

Report



Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Melksham

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Submitted to:

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Contents

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	5
1	6
2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND GEOLOGY	7
Site Location	7
Description of the Development	7
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	8
4 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE	9
National Policy	9
Statutory Protection	9
Non-statutory Protection	14
Local Planning Policy	15
Technical Guidance	16
5 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	17
Terminology	17
Study Area	18
Sources	18
Assumptions and limitations	19
Site Visit	19
Consultation	20
6 RESULTS	20
Designated Heritage Assets	20
Historic Environment Record Heritage Assets	20
Previous archaeological investigations within the Site and Study Area	20
Historic Landscape Characterisation Data	21
7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	21
Chronology	21
Prehistoric (650,000 BC - AD 43)	21
Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)	22
Early Medieval (AD 410 - 1066)	22
Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539)	22
Post-medieval to Modern (AD 1539 - present)	23
Undated	23
Historic and Modern Mapping	23
Aerial Photographs	24
8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	24

Designated Heritage Assets	24
Non-designated Heritage Assets	24
9 CONCLUSIONS	26
Acknowledgements.....	26
Copyright	26
10 REFERENCES.....	I
APPENDIX A: DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA.....	III
APPENDIX B: HER HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA.....	IV
APPENDIX C: HER HERITAGE EVENTS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA.....	VI
PLATES.....	VII

List of Plates

Plate 1: View of the Site looking to the northeast

Plate 2: View of the Site looking to the southeast

Plate 3: View of the Site looking to the west

Plate 4: View of the Site looking to the east

List of Figures

Figure 1. Location of the Proposed Development

Figure 2. Designated Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Figure 3. HER Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Figure 4. HER Heritage Events within the Study Area

Figure 5. Site Location on the OS Plan 2,500 of 1886

Figure 6. Site Location on the OS Plan 1:10,560 of 1942

Figure 7. Site Location on the OS Plan 1:10,560 of 1961

Figure 8. Site Location on the OS Plan 1:10,000 of 1988

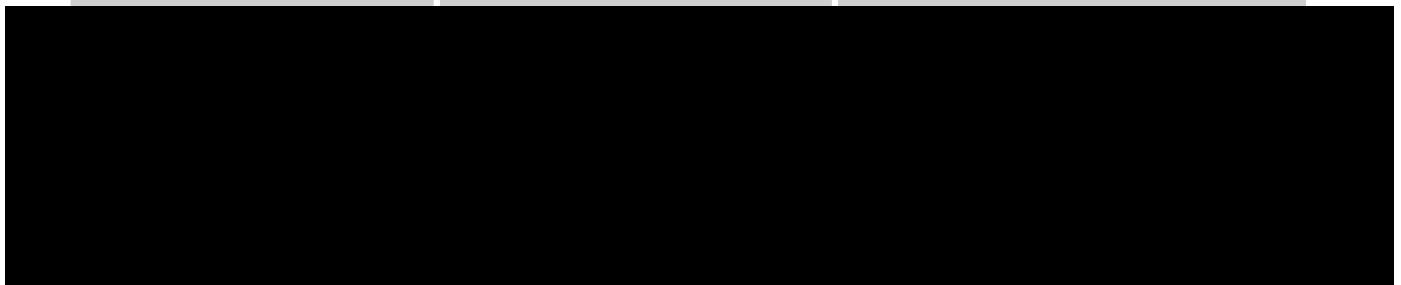
Figure 9. Client Plan: Proposed floor plan of the development

Figure 10. Client Plan: Proposed elevations of the development

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Limited.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
00	17.12.2025	First Issue

DRAFT

Non-Technical Summary

In December 2025 RSK ADAS Limited were commissioned by Lidl Great Britain Limited to assess the potential impact that a Proposed Development for a retail food store on land to the east of Eastern Way, Melksham would have on the archaeological resource.

The Proposed Development will comprise the construction of a Lidl food store and associated infrastructure.

The Site has likely been located within an agricultural landscape since at least the medieval period, with limited evidence for any past impacts, other than those associated with agricultural activity. The report concludes there is a moderate potential for the Proposed Development to have a physical impact on unknown buried archaeological deposits and artefacts dating to the Romano-British period. This conclusion is due to evidence recorded during archaeological evaluations undertaken immediately adjacent to the north and east of the Site, where an area of Roman archaeology was found. No archaeology was recorded in the fields immediately adjacent to the Site.

Any surviving below ground archaeological remains which may be present on the Site are likely to be considered of local significance.

Based on the conclusion of this report and with consideration to the National and Local Planning Policy relating to the historic environment, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority will make an informed decision on the need for further archaeological work to establish the presence or absence of remains on the Site.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2025 RSK ADAS Limited were commissioned by Lidl Great Britain Limited to assess the potential impact that a Proposed Development of a retail food store on land to the east of Eastern Way, Melksham (NGR 392234 164215) (henceforth 'the Site') would have on the archaeological resource (Figure 1). A Study Area of 500 m (referred to henceforth as the 'Study Area') around the Site has been identified in order to assemble the data for this assessment.
- 1.2 The objective of the assessment is to identify the nature and significance of the recorded archaeological resource on the Site and its immediate environs, and to undertake an assessment of the effect the Proposed Development may have upon designated and non-designated heritage assets on the Site.
- 1.3 This report is suitable for submission as a validation document to inform a planning application and is consistent with national and local planning policy regarding to consideration of the historic environment in the planning process.
- 1.4 This assessment has also been undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA, 2020) and the CIfA *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology* (CIfA, 2025).

2 Site Location, Description of Development and Geology

Site Location

- 2.1 The Site, approximately 1 hectare in size, is located on land to the east of Melksham, situated to the east of Eastern Way and south of the A3102. The Site is bounded by the eastern edge of Melksham and surrounded by agricultural fields to the north, east and south.
- 2.2 Ground level across the Site is recorded as of 41.1 m above ordnance Datum (aOD), rising to 43.7 m aOD in the east of the Site. The Site is mostly flat and in use as grass pasture.

Description of the Development

- 2.3 The Proposed Development will comprise the construction of a Lidl food store (the latest Type 15 format store) over of a total floorspace of 2,184 m². It will also include:
- 130 car parking spaces;
 - Rapid Electric Vehicle Charging bays;
 - 12 bicycle spaces;
 - Soft landscaping; and
 - Associated drainage.

Geology

- 2.4 British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping records the underlying bedrock geology as Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone (BGS, 2025). No superficial deposits are recorded.
- 2.5 No geotechnical site investigation data is currently available for the Site. However, a trial trench evaluation undertaken on land to the east of the Site recorded the stratigraphic sequence to typically comprise of clayey silt topsoil overlying a thin band of silty clay subsoil, which in turn sealed a compact clay natural deposit (Cotswold Archaeology, 2025).

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The overarching aim of this desk based assessment is to establish the known and potential historic environment resource of the Site.

3.2 The specific aims of this desk-based assessment are:

- To establish the location and extent of any known heritage assets on the Site;
- To determine the potential for, and survival of, previously unknown archaeological remains on the Site;
- To assess the archaeological impacts of the Proposed Development.

3.3 Based on the information obtained during the preparation of this desk-based assessment, conclusions and recommendations are provided regarding:

- The potential for hitherto unknown archaeological sites within the study area, based on the evidence examined;
- Any likely impacts on the known historic environment resource (buried archaeology, earthworks and historic buildings) resulting from the Site.

4 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

National Policy

- 4.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection and treatment of the historic environment within the development process. These identify the historic environment as a non-renewable, fragile and finite resource and place a priority on its conservation. This includes the setting out of appropriate assessment to ensure that any damage or loss to the resource is permitted only where it is justified.

Statutory Protection

- 4.2 The key pieces of legislation are the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979) and the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* (1990). The application of these laws and the over-arching national policy covering the effects of development on the historic environment is outlined in the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. Elements of this legislation and guidance of relevance to the present development are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of key legislation and planning policy relating to the historic environment

Title	Content
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended)	Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas of Importance (AAIs or their equivalent) are afforded statutory protection and the consent of the Secretary of State (DCMS), as advised by Historic England, is required for any works.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 covers the registration of Listed Buildings (that is those buildings that are seen to be of special architectural or historic interest) and the designation of Conservation Areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance). A Listed Building may not be demolished or altered or extended in any manner, which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest without Listed Building Consent being granted. There are three grades of Listed Building (in descending order): Grade I: buildings of exceptional interest; Grade II*: particularly important buildings of more than special interest; and

Title	Content
	Grade II: buildings of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them
Treasure Act 1996	The 1996 Act defines 'Treasure' as any object that is at least 10% gold or silver, associated coins or groups of coins which are over 300 years old, objects formerly classed as 'treasure trove' (i.e. deliberately deposited items with a high content of gold or silver); any group of two or more metallic objects of prehistoric date and any objects found in association with the above. Any find of 'Treasure' must be reported to the local Coroner.
Burial Act 1857	Under Section 25 of the 1857 Act, it is generally a criminal offence to remove human remains from any place of burial without an appropriate licence issued by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), although recent legislative changes indicate that some cases are exempt from this requirement
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 202	Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value ⁷³ . These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations ⁷⁴ .
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 203	Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account: d) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; e) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; f) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and g) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Title	Content
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 204	When considering the designation of conservation areas, local planning authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 205	Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record. This should contain up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and be used to: a) assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment; and b) predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 206	Local planning authorities should make information about the historic environment, gathered as part of policy-making or development management, publicly accessible.
Proposals Affecting Heritage Assets	
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 207	In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 208	Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a

Title	Content
	heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 209	Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 210	In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take into account: a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
NPPF Chapter 16, Paragraph 211	In considering any applications to remove or alter a historic statue, plaque, memorial or monument (whether listed or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the importance of their retention in situ and, where appropriate, of explaining their historic and social context rather than removal.
Considering Potential Impacts	
NPPF Chapter 16, Paragraph 212	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.
NPPF Chapter 16, Paragraph 213	Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of: a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

Title	Content
	b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional ⁷⁵ .
NPPF Chapter 16, Paragraph 214	Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply: a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use
NPPF Chapter 16, Paragraph 215	Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 216	The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 217	Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

Title	Content
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 218	Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible ⁷⁶ . However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 219	Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 220	Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 214 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 215, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.
NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 221	Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

Non-statutory Protection

- 4.3 The NPPF confirms that the historic environment, including archaeological remains, constitutes a material consideration in planning decisions, requiring applicants to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by development, including any contribution made by their setting.

- 4.4 As stated within Paragraph 207 of the NPPF, where a site includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets of archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, results of a field evaluation.

Local Planning Policy

- 4.5 Local Authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and the formulation of policies to support this obligation.
- 4.6 Treatment of the historic environment within the planning process relevant to the Proposed Development is covered by Policy 58 contained in the Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire Council, 2015). This policy is reproduced in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2: Local planning policies relevant to the consideration of the historic environment.

Policy No	Description
Core Policy 58: Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment	Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment. 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 vi. important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes. 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). Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of

Policy No	Description
	statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications.

Technical Guidance

- 4.7 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (ClfA, 2020) and the ClfA *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology* (ClfA, 2025).
- 4.8 Further guidance on the assessment of significance as part of the planning application process is contained in the document *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2015) and the document *Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2019).

5 Assessment Methodology

- 5.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment will focus on the impacts the Proposed Development will have on buried archaeology, earthworks, and historic buildings within the Site boundary. The potential impacts of the development on the setting and significance of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and Locally Listed Buildings are outside the scope of this report.

Terminology

- 5.2 **Designated heritage asset:** A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
- 5.3 **Heritage asset:** A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and heritage assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
- 5.4 **Setting of a heritage asset:** The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
- 5.5 **Significance (for heritage policy):** The value of a heritage asset 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. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.
- 5.6 **Archaeological site:** Archaeological remains may consist of surface and/or sub-surface remains, features, deposits and/or material relating to past anthropogenic activity.
- 5.7 **Archaeological interest:** There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 5.8 **Palaeoenvironmental/geoarchaeological potential:** Study of the palaeoenvironment and geoarchaeology combines multi-disciplinary approaches which use the techniques and subject matter of geography, geology and other geosciences to address archaeological aims.
- 5.9 The focus of geoarchaeological fieldworks and palaeoenvironmental assessment can be split into two main areas:

Archaeological

- Using geoarchaeological assessment through the knowledge of landforms and geological processes combined with the modelling of sub-surface data to predict and evaluate the location of deposits which may bury or contain significant archaeological sites and/or material.
- Looking at organic deposits preserved within archaeological remains to provide detailed information on processes carried out at that site, or leading to their presence.

Palaeoenvironmental

- Using a similar set of techniques – to predict and evaluate the location of deposits with high palaeoenvironmental potential, not necessarily in direct association with archaeological sites. Such deposits, often alluvial, can be targeted for sampling and lab work, thus providing detailed information on the changing environment over time.

5.10 These techniques directly relate to practical archaeological investigation in two ways:

- Providing a process by which to determine the likelihood of construction impacts to deposits with archaeological potential; and
- Providing interpretation of depositional context for archaeological remains.

Study Area

5.11 A Study Area of 500 m around the Site has been identified in order to assemble the data for this assessment (Figure 1). All designated and non-designated heritage assets recorded by Historic England, the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Wiltshire Council have been assessed within this Study Area (Figures 3 and 4). It is considered that information from the Study Area is sufficient to inform the assessment of the sensitivity of the Proposed Development.

Sources

5.12 The following publicly accessible sources of primary and secondary information were consulted.

Designated Heritage Assets

5.13 Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE) datasets of designated heritage assets were consulted in December 2025. These datasets contain information on all recorded World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields. If present, all designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by a unique reference number (1), (2) etc. A comprehensive list of all heritage assets can be found in Appendix A and the locations of these heritage assets can be seen on Figure 2.

Historic Environment Records

- 5.14 The Wiltshire HER database of recorded archaeological sites, findspots and events, was consulted for information relating to the Study Area in December 2025 . All heritage assets are referred to in the text by a unique reference number 1, 2 etc. A comprehensive list of all heritage assets can be found in Appendix B and the locations of these heritage assets can be seen on Figure 3.

Cartographic Sources

- 5.15 Information from Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and earlier historic mapping can assist in the assessment of archaeological potential in the following ways: highlighting previously unrecorded features, enabling an understanding of how the land has been managed in the recent past, and identifying areas where development is likely to have removed or truncated below-ground archaeological deposits. All maps consulted are listed in the References section below.

Aerial Photographs

- 5.16 Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer and National Library of Scotland (NLS) Air Mosaic were consulted in December 2025 (Historic England 2025a, NLS 2025). Information provided by aerial photography can assist the assessment of archaeological potential by highlighting previously unrecorded features, enabling an understanding of how the land has been managed in the recent past.

Documentary Sources

- 5.17 Other primary and secondary sources relating to the Study Area were obtained from online sources. All sources consulted are listed in the References section below.

Assumptions and limitations

- 5.18 Much of the information used by this study consists of secondary information compiled from a variety of sources. The assumption is made that this information is reasonably accurate.
- 5.19 The Wiltshire HER is a record of known archaeological and historic features. It is not an exhaustive record of all surviving historic environment features and it does not preclude the existence of further features which are unknown at present.

Site Visit

- 5.20 A walkover survey was carried out in December 2025.
- 5.21 The Site consists of a green agricultural pasture field. No previously unknown archaeological earthworks, artefacts or standing remains were observed during the survey (Plates 1-4).
- 5.22 A fully digital photographic record was made of the site visit. This forms part of the project archive.

Consultation

- 5.23 At the time of writing, no consultation has been undertaken with the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS). Pre application advice has been sought by the Client from Wiltshire Council (letter dated 6th November).

6 Results

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.1 Historic England's NHLE, the Wiltshire HER and Wiltshire Council record no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I, or II* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Designated Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the 500 m Study Area (Figure 2).
- 6.2 Designated heritage assets most relevant to the archaeological interpretation of the Site/Scheme are described in detail by period in the Archaeological and Historical Potential Narrative section below.

Historic Environment Record Heritage Assets

- 6.3 The Wiltshire HER records a total of 24 heritage assets within the Study Area (Figure 3).
- 6.4 Heritage assets most relevant to the archaeological interpretation of the Site are described in detail by period in the Archaeological and Historical Potential Narrative section below. Any HER Heritage Assets which were also recorded as Designated Assets have been omitted from Appendix B for clarity.

Previous archaeological investigations within the Site and Study Area

- 6.5 No known archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken on the Site.
- 6.6 The Wiltshire HER records 16 previous archaeological and/or geoarchaeological interventions within the Study Area (27 – 43) (Figure 4). The most relevant events pertinent to the archaeological interpretation of the Site are detailed below.
- 6.7 A geophysical survey (35) and two archaeological trial trench evaluations (36, 40) were undertaken immediately east of the Site in advance of a development at Land South of Balckmore Farm (Wiltshire Planning Reference PL/2023/11188). The programme of evaluation recorded a single Roman pit, along with and a small number of Roman ditches situated in the far southeast corner of the Site. However, the fields immediately adjacent to the Site recorded no archaeology present (Wiltshire HER, 2025).

- 6.8 A geophysical survey (41), followed by a trial trench evaluation (42) was undertaken immediately north of the Site at New Road Farm. A single undated pit of possible archaeological origin was identified (Wiltshire HER, 2025).
- 6.9 In January 2025 a geophysical survey (48) was carried out on land immediately to the north of the Site (Sumo Geophysics, 2025). A single probable archaeological trend running parallel to the current road was recorded.

Historic Landscape Characterisation Data

- 6.10 Historic Landscape Characterisation data records the location of the Site as *Forest and Sandridge Church of England School*. These regular fields were set out according to plan and have changed little since and were likely enclosed in the later post-medieval period. The character prior to enclosure is not clear from the available sources (Wiltshire HER, 2025).

7 Archaeological and Historical Background

Chronology

- 7.1 Where referred to in the document, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:
- Palaeolithic 650,000 - 8500 BC
 - Mesolithic 8500 - 4000 BC
 - Neolithic 4000 - 2400 BC
 - Bronze Age 2400 - 700 BC
 - Iron Age 700 BC - AD 43
 - Roman AD 43 - 410
 - Early Medieval AD 410 - 1066
 - Medieval AD 1066 – 1539
 - Post-medieval AD 1540 - 1799
 - 19th century AD 1800 - 1899
 - Modern AD 1900 - present

Prehistoric (650,000 BC - AD 43)

- 7.2 The Wiltshire HER contains one record attributed to the Prehistoric period for the Study Area.

7.3 A Bronze Age pit (14) is recorded 460 m southwest of the Site at Little Snarlton Farm, East Melksham.

7.4 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is a low potential for prehistoric remains to be present on the Site.

Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

7.5 The Wiltshire HER contains one record attributed to the Roman period for the Study Area.

7.6 There is a Roman ditch (21) located 460 m to the southeast of the Site.

7.7 As mentioned above, the previous work on Land at Blackmore Farm recorded a single pit and two pairs of ditches dated to the Romano-British period. However, the area evaluated immediately east of the Site recorded no archaeology present. Should similar features be present within the Site, they would most likely be representative of sparse land management activity during this period.

7.8 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is moderate potential for Romano-British remains to be present on the Site.

Early Medieval (AD 410 - 1066)

7.9 The Wiltshire HER contains no records attributed to the early medieval period for the Study Area.

7.10 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is a low potential for early medieval remains to be present on the Site.

Medieval (AD 1066 - 1539)

7.11 The Wiltshire HER contains five records attributed to the medieval period for the Study Area (11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 25).

7.12 The remains of a Boundary Bank (25) are recorded within 60 m of the northwest corner of the Site.

7.13 Blackmore Farm (17) is a farmstead with medieval origins, located 240 m to the northeast of the Site.

7.14 Two areas of ridge and furrow earthworks (11, 12) are recorded 420 m and 500 m to the southwest of the Site, respectively.

7.15 A medieval ditch and pit (15) and ironworking floors (16) were recorded (16) during excavations at Snarlton Farm, 390 m to the southwest of the Site.

- 7.16 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is a low potential for medieval remains to be present on the Site.

Post-medieval to Modern (AD 1539 - present)

- 7.17 The Wiltshire HER contains seventeen records attributed from the post-medieval to the modern periods for the Study Area (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24).
- 7.18 Ridge and Furrow earthworks which are tentatively dated to the post-medieval period are recorded throughout the Study Area (10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24). However, none are recorded on the Site itself.
- 7.19 Blackmore House (1) is Grade II Listed Building (List Entry 1364118) is located 320 m northeast of Site. The present day structure was constructed in the late 18th century.
- 7.20 There are six post-medieval farmsteads and out buildings recorded in the Study Area. This includes the farmstead at North of Little Snarlton Farm (6) 240 m south of the Site and Snarlton Lane (3) located 460 m east of the Site.
- 7.21 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is a moderate general potential for remains dating from the post-medieval to the modern periods to be present on the Site. Such remains are likely to constitute isolated stray or residual finds or remains related to agricultural activity. These would likely be of local significance.

Undated

- 7.22 The Wiltshire HER contains one record which is undated within the Study Area (26).
- 7.23 A geophysical survey identified an undated bank (26) located 460 m west of the Site.
- 7.24 The available archaeological evidence suggests there is a low general potential for undated buried archaeological remains and artefacts of archaeological significance to be present on the Site.

Historic and Modern Mapping

- 7.25 Historic mapping analysis of the location of the Site and Study Area shows the gradual expansion of Melksham throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The Site itself has been located within an agricultural setting since at least the post-medieval period, with no evidence of previous development.
- 7.26 The 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map (Figure 5) shows the Site and Study Area within an enclosed agricultural field system. Blackmore Farm is recorded to the east and Blackmore Forest to the north (Promap, 2025). The OS Maps to 1988 (Figure 6, 7, and 8) show no significant changes to the land use or field boundary arrangement in the Site.

- 7.27 Within the wider landscape the mapping shows the gradual urbanisation and absorption of the settlement marked as *Melksham Forest* (Figures 6, 7 and 8).

Aerial Photographs

- 7.28 The Ordnance Survey Air Mosaic Sheet (1:10,560) 1944 - 1950 photos were consulted, these aerial photographs were a temporary way of providing some landscape coverage at the end of the Second World War, before up-to-date regular mapping could be created. They show the location of the settlement of Melksham Forest with the area to the east containing the Site shown as agricultural fields (NLS, 2025).

8 Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The Site has likely been subject to a degree of previous horizontal truncation as a result of past agricultural activity (e.g. ploughing), which may have impacted any surviving archaeological remains. Such impacts are likely to have been widespread across the Site but were shallow and would not have impacted deeper features which may survive.
- 8.2 Detailed design and construction methodology for the Proposed Development is not available at the current stage. Some of the new structures detailed in the Proposed Development Plan (Figure 9 and 10) are likely to have elements extending below ground level. All types of intrusive, below ground works that occur as part of the Proposed Development will have the potential to negatively impact on surviving below ground archaeological remains within their footprint.
- 8.3 Impacts on heritage assets resulting from the Proposed Development are discussed below.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 8.4 There are no designated World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I, or II* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Designated Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or immediately adjacent to the Site. There will be no physical impact to any of these types of designated heritage assets from the development.
- 8.5 There is one Grade II Listed Building (1) within the Study Area which is located over 300 m away from the Site and will not be physically impacted by the Proposed Development.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 8.6 The Wiltshire HER records a total of 24 heritage assets within the Study Area (2 to 26) and none are recorded within the Site itself. There will be no physical impact to any known heritage asset recorded by the Historic Environment Record by the Proposed Development.

Unknown Archaeological Deposits

- 8.7 Based on the archaeological potential highlighted above, the Site is considered to have a moderate potential for Roman buried archaeological remains and artefacts remains to be present. This potential is due to the archaeological remains found in the archaeological trial trenching evaluations (36, 40) previously carried out on land immediately to the east of the Proposed Development. The results of the evaluations indicate remains of Roman date would most likely comprise ditches and isolated pits.
- 8.8 Additionally, there are a large number of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow field earthworks in the Study Area, with the closest recorded immediately north and east of the Site. These may extend into the Site. Any ridge and furrow would likely survive at depth below ground level and remains would be likely be of local significance.
- 8.9 This assessment has identified no specific potential for palaeo-environmental or waterlogged remains to be present on the Site.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 No designated heritage assets are recorded on the Site, although it is within an area which has known potential to contain archaeological remains.
- 9.2 With consideration to the available information, the Site has a moderate potential for Roman remains to be present on the Site, with a low to moderate potential for all other periods. Any surviving archaeological remains on the Site are likely to be of local significance.
- 9.3 The Proposed Development will include below ground intrusions with potential to impact on below ground archaeological remains, if present.
- 9.4 Based on the conclusion of this report and with consideration to the National and Local Planning Policy relating to the historic environment, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority will make an informed decision on the need for further archaeological work for on the Site.

Acknowledgements

- 9.5 This assessment was commissioned by Lidl, and thanks are due in this regard. The report was written by Adam Howard. The supporting maps and illustrations were prepared by Adam Howard and verified by Stephen McLeod.

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10 References

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Ordnance Survey Maps

Small Scale

OS County Series: Wiltshire 1:10,560 (1886, 1888, 1900, 1901, 1922, 1937, 1961)

Large Scale

OS County Series: Wiltshire 1:2,500 (1926, 1949, 1972)

DRAFT

Appendix A: Designated Heritage Assets within the Study Area

Map No	HER/HE No	Monument Name	Designation	Grid Ref
1	1364118	Blackmore House	Grade I	392559, 164450

DRAFT

Appendix B: HER heritage assets within the Study Area

Map No	Her No	Monument Type	Description	Period
2	MWI51158	Chapel of ease	Mission Chapel Of St Andrews Or Mission Hall	Post medieval
3	MWI68762	Farmstead	Site Of Farmstead On Snarlton Lane	C19
4	MWI68796	Farmstead	Blackmore House (Blackmore Farm)	Post medieval
5	MWI68797	Outfarm	Site Of Outfarm, North East Of Little Snarlton Farm	C19
6	MWI68798	Outfarm	Site Of Outfarm, North Of Little Snarlton Farm	C19
7	MWI68799	Farmstead	Little Snarlton Farm	C19
8	MWI68801	Outfarm	Site Of Outfarm On Snarlton Lane	C19
9	MWI68854	Farmstead	Farmstead, South West Of New Road Farm	C19
10	MWI73970	Ridge and furrow; narrow ridge and furrow	Post Medieval Ridge And Furrow, South Of Sandridge Common	Post medieval
11	MWI73982	Ridge and furrow; field boundary	Medieval Ridge And Furrow, North Of Clackers Brook	Medieval
12	MWI73982	Ridge and furrow; field boundary	Medieval Ridge And Furrow, North Of Clackers Brook	Medieval
13	MWI73983	Ridge and furrow; narrow ridge and furrow	Post Medieval Ridge And Furrow, East Of Melksham	Post medieval
14	MWI74524	Pit; field boundary	Prehistoric Pits And Medieval Ditches, Little Snarlton Farm, East Melksham	Early bronze age to medieval
15	MWI74525	Farmstead	Medieval Ditch And Pit, Little Snarlton Farm, East Melksham	Medieval
16	MWI74526	Iron working site	Medieval Iron Working Floors, Little Snarlton Farm, East Melksham	Medieval

17	MWI3630	Settlement	Blackmore Farm	Medieval
18	MWI73970	Ridge and furrow; narrow ridge and furrow	Post Medieval Ridge And Furrow, South Of Sandridge Common	Post medieval
19	MWI73970	Ridge and furrow; narrow ridge and furrow	Post Medieval Ridge And Furrow, South Of Sandridge Common	Post medieval
20	MWI73970	Ridge and furrow; narrow ridge and furrow	Post Medieval Ridge And Furrow, South Of Sandridge Common	Post medieval
21	MWI4935	Ditch; pit; enclosure	Roman Ditch, Southwest Of Eight Acre Plantation	Roman
22	MWI55197	Early c18 to late c19	Semi Detached House	Post medieval
23	MWI60878	Post medieval	Detached House	Post medieval
24	MWI73983	Post medieval	Ridge And Furrow; Narrow Ridge And Furrow	Post medieval
25	MWI73984	Medieval to late c19	Boundary Bank	Medieval
26	MWI74757	Unknown	Bank (Earthwork)	Undated

Appendix C: HER heritage events within the Study Area

Map no	Her no	Event type	Description
27	EWI7047	Evaluation	Evaluation At Clackers Brook, Snarlton Lane
28	EWI7048	Survey	Magnetometry Survey At Snarlton Lane
29	EWI7049	Impact assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment On Land At Clackers Brook, Snarlton Lane
30	EWI7050	Excavation	Archaeological Excavation At Clackers Brook, Snarlton Lane, Melksham, Wiltshire.
31	EWI8018	DbA	Desk Based Assessment At Land To The North Of Sandridge Common, Melksham, Wiltshire
32	EWI8019	Ha	Heritage Statement For Land To The North Of Sandridge Common, Melksham, Wiltshire
33	EWI8020	Survey	Geophysical Survey On Land North Of Sandridge Common, Melksham, Wiltshire
34	EWI8022	Evaluation	Evaluation At Land North Of Sandridge Common
35	EWI10040	Survey	Geophysical Survey At Blackmore Farm
36	EWI10199	Evaluation	Evaluation On Land South Of Blackmore Farm
37	EWI10199	Evaluation	Evaluation On Land South Of Blackmore Farm
38	EWI10351	Survey	Geophysical Survey At Land South Of Snarlton Farm
39	EWI10439	Survey	Geophysical Survey At Blackmore Farm
40	EWI10611	Evaluation	Evaluation At Land South Of Blackmore Farm
41	EWI10679	Survey	Geophysical Survey At New Road Farm
42	EWI11104	Evaluation	New Road Farm, Sandridge Common, Melksham, Wiltshire
43	EWI11194	Survey	Magnetometry Survey Land At Melksham, Wiltshire

Plates



Plate 1: View of the Site looking to the northeast



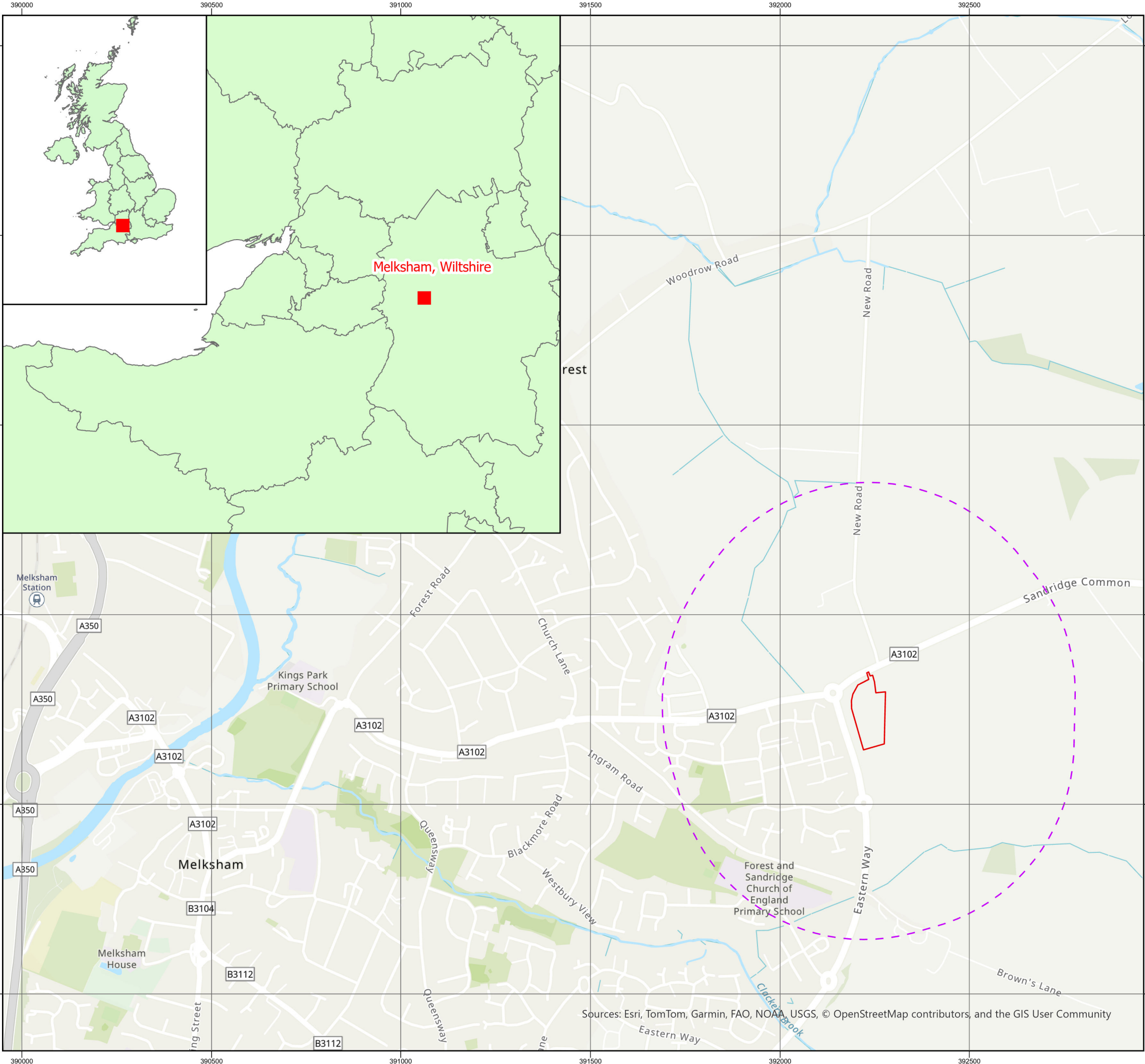
Plate 2: View of the Site looking to the southeast



Plate 3: View of the Site looking to the west



Plate 4: View of the Site looking to the east



Melksham, Wiltshire

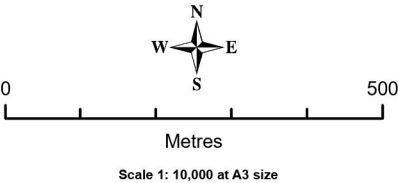
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Figure 1: Location of the Proposed Development

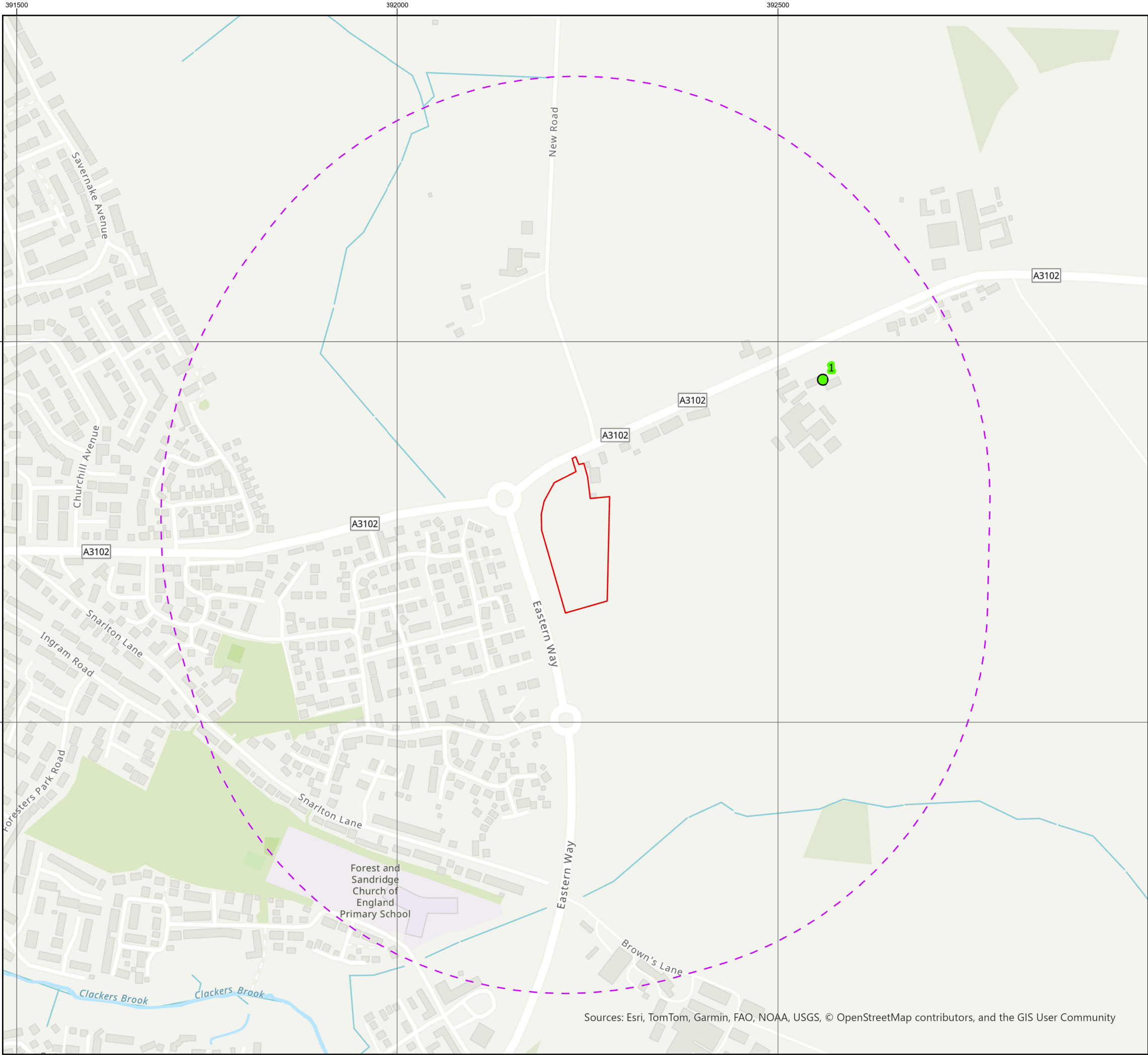
-  Site Boundary
-  Study Area

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Verified by: Stephen McLeod Date: 08.12.2025



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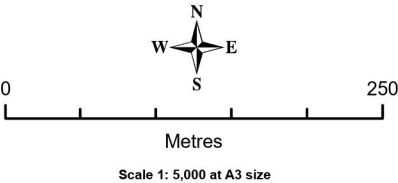
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Figure 2: Designated Heritage Assets within the Study Area

- Site Boundary
- Study Area
- Grade II Listed Building

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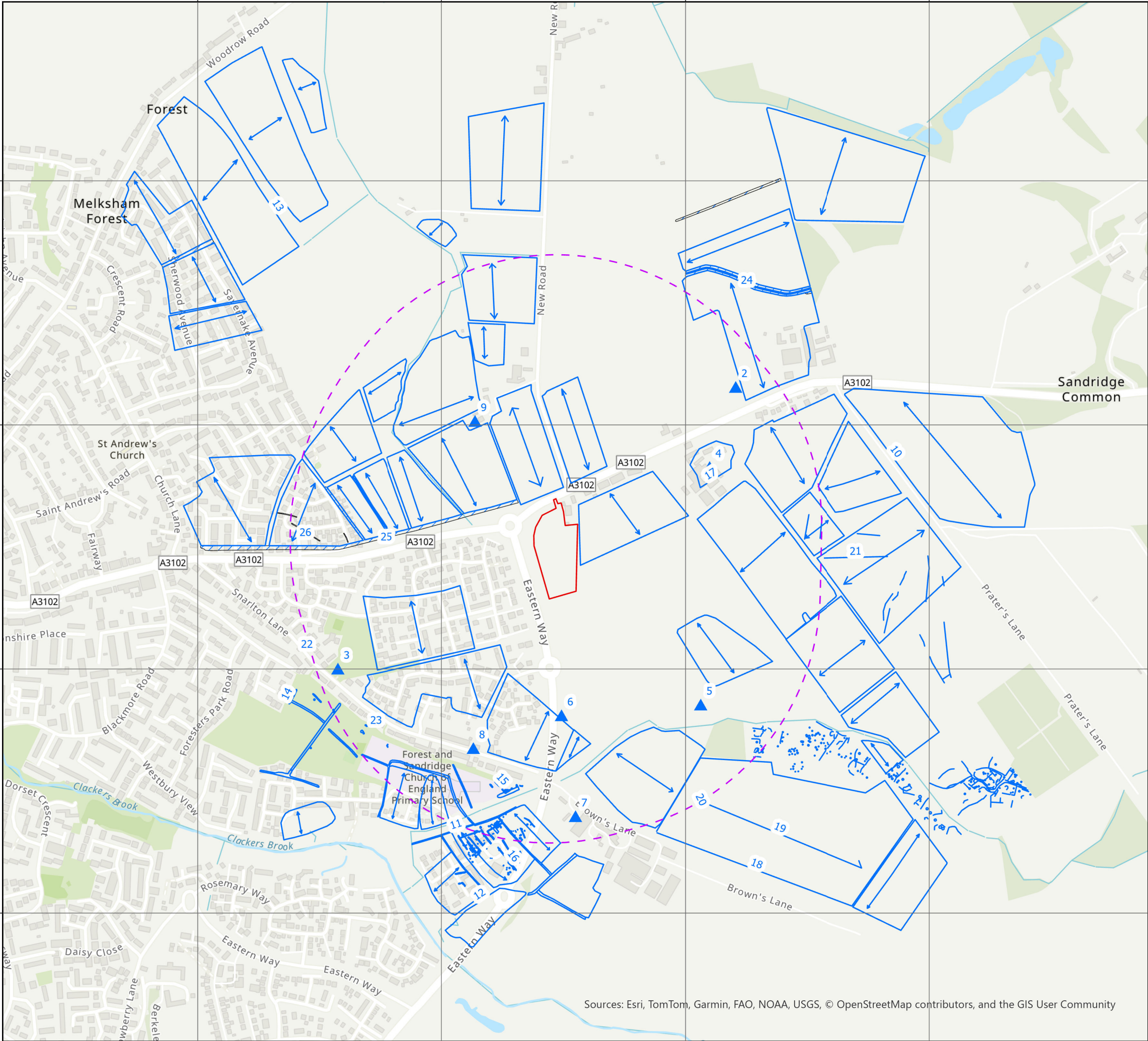


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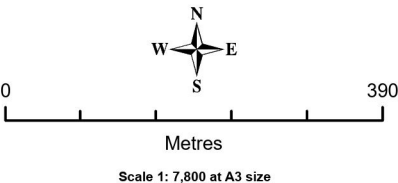
Figure 3: HER Heritage Assets within the Study Area

- Site Boundary
- Study Area
- HER Monument Point
- HER Monument Line
- HER Monument Polygon



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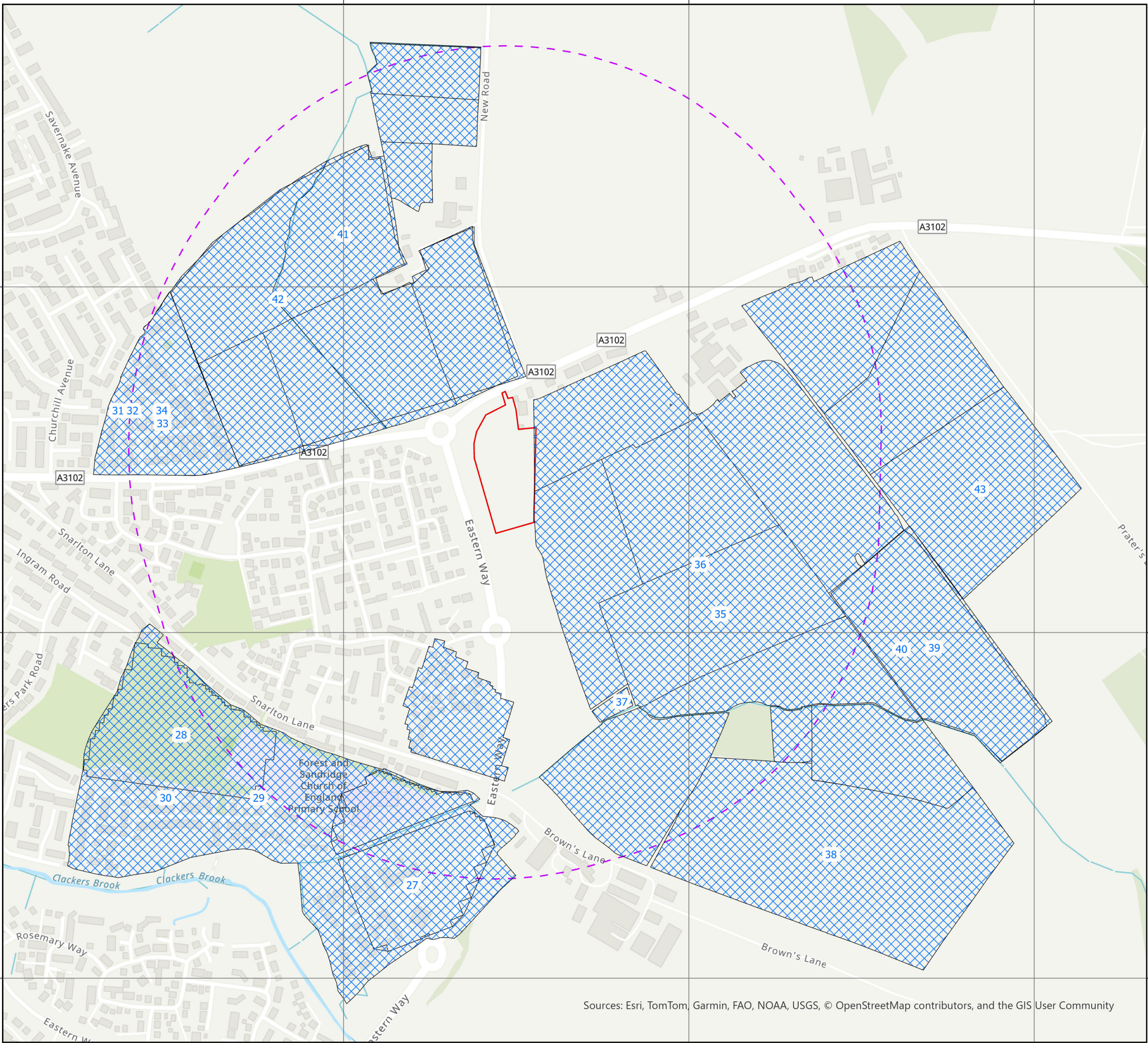


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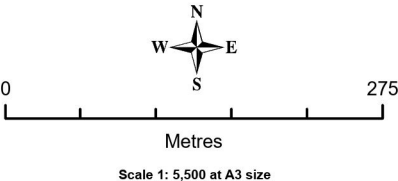
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Figure 4: HER Heritage Events within the Study Area

- Site Boundary
- Study Area
- HER Event Polygon



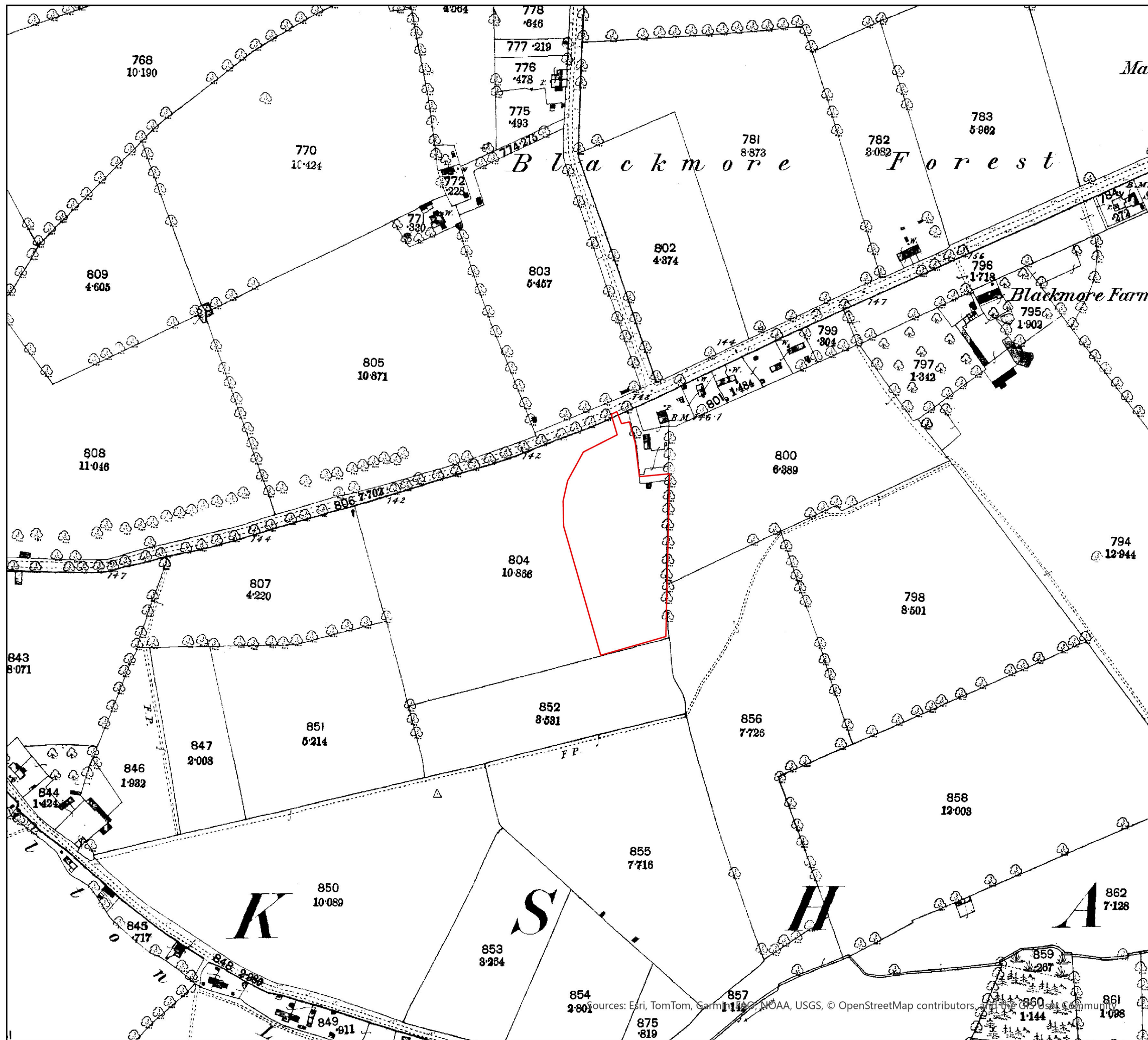
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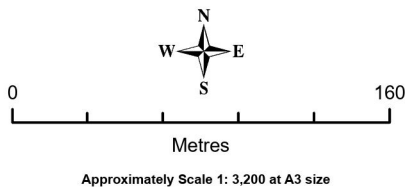
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Figure 5: Site Location on the OS Plan 1:2,500 of 1886

- Site Boundary
- Study Area

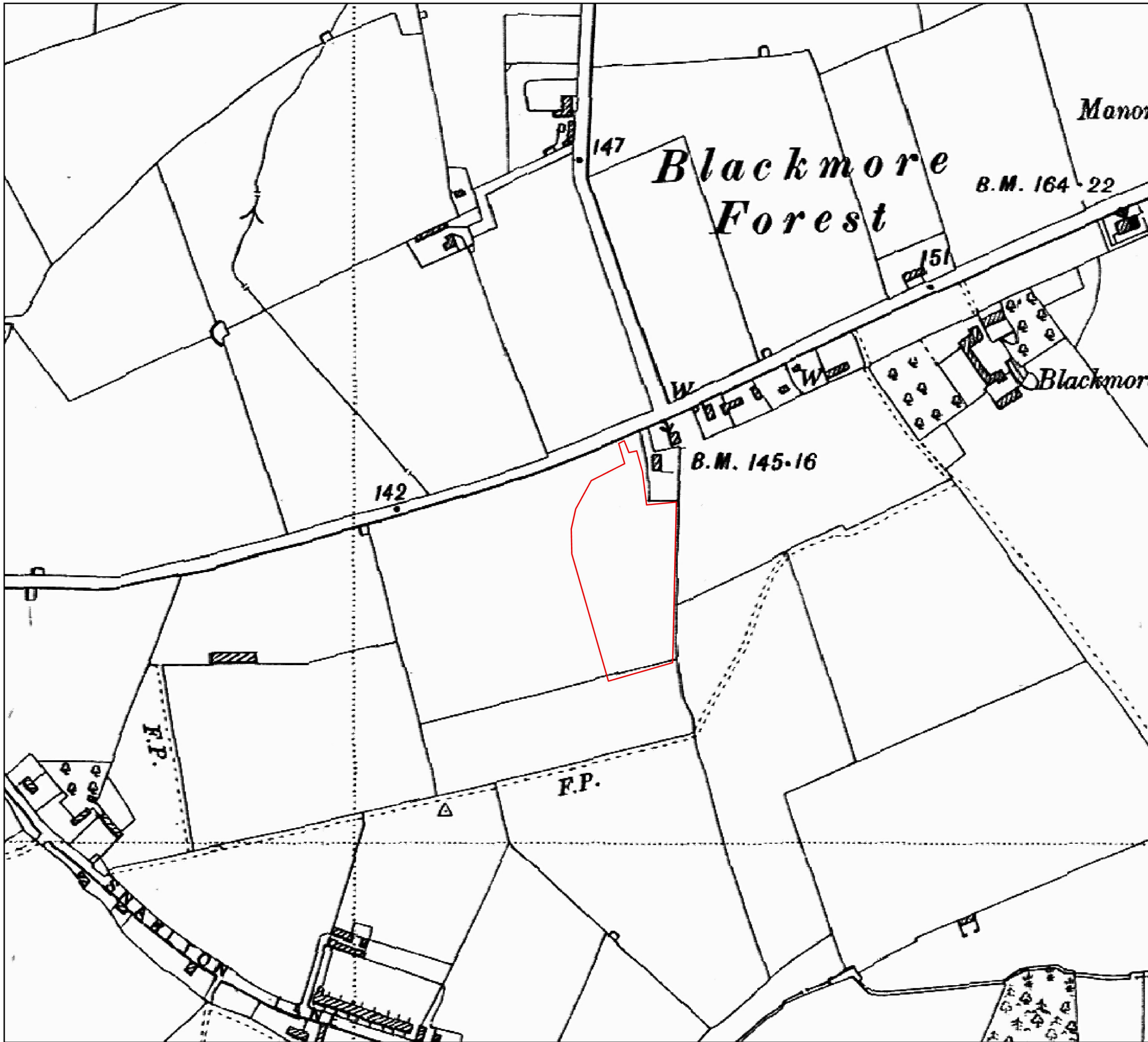
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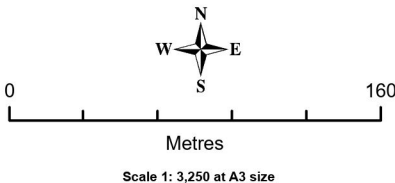
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**Figure 6: Site Location on the
OS Plan 1:10,560 of 1942**

 Site Boundary

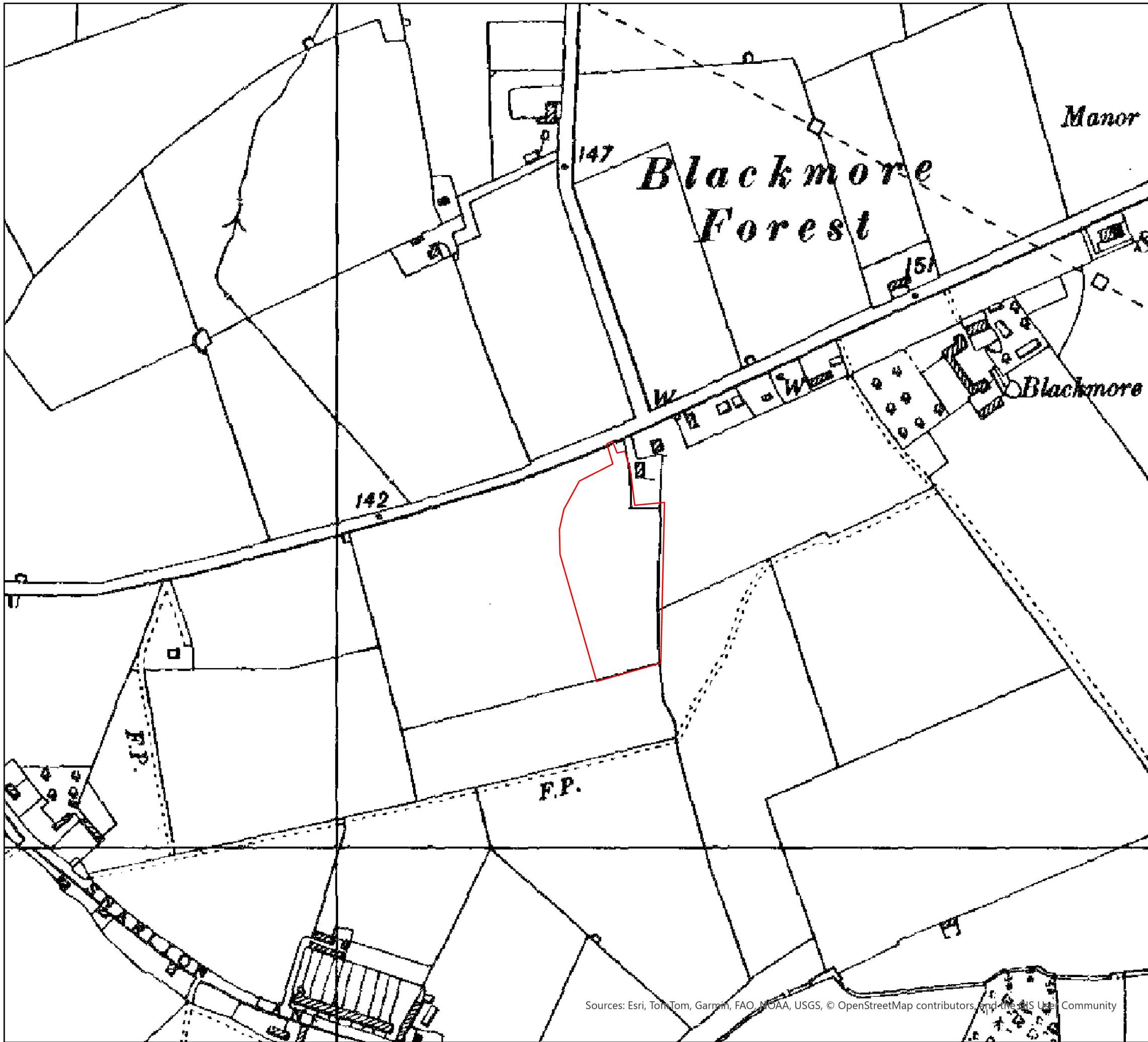
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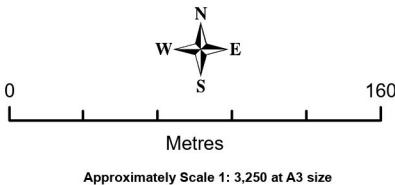
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**Figure 7: Site Location on the
OS Plan 1:10,560 of 1961**

 Site Boundary

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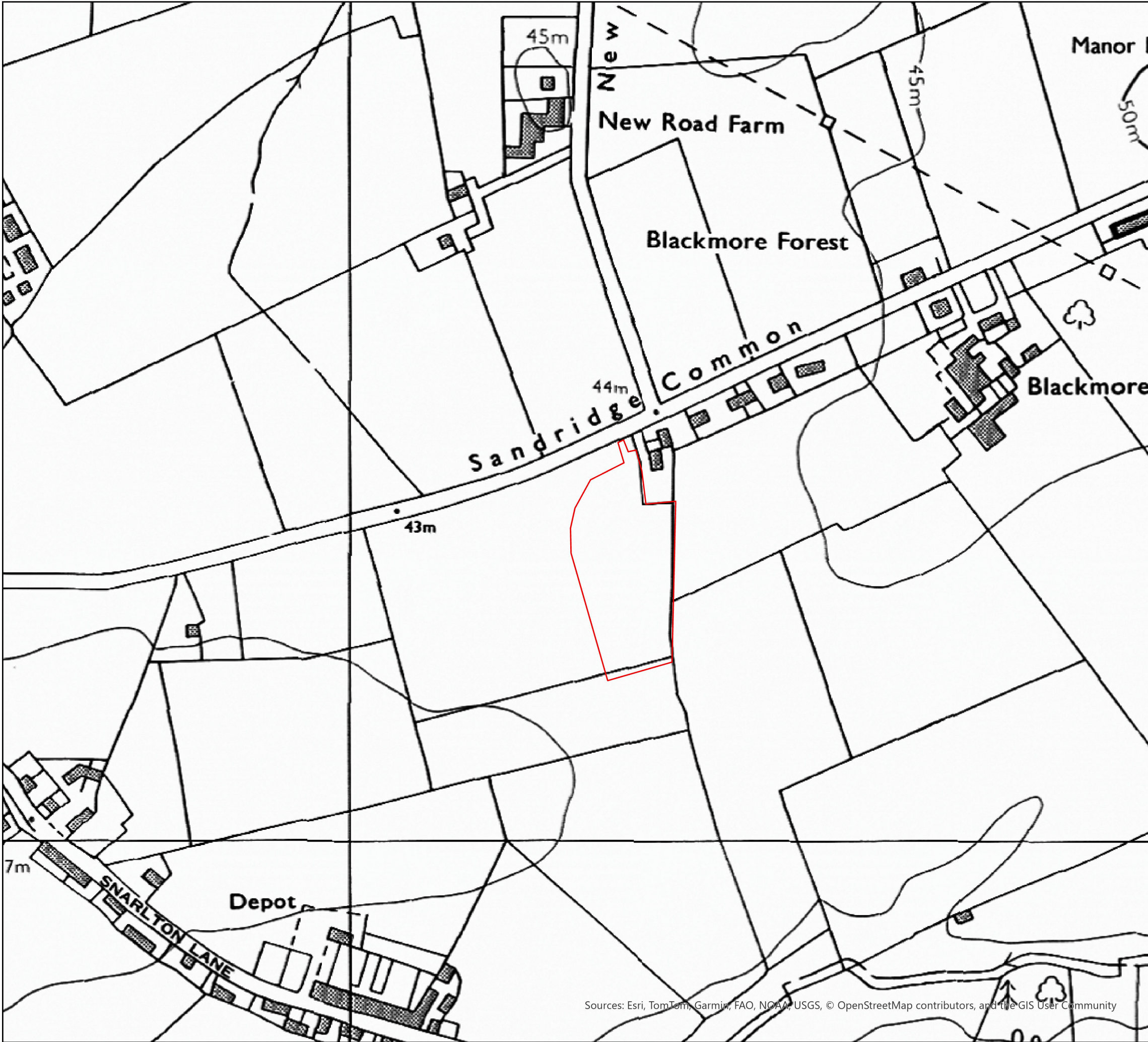


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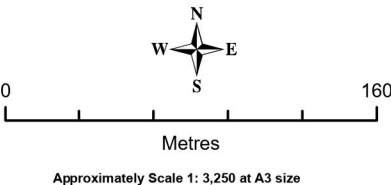
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Figure 8: Site Location on the OS Plan 1:10,000 of 1988

 Site Boundary

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PROPOSED FOOT / CYCLE PATH

EXISTING FOOTPATH TO BE REMOVED

SANDRIDGE COMMON

Pumping Station

POSSIBLE LOCATION OF RETAINING WALL, SUBJECT TO DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

SITE ACCESS IN LINE WITH PELL FRISCHMANN DRAWING NO 105414-PEF-XX-XX-DR-Y-001001 REV P06

EASTERN WAY

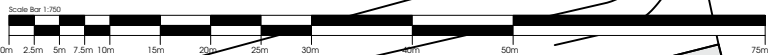
DISPOSAL LAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

BOUNDARIES AREA

TOTAL 16284 m² OR 4.02 AC
LIDL 10907 m² OR 2.69 AC
DISPOSAL 5337 m² OR 1.32 AC

SCHEDULE OF AREAS (TYPE 1500)

SALES = 1529 m²
WAREHOUSE = 430 m²
ANCILLARY = 225 m²
GIA = 2184 m²



Rev.	Date	Description	NG
A	20/10/2025	GIA MODIFIED	NG

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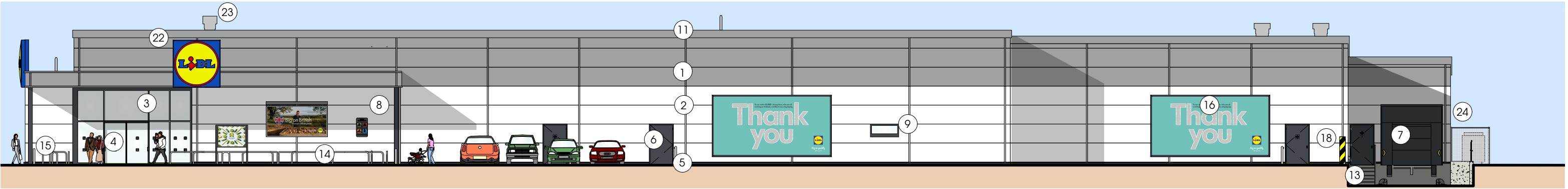
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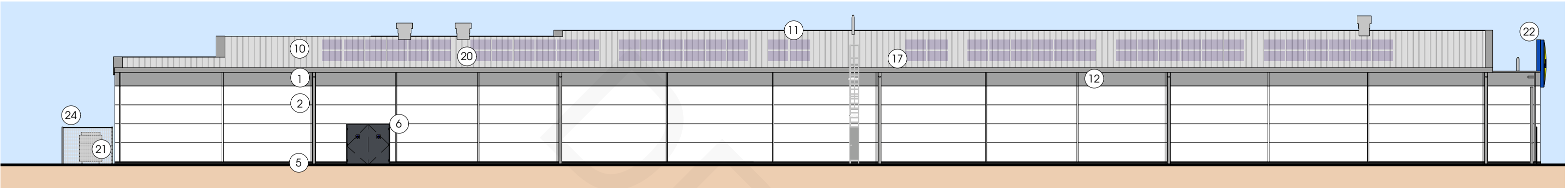
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**Melksham,
Eastern Way**

drawing title
**Proposed Setting Out Site
Plan**

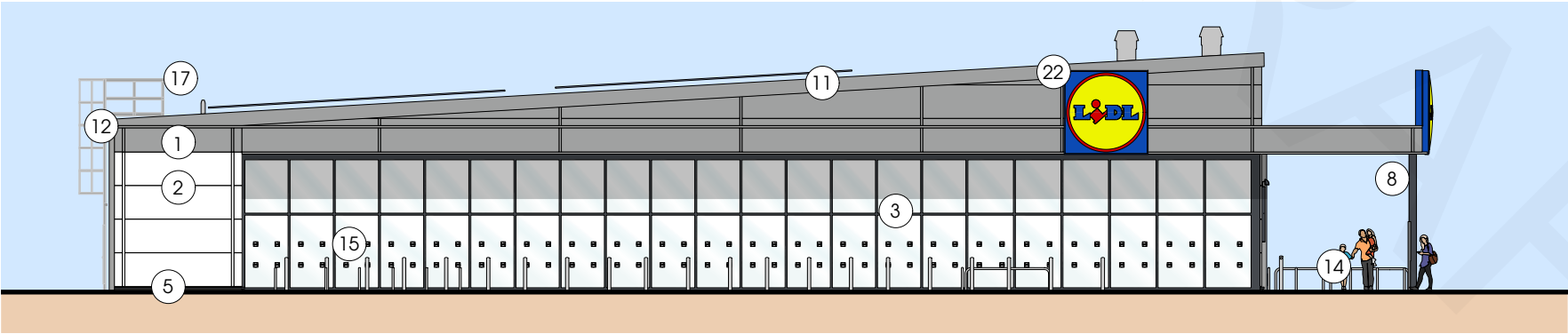
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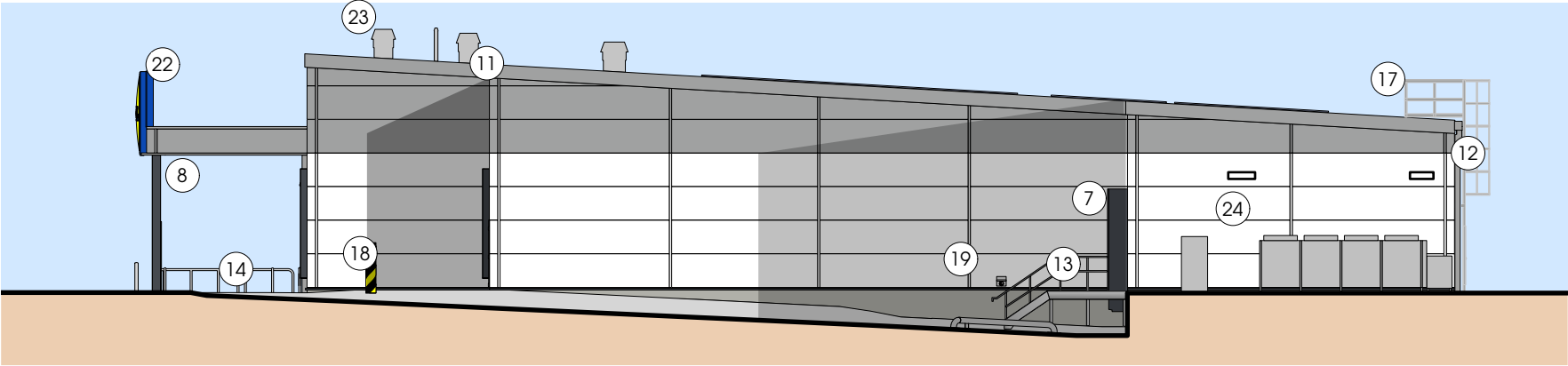
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REAR ELEVATION



GLAZED GABLE ELEVATION

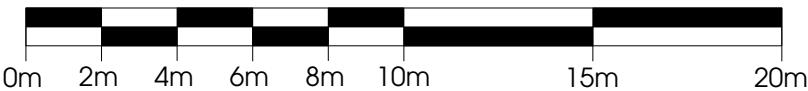


GABLE ELEVATION

MATERIALS KEY

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | INSULATED METAL CLADDING PANELS - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 9006) |
| 2 | INSULATED METAL CLADDING PANELS - COLOUR: WHITE (RAL 9010) |
| 3 | CURTAIN WALLING - DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 4 | ENTRANCE DOORS - DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 5 | LOW LEVEL RENDER - COLOUR: AGATE GREY (RAL 7038) |
| 6 | POWDER COATED STEEL DOORS - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 7 | SECTIONAL DOOR - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 8 | CANOPY COLUMN - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 9 | NON OPENABLE FIXED SAFETY GLASS WINDOWS - FLASHING COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 10 | METAL COMPOSITE INSULATED ROOF PANELS - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 9006) |
| 11 | STEEL COPING FLASHING TO ROOF PERIMETER - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 9006) TO MATCH CLADDING. |
| 12 | ALUMINIUM GUTTERS AND RAIN WATER PIPES - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 9006) TO MATCH CLADDING. |
| 13 | GALVANISED METAL DRIVERS STEPS, STAIRCASE AND BALLUSTERS WITH HANDRAILS. ALL STEPS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUILDING REGS PART K. |
| 14 | STAINLESS STEEL TUBULAR TROLLEY GUIDES (MARINE GRADE 316) SPACES FOR WHEELCHAIR SHOPPING TROLLEYS AND TROLLEYS WITH BABY SEATS. FIXED WITH CONCRETE FOUNDATION. |
| 15 | STAINLESS STEEL CYCLE STANDS, 750mm HIGH, ROOT FIXED TO CONCRETE FOUNDATION. |
| 16 | BILLBOARD SIGNAGE INDICATIVE ONLY - FRAME COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7024) |
| 17 | ROOF ACCESS LADDER |
| 18 | CONCRETE FILLED GALVANISED STEEL HGV BOLLARD PAINTED BLACK & YELLOW AT 45DEG. |
| 19 | WALL-MOUNTED ASH TRAY SHOWN AS INDICATIVE ONLY, TO BE LOCATED CLOSE TO DRIVER'S STAIR |
| 20 | PV PANELS (INDICATIVE ONLY) |
| 21 | 2m PALADIN FENCE - COLOUR: GREY (RAL 7038) |
| 22 | LIDL SIGN. SUPPORTING FRAME COLOUR: BLUE (RAL 5010). |
| 23 | ROOF MOUNTED M&E OUTLETS (INDICATIVE ONLY) |
| 24 | EXTERNAL PLANT EQUIPMENT (INDICATIVE ONLY). |

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project
Melksham,
Eastern Way
drawing title
Proposed Elevations

date
October 2025
status
Planning
scale
1:200 @ A3
drawn
NG checked MH
job no.
4034 dwg no. P200 rev.