

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



HERITAGE CONSULTANCY

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT:
UPPER CULHAM FARM
WARGRAVE
BERKSHIRE**

Prepared For
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National Grid Reference: SU 79301 82275



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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
2.3	SITE LOCATION	2
2.4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.....	2
3.	AIMS 2	
4.	METHODS.....	2
5.	RESULTS.....	3
5.1	HISTORICAL DATA	3
5.2	CARTOGRAPHIC DATA	4
5.3	AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA.....	4
5.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA	5
5.5	WALKOVER SURVEY	7
6.	CONSTRAINTS.....	11
6.1	HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS	11
6.2	OTHER CONSTRAINTS.....	11
7.	ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT	11
8.	ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE	12
9.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	15

Appendix

Glossary

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Historical maps 1761-1818
- Figure 3 Historical maps 1878-1956
- Figure 4 Aerial evidence
- Figure 5 Archaeological sites in the assessment area
- Figure 6 Designated assets
- Figure 7 Archaeological events
- Figure 8 Walkover survey

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view of Site
- Plate 2 General view of Site
- Plate 3 General view of Site
- Plate 4 Possible quarry pit
- Plate 5 View towards the Old Smithy

1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed equestrian developments on land at Upper Culham Farm, Wargrave, Berkshire.

Lithic scatters are quite common in the assessment area, with the nearest known just 50m from the eastern edge of the Site. This material including a core, which suggests a potential prehistoric flint working site.

Less than 500m east of the Site, at Park Place, two Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43) settlements have been excavated, with evidence of buildings and metal working. One of these continued into the Roman period (AD 43-410), which also produced metalworking evidence and suggestions of malting.

Evidence for Saxon period (AD 410-1066) activity is limited to a single sherd of pottery. The area was part of a forest in towards the end of this period, and remained as such until the 13th century. Medieval period (AD 1066-1540) remains are relatively limited, although a handful of features including a building and trackway have been identified at Park Place. Within the Site a single land boundary has been identified with the potential to date to the medieval period, suggested by the earliest map and a corresponding soil mark.

In the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900) the Site was inclosed around 1800 and this phase of field divisions is visible as lidar features and soil marks. Most of these field boundaries were amalgamated into larger fields in the mid-late 19th century and the Site has changed little since.

During the modern period the Site served as a Spitfire assembly site in WW2 with grass runways and assembly sheds, although no traces of this phase remain today.

A site visit did not identify any artefacts visible on the land surface or archaeological features, except a probably post-medieval chalk quarry. Intervisibility with designated heritage assets was limited to the view of the roof a Grade II Listed building from one very small section of the Site.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

An archaeological desk-based assessment is defined as ‘a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, in the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance; the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets; and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (ClfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr Sarkis Gabrelian to undertake a desk-based assessment of land at Upper Culham Farm, Wargrave, Berkshire. The assessment was requested in support of proposed equestrian development, including change of use of arable land to equestrian use, construction of polo field, levelling of land for stick & ball and schooling fields, 3 x American barns, 2 x horse walkers, exercise track, irrigation pond, pump house, sand turnout corrals, horse rehabilitation pool, conversion of

existing barn into staff day facilities, construction of pavilion, construction of estate tracks, creation of new main access with entrance gates, creation of open storage yard and associated works.

2.3 Site Location

Wargrave is located 9km northeast of the centre of Reading. The Site is at National Grid Reference SU 79301 82275, 3.3 km north of the village centre, towards the north of the parish (Figure 1).

2.4 Geology and Topography

Local soils are loamy freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (CSAI 2024). These soils are developed on superficial deposits of Clay-with-flints Formation (clay, silt, sand and gravel), which is a result of erosion and decalcification of the chalk bedrock. A nearby bore hole recorded 0.3m of soil, then clay-with-flints to a total depth of 1.3m before hitting the bedrock (BGS 2024).

The Site occupies approximately 70ha on generally level ground, forming a high plateau. Heights are in the region of 95m AOD, with a noticeable valley towards the northwest corner.

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the assessment area. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

4. METHODS

In the following text, the term *Site* refers to the limits of the application site and the *Assessment Area* comprises an area of 1km radius from the edge of the application site.

The research undertaken in the compilation of this archaeological desk-based assessment involved the examination of all available sources relevant to the Site and the immediate surrounding area. These sources consisted of:

- Historical documents, held in the Royal Berkshire Archives.
- Enclosure and other maps and plans held in the Royal Berkshire Archives.
- Recent and early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- The Historic Environment Record, held by Berkshire Archaeology.
- Archaeological and historical books and journals.
- Aerial photographs
- Lidar data

A full list of the sources is contained within the bibliography.

This research was supplemented by a walkover survey of the Site, undertaken to assess the current ground conditions and land-use patterns and to ascertain the presence of any surface finds of an archaeological character, and of features that might indicate the presence of archaeological remains.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Data

Wargrave is mentioned in an early charter dating to between 1042 and 1065 in which King Edward confirms a grant by Ælfgifu Emma of land to the Old Minster at Winchester (Sawyer 1968, S1062). However, the authenticity of this charter is doubted. Here it is documented as *Weregrauæ* which is thought to derive from Old English for 'grove by the weirs', from *wer* and *grāf(a)* (INS 2024).

At the time of the Domesday Survey Wargrave was held by the King from Queen Edith. Wargrave contained a mill, 3 fisheries, 16 acres of meadow and woodland for 100 pigs (Williams and Martin 2002, 138). The manor of Wargrave passed from the Crown in 1189 to the Bishops of Winchester, in whose hands it largely remained until the 16th century (Page and Ditchfield 1923, 192).

Wargrave formerly lay within the Royal Forest of Windsor, which once covered almost the whole of Berkshire, the district east of Reading known as the Forest of Oakingham or Wokingham (Cox 1905, 267). All of the Forest in Berkshire was disafforested during the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) save for the Windsor district (*ibid.*).

Culham is first recorded in 1208. The name 'Cul' portion is likely to be derived from an Old English personal name, or 'Kiln.' This is suffixed with 'ham' indicating its position in a loop of the river (Geling 1973, 120, INS 2024). Geling (1973, 120) gives the first instance of Upper Culham being separately identified as on the 1761 Rocque map. However, it is likely a hamlet or farm was present here since at least the 16th century¹, given the standing cottage dated to this period in the hamlet. Pring (1987a, 70) also states that the forge in the hamlet was established in 1560. The 'Upper' portion of the name distinguishes it from 'Middle Culham' (to the north), 'Lower Culham' (northeast) and Culham Court (also northeast). In the historical sources it can be difficult to determine if references to 'Culham' are largely focused on what would become Culham Court, where the manor house was situated, or all the areas now called Culham.

Upper Culham is little mentioned in the history of Wargrave, although was as one of the villages where the Wargrave Rangers Cavalry would meet in the early 1800s. This was a militia of local gentlemen. Their captain from 1809-1819 was William Mattingly Soundy, a surveyor from Upper Culham (Sonham 1987, 199). Early directories only mention a single resident from the hamlet, Henry Maynard, a farmer (Steven's Directory of Reading 1893, 509).

The early 20th century history of the Upper Culham Farm has been described in former resident's D. Pring's (1987a and 1987b) memoirs. Until 1924 the farm was run William Frame who used horse drawn machinery to grow and harvest potatoes. Growing corn and breeding horses also took place on the farm. The horses were largely shire horses, needed for the machinery. The horses and nearby forge were a useful resource for neighbouring farms as well.

In 1924 the Pring family bought the farm and dairy cows became the mainstay with a few pigs and sheep as well. It employed nine skilled men on the farm and up to fifteen women from Henley who would be hired on a seasonal basis. One of the women's jobs was stone removal from the fields, for which they would be paid by the cartload. The majority of the houses in the hamlet were occupied by workers from Upper Culham Farm with a few employed by neighbouring farms further afield.

Sir Alan Cobham's Air Circus displayed at Upper Culham in the 1930s, and this field would

¹ Pope's in-depth history of the parish of Wargrave (1929, 63-68) does not mention the 16th century cottage in Upper Culham in his list of historical buildings, implying no one notable enough to be commented upon lived there.

become an airfield in WW2 (Pring 1987b, 172). It was called RAF Henley-on-Thames and had grass runways, which have left no trace today. It was used for the testing of Spitfires and as a relief landing ground for nearby airfields. About 250 Spitfires were assembled between 1941 and 1943 in hangars at the south-east corner of the site. As the Spitfire became bigger and more powerful, they could not use the airfield there, and so the production moved to Aldermaston. In August 1944 No. 529 Squadron moved to RAF Henley-on-Thames from RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. This squadron was equipped with autogyros, but during 1945 they took delivery of the new American Sikorsky R-4 helicopter (known as the 'Hoverfly I' in British service), which made the base the first British airfield to host an operational helicopter squadron (Ferguson 2013).

5.2 Cartographic Data

The 1761 John Rocque map of Berkshire (Fig. 2a) is the earliest to show the Site, although the level of accuracy is poor, given the small scale of the map. Upper Culham Farm was already in existence and the roads that defined the edge of the Site were seemingly the same as today. The field boundaries shown, though not expected to be entirely accurate, do partially align with soilmarks (see below), suggesting this is a reasonable depiction of the field boundaries at the time.

A phase of inclosure occurred in Wargrave in 1800, although no map is known to survive from this date. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1809 (Fig 2b) shows the site, but this set of maps is notorious for the poor accuracy used to depict field divisions, which are usually just indicative. Although it does suggest the area had been subdivided into many smaller fields. The 1818 Wargrave inclosure map (Fig 2c) shows the site in much more detail and seemingly confirms the inaccuracy of the preceding map.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1878 (and subsequent maps of 1897, 1910, 1923 and 1938) shows the Site had been significantly altered, with the amalgamation of several smaller fields (Fig 3a). The Site has subsequently changed little down to today. However, it should be noted that the Ordnance Survey map of 1956 (Fig. 3b) shows several buildings which are not present today. There is a potential that some of these might have been defunct buildings from the Site's time as a WW2 airfield, although they do not meet the description of 'hangars in the southeast corner,' given by Ferguson (2013).

5.3 Aerial photographic and lidar data

There are no early aerial images of the Site available via Google Earth or Historic England. However, in 1991 Historic England did map a bank on the site (Fenner and Dyer 2017) (Fig. 4a – highlighted as feature '1'). This is also visible as a feature in lidar data (Fig. 4b). The bank was interpreted as a potential medieval or post-medieval field boundary by Historic England. However, it should be noted that this feature is on the 1818 inclosure map, but not the earlier 1761 Rocque map, suggesting it is more likely a late 18th or early 19th century feature.

The lidar data shows many of the field boundaries which were present on the 1818 inclosure map have survived as subtle banks. Several faint parallel features are visible in the fields. These are spaced by 25m, which indicates they are more likely to be field drains than ridge and furrow.

As noted above, the 1761 Rocque map shows a field boundary which is not on the 1818 inclosure map (Fig. 4c – highlighted as feature '2'). This is visible as a subtle dark soil mark on a Google Earth aerial image of the Site and is the only field boundary that has a reasonable potential to predate the 18th century.

The Google Earth image dated to July 2022 (Fig. 4d) shows extensive soil marks across the Site. Almost all of these match up to boundaries shown on the 1818 inclosure map. One exception is a mark at the north of the site which branches from a known 1818 field division to

form a partial oval (marked as feature '3'). The oval formed is at least 300m by 200m and it cleaves closely to the 98m contour line. However, the feature cannot be picked up on the opposite side of the road (in this image or images from any other recent year). It is not clear if this branch represents an unmapped field boundary or a geological feature.

The only other features which are apparent in the soil marks, but not on any maps, are a couple of broad dark spots and a pale band (Fig 4d – highlighted as feature '4'). The dark spots might indicate large pits or other archaeological deposits. However, pitting in chalk bedrock is a common geological feature as well. The pale linear feature has a slight curve to it and is visible for 150m, perhaps suggesting an bank predating the maps, or one not in use long enough to be recorded on any of the available maps.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds within the assessment area are held at the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER). Table 1 at the end of this text summarises the available records and Figure 5 shows the entries' locations. Non-designated post-medieval entries have been excluded from Figure 5 as these features are better understood from historical maps (with two exceptions, see below). Designated assets are shown on Figure 6. An overview of previous archaeological works ('events' in the parlance of the HER) is shown as Figure 7.

Table 1 – HER records of archaeological sites and findspots

MonUID	Name	Period	National Grid Reference
MRM16044	Palaeolithic handaxes	Lower Palaeolithic	SU 78023 82998
MWK8535	Prehistoric flint flake	Prehistoric	SU 78900 83200
MWK1101	Prehistoric flakes and a core	Prehistoric	SU 79800 82250
MRW13034	Lithic finds	Prehistoric	SU 80400 83000
MRM16724	Worked flint	Early Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age	SU 78526 81908
MWK15654	Flint polished axehead fragment	Neolithic	SU 79 82
MRM17512	Neolithic worked flint	Neolithic	SU 78484 82566
MRM15986	Lithic assemblage	Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age	SU 783 820
MRM15782	Early Iron Age occupation	Iron Age	SU 78343 82549
MRM17510	Iron Age features (f-j)	Early Iron Age to Middle Iron Age	SU 78488 82588
MRM15943	Iron Age activity (a-e) and (1-4)	Early Iron Age to Late Iron Age	SU 78608 81583
MRM15783	Roman pit	Late Iron Age to Roman	SU 78116 82274
MRM15984	Roman settlement (1-6 and a)	Late Iron Age to Roman	SU 78626 81648
MRM15781	Early Roman ditches and pits	Roman	SU 78298 82639
MWK15455	Late Roman fibula	Roman	SU 79200 83600
MRM17511	Roman ditch	Roman	SU 78484 82566
MRW12663	Roman pot	Roman	SU 80400 83200
MRM15985	Medieval linear feature	Saxon to Medieval	SU 78443 82179
MRM16657	Trackway	Medieval	SU 7862 8193
MWK8536	Medieval sherds	Medieval	SU 78900 83200
MRW13658	Medieval pot	Medieval	SU 80400 83000
MRM15987	Boundary bank*	Medieval to Post Medieval	SU 79065 82517
MRM17505	Possible medieval features	Medieval to Post Medieval	SU 78270 82752
MRM17506	Features at Templecombe Wood	Post Medieval	SU 78482 81797
MRM18621	Granary	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MRM18617	Middle Culham Farm (1-2)	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905

MonUID	Name	Period	National Grid Reference
MRM18618	Threshing barn	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MRM18619	Threshing barn	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MRM18620	Stables	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MRM18622	Farm building	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MRM18622	Agricultural buildings	Post Medieval	SU 78996 82905
MWK1056	Ditch and bank	Post Medieval	SU 78470 82400
MWK1054	Park Place	Post Medieval	SU 78033 82005
MWK6294	Park Place	Post Medieval	SU 77996 82005
MWK1090	Chalk pit (a)	Post Medieval	SU 7968 8248
MWK1091	Chalk pit (b)	Post Medieval	SU 7963 8255
MRM16255	Common Barn	Post Medieval	SU 77931 83166
MRM17507	Quarry pit?	Post Medieval	SU 78458 82460
MWK1053	Building earthwork	Post Medieval	SU 78460 82620
MWK1092	Undated pit feature?	Unknown	SU 78870 83280
MWK1093	Undated pit	Unknown	SU 78590 83500
MWK1094	A pit or tree root	Unknown	SU 78540 83530
MWK1057	L-shaped Ditch	Unknown	SU 78620 81600
MRM18198	Undated linear feature	Unknown	SU 7858 8191

Prehistoric

There are a large number of prehistoric finds within the assessment area. This includes eight isolated lithic assemblages. The oldest are two lower Palaeolithic hand axes found 680m west of the site. Three sets of finds were flakes that were not dated in any more detail than 'prehistoric'. Among this class of finds is a group containing a core, thought to be a production site, 65m east of the site.

Between 200m and 500m west of the Site, archaeological monitoring at Remenham Park Place revealed several collections of flint debitage spanning the Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age (Wood 2005; Failes 2012; APS 2013). These were largely considered to be residual flakes in later features, but reveal a human presence in the area throughout prehistory.

A fragment of a polished axe head (most likely Neolithic) was reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, just 50m north of the Site boundary. However, the degree of accuracy of the reported find location is unknown.

Iron Age activity has been found in two areas within the assessment area. Approximately 150m west of the Site pits and postholes dating from the early to middle Iron Age were excavated (Oxford 1995; APS 2013). Extensive evidence for middle to late Iron Age settlement, including pits with burnt daub, metal working and charred seeds was excavated 510m southwest of the site (Wood 2005; Failes 2012).

Roman

Evidence for Roman period settlement has been found on the same late Iron Age site mentioned above, with the suggestion that it was continuous occupation. The settlement was identified through ditches and rubbish pits, which contained evidence of metalworking and possible malting (Wood 2005). Further to this, a dispersed set of Roman features were found further north, along the whole of the western boundary of the Site, but no closer than 500m from it (Oxford 1995).

To the northeast of the Site, a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered during field walking, approximately 800m from the Site, and a fibula (brooch) was found by a casual metal detector 1km north of the Site. These finds do not suggest a strong Roman presence in the area north of the Site, but might indicate casual loss or waste spreading in agricultural

fields.

Saxon

A single sherd of Saxon pottery has been found in the assessment area, from a tree throw adjacent to a medieval linear feature, 425m west of the Site (Wood 2005). As a single sherd in a dubious context, it is unclear what to make of this find.

Medieval

The medieval linear feature mentioned above is the closest positively identified medieval feature to the Site, and was considered to be a beam slot dating to the 12th-13th century, implying the presence of a building (Wood 2005). Nearby, a trackway was excavated, with the wheel ruts containing pottery dated to between the 12th and 15th century (Failes 2012).

Medieval pottery has been found in very low quantities in the fields north of the Site, probably indicating manuring practice rather than settlement.

The remaining possible medieval features have been observed but not excavated. Within a tree belt west of the Site are three linear pits, a bowl-shaped pit and faint traces of ridge and furrow which have been identified during a survey (collectively 'possible medieval features'). These are thought most likely to be post-medieval in date, but could be earlier.

On the Site itself, a possible boundary bank was identified from pale soil marks, which the identifiers thought might be medieval or post-medieval in date. This is 'feature 2' mentioned in the aerial evidence section, which map evidence suggests is of early 19th century date, rather than medieval.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval features have been excluded from display on Figure 5. These are mostly buildings which can be seen on historical maps. However, it does include two pits located at the eastern edge of the Site, which were excavated in advance of a pipeline. These were described as large pits (each in excess of 7m wide and 1.9m deep) in the chalk bedrock with a charcoal horizon. One had a basal layer of flint blocks. They were interpreted as back-filled post-medieval chalk extraction pits although there was no dating evidence produced (BGC 1983).

Modern

There are no modern HER entries.

Undated

Several undated pits and ditches have been identified through archaeological works in the assessment area, but none in the vicinity of the Site.

Previous archaeological interventions

The results of previous archaeological work has been incorporated into the discussion above. Figure 7 shows the extent of previous archaeological work ('events' in the parlance of the HER). A very large amount of intrusive archaeological work has been conducted immediately west of the Site with very little conducted elsewhere. A pipeline was monitored which crosses the eastern corner of the site.

5.5 Walkover Survey

The Site was visited on the 26th July 2024 in order to assess the ground conditions, to identify any potential archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work. The weather conditions were clear and bright. The results of the survey are shown on Figure 8.

Access to the Site is currently through the main farm complex off Culham Lane. At the time of the visit, most of the Site was under cereal crop with a 10m perimeter clear and harrowed at

the edge of each field, with some larger harrowed areas in the centre of the Site (Plates 1 and 2). The paddocks and valley were grass (Plate 3).

The only potential archaeological feature observed was in the wooded area at the north of the Site, which has the appearance of a chalk quarry. Map evidence suggest it has existed since at least 1809, with the earlier 1761 map inconclusive due to a milestone label over this part of the image. No artefacts were observed.

There is very limited intervisibility with the Listed buildings in Upper Culham, essentially restricted to the roof of the Old Smithy being visible from the north western field (Plate 4). The Site, being on a high plateau is not visible from the adjacent park or any other nearby designated asset. The wooded hills which overlook the Site are over 2km away and do not contain designated assets.



Plate 1. General view of Site. Looking southwest.



Plate 2. General view of Site. Looking northeast.



Plate 3. General view of Site. Looking northeast.



Plate 4. Possible quarry pit. Looking east.



Plate 5. View towards the Old Smithy. Looking southwest.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

There are no Scheduled Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO) present within the assessment area.

There are a total of 15 Listed Buildings lying within the assessment area (See table 2 and Figure 6). All are Grade II Listed. The only one which is visible from the Site is the Old Smithy. The Milestone and the Cottage are not visible, despite lying very close to the Site boundary. Park Place is a Registered Park and Garden, but is not visible from the Site despite its proximity.

Table 2. Designated heritage assets in the assessment area.

Name	Grade	List no.	Grid reference
THRESHING BARN	II	1486123	SU7901282920
REMENHAM COTTAGE	II	1118187	SU 78129 82821
REMENHAM HILL TERRACE	II	1118188	SU 78241 82802
CRAIGMORE HOUSE	II	1319109	SU 78092 82827
REMENHAM HILL HOUSE	II	1319110	SU 78198 82810
MILESTONE	II	1155077	SU 79245 82622
ROSEHILL	II	1117539	SU 80389 82690
THE COTTAGE	II	1303527	SU 78981 82137
OBELISK	II	1319074	SU 77929 82282
THE OLD SMITHY	II	1319108	SU 78952 82174
BARN AT PARK PLACE FARM	II	1393655	SU 78050 82384
DEAN PLACE FARMHOUSE	II	1302965	SU 80346 81564
THE HORNS INN	II	1118166	SU 79998 80937
THE CRAZIES	II	1319100	SU 79800 80799
WORLEY'S FARMHOUSE	II	1319128	SU 79052 81065
Park Place	Registered park and garden	1000588	SU 77850 81998

All other archaeological remains within the assessment area are protected only through the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework which identifies the historic environment as a non-renewable resource (MHCLG 2025). The historic environment's fragile and finite nature is a particularly important consideration in planning. The effect of an application on the significance of a heritage asset or its setting is a material consideration in determining the application.

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity *etc.*) at the Site. Overhead cables were noted at the north of the site

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Past impacts are largely restricted to agriculture. The Site has been ridged for potatoes in the 20th century and ploughed during the 21st century. Additionally some chalk quarrying is thought to have taken place on the Site in the post-medieval period, although the features technically remains undated.

Landscaping for the polo pitches, excavation for the foundations of new buildings and a new access road associated with the plan are likely to have a negative impact on any archaeology which is present. At the time of writing, detailed information about proposed depths of excavation is not available, but as a flat, dry, rural site, it is reasonable to expect that archaeological deposits could lie directly under the plough soil. Therefore any depth of excavation has the potential to impact archaeology.

The proposal does not include any development in the area with potential intervisibility with the Old Smithy. Therefore, no impact on this designated asset is expected.

8. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

Information collated in the production of this document has allowed an assessment of the known and potential archaeological resource.

Lithic assemblages from the assessment area show that the landscape was widely used from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age. In particular, a core a short distance from the eastern boundary suggests some prehistoric flint working in the area. Iron Age settlement is well attested west of the Site, the closest known being just 150m from the northwestern corner of the Site. Therefore there is a moderate potential for prehistoric remains to be located on the Site.

Roman settlement is also well attested to the east, lying roughly 500m from the edge of the Site. There is a moderate potential for remains of this period to be located on the Site.

The Site was part of a forest in the early medieval period, with a settlement developing at Upper Culham by the 16th century. A boundary bank on the Site has been highlighted as a potential medieval feature by the HER, although map evidence suggests it is more likely to be early 19th century. The boundaries shown on the earliest map might have a medieval origin and one is visible as a soil mark. Therefore there is a moderate potential for medieval remains to be encountered on the Site, although they are likely to be agricultural in nature.

Several land boundaries which are likely to relate to early 19th century enclosure are visible as soil marks and are very likely to be encountered during groundworks.

The Site was an RAF base for the assembly of Spitfires in World War 2. Given it had a grass runway and temporary buildings, few archaeological traces of this period are expected to remain.

The walkover survey identified a possible quarry pit, but no other archaeological features. Four soil marks, comprising two pits and two curving bank features, are visible from aerial images and cannot be ascribed to mapped features, potentially suggesting an earlier origin.

The Site would be suitable for field walking and geophysical survey, dependant on crop cover. Geophysical survey could identify any buried field systems and field walking is likely to be successful in identifying any lithic or pottery scatters that might indicate the presence of past settlement.

On current evidence, there are no obvious ways study of the Site can contribute to the Regional Research Framework (Hey and Hind, 2014).

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The HER data used in the production of this report is copyright of Berkshire Archaeology.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All of the following references were consulted in the research. However, as some of them duplicated evidence given in others, or proved not to be relevant to the assessment, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

Primary Sources

Ordnance Survey, 1809 *Reading*, 2" map

Ordnance Survey, 1878 *Berkshire*, Sheet XXIII, 6" map

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGC	British Gas Corporation
BGS	British Geological Survey
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CSAI	Cranfield Soil Agri-Institute
HER	Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
INS	Institute for Name Studies
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
OS	Ordnance Survey
RBA	Royal Berkshire Archive

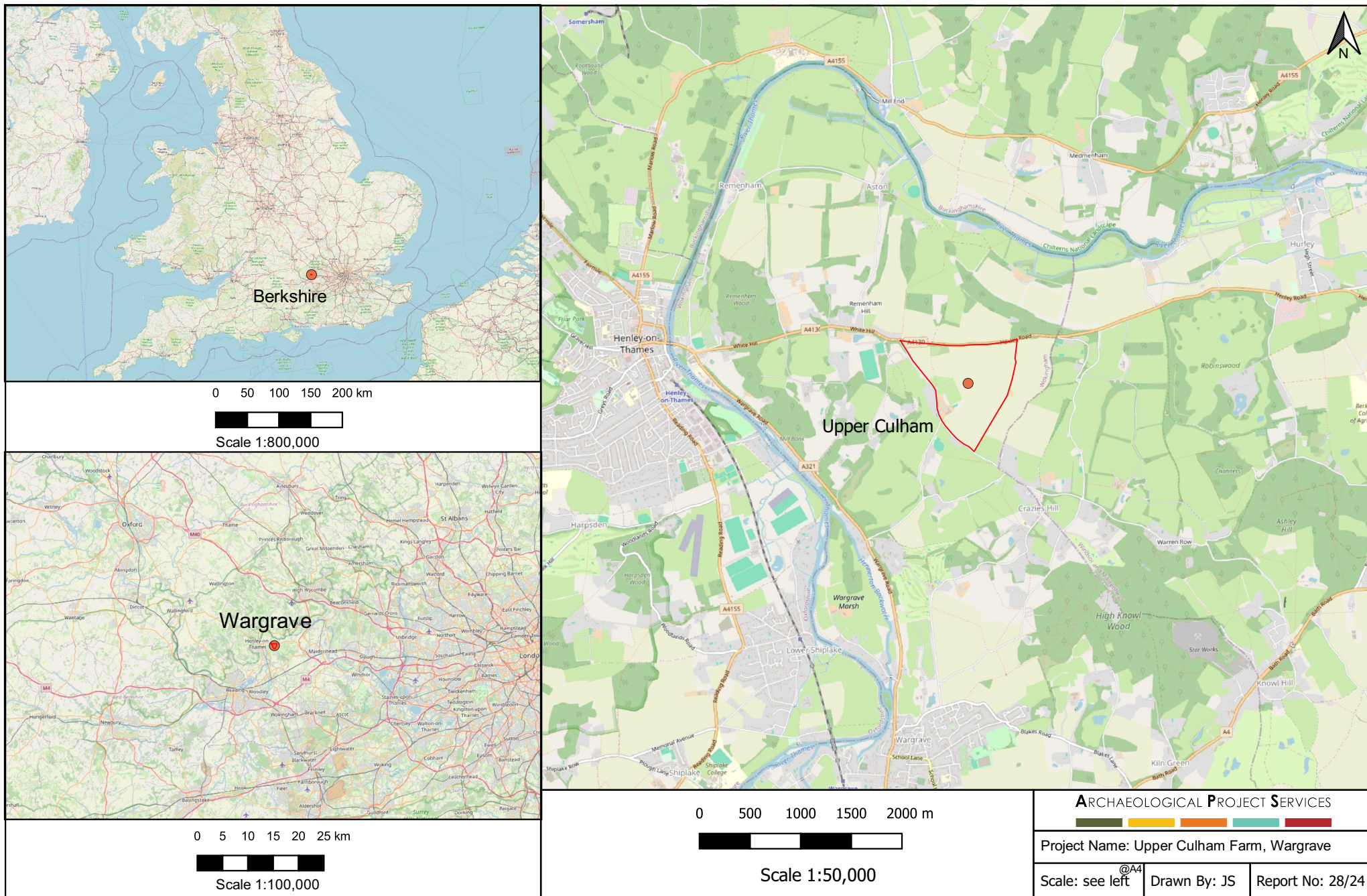


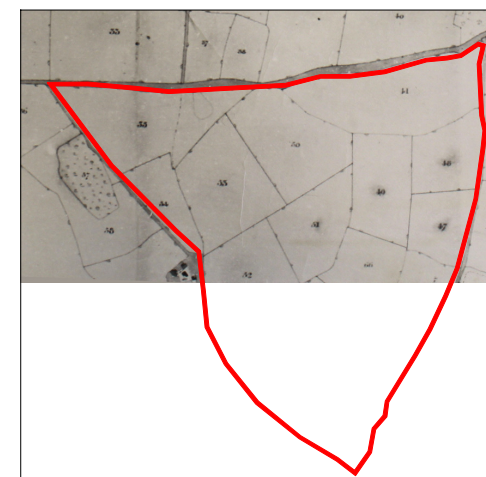
Figure 1 - Site Location



a) 1761 Rocque, Map of the County of Berkshire



b) 1809 Ordnance Survey, Reading 1st edition, 2"



c) 1818 Wargrave Inclosure Map

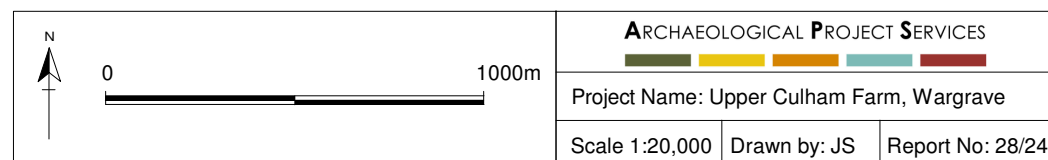
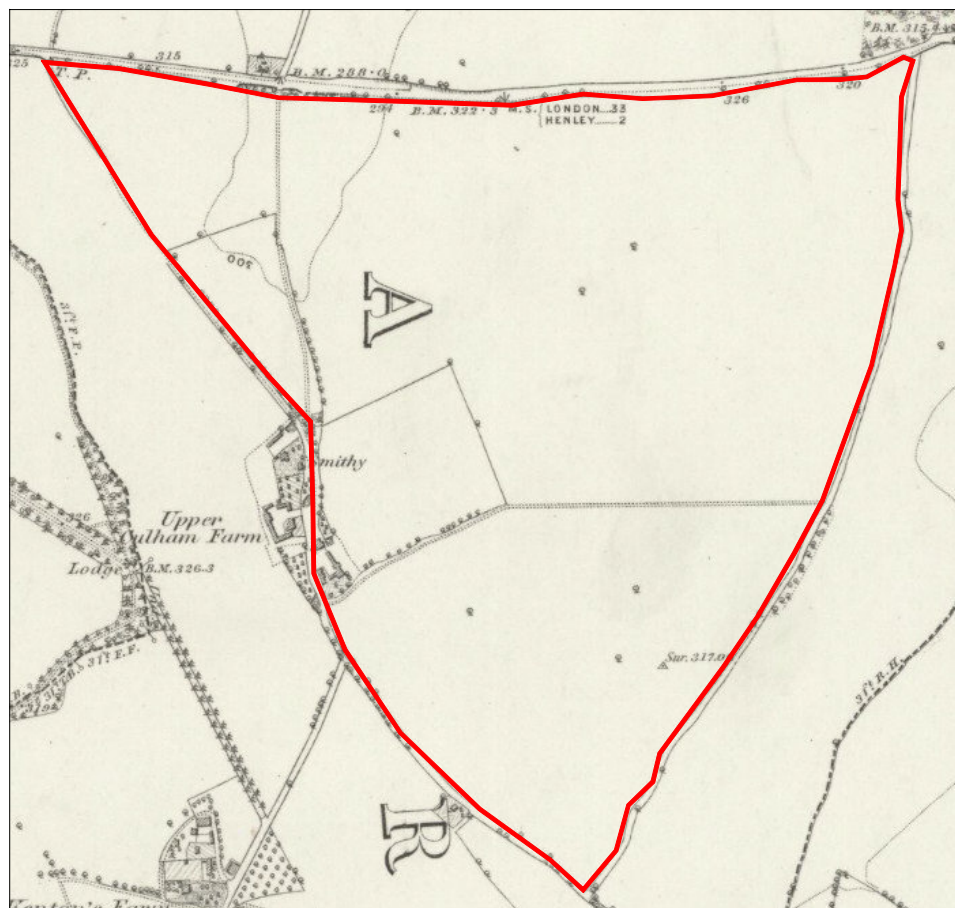
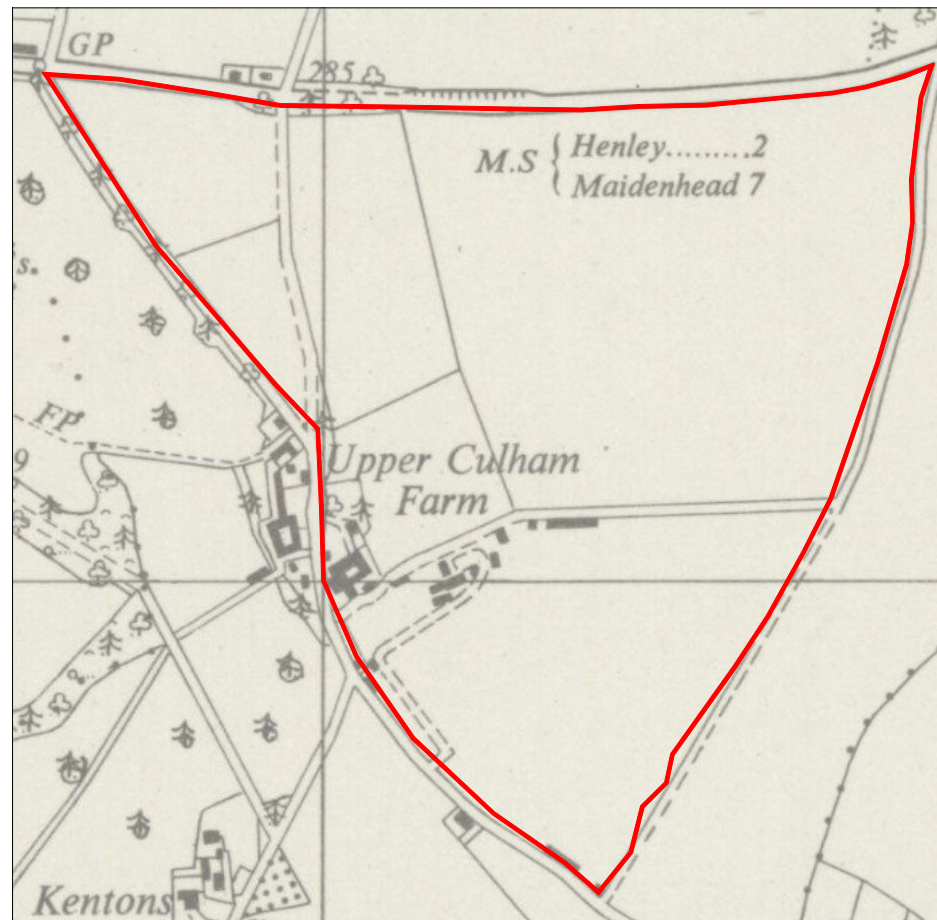


Figure 2 - Historical maps 1761-1818



a) 1878 Ordnance Survey, Berkshire Sheet XXIII, 25"



b) 1956 Ordnance Survey, sheet SU78, 1:25000

0 500m

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Project Name: Upper Culham Farm, Wargrave

Scale 1:10,000 Drawn by: JS Report No: 28/24

Figure 3 - Historical maps 1878-1956

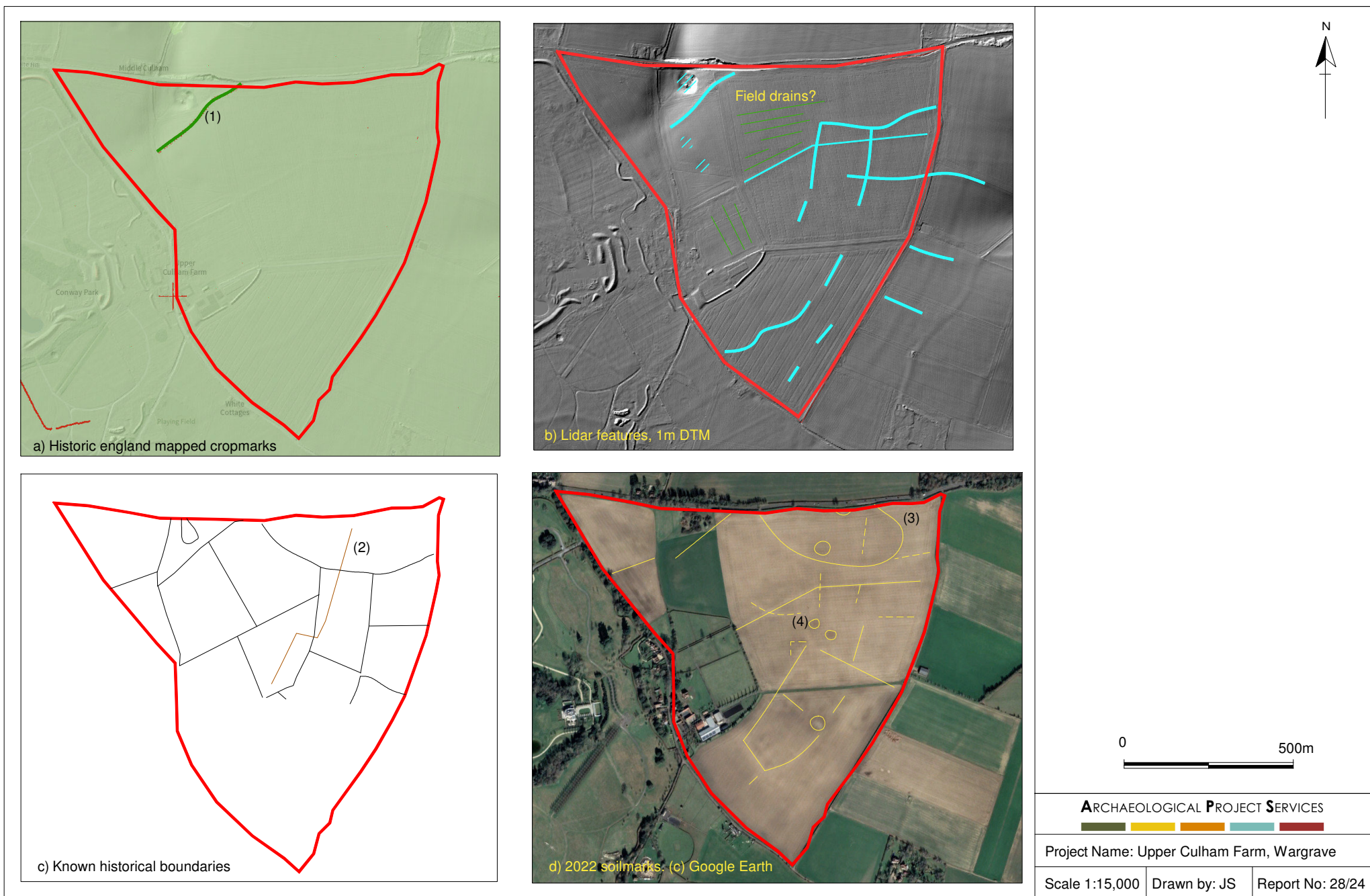


Figure 4 - Aerial evidence

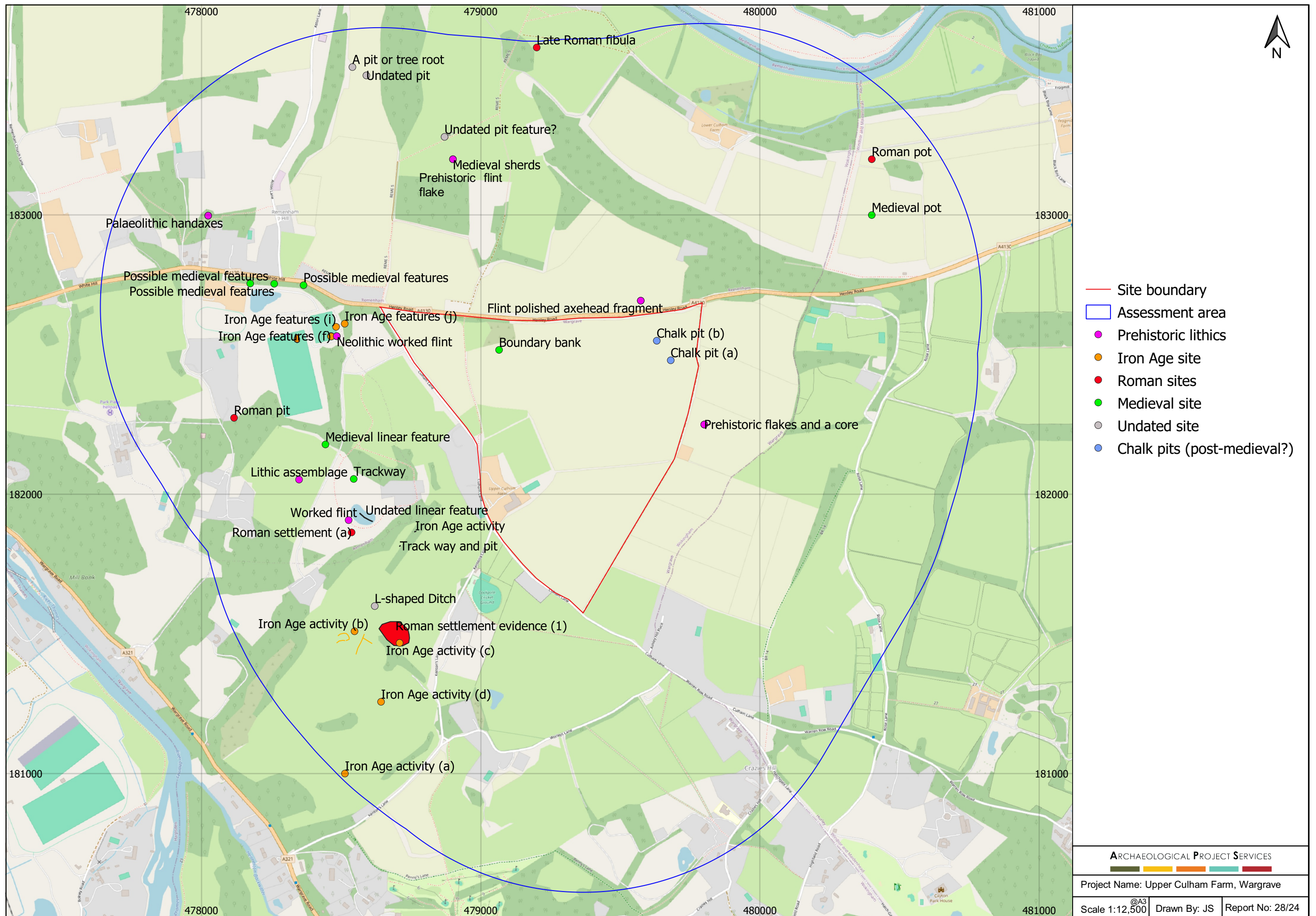


Figure 5 - Archaeological sites in the assessment area

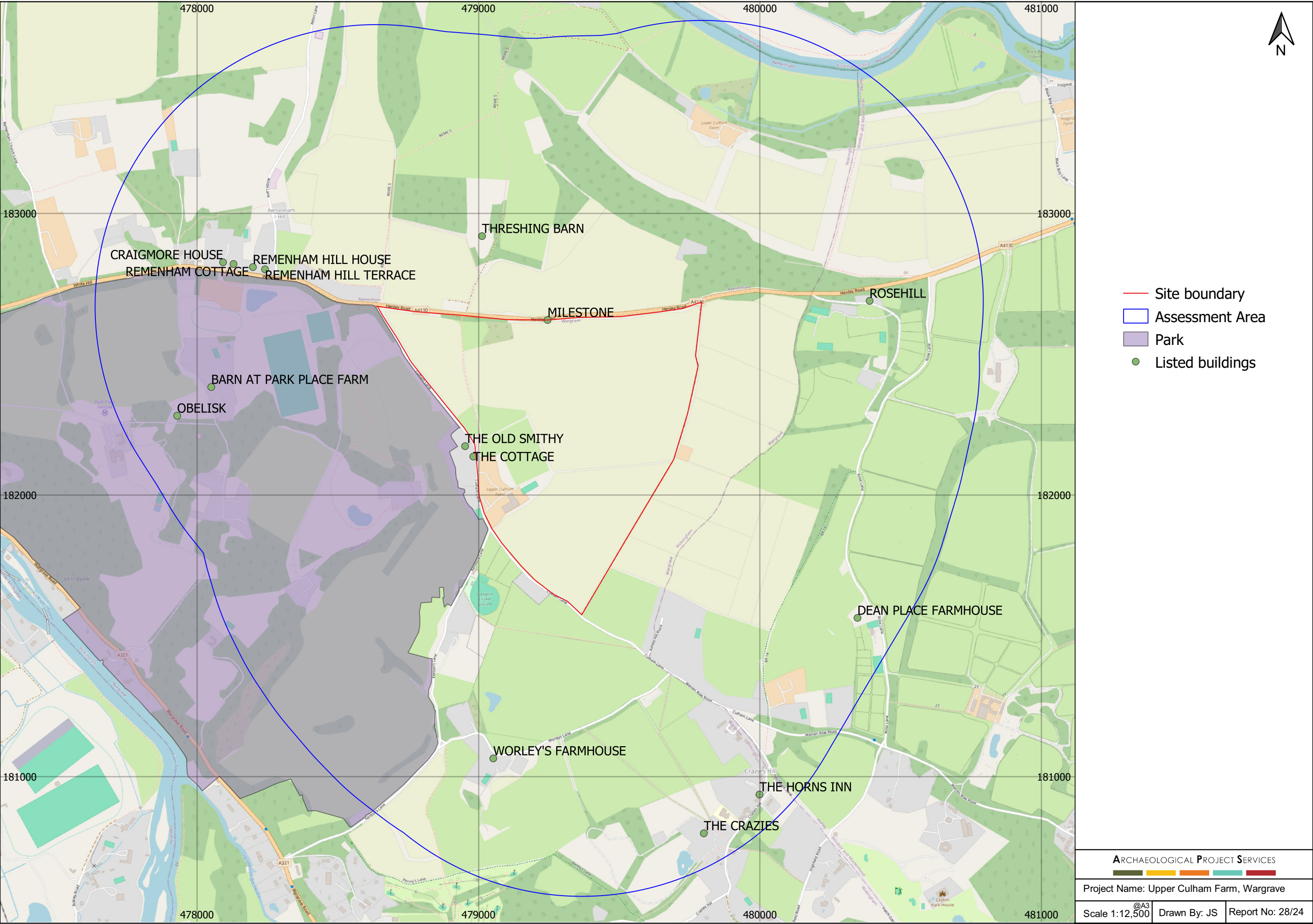


Figure 6 - Designated assets

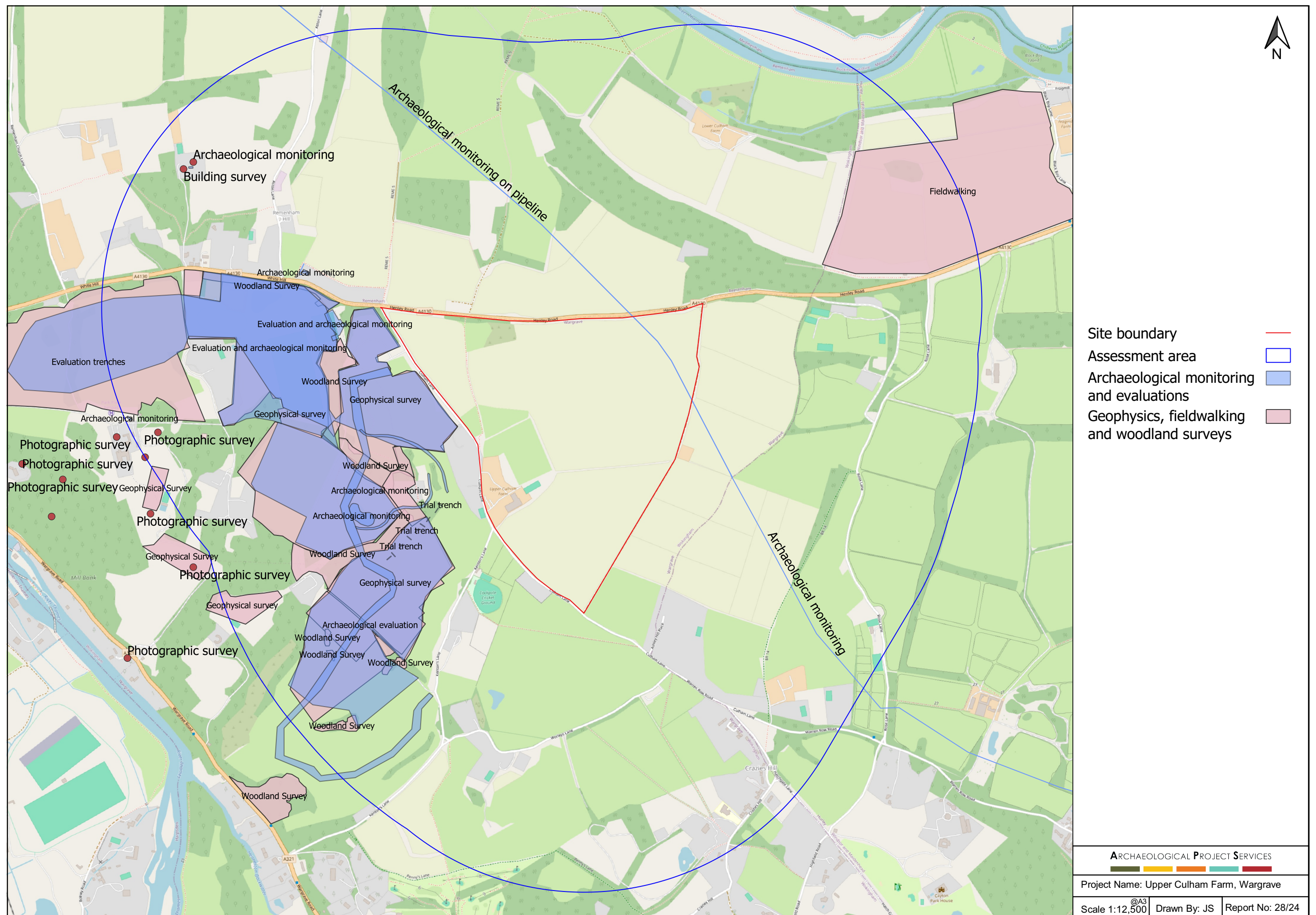


Figure 7 - Archaeological events



Figure 8 - Walkover results

Appendix

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2400 and 800 BC.
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Drift	Material that has been eroded, transported or deposited by glaciers (or their melt water). The term 'drift' is commonly used to describe any deposits of Quaternary age.
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Lidar	An aircraft-based method of survey using analysis of pulses of laser light reflected from the surfaces of the ground and buildings. It is cable of identifying subtle differences in topography.
Manuring Scatter	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
Modern	The current period, dating from around AD 1900 to the present time.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2400 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of Britain.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1900.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Residual	Artefacts that are noticeably earlier than others in an assemblage are often described as residual. Residual artefacts may be ones that were used for a very long time, or items that were maintained as heirlooms/antiques. If the dates of artefacts within a group do not exhibit major differences it can be difficult to determine if an artefact is residual or redeposited (<i>q.v.</i>)

Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Roman	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
Scheduled Monument	A monument protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
Soil marks	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features seen in the colour of soil.



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