

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**ON**

**LUTON LYE HOUSE,  
SAVERNAKE, WILTSHIRE**

**NGR SU 22695 67048**

*On behalf of*

*Alex Oliver Associates*

**SEPTEMBER 2012**

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**REPORT ISSUED** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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**JMHS Project No:** 2678

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## **SUMMARY**

*This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains on land at Luton Lye House, Savernake (NGR SU 22695 67048), by John Moore Heritage Services. There is evidence of pre-Medieval settlement from across the Savernake Forest, with sporadic activity from the Palaeolithic and Neolithic, with more increased activity for the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Much of this activity is located away from the site and will be little affected by this development, there are, however, two features: a possible Iron Age religious complex and a Roman road, and potentially any satellite activity to these may lie across the site. In the medieval period the land became designated as Forest, a king's hunting land, subsequently little evidence of occupation would be found in the area until the post-medieval period, when the area was developed as a parkland. The parkland was subsequently listed. In the Second World War the area was used for military activity, including the storage of ammunition. The north and south part of the property are marked as being associated with this activity and it may be that the earthworks in the north of the property are directly a result of this. Undated quarrying is suspected to the south of the house. The house is of two phases and architecturally is of little merit.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Origins of the Report**

The report was initiated by Alex Oliver Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs. Orpen. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area of matters concerning the historic environment.

### **1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies**

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

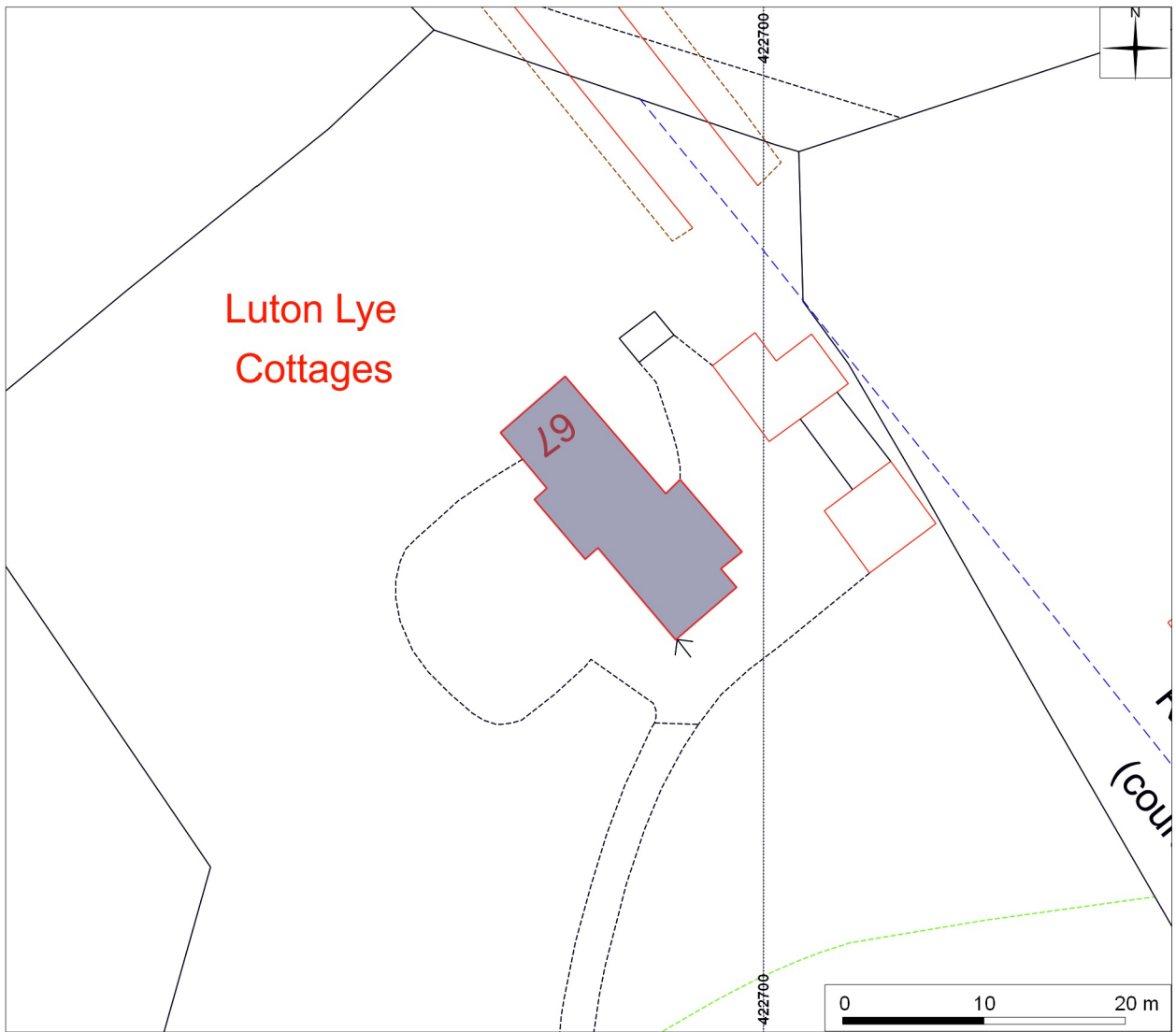
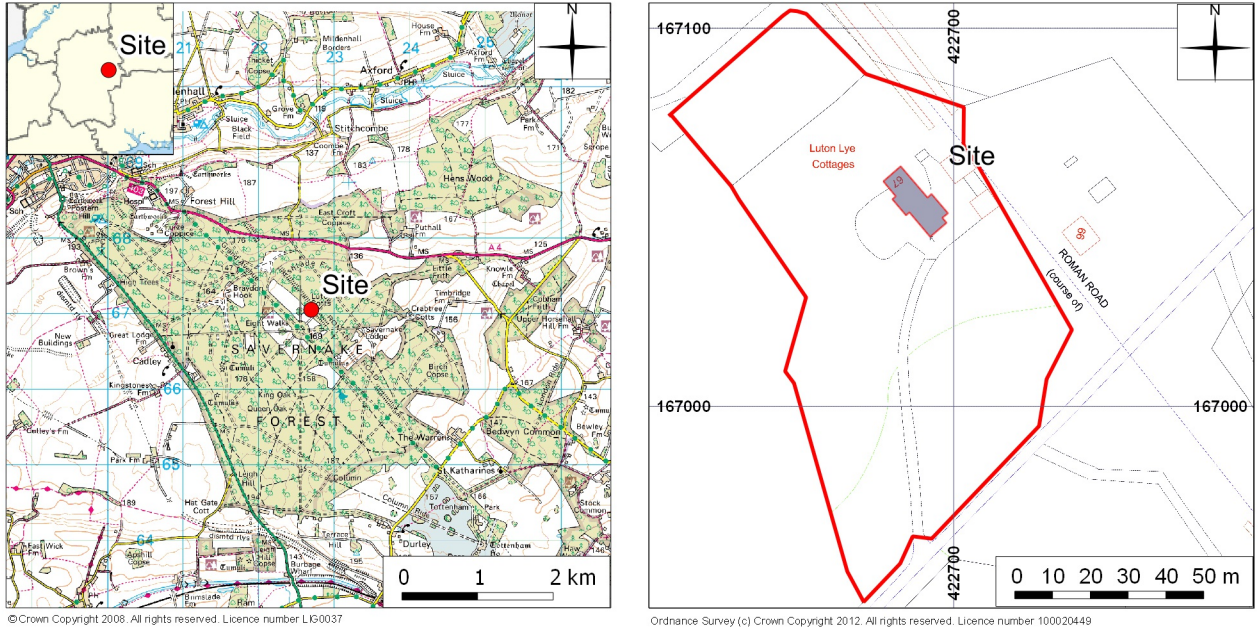


Figure 1. Site location

### 1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows the Government guidance in *NPPF* (2012) by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

### 1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives

- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Wiltshire County Historic Environment Record
- The Wiltshire Centre for Historic Research
- English Heritage report on the Savernake Forest

The Wiltshire County Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 250 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 22695 67048, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record belongs to Wiltshire County Council (Figures 1).

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location (Figure 1)**

The site is one of two isolated cottages on the north side of Sawpit Drive, a track or ride that runs through Savernake Forest, in the county of Wiltshire. Savernake Forest was previously a Liberty and royal hunting ground. The present parish of Savernake is almost but not exactly coterminous with the forest boundaries recorded in 1300 (VCH 1999, 207-15). The boundary between Savernake Forest and the parish of Burbage were called into question in 1886, and the boundaries must date from the decision made at this time.



The liberty was located in Kinwardstone Hundred, and partially in Selkley Hundred.

## 2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The site, located on the northwest side of Sawpit Drive is bounded by a Roman road to the northeast, and woodland in Savernake Forest to the north and west. The building is a linear structure with a gable on the front (southwest) and a lean to on the northeast. It is of brick with red clay tiles, and of two phases. There are outbuildings immediately adjacent to the line of the Roman road. The site also includes a large paddock to the west.

## 2.3 Geology and Topography

The site (NGR SU 22695 67048) is located on the plateau area of Savernake Forest, at an Ordnance Datum between 160 and 165m.

The underlying geology of the parish is clay with flints that overlie the Upper Chalk beds (BGS 1974, sheet 266).

## 3 PROPOSED SCHEME

The proposal is for the demolition of Luton Lye House and the construction of a new build. The building is located on the first series Ordnance Survey map but no assessment has been made for the date of the building prior to this report.

## 4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2-3, Plates 1-3)

### 4.1 The Historical Development of Savernake Forest

A number of prehistoric monuments along with Roman roads have been noted in Savernake parish (VCH 1999, 207-15). The Roman roads are the roads from Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*) to Winchester (*Venta Belgorum*), and from Mildenhall to Old Salisbury (*Sorbiodunum*). The archaeological sites in the search area will be discussed below (see 4.2).

The area of Savernake originated as part of a *silva* (woodland) that later became a Royal Forest (hunting ground). The first reference to the wood is for 934 (written down in c. 1300) and is in the form *silva quae appellature Safernoc* (Gover, Mawer *et al.* 1939, 15). The name is a hybrid name with two components, a Celtic prefix derived from the same name as that of the river Severn and a final Old English suffix *-āco*, an oak. As a major British river the name of the Severn is first recorded for the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in the form of Sabrina, a feminine cog-name. As such it is believed that like other similar river names found in Gaul, for example *Sequanna*, that it was the name of a deity (Ross 1967, 47; Yeates 2008, 31-35; 2009, 128). Though accepted as a divine name, which is highly likely, no inscription has yet been recovered to demonstrate this tradition. No adequate etymology has yet been accepted for

the name of the river, the most plausible explanation is that it means Summer-Queen. This is derived from the later Welsh forms of the river name, Hafren, of which haf is the Welsh word for Summer, and ren or earlier rina is equated with Latin regina, queen. The significance of this topographical name will be returned to later (see 4.3).

The extent of the Forest was defined in 1300 by a boundary perambulation (VCH 1999, 207-15). The boundaries are almost coterminous with the present parish.

The crown is known to have held the Forest of Savernake along with the castle at Marlborough (VCH 1999, 207-15). This was the arrangement up to 1415 when Henry IV's son, Humphrey of Gloucester held the forest. In 1547 the forest reverted to the monarch on the death of Catherine Parr, and subsequently in 1548 Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, became hereditary warden of the forest. The seat of the duke's of Somerset was Tottenham House and Lodge in Great Bedwyn, and subsequently the woodland and agricultural land has descended with that estate. Tottenham was the location of a forest lodge and was assarted from Savernake Forest (VCH 1999, 8-49).

Historically deforestation and agricultural activity is known to have cleared the west part of the Forest by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The cleared land was divided into two tithings, the first Savernake Park North was a tithing attached to Selkley Hundred (in which Marlborough was located) and Brimslade and South Savernake tithing in Kinwardstone Hundred (VCH 1999, 207-15). The east part of the parish in which Luton Lye is located remained forested.

Forest landscapes, by necessity, were places of few dwellings and normally lacking in forms of nucleated settlement. They generally obtained a series of sanctioned lodges and workers cottages, with larger nucleated settlements a later development. Forest courts are known to have been held in the 13<sup>th</sup> century at Morley (suspected as being Leigh Hill) and in the 16<sup>th</sup> century at Great Lodge and Bagden Lodge (VCH 1999, 207-15). Bagden Lodge later became known as Savernake Lawn and then Savernake Lodge. This means that the origins of Braydon Hook House (Great Lodge), Savernake Lodge, and Furze Coppice are known as they developed as forest lodges. The origins of the Luton Lye Cottages are less pronounced but must fit into the development of sanctioned buildings within a royal forest or chase landscape.

Forest landscapes in general are recognised as developing as extra-parochial areas of land; this means that they were established outside the parochial jurisdiction of a church. It is, however, recognised that in the 12<sup>th</sup> century that the tithes of the forest were awarded to Salisbury Cathedral (VCH 1999, 207-15). It is worth noting that in 1139 the church at Burbage was given to Salisbury Cathedral, and in 1150 this was in the prebend of Hurstbourne and Burbage (VCH 1999, 69-82). This is perhaps indicative of the parish of Burbage being established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century out of Savernake Forest. A further possibility is that the church at Burbage was part of the church holdings of Great Bedwyn also held by Salisbury Cathedral from 1091 (VCH 1999, 8-49).

The main settlement in Savernake Forest was established at Cradley where a hamlet existed by 1773 (VCH 1999, 207-15). There is a 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage in the hamlet suggesting that the settlement had a longer antiquity, although the majority of buildings in the hamlet are of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century: a church, vicarage and school, besides a number of estate workers cottages.

From 1720-40 the rides were located around the park of Tottenham House (VCH 1999, 207-15). The initial designs consisted of two rides being inserted into the Forest, one of which followed the line of the Roman road. From 1764 to 1786 the woodland was designed as an extension of the parkland around Tottenham House.

From 1673 there are deeds and other papers concerning the renting of cottages and lodges in the forest. The 1673 account concerns Bagden Lodge (WRO 9/22/43), and mentions two cottages with 2 acres of ground. The Luton Lye Houses are not far from Bagden Lodge. Other indications of estate cottage and gardens being constructed from 1721 (WRO 9/22/99; 9/22/100; 9/22/101; 9/22/102; 9/22/103; 9/22/104; 9/22/105), further evidence from 1732 (WRO 9/22/119; 9/22/120; 9/22/121; 9/22/118), 1734 (WRO 9/22/126; 9/22/127), 1744 (WRO 9/22/144), 1749 (WRO 9/22/147; 9/22/148; 9/22/150), 1755 (WRO 9/22/166), 1756 (WRO 9/22/169), 1758 (WRO 9/22/171), 1759 (WRO 9/22/175), 1765 (WRO 9/22/179), 1771 (9/22/183) and 1779. Many of these cottages are identified at Leigh Hill (Lye Hill), but some are more simply described as in Savernake Forest. Some of these may be located in the agricultural western part of the parish, but the account in 1771 refers to a cottage near the Great Park, and one must assume that this is in the remaining forest at an unspecified location.

The land registry map of 1910 (WRO L8/1/56) show the cottage as a holding of the Marquis of Ailesbury. This presumably means that the estate would have rented the property out. There are indications of cottages being rented out by the estate to Palmer, Turner and Nutley, but these have individual numbers and cannot be seen to match.

#### **4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 2)**

A 1km search radius was requested for the area centred on the Luton Lye House in Savernake Forest. This was expanded by the county to a 2km search radius, although some of the features lie outside this area.

The earliest archaeological locations identified include a site where Palaeolithic tools have been recovered (**JMHS 1**, HER SU26NW002: SU 2250 6780), and another where Neolithic flints have been found (**JMHS 2**, HER SU26NW100: SU 2249 6860). The remains of a fragmentary Bronze Age spearhead have also been identified (**JMHS 3**, HER SU26NW150: SU 2370 6719). The exact purposes of each of these sites have not been ascertained precisely.

There are also a number of barrows located in the area, of which the precise dates are unknown, but they may plausibly date from the Bronze Age or a later period. These include four undated bowl barrows (**JMHS 4**, HER SU26NW608: SU 2302 6640; **JMHS 5**, HER SU26NW609: SU 2141 6591; **JMHS 6**, HER SU26NW610: SU 2155 6623; **JMHS 7**, HER SU26NW611: SU2155 6624), these are all scheduled monuments either singularly or as part of a group.

There are a number of Iron Age sites known from the search area, which are accounted through the recovery of fragments of pottery (**JMHS 8**, HER SU26NW204: SU 2360 6640; **JMHS 9**, HER SU26NW205: SU 2128 6748; **JMHS 10**, HER SU26NW206: SU 2155 6625; **JMHS 11**, HER SU26NW207: SU 2154 6687; **JMHS 12**, HER SU26NW208: SU 2152 6747).

Perhaps more significantly is the remains of a multivallate enclosure (**JMHS 13**, NMR 1474492: SU 2273 6715) that is truncated by the Roman road from Mildenhall to Winchester. The feature has been dated to the Roman period due to the fact that it is truncated by a recognised Roman feature. Above it was noted that Savernake is a hybrid name of a probable Brittonic goddess with that of an oak. This combination is of interest as recent studies into *Dobunni* religion (a tribe located in the Wiltshire Cotswolds) has shown that the worship of trees were widespread in that region (Yeates 2008, 117-123). Though this is shown in a tribal context in Britain there are indications further afield that tree worship was widespread. A unique site in Spain survives as a location of tree worship to the modern day through Christian traditions. The site of La Dehesa, at Olmeda de Cobeta, in the upper Tajo valley has the remains of a hilltop enclosure in which there are a number of sacred trees. The trees have been shaped by human activity as they grew and Christian shrines placed within them (Arenas Esteban 2007, 189-199).

There is a further undated enclosure (**JMHS 14**, HER SU26NW614: SU 2130 6744), described as being of a square shape and being associated with Iron Age pottery.

A number of specifically Roman period sites have been identified within the search area. These features include the Mildenhall to Winchester road (**JMHS 15**, HER SU26NW311: SU 2290 6684) also in this area (NMR 1477340) that runs adjacent to the site and the Mildenhall to Old Sarum road (**JMHS 16**, HER SU26NW310: SU 2156 6659). The other sites record the recovery of artefacts from a number of locations, for example pottery (**JMHS 17**, HER SU26NW307: SU 2184 6775; **JMHS 18**, HER SU26NW312: SU 2155 6682; **JMHS 19**, HER SU26NW316: SU 2152 6747). The other locations are where a Roman dolphin brooch has been recovered (**JMHS 20**, HER SU26NW313: SU 2250 6839) and iron and copper alloy objects (**JMHS 21**, HER SU26NW314: SU 2209 6770).

Two sites of early medieval origin located in the search area including the site (**JMHS 22**, HER SU26NW402) and a settlement at *Puttanealh* (**JMHS 23**, HER SU26NW404: SU 2401 6814).

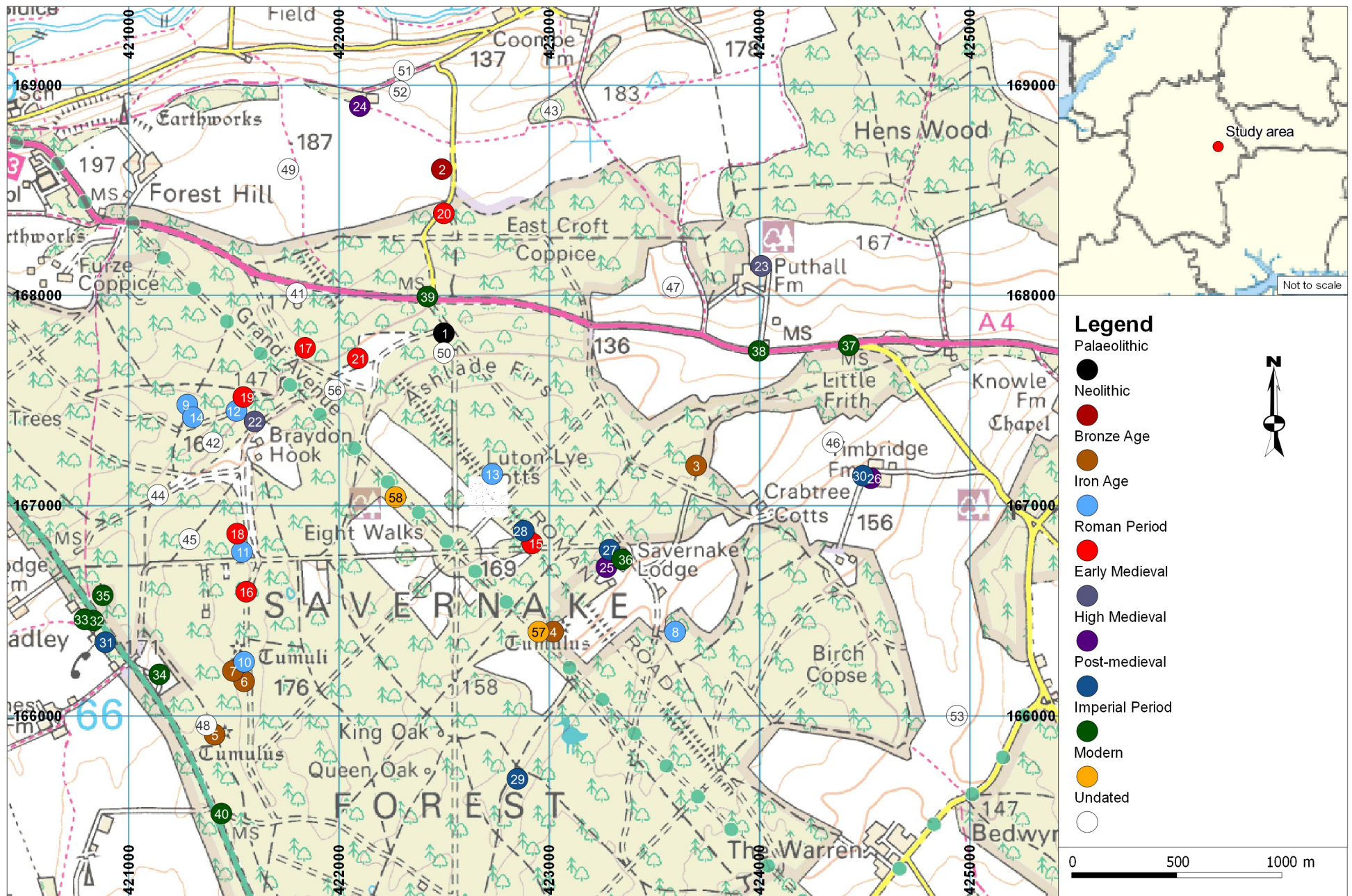


Figure 2. Historic Environment Record Data

The forest, although it probably existed as a *silva* or woodland prior to the medieval period was only transformed into a forest within that period. Forests were designated hunting grounds for royal use; as such very little settlement was allowed to occur within them. Squatters were probably cleared and those houses that did exist were probably sanctioned for a specific purpose. Medieval settlement is described as *Adam Atte Hull* in 1327 (**JMHS 24**, HER SU26NW459: SU 2210 6890), and the Bagden Lodge is also known to have had a medieval origin (**JMHS 25**, HER SU26NW461: SU 2326 6672). There is a further medieval farmstead noted in the search area (**JMHS 26**, HER SU26NW462: SU 2453 6713).

There are a number of features dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century including Bagden Lodge (**JMHS 27**, HER SU26NW525), and a deer park (**JMHS 29**, HER SU26NW526). The national mapping noted the Great Inclosure (**JMHS 28**, NMR 1472563: SU 2288 6688) in which the house lies, dated *c.* 1597. This all forms part of the parkland landscape (**JMHS 29**, HER SU26NW529: SU 2285 6570), with Tottenham House and Savernake Forest being a registered park (**JMHS 29**, HER DWI 14650: SU 2305 6592). The search pulled up a number of listed buildings, which may lie outside the search area and include the 16<sup>th</sup> century Timbridge Farmhouse (**JMHS 30**, HER DWI 606: SU 24513 67149), and a 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage (**JMHS 31**, HER DWI 1501: SU 2089 6635).

From the Industrial or Imperial period there are a number of estate cottages and lodges that are listed. These include two estate cottages of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (**JMHS 32**, HER DWI 1502: SU 20832 66453), two estate cottages of 1854 (**JMHS 33**, HER DWI 1503: SU 20791 66459), an estate house of *c.* 1860 (**JMHS 34**, HER DWI 1498: SU 21147 66197), and the parish church of 1851 (**JMHS 35**, HER DWI 1497: SU 20878 66573), and a lodge of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century with alterations in *c.* 1910 (**JMHS 36**, HER DWI 1488: SU 23347 66744).

There are a further four listed milestones in the search area (**JMHS 37**, HER DWI 609: SU 24426 67762; **JMHS 38**, HER DWI 608: SU 23997 67736; **JMHS 39**, HER DWI 361: SU 22422 67994; **JMHS 40**, HER DWI 1495: SU 21442 65535).

There are a series of undated features for which there is even less inference than for the bowl barrows or square enclosure mentioned above. There is an undated earthwork abutting the Roman road (**JMHS 41**, HER SU26NW607: SU 2180 6801), an enclosure partially excavated in 1934 (**JMHS 42**, HER SU26NW613), two curving cropmarks (**JMHS 43**, HER SU26NW615). Other features include undated banks and ditches (**JMHS 44**, HER SU26NW619: SU 2114 6705; **JMHS 45**, HER SU26NW624: SU 2129 6684), these banks are scheduled. There is an undated feature believed to be a marl pit (**JMHS 46**, HER SU26NW627), and also a double ditched F-shaped feature (**JMHS 47**, HER SU26NW630: SU 2359 6804). A further eight undated features have been identified that include a linear ditch (**JMHS 48**, HER SU26NW632: SU 2141 6593), a metalled trackway (**JMHS 49**, HER SU26NW633: SU 2176 6860), earthworks (**JMHS 50**, HER SU26NW638: SU 2250 6776; **JMHS 51**, HER SU26NW639: SU 2241 6907), a linear feature (**JMHS 52**, HER

SU26NW641), a bank and ditch (**JMHS 53**, HER SU26NW642), a D-shaped enclosure (**JMHS 54**, HER SU26NW643) and a linear ditch (**JMHS 55**, HER SU26NW644). The national mapping programme has noted a number of quarry pits or sink holes (**JMHS 56**, NMR 1472111: SU 2198 6755), that are undated.

There are also indications of Second World War activity (**JMHS 57**, NMR 1477431: SU 2295 6640), and facilities associated with ammunition storage (**JMHS 58**, NMR 1477270: SU 2227 6704). Though shown as one point the national mapping programme did indicate a number of areas associated with number 1477431, which included land along the Great Drive, Sawpit Drive adjacent and perhaps on the property of Luton Lye House to the south and also on the property to the north of the house.

There are six events accounted on the HER (EWI3110, EWI3111, EWI3112, EWI3113, EWI6264, and EWI6927). These have all recovered minimal or no new information.

### 4.3 Cartographic Research (Figure 3)

A number of antiquarian maps were consulted to ascertain the development of the area, as they were designated as maps of the Savernake Forest or associated estates. The three earliest maps dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century (WRO 1300/47A; 1300/47B; 1300/47H), they all show the area concerned but little detail is shown for this to be of much use. The Bagden Lodge (later Savernake Lodge) is shown. A map of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (WRO 1300/359H) shows Tottenham House, as does map (WRO 1300/358) of the 18<sup>th</sup> century before 1746. The two maps which are of use are a map of 1786 (WRO 1300/360H) that shows the area at the centre of the large enclosure and to its northwest as being open park land, with tree lined avenues and clumps. The area is called Ludens Lye (Figure 3). This map in showing the open parkland does not show a representation of the site. The map of c. 1820 (WRO X6/4) also shows this area as open as opposed to woodland (Figure 3). However, the tree lined avenues and clumps are more limited in their extent and the area looks as if it has been divided into fields. No cottages are shown on the plan. The map evidence would indicate that the building was not there by 1820, however, there are recognised traditions on maps in Forest parklands of not inserting buildings that are not necessarily there.

The first series 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map, dated 1886-7, shows a building orientated southeast to northwest in the location of the present house. The building consists of two parts. The second series of 1900 and that of 1924 show the same component parts (Figure 3). The map of 1977 of the same scale shows that the northwest part of the structure has been widened, but this may simply be a redrawing, if so both components predate 1886. The other possibility is that the northwest part of the house was added to that of the southeast component at sometime between 1924 and 1977.



WRO 1300-360H (3) 1786

Not to scale



WRO X6-4 c. 1820

Not to scale



WRO L8-10-36 1910 OS LReg

Not to scale



Figure 3. Antiquarian maps



#### **4.4 Air Photographs**

No aerial photographs were consulted, but the National Mapping Programme report for the Savernake Forest was (Crutchley *et al.* 2009).

#### **4.5 Site Visit (Plates 1-3)**

A site visit was made on the 11<sup>th</sup> September; this was primarily to look at the garden to see if there was any evidence of standing earthworks in the area but a brief inspection of the house was also made (Plates 1-4).

A brief walk around the garden identified a number of features. The Roman Mildenhall to Winchester road clips the eastern edge of the property; these features are not overly pronounced as earthworks, if elevated at all in this location. Outbuildings lie immediately to the west of the road; the foundations of these structures presumably have truncated parts of the Roman road.

In the northern part of the property there are indications of earthworks, a terrace, along which a row of trees runs. Beyond this the area is not totally level, but can be seen to be truncated by two gullies at right angles to the Roman road. These could appear to be flattened ridge and furrow, but historically this is unlikely as the area was medieval hunting land on which such an activity could not be carried out. They could be gullies delineating plots of some sort, and it is of interest that the area is indicated as an area associated with activity in the Second World War, some of which are known to be ammunition dumps.

There is a further terrace immediately to the south of the house. The driveway to the house, which approaches from Sawpit Drive, is raised, banked, but the reason for this is probably modern. The gravel turning circle in-front of the house is also raised, with a brick edging. These trackways could have been improved for military access in the Second World War. To the south of the house terrace there is a mound of uncertain origin in an area in the national mapping thought to be earlier quarry or solution pits, while there is a further mound of unknown origin to the northwest of the drive. Both of these may be associated with military activity, hence a more recent landscaping, but this would have to be demonstrated.

The present house is a structure of two main components (Plate 1), the one relatively new of the 1960s or 1970s and the other probably from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The building has little merit.



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site (Figure 6)**

The national mapping programme has demonstrated that there are significant amounts of archaeological remains that exist within the forest landscape. The importance of such features and their survival rate is usually a more localised issue and a matter for discussion only when further information is known about the respective site. Field investigation noted the survival of some earthworks in the northern part of the property.

The most significant features that can be identified are the remains of a Roman road and earlier enclosure truncated by the road, thought to be of an Iron Age date and to be a religious site (though the latter suggestion has to be positively confirmed). What can be recognised about Roman road systems is that they have the potential for settlement activity along their course. Due to the proximity of Mildenhall, we can probably rule out the potential of a major Roman road side settlement, although it is possible that a small settlement could be located. One would expect the next Roman settlement of any size to be located in Great Bedwyn parish in the vicinity of Crofton.

Iron Age religious sites also have the potential for secondary or satellite development, and therefore, this is also of significance due to its proximity. Often rural Iron Age religious complexes (especially when of a late date) will continue in use into the Roman period. The shape of the religious enclosure may have altered due to the road, but that does not necessarily mean abandonment. Indeed the new Roman road would make the site more accessible. That this enclosure lies on a woodland plateau that shares its name with a probable goddess, must also make us consider the potential importance of this enclosure for the wider landscape.

In the medieval and post-medieval periods, major development in the region would be minimal.

Earthworks can be recognised in the north part of the garden, and potentially elsewhere. It is unclear as to the nature of the earthworks, some or most may be associated with landscaping in the cottage garden, but others may not. The gullies in the north part of the site run at right angles to the Roman road, they could represent plots of land defined by ditches. They can in no way be associated with the agricultural activity on the map of c. 1820.

### **5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains**

Without knowing what archaeology lies along the Roman road or occurs as satellite activity to the probable Iron Age religious complex it is difficult to state the damage that has already occurred to the archaeology. The outbuildings have probably damaged the line of the Roman road. If the earthworks in the garden are modern landscaping then this may also have compromised surviving archaeology in the area. On the other hand, the raised

road and turning circle in front of the present house appears to be raised and it is likely that these may be placed with little disturbance.

Of the historical standing archaeology it is apparent on the maps that there was a long narrow structure, which may well have represented two up and two down cottages, estate worker cottages. Only one of these now exists at the southern end. The northern part of the standing structure was demolished in the 1970s or 1960s.

### **5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains**

As there is a potential for Iron Age and Roman activity in the area due to already recognised adjacent features, then it is possible that satellite activity will be disturbed through the development of the house and also any demolition of other structures (especially the outbuildings that presumably lay over the Roman road). Earthworks are evident in the western end of the garden and presumably through landscaping these features will be lost. The exact significance of these features are not known, at present they are assumed to be the product of some type of agricultural activity.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

An assessment of the area has suggested that there is a potential for archaeological activity in the area, due to the recognition of adjacent archaeological sites that include the probable Iron Age religious enclosure and Roman road. These features are often recognised as having outlying archaeological remains. Though there is a potential for these archaeological remains to exist, it has not been shown categorically that they do, subsequently it is advisable that an initial evaluation take place to confirm if the potential archaeology is a reality.

Earthworks have been noted around the garden, these may be agricultural or landscaping, however, the exact nature of these features in the north of the grounds is uncertain.

The house is of two phases and architecturally is of very little merit.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **7.1 Books and Documents**

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## **7.2 Historic Maps**

- BGS 1974 British Geological Survey Marlborough sheet 266
- WRO 1300/47A 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO 1300/47B 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO 1300/47H 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO 1300/358 <1746 A map of Savernake Forest and estates
- WRO 1300/359H Late 18<sup>th</sup> century A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO 1300/360H 1786 A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO 1300/372MS 1716-19, 1776 A map of Savernake Forest and estates
- WRO X6/4 c.1820 A map of Savernake Forest
- WRO L8/10/36 1910 Land registry maps

ID	Period	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Description
1	Palaeolithic	HER SU26NW002	422500	167800	Palaeolithic tools
2	Neolithic	HER SU26NW100	422490	168600	Neolithic flints
3	Bronze Age	HER SU26NW150	423700	167190	Bronze Age spearhead tip
4	pos Bronze Age	HER SU26NW608	423020	166400	Undated bowl barrow
5	pos Bronze Age	HER SU26NW609	421410	165910	Undated bowl barrow
6	pos Bronze Age	HER SU26NW610	421550	166230	Undated bowl barrow
7	pos Bronze Age	HER SU26NW611	421550	166240	Undated bowl barrow
8	Iron Age	HER SU26NW204	423600	166400	Iron Age pottery fragments
9	Iron Age	HER SU26NW205	421280	167480	Braydon Hook: Iron Age pottery fragments
10	Iron Age	HER SU26NW206	421550	166250	Iron Age pottery fragments
11	Iron Age	HER SU26NW207	421540	166780	Iron Age pottery fragments
12	Iron Age	HER SU26NW208	421520	167470	Iron Age pottery fragments
13	Iron Age	NMR 1474492	422730	167150	Iron Age multivallate enclosure cut by the line of a Roman road, interpreted as a temple.
14	pos Iron Age	HER SU26NW614	421300	167440	Undated square enclosure associated with Iron Age pottery
15	Roman	HER SU26NW311	422900	166840	Mildenhall to Winchester Roman road
16	Roman	HER SU26NW310	421560	166590	Mildenhall to Old Sarum Roman road
17	Roman	HER SU26NW307	421840	167750	Roman pottery
18	Roman	HER SU26NW312	421550	166820	Roman pottery
19	Roman	HER SU26NW316	421520	167470	Roman pottery
20	Roman	HER SU26NW313	422500	168390	Roman dolphin brooch
21	Roman	HER SU26NW314	422090	167700	Roman iron and copper alloy objects
22	Early medieval	HER SU26NW402	421600	167400	Braydon Hook: Early medieval settlement
23	Early medieval	HER SU26NW404	424010	168140	Early medieval settlement of Puttanealh
24	High medieval	HER SU26NW459	422100	168900	Medieval settlement Adam Atte Hull dated 1327
25	High medieval	HER SU26NW461	423260	166720	Medieval lodge at Bagden (later Savernake Lodge)
26	High Medieval	HER SU26NW462	424530	167130	Medieval farmstead
27	Post-medieval	HER SU26NW525	423260	166720	Bagden Lodge, 16th century structure
28	Post-medieval	NMR 1472563	422880	166880	Great Inclosure constructed c. 1597
29	Post-medieval	HER SU26NW529	422850	165700	Tottenham House and Savernake Park, part of a post-medieval registered

ID	Period	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Description
					garden
30	Post-medieval	HER DWI 606	424513	167149	Timbridge Farmhouse: 16th century listed building
31	Post-medieval	HER DWI 1501	420890	166350	17th century cottage, listed building
32	Imperial	HER DWI 1502	420832	166453	Two listed estate cottages of the 19th century
33	Imperial	HER DWI 1503	420791	166459	Two listed estate cottages dated 1853
34	Imperial	HER DWI 1498	421147	166197	Estate house of c. 1860
35	Imperial	HER DWI 1497	420878	166573	Parish church of 1851
36	Imperial	HER DWI 1488	423347	166744	18th century lodge with alterations c. 1910
37	Imperial	HER DWI 609	424426	167762	Milestone
38	Imperial	HER DWI 608	423997	167736	Milestone
39	Imperial	HER DWI 361	422422	167994	Milestone
40	Imperial	HER DWI 1495	421442	165535	Milestone
41	Undated	HER SU26NW607	421800	168010	Undated earthwork abutting Roman road
42	Undated	HER SU26NW613	421400	167300	Braydon Hook: Enclosure partially excavated 1934
43	Undated	HER SU26NW615	423010	168880	Oxlease Copse: Two curving cropmarks
44	Undated	HER SU26NW619	421140	167050	Undated banks and ditches
45	Undated	HER SU26NW624	421290	166840	Undated banks and ditches
46	Undated	HER SU26NW627	424350	167300	Littleworth: Undated pit, rectangular feature, possibly marl pit
47	Undated	HER SU26NW630	423590	168040	Double ditched F-shaped feature
48	Undated	HER SU26NW632	421410	165930	Linear ditch
49	Undated	HER SU26NW633	421760	168600	Metalled track
50	Undated	HER SU26NW638	422500	167760	Earthworks
51	Undated	HER SU26NW639	422310	169070	Earthworks
52	Undated	HER SU26NW641	422290	168970	Oxlease Copse/Briary Wood: Linear feature
53	Undated	HER SU26NW642	424940	166000	Birch Copse: A bank and ditch
54	Undated	HER SU26NW643	400000	100000	Little Firth: A D-shaped enclosure
55	Undated	HER SU26NW644	400001	100001	Little Firth: A linear ditch
56	Undated	NMR 1472111	421980	167550	Quarry pits or sink holes
57	Modern	NMR 1477431	422950	166400	Second World War activity

58	Modern	NMR 1477270	422270	16704	Second World War ammunition storage
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