



Land at Alderholt Common Alderholt, Dorset

Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment



Document Ref.: 260450.01
April 2022



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Document Information

Document title Land at Alderholt Common, Alderholt, Dorset
Document subtitle Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment
Document reference 260450.01

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Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Intelligent Land Ltd to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment for land at Alderholt Common, Alderholt, Dorset, centred on National Grid Reference SU 12018, 11797.

The aims of this study were to assess the known and potential heritage resource within the site and the surrounding area, and to assess the likely impacts of the development proposals on this resource.

This assessment has shown that the site holds potential for at least medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity and industrial remains associated with small scale extractions. While there is a general paucity for recorded Iron Age to early medieval remains within the study area, and prehistoric activity appears to largely focus on the area to the east of Hillbury Road, archaeological remains from such periods cannot be precluded.

While Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are present within the study area, the site is not considered to form an aspect of their settings that meaningfully contributes to understanding or appreciating their significance. While key views from any of these would unlikely be impacted by the proposed development, this would need to be re-evaluated as the design of the scheme emerges.

While the HER indicates the presence of known medieval and post-medieval remains within the site, their condition is not currently understood, especially as this could not be verified as part of the site visit. As such, it is anticipated that further archaeological works would be required. While the scope of these would need to be agreed with in consultations with the local planning authority's archaeological advisor, it is currently anticipated that they might comprise geophysical survey in the first instance.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Intelligent Land Ltd and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Nigel Jacobs in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Hampshire County Council Historic Environment Record and Dorset Council Historic Environment Record for supplying the Historic Environment Record data.



Land at Alderholt Common Alderholt, Dorset

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Intelligent Land Ltd (the Client) to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for land at Alderholt Common, Alderholt, Dorset (hereafter 'the Site', see **Figures 1-5**), centred on NGR SU 12018 11797.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site comprises an area of c. 130 ha of arable/pasture immediately to the south of Alderholt. While the majority of Alderholt falls into Dorset, Hillbury Road forms the boundary into Hampshire. The Site is broadly split into two parts with the smallest area between Hillbury Road and Ringwood Road (see **Plate 11**), and the largest area between Ringwood Road and Cranborne Common (see **Plates 1-10**). The existing solar farm to the north of Alderholt Common is not included in the Site boundary (see **Plate 8**).

1.2.2 The Site is broadly bounded by the village of Alderholt to the north, roads to its east, extensive woodland to its south and Cranborne Common to its west. The topography within the areas immediately surrounding the Site and the village are relatively level but the land rises to the woodland and commons to the north, south and west. Alderholt forms a promontory into Hampshire and the ground towards the county slopes to c. 28 m towards the A338 to the east.

1.2.3 Broadly, the Site undulates from c. 60 m OD from the northern extent of the larger area to c. 50 m OD towards Warren Park Farm to the south. The smaller area broadly rises east to west from c. 51 m OD to c. 55 m OD.

1.2.4 The underlying bedrock of the Site varies between the Parkston Sand Member (sand), which covers the majority of the Site, and the Broadstone Clay Member (clay, silty), recorded along Ringwood Road and at the Site's most western boundary (British Geological Survey, 2022). Superficial river terrace deposits (sand and gravel) are recorded within three clusters spread across both parts of the Site.

1.3 Development proposals

1.3.1 The proposed development entails the construction of a new residential housing development. At the time of writing, no plans or details for the proposed development have been produced. It is understood that the planning application will be submitted as outline at this stage.

1.4 Scope of document

1.4.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible from existing information, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment resource within the Site and its environs, and to provide an initial assessment of the potential impact of development on the heritage assets that embody that significance.



- 1.4.2 The Historic Environment, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012): Annex 2, comprises:

'all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.'

- 1.4.3 NPPF Annex 2 defines a Heritage Asset as:

'a building monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'

- 1.4.4 Further NPPF terminology is defined in **Appendix 1**.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.

- 2.1.2 The following section summaries the main components of the national and local planning and legislative framework governing the treatment of the historic environment within the planning process pertinent of the Site.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

- 2.2.1 A designated heritage asset is defined in NPPF Annex 2 as:

'A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.'

- 2.2.2 Statutory protection is provided to certain cases of designated heritage asset under the specific legislation. Legislation applicable to this report includes:

- *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.*
- *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.*

- 2.2.3 Further terminology and information regarding legislation is provided in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** respectively.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 The current NPPF updated in July 2021 sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.



- 2.3.2 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process.
- 2.3.3 To summarise, government guidance provides a framework which:
- Recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource
 - Requires applicants to provide proportionate information on the significance of heritage assets affected by the proposals and an impact assessment of the proposed development on that significance
 - Takes into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and their setting
 - Places weight on the conservation of designated heritage assets, in line with their significance; and
 - Requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner of proportionate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.
- 2.3.4 A selection of excerpts from NPPF *Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* are presented in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3.5 Further additional guidance intended to accompany the NPPF is provided in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) web-based resource *Historic Environment*.

2.4 Local Planning Policy

- 2.4.1 The Site is located within the administrative boundaries of Dorset Council, which was created as a unitary authority in 2019. A local plan for the whole area is in preparation, however, until its adoption the local plans for the former council areas apply. The Site was previously situated within East Dorset, the local plan for which, the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Core Strategy, was adopted in 2014 (East Dorset District Council & Christchurch Borough Council, 2014). This document should be read in conjunction with the saved Local Plan policies of the previous 2002 Local Plan.
- 2.4.2 The following heritage policies of the local plan are pertinent to this HEDBA:
- Policy HE1: Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment; and
 - Policy HE3: Landscape Quality.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment was based upon relevant professional guidance, including the ClfA's Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2020).



3.2 Study Area

3.2.1 Baseline conditions are established through a desk-based review of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information pertaining to the historic environment within a 1 km radial Study Area. The recorded archaeological resource within the Study Area was considered to provide context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential archaeological resource that could be affected by the proposed development, via the application of informed professional judgement.

3.3 Sources

3.3.1 The following publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted:

- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), which is the only official and up to date database of all nationally designated heritage assets
- The Dorset Historic Environment Record (DHER) and Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), comprising a database of recorded archaeological sites, find spots, and archaeological events within the county
- The South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Webster 2007)
- National heritage datasets including the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), Heritage Gateway and the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) Excavation Index; and
- Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping covering the Site .

3.3.2 Sources consulted during the preparation of this assessment are listed in the **Bibliography** section at the end of the report. No visit to Dorset History Centre was made as a preliminary search of their online catalogue indicated that they unlikely hold pertinent material which could further inform on the likely historic environment resource or potential of the Site. Records obtained from the NHLE, DHER and HHER are listed in **Appendix 3** and illustrated in **Figure 1-4**.

3.4 Site visit

3.4.1 The Site was visited on 25 March 2022. Weather conditions were generally fair with intermittent cloud.

3.4.2 The aim of the Site visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the Site and to identify any prior impacts not evident from secondary sources. The Site visit also sought to ascertain if the Site contained any previously unidentified features of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.

3.4.3 None of the known non-designated heritage assets which fall within the Site outlined in **Section 4.3** were observed during the Site visit. An area of potential archaeological interest borders the northern extent of the solar farm based on the presence of a large rectangular mound planted with trees (see **Plate 1**). At present, it is unclear whether this could be associated with the medieval to post-medieval pillow mounds which are known to exist within the Site or with post-medieval field divisions.



3.4.4 A key objective of the Site visit was the gathering of observations upon which to assess the potential for the development proposals to affect the significance of heritage assets through a change in setting, which is further discussed in **Section 7**.

3.5 Assessment criteria – Significance

3.5.1 The NPPF (Annex 2) defines significance as:

‘the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.’

3.5.1 The Planning practice guidance for the NPPF defines these interests as:

- Archaeological Interest: there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- Architectural and Artistic Interest: these are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage assets have evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.
- Historic Interest: An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

3.5.2 This assessment was also informed by the advice published by Historic England in the document entitled *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment: Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2* (2015) and *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12* (2019).

3.6 Setting assessment

3.6.1 Annex 2 of the NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as:

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

3.6.2 The setting assessment was guided by *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3* (Historic England 2017), which advocates a systematic and staged approach to the assessment of the effects of development:

- Step 1 of the approach is to ‘identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected’



- Step 2 requires assessment of ‘the degree to which these settings and views make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated’
 - Step 3 is to ‘assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on the significance or on the ability to appreciate it’
 - Step 4 is to explore ways to ‘maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm’
 - Step 5 is to ‘make and document the decision and monitor outcomes’
- 3.6.3 For the purposes of this assessment, only Steps 1-3 of the process have been followed as far as is feasible in the absence of a detailed design. Subsequent steps would need to be completed as the design of the development develops and Step 5 is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority.

3.7 Assumptions and limitations

- 3.7.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.
- 3.7.2 The records held by the DHER and HHER are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

3.8 Copyright

- 3.8.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 GEOLOGY AND SETTING

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 The Site is in the valley of the River Avon. During the Pleistocene the River Avon, along with the rivers Stour, Test, Itchen and Medina, formed the upper reaches of the Solent River system, with the main Solent River flowing north and east of the Isle of the Wight, into the area now occupied by the English Channel.
- 4.1.2 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as Palaeogene deposits of the Parkstone Sand Member formed approximately 23 to 66 million years ago, with outcrops of the Broadstone Clay Member in the east and west of the Site, which is dated to 41 to 48 million years ago (**Figure 6**).



4.1.3 Superficial deposits are recorded across the Site by the British Geological Survey and comprise river terrace deposits of the Avon, which have been incised through in places by dry valleys containing Head deposits (**Figure 7**).

4.1.4 No ground investigation data is currently available for the Site and historic British Geological Survey borehole data for the Study Area is sparse. Consequently, the specific Pleistocene geological sequences present within the Site are currently unknown.

4.2 Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological background

Introduction

4.2.1 This section considers the Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential of Pleistocene deposits mapped by the British Geological Survey within the Site.

4.2.2 Where age estimates are available these are expressed in millions of years (MA), thousands of years (Ka) and within the Holocene epoch as either years Before Present (BP), Before Christ (BC) and Anno Domini (AD).

Pleistocene deposits

4.2.1 Superficial sediments within the Site consist of Pleistocene river terrace and Head deposits. Together with current Holocene period, the Pleistocene epoch forms the most recent parts of the Quaternary, a period covering the last 2.6 MA, and defined by repeated fluctuations between cold (glacial) and warm (interglacial) climate stages (**Table 1**).

Table 1 British Quaternary chronostratigraphy

Geological Period	Chronostratigraphy		Age (ka)	MIS
Holocene	Holocene interglacial		11.7 – present	1
Late Pleistocene	Devensian Glaciation	Loch Lomond Stadial	11.7 – 12.9	2 – 5d
		Windermere Interstadial	12.9 – 15	
		Dimlington Stadial	15 – 26	
		Upton Warren Interstadial	40 – 43	
		Early Devensian	60 – 110	
	Ipswichian interglacial		115 – 130	5e
Middle Pleistocene		Unnamed cold stage	130-374	6
		Avery interglacial		7
		Unnamed cold stage		8
		Purfleet interglacial		9
		Unnamed cold stage		10
	Hoxnian interglacial		374 – 424	11
	Anglian glaciation		424 – 478	12



	Cromerian Complex	478 – 780	13 – 19
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- 4.2.2 The terrace deposits of the River Avon are associated with the Solent River Formation. The modern Solent is a sea channel separating the Isle of Wight from southern England but for most of its history it was a major river system that drained the Hampshire basin and the surrounding chalklands. Its catchment area included large parts of Hampshire, Dorset, south Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight. Following extensive coastal erosion and eustatic Holocene sea level rise, all that is visible terrestrially today of Solent River system is the upper reaches of the Solent itself, including the catchments of the Stour, Avon, Test, Itchen and Medina.
- 4.2.3 The remnant fluvial deposits of the Solent River Formation have produced many Lower and Middle Palaeolithic artefacts (Roe 1968, Wessex Archaeology 1993, Ashton and Hosfield 2010, Davis 2013) and represent a key context for evidence of human occupation within the region during the Middle Pleistocene and Upper Pleistocene (800 Ka to 11.7 Ka).
- 4.2.4 Pleistocene deposits mapped within the Site consist of river terrace deposits, ascribed to Terrace 6 of the Avon, and Head.
- Terrace 6 of the River Avon*
- 4.2.5 Terrace 6 of the River Avon is mapped by the BGS in three areas of the Site (see **Figure 7**).
- 4.2.6 BGS mapping of the Avon terraces is based on the scheme proposed by Kubala (1980) and Clarke (1981), which recognised ten principally Avon terraces (number 1–10 from youngest to oldest). Six older outcrops of fluvial sand and gravels ('Higher Terrace Gravels'), attributed to the terraces of the Solent River, are situated on the Avon-Test interfluve. This scheme has since been expanded by Bristow et al. (1991), who produced a different scheme which identified 14 Avon terraces. A further reinterpretation of the Avon terraces has been provided by Westaway et al. (2006). These three terrace stratigraphies are summarised and related to each other in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Proposed terrace stratigraphies for the Lower Avon.

Kubala (1980) and Clark (1981)	Bristow et al (1991)	Westaway et al (2006)	Dates
	Terrace 1		
Terrace 1	Terrace 2		
Terrace 2			
Terraces 3	Terrace 3		MIS 3 (57–29 Ka)
	Terrace 4		
Terrace 4	Terrace 5	Burton Rough	MIS 4 (71–57 Ka)
	Terrace 6		
	Terrace 7		



Terrace 5	Terrace 8	Bransgore	
Terrace 6		Highcliff	
		Old Milton	
Terrace 7	Terrace 9	Mount Pleasant	
	Terrace 10		
Terrace 8	Terrace 11	Setley Plain	
	Terrace 12		
	Terrace 13	Tiptoe	
Terrace 9		Sway	
Terrace 10	Terrace 14	Wootton	

- 4.2.7 There are currently few absolute dates with which to securely date the Avon terraces. Peat identified beneath Terrace 3 of Kubala (1980) and Clarke (1980) at Ibsley has been radiocarbon dated to the Middle Devensian (MIS 3; 41 Ka), yielding a pollen record dominated by herbaceous plants associated with more temperate conditions (Barber & Brown 1987). This would suggest that the Terrace 6 deposits within the Site predate MIS 3 (>57 Ka).
- 4.2.8 At Fisherton, Salisbury, a gravel terrace of the River Nadder at its confluence with the Avon (equivalent to Kubala's (1980) Avon Terrace 4) was capped by sand and loess that has yielded molluscs and mammals (including mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer, and lemming) indicative of a cold climate, together with a late Middle Palaeolithic bout coupe handaxe (Green et al. 1983). As bout coupe handaxes are dated to the late Middle late MIS 4/ early MIS 3 (60–40 Ka; White and Jacobi 2002), Westaway et al. (2006) suggested that the gravel terrace at Fisherton aggraded during MIS 4 (71–57 Ka), with the overlying deposits dating from MIS 3. This again indicates a pre-MIS 4 date for the Terrace 6 deposits within the Site.
- 4.2.9 Based on modelled terrace uplift rates in relation to the limited available dating evidence, Westaway et al. (2006) suggest that their lowest seven terraces (the lowest four terraces as mapped by Kubala and Clarke) have formed since MIS 6, which would indicate that Terrace 6 deposits in the Site pre-date MIS 6 (191–130 Ka).

Head

- 4.2.10 Head deposits are mapped in dry valleys running through the west and south of the Site. The age of the Head infilling these valleys is currently unknown, although the valleys appear to cut Terrace 6 deposits, which suggests that the Head in filling them is likely to post-date the terrace deposits.



4.2.11 Head deposits comprise sediments that have been remobilised down-slope through seasonal freeze-thaw processes. They reflect landscape instability resulting from a lack of vegetation cover during Pleistocene periglacial conditions

4.2.12 Head deposits can contain Palaeolithic archaeology that has been reworked within the sediments. However, it can also bury stable horizons/land surfaces containing in situ/minimally disturbed archaeology

4.3 Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological summary

4.3.1 Reviews of the Palaeolithic archaeological record from the Avon terraces have tended to utilise the terrace scheme proposed by Kubala (1980) and Clark (1981). Ashton and Hosfield (2006) have identified 152 Lower Palaeolithic handaxes from Terrace 6 of the Lower Avon. In contrast, no Levallois material was identified amongst collections from this terrace. Levallois flaking is generally seen as marker of the Middle Palaeolithic, with the earliest Levallois material in Britain dated to late MIS 9 (<320 Ka) and younger (White and Ashton 2003, Scott 2011). This may suggest that artefacts from Terrace 6 of the Avon reflect Lower Palaeolithic activity dating to MIS 9, or earlier.

4.3.2 Although no Palaeolithic artefacts are recorded from within a 1 km Study Area of the Site, the Palaeolithic potential of Terrace 6 of the Avon within the local area is illustrated by a significant assemblage of ten handaxes, three cores and one flake from Railway Station Pit, Ashford. This is located 3 km north-east of the current Site and quarried Terrace 6 deposits broadly equivalent to those within the Site

4.4 Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential

4.4.1 The possible Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential of the Site can be summarised as follows:

- Pleistocene terrace deposits are mapped by the BGS within the Site. The age of deposits is poorly understood, but they likely date to before MIS 4 (>71 Ka), and potentially to \geq MIS 9 (\geq 300 Ka). These deposits have Palaeolithic, likely Lower Palaeolithic, archaeological potential. The specific sedimentary sequence associated with these deposits in the Site is currently unknown; however, they may include sediments with palaeoenvironmental potential and/or contain units suitable for luminescence dating.
- Pleistocene Head deposits are also mapped within the Site. The age and Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential of these sediments is currently unknown.

4.5 Recommendations

4.5.1 Desk-based assessment has demonstrated the presence of Pleistocene deposits mapped as Terrace 6 of the River Avon occur within the Site and that these have Palaeolithic archaeological potential. The paleoenvironmental and dating potential of these deposits is currently unknown. To assess the risk of development proposals impacting on deposits with significant Palaeolithic archaeological and/or geoarchaeological potential, field evaluation is likely to be required. The most appropriate and effective method of evaluation is likely to be through a program of test pitting and associated sieving for artefacts.

4.5.2 Head deposits within unknown Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential are mapped by the BGS in the Site. Field evaluation through test pitting may be required to define the Palaeolithic archaeological and geoarchaeological potential of these sediments.



- 4.5.3 Should ground investigation data become available for the Site, Palaeolithic geoarchaeological review of borehole/trial pit logs is recommended; this would likely enable the scope of any such Palaeolithic evaluation to be refined.

5 BASELINE RESOURCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the recorded historic environment within the Study Area, compiled from the sources summarised above and detailed in the Bibliography section of this report. The aim is to identify the known and potential components of the historic environment (heritage assets) that could be affected by the proposed development.

- 5.1.2 All heritage assets identified within the Study Area are listed in **Appendix 3**.

5.2 Designated heritage assets

Site

- 5.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site.

Study Area

- 5.2.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the Study Area.

- 5.2.3 There are four Scheduled Monuments and four Grade II Listed Buildings within the Study Area. They either fall within the northern or southern extents of the Study Area and their locations are shown on **Figure 1**.

- 5.2.4 The Scheduled Monuments include a deer park bank and ditch (NHLE 1002394) to the north of Alderholt village, c. 430 m north of the Site, and barrows within Plumley Wood (NHLE 1018759, 1018756, 1018757), located at varying distances to the south of the Site (between 230-970 m).

- 5.2.5 The Listed Buildings comprise a church (NHLE 1153940) and war memorial (NHLE 1448114) at Daggons Road, c. 680 m north-west of the Site, and two cottages (NHLE 1252911, 1350912) at Harbridge Drove and Bleak Hill respectively within the south-eastern extent of the Study Area, located c. 720 m and 950 m south-east of the Site.

5.3 Non-designated heritage assets

- 5.3.1 Within the Site, the DHER notes the presence of a prehistoric stone axe findspot (DHER MDO5396), a group of medieval or post-medieval pillow mounds (DHER MDO39447, DHER MDO39448, DHER MDO39450, DHER MDO39446, DHER MDO39445), likely used for rabbit hunting, historic trackways thought to be of medieval date (DHER MDO39444), an area of what appears to be post-medieval ridge and furrow (DHER MDO39456) to the west of Ringwood Road and three areas of post-medieval extraction pits (DHER MDO39455, DHER MDO39451, DHER MDO39452).

- 5.3.2 The 2017 to 2018 National Mapping Programme (NMP) carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit sought to enhance the DHER record by way of reviewing both aerial photographs and LiDAR data. Based on the results of the NMP captured on the DHER, the pillow mounds, trackways and ridge and furrow were plotted from the 1940s and 1960s aerial photographs, but were no longer visible on digital data since then, presumably due to ploughing damage.



- 5.3.3 None of the above features were observed during the Site visit and as such their current conditions could not be confirmed, however, it is assumed that most of these features would have at least somewhat been impacted by ploughing activities.
- 5.3.4 Within the Study Area, prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity is well represented and further discussed in **Section 5.5**.
- 5.3.5 The locations of non-designated heritage assets and historic landscape character types (in addition to cropmarks) can be seen on **Figures 2** and **3** respectively and a gazetteer of assets is provided in **Appendix 3**.

5.4 Previous studies

Site

- 5.4.1 There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the Site.

Study Area

- 5.4.2 Only four previous archaeological investigations have been recorded within the Study Area, comprising a desk-based assessment (DHER EDO6850), an evaluation (DHER EDO151) and two watching briefs (DHER EDO6851, DHER EDO5739). The closest of these investigations to the Site is a watching brief at Warren Park Farm (DHER EDO5739) undertaken in 1995, although the details of this are currently unknown. However, a series of watching briefs (recorded as Phases 1-4) have been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in the early 2000s at Bleak Hill, c. 425 m south/south-east of the Site which do not appear to be recorded on the HER (Wessex Archaeology 2002).
- 5.4.3 Phase 1 recorded a single feature thought to be associated with extant field boundaries, but subsequent phases did not reveal any features, even though burnt flint and Roman pottery were recovered during Phase 2.
- 5.4.4 The locations of previous archaeological investigations carried out within the Study Area are illustrated in **Figure 4**.

5.5 Archaeological and historical context

- 5.5.1 The following section provides a broad summary of the archaeological and historical development of the Site and the Study Area. The subsequent discussion on the potential for the likelihood of as yet unrecorded archaeological remains within the Site is informed by the consideration of the known heritage assets within the Study Area in conjunction with the known geology and topography of the area.

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–AD 43)

- 5.5.2 Alderholt, while located in Dorset, forms a promontory into Hampshire and it is this higher ground that would have been attractive for prehistoric activity. Recorded Mesolithic to Neolithic activity is largely represented by flint scatters in the HERs and appears to focus on the area between the River Avon and Hillbury Road, although a possible occupation site of the same date range (HHER 29742) has been identified just within the eastern extent of the Study Area to the east of Lomer Lane.
- 5.5.3 Broadly, prehistoric activity has been recorded to the south and south-west of the Site and barrows, which mainly appear to be of Bronze Age date, are scattered in both Dorset and Hampshire as far as the coast c. 20 km south of the Site. While there is limited Bronze Age settlement activity within the Study Area, aside from the presence of a ditch (HHER 71917) and an enclosure (HHER 70446) within the Hampshire part of the Study Area, the Study



- Area is rich in funerary activity represented by barrows in addition to multiple findspots denoting the recovery of stone axes and flints.
- 5.5.4 In comparison to the preceding prehistoric periods, there is relatively little Iron Age evidence, indicating that there might have been little continued occupation within the area. Only the site of a pit (HHER 21528) and a pottery scatter (HHER 29709) are located within the Hampshire part of the Study Area.
- Romano-British (AD 43–410)*
- 5.5.5 Aside from a Roman pottery scatter (HHER 29739, HHER 29799), a coin hoard (HHER 70401) and a corn drier (HHER 70590) to the south of North End Lane (just within the eastern extent of the Study Area) where both Bronze Age and the aforementioned Iron Age activity has also been noted, little other Roman activity has been recorded within the Study Area.
- Saxon (AD 410–1066) and medieval (AD 1066–1500)*
- 5.5.6 Alderholt was not established as a parish until the late 1840s and formed part of Cranborne until then. No settlement is recorded at Cranborne in the Domesday Book record, and the closest known settlement appears to have been at Midgham, c. 1 km east of the Site which formed part of Fordingbridge Hundred at the time. Based on the distance to the Site and size of Midgham between 1066-1086, which is assumed to be small based on the fact that it only consisted of c. 1 ploughland, it is unlikely that agricultural activities at the settlement would have extended into the Site. The condition of the Site at that time is unknown, however, it is possible that it was wooded at the time of the early medieval period.
- 5.5.7 As aforementioned, there appears to have been medieval activity within the Site based on the presence of a group of medieval to post-medieval pillow mounds (DHER MDO39447, DHER MDO39448, DHER MDO39450, DHER MDO39446, DHER MDO39445) likely in use as rabbit warrens and historic trackways thought to be of a similar date (DHER MDO39444). To the north and west of the Site, further medieval activity is noted in the form of further trackways (DHER MDO39469, DHER MDO39470, DHER MDO39443, DHER MDO39440), which appear to concentrate on the Cranborne Common area, and a deer park (DHER MDO5393) which is where the scheduled deer park bank and ditch is located (NHLE 1002394).
- 5.5.8 The deer park itself is of medieval origin and was first recorded in the 14th century when the park was held by the Earl of Gloucester and Hertford. Further documentary evidence of the park is sparse, although the official scheduling entry for the deer bank appears to suggest that the park was either no longer maintained as a park during the Tudor period, or that it was a park but not stocked with deer by the start of the 1580s.
- 5.5.9 Based on the presence of the trackways and the pillow mounds, it is likely that some woodland clearance commenced in the medieval period, however, the extent of this is currently not understood.
- Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800) - Modern (AD 1900–present day)*
- 5.5.10 As aforementioned, Alderholt parish was not established until the end of the 19th century and formed part of Cranborne parish until then. Based on late 19th century maps showing the extent of the village at the time (see **Section 4.6**) the settlement mainly centred on Sande Heath Road, c. 800 m north of the smaller Site area, with winding lanes and isolated cottages and farmstead and small irregular fields surrounding it.



- 5.5.11 The HERs show a prevalence for widespread post-medieval activity which shows how the village and its surrounding landscape developed as an agricultural community during this period. A series of post-medieval ridge and furrow areas are noted to the north, north-east and south-west of the village (DHER MDO39460, DHER MDO39458, DHER MDO39459, DHER MDO39457, DHER MDO39456, DHER MDO39463, DHER MDO39464) and some of it even falls into the Site to the west of Ringwood Road (DHER MDO39456).
- 5.5.12 In addition to be above, evidence of extraction activities is also widespread within the Study Area with the majority of such activities just to the north and north-east of the village (DHER MDO39466, DHER MDO39467, DHER MDO39473, DHER MDO39474), even though some is also noted within and just to the south of the Site (DHER MDO39455, DHER MDO39454, DHER MDO39453, DHER MDO39451, DHER MDO39452). Based on the presence of pottery kilns recorded along Daggons Road (c. 230m north from the Site) identified from historic mapping, it is suggested that the material extracted related to pottery production.

Undated

- 5.5.13 Only one instance of a record for an unknown asset is noted within the Study Area, however, given that this is for the railway line (DHER MDO32198) which ran to the north of the village and is visible of late 19th century mapping, it is of post-medieval date. The railway line formed part of the Dorset to Salisbury line and was closed in the 1960s.

5.6 Map regression

- 5.6.1 The 1845 Tithe Map (not reproduced here) indicates that Alderholt Common would have covered the majority of the Site at the time. Based on the Tithe Apportionment records, the common, which consisted of heathland at the time, was owned by the Marquis of Salisbury and also included areas of pasture, arable and plantation.
- 5.6.2 Based on the late 19th century OS maps, the village core originally centred along Sandleheath Road and Fordingbridge Road c. 800 m north of the Site. Based on the 1899 OS map (see **Figure 5**) the Site itself largely consisted of fields likely in agricultural use at the time displaying similar field patterns as those noted today. The map shows that, in comparison to the tithe map, Alderholt Common had been reduced in size clearing land for the purposes of agricultural use.
- 5.6.3 Aside from the additions of field divisions and minor farm buildings and the loss of Crossroads Plantation within the north-western extent of the Site (immediately to the north and west of the solar farm), no further changes within the Site are observed and as such no additional historic maps have been included for the purposes of this assessment.

5.7 Historic landscape

- 5.7.1 The Site visit noted the presence of hedgerows within both areas of the Site, most notably bordering Hillbury Road and Ringwood Road and separating fields. As the Site visit focused on publicly accessible land only, it was not possible to closely inspect all hedgerows, however, based on the 1845 Tithe Map and the 1899 OS map (see **Figure 5**), surviving hedgerows within the northern extent of the Site (should they be present), especially to the north, east and west of the solar farm, have the potential to be considered historic under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 5.7.2 The DHER historic landscape characterisation (HLC) data shows the Site is mainly covered by enclosed fields and woodland. Based on the dataset, the enclosed areas are thought to have been the result of planned clearance. As mentioned above, it appears as though the



Site was initially covered by Alderholt Common and started to get cleared between 1845 and the late 19th century. The remnant woodland areas within the Site are varied and either date from the 19th to early 20th century, for example, in the case of Cross Roads Plantation to the west of the solar farm, or from c. 1914 onwards, for example, in the case of woodland to the north-west of Warren Park Farm and within the most western extent of the Site at the junction of Ringwood Road, Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove.

5.8 Summary of archaeological potential

- 5.8.1 Based on the known HER data, the Site has high potential for at least medieval and post-medieval remains. Medieval pillow mounds and post-medieval extraction pits and ridge and furrow are noted within the Site, and as such there is potential to not only encounter those remains within the Site but also other associated agricultural and industrial activity.
- 5.8.2 In addition to the above, a prehistoric findspot is noted within the south-western extent of the Site, and further such finds have also been recovered at Warren Park Farm (immediately to the south of the Site). Considering that all of these findspots appear to denote the sites of flint and stone tools, it is possible that the area of the farm might have been a butchering activity site. It is also possible that such activities, including hunting and butchering, could have extended into the Site, however, the potential for such is currently unknown.
- 5.8.3 Based on the general paucity for Iron Age to early medieval remains within the Study Area, potential for as yet unknown remains dating to these periods is considered to be low but cannot be precluded.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST, SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

6.1 Previous impacts and conditions for survival

- 6.1.1 Based on a comparison of the Site at the end of the 19th century to conditions today, it appears as though there has been little known historic disturbance within it. Field boundaries have substantially changed, generally moving from small irregularly shaped fields to much larger, mainly rectangular fields and aside from some small scale extraction and agricultural activities, there appears to have been few changes within the Site.
- 6.1.2 While agricultural activities such as ploughing could have truncated or removed shallow archaeological remains, the extent of damage such activities might have caused is currently not understood and as such there is considered good potential for archaeological remains to survive.

6.2 Interest and significance

- 6.2.1 Should additional agricultural medieval to post-medieval, and post-medieval industrial activities linked to extraction survive within the Site, these would likely be of local interest and low significance.

6.3 Potential impacts

- 6.3.1 At present, as no detailed development plans are available, the potential for impacts cannot accurately be determined. However, it is considered that any construction works, especially those requiring excavations, would truncate and/or wholly remove archaeological remains that may currently survive within the Site. This could in turn result in a total or partial loss of significance of such heritage assets.



- 6.3.2 Any adverse impact to buried archaeological features would be permanent and irreversible in nature. This potential adverse effect could be reduced through the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation.

7 SETTINGS ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The scoping exercise aims to identify any heritage assets within the Study Area that could experience an impact (either beneficial or harmful) to their significance through development within their setting and thus warrant further assessment.

7.2 Scoping exercise (Step 1)

- 7.2.1 The selection of heritage assets for the purpose of the setting assessment was informed by GIS analysis of the known historic environment baseline (based on Historic England's NHLE, DHER and HHER data), and consideration of the landscape and topography within the Study Area which was informed by desk-based research and the Site visit.

Site visit observations

- 7.2.2 There are four Scheduled Monuments and four Listed Buildings within the Study Area which have been selected for the purposes of this settings assessment.
- 7.2.3 Three of the Scheduled Monuments are located within Plumley Wood, a densely wooded area which falls within the southern extent of the Study Area. While the areas where the barrows are located are slightly higher than the Site, by approximately six metres, these higher areas do not appear to be visible from the Site, although the northern boundary of the woodland can be glimpsed from some locations.
- 7.2.4 While the woodland was not accessible at the time of the Site visit, observations from the Site (especially from the fields to the west of Ringwood Road) further indicate that the higher ridge on which the southern barrows are situated (NHLE 1018756, NHLE 1018757) is not visible from here. The northern barrow (NHLE 1018759) is located on largely level ground south of a valley just to the north of the other barrow promontory which lies further to its south.
- 7.2.5 In addition to the above, preliminary consideration of the significance of these barrows indicates that it is primarily derived from their archaeological and historic interest. While long distance views and intervisibility, especially between barrow groups, forms part of the wider setting of these assets which can contribute to their significance, the Site is not considered to lie within such views and therefore does not meaningfully contribute to understanding the significance of these barrows. As such, the scheduled barrows have been scoped out of further assessment.
- 7.2.6 The other scheduled monument, a scheduled deer bank and ditch at Alderholt park (NHLE 1002394) was accessible during the Site visit from an access track off Daggons Road (see **Plate 12**). Views from the scheduled bank and ditch show that views towards Alderholt do not extend beyond the position of a former industrial site and the residential developments to the south of Daggons Road (at Jubilee Court and Churchill Close) (see **Plate 13**).
- 7.2.7 The significance of the scheduled deer park boundary primarily lies in its archaeological and historic interests. The surviving bank provides an insight into how Alderholt Park was managed and has been recognised by Historic England as the best-preserved boundary of this medieval deer park (Historic England, NHLE 2022). The historic interest of the



- boundary, and in its wider context, the park, can broadly be said to be linked to notable owners, the development of Alderholt and the wider rise and fall of deer parks. The deer park was first document in 1315 when the Earl of Gloucester and Hertford was granted it from King Edward II. While sources are not clear on when the park might have been disparked, it appears to have existed in 1583.
- 7.2.8 It is possible that Alderholt Common, which still partially falls within the Site, was once covered by woodland and potentially formed part of the medieval deer park which now survives immediately to the north of the scheduled deer bank. However, this is presently not fully understood and it is also possible that they have always been entirely separate. Nevertheless, even if such a connection previously existed, this association has long been severed by medieval and post-medieval woodland clearance. Based on the above, while the Site falls within the post-medieval to modern extent of Alderholt to the south of the scheduled bank which forms part of its wider southern setting, the Site itself does not contribute to either the significance of the Scheduled Monument or the significance of this wider setting. As such, this has been scoped out for further assessment.
- 7.2.9 Based on Site visit observations, the two Listed Buildings within the south-eastern extent of the Study Area are located along narrow country lanes connecting Alderholt to Ringwood. While their immediate setting is mainly associated with their original grounds or associated woods (in the case of the listed Fernhill Cottage (NHLE 1252911)), their wider setting forms part of the agricultural landscape along the Dorset and Hampshire border. The significance of these buildings is primarily derived from their architectural interest, however, their immediate grounds and wider rural setting inform our understanding of their original design and historic setting and contribute to their historic interest. The Site, however, while technically part of wider agricultural landscape, has no historical association or meaningful intervisibility with the assets and is not considered to contribute to the interest of these buildings that comprise their significance.
- 7.2.10 The two Listed Buildings within the north-western extent of the Study Area are located on the B3078 connecting Alderholt to Daggons. The Site visit has shown that, due to intervening woodland, there is no intervisibility between the Site and the Listed Buildings. Although the listed church (NHLE 1153940) technically serves Alderholt parish, the church was constructed prior to the establishment of said parish.
- 7.2.11 The immediate setting of the church comprises its churchyard and associated grounds which extend to its north and east, while its wider setting is formed of the agricultural landscape between Alderholt and Daggons. Similarly, the setting of the war memorial (NHLE 1448114) is formed from its relationship with the church.
- 7.2.12 While the Site falls within Alderholt parish, it is not considered to fall within the setting of either the listed church or the war memorial due to a lack of association or intervisibility. As such, it is not considered that the Listed Buildings would require further assessment as part of the scheme.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 This assessment has shown that the Site holds potential for at least medieval and post-medieval agricultural and industrial remains associated with small scale extractions. Additionally, the Pleistocene terrace deposits mapped within the Site are considered to have Palaeolithic potential and may hold important palaeoenvironmental remains. While there is



a general paucity for Iron Age to early medieval remains within the Study Area, and prehistoric activity appears to largely focus on the area to the east of Hillbury Road, archaeological remains from such periods cannot be precluded.

- 8.1.2 While Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are present within the Study Area, the Site is not considered to fall within an aspect of their settings that meaningfully contributes to an understanding or appreciation of their significance. While key views from any of these would unlikely be impacted by the proposed development, this may need to be re-evaluated as the design of the scheme emerges.

8.2 Recommendations

- 8.2.1 While the HER indicates the presence of known medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains within the Site, their condition is not currently understood, especially as this could not be verified as part of the Site visit. As such, it is anticipated that further archaeological works would be required. While the scope of these would need to be agreed with in consultations with the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor, it is currently anticipated that they might comprise geophysical survey in the first instance. Furthermore, should ground investigation data for the Site become available, a review of the borehole and trial pit logs would be recommended to enable the scope of any Palaeolithic evaluation to be refined.
- 8.2.2 The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.



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Historic Environment Records

Dorset Historic Environment Record (DHER)

Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HHER)

Cartographic and documentary sources

Alderholt 1845 Tithe Map – accessed via The Genealogist

1899 Ordnance Survey Map – accessed via ProMap

Online resources

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

<http://www.biab.ac.uk/>

<http://opendomesday.org/>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>



<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

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<http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terminology

Glossary

The terminology used in this assessment follows definitions contained within Annex 2 of NPPF:

Archaeological interest	There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
Conservation (for heritage policy)	The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.
Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Historic environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.
Historic environment record	Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.
Setting of a heritage asset	The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Significance (for heritage policy)	The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.

Chronology

Where referred to in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

Prehistoric		Historic	
Palaeolithic	970,000–9500 BC	Romano-British	AD 43–410
Early Post-glacial	9500–8500 BC	Saxon	AD 410–1066
Mesolithic	8500–4000 BC	Medieval	AD 1066–1500
Neolithic	4000–2400 BC	Post-medieval	AD 1500–1800
Bronze Age	2400–700 BC	19th century	AD 1800–1899
Iron Age	700 BC–AD 43	Modern	1900–present day

Appendix 2: Legislative and planning framework

There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of important archaeological sites or historic buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system. This section summarises the main components of the national and local planning and legislative framework governing the treatment of the historic environment within the planning process.

Legislation

Legislation	
Title	Summary
<i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i>	Under the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> , the Secretary of State (DCMS) can schedule any site which appears to be of national importance because of its historic, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest. The historic town centres of Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford, and York have been designated as Archaeological Areas of Importance under Part II of the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> . Additional controls are placed upon works affecting Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Importance under the Act. The consent of the Secretary of State (DCMS), as advised by Historic England, is required for certain works affecting Scheduled Monuments.
<i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i>	In England, under Section 1 of the <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> , the Secretary of State is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, on advice from English Heritage/Historic England. Works affecting Listed Buildings are subject to additional planning controls administered by Local Planning Authorities. Historic England is a statutory consultee in certain works affecting Listed Buildings. Under certain circumstances, Listed Building Consent is required for works affecting Listed Buildings. A Conservation Area is an area which has been designated because of its special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. In most cases, Conservation Areas are designated by Local Planning Authorities. Section 72 (1) of the <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> requires authorities to have regard to the fact that there is a Conservation Area when exercising any of their functions under the Planning Acts and to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of Conservation Areas. Although a locally administered designation, Conservation Areas may nevertheless be of national importance and significant developments within a Conservation Area are referred to Historic England.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and revised on 24 July 2018 and updated in July 2021. It sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is an important component of the National Planning Policy Framework's drive to achieve sustainable development (as defined in Section 2 'Achieving sustainable development'). The NPPF recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and that effective conservation delivers wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits.

Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment', sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process (paragraphs 184-2).



National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
Reference	Quote
Para. 194	In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
Para. 195	Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
Para. 197	In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of: a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
Para. 199	When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.
Para. 200	Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of: a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional ⁶³ . ⁶³ 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.
Para. 201	Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply: a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.
Para. 202	Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.
Para. 203	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.



National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
Reference	Quote
Para. 205	<p>Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible⁶⁹. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.</p> <p>⁶⁹Copies of evidence should be deposited with the relevant historic environment record, and any archives with a local museum or other public depository.</p>
Para. 206	<p>Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.</p>
Para. 207	<p>Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 195 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 196, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.</p>
Para. 208	<p>Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.</p>



Appendix 3: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets

Reference	Type	Description	Period	Easting	Northing
NHLE 1002394	Scheduled Monument	Length of deer park bank and ditch at Alderholt	Medieval to post-medieval	411424	112783
NHLE 1018756	Scheduled Monument	Two bowl barrows in Plumley Wood, 800m and 850m south of decoy pond, on Cranborne Common	Bronze Age	410962	110100
NHLE 1018757	Scheduled Monument	Two bowl barrows in Plumley Wood, 1020m and 1060m south east of decoy pond, on Cranborne Common	Bronze Age	411125	109921
NHLE 1018759	Scheduled Monument	Bowl barrow in Plumley Wood, 630m east of decoy pond, on Cranborne Common	Bronze Age	411345	110653
NHLE 1153940	Listed Building	Church of St James	Post-medieval	410476	112606
NHLE 1252911	Listed Building	Fernhill Cottage	Post-medieval	413849	111092
NHLE 1350912	Listed Building	Primrose Cottage	Post-medieval	413427	110907
NHLE 1448114	Listed Building	Alderholt War Memorial Cross	Modern	410446	112591
DHER MDO15978	Listed Building (non-designated entry)	Parish church of St James, Alderholt	Post-medieval	410478	112604
DHER MDO17989	Non-designated building	Cottage, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412455	113285
DHER MDO17990	Non-designated building	Cottage, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412499	113303
DHER MDO17991	Non-designated building	Cottage, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412630	112635
DHER MDO19295	Monument	Decoy pond on Cranborne Common, Alderholt	Post-medieval	410746	110875
DHER MDO29018	Findspot	Stone shaft hole adze, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Prehistoric	412000	111500
DHER MDO29019	Findspot	Stone axe, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Prehistoric	412200	111400
DHER MDO32198	Monument	Railway line	Undated	409794	111769
DHER MDO37850	Monument	Sand pit, Charing Cross Brickworks, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411841	112374
DHER MDO37851	Monument	Clay pit, Charing Cross Brickworks, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411844	112350
DHER MDO37852	Monument	Clay pit, Charing Cross Brickworks, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411831	112290
DHER MDO37853	Monument	Sand pit, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412387	112644
DHER MDO37854	Monument	Kilns at Charing Cross Brickworks, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411794	112322
DHER MDO37855	Monument	Brickworks south east of Charing Cross, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411805	112312
DHER MDO39440	Monument	Historic trackways, Cranborne Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	409948	111231
DHER MDO39441	Monument	Undated ring-bank, Cranfield Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	410264	111026



HER MDO39442	Monument	Post medieval extraction, Cranfield Common, Alderholt	Post-medieval	410024	111630
HER MDO39443	Monument	Historic trackways, Cranborne Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	410839	111977
HER MDO39444	Monument	Historic trackways, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411430	111715
HER MDO39445	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411441	111533
HER MDO39446	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411624	111621
HER MDO39447	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411948	111223
HER MDO39448	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411796	111244
HER MDO39450	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Early Bronze Age to Post-medieval	411722	111499
HER MDO39451	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412033	111148
HER MDO39452	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411733	111767
HER MDO39453	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412412	111462
HER MDO39454	Monument	Post medieval extractive pits, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412494	111323
HER MDO39455	Monument	Post medieval extractive pits, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412856	111604
HER MDO39456	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Alderholt Common, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412027	111816
HER MDO39457	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412368	112378
HER MDO39458	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Woolvercroft, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412733	112995
HER MDO39459	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Cross Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412166	113044
HER MDO39460	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Hill Cottage Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412004	113137
HER MDO39463	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Vicarage Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	410489	112805
HER MDO39464	Monument	Post medieval or early C20th narrow ridge and furrow, Upper Daggons Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	410011	112294
HER MDO39465	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, Broomfield Drive, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412150	112294
HER MDO39466	Monument	Post medieval extractive pits, Bonfire Hill, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412622	113067
HER MDO39467	Monument	Post medieval extractive pits, Daggons Road, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411294	112668
HER MDO39469	Monument	Historic trackways, High Wood, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	411452	112733



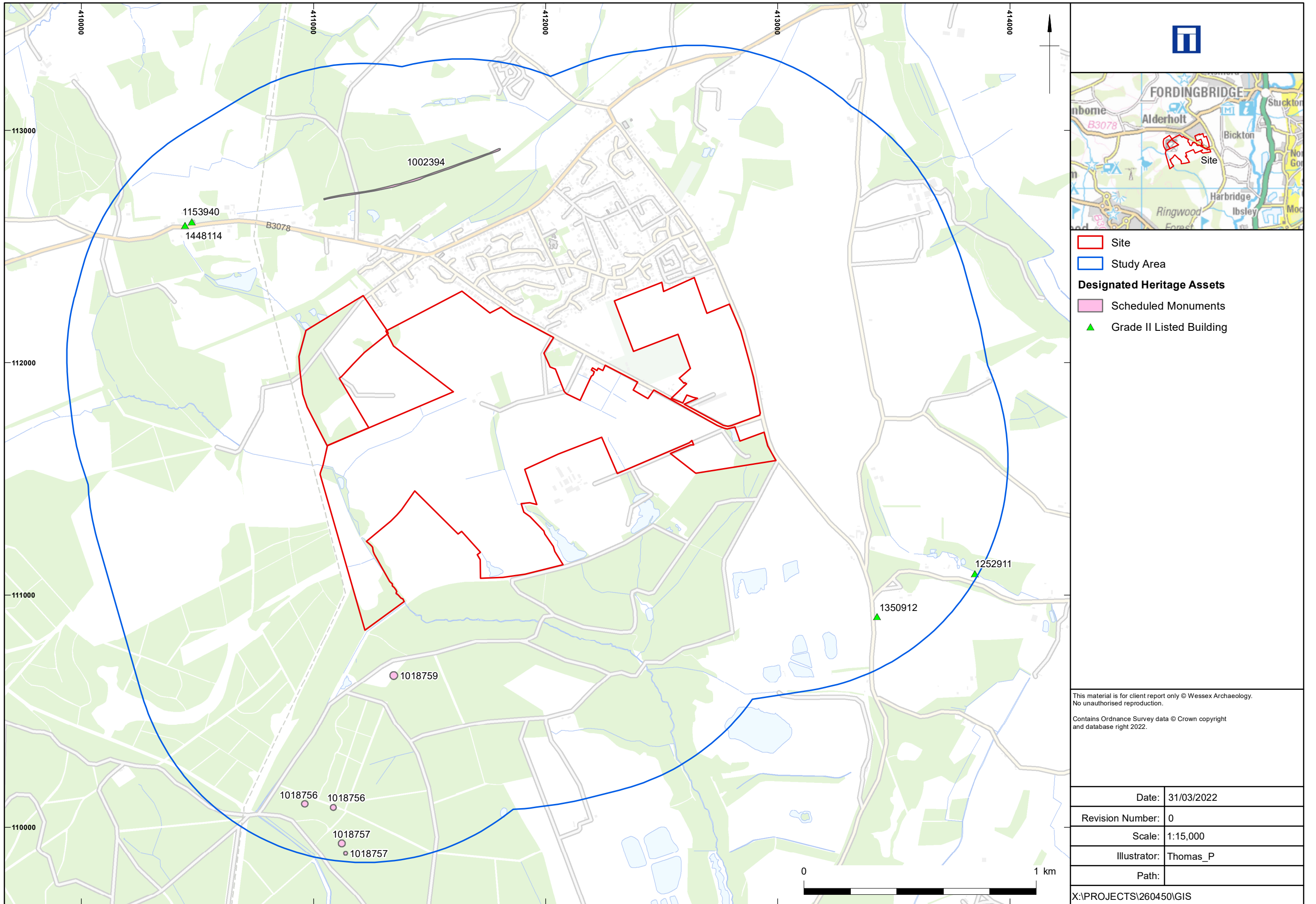
DH MDO39470	Monument	Historic trackways, Daggons Road, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	410915	112524
DH MDO39472	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, High Wood, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411002	112736
DH MDO39473	Monument	Post medieval extractive pit, Pug's Plantation, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411018	112413
DH MDO39474	Monument	Post medieval extractive pits, Pug's Plantation, Alderholt	Post-medieval	410744	112495
DH MDO39475	Monument	Medieval or later pillow mound, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	410585	112493
DH MDO39476	Monument	Historic trackways, Upper Daggons Farm, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	409984	112320
DH MDO39480	Monument	Post medieval drainage system, Cross Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval	411958	112914
DH MDO39490	Monument	Post medieval drainage ditches, Daggons, Alderholt	Post-medieval	410114	112604
DH MDO39585	Monument	Historic trackways, Cripplestyle, Alderholt	Medieval to Post-medieval	409624	112038
DH MDO5390	Monument	Bowl barrow on Cranborne Common, Alderholt	Bronze Age	410710	110470
DH MDO5392	Monument	Round barrow, Antell's Way, Alderholt	Bronze Age	412170	112530
DH MDO5393	Monument	Deer park, Alderholt	Medieval	411163	113119
DH MDO5396	Findspot	Stone axe, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Prehistoric	411900	111300
DH MDO5397	Findspot	Bronze Age Palstave, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Middle Bronze Age	412480	111520
DH MDO5398	Monument	Mesolithic flint scatter, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Mesolithic	412230	111350
DH MDO5399	Findspot	Flint pick, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Prehistoric	412100	111550
DH MDO5400	Findspot	Flint picks, Warren Park Farm, Alderholt	Prehistoric	412070	111360
DH MDO5402	Monument	Pottery kiln (Alderholt 8), Salisbury Arms Farm, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412300	113131
DH MDO5404	Monument	Pottery kiln (Alderholt 9), Alderholt	Post-medieval	412450	113330
DH MDO5405	Monument	Pottery kiln (Alderholt 10), Alderholt	Post-medieval	412388	113248
DH MDO5406	Monument	Pottery kiln (Alderholt 11), Alderholt	Post-medieval to modern	412476	113225
DH MDO5415	Monument	Bowl barrow on Bonfire Hill, Alderholt	Bronze Age	412530	113130
DH MDO5416	Findspot	Scatter of mesolithic flints at Lodge Farm, Alderholt	Mesolithic	412100	112050
DH MDO5419	Monument	Pottery kiln, Daggons (Site 12), Alderholt	Post-medieval	410200	112700
DH MDO5420	Findspot	Verwood pottery sherds, Pinhorn Nurseries, Alderholt	Post-medieval	412401	112974
DH MDO5598	Monument	Drove road, Gussage All Saints	Medieval	411140	112730
HHER 21329	Monument	Bowl Barrow In Plumley Wood, 800-850M S Of Decoy Pond	Bronze Age	410963	110101
HHER 21331	Monument	Bowl Barrow In Plumley Wood, 800-850M S Of Decoy Pond	Bronze Age	411086	110087
HHER 21528	Monument	Iron Age Pit	Iron Age	413160	113180



HHER 21529	Monument	Bowl Barrow	Bronze Age	411150	110430
HHER 21530	Findspot	Polished Flint Axe	Neolithic	412000	110600
HHER 25508	Monument	Bowl Barrow In Plumley Wood, 1060M Se Of Decoy Pond	Bronze Age	411140	109890
HHER 25509	Monument	Bowl Barrow In Plumley Wood, 1020M Se Of Decoy Pond	Bronze Age	411120	109930
HHER 25511	Monument	Bowl Barrow	Prehistoric	411310	109910
HHER 29709	Findspot	Bronze Age pottery	Bronze Age	413700	111500
HHER 29710	Monument	Burnt Mound	Bronze Age	413700	111500
HHER 29711	Findspot	Bronze Age flints	Bronze Age	413700	111500
HHER 29712	Findspot	Prehistoric Flint Findspot	Prehistoric	413000	111500
HHER 29713	Findspot	Flint scatter	Prehistoric	413100	111400
HHER 29717	Monument	Burnt Mound	Bronze Age	413900	111750
HHER 29721	Monument	Iron Age Pottery Scatter	Iron Age	413900	111400
HHER 29733	Findspot	Avon Valley Fieldwalking Project, Area 1	Mesolithic	413624	111972
HHER 29734	Findspot	Avon Valley Fieldwalking Project, Area 3	Mesolithic	413097	112129
HHER 29735	Findspot	Field Walking Survey By Avon Valley Archaeological Society, Area 4	Mesolithic	413451	112395
HHER 29738	Findspot	Flint scatter	Prehistoric	413600	110900
HHER 29739	Findspot	Roman pottery	Romano-British	413600	110900
HHER 29740	Findspot	Medieval pottery	Medieval	413600	110900
HHER 29741	Monument	Medieval Settlement And Prehistoric Activity, Sw Of Midgham Farm	Prehistoric	413187	111753
HHER 29742	Monument	Mesolithic- Neolithic Occupation	Mesolithic	413794	112241
HHER 29743	Findspot	Scatters Of Burnt And Worked Mesolithic And Neolithic Flint	Mesolithic	413052	112404
HHER 29744	Monument	Possible Burnt Mound And Lithic And Pottery Scatters	Neolithic	413800	111800
HHER 29745	Findspot	Mesolithic And Neolithic Flint Scatters	Mesolithic	413014	112845
HHER 29746	Findspot	Neolithic And Medieval Artefact Scatters	Neolithic	413141	111898
HHER 29798	Findspot	Flint scatter	Prehistoric	413700	111500
HHER 29799	Findspot	Roman pottery scatter	Romano-British	413700	111500
HHER 29800	Findspot	Medieval pottery	Medieval	413700	111500
HHER 39025	Monument	Small Scale Meso- To Neo- Lithic Occupation, Midgham Farm	Mesolithic	413202	112640
HHER 39026	Monument	Site Of Medieval Settlement, Midgham Farm	Medieval	413300	112600
HHER 39073	Monument	Bowl Barrow In Plumley Wood, 630M East Of Decoy Pond, On Cranborne Common	Bronze Age	411349	110699
HHER 39205	Monument	Midgham Farm	Medieval	413600	112600

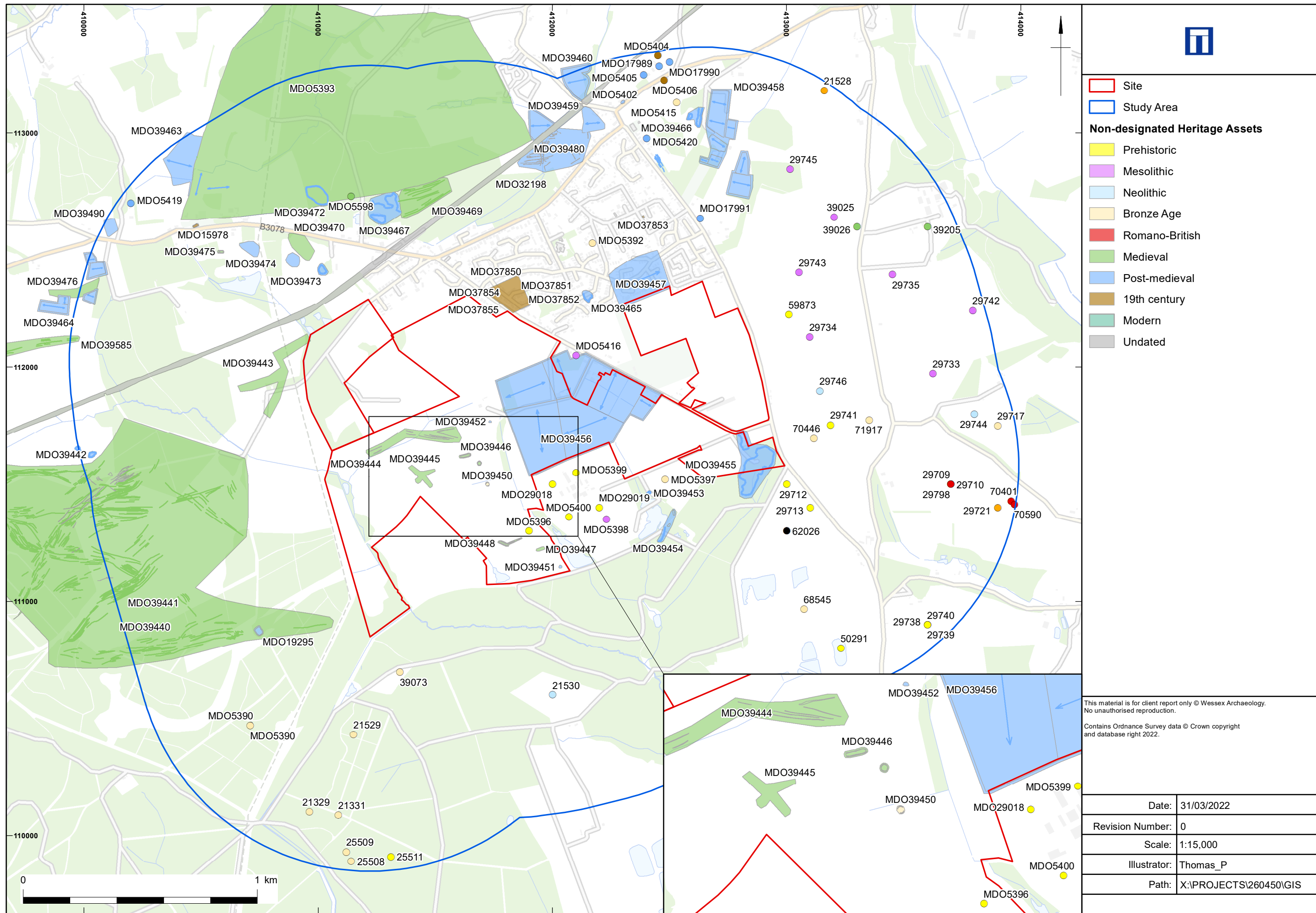


HHER 50291	Monument	Bleak Hill I, Hamer Warren	Prehistoric	413231	110800
HHER 59873	Monument	Rectangular Enclosure	Prehistoric	413009	112224
HHER 62026	Monument	Archaeological Walkover Survey	Modern	413000	111300
HHER 68545	Monument	Bleak Hill li	Bronze Age	413073	110967
HHER 70401	Findspot	Coin hoard	Romano- British	413957	111428
HHER 70446	Monument	Curvilinear enclosures	Bronze Age	413115	111695
HHER 70590	Monument	Corn drier	Romano- British	413971	111414
HHER 71917	Monument	Ring ditch	Bronze Age	413352	111774
HHER 14059	Listed Building (non- designated entry)	Fernhill Cottage	Post- medieval	413849	111092
HHER 11072	Listed Building (non- designated entry)	Primrose Cottage	Post- medieval	413427	110907



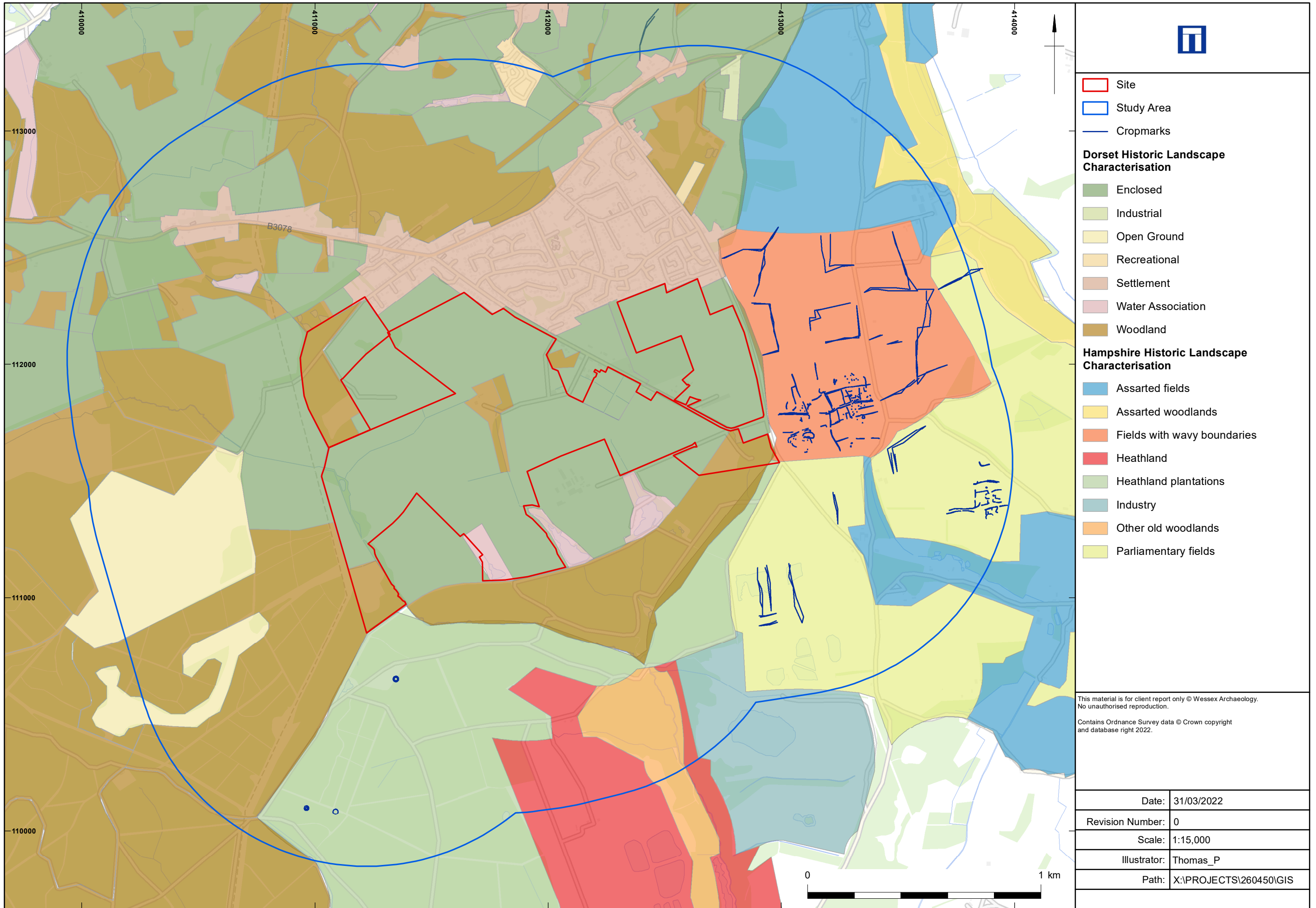
Site, Study Area and Designated Heritage Assets

Figure 1

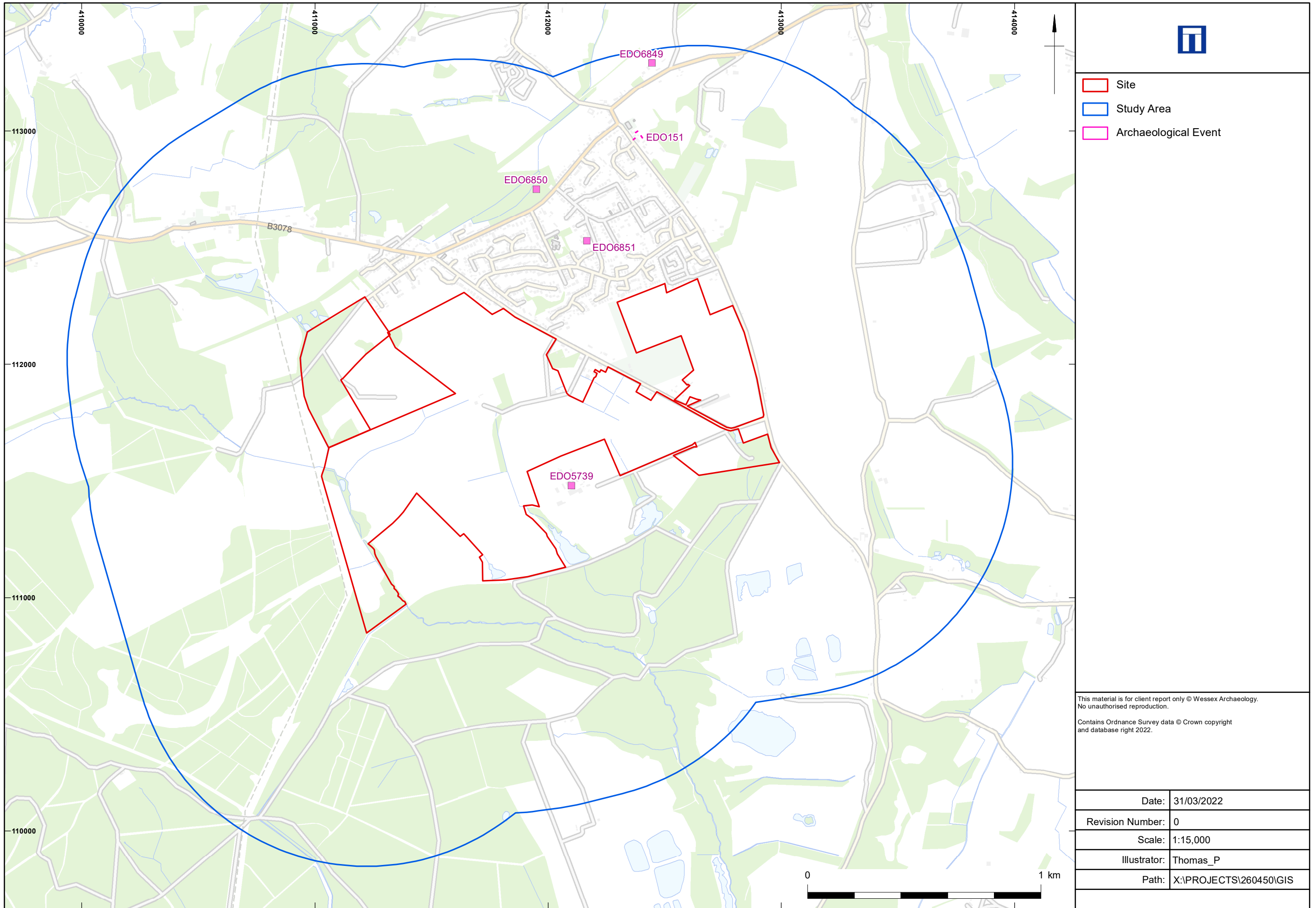


Site, Study Area and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Figure 2



Site, Study Area, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Cropmarks



- Site
- Study Area
- Archaeological Event

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Site, Study Area and Previous Investigations

Figure 4



Site

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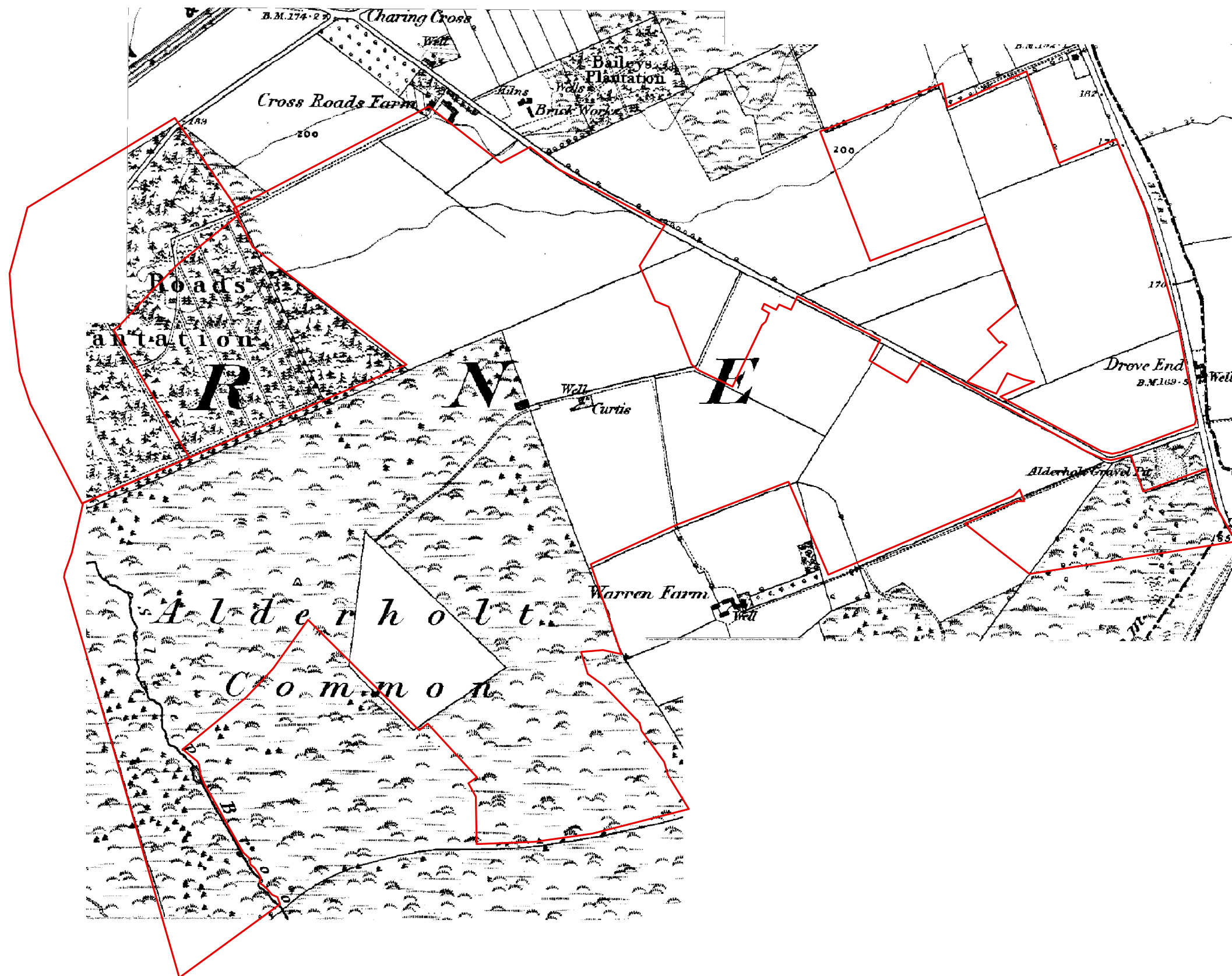
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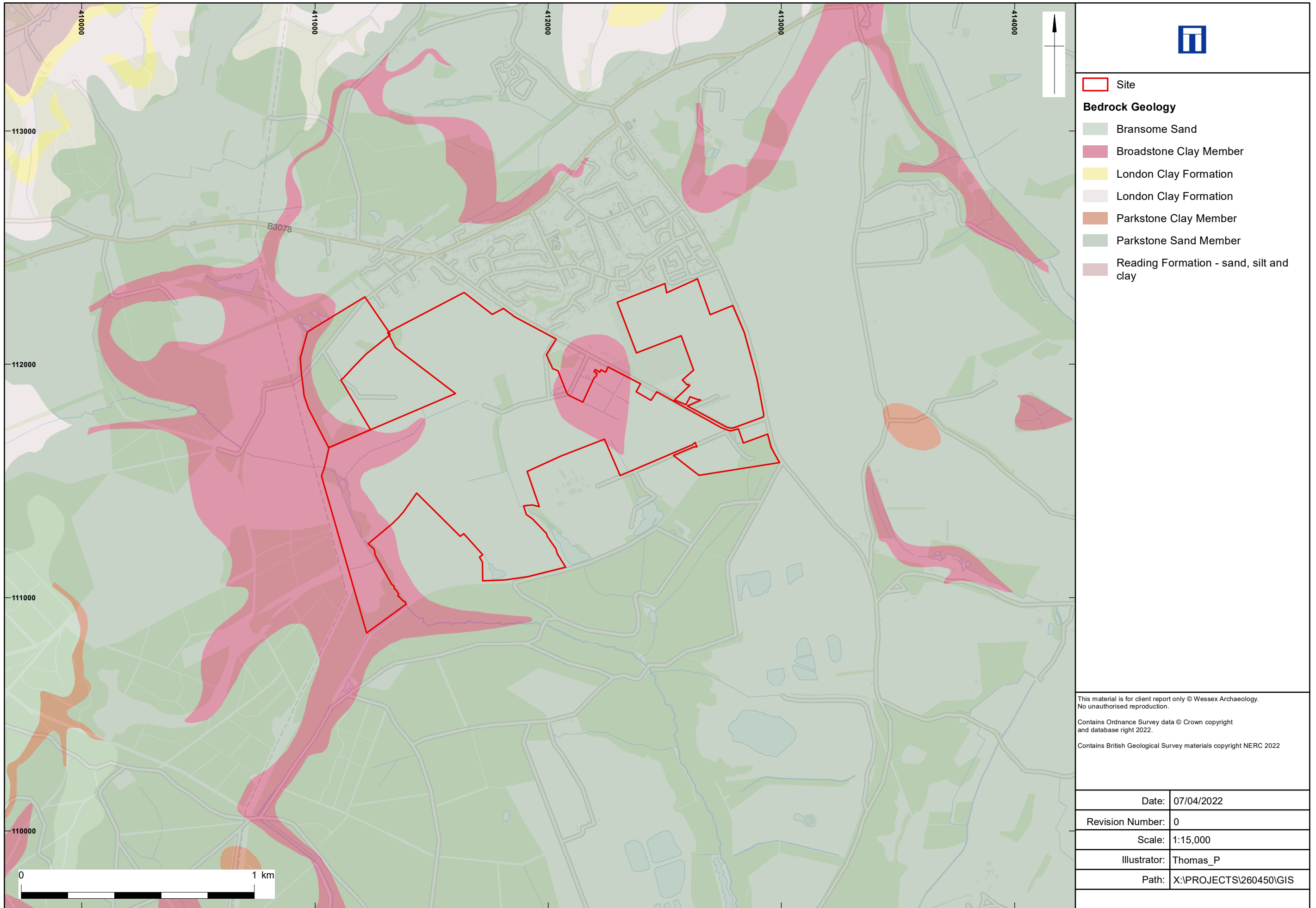
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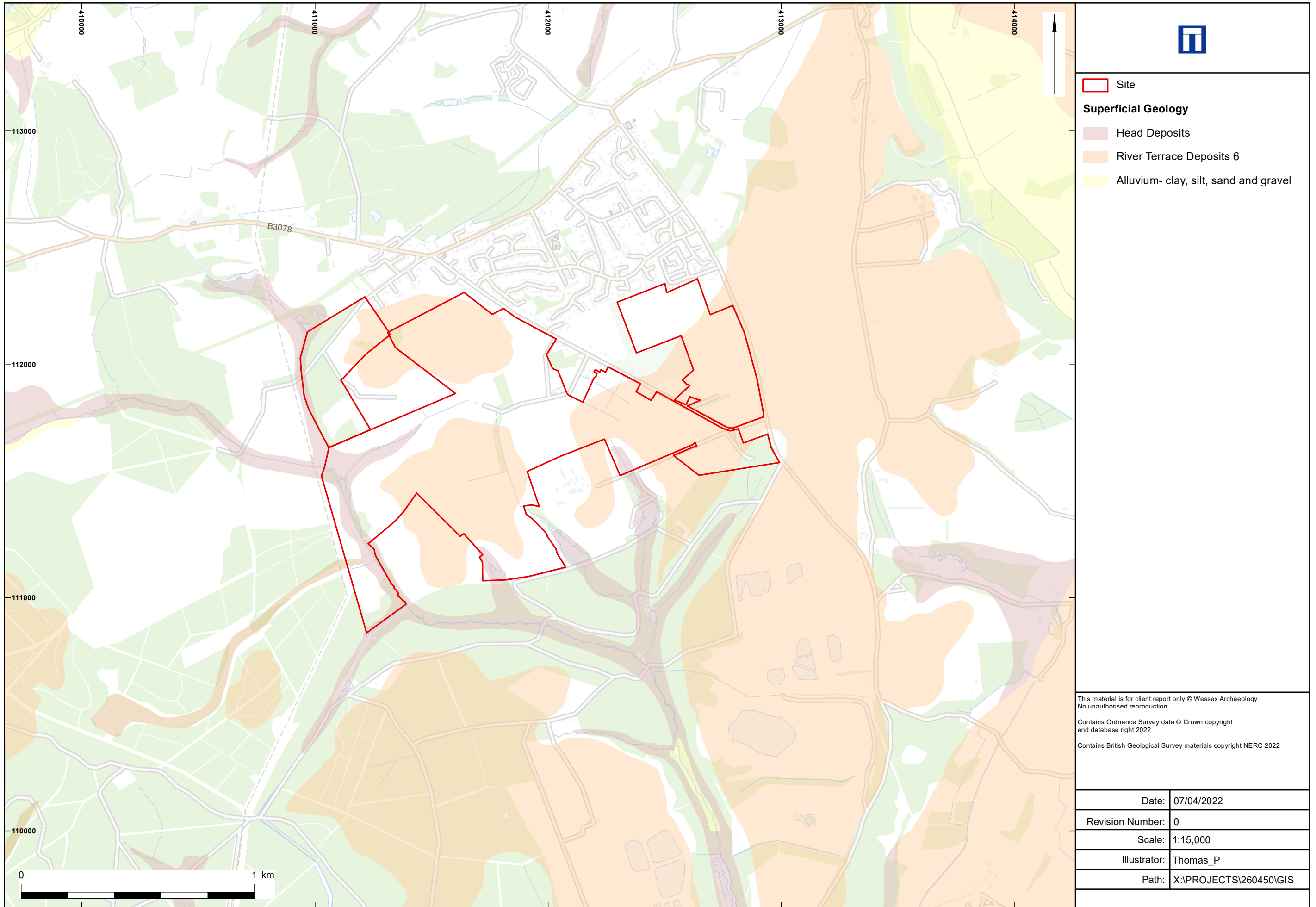
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Site and Bedrock Geology based on British Geological Survey Viewer

Figure 6



Site and Superficial Geology based on British Geological Survey Viewer

Figure 7



Plate 1) Earthworks and copse in field north of solar farm facing S



Plate 2) The Site from Ringwood Road and entrance to Sleepbrook Farm facing W


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Plate 3) The Site from lane into Sleepbrook Farm facing SW



Plate 4) The Site from Sleepbrook Farm buildings facing NW


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Plate 5) The Site south of lane at Sleepbrook Farm facing S towards Plumley Wood



Plate 6) The Site north of lane at Sleepbrook Farm facing NE


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Plate 7) The Site and lane to Sleepbrook Farm facing farm buildings facing ENE



Plate 8) The Site with solar farm in background facing NW


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Plate 9) The end of Sleepbrook Farm's lane looking at the far western field of the Site facing W



Plate 10) The Site to the south of the solar farm facing SE


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Plate 11) Northern part of Site taken from Hillbury Road facing W



Plate 12) Scheduled deer park bank facing E


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Plate 13) View south from scheduled deer park bank towards village facing SE



Plate 14) West elevation of listed St James Church and listed war memorial facing NE



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Plate 15) View of listed Primrose Cottage on Harbridge Drove

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