

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT**

**LAND OFF
WHITTINGTON WAY
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ROB BOURN BA MA MIFA

APRIL 2007

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT**

**LAND OFF
WHITTINGTON WAY
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

SITE CENTRED AT: TL 485 190

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared by Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting on behalf of the Herts & Essex and Bishop's Stortford High Schools.
- 1.2 The assessment considers land, also referred to as the study site, off Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire centred on grid reference TL 485 190. The site is some c.53 hectares in extent and is bounded by Whittington Way to the north, by Obrey Way to the north-west, by St James Way to the south and by London Road (A1184) to the east (Figs. 1 and 2). The land is currently under investigation as a relocation site for the two schools.
- 1.3 In accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPG16) this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site. In addition, this study accords with the standards and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).
- 1.4 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence held by English Heritage's National Archaeological Record (NAR) and in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), incorporates published and unpublished material, and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site inspection was undertaken during June 2005 .
- 1.5 As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and/or archaeological solutions to any potential identified.

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains. In short, government guidance provides a framework which:

- Protects Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Protects the settings of these sites
- Protects nationally important un-scheduled ancient monuments
- In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from field evaluation) to enable informed decisions
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not important enough to merit in-situ preservation.

2.2 In considering any proposal for development, including allocations in emerging development plans, the local planning authority will be mindful of the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

2.3 The relevant strategic development plan policy framework is provided by the Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991-2011 adopted in 1998. The Plan contains the following policy relating to archaeology:

POLICY 38 CRITICAL CAPITAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

CRITICAL CAPITAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AS LISTED BELOW WILL BE GIVEN PROTECTION FROM DEVELOPMENT OR OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD CAUSE LOSS, PERMANENT DAMAGE OR SIGNIFICANT AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGE TO THOSE PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES THAT DEFINE THEIR SPECIAL QUALITY. THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION GIVEN WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO STATUS, ACCORDING TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL OR LOCAL IMPORTANCE. THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OF THESE ASSETS WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

(INTER ALIA) VIII) SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF BOTH NATIONAL AND MORE LOCAL IMPORTANCE, AND THEIR SETTING

- 2.4 The relevant Local Plan framework is provided by the East Hertfordshire Local Plan Second Review, adopted in 2007.
- 2.5 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the study site or in the immediate vicinity, although the Iron Age Hillfort of *Wallbury*, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM EX16) is situated c.500m to the south-east.
- 2.6 However, the Local Plan Proposals Map indicates that the south-western part of the study site falls within a wider area that is designated as an 'Area of Archaeological Significance'.
- 2.7 The 'Area of Archaeological Significance' was first designated in the 1990 East Hertfordshire Local Plan due to the discovery of Roman building remains during ploughing in the 1950's in a field now south of St James Way.
- 2.8 The Local Plan Second Review contains the following policies relating to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other archaeological remains:

BH1 ARCHAEOLOGY & NEW DEVELOPMENT

(I) DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WHERE THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT IT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR UNSCHEDULED, AND THEIR SETTING.

(II) PERMISSION OR CONSENT MAY BE REFUSED WHERE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS DO NOT SATISFACTORILY PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF MORE LOCAL IMPORTANCE, AND THEIR SETTING.

(III) WHERE APPROPRIATE, UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (OR AS SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED), THE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO SECURE THE ENHANCEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THEIR SETTING.

BH2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

WHERE APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED ON SITES WHICH MAY HAVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST, THE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL EXPECT TO BE PROVIDED, BY THE APPLICANT, THE RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND/OR ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO THE DETERMINATION OF AN APPLICATION. THE EVALUATION AND/OR ASSESSMENT SHOULD SEEK TO DEFINE:

A) THE NATURE AND CONDITION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WITHIN THE APPLICATIONS SITE; AND

B) THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON SUCH FEATURES;

ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION AND/OR THE ASSESSMENT, THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PRESERVATION IN SITU OR, WHERE THIS IS NOT MERITED, THE MEASURES NEEDED TO SECURE THE RECORDING OF ANY REMAINS PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT.

BH3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS

WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PERMITTED ON SITES CONTAINING ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, ANY PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND/OR FORMAL AGREEMENTS REQUIRING APPROPRIATE EXCAVATION AND RECORDING IN ADVANCE OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS.

- 2.9 This desk-based assessment has been carried out in order to clarify the archaeological and historic landscape potential of the study site, to identify areas of constraint and to identify any necessary mitigation measures.

3.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

- 3.1.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) comprising Chalk.
- 3.1.2 Further detail is provided by the 1:50,000 series Geological Survey (Sheets 240: Epping and Sheet 222: Dunmow) which show the majority of the site comprising Boulder Clay. Towards the eastern site boundary, the site levels out on to a terrace formed by a Gravel Head deposit. The north-south trending gravel terrace is cut by a valley, also filled with Head deposits of gravel, which drains east-west through the centre of the study site. Glacial Sands which underlie the Boulder Clay are exposed in a localised area to the north of the dry valley.
- 3.1.3 To-date, no geotechnical data is available for the study site.

3.2 Topography

- 3.2.1 The study site lies on the southern edge of the built area of Bishop's Stortford, immediately east of the hamlet of Thorley. The site occupies a hillside forming the western side of the Stort Valley, with the River Stort lying some 400m east of the site.
- 3.2.2 The northern part of the site slopes south towards a valley which drains east-west through the centre of the site. Land to the south of the dry valley grades down in moderate slopes towards eastern boundary where the site occupies a relatively flat terrace on the western side of the Stort Valley. Within the site, levels grade down from c.75-80m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on Church Lane at the south-western corner of the site, to the London Road at c.35m AOD.
- 3.2.3 Historically, man-made ditches (see Fig. 4: 1825) drained the site towards the valley through the centre of the site, which in turn drains to the River Stort.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Including Map Regression Exercise.

4.1 Timescales used in this report.

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	450,000	-	12,000	BC
Mesolithic	12,000	-	4,000	BC
Neolithic	4,000	-	1,800	BC
Bronze Age	1,800	-	600	BC
Iron Age	600	-	AD 43	

Historic

Roman	AD	43	-	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD	410	-	1066
Medieval	AD	1066	-	1485
Post Medieval	AD	1486	-	1800
Modern	AD	1800	-	Present

4.2 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates that the Stort Valley, within which the study site lies, forms the base for an archaeological landscape containing a wealth of Prehistoric and Roman settlement. 'Wallbury' Iron Age Hillfort is located c. 500m south-east of the study site and archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site have identified Prehistoric and Roman settlement evidence.

4.2.1 Accordingly, this assessment aims to examine the broader patterns evident in the data and, by looking at the character, distribution and extent of archaeological material and supplementing this with cartographic evidence, identifies any known sites and provides a predictive model for the archaeological potential of the study site.

4.3 Palaeolithic

4.3.1 The Boulder Clay on the study site are identified by the Geological Survey as pre-dating the Anglian glaciation when occupation was sparse. Certainly, there are no entries in the HER evidencing the presence of any sites or artefactual material of Palaeolithic date on or in the vicinity of the site. Accordingly, a low-nil potential is identified for this period.

4.3.2 In the Upper Palaeolithic, hunter-gathers exploited estuarine and valley floor locations. In view of the lack of evidence locally and the study site's location off the floor of the valley the site is considered to have a low potential for in-situ lithics (worked and waste flint) of this date.

4.4 **Mesolithic**

4.4.1 There are no recorded Mesolithic finds recorded within 1km of the study site. Here, as elsewhere in lowland Britain, sites tend to occur close to rivers or other water sources. However, there is no evidence to suggest that this section of the Stort Valley was occupied and, as a result, a low potential for evidence of this period is identified on the study site.

4.5 **Neolithic-Bronze Age**

4.5.1 During the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance. Within the Stort Valley it is likely that the first farmers initially cleared areas along the valley floor and lower valley sides, where alluvial and lighter, gravel-based soils occur. Boulder Clay-based soils were generally avoided in favour of lighter soils.

4.5.2 Within 1km of the study site there are no sites and finds of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Certainly, archaeological investigations undertaken in 1994 in advance of the proposed St James Way did not identify any evidence of the period within the vicinity of the study site (Site No.1: Last & McDonald 1995). Similarly, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity was not identified during more recent excavations for a proposed agricultural roadway (Site No.19, Essex CC Field Unit Pers comm). In view of the absence of sites and finds in the HER locally and the negative evidence from a number archaeological investigations in the vicinity, a low potential is identified for sub-surface features of Neolithic and early Bronze Age activity/settlement on the study site.

4.5.3 However, by the Late Bronze Age (LBA) woodland clearance was underway and occupation had been established locally. A 'detailed' archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1994 on the alignment of St James Way where excavations (in Trench I, Site No.1) identified a large enclosure ditch c. 2.4m wide, a cobbled surface, a

series of small gullies and pit containing animal bone and Late Bronze Age pottery sherds (Site No. 1, Last & McDonald 1995 (Site No.1, Trench I: c. 150m west of the study site)). In Trench J, although not subjected to 'detailed' evaluation, Prehistoric features were identified suggesting that evidence of settlement/activity may extend towards the eastern boundary of the study site (Site No.1, Fig.11, Trenches I & J).

4.5.4 Six LBA rubbish pits were recorded during archaeological investigations for the Thornbera Road Extension indicating a second LBA settlement site nearby (Site No. 9 :c. 600m north of the study site). In addition, the HER records 3 finds of Late Bronze Age date including a looped and socketed axe (Site No.2, Fig.11), a bronze socketed gouge on possible site of a 'ploughed out' round barrow (Site No.3, Fig. 11) and a bronze axe found in 1961 (Site No.4: Fig.11). In view of the results from archaeological investigations at various locations on St James Way a good potential is identified for areas of Late Bronze Age settlement evidence on localised parts of the study site.

4.6 **Iron Age**

4.6.1 The Iron Age is characterised in this region by settlement stability and the large-scale organisation of the landscape, developments that began in the Late Bronze Age. Settlement evidence is plentiful and diverse, ranging from individual farmsteads occupied by a single household, to hillforts holding much larger communities. 'Wallbury' Hillfort a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM EX16), some 500m south-east of the study site probably played a pre-eminent part in the local settlement hierarchy.

4.6.2 The excavations on the site of St James Way identified Iron Age settlement evidence. In particular Trench 16, revealed two ring-gullies indicating the remains of round houses, within a complex of enclosure ditches. Early and Middle Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from the features (Site No.5; Last & McDonald 1995). In 1912, a number of Early Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered during gravel extraction on Thorley Hill (c.600m north of the study site), suggesting a second occupation site north of the study site (Site No.6, Fig. 11). Within the study site a silver quarter stater of Cunoblin was found by a metal detectorist (Site No.7, Fig. 11).

4.6.3 In view of the results of nearby archaeological investigations a good potential is identified for sub-surface features evidencing Iron Age settlement on localised parts of the site.

4.7 **Roman**

- 4.7.1 In 1954 deep ploughing in a field beyond St James Way to the south of the study site revealed the remains of rectangular timber buildings with mortar floors. Artefacts associated with the features included pottery sherds, coins, a large quantity of roof tile and worked and waste flint (Site No.8, Fig.11). A sketch of the site places the site roughly 60m south of the study site. More recent archaeological investigations on the site of a proposed agricultural roadway, within the study site (Site No.19, Fig.11) identified evidence of a Roman rural settlement surrounded by a complex of enclosures and field boundaries (Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit 2003).
- 4.7.2 Evidence of Roman occupation was also identified during a rescue excavation at Thorley Park (Site No.13, fig.11) and a Roman cremation was recorded during archaeological investigations for the Thornbera Road Extension (Site No.9: c.500m north-east of the study site). Within 500m of the study site a number of metal objects have been found by metal detectorists including a bronze fibula brooch (Site No.10: c. 100m north of the study site) and 10 bronze coins and silver coins (Site No.11: c. 500m north of the study site).
- 4.7.3 The density of Roman features along the alignment of the agricultural roadway and the nearby 1950's discoveries suggest that parts of the study site could have a high potential for Roman settlement and related activity.

4.8 **Saxon**

- 4.8.1 During this period the study site lay over 2.5km south of the Saxon settlement at Bishop's Stortford and a short distance north-east of the Saxon manorial centre at Thorley. Beyond the historic core of Bishop's Stortford, the character, extent and location of Post-Roman/Saxon settlement is unknown, however a complete abandonment of fertile, well-drained agricultural land seems inconceivable and settlement may have focussed on the enclosure at Wallbury. Because, there are no Saxon sites or finds recorded on the HER within 1km of the study site, a low-nil potential is identified for this period on the study site.

4.9 **Early Medieval-Medieval**

- 4.9.1 Prior to the Conquest, William, Bishop of London, had bought the Manor of *Torlei* (Thorley) from the Saxon, Godith, to add to his lands at Stortford and Hadham. Then, between his death in 1075 and the Domesday Survey of 1086, both the Manor of Sawbridgeworth and Thorley were granted by the King to Geoffrey de Mandeville as a reward for his services at Hastings. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records *Torlei* Manor having 4 hides (480 acres) with eight ploughed lands for arable farming, approximately 27 tenants, a knight, a priest and a mill.
- 4.9.2 Historical sources suggest that during tenancy of Geoffrey de Mandeville the first manor house was built on the site of present day Thorley Hall. The existing Thorley Hall (a Grade II Listed Building) is located 250m south-west of the study site, has late 13th and early 14th century origins (Site No.12: LB II *).
- 4.9.3 During the 14th and 15th centuries the manor changed hands frequently and during this period Richard Whytyndone (1358–1423), better known as Dick Whittington, four times Mayor of London held the Manor. Whittington Way immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, reflects this association.
- 4.9.4 In 1420 the manor was sold to the Leventhorpes of Shingle Hall, Sawbridgeworth and in 1447 Henry VI granted John Leventhorpe permission to create a hunting park, for which he acquired a further 520 acres in the parishes of Sawbridgeworth and Thorley to accommodate it.
- 4.9.5 Later cartographic evidence suggests that, during the Medieval period, land within the study site was in agricultural use and held by Thorley Hall, the seat of Thorley Manor (Fig. 3: 1672/3). However, based on documentary evidence it is possible that during the 15th century at least part of the study site fell within a hunting park. Accordingly, a low-nil potential is identified for nucleated settlement although an isolated lodge or lookout associated with the hunting park might exist (although not necessarily within the study site).

4.10 **Post-Medieval-Modern**

- 4.10.1 Within the study site, a single find of a Post Medieval boot buckle was found by a metal detectorist is recorded on the HER (Site No.18, Fig.11).

- 4.10.2 The earliest map showing the site at a useful scale is a map of 1672-3 showing the 'Lands of the Manor of Thorley Hall' (Fig.3). A building is shown to the south of Church Lane which forms the western boundary of the study site. The site of a Tudor house was identified after ploughing revealed quantities of broken tiles, pottery and oyster shells in this area (Site No.20, Fig.11). The remainder of the site is shown comprising 10 fields variously in arable and pasture use.
- 4.10.3 The 1820 Bryants Map (Fig.5) depicts a building to the south of Church Lane. The building is likely to be the Tudor house shown on the 1672/3 (Fig.3) map and revealed by ploughing in the late 1980's (Site No.20, Fig.11).
- 4.10.4 The 1825 Plan of Thorley Estate, Thorley Hall and Thorley Wash (Fig.6) shows the majority of the site in arable and pastoral land use. By this date the earlier building off Church Lane has been demolished.
- 4.10.5 The Tithe Map of 1840 (Fig.7) shows a similar pattern of buildings off Church Lane to that on the 1820 Bryant's Map.
- 4.10.6 The field pattern evident in the 1840's progressively has sections of hedgrows removed over the period to 1980 (Figs. 8: 1884, 9: 1951 and 10: 1983). Cartographic evidence suggests that the Tudor house off Church Lane revealed during ploughing in the late 1980's (Site 20, Fig.11) had been demolished between 1951 and 1983.
- 4.10.7 From the 1960's onwards Bishop's Stortford underwent expansion and by the 1990's the study site was bounded to the north and north-west by residential development (Fig.10). More recently, St James Way was constructed and forms the southern boundary of the study site.
- 4.10.8 The map regression exercise demonstrates that throughout the Post-Medieval and more recent period, the vast majority of the study site continued within agricultural use. In the vicinity of Church Lane, a Tudor house. A low/no potential is identified for significant Post-Medieval evidence.
- 4.10.9 In addition to the Medieval Thorley Hall, a Grade II* Listed building, there are four other Listed buildings and structures of Post-Medieval date associated with the Thorley Hall Estate. These include a nine bay timber framed barn (Site No.14, LB II*) and a five bay timber framed barn (Site No. 15, LB II), 17th/18th century garden walls and

garden shed (Site No.16, LB II) and an 18th/19th century cast iron pump (Site No.17, LB II). This group of Listed buildings is separated from the study site by St James Way and a related overbridge and landscaping, thus any development on the study site would continue an existing trend in historic landscape evolution in this area; namely the 20th century southward urban expansion of Bishop's Stortford towards Thorley.

5.0 SITE CONDITIONS AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Site Conditions

- 5.1.1 An inspection (9th June 2005 ??? Update) noted that the site comprises 6 fields farmed under a mix of crops including wheat, oil seed rape and hay, with the largest field within the northern part of the site, under stubble.
- 5.1.2 An Electricity Sub-Station, approached by a track from London Road, occupies part of the floor of the dry valley running through the central part of the site. This area is generally overgrown.
- 5.1.3 The landscaped earthworks resulting from the construction of St James Way and the agricultural roadway were noted in the western part of the site.
- 5.1.4 The 1672/3 Plan of Thorley Estate indicates that the study site was in arable cultivation. Prolonged ploughing in the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods will have caused extensive truncation of sub-surface archaeological features. Equally, hillwash and movement of soils downslope may have resulted in the burial and protection of any archaeological deposits within the dry valley.
- 5.1.5 Development plan policies (Structure Plan Policy 38 and Local Plan Policies BH1-3) seek to protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings. In this instance the, boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument designated around '*Wallbury*' Hillfort lies c.500m south-east of the study site, beyond the London Road, railway and River Stort.
- 5.1.6 It is beyond the scope of this assessment to provide a detailed characterisation of the setting of the '*Wallbury*' Scheduled Ancient Monument. However, an initial assessment suggests that the Scheduled Monument is defined by a thick belt of woodland which has grown on the earthwork banks forming the Monument. Thus creating a wooded rural setting. Equally, the woodland restricts long-distance views out of the site and the rural nature of the setting is interrupted by a background noise from road traffic and trains.
- 5.1.7 Whilst development within the study site would extend the urban area of Bishop's Stortford south towards the Scheduled Monument, it is considered that this will not have an adverse impact on the setting of the '*Wallbury*' Scheduled Monument.

5.2 The Proposed Development

- 5.2.1 The north-western part of the study site (c 20 hectares) is currently the subject of proposals for the relocation of two secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford, the Herts & Essex High School and the Bishop's Stortford High School.
- 5.2.2 This desk-based assessment has established that there is an 'Area of Archaeological Significance' in the south-western part of the study site and that a Scheduled Ancient Monument ('*Wallbury*' Hillfort) lies c.500m to the south-west of the site.
- 5.2.3 In view of recent archaeological investigations within and in the vicinity of the site, a good potential is identified for Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement remains in localised areas of the site. Excavated evidence indicates that any archaeological remains within the site will be in plough-damaged condition and thus is likely to be of more local interest.
- 5.2.4 It is anticipated that, in the event of a planning application being submitted, the County Archaeologist will request pre-determination field evaluation trenching of the site.
- 5.2.5 In the event that evaluation trenching locates archaeological remains, consideration will be given to their relative importance and, on the basis of existing information about the archaeological potential of the site, it is anticipated that a planning condition will be required to secure a programme of archaeological excavation and recording of features ahead of development.

6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Land off Whittington Way is the subject of proposals for the relocation of two secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford, the Herts & Essex High School and the Bishop's Stortford High School. The site forms part of a wider 53 hectare tract of agricultural land bounded by Whittington Way, Obrey Way, St James Way and London Road, Bishop's Stortford.
- 6.2 In accordance with central and local government planning policy, set out in PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning", the Hertfordshire Structure Plan and the East Hertfordshire Local Plan, a desk-based assessment has been undertaken to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.
- 6.3 This desk-based assessment has established that the south-western part of the wider study site falls within an 'Area of Archaeological Significance' and that a Scheduled Ancient Monument ('Wallbury' Hillfort) lies c.500m to the south-west of the site.
- 6.4 In view of recent archaeological investigations within and in the vicinity of the site, a potential is identified for Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sub-surface features evidencing settlement in localised areas of the site. Nearby excavated evidence indicates that any archaeological remains within the site will be in plough damaged condition and thus of more local interest.
- 6.5 It is anticipated that, in the event of a planning application being submitted, the County Archaeologist will request pre-determination field evaluation trenching of the site.
- 6.6 In the event that evaluation trenching locates archaeological remains, consideration will be given to their relative importance and, on the basis of existing information about the archaeological potential of the site, it is anticipated that a planning condition will be required to secure a programme of archaeological excavation and recording of features ahead of development.
- 6.7 In the light of the findings of this desk-based assessment, it is recommended that pre-application discussions be commenced with the County Archaeologist in order to define the need for, and scope of, further archaeological evaluation.

GAZETEER

Site No.	HER No.	Date	Description	Grid Ref.
1	HER 9277: Trench I and J	Late Bronze Age	Ditches, gullies and pits	TL 47586 19106
2	HER 2124	Late Bronze Age	Looped and socketed axe	TL 476 187
3	HER 2125	Late Bronze Age	A bronze socketed gouge on possible site of a 'ploughed out' round barrow	TL 4766 1846
4	HER 2126	Late Bronze Age	A bronze axe found in 1961	TL 476 190
5	HER 9278: Trench 16	Early and Middle Iron Age	Enclosures and remains of two round houses	TA 4836 1876
6	HER 2785	Iron Age	Gravel extraction on Thorley Hill revealed Iron Age settlement evidence	TL 490 196
7	HER 6540	Iron Age	A silver quarter stater of Cunoblin was found by a metal detectorist	TL 481 193
8	HER 1526	Roman	In 1954 deep ploughing revealed the remains of rectangular timber buildings with mortar floors	TL 488 180
9	HER 1090	Late Bronze Age/ Roman	Archaeological investigations for the Thornbera Road Extension recorded six rubbish pits and a Roman cremation	TL 486 197
10	HER 6537	Roman	A bronze fibula brooch	TL 481 193
11	HER 6539	Roman	10 bronze coins and silver coins	TL 481 195
12	HER 4237	Medieval	Thorley Hall with 13 th and early 14 th century origins. (Grade II* Listed Building)	TL 4770 1884
13	HER 4582	Roman	Roman occupation identified during a rescue excavation at Thorley Park	TL 4779 1962

14	HER 11993	Post-Medieval	A nine bay timber framed barn (LB II*)	TL 4766 1891
15	HER 11994	Post-Medieval	A five bay timber framed building (LB II)	TL 4765 1883
16	HER 12206	Post-Medieval	17 th /18 th century garden walls and garden shed (LB II)	TL 4770 1887
17	HER 12207	Post-Medieval	18 th /19 th century cast iron pump	TL 4770 1884.
18	HER 6544	Post-Medieval	Boot buckle found by a metal detectorist.	TL 481 195
19	Not entered on HER	Roman	Archaeological Investigations for the agricultural Roadway identified Roman settlement evidence	TL 480 194
20	HER 2778	Post-Medieval	Site of Tudor House	TL 4800 1911
21	SAM EX16	Iron Age	Wallbury Hillfort Scheduled Ancient Monument	TL 492 178

SOURCES CONSULTED

1. General

Alison Tinniswood Archaeological Officer
English Heritage National Archaeological Record (NAR)
Hertfordshire County Historic Environment Record (HER)
Hertfordshire County Record Office
Hertfordshire County Local History Centre

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3. **Cartographic**

1672/3 Lands of the Manor of Thorley Hall

1766 Drury and Andrews Map of Hertfordshire

1820 Bryants Map

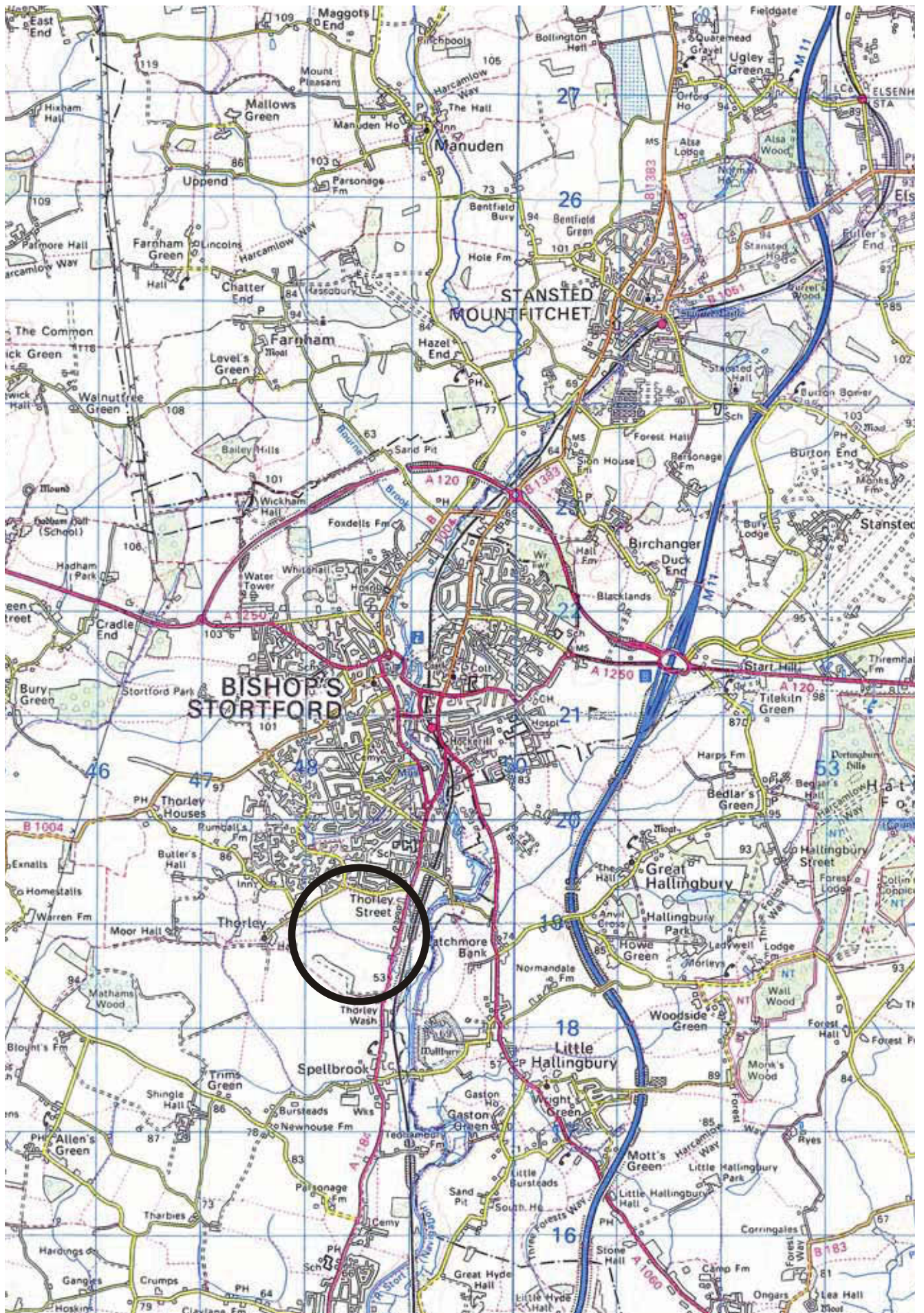
1825 Plan of Thorley Estate, Thorley Hall and Thorley Wash

1840 Tithe Map of Thorley Parish

1884 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale

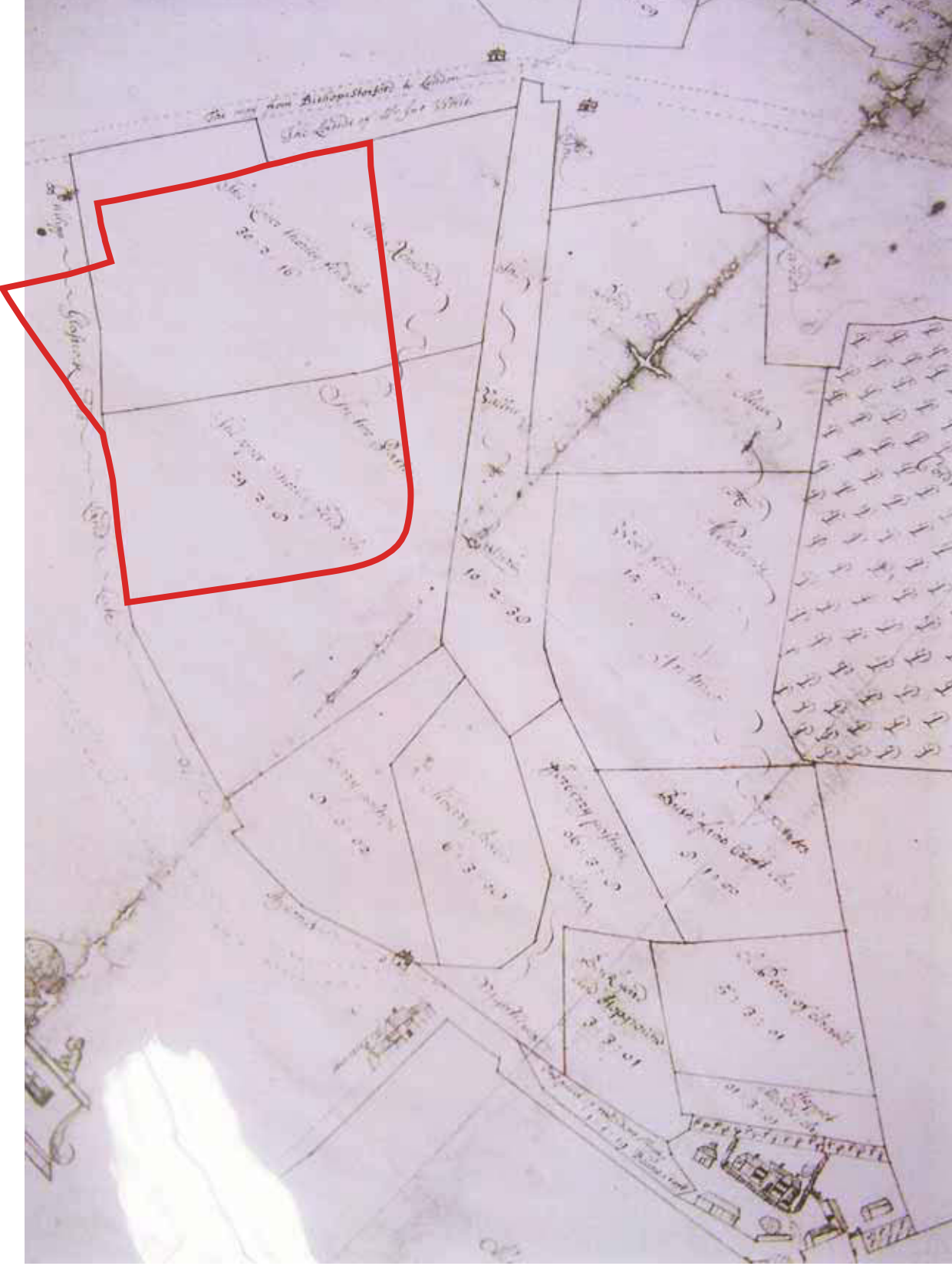
1951 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale

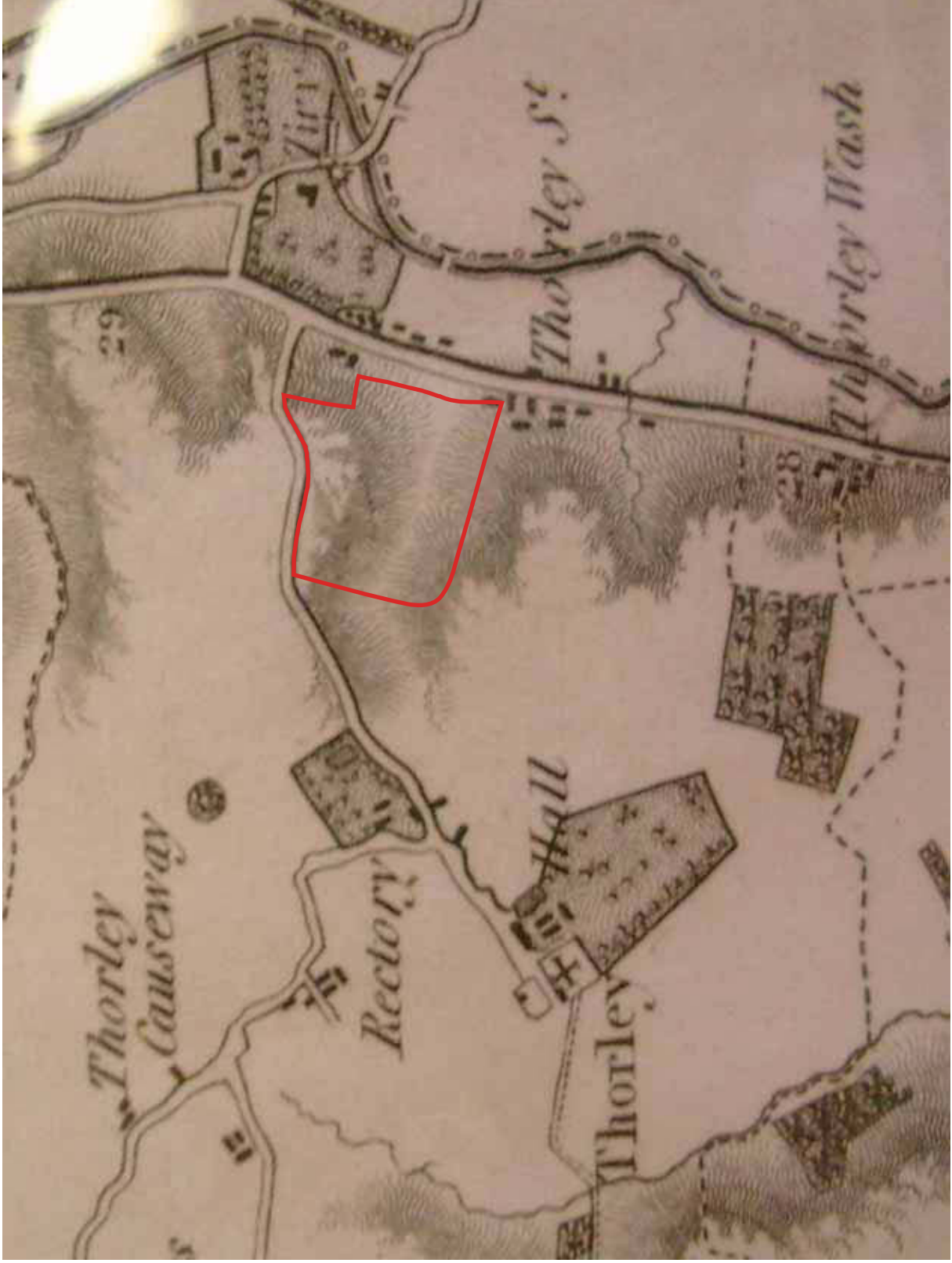
1983 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale



Scale 1:50000

Figure 1: Site location.







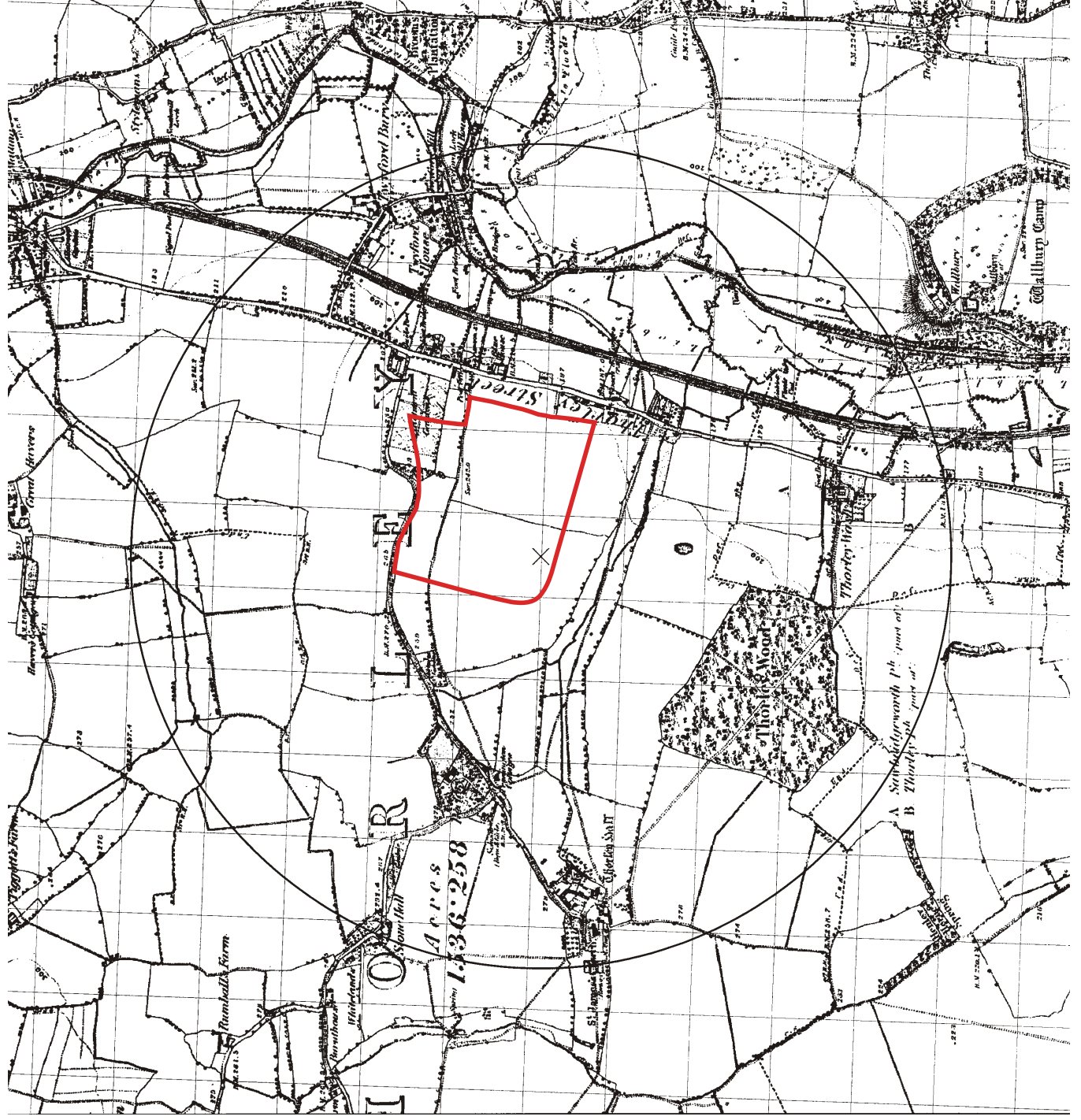
Not to Scale

Figure 5: 1825 Plan of Thorley Estate, Thorley Hall and Thorley Wash.



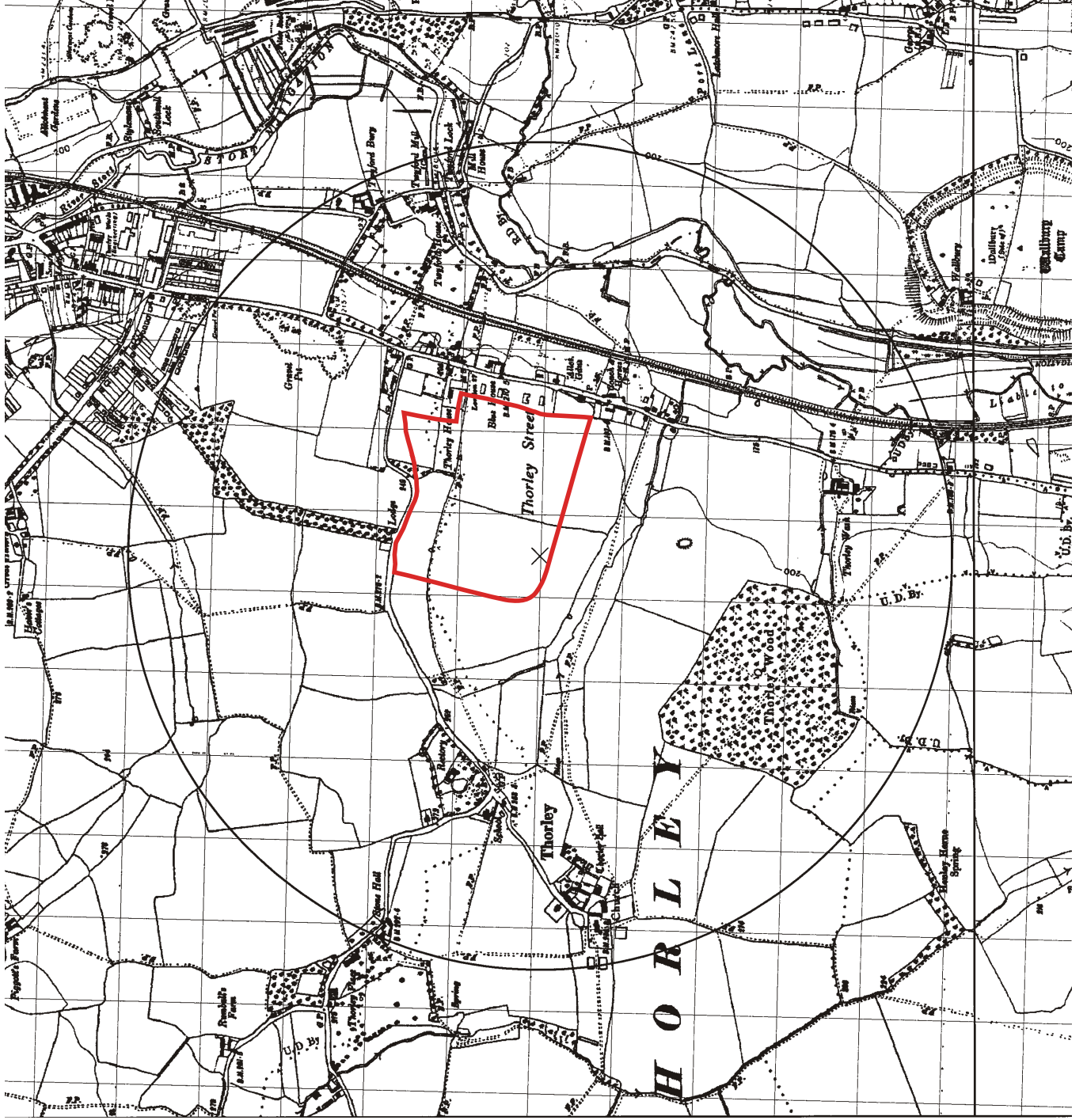
Not to Scale

Figure 6: 1840 Tithe Map of Thorley Parish.



Scale 1:10560

Figure 7:1884 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale.



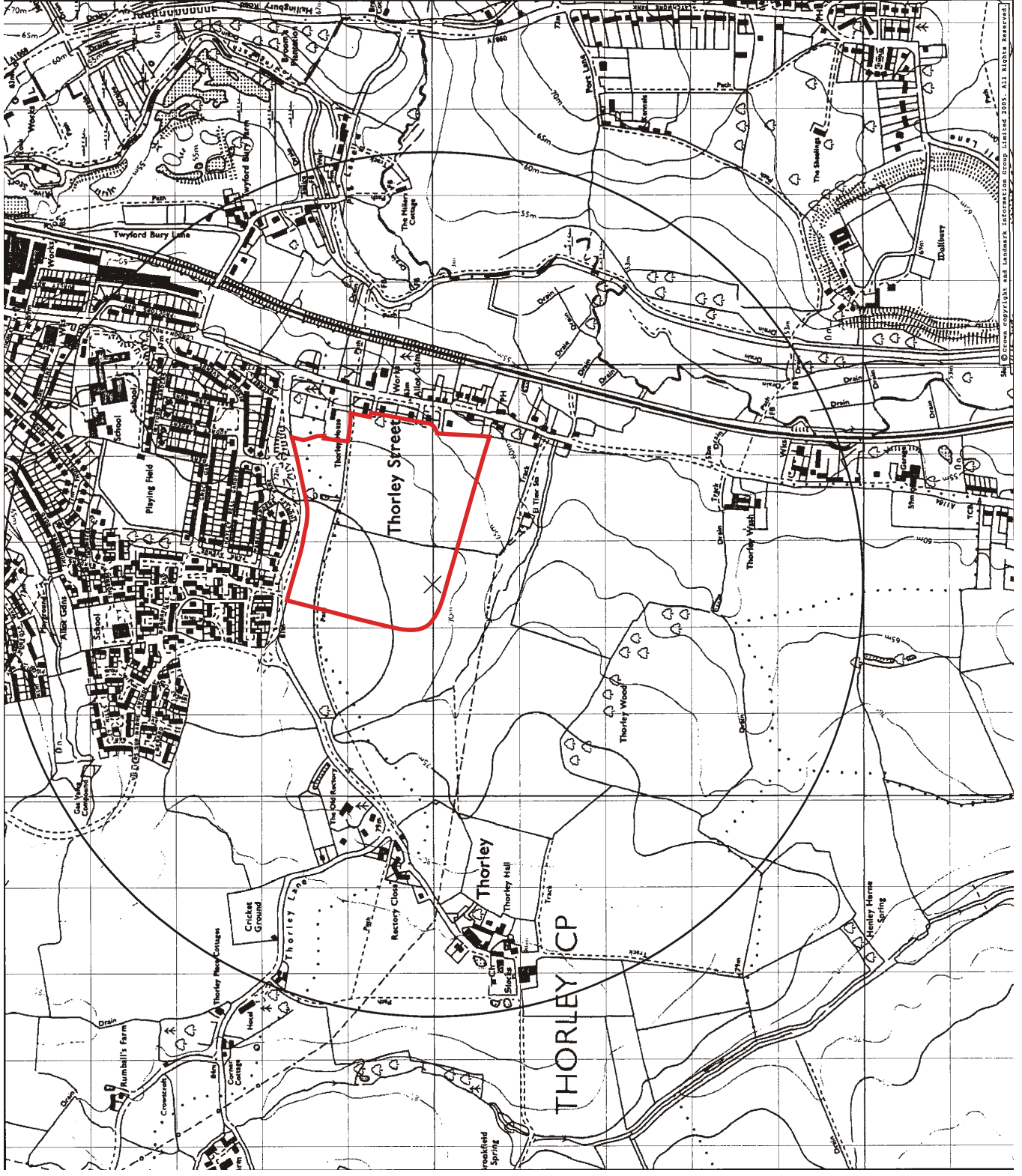


Figure 9: 1983 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale.

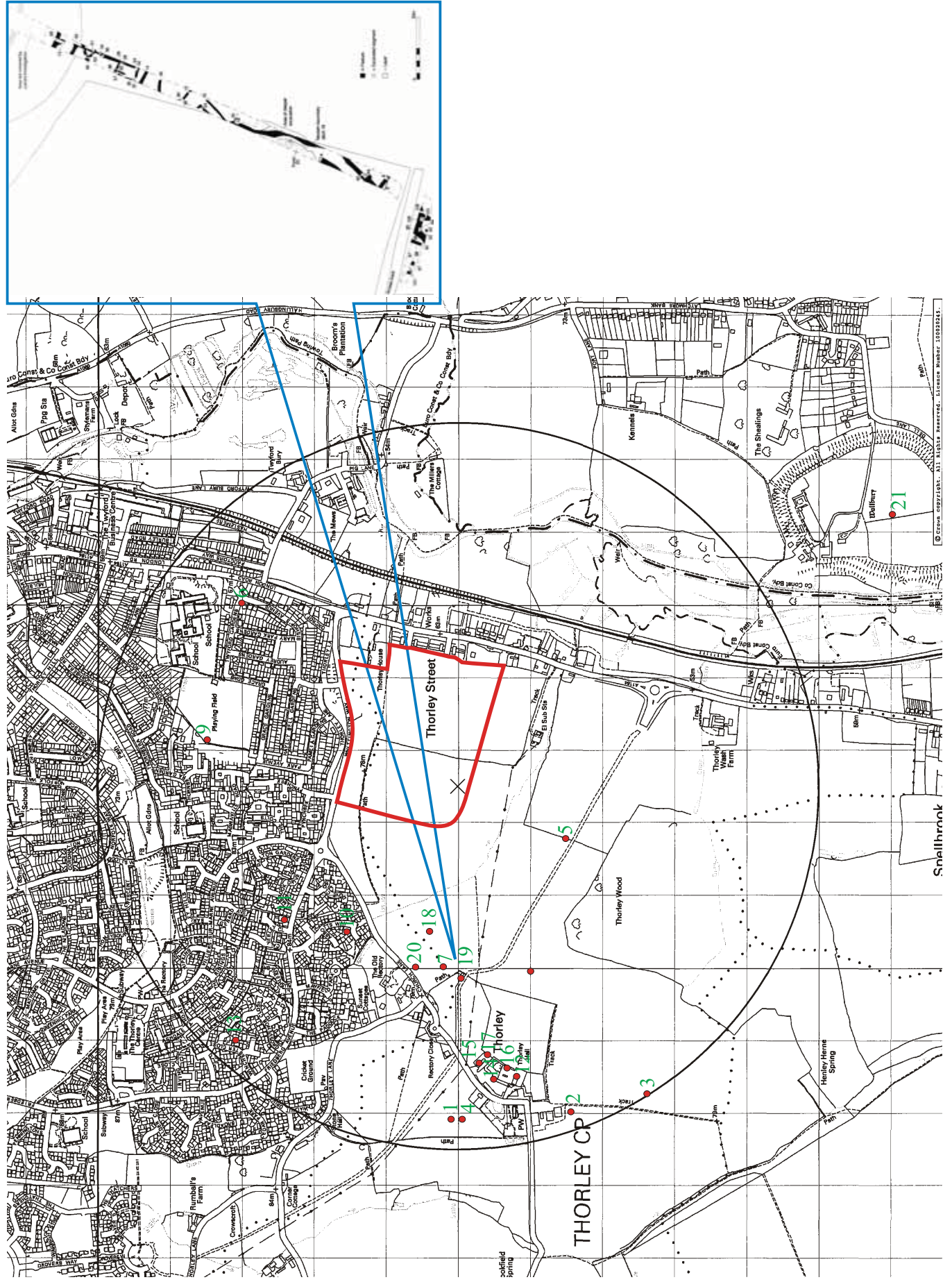


Figure 10: Plan showing HER, SAM's and Listed buildings 's on the study site and in its vicinity.