

Land off Thaxted Road
Saffron Walden
Essex



Desk-Based Assessment



July 2012

Client:
Saffron Walden East Landowners

OA East Report No: 1361
OASIS No: oxfordar3-124206
NGR: TL 5487 3740

Land off Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex
Desk-Based Assessment

By Kate Clover MA, MIFA

Editor/additional contributions: Paul Spoerry PhD, BTech, MIFA

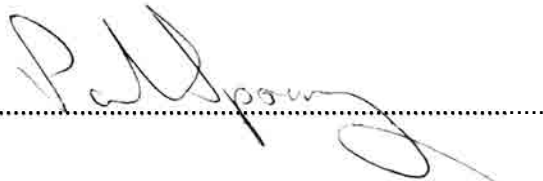
Illustrators: Sarah Henley BA, Msc Gillian Greer Bsc MIFA

Report Date: July 2012

Report Number: 1361
Site Name: Land off Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex
HER Event No:
Date of Works: July 2012
Client Name: Saffron Walden East Landowners
Client Ref: 14364
Planning Ref: not applicable
Grid Ref: TL 5520 3780
Site Code:
Finance Code: XEXTSW12
Receiving Body: Saffron Walden Museum
Accession No:

Prepared by: Kate Clover
Position: Archaeological Supervisor
Date: April/July 2012

Checked by: Paul Spoerry
Position: Regional Manager, OA East
Date: July 2012
Signed:



Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2011
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	6
1.1 General Background.....	6
1.2 Planning Background.....	6
1.3 Location, Geology and Topography	6
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	7
2 Archaeological and Historical Sources	8
2.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER).....	8
2.2 Cartographic Evidence.....	10
2.3 Aerial Photographs.....	11
2.4 Earthworks.....	11
2.5 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys.....	11
3 Deposit Mapping	12
3.1 Prehistoric.....	12
3.2 Romano-British.....	12
3.3 Anglo-Saxon.....	12
3.4 Medieval.....	12
3.5 Post-medieval.....	12
4 Degree of Survival	13
4.1 The effect of ploughing	13
5 Discussion	14
5.1 The Site.....	14
5.2 Comparison with other areas.....	14
Appendix A. HER data.....	15
Appendix B. Bibliography	17
Appendix C. OASIS Report Form	18

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Proposed development area, search area and HER entries
- Fig. 3 Chapman and André Map 1777
- Fig. 4 Saffron Walden Enclosure Map 1823
- Fig. 5 Saffron Walden Tithe Map 1843
- Fig. 6 OS 25 inch map 1877
- Fig. 7 OS 25 inch map 1897
- Fig. 8 OS 25 inch map 1921
- Fig. 9 OS 25 inch map 1985
- Fig. 10 Plan of Shire (Sheer) Hill Farm 1850
- Figure 11 OS 6 inch map 1881

Plates

- Plate 1 Part of The Site, from field south of Shire Hill Lane, looking south-west

Summary

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by Saffron Walden East Landowners, to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land East of Saffron Walden either side of Thaxted Road and south of Radwinter Road. The aim of the assessment was to define the archaeological potential of the Site in advance of potential redevelopment. The desk-based assessment will be used by the Essex County Council Archaeological Officer to determine the archaeological potential of the site and subsequently the scope of any further archaeological investigation.

Saffron Walden occupies a chalk upland landscape within the Cam valley. The Site is situated on the south-eastern edge of the town and is centred on NGR TL 5520 3780. It comprises more than ten arable fields and several small pasture fields, Shire Hill Farm, Turnip Hall Farm and industrial buildings on Thaxted Road. Aside from these latter three locations most of the Site has never been subject to development or archaeological investigation, except for the former Bell's Brickworks. There are no actual HER records for the Site itself apart from the latter industrial site and pair of lime kilns. However, a study of other sources of evidence, particularly the cartographic sources, has shown that there is a likelihood for pre-medieval field boundaries to be present in some areas and that there is a possibility of earlier clay pits, chalk pits and lime kilns to be present along the Thaxted Road frontage. Additionally although Shire Hill Farm is only known from the later 18th century onwards, and is not known to have been one of the medieval sub-manors, it may still represent a location with a longer history of occupation.

Development of the southern part of the town has brought to light evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity. These remains, combined with cropmarks of former field boundaries to the south-west of the Site and Iron Age to Romano-British findspots to the east of the Site, hint at the type of remains that might be expected on the remaining parts of the Site, particularly within its south westerly and eastern extremities.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by Saffron Walden East Landowners, to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land east of Saffron Walden. This report will consider the buried archaeological resource within the proposed development site (hereafter 'the Site') which could, if present, be directly impacted by construction. In addition, Listed Buildings are included as the proposals have the potential to incur indirect impact by means of a change to their setting.
- 1.1.2 A 700m Search Area, centred on the Site, was considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site (Fig. 2). Where appropriate, details of sites and monuments lying outside the Search Area have also been assessed as part of this assessment.
- 1.1.3 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (IFA 1994, revised September 2001).

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The site is being considered by the client for residential and mixed use development. No planning application has yet been submitted to Uttlesford District Council.

1.3 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The small market-town of Saffron Walden is situated in the extreme north-west of Essex, 25km south of Cambridge. The proposed development site is located on the south-eastern edge of the town and is centred on TL 5520 3780 (Fig. 1). It comprises more than ten arable fields and several small pasture fields, Shire Hill Farm, Turnip Hall Farm and industrial buildings on Thaxted Road. In total this land encompasses around 81 hectares. The height OD varies between approximately 81m at the northern extremity, to around 100m in the centre near Shire Hill Farm, and 71m as the land slopes down towards the Slade - a tributary of the Cam running parallel to Thaxted Road.
- 1.3.2 One parcel is situated on the south-west side of Thaxted Road and is made up of three fields divided by field ditches. Other parcels are situated on the north-east side of Thaxted Road including around four hectares fronting on to the road that includes a block of flats and which was occupied by a cement works from the late 19th century. To the north of the works two fields occupy a south-west facing slope and are limited by a northeast-aligned trackway. South of this trackway a further large field lies on a north-west facing slope. The centre of the proposed masterplan area is dominated by high ground around Shire Hill Farm, which lies in a flat position, but with the landscape again rising to the east. Close to the farm are smaller fields under pasture, with larger arable fields on all sides. North of Shire Hall Farm are parcels sitting behind the Radwinter Road frontage, with the latter accessed in the extreme northeastern corner of the masterplan area. Here the proposal area includes the site of both Turnip Hall Farm, 100m south of the road, and Wild Hedges on the road itself where there is c. 250m of frontage. The extreme north western limit of the proposal area is a tongue of arable land that meets the line of a disused railway.

- 1.3.3 The site is bordered by modern housing developments and a leisure centre to the west, by an industrial zone (Dencora Park) to the northwest, and by further industrial employment to the north. It is surrounded by arable fields on all other sides. Within the site, alongside Thaxted Road, a modern block of flats backs onto a former chalk pit and cement works.
- 1.3.4 The solid geology of the Site is chalk with some overlying boulder clay and Head deposits. The Head deposits (of clay, silt, sand and gravel) occur along the Slade, mainly on the south-west side of Thaxted Road (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>; ECC 2009, 91 and 162).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology East would like to thank Savills (Garth Hanlon) for commissioning this assessment. Thanks are also due to Alison Bennett at the Essex County Council HER and the staff at the Essex Record Office and the Saffron Walden Local Studies Library for their help and assistance.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

2.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 2.1.1 Essex County Council retains a database of all recorded archaeological sites, Listed Buildings, findspots, and archaeological events within the county as well as other designations such as Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments. The Essex HER was consulted in April 2012 for information pertaining to the historic environment within the Search Area. The HER data is provided in tabular format in Appendix A.
- 2.1.2 The HER is not a record of all surviving elements 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.
- 2.1.3 Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Report was also consulted. This document was produced in 2009 by Essex County Council using information from the HER. It provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape rather than looking at individual sites and monuments.

Neolithic (4000 BC-2000 BC), Bronze Age (2000 BC- 700 BC) and Iron Age (700 BC-AD 43)

- 2.1.4 Excavations in the town have produced flints of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Excavations in the 1970s at Elm Grove, off Fairycroft Road which is just to the north-west of the Search Area for this assessment, uncovered flintwork dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods as well as a small Iron Age settlement (TL 539 382; HER **428-37**). In 1882 a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure was recorded approximately 400m to the south of the Elm Grove site. This consisted of a complex of pits associated with a 200m long discontinuous ditch containing human burials. These features were observed between the north side of West Road and Mount Pleasant Road (Bassett, 1982, 5; ECC, 1999, 12).
- 2.1.5 Closer to the southern edge of the Site, Neolithic flints have been found in 'Pleasant Valley', south of the Friends School (HER **507**). More recently prehistoric activity has been recorded within the Friends School site itself, close to the site of **507**. In 1993 and 1994 excavations on the south side of the school grounds revealed Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age occupation evidence (HER **14594**; Ecclestone 1993 and 1994).
- 2.1.6 Rectilinear cropmarks of field boundaries show up on aerial photographs to the south-west of the most southerly part of the Site (HER **19840**). These are undated but they do not correspond with any fields dating from the enclosure period or later (see Figs 4-8). Although not comprising a large area they have the appearance of Late Iron Age or Roman field boundaries. The Uttlesford Historic Environment Characterisation Project identifies the presence of cropmarks in this zone, some being possibly Bronze Age or Iron Age in date and others of possible medieval origin (ECC 2009, 164).

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

- 2.1.7 Evidence for Romano-British settlement in Saffron Walden is provided by the placename of 'Walden' which derives from 'Weala-dunu' which is Old English for 'valley of the Britons or serfs' (Bassett, 1982, 10; ECC, 1999, 12). There is archaeological evidence for small scale Romano-British settlement and agriculture here as well. The following is taken from the Saffron Walden Historic Town Assessment 1999, page 12 "there is some suggestion that there may have been a small Roman fort on the site of the later Anglo-Saxon cemetery (Bassett, 1982). Some of the inhumation burials

excavated in 1876 in that cemetery are probably Romano-British, the finds suggesting a date of the 3rd to 4th century. The distribution of stray finds in and around the town suggests that the settlement associated with the burials was sited to the west of the later medieval nucleus of Saffron Walden” (ECC, 1999, 12).

- 2.1.8 Part of a 2nd-3rd century AD chalk quarry was found on the Elm Grove site (Bassett, 1982, 5) which, although outside the Search Area, may have relevance to the Site as it demonstrates a long tradition of chalk extraction in the area which carried on into the 20th century (see section 2.2.6).
- 2.1.9 A Roman double headed iron axe is shown on the HER map as within the Search Area (HER **466**) but its grid reference puts it to the north of the Search Area.
- 2.1.10 The closest known and confirmed Romano-British settlement was located over 1km west of the Site, which was likely to have been farmland at this time (see section 2.2.4).
- 2.1.11 During the 1930s Late Iron Age and Roman pottery and quernstone fragments were recovered from a field 'west of Bears Hall' (HER **261-263**), the grid reference placing these around 150m to the southwest of the Site's eastern boundary. The recovery of this material, closely identified for its time and of varied artefact types, suggests that the assemblage is more likely to have derived from occupation derived deposits, than from manure scattering. It seems likely, therefore, that this may represent Iron Age to Romano-British settlement close to the eastern edge of the Site.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

- 2.1.12 Anglo-Saxon settlement and a cemetery were sited in the western part of the town in approximately the same area as the Roman settlement. By the time of the Domesday Book of 1086 Walden had a large and prosperous population (ECC, 1999, 12). However this settlement focus is located over 1km to the north-west of the Site (outside the Search Area) and there is no evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement or other activity within the Site itself. Those locations close by known to have developed into medieval manors (Herberts and The Roos) and more general medieval settlement (Pounces - Seward's End) would almost certainly have had their origins in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

- 2.1.13 The Manor of Walden was granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville after the Norman Conquest and at this time the settlement was focussed on the original Saxon site of Waldena. By 1141 Geoffrey Mandeville II had built a castle on the promontory of Bury Hill to the north-east of Waldena and at some point in the 12th century the centre of settlement moved to Bury Hill. A marketplace and tenements were later laid out within the outer castle bailey. In the earlier 13th century this pre-urban nucleus was greatly enlarged by the foundation of a new marketplace, within a precisely planned grid of streets to the south of Bury Hill, and by the construction of an earthwork (the *magnum fossatum*) around the whole area (ECC, 1999, 13-14; Bassett, 1982, 23).
- 2.1.14 The town played an important part in the East Anglian wool industry. In the late medieval period Walden became the major English centre of production of the saffron crocus which was used as a dye, and thereby acquired the former part of its name.
- 2.1.15 The Site lies nearly 1km to the east of the medieval town and probably formed part of its agricultural hinterland. Outside the urban centres the medieval settlement pattern in this area was of dispersed moats and farmsteads (ECC, 2009, 162-3). One such medieval survival within the Search Area is Herberts – a farm with its origins as a Medieval manor house, once moated (HER **165**). A second such former sub-manor (Pounces) is in Swards End, c. 500m east of the Site (Bassett, 1982, 3). The findspot

of medieval horseshoes near The Roose Farm (HER **390**) is the only other medieval activity documented within the Search Area. Besides these known manorial sites, there is the potential for a post-medieval estate centre such as Shire Hall Farm, to have developed from similar origins, although there is no specific evidence to support this at present.

Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

- 2.1.16 The Site continued in agricultural use in the post-medieval period. A 16th century timber-framed barn at Herberts is recorded on the HER (HER **26974**). This is the only Listed Building within the Search Area. Two former windmills are recorded within the Search Area (HER **19776** and **499**), the latter also being depicted on Chapman and André's map of 1777. A boundary post was sited along Thaxted Road (HER **15183**).
- 2.1.17 Brick making was carried out within the site in the late 19th and early 20th century. To the south-east of Shire Hill Farm was Bells Brickworks (HER **15724**) which was in use from 1865-1910 and along Thaxted Road was Brikkilns Barn (no HER number, see section 2.2.5). Bell's Brickworks supplied red bricks with a 'B' deeply imprinted into each concave frog, that are known to have been used in a number of important buildings in Saffron Walden including The Hospital on London Road, The Friends School and the Town Hall front. In the 1870s their Saffron Walden works is known to have had one rectangular kiln with a clay pit on the opposite (south) side of the road. The latter is outside of the Masterplan area, although the former lies within the Site.
- 2.1.18 Chalk/lime deposits which occur very near the surface here were exploited in this period for agricultural usage, mortar and cement. A pair of 19th century lime kilns are recorded built against the sides of a former chalk pit and cement works (HER **15007**). The HER map locates the site of these lime kilns within the Site on the south side of Thaxted Road but the grid reference given is not an exact one. Furthermore, none of the historic maps consulted show any cement works in this field. Maps from 1897 onwards show the cement works sited next to an existing chalk pit on the opposite side of the road, again within the Site and this is where it has been pinpointed on Fig. 2. Chalk extraction in the area may well be a continuation of a much older industry. However, the arrival in 1865 of the railway (now dismantled:HER **15646**) no doubt enabled a larger-scale industry to develop.
- 2.1.19 An isolation hospital for infectious diseases (The District Infirmary) was opened in the late 19th century on Hill Top Lane, just to the north-west of the most southerly parcel within the Site (HER **15646**). This was formerly the site of the parish Pest House shown on the Chapman and André map of 1777.

2.2 Cartographic Evidence

- 2.2.1 A search was undertaken of all historic manuscript maps and OS maps held at the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford and at the Local Studies Library in Saffron Walden. The maps available for study ranged in date from 1777 to the present. An earlier map of 1758 was viewed but not included in this assessment as it only covered the town centre.
- 2.2.2 The study of maps and associated historical sources helps to clarify the archaeological potential of the Site in two ways. Firstly, it suggests aspects of the post-medieval and later land use prior to any modern development. Secondly, it pinpoints areas within the Site that, as a result of development, are likely to have become archaeologically sterile. The maps relevant to the Site are listed in the bibliography.

- 2.2.3 The earliest map which depicts the Site is the Chapman and André map of 1777 (Fig. 3). The Site is shown as undeveloped except for Sheer Hill Farm (later Shire Hill Farm). Here, as now, there are buildings on both sides of the track, but a differing track alignment is seen to the south, following what is now an extant field boundary to the east of the modern building at 'Hylands'. The wider Site is surrounded by scattered farms and halls: Herberts, Ross Farm (later Roose Farm), Bears Hall, as well as the Pest House. The trackways that are shown interlinking these sites are largely still in existence today.
- 2.2.4 The medieval fields of the area were enclosed in 1823 and Fig. 4 shows the new layout, but little else, and the absence of a good copy of this map in the public domain means the map text is hard to read. The tithe map of 1843 is much clearer (Fig. 5) and shows little change from the Enclosure Map although it does show buildings near the Radwinter Road frontage at Turnip Hall Farm for the first time. Both the `tithe and enclosure maps indicate the large number of individual plots that had been created south of the Radwinter Road and the more irregular fields around Shire Hill Farm. Although these latter may owe their shape purely to topography, they have the appearance of 'old enclosure' and may pre-date the 1823 Act. The tithe award records that all other fields within the Site were arable at this time. There has been some boundary loss since the time these maps were surveyed. Bassett has used 19th century maps of the area to plot the remnants of a rectilinear pre-medieval field system. Examination of his plot shows that a parcel in the southwest of the Site north of Thaxted Road occupies this pre-medieval rectilinear system (Bassett, 1982, 7-8 and fig. 3). Thus the three fields which originally made up this parcel could be Romano-British in date, surviving into the medieval period and remaining unchanged at Enclosure.
- 2.2.5 An 1850 estate plan is available for Shire (Sheer) Hill Farm (Fig. 10). It shows the track through the farm still on its earlier alignment and field boundaries that differ slightly to those now surviving, but also partly developed from those seen post-enclosure. The pond shown close to the farm appears to be in a different location to that present on modern mapping and the farm buildings are shown in some detail, again appearing unlike those present on 20th century maps (not illustrated).
- 2.2.6 The 1877 OS map (Fig. 6) and 1881 map (Fig. 11) show new farms built within the Search Area: (e.g. Peaslands and Brickkiln Barns - now Brickkiln Leys Farms). Brickkiln Barns is shown on the Tithe Map of 1843 but not named. It adds to the evidence of a brickmaking tradition within the Search Area. More significantly, the 1881 Map shows Bells Brickworks within the south eastern extremity of the Site (see also section 2.1.17), with its claypit on the south side of the road outside the Site. This brickworks is known to have started in 1865. The 1881 Map shows a building set back from the road and to the north, with a kiln and well marked towards the front of the property. These First Edition OS maps also show that clay extraction was taking place elsewhere locally at 'Claypits', south-west of Herberts. Study of geological maps show the Bell's Brickworks was located on diamicton of the Lowestoft formation, and it was either a locally distinct clay deposit from this glacial outwash, or perhaps a shallow valley alluvial clay or colluvial deposit (e.g. a 'Head' deposit) not so far defined, that was utilised for the bricks. Other clay pits nearby, such as those at 'Herberts', were located on known 'Head' deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>). Head deposits also occur within the southern part of the Site, alongside The Slade but no clay pits seem to have been sited here, at least not since the advent of modern mapping. The 1877 map also shows the Saffron Walden railway for the first time (this extract not provided) immediately adjacent to the north eastern edge of the Site.

- 2.2.7 These First Edition OS maps are the first maps where chalk extraction is shown. A chalk pit can be seen alongside Thaxted Road, in the field adjoining the southernmost part of the Site, and to the south-east (Fig. 6). This 19th century chalk extraction may be a continuation of a much earlier industry in this area and it is possible that earlier chalk pits may exist on the Site.
- 2.2.8 The 1897 OS map (Fig. 7) shows two further chalk pits alongside Thaxted Road, that on the north side of the road being within the Site. Adjacent to the most north-westerly chalk pit and also within the Site is a cement works. By the time of the 1921 OS map (Fig. 8) a tramway had been built from the cement works along the trackway to the south. The chalk pit to the south of the trackway had been extended substantially. The OS map of 1938 shows little change to the 1921 map and has therefore not been reproduced here.
- 2.2.9 The OS map from 1985 (Fig. 9) shows little change in the Site south of the Thaxted Road apart from a trackway running from Brickkiln Leys Farm. North of Thaxted Road, the chalk pits by this date have been filled in and the cement works buildings have been rebuilt over one of the in-filled chalk pits.

2.3 Aerial Photographs

- 2.3.1 An aerial photographic search was not undertaken for this assessment. English Heritage's National Mapping Programme has mapped features visible on aerial photographs for the county and any features have been transferred onto the HER. Cropmarks are discussed in section 2.1.6.

2.4 Earthworks

- 2.4.1 A walkover survey was carried out on 13th April 2012 for those parts of the site adjacent to Thaxted Road. All arable fields in this area had been ploughed and there were no earthworks visible. Almost all the fields within the Site currently under arable cultivation have been so since at least 1843 (the date of the Tithe Award). Consequently any earthworks that may have been visible above ground will have been destroyed. Four fields now under pasture enclose Shire Hill Farm, but these are noted as under arable on the 1850 estate Map and it seems likely that they had been in cultivation for some centuries prior to that. Modern aerial photographic cover does not indicate any large-scale earthworks surviving here.

2.5 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

- 2.5.1 No known archaeological excavations or surveys have been carried out on the Site. Excavations and surveys have been carried out within the Search Area (all within the built up area of the town) and these are discussed in section 2.1.

3 DEPOSIT MAPPING

In this section, an attempt has been made to map all known monuments and events and, based on this mapping, to predict the existence of further remains within the Site.

3.1 Prehistoric

3.1.1 There is no evidence of prehistoric archaeology within the Site itself, however, there is activity dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age recorded in the southern part of the present town. Additionally, cropmarks of field boundaries of possible prehistoric date occur to the south-west of the southern part of the Site and findspots suggest Iron Age occupation a short distance east of the eastern extremity of the Site. Thus known prehistoric activity seems to be concentrated in the upper slopes of the Slade Valley to the south-west and the higher land to the east, of the Site and may feasibly extend into the Site in both areas.

3.2 Romano-British

3.2.1 A small Romano-British settlement is known to the west of what became the medieval nucleus of the town. The Site is likely to have been fields at this time and there is a moderate possibility of Romano-British field boundaries existing on the Site. The possibility of occasional Romano-British or Late Iron Age burials being present cannot be ruled out. Additionally findspots suggest that the Iron Age occupation a short distance east of the eastern extremity of the Site continued throughout the Romano-British period, there being material dated to the 4th century here. Romano-British settlement may well extend into the eastern extremity of the site.

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

3.3.1 The likelihood of remains of Anglo-Saxon date, other than of an agricultural nature, is considered to be low. The closest known Anglo-Saxon settlement was situated 1km to the north-west, as was its burial ground.

3.4 Medieval

3.4.1 The probability of former medieval field boundaries surviving within the Site is considered to be moderate. The most likely location for medieval activity is considered to be around Shire Hill Farm (as a possible earlier estate centre) and along the Thaxted Road and Radwinter Road frontages. Along the former road this might relate to earlier chalk pits, lime kilns or clay pits, whilst along the latter is more likely to have been small-scale settlement.

3.5 Post-medieval

3.5.1 The likelihood of post-medieval remains within the Site is considered to be high along the Thaxted Road frontage where there may have been chalk pits, lime kilns or clay pits that were filled in or demolished before the area was mapped, and very high at Bell's Brickworks, which has subsequently remained undeveloped, meaning there may be potentially intact below ground remains. At Shire Hill Farm the likelihood of post-medieval remains is also considered to be very high, as most of the buildings shown on 19th century maps are not now present. Elsewhere on the site the likelihood of further post-medieval remains is considered to be low.

4 DEGREE OF SURVIVAL

4.1 The effect of ploughing

- 4.1.1 Many of the fields which make up the Site have been under arable since at least the early 19th century and they are likely to have been farmed for the preceding centuries. These parts of the Site to the best of our knowledge have never been developed and therefore the only real factor affecting the survival of below-ground remains will be the effect of ploughing.
- 4.1.2 Ploughing will have truncated the tops of archaeological features such as deep ditches or quarry pits but will not have completely destroyed them. This type of survival is evidenced by cropmarks of field boundary ditches showing to the south-west of the Site when this area was still a ploughed field. Shallow features such as small pits and postholes may well have been completely destroyed, depending on the depth of ploughing.
- 4.1.3 Ploughing will have disturbed artefacts within the tops of features and brought them to the surface. Thus most below ground features, if present, will be detected by fieldwalking the Site.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Site

- 5.1.1 There are no actual HER records for the Site itself apart from HER **15724**, Bell's Brickworks, and HER **15007** - a pair of lime kilns - which are probably slightly wrongly sited. Other HER records (HER **261** – **263**) suggest Iron Age to Roman-British settlement close to the eastern site boundary. A study of other sources of evidence, particularly the cartographic sources, has shown that there is a likelihood for pre-medieval field boundaries to be present in the southern part of the Site and that there is a possibility of clay pits, chalk pits and lime kilns to be present along the Thaxted Road frontage. The former Bell's Brickworks probably contains later 19th century features relating to this known industrial site. Post-medieval, and possibly earlier, settlement remains are likely to survive around Shire Hill Farm.
- 5.1.2 The paucity of HER findspots and features from the Site does not necessarily signify an absence of archaeology but may be due the effect of ploughing or to a lack of investigation. The site has never been subject to any archaeological investigations such as fieldwalking surveys or excavations. A lack of development on the site has meant no opportunity for finds and features to come to light. The absence of cropmarks may be due to conditions at the time of flying or to the fact that shallow features, small features or burials would not show up as cropmarks.

5.2 Comparison with other areas

- 5.2.1 Development of the southern part of the town has brought to light evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity on the upper slopes of the Slade Valley. This area has a similar topography and geology to the current Site and may give a clue as to the type of remains that might be expected, particularly within the southern part.
- 5.2.2 The Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Report splits the district up into landscape zones and attempts to understand and predict the date, character and density of the archaeology of these zones. Much of the area of the Site lies within Historic Environment Characterisation Zone 9.2 and to quote the report “although there has been limited excavation within the zone the cropmark evidence and finds indicate that extensive multi-period deposits survive findspots across the zone represent occupation in the area from the earliest prehistoric period onwards. The cropmark evidence within the zone includes a number of probably prehistoric enclosures, possibly Bronze Age or Iron Age in date....the cropmark evidence includes at least one medieval moated site and numerous field boundaries of possible medieval origin” (ECC, 2009, 162-4).



APPENDIX A. HER DATA

HER no	Site	Record Type	Description	Status	Period	NGR
?	North side of West Road extending to Mount Pleasant Road	Monument	Possible Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure, found in 1882. 400m south of Elms Grove (Bassett, 1982,5)		Neolithic	?
507	Pleasant Valley	Findspot	Neolithic Site – flints found		Neolithic	TL 5420 3733
14594	The Friends School, Saffron Walden (SW24/25)	Monument	Postholes, Ditches and Pits containing Early Iron Age Pottery recorded during an evaluation and later excavation carried out by Essex FAU in 1993. Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age flints also found in the topsoil (Ecclestone, J 1994)		Middle Bronze Age and Early Iron Age	TL5425 3735
18560	Saffron Walden	Findspot	Bronze coin of Cunobelin. Exact location not known		Late Iron Age	TL 5450 3850
19840	Cropmarks, Saffron Walden	Monument	Cropmarks of field boundaries. Undetermined period but may be Iron Age or Roman		undetermined	TL5420 3694
466	Ashdon Road	Findspot	Double headed axe (fasces) of iron		Roman	TL5400 3850
390	South of Saffron Walden	Findspot	Medieval horse shoes found near the 'Roose Farm'		Medieval	TL 5450 3650
165	Herberts	Monument	Manor House, probably Medieval		?Medieval	TL5465 3685
26974	Barn at Herberts Farm	Listed Building	Timber framed barn, mid 16th century with 19th century rebuilding. Weather boarded with peg-tiled roof. Listed Building No. 1205692	Grade II Listed Building.	Post-Medieval	TL 5457 3680
19776	Saffron Walden	Monument	Site of a windmill, now demolished		Post-Medieval	TL 5430 3753
499	Near Mount Pleasant Road	Monument	Site of windmill, shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map, now demolished		Post-Medieval	TL 5425 3785
469	West Road	Monument	Elizabethan salt cellar found while digging foundations of a house in 1879		Post-Medieval	TL 5400 3850



HER no	Site	Record Type	Description	Status	Period	NGR
15007	Thaxted Road (SW27)	Monument	Pair of lime kilns built against the sides of a former chalk pit and cement works. Brick built. 19 th century		Post Medieval	TL 5480 3740
15724	Bell's Brickworks	Industrial	Brickworks located south-east of Shire Hill Farm. In use 1865-1910		Post-Medieval	TL 5555 3765
46249	Friend's School	Monument	A series of plough scars were found in one of four evaluation trenches dug by Archaeological Solutions in the school in 2006 (Ilson 2006)		Post-Medieval	TL 5406 3755
?	Friend's School		Negative Evidence from a further evaluation by Archaeological Solutions in the school in 2011 (Schofield 2011)		Negative Evidence	TL 5400 3760
15183	Thaxted Road, Wimbish	Monument	Site of boundary post on Thaxted Road, in Wimbish parish		Post-Medieval	TL 5555 3684
372	Saffron Walden Railway	Monument	Dismantled railway running from Audley End to Saffron Walden. Opened in 1865. Extended to Bartlow in 1866. Closed 1964		Post Medieval	TL 5332 3730 to TL 5490 3830 and beyond
15646	Saffron Walden District Infirmary, Hill Top Lane	Industrial	A late 19 th century isolation hospital for infectious diseases, formerly the parish pest house. Opened in 1875 (although the Pest House is shown on the 1777 Chapman and André Map)		Post-Medieval	TL 5422 3723
47291	Bell Language School, Lancaster House	Building	Building Recording at Lancaster House, before demolition. Dated late 19 th to early 20 th century		Modern	TL 5423 3790
261	West of Bears Hill	Findspot	Roman pottery (4th century)		Roman	TL 5590 3760
262	West of Bears Hill	Findspot	Iron Age, Belgic pottery		Late Iron Age	TL 5590 3760
263	West of Bears Hill	Findspot	Grit millstone fragments		Roman	TL 5590 3760
40476	North of Radwinter Road	Monument	WWII Air Ministry fuel storage depot		Modern	TL 5540 3840
47930	Wheel Hall	Monument	Cropmarks of former field boundaries		Post-Medieval	TL 5610 3770

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bassett, SR, 1982, *Saffron Walden: excavations and research 1972-80*, CBA Research Report **45**, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust, Report 2

ECC and English Heritage, 1999 *Saffron Walden Historic Town Assessment Report*

ECC, 2009 *Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Report*

Ecclestone, J, 1993 *The Friends School Saffron Walden: Archaeological Evaluation*, Essex Field Archaeology Unit

Ecclestone, J, 1994 *Early Iron Age occupation at Saffron Walden: Excavations at the Friends School, 1993*. Essex Archaeology & History **25**, 259-263.

Ilson, 2006 *Friend's School Saffron Walden, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions

Schofield, T, 2011 *Friend's School Saffron Walden, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions, Report no 3832

VCH 3, 1963 *The Victoria County History of Essex*, **3**

List of Relevant Maps Consulted

Chapman and André Map, 1777 (ERO)

Saffron Walden Enclosure Map, 1823 (ERO Q/RDc25)

Saffron Walden Tithe Map, 1843 (ERO D/CT378B)

Plan of Sheer Hill Farm, 1850 (ERO D/DBs P6)

OS 25 inch, 1877 (Saffron Walden Library Local Studies Collection)

OS 6 inch map, 1881 (ERO)

OS 25 inch map, 1897 (ERO)

OS 25 inch map, 1921 (ERO)

OS 6 inch map, 1938 (ERO)

OS 25 inch map, 1985 (ERO)

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-124206			
Project Name	Land off Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex. Desk-based assessment			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	01-04-2012	Finish	05-07-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code		Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	15007

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Housing Estate

Please select all techniques used:

DBA

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Site Visit)

Monument Types & Period

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

Monument	Period
causewayed enclosure	Neolithic (-4,000 to -2,200)
cropmarks	Late Prehistoric (-4,000 to 43)
settlement	Iron Age (-800 to 43)
lime kilns	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Land off Thaxted Road, Saffron Walden, Essex
District	Uttlesford		
Parish	Saffron Walden		
HER	Essex		
Study Area	700m	National Grid Reference	TL 5520 3780

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry - OA East
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry - OA East
Supervisor	Kate Clover- OA East

Project Archives

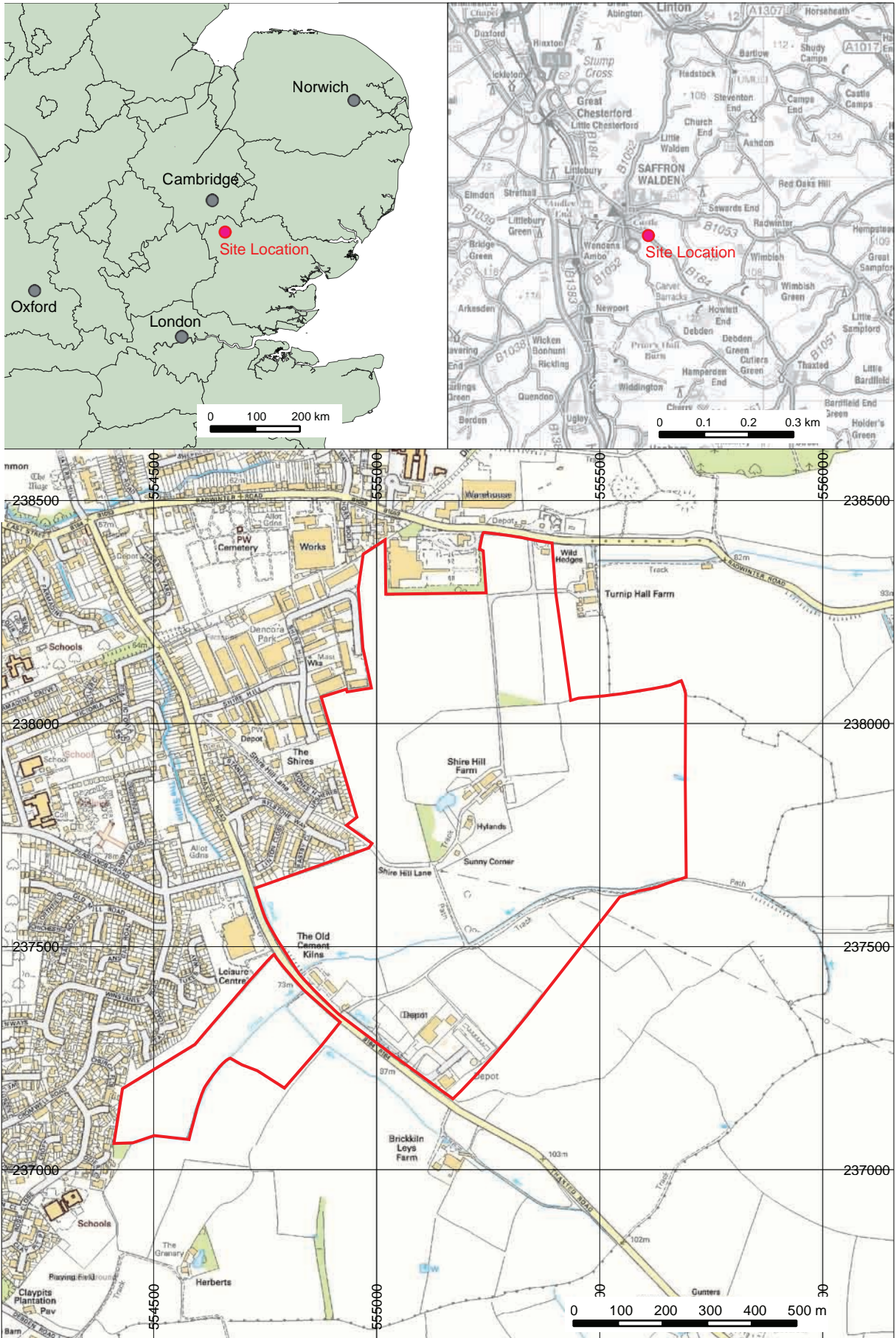
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	Location ...OA East	Location .. Saffron Walden Museum
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. License No. AI 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

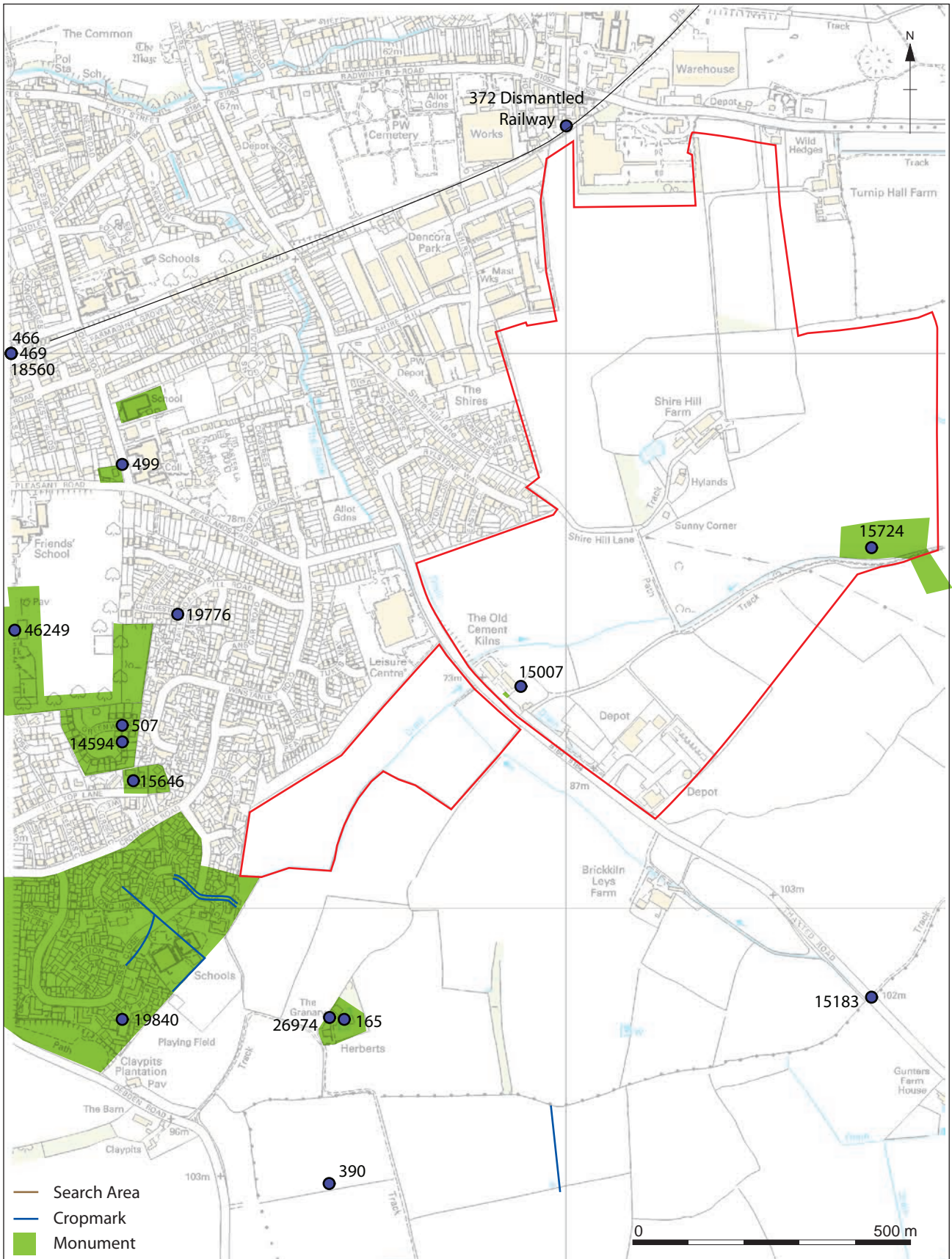


Figure 2: Proposed development area and HER entries



Figure 3: Chapman and Andre Map 1777



Figure 4: Saffron Walden Enclosure Map 1823

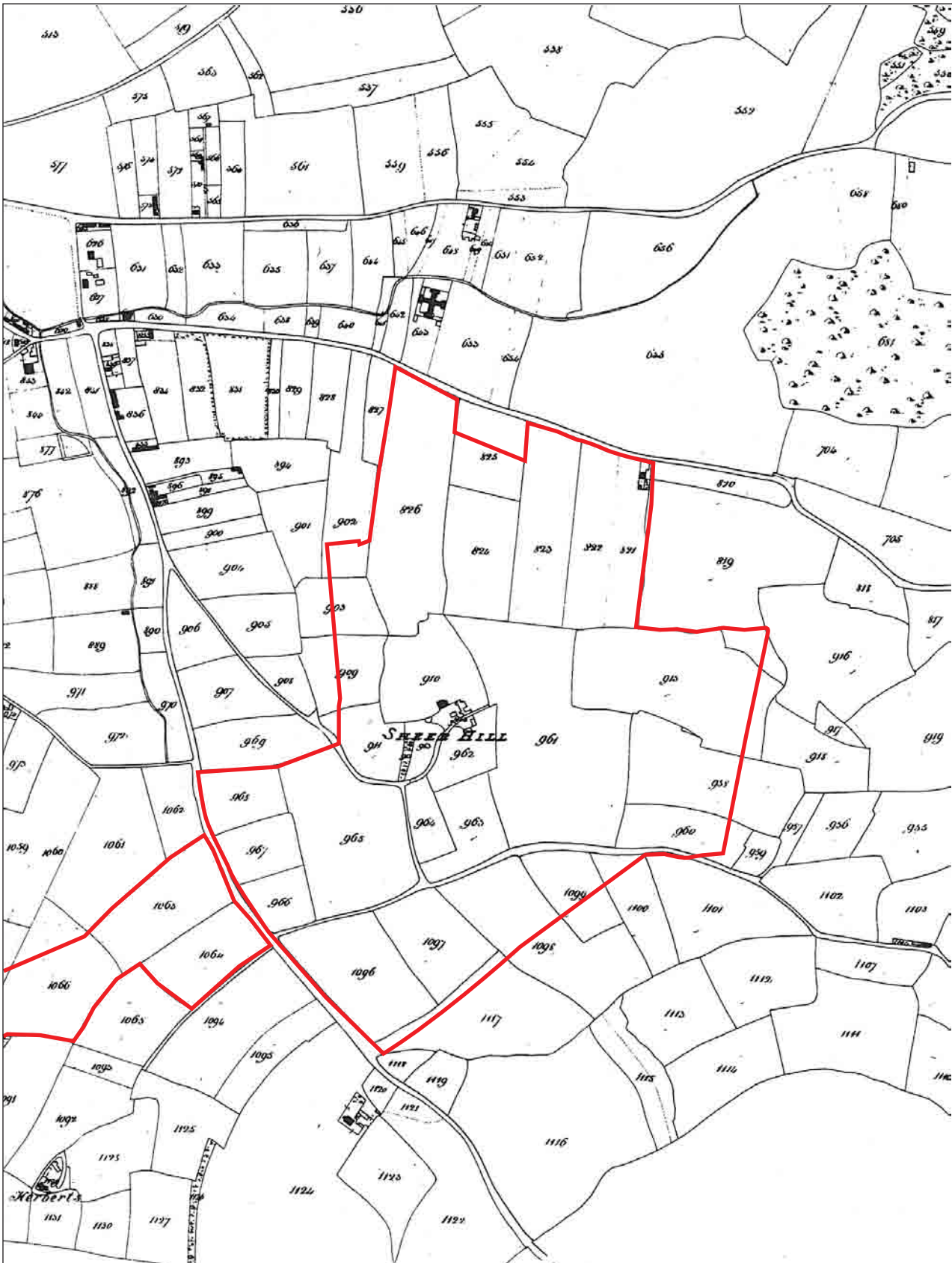


Figure 5: Saffron Walden Tithe Map 1843

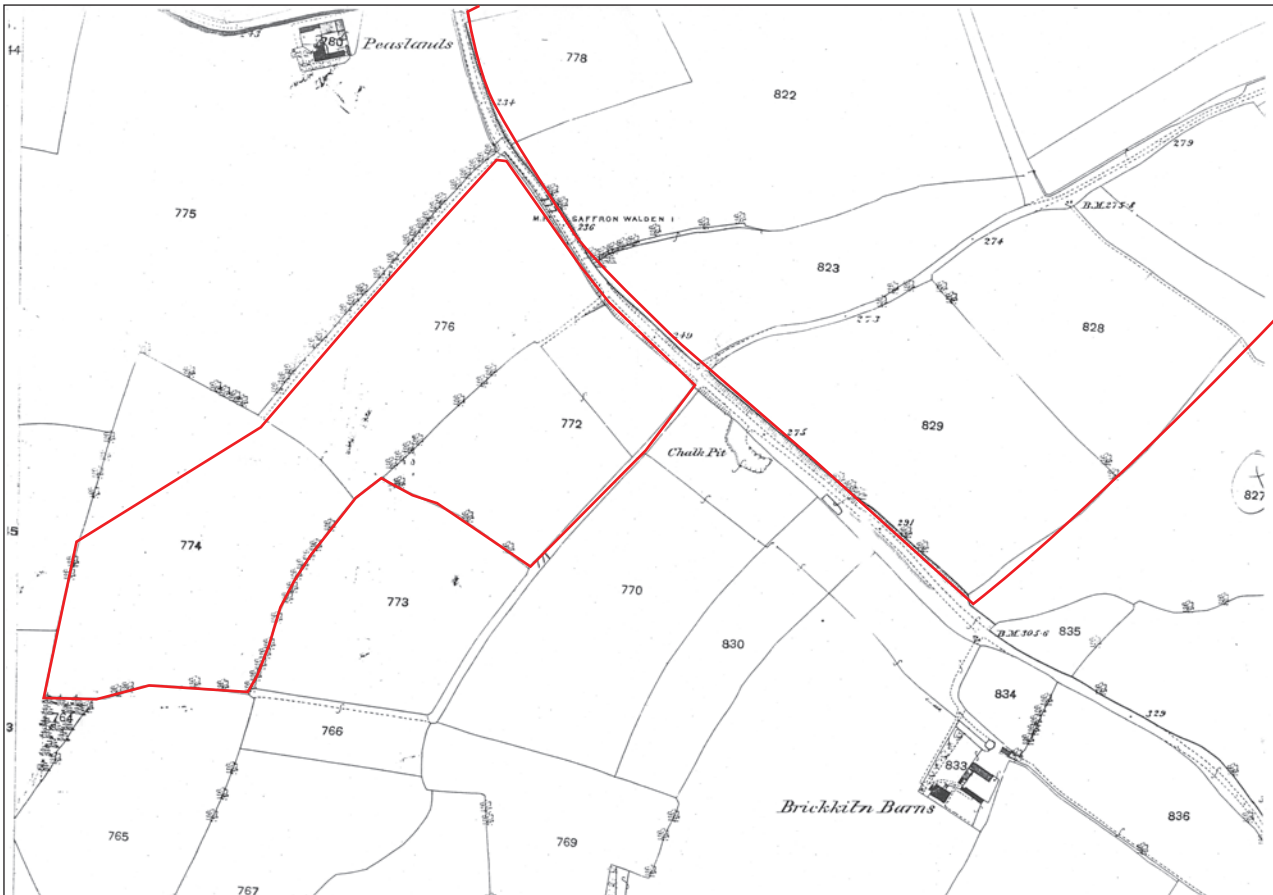


Figure 6: OS 25 inch map 1877



Figure 7: OS 25 inch map 1897



Figure 8: OS 25 inch map 1921

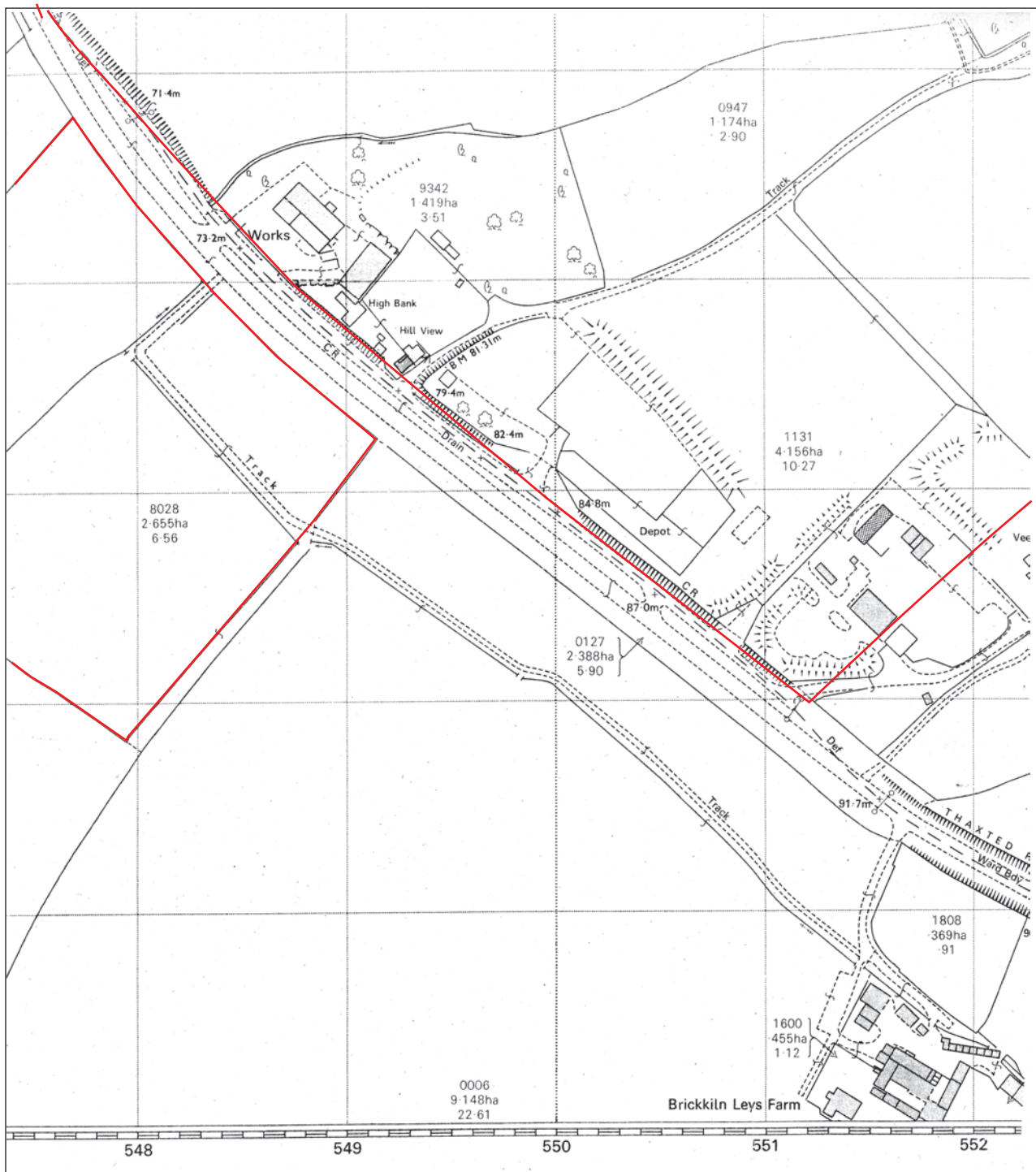


Figure 9: OS 25 inch map 1985



Figure 10: Estate Map for Shire Hill Farm 1850



Figure 11: 1881 Map



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*