

Land to the
south-east of
St Mary's Church
Brampton
Huntingdonshire

Desk Based Assessment



February 2010

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Land to the south-east of St Mary's Church, Brampton, Huntingdonshire

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Summary

In late January to early February 2010, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a desk-based assessment on land to the south-east of St. Mary's church, Brampton (TL 2150 7060). The subject site is located within the core of the historic village of Brampton, to the south-east of the church and with the Brampton Brook running through the south of the site.

The layout of the village suggests it was a planned settlement and dated from the Middle Saxon period or earlier, with the church, royal manor and manorial farm placed next to a large oval green. Brampton was of importance; it hosted at least five early medieval kings who hunted in the adjacent royal forest. The manor was also strategically significant with William I using it as the base (with both his court and army present) for the removal of Hereward the Wake from the Isle of Ely.

Documentary, cartographic, adjacent archaeological work and surviving earthwork remains within the north-eastern and central eastern areas of the site show that this subject site comprised the southern part of the manorial farm and was perhaps even within the former Saxon/medieval manor (the latter is not certain). It is unlikely that any of the associated Saxon and medieval buildings were within the site, they would have probably been to the west, near the church and the road frontage.

The earthwork remains comprised three fish ponds and associated drainage channels which were within a terraced landscape leading into the Brampton Brook. Archaeological work directly to the west in 2007, implied that further medieval ponds extended into a significant part of the subject site. This archaeological work, and a nearby archaeological monitoring visit in 1998 suggests there may also be some pits and ditches within the western parts of the site but they will probably be largely devoid of artefacts. These features were presumably back plot features from former medieval structures fronting onto the road.

Cartographic, documentary and archaeological evidence show that post-medieval manorial farm buildings were within the western part of the subject site. An archaeological evaluation to the west has shown it is very likely the foundations of some of these buildings and associated structures will have survived under later deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Savills have commissioned a desk-based assessment study from Oxford Archaeology East. This work has taken place pre-planning.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located in the historic core of Brampton village, to the south-east of the medieval parish church of St. Mary Magdalene (Fig. 1). The site is directly to the east of two listed buildings (HRO 54536 and 54537; see Section 2.2 below), as well as (until recently) farm buildings of the former manorial farm, all near to, or fronting onto, Church Road. The former manorial farm was opposite the High Street which runs north-west away from the site.
- 1.2.2 The former manorial farm buildings extend into the centre of the subject site and these buildings include a large barn as well as an associated track way (Fig. 1). There is farming land on the site, to the north, east and south of these buildings. Flowing east to west through the southern part of the site there is a small stream called Brampton Brook. The Brampton Brook and other nearby waterways flow into the River Ouse, less than a kilometre to the east.
- 1.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS 1975) records the drift geology within the majority of the site (central and northern areas) as being within 1st and 2nd Terrace Gravels although land immediately to the north and south of the Brampton Brook were within alluvial deposits. The solid geology below is Oxford Clay comprising grey mudstones with infrequent stone bands.
- 1.2.4 The land to the west of the site is between 10m and 11m OD and it is likely that the site is at a similar height. The earthwork survey on the north-eastern half of the site shows there is a slope from the northern boundary downwards to the Brampton Brook (Fig. 2).

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The author would like to thank Savills who commissioned the work for the desk-based assessment. Toby Gane managed the project for OA East and Andy Corrigan illustrated the figures. Tom Phillips and Toby Gane edited this report. The staff of Huntingdonshire Record Office and Sally Thompson of the Cambridgeshire HER were very helpful in supplying information and documents.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

2.1 Historical Sources

Introduction

- 2.1.1 The present desk-based assessment of historic sources has used the secondary published sources, but no primary documents have been accessed. This desk-based assessment relies heavily on the Victoria County History (VCH) accounts (first published in 1936 and later reprinted (Page *et al* 1974)). It should be noted that VCH volumes from this period are far less thorough than the recent VCH volumes (e.g. the 2002 VCH Cambridgeshire volume 10). In those days, the VCH paid people (in Brampton's case it was Ada Russell) a small fixed amount to write a set quantity of words about each of the parishes. Therefore, although the VCH texts for the parishes do refer to some primary documents, this will not have been a thorough research. The history of Huntingdonshire has not been written up by an antiquarian and so this former county has not benefited from people such as Dugdale (Bedfordshire) and Bridges and Baker (Northants) whose relatively careful research have led to detailed parish assessments in their respective areas.
- 2.1.2 There are surviving medieval documents concerning the extent of the 14th century Brampton manor, dating from 1313, several surveys of the manor e.g. 1537/8, as well as the 16th and 17th century rentals of the manor, which are held in the Public Record Office in London. The British Museum holds several documents including the 1478 lease (place name) and other medieval and post-medieval rolls and leases. It is possible/likely there are also some post-medieval primary records which relate directly to the site when it was owned by the Earl of Sandwich (papers belonging to this family have been deposited at the Huntingdon Record Office).

Overview of historic sources

- 2.1.3 Brampton was recorded as Brantune in the 1086 Domesday Book (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 233-4). Mawer and Stenton translate this name as " 'Brier' or 'Bramble farm' verb. brame, tun." A different interpretation is that the name is probably derived from an association with the Broom plant and comes from the Old English 'Brōm-tūn', meaning 'Tūn where broom grew' (Ekwall 1991, 60). The date of the name is Old English and is probably later 6th century (pers comm Paul Spoerry). Brampton is not mentioned in the 7th to 11th century Anglo-Saxon charters (Sawyer 1968).
- 2.1.4 The Domesday Book recorded the land ownership in Brampton as part of the Leightonstone Hundred (Page and Proby 1974, 340 and 353). There were two landowners recorded. Firstly, 15 hides in Brampton were held by Edward The Confessor and this land passed to William I in 1066. There was land for 15 ploughs. There were 3 ploughs (on the demesne). 36 villeins and 2 bordars had 14 ploughs. The book recorded a church and a priest. There were 100 acres of meadow. The woodland for pannage (feeding of swine) measured half a league in length and 2 furlongs in breadth and there were two mills rendering 100 shillings. The manor was valued at £20 in both Edward the Confessor's time and in 1086. Ranulf, brother of Ilger, held custody of the manor. Secondly, Elric, the King's thegn, held a hide and a virgate in Brampton. There was land for 10 oxen. There were 3 bordars and one plough and was assessed as being worth 30 shillings.

- 2.1.5 The manor remained in the hands of the crown until 1194 when Richard I granted the manor to Lambert de Colonia (Page *et al* 1974, 13). Lambert leased the services of the villeinage lands for £20 a year. This was raised in 1197 to £30 and the farm was increased to £50 in John's reign (Page *et al* 1974, 13). In 1203 the manor was granted to David, Earl of Huntingdon. The manor passed through the female side in 1237 to Robert de Quincy. In 1239 the men of Brampton paid 60 marks for a confirmation of their farm (quoted in Page *et al* 1974, 14 from *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.) i, 3). The manor was granted to Henry de Hastings in 1241. In 1302 Lord Hastings received a grant of free warren in all his demesne lands of Brampton and Lymage (Page *et al* 1974, 15 quoting *Cal. Chart. R.* 1300-26, 31). In 1537 the manor returned to the crown who sold it on to Richard Cromwell in 1538, before going back to the crown in 1542. In 1622 the manor was granted to the Earl of Sandwich. This family held the manor until recently.
- 2.1.6 This royal manor was very important. William I, for example, used it extensively in his battle against Hereward the Wake who was based c.35km away in the Isle of Ely. During his battles against Hereward, William I is recorded retreating to Brampton with a small band of soldiers (Fairweather 2005, 210). William, and his court, stayed at Brampton planning their future tactical moves against Hereward (Fairweather 2005, 216-219). Hereward made his way to Brampton to spy on what William was doing but was captured and taken to the guard-house. While William was hunting in the royal forest (Harthay in the western side of the parish), Hereward escaped from the guard-house and went through a hedge to safety.
- 2.1.7 This Brampton royal manor played host to several kings (Henry I, Stephen, Henry II, John and Henry III), all recorded as staying at Brampton in order to hunt in the royal forest (Page *et al* 1974).
- 2.1.8 The VCH argues that the present post-medieval manor, rebuilt opposite the church in 1875 (Fig. 1, CHER HRO 02708), was probably the location of the original royal residence from before the Norman Conquest until the 13th century (Page *et al* 1974, 12). The VCH quotes two early post-medieval documents concerning the location of the manor (Page *et al*, 1974, 12 foot notes 13 and 14).
- " In 1595 the 'site of the manor or tenement called Lordship's house' is mentioned in the Cal. S.P. Dom. 1595-7, 11 and it was called Brampton Berry in 1652 (Close R, 1652, pt. 1, no 6)."*
- 2.1.9 The VCH is not certain of its location and it is possible that the manor was situated where the medieval/post-medieval manorial farm is recorded, to the south of the church (see Discussion Chapter 5). This land (partly in our subject site) was owned by the Earls of Sandwich in the post-medieval period and was therefore the manor farm of the main Brampton manor.
- 2.1.10 Other important land in Brampton includes Brampton Park, which can be traced back to the 12th century and was held in socage of the king until at least the 14th century (Page *et al* 1974, 15). The prebendal manor dated from 1146-9, when King Stephen granted the church of Brampton, with its lands, tithes and all appurtenances, for the foundation of a prebend in Lincolnshire Cathedral (quoted in Page *et al* 1974, 16). This land later went to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1848.
- 2.1.11 Within St. Mary's church, the VCH records there are a few pieces of 12th century chevron-ornament built into the walls but no part of the church is earlier than the 14th century (Page *et al* 1974, 17).

- 2.1.12 The size of Brampton was uncertain in the medieval period. A possible reference to Brampton, dating to 1319, records that it was taxed at urban rate as a borough that year, and in other years as a vill (Beresford and Finberg 1973, 126).

2.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 2.2.1 All HER entries are listed in Appendix B. The Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environmental Record (CHER) search examined an area of 0.5km radius around the site to provide a comprehensive overview of the area (Fig. 1).
- 2.2.2 HER entries relating to earthworks and archaeological excavations and surveys are detailed below in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 respectively.

Finds spots

- 2.2.3 Repairs to 37 High Street, 300m to the north-west, revealed a large collection of medieval and post-medieval objects behind the chimney breast. The objects included medieval pottery as well as a post-medieval whetstone, window glass, iron nails and undated slag and animal bones.
- 2.2.4 A Roman quern stone was found 350m to the north-west at the High Street (HER 00952).
- 2.2.5 Approximately 450m to the north-west, medieval carved limestone blocks (HER 07707), one with attached shaft and one with brooch-stop, were found in the foundations of a 17th century brick house when it was demolished c.1980.

Scheduled Ancient Monument, listed buildings and other building monuments

- 2.2.6 There is a single Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cambridgeshire 183), an 18th century milestone, 450m to the north. This milestone is also a listed building (HER 54558). There are an additional 16 listed buildings within the 500m search (Appendix B). The nearest buildings to the site include two grade II listed buildings to the west of the site (HER 54536 and 54537). The former is the Black Bull public house, a timber frame building which dates from the late 16th century or possibly earlier, while the latter is a late 18th century house.
- 2.2.7 Approximately 100m to the north is the medieval church of St Mary's (HER 54535). The church has architectural elements from the 12th century, although there was probably an earlier church on the site as the 1086 Domesday Book records a church at Brampton (see above).
- 2.2.8 The other listed buildings, all post-medieval and/or modern in date, are mostly along Church Rd further to the north and south of the site and along the High Street, directly to the west (see Appendix B).
- 2.2.9 Three non-listed buildings are recorded as surviving buildings or as a document recording in the HER records. A post-medieval bridge (HER 02553) is located 50m to the west of the site. It was built to carry Church Road over the Brampton Brook. It has four spans, the northern three are brick and the fourth of stone. All have been rebuilt but contain remains of 17th century or earlier masonry. Approximately 100m to the north-west of the site is a post-medieval building called the Manor house (HER 02708). The third is a former wind mill (HER 02555), approximately 450m to the east of the site, recorded on the 1757 estate map (Fig. 3, HRO ACC 223 part).

Park and gardens

- 2.2.10 Two park and gardens are recorded within the search area. Brampton Park (MCB15297), 50m to the west of the site, is recorded in post-medieval documents from the late 18th century. The other park and garden is the churchyard of St. Mary's church (HER 12031).

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

1757 Plan (Figs. 3 and 4)

- 2.3.1 The earliest cartographic evidence for the site comes from the 1757 estate map (Figs. 3 and 4; HRO ACC 223 part) which recorded the Lordship (Sandwich) Farm with South Holms and other lands of the Manor of Brampton. The site is part of an area labelled J (twice) on the plan. The map has recorded Area J as being House Yard and Home Close and this area is recorded as being 4 acres, 3 rods and 35 perches. Area J fronts onto an east to west road called Huntingdon Road (today labelled as Church Road) and is opposite another route way which is labelled as the High Street on later maps. Misleadingly, the 1757 map makers have included another part of the estate from elsewhere in front of the High Street (labelled field 44 etc.). The High Street existed well before 1757 with several of the properties along it being listed buildings dating from the 17th century onwards. A medieval architectural fragment was recovered from one site implying the High Street is medieval or earlier (Fig. 1; HER 07707 above). The land opposite the church, where the present 1875 post-medieval manor is located (Fig. 1, CHER HRO 02708), is recorded as being owned by Mr J Barnard.
- 2.3.2 The 1757 map is pre-enclosure and shows Brampton as having a vastly different field layout to the post enclosure maps dated 1772 and 1773 (Fig. 6). The 1757 plan gives significance to another route way, c.800m to the east of the site (which is less important in the post enclosure period (Fig. 6)). This route way runs north to south roughly parallel with and c.100m to the west of, the River Ouse. There are three main east to west route ways, roughly equal distances apart, leading from Huntingdon Road, around or through the site, towards the River Ouse and this north to south track-way (there is also another route way from the church).
- 2.3.3 The 1757 map refers in the title to the Lordship Farm. The structures labelled J are the only group of buildings on the map (Figs. 3 and 4). Later this area is called Manor farm on the 1st Edition Ordnance survey of 1887 (Fig. 7) and later maps. Alternatively, it is possible that the two names (House Yard and Home Close) each refer to substantial buildings fronting Huntingdon Road (now called Church Road) and three east to west out-house buildings to the east of them. There is a common entranceway between the two frontage buildings into the site. The northern out-building aligns east to west with the northern frontage building whilst the southern building roughly aligns with the two smaller east to west out-buildings. Unfortunately the northern boundary of property J is not recorded. The present Old Black Bull public house, known to date from at least the 16th century, and located between these frontage buildings and the church is not recorded on this plan and therefore presumably was not owned by Lord Sandwich.
- 2.3.4 A gateway to the south of the large east to west out-building led to a medium sized sub-rectangular field to the east. This field was de-marked on its western side by a ?ditch and to the north-west the wall of the churchyard. On its northern, eastern and southern extents the field has trees and hedges. On the south-eastern side of the field there is a gateway which leads to the route way parallel to the River Ouse. This is the middle of the three east to west route-ways discussed in Section 2.3.2 above.

- 2.3.5 On balance, it is more likely that this complex labelled J was the manorial farm. Of these building complexes on the 1757 map, one of the two east to west out-buildings is within the site. Most of the eastern field (apart from the northern area to the east of the churchyard) is also within the site.

1772 and 1773 plans (Figs. 5, 6 and two not printed)

- 2.3.6 There are four maps dating between 1772 and 1773 which include the proposed development area (Figs. 5, 6 and not printed). The 1772 and 1773 plans show the overall layout of the Brampton settlement for the first time, with the western areas including the complete High Street (Fig. 6). The 1773 plan seems to show a large sub-oval area using a small section of the Huntingdon Rd as the eastern side and High Street as the northern side. Large and small sub-oval greens dating from the Anglo-Saxon period have been suggested (Taylor 2002; Oosthuizen 2006) and it is likely that the Brampton example dates from at least the Middle Saxon period (see Discussion Chapter 5).
- 2.3.7 Importantly, the site (known as the manorial farm) leads directly onto the common on its eastern side. It is important to consider whether the location of the original manor at Brampton was at this manorial farm (see Discussion Chapter 5). This farm is directly to the north of the Brampton Brook which dissects the oval green neatly in half and three of the 1772 and 1773 maps includes a large sub-rectangular fish pond within the site adjacent to the brook.
- 2.3.8 All four 1772 and 1773 maps recorded the site differently. The 1772 draft map by Dumbleton and Hall (Fig. 5) seems to show a planned sub-rectangular courtyard set up (of which only the eastern half is within the site). The two frontage buildings remain from the 1757 plan but there are now linked east to west buildings from both structures. There are three on the northern side including the large outbuilding from the 1757 map and this structure joins up with the eastern corner of the courtyard. Two new east to west buildings are located on the southern side although there is a gap on the south-eastern corner. On the north-eastern corner of the courtyard there seems to be a gateway which leads to the field to the east. This gateway links up on its southern side to a north to south building which forms part of the eastern boundary of the courtyard. Adjacent to the south of this building is a large sub-rectangular pond with the long axis east to west. It ran into the eastern field, which has a feeder channel, close to the eastern corner, into the Brampton Brook. This is a classic shape for a medieval fish pond and it is drawn on some of the later 18th, 19th and 20th century plans (see Figs. 1 and 7-9). None of the other earthworks recently drawn within this field (Fig. 2; see Section 2.5 below) are on this plan. Two small outbuildings shown on the 1757 plan have been demolished including the eastern one within the site. For the first time there was also a small bridge across Brampton Brook, adjacent to the west of our site, providing a link to the field in the south of the subject site. This bridge is seemingly on all maps including the present day one (Fig 1).
- 2.3.9 The 1772 Tithe reapportionment map and the two 1773 plans (Fig. 6 and not printed) are very similar. All the out-buildings of the sub-rectangular courtyard do not appear on the maps, although the sub-rectangular pond was drawn on two (not printed). The 1887 1st Edition OS plan shows several of the 1772 out-buildings within the site and it is therefore not significant that these three maps do not display these out-buildings.

1835 one-inch Ordnance Survey map

- 2.3.10 The 1835 one-inch Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1808-1817 and published 1835; not reproduced here) shows that, despite being drawn to a very small scale, there was at least out-building(s) within the site.

1887 1st Edition OS map (Fig. 7)

- 2.3.11 The 1887 plan was very similar to the 1772 estate map (Fig. 4) showing a court-yard farm, although the middle out-building has gone on the northern side of the yard. The entrance into the field was through this location. The court yard structures are each divided up within their own plots and were bounded by walls around them. The eastern side within the site consisted of a large "L" shaped structure, combining two of the out houses shown on the 1757 plan (Figs. 3 and 4). The former large eastern field had its western boundary moved eastwards and the eastern part divided into two, thereby creating three fields from one. The sub-rectangular pond was still in use and the bridge shown running over Brampton Brook, although the bridge is just to the west of the subject site and the southern field was still empty (and this has not changed in all subsequent maps).

1900 2nd Edition OS map (Fig. 8)

- 2.3.12 The site was still labelled Manor Farm on the 2nd OS map sheet. The large "L" shaped outbuilding on the 1887 plan had gone. Two new east to west outbuildings are just within the northern boundaries of the site. There had been three separate fields within the 1887 plan and this was reduced to two with the western and southern fields amalgamated to form a single field. The sub-rectangular pond continued within the site.

1924 3rd Edition map (Fig. 9)

- 2.3.13 The 1924 map shows the site is still labelled as Manor Farm. All former buildings within the site have gone. The two fields have now amalgamated to become a single large field. The large sub-rectangular pond may have become disused as the map records grass growing out of it although a sluice is still recorded.

Modern Day map (Fig. 1)

- 2.3.14 The present day map shows that new structures have been built in the site. The former sub-rectangular pond has gone out of use, presumably backfilled as an east to west track ran across this location. The eastern field has been sub-divided into three smaller fields.

2.4 Aerial Photographs

- 2.4.1 The HER recorded known information from aerial photographs on the supplied map. No crop marks are shown on the HER although north to south ridge and furrow is recorded on fields adjacent to the east (Fig. 1, HER 07690).

2.5 Earthworks

- 2.5.1 An earthwork survey in 1988 recorded features within the site in the eastern field to the north of Brampton Brook (Fig. 2; Malim 1988; Fig. 1, HER 2653). Tim Malim described the earthworks as:

"the pond which is marked on the 25" (OS plans) map in the south of this field no longer exists but, it obviously formed the last of a series of ponds and their related channels. The whole field slopes gradually downwards from north to south and two terraces can be faintly traced both nine metres wide. These may be strip lynchets but, there is no definite evidence for this.

The first slope occurs at the northern edge of two ponds. The eastern of which is probably the first and highest of the series of three fish ponds as there is a definite channel running from this to the second and most distinct in the series.

Another circular depression in the western sector of the field forms part of the second slope; to the east of this depression is a very small channel which runs into the second pond but whose origin is unknown. The second pond, rectangular rather than round, dry and fairly large is connected with the now defunct pond to the south by a further channel."

To the east and north-east of the site, Tim Malim recorded other features including two ditches and a pond within a field which had north to south ridge and furrow surviving. Further to the east, up to 500m from the site, Tim found medieval strip lynchets (Fig. 1, HER 2746).

2.6 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

- 2.6.1 Five archaeological evaluations and excavations have been carried out in the vicinity of the site. There are two which are directly relevant to the site. The nearest, and of direct relevance, was an evaluation in 2007 by Albion Archaeology adjacent to the west within the former Manor farm frontage and a monitoring visit at St Mary's church in 1998.

Evaluation at Manor Farm, 29 Church Street (Fig. 1 CB 17768; Osborn 2007)

- 2.6.2 Four evaluation trenches were positioned around existing buildings (Osborn 2007). The evaluation found activity of probable medieval or post-medieval date within the northern part of the site (trenches 1 and 2). Here, there were two pits (1.35m wide and 0.66m deep and 1.25m wide and 0.33m deep respectively), a ditch (1.13m wide and 0.69m deep) and a gully (0.42m wide and 0.17m deep). One feature was dated to the Late medieval/early post-medieval period by brick or roof tile and St Neots pottery (N.B. medieval ceramic roof tile dates from around the 12th century and so this could be an early medieval pit). The three remaining features were undated. These features were sealed beneath a topsoil and subsoil ("B" horizon) collectively between 0.35m and 0.56m thick within most of this area (trenches 1 and 2). A further make up layer of 0.31m thick was seen only towards the centre of the site in the southern part of trench 2.
- 2.6.3 In the centre of the site a single trench (trench 3) was excavated. The earliest remains comprised two undated large features, tentatively labelled ponds, one c.0.8m deep and the other more than 0.50m deep. They both contained decaying organic waterlogged deposits. A worked flint and animal bone were retrieved from one. (N.B. these ponds were almost certainly medieval, pre-dating the plethora of buildings located on all plans from 1757; see below). Cutting the ponds was an undated post hole, an undated north to south ditch and a brick drain with its bonding recorded as being 'cemented'. The latter was declared to be modern, although it should be noted that this drain may be post-medieval - the report did not qualify why the brick was modern, no bricks were collected or reported on and no cartographic sources were consulted. If 'cemented' means Portland cement then this dates it from the middle of the 19th century. A modern 19th/20th century pit also cut the possible ponds. Between two and three layers with a

combined depth of 0.70m sealed these deposits. The earliest layer machined was a brick rubble layer on the eastern side, then a gravel surface which had acted as a farmyard surface across the trench, sealed in turn by brick rubble (these were not measured or aged and were just described as unfrogged bricks - but as frogs were introduced in 1690, and unfrogged bricks are still being made, this comment is not that helpful for description or for dating purposes). Trench 4 on the southern side found two brick walls but were not dated, described as 'cemented' and declared modern (N.B. these brick walls look roughly where there are buildings recorded on the 1772 map - they are very likely to be post-medieval (also see comment above). These two walls were sealed by 0.70m of gravel surface and brick rubble.

- 2.6.4 The evaluation uncovered very few artefacts, implying that domestic occupation was situated some distance from the site. Only two pottery sherds, a possible roof tile fragment, six bone fragments and 3 worked flint were reported on.
- 2.6.5 The report can be viewed in its entirety on line (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit/details.cfm?id=2365>) but it is important to note that it did not use any historic sources (VCH etc.), no map evidence, and seems to be entirely based on HER data sent. It is unfortunate that this clearly important site was not placed into its historic context and their assertion that the remains "appear to be of local interest" (Osborn 2007, 13) seriously understated the site.
- 2.6.6 The probable medieval ponds within the Albion site are adjacent to earthwork evidence of other ponds to the east including a fish pond and is additional evidence (from documents and historical maps) which suggests that this area was possibly part of the medieval manorial farm and this farm continued into modern times. The pits and ditches seen on the northern side of the 2007 archaeological site may have been contemporary with these ponds. Survival of foundations of former manorial farm brick buildings is significant and implies that the remains of other former brick buildings may survive within the site.

Monitoring at St Mary's Church (Fig. 1, CB 14753)

- 2.6.7 In 1998 Cambridgeshire Archaeology made a site visit to monitor rebuilding of a boundary wall between St. Mary's Church and the back plot of the Black Bull PH. The trench was only 0.5m wide, making recording difficult, 2m deep on the graveyard side and c.0.8m deep on the pub side. Probable medieval pits were observed within the trench.

Watching brief at the old Rectory (Fig. 1, 11968; Whittaker 1996)

- 2.6.8 Two trenches (20m and 16m long) were machine excavated c.200m to the north-west of the site. These trenches were positioned across two proposed houses within the rectory grounds. No archaeological features were identified, although one pottery sherd was recovered (Iron Age or Saxo-Norman) and two residual flints found might indicate earlier activity in the area.

Evaluation at 44 High Sreet (Fig. 1 MCB 17651; Sparrow, Woolhouse and Schofield 2007)

- 2.6.9 Two evaluation trenches, c.500m to the north-west of the site revealed one 19th/20th feature and a residual Roman pottery sherd.

Evaluation at 32 High Street (Fig. 1; Grant and Sutherland 2002)

- 2.6.10 An evaluation found no features or finds.

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 study area. These predictions should not be used to produce 'constraint maps'.

3.1 Prehistoric

- 3.1.1 Evidence of prehistoric land use or activity is very rare in the area looked at. There have been no features uncovered and worked flint have been found only as residual background scatters in two locations (directly to the west within the Manor Farm evaluation and 200m to the north-west at the Rectory). A possible residual Iron Age pottery sherd was found 500m to the north-west. It is unlikely that any major prehistoric buried remains exist on the site. However, the work conducted in the vicinity consist of small evaluations and the nature of evaluations means that isolated prehistoric features or areas of limited settlement could easily have been missed.

3.2 Roman

- 3.2.1 The Roman evidence consists of a residual pottery sherd found c.500m to the north-west and a Roman quern fragment c.350m to the north-west. The lack of Roman features or artefacts within the evaluation at Manor Farm to the west makes it very likely that there are no Roman settlement remains within the study area.

3.3 Saxon

- 3.3.1 Documentary evidence and the location of the site within the core of the historic village, between the church and Brampton Brook, implies there is a good chance that Saxon remains will be within the area. The subject site is possibly part of the manor/manorial farm. It is unlikely that any of the associated Saxon (and later medieval) buildings were within the site as they are likely to have been on higher ground nearer the church and close to the road frontage to the west. Backyard features such as pits and ditches are more likely to have been dug within the subject site.

3.4 Medieval and post-medieval

- 3.4.1 The remains of features belonging to both the medieval and post-medieval manorial farm (and possibly manor) are extremely likely to survive within the subject site. Earthwork remains within the site comprised three fish ponds and associated drainage channels which were all within a terraced landscape leading into the Brampton Brook. Adjacent archaeological work in 2007 to the west shows that further medieval ponds probably extended into the majority of the subject site. This archaeological work, and a monitor visit nearby in 1998 implies there may also be some pits and ditches within the western parts of the site, presumably from former medieval structures which had fronting onto the road.
- 3.4.2 Cartographic, documentary and archaeological evidence show that post-medieval manorial farm buildings were within the western parts of the subject site from at least 1757. There have been several different buildings within the site over the last 200 or so years. The 2007 evaluation to the west found some brick foundations and it is therefore very likely the foundations of some of these buildings and associated structures will have survived under later deposits.

- 3.4.3 For both the medieval and post-medieval period there is likely to be primary documentary evidence surviving which would provide better indications of what was within the subject site and adjacent to it (see Section 2.1.2).

4 DEGREE OF SURVIVAL

- 4.1.1 This section broadly assesses the degree of survival of archaeological remains in the areas defined by deposit mapping. The assessment takes the form of a prediction model based on probability and not certainty. It is intended as a guide only.
- 4.1.2 The degree of preservation of potential buried remains within the study area has been affected by several factors. The site is within the heart of the village and so has not been affected by medieval/post-medieval ploughing. The 1988 earthwork survey within the north, north-eastern and central eastern part of the site implies medieval archaeological remains survive on the surface. These features take the form of ponds - probably fish ponds - and related channels.
- 4.1.3 In the western side of the site, cartographic evidence shows there has been continuous rebuilding here for at least 200 years. The evaluation to the west of the site is a very good indicator of what is likely to survive within the subject site. Both areas were originally one and have identical history of use. This area to the west shows that medieval remains (ponds, ditches, pits) and post medieval/modern brick foundations of buildings do survive. These features were between 0.35m and 0.7m beneath late post-medieval or modern surfaces and make-up layers.
- 4.1.4 The survival of environmental deposits within the site may be good. Unfortunately, the fish pond nearest the Brampton Brook was continually re-used until modern times and so its backfill will be recent. The earthworks imply that other ponds to the north may have survived without later re-use - certainly no buildings are shown on the post-medieval maps in this part of the site. There is therefore the potential for medieval and earlier waterlogged deposits - indeed the 2007 evaluation to the west found organic deposits within the backfill of ponds. It is uncertain whether there is potential for pollen analysis.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Study area within the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval village layout

- 5.1.1 The place-name for Brampton derives from an Early English settlement which is likely to date from at least the 6th century (see Section 2.1.3). The location of this settlement within the parish is uncertain but it may be within the present village. The cartographic evidence seems to imply that Brampton was of at least Middle Saxon origin. The 1773 enclosure map shows Brampton comprising a large oval green with streets around it. The church is adjacent to the green, but importantly, was outside it along a main road. This Brampton village layout including the church, the royal manor (see below) and green are significant as all these factors imply that the Brampton settlement including the church was probably part of a planned Middle Saxon or earlier settlement.
- 5.1.2 Large and small oval greens dating from the Early or Middle Anglo-Saxon period have been suggested nearby for parishes in the southern part of Cambridgeshire on low-lying ground (Taylor 2002; Oosthuizen 1993; Oosthuizen 2006, 51-59) and at Stow Longa (Huntingdonshire) on relatively high land (Atkins forthcoming). Taylor has argued that this is perhaps suggesting centralised planning in this part of central eastern England. At Haslingfield, for example, Christopher Taylor and Sue Oosthuizen have suggested that the whole ovoid area was an ancient green (a 48ha site) and it may have been used as a very large ill-drained former meadow (Oosthuizen 1996 and 2003; Taylor 2002, 62). The positioning of the church in relation to the green is significant as Haslingfield's 11th century parish church was built just within the green indicating that encroachment into the former meadow land had therefore just begun at the time the church was initially constructed (Oosthuizen 2006 fig. 3.6, 54). Brampton's oval green is of a similar size to Haslingfield, on low land, but in contrast, the location of Brampton's St. Mary's church, is just outside the green, along a main road, which suggests that the church and green were contemporary.
- 5.1.3 This location of the Brampton church outside a green is very similar to Stow Longa, c.10km away to the south-west. St. Botolph's church, Stow Longa was a mother church to a large estate which archaeological and documentary records imply dated from at least the Middle Saxon period and this church became a prebend in the 12th century (Atkins 2009 and forthcoming). Brampton was also important, with the church and priest, and royal manor recorded in the Domesday book and it also became a prebendary church in the 12th century.
- 5.1.4 The evidence therefore points to Brampton's church as a Middle Saxon minster church which is likely to have been established with the royal manor and with the green as a focal point. The great importance of the Brampton royal manor is well documented as a base to hunt in the adjacent forest of Hathay (with at least five kings recorded using Brampton to hunt). This manor was also strategically important. This is evident in the fact that William I chose Brampton as his preparation base to attack Hereward the Wake with the court and army located here (see Section 2.16-2.17 above).
- 5.1.5 The location of this Saxon and medieval royal manor needs to be considered in relation to available cartographic, documentary, earthwork survey and archaeological work. The location to the south of the church (including the study area), needs to be compared against the possible location suggested by the VCH, opposite the church on the other side of the road to the west (see Section 2.1.8/2.19).
- 5.1.6 The two possible location points for the Saxon and medieval manor, to the west or to the south of the church, are both viable. They are both adjacent to the main road and

are outside, but close to the large oval green. This is comparable with other local examples. Oosthuizen, in a survey of three settlements in Cambridgeshire, found that in the Saxon period the manor occupied a commanding position in relation to the common entrance (Oosthuizen 1993, 100).

- 5.1.7 Unfortunately, in Brampton's case, there are no maps which show the location of the manor. The c.1875 building to the west of the church is called the manor house but the name on this Victorian structure is possibly not significant. The 1772 plan shows only an average size house on this site (Fig. 5).
- 5.1.8 The Brampton study site, to the south of the church (known as the manorial farm) led directly onto the common on its eastern side. A lot of Saxon manors and their manorial farms were formed as a joined unit within a single plot and Brampton could be an example of this. Alternatively, it should be noted that in some places the manor and its farm became separated. At Lime Street, Irthlingborough (Northants), the medieval manorial farm unit seems to have been moved onto a new site in the 13th century, a few hundred metres away from the main manor buildings (Chapman *et al* 2003). This southern area is directly linked to the River Ouse by a route-way unlike the other possible location to the west of the church (see 1757 map, Fig. 4). The River Ouse was important in the medieval period (see Section 2.3.2) although less so in the post-medieval period.
- 5.1.9 What we can say is that the study site certainly belonged to the manor in the medieval period. The 1988 earthwork survey by Tim Malim on the site (see Section 2.5), an archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm in 2007 (see Section 2.6) and cartographic evidence in several maps from 1772 (Fig. 5 etc.) collectively show there were fish ponds here, some linked by drainage channels within a terraced site. These ponds cover a significant amount of the area, from south-east of the church to the Brampton Brook. Medieval fish ponds in a secular context are almost always manorial. The site was within a manorial farm which the 1757 map confirms was owned by Lord Sandwich the then manor owner.
- 5.1.10 The study area is away from the road frontage, on relatively low lying ground near the Brook. Archaeological work on two adjacent sites to the study area and the 1988 earthwork survey suggest that the site will not only have medieval ponds but possibly pits and ditches within it (see Section 2.6). There is likely to be stratigraphy on the site as some of these pit and ditch features cut the ponds. Very few artefacts were found in the adjacent archaeological work which probably suggests domestic activity was well away from the site. It is uncertain where the medieval farm buildings were located. The 1757 and later maps show that post-medieval manorial farm buildings were built within part of the study area. The 2007 evaluation to the west implies it is very likely that the foundations of some of these structures will survive on the site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The object of this study was to assess the archaeological potential of the study area by drawing together all known documentary, cartographic and archaeological evidence from the surrounding area.
- 6.1.2 The site has a high level of archaeological potential for Saxon and later remains. These remains may relate to royal Saxon and medieval manorial and manorial farm activities. The 1988 earthwork survey within the study area, adjacent archaeological evaluations/monitoring works to the west in 2007 and north-west (1998) and the cartographic evidence suggest the medieval and post-medieval remains on the site may all be agricultural related (fish ponds and related drainage channels) and back plot remains such as pits. At some time (at least from the middle 18th century) there were manorial farm buildings within the study area.

APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF CHER ENTRIES

HER No.	Grid Ref	Keywords	Period	Form	Designation
ECB1248; 11968	TL 21409 70807	Modern features; worked flint; one pot sherd	Mod; Pre; U	Watching Brief	Monument; Findspot
ECB642; MCB14753	TL 21524 70682	Probable pits	Med?	Monitoring	Monument
ECB1022	TL 21112 70955	n/a	n/a	Evaluation	
ECB2488; MCB17768	TL 21446 70614	Pits, ditches and a gully. Possible ponds	Med, P-med	Evaluation	Monument
ECB2613; MCB17651	TL 21055 70924	One features; one Rom pot sherd	P- med, Rom	Evaluation	Monument
SAM183; 54558; 02590;	TL 2160 7094	Milestone at Bell End	P-med	Extant building	Scheduled Ancient Monument; Listed building Monument
54527; MCB18028	TL 21402 70517	Milestone	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54528	TL 21378 70440	No. 14 Buckden Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54529	TL 21319 70207	No. 1 Buckden Rd	Mod	Extant building	Listed building
54533	TL 21497 70780	No. 17 Church Rd	Mod	Extant building	Listed building
54534	TL 21505 70764	Nos. 19 and 21 Church Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54535 02706	TL 21487 70716	Church of St. Mary	Med	Extant building	Listed building; Building
54536	TL 21447 70666	No. 25 Church Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54537	TL 21434 70644	No. 27 Church Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54541	TL 21344 70656	Nos. 15 and 15A High St	Mod	Extant building	Listed building
54542	TL 21210 70747	No.35 High St	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54543	TL 21198 70738	No. 37 High St	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54544	TL 21166 70760	No. 41 High St	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54545	TL 21166 70794	No. 49 High St	Mod	Extant building	Listed building
54559	TL 21606 70912	No. 28 Huntingdon Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
54560; 02705	TL 21807 70878	No. 44 Huntingdon Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building Building
54561	TL 21742 70961	No. 23 Huntingdon Rd	P-med	Extant building	Listed building
00952	TL 2119 7077	Quern stone	Ro	Stone	Find spot
02553	TL 2141 7056	Bridge, Church Rd	P-med	Building	Monument

HER No.	Grid Ref	Keywords	Period	Form	Designation
02555	TL 219 706	Windmill	Med	Document	Monument
02653	TL 2152 7060	Ponds, Manor Farm	Med	Earthwork	Monument
02708	TL 214 707	Manor House	P-med	Extant building	Building
02746	TL 2195 7054	Medieval lynchet	Med	Earthwork	Monument
07667	TL 212 707	Medieval and post-medieval objects, 37 High St	Med; P-med	Pottery, stone, slag, glass etc	Find spot
07690	TL 218 706	Ridge and Furrow E of Church Rd	Med	Earthwork	Monument
07707	TL 211 708	Architectural fragments, High St	Med	Stone	Monument
12031	TL 215 707	Churchyard, St Mary's Church		Documentary	Park and garden
MCB15297	TL 20816 70329	Brampton Park	P-med	Documentary	Park and garden

Table 1 CHER entries

Key to periods:

Pre	Prehistoric
Ro	Roman
Med	Medieval
P-med	Post-medieval
Mod	Modern
U	Uncertain

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Historic maps consulted and used

HRO ACC 223 part Lordship Farm with South Holms and other lands of the Manor of Brampton by T Warburton and John Cadman

HRO Map 454 Draft Map 1772 by Dumbleton and Hall

HRO 1772 Tithe Apportionment map

HRO Map 308 Brampton Enclosure 1773

HRO Map 309 Enclosure Map 1773

1835 one-inch Ordnance Survey map

HRO Map 310 1841/2 Brampton Tithe Map

HRO First Edition Ordnance Survey 1887 Map Sheet XX1.4

HRO Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1900 Map Sheet XX1.4

HRO Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1924 Map Sheet XX1.4

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-72032		
Project Name	A desk-based assessment on land to the south-east of St Mary's Church, Brampton, Huntingdonshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	25-01-2010	Finish 05-02-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BRACHR10	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Research
Development Type	Other

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 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
Fishponds	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
ditches	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
buildings	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
	Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Huntingdon	Land to the South-east of St. Mary's church, Brampton, Huntingdon
Parish	Brampton	
HER	Cambridgeshire	
Study Area	0.5km radius	National Grid Reference TL 2150 7060

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	N/A
Project Design Originator	N/A
Project Manager	Toby Gane
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location N/A	Location OA East	Location OA East
Accession ID N/A	Accession ID BRACHR10	Accession ID BRACHR10

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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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"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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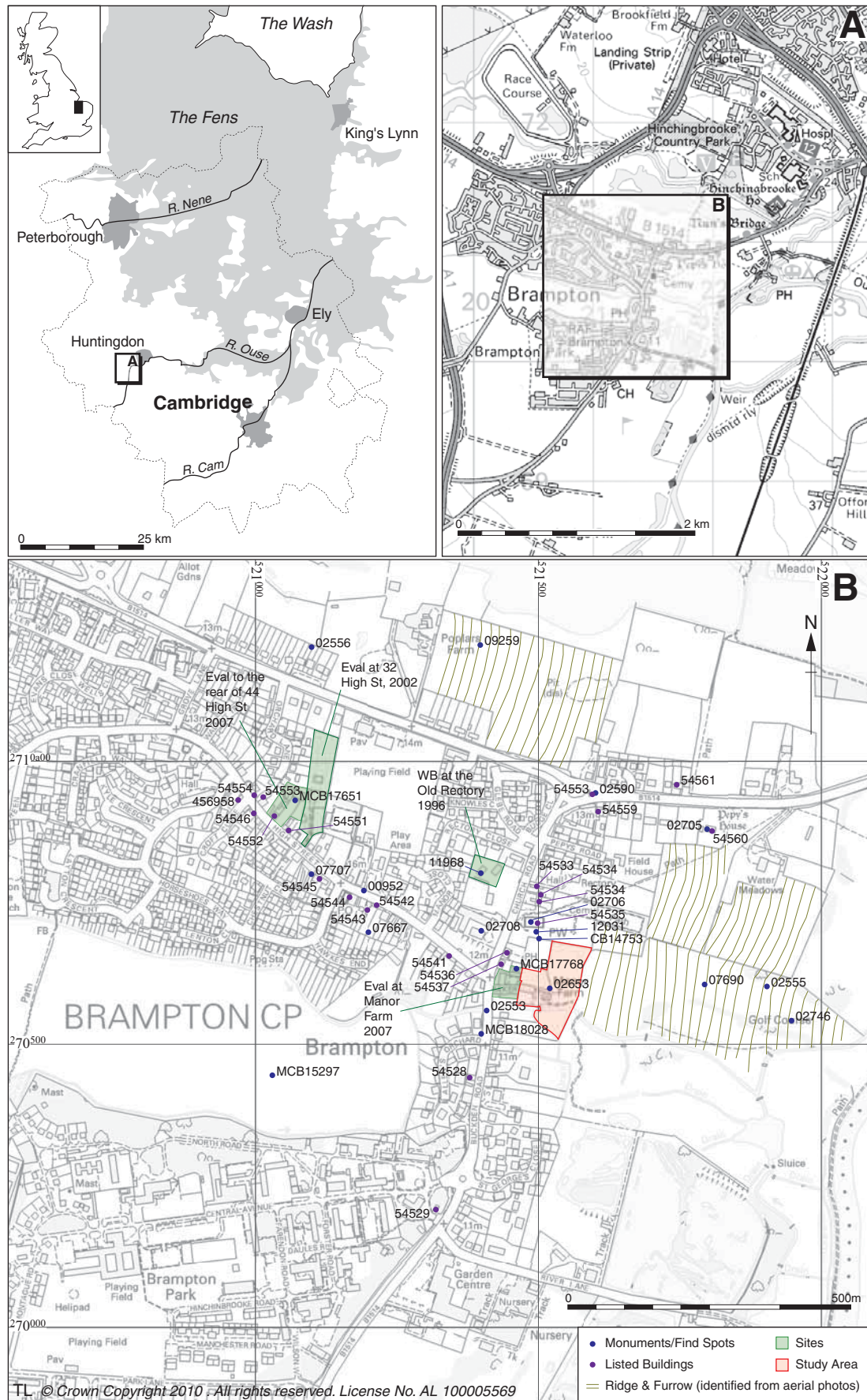


Figure 1: Location of study area showing local historic environment data



Figure 2: Earthworks in the vicinity of the study area (outlined red)



Figure 3: Study area (red) as seen on part of 'Lordship Farm with South Holms and other lands of the Manor of Brampton', by T. Warburton and John Cadman (HRO ACC 223)

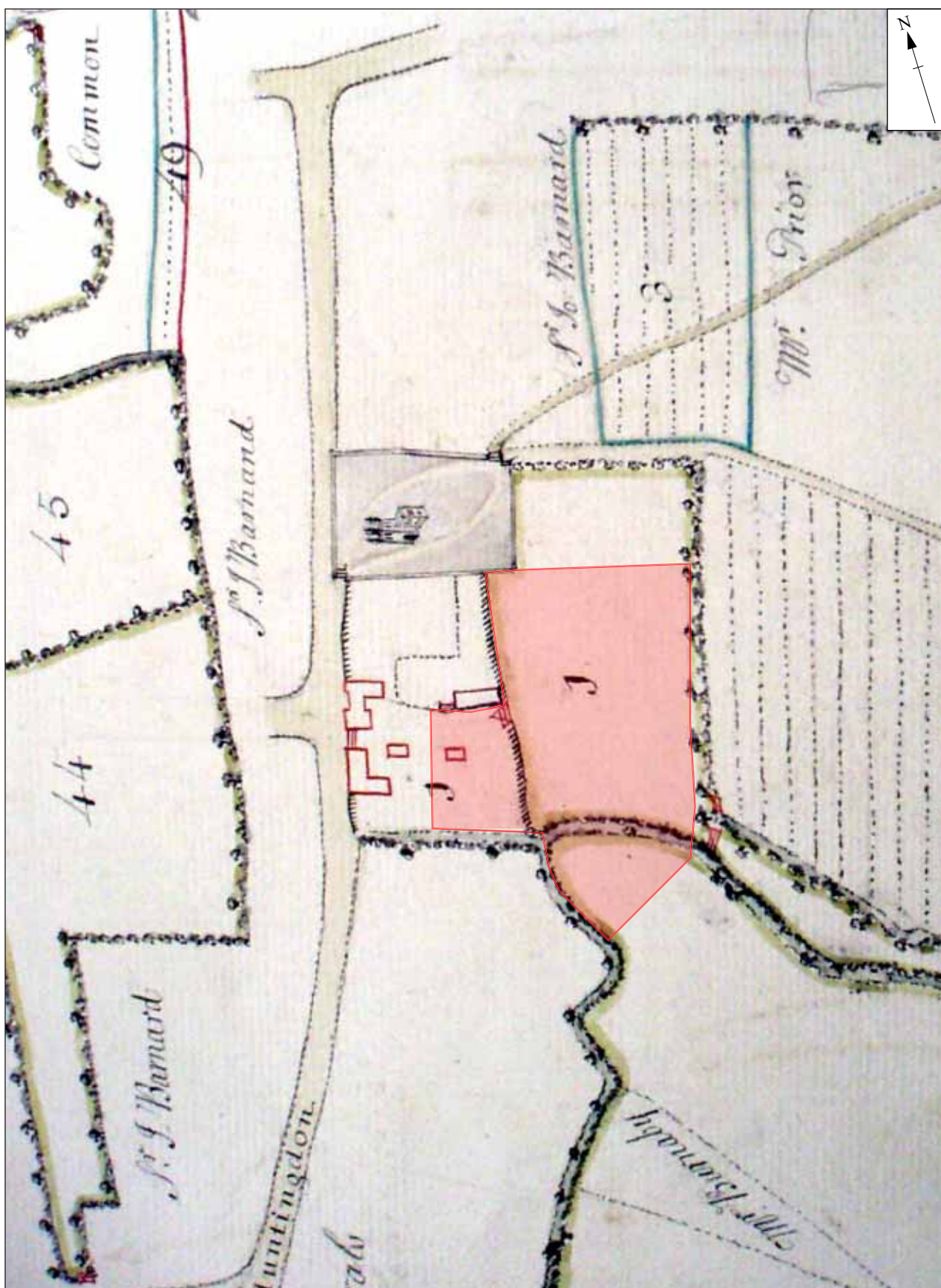


Figure 4: Close up of study area (red) as seen on part of 'Lordship Farm with South Holms and other lands of the Manor of Brampton', by T. Warburton and John Cadman (HRO ACC 223)



Figure 5: Study area (red) as seen on "Draft Map", 1772, by Dumbleton and Hall (HRO Map 454)



Figure 6: Study area (red) as shown on part of the Brampton Enclosure map, 1773 (HRO Map 308)

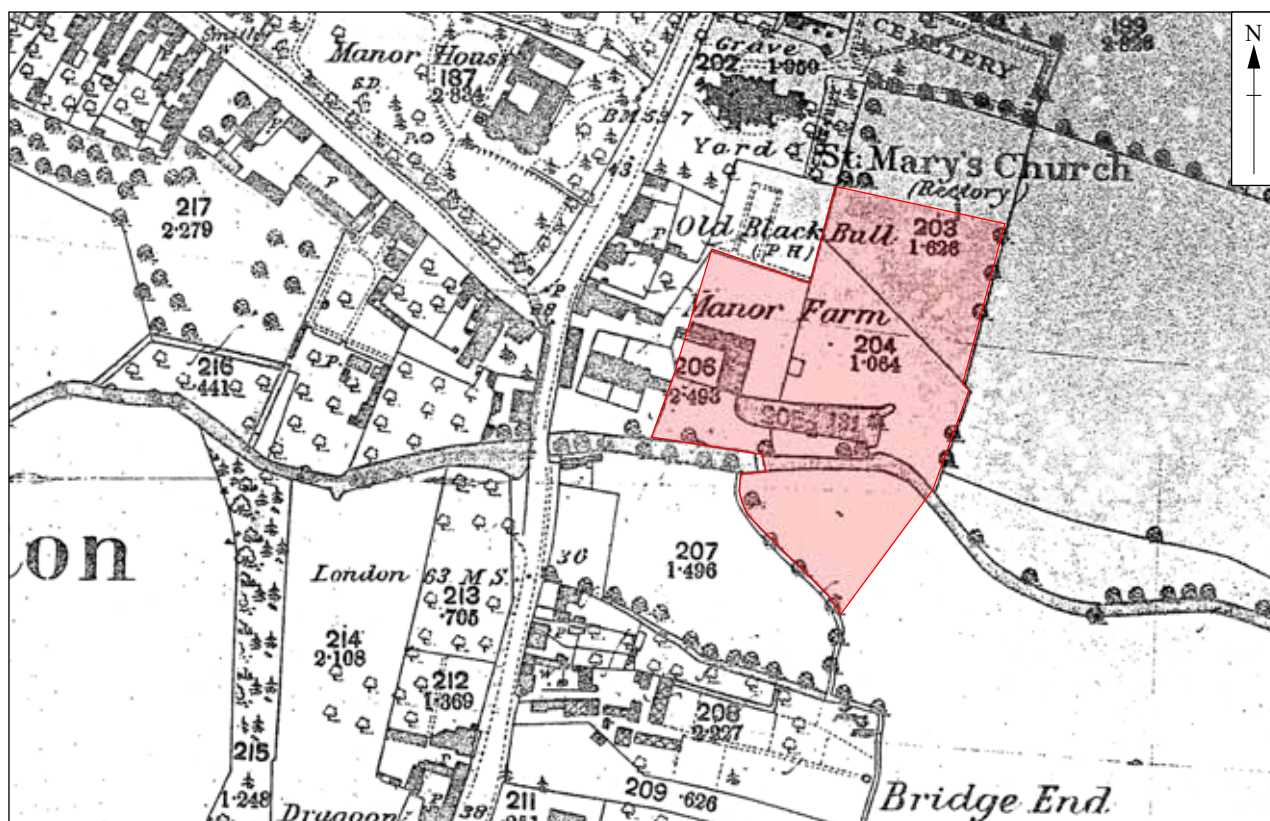


Figure 7: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, sheet XX1.4, 1887, showing study area (red)

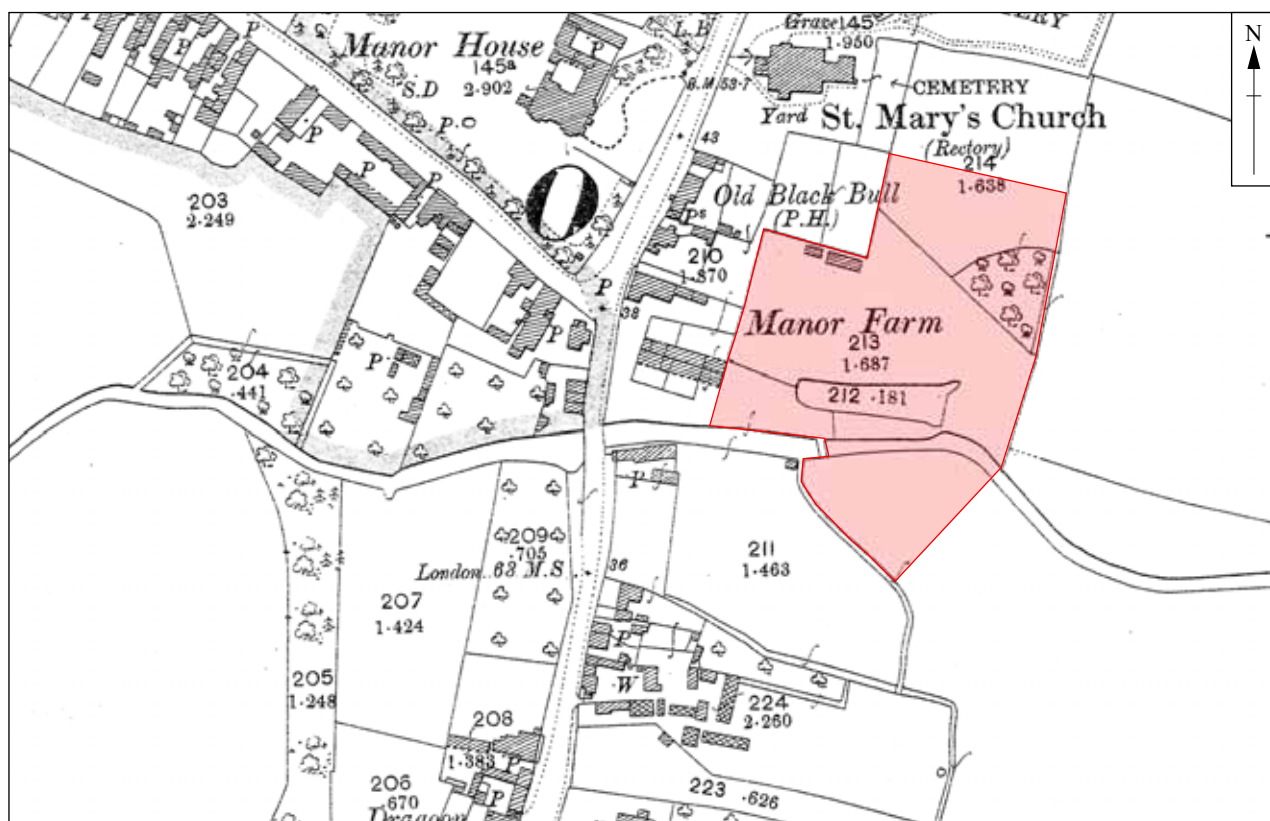


Figure 8: Extract from 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map, sheet XX1.4, 1900, showing study area (red)

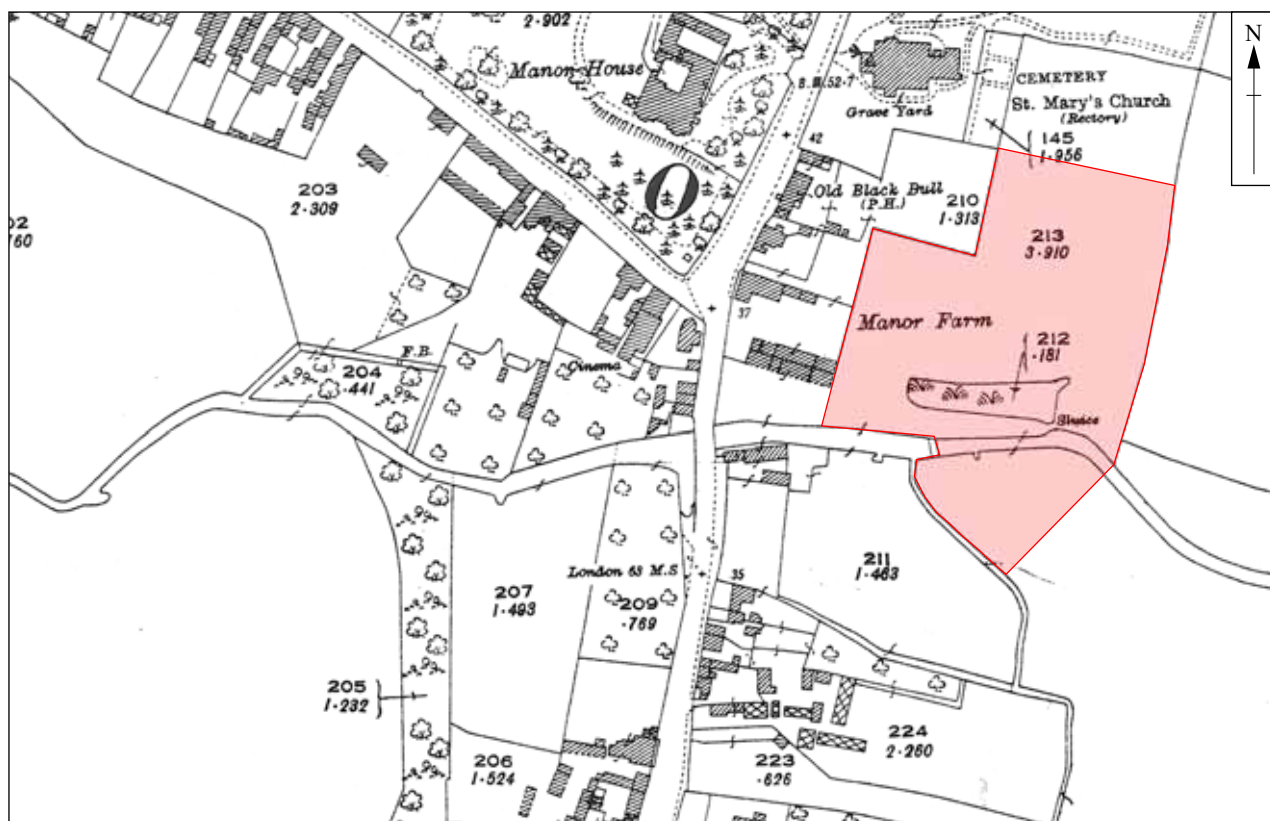


Figure 8: Extract from 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map, sheet XX1.4, 1924, showing study area (red)



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