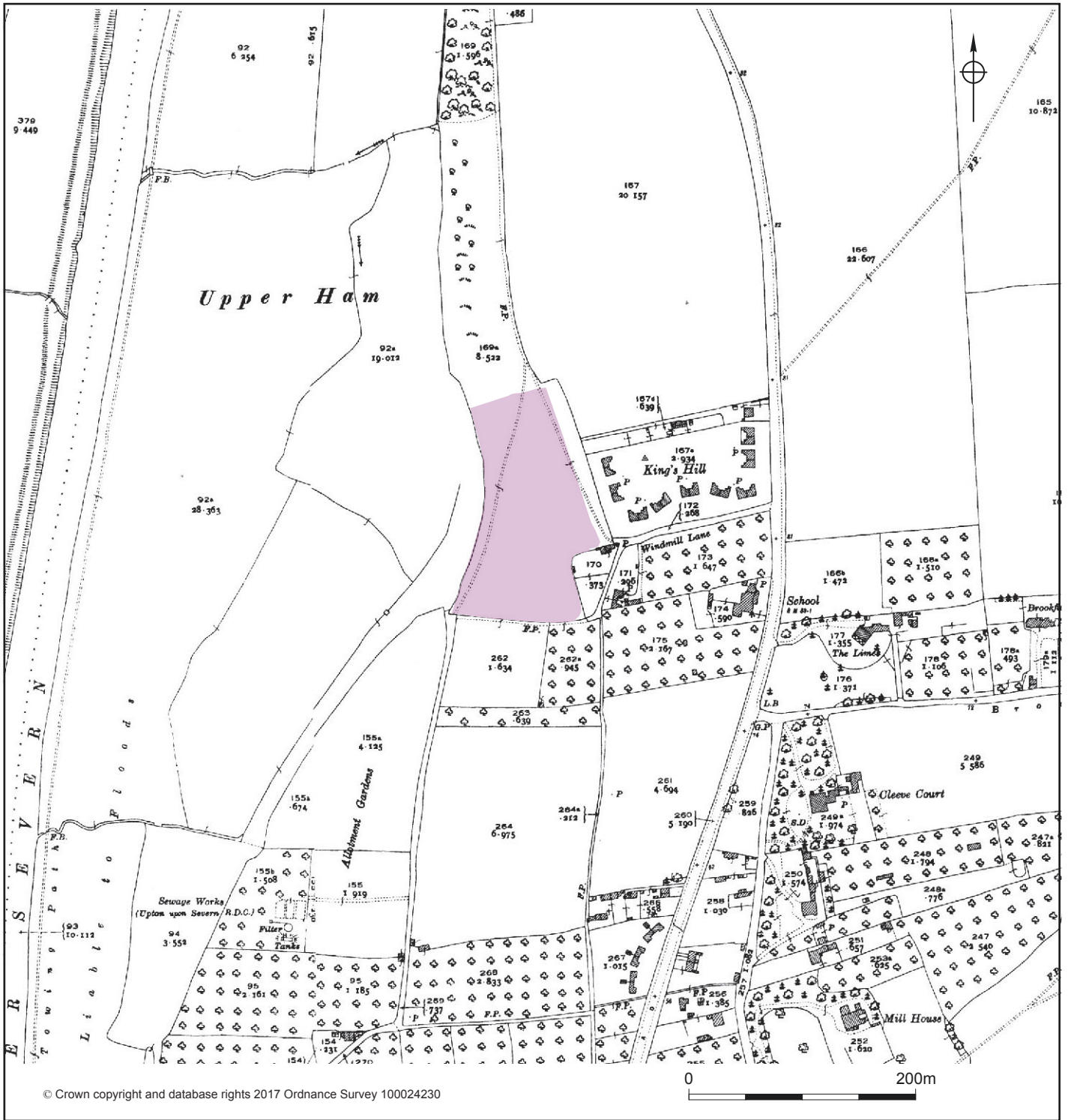
Extract from 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1887)

Figure 4



Extract from 1905 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 5



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Extract from 1930 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 6

**Plates**



*Plate 1: The southern portion of the site, looking south-west to the Malvern Hills*



*Plate 2: The northern portion of the site, looking north-north-west*

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*Plate 3: Middle portion of the site looking west, over the river floodplain to the Malvern Hills*



*Plate 4: The southern portion of the site, looking south*

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**Appendix 1 Heritage assets registered with the Historic Environment Record***(those within the application site are italicised)*

<b>HER number (and legal status)</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Grid reference</b>	<b>Record type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
WSM 42311 – Grade II listed	Manor House, Old Road North, Kempsey	SO 8539 4943	Dwelling	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Brick built extant building
WSM 50837	Open Barn Farm	-	Outfarm	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Outfarm with L plan courtyard
WSM 67498	The Firs, Old Road North, Kempsey	SO 8538 4946	Detached house	18 <sup>th</sup> or 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Brick built extant house
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,	SO 8540 5023	Enclosure	Undated	Cropmark evidence



	kempsey				
WSM 02212	Cropmarks W of A38, S of Open Barn	SO 8524 5012	Enclosure, pits	Undated	Cropmark evidence
WSM 68568	Romano- British enclosure and droveway, north of The Limes, Kempsey	SO 8554 4980	Drove road, enclosure	43AD to 410AD	Three concentric rectilinear enclosure ditches and a droveway
WSM 32988	Powick Parish general information	SO 8268 5006	Ridge and furrow	1066 to 1900AD	General documentary, cartographic and monument information about the parish
WSM 37203	WWII bombing incident	SO 8606 4903	Bomb site	1939 to 1945AD	Documentary evidence
WSM 41788	Kempsey Parish general information	SO 8606 4903	Ridge and furrow	1066 to 1900AD	Ridge and furrow and hedgerow surveys, general information about parish
WSM 49925	Unlocated finds, Powick parish	SO 8266 5006	Environmental deposit (MIS 21-02)	864,050 to 12,050BC	Environmental deposits and remains – Palaeolithic evidence from Powick Farm gravel pit
WSM 56937	Area of Palaeolithic potential	SO 8475 5811	Environmental deposit (MIS 05d-02)	113.050 to 12,050BC	Environmental deposits and remains with Palaeolithic potential, Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member
WSM 56950	Area of Palaeolithic potential	SO 8395 5107	Environmental deposit (Marine Isotope Stage 02)	27,050 to 12,050BC	Environmental deposits and remains with Palaeolithic potential, Worcester Member

**Appendix 2 Events registered with the Historic Environment Record***(those within the application site are italicised)*

<b>HER event number</b>	<b>Event name</b>	<b>Event type</b>	<b>Date of work</b>	<b>Grid reference</b>
WSM 32743	Survey of the Fisheries of the Worcestershire Severn	Interpretation	1996	SO 8187 5883
WSM 38831	Historic Environment Countryside Advice Visit to Beauchamp Court Farm	Desk-based assessment	-	SO 8435 5035
WSM 41688	Archaeological Survey in 2008 of the Banks of the River Severn	Survey	2008	SO 8570 4324
<i>WSM 46047</i>	<i>Desk Based Assessment in 2011, King's Hill and Brookend Lane, Kempsey</i>	<i>Desk-based assessment</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>SO 8511 4981</i>
WSM 47387	Ongoing Work: Desk Based Assessment - South Kempsey, Worcestershire	Desk-based assessment	2012	SO 8518 4856
WSM 47574	Worcestershire Villages Historic Environment Resource Assessment for Kempsey	Desk-based assessment	-	SO 8606 4903
WSM 48207	Desk Based Assessment in 2011, Main Road, Kempsey	Desk-based assessment	2011	SO 8548 4990
WSM 49803	Evaluation in 2014 on land at 123A Main Road, Kempsey, Worcestershire	Evaluation	2014	SO 8526 4970
WSM 66267	Evaluation in 2015 of Trench 1 on Land to East of Main Road, Kempsey	Evaluation	2015	SO 8553 4987
WSM 66555	Excavation in 2015 on Land East of Main Road, Kempsey - Area 1	Excavation	2015	SO 8543 4983
WSM 66556	Excavation in 2015 on Land East of Main Road, Kempsey - Area 2	Excavation	2015	SO 8563 4977
WSM 66560	Not Undertaken: Watching Brief on Land East of Main Road, Kempsey	None	2015	SO 8556 4982
<i>WSM 66602</i>	<i>Geophysical Survey on Land at King's Hill, Kempsey</i>	<i>Survey</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>SO 8513 4982</i>
WSM 66615	Ongoing Work: Watching Brief at 25 Lyf's Lane, Kempsey	Watching brief	2015	SO 8499 4940
WSM 67369	Evaluation on Land at The Firs, Kempsey	Evaluation	2015	SO 8552 4951