

Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to King Street, Baston Lincolnshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2013

Client: Anglia Water

OA East Report No: 1549

OASIS No: oxfordar3-163986

NGR: TF 10673 14200

**Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to King Street, Baston,
Lincolnshire**

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Report Date: November 2013

Report Number: 1549
Site Name: King Street, Baston
HER Event No:
Date of Works: October 2013
Client Name: Anglia Water
Client Ref:
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TF 10673 14200
Site Code: XLIBAS13
Finance Code: XLIBAS13
Receiving Body: Lincolnshire county stores
Accession No: LCNCC : 2013.197
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Date: November 2013
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Summary

On Tuesday 29th October 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out a watching brief on land adjacent to King Street, Baston, Lincolnshire. This was in advance of the construction of a temporary compound, needed to allow modifications to an existing water pipeline. The works involved striping a maximum of 0.3m of topsoil. No finds were recovered and no archaeological features were seen cutting the exposed subsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land adjacent to King Street, Baston, Lincolnshire (TF 10673 14200).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Louise Jennings of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to preserve any archaeological evidence contained within the development area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the area consists of Oxford clays, overlain by river terrace gravels. Baston is located on the Fen edge, to the north of Market Deeping. The site is adjacent to King Street (the modern course of a Roman road) in an arable field c.400m outside the edge of the current village.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site is located in a large field, which is currently under arable cultivation. The area around Baston has a very high archaeological potential and many sites have been identified. The closest investigation was c.300m to the south-west, where geophysical survey identified features of unknown date, possibly including hearths or pits and an enclosure (HER 35108). Other known archaeological finds and features in the area are discussed below by period. The location of the sites and find spots discussed below are given in Figure 2.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 The fen edge gravels are well known as an area of high potential for prehistoric archaeology. A greenstone axe was found in peat near Kates Bridge, c.700m to the north of the site (HER 33391). Polished stone axes of this type are usually of later neolithic date. The cropmark of a ring ditch, possibly representing a ploughed out barrow, is known c.750m to the east of the site (HER 33588), while further cropmarks of possible ring ditches were noted c.800m to the south of the site (HER 35840).
- 1.3.3 Iron Age features including enclosure ditches and a pit were identified at Urn Farm, c.550m to the south-east of the site (HER 34861). It is also likely that other, as yet unexcavated features are Iron Age in date, these include cropmarks of field systems, which are cut by the Roman road of King Street, visible c.850m to the south of the site (HER 33393). Further potentially prehistoric enclosures are visible c.800m to the west and south-west of the development area (HER 35778 & HER 35772). Undated cropmarks that may also have a prehistoric origin have been noted c.100m to the east of the current development (HER 33399).

Roman

- 1.3.4 The Roman Road of King Street, which runs from Chesterton (Cambridgeshire) to Bourne (Lincolnshire), passes directly adjacent to the site (HER 34687). Car Dyke, which is most likely a Roman water management feature that may also have been used for transport, passes c.800m to the east of the development (HER 60706). At Urn Farm, c.550m to the south-east of the site, enclosures of Early Roman date have been identified, along with later Roman finds (HER 33530). Further Roman ditches, along with an inhumation, were recorded c.1km to the east of the site (HER 34966).

Saxon

- 1.3.5 Approximately 550m to the south-east of the site was a fifth to sixth century cremation cemetery (HER 33387). In Baston, c.800m to the south-east of the site, excavation revealed late Saxon features, including ditches, pits, postholes and the remains of a possible smithy (HER 35064).

Medieval

- 1.3.6 The centre of the village of Baston is c.750m to the south-east of the development area. This village appears in the Domesday book and medieval buildings, including St John the Baptist church (HER 33402), still survive. At Urn Farm, medieval quarry pits were identified which contained pottery including wasters. Documentary evidence also suggests medieval potters in Baston in the 13th century (HER 34862). A near complete upturned medieval pot was also recovered during a watching brief c.450m to the south of the development area (HER35612). A medieval manorial complex has been excavated in Baston (HER 35868) and numerous other medieval finds have been recovered (e.g. HER 25711). There are several 17th and 18th century cottages still surviving in the village.
- 1.3.7 The medieval village of Thetford was located 750m to the north-west of the development area (HER 33390). A park was created over this area of Thetford, which appears on the first edition OS map, but not the second edition (HER 39183).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks go to Jo Everitt, from Anglia Water, who commissioned the work. I am also grateful to Bill Healey from JN Bently Ltd, for his assistance and understanding on site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this Watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. If archaeological remains were encountered to preserve these by record.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that the stripping of a compound, measuring 45m square, be monitored by an archaeologist. The strip only involved the removal of up to 0.30m of topsoil. As a result, one days work comprising the stripping of a 45m by 30m area, was monitored.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 13 ton 360⁰ excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.4 No environmental samples were taken as no appropriate deposits were identified.
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were generally good, with cloudy and dry weather.

3 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Results

3.1.1 The development involved stripping up to 0.30m of topsoil, exposing the subsoil underneath. No archaeological features could be seen cutting this subsoil, although it is possible that features were sealed beneath it. No finds were made during the topsoil stripping, or during a walk over of the site prior to the work beginning.

3.2 Discussion

3.2.1 In spite of abundant evidence of activity in the area around the site, no archaeological finds or features were uncovered. It is possible that features existed below the subsoil, which was not disturbed during the stripping of the compound area.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-163986			
Project Name	Archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to King Street, Baston, Lincolnshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	29-10-2013	Finish	29-10-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XLIBAS13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
none	Select period...	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Kesteven	Field off King Street, Baston, Lincolnshire	
Parish	Baston		
HER	lincolnshire		
Study Area	0.25ha	National Grid Reference	TF 10673 14200

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Louise Jennings
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

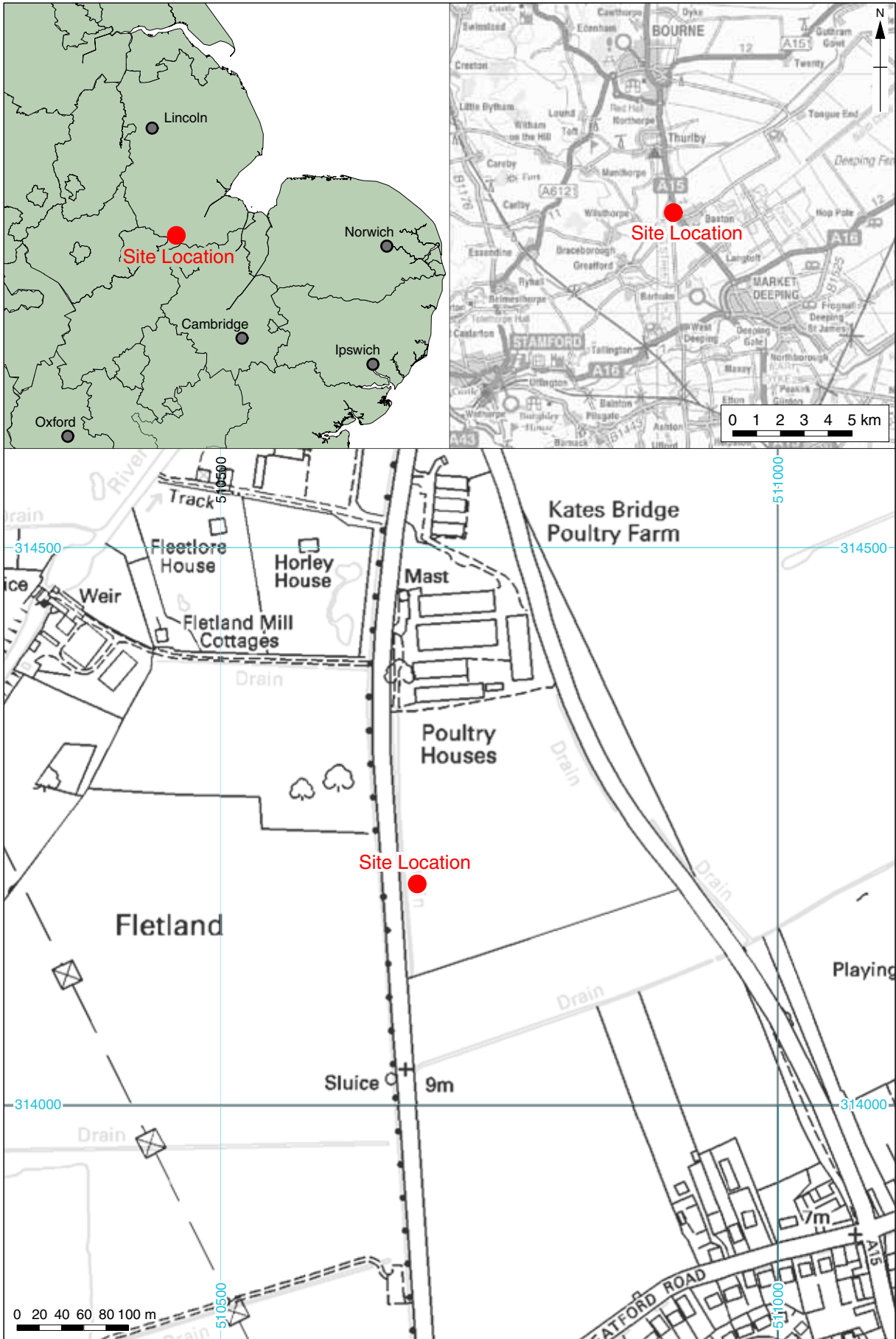
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
n/a	OA East Office, Bar Hill	Lincolnshire CC stores
Accession ID ...	xlibas13	LCNCC : 2013.197

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

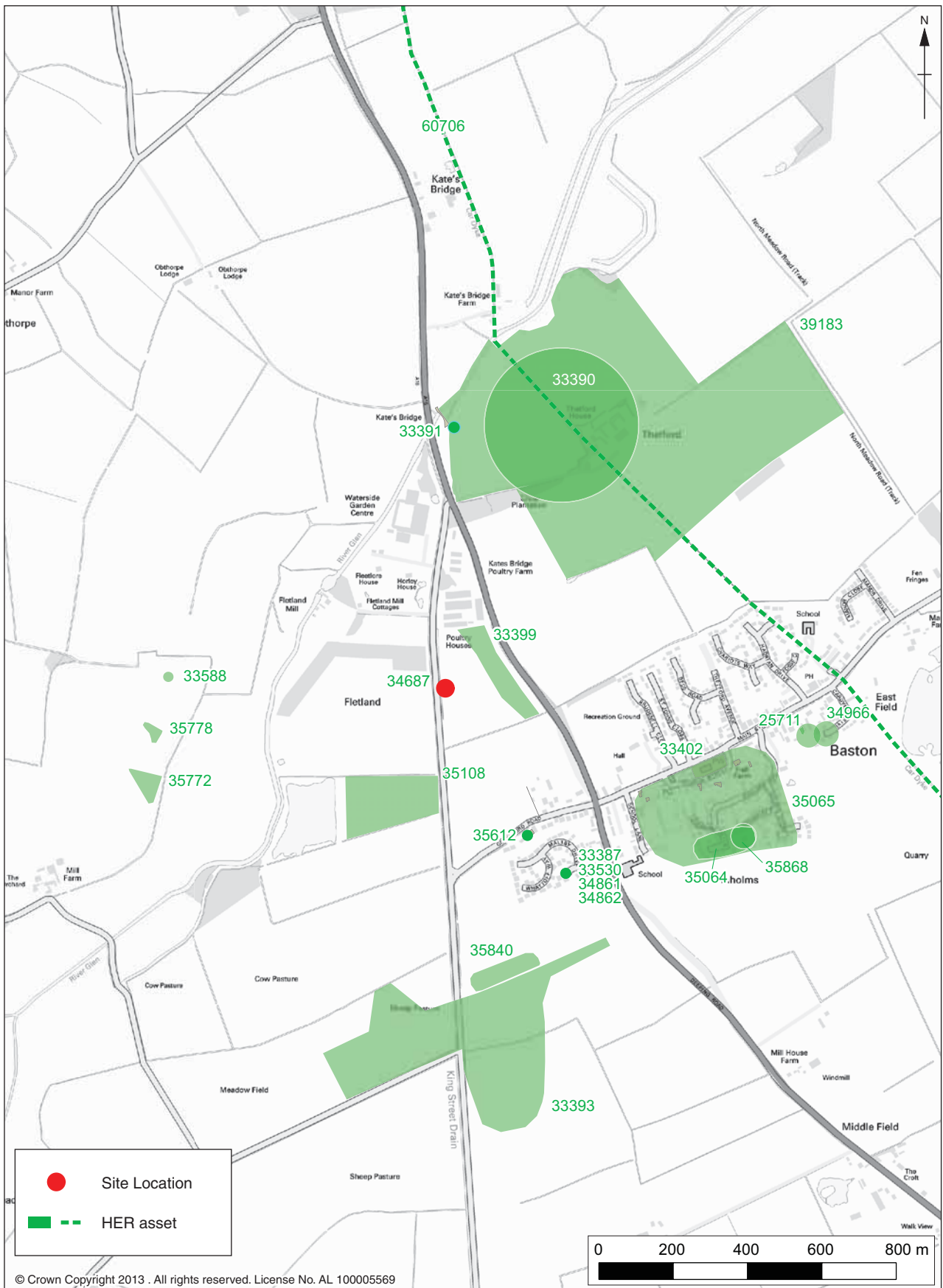


Figure 2: Historic Environment Record entries for the surrounding area



Plate 1: View of the stripped area from the west



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