



Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Alington Estate,
Little Barford,
Bedfordshire

HCUK Group is a multi-disciplinary environmental practice offering expert advice in archaeology, heritage, landscape, arboriculture, and planning. It began life in 2010 as Heritage Collective LLP, before becoming Heritage Collective UK Limited in 2014. In the coming years diversification saw the addition of Archaeology Collective, Landscape Collective and Planning Collective, before all strands came together to be branded under a single umbrella: HCUK Group, based on the acronym for the original company. A home working company since the beginning, we are pleased to employ a talented workforce of consultants and support staff, who are on hand to advise our clients.



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Non-Technical Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by HCUK Group, on behalf of The Executors of the Late Nigel Alington, to inform proposals for land at the Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire.

The assessment has confirmed that the Site does not contain any designated archaeological heritage assets such as scheduled monuments or registered battlefields where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ and against development.

There are 85 archaeological records in the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BHER) recorded within the study area, which includes one scheduled monument. Out of these 18 archaeological records are located in the Site which include; a large Bronze Age ring ditch with adjacent Iron Age/Roman enclosures (MBD637); the probable site of an extensive Iron Age/Roman settlement and associated field systems (MBD13994); a complex of parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures of unknown date (MBD9072); a findspot of a Roman coin (MBD478); Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806); the medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101); a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346); a moated manor site (MBD3401); eight blocks of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538); the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477), site of nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070); two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits (MBB22276, MBD9071); site of post-medieval duck decoy pond (MBD9068); the site of post-medieval fishpond (MBD9061); a post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347); a former 19th century parkland (MBD9067), the site of post-medieval osier bed (MBD9062); and the site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344). Tithe records from 1840 record a field called 'Giants Parlour' (MBD473) in the east of the Site, which may be a reference to mythical giants.

As isolated sites and features, the importance of known archaeological features in the Site ranges from low to medium. As a group however, those associated with Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) are considered to have high importance. These assets include Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806), a moated manor site (MBD3401), the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477), a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346), and a block of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538). It is recommended that these assets should be preserved and avoided by development.

There is a high potential for hitherto unknown below-ground remains across the extent of the Site associated with the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The potential for hitherto unknown early medieval archaeology is medium and the potential for modern archaeology is low. The importance of unknown archaeological remains is likely to range from low to medium, however fieldwork investigations will be required to establish the presence and significance of any archaeology present. The scope of any further archaeological works that would be needed in advance or during development of the Site would need to be discussed and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the local planning authority. However, to

inform the evolution of the masterplan this report identifies those areas where development should be avoided where known archaeology is considered to be of high importance or sensitive to change. Initial advice was provided by HCUK in March 2021 to guide the initial masterplan (drawings 60830-PP-500A (new settlement option) and 60830-PP-501 (parish growth option)).

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1** This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by Charlotte Vallance, Archaeological Consultant of HCUK Group on behalf of The Executors of the Late Nigel Alington. Documentary Research has been carried out by Emma Cooper and the author.
- 1.2** The site is known as Land at Alington Estate, Little Barford which occupies an area of approximately c.310 ha and centred at NGR TL 18319 56416. It is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.3** The purpose of this assessment is to determine and assess the archaeological potential of the Site and to assess the significance of any relevant heritage assets identified. The report is informed by site inspection, historical information, and by data relating to heritage assets. It seeks to provide sufficient information to allow an informed understanding of the potential impact of the proposed development on the significance of those assets, and to consider the need for solutions where necessary. The report will not address designated or non-designated built heritage. All matters relating to the built heritage is provided in a separate heritage impact assessment.
- 1.4** The report considers heritage assets of archaeological interest, including finds/findspots of artefactual and ecofactual material (e.g. stone tools, bone), and locations, features or objects referenced from historic documents. Where appropriate, it refers to archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including sub-surface archaeological remains of features, buildings and structures.
- 1.5** This assessment has been prepared in accordance with Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment¹ published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). It takes into account the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other local planning policy where relevant.
- 1.6** The desk-based element of this assessment comprises an examination of digital data held by the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BHER) together with documentary research. It incorporates a map regression indicating the impact of change over time.
- 1.7** This data has been collected for an area comprising a 1km radius of the Site boundary, which is referred to as the 'study area'. This radius has been selected on

¹ CIfA 2020

the basis of professional judgment as being sufficient to determine the archaeological potential of the Site, taking into account its location, topography, and character.

Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.8** The west of the Site comprises the flood plain of the River Great Ouse which, in the wider area, have proven to seal and preserve archaeological remains dating from the early prehistoric period onwards. The superficial geology here is made up of alluvium and river terrace deposits as well as mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits (Figure 12).
- 1.9** In the east, the geology comprises mudstone of the Peterborough Member which is partially overlaid by superficial deposits of Oadby member comprising diamicton formed in the Quaternary Period (Figure 12). Here, the geological conditions would have been particularly suitable for farming and settlement from the later prehistoric period onwards.
- 1.10** Most of the Site comprises farmland belonging to the Alington Estate. The Site is bounded to the west by the River Great Ouse and to the east by Potten Road (which follows the course of Sandy-Godmanchester Roman road). To the north of the Site is Little Barford Power Station and to the south is agricultural land. The Barford Road and East Coast Mainline railway follow a north-south course through the centre of the Site. Development associated with the village of Little Barford is located both sides of Barford Road, some of these properties are excluded from the Site boundary. The Deserted Village of Little Barford is focused around the extant St Denys' Church which is located in the west.
- 1.11** The topography of the Site is relatively flat in the west at approximately 0m-24m AOD. In the east, the landscape is undulating and rises steadily to 47m AOD.

Historic Landscape Character

- 1.12** The largest historic landscape type is agricultural in nature and is largely formed of post-enclosure large or medium scale field systems bounded by hedgerows. Analysis of the historic mapping has shown that the irregularly shaped fields remained largely unchanged throughout the 20th century until the development of agricultural practices brought about by the development in farming machinery².
- 1.13** Despite the amalgamation of fields, the earlier field patterns can still be identified by buildings or small groups of houses. The road network is characterised by single track roads or tracks providing the only access to some farms. Small patches of

² Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2014, LUC 77-79

woodland or plantation are located across the Site. While some variation in their extent and boundary has been noted, many of these pockets of woodland were recorded in the 19th century³.

- 1.14** The settlements are mostly nucleated and sit on the edge of the valley between the common fields and the more enclosed areas on the higher ground adjacent. Few historic landscape features survive in the areas round the villages, except where protected by localised parkland: parks at Roxton, Tempsford and Little Barford (MBD9067) all contain medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow, as well as parkland trees⁴. The line of the Sandy-Godmanchester Roman road which follows a course along the Site's eastern boundary, is a rare survival of a visible pre-medieval landscape feature⁵.

Hedgerows

- 1.15** Caxton's 1808 map of Bedfordshire (Figure 18) illustrates the field system as it existed before 1845. The only field boundary from the plan which survives today is the tree lined hedgerow which forms the northern and eastern extent of Little Barford parish boundary, which is also the north-eastern boundary of the Site. Removal of this hedgerow would only be permitted in accordance with the provisions of the Hedgerow Regulation Act 1997 (see Appendix 1).

Site Visit

- 1.16** A site visit was undertaken in March 2021 in fine and dry weather. At the time of the visit the Site was being utilised for pasture or crop production. A selection of photographs is presented below.

³ *Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2014, LUC 77-79*

⁴ *Ibid 79*

⁵ *Ibid 97*



Image 1: Looking north across the location of Bronze Age ring ditch (MBD637) and a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344) in the Site, west of Barford Road.



Image 2: Looking south along the post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347) within former parkland (MBD9067) in the Site, west of Barford Road



Image 3: Looking west across the Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) with St Denys' Church to the south, (the church is visible in the upper left of the image).



Image 4: Looking west across the floodplain of the River Great Ouse and location of well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538).



Image 5: Looking east from the Site towards the projected line of a Roman road (MBD505)



Image 6: Looking west towards Alington Hill, the location of well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538)



Image 7: Location of ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538) mapped on the BHER. No earthworks are visible near to the roadside.

2. Methodology

Sources

2.1 In preparing this assessment we have compiled readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources, primarily:

- Bedford Borough HER for known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots within 1km of the Site (i.e., the study area).
- National Mapping Programme data.
- LiDAR data.
- Maps and documents held online.
- The National Heritage List for England (Historic England).

2.2 The information gathered from the above sources has been verified and augmented as far as possible by site inspection, in order to arrive at conclusions on the significance of the various heritage assets and archaeological remains that have been identified.

Assessment

2.3 The assessment seeks to understand and define the significance of heritage assets identified from the sources above, taking into account the categories of special interest defined in the NPPF, primarily archaeological interest and historic interest.

2.4 The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it based on its heritage significance, reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 1).

Table 1: Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very high	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance
High	Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, and undesignated heritage assets of equal importance

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Medium	Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Grade II Listed Buildings, heritage assets on local lists and undesignated assets of equal importance
Low	Undesignated heritage assets of lesser importance

Archaeological Potential

- 2.5** The report concludes with (1) an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site, (2) an assessment of the significance of any archaeological remains that may be present, and (3) an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on heritage assets, in terms of physical impact.

3. Relevant Policy Framework

National Planning Policy Framework

3.1 The significance of a heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as being made up of four main constituents, architectural interest, historical interest, archaeological interest and artistic interest. The setting of the heritage asset can also contribute to its significance. Setting is defined in Annex 2 of NPPF as:

"The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral⁶."

3.2 The assessments of setting and significance (and the assessments of impact) are normally made with primary reference to the four main elements of special significance identified in the NPPF.

3.3 Paragraph 203 of the NPPF describes the approach to be taken towards non-designated heritage assets, as follows:

"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."

3.4 Footnote 68 of the NPPF, which is attached to paragraph 200, states that "Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets." Further guidance on non-designated heritage assets is contained in National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), as revised in July 2019, notably paragraph 040 which states that "Irrespective of how they are identified, it is important that the decisions to identify them as non-designated heritage assets are based on sound evidence", and paragraph 041 which in full reads as follows:

"What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they?"

⁶ Annex 2: Glossary - National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The National Planning Policy Framework identifies two categories of non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest:

(1) Those that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments and are therefore considered subject to the same policies as those for designated heritage assets (National Planning Policy Framework footnote 68 They are of 3 types:

- those that have yet to be formally assessed for designation.*
- those that have been assessed as being nationally important and therefore, capable of designation, but which the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has exercised his/her discretion not to designate.*
- those that are incapable of being designated by virtue of being outside the scope of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 because of their physical nature.*

*The reason why many nationally important monuments are not scheduled is set out in the document *Scheduled Monuments*, published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Information on location and significance of such assets is found in the same way as for all heritage assets. Judging whether sites fall into this category may be assisted by reference to the criteria for scheduling monuments. Further information on scheduled monuments can be found on the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's website.*

(2) Other non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest. By comparison this is a much larger category of lesser heritage significance, although still subject to the conservation objective. On occasion the understanding of a site may change following assessment and evaluation prior to a planning decision and move it from this category to the first.

Where an asset is thought to have archaeological interest, the potential knowledge which may be unlocked by investigation may be harmed even by minor disturbance, because the context in which archaeological evidence is found is crucial to furthering understanding.

Decision-making regarding such assets requires a proportionate response by local planning authorities. Where an initial assessment indicates that the site on which development is proposed includes or has potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, applicants should be required to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. However, it is estimated that following the initial assessment of archaeological interest only a small proportion – around 3% – of all planning applications justify a requirement for detailed assessment."

3.5 Paragraph 205 of the NPPF also makes provision for the recording of heritage assets that are likely to be demolished or destroyed by development.

Relevant Local Policies

3.6 The following local policies are relevant to the historic environment and this assessment.

Table 2: Local Policies

Local Plan	Relevant Policy
The Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (adopted on 15 January 2020)	<p><i>Policy 28S – Place making</i></p> <p>v. To take a proactive approach to sustaining and where appropriate enhancing the historic environment,</p> <p>vii. To respond to the unique character and importance of the River Great Ouse and its setting, and</p>
	<p><i>Policy 29 – Design quality and principles</i></p> <p>iii. Protect and where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their settings and successfully integrate with the historic environment and character, and</p>
	<p><i>Policy 40 – Hedgerows</i></p> <p>Any hedgerows should be retained on development sites, unless there are overriding benefits that justify their removal. Where removal is deemed necessary, details addressing the criteria under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (as amended) shall be submitted to demonstrate the validity for removal and details of the replacement hedgerows. Replacement hedgerows shall be of an equal scale, native and species-rich and should be provided where possible, elsewhere on the development site. Where there are gaps in the existing hedgerows on the site, the development should provide for additional hedgerow planting.</p>
	<p><i>Policy 41S - Historic environment and heritage assets</i></p> <p>Where a proposal would affect a heritage asset the applicant will be required to describe: a. The significance of the asset including any contribution made by its setting and impacts of the proposal on this significance, and b. The justification for the proposal, how it seeks to preserve or enhance the asset/setting or where this is not possible, how it seeks to minimise the harm.</p> <p>ii. This description must be in the form of one or a combination of: a desk based assessment; heritage statement; heritage impact assessment; and/or archaeological field evaluation. Further information will be requested where applicants have failed to provide assessment proportionate to the significance of the</p>

	<p>assets affected and sufficient to inform the decision-making process.</p> <p>iii. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset or non designated heritage asset of archaeological interest of demonstrably equivalent significance to a scheduled monument, consent will be refused 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. iv. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use. v. In considering proposals affecting designated heritage assets or a non designated heritage asset of archaeological interest of demonstrably equivalent significance to a scheduled monument, involving their alteration, extension, demolition, change of use and/or development in their setting, the Council will include in their consideration as appropriate: a. The asset's archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest and any contribution to its significance from setting (including the wider historic landscape) b. scale, form, layout, density, design, quality and type of materials, and architectural detailing c. boundary treatments and means of enclosure d. implications of associated car parking, services and other environmental factors e. effect on streetscape, roofscape and skyline including important views within, into or out of heritage assets f. impact on open space which contributes positively to the character and/or appearance of heritage assets g. the positive benefits of the proposal in addressing heritage at risk.</p> <p>vi. Where heritage assets are included on a Local List and are affected by development proposals the Council will afford weight proportionate to their heritage significance in the decision-making process to protect and conserve the significance which underpins their inclusion. Partial or total loss adversely impacting this significance will require clear and convincing justification.</p> <p>vii. The effect of proposals on the significance of non-designated heritage assets will be taken into account in determining applications for development. Applications which result in harm or loss of significance to non-designated heritage assets will only be supported if clear and convincing justification has been demonstrated. In making a decision, the Council will weigh the</p>
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	<p>significance of the heritage asset affected against the scale of any harm or loss to it.</p> <p>viii. Where applications are permitted which will result in (total or partial) loss to a heritage asset’s significance (including where preservation in situ of buried archaeological remains is not necessary or feasible), applicants will be required to arrange for further assessment of and recording of this significance in advance of, and where required, during development/works. This assessment and recording must be undertaken by a suitably qualified specialist in accordance with a design brief set by the Council’s Historic Environment Team. The work might include: - archaeological and/or historic building fieldwork, - post-excavation/recording assessment, analysis, interpretation, - archiving with the local depository, and - presentation to the public of the results and finds in a form to be agreed with the Council. As a minimum, presentation of the results should be submitted to the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record and where appropriate, will be required at the asset itself through on-site interpretation.</p>
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4. Archaeological Background

Introduction

- 4.1** The Site does not contain any designated archaeological assets, such as scheduled monuments or registered battlefields for which there would be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* and against development proceeding.
- 4.2** There is one scheduled monument within the 1km study area which is a 'Moated Enclosure and Associated Building Platforms, The Lane, Wyboston' (1012076) which is located approximately 650m from the Site's western boundary (Figure 2). This scheduled monument is discussed in the section below.
- 4.3** There are 85 non-designated archaeological records in the 1km study area, out of which 18 are located in the Site. The assets include a combination of sites, findspots, places, and Portable Antiquity Scheme records.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.4** The scheduled medieval moated enclosure (1012076) in the study area comprises an enclosure and an adjacent series of building platforms. The enclosure is 'D' shaped in plan and measures some 85m along the straight southern edge of the moat. The surrounding moat is 8m wide and about 1.2m deep and is dry except for part of the east arm. Prominent external banks, surviving up to 1m high, flank the west and east sides. The island is believed to be the site of a manor house and several deep hollows mark the position of former buildings. To the east several rectangular platforms mark the site of at least five buildings associated with the medieval moat. Some of the platforms survive up to 0.3m in height while others are defined by wall lines and hollows partly obscured by vegetation.
- 4.5** Due to distance, intervening development (including the A1 motorway) and topography, the scheduled monument cannot be seen or experienced from the Site or *visa versa* (Image 8). As a result, there would be no harm to the significance of this asset resulting from changes to the Site.



Image 8: Looking east from the Moated Enclosure and Associated Building Platforms, The Lane, Wyboston (1012076) towards the Site.

Non-Designated Archaeological Records in the Site

- 4.6** There are 18 non-designated archaeological records within the Site boundary. These comprise: a large Bronze Age ring ditch (MBD637); the probable site of an extensive Iron Age or Roman settlement and associated field systems (MBD13994); a complex of parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures of unknown date (MBD9072); a findspot of a Roman coin (MBD478); Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806); the medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101); a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346); a moated manor site (MBD3401); eight blocks of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538); the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477), site of nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070); two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits (MBB22276, MBD9071); site of post-medieval duck decoy pond (MBD9068); the site of post-medieval fishpond (MBD9061); a post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347); the site of post-medieval osier bed (MBD9062), a former 19th century parkland (MBD9067) positioned between the old manor house and the present Little Barford House; and the site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344). Tithe records from 1840 record a field called 'Giants Parlour' (MBD473) in the east of the Site, which may be a reference to mythical giants.
- 4.7** There is one group of features of unknown date recorded in the Site which covers an extensive area between the Barford Road and East Coast Mainline railway. This item

comprises a complex of parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures (MBD9072) of uncertain date and function which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Many of the linear cropmarks are aligned either parallel or perpendicular to a gas pipeline which follows a course through the Site.

- 4.8** Archaeological sites which lie on the Site boundary, but have the potential to extend into the Site include; the Sandy-Godmanchester Roman road (MBD505) which follows a course along the Site’s eastern boundary; a group of cropmarks which may represent prehistoric or Roman settlement to the east (MBD14032); and a potential Bronze Age/Neolithic extraction site to the south (MBD1387).

Timescales

- 4.9** Timescales used in this assessment:

Table 3: Timescales

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 12,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 12,000 – 4000 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4000 – 1800 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.1800 – 600 BC	
Iron Age –	c.600 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Saxon / Early Medieval –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval–	1066 –1485	
Post-Medieval Period –	1485 – 1800	
Modern –	1800 – Present	

- 4.10** The location of the archaeological records in the BHER within the 1km study area are presented on Figures 2-9 and are summarised in tabulated form in Appendix 1.

Prehistoric

- 4.11** The Bedford Borough HER holds two records for two non-designated archaeology of prehistoric date within the Site. These comprise a large Bronze Age ring ditch and possibly later prehistoric features (MBD637) and the site of an Iron Age/Roman settlement (MBD13994).

4.12 A further 18 assets or findspots dating to this period are recorded within the study area. Those pertinent to understanding the archaeological potential of the Site are discussed below.

Palaeolithic

4.13 The Palaeolithic period is considered as the earliest period of known human culture. Typically very little evidence of Palaeolithic activity survives beyond residual finds of flint artefacts, usually found along river terraces and can also be found in both colluvial and alluvial deposits along the River Great Ouse. Such overlying gravel river terraces and alluvium are partially recorded to be present on Site, predominantly to the west of the Barford Road. There is no evidence in the Site or Study Area for human activity during this period.

Mesolithic

4.14 The findspot of Mesolithic flints (MBD9765), comprising two cores, four flakes and a scraper were found immediately outside the Site along Barford Road and have since been removed from this location. The finds are however indicative of early prehistoric activity in the area.

Neolithic

4.15 The findspots of two Neolithic hand axes (MBD14779 and MB22536) have been recorded beyond the western boundary of the Site. Although these finds have since been removed from this location, they indicative of Neolithic activity in the area.

4.16 During an excavation along the gas pipeline in 1993 (EBB697) on the gravel river terraces to the east of the River Great Ouse, several worked flints were found (MBD1387) immediately south of the Site. This investigation also revealed a small ring ditch and linear features which had been initially seen from aerial photographs. The excavation identified the presence of early-mid Neolithic material indicative of settlement activity on the west facing slopes of the River Great Ouse. Despite the absence of features associated with settlement, it is possible that the area was used seasonally.⁷ The focus of settlement in this period is thought to be approximately 1km to the north of the Site, where two cursus monuments and their ditches have been discovered along the River Great Ouse.⁸

Bronze Age

4.17 A large ring ditch of probable Bronze Age date, but possibly later in origin, and possible rectangular enclosures of probable Iron Age or Roman date (MBD637) are

⁷ Ellis 1993: 21

⁸ Rhodes 2007: 31

located in the southwest part of the Site. These features are visible as cropmarks on historic aerial photographs and have been plotted by the National Mapping Programme as shown on Figure 13. The features are located in fields approximately 387 metres north of Lower Farm. The ring ditch measures up to 3.8 metres wide and encloses an area approximately 25.8 metres in diameter. The rectangular enclosures are located approximately 70 metres to the southeast of the ditch and comprise an L-shaped linear, a U-shaped linear and a curvilinear ditch. The findings suggest the possible fragmentary remains of two rectilinear ditched enclosures, that may be the remains of two or possibly three ring ditches. Approximately 190 metres southwest of the ring ditch are further linear ditches of uncertain function.

4.18 A second Bronze Age ring ditch (MBB22342) is recorded as cropmarks c.400m to the north of the Site. The area was excavated in 1984 prior to the construction of the A428. The site also contained Peterborough Ware (and possibly Grooved Ware) pottery in sealed contexts as well as early medieval burials.

4.19 Two rectangular enclosures and at least four circles (MBD480) of possible ring ditches or barrows of Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman date are visible as cropmarks on historic aerial photographs approximately 800m to the west of the Site.

Iron Age/Roman

4.20 In the north-east of the Site is the probable site of an Iron Age/Roman settlement comprising enclosures and a probable field system (MBD13994). These features are visible as cropmarks on historic aerial photographs and have been plotted by the National Mapping Programme as shown on Figure 13. The possible settlement is located in a large field about 540 metres southwest of Rectory Farm, and is made up of at least eight parallel rows of linear and curvilinear northwest/southeast aligned ditch sections, laid out as an apparent cohesive field system. Along the same alignment is a trapezoid shaped ditched enclosure, connected to the field system by a shared ditch that forms the north side of the enclosure. A curvilinear ditch extends from the southwest corner of the enclosure to encompass a possible ring ditch about 16m in internal diameter immediately adjacent to the south, which in turn is joined on the west side by a rectangular block feature 33m by 18m.

4.21 Several further probable Iron Age/Roman settlement sites are recorded within the study area but not in the Site. These sites include joined rectilinear enclosures and linear boundary ditches (MBD17147); two rectangular enclosures and at least four possible ring ditches or barrows of Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman date (MBD480); a round barrow of possible Iron Age or Roman date (MBB22313); a pit alignment, linear ditches and rectilinear enclosure of probable Iron Age or Roman date (MBB22312); sub-rectangular enclosures of Iron Age or Roman date (MBD1651) along the western boundary of the study area; a possible Iron Age or Roman sub-rectangular enclosure (MBD1793); and a conjoined group of small sub-rectangular enclosures represented by cropmarks (MBD16776).

- 4.22** Cropmarks are also identified 200m to the south of the Site which are likely to represent later prehistoric rectilinear enclosures located along a former water course (MBD16755). A scatter of small curvilinear enclosures together with a larger sub-rectangular enclosure are recorded to the south of the Site (MBD16757).
- 4.23** The findspot of a prehistoric flake (MBD15440) was found on a surface being scraped for a carriageway near Barford and Alington Roads c. 500m to the north of the Site.
- 4.24** The potential in the Site for below-ground remains associated with the Bronze Age ring ditch and other features (MBD637) as well as the Iron Age/ Roman settlement (MBD13994) is high. The potential for hitherto unknown prehistoric archaeology in the Site is also considered to be high and likely to be associated with temporary and permanent settlement, funerary practices, and agriculture. Any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of prehistoric date are likely to be of medium importance.

Roman

- 4.25** The Bedford Borough HER holds three records in the Site for archaeology of Roman date. The first is the site of the Iron Age or Roman settlement (MBD13994) as discussed in the section above. The second is a findspot of a Roman coin (MBD478) found southwest of St Denys' Church, which has since been removed and the third is an extensive complex of ditches which could represent settlement or agricultural activity (MBD9072) within fields east of Barford Road.
- 4.26** A further four records dating to this period are located within the study area. Those pertinent to understanding the archaeological potential of the Site are discussed below.
- 4.27** Some of these records are described in the HER as prehistoric, however it is likely that occupation continued into the Roman period.
- 4.28** An extensive area of parallel and interconnected linear ditches have been identified in the Site as cropmarks (MBD9072) located east of Barford Road, between Glebe Farm, Bean Wood and South Close. The cropmarks extend over an area of about 680 metres southwest-northeast and 400 metres northwest-southeast. The crop marks are bisected by a 20th century linear pipeline which connects to the power station at Little Barford. During excavations for the pipeline, three intercutting ditches were identified within a known cropmark site identified to be of Roman date. Roman pottery was found in the topsoil and a small amount of pottery and bone was found in one of the ditches.
- 4.29** The projected course of a Roman road (MBD505) which connected a military camp *Durovigutum* (Godmanchester) to a Roman settlement at Sandy is located

immediately beyond the eastern boundary of the Site and could potentially extend into the Site. There is high potential that the road extends into the Site as well as any associated infrastructure such as roadside settlement, ditches, quarry pits, agricultural land divisions and possibly burials.⁹

- 4.30** Two rectangular enclosures and at least four circles (MBD480) of possible ring ditches or barrows of Bronze Age, Iron Age or Roman date are visible as cropmarks on historic aerial photographs approximately 800m to the west of the Site.
- 4.31** Along the north-western boundary of the study area, cropmarks (MBD1794) recorded from aerial photographs, represent a probable Romano-British trackway with enclosures positioned on both sides. Previous archaeological investigations along the trackway have produced coins and other metalwork of Roman date. Nearby c.50m to the east of the trackway, Roman metalwork in the form of an enamelled decorative stud of second century date, and a circular brooch of Iron Age or Roman date (MBD3239) has been recorded close to a cropmark representing two adjoining rectangular enclosures.
- 4.32** A double-ditched rectilinear enclosure and attached ditched boundaries of a probable Roman settlement (MBD1881) is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs along the north-western boundary of the study area.
- 4.33** The potential for Roman archaeology in the Site is considered to be high. Any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of Roman date are likely to be of medium importance and likely to be associated with settlement and agriculture.

Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.34** The Bedford Borough HER holds no records for archaeological remains associated with the Saxon/ early medieval period within the Site. There are three records within the study area.
- 4.35** During a 1984 excavation (EBB1294) of an Early Bronze Age ring ditch (MBB22342) to the north of the Site, five early medieval burials of seventh century date were identified within the ditch.¹⁰
- 4.36** Anglo-Saxon metalwork (MBD3239) is recorded within an area close to a cropmark along the north-western boundary of the study area. The cropmark was identified from aerial photographs, and the metalwork recorded included four Anglo-Saxon brooches of sixth to ninth century date.

⁹ Margary 1955: 65

¹⁰ Kemp 1993: 8

- 4.37** The Portable Antiquities Scheme records a possible early medieval cast lead object (MBB21181) along the western boundary of the study area, which has since been removed.
- 4.38** The potential for hitherto unknown Saxon/early medieval archaeology in the Site is considered to be medium. Any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of Saxon/early medieval date are likely to be of medium or high importance and associated with funerary activities, settlement or agriculture.

Medieval

- 4.39** The Bedford Borough HER holds five records for archaeological remains of medieval date within the Site. These include; the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of Little Barford (MBD1806); the medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101) which contains the present village of Little Barford; a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346); a moated manor site (MBD3401) and eight scattered blocks of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538).
- 4.40** There are a further 19 records of for archaeological remains of medieval date within the study area. Those pertinent to understanding the archaeological potential of the Site are discussed below.
- 4.41** Little Barford DMV (MBD1806) is located within the Site and comprises an area of complex earthworks focused around St Denys' Church, west of Barford Road. The surviving earthworks indicate the presence of rectilinear enclosures and platforms, quarrying and fishponds. Associated with the DMV and in the same location is the site of a medieval moated manor house (MBD3401) and a hollow way or trackway (MBB22346) and a block of ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538). The trackway extends southwest from the DMV for about 1.06km parallel with Barford Road and varies between 2.5m and 14m in width.
- 4.42** The medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101) covers a wider area than the DMV and extends to the east side of Barford Road. It is very likely that below-ground archaeological remains associated with this historic settlement survive along both sides of the Barford Road.
- 4.43** Little Barford derives its name from *Bereforde* meaning "birch tree ford," having several iterations until becoming known as Little Barford, a name which has only been in use since the 17th century, being simply known as Barford or *Barkford* before that, despite another Barford (called Great Barford from the seventeenth century) lying nearby. The village of Little Barford is still contained within the boundaries of the original medieval settlement.

- 4.44** The abbey of St. Benedict, Ramsey, held Little Barford Manor in chief both at the time of and prior to the Domesday Survey. An early charter of the abbey records that a certain Ædgiva granted land in Barford to the abbey, which probably became the manor comprised five hides, a Saxon unit of land holding generally considered to comprise between 15 to 30 acres (6 to 12 hectares), as referred to in Domesday.¹¹
- 4.45** Scattered blocks of ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538) which are remnants of the former common open-field system associated with the Manor at Little Barford (MBD1806 and MBD17101), are recorded on the HER in eight areas within the Site (Figure 6). These areas, amongst others, have been plotted by the National Mapping Programme as shown on Figure 13.
- 4.46** The most notable surviving group of extant ridge and furrow is in the southwest part of the Site, in fields liable to flooding adjacent the River Great Ouse. Notable here are the wide plough-levelled linear and curvilinear sections of earthwork boundary bank. These banks are the fragments of plough headlands and field boundaries which were part of a very much wider open-field medieval landscape. Other fragments of ridge and furrow cultivation remain extant with the small blocks of woodland within the parish. A very well-preserved example lies within circular woodland atop Alington Hill in the east part of the Site¹².
- 4.47** Aerial photographs taken in 2014 and 2015 show that many of the ridge and furrow blocks mapped in the BHER have been ploughed almost levelled, except within woodland and near the river, where they survive as prominent earthworks¹³. Ridge and furrow was either not noticeable due to grass cover or much less prominent in at least two of these mapped areas within the Site. The first area was immediately east of Barford Road at the very south end of the Site, and the second area was in a large field immediately east of Barford Road and the village of Little Barford (Image 7).
- 4.48** Within the study area, at least two additional areas of ridge and furrow have been mapped c.200m and c.400m west of the Site (MBB22421 and MBD5209), although these earthworks have since been ploughed flat.
- 4.49** The medieval settlement of Wyboston (MBD17102) is recorded c. 200m to the west of the Site. The settlement exhibits a number of associated medieval sites and features which included the scheduled moated enclosure and associated building

¹¹ Bedford and Luton Archives and Record Office; 'Parishes: Little Barford', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 206-209. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol2/pp206-209> [accessed 23 March 2021].

¹² BHER

¹³ BHER

platforms (1012076 and MBD474), the site of a former medieval village green (MBD8621) and possible medieval field systems (MBD17147).

- 4.50** Another settlement with medieval origins in the study area is Chawston which comprises an historic linear medieval settlement (MD17097) located c.600m to the west of the Site.
- 4.51** The Portable Antiquities Scheme records a fragment of a late medieval to early post-medieval copper-alloy spoon bowl (MBB21183) along the western boundary of the study area.
- 4.52** The potential for medieval archaeology across the Site is high. As a group, those remains in the Site associated with the Little Barford DMV (MBD1806), the site of the associated moated manor house (MBD3401), the trackway (MBB22346) as well as the ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538) within the DMV are considered to be of high importance. With the exception of the ridge and furrow, these features are exceptionally well preserved as earthworks or buried remains which reveal the layout of the settlement and demonstrate the change in form of the settlement over time.
- 4.53** The blocks of ridge and furrow (MBD3538) which are mapped on the HER survive with varying degrees of preservation. Those within woodland and near the river are more prominent than elsewhere. As isolated features they are considered to be of local or regional significance depending on the degree of their preservation.
- 4.54** The potential for hitherto unknown medieval archaeology in the Site is high and likely to be associated with settlement and agriculture. Evidence for settlement in this period is concentrated at the location of the DMV and within the existing village of Little Barford. There is high potential for archaeological remains associated with this historic settlement to survive below-ground along both sides of the Barford Road. Archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of medieval date are likely to be of high to low importance.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 4.55** The Bedford Borough HER holds 11 records for archaeological remains of post-medieval or modern date within the Site. These include; two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits (MBB22276, MBD9071); the site of a demolished nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070); a post-medieval duck decoy pond (MBD9068); the site of post-medieval fishpond (MBD9061); a post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347); a former 19th century parkland (MBD9067); the site of an osier bed (MBD9062); the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477), a parish cemetery connected to St Denys' Church (MBD8923); and the site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344).

- 4.56** There are a further eight records of post-medieval or modern date within the study area. Those pertinent to understanding the archaeological potential of the Site are discussed below
- 4.57** The curvilinear post-medieval ha-ha (MBD22347) is visible as earthworks in the southwest of the Site and measures 3 metres wide and 155 metres long. This landscape feature is situated in former 19th century parkland (MBD9067) associated with a post-medieval manor house (HER477) was described in 1968 as 'uninhabited and dilapidated'. This house, which is not mapped by the BHER, was demolished in 1978. In this same area are the sites of a former fishpond (MBD9061), an osier bed where willow was once grown for basket making (MBD9062) and two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits (MBB22276 and MBD9071).
- 4.58** Other examples of gravel extraction quarries or pits (MBD8629 and MBD8816) and osier grounds (MBD9732 and MBD9063) are present outside the Site in the study area.
- 4.59** The manor of Little Barford came into the possession of the Alington family when John Williamson's (a successful malt dealer who bought the property in 1798) daughter Sarah married Rev. William Alington of Twywell. Williamson settled the manor with Rev William Alington in 1829. In the same year, John Williamson bought the second manor in Little Barford. The manors remained in the Alington family until a succession of Law of Property Acts in the 1920s abolished manorial fines and incidents as well as copyhold land tenure, thus abolishing manors in practically all but name. However, even as late as the first two decades of the twenty-first century the Alington family owned most of the parish of Little Barford.
- 4.60** One of the earliest maps that shows Little Barford is the Northanton Bedfordiae Cantabrigiae, Huntingdoniae et Rutlandiae Comitatum, 1579 (Figure 17). On this map, the settlement is represented by a church, mostly likely St Denys's Church. T. Jeffrey's 1765 Map of Bedfordshire (not shown) show the focus of the settlement is around the St Denys' Church, west of Barford Road. Land in the Site east of the Barford Road is illustrated as agricultural land.
- 4.61** An extract from Caxton's 1808 map of Bedfordshire (Figure 18) also depicts dwellings at Little Barford focused around St Denys' Church and along Barford Road on both sides. There is a clear trackway leading from Barford Road to the church focused part of the settlement.
- 4.62** The 1844 Tithe Map (Figure 19) indicates that by this time, the hamlet has reduced in size. There are fewer standing properties around St Denys' Church and along Barford Road, which means several buildings may have been demolished at the beginning of the century. The map shows a moated area north of the St Denys' Church which was likely the site of the medieval manor house (MBD3401). The post-

medieval manor house (HER477) is shown to lie to the south-west of the church. Also illustrated on the map is the ha-ha (MBD22347), the fishponds (MBD9061) and the osier bed (MBD9062) along the western boundary of the Site on the banks of the Ouse. The map shows the 'New Manor House' was built by the Alington family in the 19th century to replace the older Manor House which lay close to the church. Until 1866 this building was used as the Rectory, being exchanged in that year by the Rector Nathaniel Royds, for a house and gardens on the other side of the road, now known as South Close [AN23/9]¹⁴. The duck decoy pond (MBD9068) which the HER records between the River Great Ouse and the Manor House is not shown on the mapping.

- 4.63** The tithe map shows that the agricultural landscape which surrounds the Little Barford is characterised by irregular enclosed fields and small patches of woodland, the most notable of which is circular woodland atop Alington Hill. Buildings associated with Top Farm is the only recorded development in the east part of the Site.
- 4.64** The 1886-1891 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 20) shows little change to the landscape other than the introduction of the East Coast Main Line Railway which was built during the 1830s and 1840s. The buildings and features which comprise the hamlet of Little Barford are shown in greater detail and include Lower Farm, North Lodge, the Manor House (HER477), the New Manor House, St Denys' Church (Rectory), the Ha Ha (MBD22347) and the quarry pit (MBD22276). Buildings along the east side of Barford Road included the Rectory, Rows Cottages, South Lodge and a school. Behind this development to the east is a plantation of mostly likely fruit trees. In the east, one of the small patches of woodland has expanded and is now called 'Boys Wood'.
- 4.65** The 1896 map of 204 Biggleswade (Hills) (Figure 21), shows little discernible change to Little Barford or the agricultural land within the Site other than the construction of new farm buildings opposite Top Farm. By the early twentieth century, Little Barford contained 608 acres of arable land, 630 of permanent grass, and 17 of woods and plantations.¹⁵ The chief crops were wheat, barley, oats, beans, and market produce.¹⁶
- 4.66** By the mid twentieth century, mapping shows Boys Wood in the east has expanded further to the south and west. There is little change to the settlement at Little Barford. In the 1940s, a coal fired power station was built north of the Site, which is

¹⁴ Bedfordshire Archives

¹⁵ 'Parishes: Little Barford', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 206-209. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol2/pp206-209> [accessed 23 March 2021].

¹⁶ Ibid

visible on the 1960 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 22). The plant's location next to the East Coast Main Line Railway was convenient for trains bringing coal to the plant.

- 4.67** The 1983-1993 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 23) shows that by this time the Post-Medieval Manor House (HER477), has been demolished. The plantation on the east side of Barford Road is still visible as is Boys Wood and Alington Hill. In 1994 a gas fired power station was built by National Power on the site of the 1940's coal fire power station which was demolished.
- 4.68** A Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344) is visible as earthworks on historic aerial photographs in the north-western corner of the Site. The battery comprises three C-shaped earthwork banked emplacements with exterior ditches, a Stanton air raid shelter and two other earthwork banks likely associated with the site. However, by 1973, the air raid shelter was demolished and the earthworks have been levelled. No features were visible on aerial photographs taken in 2008 or during the site visit.
- 4.69** Another searchlight battery is visible as earthworks on historic aerial photographs along the northern eastern boundary of the Site (MBB22345). The earthworks comprise two large C-shaped and two smaller circular earthwork banks and ditches.
- 4.70** A further three Second World War rectangular semi-buried air raid shelters (MBB22343) are recorded c. 200m to the north of the Site and are visible as earthworks on historic aerial photographs.
- 4.71** Circular cropmarks from Second World War structures have been recorded north of the Site (MBD3578).
- 4.72** The potential for post-medieval and modern archaeology in the Site is considered to be high and comprises remains associated with the two gravel pits (MBB22276 and MBD9071), the site of a demolished nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070), the site of a duck decoy pond (MBD9068), the site of a fishpond (MBD9061), earthworks of a post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347), the site of an osier bed (MBD9062), the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477) and the site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344).
- 4.73** The potential for hitherto unknown post-medieval archaeology in the Site is also high and likely to be associated with settlement within the village of Little Barford, remains of former field boundaries and small-scale industry. Archaeological deposits, features or artefacts of post-medieval date are likely to be of medium to low importance.
- 4.74** The potential for modern archaeology in the Site is considered to be high and comprise the below-ground remains of the Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344). Given the poor condition of the asset, the remains associated with this

asset are considered to be of medium (regional) rather than high (national) importance. The potential for hitherto unknown modern archaeology in the Site is considered to be low.

Unknown

- 4.75** There is one archaeological record of unknown date recorded in the Site which covers an extensive area between Barford Road and East Coast Mainline railway. The record comprises the site of complex parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures (MBD9072) of uncertain date and function which are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The National Mapping Programme has plotted these cropmarks which is shown on Figure 19. Many of the linear cropmarks are aligned either parallel or perpendicular to a gas pipeline which follows a course through the Site.
- 4.76** There are a further three records within the study area for archaeology of unknown date which include human remains discovered during digging of footings (MBB18928) c. 200m to the west of the Site, two parallel linear ditches of uncertain date and function (MBB22326) are visible as cropmarks approximately 1km to the south of the Site and two indistinct rectangular enclosures (MBD629), with another around a circular mark to the east are recorded along the north-western boundary of the study area.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.77** The HER holds records for three archaeological investigations within the Site and a further 11 archaeological investigations within the study area. The archaeological investigations within the Site comprise three excavations: A 1984 excavation prior to the construction of the A428 (EBB1294) and a 1993 excavation along the route of a gas pipeline (EBB1173 and EBB697).
- 4.78** The investigation (EBB1294) along Barford Road consisted of monitoring of groundworks. No significant archaeology was recorded.
- 4.79** Between May and October 1993, following the production of an environmental impact assessment (EBB1173) a fieldwalking exercise and watching brief (EBB697) was undertaken prior to the instalment of a 21km British Gas pipeline. The footprint of the pipeline followed a north-south and southwest-northwest course through the Site. During construction a 20m easement was initially stripped of topsoil which provided the best opportunity of locating archaeological sites. After this, the pipe trench was dug to a depth of c.1.4m and, during this stage, archaeological features could be recorded in section. Nine archaeological sites were recorded along the pipeline during construction (though none in the Site) which ranged in date from Roman to post-medieval.

- 4.80** There is significant evidence for Iron Age/Roman settlement in the study area, which is discussed below.
- 4.81** As part of the proposals for a sand and gravel quarry at Black Cat Island to the south of the Site, a geophysical survey was undertaken over 31 hectares which identified a number of archaeological anomalies including the presence of a possible enclosure ditch, enclosure and parallel ditches (droveway) as well as a possible roundhouse. A trial trench evaluation took place on the site in January/February 2007 which discovered evidence for Late Iron Age and Romano-British occupation across this landscape in the form of negative features and artefacts.
- 4.82** As part of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvement scheme, an extensive phased programme of geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching took place along course of the proposed trunk road in 2020¹⁷. Most of the trenching was located in farmland, including Fields 48, 49 and 50 immediately beyond the Site's eastern boundary. Extensive evidence for Late Iron Age occupation was found in these three fields, the results of which are summarised below.
- 4.83** In Field 48, four trenches contained archaeological features comprising pits and gullies. None of the archaeological features in the field were identified on the geophysical survey. Three of the pits produced pottery of Late Iron Age date and fragments of animal bone.
- 4.84** In Field 49, a significant number of Late Iron Age features were found which included an arrangement of ditches, most of which were identified during the geophysics survey, and crossed by a later trackway marked by a pair of parallel ditches. The ditches produced pottery of Late Iron Age date and indicated multiple phases of occupation. At the east end of this arrangement of ditches is a ring ditch was found containing a human skull which may relate to a fuller burial. Fifty metres to the west of this the discovery of a ring gully may indicate the presence of a roundhouse that was not visible in the geophysics survey.
- 4.85** Approximately 70m to the north of the Late Iron Age features in Field 49, an isolated ditch produced several sherds of pottery dated AD 120–150 and indicative of Roman Occupation. Though some of the Late Iron Age features produced ceramics that dated to the period of the Roman conquest, no further evidence for Roman activity was confirmed within the field.
- 4.86** In Field 50, the terminus of a shallow ditch with a profile similar to those in Fields 48 and 49 was recorded. The ditch has a similar east–west alignment to undated

¹⁷ MOLA 2020

ditches recorded in Field 49 to the south and may be part of the same system. A sherd of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill.

National Mapping Programme Data

4.87 Figure 19 presents those archaeological features identified in the Site and study area by the National Mapping Programme (NMP). The NMP achieved this by identifying and recording all archaeological sites and landscapes visible on aerial photographs. Aerial photography is the single most important tool for the discovery of archaeological sites. Where remains are visible solely as cropmarks or soilmarks, often only a small window is seen.

4.88 Many of these features are recorded in the BHER, such as the ridge and furrow earthworks across the Site (MBD3538), Little Barford DMV (MBD1806) and the Bronze Age ring ditch with adjacent enclosures (MBD637) in the west and the probable site of an Iron Age/Roman settlement (MBD13994) and the complex of features unknown date (MBD9072) in the east.

4.89 There are however a number of features not recorded on the HER in the data, the most prominent of which is in the east of the Site and comprises a very large curvilinear feature which follows a north-south then east-west course through the northeast part of the Site. Beyond the Site, the feature breaks and returns north-south where it terminates just east of Potton Road. The Iron Age/Roman settlement (MBD13994) and a rectangular enclosure identified by LiDAR (discussed below) are positioned within the curve of the feature, suggesting it could be a settlement boundary ditch or bank. Further investigation will be needed to ascertain the form, function and significance of this feature.

LiDAR Data

4.90 As well as those archaeological features mapped by the BHER and the NMP (Figure 19), an analysis of LiDAR data has identified some additional earthworks which could be potential archaeological features (Figure 16). To the west of Barford Road is a possible trackway leading from Barford Road to St Denys' Church. Between Barford Road and the railway line are a few isolated features and a north-south aligned linear feature. To the east of the railway line are several earthworks which could represent the remains of former field boundaries or enclosures. A very prominent large rectangular enclosure of unknown function has been identified in the north-east part of the Site. Further investigation will be needed to ascertain the form, function and significance of these features.

5. Impact Assessment

Factors Affecting Archaeological Survival

5.1 Archaeological remains can survive as earthworks and as below ground archaeological features, finds and layers. Part of the assessment process is to consider what factors may have affected archaeological survival. That is to say, what conditions would have enhanced the chances of survival and what conditions would have reduced the chances of survival.

5.2 The subject of archaeological preservation has been covered comprehensively elsewhere¹⁸, and it is a subject of ongoing review as our understanding grows. The following addresses some familiar scenarios for assessment reports such as this, to allow the reader an insight into some 'typical' scenarios.

Rural Locations

5.3 In rural locations such as this Site, below ground archaeological remains are likely to be sealed by a relatively thin series of layers which typically comprise, a topsoil of c.100-200mm and a subsoil of 100-300mm. Therefore, they may be sealed by 200-500mm of deposits.

5.4 Earthworks are more likely to survive in fields containing woodland or which have been used for animal grazing rather than for crop production, where often destructive ploughing techniques are employed. This is with particular regard to any ridge and furrow which survives in the Site. The best preserved ridge and furrow in the Site is located in pasture close to the River Great Ouse and within woodland on Alington Hill and within Boys Wood.

Factors which enhance preservation	Factors which increase destruction
Pasture/grassland provides a relatively static condition for archaeological remains	Mechanised ploughing especially of deep rooting crops (e.g., Sugar Beet) causes truncation of archaeological deposits however deep cut features can still survive at lower levels.
	Excavations for gas pipelines or their easements are likely to have removed or disturbed any archaeological

¹⁸ Historic England 2016. Preserving Archaeological Remains. Decision-taking for Sites under Development

	remains in the footprint of the pipeline or easement.
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Potential Effects

- 5.5** Figure 26 presents a plan showing which areas within the Site are available for local plan promotion. The blue area inside the Site next to the River Great Ouse will not be promoted for development, therefore any archaeological remains in this area will not be impacted by proposed development in the Site, which includes an area of well-preserved ridge and furrow (MBD3538).
- 5.6** Elsewhere in the Site, known and hitherto unknown archaeology in the Site will be highly sensitive to any earthmoving activities that may take place within the Site. Destructive activities relating to construction include but are not inclusive of; the stripping of topsoil or plough soil; ground levelling; the removal of existing surfaces; the grubbing out of existing foundations and trees; excavation for new foundations and service trenches; foundation piling; landscaping and tree planting. All these activities have the potential to remove or disturb known and unknown above and below-ground archaeological remains.

Significance

- 5.7** The most significant known remains in the Site are associated with the Little Barford DMV (MBD1806), the site of the associated moated manor house (MBD3401) and later post-medieval manor house (HER477), a trackway (MBB22346) as well as ridge and furrow earthworks (MBD3538) which lies within the DMV. As a group these assets are considered to be of high importance.
- 5.8** The original village or hamlet of Little Barford would have been focussed around the extant St Denys' church and very likely would have comprised a small group of houses, gardens, yards, streets, paddocks, a manor and with a community devoted primarily to agriculture. Although the sites of many of these villages have been occupied continuously down to the present day, many others declined in size or were abandoned throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, particularly during the 14th and 15th centuries. As a result, over 2000 deserted medieval villages are recorded nationally. The reasons for desertion were varied but often reflected declining economic viability, changes in land use such as enclosure or emparkment, or population fluctuations as a result of widespread epidemics such as the Black Death. As a consequence of their abandonment these villages are frequently undisturbed by later occupation and contain well-preserved archaeological deposits. Because they are a common and long-lived monument type in most parts of

England, they provide important information on the diversity of medieval settlement patterns and farming economy between the regions and through time¹⁹.

Recommended Strategies

5.9 The table below summarises the importance of the archaeological heritage assets within the Site as well as the recommended strategy for each known and hitherto unknown archaeological remains. Figure 25 maps the recommended strategies across the Site.

Table 3: Recommended strategies for known and hitherto unknown archaeological heritage assets within the Site

Non-designated archaeological heritage asset within the Site	Figure	Importance	In combination Importance	Recommended strategy
A large Bronze Age ring ditch and possible Iron Age/Roman enclosures (MBD637)	3 and 4	Medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
Probable site of an extensive Iron Age or Roman settlement and associated field systems (MBD13994)	3 and 4	Medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
A complex of parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures of unknown date (MBD9072)	9	Low or medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
A findspot of a Roman coin (MBD478);	4	Medium importance	-	Coin has been removed. No further consideration needed.

¹⁹ Wharram Percy deserted medieval village, Wharram - 1011377 | Historic England

Non-designated archaeological heritage asset within the Site	Figure	Importance	In combination Importance	Recommended strategy
Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806)	6	Medium importance	In combination with HER477, MBD3538 MBB22346 MBD3401, this asset is considered to be of high importance	The asset should be avoided by development.
A moated manor site (MBD3401)	6	Medium importance	In combination with HER477, MBD3538 MBB22346 MBD1806, this asset is considered to be of high importance	The asset should be avoided by development.
The site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477)	7	Medium importance	In combination with MBD3538 MBB22346 MBD1806, MBD3401 this asset is considered to be of high importance	The asset should be avoided by development.
Site of 19th century landscape park (MBD9067)	7	Medium importance	In combination with MBD3538 MBB22346 MBD1806, MBD3401 this asset is considered to be of high importance	With the exception of development associated with the site of the Dower House the asset should be avoided by development.
A probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346)	6	Low-medium importance	In combination with MBD3538 HER477 MBD1806,	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and

Non-designated archaeological heritage asset within the Site	Figure	Importance	In combination Importance	Recommended strategy
			MBD3401 this asset is considered to be of high importance	significance of archaeological remains.
Eight blocks of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538)	7	Low to medium importance	In combination with HER477, MBB22346 MBD1806, MBD3401, this asset is considered to be of high importance	An earthwork condition assessment is recommended in the first instance to ascertain degree of preservation. Preservation in situ is recommended for those earthworks in a good state of preservation (considered to be those earthworks within the Little Barford DMV, earthworks west of Barford Road southwest of site and two areas of earthworks on Alington Hill and within Boys Wood). An earthwork survey prior to any development is recommended for earthworks in a poor state of preservation.
The medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101)	6	Medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
Site of nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070)	7	Low importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
Two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits	7	Low importance	-	Located in the same location as Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) where avoidance by

Non-designated archaeological heritage asset within the Site	Figure	Importance	In combination Importance	Recommended strategy
(MBB22276, MBD9071)				development is recommended.
Site of post-medieval duck decoy pond (MBD9068)	7	Low importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
Site of post-medieval fishpond (MBD9061)	7	Low importance	-	Located close to Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) where avoidance by development is recommended.
A post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347)	7	Low importance	-	Located close to Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) where avoidance by development is recommended.
The site of post-medieval osier bed (MBD9062)	7	Low importance	-	Located close to Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) where avoidance by development is recommended.
The site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344)	8	Medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.
A field called 'Giants Parlour' (MBD473)	7	Low importance		Place name only - no further consideration needed.
Hitherto unknown archaeological remains	-	Low to medium importance	-	Further investigation would be needed in order to confirm the presence and significance of archaeological remains.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1** The archaeological records for the Site and its immediate surroundings suggest that the Site has potential to contain archaeological remains from the early prehistoric period onwards.
- 6.2** There are 85 archaeological records in the BHER within the study area, which includes one scheduled monument. Out of these 18 archaeological heritage assets are located in the Site which include; a large Bronze Age ring ditch with adjacent Iron Age/Roman enclosures (MBD637); the probable site of an extensive Iron Age/Roman settlement and associated field systems (MBD13994); a complex of parallel and interconnected linear ditches, pits and possible conjoined ditched enclosures of unknown date (MBD9072); a findspot of a Roman coin (MBD478); Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806); the medieval village of Little Barford (MBD17101); a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346); a moated manor site (MBD3401); eight blocks of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538); the site of a post-medieval manor house (HER477) and associated parkland (MBD9067), site of nineteenth century kiln building (MBD9070); two post-medieval sand and gravel extraction pits (MBB22276, MBD9071); site of post-medieval duck decoy pond (MBD9068); the site of post-medieval fishpond (MBD9061); a post-medieval ha-ha (MBB22347); the site of post-medieval osier bed (MBD9062); and the site of a Second World War searchlight battery (MBB22344). Tithe records from 1840 record a field called 'Giants Parlour' (MBD473) in the east of the Site, which may be a reference to mythical giants.
- 6.3** As isolated sites and features, the importance of known heritage assets in the Site ranges from low to medium. As a group however, those associated with Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806) are considered to have high importance. These assets include Little Barford Deserted Medieval Village (MBD1806), a moated manor site (MBD3401), the site of a post-medieval manor house (MBD477) and associated parkland (MBD9067), a probable medieval hollow way or trackway (MBB22346), and a block of medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3538). It is recommended that development should not take place at the location of these assets which should be avoided by development.
- 6.4** There are areas of ridge and furrow (MBD3538) across the Site. An earthwork condition assessment is recommended in the first instance to ascertain degree of preservation. Preservation in situ is recommended for those ridge and furrow earthworks in a good state of preservation. An earthwork survey of those earthworks in a poorer state of preservation is recommended prior to development.
- 6.5** The NMP and Lidar data has identified additional features in the Site which are not recorded on the BHER, including a large rectangular enclosure and an extensive

curvilinear feature in the northeast part of the Site. Further investigation will be needed to ascertain the form, function and significance of these features.

- 6.6** There is a high potential for hitherto unknown below-ground remains across the extent of the Site associated with the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post medieval periods. The potential for hitherto unknown early medieval archaeology is medium and the potential for modern archaeology is low. The importance of unknown archaeological remains is likely to range from low to medium, however fieldwork investigations will be required to establish the presence and significance of any archaeology present.
- 6.7** Except for an area adjacent to the River Great Ouse, the whole of the Site will be considered for promotion into the local plan. The construction of any development associated with the proposed expansion of Little Barford is likely to have an impact on known and hitherto unknown archaeology in the Site, which will be highly sensitive to any earthmoving activities that may take place. Destructive activities relating to construction include but are not inclusive of; the stripping of topsoil or plough soil; ground levelling; the removal of existing surfaces; the grubbing out of existing foundations and trees; excavation for new foundations and service trenches; foundation piling; landscaping and tree planting. All these activities have the potential to remove or disturb known and unknown above and below-ground archaeological remains.
- 6.8** Prior to finalising the masterplan it is recommended that a condition assessment is carried on those ridge and furrow earthworks identified by the BHER. It is recommended that a programme of geophysical survey is carried out across those parts of the Site proposed for development followed by a programme of targeted trial trenching. The scope of any further archaeological works that would be needed in advance or during development of the Site would need to be discussed and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the local planning authority. It is recommended that this assessment is reviewed by the Archaeological Advisor to the local planning authority.

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Appendix 1: Hedgerow Regulations

The regulations define a hedgerow as being;

'any hedgerow growing in, or adjacent to, any common land, protected land, or land used for agriculture, forestry or the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, if—

it has a continuous length of, or exceeding, 20 metres; or

it has a continuous length of less than 20 metres and, at each end, meets (whether by intersection or junction) another hedgerow'.

In terms of the criteria for determining what an 'important' hedgerow is, for the purposes of this assessment these will be limited to those criteria within the Regulations which define a hedgerow which is considered 'important' in terms of archaeology and history. These are as follows:

'1. The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township; and for this purpose "historic" means existing before 1850.

2. The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is—

included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the Secretary of State under section 1 (schedule of monuments) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; or

recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record.

3. The hedgerow—

is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site included or recorded as mentioned in paragraph 2 or on land adjacent to and associated with such a site; and

is associated with any monument or feature on that site.

4. The hedgerow—

marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record or in a document held at that date at a Record Office; or

is visibly related to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor.

5. The hedgerow—

is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts; or

is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system—

is substantially complete; or

is of a pattern which is recorded in a document prepared before the relevant date by a local planning authority, within the meaning of the 1990 Act, for the purposes of development control within the authority's area, as a key landscape characteristic.'

Appendix 2: Bedford Borough HER Gazetteers

Designated Archaeological Heritage Assets within the 1km Study Area

Historic England Reference	Type	Name
1012076	Scheduled Monument	Moated enclosure and associated building platforms.

Prehistoric Archaeological Records within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD480	FORMER CROPMARKS; Wyboston Lakes	RING DITCH; BARROW; DITCH; ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBD1793	ENCLOSURE CROPMARKS; SE of Folly Farm	DITCHED ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; SETTLEMENT; SUB CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE; BOUNDARY DITCH; FIELD BOUNDARY
MBD480	FORMER CROPMARKS; Wyboston Lakes	RING DITCH; BARROW; DITCH; ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBB22313	ROUND BARROW; NNW of Spinney View Farm	BARROW; RING DITCH; SETTLEMENT
MBB22342	BRONZE AGE RING DITCH AND ANGLO-SAXON BURIAL; A428	FINDSPOT; RING DITCH; BURIAL
MBB22310	DITCHED ENCLOSURE; N of Heddings Farm	DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; SUBRECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE
MBB22312	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH PIT ALIGNMENT; N of Maple Tree Farm	LINEAR FEATURE; PIT; PIT ALIGNMENT; SUBRECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE
MBD637	BRONZE AGE RING DITCH & OTHER ENCLOSURES; N of Lower Farm	ENCLOSURE; DITCH; BARROW; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; RING DITCH; ROUND BARROW

MBD14032	CROPMARKS, East of High Barns	ENCLOSURE
MBD1651	ENCLOSURE CROPMARKS; S of Maple Tree Farm	DITCHED ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; PIT; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; SETTLEMENT; LINEAR FEATURE; SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION SITE; TRACKWAY
MBD1387	CROPMARKS & FLINT SCATTER, W of The Barns	FLINT SCATTER; RING DITCH
MBD13994	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT ENCLOSURES/MEDIEVAL FIELD SYSTEM; SW of Rectory Farm	DITCHED ENCLOSURE; FIELD SYSTEM; LINEAR FEATURE; PIT; RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; RING DITCH; SUBRECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; BOUNDARY DITCH; FIELD BOUNDARY; FIELD SYSTEM; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBD16776	CROPMARKS, East of Top Farm	SUBRECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE
MBD17147	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH ENCLOSURES AND MEDIEVAL FIELD SYSTEMS; W of Dovehouse Farm	DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; FIELD SYSTEM; LINEAR FEATURE; PIT; RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; SETTLEMENT; BOUNDARY DITCH; FIELD BOUNDARY; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBD16755	CROPMARKS, S of Alington Hill	RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBD16757	CROPMARKS, E of Rectory Farm	CURVILINEAR ENCLOSURE; ENCLOSURE
MBD480	FORMER CROPMARKS; Wyboston Lakes	RING DITCH; BARROW; DITCH; ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBD14779	NEOLITHIC AXE found in Wyboston	FINDSPOT
MBB22536	NEOLITHIC AXE HEAD; Wyboston	FINDSPOT
MBD9765	MESOLITHIC FLINTS	

MBD15440	FLINT	FINDSPOT
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Roman Archaeological Records within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD505	SANDY-GODMANCHESTER ROMAN ROAD (Viatores Road 22)	ROAD
MBD505	SANDY-GODMANCHESTER ROMAN ROAD (Viatores Road 22)	ROAD
MBD476	BELGIC & ROMAN FARMSTEAD, Wyboston	BUILDING; OVEN; ROAD; ENCLOSURE; BOUNDARY DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; INHUMATION; DITCH; CORN DRYING OVEN; PIT
MBD1794	CROPMARKS near Bell Farm Wyboston	ENCLOSURE; TRACKWAY
MBD1881	DOUBLE-DITCHED RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; W of Bell Farm, Little End	BOUNDARY DITCH; DITCH; DOUBLE DITCHED ENCLOSURE; LINEAR FEATURE; MACULA; PIT; PIT ALIGNMENT; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; SETTLEMENT; TRACKWAY
MBD478	ROMAN COIN	Roman
MBD479	ROMAN POTTERY found 1960	Roman

Early Medieval Archaeological Records Assets within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD3239	CROPMARKS & ANGLO-SAXON FINDS, East of Little End	OCCUPATION SITE

Medieval Archaeological Records within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD1806	DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE	BUILDING; DESERTED SETTLEMENT; BANK (EARTHWORK); BOUNDARY DITCH; DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; PLATFORM; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBD1806	DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE	BUILDING; DESERTED SETTLEMENT; BANK (EARTHWORK); BOUNDARY DITCH; DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; PLATFORM; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBD1806	DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE	BUILDING; DESERTED SETTLEMENT; BANK (EARTHWORK); BOUNDARY DITCH; DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; PLATFORM; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBB22346	HOLLOW WAY; Between Lower Farm and Glebe Farm	DITCH; HOLLOW WAY; TRACKWAY
MBB22346	HOLLOW WAY; Between Lower Farm and Glebe Farm	DITCH; HOLLOW WAY; TRACKWAY
MBB22346	HOLLOW WAY; Between Lower Farm and Glebe Farm	DITCH; HOLLOW WAY; TRACKWAY
MBB22421	RIDGE AND FURROW; Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish	FURLONG BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBB22421	RIDGE AND FURROW; Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish	FURLONG BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBB22421	RIDGE AND FURROW; Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish	FURLONG BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBB22421	RIDGE AND FURROW; Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish	FURLONG BOUNDARY; PLOUGH HEADLAND; RIDGE AND FURROW
MBD474	MOAT, The Lane, Wyboston	MANOR HOUSE; MOAT; BUILDING
MBD3401	?MOAT, Manor House	MOAT

MBD5209	RIDGE AND FURROW, Eaton Socon historic parish	RIDGE AND FURROW
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD3538	RIDGE AND FURROW; Little Barford parish	RIDGE AND FURROW; BOUNDARY BANK; BOUNDARY DITCH; PLOUGH HEADLAND
MBD17097	CHAWSTON MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT	SETTLEMENT
MBD17101	LITTLE BARFORD MEDIEVAL VILLAGE	VILLAGE
MBD17102	WYBOSTON MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT	VILLAGE
MBD8621	WYBOSTON GREEN	VILLAGE GREEN

Post Medieval Place Names within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD8620	DECOY MEADOWS	DECOY POND
MBD473	GIANTS PARLOUR	FIELD
MBD8575	DOVEHOUSE CLOSE	DOVECOTE

Post-medieval Archaeological Records within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBB22621	RIVER GREAT OUSE POST-MEDIEVAL NAVIGABLE EXTENT	NATURAL FEATURE; RIVER NAVIGATION
MBD8923	ST DENYS' PARISH CHURCHYARD	CHURCHYARD
MBD9068	FLOWERS MEADOW	DECOY POND
MBB22347	POST-MEDIEVAL HA-HA; New Manor House	DITCH; GARDEN FEATURE; HA
MBD9061	FISHPONDS	FISHPOND
MBD9071	GRAVEL PIT	GRAVEL PIT
MBD8629	GRAVEL PIT CLOSE	GRAVEL PIT
MBD8816	GRAVEL PIT	GRAVEL PIT
MBD9070	KILN	KILN
MBD9067	THE PARK	LANDSCAPE PARK
MBD9062	OSIER BED	OSIER BED
MBD9063	OSIER BED	OSIER BED

MBB22276	POST MEDIEVAL SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION; St. Dennis' Church Lower Farm	SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION SITE
MBB22276	POST MEDIEVAL SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION; St. Dennis' Church Lower Farm	SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION SITE
MBD8809	MILESTONE (site of)	MILESTONE

Modern Archaeological Records within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD8589	STANDPIPE	WATER POINT
MBD3578	GIPSY CORNER	SEARCHLIGHT EMPLACEMENT?
MBD8587	LIONHEAD STANDPIPE, WITH PAIL REST, Great North Road, Wyboston	WATER POINT
MBB22343	SEMI-BURIED AIR RAID SHELTERS; Adjacent to the power station, Little Barford	AIR RAID SHELTER
MBB22344	SECOND WORLD WAR SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY; SSW of Little Barford Electricity Generating Station	AIR RAID SHELTER; BANK (EARTHWORK); DITCH; RING DITCH; SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY; STANTON SHELTER
MBB22343	SEMI-BURIED AIR RAID SHELTERS; Adjacent to the power station, Little Barford	AIR RAID SHELTER

MBB22343	SEMI-BURIED AIR RAID SHELTERS; Adjacent to the power station, Little Barford	AIR RAID SHELTER
MBB22345	SECOND WORLD WAR SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY; Gipsy Corner	ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY; BANK (EARTHWORK); DITCH; GUN EMPLACEMENT; RING DITCH; SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY

Archaeological Records of Unknown date within the 1km Study Area

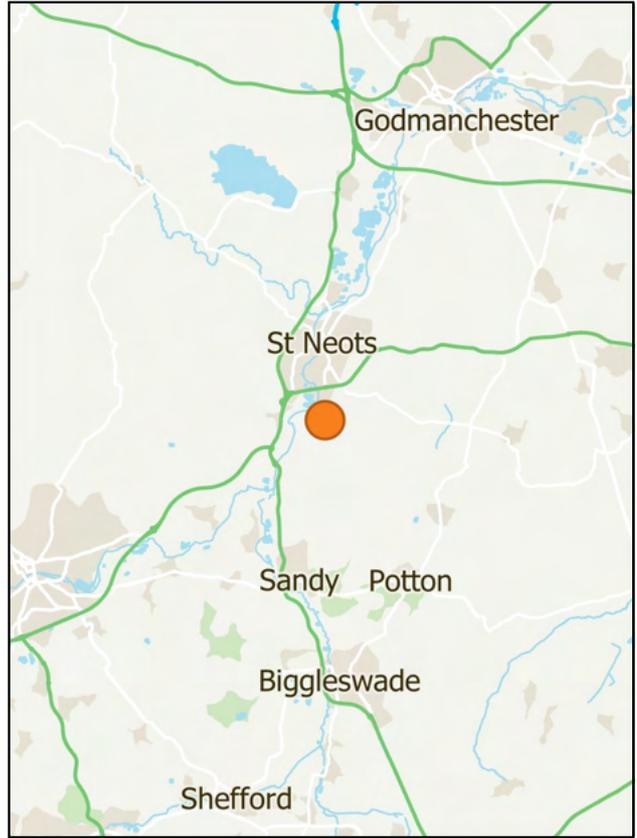
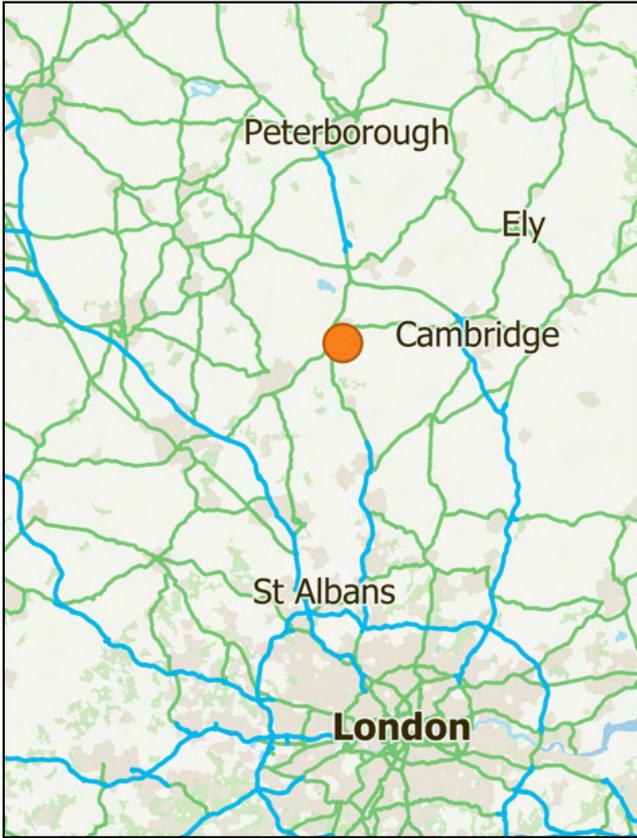
BHER Reference	Name	Asset Type
MBD629	CROPMARKS	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE
MBD9072	DITCH CROPMARKS; Glebe Farm/Bean Wood/South Close	DITCH; POLYGONAL ENCLOSURE; PIPELINE; DITCH; DITCHED ENCLOSURE; GEOLOGICAL MARKS; LINEAR FEATURE; MACULA; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE
MBB22326	DITCH CROPMARKS; SE of Riverside Farm	DITCH; LINEAR FEATURE
MBD13225	SIR JOHN'S WOOD, Ancient Woodland	WOOD
MBB18928	18A GREAT NORTH ROAD; Find Spot	HUMAN REMAINS

Previous Archaeological Investigations within the 1km Study Area

BHER Reference	Name of Investigation
EBB697	HUNTINGDON TO LITTLE BARFORD GAS PIPELINE; Archaeological fieldwalking survey and watching brief
EBB1173	LITTLE BARFORD PIPELINE; Environmental Impact Assessment
EBB1191	LAND AT BLACK CAT, CHAWSTON; Desk Based Assessment

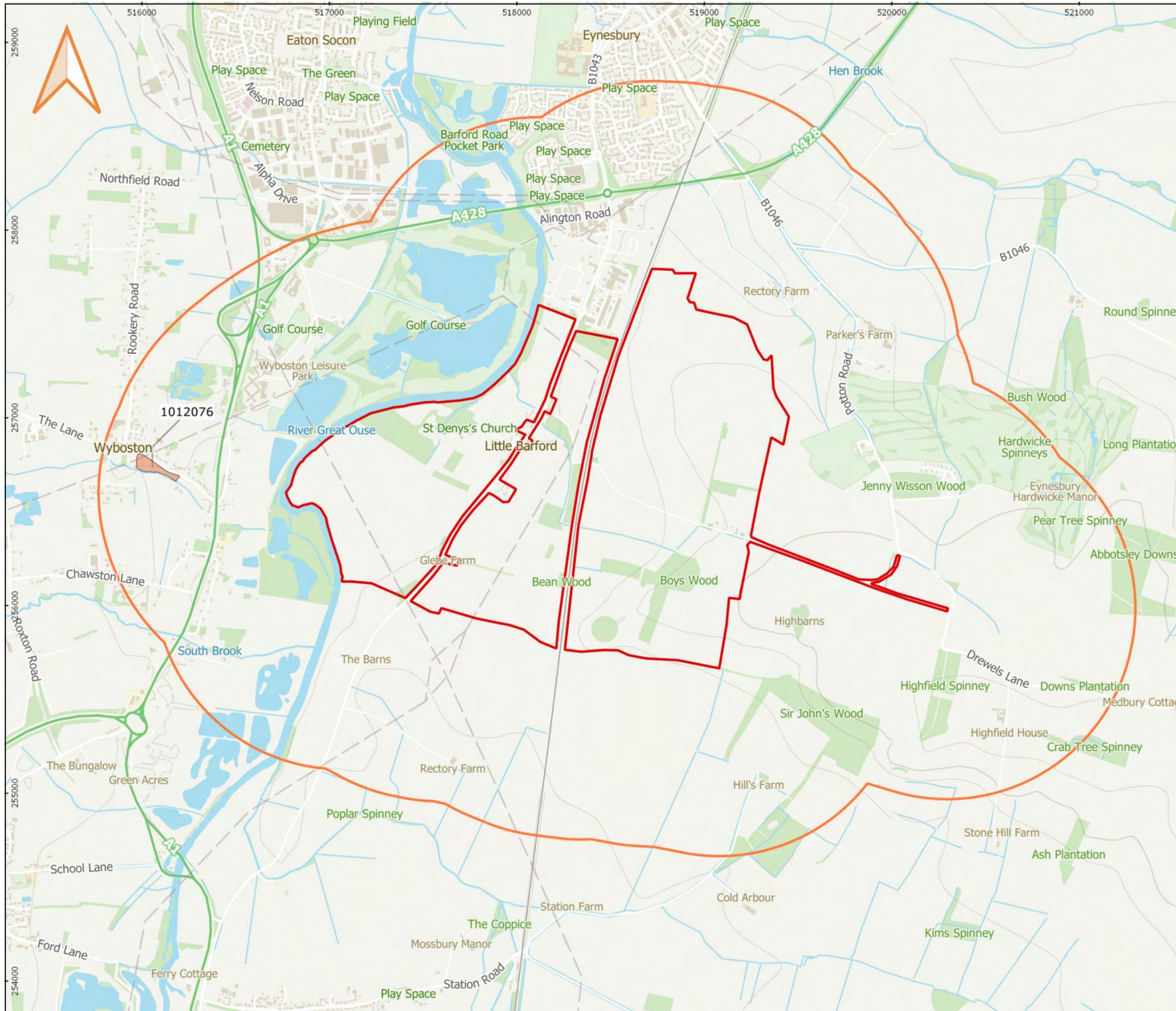
EBB1294	ST. NEOTS-LITTLE BARFORD REINFORCEMENT WATER MAIN; Watching Brief
EBB950	Black Cat Island, Roxton, Bedfordshire; Aerial survey and mapping report
EBB951	Black Cat Quarry Proposed Extension, Bedfordshire; Archaeological evaluation trenching.
EBB1041	Land at 20 & 48 The Lane, Wyboston: Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample
EBB561	LAND TO REAR OF 2 GREAT NORTH ROAD, Archaeological Evaluation
EBB1177	NORTH EAST OF WYBOSTON
EBB1318	LAND AT 20 & 48 THE LANE, WYBOSTON; Evaluation
EBB952	Proposed Northern Extension to Black Cat Quarry, Roxton, Bedfordshire; Geophysical Survey
EBD272	PROPOSED SAND & GRAVEL QUARRY, BLACK CAT ISLAND, ROXTON; Archaeological Evaluation
EBB1324	LAND ADJACENT TO HEDDINGS FARM, THE LANE, WYBOSTON; Evaluation
EBB1331	LAND WEST OF BROOK COTTAGES, GREAT NORTH ROAD, CHAWSTON; Evaluation

7. Figures



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Figure 1: Site Location



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Scheduled Monuments

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:20000

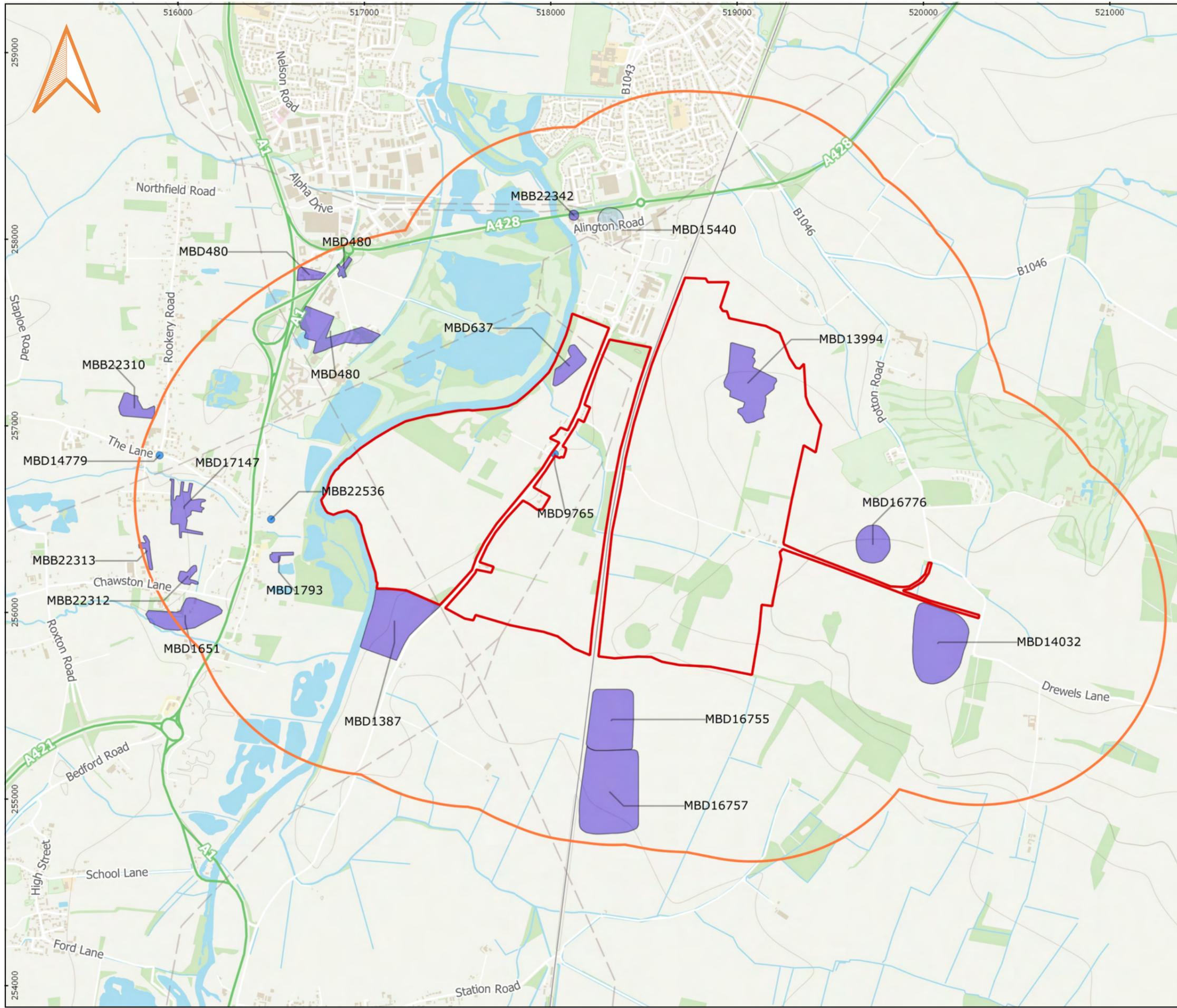


**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
Bedfordshire**

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
The Executors of the Late Nigel Alington

Figure 2.
Scheduled Monuments within the 1km
Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Prehistoric Record Areas

Prehistoric Findspots

- Area
- Points



Scale @A3: 1:20000

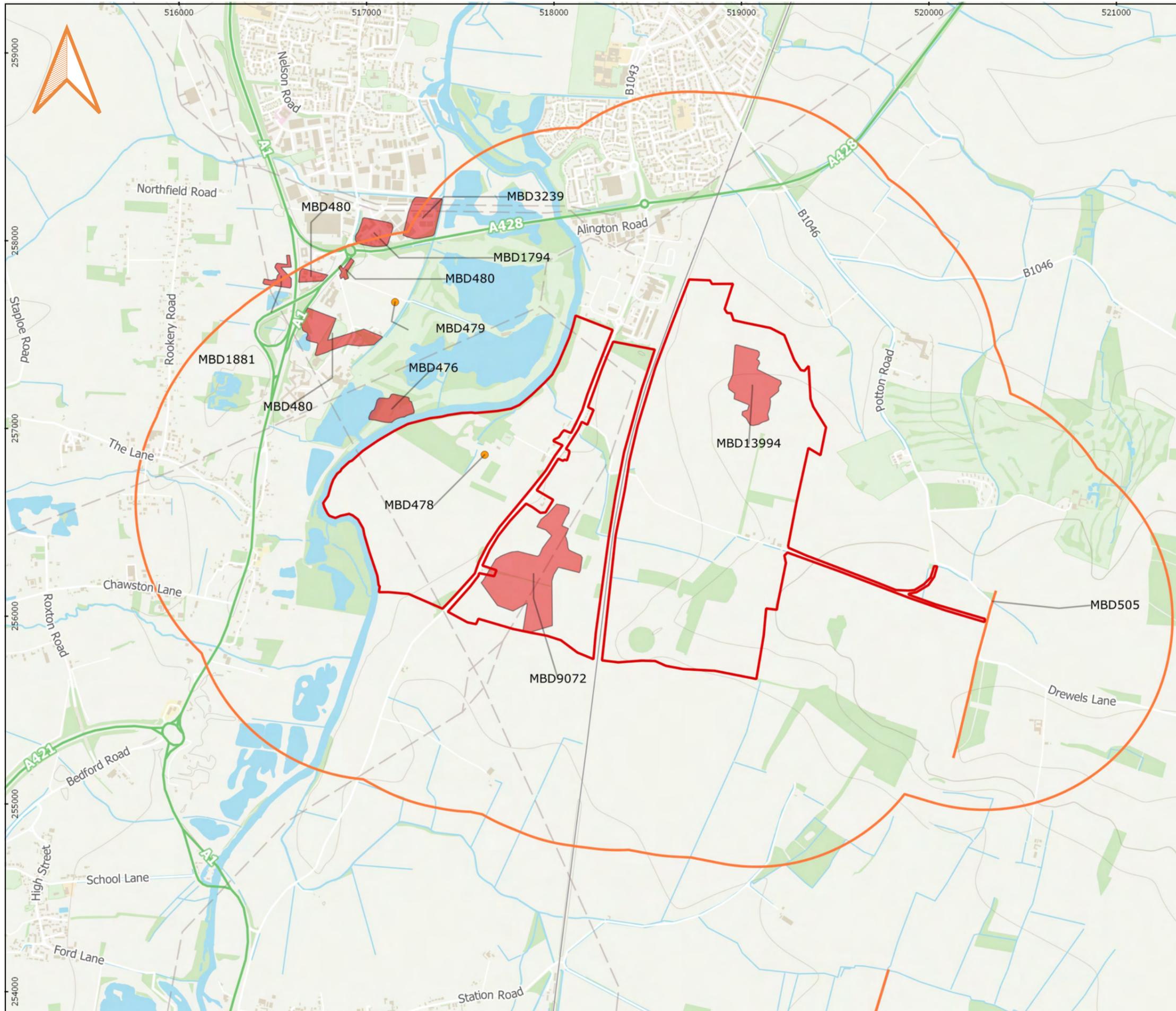


**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
Bedfordshire**

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
The Executors of the Late Nigel Alington

Figure 3.
Prehistoric Archaeological Records
recorded on the BHER within the 1km
Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Roman Findspot Points

Roman Archaeological Records

- Lines
- Areas

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:20000



**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
Bedfordshire**

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
The Executors of the Late Nigel Alington

Figure 4.
Roman Archaeological Records recorded on the BHER within the 1km Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Early Medieval Archaeological Records Areas

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:20000

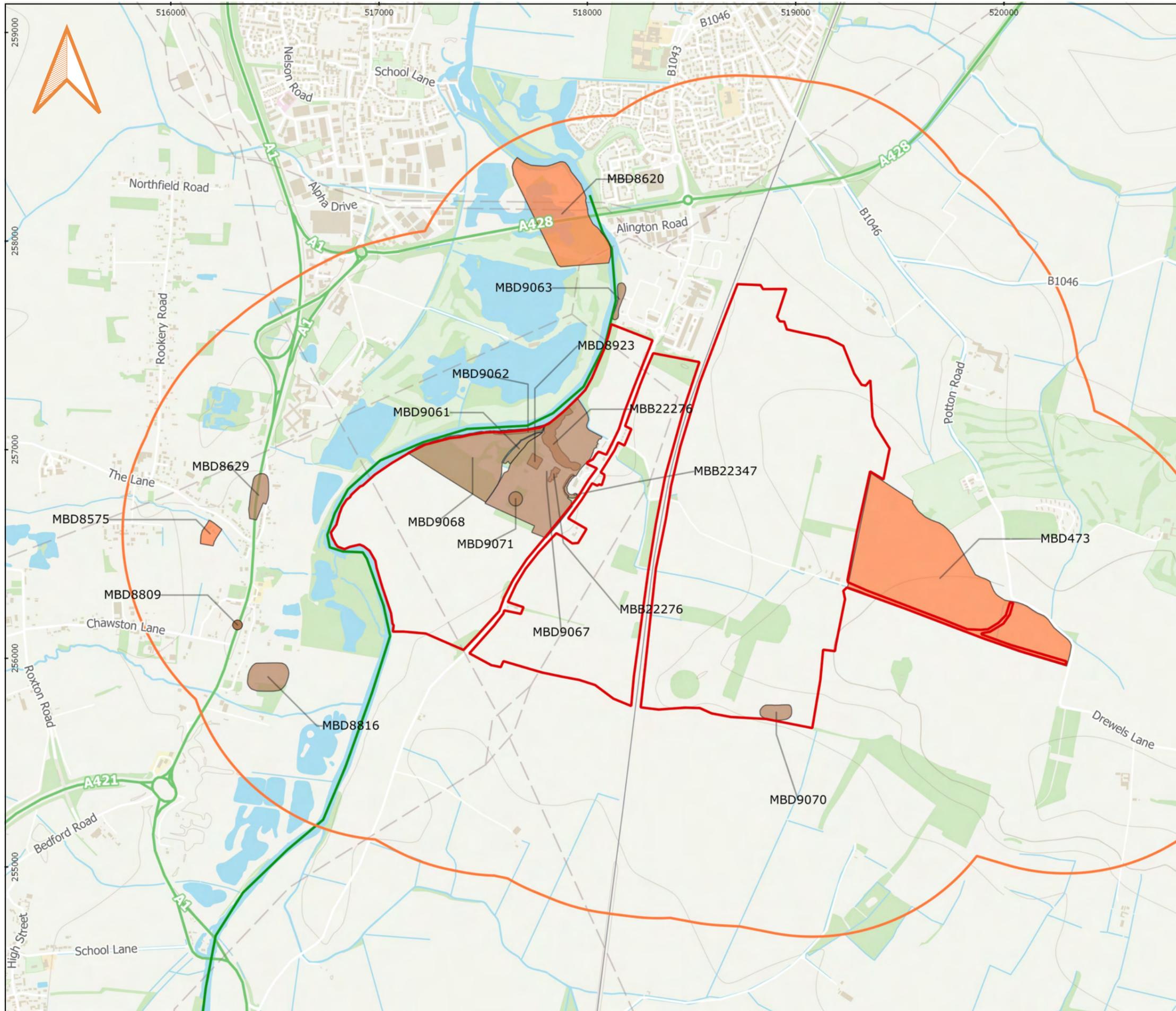


Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire

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On behalf of
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Figure 4.
Early Medieval Archaeological Records recorded on the BHER within the 1km Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Post Medieval Places

Post Medieval Archaeological Records

- Points
- Areas

Lines

- MBB22621

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:18000



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Figure 7.
Post Medieval Archaeological Records recorded on the BHER within the 1km Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

Modern Archaeological Records

- Points
- Areas

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:18000

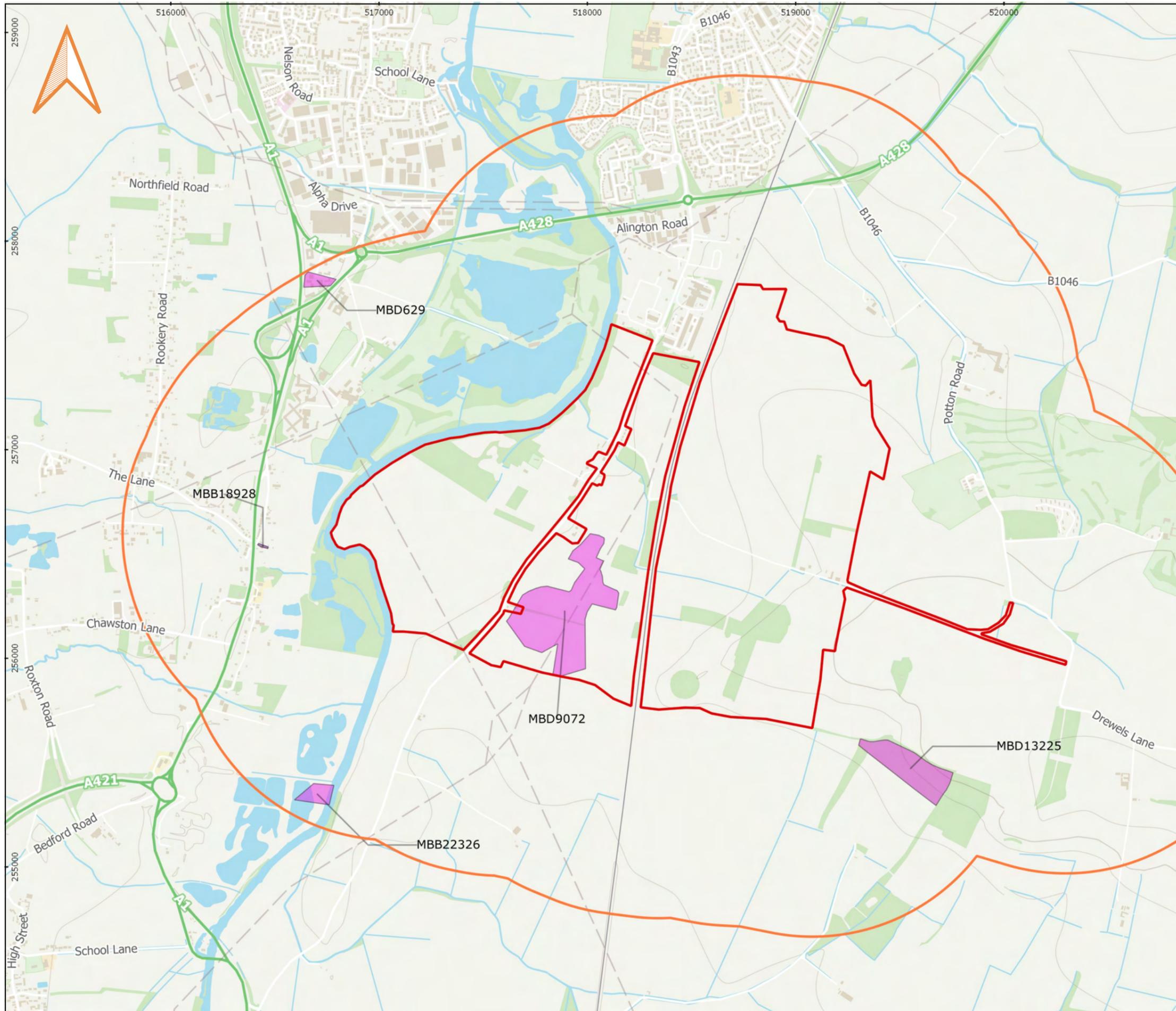


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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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Figure 8.
Modern Archaeological Records
recorded on the BHER within the 1km
Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Undated Findspot Area
- Undated Archaeological Record Area

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:18000



**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
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Figure 9.
Undated Archaeological Records
recorded on the BHER within the 1km
Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- Line
- Area
- Point

Scale @A3: 1:18000

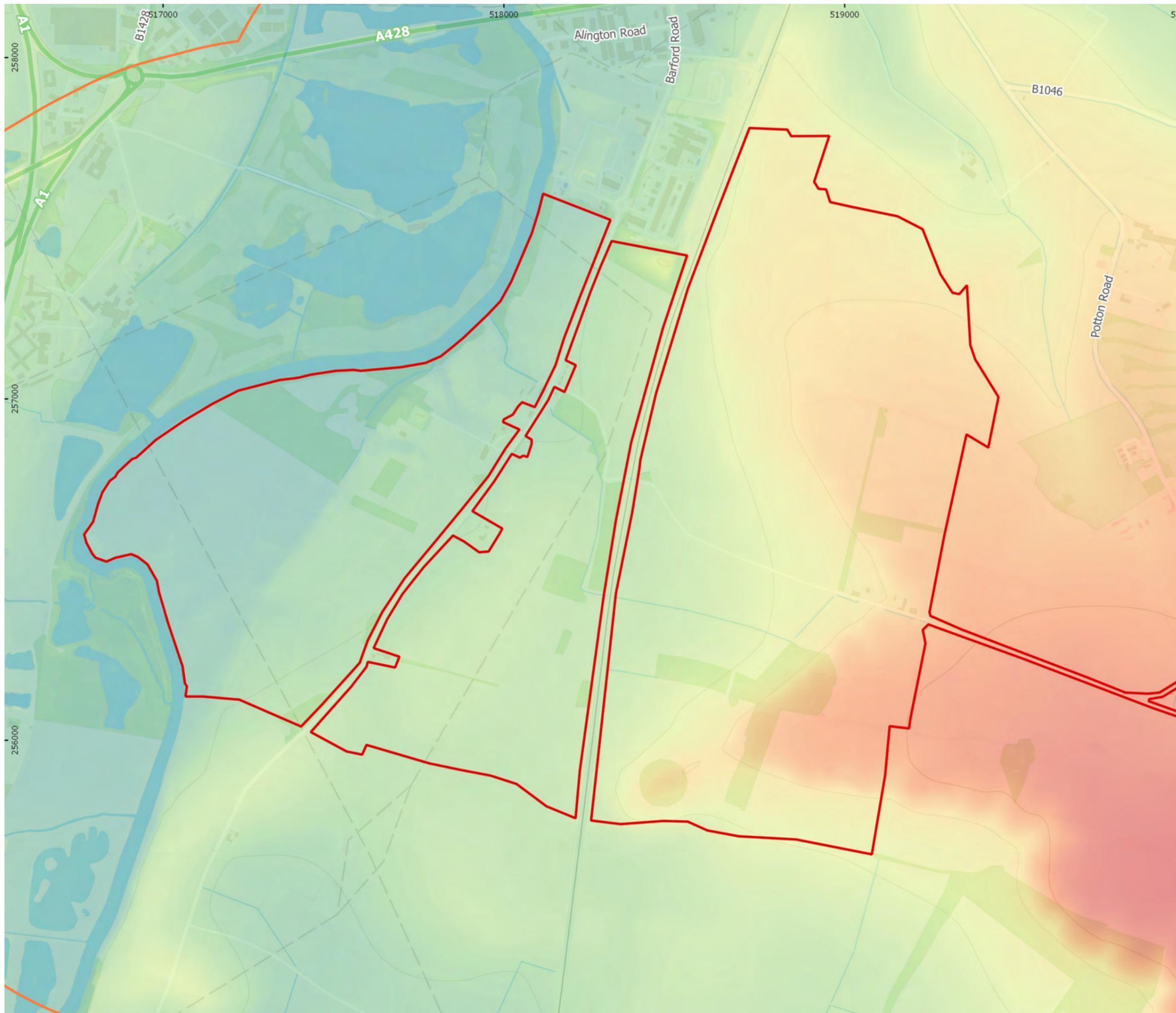


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On behalf of
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Figure
Previous Archaeological Investigations recorded on the BHER within the 1km Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

Height (aOD), metres

- 10
- 20
- 30
- 40
- 50
- 60

0 150 300 450 600 m

Scale @A3: 1:11000

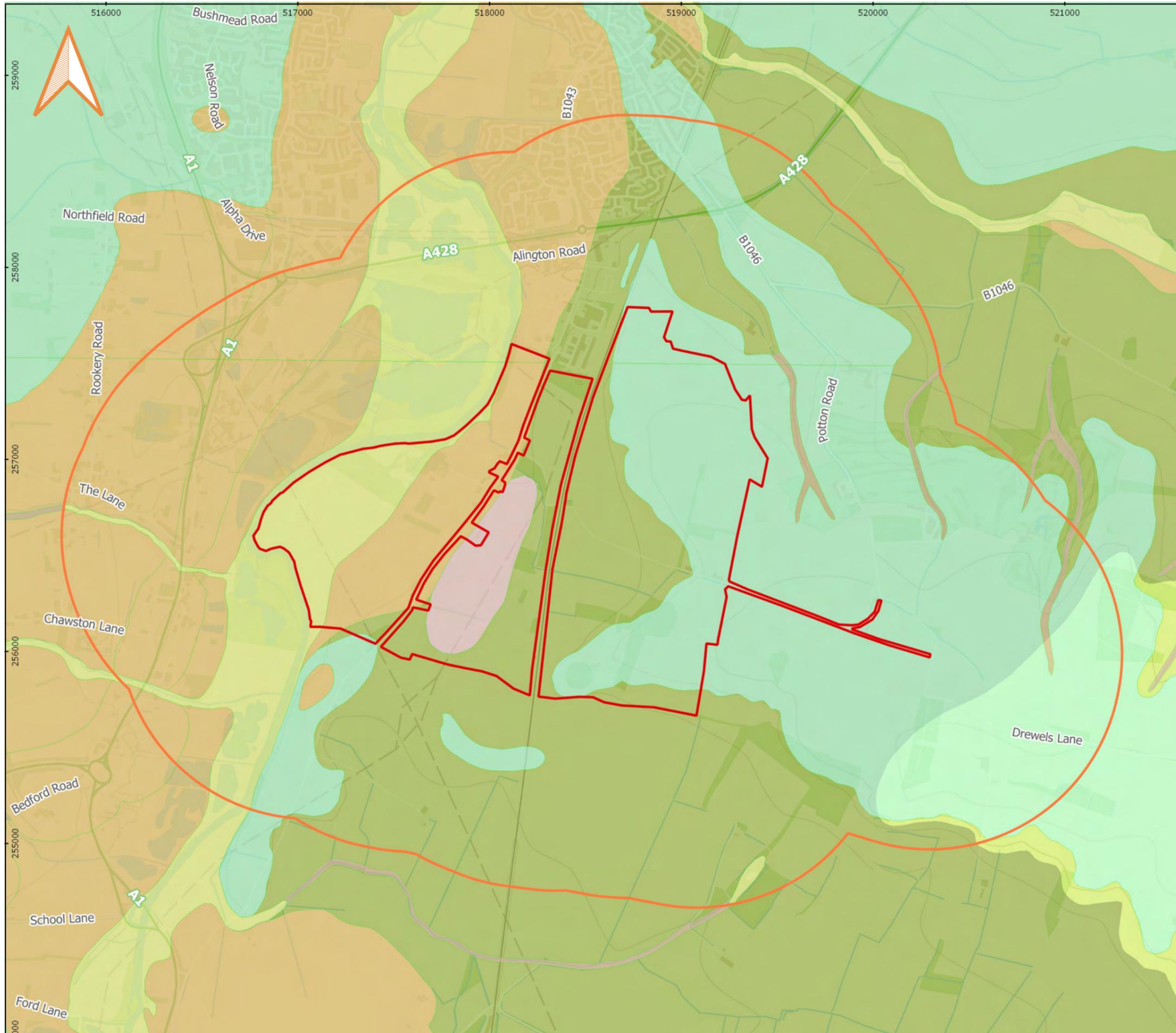


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Figure 11.
Topography within the 1km Study Area.



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

Bedrock Deposits

- Peterborough Member - Mudstone.

Superficial Deposits

- Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel.
- Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene - Sand And Gravel.
- Oadby Member - Diamicton.
- River Terrace Deposits, 1 To 2 - Sand And Gravel.

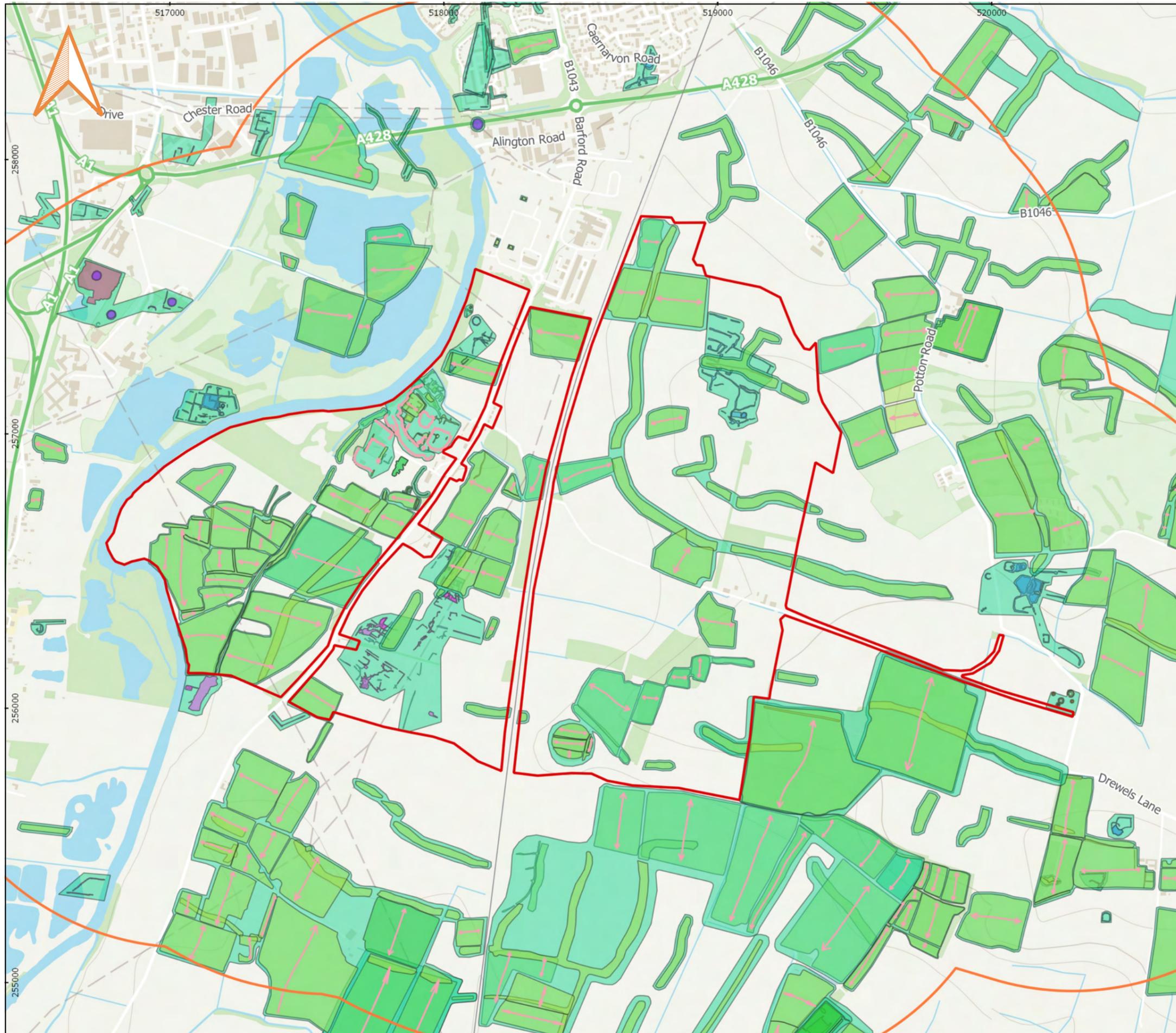
0 200 400 600 800 m
Scale @A3: 1:20000



Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire Areas 1 and 2
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
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Figure 12.
Geological Deposits within the 1km Study Area



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

National Mapping Programme

- Line

- Uncertain
- Bronze Age
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- World War II
- Uncertain

0 200 400 600 800 m

Scale @A3: 1:14000



Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire Areas 1 and 2

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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Figure 13.
National Mapping Programme (NMP) data within the Application Site



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

Scale @A3: 1:12000

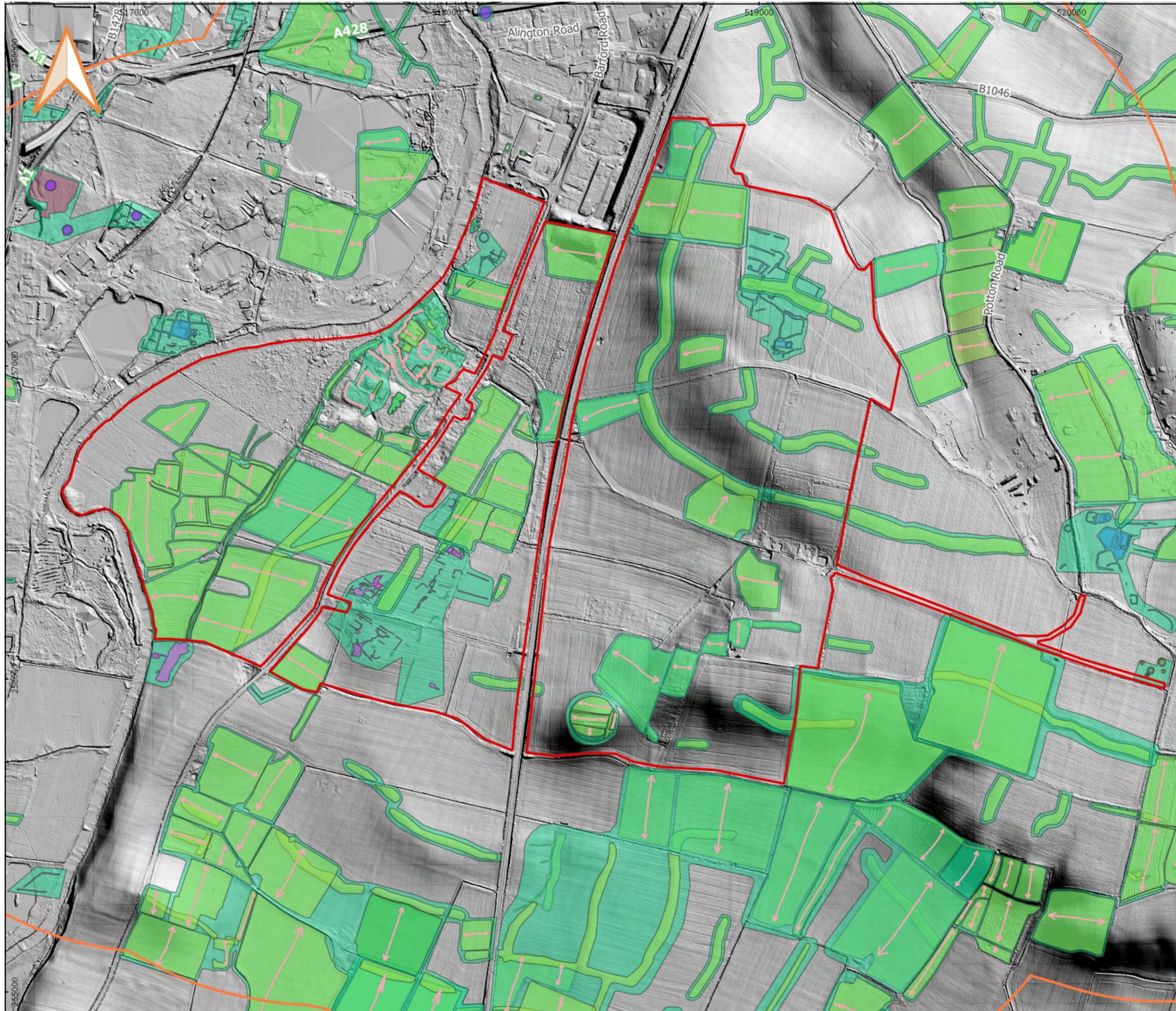


**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

On behalf of
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Figure 14.
LIDAR Coverage of the Application Site



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

0 100 200 300 400 m

Scale @A3: 1:12000



**Alington Estate, Little Barford,
Bedfordshire**

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On behalf of
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Figure 15.
NMP data superimposed onto the LIDAR
Coverage of the Application Site



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Potential archaeological features identified, in addition to those on the NMP data

0 100 200 300 400 m

Scale @A3: 1:17000



Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

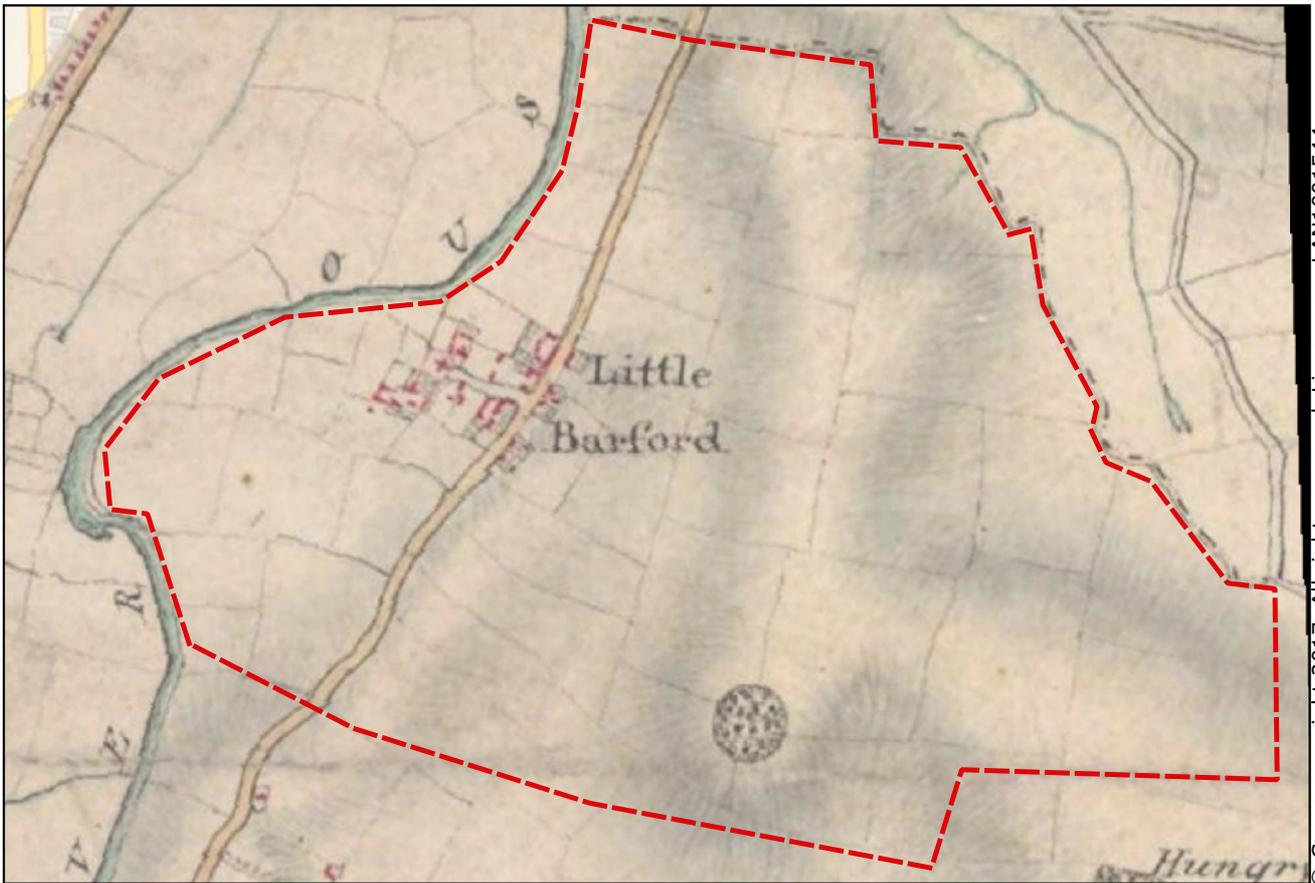
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Figure 16.
Potential archaeological features identified by HCUK Group on LIDAR Coverage of the 1km Study Area,



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Figure 17: Northanton, Bedfordiae Cantabrigiae, Huntingdoniae et Rutlandiae Comitatum, 1579



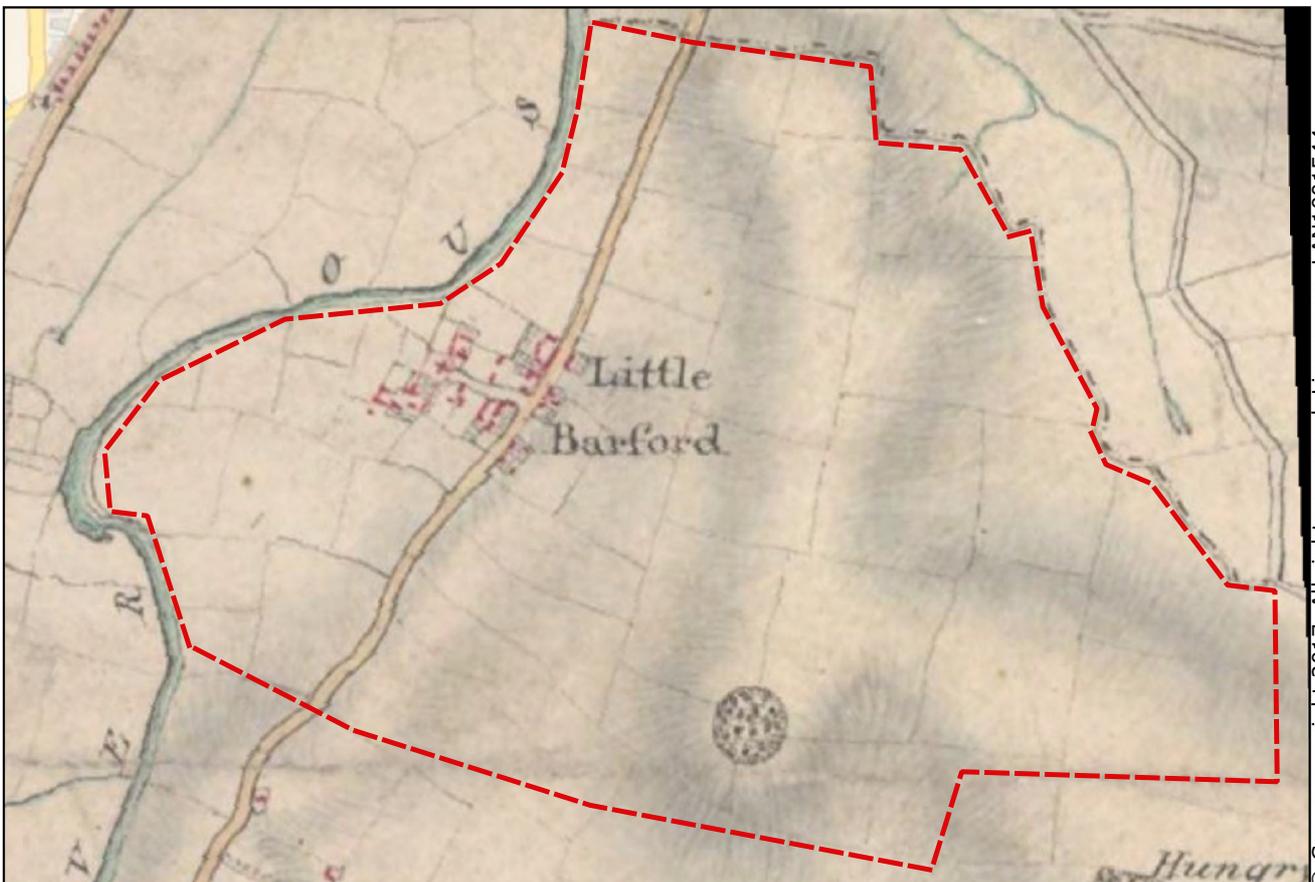
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Figure 18: Caxton, 1808



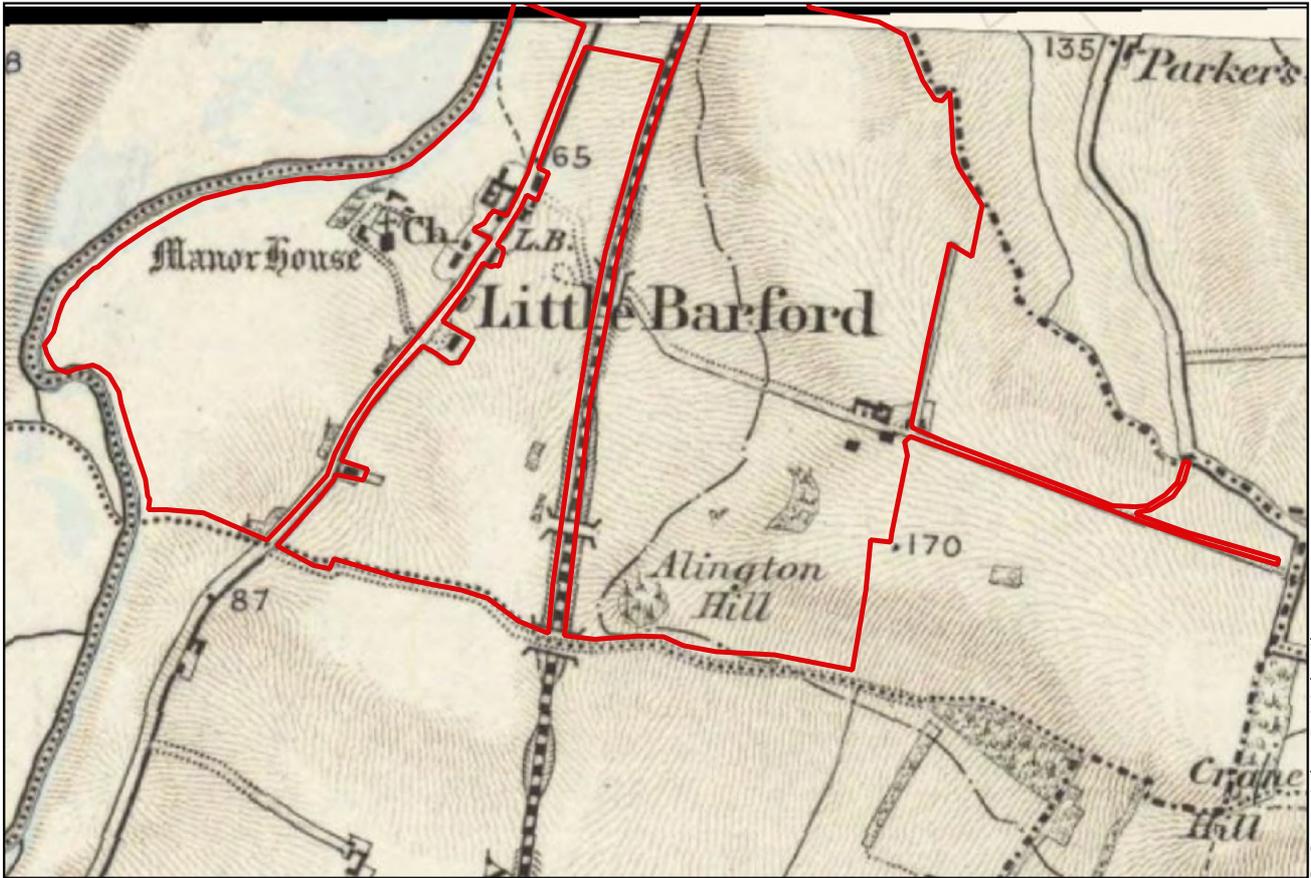
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Figure 19: Little Barford Parish Tithe Plan, 1844



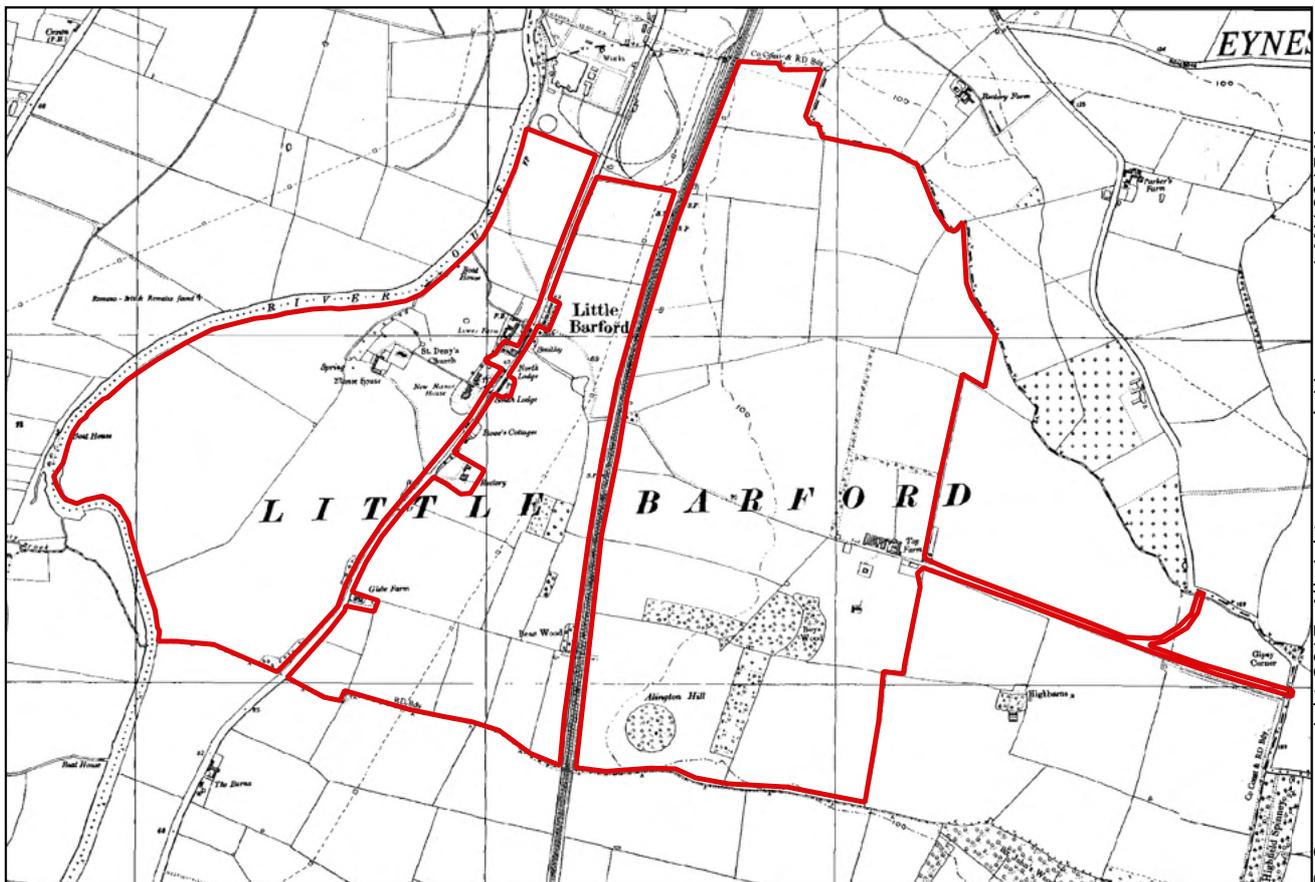
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Figure 20: Ordnance Survey County Series: 1:10,560, 1886-1891



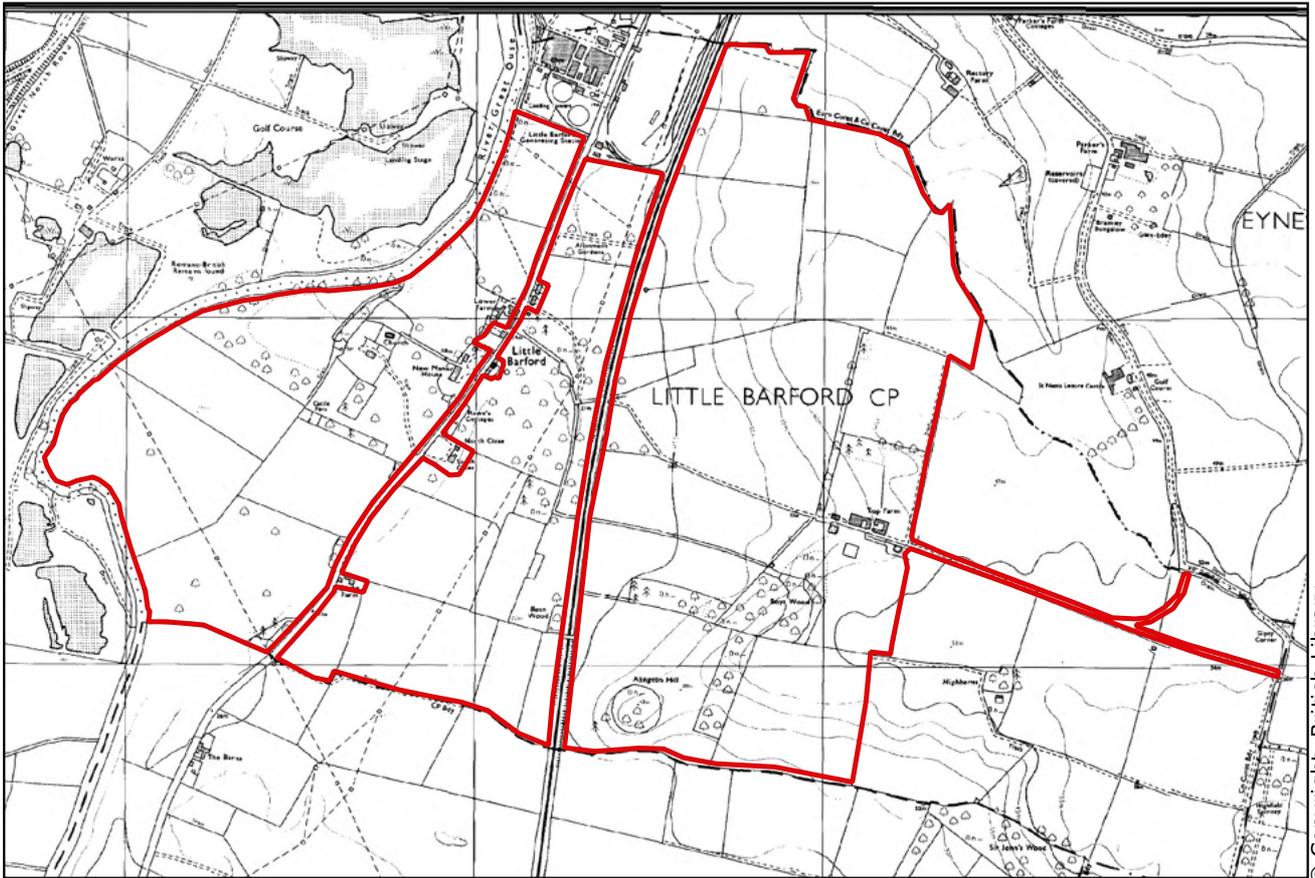
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Figure 21: 204 Biggleswade (Hills), 1896



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Figure 22: Ordnance Survey: 1:10,560, 1960



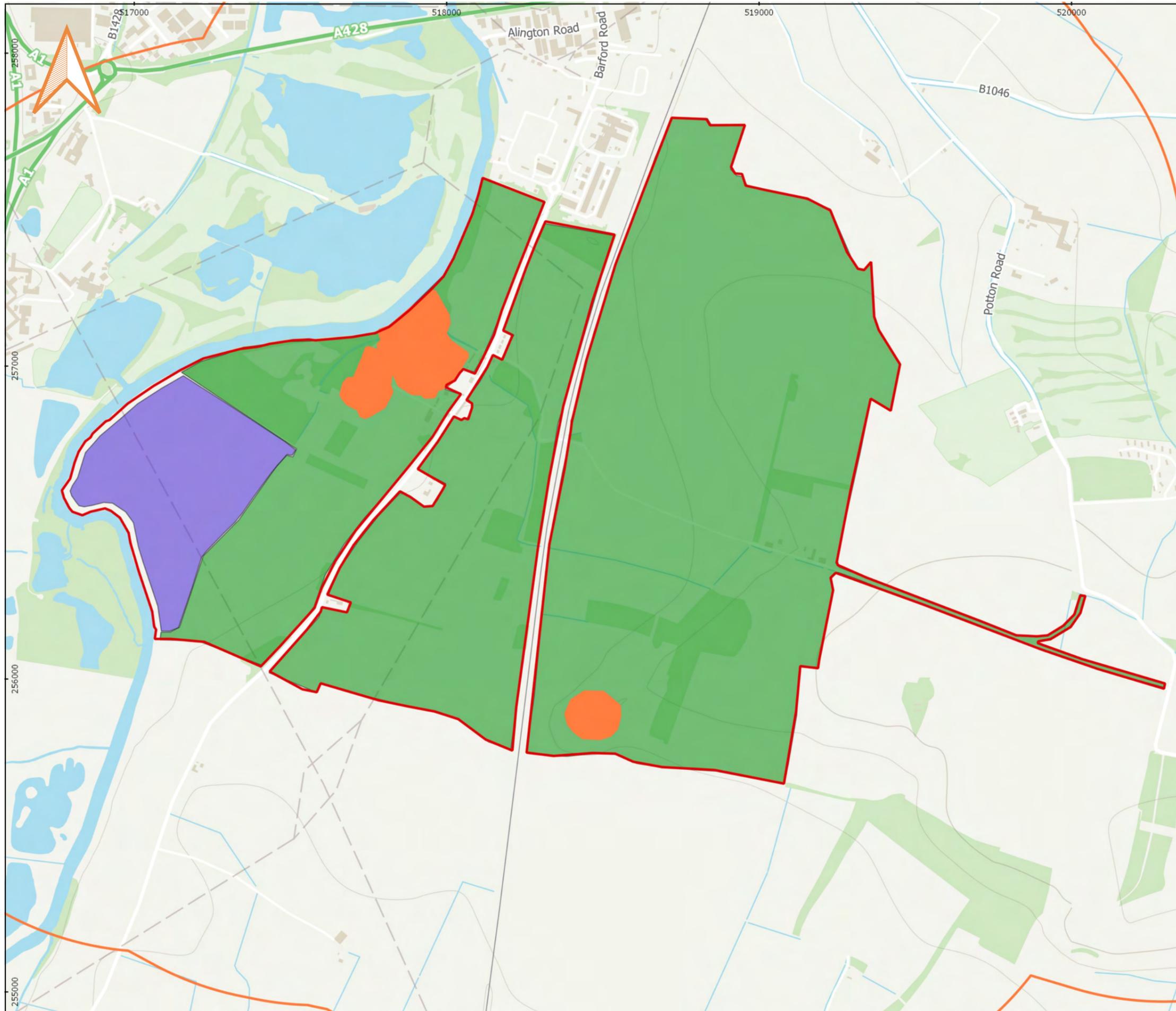
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Figure 23: Ordnance Survey: 1:10,560, 1983-1993



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Figure 24: Satellite View of Application Site, 2021



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Further investigation required to establish presence and significance of known or hitherto unknown archaeology
- Area not for promotion
- Preservation in situ of earthworks and/or below ground archaeological remains recommended

0 100 200 300 400 m

Scale @A3: 1:12000

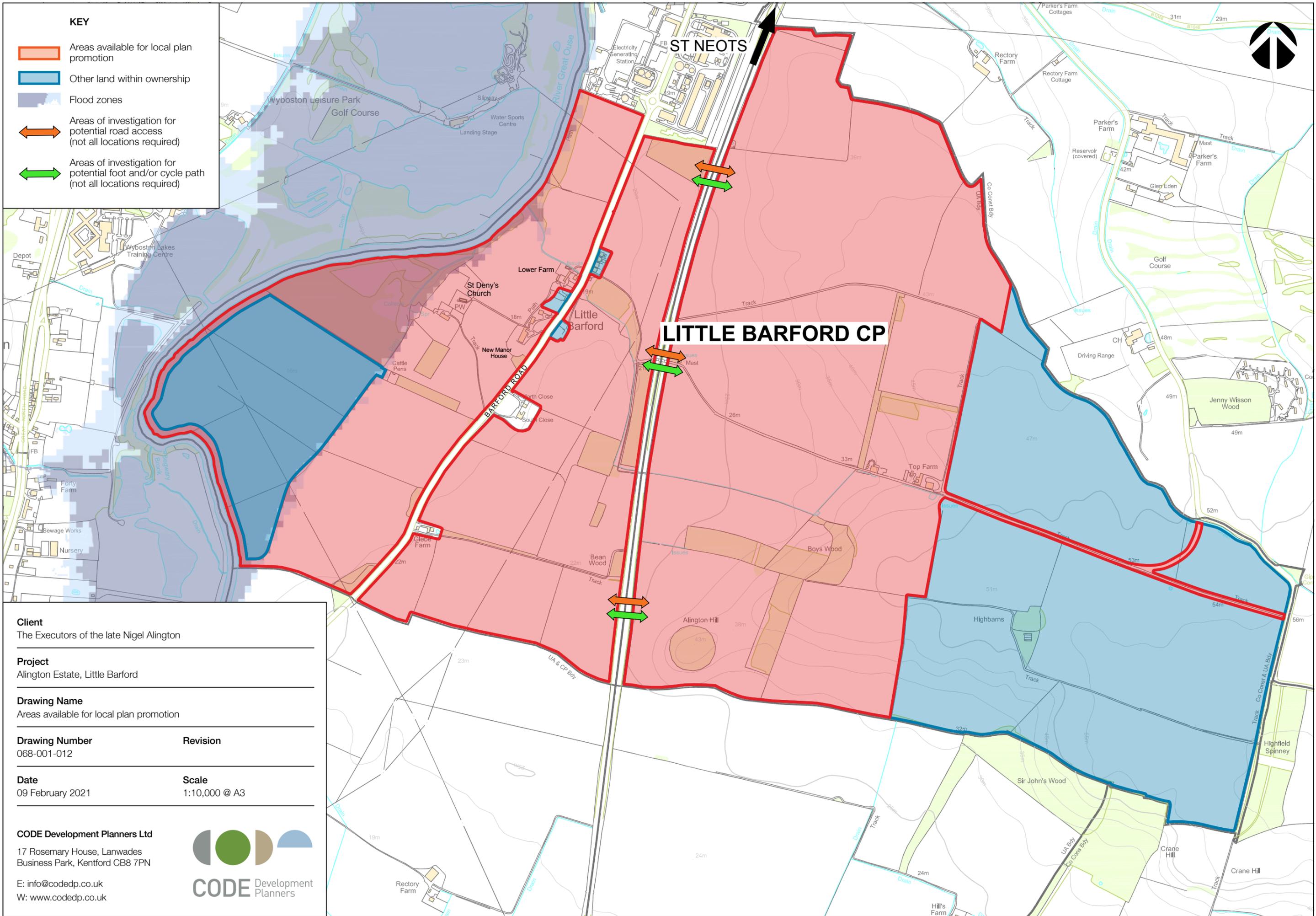


Alington Estate, Little Barford, Bedfordshire

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Figure 25.
Recommended strategies for known and hitherto unknown archaeological remains .



KEY

- Areas available for local plan promotion
- Other land within ownership
- Flood zones
- Areas of investigation for potential road access (not all locations required)
- Areas of investigation for potential foot and/or cycle path (not all locations required)

Client
The Executors of the late Nigel Alington

Project
Alington Estate, Little Barford

Drawing Name
Areas available for local plan promotion

Drawing Number **Revision**
068-001-012

Date **Scale**
09 February 2021 1:10,000 @ A3

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