

Flaxlands Solar Farm

Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

Ampyr Solar Europe

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Prepared by:

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM (hereafter ‘the Consultant’) has been commissioned by Ampyr Solar Europe (hereafter ‘the Client’) to prepare a historic environment desk-based assessment (DBA) of 87.09 hectares (ha) of land at the site of a proposed solar development (hereafter ‘the Proposed Development’) north of Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. The DBA is to be undertaken in support of the proposed Flaxlands Solar development, located 1.7km north of the town of Royal Wootton Bassett and 3.2km west of Swindon, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid reference (NGR) SU 06910 85466 (hereafter ‘the Site’).
- 1.1.2 Following the initial preparation of this DBA, and the accompanying site visit, four fields within the planning application red line boundary were removed from the development footprint, with two additional areas being added for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) purposes. This is shown on the final design drawing included as Figure 7. These changes are considered to have a negligible effect upon the conclusions of the DBA and as such the baseline of the DBA still reports on the original 22 fields.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the assessment is to identify all known designated and non-designated heritage assets within a defined study area of 1km from the red line boundary (RLB) of the Site (see Figure 1 in Appendix D) to establish an archaeological and historical background for the Site. It assesses the potential for previously unrecorded buried archaeological remains to exist within the Site and provides an assessment of the significance of the designated and non-designated historic environment resource with the potential to be affected by development. It concludes with an assessment of potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the historic environment resource and any anticipated constraints.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The Site is located within the county of Wiltshire, 1.7km north of the town of Royal Wootton Bassett and 3.2km west of Swindon (central NGR: SU 06910 85466) (see Figure 1). The Site comprises two land parcels, a western and eastern parcel, joined via Flaxlands Lane. The Site is rural in nature, with undulating topography, and covers an area of approximately 87.09 ha composed of predominantly greenfield, agricultural land (pasture). The Site is made up of 20 individual fields, used largely for the grazing of livestock (currently sheep). The Site is bounded to the west and north-west by woodland, to the north by agricultural land and to the east by agricultural land, woodland, highway, commercial and residential properties associated with the village of Hook. To the south the Site is bounded by agricultural land, woodland and beyond, the M4 motorway.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will comprise the construction 49.9 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays and a 49.9 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to allow for the creation, storage and exportation of energy to the National Grid, with associated access, landscaping and other infrastructure works within an area of approximately 87.09ha. The solar panels will be mounted on metal piles driven into the ground typically between 1 and 2m deep, depending on ground conditions.
- 1.3.2 Other infrastructure on-site would include inverters, transformers, an onsite substation, and cabling (largely buried services). The proposed BESS consists of 14 battery storage with the transformers and switchgear located between the BESS units.
- 1.3.3 The main access would be off Flaxlands Lane, using the existing farm track. Other existing access points to the Site from the surrounding road network are also present and shown on Figure 7.
- 1.3.4 Internal access tracks will be established within the Site itself comprising of main access tracks approximately 5m wide and perimeter tracks approximately 3m wide. Internal access tracks are anticipated to be constructed through the stripping of approximately 0.10m of topsoil and installation of

membrane and hardcore. Track routes have been designed to avoid any hedge or tree removal as far as practicable.

- 1.3.5 The Site would be enclosed with stock proof mesh fencing with limited access points. Fencing would be sited inside the outermost hedges/ trees/ vegetation along existing field boundaries, ensuring that the fence is visually obscured, and that access is available for hedge trimming and maintenance. Gates would be installed at the highway access point for maintenance access. The gates would be the same design, material and colour as the security fencing. CCTV would be mounted on the perimeter fence to allow remote monitoring, which typically comprises cameras on 3m high poles.
- 1.3.6 Hedgerows within and around the Site would be maintained where practicable to screen the development from external views, and also provide biodiversity benefit. Where there are existing gaps in the hedgerow, additional infill planting with native hedgerow species would be considered to improve screening and enhanced biodiversity benefit. Any further landscaping requirements would be proposed by a project landscape architect following completion of a landscape and visual appraisal.

1.4 Scope and Structure

- 1.4.1 This report is divided into the following sections:
- An introduction regarding the scope of assessment and Proposed Development is provided in this section;
 - The legislative and planning policy framework is provided in **Section 2** (Legislation and Planning Policy) which also includes an overview of Historic England policy and guidance;
 - The methodology for assessment and determination of the historic environment baseline conditions for the Site is set out in **Section 3** (Assessment Methodology);
 - A description of the heritage constraints, archaeological and historic background, and description of assets within the Site and study area is set out in **Section 4** (Baseline Assessment) along with details of previous archaeological evaluation and mitigation works;
 - Identification, and assessment of their heritage significance, including how setting contributes to that significance, in **Section 5**; and
 - **Section 6** summarises the results of the assessment.

1.5 Walkover Survey

- 1.5.1 A walkover survey was conducted on 29 August 2024. The purpose of this survey was to assess the land within the Site for previously unrecorded archaeological activity and to examine known assets within the Site boundary and 1km study area, with a particular emphasis on any designated assets within the study area. The walkover survey was also designed to inform the built heritage baseline by identifying any non-designated built heritage assets not identified by desk-based research.

1.6 Consultation

- 1.6.1 Consultation with the Wiltshire Council Archaeologist and Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken via email during September 2024 to confirm the suitability of search parameters and assessment methodology for the Site and 1km study area and discuss any recommendations for evaluation fieldwork. This included advice that the trial trenching is undertaken at the earliest stage possible, so that the Wiltshire Council Archaeologist can offer fully informed advice to the LPA planning team if and when a full application is submitted. Advice provided by the case officer assigned to the Proposed Development by Wiltshire Council in September 2024 was also incorporated into the conclusions and recommendations section of this assessment. Further consultation was undertaken in December 2024 and January, February and March 2025 regarding the results of the 2024 geophysical survey and recommendations for trial trench evaluation fieldwork. It was also agreed that fields with ecological protections and notable agricultural value, including County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Priority Habitats (PH) and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land, could be trenched at a post-consent stage, secured by a suitable planning condition.

2. Legislation and Planning Policy

2.1 Legislative Background

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- 2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is the central piece of legislation that protects the archaeological resource. The first section of the Act requires the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport to maintain a schedule of nationally important sites. For the purposes of the Act, a monument is defined as:

“a) any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation; b) any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or of any cave or excavation; and c) any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other moveable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of any work which is a monument as defined within paragraph a) above; d) and any machinery attached to a monument shall be regarded as part of the monument if it could not be detached without being dismantled” **Section 61 (7).**

- 2.1.2 The Act further defines an ancient monument as:

“Any Scheduled Monument; and any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it” **Section 61 (12)**

- 2.1.3 A set of criteria, defined as survival/condition, period, rarity, fragility/vulnerability, diversity, documentation, group value and potential, assist in the decision-making process as to whether an asset is deemed of national importance and best managed by scheduling.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- 2.1.4 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 sets out the principal statutory provisions which must be considered in the determination of any application affecting either Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas.
- 2.1.5 Section 66 of the Act states that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a Listed Building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. By virtue of Section 1(5) of the Act a Listed Building includes any object or structure within its curtilage.
- 2.1.6 Section 72 of the Act states that in exercise of planning functions special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of Conservation Areas.

2.2 Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2.1 The NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 2.2.2 Section 16 of the NPPF deals specifically with the historic environment. Where changes are proposed, the NPPF sets out a clear framework to ensure that heritage assets are conserved, and where appropriate enhanced, in a manner that is consistent with their significance.

- 2.2.3 The NPPF sets out the importance of being able to assess the significance of heritage assets that may be affected by a development. Significance is defined in Annex 2 as being the *“value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic”*. Significance is not only derived from an asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting. The setting of a heritage asset is defined in Annex 2 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.”*
- 2.2.4 Paragraph 200 of the NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset’s importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Similarly, paragraph 201 includes a requirement on local planning authorities, having assessed the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal, to take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset.
- 2.2.5 In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of the following points:
- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
 - the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
 - the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (paragraph 203).
- 2.2.6 Paragraphs 205 to 209 of the NPPF introduce the concept that heritage assets can be harmed or lost through alteration, destruction, or development within their setting. This harm ranges from less than substantial through to substantial. With regard to designated assets, paragraph 205 states that great weight should be placed on its conservation, irrespective of whether any potential harm is considered to be substantial or less than substantial. The paragraph goes further to say that the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be on its conservation. In paragraph 206, a distinction is made in respect of those assets of the highest significance (e.g., scheduled monuments, Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings) where substantial harm to or loss should be wholly exceptional.
- 2.2.7 Paragraph 207 states that in instances where development would cause substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated asset, consent should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss. Paragraph 208 says in instances where development would cause less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated asset, the harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal to provide a balanced judgement.
- 2.2.8 With regard to non-designated assets, paragraph 209 states that the effect of the application on the significance of the asset should be considered in determining the application. A balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.2.9 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG 2019) is a government produced interactive on-line document that provides further advice and guidance that expands the policy outlined in the NPPF. It expands on terms such as ‘significance’ and its importance in decision making.
- 2.2.10 Significance of heritage assets and its importance in decision taking is explored in Paragraph 009 of the PPG which states that heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals (ID 18a-009-20190723; last updated 23-07-2019).

- 2.2.11 The setting of the heritage asset is important and a thorough assessment of the impact on setting needs to be considered, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset under consideration and the degree to which the proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it. The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations. Although views of or from an asset will play an important part, the way in which an asset is experienced in its setting is also influenced by other environmental factors such as noise, dust and vibration from other land uses in the vicinity, and by our understanding of the historic relationship between places (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 18a-013-20190723).
- 2.2.12 Paragraph 013 of the PPG recognises that the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the heritage asset does not depend on there being public right or the ability to experience that setting. When assessing any application for development which may affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities may need to consider the implications of cumulative change (Reference ID 18a-013-20190723).
- 2.2.13 The PPG discusses how to assess if there is substantial harm. It states that what matters in assessing if a proposal causes substantial harm is the impact of the significance of the heritage asset. Ultimately, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgement for the decision taker. However, it acknowledges that substantial harm is a high test so may not arise in many cases. A key consideration when assessing whether there is an adverse impact on a listed building is whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 18a-018-20190723).

2.3 Local Planning Policy

Wiltshire Core Strategy

Core Policy 58: Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment

- 2.3.1 Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment (Wiltshire Council 2015, 290).
- 2.3.2 Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:
- i. nationally significant archaeological remains;
 - ii. World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire;
 - iii. buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest;
 - iv. the special character or appearance of Conservation Areas;
 - v. historic parks and gardens; and
 - vi. important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes (Wiltshire Council 2015, 290).
- 2.3.3 Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping) (Wiltshire Council 2015, 290).
- 2.3.4 Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications (Wiltshire Council 2015, 290).

2.4 Other Policy Guidance

Historic England Guidance

- 2.4.1 Historic England has published a series of Good Practice Advice (GPA) notes of which those of most relevance to this appraisal are GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-taking (March 2015), GPA3 - The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017), and Advice Note 12, Statements of Heritage Significance (October 2019).
- 2.4.2 GPA2 (Historic England 2015) emphasises the importance of having a knowledge and understanding of the significance of heritage assets likely to be affected by the development and that the “first step for all applicants is to understand the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant the contribution of its setting to its significance” (paragraph 4). Early knowledge of this information is also useful to a local planning authority in pre-application engagement with an applicant and ultimately in decision making (paragraph 7).
- 2.4.3 GPA3 (Historic England 2017) provides advice on the setting of heritage assets. Setting is as defined in the NPPF and comprises the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Elements of a setting can make positive or negative contributions to the significance of an asset and affect the ways in which it is experienced. Historic England states that setting does not have a boundary and what comprises an asset’s setting may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve. Setting can be extensive and particularly in urban areas or extensive landscapes can overlap with other assets. The contribution of setting to the significance of an asset is often expressed by reference to views and the GPA in paragraph 11 identifies those views such as those that were designed or those that were intended, that contribute to understanding the significance of assets.
- 2.4.4 Advice Note 12 (Historic England 2019) outlines a recommended approach to assessing the significance of heritage assets in line with the requirements of the NPPF. It includes a suggested reporting structure for a ‘Statement of Heritage Significance,’ as well as guidance on creating a statement that is proportionate to the asset’s significance and the potential degree of impact of a Proposed Development. The Advice Note also offers an interpretation of the various forms of heritage interest that an asset can possess, based on the terms provided in the NPPF Glossary (Annex 2: Glossary); namely archaeological, architectural, artistic, and historic.
- 2.4.5 Guidance on the management of Conservation Areas (Historic England 2019b) has also been considered as part of this assessment along with guidance on current approaches to the recording and conservation of 20th-century military sites (Historic England 2003).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

- 2.4.6 This baseline assessment has been carried out in accordance with guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England, in particular the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (CIfA 2020) and the Code of Conduct (CIfA 2022).

3. Assessment Methodology

3.1 Study Area

- 3.1.1 The study area for the assessment was defined, in agreement with the Wiltshire Council Archaeologist and Wiltshire HER, as 1km for designated and non-designated heritage assets respectively from the red line boundary (RLB) of the Site. This study area has been defined so as to identify all potentially affected designated and non-designated assets, their setting and geographical extent, and to inform the context of and potential survival of archaeological remains within the Site and its immediate surrounding area. Where relevant, using professional judgement, designated assets outside of this study area have also been assessed where an impact to their setting is considered possible from the Proposed Development.
- 3.1.2 All heritage assets identified within the study area are listed in gazetteers (Appendices A-C). The locations of designated assets, i.e. Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings as well as Conservation Areas, are shown on Figure 2; non-designated archaeological assets and locally listed buildings are illustrated on Figure 3; archaeological events on Figure 4 and Historic Landscape Character Areas are illustrated on Figure 5. Designated heritage assets are referred to in the text and figures by their National Heritage List for England (NHLE) reference. Non-designated heritage assets (findspot, locally listed buildings, archaeological features) are referred to by their Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) monument ID (a four- or five-digit numeric identifier prefixed with MWI) and event ID (a four- or five-digit numeric identifier prefixed with EWI) for archaeological events (previous investigations).
- 3.1.3 For the purposes of this assessment, the individual fields located within the Site have been numbered for ease of identification of heritage assets or landscape features referred to within the assessment. The field numbers (1-22) are shown on Figure 6. This numbering system related to a previous planning application red line boundary at the time of original writing. Subsequently, this has been reduced to 20 fields in total, with four fields (fields 1, 10, 13 and 21) having been removed from the planning application red line boundary, and two added for the purposes of BNG. The two additional fields are included within the study area of this DBA, but due to being outside the original planning application red line boundary, are not covered in detail within the baseline and assessment of this DBA. These BNG fields will not change from their current use/ setting.

3.2 Data Sources

- 3.2.1 The following sources of information have been reviewed and form the basis of the assessment of likely significant effects on the historic environment:
- Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
 - Wiltshire County Council local authority HER data;
 - Local authority website;
 - Archaeological Data Service (online resource);
 - Historic Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey mapping (online resources);
 - Historic aerial imagery via Historic England Aerial Photo Explorer;
 - Available British Geological Survey (BGS) data, ground investigation reports and borehole data (online resources); and
 - Various documentary and internet sources, including Victoria County History, British History Online; and Google Street View.
- 3.2.2 The Site is not covered by the Environment Agency 1m DSM LiDAR dataset, and as such no analysis of LiDAR data has been undertaken for this assessment.

3.3 Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 3.3.1 The sources used to characterise the historic landscape within the Site included the Wiltshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project (Sunley 2016).
- 3.3.2 For the purposes of this study, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data for the Wiltshire HLC project were obtained from Wiltshire and Swindon HER and have been incorporated into the project under licence from Wiltshire Council. The dataset was in the form of HLC type polygons.

3.4 Significance of Assets

- 3.4.1 The significance of the heritage assets within the application site is determined by criteria and values set out in the NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2023). This states that the significance of a heritage asset is its value 'to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting' (Annex 2, Glossary, MCLHG, 2023).
- 3.4.2 The significance of heritage assets has been determined based on professional judgement guided by designations, national and local policies, guidance documents and research frameworks.

3.5 Archaeological Potential

- 3.5.1 Assessment of the archaeological resources draws on three factors:
- i. An assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits within the Site based on an evaluation of previous ground disturbance;
 - ii. An assessment for the potential for archaeological deposits to exist within the Site based on the results of the baseline study; and
 - iii. An assessment of the significance of known and potential archaeological assets within the Site, as well as within the defined study area.
- 3.5.2 The level of disturbance to buried archaeological remains caused by previous development has been assessed based on the walkover survey, and available data listed above, with particular attention paid to previous archaeological evaluations and excavations in the study area.
- 3.5.3 The potential for an area to contain archaeological remains is rated 'high', 'medium', 'low', 'negligible', or 'unknown'. This rating is based on an understanding of the archaeological resource as a whole and its national, regional, and local context. This includes the number, proximity, and significance of known and predicted archaeological/historical sites or find spots within the Site and its surrounding study area.

4. Baseline

4.1 Site Topography

- 4.1.1 The Site is situated in agricultural (pasture) fields and consists of gently sloping ground, with levels ranging from approximately 110m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the Site's south-western extents, to approximately 150m AOD at the Site's northern edge, adjacent to the woodland of Frith Copse. The Site's eastern land parcel slopes gently to the south from this high point, with the south-eastern extents being located at 139m AOD.

4.2 Site Geology

- 4.2.1 Geology and soils information is sourced from:
- <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/> (BGS 2024);
 - <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> (Soilscapes 2024); and
 - <https://datamine-cauk.hub.arcgis.com/> (The Coal Authority 2024).
- 4.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) website indicates that the Site is underlain by 'Oxford Clay Formation' (mudstone), 'Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston Formation' (sandstone, siltstone and mudstone), Stanford Formation (Limestone), Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Mudstone) and Ampthill Clay Formation (Mudstone) (BGS 2024).
- 4.2.3 The BGS mapping shows that there is no superficial geology recorded across the majority of the Site, with gravel, sand, silt, and clay found only in the south-east portion of the Site (BGS 2024).
- 4.2.4 The Coal Authority website shows no records of coal mining in the vicinity of the Site, nor is it located within a Coal Mining Reporting Area (The Coal Authority 2024).
- 4.2.5 The typical soils at the Site are recorded as freely draining, shallow, loamy, lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (Cranfield Soilscapes 2024).
- 4.2.6 There are no recorded borehole investigations on the Site (BGS 2024).

4.3 Landscape Character

National Landscape Character

- 4.3.1 The National Character Profiles published by Natural England divide the UK landscape into large character areas at a national scale. The Proposed Development is located within the National Character Area (NCA) of Upper Thames Clay Vales (NCA profile 108) (Natural England 2015). The Upper Thames Clay Vales National Character Area (NCA) covers an extensive area of low-lying land extending from west of Swindon through to Aylesbury in the east, and completely encircles the Midvale Ridge NCA. The area is situated between the Chalk and limestone plateaux of the Cotswolds to the north and the Marlborough Downs, Berkshire Downs and Chilterns to the south and east.
- 4.3.2 The landscape use in the NCA is dominated by agriculture, particularly in the Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Vales, which are dominated by stock rearing, with some arable and areas of old unimproved hay meadows north of Oxford. The Vales of Oxfordshire and Wiltshire are characterised by 18th and early 19th century enclosure landscapes of small woods and thorn hedges.
- 4.3.3 Gravel extraction was commonplace throughout the NCA and the remains of this intensive land use is still seen today. Many of the former gravel pits have since become filled with water, such as the marl lakes at Cotswolds Water Park.
- 4.3.4 The Upper Thames Clay Vales NCA is situated atop an ancient sea floor that dates to between 165 and 100 million years ago. The Oxford and Kimmeridge Clay rocks that underlie the area were deposited in the Jurassic period and contain marine fossils.

- 4.3.5 There is widespread evidence of Neolithic habitation of the area, most notably on the river terraces downstream from Radley, and there are ancient field systems visible in the Thames gravels. A number of settlements are known to have existed along the Lower Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway. Many of these settlements remained inhabited, with their remains located below Medieval market towns. The NCA also contains a wealth of Roman archaeological activity, with a wide network of Roman Roads that connected Dorchester, which was at one point the frontier of the Roman conquest, to the rest of Britain held by the Romans. Many of these roads went on to form key trade routes upon complete conquest and a number of these roads, most notably the Ermine Way, now form modern roads. Due to the historic importance of the area, a number of towns still contain significant archaeological remains, such as the Anglo-Saxon defences at Wallingford and Cricklade, as well as a concentration of Anglo-Saxon burials in the south of Upper Thames Clay Vales.
- 4.3.6 The current settlement patterns were well established by the 11th century, with the east being more densely populated than the west. The medieval field patterns remained intact until the 18th century, with the introduction of parliamentary enclosures that are still the predominant field system in the NCA. These new field systems brought about the rapid development of the dairy industry, replacing the historic cherry orchards that dominated the area. The widespread construction of new infrastructure in the late 18th and 19th centuries dramatically changed the economy of the area, with the Thames and Severn Canal and the Oxford Canal, which were completed in 1789 and 1790 respectively, as well as the introduction of the railway in 1839.

Historic Landscape Character

- 4.3.7 A Historic Character Assessment was completed between 2012 and 2017 by Wiltshire Council and further defined the landscape in historical terms, creating a mapped analysis of the historic components of the landscape. Drawn to a standard methodology, the landscape is divided into historical landscape character areas (HLCA) which sit within a series of “broad types” (see Figure 4).
- 4.3.8 There is a total of 72 HLC types identified by Wiltshire County Council within the study area. A gazetteer of these types is included as Appendix F. The historic landscape of the area is dominated by two different broad types. The most dominant is the field and enclosed land HLC, which constitutes 41 of the 72 HLC types contained within the study area. The prominence of the field and enclosed type is due to the historic land use of the area. Due to its location within the Vale of the Upper Thames, the study area is incredibly rich and fertile, lending itself to both pastoral and crop growing land use.
- 4.3.9 The second most common asset listed on the HLC is Woodland, with 14 of the 72 HLC types within the study area. The prominence of the woodlands in the area may be due to the Forest of Braydon. The Forest of Braydon was a historic royal hunting forest that was established in the 7th Century, and it was believed to have covered an estimated 30,000 acres at its height in the medieval period, covering one third of the county of Wiltshire. Although now mostly cleared, many small pockets of woodland remain and are a distinct reminder of the former land use. Ravensroost Wood is a 108-acre remnant of the historic royal hunting forest and designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is located 4.3km north-west of the Site.
- 4.3.10 Within the Site boundary, four separate HLC types are recorded. Within the western parcel, the western extents of the Site (Fields 1-10) are recorded as fields and enclosed land (HWI2753), although only cleared of woodland for agricultural use (assarted) in the late 19th or early 20th century. This is reflected by the wooded boundary to the western edge of the Site.
- 4.3.11 The central and eastern areas of the western parcel (Fields 11-14) are recorded as HLC type HWI2754, also fields and enclosed land, although of a modern origin and associated with Flaxlands Farm. The area had previously been a single large, assarted area formed from the ancient woodland to the west., as shown on 19th century OS mapping.
- 4.3.12 The very eastern edge of the western land parcel, and the northern extents of the eastern land parcel (Fields 15 and 16) sit within HLC type HWI6389, which comprises fields and enclosed land resulting from the piecemeal enclosure of the former Hook Common. These irregular enclosures are unchanged since the 1st edition OS map (1885) and are probably of post medieval origin.
- 4.3.13 The southern area of the eastern land parcel (Fields 17 – 22) comprises HLC type HWI6384, again comprising fields and enclosed land resulting from piecemeal enclosure. These fields appear to have changed little from the 1st edition OS mapping (1885), and of at least post-medieval date, with a

possible earlier origin due to their sinuous field boundaries (reflective of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation) although without documentary evidence this remains unconfirmed.

4.4 Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.4.1 There are no World Heritage Sites or Registered Battlefields within the 1km study area.
- 4.4.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments located within 1km of the Site. The closest Scheduled Monument is 'Ringsbury Camp hillfort' (NHLE 1018124), a small, multivallate hillfort of Iron Age date, located approximately 1.2km north-east of the Site. The scheduled 'Rabbit warren 800m east of Woodlane Farm' (NHLE 1019730), the earthwork remains of a medieval or post-medieval warren and warrener's cottage, is located approximately 1.6km west of the Site. Both assets do not share any intervisibility with the Site, with intervening woodland and topography screening them from the area of Proposed Development.
- 4.4.3 There are no Conservation Areas within 1km of the Site, although two are recorded within 2km, namely Lydiard Green and Wootton Bassett which are located 1.1km north-east and 1.7km south of the Site respectively.
- 4.4.4 There are a total of eight listed buildings within the 1km study area, all listed at Grade II. The closest listed building to the Site comprises Manor Farmhouse (NHLE 1199833), an 18th-century brick building replacing one of earlier construction, located approximately 130m south-west of the Site's eastern land parcel.
- 4.4.5 There is one Registered Park and Garden (RPG) within the 1km of the Site which is the Grade II listed Lydiard Park (NHLE 1001238), located approximately 960m east of the Site.
- 4.4.6 Designated heritage assets located within the study area are presented in gazetteer form in Appendix A with accompanying figures marking the location of the described asset (see Figure 2 in Appendix D for scheduled monuments, listed buildings and the RPG with asset locations marked).

4.5 Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 4.5.1 There are 94 recorded non-designated heritage assets within the study area. These are detailed below and included within the archaeological and historical background. A full description is given in Appendix B with accompanying figures marking the location of the described assets (see Figure 3 in Appendix D with non-designated asset locations marked). The location of all non-designated assets located within the Site boundary, including those identified during the walkover survey, are shown on Plate 1 below. These are also discussed in further detail within their respective chronological sections in the Archaeological and Historical Background below.

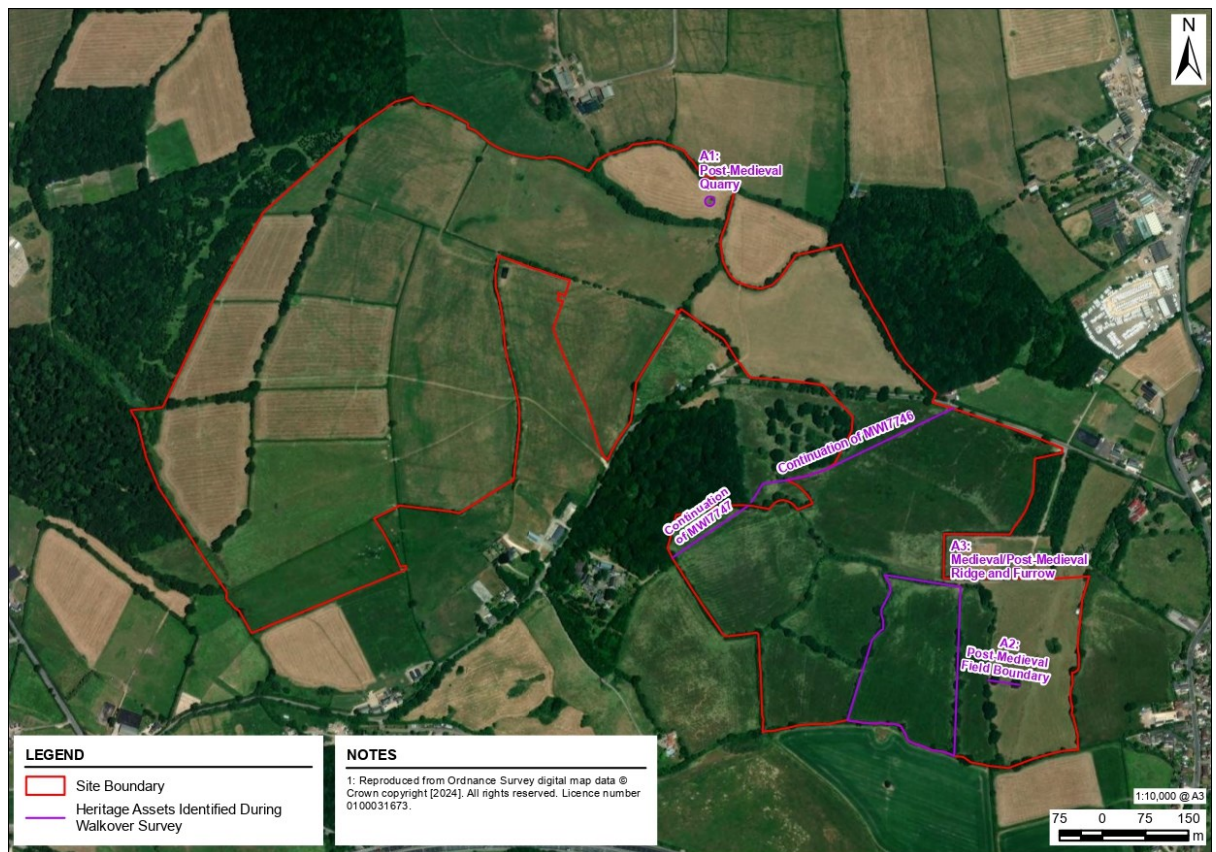


Plate 1. Heritage assets within the Site boundary

4.6 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.6.1 A total of 16 previous archaeological investigations are recorded by Wiltshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) within the study area. None of these have been undertaken within the Site itself. They are listed in Appendix C and illustrated on Figure 4 in Appendix D. A summary of these is presented below.
- 4.6.2 Many of the archaeological investigations that have taken place within the study area have consisted of non-intrusive methods such as fieldwalking, geophysical surveys and desk-based assessments, with only six of the 16 previous archaeological investigations being intrusive in nature. Two being excavations carried out at Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub (EWI7899) and at Marsh Farm (EWI9754), three comprising trenched evaluations (EWI3822, EWI7465 and EWI7900) and the final being a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) at The Gables (EWI10574).
- 4.6.3 The two excavations (EWI7899; EWI9754) and the associated trenched evaluations (EWI7900; EWI7465) have contributed significantly to the archaeological record within the study area. The 2014 excavation at Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub (EWI7899; Passmore and Rainbird 2016) 650m to the south of the Site (undertaken by AC Archaeology) revealed settlement features of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date which comprised of an Iron Age roundhouse and a pair of rectangular Roman period buildings, with nearby wells and an inhumation burial of a newborn child from the same period. Evidence of earlier occupation on the Site included a field boundary of probable Iron Age origin which was reused in the Romano-British period when it was found to have post-dated shallow limestone quarry pits, also of Romano-British date (Passmore and Rainbird 2016). The material evidence, including coins, a brooch, pottery, and animal bones indicate a low status rural settlement of late 1st-/early 2nd- to 3rd-century AD date, with limited continuation into the mid-4th century (*ibid.*).
- 4.6.4 To the north of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Club Site, an evaluation on the land immediately south of the M4 (and now occupied by sports pitches), was undertaken in 2015 (EWI7900; Bray 2015). The evaluation covered 21ha and confirmed the presence of a Roman enclosure with possible internal

subdivisions in the north-west of the site. A concentration of medieval and post medieval features was recorded in the south-east, with a single flint flake (broadly dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age) was the only earlier evidence (Bray 2015).

- 4.6.5 The 2020 excavation at Marsh Farm (EWI9754; Taylor 2023) was undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services at the southern extent of the study area, to the south-east of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub site. The excavation revealed a complex of paddocks and other features spanning the medieval period with early post-medieval re-use of several boundaries (Taylor 2023). The site is considered to be part of an agricultural settlement, centred on the historic site of Marsh Farm itself, and as was the case for many later medieval sites, there appears to be a break in development broadly corresponding with the time of the Black Death, which arrived in Britain in 1348 (*ibid.*). Unusually however, the redefinition of existing boundaries during the early post-medieval period suggests a degree of continuity which is usually absent for most farmsteads abandoned subsequent to Black Death (*ibid.*). A possible Saxon pit was also identified during the works, along with later medieval ditches, postholes and enclosures.
- 4.6.6 Of the further trenched evaluations, one comprised the 1994 excavation of two trenches (EWI3822) ahead of a proposed (although unbuilt) motorway service area immediately north of the M4 Motorway, on the opposing side from the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub site. The site was located adjacent to the recorded location of Roman pottery sherds (MWI9337) and a Roman well (MWI9336) identified during the M4 construction works in 1969, although no features or artefacts were recovered from the evaluation trenches. Some Late Iron Age/early Romano-British and Roman pottery sherds, animal bone, fired clay and ceramic building material (likely associated with the Iron Age – Romano British settlement later excavated to the south) were recovered from topsoil.
- 4.6.7 The watching brief at The Gables (EWI10574), 740m to the south-west of the Site, was undertaken in 2023 during groundworks associated with commercial development and identified plough furrows, two pits and a made-ground deposit dated to the post-medieval to modern period.
- 4.6.8 Of the 10 non-intrusive archaeological investigations that were previously carried out in the study area, two consisted of fieldwalking (EWI3821 and EWI7140), five of geophysical surveys (EWI6869, EWI7067, EWI7619, EWI10692 and EWI10079), one desk-based assessment (EWI7301), one earthwork survey (EWI7466) and one landscape case study (EWI6446).

4.7 Geophysical Survey 2024

- 4.7.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook a geophysical (magnetometer) survey of the Site in November and December 2024 (Wessex Archaeology 2024). The survey was commissioned by AECOM with the aim of establishing the presence, or otherwise, and nature of detectable archaeological features in support of a planning application for the Proposed Development. The survey did not reveal widespread areas of archaeological activity, although anomalies of possible archaeological origin were identified sporadically across the Site (Plate 2).
- 4.7.2 Evidence of agricultural activity, including drainage and cultivation was recorded across the Site. New areas of ridge and furrow (not previously recorded on the HER or by aerial photograph analysis or the walkover survey of this assessment) were identified within Fields 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 17. The DBA walkover survey had identified visible earthworks likely associated with ridge and furrow in Field 20, and it may also be present within Field 22, but this is unclear due to other features overlying it. The presence of ridge and furrow across both the east and west land parcels places the Site firmly within a medieval agricultural landscape.
- 4.7.3 In terms of possible archaeological features, evidence of possible archaeological activity has been identified in the form of:
- Three ring features, interpreted as either Romano-British roundhouse gullies or possible barrow ditches, present within Fields 3, 17 and 21, respectively;
 - A spread of linear features identified in Field 7 which could be indicative of historic boundary ditches; and

- Three sets of possible pit alignments, located in Fields 7, 8 and 9, respectively, which could be prehistoric in origin and indicate further landscape delineation. However, they could all equally be attributable to modern agricultural practices or natural variation.
- 4.7.4 Other features include sinuous linear anomalies present in several fields which may well pertain to later drainage ditches or variation in the natural geological deposits. Features interpreted as potential extraction (quarrying) activity are also recorded in a broad swathe from the northern portion to the south-eastern portion of the Site. This correlates with 19th century OS mapping (Plate 4), which shows post-medieval extraction activity in Field 13.
- 4.7.5 The Second World War (WW2) anti-tank ditches recorded by Wiltshire HER (MWI77746; MWI77747) were not apparent within the survey data, although they would have been backfilled with their own excavated material within years of being dug so may not elicit the same response as a more historic feature left open and backfilled naturally over a longer period.



Plate 2. Geophysical survey interpretation overview (Wessex Archaeology 2024)

4.8 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.8.1 The area surrounding the Site has a rich history, with western Wiltshire being an area containing a significant concentration of prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement. The closest settlement to the Site, Royal Wootton Bassett, can trace its origins to the 7th century AD settlement of Wodeton, which was first mentioned in an ecclesiastical charter from Malmesbury Abbey granting the area to the Abbot. The town then began to evolve as a market town, with the Lord Alan Bassett being granted the rights to hold weekly markets in 1200 by Henry III.
- 4.8.2 A description of the historical background of the Proposed Development Site and study area is given below and includes a summary of all recorded non-designated heritage assets within the Site by that by period. The assets are also listed in Appendix C, with their locations highlighted in Figure 3 in Appendix D.

4.9 Prehistoric

Palaeolithic (500,000 to 10,000 BCE)

- 4.9.1 Remains from the Palaeolithic period are rare in Wiltshire, and to date, no material from this period has yet been identified in the study area. Palaeolithic artefacts have been identified on the Marlborough Downs to the south, with the most significant assemblage of Palaeolithic objects (including worked flints and hand axes) deriving from the artefact-rich gravel pit at Knowle Farm, Little Bedwyn, some 28km to the south-east of the Site (Wiltshire Museum 2022, 5). The only other sites associated with significant numbers of Palaeolithic objects are both in the Salisbury-area, with 58 hand axes attributed to the gravel extraction pits at Millford Hill and Bemerton, some 53km to the south (*ibid.*).
- 4.9.2 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site or study area but this does not preclude their existence.

Mesolithic (10,000 to 4,000 BCE)

- 4.9.3 The Mesolithic record for the county as a whole is similarly limited, as is the case for the Palaeolithic (Hosfield et al. in Webster 2008). There has been only a single significant excavation of an *in-situ* Mesolithic site since Radley's (1969) review of the period, at Blick Mead, Amesbury, some 43km to the south of the Site (Jacques and Phillips 2014).
- 4.9.4 Records of Mesolithic activity are therefore largely limited to chance lithic finds. There is a single known archaeological asset that dates to the Mesolithic recorded within the study area, comprising a Mesolithic flint (microlith) (MWI9323) identified in the 1950s on land near Marsh Farm, 850m to the south of the Site.
- 4.9.5 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Neolithic (4,000 to 2,200 BCE)

- 4.9.6 Agriculture was brought to Britain during the Neolithic, from mainland Europe and changed the landscape of Britain. This change in landscape from largely hunter gatherer populations to sedentary agricultural lifestyles, human populations began to construct permanent settlements on favourable ground, many of which are inhabited to this day. This sedentary lifestyle also saw the construction of large megaliths begin, such as the large complex of Neolithic funerary earthworks in Wiltshire's Salisbury plain.
- 4.9.7 The Neolithic monuments of Wiltshire are among the most famous archaeological sites of Southern Britain. The artefactual records dating to this period are perhaps surprisingly small, yet are extremely significant, with assemblages relating to a number of key sites throughout the county including West Kennet long barrow, Avebury, The Sanctuary, Marden Henge and Woodhenge, located in the south of the Wiltshire (Wiltshire Museums 2022, 10).
- 4.9.8 Neolithic activity within the study area is limited, with only two known archaeological assets that date to the period. These comprise the findspot of a Cornish greenstone axe (MWI9250), discovered during ploughing at Lydiard Millicent at the north-western extent of the study area, and a partial flint arrowhead found at the southern extent of the study area, north-west of Wootton Bassett (MWI9326).
- 4.9.9 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Bronze Age (2,600 to 700 BCE)

- 4.9.10 The Bronze Age (2200–800 BC) was characterised by technological change, when copper and then bronze eventually replaced flint and stone as the main material for everyday tools. It is seen as a period of increasing social complexity and organised landscapes, probably due to increasing pressure on available resources. Round barrows are a highly prominent feature of Bronze Age archaeology across southern Britain and many of the barrows still visible within the Wiltshire landscape today were constructed at this time (Wiltshire Museums 2022, 17).

- 4.9.11 Bronze Age Wiltshire sees the continuation of the Neolithic funerary and monument dominated landscape, most notably with the construction of Stonehenge near Salisbury Plain, which is one of the most famous megalithic monuments in the world.
- 4.9.12 However, there is no evidence of Bronze Age funerary and other monumental activity within the area surrounding the Site, with only three known Bronze Age assets recorded within the study area, all comprising findspots. The finding of a barbed and tanged arrowhead (MWI9328) was recorded in proximity to Marsh Farm in the 1950s, while a Bronze-Age antler cheekpiece (MWI9331) is recorded as having been found at Hook Cemetery, on the eastern edge of the study area, in the early 1990s. It is unclear whether it was found during the excavation of the cemetery itself (or a grave within it) or whether the location is approximate. At Flaxlands Cottage, 250m to the south of the Site boundary, the findspot of a complete rapier (sword) was recorded in 2003 (MWI9332).
- 4.9.13 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Iron Age (800 BCE to 43 AD)

- 4.9.14 The Early to Middle Iron Age saw a change in settlement patterns within Wiltshire, with a concerted shift away from the open downland settlements of the Late Bronze Age to enclosed settlements situated atop ridges and hilltops, which may form the predecessors to the hillforts that would come to dominate. These settlements are seen as a strong contrast to the more isolated Late Bronze Age examples, with communities now interacting on a much wider scale.
- 4.9.15 The closest hillfort to the Site comprises the scheduled monument of Ringsbury Camp (NHLE 1018124), a small, multivallate hillfort of Iron Age date. The fort is located approximately 1.2km north-east of the Site, on an outcrop of Corallian stone overlooking Braydon Forest, to the west, and with commanding views to the south and north; there is a more limited incline towards the east. The monument is 3.4ha in size and the surrounding earthworks survive well – it is defined by an inner bank up to 5m high and surrounded by a ditch 3m deep. The ditch is in turn surrounded by 2m high outer bank. There is a single entrance to the east, widened by use as a cart track (Historic England 2024). The interior of the fort is flat without any visible earthworks, although this area was ploughed during the Second World War (WWII) with the tell-tale stripes of plough furrows clearly visible on 1945 Royal Air Force (RAF) aerial imagery (NLS Maps - Air Photo Mosaic Sheet: 41/08 N.E. / SU 08 N.E.; Plate 7).
- 4.9.16 There are two archaeological assets dating to the Iron Age located within the study area, both of which are located within proximity to Marsh Farm to the south of the Site, on the opposing side of the M4 Motorway. Evidence of Iron Age settlement in the area surrounding the Site was uncovered during excavation of the site of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub, approximately 650m to the south of the Site, in 2015. The excavation uncovered what is believed to be an Iron Age and later Romano-British settlement, with a 9m diameter roundhouse (MWI75178) and a major field boundary (MWI75179) being identified on the site. The field boundary ditch contained a number of Iron Age pottery sherds, indicating that the square shaped field system which continued in use during the Romano-British period, was originally established during the Iron Age settlement of the site.
- 4.9.17 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Roman (43 AD to 410 AD)

- 4.9.18 Britain was invaded in AD 43 under the orders of Emperor Claudius and by AD 47 the Roman forces had control over the majority of England, and although the Late Iron Age settlements, including the hillforts, were abandoned, the smaller downland enclosures throughout Britain were being overlain by Romano-British settlements. North Wiltshire was the site of a number of Roman roads, such as the Ermine way that connected the large Roman settlement of Dorchester to the south-east of Britain. These roads now form a significant portion of modern road layouts.
- 4.9.19 Excavations carried out on land at Marsh Farm, which is now covered by the sports pitches of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub, located immediately south of the M4, uncovered extensive settlement activity. During archaeological evaluation undertaken at Marsh Farm by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd in 2015, 118 trenches were excavated, with 31% proving to contain

archaeology (Bray 2015). The evaluation of this archaeology identified a Roman enclosure containing possible sub-divisions, located in the northwestern extent of the site, as well as a large amount of primarily Romano-British pottery, representing 84.9% of finds on the site (Bray 2015). The pottery at the site was also found to have been imported from the continental empire, including sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware (*ibid.*).

- 4.9.20 Excavations undertaken on the site of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub also found evidence of Roman habitation. The excavations (in 2015; EWI7899) uncovered clear evidence of Roman habitation including several structures (MWI75180) that were dated to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Century AD, as well as a wells (MWI75181) and a grave (MWI75182) (Passmore and Rainbird 2016). The grave comprised a single inhumation (of a newborn child) in a rubbish pit. The structural evidence from the period took the form of rectangular, post-built structures and were located in close proximity to the Iron Age roundhouse (MWI75178) and a small amount of 1st century Romano-British artefacts were also uncovered. This may indicate that the site was inhabited continuously throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British period (Passmore and Rainbird 2016). The site also contained evidence of Romano-British quarrying, with a large number of intercutting quarry pits (MWI74350) being uncovered. Within the fill of these quarry pits an array of Romano-British pottery, iron slag, ceramic tile, fired pottery, nails, shell and residual flint dating to the 2nd century was uncovered. The dates of the finds indicates that the quarrying on the site ceased at some point during the 2nd century AD (Passmore and Rainbird 2016). A Roman Field Boundary, representing continued management of the earlier Iron Age field system was also recorded (MWI75183).
- 4.9.21 Works associated with the construction of the M4 motorway in 1969, immediately north of the Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub site, identified an Intensive scatter of 1st-4th century Romano-British pottery sherds (MWI9337) and a well containing further pottery sherds (MWI9336). These may well be associated with the settlement identified to the south, with further evidence of Roman settlement now lost under the Motorway.
- 4.9.22 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Early Medieval (410 to 1066)

- 4.9.23 Following the withdrawal of the Roman administration from Britain in 410 AD, a power vacuum developed as multiple groups began vying for power. Saxon raids on the Southern and Eastern Coast of England became increasingly common, and the 5th Century AD saw an influx of Germanic peoples, most notably the Angles and Saxons. These Germanic tribes formed seven distinct kingdoms within England called the Heptarchy.
- 4.9.24 The Site sat within the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Wessex, with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle¹ detailing how in 519 Cerdic and Cynric 'obtained of the West Saxons the kingdom', which at the time likely comprised the Roman sub-regional capital of Winchester (modern Hampshire) and environs. The area in proximity to the Site likely remained in dispute until later in the 6th century, when in 556 Cynric went on to defeat another British force at the Battle of Beranburgh at Barbury Castle Iron Age hillfort (NHLE 1014557), 10km to the south-west of the Site (Leeds 1954). In 560 his son Ceawlin 'succeeded to the kingdom of Wessex', as the Chronicle refers to it for the first time, and he subsequently extended the kingdom eastward into Surrey and then northwards in 577, defeating a British force at Dyrham near Bath, a few miles north-west of the modern Wiltshire border (*ibid.*). This battle enabled him to take the decayed (although strategic) Roman towns of Gloucester, Cirencester and Bath.
- 4.9.25 Wootton Bassett, at the southern extent of the study area, is of Saxon foundation, with documented evidence of the settlement starting in 681, in which year the estate was granted to the Abbot of Malmesbury Abbey. The charter names the village as 'Wodeton', Old English for 'Wood farm/settlement' (Elkwall 1960, 533)
- 4.9.26 There is only one known early medieval archaeological asset located within the study area. This comprises a pit of possible Saxon date (MWI77357), identified during 2020 excavation works at Marsh Farm (EWI9754), towards the southern extents of the study area. The pit, which contained a sherd of Saxon pottery and animal bone, was cut by a later medieval enclosure ditch.

¹ The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/657/pg657-images.html>

- 4.9.27 No remains dating from this period have been recorded within the Site but this does not preclude their existence.

Medieval (1066 to 1540)

- 4.9.28 The medieval era in England began following the Norman conquest of England in 1066. This conquest transformed both the culture and customs of England, as well as the political structuring and governance. The newly crowned king of England William I ordered a detailed survey of his new conquests called the Domesday Book which was published in 1086. There are 369 places listed within Wiltshire in the Domesday book, with the town of Royal Wootton Bassett containing 11 villagers, 14 smallholders and five slaves.
- 4.9.29 Known medieval archaeological assets contained within the study area include postholes (MWI77359) recorded during the 2020 excavation works at Marsh Farm (EWI9754). There are three other assets located within the Marsh Farm medieval agricultural site, including a field boundary (MWI75186), linear system MWI77358) and enclosure (MWI77360).
- 4.9.30 A medieval burial (MWI9350) recorded as comprising an inhumation, pottery and three possibly gold-plated iron balls were found in 1983 in a field south of Hook Street, some 600m to the west of the Site boundary. The burial was presumably dated by the grave goods. A skeleton had been found previously at the site in 1890, indicating that the site may have had a formal medieval funerary purpose.
- 4.9.31 There are two records of medieval settlements located within the 1km study area. The first is the medieval settlement (MWI9351) at Ballard's Ash, which is not referenced in the Domesday Book, indicating that the settlement was either not founded or of great enough size to be surveyed. A 1939 reference within Gower's *The Place Names of Wiltshire* (page 273) associates the settlement with a John Baylard in 1332. The settlement survives today as a small collection of residential and industrial/agricultural properties located either side of Brinkworth Road. The second recorded medieval settlement is at Hook (MWI9352), located 190m east of the Site. Gower again records the settlement, which occupies the centre of the current village, as being of medieval foundation (page 275) and first recorded as *La Hok(e)* in 1238, although Hook is again not referenced in the Domesday Book. No medieval building evidence survives within the village today.
- 4.9.32 The medieval moated grange (an outlying farm with tithe barns belonging to an ecclesiastical site) of Midge Hall (MWI9344), is recorded at the south-eastern extent of the study area. The grange was attached to Stanley Abbey, an abbey of 12th century foundation located to the east of Chippenham, some 16km to the south-west. The site is still occupied by Midge Hall Farm, with the current farmhouse being of 18th century date and Grade II listed (NHLE 1283141).
- 4.9.33 Also located within the 1km study area is the deer park (MWI9405), known as Vastern Great Park, which is located 550m south of the Site, south of the current M4 Motorway. The large deer park 'under his manor of La FASTERNE', was created by the Bassett family (for which Wootton Bassett is named) c. 1230 (Watts 1996, 97). Any deer parks that existed before the Norman invasion were seized by the crown and no reference to a deer park located in the area is made in the Domesday book, the survey of which encompassed both residential buildings and commercial resources, so it is assumed that no previous emparkment had occurred prior to the 13th century.
- 4.9.34 The Site likely sat within the rural hinterland of Wootton Bassett during the medieval period, with the agricultural settlements of Ballard's Ash to the south-west and Hook to the east. The western part of the Site may have been wooded, with the Site sitting within the extents of the Forest of Braydon, a historic royal hunting forest that was established in the 7th Century and believed to have covered an estimated 30,000 acres at its height in the medieval period. Flaxlands Wood, at the Site's western extents, may be a survival of the formerly much-wider forested area. The Wiltshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (Section 4.14 – 4.19; Figure 5) records the east of the Site as part of the former Hook Common, which would have been used as grazing land during the medieval period. Post-medieval; tithe mapping shows 'Hasell Hill Common' to the immediate north-east of the Site boundary, and 'Flaxlands Common' to the south of Flaxlands Lane, bounding the Site, and this land usage was likely a continuation of medieval practices. Three records of medieval cultivation activity in the form of ridge and furrow (MWI31562, MWI74765, MWI78801) are contained in the study area (including one within the bounds of the medieval grange at Midge Hall) although the use of the system continued into the

post-medieval period and the features have not been securely dated and could therefore be of later origin.

- 4.9.35 In the south-east of the Site's eastern land parcel (Field 20) visible earthworks typical of ridge and furrow cultivation were observed during the walkover survey (A3 on Plate 1; Plate 8). The earthworks respect the sinuous field boundaries, which are recorded on 1836 tithe mapping (Plate 3), and curve (as is typical of oxen-drawn ploughs as they approached the bank or headland) towards the field's northern end. Two animal tracks cross the field on a roughly east-west orientation and look to be on top of the ridge and furrow, and therefore later in date. The ridge and furrow here may either have a medieval or later post-medieval origin, with the technique in use throughout these periods.

Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

- 4.9.36 The post-medieval use of the north Wiltshire's landscape was dominated by pastoral farming, with a number of towns such as Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett becoming prosperous on the revenue and grazing afforded by the rich, fertile lands of the Upper Thames Vales. This prosperity was further increased through the construction of large infrastructure, including canals, which improved the connectivity of the area to the rest of Britain, improving trade. The introduction of the railway was a massive boost in revenue to the area surrounding the Site. Swindon became the site of the Swindon Works, the principal railway constructor and maintenance centre in Britain. At its height of production, the Swindon railway works employed over 14,000 people. The Site was located within the parish of Lydiard Tregoze during this period, with the Viscounts Bolingbroke, based at the Palladian house at Lydiard Park (NHLE 1001238), 2.5km to the east of the Site, the main landowner within the Site.
- 4.9.37 There are 28 known post-medieval archaeological assets contained within the study area. A total of 22 of these assets are associated with farms, which highlights the dominance that agriculture had on the post medieval landscape of the study area. Many of these outfarms and farm buildings date to the 19th century, highlight the shift in both farming practices and population density brought about by the advent of high intensity industrialised agriculture. A post-medieval field boundary (MWI75185) is also located within the study area.
- 4.9.38 The site of an outfarm, north-east of Bayard's Ash Farm (MWI67254) is recorded immediately adjacent to the Site boundary, at the southern edge of Field 20. The asset appears to survive as a low earthwork, or at least as patch of disturbed ground, not incorporated into the adjacent field to the south. Access to the asset was not possible during the walkover survey as it was outside the Site boundary and not accessible through a thick hedge.
- 4.9.39 Five of these post-medieval assets are not related to the area's agricultural history. The planned post-medieval landscape (MWI16556), including a number of buildings is contained within Lydiard Park (NHLE 1001238). Also contained within the study area was a cottage (MWI9365) that dates to the early 17th to late 18th century, as well as a ditch (MWI77361), pit (MWI77362) and quarry (MWI75184), located at Marsh Farm and identified during the 2020 excavation works (EWI9754).
- 4.9.40 The pits (MWI78802) identified during archaeological monitoring and recording work at The Gables (EWI10574), 740m to the south-west of the Site, cannot be definitively dated to just the post-medieval period and could also have modern origins.
- 4.9.41 At the northern extent of the study area, the possible site of post medieval and modern brickworks, or the dump from brickwork kilns of the same period recorded slightly further north, has been identified in the form of an earthworks likely associated with clay extraction, with brick dust and fragments visible within the embankment adjacent (MWI9292).
- 4.9.42 In the north-eastern corner of Field 16, immediately south of Flaxlands Lane (and adjacent to the likely continuation of WWII anti-tank ditch MWI77746), a linear feature comprising a low earthwork was observed during the walkover survey. The feature was orientated roughly north-east – south-west and appears to follow the line of a footpath marked on 1900 2nd edition OS mapping (Plate 5).
- 4.9.43 As detailed in the medieval section above, an area of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified during the walkover survey within Field 22 in the south-east of the Site's eastern parcel (A3 on Plate 1; Plate 8). The cultivation technique remained in use into the post-medieval period and as such the dating of the activity, which respects the sinuous field boundaries first recorded on 1836 tithe mapping (Plate 3), is uncertain.

- 4.9.44 In the Site's most south-easterly field (Field 22), surviving elements of a former field boundary (A2 on Plate 1) marked by mature trees were observed during the walkover survey (Plate 9). The boundary is shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS mapping (Plates 4 and 5) but was removed (likely to enable machine cultivation) in the early 20th century. An extant pond is located in the northern half of the field, also visible on 1st edition OS mapping.

Modern (1901 to present)

- 4.9.45 The landscape of Britain was changed drastically during WWII, as following the fall of France in the summer of 1940, Britain began to construct widespread defensive features to aid in repelling a possible German invasion.
- 4.9.46 A concentration of WWII anti-invasion infrastructure is recorded between Ballards Ash, to the south-west of the Site on the opposing side of the M4 Motorway and Hook Street, on the eastern edge of the 1km study area. All but one of these recorded assets comprise anti-tank ditches that were constructed in the open farmland or along the woodland edge surrounding the Site. This was done in order to limit the mobility of any possible invading German tank units, stopping them from utilising the landscape of open plains throughout Wiltshire.
- 4.9.47 A total of 18 assets are recorded in total, largely identified through analysis undertaken by the Pillbox Study Group. These are detailed as follows:
- WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Godwins Farm (MWI77724);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Greatfield (MWI77742);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Greatfield (MWI77743);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77744);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77745);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77746);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Morris's Copse (MWI77747);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77748);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77749);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm (MWI77750);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Flaxlands Cottage (MWI77751);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Midgehall Copse (MWI77752);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Ballards Ash (MWI77753);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Ballards Ash (MWI77754);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77755);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77756);
 - WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash (MWI77757); and
 - WWII Anti-Tank Dragon's Teeth at Hook Street (MWI32002)
- 4.9.48 'Dragon's Teeth' (MWI32002) are concrete pillars that are designed to block the path of a tank, much like the aforementioned ditches. These are recorded as having been extant at the junction of Hook Street and Coped Hall/Greatfield Road at the northern edge of the village of Hook, although were not visible during the walkover survey and may no longer be *in-situ*.
- 4.9.49 These defences formed part of Stop-line "Red", a chain of anti-invasion defences which followed the Thames from Reading and crossed the Cotswolds, north-west of Swindon, to Great Somerford in Wiltshire (Strickland 2007). Stop-line Red formed part of the wider General Headquarters (GHQ) Line, which comprised a defence line built following the 1940 evacuation from Dunkirk, to contain an expected German invasion. Other than the coastal anti-invasion defences, the GHQ Line was the longest and most important, designed to protect London and the industrial heart of Britain (*ibid.*).
- 4.9.50 The recorded HER location (point) of the WWII anti-tank ditch, Frith Copse (MWI77746) is outside of the Site boundary, immediately to the north of Field 16 of the Site on the opposite side of Flaxlands Lane. The walkover survey ascertained that the asset survives as a low earthwork, appearing to take a zig-zag form, with its alignment mirrored by later post and rail paddock fencing (Plate 10).
- 4.9.51 Within the Site, a linear earthwork feature is visible at the northern extent of Field 16, to the south of Flaxlands Lane. Comprising a visible depression (Plate 11), the earthwork looks to follow the alignment of the WWII anti-tank defences and is visible as a linear cropmark on Google Earth imagery from 2023 (not reproduced). The feature is not recorded as a trackway or boundary on historic OS

mapping, and therefore likely forms the unrecorded continuation of the anti-tank ditch documented to the north-east (MWI77746) (see Plate 1).

- 4.9.52 The recorded HER location (point) of WWII anti-tank ditch, Morris Copse (MWI77747) sits at the northern extent of the Site boundary in Field 17. The feature is not clearly visible in the woodland to the north of the Site, although the feature remains extant as a low linear earthwork (Plate 12) clearly within the Site boundary, running roughly north-north-east – south-south-west across the north-western edge of Field 17, from Morris Copse towards Flaxlands Farm (MWI67255) (see Plate 1). West of Flaxlands Farm, the linear feature leaves the Site boundary but looks to survive as a shallow ditch and adjacent banked hedge boundary (Plate 13), with the ditch being recorded as MWI77748, south-east of the farm.

Undated

- 4.9.53 There are several assets recorded within the study area that are of an unknown date, having been identified through non-intrusive survey (geophysical or aerial) and not enough information being available in their form to prescribe an accurate date. Those of relevance to the historic land use or general character of the Site environs are discussed below.
- 4.9.54 Undated earthworks (MWI9375), possibly comprising a holloway, have been identified from aerial photo analysis in fields south of Midge Hall, at the south-eastern extent of the study area. These are located adjacent to mapped areas of ridge and furrow and may form part of the medieval landscape although could also be of later origin. A similarly undated circular enclosure, south of Midge Hall, was also identified through aerial photograph analysis (MWI9385). An undated field system is recorded at Lydiard Green at the north-eastern extent of the study area (MWI9298), identified through aerial photograph analysis and subsequent 2017 geophysical survey (EWI8801).
- 4.9.55 A 2014 geophysical survey (EWI76190) at Marsh farm identified an undated building (MWI74349), ditches (MWI74351), a field boundary (MWI74345) and enclosures (MWI74346).
- 4.9.56 The 2022 geophysical survey on land at the Gables (EWI10079) identified ditches of an unknown date (MWI78248), 740m to the south-west of the Site.
- 4.9.57 Evidence of agricultural drainage systems (MWI31582, MWI31583) are recorded south of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze, in the east of the study area. These were identified through geophysical survey works in 2011 (EWI7067) and are likely post-medieval or modern in origin. The works also identified undated linear features (MWI31586) and possible ditches, pits and enclosures (MWI31585; MWI31587).

4.10 Historic Cartography

- 4.10.1 Following the Tithe Apportionment Act of 1836, a tithe map was produced for each parish which detailed a land's owner and occupant, in order to assess the tithe payable in cash to the parish church for the support of the church and its clergy. The 1839 tithe map for Lydiard Tregoze (Plate 3), which encompasses the Site, details that the majority of the Site's land was owned by Lord Viscount Bolingbroke (of Lydiard Park), however, the occupier of all of Bolingbroke's land within the Site was a man named John Edward. The southern lands held by Lord Viscount Bolingbroke that are adjacent to the Site, are occupied by a number of different people, including a Charles Moulden & Mary Turner, John Moulden and James Turner & William Painter. Lord Viscount Bolingbroke is detailed as owning and occupying only one plot within the Site area, the wooded area of Morris's Copse (plot 27). One plot (plot 53) located in the northern section of the Site is listed in the tithe apportionment as being owned by the Earl of Shaftesbury and occupied by a Brian Bewley. The western sections of the Site (plot 16) are listed as being owned by the Dowager Lady Isabella Charlotte Bolingbroke, widow of George Richard St. John, the 3rd Viscount Bolingbroke, Lady Isabella is also listed as being the occupier of the land.



Plate 3. 1839 Lydiard Tregoze Tithe Map

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www.NationalArchives.gov.uk & www.TheGenealogist.co.uk

- 4.10.2 The 1st edition 25-inch OS map (1885) (Plate 4) clearly depicts the area of the Site. The field systems surrounding the Site remain largely unchanged from the mid-19th century. The western extent of the Site consists of a number of clearly defined angular fields that largely retain the same layout as that depicted in the 1836 tithe map. The field north of Flaxlands Wood Farm was depicted as a large, singular field with no internal field boundaries. The field that forms the northern extent of the Site (Field 13) is shown as containing an 'Old Quarry' (A1 on Plate 1). This was not apparent on the ground during the walkover survey, although some darker amorphous cropmarks potentially showing the areas of extraction are visible on 1999 satellite imagery (Google Earth) and the quarry is visible on 1940s aerial imagery (see section below). The fields that form eastern extent of the Site are also largely unchanged from their depiction in the 1st edition OS map, retaining the layout and field boundaries. The field that lies along the south of Flaxlands Lane (Field 16) was depicted as a large singular field, that contained a small, unnamed copse of trees, as well as a pond (now visible as trees and scrubland) immediately to the south of the road. The field located at the south-eastern extent of the Site (Field 22) was depicted as being two smaller fields, with the partial remains of the field boundary observed during the walkover survey (A2 on Plate 1).
- 4.10.3 Flaxlands Wood Farm is depicted as a singular, L-shaped building, with one L-shaped outbuilding or associated farm building on the 1st edition OS map and is bordered by a small, wooded area.



Plate 4. OS 1st edition 25-inch map 1885

Ordnance Survey First Edition map reproduced from National Library of Scotland under Creative Common License.

- 4.10.4 The 2nd edition 25-inch OS map (1900) (Plate 5) shows little change to the area of the Site. The north-western fields located within the Site is depicted as rough ground or marshland, bordering the Flaxlands Woods. A number of new tracks and paths are depicted in the 2nd edition OS map. The largest of these is in the field north of Flaxlands Wood Farm, where a newly depicted pathway runs north to join a second pathway running east to west. These pathways now form the field boundary that divide the field.

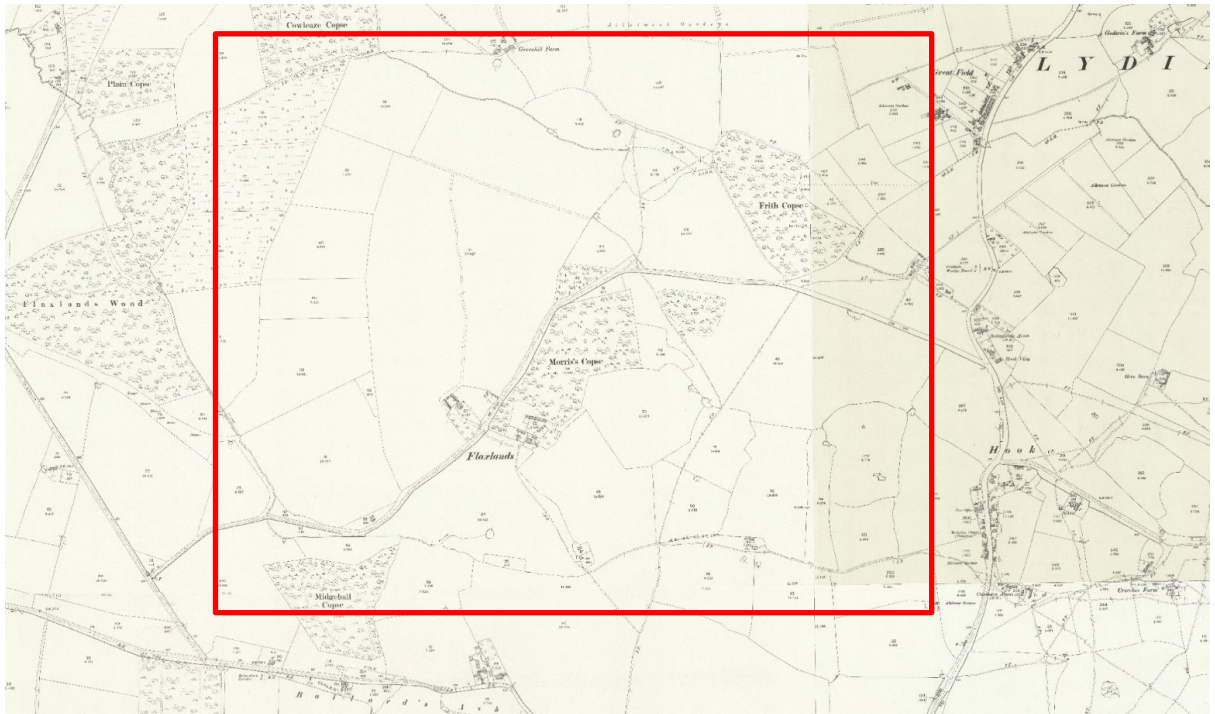


Plate 5. OS 2nd edition 25-inch map 1900

Ordnance Survey Second Edition map reproduced from National Library of Scotland under Creative Commons License.

- 4.10.5 Flaxlands Wood Farm itself was shown to be unchanged on the 2nd edition OS map. The Farm's footprint remained, with the main U-shaped house and associated L-shaped outbuilding, as well as the small, wooded area. The wooded area depicted to the north-east of Flaxlands Wood Farm on the 2nd edition OS map is now largely deforested, with a number of buildings having been constructed on it.
- 4.10.6 The OS 3rd edition 25-inch map (1898 – 1939) (not reproduced) shows the Site in largely the same configuration as earlier OS editions, although the field boundary which previously divided Field 22, at the Site's south-eastern extent, on the 2nd edition is shown as having been partly removed. This was likely carried out in the early 20th century to increase the size of the field and enable cultivation, perhaps during or following the First World War (WWI).

4.11 Aerial Photography

- 4.11.1 The western area of the Site is shown on an aerial image taken in 1943 by the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) (Historic England Aerial Photo Explorer - us_7ph_gp_loc97_v_5019) (Plate 6), with the agricultural nature of the Site being shown. The field boundaries of the Site are shown to be progressed little from those recorded on 19th century historic mapping. The aerial photograph shows the eastern land parcel in its entirety, but only a small portion of the eastern area of the Site.
- 4.11.2 The barn located to the north of Flaxlands Farm has yet to have been constructed, with only the trackway present in the large field to the north. A number of other smaller buildings not currently present are shown around Flaxlands farm, a number of which have been demolished, including a small outbuilding located southeast of the farm. The topography of the Site can also be clearly seen in the 1943 aerial photograph, with the field located in the north of the Site (Field 13) showing the outline (parchmarks) of the old quarry (A1 on Plate 1) depicted in both the 1st and 2nd edition OS map (Plates 4 and 5).
- 4.11.3 A series of large, anti-tank trenches are shown to have been constructed on the south of the Flaxlands Farm. These large trenches were constructed as part of the widespread defensive features (Stop Line 'Red') constructed throughout Britain during WWII. Although now infilled, these features can still be seen on the current landscape through current satellite imagery (as well as being observed as earthworks during the walkover survey – see Plate 1), with Google Earth clearly displaying the features in satellite imagery from 2021. These linear features (continuations of HER assets MWI77746

and MW177747) are located within two of the fields located within the red line boundary of the Site (Fields 16 and 17) and were observed and mapped during the walkover survey for this assessment.



Plate 6. 1943 US Army Airforce aerial photograph

Aerial Photo - us_7ph_gp_loc97_v_5019. © Historic England Copyright Images reproduced by courtesy of Historic England.

- 4.11.4 The Site is also shown on a 1945 RAF aerial image (NLS Maps - Air Photo Mosaic Sheet: 41/08 N.E. / SU 08 N.E.; Plate 7). Little change has occurred on the Site from earlier imagery, with the buildings at Flaxlands Farm having remained as they were in 1943. No visible changes have occurred to the field boundaries located in the Site, although the infilled anti-tank ditch is still clearly visible across the Site as a broad, pale linear feature. A trackway, either for movement of livestock, and/or for vehicular access (potentially including military/construction vehicles to the former defensive lines), is shown crossing Fields 19 and 20 in the south-east of the Site.



Plate 7. 1945 RAF aerial photograph (later re-used by Ordnance Survey in 1948)

NLS Maps - Air Photo Mosaic Sheet: 41/08 N.E. / SU 08 N.E (Ordnance Survey) reproduced from National Library of Scotland under Creative Common License.

- 4.11.5 The eastern portion of the Site is shown in an aerial photograph taken in 1946 by the Royal Air Force (RAF) (Historic England Aerial Photo Explorer - raf_106g_uk_1416_rp_3069 – not reproduced). The most noticeable change that has occurred on the Site is the anti-tank ditches that were located to the south of the Site were infilled by 1946. It is likely that these defensive features were infilled at the end of WWII as they were no longer required and valuable farming land could be reclaimed. Another distinct difference is the evidence of deforestation at the small copse of trees that borders the Site. In the 1943 USAAF aerial photo (us_7ph_gp_loc97_v_5019; Plate 6), the copse is shown as a dense collection of trees, but the 1946 aerial image shows a deforested area, again evidence of the land being required for agriculture following the cessation of hostilities. The harvested timber would have also been vital for the rebuilding of areas of conflict damage.
- 4.11.6 Neither the small building nor road that are present in the eastern boundary of the Site are shown in the 1946 aerial imagery, with a small, vegetated area shown where the building now stands. The northern boundary of this field has also changed. In 1946, the northern boundary of this field contains an unknown rectangular feature and curvilinear hedgerow, with the modern field containing a rectangular enclosure surrounding a group of buildings, replacing the former curvilinear field boundary.

5. Assessment of Baseline

5.1 Designated Heritage Assets

Scheduled Monuments

- 5.1.1 There are no scheduled monuments within the Site's study area, the closest being 'Ringsbury Camp hillfort' (NHLE 1018124), a small, multivallate hillfort of Iron Age date. This is located approximately 1.2km north-east of the Site. The asset does not share any intervisibility with the Site, with intervening woodland and topography screening it from the area of Proposed Development.

5.2 Conservation Areas

- 5.2.1 There are no Conservation Areas listed by Wiltshire County Council within the study area, although two are recorded within 2km of the Site, namely Lydiard Green and Wootton Bassett which are located 1.1km north-east and 1.7km south of the Site respectively.

5.3 Listed Buildings

- 5.3.1 There are a total of eight listed buildings within the Site's study area, all listed at Grade II. None are located within the Site boundary itself.
- 5.3.2 Manor Farmhouse (NHLE 119833) is a Grade II listed building located approximately 130m south-west of the Site's eastern land parcel. The farmhouse is 18th century in date, replacing an earlier building. The roof lead bears the inscription 'rebuilt 1605'. Diaper brick, 20th-century slated roof, with one flat-roofed dormer to the rear. The farmhouse comprises a two-room deep plan with central through stair hallway. Stacks are present on central dividing wall. The façade is rendered, with 12-pane sashed windows and central door. The interior has a flagged kitchen. The garden wall has date 1786 inscribed. The setting of the farmhouse is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape, which allows the historic use as a farm household to be interpreted. The significance of the farmhouse is derived from associations with historic agriculture, evidential interest in the fabric and architectural interest as an example of the local historical vernacular.
- 5.3.3 Lower Hook Farmhouse (NHLE 1022665) is a Grade II listed building located approximately 990m east of the Site's eastern parcel. This farmhouse is late 17th century to early 18th century in date. It is built with rubble stone, roofed with concrete slates, and has two hipped dormers. It comprises two-storeys and an attic. It is four bays in length, with lobby entry. There are two reception rooms to the right and left of the entrance, and a rear stair projection. Central stack with diagonal flues. Five-panel door, with upper panel glazed, within fluted doorcase and entablature and 19th-century timber casement windows. The farmhouse has chamfered beams internally. The setting of the farmhouse is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape, which allows the historic use as a farm household to be interpreted. The significance of the farmhouse is derived from associations with historic agriculture, evidential interest in the fabric and architectural interest as an example of the local historical vernacular.
- 5.3.4 School House Restaurant (NHLE 1199847) is a Grade II listed building located approximately 400m east of the Site's eastern parcel. This is a former primary school and master's house built in c.1880, and now a restaurant. It is built with rubble stone with ashlar dressings. Tiled roof. School room with lean-to entrance lobby to right, and second classroom at right angles to rear. Master's house is located to the left, and the school room has tall triple trefoiled lights in gables. The property also has a gable bellcote with carved Corinthian corbel and mullioned and transomed windows under hood moulds. A moulded door is now in use as a window. The interior exhibits an open timber scissor truss roof. The setting of the school and master's house is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape and the nearby village of Hook, which allows the historic use as a village school to be interpreted. The significance of the school and master's house is derived from associations with the development of education in the late 19th century, evidential interest in the fabric, and architectural interest as an example of historical institutional building design from the period.

- 5.3.5 The Marsh (NHLE 1363676) is a Grade II listed building located approximately 890m south of the Site's eastern parcel. This is an early 19th-century brick house, covered with a hipped slate roof, with two flat-roofed dormers. It comprises two storeys and attics. The building is three bays in length and two rooms deep. It has a central stair hall with flanking reception rooms, stacks on dividing walls. The elevation has canted late 19th-century bay windows, 20 and 12-pane sashes to first floor and a 6-panel central door with upper panels glazed and round fanlight. It exhibits a late 19th-century open timber framed moulded porch. The setting of the farmhouse is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape, which allows the historic use as a farm household to be interpreted. The significance of the farmhouse is derived from associations with historic agriculture, evidential interest in the fabric and architectural interest as an example of the local historical architecture.
- 5.3.6 Midge Hall (NHLE 1283141) is a Grade II listed farmhouse, located approximately 750m south-east of the Site's eastern parcel. The building is 18th-century in date and is built of rubble limestone and roofed with a recent concrete tile roof. There is late 18th-century to early 19th-century refacing of main block. The farmhouse is two-storeys in height with a two-room deep plan. It is three bays in length with central stair hall. There is a two-bay forward wing to the right with a gable stack. There is a single storey extension to left. The windows comprise 19th-century 12- and 16-pane sashes to refronting, with c.1910 bow window. The side and rear close spaced fenestration was altered in the 19th century. Internally, there is an open well stair with turned balusters. The moat of earlier manor house to the rear of farmhouse was filled in for construction of the M4 motorway in the late 1960s. The setting of the farmhouse is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape, which allows the historic use as a farm household to be interpreted. The significance of the farmhouse is derived from associations with historic agriculture, evidential interest in the fabric and architectural interest as an example of the local historical vernacular.
- 5.3.7 Number 38 Old Purton Road (NHLE 1022666) is a Grade II listed dwelling, located approximately 350m south-east of the Site's eastern parcel. This cottage was built in c.1730. The construction comprises roughcast over cob with timber framing, with a thatched roof with three flush dormers. One-storey and attic in height, with three bays with entry to centre bay and gable stacks. There's a 20th-century rear sunlounge, and a boarded door with glazed light and timber casement windows. The property is said to be one of 30 cottages built by Lady Meux c.1730. The setting of the cottage is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape and the nearby village of Hook, which allows the historic use as a cottage to be interpreted. The significance of the cottage is derived from associations with historic agriculture and estate development, evidential interest in the fabric, and architectural interest as an example of local vernacular architecture from the period.
- 5.3.8 Baynards Ash Farmhouse (NHLE 1200323) is a Grade II listed farmhouse, located approximately 500m south-west of the Site's eastern parcel. The building is dated to c.1810-20 and is built of coursed limestone rubble, roughcast on its façade. It has a stone slate roof with three hipped dormers and gable stacks. It is two storeys and attic in height, along with a cellar. There's a three bay main block, originally with hall, flanking reception rooms and stairs. One bay wing is parallel to the road, which is extended by a further bay beyond the stack. A lean-to has been constructed against the main block with an oven. There are mid-20th-century doors and windows to all elevations. The setting of the farmhouse is comprised of the surrounding agricultural landscape, which allows the historic use as a farm household to be interpreted. The significance of the farmhouse is derived from associations with historic agriculture, evidential interest in the fabric, and architectural interest as an example of local vernacular architecture from the period.
- 5.3.9 Lydiard Tregoze War Memorial (NHLE 1438134) is a Grade II listed war memorial, commemorating those lost in WWI and WWII, located approximately 220m east of the Site's eastern parcel (Plate 14). The rough-hewn granite memorial stands in a small enclosure at the roadside on Hook Street. It takes the form of a small wheel-head cross raised on a tall tapering shaft. The shaft rises from a tapering plinth, rectangular on plan, that stands on a two-stepped base. The base is a different stone type. The principal dedicatory inscription on the front face of the plinth reads TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY/ OF THE MEN OF LYDIARD TREGOZE/ WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE/ IN THE GREAT WAR. 1914 – 1918. (11 NAMES)/ "THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE."/ ECCLUS XLIV.14 (APOCRYPHA). The lettering is in metal letters inset to the stone. A small, inclined granite tablet fixed to the lower step reads 1939 – 1945/ (with two names of men lost during the conflict). The memorial enclosure is marked by a low brick wall with low piers at each corner. The setting of the war memorial is comprised of the village of Hook, which allows the historic use as a memorial to be

interpreted. The significance of the war memorial is derived from the impact of conflicts in the village's history and architectural interest as an example of a war memorial from the early 20th century.

5.4 Registered Park and Garden

- 5.4.1 Lydiard Park is a Grade II registered park and garden (NHLE 1001238), located approximately 1km east of the Site's eastern parcel. It comprises a level site of approx. 149ha situated in the parish of Lydiard Tregoze. The pleasure grounds consist of a small woodland to the south-west of the House, since the late 19th century known as 'The Avenue', separated from the park by an 18th-century ha-ha built of brick (restored late 20th-century), and a terrace and lawn to the south front of the House. There is a 3ha lawn, which slopes gently down in an easterly direction towards the lakes. These lakes were originally laid out in the late 17th century as a formal canal and altered in the mid-18th century to be given a less formal outline. On the lawn stand several mature single trees, and various earthworks are visible which form the remains of the late 17th-century formal terraced gardens. A walled flower garden (listed at Grade II) is situated approx. 100m north-west of the House. The setting of Lydiard Park comprises the various elements of the surrounding landscape – woodlands, park, lawns, gardens, walls, buildings and avenues – which allows the historic use as a parkland demesne to be interpreted. The significance of Lydiard Park is derived from associations with elite culture, evidential interest in the evolution of garden designs and layouts, and architectural interest of how surrounding pleasure gardens and parklands were contrived to enhance the appearances of country houses from the 17th to 19th centuries.

5.5 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.5.1 Only those non-designated assets within the footprint of or in closest proximity to the Site have been included for assessment where either physical impacts or changes to their setting are the most likely to occur from the design proposals. There are five non-designated assets recorded within the Site boundary (see Plate 1).

Infilled post-medieval quarry (A1 on Plate 1)

- 5.5.2 These include an infilled post-medieval quarry (A1 on Plate 1), located in Field 13 at the Site's northernmost extent.
- 5.5.3 Remains associated with post-medieval extraction activity would be of local significance, derived from archaeological and historical interest associated with historic landscape use and industrial practices.
- 5.5.4 The setting of this asset does not contribute to its significance, with the infilled quarry remains now surviving (if extant) entirely below ground and removed from their context in terms of providing building material for structures either no-longer extant or no longer sharing intervisibility with the quarry site.

Area of ridge and furrow ploughing (A2 on Plate 1)

- 5.5.5 An area of ridge and furrow ploughing (A2 on Plate 1) survives as earthworks in Field 20, in the south-east of the Site's eastern parcel. This may be of medieval or later post-medieval origin.
- 5.5.6 Remains of agricultural and land management activity (medieval and later in date) are likely to be of local significance, derived from archaeological and historical interest associated with historic landscape use and agricultural practices.
- 5.5.7 The asset survives as visible earthworks. The boundaries of post-medieval (and possibly earlier) enclosure survive well across the Site, and the ridge and furrow cultivation appears to adhere to the bounds of the field, likely making the activity contemporary. Its current setting, within a historic enclosed field, is considered to contribute to our contextual understanding of the asset, as it remains within its original agricultural context, and also retains intervisibility with several well-preserved boundaries likely dating to the same period.

Former post-medieval field boundary (A3 on Plate 1)

- 5.5.8 A former post-medieval field boundary (A3 on Plate 1), surviving as an alignment of two mature trees, is located in Field 22 at the Site's south-eastern extent.

5.5.9 Remains of agricultural and land management activity (post-medieval and later in date) are likely to be of local significance, derived from archaeological and historical interest associated with historic landscape use and agricultural practices.

5.5.10 The asset only survives partially, in the form of two mature trees that once formed part of a larger hedged boundary. The boundaries of post-medieval enclosure survive well across the Site, and although the boundary in Field 22 was removed in the early 20th century, its current setting is considered to contribute to our contextual understanding of the asset, as it retains intervisibility with several well-preserved boundaries likely dating to the same period.

Continuation of WWII anti-tank ditches (MWI77746; MWI77747)

5.5.11 A continuation of the WWII anti-tank ditch (MWI77746) has been identified as an extant earthwork within the north-western corner of Field 16, immediately south of Flaxlands Lane.

5.5.12 A continuation of WWII anti-tank ditch (MWI77747) has been identified as an extant earthwork within Field 17, west of Morris Copse.

5.5.13 The WWII assets are of local and possibly regional significance with their significance deriving from their archaeological and historical interest as part of the 20th-century military network of anti-invasion defences which has played a significant role in the military history of Britain.

5.5.14 The setting of these assets does not contribute to their significance, surviving largely below ground, and out of their original context (one of a militarised landscape during a time of conflict).

Possible archaeological activity identified during the 2024 geophysical survey

5.5.15 The geophysical survey of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2024) identified evidence of possible archaeological activity in the form of:

- Three ring features, interpreted as either Romano-British roundhouse gullies or possible barrow ditches, present within Fields 3, 17 and 21, respectively;
- A spread of linear features identified in Field 7 which could be indicative of historic boundary ditches; and
- Three sets of possible pit alignments, located in Fields 7, 8 and 9, respectively, which could be prehistoric in origin and indicate further landscape delineation. However, they could all equally be attributable to modern agricultural practices or natural variation.

5.5.16 Until further investigation is undertaken, the origin of the features identified during the geophysical survey works in uncertain. However, if the features do indicate the presence of prehistoric and Roman settlement and land management activity, they would be of local and/or possibly regional significance with their significance deriving from their archaeological and historical interest.

5.5.17 These assets are largely no longer extant above ground, and exist within a much-changed landscape from their one of origin. As such, the present setting of the possible archaeological activity identified through the geophysical survey does not contribute to their significance.

6. Assessment of Archaeological Potential

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section assesses the potential for unrecorded buried archaeological remains and surface artefacts to be present within the Site. The assessment of archaeological potential is based on the data available at the time of writing and takes into consideration the known archaeological assets within the Proposed Development Site and study area, as well as the historical and cartographic evidence presented in the baseline. The lack of instances of particular archaeological periods within the Site and study area may reflect limited archaeological investigation to date, rather than a real absence of activity.
- 6.1.2 The significance of previously unrecorded remains of these periods would derive from their archaeological and historical interest and their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity based on national, regional or local frameworks. According to current evidence, isolated artefactual material or truncated/disturbed remains would be of low significance, while well preserved and in-situ evidence for occupation/settlement remains could be of medium significance. In each case they would contribute to local and regional research frameworks.

6.2 Potential Archaeological Remains

- 6.2.1 The potential archaeological remains that may be impacted by the Proposed Development are considered below.

Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic and Mesolithic)

- 6.2.2 There are no assets of a Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date recorded within the Site boundary. A single microlith find of Mesolithic date (MWI9323) is recorded towards the southern edge of the study area. There is no indication that this activity extends to within the Site boundary or elsewhere within the study area, and as such, the potential for encountering remains of this period is considered **negligible**.

Neolithic

- 6.2.3 There are no assets of a specifically Neolithic date recorded within the Site boundary. The wider region sees the development of the funerary and monumental landscape, although more notable in the south of the county, and there is limited activity recorded within the environs of the Site. No activity is recorded within the Site itself and records within the study area are limited to two chance lithic finds (MWI9250; MWI9326). While these are indication of landscape use during the period, there is no evidence of permanent settlement, and as such, the potential for encountering remains of this period is considered **low**.

Bronze Age

- 6.2.4 There are no assets specifically of a Bronze Age date recorded within the Site, and as detailed in the archaeological background in Section 4, no evidence of Bronze Age funerary and other monumental activity within the study area, despite the rich history of it elsewhere in the county. Only three known Bronze Age assets are recorded within the study area, all comprising findspots (MWI9328; MWI9331; MWI9332). While artefactual evidence clearly places Bronze Age communities within the wider landscape, settlement activity may have been limited to the lower ground to the south (near Wootton Bassett), while ritual funerary is more prevalent on the chalk downlands in the centre and south of the county. There is no evidence that permanent Bronze Age landscape use extends to within the study area and as such, the potential for encountering remains of this period is considered **low**.

Iron Age

- 6.2.5 There are no assets specifically of an Iron Age date recorded within the Site.

- 6.2.6 While there are no assets specifically of an Iron Age date recorded within the Site, given the proximity of the notable Iron Age field system and associated settlement at Marsh Farm, in the south of the study area (MWI75178; MWI75179), it is apparent that the lower-lying areas to the south of the Site were permanently settled and farmed during this period.
- 6.2.7 As to whether this activity extended further north towards the Site would have depended on the nature of the landscape during the period, and how much of the Site had been deforested during the earlier prehistoric (and was therefore suitable for farming). While there are no assets specifically of an Iron Age date recorded within the Site, given the close proximity of an extensive agricultural landscape and associated rural settlement in the wider study area, the potential for unknown remains of this period within the Site's boundary (more likely the southern areas of the Site within the eastern land parcel) is considered to be **medium**.

Roman

- 6.2.8 As mentioned above, there is a notable area of settlement and agricultural activity located within the south of the study area (Marsh Farm) which started in the Iron Age and continued throughout the Romano-British period. Further evidence of Roman occupation was identified during the building of the M4 in the late 1960s, and as with the Iron Age, the possibility that this activity extended further north towards the Site would have depended on the nature of the landscape during the period, and how much of the Site had been deforested during the earlier prehistoric.
- 6.2.9 While there are no assets specifically of Roman date recorded within the Site, given the close proximity of an extensive agricultural landscape and associated rural settlement within the study area, the potential for unknown remains of this period within the Site's boundary (more likely the southern areas of the Site within the eastern land parcel) is considered to be **medium**.

Early Medieval

- 6.2.10 There are no assets specifically of an early medieval date recorded within the Site.
- 6.2.11 A single asset of Saxon date, comprising a pit containing a sherd of pottery and animal bone (MWI77357), was identified during works at Marsh Farm, in the south of the study area. It is considered likely that the Site sat within the rural hinterland north of Wootton Bassett during this period, and although Wootton Bassett itself is of Saxon foundation, there is no evidence of smaller rural communities being present within the study area during this period.
- 6.2.12 The potential of discovering finds from this period is therefore assessed to be **low**.

Medieval

- 6.2.13 There are no assets specifically of a medieval date recorded within the Site.
- 6.2.14 There is, however, considerable record of medieval settlement and agricultural activity recorded within the study area, including ridge and furrow cultivation (MWI31562, MWI74765, MWI78801), while Hook, to the east of the Site, and Ballard's Ash, to the south-west are recorded as being centres of rural settlement during this period. Within the eastern parcel of the Site itself, sinuous field boundaries have been dated through cartographic analysis to the post-medieval period but could be survivals of an earlier medieval agricultural landscape. Within this area (Field 20) the walkover survey identified an area of earthworks relating to ridge and furrow cultivation, which may date to the medieval period. It may, however, also have a later post-medieval origin, with the technique being used throughout the post-medieval period.
- 6.2.15 Given the proximity of recorded agricultural and settlement activity, and the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks which may have medieval origin, the potential for unknown medieval remains, particularly relating to agricultural activities, within the Site's boundary is considered to be **medium**.

Post-medieval

- 6.2.16 The Historic Landscape Characterisation provided by the Wiltshire HER indicates that the Site and study area was largely in enclosed agricultural use during the post-medieval period, with many of these field boundaries surviving into the 20th and 21st centuries.

- 6.2.17 The sites of farmsteads can be found in the 1km study area, including the former site of an outfarm immediately adjacent to the Site's southern boundary in Field 22 (MWI67254). Tithe records detail that common land within the Site was likely used for grazing, and field boundaries in the Site's eastern parcel suggest that cultivation activity may have also taken place.
- 6.2.18 Within the Site, post-medieval heritage assets, comprising a former quarry in Field 13 and a former field boundary in Field 22 were identified through the walkover survey and cartographic analysis (see Plate 1). An area of ridge and furrow cultivation survives as earthworks in Field 20 and may either have a medieval or later post-medieval origin, with the technique in use across both periods.
- 6.2.19 Given the proximity of the farmsteads and their associated land management activity within the study area and given the confirmed presence of post-medieval extraction and land management activity within the Site itself, the potential for unknown post-medieval remains, particularly relating to agricultural activities, within the Site's boundary is considered **high**.

Modern

- 6.2.20 The Site is crossed by the documented alignment of Stop Line Red, part of the wider General Headquarters (GHQ) Line, which comprised a defence line built during WWII to contain an expected German invasion. This comprised both concrete fortifications and earthworks, two areas of which have been recorded within the Site boundary itself. These comprise a continuation of anti-tank ditch (MWI77746), identified as an extant earthwork within the north-western corner of Field 16, immediately south of Flaxlands Lane and a continuation of anti-tank ditch (MWI77747), identified as an extant earthwork within Field 17, west of Morris Copse.
- 6.2.21 Although infilled by 1945 (as shown on historic aerial imagery), the alignment of the defences remains in place within the Site boundary. There is also the potential for related military infrastructure such as defensive trenches and pits, only in use for a short period and potentially unmapped, to survive below the ground surface. Therefore, there is a **high** potential for encountering remains relating to the military use of the Site.
- 6.2.22 The Site continued in agricultural use throughout this period, and as such there is also a **high** potential for unknown remains relating to land management and cultivation to be encountered.

6.3 Statement of Heritage Significance

- 6.3.1 The NPPF stresses the importance of identifying and assessing the significance of any heritage asset and its setting that may be affected by a proposed development. Once significance has been established, the impact of any proposal can be appropriately assessed. The significance of potential archaeological assets is based upon the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (available online: <https://www.somersetheritage.org.uk/downloads/swarf/swarfweb.pdf>) and the Wiltshire Museum Research Agenda (available online: <https://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/research-agenda/>), and as well as thematic and period-specific reviews, and Historic England's relevant introductions to Historic Assets and Selection Guides (available online: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/find/a-z-publications/>).
- 6.3.2 The assessment has identified a negligible potential to encounter archaeology from the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, and a low potential to encounter archaeological remains dating to the Neolithic period and Bronze Age. It has identified a medium potential for remains from the Iron Age and Roman period and these would likely comprise ditches associated with remnant field systems of that date. There is a low potential to encounter early medieval remains as the evidence for this period is limited to a sole Anglo-Saxon pit encountered during archaeological excavation works in the south of the study area. There is a medium potential to encounter medieval remains, associated with agricultural activity, and a high potential for encountering post-medieval remains again associated with mapped agricultural activity and 19th-century farmstead sites. There is a high potential to encounter post-medieval and modern archaeological remains. Archaeological remains dating to the modern period would likely comprise of features associated with military defensive infrastructure such as trenches, associated with the alignment of the WWII Stop Line Red anti-invasion defence line. Documented agricultural land use during the 20th and 21st centuries also indicate a high potential of encountering remains associated with these activities,

- 6.3.3 The significance of previously unrecorded remains of these periods would derive from their archaeological and historical interest and their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity based on national, regional or local frameworks. According to current evidence, isolated artefactual material or truncated/disturbed remains would be of low significance, while well preserved and *in-situ* evidence for occupation/settlement remains could be of medium significance. In each case they would contribute to local and regional research frameworks.
- 6.3.4 The significance of any previously unknown remains that may survive within the Site would derive from their archaeological value and their potential to contribute to our understanding of past human activity guided by local, regional and national research priorities.
- 6.3.5 The importance and significance of historic landscape character is assessed in terms of its sensitivity to change. Those with a high sensitivity to change should be accommodated and preserved where possible within new developments or should be subject to well-managed changes. Historic landscapes with a lower sensitivity to change can be potentially enhanced by new developments and can absorb most types and scales of essential, well managed change.
- 6.3.6 The Site lies across 22 enclosed agricultural fields, and four separate HLC types are recorded. Broadly, the entire Site area comprises fields and enclosed land resulting from the post-medieval enclosure, some of this the result of clearing woodland for agricultural use, such as the western extents of the Site (Fields 1-10). The central and eastern areas of the western parcel (Fields 11-14) are recorded as fields and enclosed land of a modern origin, having previously been a single large, assarted area formed from the ancient woodland to the west, as shown on 19th century OS mapping.
- 6.3.7 The very eastern edge of the western land parcel, and the northern extents of the eastern land parcel (Fields 15 and 16) sit within fields and enclosed land resulting from the piecemeal enclosure of the former Hook Common. These irregular enclosures are unchanged since the 1st edition OS map (1885) and are probably of post-medieval origin.
- 6.3.8 The southern area of the eastern land parcel (Fields 17 – 22) also comprises fields and enclosed land resulting from piecemeal enclosure. These fields appear to have changed little from the 1st edition OS mapping (1885), and of at least post-medieval date, with a possible earlier origin due to their sinuous field boundaries (reflective of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation).
- 6.3.9 The Proposed Development would not result in the wholesale removal of hedge, boundary features or woodland, with only small areas of hedge being removed where required for access tracks, and is considered to maintain the overall character of the landscape.

7. Potential Development Impacts

- 7.1.1 It is estimated that the main construction period will be approximately 24 weeks. All construction materials will be delivered by Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) lorries.
- 7.1.2 The components for the construction phase are largely prefabricated and therefore any construction wastes generated would be reduced to a minimum.
- 7.1.3 During the construction period, initial site setup works would take place followed by construction of the internal access route(s), ground works, and the installation of the solar panels and other associated infrastructure including the BESS.
- 7.1.4 Facilities would be provided on-site for construction workers, including provision of a site office and welfare facilities. Fencing would be installed around the perimeter of the Site, and temporary parking would be provided for the construction workers.
- 7.1.5 Physical impacts may therefore arise from the piling of the solar panels, the excavation of concrete pad foundations for BESS, the excavation of cable trenches and ground reduction (stripping and stoning) associated with the construction of the site compounds and internal access routes.
- 7.1.6 The potential archaeological remains, designated built heritage assets and non-designated built heritage assets that may be impacted by the Proposed Development are detailed below.

7.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.2.1 No World Heritage Sites or Registered Battlefields are located within the Site or 1km study area.

Scheduled Monuments

- 7.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments within the 1km study area, the closest being 'Ringsbury Camp hillfort' (NHLE 1018124), a small, multivallate hillfort of Iron Age date. This is located approximately 1.2km north-east of the Site. The scheduled 'Rabbit warren 800m east of Woodlane Farm' (NHLE 1019730), the earthwork remains of a medieval or post-medieval warren and warrener's cottage, is located approximately 1.6km west of the Site.
- 7.2.3 There will be no visual impacts on either scheduled monument outside of the 1km study area due to the topography and intervening vegetation and buildings. The Proposed Development will not alter the rural setting of either monument and would not affect the ability to understand the assets.

Listed Buildings

- 7.2.4 There are no listed buildings located within the Site which would be physically impacted upon or whose setting would be impacted upon by the Proposed Development.
- 7.2.5 There are a total of eight listed buildings within the wider 1km study area.
- 7.2.6 The buildings within the 1km study area comprise the following:
- Manor Farmhouse (NHLE 119833);
 - Lower Hook Farmhouse (NHLE 1022665);
 - School House Restaurant (NHLE 1199847);
 - The Marsh (NHLE 1363676);
 - Midge Hall (NHLE 1283141);
 - 38 Old Purton Road (NHLE 1022666);
 - Baynards Ash Farmhouse (NHLE 1200323); and

- Lydiard Tregoze War Memorial (NHLE 1438134).

7.2.7 There will be no impacts upon the significance of the historic setting of any listed buildings within the Study Area or the Site due to topography and intervening vegetation and buildings.

Registered Park and Garden

7.2.8 There is one registered park and garden located within the 1km study area - Lydiard Park (NHLE 1001238) (Grade II). The setting of Lydiard Park comprises the surrounding parkland demesne. There will be no physical impacts to the registered park and garden. There is no intervisibility between the Site and the registered park and garden due to the topography and intervening vegetation and buildings. The Proposed Development would not alter the character or setting of Lydiard Park and would not affect the ability to understand the asset.

Conservation Areas

7.2.9 There are no Conservation Areas within 1km of the Site, although two are recorded within 2km, namely Lydiard Green and Wootton Bassett which are located 1.1km north-east and 1.7km south of the Site respectively.

7.2.10 There would be no physical impacts to the Conservation Areas. There is no intervisibility between the Site and the Conservation Areas due to the topography and intervening vegetation and buildings.

7.2.11 The setting of both Conservation Areas comprises their settlement layouts and buildings. There is intervening modern housing which would screen views towards the Site. There would be no intervisibility between the Site and these Conservation Areas. The Proposed Development would not alter the character or setting of the Conservation Areas and would not affect the ability to understand the assets.

7.3 Non-designated Assets

7.3.1 There is potential to encounter unknown archaeological remains. In particular, there is a high potential to encounter modern archaeological remains associated WWII anti-invasion defences (with two sections of anti-tank ditch surviving as earthworks within the Site (MWI77746; MWI77747)), along with remains associated with post-medieval and modern agricultural activity. An area of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, the site of a post-medieval quarry and former field boundary are also recorded within the Site boundary. The location of these assets is shown on Plate 1.

7.3.2 Four separate HLC types are recorded within the Site. Broadly, the entire Site area comprises fields and enclosed land resulting from post-medieval enclosure, some of this is the result of clearing woodland for agricultural use. The Proposed Development would not result in the removal of hedge, boundary features or woodland and is considered to maintain the overall agricultural character of the landscape, meaning that the overall change to landscape character would be limited.

7.3.3 The installation of the new solar array and BESS will result in impacts to any potential archaeological remains within their footprint through their localised truncation or removal. Ground disturbance may occur from topsoil stripping, construction groundworks, notably the installation of piles for solar arrays, concrete slab foundations for BESS and the excavation of cable trenching for electrical grid connections. Some small areas of extant hedgerow will also be required for the installation of access tracks.

7.3.4 The geophysical survey work undertaken on the Site in 2024 (Wessex Archaeology 2024) indicated the presence of possible archaeological features, including three ring features, interpreted as either Romano-British roundhouse gullies or possible barrow ditches, a spread of linear features which could be indicative of historic boundary ditches and three sets of possible pit alignments, possibly prehistoric in origin and indicating further landscape delineation. These areas of possible archaeological activity could potentially be subject to physical impact from intrusive groundworks associated with the Proposed Development.

7.3.5 No intrusive archaeological fieldwork or GI works have been undertaken within or in immediate proximity to the Site. However, archaeological investigations at Marsh Farm (300m to the south of the

Site at its closest point), comprising the 2015 programme of evaluation trenching (EWI7900) and 2020 programme of excavation works (EWI9754), recorded natural geology (limestone and clay) at between 0.22m and 0.55m below the ground surface. This relatively shallow stratigraphy suggests that all but the shallowest intrusive construction groundworks have the potential to impact upon archaeological horizons, which will likely be located directly below topsoil, which in places was only 0.10cm deep at Marsh Farm.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned by Ampyr Solar Europe to undertake an historic environment desk-based assessment (DBA) in support of the Proposed Development north of Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire in Wiltshire. This DBA first sets out the historic environment baseline for the Site in order to identify all known designated and non-designated heritage assets within the Site and to determine the potential for as yet unknown buried archaeological remains to be present within the Site. The DBA also identifies heritage assets within the study area that may be impacted by the Proposed Development as a result of change within their setting. This DBA includes an assessment of the significance, using NPPF terminology, of the known and potential heritage resources that may be impacted by the Proposed Development. Finally, this assessment has assessed the historic landscape within the Site and surrounding study area and determined its sensitivity to change and provided an impact assessment for both built heritage assets and buried archaeological remains.
- 8.1.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields or Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the Site. The Site does not lie within a Conservation Area.
- 8.1.3 There are nine designated heritage assets comprising eight listed buildings and one registered park and garden present within the 1km study area. The impact assessment has identified that no designated assets will be physically impacted, and none will experience change to setting due to topography and intervening vegetation and buildings.
- 8.1.4 A total of 94 non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the study area by Wiltshire HER, and this assessment identified the presence of three further assets within the Site boundary itself, namely an area of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, the site of a post-medieval quarry and former field boundary. Two sections of WWII anti-tank ditch also survive as earthworks within the Site. The assets located within the Site boundary may be physically impacted by the Proposed Development.
- 8.1.5 The 2024 geophysical survey of the Site identified areas of possible archaeological activity within the Site boundary. These include three ring features, interpreted as either Romano-British roundhouse gullies or possible barrow ditches, a spread of linear features which could be indicative of historic boundary ditches and three sets of possible pit alignments, possibly prehistoric in origin and indicating further landscape delineation.
- 8.1.6 The Site lies within a broad HLC area comprising fields and enclosed land resulting from the post-medieval enclosure. The Proposed Development would not result in the wholesale removal of hedge, boundary features or woodland, with only small areas of hedge being removed where required for access tracks, and is considered to maintain the overall character of the landscape.

Recommendations

- 8.1.7 There are no recommendations in relation to designated assets due to there being no physical impacts or changes to setting.
- 8.1.8 It is recommended (as proposed in the initial design of the Proposed Development) not to remove any extant hedge, boundary features or woodland within the Site boundary in order to maintain the overall character of the historic landscape.
- 8.1.9 The impact assessment has highlighted that there is a potential for intrusive activities associated with the Proposed Development to truncate or remove previously unrecorded buried archaeological remains that may be present within the Site. These are assessed as likely to be of local, or at most, regional significance.
- 8.1.10 The programme of geophysical (magnetometer) survey undertaken identified several areas of possible archaeological activity, and these should be targeted with evaluation trenching works to date and characterise any remains present. The Wiltshire Council Archaeologist has recommended a 2% trial trench evaluation sample of the Site area, targeting recorded areas of possible archaeology, along with areas where archaeology is not apparent, to test the veracity of the geophysical survey results. An

additional 2% contingency sample should be set aside in case of encountering areas of notable archaeological activity. Following interpretation of these results, and further consultation with the Wiltshire Council Archaeologist, focused archaeological mitigation works may also be required.

- 8.1.11 The Wiltshire Council Archaeologist has advised that trial trenching is undertaken at the earliest stage possible. This is so that the County Archaeological team are able to offer fully informed advice to the LPA planning team if and when a full application is submitted.
- 8.1.12 It is also recommended that opportunities are sought to retain extant heritage assets within the Proposed Development footprint, and where this is not possible, for suitable mitigation to be proposed. Heritage inputs should also be sought into any Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) so that works as part of the construction phase are planned, managed and monitored in a way which enables the preservation of *in-situ* archaeological remains (where appropriate). This approach will fulfil the requirements to protect and enhance the built heritage and archaeological resource as stated in paragraphs 200 to 209 of the NPPF, and Core Policy 58 of the local plan.

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Appendix A

A.1 Designated Heritage Assets

NHLE No.	Record Type	Listed Building No.	Name	NHLE No.	Date Assigned	NGR
1199833	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4306	MANOR FARMHOUSE	1199833	15/08/1985	SU 06738 84927
1022665	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4309	LOWER HOOK FARMHOUSE	1022665	17/01/1955	SU 08555 84777
1199847	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4310	SCHOOL HOUSE RESTAURANT	1199847	15/08/1985	SU 07972 84780
1363676	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4311	THE MARSH	1363676	15/08/1985	SU 07565 83779
1283141	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4312	MIDGE HALL	1283141	15/08/1985	SU 08028 84046
1022666	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4313	38 OLD PURTON ROAD	1022666	15/08/1985	SU 07653 84270
1200323	Grade II Listed Building	DWI4376	BAYNARDS ASH FARMHOUSE	1200323	15/08/1985	SU 06767 84250
1438134	Grade II Listed Building	DWI16452	LYDIARD TREGOZE WAR MEMORIAL	1438134	19/08/2016	SU 07790 84860
Garden ID	Name	Grade	National Reference	Date Assigned	NGR	
DWI14655	LYDIARD PARK	II	1001238	01/09/1987	SU 09686 84926	

Appendix B

B.1 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
A1- Identified during walkover survey	MON	Post-medieval quarry	QUARRY	C19	1801 to 1900	Centred on SU 06913 85625
A2 - Identified during walkover survey	MON	Post-medieval field boundary	FIELD BOUNDARY	C19	1801 to 1900	Between SU 07428 84786 and SU 07466 84780 (linear)
A3 - Identified during walkover survey	MON	Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval to Late C19	1066 to 1900	Centred on SU 07280 84811
MWI32002	BLD	WWII Anti-Tank Dragon's Teeth at Hook Street	PIMPLE	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0780 8487
MWI67116	BLD	Purley Farm	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0528 8540
MWI67250	BLD	Marsh Farm (The Marsh)	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0754 8377
MWI67252	BLD	Baynard's Ash Farm	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0677 8423
MWI67253	BLD	Ballard's Ash Farm	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0663 8441
MWI67254	MON	Site of Outfarm, North East of Baynard's Ash Farm	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0723 8468
MWI67255	BLD	Flaxland's Farm	FARMSTEAD	C18	1701 to 1800	SU 0674 8495
MWI67256	BLD	Flaxland's Manor Farm	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0656 8500
MWI67257	MON	Site of Yard, East of	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0664 8502

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
		Flaxland's Manor Farm				
MWI67258	BLD	Koff's Farm (Greenhill Farm)	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0669 8582
MWI67259	BLD	Outfarm adjacent to Green Hill	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0665 8651
MWI67260	MON	Site of Outfarm, Southwest of Ringsbury Camp	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0736 8657
MWI67315	BLD	Outfarm. North of Parley Copse	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0600 8671
MWI67316	BLD	Outfarm, Southwest of Ballard's Ash Farm	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0617 8418
MWI67341	BLD	Woodland View	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0700 8608
MWI67342	MON	Site of Outfarm, South West of Woodland View	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0696 8605
MWI67343	BLD	Breach Barn	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0763 8601
MWI67395	BLD	Hern Barn	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0816 8506
MWI67396	BLD	Lower Hook Farm (Hook Farm)	FARMSTEAD	C17	1601 to 1700	SU 0854 8476
MWI67397	MON	Site of Outfarm, West of Creeches Farm	OUTFARM	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0765 8454
MWI67398	BLD	Creeches Farm	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0816 8459
MWI67399	BLD	Midge Hall (Midgehall)	FARMSTEAD	C18	1701 to 1800	SU 0801 8399
MWI9250	FS	Neolithic Axe, 8 Lydiard Plain	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	-4000 to -2351	SU 0565 8618

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI9292	MON	Post Medieval Earthworks, Koffs Farm	BANK (EARTHWORK); NON ANTIQUITY	Unknown	Undated	SU 0641 8587
MWI9323	FS	Mesolithic Flint, Manners Field, Prob Marsh Farm	FINDSPOT	Mesolithic	-10000 to -4001	SU 0750 8379
MWI9326	FS	Neolithic Arrowhead, Northwest Wootton Bassett	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	-4000 to -2351	SU 0689 8378
MWI9328	FS	Bronze Age Arrowhead, Manners Field, probably Marsh Farm	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	-2350 to -701	SU 0750 8380
MWI9331	FS	Bronze-Age Cheekpiece, Hook Cemetery	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	-2350 to -701	SU 0825 8478
MWI9332	FS	Bronze Age Rapier, Near Flaxlands Cottage	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age	-2350 to -701	SU 0643 8470
MWI9336	MON	Romano-British Well, Southwest of Hook	WELL	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0716 8436
MWI9337	FS	Roman Pottery, Southwest of Hook	FINDSPOT	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0722 8440
MWI9350	MON	Medieval Burial, Creeches Farm	BURIAL	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0815 8460
MWI9365	BLD	17th/18th Century Cottage, Northwest of Midgehall	BUILDING	Early C17 to Late C18	1601 to 1800	SU 0762 8423
MWI77357	MON	Possible Saxon Pit, Marsh Farm	PIT	Saxon	410 to 1065	SU 0749 8370

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI77359	MON	Medieval Postholes, Marsh Farm	POST HOLE	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0747 8366
MWI77724	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Godwins Farm	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0825 8586
MWI77742	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Greatfield	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0807 8573
MWI77743	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Greatfield	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0778 8561
MWI77744	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0751 8541
MWI77745	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0747 8533
MWI77746	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Frith Copse	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0736 8528
MWI77747	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Morris's Copse	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0699 8509
MWI77748	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0680 8495
MWI77749	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0677 8487
MWI77750	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Flaxlands Farm	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0663 8492
MWI77751	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, East of Flaxlands Cottage	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0645 8471

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI77752	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Midgehall Copse	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0639 8451
MWI77753	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Ballards Ash	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0644 8439
MWI77754	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, South of Ballards Ash	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0640 8420
MWI77755	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0621 8402
MWI77756	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0606 8401
MWI77757	MON	WWII Anti-Tank Ditch, Southwest of Ballards Ash	ANTI TANK DITCH	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0589 8390
MWI9298	MON	Undated Field System, Lydiard Green	FIELD SYSTEM	Unknown	Undated	SU 0840 8600
MWI9300	MON	Undated Linears, West of Godwins Farm	SITE	Unknown	Undated	SU 0795 8573
MWI9344	MON	A medieval moated grange attached to Stanley Abbey.	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0801 8398
MWI9351	MON	Medieval settlement site.	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0630 8438
MWI9352	MON	Medieval settlement site.	SETTLEMENT	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0779 8476
MWI9375	MON	Undated earthworks, probably a medieval landscape. Aerial photograph	SITE	Unknown	Undated	SU 0800 8361

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
		shows a possible holloway amidst the ridge and furrow.				
MWI9385	MON	An undated circular enclosure showing through as a vegetation mark on an aerial photograph.	ENCLOSURE	Unknown	Undated	SU 0769 8372
MWI9405	MON	A medieval deer park.	DEER PARK	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0515 8298
MWI16556	MON	Post medieval landscape park with open lawns, woodland and scattered mature trees. A former walled garden was excavated in 2001.	BOAT HOUSE, BRICK KILN, FISHPOND	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900	SU 0968 8474
MWI13154	BLD	A Type 24 pillbox is located in the field south of Folly Farm at Ballards Ash.	PILLBOX	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0630 8421
MWI13155	BLD	A Type 28 pillbox is located in the field south of Folly Farm at Ballards Ash.	PILLBOX	Second World War	1939 to 1945	SU 0635 8423
MWI131562	MON	Medieval Ridge and Furrow at Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval to Late C19	1066 to 1900	SU 0842 8440
MWI131582	MON	Land Drains at Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Medieval to C21	1066 to 2050 AD	SU 0815 8446

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI31583	MON	Land Drains at Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	Medieval to C21	1066 to 2050 AD	SU 0865 8459
MWI31585	MON	Undated Ditches, Pits and Enclosures, Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE, DITCH, LINEAR FEATURE, PIT, RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE, RING DITCH, TRACKWAY	Unknown	Undated	SU 0876 8425
MWI31586	MON	Undated Linear Features, Land South of Hook Street	LINEAR FEATURE	Unknown	Undated	SU 0886 8409
MWI31587	MON	Possible Undated Pits, Land South of Hook Street	FEATURE, PIT?	Unknown	Undated	SU 0885 8411
MWI67392	MON	Partially extant 19th century farmstead.	FARMSTEAD	C19	1801 to 1900	SU 0814 8585
MWI74345	MON	Undated Field Boundary, Marsh Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Unknown	Undated	SU 0735 8399
MWI74346	MON	Undated Enclosure, Marsh Farm	ENCLOSURE	Unknown	Undated	SU 0705 8416
MWI74347	MON	Roman Enclosure, Marsh Farm	ENCLOSURE	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0739 8422
MWI74348	BLD	Probable Roman Building, Marsh Farm	BUILDING	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0709 8428
MWI74349	BLD	Undated Building, Marsh Farm	BUILDING	Unknown	Undated	SU 0747 8380

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI74350	MON	Roman Pits, Marsh Farm	PIT, QUARRY	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0730 8411
MWI74351	MON	Undated Ditches, Marsh Farm	DITCH	Unknown	Undated	SU 0730 8405
MWI74765	MON	Medieval Ridge and Furrow, Marsh Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval to Late C19	1066 to 1900	SU 0725 8398
MWI75178	MON	Iron Age Roundhouse, Marsh Farm	ROUND HOUSE	Iron Age	800 BC to 42 AD	SU 0725 8416
MWI75179	MON	Iron Age Field Boundary, Marsh Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Iron Age	800 BC to 42 AD	SU 0716 8409
MWI75180	MON	Iron Age and Roman Structures, Marsh Farm	STRUCTURE	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0725 8415
MWI75181	MON	Roman Wells, Marsh Farm	WELL	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0726 8415
MWI75182	MON	Romano-British Grave, Marsh Farm	GRAVE	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0725 8414
MWI75183	MON	Roman Field Boundary, Marsh Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Roman	43 to 409	SU 0722 8414
MWI75184	MON	Post Medieval Quarry, Marsh Farm	QUARRY	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900	SU 0723 8409
MWI75185	MON	Post Medieval Field Boundary, Marsh Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900	SU 0728 8407
MWI75186	MON	Medieval Field Boundaries, Marsh Farm	FIELD BOUNDARY	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0727 8391
MWI77358	MON	Medieval Linears/Ditches, Marsh Farm	LINEAR SYSTEM	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0749 8368

Monument No.	Monument Type	Name	Monument Type	Period	Dates	NGR
MWI77360	MON	Medieval Enclosure, Marsh Farm	ENCLOSURE	Medieval	1066 to 1539	SU 0748 8368
MWI77361	MON	Post Medieval Ditches, Marsh Farm	DITCH	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900	SU 0749 8367
MWI77362	MON	Post Medieval Pit, Marsh Farm	PIT	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900	SU 0748 8366
MWI78248	MON	Undated Ditches, The Gables	DITCH	Unknown	Undated	SU 0643 8427
MWI78801	MON	Medieval and/or Post Medieval Ridge and Furrow, The Gables	RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval to Late C19	1066 to 1900	SU 0642 8429
MWI78802	MON	Post Medieval Pits, The Gables	PIT	Post Medieval to C21	1540 to 2100	SU 0642 8430

Appendix C

C.1 Archaeological Investigations

Date	ID	Organisation	Description	NGR
1996-1997	EWI3821	None Recorded	Fieldwalking on Playing Field Site, Wootton Bassett	SU 0677 8362
1994	EWI3822	Wessex Archaeology	Evaluation on Proposed Motorway Service Area North of Wootton Bassett	SU 0725 8437
2004	EWI6446	Oxford University	Landscape Archaeology of a Rapidly Urbanising Countryside: A Methodological Case Study of the Swindon Environs	SU 1335 8675
2008	EWI6869	Archaeological Services Durham University	Geophysical Survey at Gerard Buxton Sports Hub Site, Wootton Bassett	SU 0722 8404
2010-2011	EWI7067	Archaeological Surveys Ltd	Magnetometer Survey of Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	SU 0911 8417
2010-2011	EWI7140	Archaeological Surveys Ltd	Fieldwalking at Land South of Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze	SU 0911 8417
2007	EWI7301	CgMs Consulting	Desk-Based Assessment at Wootton Bassett Sports Hub Site B	SU 0722 8404
2014	EWI7465	AC Archaeology	Evaluation at Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub	SU 0722 8403
2013	EWI7466	Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd	Earthwork Survey at Gerard Buxton Sports Hub Site, Wootton Bassett	SU 0734 8397
2014	EWI7619	AOC Archaeology Group	Geophysical Survey at Marsh Farm	SU 0736 8407
2014	EWI7899	AC Archaeology	Excavation at Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Hub	SU 0722 8404
2015	EWI7900	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	Evaluation on Land at Marsh Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett	SU 0737 8404
2020	EWI9754	Thames Valley Archaeological Services	Excavation at Marsh Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett	SU 0750 8368
2022	EWI10079	Archaeological Surveys Ltd	Geophysical Survey of Land at The Gables	SU 0645 8429
2023	EWI10574	Cotswold Archaeology	Watching Brief at The Gables	SU 0645 8432
2020	EWI10692	None Recorded	Land North of Swindon Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire	SU 0788 8361

Appendix D

D.1 Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Designated Heritage Assets

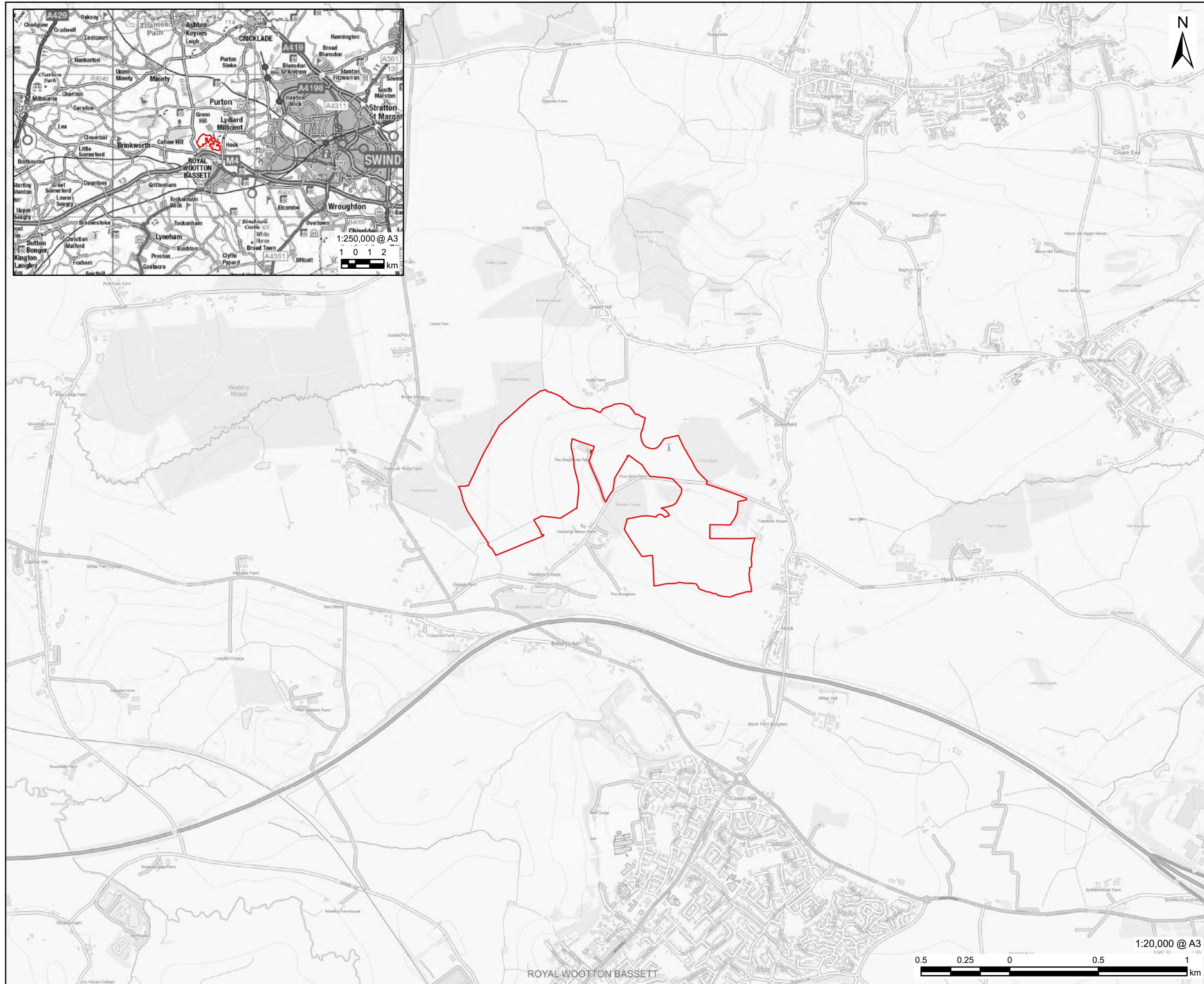
Figure 3: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Figure 4: Archaeological Events

Figure 5: Historic Landscape Character Areas

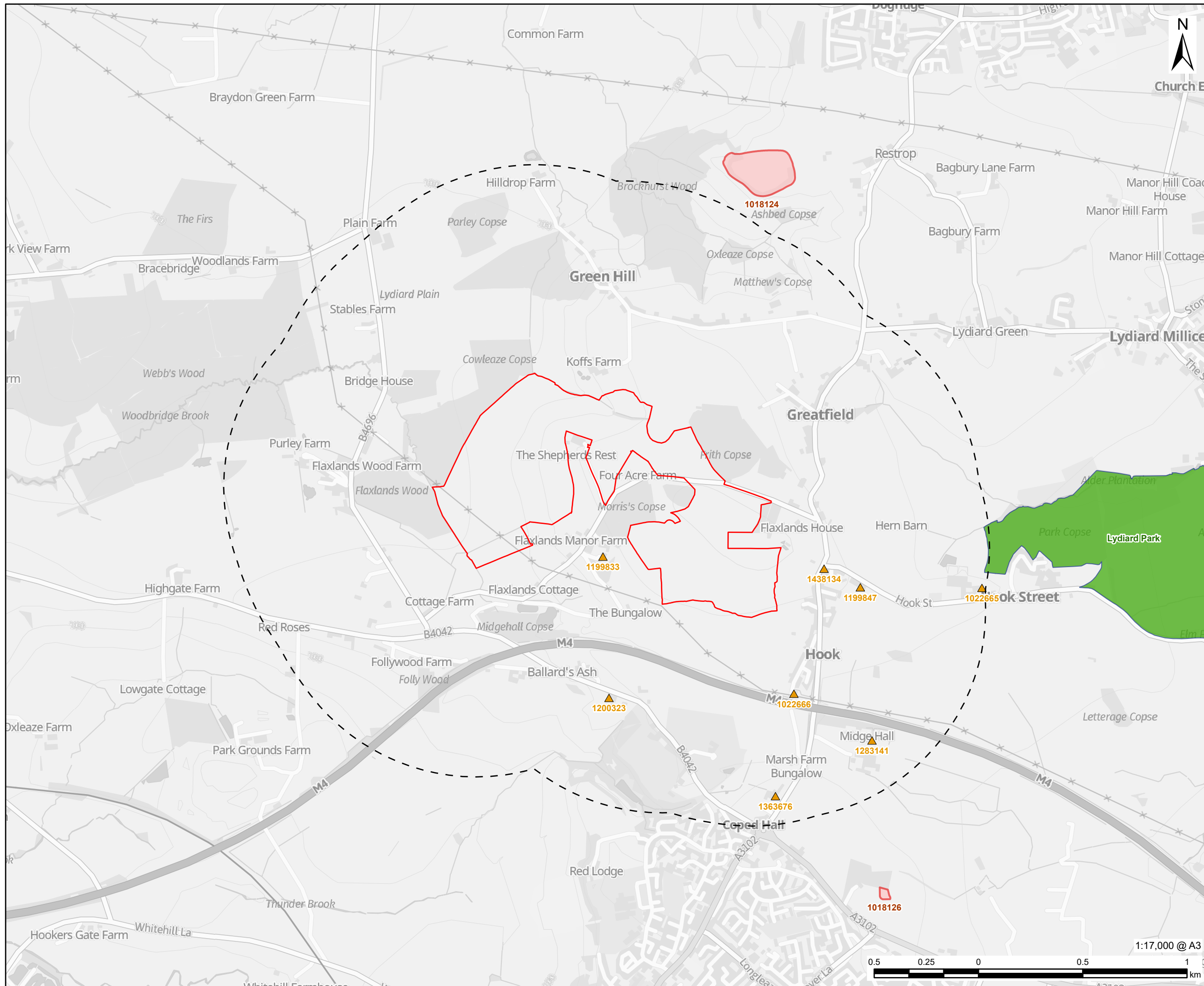
Figure 6: Field Numbers within Site

Figure 7: Final Design

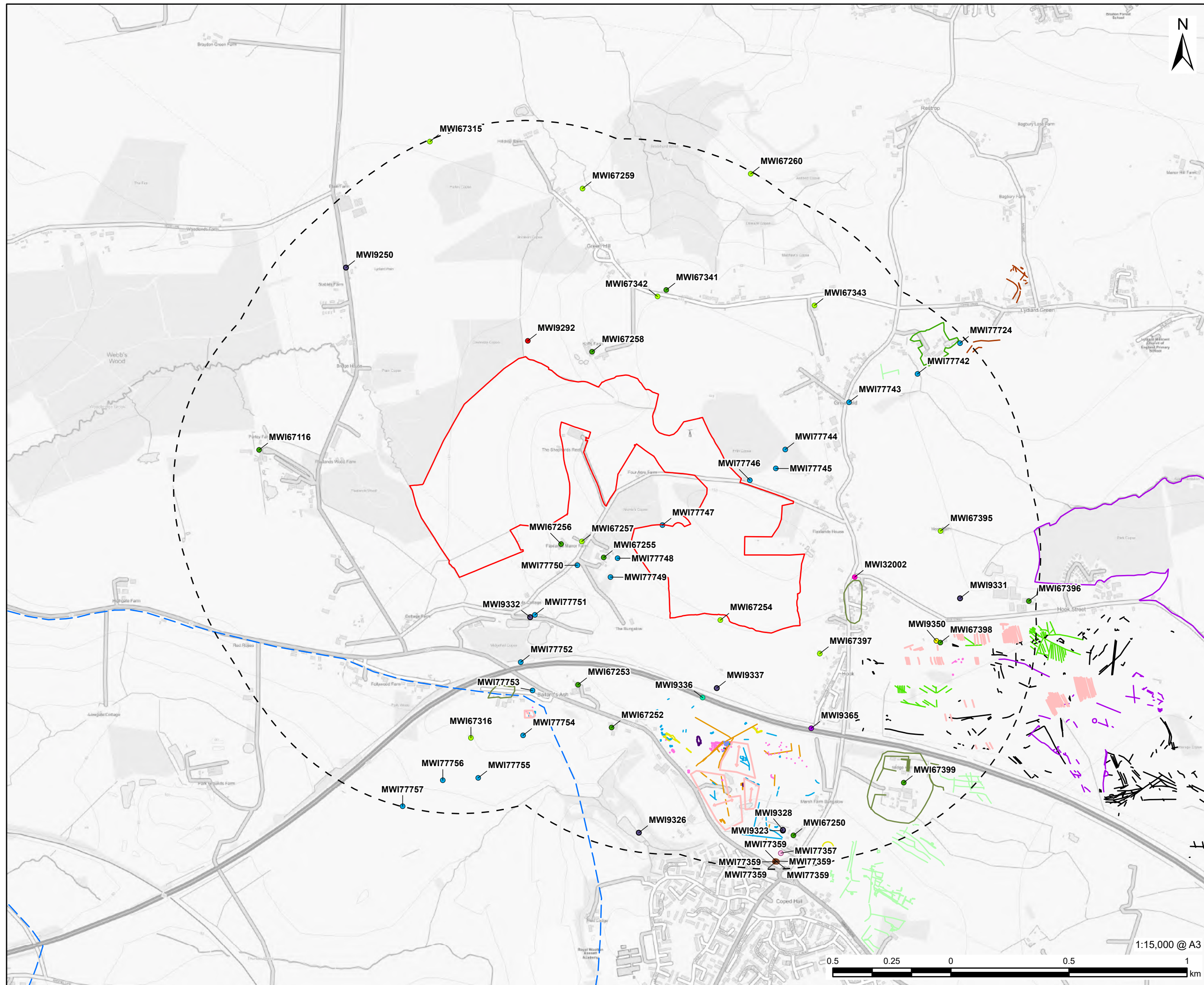


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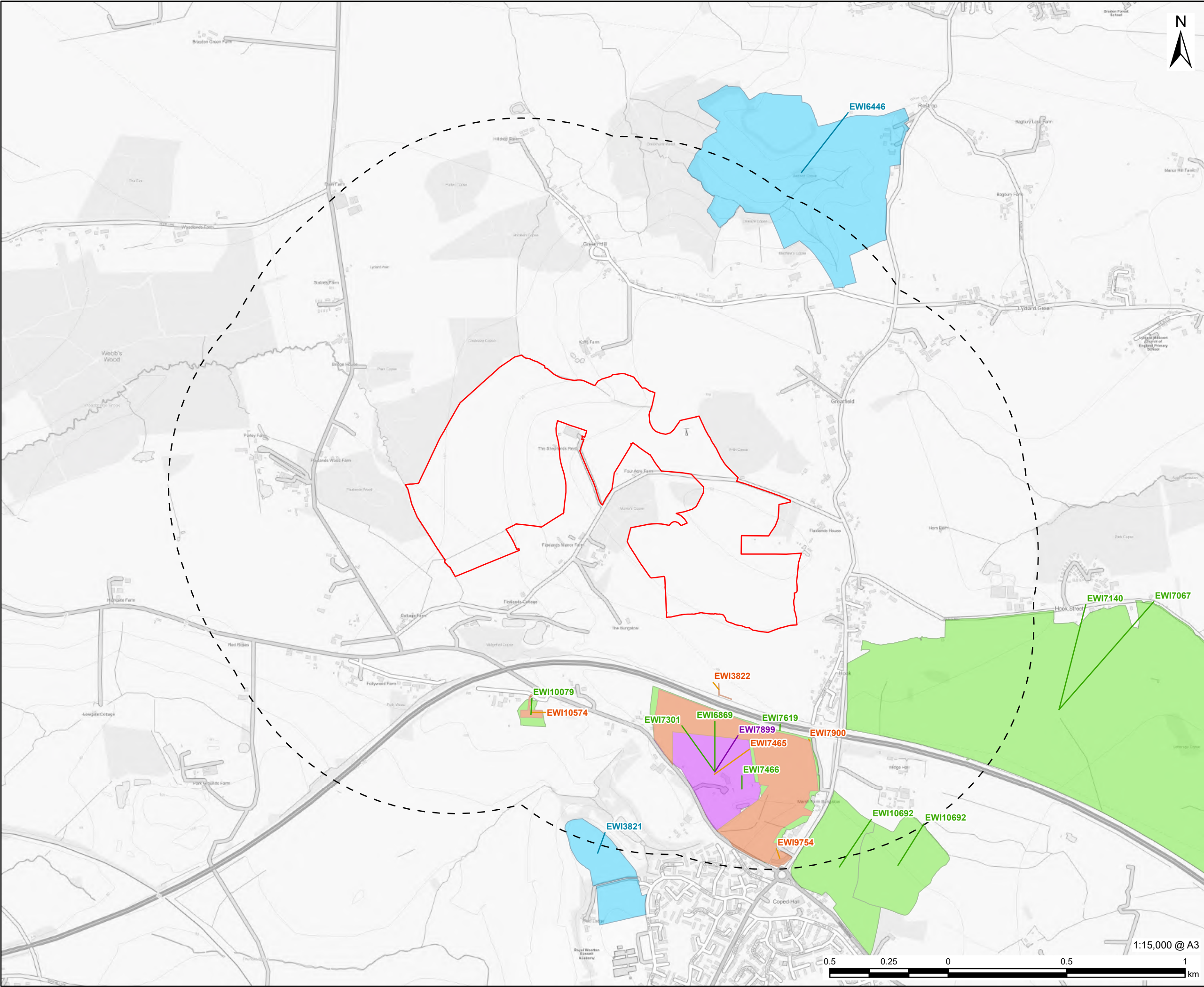
AECOM PROJECT Flaxlands Solar Farm	
CLIENT Ampyr Solar Europe	
CONSULTANT AECOM Limited Midpoint, Alençon Link, Basingstoke RG21 7PP www.aecom.com	
LEGEND Site Boundary	
NOTES 1: Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown copyright [2024]. All rights reserved. Licence number 0100031673.	
ISSUE PURPOSE Desk-Based Assessment	
PROJECT NUMBER 60727989	
FIGURE TITLE Site Location Plan	
FIGURE NUMBER Figure 1	



AECOM	
PROJECT	
Flaxlands Solar Farm	
CLIENT	
Ampyr Solar Europe	
CONSULTANT	
AECOM Limited Midpoint, Alençon Link, Basingstoke RG21 7PP www.aecom.com	
LEGEND	
	Site Boundary
	1km Study Area
	Listed Building - Grade II
	Scheduled Monument
	Registered Parks and Gardens
NOTES	
1: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025 Contains data from OS Zoomstack	
2: © Historic England [2024]. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2024]. The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 16/08/2024. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from HistoricEngland.org.uk .	
ISSUE PURPOSE	
Desk-Based Assessment	
PROJECT NUMBER	
60727989	
FIGURE TITLE	
Designated Heritage Assets	
FIGURE NUMBER	
Figure 2	



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AECOM

PROJECT

Flaxlands Solar Farm

CLIENT

Ampyr Solar Europe

CONSULTANT

AECOM Limited
Midpoint, Alençon Link,
Basingstoke
RG21 7PP
www.aecom.com

LEGEND

Site Boundary
1km Study Area
Record Type
Interpretation
Survey
Evaluation
Extensive Survey

NOTES

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2: Previous archaeological investigation data © Wiltshire Council.

ISSUE PURPOSE

Desk-Based Assessment

PROJECT NUMBER

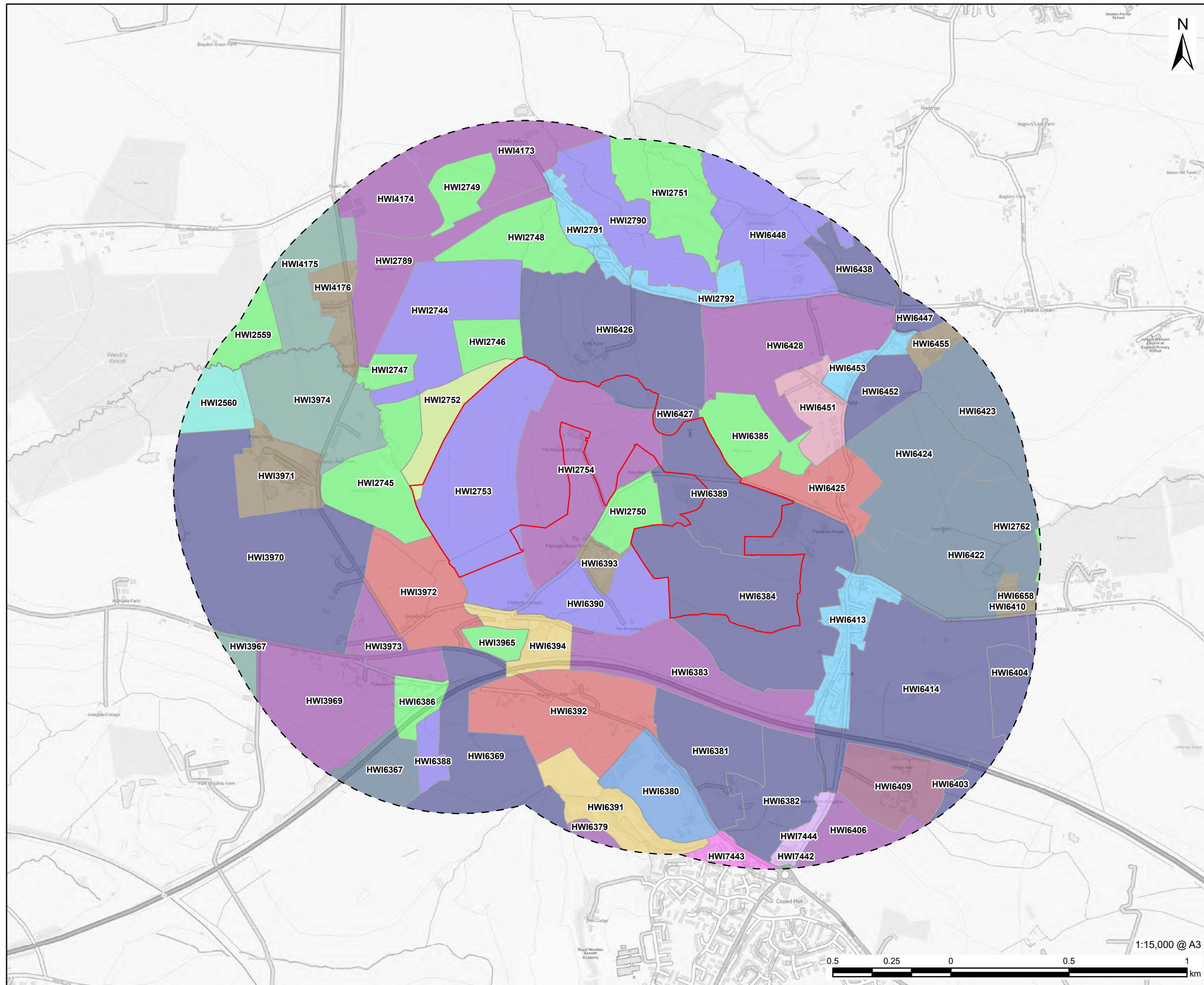
60727989

FIGURE TITLE

Previous Archaeological Investigations

FIGURE NUMBER

Figure 4



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