

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for a proposed mineral extraction site at Lea Farm Castle, Wolverley and Cookley, Worcestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

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

Status: Version 2 (revised application area)
Date: 11th September 2019
Author: Andrew Walsh, awalsh@worcestershire.gov.uk
Illustrator: Andrew Walsh
Project reference: P5373
Report reference: 2596
HER reference: WSM70528
Oasis id fieldsec1-326152

Contents

Summary

Report

1	Background.....	3
1.1	Reasons for the project	3
1.2	Location, topography and geology.....	3
1.3	Planning background.....	3
1.3.1	National planning policy	3
1.3.2	Worcestershire minerals plan.....	3
1.3.3	Hedgerow regulations	4
2	Aims.....	4
3	Methods.....	4
3.1	General	4
3.2	Assessment of significance criteria.....	4
3.3	Impact assessment criteria.....	6
3.4	List of sources consulted	7
3.5	Hedgerows.....	9
3.6	Site walkover survey	9
3.7	Personnel.....	9
4	The application site	9
4.1	Existing site conditions	9
5	Heritage Baseline	9
5.1	Designated heritage assets (Figure 2).....	9
5.1.1	Listed buildings	9
5.1.2	Conservation Area	10
5.2	Archaeological, historical and historic landscape background (Figures 3-6)	10
5.2.1	Prehistoric and Romano-British.....	10
5.2.2	Early medieval and medieval	11
5.2.3	Post-medieval and modern	11
5.2.4	Undated	11
5.2.5	Undesignated built heritage	11
5.3	Cartographic analysis (Figures 9-11).....	12
5.4	Hedgerows (Figure 12).....	13
5.4.1	Introduction.....	13
5.4.2	Results.....	13
5.4.3	Discussion	14
6	Proposal and Impacts	14
7	Conclusions	14
8	Acknowledgements	15

Desk-based assessment for a proposed mineral extraction site at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley and Cookley, Worcestershire

Andrew Walsh

Summary

Worcestershire Archaeology was commissioned by Robin Smithyman of Kedd Development Limited, on behalf of NRS Aggregates Limited, to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley and Cookley, Worcestershire. The assessment is intended to support a planning application for a proposed sand and gravel quarry, and a restoration scheme.

The survival of heritage assets within a defined Study Area are outlined and the following assessment is made. There is limited evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the Study Area in the form of isolated find spots of various dates and the identification of the geological deposits which may have potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive. There is also limited evidence for early medieval and medieval activity in the Study Area, and early historic mapping indicates that the site was probably agricultural (or common) land until the late 18th or early 19th century. Evidence for any activity of the prehistoric, Roman, early medieval and medieval periods would likely be considered informative at local or regional level and therefore of local to regional significance. However, given the very limited representation of such material within the Study Area the potential for survival of assets dating to these periods within the site is considered to be low.

Historic mapping and other documents indicate the site was developed as parkland around Lea Castle during the early 19th century. The park was sold off around the 1930s or 40s, and the parkland was converted to agricultural use which has compromised the value of the park. The western part of the site was also used as a grass landing strip. Any archaeological evidence from the post-medieval and modern periods would probably relate to agriculture, parkland and/or the landing strip and therefore considered as only locally informative, and of low or negligible significance.

No designated monuments are located on or immediately adjacent to the site. It is not anticipated that any designated assets recorded in the Study Area will be significantly affected by the development, although there will be a minor adverse impact on the setting of the Grade II listed North Lodges and Gateway to Lea Castle, which is located about 250m away from the site boundary. Restoration of some of the parkland features, including tree lined avenues and Broom Covert will reduce the long term impact of the mineral extraction to an insignificant level.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Worcestershire Archaeology was commissioned by Robin Smithyman of Kedd Development Limited, on behalf of NRS Aggregates Limited, to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment at Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley and Cookley, Worcestershire. The assessment is intended to support a planning application for a proposed sand and gravel quarry, and a restoration scheme. The assessment has been issued with the event number WSM70528 by Worcestershire Historic Environment Record.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

The proposed application site is located approximately 2.5km north of Kidderminster (NGR SO 8407 7902; Figure 1) and covers an area of approximately 45ha. The topography of the area is broadly undulating with ground rising in the centre of the site and falling away to the east and west (Plates 1-4). The underlying geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as sandstone of the Wildmoor Sandstone Member, overlain in places by sand and gravel of the Kidderminster Station Member and other glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits (BGS 2018).

1.3 Planning background

1.3.1 National planning policy

Present government planning policy is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2018). Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* provides guidance for the conservation and investigation of heritage assets and requires local authorities to take the following into account:-

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

In the NPPF facilitating the sustainable use of minerals is considered to be of priority (DCLG 2018, 58-61), although local authorities should ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the historic environment (DCLG 2018, 58 paragraph 204-f).

1.3.2 Worcestershire minerals plan

Worcestershire County Council is currently developing a Minerals Local Plan, which has reached the third stage of consultation, and is likely to be adopted in 2020 or 2021 (WCC 2017). The site is located in the *North West Strategic Corridor*, which is one of five strategic corridors in the county that contain key and significant mineral resources, alongside the potential that mineral development will positively impact on green infrastructure at a landscape scale. The third stage consultation suggests that:

"Planning permission will be granted for mineral development within the North West Strategic Corridor that contributes towards the quality, character and distinctiveness of the corridor through the delivery and enhancement of high quality infrastructure networks" (WCC 2017, 93).

The proposed site was submitted to Worcestershire County Council to consider whether it met the requirements for allocation as a specific site within the North West Strategic Corridor (WCC 2016, submission ref D026-2397). It has been included in the draft Minerals Plan as a '*Preferred Area*'

under the site name *Land North of Wolverley Road* (WCC 2017, 244-250). Although the site is very likely to be adopted as a preferred area once the Mineral Local Plan is ratified, it will still be subject to the normal planning application process.

1.3.3 Hedgerow regulations

The *Hedgerow Regulations 1997* was created to protect hedgerows, in particular those in the countryside aged 30 years or older. It sets out the archaeological and historical criteria for determining 'Important' hedgerows (wildlife and landscape criteria are beyond the scope of this report).

2 Aims

The general aims of this assessment are to:

- establish the nature and extent of any 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 General

No brief has been issued by the Worcestershire Archaeology and Archive Service. A range of sources have been used in order to assess the site's potential in line with best practice guidance as outlined under Historic England, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and under relevant legislation and guidance.

The Study Area comprises of the proposed application (Figure 1), together with heritage assets within 1km of the centre of site in order to provide a broader understanding of the local context. This assessment is limited to consideration of heritage assets and potential assets that are relevant to the proposed application site.

The Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted for entries. A search for designated and non-designated assets was made utilising a range of sources covering World Heritage Sites (WHS), Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, and Conservation Areas.

The results of this research are presented chronologically in a number of sections, followed by the results of a map regression. An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development on the affected heritage assets is also under taken.

Listed Buildings and a Conservation Area in the Study Area are illustrated in Figure 2, archaeological monuments recorded by the HER on Figure 3, undesignated historic parks recorded by the HER on Figure 4, archaeological events on Figure 5, and undesignated built heritage assets on Figure 6. Additional heritage assets identified during the course of this assessment are included in Figure 7.

3.2 Assessment of significance criteria

Significance (for heritage policy) is defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.'

Assessment of the significance of the sites archaeological potential seeks to identify how elements of the site and different periods in its evolution contribute to, or detract from, identified heritage assets in the area. This approach considers the present character of the Site based on the

chronological sequence of events that produced it, and allows management strategies to be developed that sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets.

Table 1: Heritage Asset Significance

Significance	Factors Determining Significance
International	World Heritage Sites Assets of recognised international importance Assets that contribute to international research objectives
National	Scheduled Monuments Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings Grade I and Grade II* Registered Parks and Gardens Undesignated assets of the quality and importance to be designated Assets that contribute to national research agendas
Regional	Grade II Listed Buildings Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens Conservation Areas Assets that contribute to regional research objectives
Local	Locally listed buildings Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor contextual associations Assets with importance to local interest groups Assets that contribute to local research objectives
Negligible	Assets with little or no archaeological/historical interest
Unknown	The importance of the asset has not been ascertained from available evidence

3.3 Impact assessment criteria

The criteria cited in Table 2 have been used in the impact assessment.

Table 2: Impact Assessment Criteria

Impact	Factors Determining Impact
Major Beneficial	<p>Demonstrable improvement to a designated or non-designated heritage asset (or its setting) of international or national significance, 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>
Beneficial	<p>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>
Not Significant	<p>Impacts that have no long-term effect on any heritage asset.</p>
Minor Adverse	<p>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>
Moderate Adverse:	<p>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>

Impact	Factors Determining Impact
Major Adverse	<p>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>
Severe Adverse	<p>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>
Unknown	<p>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>

3.4 List of sources consulted

The following sources have been reviewed as part of the assessment:

Cartographic sources

- 1577 Christopher Saxton's Map of Worcestershire
- c.1610 John Speed's Map of Worcestershire
- c.1760 Bowen's Map of Worcestershire
- 1815 Ordnance Survey map of Kidderminster, 2 inch to 1 mile scale map
- 1838 Tithe map of Wolverley
- 1884 Ordnance Survey map 25 inch to 1 mile scale map
- 1902 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 mile scale map
- 1924 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 scale map
- 1938 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 scale map

Documentary sources

- ClfA 2014 *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014
- DCLG 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government
- DCLG 2014 *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment/>,
- Historic England 2015a *Good Practice Advice Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans*, dated 25 March 2015, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/>
- Historic England 2015b *Good Practice Advice Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*, dated 25 March 2015, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/>
- Historic England 2017 *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (2nd edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets*, dated 22 December 2017, <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>
- Jackson, R, and Dalwood, H, 2007. *Archaeology and aggregates in Worcestershire: a resource assessment and research agenda (PNUM 3966)*. WCC Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Internal report, 1477 available at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/worcsagg_eh_2007/
- Russell, O, and Daffern, N, 2014 *Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: creating an evidence base and toolkit*, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document
- Russell, O, Daffern, N, Hancox, E and Nash, A 2018 *Putting the Palaeolithic into Worcestershire's HER: An evidence base for development management*, *Internet Archaeology* 47, <https://doi.org/10.11141/ia.47.3>
- Williams, A and Martin, GH 2002 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*, Penguin Books
- 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 March 2016
- WCC 2017 *Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan, Third Stage Consultation*, Unpublished county council document dated September 2017, available at http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20015/planning_policy_and_strategy/373/emerging_minerals_local_plan_previous_consultation_stages/5
- Wyre Forest District Council 2015a *Character Appraisal for Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area*, Wyre Forest District Council, revised January 2015
- Wyre Forest District Council 2015b *Character Appraisal for Wolverley Conservation Area*, Wyre Forest District Council, revised January 2015

Internet sources

- BGS 2018, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, British Geological Survey, accessed 31 July 2018
- Key to English Place-Names, <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>, Institute for Name-Studies, University of Nottingham, accessed 31 July 2018
- National Heritage List for England, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>, Historic England, accessed 31 July 2018
- BHO 2018 'Parishes: Wolverley', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 3*, 567-573, British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol3/pp567-573>, accessed 6 August 2018

3.5 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 Record Office. Wildlife and landscape criteria are also beyond the scope of this report and have not been considered.

3.6 Site walkover survey

A site visit was undertaken on 6th August 2018. The site was visited and a record made of relevant aspects of topography and potential heritage assets. Where applicable the setting of designated and undesignated heritage assets in the vicinity was considered, with reference to visibility from and to the Site. Photographs taken during the site visit are included as Plates 1-14 and their individual location on Figure 8.

3.7 Personnel

The assessment was undertaken by Andrew Walsh (BSc MSc ACIfA FSA Scot) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The site walkover survey was undertaken by Andrew Walsh and Gwyneth Thomas (BA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson (BA ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Andrew Walsh.

4 The application site

4.1 Existing site conditions

Most of the proposed application is arable farmland, comprising of four large fields. Along the southern edge of the site are a small number of paddocks and a semi abandoned agricultural or light industrial yard. A dirt bike track appears to have recently been constructed in the north-western corner of the site. Most of the field boundaries are post and wire fencing or open, with a few hedges on the eastern part of the site.

5 Heritage Baseline

5.1 Designated heritage assets (Figure 2)

There are no statutory heritage assets located with the site. There are three Listed Buildings and one Conservation Area within the Study Area. There are no other statutory assets recorded in the Study Area.

5.1.1 Listed buildings

There are three Listed Buildings in the Study Area. *Sion Hill House* (NHLE 1100640) is located 250m south of the site. It is a Grade II early 18th century house which was remodelled in the early

19th century and has been subject to some later alterations. Historic and current mapping indicate it was set in landscaped grounds which were limited to the south of Wolverley Road and east of Sion Hill Road. As a Grade II listed building it is of regional significance but as there is no intervisibility between the house or its landscape setting it effectively scoped out of further assessment because there are no identified potential impacts.

The *North Lodges and Gateway of Lea Castle (NHLE 1296589)* are located 280m north-west of the site. It is a Grade II listed building, built in the early 19th century as one of two formal entrances into the Lea Castle estate (Plate 5). It has been subject to some mid 20th century alterations. Historic mapping indicates much of the estate was parkland, with the lodges set in a belt of woodland designed to screen the parkland from the Broadwaters to Cookley road, with further banks of trees providing additional screens between the lodges and the rest of the estate. The lodges remain set in a bank of mature woodland but much of the remains of the estate has been converted from parkland to farmland, and a new road entrance built to the north (Plates 6 and 7). As a Grade II listed building it is of regional significance.

Wolverley Court (NHLE 1172846) is a Grade II listed house located on the edge of the study area about 500m west of the site. It was built around 1600 and heavily remodelled in the early 19th century. It is now a nursing home. As a Grade II listed building it is of regional significance but as there is no intervisibility between the house or its setting it effectively scoped out of further assessment because there are no identified potential impacts.

5.1.2 Conservation Area

The *Wolverley and Staffordshire Canal Conservation Area* crosses the western part of the Study Area. Construction of the canal started in 1766 and the whole canal was report to be in use and open by May 1772. Following the growth of the rail network in the 19th century and road network in the 20th century the use of the canal declined and it ceased all commercial traffic in 1949. Although it was proposed for closure it remained open and in 1978 it became a Conservation Area.

As a Conservation Area the canal is of regional significance. Although the canal does not extend into the site the Conservation Area Appraisal indicates its character is affected by views both into in and out of the area. There are no defined views recorded in the Appraisal, although with regards to the Wolverley and Cookridge area it notes:

The final area is far more rural, starting with view out to Wolverley, with St John the Baptists church piercing the skyline, across field systems, to the northwest. The east side of the canal is more banked up, covered in trees, with glimpses through to Lea Lane, and occasionally opening out to wider views of woods and more residential areas, including cottages on Lea Lane, and Austcliffe Caravan park, and occasional industrial settlements, such as Cookley Works (Wyre Forest District Council 2015a, 13).

During the course of the site walkover survey no intervisibility between canal and the site was revealed and the site is appear to be totally screened from the canal by mature trees and the natural topography. As such it is effectively scoped out of further assessment because there are no identified potential impacts.

5.2 Archaeological, historical and historic landscape background (Figures 3-6)

5.2.1 Prehistoric and Romano-British

Little is known about the area during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. No sites or finds of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman-British date are recorded in the site by the Worcestershire HER. The sand and gravel deposits identified for proposed extraction have been identified has having potential for Palaeolithic activity to survive with them (eg Russel and Daffern 2014, Russell *et al* 2018).

Within the wider Study Area no sites dating to these periods are recorded and evidence of activity is limited to isolated finds. These include a Mesolithic flint found approximately 450m to the west of the site (**WSM27988**), a flint scraper broadly datable to the Mesolithic to late Bronze Age found

300m south of the site (**WSM08166**), and four flints only broadly datable to the prehistoric period found 600m north of the site (**WSM12247**). A Roman coin dating to AD69 (**WSM66158**) is also recorded in the Study Area by the HER although its exact location is withheld.

5.2.2 Early medieval and medieval

The site probably formed part of the Kingdom of Hwicce in the 6th century AD, a kingdom which was later subsumed into the Kingdom of Mercia. Wolverley is mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters (BHO 2018), and by 1086 when the Domesday survey was undertaken it was recorded as having 17 households (Williams and Martin 2002, 480). The parish is known to have contained a number of land holdings at different times as well as various hamlets, including the settlement of Cookley.

No early medieval or medieval sites are recorded by the HER on the site, although an entry for documentary evidence of a medieval park and rabbit warren is mapped on the site (**WSM12719**). It is noted that the precise location of this medieval park has not been confirmed, and as it is called Wolverley Park it is assumed to have been located in the wrong position. There is also documentary evidence of a medieval settlement, with possibly earlier origins, called La Lee (**WSM15004**), about 150m to the north of the site. Wolverley Court (section 5.1.1) is also probably the site of a sub manor of Wolverley (**WSM27911**).

Other medieval sites in the Study Area include Lords Mill (**WSM24476**), located on the River Stour about 300m west of the site, a possible medieval mill at Broadwaters (**WSM34427**), about 750m south of the site, and a 14th century reference to taking stone from *Colkeles Cregg* (**WSM12723**), roughly 550m north of the site. A late medieval scabbard has also been found in the Study Area although the exact location of the find is withheld.

5.2.3 Post-medieval and modern

Most of the entries on the HER reflect the development of the Study Area during the post-medieval and modern periods. The site itself probably formed part of the agricultural hinterland around Wolverley and the other settlements in the parish until it was purchased by the Knight family in the 18th century. Lea Castle (**WSM15003**) was built in the early 19th century by John Knight and much of the surrounding park was probably also laid out and established around this period (**WSM28847**). The Grade II listed north lodges (section 5.1.1), and one of the unlisted south lodges (**WSM04223**; Plate 8) were built by 1834, although all the lodges lie outside the site boundary. Leacastle Farm (**WSM53928**; Plate 9), located about 75m north-west of the site, is an historic farmstead which appears to date to the 18th century, and may have acted as the 'home farm' of the estate. The estate passed into the Brown-Westhead family in the 19th century and it was sold off by the family in the 1930s. The house itself was demolished around 1945.

A grass landing strip (**WSM29266**) is recorded by the HER on the western part of the site. This may have been associated with Wolverley Camp and general hospital (**WSM17233**), which was located to the west of the site. It was built in 1942 with accommodation for 500 patients, and used by American servicemen until the end of the war.

The remaining post-medieval and modern entries on the HER are limited to buildings and other features out with the Lea Castle estate and as such are of no relevance to the present assessment. They are included in the figures and appendices.

5.2.4 Undated

An undated mound (**WSM12640**) is recorded on the HER approximately 60m south of the site. However the HER record indicates that the original source of the record cannot be traced, and the feature has not been identified on aerial photographs or Lidar data.

5.2.5 Undesignated built heritage

In addition to the three listed buildings (section 5.1.1) and the Wolverley and Staffordshire Canal (**WSM12001**; section 5.1.2) the HER records twelve undesignated built heritage assets in the

Study Area. Five additional heritage assets were identified on or close to the site during the course of this assessment.

The two south lodges (**WSM04223**; Plate 8) are located just outside the site boundary. They flanked the entrance to the park, with a long straight avenue heading northwards towards the former house. The eastern lodge is first recorded on historic mapping in 1838, with the western lodge appearing on mapping in 1883. The HER record notes they flank a tripartite entry, although there is no evidence of this and it has presumably been confused with the northern lodges. Both the southern lodges have been subject to various phases of sympathetic and unsympathetic extension.

Animal sheds and threshing barn (**WSM30493**) are recorded at the Leacastle Farm (Plate 9), about 75m north-west of the site. These have been converted into residential accommodation.

The Lea Castle park was surrounded by a red brick boundary wall, which largely survives to the east, south, and west of the site (**AHA01**; Plates 10 and 11). Broom Cottage (**AHA02**; Plate 10) is an estate cottage located on the southern boundary of the estate, which historic mapping indicates was built between 1839 and 1884. Keepers Cottage (**AHA03**; Plate 12) was built during the same period about 150m north-east of the house. The remains of a ha-ha (**AHA04**; Plate 13) are visible under undergrowth adjacent to the northern site boundary. A lodge for Sion Hill House is located on the south side of Wolverley Road, opposite the south lodges for the Lea Castle estate (**AHA05**; Plate 14).

The remaining undesignated built heritage assets recorded in the Study Area by the HER are not associated with Lea Castle or the park, and as they are screened from the site they are effectively scoped out of further assessment because there are no identified potential impacts.

5.3 Cartographic analysis (Figures 9-11)

Saxton's Map of Worcestershire (dated 1577) is the earliest available map of the Study Area. It illustrates the major settlements in the vicinity including *Ouerley* (Wolverley) and *Kedermister* (Kidderminster) and the River Stour although no other features are shown in or around the Study Area. Speed's Map of Worcestershire (c.1610) and Bowen's Map of Worcestershire (c.1760) also record the main settlements and rivers but show few other details.

The two inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1815 by Henry Stevens records Lea Castle with parkland illustrated to the south and west. Although the details are not clear due to the large scale of the map, the layout of the park with the main drives leading from the main house towards the south and north-west are clearly visible, along with a drive to the west. The surrounding road layout is also clearly illustrated with the Cookley to Broadwaters road, Wolverley Road, and Lea Lane all visible. Leacastle Farm is also illustrated, along with the separate house and gardens at Sion Hill to the south of the site, and Wolverley Court to the west.

The 1838 Tithe Map (Figure 9) is the earliest available map to show the site in detail. It records the Lea Castle estate illustrating the various buildings, paths and roads, and field boundaries in detail. The apportionment records that the land was owned by John Brown, and the fields to the south and west of the house were woodland or pasture (coloured blue on the map), and those to the south-east were arable (coloured yellow on the map).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1884; Figure 10) records few major changes to the site although some of the smaller parcels of land in the south-western part of the site have been opened out. The illustration of individual trees suggests that arable fields to the south-east of the main house have been converted to parkland. Stands of trees are clearly illustrated around the edge of the park, providing screening from the roads, as well as the larger Broom Covert in the southern part of the site. Broom Cottage, both southern lodges and the lodge to Sion Hill house are all now illustrated, along with the boundary which probably marks the route of the ha-ha identified during the walkover survey.

Later editions of the OS maps (1902; Figure 11, 1924 and 1938) record that very few changes occurred to the site, with only minor amendments to field boundaries illustrated. However the expansion of Cookley, to the north of the site, is visible.

5.4 Hedgerows (Figure 12)

5.4.1 Introduction

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 3 and at least one of the succeeding criteria. The location of each identified hedge is illustrated on Figure 12.

5.4.2 Results

Table 3: Importance of Hedgerows

Criteria	Hedge 1	Hedge 2	Hedge 3
Hedge has existed for 30 years or more Though hedges are not usually explicitly identified on historic maps it is considered likely that the field boundaries were hedged	Yes – first recorded on Tithe map dated 1838	Yes – first recorded on Tithe map dated 1838	Yes – first recorded on Tithe map dated 1838
Hedge is on parish boundary (pre-1850)	No	No	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a scheduled ancient monument*	No	No	No
Incorporates a feature which is part of a site registered with the HER/SMR (pre-24 March 1997)*	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	No	No
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 – 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 – none known

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

5.4.3 Discussion

None of the hedgerows identified on the site meet the criteria for being defined as 'Important' and are effectively scoped out of further assessment.

6 Proposal and Impacts

The proposal indicates that most of the site, with the exception of the south-eastern part of the site, will be developed, either for mineral extraction or for a compound and plant area. The existing tracks, which are relicts of the park avenues will be retained, and a new access road built onto Wolverley Road, to the east of Broom Cottage. Once the mineral resource is extracted the proposal indicates site will be reinstated and returned to agricultural use. A new stand of trees will restore Broom Covert, and trees will also be planted along the former avenues.

Any potential below ground archaeological remains are likely to be completely removed during mineral extraction, or destroyed during the construction of new roads and compound areas.

Generally preservation of the former Lea Castle Park (**WSM28847**) is poor, and its quality has been compromised by its use as agricultural land for 50 or more years. As such the park is only of local significance. The proposed development does not directly impact on any of the surviving park features except one short section of former park boundary wall (**AHA01**), and the restoration scheme will ultimately result in the reinstatement of the wall, as well as the tree lined avenues and Broom Covert. As such the impact of the development is overall considered to be **Not Significant** on the former park. No evidence of the grass landing strip has been identified during the assessment and it is of negligible significance.

There will be an impact on the setting of the regionally significant Grade II listed North Lodges and the locally significant undesignated south lodges, Leacastle Farm, Broom Cottage and Keepers Cottage. However, all these heritage assets are broadly screened from the site by banks of woodland and as such any impact will be **Minor Adverse**, during mineral extraction. Given that the proposal includes reinstatement of the site to agricultural activity, replanting the parkland avenues with rows of trees, and restoration of Broom Covert, the long term impact of the mineral extraction on the setting of these features is considered to be **Not Significant**. Other built heritage assets in the Study Area are completely screened from the site and have been scoped out of this assessment.

7 Conclusions

The survival of heritage assets within the Study Area has been outlined above and the following assessment has been made. There is limited evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the Study Area in the form of isolated find spots of various dates and the identification of the geological deposits which may have potential for Palaeolithic remains to survive. There is also limited evidence for early medieval and medieval activity in the Study Area, and early historic mapping indicates that the site was probably agricultural (or common) land until the late 18th or early 19th century. Evidence for any activity of the prehistoric, Roman, early medieval and medieval periods would likely be considered informative at local or regional level and therefore of local to regional significance. However, given the very limited representation of such material within the Study Area the potential for survival of assets dating to these periods within the site is considered to be low.

Historic mapping and other documents indicate the site was developed as parkland around Lea Castle during the early 19th century. The park was sold off around the 1930s or 40s, and the parkland was converted to agricultural use which has compromised the value of the park. The western part of the site was also used as a grass landing strip. Any archaeological evidence from the post-medieval and modern periods would probably relate to agriculture, parkland and/or the landing strip and therefore considered as only locally informative, and of low or negligible significance.

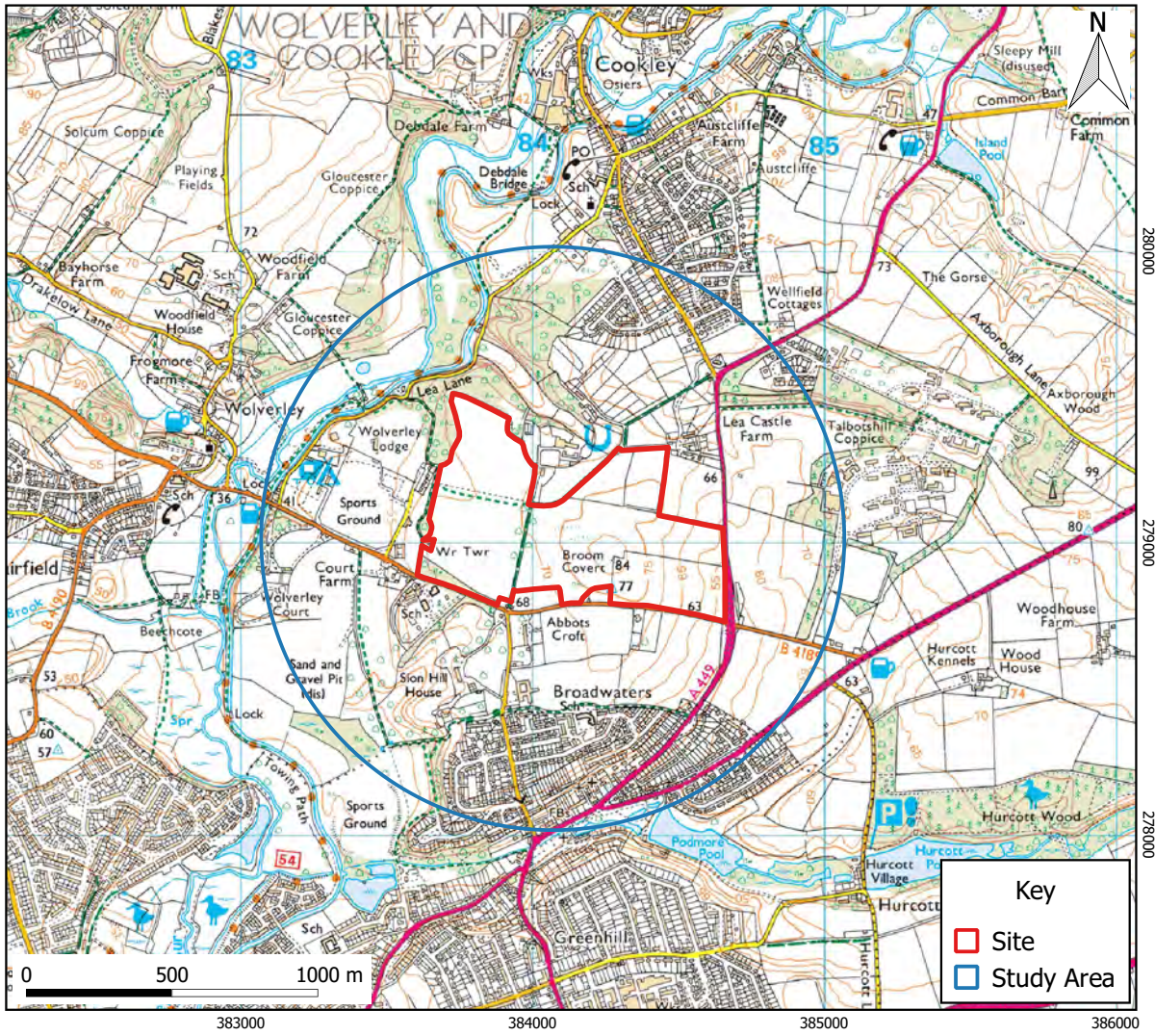
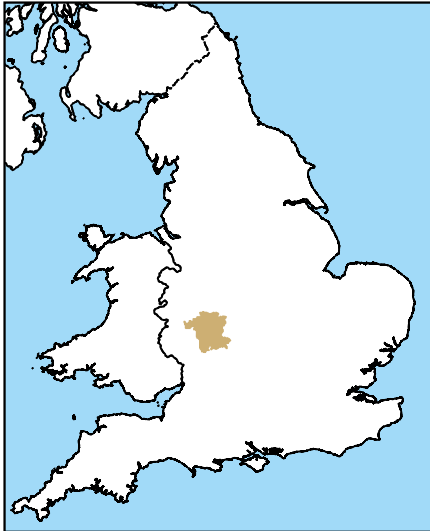
No designated monuments are located on or immediately adjacent to the site. It is not anticipated that any designated assets recorded in the Study Area will be significantly affected by the

development, although there will be a minor adverse impact on the setting of the Grade II listed *North Lodges and Gateway to Lea Castle*, which is located about 250m away from the site boundary. However restoration of some of the parkland features, including tree lined avenues and Broom Covert will reduce the long term impact of the mineral extraction to an insignificant level.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project; Robin Smithyman of Kedd Development Limited for commissioning the assessment.

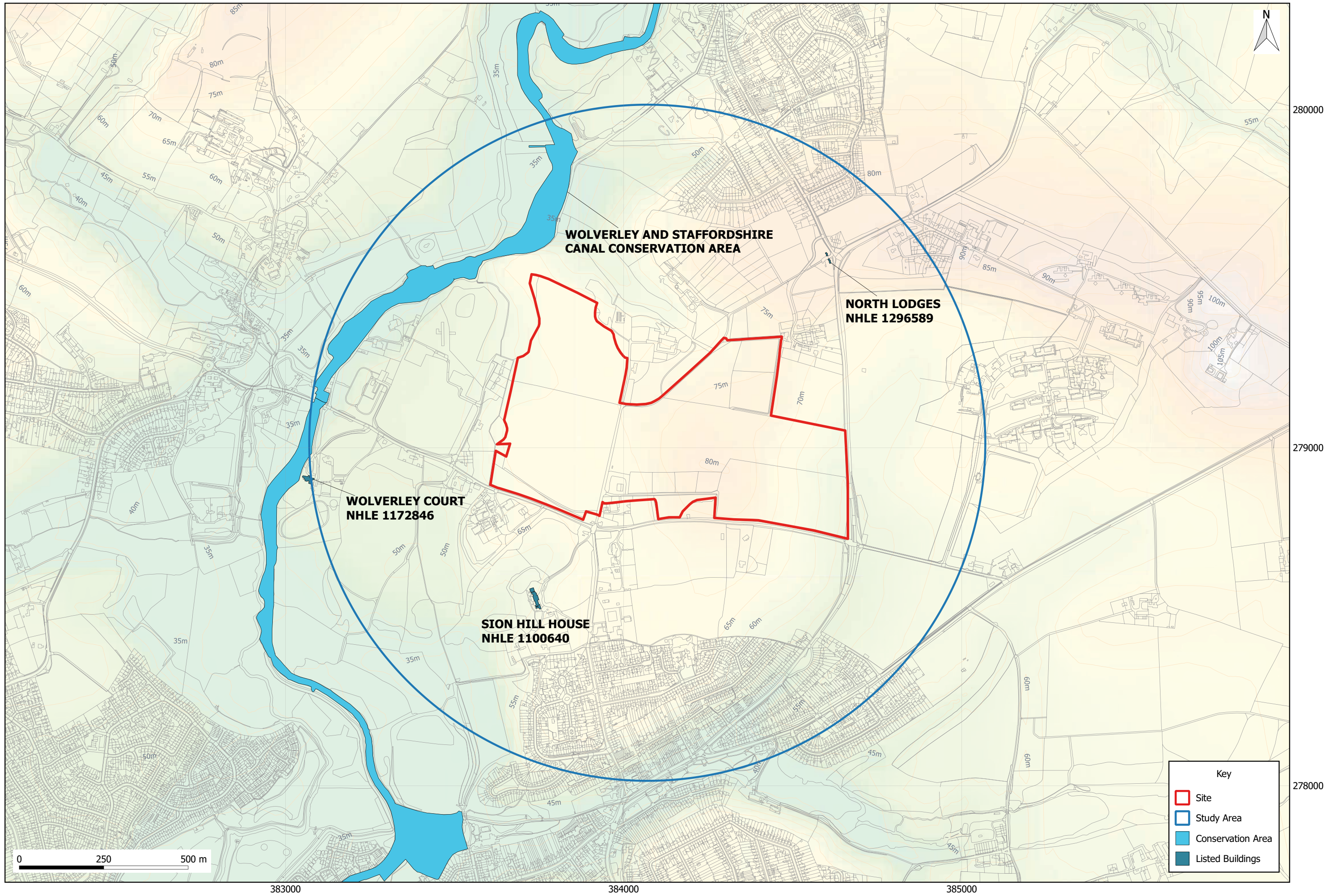
Figures

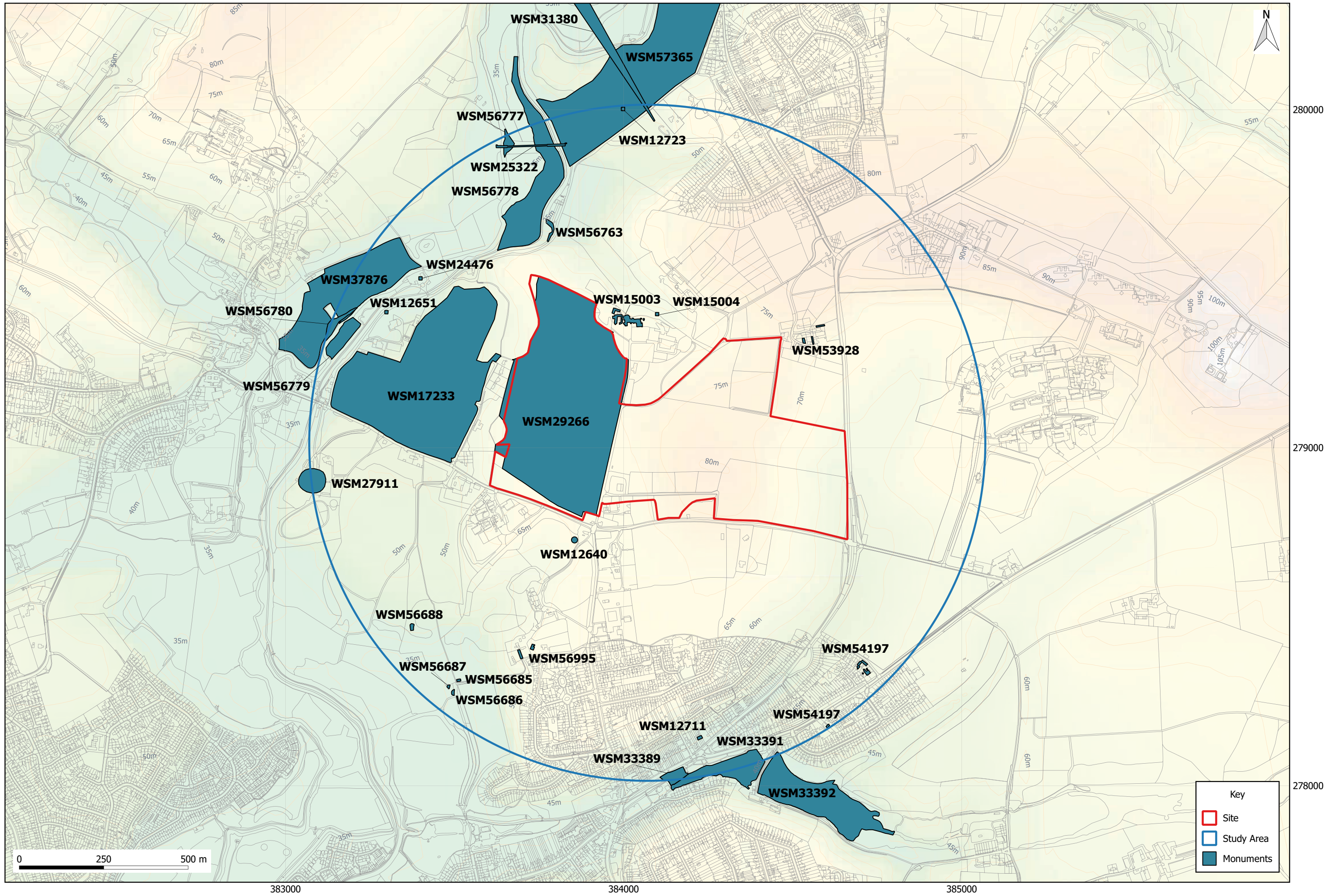


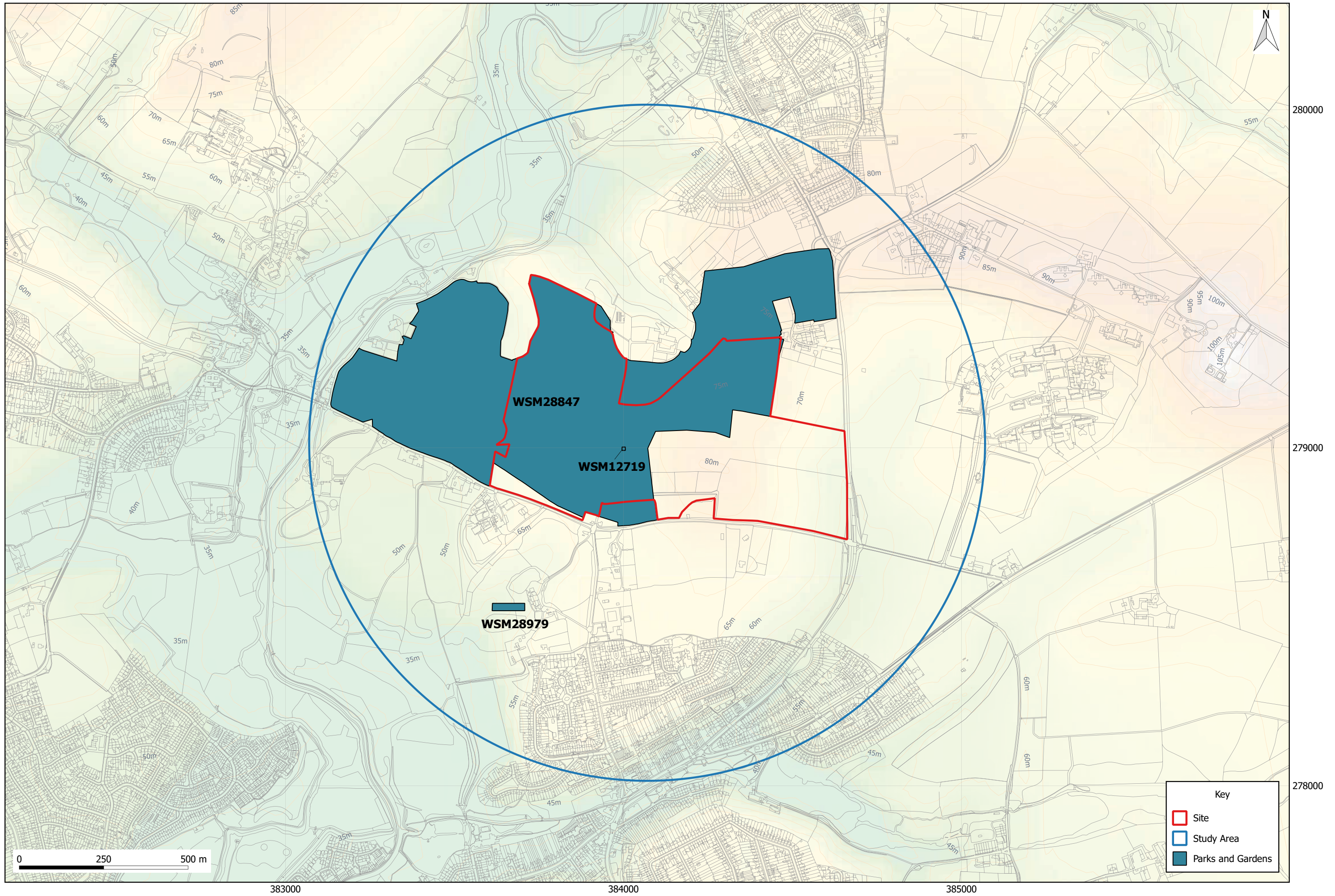
© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100024230

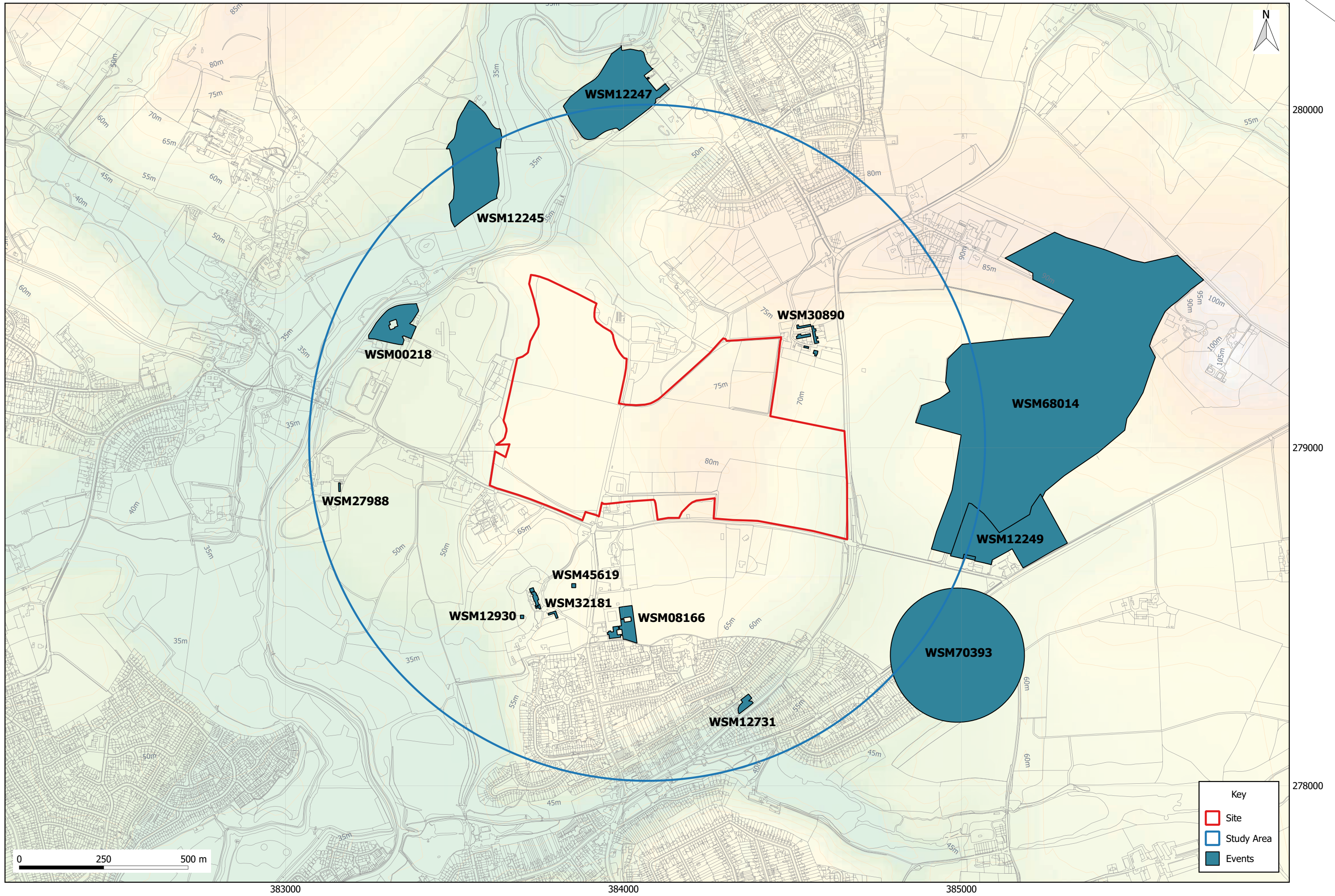
Location of the site

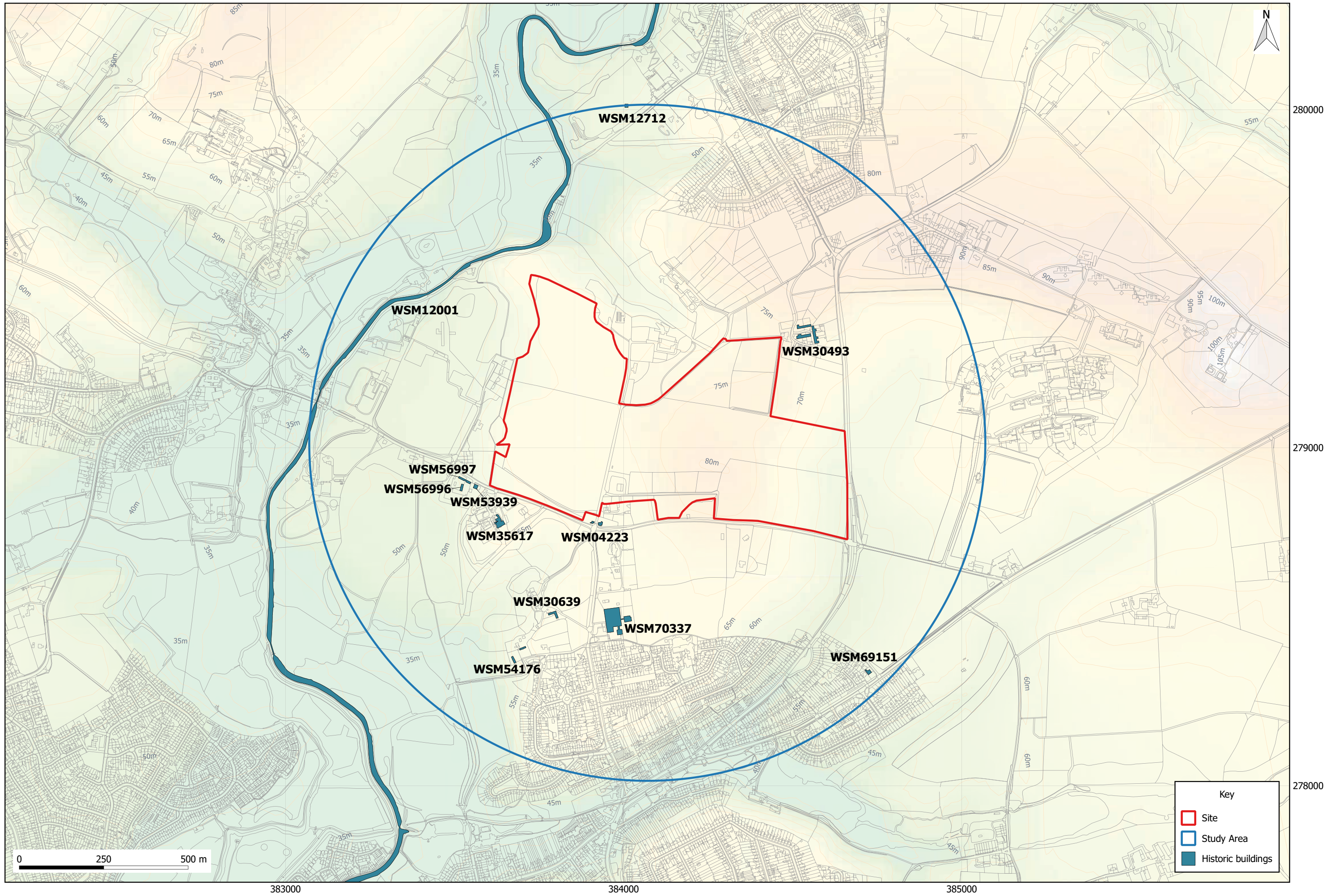
Figure 1

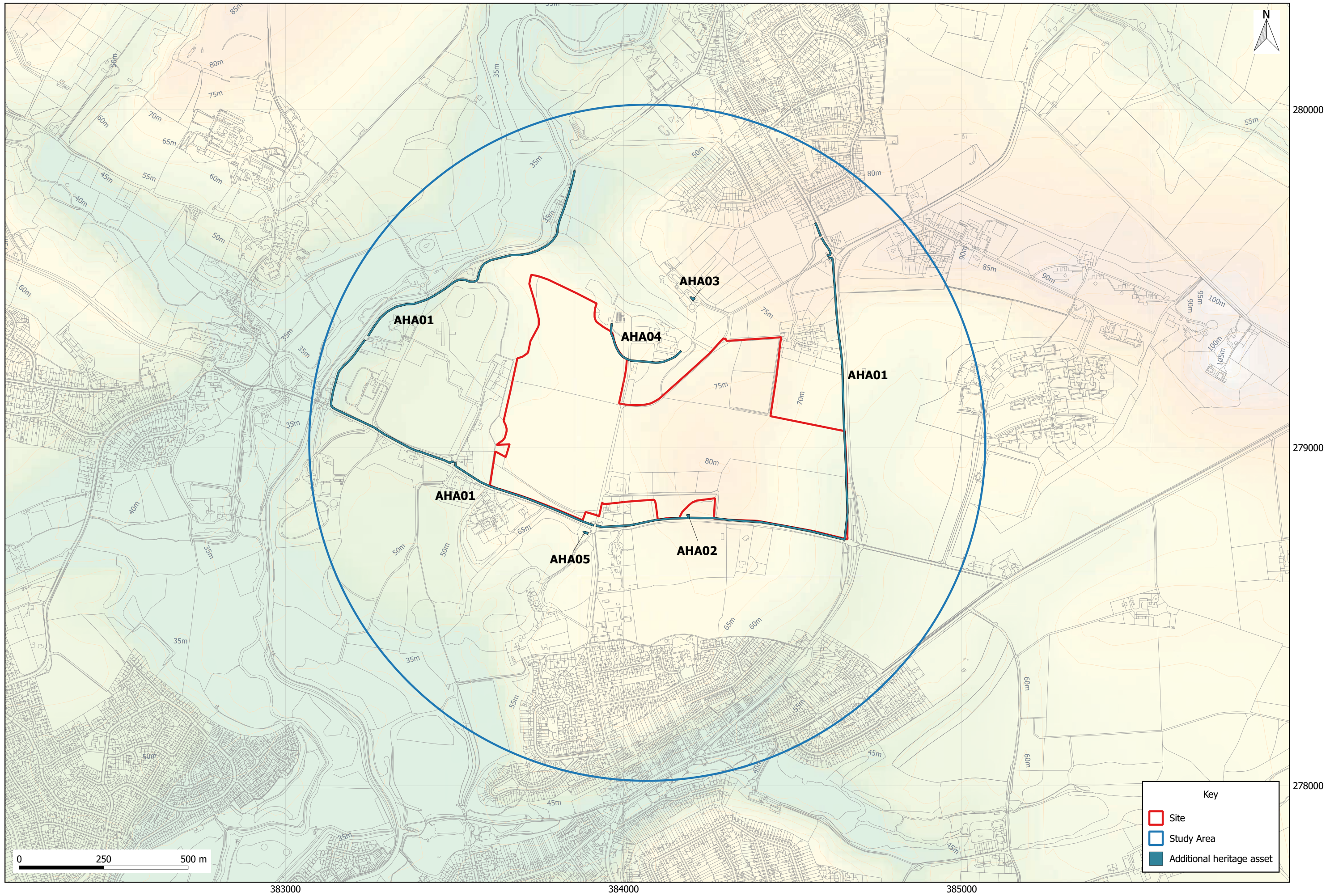


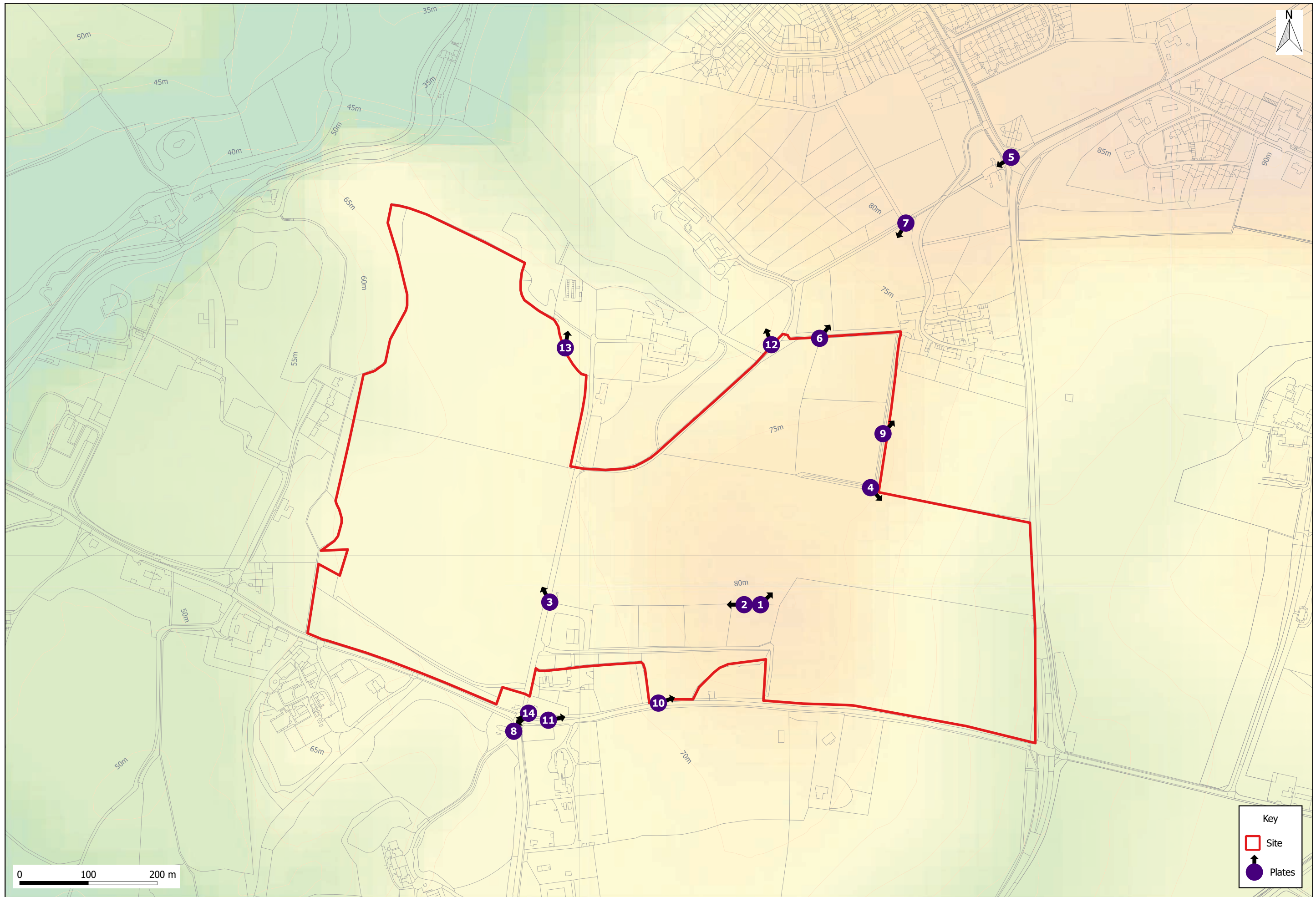












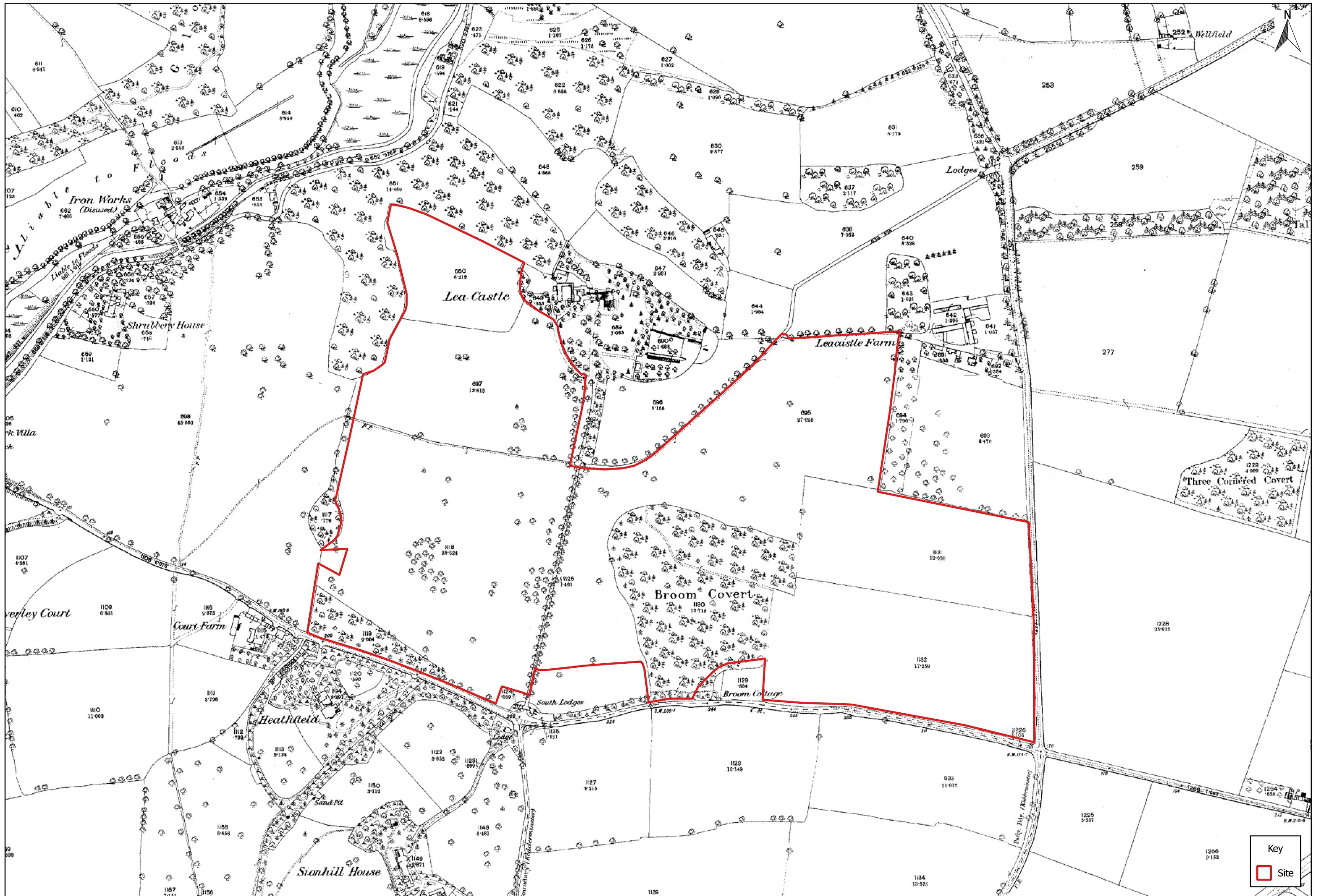
Location of Plates

Figure 8



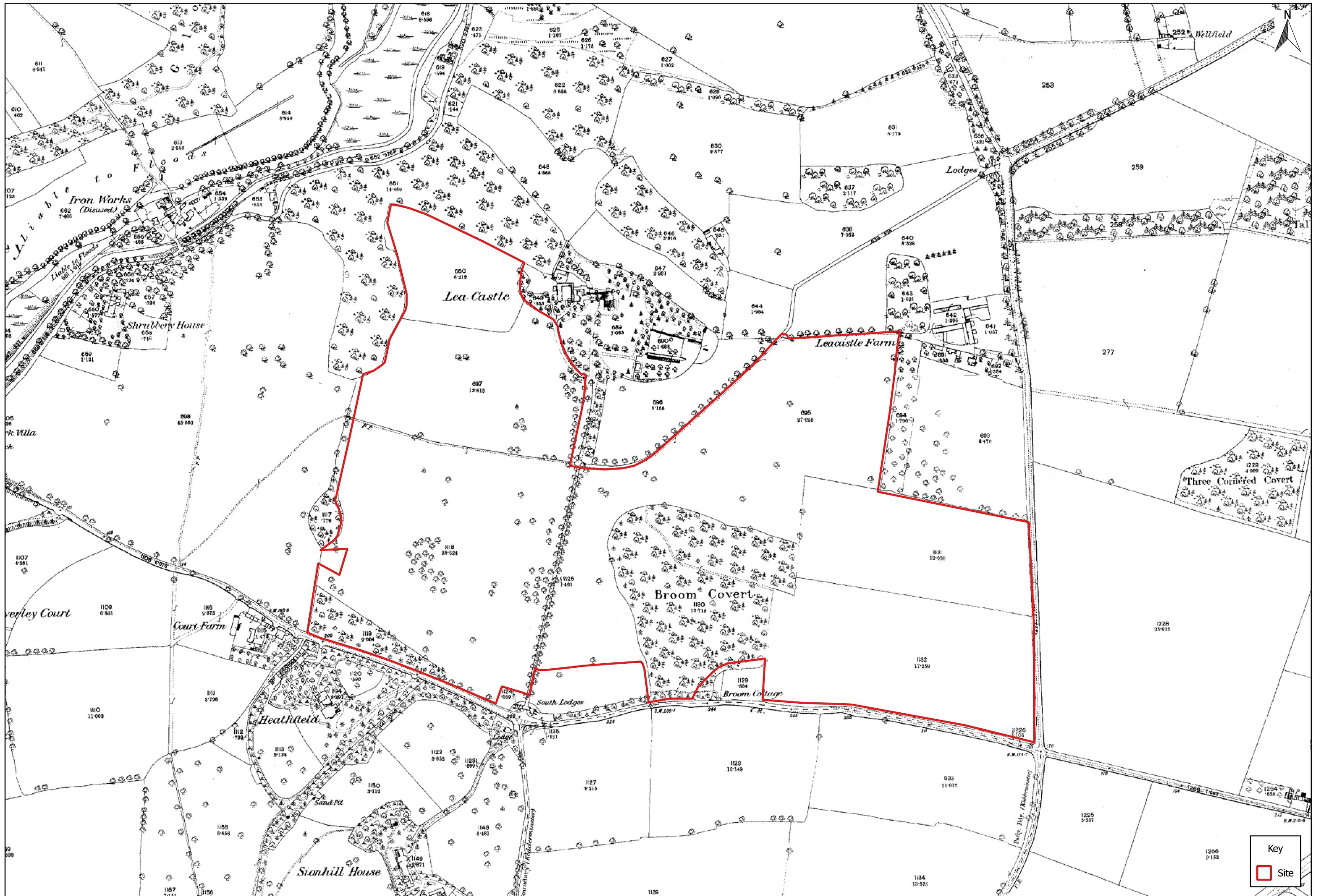
Extract of the 1838 Wolverley Tithe map

Figure 9



Extract of the 1884 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 10



Extract of the 1902 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 11



Plates



Plate 1: Panoramic view looking across the north-eastern part of the site



Plate 2: Panoramic view looking west across the southern part of the site



Plate 3: View looking across north-western part of the site



Plate 4: View looking across the south-eastern part of the site



Plate 5: The Grade II listed North Lodges and Gateway of Lea Castle



Plate 6: Looking towards the North Lodges from the northern edge of the site. The lodges are just visible surrounded by mature trees and other vegetation.



Plate 7: Panoramic view looking towards the site from the former avenue between the North Lodges and Lea Castle



Plate 8: The south lodges. The eastern of the two south lodges is clearly visible with the slightly later western lodge just visible to the left of shot.



Plate 9: Buildings associated with Leacastle Farm are just visible from the north-eastern edge of the site



Plate 10: The brick wall around the former park still largely survives intact. Broom Cottage also survives as a private residence, hidden behind the park wall



Plate 11: Parts of the park boundary wall have been unsympathetically rebuilt



Plate 12: Keepers Cottage viewed from the northern edge of the site



Plate 13: The remains of a ha-ha are just visible surviving below undergrowth on the northern boundary of the site



Plate 14: The lodge for Sion Hill House, is located on the opposite side of Wolverley Road to the southern lodges for Lea Castle

Appendix 1 Designated heritage assets in the Study Area

Assets within the application site are indicated in bold

Listed buildings

NHLE No	Name	Grade	Date
1100640	Sion Hill House	II	18 th Century to 20 th Century
1296589	North Lodges and Gateway of Lea Castle	II	19 th Century to 20 th Century
1172846	Wolverley Court	II	17 th Century to 20 th Century

Conservation Area

Name	Date
Wolverley and Staffordshire Canal Conservation Area	18 th Century to 20 th Century

Appendix 2 Heritage assets registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

Assets within the application site are indicated in bold

Monuments

WSM No	Name	Monument type	Period
WSM12640	Mound North of Sionhill House, Wolverley	MOUND	Unknown
WSM12651	Old Forge, Wolverley	FORGE; TRAMWAY; TUNNEL	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM12711	Primitive Methodist Chapel (Site of), Broadwaters, Kidderminster	PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL	19TH CENTURY AD
WSM12723	Cookley Crag, Wolverley & Cookley	STONE QUARRY	MEDIEVAL
WSM15003	Site of Lea Castle, Wolverley	HOUSE	18TH CENTURY AD to 20TH CENTURY AD
WSM15004	Site of La Lee Medieval Settlement, Wolverley	SETTLEMENT	MEDIEVAL
WSM17233	Site of Wolverley Camp General Hospital, Wolverley	MILITARY HOSPITAL	World War Two to 20TH CENTURY AD
WSM24476	Lords Mill, Lea Lane, Wolverley	WATERMILL; FORGE	LATE 11TH CENTURY AD to 17TH CENTURY AD
WSM25322	Site of pipeline bridge over River Stour and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, Cookley.	AQUEDUCT; Guard Post	20TH CENTURY AD
WSM25346	Floodgates, Cookley	SLUICE GATE	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM27911	Area of Probable Medieval activity, Wolverley Court	SETTLEMENT	MEDIEVAL
WSM29266	Site of Grass Landing Strip, Bircham Coppice Lane, Wolverley and Cookley	Landing Strip	World War Two to 20TH CENTURY AD
WSM31380	Site of Firing Range near Debdale Farm, Wolverley and Cookley	FIRING RANGE	19TH CENTURY AD
WSM33389	Site of 19th Century Corn Mill, Upper Broadwaters Mill, Kidderminster	CORN MILL; WATERMILL; LAUNDRY	19TH CENTURY AD to 20TH CENTURY AD
WSM33391	Upstream Pool, Broadwaters Middle Mill, Kidderminster	MILL POND	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM33392	Podmore Pool, Upper Broadwaters, Kidderminster	MILL POND	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM34427	Site of Broadwaters Middle Mill Buildings, Kidderminster	FULLING MILL; WATERMILL; CORN MILL; FORGE; SLITTING MILL	LATE 11TH CENTURY AD to 19TH CENTURY AD
WSM37876	Watermeadow, East of Wolverley, Wolverley and Cookley	WATER MEADOW	16TH CENTURY AD to 19TH CENTURY AD

WSM No	Name	Monument type	Period
WSM53928	Site of Buildings, Leacastle Farm, Wolverley and Cookley	FARMSTEAD; FARM BUILDING	18TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM54197	Site of Heath House Farm Buildings, Kidderminster	FARMSTEAD	19TH CENTURY AD to 20TH CENTURY AD
WSM56685	Pond, Southwest Barn House Cottage, Wolverley/Cookley	POND	POST MEDIEVAL to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM56686	Pond, Southwest Barn House Cottage, Wolverley/Cookley	POND	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56687	Pond, Southwest Barn House Cottage, Wolverley/Cookley	POND	POST MEDIEVAL to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM56688	Pond, Northwest Barn House Cottage, Wolverley/Cookley	POND	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56763	Marsh, Upper Lea Cottages, Wolverley and Cookley	MARSH	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56777	Marsh, East of Gloucester Coppice, Wolverley and Cookley	MARSH	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56778	Marsh, North of Upper Lea Cottages, Wolverley and Cookley	MARSH	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56779	Marsh, West of Wolverley Lodge, Wolverley and Cookley	MARSH	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56780	Marsh, West of Wolverley Lodge, Wolverley and Cookley	MARSH	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM56995	Site of Farm Buildings, The Barn House (Sionhill Farm), Wolverley and Cookley	FARMSTEAD	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM57365	Possible site of limekiln - west of St. Peters Church, Wolverley	LIME KILN	18TH CENTURY AD to 19TH CENTURY AD

Parks and gardens

HER No	Name	Monument type	Period
WSM12719	Wolverley Park	RABBIT WARREN; PARK	MEDIEVAL
WSM28847	Park, Lea Castle, Wolverley	PARK	19TH CENTURY AD
WSM28979	Park; Garden Building at Sion Hill House	PARK; GARDEN BUILDING	18TH CENTURY AD to 19TH CENTURY AD

Buildings

HER No	Name	Monument type	Period
WSM04223	Lodges to Lea Castle, Cookley, Wolverley	LODGE	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM12001	Staffordshire and Worcester Canal	CANAL	18TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM12712	Primitive Methodist Chapel, Cookley	PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL	19TH CENTURY AD

Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley, Worcestershire

HER No	Name	Monument type	Period
WSM30493	Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley	THRESHING BARN; ANIMAL SHED	18TH CENTURY AD
WSM30639	Coach House, Sion Hill, Wolverley	COACH HOUSE	POST MEDIEVAL
WSM35617	Heathfield, Wolverley and Cookley	Hall	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM53939	Court Farm Farmhouse, Wolverley and Cookley	FARMSTEAD; FARMHOUSE	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM54176	Farm Buildings, The Barn House (Sionhill Farm), Wolverley and Cookley	FARMSTEAD	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM56996	Farmbuilding, Court Farm Farmhouse, Wolverley and Cookley	FARMHOUSE; CART SHED	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM56997	Heathfield and Willow Barn, Court Farm, Wolverley and Cookley	FARMHOUSE; BARN	19TH CENTURY AD to 21ST CENTURY AD
WSM69151	Heath House, Kidderminster		Unknown
WSM70337	The former Sion Hill Middle School, Sion Hill, Kidderminster	SCHOOL	MODERN

Events

HER No	Record Type	Name
WSM00218	EVP	Unstratified Find of Palaeolithic Axe in 1931, Wolverley Lodge
WSM08166	EVP	Unstratified Find in 1972 of Flint Scraper, Sion Hill School, Wolverley
WSM12245	EVP	Unstratified Finds of Flints from Field Hay Piece, Wolverley and Cook
WSM12247	EVP	Unstratified Finds of Flints from Cookley Playing Field, Wolverley and Cook
WSM12249	EVP	Unstratified Find of a Single Flint, North of Park Gate, Kidderminster
WSM12731	EVP	Unstratified Find in 1974 of Carved Wooden Head, Petrol Station, A449.
WSM12930	EVP	Metal detecting finds, adjacent to Sion Hill House, Wolverley and Cookley
WSM27988	EVT	Watching Brief in 1999, Wolverley Court, Worcestershire
WSM30890	EVS	Building Recording in 2002, Lea Castle Farm, Wolverley
WSM32181	EVS	Building Recording in 2002, Sionhill House, Wolverley
WSM45619	EVP	Unstratified finds, Sion Hill, Wolverley, Kidderminster
WSM68014	EVT	Archaeological evaluation at former Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster
WSM70393	EVS	Ongoing Work: Evaluation in 2018 on land off Stourbridge Road, Kidderminster

Appendix 3 Additional heritage assets identified by the desk-based assessment

Assets within the application site are indicated in bold

Additional heritage asset	Site name	Grid reference	Date
AHA01*	Lea Castle Park Boundary Wall		19th Century to 21st Century
AHA02	Broom Cottage		19 th Century to 20 th Century
AHA03	Keepers Cottage		19 th Century to 20 th Century
AHA04*	Ha ha to south of Lea Castle		19th Century to 20th Century
AHA05	Sion Hill Lodge		19 th Century to 20 th Century

* Located on the boundary of the site
