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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Land north of Orton Road, Warton, Warwickshire

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Land north of Orton
Road, Warton
1.4
March 2025

**LAND NORTH OF ORTON ROAD, WARTON, WARWICKSHIRE;
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment considers land on the western edge of Warton, Warwickshire (North Warwickshire Borough Council), to support an outline planning application for the construction of up to 110 dwellings, with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features, and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for primary vehicular access from Church Road. The site, centred at NGR SK 2801 0330, comprises a single agricultural field.

The assessment provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the proposed development of the site. It assesses their significance and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework and local planning policies in relation to heritage.

The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Records (HER), the National Heritage List for England, and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments was obtained from the HER and Historic England's National Heritage List for England. The assessment of archaeological potential is informed by the results of a geophysical survey of the site undertaken in January 2025 by Magnitude Surveys. A site visit and walkover survey was carried out on 10th January 2025. A separate Built Heritage Statement (RPS 2025 ref. 794-PLN-HER-01291.02) assesses any impacts on built heritage assets.

Data available from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority shows that there are no Scheduled Monuments or Registered Battlefields located within the site. There are no designated archaeological heritage assets assessed to be sensitive to the proposed development.

The recent geophysical survey did not record any anomalies of archaeological interest. The survey recorded anomalies associated with ploughed out Medieval ridge and furrow across the whole site as well as material associated with a pond and Modern drainage features.

The HER records the findspot of Post-Medieval artifacts identified during metal detecting. No other objects from other periods were identified within the site.

Based on the results of the geophysical survey and the available archaeological evidence, the site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological remains from all periods.

The hedgerows along Orton Road and Church Road qualify as 'important hedgerows' as per *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997* and is proposed to be retained as part of the development.

There are no archaeological constraints to the site's development and it is unlikely that the site will contain any archaeological remains that will need to be preserved in-situ or to be designed around. The identified activity on the adjacent site to the east was investigated through trial trenching post-consent and there is no evidence that any of the features extend into this site. It would therefore be appropriate for any further archaeological works that the planning archaeologist might recommend, to ground-truth the geophysics results, to be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared by RPS for Richborough, Michael Ensor Caton and Andrew Norman Caton in support of an outline planning application for the construction of up to 110 dwellings, with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features, and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for primary vehicular access from Church Road.
- 1.2 The site, also referred to in this report as the study site, comprises a single triangular agricultural field to the north of Orton Road, Warton in North Warwickshire (NGR SK 2801 0330, Figure 1). The site is also bound by Church Road to the north and by a playing field and residential development to the east.
- 1.3 The site falls within the administrative area of North Warwickshire Borough Council.
- 1.4 This document has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework and local planning policy, to identify and provide a description of the significance of archaeological heritage assets on the site and the likely effects of the proposed development. This study concentrates on identifying the archaeological interest in the site to provide the archaeological assessment required by local planning policy. Impacts on built heritage assets are assessed within a separate report (RPS 2025 ref. 794-PLN-HER-01291.02).
- 1.5 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments was obtained from the Historic Environment Record and Historic England's National Heritage List for England. The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material for the site and a surrounding search area and charts historic land-use through review of 19th and 20th century map resources. Geophysical survey was carried out in January 2025 (Magnitude Surveys 2025), the results of which are summarised within this report. A site inspection walk-over was undertaken on 10th January 2025.
- 1.6 The study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site and the significance of any archaeological heritage assets within and around the site. As a result, the study enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development and identify any necessary mitigation measures.
- 1.7 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment' (CIfA 2020).

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently updated in December 2024. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

National Planning Policy

- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development;
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
 - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 207 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.7 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 2.8 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.9 *Significance (for heritage policy)* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

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- 2.10 *Setting* is defined as: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - Protects the settings of such designations;
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available. Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.13 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.14 The local planning policy relevant for the site is contained within the North Warwickshire Borough Council Local Plan (adopted September 2021). The document sets out the vision and spatial planning strategy for North Warwickshire and allocates sites for new homes and employment land to meet local community and business needs up to 2033. Policies relevant to heritage are sited below:

North Warwickshire Borough Council Local Plan (adopted September 2021)

LP15 Historic Environment

The Council recognises the importance of the historic environment to the Borough's local character, identity and distinctiveness, its cultural, social, environmental and economic benefits. The quality, character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the historic environment will be conserved or enhanced. In particular:

• *Within identified historic landscape character areas development will conserve, or enhance and where appropriate, restore landscape character as well as promote a resilient, functional landscape able to adapt to climate change. Specific historic features which contribute to local character will be protected and enhanced and, development, including site allocations, should consider all relevant heritage assets that may be affected, including those outside the relevant site*

• *The quality of the historic environment, including archaeological features, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas and any non-designated assets; buildings, monuments, archaeological sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified in North Warwickshire's Historic Environment Record as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, will be protected and enhanced, commensurate to the significance of the asset.*

Wherever possible, a sustainable reuse of redundant historic buildings will be sought, seeking opportunities to address those heritage assets identified as most at risk.

All Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas are shown on the Policies Map.

- 2.15 The site is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area for the Polesworth Parish. The Referendum for making the Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Plan is scheduled for March 2025 and it is expected to be adopted thereafter. The policy relevant to heritage is cited below:

Polesworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2033

Policy PNP4 - Conserving and Enhancing the Landscape

New development should conserve or enhance the local landscape by:

- (a) Maintaining and enhancing the landscape setting, landscape features, field and settlement pattern of the neighbourhood area;*
- (b) Seeking to conserve in situ heritage assets of archaeological value;*
- (c) Retaining or enhancing ponds, streams, mature trees, woodland, ancient and mature hedgerows, or where removal is unavoidable, providing by way of offsetting replacement habitat elsewhere on-the site or within the neighbourhood plan area;*
- (d) Where new planting and landscaping is proposed it should use native species and be designed in such a way so as to ensure that it is suitable when considered in the wider local landscape, and where appropriate, links to existing woodland and hedgerows;*
- (e) Promote high quality residential design that respects local townscape and landscape character and reflects local vernacular building styles, layouts and materials;*
- (f) Seek to minimise the encroachment of development into visually exposed landscapes and where development is proposed on the edge of the village, it enhances views of the settlement edge from the surrounding countryside and does not lead to inappropriate incursion into the surrounding countryside by reason of its siting, design, materials or use of landscaping;*
- (g) Maintaining and improving access to the surrounding countryside; and by:*
- (h) Seeking to conserve and enhance the integrity and fabric of historic buildings and their settings, particularly where new uses are proposed through the use of appropriate styles and sustainable locally distinctive materials.*

In addition to the above development should also be prepared having used any Landscape Supplementary Planning Guidance issued by North Warwickshire Borough Council.

Policy PNP5 – Non-designated Heritage Assets

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The non-designated heritage assets identified in this plan will be conserved in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. When affected directly or indirectly by development proposals, such proposals will be assessed having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the non-designated heritage asset.

The Parish council will also seek to work with North Warwickshire Borough Council to include these, and any other identified non-designated heritage asset, on the Borough's Local List.

- 2.16 In line with the NPPF guidance, and the current and emerging local planning policy, this Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 SITE CONDITIONS, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Site Conditions and review of available LiDAR Data

- 3.1 A site visit was carried out on 10th January 2025.
- 3.2 The study site is centred at NGR SK 2801 0330 and comprises a single triangular agricultural field (Plates 1-2). Hedgerows along Orton Road and Church Road prevent any views towards the north, west and south. The site sits on a slope, which allows views towards the village of Warton in the east as well as some views beyond the village, towards Orton on the Hill (Plate 1). The site was ploughed and tilled at the time of the visit and no earthworks were discernible.
- 3.3 There are no features of archaeological interest apparent in the LiDAR data (Open Survey Data 1m spatial resolution dataset; collected in 2022; Figure 4), which shows only evidence for modern ploughing and a pond (visible at the eastern site boundary). At the time of the site visit, the pond was mostly overgrown, but held some frozen water.

Geology

- 3.4 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 mapping records the solid geology of the site as sandstone of the Helsby Sandstone Formation with superficial deposits of Head clay, silt, sand and gravel within the western part of the site. No superficial deposits are recorded within the eastern part of the site (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/> - accessed 24.01.2025).
- 3.5 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identifies the soils across the majority of the site as slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage (Soilscape 8). The western corner of the study site is identified as freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Soilscape 10; <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/> - accessed 24.01.2025).

Topography & Landscape Character

- 3.6 The main part of the site lies on a south-eastern facing slope with the highest point lying at c.89m AOD in the western corner. The south-eastern corner lies at c.79m AOD and the north-eastern corner at c.82m AOD. The closest natural watercourses are Bramcote Brook c.900m north of the site and River Anker, c.950m south-west of the site.
- 3.7 In landscape character terms, the site lies within the western part of the Mease/Sence Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) a gently rolling agricultural landscape centred around the rivers Mease, Sence and Anker. The area extends across: Derbyshire in the north, Warwickshire in the south, Leicestershire in the east and Staffordshire in the west. With its towns lying on the fringes of the National Character Area (NCA), only a very small percentage of it is urban. These lowlands retain a rural, remote character, with small villages, red brick farmsteads and occasional historic parkland and country houses. The National Forest extends into the area north of the River Mease.¹

¹ <https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/mease-sence-lowlands/> (accessed 24/01/2024)

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000	-	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	-	1799
Modern	AD	1800	-	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site (Figures 2-3a), also referred to as the search area, held on the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study site from the 19th century onwards until the present day.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Scheduled Monuments and Registered Battlefields

- 4.4 Data obtained from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority confirms that there are no Scheduled Monuments and Registered Battlefields within the site nor within the 1km search area (Figure 2).
- 4.5 No Scheduled Monuments and Registered Battlefields nor their settings are assessed to be impacted by the proposed development.
- 4.6 Impacts on built heritage assets are assessed in a separate report (RPS 2025 ref. 794-PLN-HER-01291.02).

Non-Designated Heritage Assets & Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.7 The recent geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2025) did not record any anomalies of archaeological interest. The survey did record anomalies of below ground Medieval ridge and furrow, material associated with the pond in the eastern part of the site as well as Modern drainage feature and has demonstrably worked (with the usual caveats).
- 4.8 The HER records the findspots of Post-Medieval artifacts (MWA21167), including a token and a coin. No other objects from any other periods were recorded during the programme.
- 4.9 Metal detecting programmes within the fields to the south and north have identified Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval objects, which are further discussed in the relevant sections below.
- 4.10 Trial trenching (EWA11350) carried out on the adjacent site to the east recorded two isolated foci of Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age settlement activity. A posthole was identified immediately next to a concentration of 53 late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery sherds (c.150m east of the site). Another curvilinear ditch was found in association with a posthole containing a single Middle/Late Iron Age pottery sherd, and a circular pit containing a significant quantity of heat-cracked pebbles and charcoal (adjacent to the eastern boundary of the current site; Warwickshire Archaeology 2018a). Subsequent strip, map and sample investigation (EWA11647) confirmed the identified features existed in isolation, rather than being part of more extensive remains. None of the remains extend into the current study site.
- 4.11 Trial Trenching (EWA10871) carried out c.130m east of the site (6 trenches) did not record any archaeological finds or features. The programme identified ploughed out ridge and furrow.
- 4.12 The remaining event records within the search area relate to either personal comments, building recordings, site visits or programmes further than 550m away from the study site, none of which have any direct bearing on the assessment of the current study site's archaeological potential.
- 4.13 A list of HER monuments and events carried out within the 1km search area is provided in Appendix 1 and their locations shown on Figures 3a and 3b.

Prehistoric (*Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age*)

- 4.14 There are no Prehistoric records within the site.
- 4.15 A Palaeolithic quartzite core (MWA12839) was found as an isolated object c.700m north-west of the site and a Palaeolithic scraper tool (MWA12233) c.700m south-west. A Bronze Age thumb nail scraper (MWA21168) was found during metal detecting within the field adjacent to the south of the site.
- 4.16 A site with limited and discontinuous use from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age (MWA5760) was identified c.800m south of the study site, on the gravel terrace of River Anker. Recorded evidence includes Mesolithic flint scatters, a Neolithic ring ditch and pottery, a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a possible Iron Age occupation area².
- 4.17 Two discrete areas with late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity (MWA31803) were confirmed through intrusive fieldwork within the adjacent field to the east of the site. One area is located directly adjacent to the eastern site boundary and comprises a possible enclosure as well as a pit containing quantities of heat-cracked stones. The second area is located c.150m east of the current site. The

² <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1048335&recordType=GreyLit> (accessed 27/01/2025)

only definite example of human activity was an undated posthole found close to an assemblage of Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery. The other features recorded were three possible gullies, but they are thought to be more likely of geological origin.

- 4.18 A possible settlement site from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period (MWA220) is recorded c.700m north-west of the site, based on found objects such as animal bones, pot boilers and pottery.
- 4.19 Undated cropmarks (MWA6728) are recorded c.250m north-west of the site, which may be related to Prehistoric activity. Their origin has not yet been confirmed and no such cropmarks are recorded within the study site.
- 4.20 Based on the results of the geophysical survey within the site, the potential for Prehistoric archaeological remains within the site are low.

Roman

- 4.21 Neither the geophysical survey nor the HER record any anomalies or records suggestive of Roman activity within the study site.
- 4.22 Findspots of individual Roman coins are recorded by metal detecting within the adjacent field to the south of the site (MWA21165), c.100m north (MWA20781), c.350m west (MWA8313) and c.450m north (also including a brooch; MWA20664). A series of Roman metal objects (two brooches, three coins and one unidentified object; MWA14057) were recorded c.850m north-west and a single brooch (MWA20667) c.600m north of the site, also recorded by metal detecting. No such finds were recorded within the study site.
- 4.23 A possible Roman settlement with an earlier origin (see above; MWA220) is recorded c.700m north-west of the site.
- 4.24 The site has previously been metal detected and no Roman objects, commonly found during such surveys, were identified. Based on this, the results of the geophysical survey within the site as well as the intrusive work within the adjacent areas to the east, the site's potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Roman remains is assessed to be low/negligible.

Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

- 4.25 The HER contains no Saxon/Early Medieval finds or features recorded within the study site and there is no indication within the geophysical survey results for any activity dating to these periods.
- 4.26 The closest settlement to the site is Warton (MWA9578), which is not recorded in Domesday Book (1086), but its Medieval settlement core is recorded c.250m north-east of the site. The geophysical survey recorded anomalies associated with ploughed out ridge and furrow across the site, confirming its location within the agricultural hinterland of Warton. Ridge and furrow is also recorded elsewhere in the search area through aerial photography (c.800m north-west as MWA33958 and also illustrated in light pink on Figure 3a as provided by the Warwickshire HER). The pink polygons relate to both extant and former ridge and furrow – mostly within and surrounding the modern settlement of Warton - illustrating the growth of the settlement and replacement of historically agricultural land.
- 4.27 The possible site of the Medieval Stiper's Hill Castle (MWA13154) is located c.700m south-west of the site.
- 4.28 The majority of Medieval records within the search area relate to finds of metal objects recorded during metal detecting. Closest to the site, those include a Medieval (or later) token from the field to the south of the site (MWA21166), a coin and stirrup (MWA20644 and MWA20648) found within the field to the north-east and a coin (MWA10135) from a field on the opposite side of the road to the north of the site. As above, no such finds are recorded for the study site.

- 4.29 The site was located within the agricultural hinterland of Warton during the Medieval period and based on the geophysical survey and available archaeological evidence, the site has a low/negligible potential to contain significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Saxon/Early Medieval and Medieval archaeological remains.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression)

- 4.30 The HER records the findspots of Post-Medieval artifacts (MWA21167), including a token and a coin. No other objects from any other periods were recorded during the programme.
- 4.31 The remaining Post-Medieval and Modern sites recorded on the HER within the search area relate to buildings/monuments and transport routes of a well-defined extent and nature that generally add little to the understanding of the site's archaeological potential and are therefore not discussed in any further detail.

Historic map regression

- 4.32 The earliest map reviewed is the 1815 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Figure 5), which shows the site much as it is today between Orton and Church Road (not annotated) and the south-west of 'Waverton' (modern Warton). The site appears to be part of a larger, irregular shaped field.
- 4.33 The 1849 Tithe map (Figure 6) shows the site unchanged. However, the site does not form part of the tithable land and the map omits buildings and areas of land which weren't subject to the tithe tax, for example the Church of Holy Trinity which was built in 1840 and would be situated adjacent to Plot 16. As such, the exact configuration of the boundaries associated with the site cannot be relied upon from the tithe map.
- 4.34 The 1st edition OS map from around the mid-19th century and the late-19th century OS map (Figure 7 and Figure 8) show the addition of an internal boundary in a roughly south-west to north-east alignment terminating at a pond. The pond still exists within the site today.
- 4.35 The internal boundary was removed at some point before 1924 (map not reproduced) and the 1956-1957 OS map and Google Earth image from 2022 (Figure 9 and Figure 10) show the site remained unchanged through the 20th and early 21st century. The settlement of Warton has grown and the residential area to the immediate east of the site was built in 2020 onwards.
- 4.36 The map regression has demonstrated that the study site has remained as agricultural land since at least the Medieval period. The potential for any hitherto unknown significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains dating to the Post-Medieval/Modern periods is assessed to be low/negligible.

Historic Hedgerows

- 4.37 Guidance relating to the identification and documentation of archaeologically and historically "important" hedgerows is provided by 'The Hedgerows Regulations 1997: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice' (DEFRA). A judgment in 2002 (Flintshire County Council v NAW & Mr J T Morris) established that a hedgerow is important under Criterion 5(a) if it forms an integral part of a pre-Inclosure Act field system, regardless of that system's current completeness. The phrase "pre-dating the Inclosure Acts" means before 1845 (whether or not Inclosure Acts exist for the area in question). The extant hedgerow shown on recent Google Earth imagery (Figure 10) is depicted on the 1814 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 5) and qualifies as an important hedgerow.

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

- 4.38 The recent geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2025) did not record any anomalies of archaeological interest. The survey did record anomalies associated with ploughed out ridge and furrow. These are of no archaeological interest beyond their evidential value for the site being ploughed during the Medieval period.

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- 4.39 The HER records the findspots of a Post-Medieval token and coin within the site. The findspots themselves are not considered to be non-designated assets and the objects have since been removed. They are likely chance losses and not associated with any below ground archaeological remains. They are of limited local significance. No other metal finds from any other periods were found within the site during programme of metal detecting, further confirming a lack of activity within the site.
- 4.40 The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological remains of all periods is assessed to be low/negligible.
- 4.41 If unrecorded evidence does exist within the site, it would likely be locally important and significant for their ability to contribute to local research agendas.

5 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Proposed Development

- 5.1 The study site is proposed for outline planning application for the construction of up to 110 dwellings, with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features, and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for primary vehicular access from Church Road.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Scheduled Monuments and Non-Designated Assets

- 5.2 From the geophysical survey, LiDAR, Google Earth and historic mapping, the study site has been in agricultural use since at least the Medieval period.
- 5.3 Past ground disturbance within site is likely to have been widespread across the site as a result of plough activity, but much of this activity is likely to have been generally shallow and contained within upper levels of any below ground deposits.
- 5.4 Given the construction techniques employed in modern development, it is unlikely that any archaeological remains present within the footprint of the proposed development would survive the development process, unless preserved under open space.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment considers land on the western edge of Warton, Warwickshire (North Warwickshire Borough Council), to support an outline planning application for the construction of up to 110 dwellings, with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features, and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for primary vehicular access from Church Road. The site, centred at NGR SK 2801 0330, comprises a single agricultural field.
- 6.2 The assessment provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the proposed development of the site. It assesses their significance and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework and local planning policies in relation to heritage.
- 6.3 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Records (HER), the National Heritage List for England, and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments was obtained from the HER and Historic England's National Heritage List for England. The assessment of archaeological potential is informed by the results of a geophysical survey of the site undertaken in January 2025 by Magnitude Surveys., A site visit and walkover survey was carried out on 10th January 2025. A separate Built Heritage Statement (RPS 2025 ref. 794-PLN-HER-01291.02) assesses any impacts on built heritage assets.
- 6.4 Data available from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority shows that there are no Scheduled Monuments or Registered Battlefields located within the site. There are no designated archaeological heritage assets assessed to be sensitive to the proposed development.
- 6.5 The recent geophysical survey did not record any anomalies of archaeological interest. The survey recorded anomalies associated with ploughed out Medieval ridge and furrow across the whole site as well as material associated with a pond and Modern drainage features.
- 6.6 The HER records the findspot of Post-Medieval artifacts identified during metal detecting. No other objects from other periods were identified within the site.
- 6.7 Based on the results of the geophysical survey and the available archaeological evidence, the site has a low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological remains from all periods.
- 6.8 The hedgerows along Orton Road and Church Road qualify as 'important hedgerows' as per *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997* and is proposed to be retained as part of the development.
- 6.9 There are no archaeological constraints to the site's development and it is unlikely that the site will contain any archaeological remains that will need to be preserved in-situ or to be designed around. The identified activity on the adjacent site to the east was investigated through trial trenching post-consent and there is no evidence that any of the features extend into this site. It would therefore be appropriate for any further archaeological works that the planning archaeologist might recommend, to ground-truth the geophysics results, to be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition.

Sources Consulted

General

Warwickshire Historic Environment Record

Google Earth

LiDAR

Internet

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Historic England: The National Heritage List for England <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

National Planning Policy Framework – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

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Warwickshire Archaeology 2018a. *Land at Barn End Road, Warton, Polesworth, Warwickshire. Archaeological Evaluation*. June 2018.

Warwickshire Archaeology 2018b. *Land at Barn End Road, Warton, Polesworth, Warwickshire. Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*. September 2018.

Cartographic

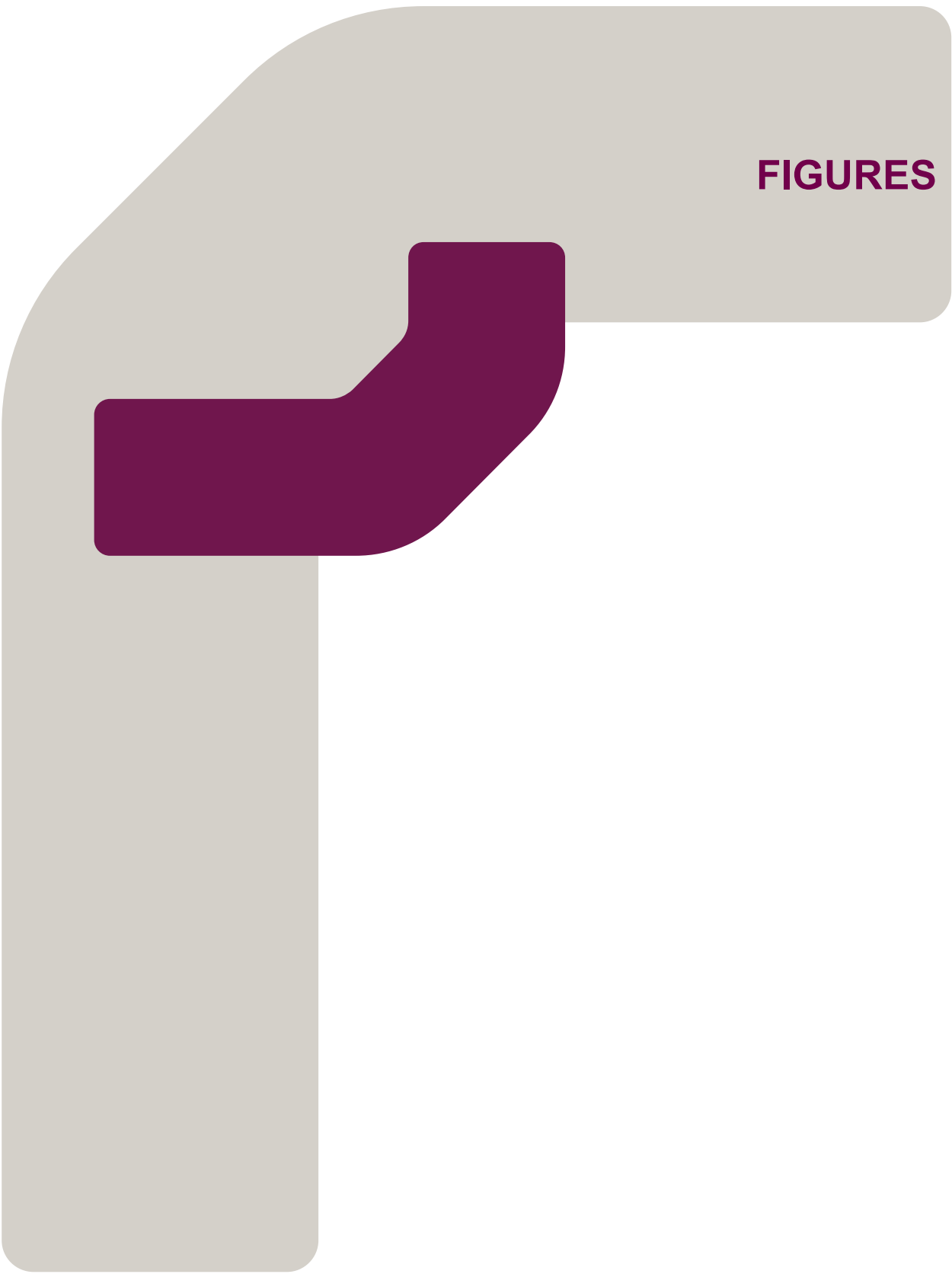
1815 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Lichfield Sheet)

1817 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Sutton Coldfield Sheet)

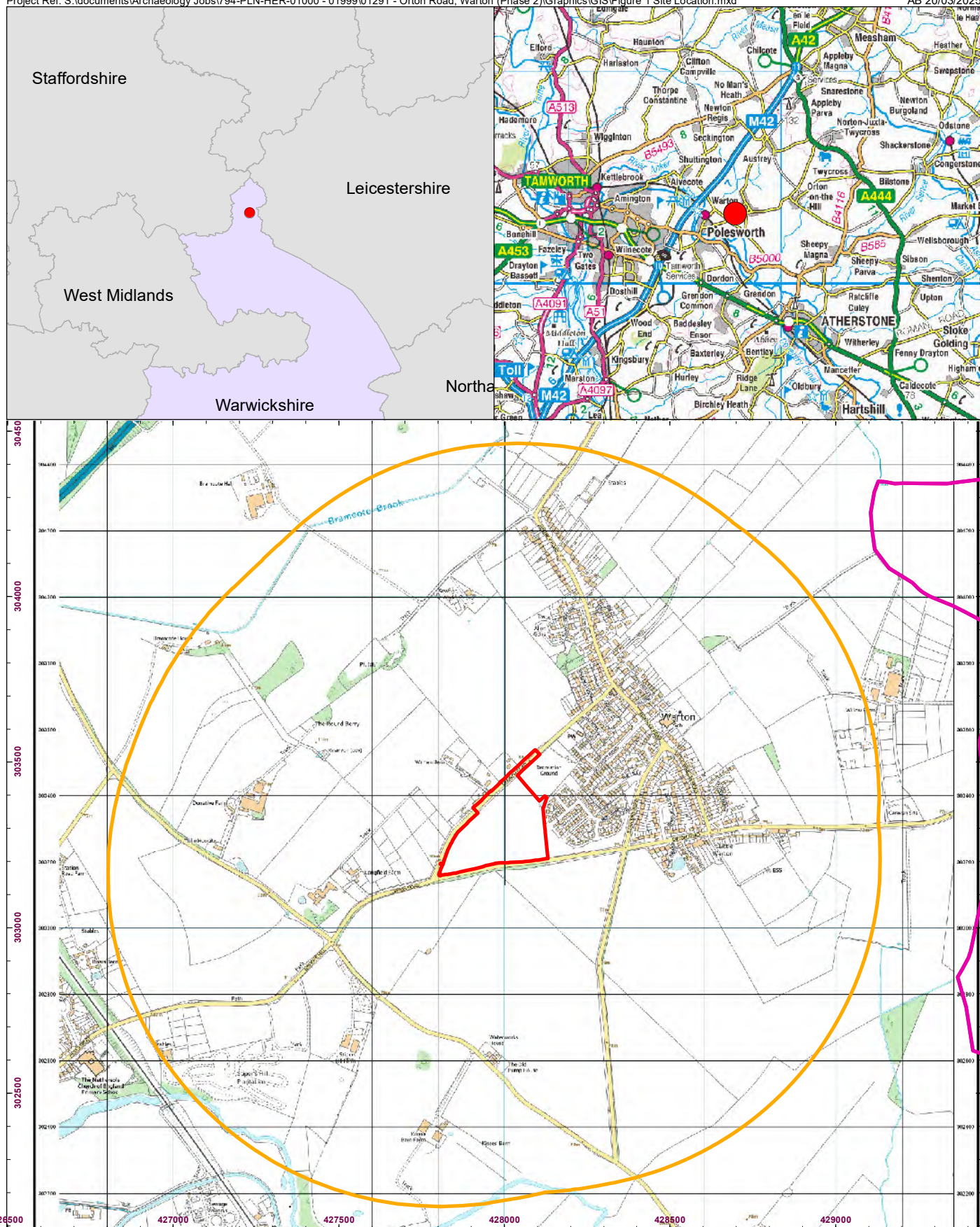
Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 editions: 1886, 1903, 1924, 1956-1957, 1959-1972, 1972, 1975, 1988, 1994, 1995

Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 / 1:10,560 editions: 1885, 1904, 1924-1925, 1955, 1966, 1976, 1990, 1999, 2006, 2024

Google Earth Imagery: 1999, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023



FIGURES



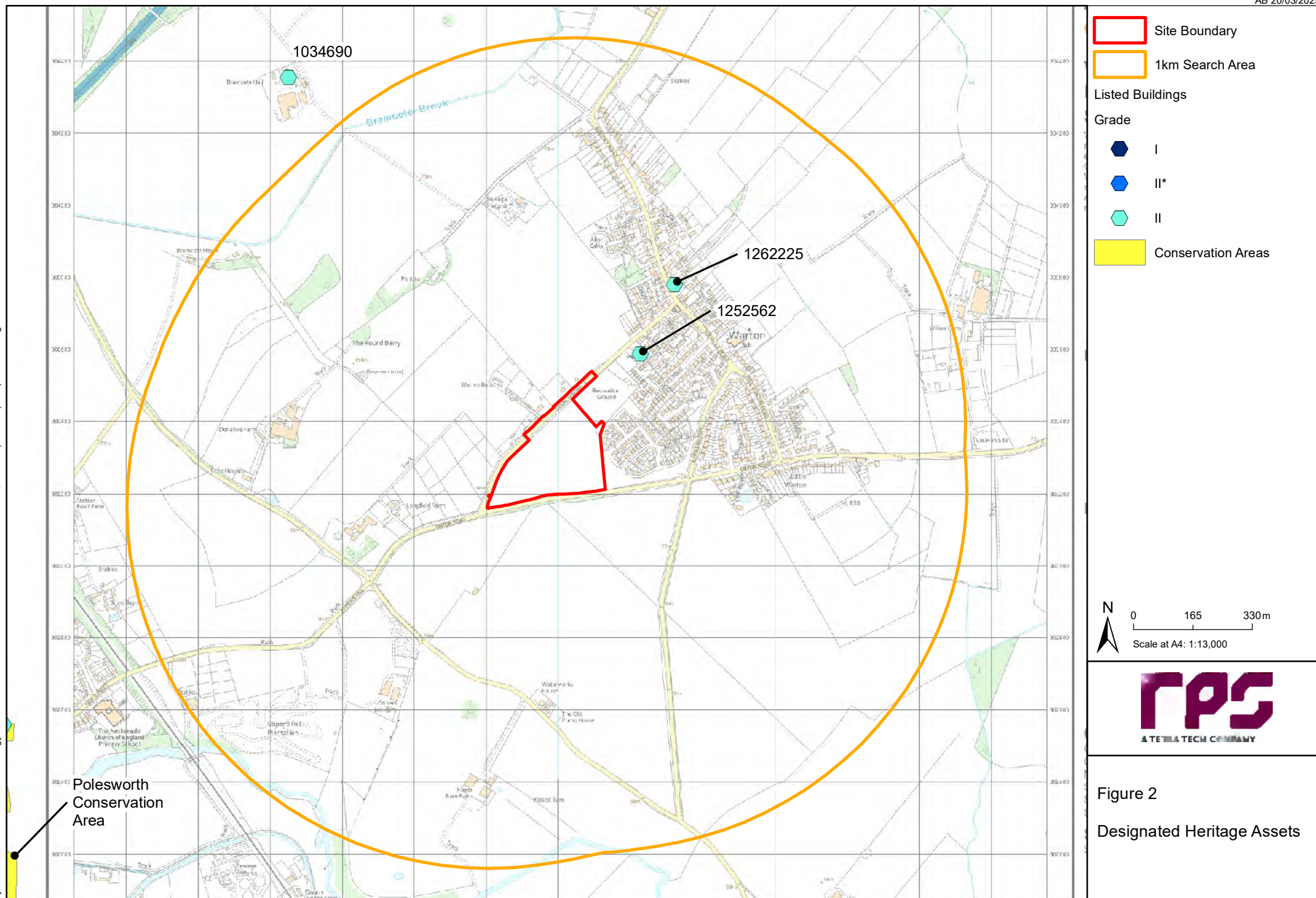
- Site Boundary
- 1km Search Area
- County Boundary

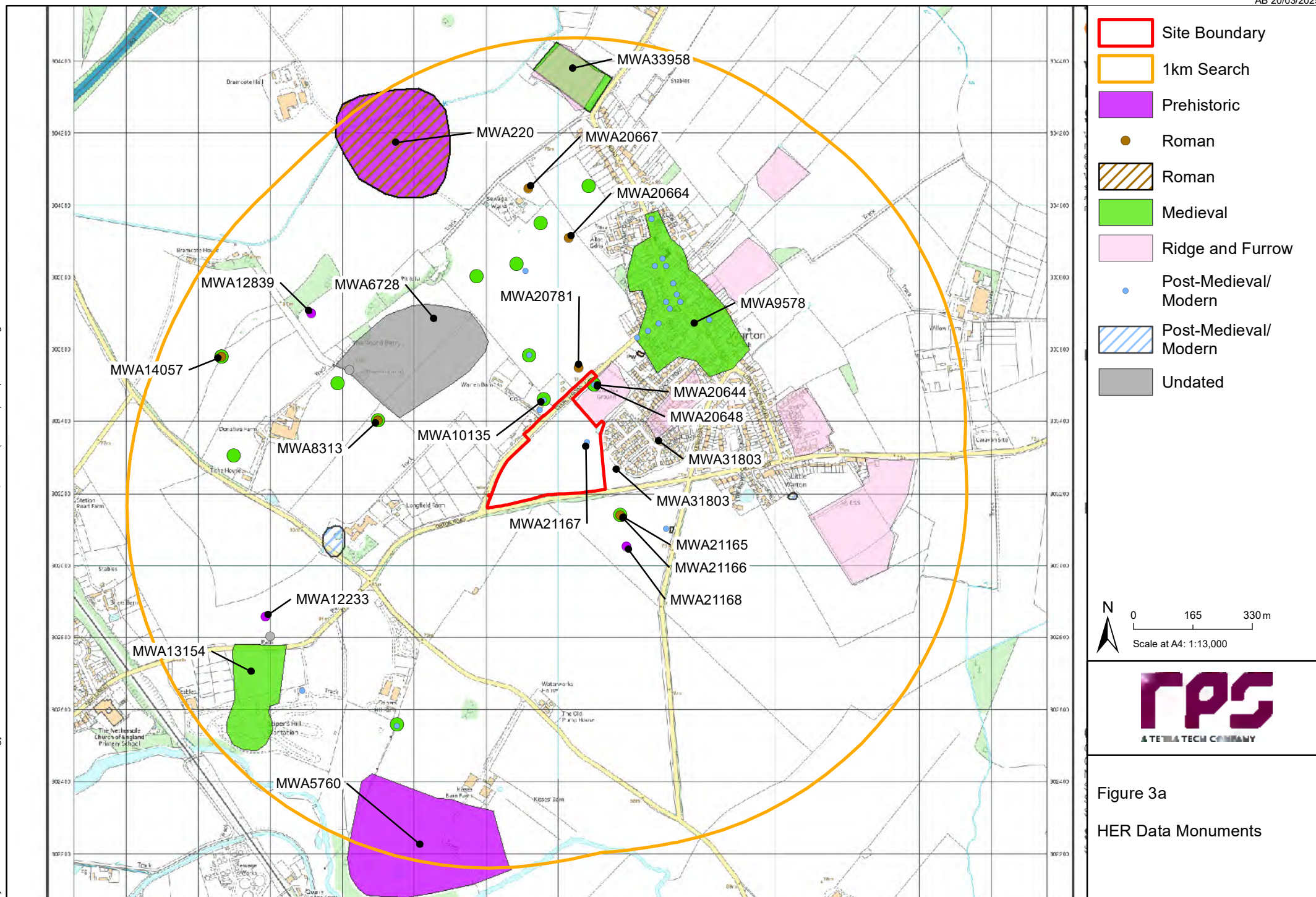


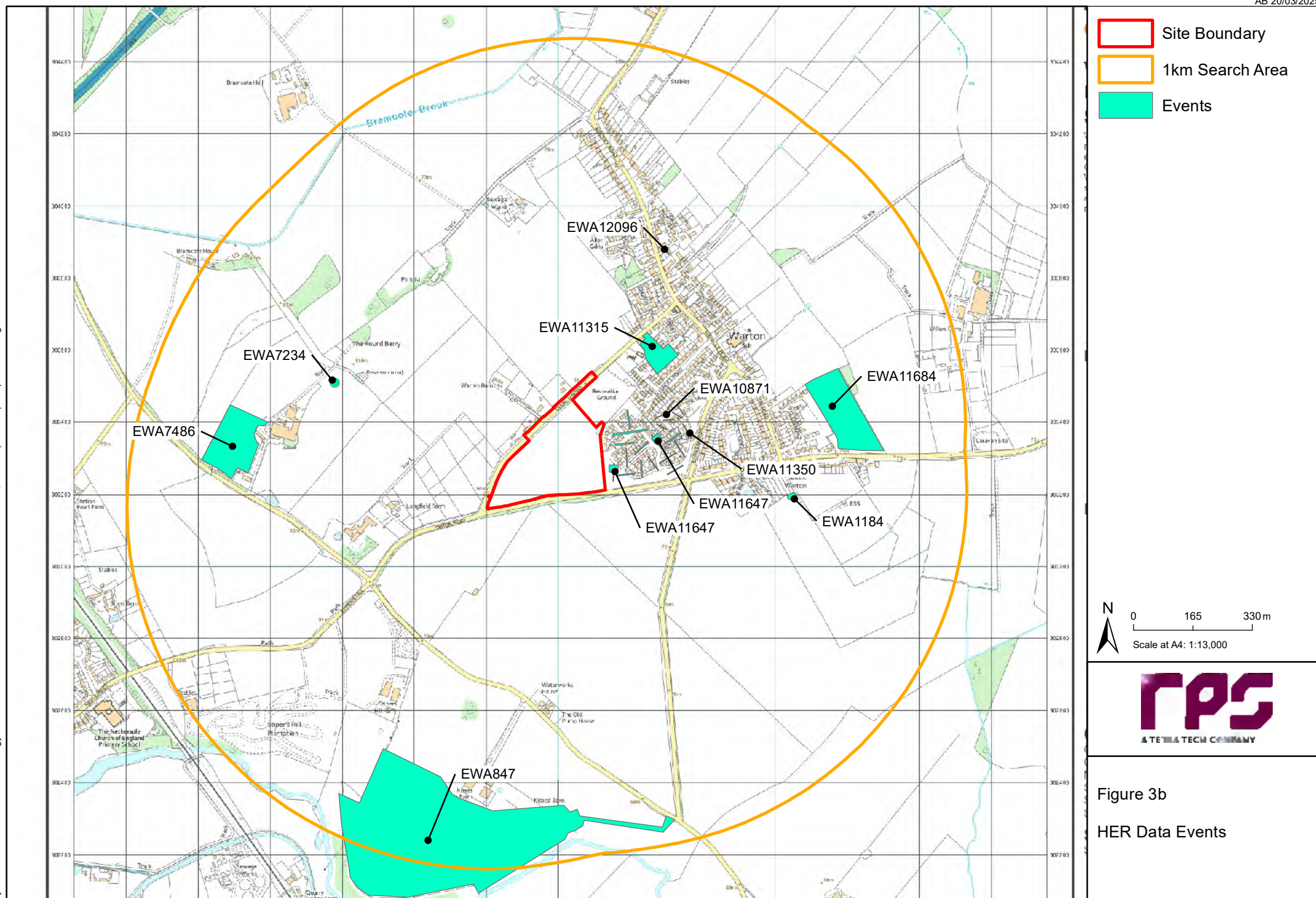
0 160 320 480m
Scale at A4: 1:16,000



Figure 1
Site Location









 Site Boundary

LiDAR DATA

Source:
Environment Agency

Data Type: DTM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured:
05/01/2022

Processing:
simple Local Relief Model overlaid on
Multi-direction Hillshade

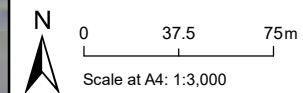
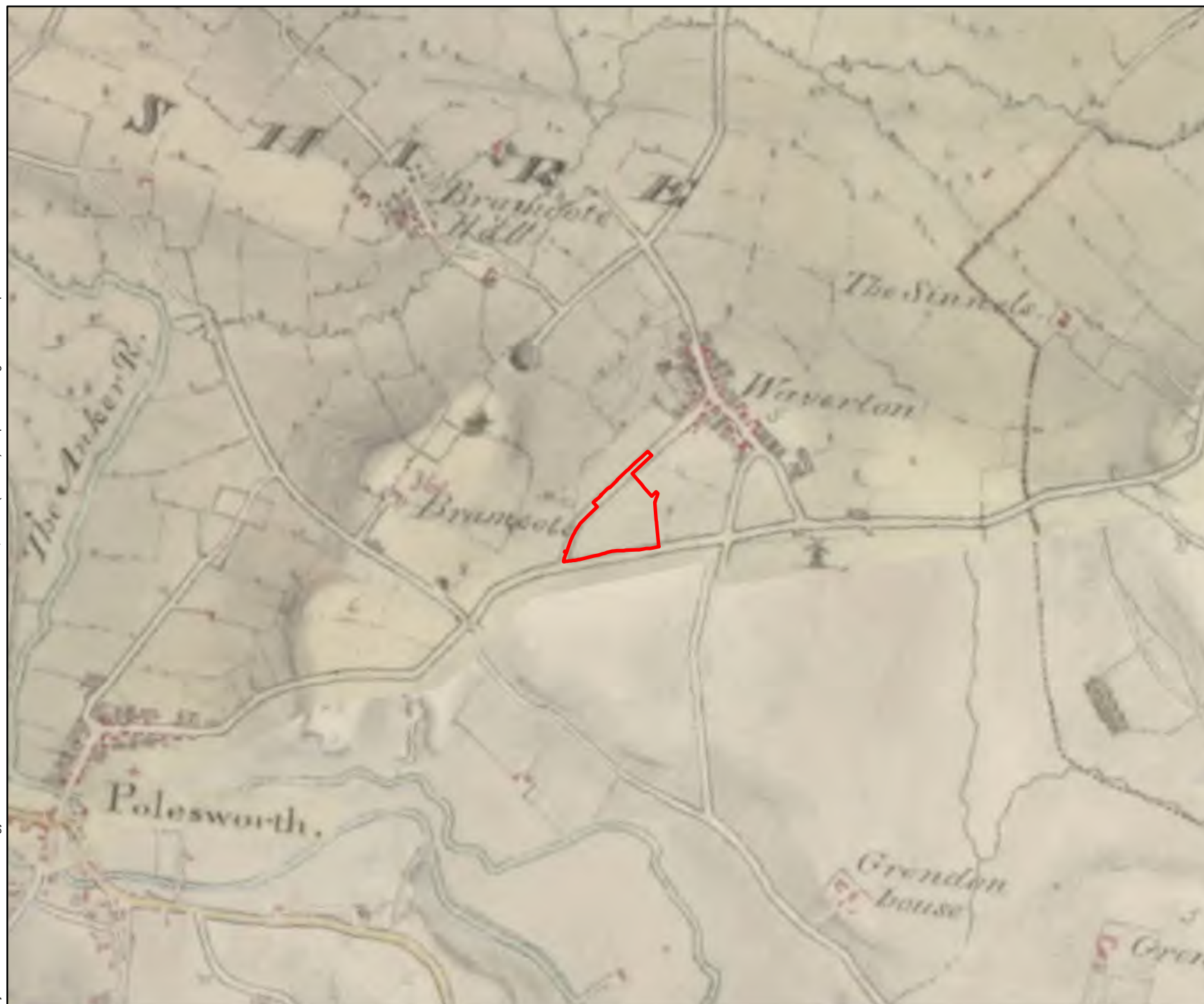


Figure 4
LiDAR Data



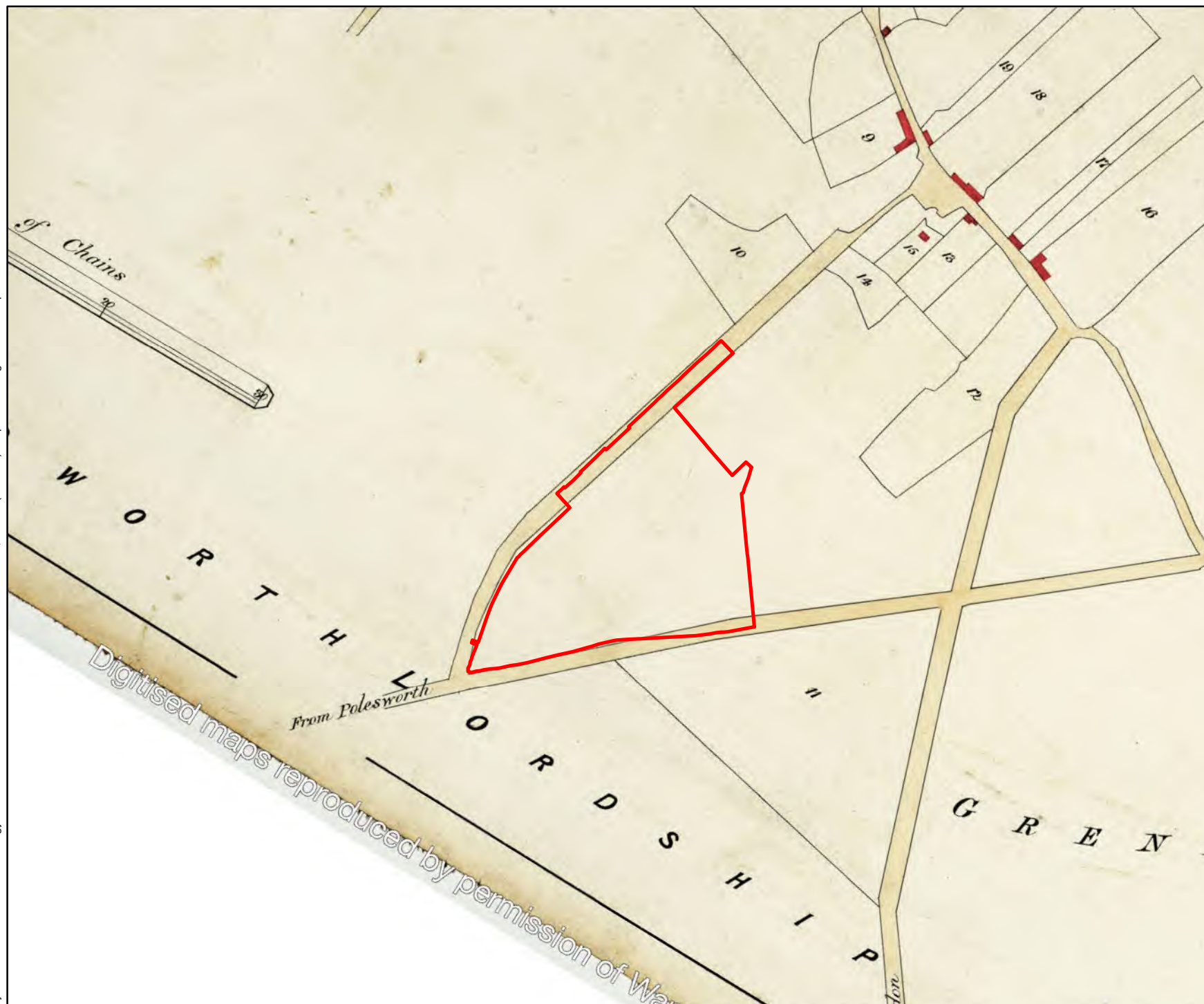
 Site Boundary

 0 230 460m
Scale at A4: 1:18,000



Figure 5

Ordnance Survey Drawings
1815 (Lichfield Sheet) and
1817 (Sutton Coldfield Sheet)

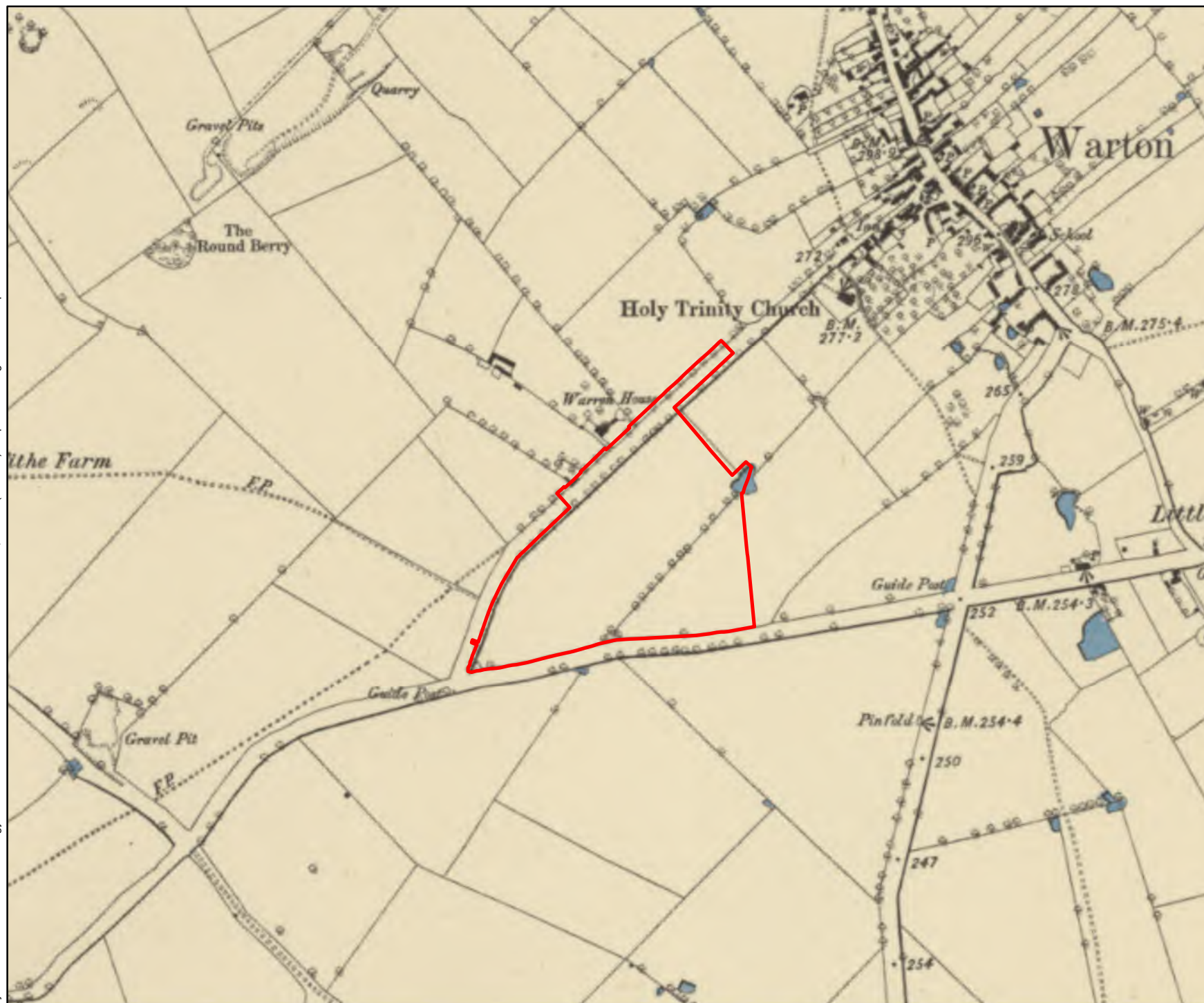


 Site Boundary

 0 75 150m
Scale at A4: 1:6,000

rps
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Figure 6
Warton Tithe Map 1849



 Site Boundary

N
0 75 150m
Scale at A4: 1:6,000

rps
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Figure 7

1st edition Ordnance Survey
Map 1840s-1880s

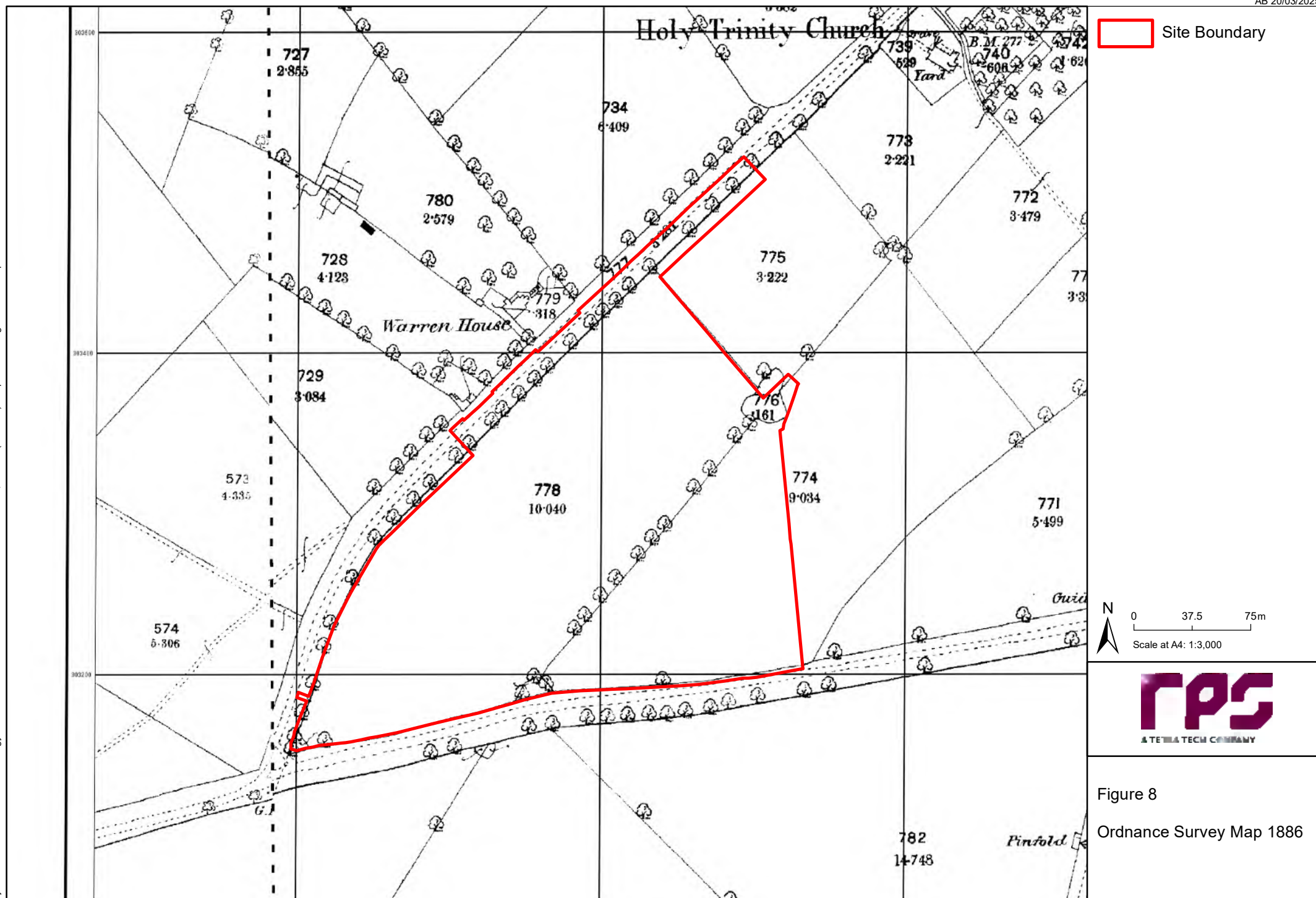


Figure 8

Ordnance Survey Map 1886

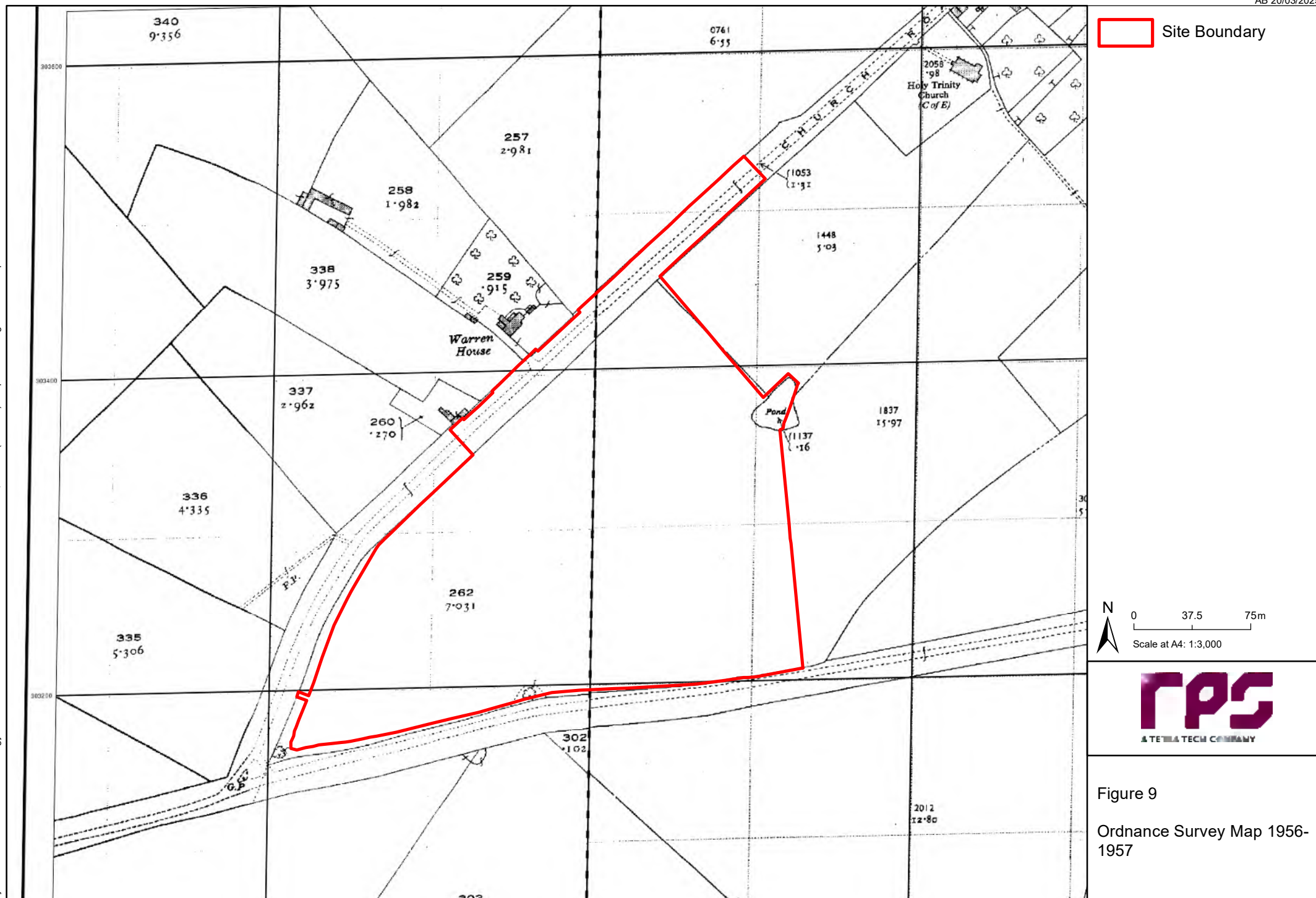


Figure 9

Ordnance Survey Map 1956-1957



- Site Boundary
- Important Hedgerows

N
0 37.5 75m
Scale at A4: 1:3,000



Figure 10

Google Earth Imagery 2022

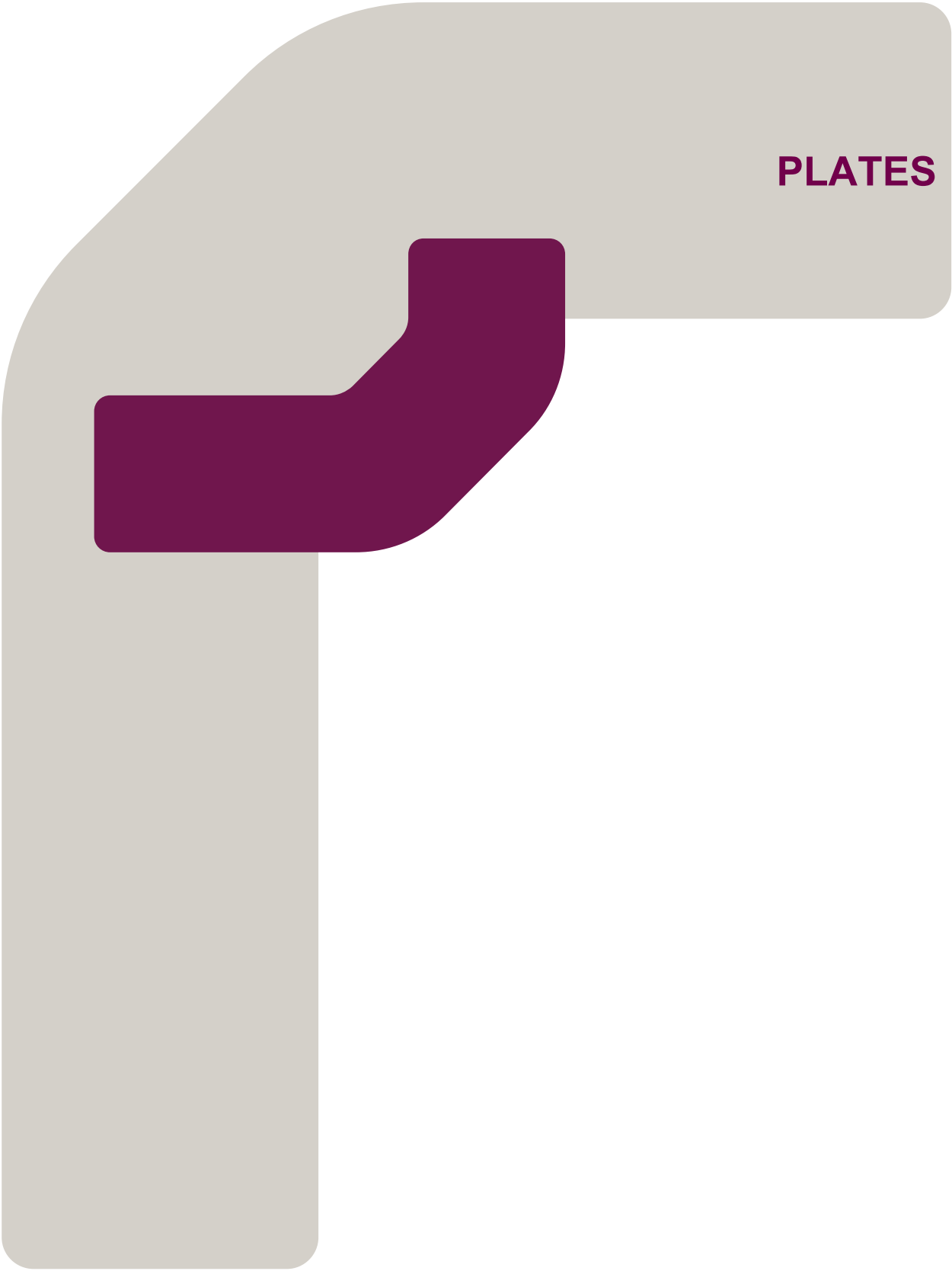
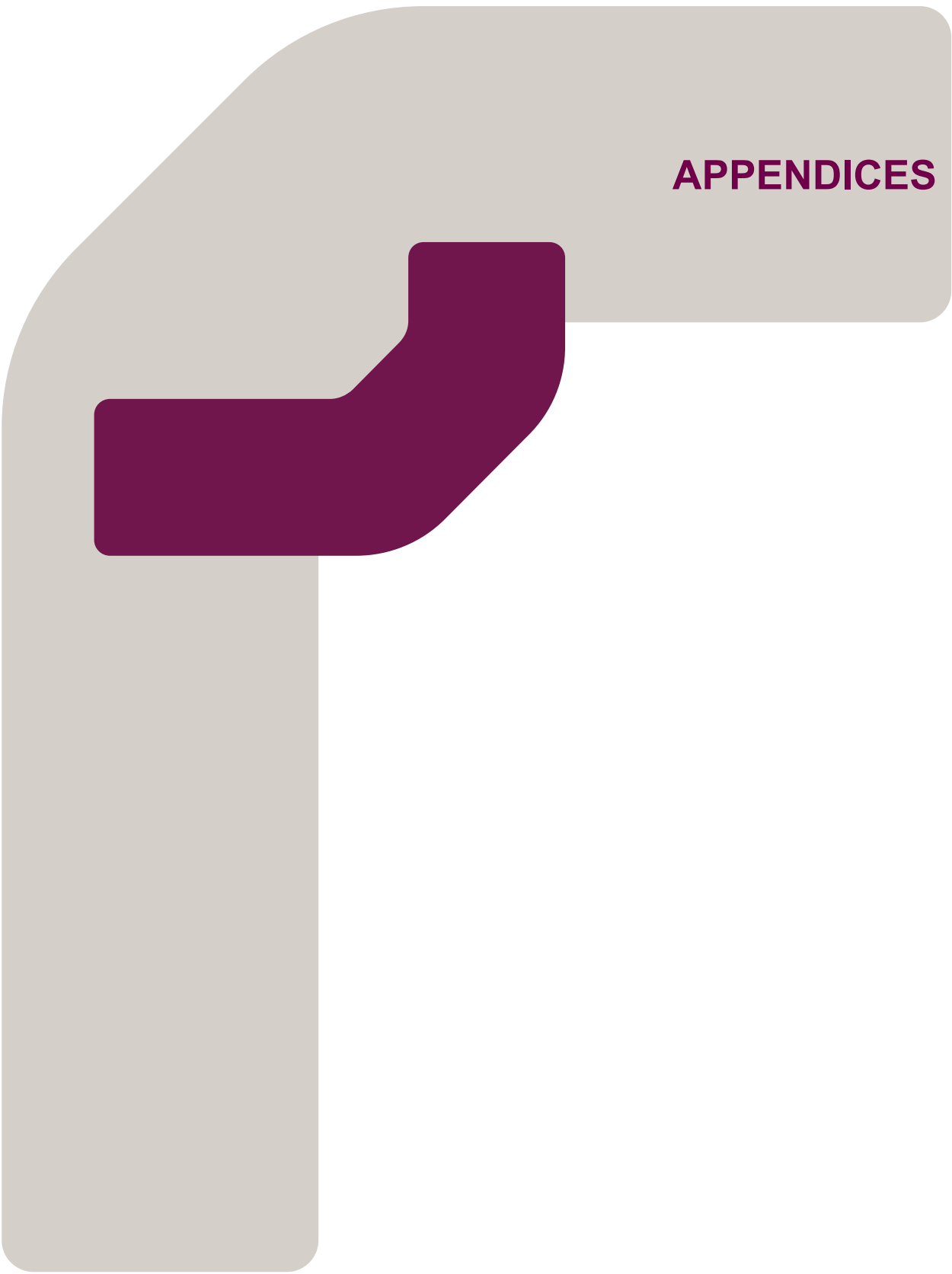




Plate 1: View across the site towards the east



Plate 2: View across the site towards the south-west



APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Gazetteer of HER Entries

Warwickshire Historic Environment Records (received 20.01.25)

HER No.	Name	Location	Date
	Monuments		
MWA220	Site of Possible Roman Settlement 200m southeast of Bramcote Hall	SK 2754 0417	Late Bronze Age to Romano-British
MWA222	Site of Warton Mill	SK 2864 0319	Imperial
MWA229	Holy Trinity Church, Warton, Polesworth	SK 2822 0358	Imperial
MWA2490	Stiper's Hill Farm, Stiper's Hill, Polesworth	SK 2729 0265	Imperial
MWA2491	Warren House, Church Road, Warton	SK 2795 0343	Imperial
MWA2492	19th century house to N of Church, Warton	SK 2822 0363	Imperial
MWA2493	Hatters Arms, Church Road, Warton	SK 2825 0365	Imperial
MWA2494	Fox Inn, Church Road, Warton	SK 2828 0367	Imperial
MWA2495	19th century house, Austrey Road, Warton	SK 2827 0383	Imperial
MWA2496	'Farriers Cottage', Austrey Road, Warton	SK 2829 0385	Imperial
MWA2497	Storehouse, Curlew Close, Warton	SK 2826 0396	Imperial
MWA2498	Pound SW of Little Warton	SK 2830 0310	Imperial
MWA2499	House/Shop, Church Road, Warton	SK 2830 0373	Post-medieval to Modern
MWA2800	Shop/house, Church Road, Warton	SK 2831 0371	Imperial
MWA2801	18th Century house, Austrey Road, Warton	SK 2832 0378	Imperial
MWA2802	'Sunnyside', shop/house, Maypole Road, Warton	SK 2833 0375	Imperial
MWA2803	Post Medieval Timber house, Warton, Polesworth	SK 2834 0373	Post-medieval
MWA2804	Social Club, Austrey Road, Warton	SK 2830 0382	Imperial
MWA2805	Hillcrest Farm, Maypole Road, Warton	SK 2842 0368	Imperial
MWA5760	Mesolithic to Iron Age features, Kisses' Barn Polesworth	SK 2762 0225	Early Mesolithic to Late Iron Age
MWA6542	Site of Gravel Pit at Linden Lodge	SK 2737 0306	Imperial
MWA6728	Possible Cropmark Complex 400m NW Warren House, Warton	SK 2758 0356	Unknown
MWA8313	Findspot - Roman silver coin	SK 2750 0340	Romano-British
MWA8314	Findspot - Medieval coin	SK 2750 0340	Medieval
MWA9421	Medieval finds from Donnative Farm, Polesworth.	SK 27387 03504	Medieval
MWA9578	Warton Medieval Settlement	SK 28359 03755	Medieval
MWA9961	Silver Pin from Medieval Brooch	SK 27099 03302	Medieval
MWA10135	Find of a medieval coin in the Warton area of Polesworth	SK 27961 03458	Medieval
MWA10136	Find of post medieval items in the Warton area of Polesworth	SK 27960 03456	Post-medieval
MWA10138	Find of medieval coins in Polesworth	SK 27552 02555	Medieval
MWA10139	Find of a post medieval coin in Polesworth	SK 27552 02552	Post-medieval
MWA12233	Find of a scraper, Polesworth	SK 27187 02856	Early Lower Palaeolithic to Late Iron Age
MWA12839	Palaeolithic core from Warton Hill	SK 2731 0369	Early Lower Palaeolithic to Upper Palaeolithic
MWA13154	Site of Stiper's Hill Castle, Polesworth	SK 2712 0269	Medieval
MWA14034	POLESWORTH (Field 652/3) Mediaeval finds	SK 270 035	Medieval

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MWA14057	WARWICKSHIRE POLESWORTH (known as)	SK 27 03	Romano-British
MWA20642	Polesworth (Post Mediaeval) Field 775	SK 28100 03500	Post-medieval
MWA20644	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Field 775	SK 28100 03500	Medieval
MWA20648	Polesworth (Early Mediaeval) Field 775	SK 28100 03500	Early medieval to Medieval
MWA20664	Polesworth (Romano-British) Field 531	SK 28030 03907	Romano-British
MWA20665	Polesworth (Post Mediaeval) Field 547	SK 27910 03815	Post-medieval
MWA20667	Polesworth (Romano-British) Field 530	SK 27918 04045	Romano-British
MWA20668	Polesworth (Early Mediaeval/Mediaeval) Field 548	SK 27773 03802	Early medieval to Medieval
MWA20707	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Field 529	SK 28085 04051	Medieval
MWA20708	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Field 547	SK 27885 03834	Medieval
MWA20710	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Field 531	SK 27952 03948	Medieval
MWA20778	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Fields 733 & 734	SK 27920 03581	Medieval to Post-medieval
MWA20781	Polesworth (Romano-British) Field 734	SK 28057 03546	Romano-British
MWA21165	Polesworth (Romano-British) Field 782	SK 28173 03137	Romano-British
MWA21166	Polesworth (Mediaeval - Post Mediaeval) Field 782	SK 28173 03137	Medieval to Post-medieval
MWA21167	Polesworth (Post Mediaeval) Field 774	SK 28080 03340	Post-medieval
MWA21168	Polesworth (Early Bronze Age) Field 782	SK 28190 03050	Early Bronze Age
MWA21259	Polesworth (Post Mediaeval) Field 562	SK 27065 03577	Post-medieval
MWA21319	Polesworth (Early Mediaeval to Mediaeval) Field 562	SK 27065 03577	Early medieval to Medieval
MWA29775	19th century "Pinfold" c.400m south of Warton Village.	SK 2831 0309	Post-medieval to Imperial
MWA30718	Polesworth (Mediaeval) Field 645	SK 2720 0280	Unknown
MWA31260	Round Berry Trig Point, Polesworth	SK 2742 0354	Unknown
MWA31803	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Settlement Activity, Warton, Polesworth, North Warwickshire	SK 2821 0331	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age
MWA31803	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Settlement Activity, Warton, Polesworth, North Warwickshire	SK 2821 0331	Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age
MWA31914	Site of a Primitive Methodist Chapel, 42 Austrey Road, Warton	SK 2826 0390	Imperial to Modern
MWA32467	19th century outbuilding at land at Farriers Cottage, Tanworth	SK 2830 0386	Imperial to Modern
MWA33958	Ridge and furrow, 210m SW of Bentley Farm, Polesworth	SK 2803 0435	Medieval to Post-medieval
Listed Buildings			
435560			II
435563	CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY		II
Events			
EWA847	Evaluation at Kisses' Barn Farm, Polesworth	SK 2785 0228	
EWA1184	Site visit to Warton Mill, Warton, Polesworth	SK 2864 0319	
EWA7234		SK 274 350	
EWA7486	Metal Detecting at Polesworth, Warwick	SK 27102 03343	
EWA10871	Evaluation at Nos 1-6 Copeland Close, Warton	SK 2831 0341	
EWA11315	Archaeological Field Evaluation at Land to the rear of Trinity Close, Warton	SK 2828 0359	
EWA11350	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Barn End Road, Warton, Polesworth, Warwickshire	SK 2826 0333	

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EWA11647	Strip, Map & Sample Excavation at Barn End Road, Warton, Polesworth	SK 2821 0331	
EWA11684	Evaluation on land off Orton Road, Warton, Poleworth	SK 2879 0343	
EWA12096	Level One Building recording at Land at 28/30 Farriers Cottage, Austrey Road, Tamworth	SK 2830 0387	



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