

Land West of No. 1
Claybush Road
Ashwell
Hertfordshire



Heritage Impact Assessment



June 2016

Client: Croudace Homes

OA East Report No: 1939

OASIS No: oxfordar3-253224

NGR: TL 26780 39253

Land West of No. 1 Claybush Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire


Heritage Impact Assessment

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East has been commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment on a proposed 1.8 hectare development on the south-western edge of the historic village of Ashwell (centred on NGR 526780, 239253). This was undertaken in order to assess the archaeological resource of the Site and to appraise the potential impacts upon the surrounding Historic Landscape and the assets within it.

Evidence for archaeological remains (in the form of a Scheduled Monument, Listed Buildings, cropmarks, findspots and sub-surface remains) from the Neolithic through to the modern period have been identified within the 0.5km study area, but outside the proposed development Site. Remains of Bronze Age date have the most potential to be present within the Site due to the presence of a number of probable barrow cropmarks within the immediate vicinity. There is also a high potential for post-medieval/modern remains as an early 19th century windmill is known to have stood in the south-west part the Site, which is illustrated on historic maps between 1822 and 1888.

Overall, the assessment has indicated that there is a moderate likelihood for preserved archaeological remains across the Site and that the proposed development has the potential to adversely affect any sub-surface remains.

The assessment has also demonstrated that, according to established baselines, development of the proposed Site has the potential to have a Slight effect upon the Historic Landscape and also on Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument (which is located 0.6km south-west of the Site). The Listed Buildings, located in the historic core of Ashwell, on the northern side of the modern day village are all either Grade II or II Listed, the exception being the Church of St Mary which is Grade I Listed. The spire of St Mary's Church can be seen from the Site, therefore there is a Slight potential for impact upon the setting of this designated asset.*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) has been commissioned by Croudice Homes to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of land west of No. 1 Claybush Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR 526780, 239253, Fig. 1), ahead of proposed redevelopment of the land. The 1.8 hectare Site is made up of two plots of land; a large ploughed field encompasses the majority of the Site, with a long thin strip of land on its eastern side which is laid to grass. The Site is bounded on its north and eastern sides by housing and on its south and western sides by open fields.
- 1.1.2 This report will consider the buried archaeological resource within the proposed development area (referred to as 'the Site') which could, if present, be directly impacted on by any construction, along with any potential impacts on the setting of surrounding heritage assets.
- 1.1.3 This HIA will form part of the documentation submitted with the planning application. The results will enable decisions to be made by the Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council with regards to mitigating the impact of the proposed development upon any heritage assets.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed Site is located on the southern side of the village of Ashwell. Situated within the District of North Hertfordshire, it is located c.7m south-east of Biggleswade and c.7.5km west of Royston.
- 1.2.2 Ashwell parish is located along a chalk belt forming part of the Chiltern Hills which runs from the south-west of England in a north-easterly direction to East Anglia. The village is located on a scarp of this chalk belt, on a spring line where the chalk of the hills meets the impermeable clay of the lowlands. Ashwell Springs can be found 500m to the north-east of the Site, to the north of the High Street and west of Springhead where they form the source of the River Rhee.
- 1.2.3 In regard to the Site itself, a bedrock geology of Zig Zag Chalk Formation dominates, with peripheral Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation on the eastern and southern edges (BGS 2016). The Site is located on a north-facing slope, situated at a height of around 77m OD falling to 70m OD to the north.

1.3 Aims and Methodology

Data Capture

- 1.3.1 The aim of this HIA is to define the character, extent and significance of known heritage assets within and in the vicinity of the proposed development Site, taking into account any past impacts which may have affected the survival of any archaeology present on the Site itself.
- 1.3.2 For the purposes of this assessment a 0.5km radius of the Site, centred on NGR 526780, 239253 was studied (hereafter known as 'the search area'), in order to provide a context for discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site. This assessment draws on secondary historical sources, cartographic evidence, the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), a walkover survey and previous archaeological fieldwork. A comprehensive list of HER data within the search area can be found in Appendix A.

- 1.3.3 This HIA has been carried out according to standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in their guidance paper *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2014).

Assessment Methodologies

- 1.3.4 The importance of the cultural heritage resource, identified from the existing baseline knowledge of the search area, has been assessed using the definitions established in Annexes 5, 6 and 7 (cultural heritage sub-topic guidance) of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, HA 208/07.
- 1.3.5 DMRB HA 208/07 provides separate tables for assessing the potential and importance of Archaeological Remains (Table 5.1), Historic Buildings (Table 6.1) and Historic Landscapes (Table 7.1). For ease of reference, these tables have been combined into Table 1 below.

Importance of resources	Equivalent to
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites): Sites, buildings or landscapes of acknowledged international importance
High	Sites of National Importance, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I and Grade I* Listed Buildings and Registered arks and Gardens: Designated Historic Landscapes or those of outstanding interest or well preserved
Medium	English Heritage Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Historic or Archaeological sites of Regional or County Importance, Grade II Listed Buildings and locally designated buildings of historical importance: Designated special Historic Landscapes or undesignated landscapes of regional value or of average preservation, areas of Ancient Woodland (Ancient semi-natural woodland as mapped and designated by Defra) with demonstrated ecological value
Low	Locally Important Historic or Archaeological Sites: Sites with a local value for education or cultural appreciation, Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade, robust undesignated Historic Landscapes.
Negligible	Sites or features with no significant value or interest: Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade

Table 1: Criteria for evaluating the importance of the cultural heritage resource

- 1.3.6 The potential impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage set will be considered using the definitions laid out in HA 208/07, Section 3 (paragraphs 5.32-5.34) as set out in Table 2 below.

Magnitude of Impact	Description of Change
Major	Complete destruction or change to the site or feature resulting in fundamental change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting
Moderate	Change to the site or feature resulting in an appreciable change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting
Minor	Change to the site or feature resulting in a small change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting
Negligible	Negligible or no material changes to the site or feature. No real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting
No Change	Site or feature remains unchanged by the development. Context of monument remains entirely unchanged

Table 2: Criteria for evaluating the magnitude of impact on the cultural heritage resource

1.3.7 The effects of the development on the Site and surrounding landscape will be addressed using the definitions laid out in Table 5.1 of HA 208/07, Section 3. The significance of the effect may be defined as adverse, beneficial or neutral and are shown in Table 3 below. The effect is dependent upon the importance of the cultural heritage resource and the magnitude of the impacts.

Magnitude of Impact	Importance of Resource				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Major	Very large	Large or very large	Moderate / large	Slight / moderate	Slight
Moderate	Large or very large	Moderate / large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral / slight
Minor	Moderate / large	Moderate / slight	Slight	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight
Negligible	Slight	Slight	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight	Neutral
No Change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Table 3: Significance of environmental effects on the cultural heritage resource

- 1.3.8 Effects to be assessed are direct and indirect, temporary and permanent. A direct impact is an impact that will occur to the physical fabric of an asset and its curtilage, and will include any impact upon the setting of that asset. An indirect impact is one that might arise as a consequence of the construction of the development. For example it may affect viability of land, leading to changes in the management or land use of archaeological and/or Historic Landscape features.
- 1.3.9 A temporary effect (primarily upon the setting of archaeological monuments or Historic Landscape features) may occur during the construction phase. These effects may be removed following the completion of the construction process and their effect upon the historic environment is therefore reversible. A permanent effect will occur for example as a result of development including landscaping and associated drainage. A permanent effect is not reversible and will therefore include a below ground impact (upon archaeological deposits) of some temporary elements of the scheme, including soil storage, contractor site compounds and access routes and erection of other facilities.
- 1.3.10 Relevant aspects of the Historic Landscape and Historic Buildings will be considered and the degree of potential impact from the development. The degree of impact is dependent upon the significance of the asset, meaning the value of the asset itself must be considered. This significance can be broken down into four categories:
- 1.3.11 **Evidential:** does (or might) the asset contain evidence which could contribute to research and understanding about the past.
- 1.3.12 **Historical:** does the asset and what we know about it tell or illustrate an historical narrative, or an aspect of history or life in the past. Or is it associated with a well known person from the past.
- 1.3.13 **Aesthetic:** does the asset define the historic character of a place or trigger emotional responses, through its beauty, its impressive character or other aesthetic characteristics.
- 1.3.14 **Communal:** the asset may be associated with a past event or communal activity which may continue to the present day. There need to be a real communal association with the place or asset's history, not just a fortuitous use.

1.4 Planning Policy Legislation

National Planning Policy

- 1.4.1 Several pieces of legislation recognise the importance of the historic environment and provide protection for heritage assets of particular importance. For archaeology, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979, which covers Scheduled Monuments, is key. For the built heritage the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990 provides protection mechanisms for buildings or areas of architectural or historical significance. The Planning Act of 2008 also makes reference to Scheduled Monuments and their setting.
- 1.4.2 At a national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 replaces the 2010 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5. The NPPF covers all aspects of the historic environment within a common set of policies. These recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource and that heritage conservation has wider benefits, while accepting that the level of conservation should be proportionate with the significance of the assets concerned.
- 1.4.3 The NPPF is based on twelve core land-use planning principles. The most pertinent of which states the need to:
- Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations*
- 1.4.4 The glossary to the NPPF (Annex 2) provides definitions of key terms relevant to the setting of heritage assets:

Archaeological interest: a heritage asset which holds or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

Designated heritage asset: a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.

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

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

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

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

- 1.4.5 Section 12, paragraphs 128-132 of the NPPF set out the approach to be adopted for assessing heritage assets in order that their significance, the impact of proposed development on that significance and the need to avoid or minimise conflict between a heritage assets conservation and proposed development, can be understood:

Paragraph 128- In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

- 1.4.6 In specific relation to designated heritage assets, paragraph 133 of the NPPF states that, where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.
- 1.4.7 Paragraph 134 states that, where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.
- 1.4.8 Paragraph 135 states that, the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage assets.

Hedgerow Regulations

- 1.4.9 With respect to ancient hedgerows, the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 make provision for the protection of hedgerows considered to be of archaeological, historical, landscape and/or natural importance. The regulations state that a hedgerow can be considered to be 'important' if it meets certain criteria as defined in Schedule 1, Part II of the Regulations. The relevant criterion is:

1- The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary of at least one historic parish or township

5- The hedgerow:

- a. Is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts*

Local Planning Policy

- 1.4.10 The North Hertfordshire District Local Plan Number 2 (originally adopted in 1996 but updated in 2007) lays out its policies on areas of archaeological significance and other archaeological areas (Policy 16).
- 1.4.11 For archaeological areas, Policy 16 states:
- The Council may require a preliminary evaluation of any potential archaeological remains before deciding to permit or refuse development proposals*
- 1.4.12 For areas of archaeological significance, Policy 16 states:

A preliminary evaluation will be required as part of the application for development which could disturb any possible archaeological remains

- 1.4.13 The Local Plan goes on to state that if archaeological remains are considered to be of national importance then the archaeology should remain intact and undisturbed. Further to this, development proposals will be rejected if they are seen to adversely affect an important archaeological site or its setting.
- 1.4.14 On sites where the Council permits development, with conditions depending on the archaeological value will mean the necessity for:
- i. An excavation before development; and/or*
 - ii. Facilities and an agreed period of time for access to the site for an investigation and/or for 'observation' of the groundworks as development progresses; and/or*
 - iii. Other measures as necessary; and/or*
 - iv. A contribution from the Developer towards the funding of any relevant investigation*

Heritage Guidance

- 1.4.15 Guidance for conserving and enhancing the historic environment and for the treatment of designated and non-designated heritage assets can be found in:
- Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport (2013) *Scheduled Monuments and nationally important but non-scheduled monuments*
 - English Heritage (2008) *Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*
 - Historic England (2015) *The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans*
 - Historic England (2016) *Making Changes to Heritage Assets*

Effect of Legislation

- 1.4.16 Legislation provides for the protection of the most important and best preserved archaeological sites and monuments through their designation as Scheduled Monuments. Historic buildings can be protected through being added to the list of buildings of particular architectural or historic interest. Such designations are intended to protect heritage assets from disturbance. Only in certain approved and tightly controlled circumstances may designated heritage assets be altered.

1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The author would like to thank Croudace Homes for commissioning this assessment. HER data was provided by Isobel Thompson of the HHER. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

2.1 Heritage Resource

- 2.1.1 The Hertfordshire HER is the main repository of cultural heritage data for the county. An HER search was carried out of the proposed development area and a 0.5km radius around it. The records include monuments, findspots, Historic Buildings and any archaeologically sensitive areas. The HER is not a record of *all* surviving elements of the historic environment and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.
- 2.1.2 Within the search area, the HER records a total of 119 designed and undesignated heritage assets. These consist of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, cropmarks, findspots, and archaeological investigations (Figs 2-3). A gazetteer of all heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) can be found in Appendix A along with records of any archaeological investigations. Each record has an individual identifying number which is referred to in the text where relevant and marked on the figures.
- 2.1.3 Reference numbers for the Hertfordshire HER records are prefixed with 'MHT' for 'monument' records (*i.e.* actual heritage assets) and 'EHT' for 'event' records (archaeological investigations).

Designated Assets

- 2.1.4 The Hertfordshire HER holds 46 records of designated heritage assets within the 0.5km search area. These are made up of Scheduled Monuments (Fig. 2) and Listed Buildings (Fig. 3).

Scheduled Monuments

- 2.1.5 There is just one Scheduled Monument in the vicinity, located 0.6km south-west of the Site. Arbury Banks (SM number 1008981) is an Iron Age univallated hillfort. Measuring 290m by 245m, the defences consisted of a ditch with an internal bank. The ditch, although no longer visible as an earthwork survives as a buried feature and is visible on aerial photographs. The ditch averages 5m in width. Antiquarian excavations in the 1850s on the ditch found it to be 4.5m deep. The internal bank survives only intermittently and measures a maximum of 2.5m in width and survives to 1.2m in height. Two causeways give access to the hillfort. The interior of the monument contains cropmark features, identified through aerial photography. These cropmarks consist of rectangular, square and curvilinear enclosures, hut circles and pits which survive as sub-surface remains.

Listed Buildings

- 2.1.6 Within the search area there are 45 Listed Buildings, dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods, all of which are located within the historic core of Ashwell to the north of the Site. All but six of these buildings are Grade II listed, the remaining six are Grade II*. The closest Listed Building to the Site is a 15th century timber framed hall house (162163), located c.300m to the north on the corner of Bear Lane and High Street. Just outside of the search area is the Grade I listed St Mary's Church (162177), dating from 1381.

Undesignated Assets

- 2.1.7 The Hertfordshire HER holds 73 records for undesignated heritage assets in the search area. These span all periods of human occupation from the Neolithic through to modern.

Neolithic (c.4000-2500BC)

- 2.1.8 There is evidence in the wider landscape that the high ground to the south of Ashwell was utilised during the Neolithic, with a number of long barrows having been recorded. A single cropmark of probable Neolithic date is known of within the search area (2360) c.360m to the east of the Site. This consists of an east-west aligned sub-rectangular enclosure with unvallated ditch and entranceway to the north. The cropmark measures c.50m long and c.17m wide and is believed to be the remains of a Neolithic long barrow.

Bronze Age (c.2500-800BC)

- 2.1.9 This funerary landscape continued in use through into the Bronze Age, with an extensive number of burial mounds being located to the south of Ashwell. Situated approximately 260m and 380m south of the Site are the cropmark remains of two ring ditches (4750 & 2379) that probably represent the ploughed-out remains of burial mounds. The cropmarks measure 16m and 17m in diameter. Slightly beyond the search area, approximately 0.6km to the north-east of the Site, are a further five similar cropmarks (2424, 2468, 2469, 4717 & 7911).

Iron Age (c.800BC-AD43)

- 2.1.10 The only recorded Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the Site is Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument (SM number 1008981), which has been discussed above (in paragraph 2.1.5).
- 2.1.11 By the mid 1st century BC the focus of this territory had shifted from Arbury to Baldock, where a settlement with religious as well as domestic functions developed (Thompson 2002, 4). Across this organised landscape ran the Icknield Way, located approximately 2km to the south of Ashwell. This ancient long-distance routeway ran along a chalk ridge stretching from Wessex as far as Norfolk or Suffolk (May 1982, 1). In this area the A505 from Letchworth to Royston roughly follows its course. The Icknield Way once formed part of the boundary between Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, running through Royston where it crosses Ermine Street Roman road.
- 2.1.12 The Icknield Way is believed to have been associated with trade, exchange and long distance communication (Wright 1971, 12) and may have been used for the movement of cattle, sheep or other livestock as well as people and goods. It is thought to be prehistoric in origin although there is much discussion regarding its date, exact route and indeed whether it would ever have been known by a single name, or was even a single track (Harrison 2003).

Romano-British (c.AD43-410)

- 2.1.13 Ashwell did not develop into a Roman town: the nearest small town in this period was Baldock. Nonetheless, cropmark evidence shows that it lay within a well-organised rural landscape (Thompson 2002, 4).
- 2.1.14 The Site is located to the south of Ashwell Street (4692) which is historically recorded as a Roman road. The road is likely to be earlier in origin and may have been used as a seasonal alternative to the Icknield Way. In *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands* it is listed as road number 230 running from TL2790 4000 to TL2815 4017 and is noted as being 'of long standing but of obscure origin' (Viatores 1964, 489).
- 2.1.15 Branching off from Ashwell Street in a south-westerly direction is a further trackway (31086); one of the entrances to the Site is located off this route. The track originally led from Ashwell Street to Newnham and then joined to the Roman road north of Baldock. This trackway was removed at Enclosure (in 1863) when the local roads were

rerouted. Again, as with Ashwell Street, the exact origins of this trackway are unclear, but are likely to date back to the Roman period.

- 2.1.16 The closest known archaeological remains from this period are located approximately 160m north-east of the Site and consist of a substantial ditch containing Roman pottery in its upper fills (13707, Walsh *et al.* 2000 & Winter 2008).

Anglo-Saxon (c.AD410-1066)

- 2.1.17 Ashwell is probably a Late Saxon planned town, with its original location believed to be situated on the northern side of the present village, around the curving boundaries of Mill Street (21). A test pitting survey across the village however produced only one sherd of handmade pottery dating from the mid 5th to late 7th century (Lewis 2012, 47), suggesting that the Late Saxon centre lay beyond the medieval village, possibly in the vicinity of Ashwell Bury to the north (Lewis 2013, 84).

- 2.1.18 The Domesday Book (of 1086) described Ashwell as one of only five boroughs in the county (Thompson 2007, 6). A borough being a planned town with rights given to its burgesses, and intended as a place of trade. The topography suggests a Late Saxon manorial estate at Ashwell Bury, with a series of tofts lining the High Street from the springs to the 'west manor' at Westbury (Thompson 2007, 6).

Medieval (c.AD1066-1500)

- 2.1.19 The Domesday Book (Morris 1976) reveals that in 1086 Ashwell belonged to several different owners. The borough itself belonged to the Abbey of Westminster, as it had done since being given by Edward the Confessor before the conquest. The population comprised 14 burgesses, 16 villagers, 9 smallholders, 9 cottagers and 4 slaves, and their households. It also had a priest, and two watermills.
- 2.1.20 Ashwell was a nucleated village with other scattered knots of settlement, called Ends, such as Ashwell End and Slip End. The parish was organised into huge open fields to the north and south and was noted for growing barley (Thompson 2002, 7).
- 2.1.21 There are a total of six records pertaining to medieval occupation within the search area, four of which relate to buildings located on the northern side of the village (13485, 15473, 15738 & 15742). The closest known archaeological remains of this date are located at Ashwell Primary School, c.160m north of the Site (15270). Here an archaeological watching brief identified two north-east to south-west aligned ditches of a medieval date (Wilson 2008). A single findspot of a pilgrim's badge dating to the first half of the 15th century (4879) has also been found on land off the High Street (c.0.3km north-west of the Site).

Post-medieval and Modern (c.1500-present)

- 2.1.22 Within the search area are a total of 27 assets of post-medieval or modern date, of which 20 relate to buildings or the location of former buildings across the northern side of the village (these are listed in Appendix A).
- 2.1.23 Records show that a windmill (5979) used to stand within the proposed Site boundary. Belonging to William Kitchener, it was in production from at least 1822 until around 1890. The mill first appears on Bryant's Map of 1822 (Fig. 5) and is last seen on the 1888 OS County Series (not reproduced). Kitchener's mill was a smock mill, meaning the tower at the top of the structure to which the sails were attached could rotate, thus enabling the sails always to face into the wind. Other mills are also recorded close to the Site. Located 150m to the north-east was Edward Fordham's post mill (11356), which too was in production approximately between 1822 and 1890.

- 2.1.24 A further mill (4457) is known to have been located around 250m east of the Site and is believed to pre-date Kitchener's and Fordham's mills (Thompson 2002, 23). A cropmark located just 180m east of the Site is also cited as being the remains of another windmill (4458). The cropmark consists of a 15m diameter circular enclosure. However, it is also possible that this cropmark relates to a Bronze Age burial mound.
- 2.1.25 A number of lime kilns and chalk pits are also located in the vicinity. To the immediate north-west of the Site are the remains of one such chalk pit and kiln (11358) which dates to around 1840. Another lime kiln (11359) is recorded c.250m to the north-east on the corner of Ashwell Street and Kingsland Way. Its associated chalk pit is located on the other side of Ashwell Street. This extensive quarry is first shown on Bryant's Map of 1822 (Fig. 5) and is still present on the 1986 OS map (not reproduced here). A final kiln and chalk pit is recorded on historic maps immediately outside of the Site to the north-east, on the corner of Ashwell Street and Claybush Road (however it does not have an HER number). The pit is first illustrated on the 1877 OS map (Fig. 7) and still present on the 1960 OS map (not reproduced).
- 2.1.26 The final record of post-medieval date within the search area relates to a collection of at least eight pillow mounds (7863) c.0.3km south-east of the Site. These features were constructed for the management of rabbits and usually date from the 16th-18th century.

Undated

- 2.1.27 An aerial photographic survey undertaken in 2010 (17046 & EHT1685) on land to the south of the Site identified the remains of a series of ditches and pit groups. No further investigations have yet been done to ascertain the date of these features.
- 2.1.28 A lone inhumation burial (456) was located around 0.3km north-east of the Site, close to Ashwell Street. At the time of excavation it was suggested to be of Anglo-Saxon date, however there is no evidence to support this. Located just to the north of this (and potentially associated with it) are the cropmark remains of a rectangular enclosure (2319) measuring approximately 25m long and 16m wide.

2.2 Historical Sources

- 2.2.1 The origins of the village name, Ashwell, is believed to have been a descriptive place-name deriving from 'Ash' and the Old English for 'well' or 'spring' (Gover *et al.* 1938). In the Domesday Survey of 1086, Ashwell is spelled '*Escuelle*' and was located within the Odsey Hundred (Morris 1976).
- 2.2.2 Within the village itself there were three manors – Westbury, Digswell and Ashwell. The manor of Ashwell, originally part of the demesne of the Crown, was granted by Edward the Confessor in his first charter to the abbey of St Peter, Westminster, dated December 1066. The Domesday Survey records that, of the six hides at which the manor of Ashwell was assessed, the abbot himself held two and a half in demesne. At this time the manor was evidently a large one, with land for 12 plough teams and meadow sufficient for six. Peter de Valognes held half a hide and Geoffrey de Mandeville one virgate of the abbot. There is nothing particularly worthy of note concerning this manor during the period of nearly 500 years during which it was held by the Abbots of Westminster. The abbots possessed here, as in their other manors, the privileges of free warren (Page 1912, 199-209).

2.3 Archaeological Fieldwork

- 2.3.1 A number of archaeological investigations have taken place across Ashwell, consisting of watching briefs, evaluations, excavations, Historic Building recording and air photographic survey (Fig. 3).
- 2.3.2 The closest fieldwork to the proposed Site is located around 140m to the north in the vicinity of Moules Yard. Part of a large ditch and a collection of pits believed to be of Roman origin were uncovered to the rear of No. 48 Ashwell Street (EHT1179 & EHT1220, Winter 2008) along with two undated parallel ditches (EHT7632, Ashworth 2013). Also in this area, two later medieval ditches were recorded during a watching brief at Ashwell Primary School (EHT1254, Wilson 2008).
- 2.3.3 A series of aerial photographic surveys have been undertaken to the south and east of the Site (EHT1651, EHT1685, EHT2563 & EHT3567). These surveys identified a number of cropmarks including ditches, pits and sub-rectangular enclosures. In addition, an excavation on land off Walkden's cul-de-sac, 0.6km east of the Site, revealed a Late Neolithic Class II henge monument with associated pits and a Bronze Age cremation (Greef 2015).

2.4 Walkover Survey

- 2.4.1 In order to accurately assess any potential impacts the proposed development might have on the Historic Landscape, a walkover survey of the proposed Site was carried out on the 15th April and again on the 26th May 2016 (Fig. 4). On the days of the walkover survey, the weather was hazy sunshine then overcast. The objective of the walkover survey was to view on the ground any recorded heritage assets such as buildings and cropmarks which could potentially be impacted upon as well as any heritage assets which have so far remained unrecorded. The walkover survey also aims to find any areas of modern disturbance that may have impacted upon heritage assets.
- 2.4.2 The Site is made up of two plots of land. The eastern access off Claybush Road (Plate 1) initially adjoins a small thin grass covered plot (measuring roughly 100m long and 20m wide), this area runs broadly north-south and is lined on both sides with trees (Plate 2). Beyond the limit of the Site here, the spire of St Mary's Church is partially visible. The remainder of the Site consists of a single ploughed field. Plate 3 takes in the entirety of the Site. Again, the spire of St Mary's Church is visible from this point. Plate 4, taken from the northern edge of the Site highlights the moderately steep topography of the Site.
- 2.4.3 No new heritage assets were identified during the walkover survey, however a moderate amount of unworked naturally occurring flint was seen across the field, giving the potential for there to be worked flint finds in the vicinity. No areas of modern disturbance were identified, however, three small patches of chalk were seen along the western edge of the proposed development (one of which is illustrated in Plate 5). These could indicate that the natural geology below the topsoil is slightly more varied compared with what can be seen on the surface, but could also potentially be the result of deep ploughing at some point in the past.

2.5 Cartographic Evidence

- 2.5.1 The study of maps and associated historical sources is helpful in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the Site in two ways. Firstly, it suggests aspects of the medieval and later land-use prior to any modern development. Secondly, it pinpoints

areas within the Site that as a result of development or other measures such as quarrying, potentially could have become archaeologically sterile.

- 2.5.2 The earliest map for the Site is Bryant's map of Hertfordshire 1820 (Fig. 5). Whilst not very detailed, the map does show the windmill which is located within the Site. It also shows the former trackway which led from Ashwell Street past Arbury Banks (labelled on the map as "Roman Camp"). The Tithe Map of 1841 gives more detail of the Site (Fig. 6). Enclosure of the open fields did not take place in Ashwell parish until 1863, therefore this map shows the open field to the south of Ashwell Street (Clay Bush Field) with many of its medieval strips still in existence. The Site encompasses part of six of these strips. The south-westerly aligned track to Arbury Banks can still be seen at this point. There is also another north-south aligned track leading off from this (to the west of the Site), which is broadly parallel to Claybush Road. The chalk pit south of Ashwell Street is shown, as is the windmill in the south-western corner of the Site (see paragraphs 2.1.23 and 2.1.25).
- 2.5.3 The OS map from 1877 shows the Site in detail (Fig. 7). The trackway leading to Arbury Camp has disappeared by this time. The lime kiln and quarry (see paragraph 2.1.25) immediately outside of the Site where Claybush Road meets Ashwell Street is clearly marked. The windmill within the site is also shown in detail, along with an apparent track leading up to it. Here it is labelled as a corn mill.
- 2.5.4 The 1901 and 1924 OS maps are fairly similar to one another (Figs 8 & 9). They still show the chalk pit and lime kiln just beyond the Site limit, however the windmill has disappeared. The 1901 map shows the Site to be made up of two fields, which are subsequently merged by the 1924 map. The only other aspect of note is the construction of the waterworks and reservoir at the south-eastern corner of the Site.

3 DEPOSIT MAPPING

3.1.1 In this section, based on the mapping of all surrounding monuments and events, an attempt has been made to predict the existence of further remains, specifically within the Site. This assessment has shown that the Site lies within a wider landscape that contains a high degree of evidence for human occupation from the Neolithic period onwards. It is clear from the HER maps (Figs 2 & 3) that the surrounding landscape is dominated by known areas of archaeology.

Neolithic

3.1.2 There is evidence across the wider area for a Neolithic funerary landscape. Within the immediate area of the Site (c.0.3km east), are the cropmark remains of a probable Neolithic long barrow. Further to the east, recent archaeological fieldwork also identified a Late Neolithic henge (Greef 2015). It is therefore considered that the likelihood of Neolithic remains on the Site is **moderate**.

Bronze Age

3.1.3 Cropmark evidence for burial mounds suggest the continued use of this landscape for funerary activity. A total of seven such burial mounds are located within 0.6km of the Site (with two being less than 400m away). It is considered that the potential for archaeological remains of a Bronze Age date is **moderate to high**.

Iron Age

3.1.4 The only known Iron Age remains within the area relate to Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument (0.6km south-west). A trackway is recorded to extend from Ashwell Street south-west past the Site to Arbury Banks and beyond Baldock. Whilst this trackway is attributed to the Roman period, there is the potential for it to be earlier in date. Nonetheless, the potential for Iron Age remains within the Site is considered to be **low**.

Romano-British

3.1.5 The closest known archaeological remains of Roman date were recorded during fieldwork approximately 160m to the north and consist of a substantial ditch with Roman pottery in its upper fill. Ashwell Street to the immediate north of the Site is believed to be of Roman origin and whilst nothing Roman has been recorded from the Site itself, its location alongside a possible Roman or earlier routeway makes it a likely location for settlement or possibly burial. This means the likelihood for Roman remains on the Site is considered to be **moderate**.

Anglo-Saxon

3.1.6 There is very little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the vicinity. Ashwell is believed to have its origins in this period, however concrete evidence has remained somewhat elusive. As a result, the potential for Anglo-Saxon remains is considered to be **low**.

Medieval

3.1.7 Recorded remains from the medieval period are minimal and mostly related to buildings. However, archaeological work at the Primary School to the north of the Site uncovered two parallel ditches which were attributed to this period. Due to the Site having been utilised for arable farming, the potential for ridge and furrow is possible. Overall, it is considered that the likelihood for medieval remains on the Site is **low**.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 3.1.8 Recorded remains from the post-medieval and modern periods are almost wholly confined to Listed Buildings located along the High Street on the northern side of the village. Closer to the Site however are the recorded locations of a number of former windmills. One such windmill (known as Kitchener's mill) is known to have been located actually within the Site, close to the south-western corner, where the topography is at its highest. Also located just outside of the Site, on the corner of Ashwell Street and Claybush Road was a lime kiln and quarry. Historical mapping shows this quarrying to be located beyond the limits of the proposed Site, however the potential for it to have extended into the north-eastern corner of the Site should be considered. It is therefore felt that the potential for post-medieval and modern remains within the Site is **high**.

4 DEGREE OF SURVIVAL

4.1.1 Based on the description of known finds and sites within the search area, as defined in the previous sections, a rating of low, moderate or high can be predicted for the survival of further remains within the Site:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Neolithic	Moderate
Bronze Age	Moderate to High
Iron Age	Low
Romano-British	Moderate
Anglo-Saxon	Low
Medieval	Low
Post-medieval	High

Table 4: Predicted survival of archaeological remains

- 4.1.2 Cartographic evidence shows that the Site has been utilised for arable farming throughout the post-medieval period and probably prior to this, during medieval times. Ploughing (whether medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow or with modern mechanical farming equipment) is likely to have truncated the tops of archaeological features, but depending of the depth of the ploughing will not have completely destroyed them. Ploughing will also have disturbed artefacts within the tops of features and brought them to the surface. As a result, it is likely that below ground features, if present, would be detected by fieldwalking after harrowing.
- 4.1.3 Whilst there is no evidence for the quarrying of chalk within the Site itself, it is recorded (on historic maps) as occurring immediately outside its boundary, therefore there is a potential for the north-eastern corner of the proposed development area to contain the remnants of quarrying. If quarrying has occurred within the Site it will have had an adverse impact on any below-ground archaeological deposits.
- 4.1.4 The Site is also located on a fairly steep incline, therefore the potential for archaeology to have been affected by erosion should also be considered. Further to this, there could be the potential for dewatering of the Site due to construction of the adjacent covered reservoir, this could have an impact on any potential waterlogged deposits in deeper features. Nonetheless, any archaeological features within the Site are believed to have the potential to be relatively well preserved.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RISK

5.1.1 The nature of the nearby known archaeological remains means a programme of archaeological investigation would be deemed necessary to effectively manage the archaeological risk. Initial non-intrusive measures such as geophysical survey and fieldwalking may be required, followed by intrusive trial trench evaluation. The specific archaeological works required to meet mitigation will be stipulated by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor.

6 HERITAGE IMPACT

6.1.1 Development undertaken on the outskirts of historic villages necessitates a number of considerations to be taken into account. These include the potential impact on the Historic Landscape, any Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings and impact on archaeological and heritage assets.

6.2 Landscape Viewpoint

6.2.1 The proposed Site is located at around 75m OD on the north-eastern slope of a dominant ridge in the landscape, which rises up to approximately 100m OD. The built up area of Ashwell village is located downslope to the immediate north. The result of this means that views to and from the Site come almost entirely from the west and south. Views from the main streets, which bisect the village, up to the Site are completely shielded by houses, mature trees and the topography; which also includes some terracing (a result of post-medieval quarrying).

6.2.2 The Site is also entirely hidden from view at the junction where Claybush Road intersects with Ashwell Street. Indeed, if leaving the village travelling southward along Claybush Road, at no point would the Site be visible. Travelling northward into Ashwell via Claybush Road, the Site initially cannot be seen due banks containing trees and hedgerows which line the road. However this vegetation reduces, meaning the southern Site boundary is more evident (see Plate 6). Views of the Site from the east are also restricted due to topography, which rises to the east and south, meaning that the Site is completely obscured if viewed from Kingsland Way. The row of houses along Claybush Road itself also act as a visual barrier.

6.2.3 A large field encompasses the land to the south and west of the proposed Site and whilst there is no official public right of way through here, a well trodden path with numerous dog walkers was noted during the walkover survey. This runs from next to the pumping station on Claybush Road, around the southern and western boundaries of the Site and across the field, to Partridge Hill to the west. Plate 7 illustrates this unofficial footpath and shows the western limits of the proposed Site. Again, this boundary consists of mature trees and shrubbery, however due to the drop in topography, the Site (and thus any houses within it) would be quite visible from this location.

6.2.4 There are a number of public rights of way located within the environs of the Site, Ashwell Street (to the immediate north of the Site) is a byway open to all traffic (number 15 on Fig. 4), Partridge Hill to the west of the Site is also a byway (number 31). The Site cannot be seen from either of these byways due to the topography, other buildings and mature trees/hedgerows. Branching off south-west from byway 31 is the restricted byway 2 leading to the Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument (SM number 1008981). The view from Arbury Banks is discussed in paragraph 6.3.8.

6.3 Assessment of Effect

Historic Landscape

6.3.1 In regard to the Historic Landscape, it is important to consider whether the development would impact or alter the way in which people experience any heritage assets within the landscape, and whether it has the ability to reduce the positive contribution of their existing setting. Development by its very nature would introduce a non-agricultural element into, what is at present, a semi-agricultural landscape. However, the Site is

located on the periphery of the village and borders two rows of houses, meaning the landscape is tolerant to change.

- 6.3.2 The Site is located within a known prehistoric landscape and on the edge of a medieval (potentially Anglo-Saxon) village; the core of which is a conservation area. The construction phase of works on the development would create a temporary visual impact on the Historic Landscape through the introduction of construction related materials and activities (such as machine plant, cranes and scaffolding). Associated construction traffic (including delivery lorries) would also have a temporary visual impact on the landscape. Further to this, a period of roadworks could be necessitated in order to connect the new houses to mains amenities (water, electricity *etc.*). Such roadworks could include temporary closures or narrowing of roads, with a possible system of temporary traffic lights, as well as noise.
- 6.3.3 Ashwell village is made up of a network of narrow streets and lanes, meaning that there would be an inevitable restriction in the viable routes which delivery lorries can take in order to get to the Site. Access from Baldock along Ashwell Road would appear to be the most practicable, however this is still a country road devoid of road markings which passes through the village of Bygrave, which in itself contains areas of archaeological significance (although not discussed here). A traffic management scheme would need to be implemented during the construction period in order to address these issues.
- 6.3.4 The Site already has a series of semi-mature trees and shrubs surrounding it. Plate 6 shows the southern limit of the proposed development Site, taken from Claybush Road. The already semi-mature trees which surround the Site means that any houses within the plot would be partially obscured, however the upper floors and roofs would still be visible. However it is worthy to note that this view would be subject to change depending upon the season. Once the Site had been developed, a system of new planting to fill in the gaps would, with time, reduce the visual impact of the houses on the landscape.
- 6.3.5 Altogether, the surrounding Historic Landscape is a robust undesignated landscape and as such, using the criteria laid out in Table 1 (page 8), the importance of this landscape is considered to be **Medium**. Using the criteria laid out in Table 2 (page 8), the magnitude of impact to this Historic Landscape is **Minor**. Thus, the overall significance of effects on the Historic Landscape (Table 3, page 9) is considered to be **Slight**.

Scheduled Monuments

- 6.3.6 The Scheduled Monument of Arbury Banks (SM number 1008981) is situated 0.6km south-west of the proposed development Site, located on a natural plateau at c.87m OD. Arbury Banks has to be considered in conjunction with the Historic Landscape, after all it is this setting which contributes to its significance. Its placement is vital to its understanding its meaning and function. The monument is of high significance and archaeological interest.
- 6.3.7 However, elements of a setting can make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, affecting the ability to appreciate that significance. This is the case with Arbury Banks, which has been enclosed by a tall modern wire fence with large concrete posts. Nonetheless, the views out from this Scheduled Monument are all-encompassing.
- 6.3.8 Plate 8 shows a panoramic view from Arbury Banks north-eastward, taking in the surrounding landscape. Within the view, the spire of St Mary's Church can be seen at the centre of the shot. The western boundary of the Site can just be seen behind the vegetation which lines byway 31. If houses were to be built on the proposed Site, there

is a small possibility that the roof lines could be seen from here. However, a number of other buildings can also be seen from this location, therefore it is considered unlikely that the development would significantly impact upon this view.

- 6.3.9 Therefore, using the criteria in Table 1, the importance of Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument is **High**, but the magnitude of the impact from the development (Table 2) is **Negligible**. Thus making the significance of the effect, as laid out in Table 3, **Slight**.

Listed Buildings

- 6.3.10 There are a total of 45 Listed Buildings (dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods) within the 0.5km search area, all of which are located within the historic core of Ashwell to the north of the Site. All of these buildings, bar one, are either Grade II or Grade II* Listed. St Mary's Church is the only Grade I Listed Building in the village.
- 6.3.11 The proposed development Site is enclosed on two sides by housing, however none of these are listed and they are all post-1945 in date (with a small number being less than ten years old). Whilst these buildings have no official designation, they still provide value to the aesthetic significance of both the village and the surrounding Historic Landscape, contributing positively to their setting. Considerations of the view to and from the Site for the houses to the immediate east in particular, needs to be addressed.
- 6.3.12 All of the Listed Buildings are located on the far side of the village, therefore due to a mixture of topography, vegetation and other buildings, views to and from the Site are completely restricted. The only exception to this is the spire of St Mary's Church, which can clearly be seen from the Site. The Site cannot be seen from the church, therefore the way in which one would experience this asset, from this location, is not adversely impacted.
- 6.3.13 However, on approach to the village from the south along Claybush Road, for a brief period (from approximately 0.5km away), the Site and the church can be seen together, with the Site directly in front of, and thus potentially partially obscuring, the view of the church spire. This viewpoint is important and a strategy to reduce the development's impact on it would need to be produced. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the house at No. 1 Claybush Road (which was built in 2009) can also be seen from this location in conjunction with the church.
- 6.3.14 Overall, using the criteria in Table 1, the importance of the Grade II and Grade II* Listed Buildings is **Medium**, whilst the importance of the Grade I Listed church is **High**, meaning the magnitude of impact upon the setting of these Listed Buildings (as laid out in Table 2) is **No Change** for the Grade II and II* buildings and **Minor** for St Mary's Church. The overall significance of effect upon these Historic Buildings is **Neutral/Slight**.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Significance of Effect

7.1.1 When all the potential impacts are assessed, the proposed development is considered to have the following magnitude of impact and significance of effect, as defined in Tables 1, 2 and 3:

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Importance</i>	<i>Magnitude of Impact</i>	<i>Significance of Effect without Mitigation</i>
Archaeology	Low/Medium	Moderate	Slight/Moderate
Historic Landscape	Medium	Minor	Slight
Scheduled Monuments	High	Negligible	Slight
Historic Buildings	Medium/High	No Change/Minor	Neutral/Slight

Table 5: Overall significance of effect

7.1.2 Table 5 above shows that the archaeological resource has a Low to Medium importance as any archaeology found will (most likely) be of local value. However if archaeological remains relating to Neolithic or Bronze Age funerary monuments were to be identified, this would be of regional importance. The magnitude of impact will be Moderate due to the total and permanent removal of the resource. The significance will therefore be **Slight/Moderate**.

7.1.3 The Site is located on the periphery of an historic village. The southern and western boundaries of the Site are historic hedgerows (as seen on the 1841 Tithe Map, Fig. 6). The coherence and integrity of the Historic Landscape has already been affected by the area having no statutory or formal designation, however is still considered to be of Medium landscape value. The construction of houses on the Site will have a Minor visual impact on the Historic Landscape. This Minor effect upon a landscape of Medium importance will result in an overall effect of **Slight** significance.

7.1.4 The proposed development Site has views toward Ashwell village which contains a number of Listed Historic Buildings of Medium/High importance. The only building to be seen from the Site is the Grade I Listed St Mary's Church. Therefore the Site will have a visual effect of varying significance upon these buildings from No Change to Minor. It will have a **Slight** adverse effect upon the Church of St Mary.

7.2 Discussion

7.2.1 The Site has been identified as having archaeological potential due to the moderately high levels of known archaeology within the search area. Archaeological remains (including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, cropmarks, known findspots, and archaeological investigations) from all periods from the Neolithic through to modern day have been recorded; thus showing that this area has been settled and utilised without any clear periods of absence or abandonment from around 4000BC through to the modern day.

7.2.2 The periods from which finds and/or features are most likely to be present are Bronze Age and post-medieval/modern, with cropmarks and known activity of these dates located within the Site and to its immediate east and south. There is also some potential for Neolithic and Roman remains, although this is considered less likely. The existence of barrow cropmarks shows evidence for a Bronze Age funerary landscape here, suggesting that there is a high likelihood for further remains associated with it in

the immediate environs. Historic maps record an early 19th century windmill on the Site, of which the below-ground remains could potentially still be identifiable.

- 7.2.3 There are no records in the HER for medieval ridge and furrow, however the land has been in agricultural use throughout history, therefore there is the potential for the remains of this to be present across the Site, along with the remnants of later medieval and post-medieval cultivation.
- 7.2.4 It can be said that any proposed development on the Site has the potential to have a direct adverse and permanent impact on below-ground archaeological remains, namely from building foundations, as well as from the laying of underground services. The use of any temporary works compounds during the construction phase and permanent or temporary vehicle access ways into and within the Site can also involve considerable ground disturbance to a significant depth.
- 7.2.5 The significance of the Historic Landscape, Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings has been assessed to determine the level of impact that the development could have on these. The ultimate aim of a development should be to seamlessly introduce a non-agricultural element into the Historic Landscape so as not to affect the way in which it, or the assets within it, are experienced and understood.

APPENDIX A. HER DATA

Monument data

HER Number	Monument ID	Name	Evidence	Date
15740	MHT15740	Timber framed house, no. 56 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
15741	MHT15741	St John's brotherhood house, nos 57-61 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
15742	MHT15742	Bear House, no 77 High Street Ashwell	Building	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
15743	MHT15743	The old cottage, no. 105 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
30325	MHT30325	Undated ditches, behind 48 Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
11357	MHT11357	Quaker burial ground and site of meeting house, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
11359	MHT11359	Site of lime kilns, Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
17046	MHT17046	Cropmark over ditches and pits, east of Arbury Banks, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
12491	MHT12491	Carters pond, Swan Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
11772	MHT11772	Site of page's brewery, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
11773	MHT11773	Parish workhouse, Swan Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
5337	MHT5337	Site of malting, 74 High Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
21	MHT21	Settlement of Ashwell	Place-name	Anglo-Saxon (AD410-1066)
2319	MHT2319	Cropmark of rectangular enclosure, s of Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
11356	MHT11356	Site of Fordham's windmill, Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
2360	MHT2360	Cropmark of oval enclosure, partial double-ditched curvilinear enclosure, south of Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Neolithic (4000-2500BC)
2379	MHT2379	Cropmarks of ring ditch, n of Claybush Hill, Ashwell	Monument	Bronze Age (2500-800BC)
17701	MHT17701	Site of Whitby Farm, Silver Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
443	MHT443	Undated cobbled area, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
4457	MHT4457	Cropmark of probable windmill, south of Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
4458	MHT4458	Cropmark of ring ditch, possible windmill, s of Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
456	MHT456	Inhumation burial, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
4750	MHT4750	Cropmark of ring ditch, nw of Claybush Hill, Ashwell	Monument	Bronze Age (2500-800BC)
4879	MHT4879	Medieval pilgrim's badge, Ashwell	Findspot	Medieval (AD1066-1500)

HER Number	Monument ID	Name	Evidence	Date
55	MHT55	Town house, Ashwell village museum, Swan Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
18734	MHT18734	Dixies dovecote, High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
7863	MHT7863	Cropmarks of pillow mounds, east of Claybush Hill, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
7864	MHT7864	Cropmarks of linear ditches, Ashwell	Monument	Undated
16572	MHT16572	Jessamine House, 15 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
13707	MHT13707	Enclosure, Moules Yard, Ashwell	Monument	Roman (AD43-410)
13725	MHT13725	Woodlands, 110 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
15270	MHT15270	Two medieval or later ditches, off Bear lane, Ashwell	Monument	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
15470	MHT15470	The rose and crown, 69 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
15473	MHT15473	Chantry house, formerly the british queen public house, 31 West End, Ashwell	Building	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
15737	MHT15737	The guild house, 55 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
15738	MHT15738	Dixie's, High Street, Ashwell	Building	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
15739	MHT15739	Anton cottage, 29 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
17614	MHT17614	Independent chapel (congregational/united reformed church), Silver Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
17615	MHT17615	Site of wesleyan methodist chapel, High Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
17616	MHT17616	45 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
17618	MHT17618	Vine cottage, 20 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
13485	MHT13485	Foresters cottages, 14-18 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Medieval (AD1066-1500)
17702	MHT17702	Whitby (waller's) farm, 35 High Street, Ashwell	Building	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
18733	MHT18733	Site of primitive methodist chapel, 7-9 West End, High Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
11358	MHT11358	Site of lime kiln, Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
5979	MHT5979	Site of kitchener's mill, Claybush Street, Ashwell	Monument	Post-medieval (AD1500-1700)
4692	MHT4692	Ashwell Street, Ashwell	Road	Roman (AD43-410)
31086	MHT31086	Course of historic trackway, Claybush Hill, Ashwell	Trackway	Roman (AD43-410)
1009891	MHT20759	Arbury Banks hillfort	Scheduled Monument	Iron Age (800BC-AD43)

Event data

Event ID	Event Number	Organisation
EHT1651	43	Air photo of cropmarks south of Ashwell Street, Ashwell
EHT1685	77	Air photo of cropmarks on Claybush Hill, Ashwell
EHT2563	1046	Air photo of cropmark of an oval enclosure s of Ashwell Street, Ashwell
EHT3567	1903	Air photo of partial double-ditched curvilinear enclosure, Ashwell
EHT1179	3936	Evaluation of land to the rear of 48 Ashwell Street, Ashwell, 2008
EHT1220	3989	Monitoring of groundworks (phase 1) at the rear of 48 Ashwell Street, Ashwell, 2008
EHT1254	4028	Watching brief at Ashwell Primary School, Ashwell, 2008
EHT1604	4438	Building recording at Jessamine House, 15 High Street, Ashwell, 2010
EHT7222	5014	Building appraisal of Whitby Farm, 35 High Street, Ashwell, 2011
EHT7048	5173	Watching brief at 2 Forrester's Cottages, 16 High Street, Ashwell, 2012
EHT7398	5210	Building recording at Whitby Farm, Silver Street & 35 High Street, Ashwell
EHT7399	5211	Evaluation at Whitby Farm, Silver Street & 35 High Street, Ashwell, 2012
EHT7427	5248	Evaluation of land adjacent to 92 Ashwell Street, Ashwell, 2013
EHT7632	5502	Monitoring of groundworks (phase 2) on land to the rear of 48 Ashwell Street, Ashwell, 2013

HLC data

Object ID	HLC DB	BroadType	HLC Type	Summary
8499	HHT8499	LEF	pe	Formal 18th – 18th century parliamentary enclosure
8500	HHT8500	LEF	pe	Formal 18th – 18th century parliamentary enclosure
449	HHT449	AEF	if	Pre-18th century 'irregular' enclosure
411	HHT411	TEF	bl	Post 1950 boundary loss
412	HHT412	TEF	te	Post 1950's enclosure
9268	HHT9268	AEF	if	Pre-18th century 'irregular' enclosure
8492	HHT8492	TEF	te	Post 1950's enclosure
2587	HHT2587	BUM	ba	Built-up areas – urban development
8493	HHT8493	LEF	pe	Formal 18th – 18th century parliamentary enclosure

Object ID	HLC DB	BroadType	HLC Type	Summary
8494	HHT8494	TEF	bl	Post 1950 boundary loss
8496	HHT8496	LEF	pe	Formal 18th – 18th century parliamentary enclosure

Listed buildings

HER Number	Designation ID	Object ID	Grade	Description
162160	DHT6834	5090	II	Guild House
162162	DHT6835	5091	II*	Rose and Crown public house
162163	DHT6836	5092	II	15th century timber framed hall house
162165	DHT6837	5093	II	Dixies farmhouse and Dixies
162167	DHT6838	5094	II	The Old Cottage
162194	DHT6850	5106	II	Pin Cottage and numbers 12 and 16
162197	DHT6851	5107	II*	Town House (Ashwell museum)
162199	DHT6852	5108	II	Barn range at Farrow's Farm, 30 metres west of number 4 (farmhouse)
162203	DHT6853	5109	II	
162206	DHT6854	5110	II	
162133	DHT6867	5123	II	Wayside Cottage
162139	DHT6870	5126	II	
162141	DHT6871	5127	II	
162148	DHT6874	5130	II	
162152	DHT6875	5131	II	Ashwell stores and number 72 (including attached rear barn)
162153	DHT6876	5132	II	Digswell Manor (including outbuildings at rear)
162157	DHT6877	5133	II*	Jessamine House
162138	DHT7222	5562	II	Cheney Cottage
162140	DHT7224	5564	II	Cob wall
162147	DHT7230	5570	II	Plait Hall
162149	DHT7233	5573	II	Two brewers
162151	DHT7237	5577	II	Christy's corner

HER Number	Designation ID	Object ID	Grade	Description
162154	DHT7239	5579	II	Bacon's house and number 84 (including attached outbuildings)
162158	DHT7243	5583	II	Beams
162178	DHT7278	5618	II	Lychgate and adjoining churchyard wall
162198	DHT7293	5633	II	Barn adjoining number 4
162204	DHT7301	5641	II	The Cottage
162207	DHT7304	5644	II	The Orchard
162196	DHT7567	5895	II	Tower Cottage (including attached rear outbuildings)
162180	DHT7577	5905	II	
162176	DHT7579	5907	II	
162193	DHT7566	8408	II	Swan House
162159	DHT7743	6071	II	
162161	DHT7763	6091	II*	
162164	DHT7764	6092	II*	Bear House
162166	DHT7765	6093	II	Dovecote at Dixies farm
162169	DHT7766	6094	II	The Green
162175	DHT7768	6096	II	
162195	DHT7770	6098	II	
162205	DHT7772	6100	II	Chantry House
162146	DHT7780	6108	II	Vine Cottage
162150	DHT7781	6109	II	Smithy Cottage
162155	DHT7782	6110	II	Woodlands (including rear attached barns)
162323	DHT7818	6146	II	K6 telephone kiosk adjoining the Rose and Crown public house
162145	DHT7228	8264	II*	

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Secondary sources

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<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

British Geological Survey (BGS) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/CIfAS&GDBA_2.pdf

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made>

Dept. for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>

Planning Act 2008 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

Hertfordshire County Council Rights of Way Map <http://webmaps.hertsdirect.org/row/row.htm>

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-253224"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Land west of No. 1 Claybush Road, Ashwell"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="23-05-2016"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="03-06-2016"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="XHTCRA16"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="-"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="-"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-248275"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="Rural Residential"/>

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
<input type="text" value="Hill fort"/>	<input type="text" value="Iron Age (-800 to 43)"/>
<input type="text" value="Burial mound"/>	<input type="text" value="Bronze Age (-2,500 to -700)"/>
<input type="text" value="Cropmarks"/>	<input type="text" value="Uncertain"/>
<input type="text" value="Henge"/>	<input type="text" value="Neolithic (-4,000 to -2,200)"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Hertfordshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="North Hertfordshire"/>	<input type="text" value="Land west of No. 1 Claybush Road
Ashwell
SG7 5RA"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Ashwell"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Hertfordshire"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="1.8ha"/>	National Grid Reference
		<input type="text" value="TL 26780 39253"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	-
Project Design Originator	-
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

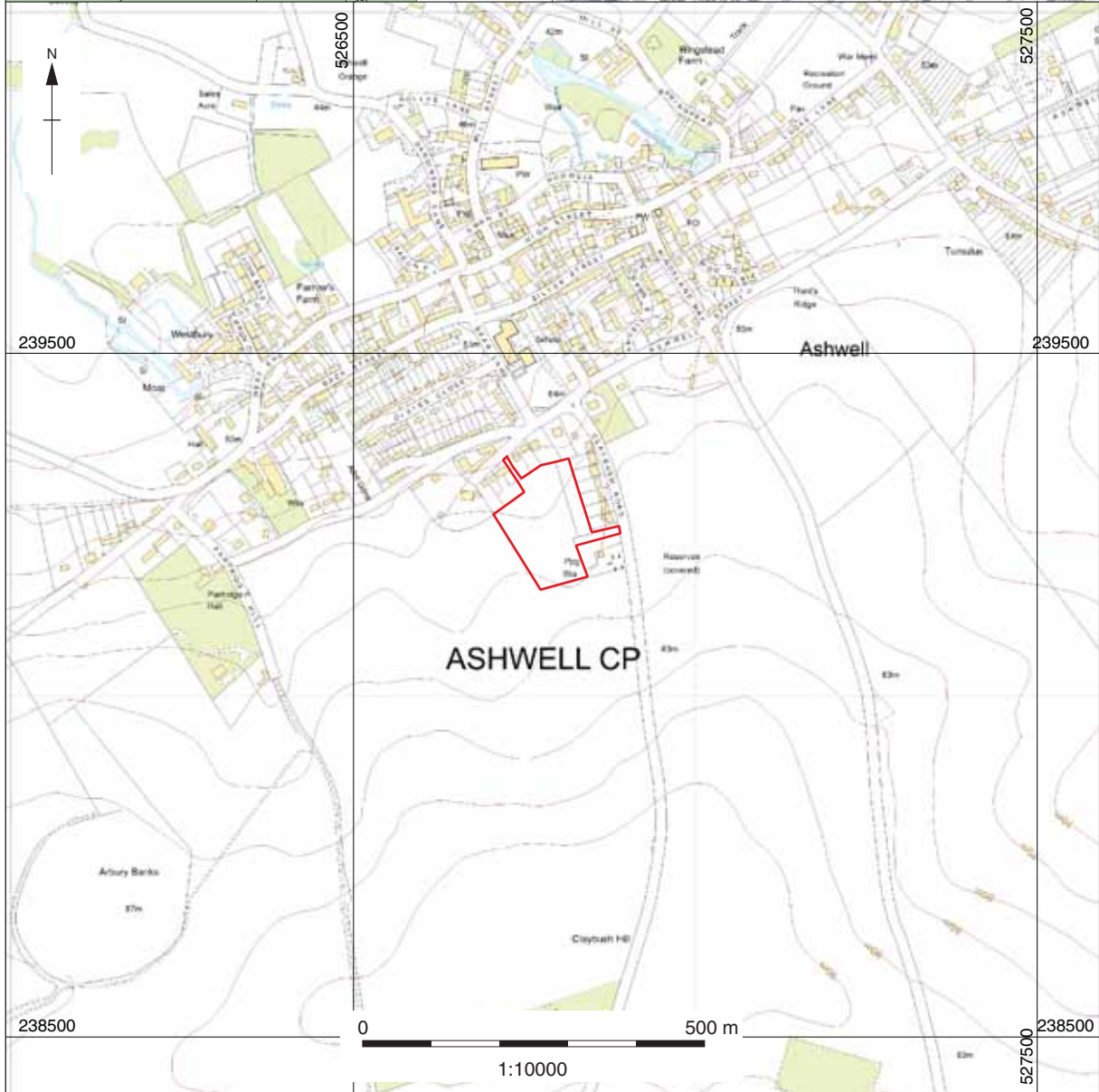
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
-	OA East	-
-	XHTCRA16	-

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing proposed development area (red)

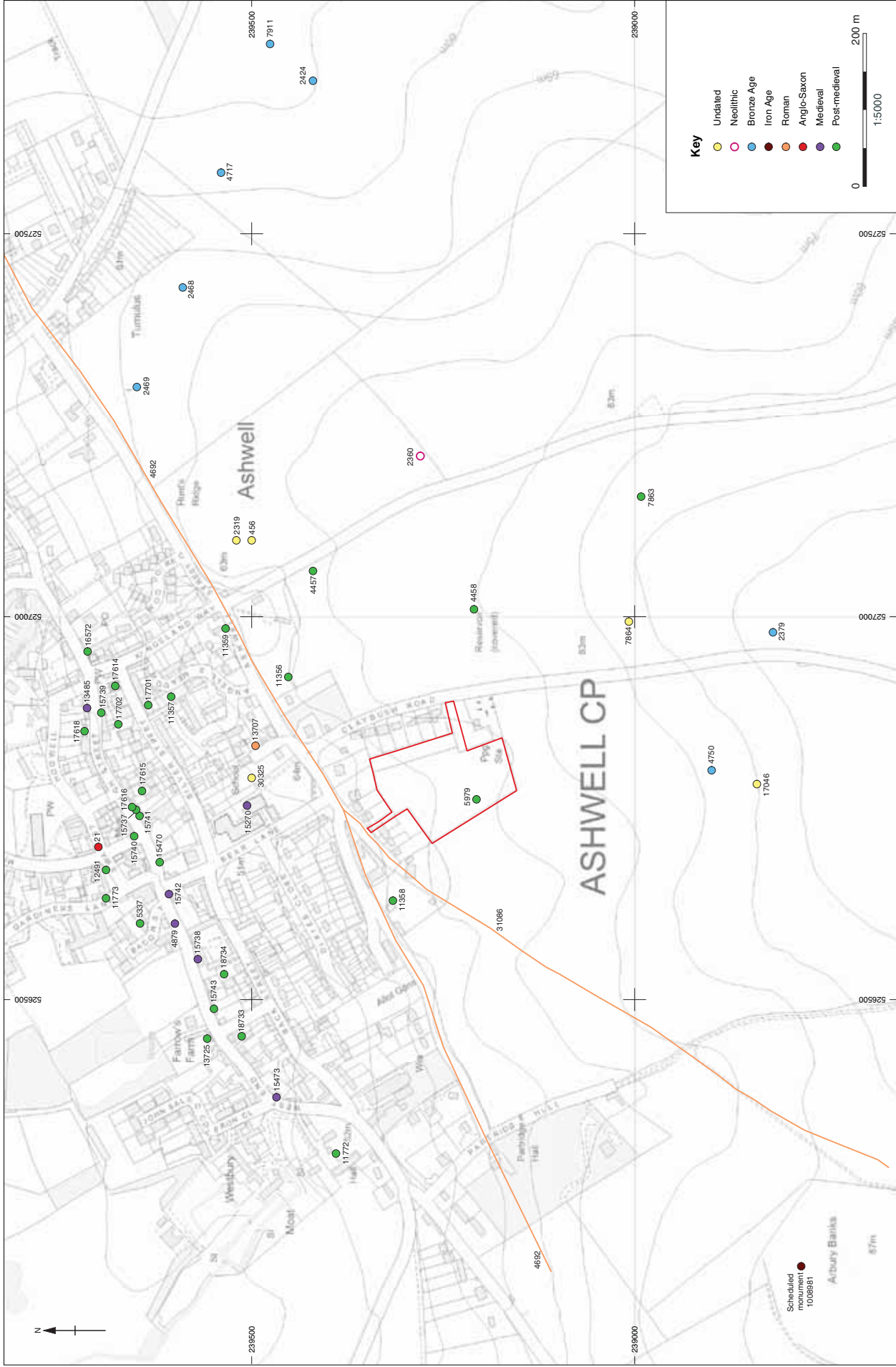


Figure 2: HER plot of monuments

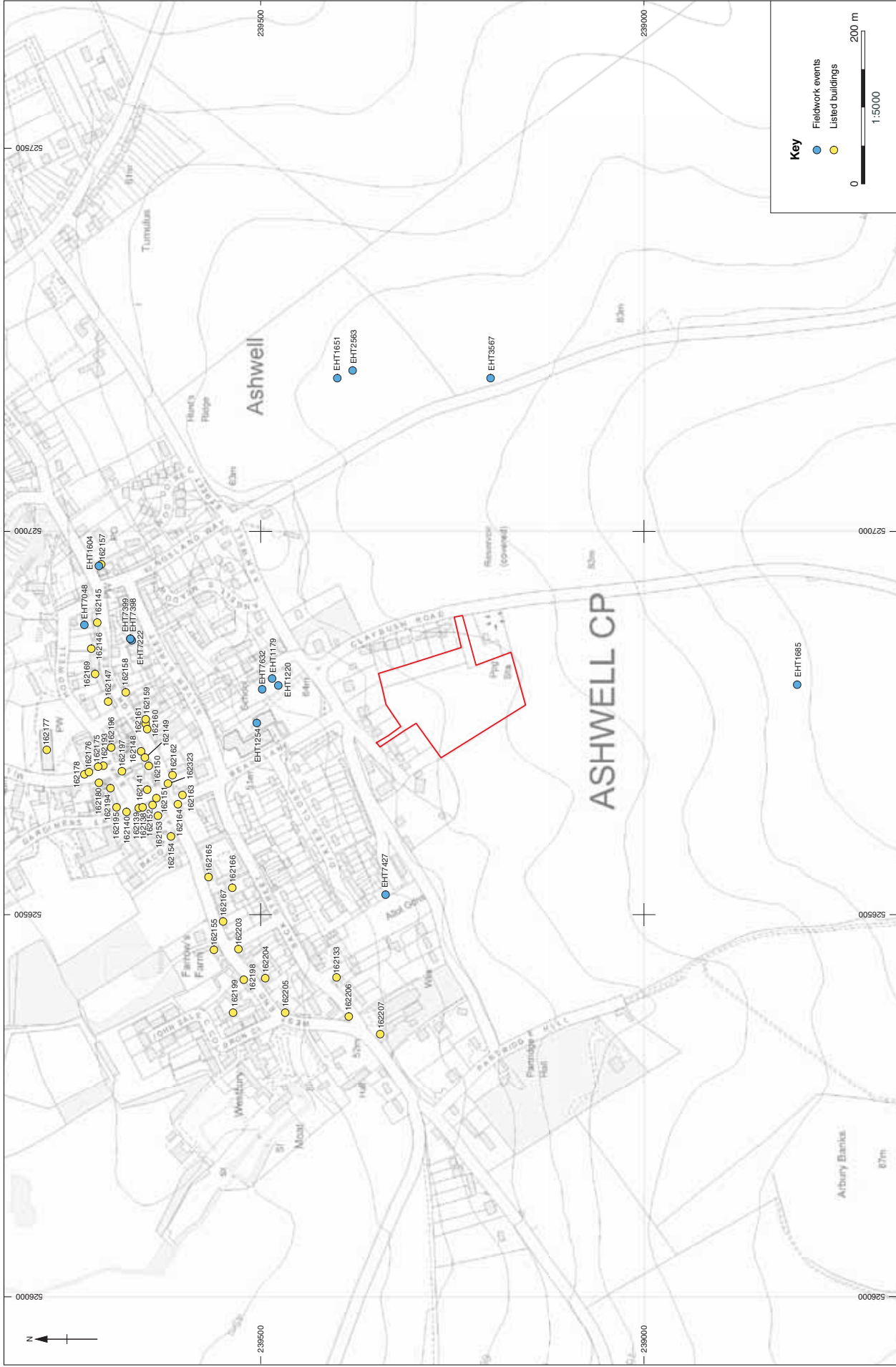


Figure 3: HER plot of listed buildings and fieldwork events

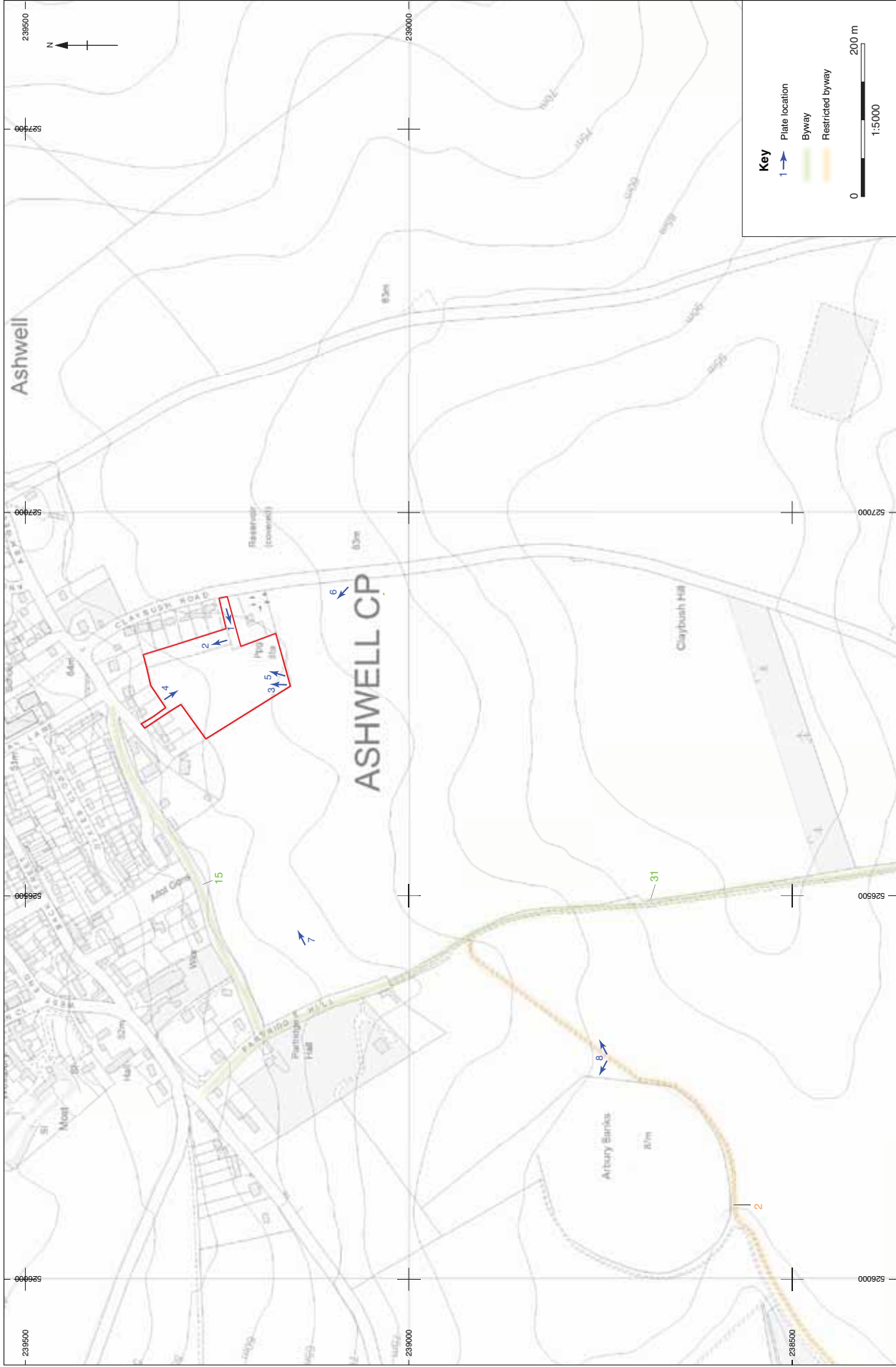


Figure 4: Plan of plate locations



Figure 5: Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire, 1820

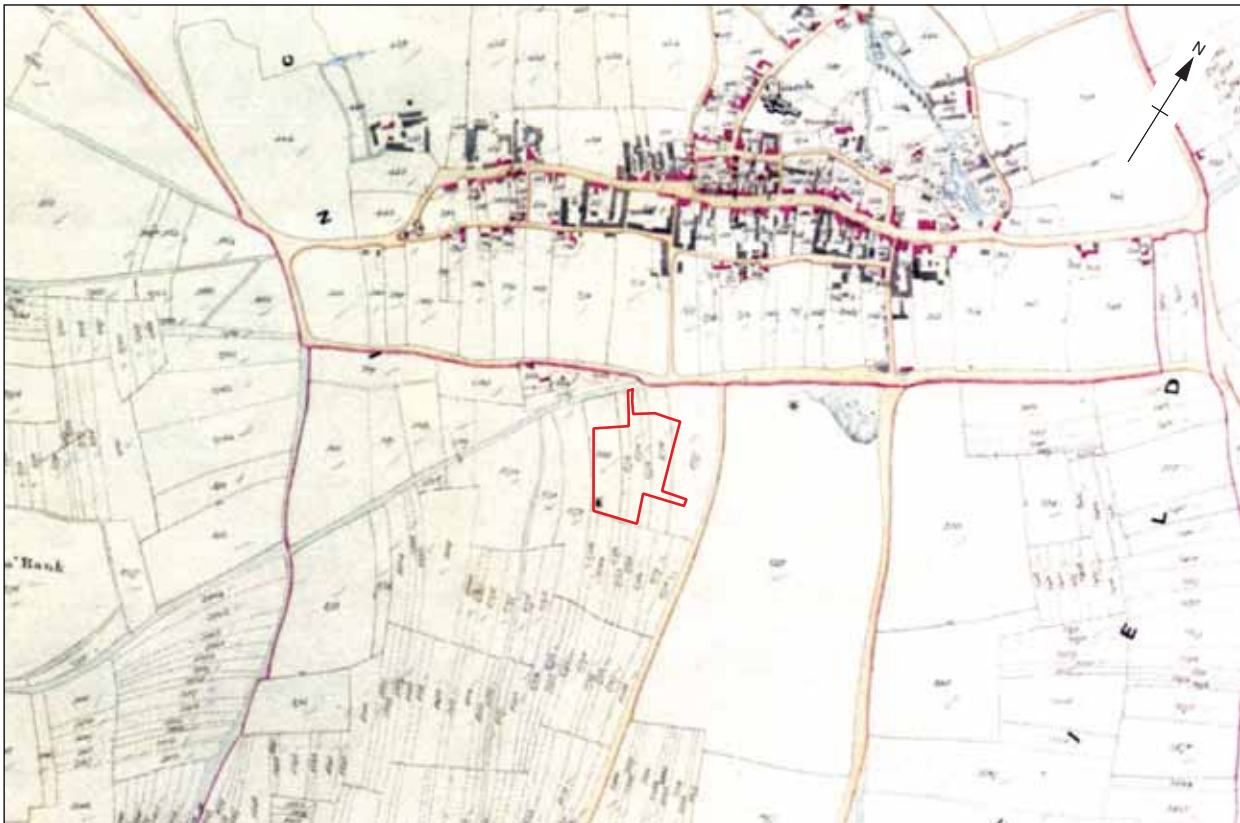


Figure 6: Tithe Map of Ashwell, 1841

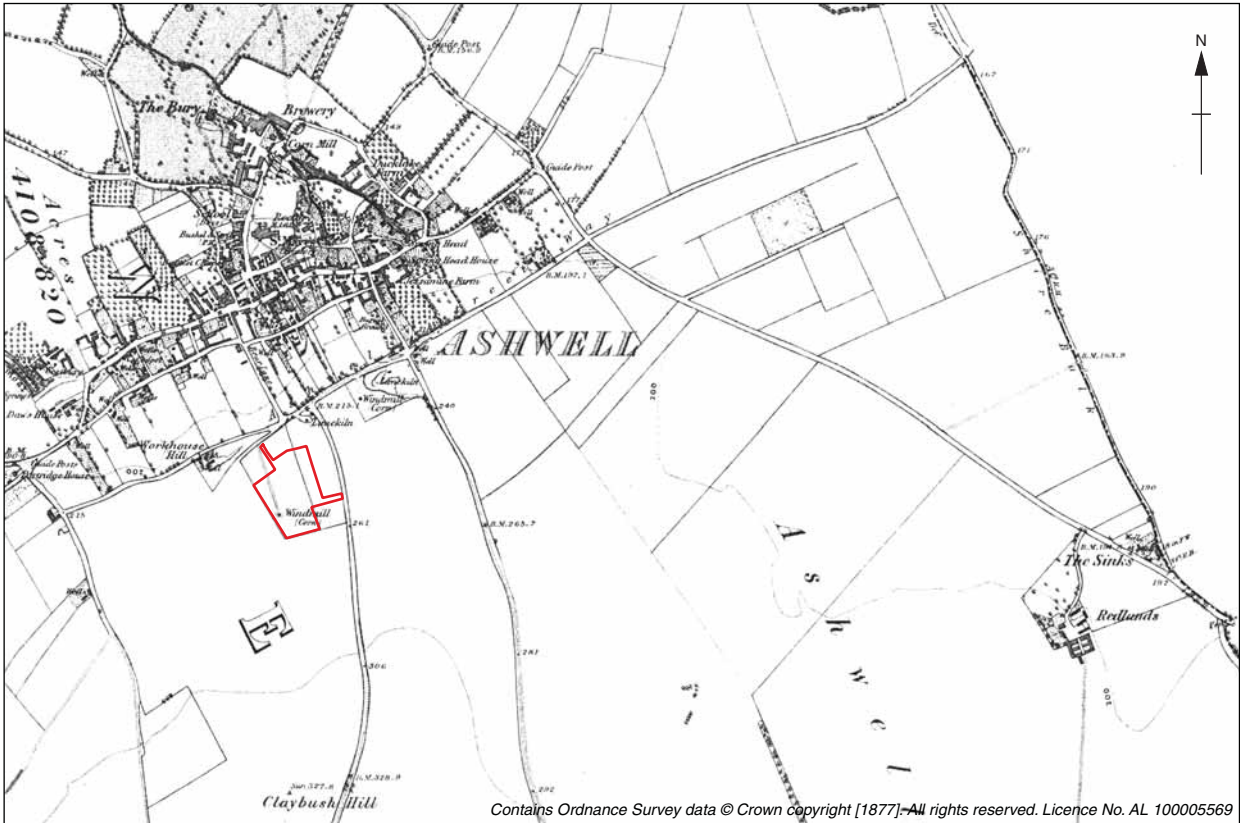


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire IV, six inch, 1877

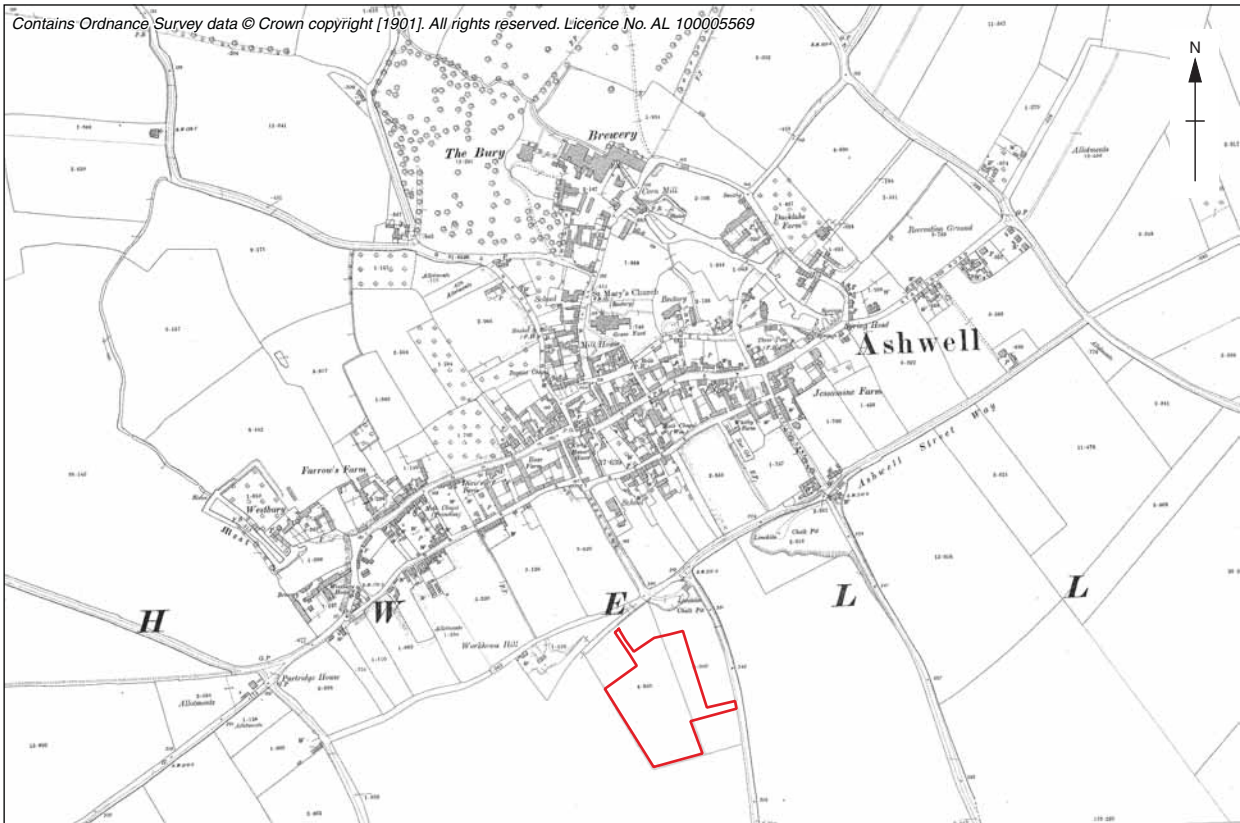


Figure 8: Second edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch, 1901

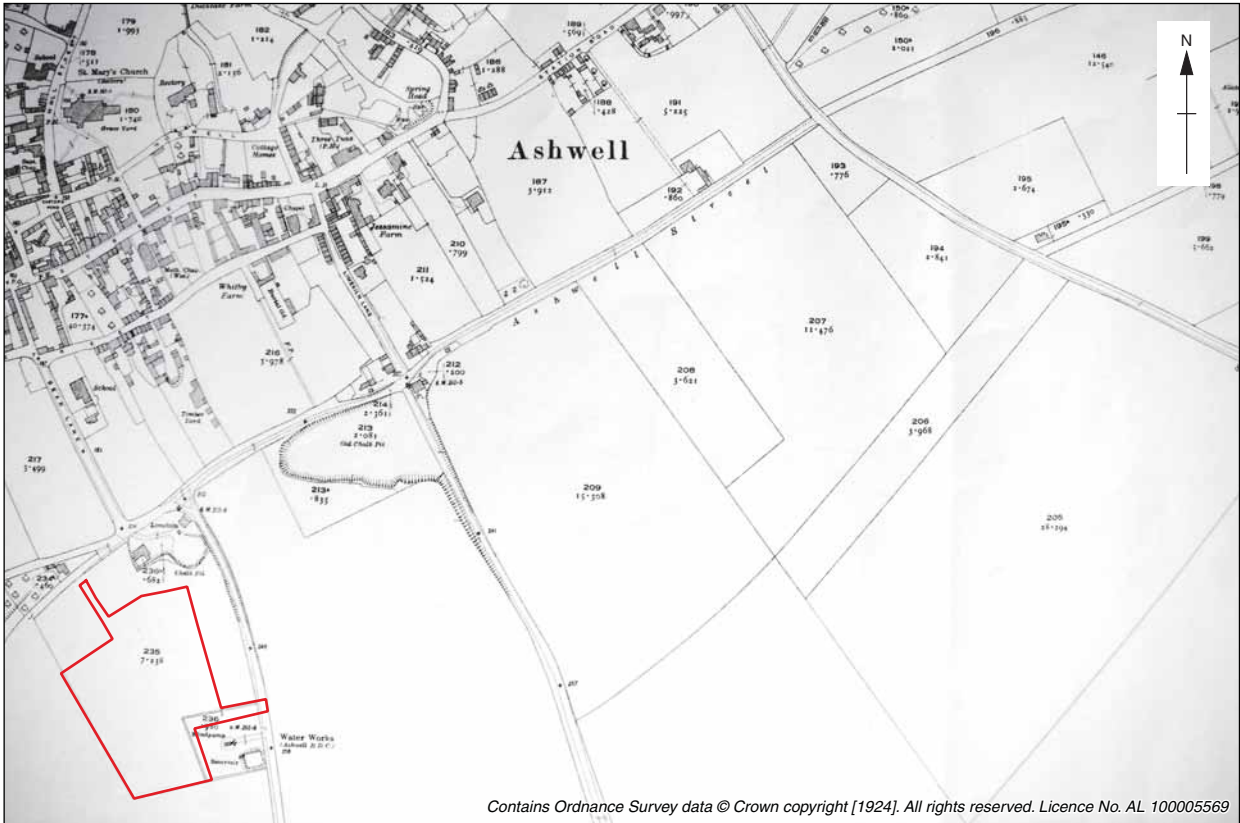


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch, 1924



Plate 1: View of Site entrance from Claybush Road, looking west



Plate 2: View of eastern edge of Site with St Mary's Church in the background, looking north



Plate 3: View across the Site with St Mary's Church in the background, looking north



Plate 4: View across the Site, looking south



Plate 5: View of possible deep ploughing truncation, looking north



Plate 6: View of southern Site boundary from Claybush Road, looking north-west



Plate 7: View of western Site boundary from surrounding field, looking east

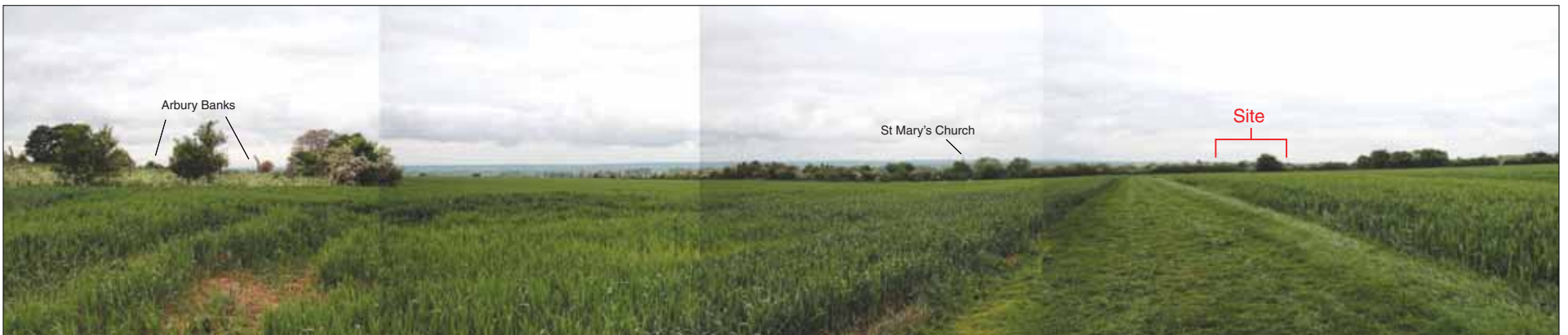


Plate 8: Panoramic view across landscape from Arbury Banks Scheduled Monument



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