

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

OF

FAWCONER ROAD,

KINGSCLERE,

HAMPSHIRE

SU 5304 5900

On behalf of

Davies Light Associates

October 2004

REPORT FOR

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins of the Report

This archaeological desk-based assessment was commissioned by Davis Light Associates. It has been prepared in support of an outline planning application for the construction of twenty dwellings, so that the archaeological implications of the proposed development can be considered at an early stage in the planning process.

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment (1990); with the policies relevant to archaeological sites and monuments in the *Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011* (March 2000) and the *Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan 1996 to 2016* (November 2003). The conclusions have additionally been guided by the Archaeological Strategy Document prepared for Kingsclere as part of the survey of Hampshire's historic towns (Hampshire County Planning Department and English Heritage 1999). In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 1999).

1.2.1 Government Planning Policy Guidance

PPG 16 (1990) provides Government guidance for the investigation, protection and preservation of archaeological remains affected by development. The document emphasises the importance of archaeology (Section A, Paragraph 6) and states that:

“Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our sense of national identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.”

PPG 16 additionally stresses the importance of addressing archaeological issues at an early stage in the planning process (Paragraph 12):

“The key to informed and reasonable planning decisions, as emphasized in paragraphs 19 and 20, is for consideration to be given early, before formal planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains exist on a site where

development is planned and the implications for the development proposal.”

The advice given recommends early consultation between developers and the planning authority to determine “whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains” (Paragraph 19). As an initial stage, such consultations may lead to the developer commissioning an archaeological assessment, defined in the following manner in PPG 16 (Paragraph 20):

“Assessment normally involves desk-based evaluation of existing information: it can make effective use of records of previous discoveries, including any historic maps held by the County archive and local museums and record offices, or of geophysical survey techniques.”

If the desk-based assessment should indicate a high probability of the existence of important archaeological remains within the development area, then further stages of archaeological work are likely to be required. PPG 16 states that in such cases (Paragraph 21):

“it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken. This sort of evaluation is quite distinct from full archaeological excavation. It is normally a rapid and inexpensive operation, involving ground survey and small-scale trial trenching, but it should be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation or archaeologist.”

Additional guidance is provided if the results of an evaluation indicate that significant archaeological deposits survive within a development area. PPG 16 stresses the importance of preservation (Paragraphs 8 and 18):

“Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.”

“The desirability of preserving an ancient monument and its setting is a material consideration in determining planning applications whether that monument is scheduled or unscheduled.”

But acknowledges that (Paragraphs 24 and 25):

“the extent to which remains can or should be preserved will depend upon a number of factors, including the intrinsic importance of the remains. Where it is not feasible to preserve remains, an acceptable alternative may be to arrange prior excavation, during which the archaeological evidence is recorded.”

“Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains is not justified in the

circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains. Such agreements should also provide for the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation.”

This level of work would involve the total excavation and recording of archaeological remains within the development area by a competent archaeological contractor prior to their destruction or damage.

1.2.2 The Hampshire County Structure Plan

The Government guidance set out in PPG 16 has been integrated into County Structure Plans and Local Plans. The Hampshire County Structure Plan (March 2000) includes the following policy relevant to archaeological sites and monuments (Policy E14):

“Where nationally important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by a proposed development, there will be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ. The need for the preservation of unscheduled sites of more local importance will be considered on merit. Where preservation is not possible then before planning permission is granted, it should be demonstrated that appropriate arrangements have been made for a programme of excavation and recording prior to development taking place.”

1.2.3 The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan (November 2003) includes a similar policy (Policy E4):

“Development proposals should be located and designed so as to avoid disturbance or other adverse effects on important archaeological sites and monuments, whether scheduled or not, and their settings. Proposals should seek to preserve the archaeological remains in situ. Where physical preservation of the deposits in situ is not possible, applicants must make provision for the professional excavation and recording of the archaeology, in accordance with a detailed scheme approved prior to the development commencing.”

1.2.4 The Extensive Urban Survey of Hampshire's Historic Towns

The results of the urban survey are presented in a series of two part documents which provide an archaeological assessment (Edwards 1999) and strategy (Hampshire County Planning Department and English Heritage 1999) for each of the historic towns in Hampshire. The archaeological assessment document presents a synthesis and interpretation of the archaeology and history of each town (Edwards 1999). This is then used to define research objectives and a series of zones of varying archaeological importance: Areas of High Archaeological Importance; Archaeologically Important Areas; and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance. The strategy document recommends measures to mitigate the effects of development on surviving archaeology within these zones (Hampshire County Planning Department and English Heritage 1999). Kingsclere is included in this survey, but the proposed development area at Fawconer Road lies outside the defined zones of archaeological importance.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of this report is to provide a professional assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. This follows the Government guidance in PPG 16 by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historic data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process. The report will provide the evidence necessary for informed and reasonable planning decisions concerning the need for further archaeological work. The information will allow for the development of an appropriate strategy to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeology, if this is warranted.

In accordance with PPG 16, the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA, 1999). 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 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 IFA *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 PPG 16, this desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and, if warranted by the archaeological potential, may lead to evaluation by fieldwork within the defined development area.

1.4 Methodology

The format and contents of this report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 1999). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historic maps, and has been supplemented with a site visit. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA, 1999).

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
- Visiting the site

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record
- The Hampshire Record Office
- The Kingsclere Local History Website (www.kingsclere.org.uk)
- The National Monuments Record

The Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record holds details of all known archaeological sites, historic parks and gardens and listed buildings within Basingstoke and Deane Borough. The Hampshire Record Office contains copies of the historic maps and various documentary sources. The Kingsclere website publishes a range of essays, book extracts and pamphlets providing detailed information about the history of the village. Research at the National Monuments Record was confined to a consultation of the aerial photographic collection held by English Heritage.

There has been no archaeological work carried out within the proposed development area. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within a one kilometre radius of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 5304 5900). This information is derived from excavations, a watching brief, surface finds, aerial photographs, architectural evidence and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance rather than of systematic archaeological fieldwork. For

this reason, apparently blank areas 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 historic maps and aerial photographs, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use and development on the site.

One of the aims of the report is to identify appropriate archaeological response/s. Therefore, consideration has been given to the need for further archaeological work which will ensure the adequate recording and/or protection of any archaeology encountered within the proposed development area. Such strategies might involve further assessment and evaluation by fieldwork. If appropriate, this would allow for the identification and location of potential archaeological deposits on the site and provide the evidence necessary to determine their significance and condition.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record and the historic maps and is held by Hampshire County Council.

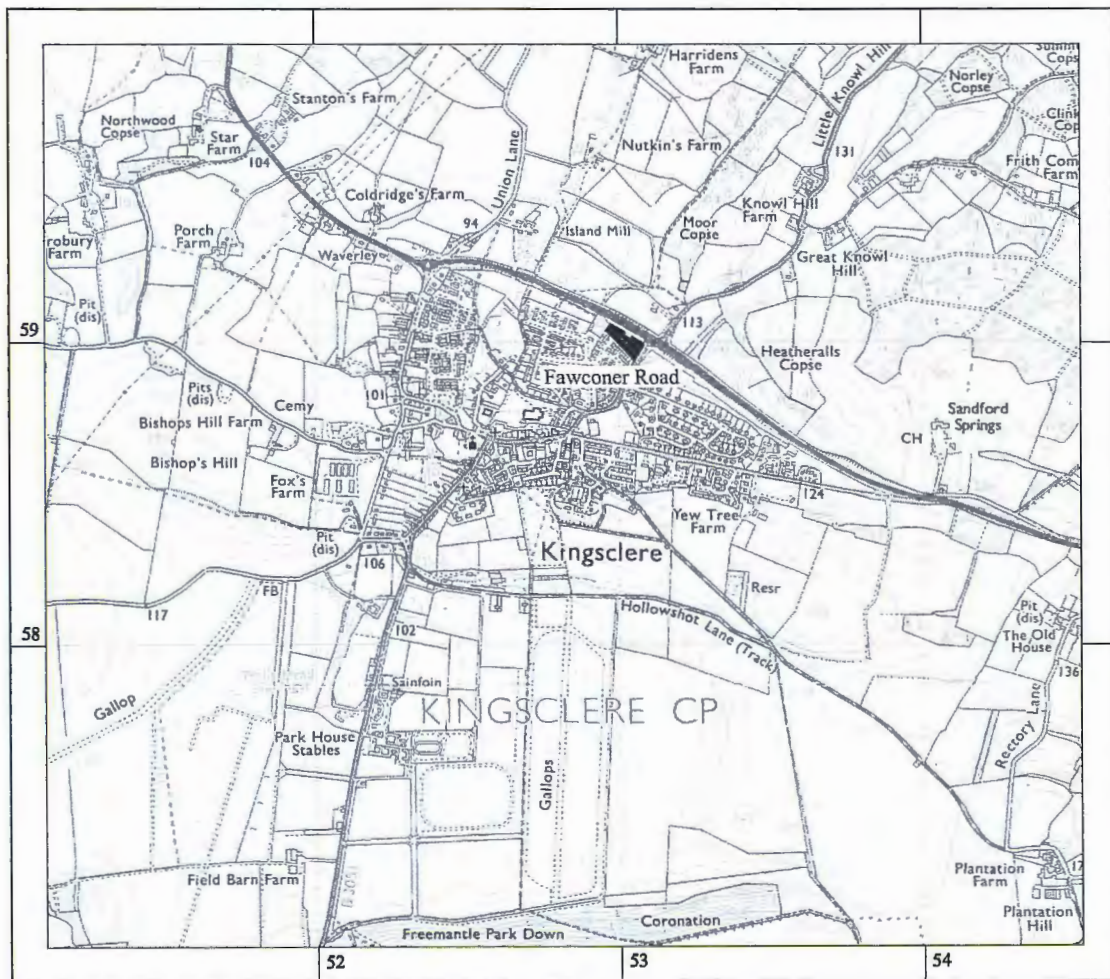


Figure1: Site Location (1 to 25 000)

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

The site is located in northern Hampshire in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane. The proposed development area is situated in the parish of Kingsclere on the northern edge of the village where it is centred on National Grid Reference SU 5304 5900. This property lies to the south and west of the junction between the A339 running between Newbury and Basingstoke and the Ashford Hill Road (B3051).

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The boundaries of the proposed development are marked by a post and rail fence. The northern stretch of this runs parallel to the A339. There is a pond immediately to the north of this boundary while a row of trees is growing along the verge of the main road. The Ashford Hill Road (B3051) marks the eastern edge of the proposed development. Both this and the A339 are constructed on raised causeways, while there is a lay-by and a short access road leading down to a field gate and into the site from the B3051.

A second pond on the eastern side of this road is drained by a stream that runs just outside and parallel to the southern edge of the proposed development. The rear property boundaries of the modern houses on Fawconer Road are located on higher ground immediately to the north of this watercourse. The stream is linked to a third pond and sluice located to the west of the proposed development area.

The site itself is a relatively narrow strip of undeveloped land. The eastern two thirds of the area have evidently been used in the recent past for grazing, but are now very overgrown with dense weeds well over a metre in height. The western third of the site is occupied by a copse of young trees, while further shrubs and trees extend eastwards along its southern margins, with a few mature examples scattered across its centre. The character of the vegetation has effectively obscured the ground surface and any archaeological earthworks which might be present.

2.3 Topography

Kingsclere is set in a valley on the margins of rolling chalk down-land, which extends southwards from the village for a distance of approximately 1.5 kilometres to the base of the precipitous scarp slope of White Hill and Freemantle Park Down. A tributary stream of the River Enborne, flowing northwards through Kingsclere, rises in this general area some 300 metres to the south of the village. The land to the north of Kingsclere and the A339 is characterised by a series of low clay hills and ridges.

The proposed development occupies an area of low-lying and fairly level ground at approximately 100 metres above Ordnance Datum. The land rises slightly to the south of the site towards the existing houses along Fawconer Road, and more steeply north-eastwards to the Knowl Hill ridge. Two streams, emerging from the foot-slopes of this higher ground, drain into a pond immediately east of the site. These continue as a single brook which flows north-westwards just outside the southern boundary of the proposed development to join the main Enborne tributary stream.

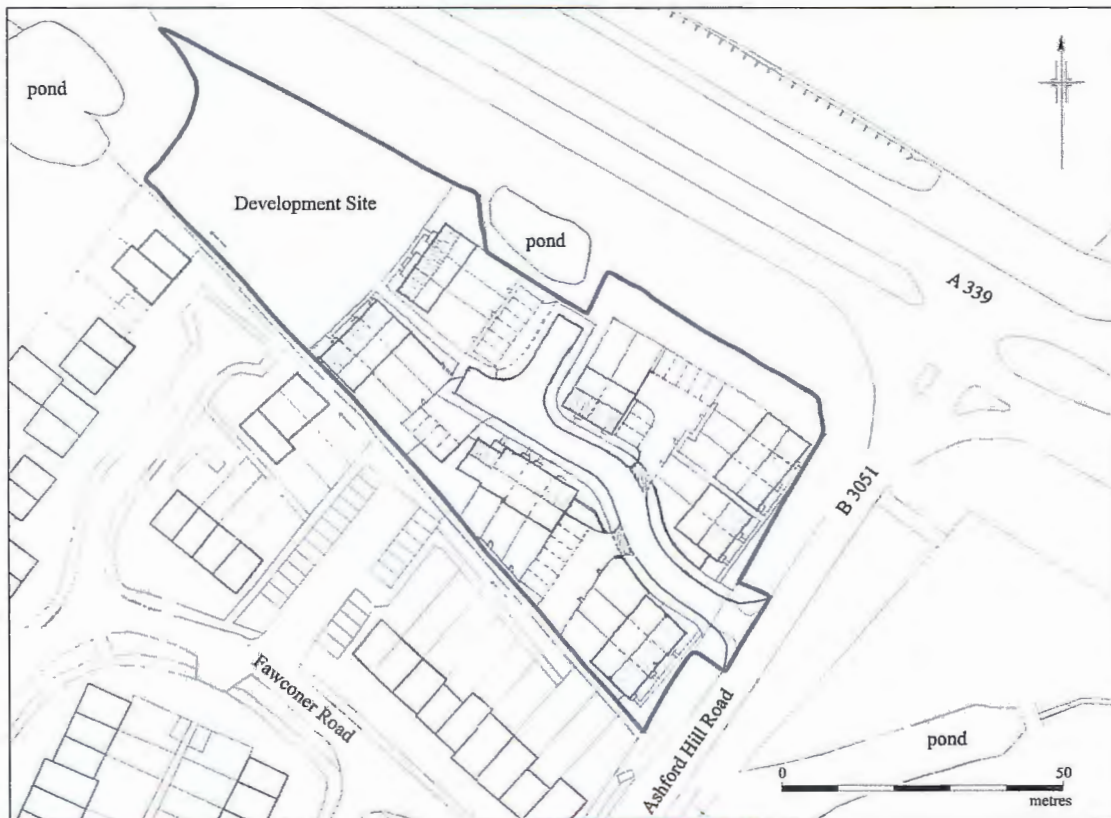


Figure 2: Feasibility Layout of the Proposed Development

2.4 Geology

The 1:50,000 geological map for Basingstoke (Sheet 284, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales)) depicts the Reading Beds across the site. Locally these form a narrow strip followed by the A339. The Reading Formation dates to the end of the early Palaeogene period approximately 59 million years ago, when the environment comprised a series of marshy mudflats crossed by river channels (Sumbler 1996).

The hills to the north mark a change in the geology to later Palaeogene deposits, principally the London Clay and the overlying Bagshot Formation. These were laid down under the shallow marine and subsequent estuarine conditions prevailing between 57 and 50 million years ago (Melville and Freshney 1982; Sumbler 1996).

All of these Palaeogene deposits accumulated in the south-western fringes of the London Basin (*ibid.*). The edges of this are marked locally by outcrops of the underlying Upper Chalk immediately to the south of the development area.

3 PROPOSED SCHEME OF DEVELOPMENT (Figure 2)

At this stage there are no detailed plans available, but a feasibility layout has been prepared (Figure 2). The outline plan is for twenty dwellings, including 14 affordable houses for rent and six shared equity homes.

The feasibility layout shows the houses, gardens and associated parking arranged around a close. This provides access to the Ashford Hill Road through the existing field entrance and lay-by. The development is focussed on the eastern two thirds of the site and the open land to the east of the copse of young trees.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 3)

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings or previously recorded archaeological remains within the development area. The site is not in a Conservation Area, nor does it encroach on any Historic Parks or Gardens on the English Heritage register. The nearest zone of High Archaeological Importance is situated some 400 metres to the south-west, while the closest Archaeologically Important Areas and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance are approximately 350 metres away to the south and south-west (Edwards 1999; and Hampshire County Planning Department and English Heritage 1999). This does not mean that the site is necessarily devoid of archaeological remains, since there has been no systematic archaeological fieldwork carried out within or in close proximity to the proposed development area.

The assessment of the archaeological potential of the site is based on the known evidence within a one kilometre radius of a central grid reference at SU 5304 5900. The distribution of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site is shown in Figure 3 and a summary of this evidence is presented below in chronological order. Local sites mentioned in the report are identified by unique numbers, corresponding with the numbers shown in Figure 3 and listed in the gazetteer (Section 7.2). This provides a brief description for each entry, an Ordnance Survey National Grid reference, and the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record number. The sources of all data are duly referenced in the text or gazetteer, while all reports consulted are listed in the bibliography (Section 7.1).

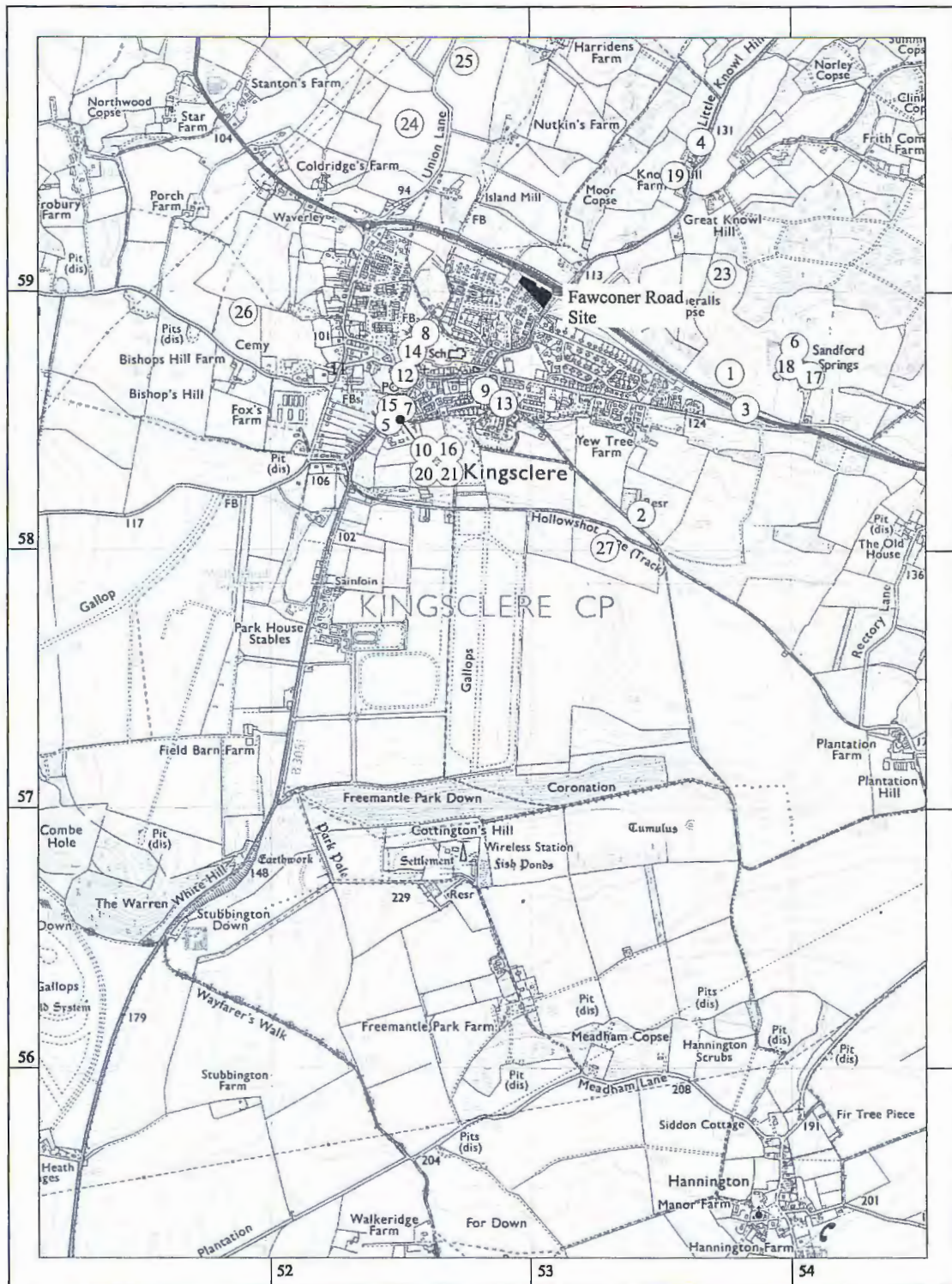


Figure 3: The Distribution of Known Archaeological and Historical Sites (1 to 25 000)

4.1.1 The Prehistoric Period (4000 BC to AD 43)

There is relatively little evidence for activity in the hinterland of the proposed development during the prehistoric period. The known remains are from locations more than 700 metres away. They include three possible Bronze Age ring ditches (1800 to 600 BC) seen on aerial photographs, which may mark the position of ploughed out burial mounds. All are on the higher ground to the south and east of the proposed development: two occur together in a location 750 metres east-south-east of the site (Figure 3, 1), while the third is 950 metres away to the south-east (Figure 3, 2). A late Bronze Age tanged chisel (1000 to 600 BC) was found in the general vicinity of the first two ring ditches, some 850 metres east-south-east of the land at Fawconer Road (Figure 3, 3).

The ridge to the north-east has produced Iron Age pottery (600 BC to AD 43), which was found in a garden approximately 800 metres from the proposed development (Figure 3, 4). The only other indication of a prehistoric presence in the area is a crouched inhumation excavated on the site of an outbuilding adjacent to Lloyds Bank, approximately 700 metres to the south-west of the land at Fawconer Road (Figure 3, 5). This was found in the early part of the twentieth century and there were no recorded grave-goods (Money 1914). This method of burial, in which an individual was laid in a foetal position, is a typical prehistoric rite which was practiced over a broad time period between the Neolithic and the Iron Age (4000 BC to AD 43). Without accompanying grave-goods it is not possible to be more precise about the date.

4.1.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 to 410)

There is evidence for the existence of a significant Roman site on the margins of the one kilometre catchment to the east of the proposed development (Figure 3, 6). This was discovered during ground-works for the golf course which revealed a pond fed by springs, containing various votive offerings including coins and jewellery. The setting and the character of the artefacts suggests that the site may have been a shrine, while the associated remains of a fragmented pavement and finds of Roman roof tile point to the presence of a substantial building.

Other evidence for Roman activity closer to the proposed development is far less substantial, consisting of a series of scattered artefacts. The earliest is a coin of the Emperor Vespasian (AD 69 to 79) found in the yard of the Swan Hotel, 650 metres to the south-west (Figure 3, 7). Two later coins, one of Claudius II (AD 268 to 269) and the other of Valens (AD 364 to 375), were recovered from locations 450 metres to the south-west (Figure 3, 8) and south (Figure 3, 9). The only other finds from the environs of the proposed development are two fragments of Roman pottery recorded during an archaeological watching brief at Brimley Hill Farm (Davis and Scott 1993), some 700 metres to the south-west (Figure 3, 10).

4.1.3 The Late Saxon Period (AD 800 to 1066)

The only Saxon artefacts from Kingsclere were recovered from a pit below the floor of 20 Swan Street, some 700 metres south-west of the proposed development (Figure 3, 11). These included ninth century pottery, a schist hone-stone, a chalk loom-weight and a walnut ball which may have been a loom shuttle. A Saxon latch-lifter was also found in the garden.

The site of these discoveries is close to the Norman Church of St. Mary's, approximately 575 metres to the south-west of the Fawconer Road site (Figure 3, 12), which has possible Saxon features incorporated into its north door. This potential Saxon origin is supported by records of a church in Kingsclere in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. It has been suggested that the early documents indicate the presence of a high status Minster church in Kingsclere, largely because it is thought to have been the site of a royal estate, an interpretation which may be supported by the large size of the parish (Edwards 1999). However, this is far from certain since the Domesday Book apparently indicates that the church at Kingsclere did not possess any land, which it certainly would have done had it been a Minster (Legg 2002a).

4.1.4 The Medieval Period (AD 1066 to 1485)

Much of the evidence for the medieval character of Kingsclere is either derived from early documents, architectural remains or later maps. This will be discussed in more detail in the appropriate sections (Sections 4.3 to 4.5). In outline this evidence indicates that the main focus of medieval settlement was on the area surrounding St. Mary's Church, approximately 575 metres to the south-west of the Fawconer Road site (Figure 3, 12). The distribution of late medieval listed buildings suggests that occupation extended along the northern part of Swan Street, the western end of George Street and into North Street (Edwards 1999). All of these properties are more than 450 metres from the proposed development (see Section 4.3 and Figure 3).

Archaeological finds from this general area, to the south and south-west of the proposed development, are confined to four locations. The closest is a fourteenth century pan from a French coin balance, from a location 450 metres to the south (Figure 3, 13). The more substantial remains of a cemetery were uncovered in the school playground during various episodes of building work, approximately 500 metres to the south-west (Figure 3, 14). This is thought to date to the Interdict period (AD 1208-1213), when burial in the churchyard was prohibited, or to the Black Death (AD 1348-1350).

The other two finds were recovered from locations approximately 700 metres to the south-west of the Fawconer Road site. They include a pit containing thirteenth century pottery and animal bone, together with traces of a fourteenth century aisled hall at 20 Swan Street (Figure 3, 15); and a pit containing a twelfth to thirteenth century cooking pot at Brimley Hill Farm (Davis and Scott 1993; Figure 3, 16).

The open fields marking the main focus of medieval cultivation lay to the south of the village and the proposed development site on the light chalk soils. The commons, together with a series of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets, occupied the clay land to the north (Edwards 1999), while other estates and manors were situated in the hinterland of the village. Some of these are thought to coincide with the manors in Kingsclere listed in the Domesday Book of AD 1086 (Section 4.4).

Archaeological finds lending some support to the documentary evidence have been recovered from Sandford Farm, one kilometre to the east of the proposed development. This is thought to represent one of the estates in the Domesday manor of 'Knowl' or 'Chenol', which later became known as the manor of Sandford (Page 1911). The artefacts, including an iron axe-head, a horseshoe (Figure 3, 17) and a number of short-cross pennies dating between AD 1199 and 1279 (Figure 3, 18), certainly indicate Medieval activity in the vicinity. The original name of this manor is preserved by Knowl Farm, 650 metres to the north-east of the land at Fawconer Road. Pottery found in this location (Figure 3, 19) suggests that this was also a site of medieval occupation.

4.1.5 The Post-Medieval Period (AD 1485 to 1900)

As with the medieval period, most of the information about post-Medieval Kingsclere is derived from written records, existing buildings or historic maps. This evidence is presented in more detail in the appropriate section (Section 4.5). In brief, it indicates that the village expanded during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries southwards along Swan Street and eastwards on George Street (Edwards 1999), in both cases moving away from the site of the proposed development. There was further expansion along North Street and Newbury Road, but none of this affected the land at Fawconer Road.

The only archaeological remains of this date in the one kilometre catchment area were excavated at Brimley Hill Farm (Davis and Scott 1993), approximately 700 metres to the south-west (Figure 3, 20). The evidence was confined to a single pit containing eighteenth century pottery (Davis and Scott 1993).

4.1.6 Undated Features

The archaeological work at Brimley Hill Farm also revealed two undated ditches (Davis and Scott 1993). These are at least 700 metres to the south-west of the land at Fawconer Road (Figure 3, 21).

4.2 Undated Features Transcribed from Aerial Photographs (Figure 3)

There are sketch transcriptions from aerial photographs (held by the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record) of a series of linear features in six locations within a one kilometre radius of the proposed

development. None encroach on or head towards the land at Fawconer Road. One of these is associated with the two possible Bronze Age ring ditches, 750 metres east-south-east of the proposed development (Figure 3, 22 adjacent to 1 and 3). A second group of linears some 650 metres to the east may include a removed woodland bank (Figure 3, 23).

The other four sets of features pick up the alignment of existing hedgerows and fences, and are likely to represent former field boundaries of probable post-Medieval origin. These are located some 700 metres to the north-west (Figure 3, 24 and 25); one kilometre to the west (Figure 3, 26); and a similar distance to the south (Figure 3, 27).

4.3 Listed Buildings with Medieval and Tudor Origins (Figure 4)

The listed buildings are mostly Grade II with two Grade II* structures at St. Mary's Church (Figure 4, 28) and 20 Swan Street (Figure 4, 29). English Heritage defines Grade II structures as being "of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them", while Grade II* are "particularly important buildings of more than special interest". The distribution of these structures is shown in Figure 4. As with the archaeological remains, each is identified by a unique number which is listed in the accompanying gazetteer (Section 7.3). This also gives the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings record number for each structure, along with a National Grid Reference and brief description.

The earliest of the medieval buildings is St. Mary's which is of Norman origin and is situated 575 metres to the south-west of the proposed development (Figure 4, 28). The original church was cruciform in outline, while the chancel was added in the late thirteenth century and the south chapel in the fifteenth century (Page 1911).

The majority of the listed houses and cottages have late Medieval or Tudor origins. The earliest is 20 Swan Street which is a late fourteenth century timber-framed hall to the south of the church, approximately 700 metres to the south-west of the land at Fawconer Road (Figure 4, 29).

The Swan Street property is not far from a cluster of six listed houses to the east of St. Mary's at the western end of George Street, which are between 450 and 500 metres to the south-west of the proposed development. The earliest is a fifteenth century hall (Figure 4, 30), while the other five are of sixteenth century origin (Figure 4, 31 to 35).

Five additional late Medieval and Tudor listed buildings are located to the north-west of the church. The closest to the George Street cluster is at 1 Newbury Road which dates to the sixteenth century and is about 550 metres to the south-west of the Fawconer Road land (Figure 4, 36). The other four date to the fifteenth century and are situated between 550 and 600 metres south-west of the proposed development (Figure 4, 37 to 40).

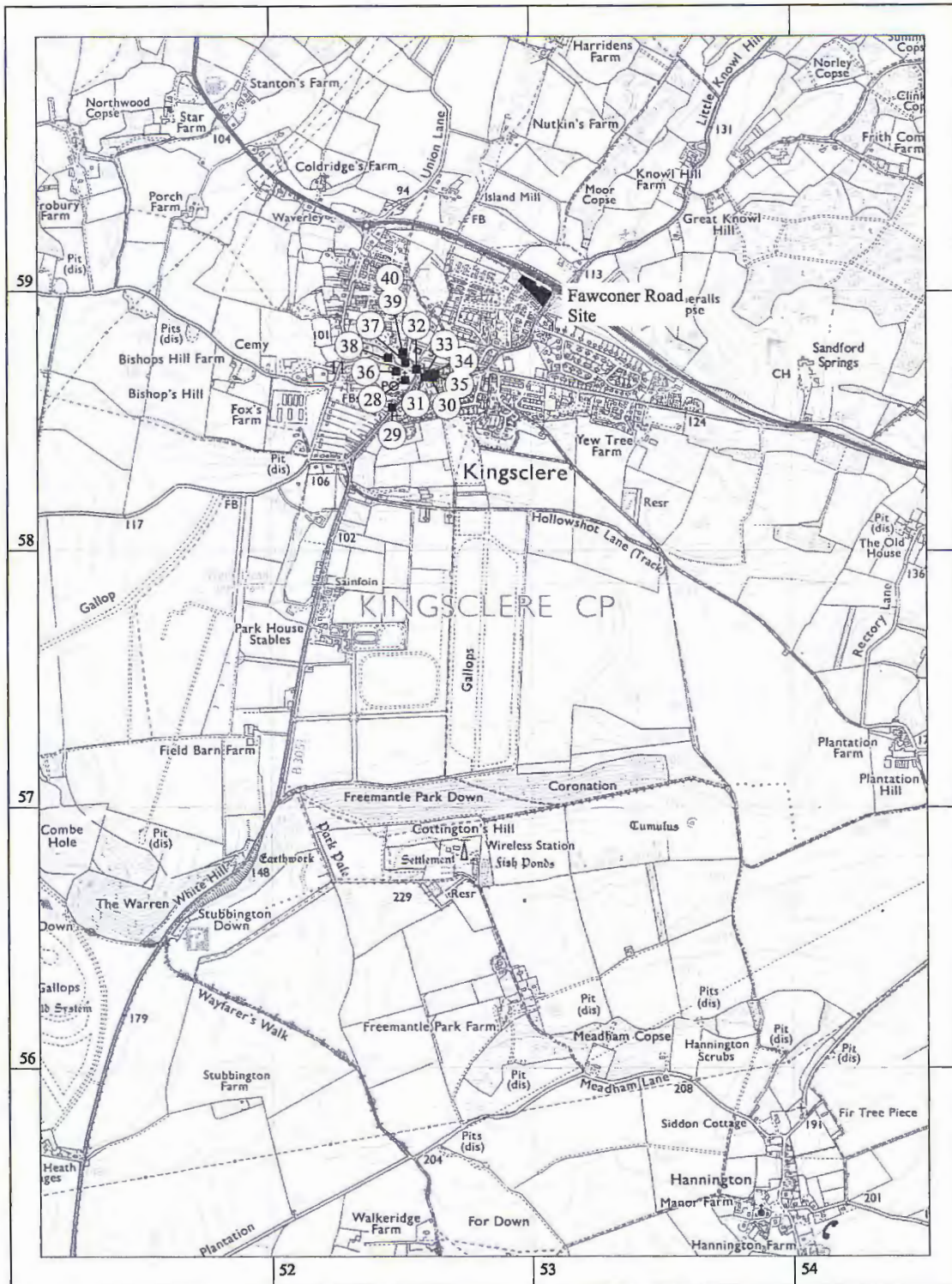


Figure 4: The Distribution of Listed Buildings with Medieval and Tudor Origins (1 to 25 000)

4.4 The Documentary Evidence

This section focuses on the documentary evidence synthesised in secondary sources which provides information about the late Saxon and medieval topography of Kingsclere. Sites identified from these sources have not been plotted on a base map because none can be located precisely. However, where

possible a notion of distance from the proposed development has been given in the text.

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 indicates that there were nine, possibly ten manors in Kingsclere (Page 1911; Legg 2002b). These included two owned by late Saxon royalty, one of which incorporated the church (Legg 2002b). This clearly indicates a focus on St. Mary's for one of the royal manors, approximately 575 metres south-west of the land at Fawconer Road.

The other manors or estates were in the possession of royal thanes (Legg 2002b). These include an estate in the manor of 'Chenol' or 'Knowl' which is likely to have been located on the eastern margins of the one kilometre catchment surrounding the proposed development. An alteration in the name of this estate to 'Santford' is first documented in AD 1240 (RCHME 1996). The manor is thought to correspond to Sandford Farm and Sandford Wood (Page 1911), while the medieval manor house probably occupied the same position as the present farmhouse (Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record SU55NW26).

Medieval occupation is also thought to have focussed on Harriden Farm, approximately one kilometre to the north of the land at Fawconer Road. This is first mentioned in a document of AD 1304 as 'Harwedon' (RCHME 1996; Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record SU55NW119).

Kingsclere appears already to have been a prosperous settlement by the time of the Domesday Survey. A reference to tolls suggests that it may have had a market, while several mills are listed amongst its assets (Edwards 1999; Legg 2002b; Page 1911). The market was certainly in existence by the early twelfth century, since it was mentioned in a grant dating between AD 1115 and 1123, when Henry I gave his manor at Kingsclere to the Archbishop of Rouen (Legg 2002c). In AD 1227 the Canons of Rouen were granted the right to hold an annual fair in Kingsclere (*ibid.*). It is thought that the market may have been located in the open area to the north and east of the church (Edwards 1999). This places it at least 550 metres south-west of the proposed development.

The early prosperity of Kingsclere is confirmed by late thirteenth documents referring to the church and its lands, which had been given to the New Minster at Winchester in AD 1086, and by around AD 1291 had the highest property value in the diocese (Legg 2002a). In spite of this, Kingsclere was never granted a borough charter, possibly because its growth was restricted by the plantation of towns at Overton, Newtown and Whitchurch by the Bishop of Winchester (Edwards 1999).

The documents also provide limited information about the location of some of the medieval houses in Kingsclere, referring to properties north of the church in AD 1330 (Edwards 1999). Their precise position is obviously unclear, but these would almost certainly have been close to St. Mary's indicating a distance of about 500 to 550 metres from the proposed development.

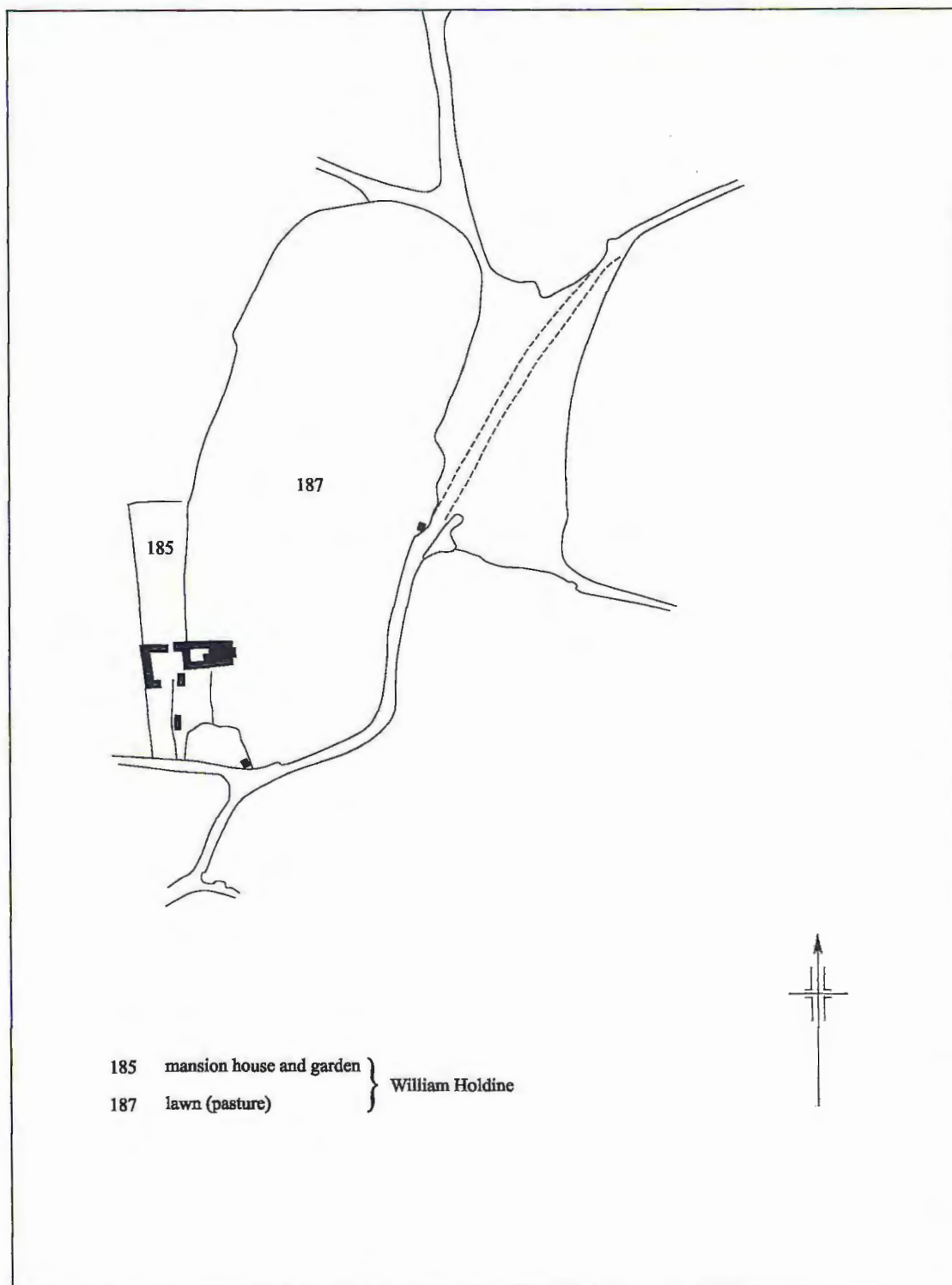


Figure 5: The Kingsclere Tithe Map (not to scale)

4.5 The Cartographic Evidence (Figures 5 to 9)

The Hampshire Records Office holds four maps of lands in Kingsclere, dated between AD 1725 and AD 1801, but all only provide details of properties held by specific land-owners. None of these covers the area of the proposed development.

The earliest map to show the Fawconer Road land at a sufficiently large scale is the Kingsclere tithe map (Figure 5). This is undated, but a copy held by West Berkshire Museum is known to have been produced in AD 1837. This tallies with the apportionment which was completed by AD 1843.

The proposed development coincides with the parkland associated with the mansion house and garden of Elm Grove (Figure 5). The house was built during the early nineteenth century (Page 1911) and was originally a farm (Ingrams 1987). The park had just been enlarged when the tithe map was produced, incorporating a former common (Edwards 1999).

The appearance of this property has altered considerably in the last thirty years. The position of the mansion house and the outline of the parkland has therefore been superimposed on the modern map as an aid to interpreting the earlier representations of the area (Figure 6).

The tithe map shows a lane on the line of the present B3051, along with the pond which is still in place immediately to the east of this route and the proposed development area (Figure 5). A small structure is also depicted across the road from the pond, coinciding with the eastern side of the site. This is not listed separately in the apportionment, which includes details of cottages and gardens.

This building is not shown on the enclosure map for Kingsclere, which was issued only a few years later in AD 1845. Otherwise the details for the area surrounding the proposed development are identical to the tithe map and for this reason an extract has not been reproduced for this report.

Elm Grove Park next appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of AD 1873 (Figure 7). By this time the north-eastern corner of the park had been extended to incorporate the land alongside the Ashford Hill Road. The map depicts the three ponds and linking stream that still exist just outside the proposed development land. It also shows a drive leading from the mansion house to the Ashford Hill Road. Part of the course of this crosses the eastern part of the proposed development area.

The park was little altered when the second edition Ordnance Survey map was produced in AD 1895 (Figure 8). At this time the pond to the west of the proposed development was being used for fish, while an irregular boundary is shown alongside the Ashford Hill Road, coinciding with the eastern side of the site under consideration. By the time the revised edition of AD 1911 was issued both the driveway and the irregular boundary had disappeared (Figure 9).

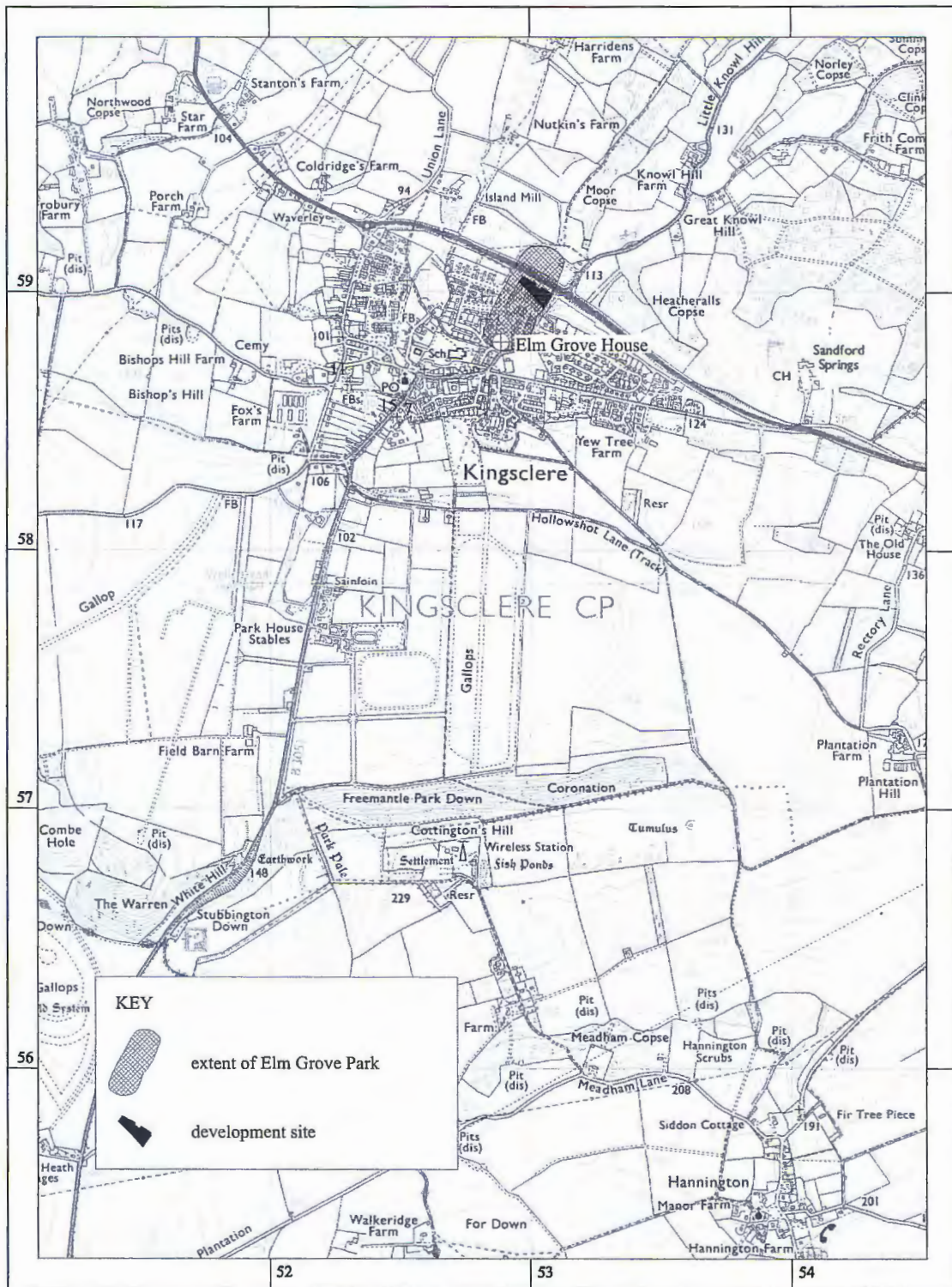


Figure 6: Elm Grove Park and House in Relation to Modern Features (1 to 25 000)



Figure 7: The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of AD 1873 (6 inches to 1 mile)

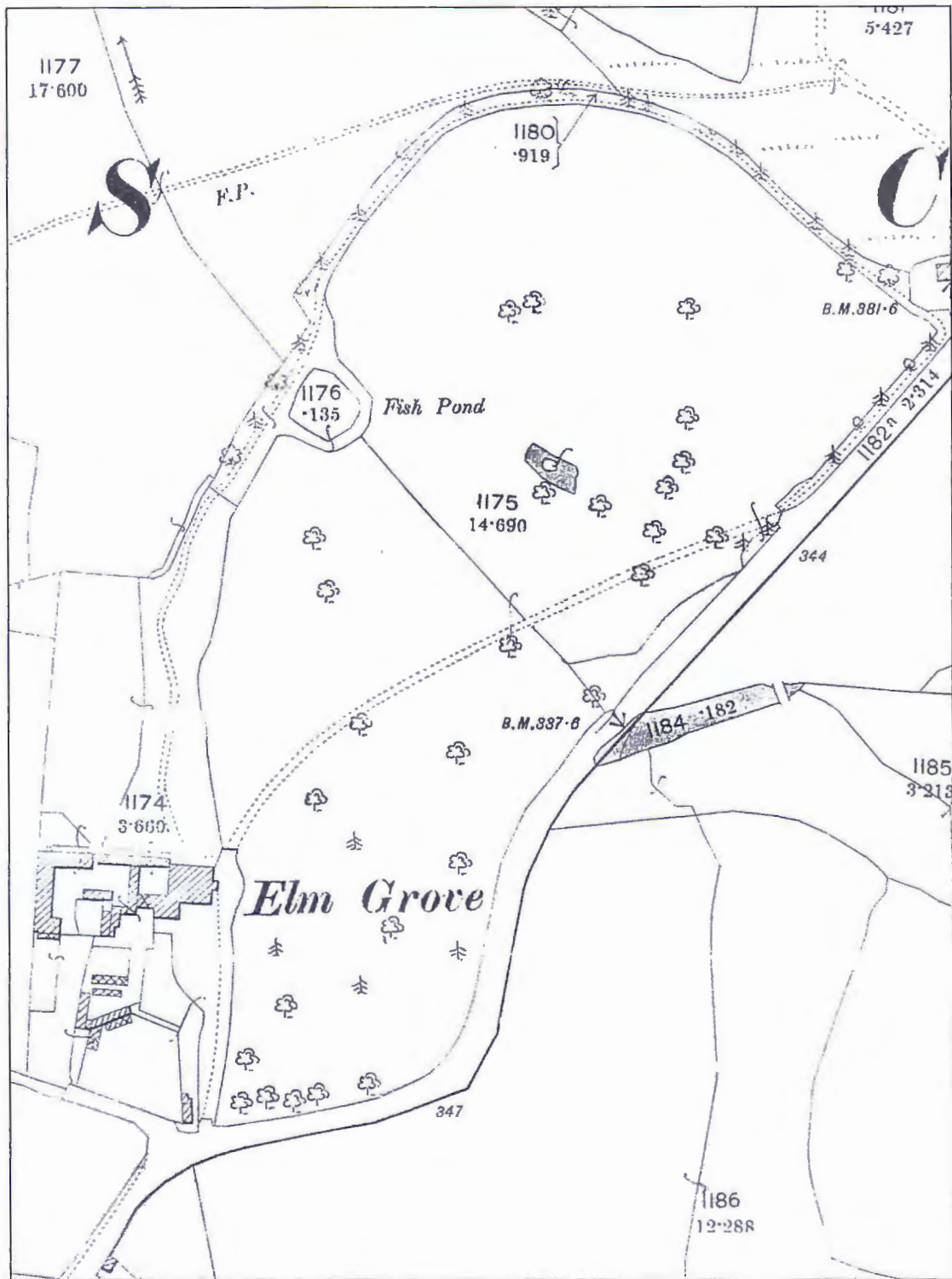


Figure 8: The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map of AD 1895 (25 inches to 1 mile)

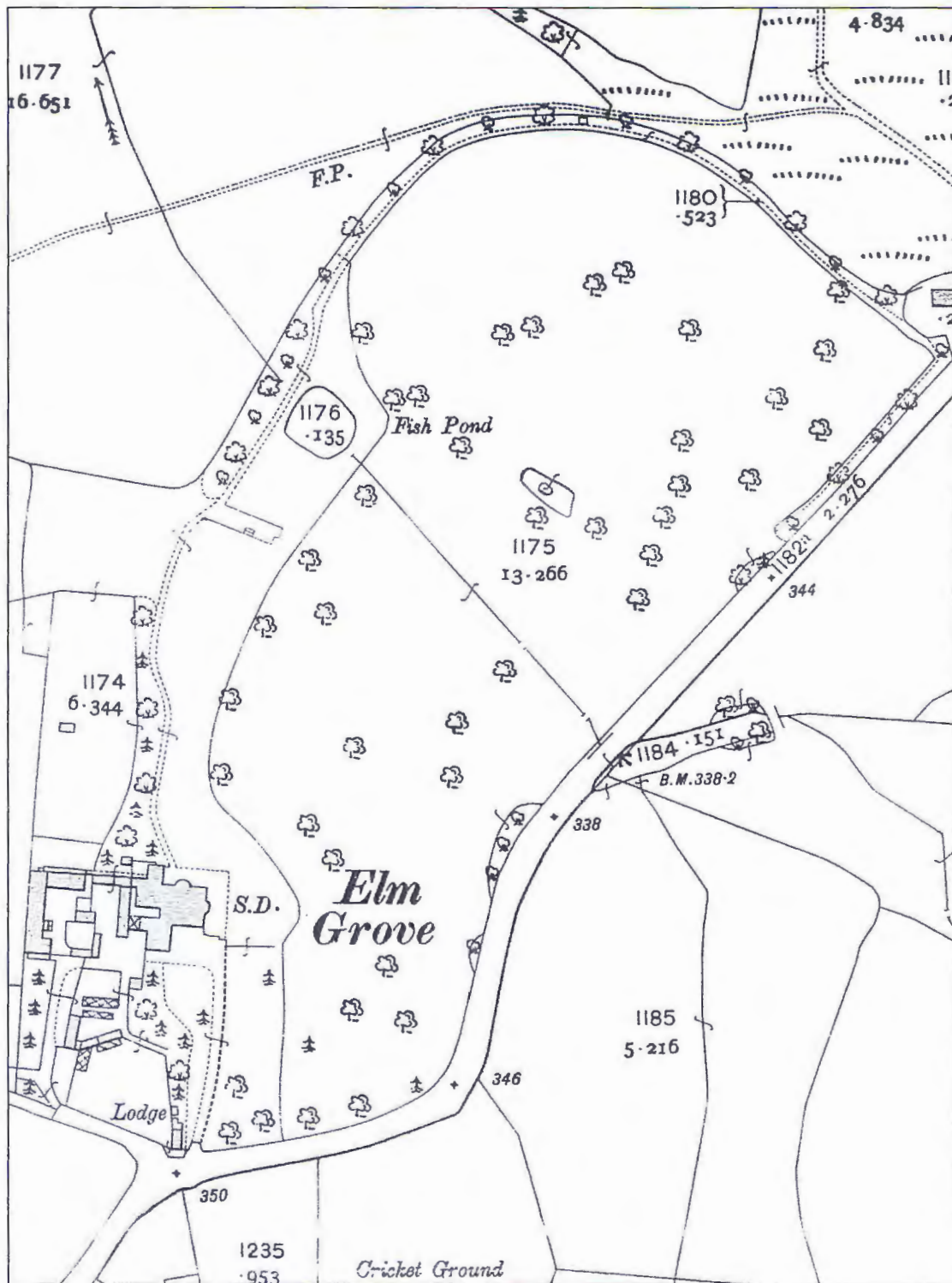


Figure 9: Revised Ordnance Survey Map of AD 1911 (25 inches to 1 mile)

4.6 The Aerial Photographs in the National Monuments Record

Aerial photographs of the proposed development area held by English Heritage were checked for archaeological features. None have been reproduced for this report since the search proved to be entirely negative, although it has provided information about the modern character of the site.

A cover search was carried out for photographs at a scale of 1:20000, and larger, taken within a one kilometre radius of the site (from a central grid reference of SU 5304 5900). This produced 77 photographs from 24 sorties in the vertical collection and seven photographs from two sorties in the specialist collection. All were inspected for archaeological features and a full list of these is provided in Section 7.5.

The work focussed entirely on the proposed development land and its immediate environs, and was not intended to provide a full transcription of features several hundred metres from the site. None of the prints in the specialist collection cover the area of the proposed development. Photographs from fourteen of the sorties in the vertical collection show the land at Fawconer Road, but there are no potential archaeological features on any of the prints.

This is consistent with the known distribution of archaeological and historical remains in Kingsclere which focuses on areas away from the site. It cannot, however, be used as conclusive proof that there are no archaeological remains on the proposed development land. This is principally because both the geology and the land-use would tend to mitigate against the production of prominent features visible from the air.

The aerial photographs do provide more general information about the character of the proposed development land in more recent times. The boundaries of Elm Grove Park depicted in AD 1911 (Figure 9) remain unaltered on photographs taken between AD 1944 and AD 1962. By July 1972 the southern part of Elm Grove Park had been developed and the Fawconer Road houses were in place. At this time the proposed development remained as open parkland with a copse of mature trees at its eastern end.

By the end of March 1982 the A339 was under construction, establishing the northern boundary of the site. Subsequent photographs taken in July 1985 depict the current entrance to the site from the B3051 and demonstrate its continued use as an area of pasture.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Potential of the Site

The available evidence suggests that the proposed development site has a low archaeological potential for most periods. All of the known prehistoric remains are more than 700 metres away, and the majority are from higher ground and the lighter soils overlying the Upper Chalk or Lower Bagshot Sand. The only significant Roman site is one kilometre to the east, while there is no indication of contemporary activity of any kind within a 450 metre radius of the land at Fawconer Road.

Although the character and extent of Saxon settlement in Kingsclere is poorly understood, a focus of occupation in the area of St. Mary's Church and the subsequent medieval settlement seems most likely. The coincidence in location between the Saxon remains and the house at 20 Swan Street certainly points to an element of continuity. This would again separate the proposed development land by at least 500 metres from the nearest likely site of Saxon occupation.

The Fawconer Road land is similarly remote from main focus of medieval settlement in the area around the church. Nor does it appear to coincide with any of the manor houses in the parish. The secondary sources do suggest that medieval farmsteads and hamlets developed on the Palaeogene deposits to the north of Kingsclere (Edwards 1999), but the closest of these two potential sites at Knowl Farm is 650 metres away.

However, the later cartographic evidence does raise some concerns. These are connected with the small building shown on the tithe map, coinciding with the eastern end of the proposed development. The function of this is entirely unknown, although the fact that it was not listed separately as a cottage in the tithe apportionments may indicate that it was not a habitation. It is, however, just possible that it was omitted because it had been abandoned and incorporated in the park before this document was drawn up. Its removal by AD 1845, early in the history of Elm Grove Park, suggests the function of the structure may well have been connected with the former use of the area rather than being a nineteenth century landscape folly.

The concern surrounding this building is raised principally by its location. Elm Grove Park developed in an area which had been part of the commons (Edwards 1999). The precise use and character of this is uncertain, but it would probably have been either pasture or woodland pasture used principally for grazing. The structure was located on the edge of this former common adjacent to a lane. The origins of the Ashford Hill Road are uncertain, but the fact that it links a site of potential medieval occupation at Knowl Hill with the contemporary settlement at Kingsclere suggests that it may well be an early route. These factors provide the sort of setting known to have been favoured during the Medieval and early post-Medieval period by isolated cottages. This is of course entirely speculative, particularly since the site occupies low-lying ground adjacent to a stream which may have been poorly drained.

The only other features likely to be on the site are also documented on the historic maps. These are certainly late in date and are connected with the landscaping of Elm Grove Park. They include a short section of the drive leading from the Mansion House to the Ashford Hill Road, which was evidently constructed between AD 1845 and 1873, and had been removed between AD 1895 and 1911. This is depicted with a dashed line on the Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 7 and 8), suggesting that its edges were not defined by hard landscaping such as banks or ditches.

The irregular boundary adjacent to the Ashford Hill Road occupied part of the eastern margins of the proposed development. It is of uncertain character, but seems to have been a fairly ephemeral feature, possibly a fence, appearing between AD 1873 and 1895 and disappearing again by AD 1911. In the cases of both of these features, the continued use of Elm Grove as parkland may well have led to their complete removal by later landscaping.

5.2 The Impact of Previous Land-Use on Potential Remains

The available evidence suggests that the Fawconer Road site should be undisturbed. It has not been developed in the past nor is there any apparent history of cultivation. There is, however, likely to be some localised disruption of the upper soil and sub-soil horizons caused by the roots of the former parkland trees.

5.3 The Impact of the Proposed Development on Potential Remains

Since there are no detailed plans it is only possible to provide a generic assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development. Any *in situ* archaeological remains would be located at the base of the topsoil. In the absence of any geotechnical work, the depth of this is uncertain. However, the use of the area as long-term pasture would have led to the development of a stone-free upper horizon, varying in depth between 0.2 and 0.3 metres. Any artefacts and features could potentially lie at the base of this horizon. Therefore, all ground-works penetrating below this depth could destroy or truncate potential archaeological deposits. The present feasibility plan indicates that this sort of impact would be confined to the eastern two thirds of the site.

Given the geology and the low-lying topography, further damage caused by the movement of heavy machinery across the site is probable. This would be exacerbated were the development work to coincide with a period of wet weather, when the clay sub-soil would be subject to churning and compression.

The only archaeological deposits likely to exist on the site could represent the remains of the structure shown on the tithe map. Given its small size, it is more than likely to have been a relatively insubstantial timber-framed building. If traces of the foundations of this structure survived the mid-

nineteenth century demolition they are likely to be fairly fragile. Any such remains would be vulnerable to destruction and disturbance during the ground works for the proposed development.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no indication that the proposed development site contains or is anywhere near to prehistoric, Roman, or Saxon settlement. Nor is there any reason to suppose that associated and contemporary activity likely to leave an archaeological trace would have encompassed the Fawconer Road land.

The site is similarly remote from the main focus of medieval occupation in Kingsclere, nor is it anywhere near to the potential sites of the medieval manor houses or farmsteads.

The eighteenth and nineteenth century expansion of the village did not come anywhere near to the Fawconer Road land. The former use of the area now occupied by the site as commons and then parkland is unlikely to have left an archaeologically visible trace. The two landscape features at the eastern end of the proposed development were late in date and of short duration. Both were removed while the park was still in use and it is uncertain that traces of either would survive.

The principal concern raised by the available evidence surrounds the function and origins of the structure shown on the tithe map. There is no doubt that the site of this coincides with the eastern margins of the proposed development. The building was located on the western side of the Ashford Hill Road, opposite the pond which is still in place today.

The research framework for Kingsclere is concerned with achieving a better understanding of the dispersed settlement pattern on the clay-lands to the north of the village (Edwards 1999; Hampshire County Planning Department and English Heritage 1999). The building in question may have had a fairly ephemeral agricultural function and was not necessarily a dwelling. However, the possibility that it might have been a habitation, together with its potential medieval or early post-Medieval origins ought to be explored. This could only be achieved through archaeological fieldwork.

It is possible that the development could be designed to avoid this part of the site, leaving any potential remains undisturbed. However, this may prove to be impractical given the confined nature of development area and the constraints imposed by the copse of trees at its western end. At present the proposed route of the access road through the current field entrance coincides with the general site of the former structure.

If the feasibility plan remains broadly unchanged a programme of archaeological investigation ought to form part of the development plans. It is recommended that archaeological fieldwork should be targeted closely on the eastern margins of the site. It should be designed specifically to determine

whether traces of the structure shown on the tithe map actually survive and if so, to provide evidence for its function and date. There seems little justification for archaeological investigation outside of this very specific area.

There are two possible approaches: the site could be investigated under the terms of a watching brief with a contingency for further excavation should the it prove to be a habitation; or a small-scale evaluation could be carried out prior to the commencement of the ground-works, with a sufficient time allowance for a further stage of full excavation should this be required.

Under the circumstances an evaluation would be the most advisable course of action. The location of the potential structure close to the main entrance could cause logistical problems, blocking the access for construction traffic. This would be exacerbated if the building proved to be a habitation and required careful excavation and recording.

Furthermore, archaeological features are more difficult to identify on the Palaeogene clays. There is a far greater chance of achieving representative results under the more controlled conditions within an evaluation trench.

The targeted nature of the work and its confined scale would mean that an evaluation of this type would be both cost effective and conclusive. If the need for further excavation was demonstrated, this would ensure that it was both adequately resourced and could be carried out without impeding the development programme.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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Page, W., 1911, "Kingsclere", *The Victoria History of Hampshire*, Volume 4, 249-267

RCHME 1996, The Medieval Settlement Project

Sumbler, M. G., 1996, *London and the Thames Valley*, British Regional Geology (fourth edition)

7.2 Gazetteer of Known Sites (Shown on Figure 3)

Site	SMR No.	NGR	Description
1	SU55NW92B	SU 5377 5867	Two possible Bronze Age ring ditches seen on aerial photographs.
2	SU55NW96	SU 5343 5812	One possible Bronze Age ring ditch seen on aerial photographs.
3	SU55NW54	SU 5383 5853	Late Bronze Age tanged chisel.
4	SU55NW19	SU 5366 5956	Iron Age Pottery.
5	SU55NW23	SU 5246 5850	Prehistoric crouched inhumation (Money 1914).
6	SU55NW24	SU 5402 5877	Possible Roman shrine and associated building.
7	SU55NW22	SU 5251 5855	Roman coin of Vespasian (AD 69-79)
8	SU55NW2	SU 5260 5882	Roman coin of Claudius II (AD 268-269)

Site	SMR No.	NGR	Description
9	SU55NW21	SU 5283 5860	Roman coin of Valens (AD 364-375)
10	SU55NW51A	SU 5250 5850	Two sherds of Roman grey ware (Davis and Scott 1993).
11	SU55NW52	SU 5247 5855	Saxon pottery, a schist hone, a chalk loom-weight and a walnut ball found in a pit; and a latch lifter from the garden of 20 Swan Street.
12	SU55NW15	SU 5252 5866	St. Mary's Church – possible site of Saxon Minster replaced by cruciform Norman church.
13	SU55NW56B	SU 5290 5855	14 th century French pan from a Medieval coin balance.
14	SU55NW36	SU 5255 5875	Medieval burials.
15	SU55NW37	SU 5247 5855	Pit with 13 th century pottery and animal bone and traces of a 14 th century aisled hall.
16	SU55NW51B	SU 5250 5850	Pit containing a 12 th to 13 th century cooking pot (Davis and Scott 1993).
17	SU55NW26	SU 5408 5866	Medieval iron axe and horseshoe.
18	55847	SU 5400 5870	Medieval coins dating between AD 1199 and 1279.
19	SU55NW7	SU 5356 5943	Medieval pottery.
20	SU55NW49	SU 5250 5850	Pit containing 18 th century pottery (Davis and Scott 1993).
21	SU55NW50	SU 5250 5850	Two undated ditches (Davis and Scott 1993).
22	SU55NW92A	SU 5377 5867	Undated linear feature.
23	SU55NW88	SU 5374 5905	Complex of undated linear features.
24	SU55NW86	SU 5254 5963	Undated linear feature.
25	SU55NW87	SU 5275 5987	Undated linear feature.
26	SU55NW84	SU 5190 5890	Undated linear feature.
27	SU55NW95	SU 5329 5799	Two parallel undated linear features.

7.3 Gazetteer of Listed Buildings with Medieval and Tudor Origins (Shown on Figure 4)

Site	SMR No.	NGR	Description
28	325	SU 52523 58657	St. Mary's Church – Grade II* - 12 th century origins.
29	3183	SU 52474 58551	20 Swan Street – Grade II* - late 14 th century origins.
30	3098	SU 52632 58665	The Old Forge, 8 George Street – Grade II – 15 th century origins.
31	3096	SU 52599 58667	2 George Street – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
32	3084	SU 52569 58699	1 George Street – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
33	3088	SU 52617 58681	7 George Street – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
34	3534	SU 52625 58681	9 George Street – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
35	3089	SU 52641 58682	13 George Street – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
36	34022	SU 5249 5869	1 Newbury Road – Grade II – 16 th century origins.
37	1716	SU 52525 58725	Priory Cottage – Grade II – 15 th century origins.
38	3123	SU 52459 58742	Old Brewery House – Grade II – 15 th century origins.
39	3149	SU 52515 58756	3 North Street – Grade II – 15 th century origins.
40	3542	SU 52518 58763	5 North Street – Grade II – 15 th century origins.

7.4 Historic Maps and Schedules

AD 1725	Lands in Kingsclere Manor owned by Lord Bolton, surveyed by William Godson (10M57/P18).
AD 1763	Canham Heath Farm (23M50/98)
AD 1800	Lands in Kingsclere Manor owned by Lord Bolton, surveyed by William Brown (10M57/P19).
AD 1801	Cannon Court Farm (10M57/P20).
n.d.	Kingsclere tithe map (21M65/F7/133/2)
AD 1843	Kingsclere tithe apportionment award (21M65/F7/133/1)
AD 1845	Kingsclere enclosure map (Q23/2/73/1)
AD 1845	Kingsclere enclosure text (Q23/2/73/2)
AD 1873	Ordnance Survey first edition, Sheet IX, 6 inch version only
AD 1895	Ordnance Survey second edition, Sheet IX.VII, 25 inch version
AD 1911	Ordnance Survey revised edition, Sheet IX.VII, 25 inch version

7.5 Aerial Photographs Consulted**Vertical Collection (black & white prints)**

(Entries in bold italics denote sorties showing the proposed development area)

Sortie No.	Library No.	Frame Nos.	Date	Scale
RAF/HLA/401	8430	13-14	14/02/42	1:16700
RAF/HLA/517	8481	6014-6015	03/05/42	1:20000
<i>US/7PH/GP/LOC211</i>	<i>6888</i>	<i>4023</i>	<i>08/03/44</i>	<i>1:17000</i>
<i>RAF/106G/UK/1406</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>3471-3474</i>	<i>11/04/46</i>	<i>1:9840</i>
RAF/CPE/UK/1827	503	3267-3270	04/11/46	1:9800
RAF/CPE/UK/1827	503	4267-4269	04/11/46	1:9800
<i>RAF/CPE/UK/1931</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>3028-3030</i>	<i>17/01/47</i>	<i>1:9840</i>
RAF/CPE/UK/1931	558	4027-4030	17/01/47	1:9840
<i>RAF/CPE/UK/1973</i>	<i>586</i>	<i>3277-3279</i>	<i>11/04/47</i>	<i>1:10000</i>
<i>RAF/CPE/UK/1973</i>	<i>586</i>	<i>4276-4279</i>	<i>11/04/47</i>	<i>1:10000</i>
<i>RAF/CPE/UK/2102</i>	<i>670</i>	<i>4317-4320</i>	<i>28/05/47</i>	<i>1:10000</i>
<i>RAF/58/586</i>	<i>3287</i>	<i>5046-5047</i>	<i>11/10/50</i>	<i>1:20000</i>
<i>RAF/82/1006</i>	<i>1520</i>	<i>158-159</i>	<i>31/08/54</i>	<i>1:15000</i>
<i>RAF/540/1773</i>	<i>1711</i>	<i>47-48</i>	<i>13/01/56</i>	<i>1:20000</i>
<i>RAF/82/1397</i>	<i>1740</i>	<i>28-29</i>	<i>23/04/56</i>	<i>1:20000</i>
<i>RAF/58/2153</i>	<i>1776</i>	<i>246-247</i>	<i>29/04/57</i>	<i>1:20000</i>
<i>RAF/58/5452</i>	<i>2220</i>	<i>174-175</i>	<i>31/08/62</i>	<i>1:20000</i>
RAF/58/5510	2115	180-181	08/10/62	1:10000
OS/64151	11133	22-24	23/08/64	1:7500
OS/67007	11118	76-78	20/03/67	1:7500
OS/69440	11126	18-21	25/09/69	1:7500
OS/69446	11127	412-415	30/09/69	1:7500
<i>OS/72196</i>	<i>10337</i>	<i>2-5</i>	<i>11/07/72</i>	<i>1:7500</i>
OS/72196	10337	73-74	11/07/72	1:7500
<i>MAL/82003</i>	<i>7765</i>	<i>62-63</i>	<i>24/03/82</i>	<i>1:15000</i>
<i>OS/85170</i>	<i>10723</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>03/07/85</i>	<i>1:8400</i>
<i>OS/85170</i>	<i>10723</i>	<i>86-88</i>	<i>03/07/85</i>	<i>1:8400</i>
OS/86075	12793	22-23	07/06/86	1:7800
OS/86157	12865	195	02/07/86	1:8400

Specialist Collection

Index No.	Accession No.	Frame Nos.	Date	Film Type
SU5159/2	CCC 9107	9387-9390	11/05/34	Black & white
SU5358/1	NMR 4218	17	11/04/88	Colour slide
SU5358/2	NMR 4218	18	11/04/88	Colour slide
SU5358/3	NMR 4218	19	11/04/88	Colour slide