

Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

**Prepared for
Fairfax (Reading) Limited and RGC (SODC) Limited**

Pip Stephenson

**Project No. 250162
Report No. 2025059**

OHER Ref. No. 24-170

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Summary

This Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared for a proposed residential development at Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire. This assessment has concluded that:

- *The Site has a moderate-high potential for artefacts of early prehistoric (Palaeolithic) date (in the underlying gravels) and deposits of the Romano-British period, a high potential for later prehistoric deposits, notably the Bronze Age, and a low potential for deposits of medieval to post-medieval date, with the exception of late post-medieval field boundaries/tracks for which the potential is high;*
- *Although geophysical survey across the land south of the Site did not identify any significant archaeological anomalies, subsequent trial trench evaluation and targeted mitigation identified two concentrations of activity – Middle Bronze Age pits including two cremations located immediately south of the west end of the Site and part of a small Romano-British farmstead at the south end of the former golf course. Recent geophysical survey of the current Site has identified further pit-like anomalies across the western part of the Site;*
- *The Site has been exposed to some truncation from arable cultivation and possible considerable truncation from landscaping for the creation of the golf course, however the recent adjacent investigation attests to good potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits;*
- *The proposed works are likely to have an impact upon any surviving archaeological deposits within the Site. A programme of trial trench evaluation is recommended, which can be carried out under a suitable planning condition and which can inform a mitigation strategy if required.*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology UCL) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological appraisal in relation to a proposed development comprising 70 residential properties at Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The appraisal comprises a desk-based assessment and walkover survey and assesses the impact of the proposed development on buried archaeological deposits and extant archaeological features. It includes the results of a geophysical survey.
- 1.2 This report follows the recommendations set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their *Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2020). The aim of this assessment is to present a synthesis of readily available archaeological and historical data relating to the Site and its environs, in order to identify any known or potential heritage assets within the Site. This information has been used, where possible, to ascertain the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any identified heritage assets and to consider the likely impact of the proposed development upon them.
- 1.3 The Site is centred on National Grid Reference 471443 177063 (Fig. 1). For the purposes of this assessment, the extents of the Site have been taken to be those identified in the plans provided by the client. For the purposes of the archaeological assessment a wider Study Area of 1 km radius has been considered to place the Site within its wider context (Figs 1 - 3). Information beyond this limit has been included where considered relevant.
- 1.4 In drawing up this desk-based assessment, cartographic and documentary sources and archaeological data relating to the Study Area were obtained from the Historic Environment Records (HER) held by Oxfordshire County Council and Berkshire Archaeology and from the Berkshire Record Office. Listed Building and Conservation Area data was acquired from Historic England, Reading Borough Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. Relevant sources held within the Archaeology South-East library were utilised, and appropriate on-line databases interrogated. These included: Heritage Gateway, National Heritage List for England, and the Magic website, which holds government digital data on designated sites (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and Registered Historic Battlefields) in GIS map form. It should be noted that other material may be held in other collections.
- 1.5 It should be noted that this form of non-intrusive appraisal cannot be seen to be a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological remains within any area but rather as an indicator of the area's potential based on existing information. Further non-intrusive and intrusive investigations such as geophysical surveys, surface artefact collection surveys and machine-excavated trial trenching may be needed to conclusively define the presence/absence, character and quality of any archaeological remains in a given area.

2.0 SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The Site lies on the northern edge of Reading, just across the county boundary in South Oxfordshire district, and within the grounds of the former Reading Golf Club. It occupies flattish land situated at a height of c. 80m aOD to the west and sloping gently down to south and east, dipping away sharply eastwards to a low of c 62m at the east end. It is bounded by suburban developments along Kidmore End Road to the east and Highdown Hill Road to the west, the flattish land of the golf course to the south and the more undulating ground of the golf course where it extends northwards. The Site lies within a network of dry valleys with the relative topographic low to the south forming the head of a shallow valley which deepens eastward (see Plate 6.3). The north end of the golf course (outside the Site) occupies a deeper valley lower down the former drainage network.

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online¹, the natural bedrock geology of the Site comprises Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation. Superficial deposits comprise Black Park Gravel Member (Sand and Gravel) on the majority of the Site. These are fluvial deposits with early prehistoric potential. No superficial deposits are reported at the extreme east end of the Site.
- 2.2.2 The Black Park Gravel Member corresponds to river terrace deposits within the Caversham Channel, a former route of the Thames which flowed between the modern locations of Caversham and Henley. These deposits have good potential for Palaeolithic deposits of the Late Anglian² period (Wenban-Smith et al, 2010).
- 2.2.3 According to the BGS historic borehole viewer³, a single historic borehole is located just beyond the northern edge of the Site (SU77NW68). Topsoil is recorded to a depth of 0.30m seated directly on the chalk and flints substrate.

¹ <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk> March 2025

² The Anglian Stage is correlated to Marine Isotope Stage 12 (MIS 12), which started about 478,000 years ago and ended about 424,000 years ago.

³ [GeoIndex - British Geological Survey](#), accessed March 2025

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 3.1.1 Government policies relating to planning are given in the National Planning Policy Framework. Section 16 (paragraphs 202 – 221)⁴ of the Framework (*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*) outlines policies relating to the historic environment and the key role it plays in the Government's definition of sustainable development, the principle which underpins the document.
- 3.1.2 The Framework requires that local planning authorities *should set out in their Local Plan 'a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, recognising that *'heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource'* and should be conserved *'in a manner appropriate to their significance'* (Section 16, paragraphs 202 and 203)⁵.
- 3.1.3 The Framework requires that planning applicants should *'describe the significance of any heritage assets affected'* by their application, *'including any contribution made by their setting'* (Section 16, paragraph 207)⁶.
- 3.1.4 The NPPF is supported by Planning Practice Guidance. In specific relation to historic environment issues, further guidance is provided by Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes 1 to 3, issued by Historic England and the Historic Environment Forum⁷.

3.2 Local Planning Policy

- 3.2.1 The South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 was adopted at a meeting of Full Council on 10 December 2020⁸. It now forms part of the development plan for the district and replaces the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 and Core Strategy (2012). The Plan and its supporting studies set out the future for development in South Oxfordshire up to 2035. The Plan identifies locations for housing, retail and employment land as well as the infrastructure required to support this growth. The policies in the development plan are the starting point for making decisions on planning applications in the district. The following policies are relevant to this assessment:

Policy ENV6: Historic Environment

1. *Proposals for new development that may affect designated and non-designated heritage assets should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of those assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. Heritage assets include statutorily designated Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or structures, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, archaeology of national and local interest and non-designated buildings, structures or historic landscapes that contribute to local historic and architectural interest of the district's historic environment, and*

⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf, accessed March 2025

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ <http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>, accessed March 2025

⁸ <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk> accessed March 2025

also includes those heritage assets listed by the Oxfordshire Historic Environmental Record.

- 2. Proposals for new development should be sensitively designed and should not cause harm to the historic environment. Proposals that have an impact on heritage assets (designated and non-designated) will be supported particularly where they:*
 - i) conserve or enhance the significance of the heritage asset and settings. The more important the heritage asset, the greater the weight that will be given to its conservation;*
 - ii) make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (through high standards of design, reflecting its significance, including through the use of appropriate materials and construction techniques);*
 - iii) make a positive contribution towards wider public benefits;*
 - iv) provide a viable future use for a heritage asset that is consistent with the conservation of its significance; and/or*
 - v) protect a heritage asset that is currently at risk.*
- 3. Non-designated heritage assets, where identified through local or neighbourhood plan-making, Conservation Area Appraisal or review or through the planning application process, will be recognised as heritage assets in accordance with national guidance and any local criteria. Development proposals that directly or indirectly affect the significance of a non-designated heritage asset will be determined with regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the asset.*
- 4. Applicants will be required to describe, in line with best practice and relevant national guidance, the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance. In some circumstances further survey, analysis and/or recording will be made a condition of consent.*
- 5. Particular encouragement will be given to schemes that will help secure the long term conservation of vacant and under-used buildings and bring them back into appropriate use.*
- 6. Alterations to historic buildings, for example to improve energy efficiency, should respect the integrity of the historic environment and the character and significance of the building.*

Policy ENV9: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments

- 1. Development must protect the site and setting of Scheduled Monuments or nationally important designated or undesignated archaeological remains.*
- 2. Applicants will be expected to undertake an assessment of appropriate detail to determine whether the development site is known to, or is likely to, contain archaeological remains. Proposals must show the development proposals have had regard to any such remains.*
- 3. Where the assessment indicates archaeological remains on site, and development could disturb or adversely affect archaeological remains and/or their setting, applicants will be expected to:*
 - i) submit an appropriate archaeological desk-based assessment; or*

- ii) undertake a field evaluation (conducted by a suitably qualified archaeological organisation), where necessary.*
- 4. Nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or demonstrably of deposits of significance equal to that of a nationally important monument will be assessed as though those sites or deposits are designated.*
 - 5. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of such remains consent will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.*
 - 6. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of such remains, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.*
 - 7. For other archaeological remains, the effect of a development proposal on the significance of the remains, either directly or indirectly, will be taken into account in determining the application.*
 - 8. In exceptional cases, where harm to or loss of significance to the asset is considered to be justified, the harm should be minimised, and mitigated by a programme of archaeological investigation, including excavation, recording and analysis. Planning permission will not be granted until this programme has been submitted to, and approved by, the Council and development should not commence until these works have been satisfactorily undertaken by an appropriately qualified organisation. The results and analysis of findings subsequent to the investigation should be published and made available to the relevant local and county authorities.*

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section summarises the known information relating to designated and non-designated heritage assets in the Study Area derived from the sources set out in 1.5 and including additional heritage assets, where appropriate, identified from field and geophysical survey. The identified heritage assets have been assigned an identifying number shown in **bold** in the text, and are tabulated in Appendix 1 and shown plotted on Figs 1 - 3

4.2 Heritage Assets

- 4.2.1 Heritage assets comprise a site, building, place, area or landscape of heritage interest and thus include buildings, archaeological sites and landscape features such as ancient woodland and hedgerows. Designated heritage assets are designated by statute, while non-designated heritage assets can be locally listed by the local planning authority and/or listed on county historic environment record databases, although this is not a definitive record of potential heritage assets – further examples may exist in an unrecognised or unrecorded form and absence from the HER database does not reduce or negate the significance of any potential heritage asset.

Designated Heritage Assets

Conservation Areas

- 4.2.2 The Site does not lie within, or bordering, a Conservation Area. The northern extent of Surley Row Conservation Area lies c. 765m to the south of the Site, centred on Surley Row, and lying beyond significant residential development.
- 4.2.3 One Historic Registered Park and Garden is located within the Study Area:
- Caversham Park (**15**) – 950m from the Site.
- 4.2.4 No listed buildings are recorded at the Site, but there are 14 Listed Buildings (**1** - **14**) located within the Study Area (all but two of which lie 500m or more from the Site boundary) and these are listed below⁹:
- 203 and 205, Peppard Road: Grade II Listed (**1**) – 878m from the Site;
 - 207-217, Peppard Road: Grade II Listed (**2**) – 858m from the Site;
 - 46, Surley Row: Grade II Listed (**3**) – 900m from the Site;
 - Barn to North-East of Old Grove House: Grade II Listed (**4**) – 206m from the Site;
 - Caversham Grove (now Highdown School, Emmer Green) Highdown School: Grade II Listed (**5**) – 562m from the Site;
 - Entrance Gates and Gate Piers to Caversham Park: Grade II Listed (**6**) – 971m from the Site;
 - Grove Cottage, Surley Row: Grade II Listed (**7**) – 960m from the Site;

⁹ A further 11 listed buildings are located just beyond the northern and western edge of the Study Area – impacts on these are fully considered in a separate heritage assessment (ASE 2025) but have no relevance to this archaeological assessment and are shown un-numbered on Figure 1 for completeness only.

- Kitchen Garden Walls to South and East of Stable Block of Caversham Grove: Grade II Listed **(8)** – 653m from the Site;
- Music Room at Highdown School, Emmer Green: Grade II Listed **(9)** – 614m from the Site;
- Old Grove House, Surley Row: Grade II* Listed **(10)** – 238m from the Site;
- Springfield, Convent of St Luke, Surley Row: Grade II Listed **(11)** – 983m from the Site;
- St Agnes, Grove Hill: Grade II Listed **(12)** – 1008m from the Site;
- The Stable Block at Highdown School, Emmer Green: Grade II Listed **(13)** – 645m from the Site; and
- Tudor Cottage, Surley Row: Grade II Listed **(14)** – 893m from the Site.

4.2.5 There are no examples of the following designated heritage assets within the Study Area:

- World Heritage Sites;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Registered Historic Battlefields; and
- Protected Wrecks.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Ancient Woodland

4.2.6 Ancient Woodland is defined as woodland known to have existed since 1600, and, whilst technically an ecological designation, may therefore contain archaeological features relating to historic woodland management.

4.2.7 Three stands of Ancient & Semi Natural Woodland lie within, or partially within the Study Area, with one (Cucumber Wood) partially bounding the Site to the north:

- Cucumber Wood – north of the Site;
- Chambers Copse – north-east of the Site; and
- Clayfield Copse – south-east of the Site.

4.2.8 A number of other heritage assets are recorded on the HER databases. These are discussed in the chronological sections below.

4.3 Historic Landscape Character

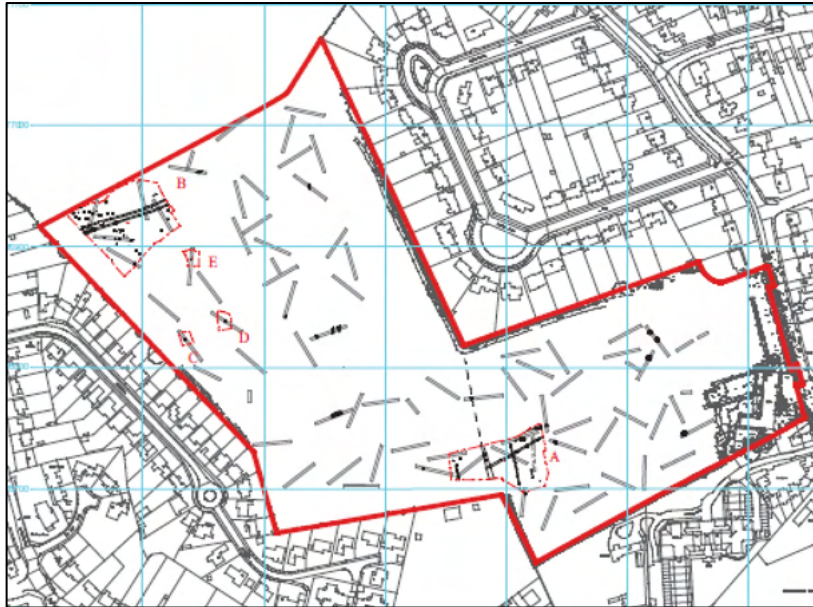
4.3.1 According to the Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) database, the landuse prior to the 20th century establishment of the golf course was ancient enclosure (AD 1540 – 1810) followed by prairie amalgamated enclosure (1810 – 1920).

4.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

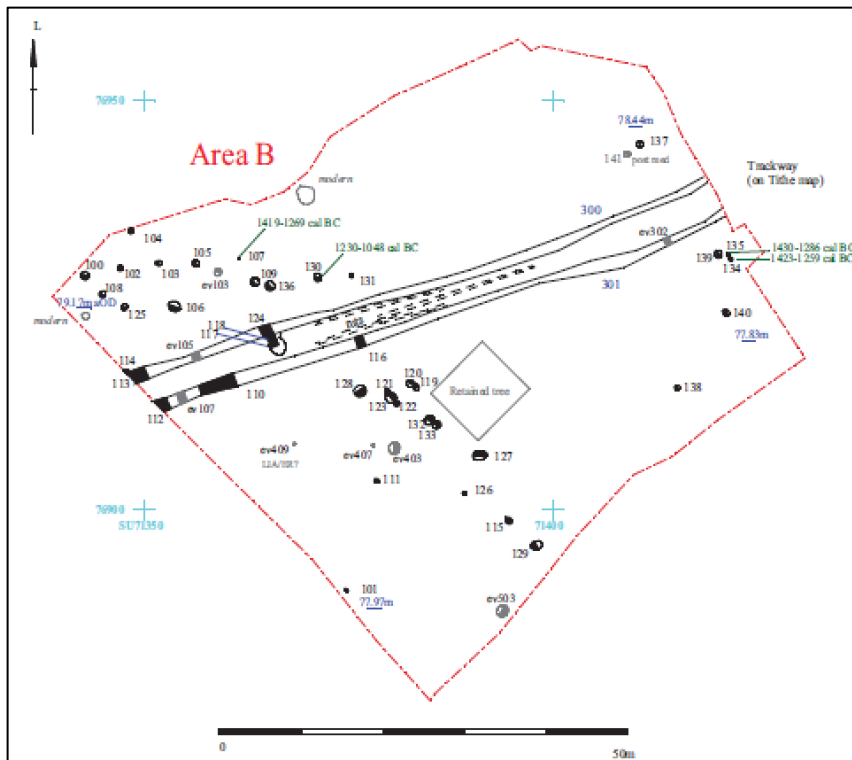
Recent

4.4.1 A desk-based assessment of the golf course land immediately south of the Site **(38)** was undertaken in 2019 and updated in 2021 (ASE 2021). Geophysical survey failed to identify any anomalies indicative of significant archaeological origin (Langston 2020). However, subsequent archaeological evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2022) and excavation (Ford 2023) identified two main concentrations of archaeological activity with several outlying results: the remains of a small Romano-British farm in the south-east corner of the Site (Area A) and a concentration of Middle Bronze Age pits in the

north-west, directly south of the present application Site (Area B). The features in Area B included two Middle Bronze Age cremations and a pit cluster, some unusually deep, organised in a north-south arc (See Figs 2 and 3 for locations related to the Site). Four radiocarbon dates returned dates - including for both cremations - of later MBA date with three suggesting a chronology of c. 1430-1270 cal BC, and one extending the time line into the later Bronze Age with a date of c. 1240- 1050 cal BC. The most relevant figures are reproduced below from the excavation report with due acknowledgement.



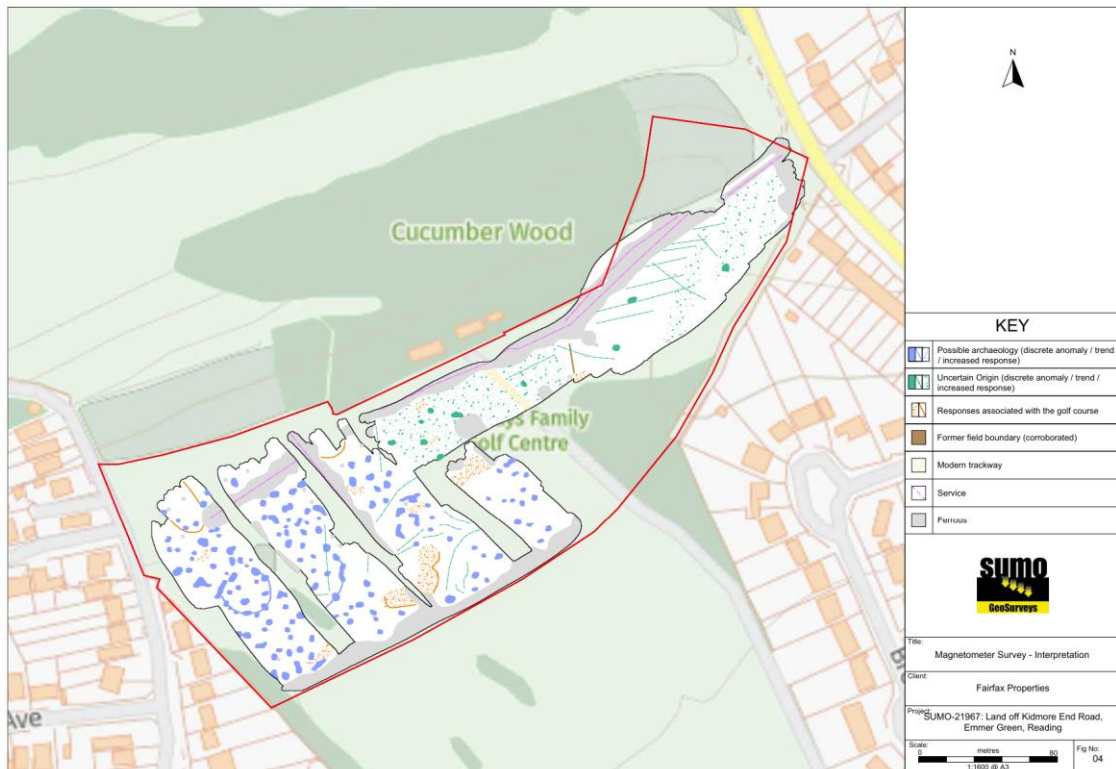
Ford 2023: Extract of fig 2 - Overall layout of site, showing evaluation trenches and areas excavated



Ford 2023: Extract of fig 4 – Plan of Site B

4.4.2 A further phase of geophysical survey has recently been carried out within the current Site (Cockcroft 2025). The results are summarised from the report:

“A magnetometer survey of 3.9 hectares of land off Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading has recorded magnetic responses that have been interpreted as being of possible archaeological interest. Numerous pit-like responses and a couple of curvilinear trends have been identified, and they could have archaeological origins. Uncertain anomalies are visible which are likely to be due to natural variations or modern features / ground disturbance. Several greens, bunkers and banks associated with the former golf course have also been recorded. A former field boundary, modern trackway and service pipes are visible in the magnetic data.”



Interpreted geophysical features (Cockcroft 2025)

4.4.3 Many additional archaeological investigations have taken place within the Study Area, concentrated to the south of the Site with occasional work to the west and east. The events are shown on Fig. 2 and are summarised below (a list of these interventions is available in Appendix 1). Most of the interventions correspond to non-designated heritage assets shown on Fig. 3 and discussed by period in sections 4.5 - 4.9.

Previous

- Emmer Green Children's Centre, Grove Road (ERM1163 and ERM 1163) (**30, 32**). An evaluation and excavation conducted by MOLA in 2010 revealed archaeological features dating from at least the 1st to the mid- 3rd centuries. The main feature, a boundary ditch running across site, suggests that a settlement may lie close by. Watching briefs have also been undertaken at the adjacent site of Emmer Green Primary School (ERM1136) (**16**), but did not produce evidence of archaeological activity.

- 41-49 Grove Road, Emmer Green (ERM776) **(20)**. An archaeological evaluation comprising 5 trenches was undertaken in 2007 by TVAS. Overall, despite the anticipated archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological deposits were encountered in any of the evaluation trenches. No archaeological deposits were encountered. One prehistoric struck flint scraper and a possible prehistoric flint flake were recovered from the spoilheap.
- 275-291 Hemdean Road, Caversham (ERM910) **(21, 35)** archaeological evaluation and watching brief. An archaeological evaluation comprising five trenches was undertaken in 2007 by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Several modern and post-medieval / modern features were identified.
- Archaeological watching brief and evaluation at Cedarcot, Lyefield Court, Emmer Green (ERM657) **(22, 29)**. An archaeological evaluation comprising five trenches was undertaken in 2006 by TVAS. A ring gully of middle Iron Age date and three nearby undated postholes indicates a small occupation site.
- Shipnell's Farm, Caversham, Berkshire (ERM964 and 966) **(28)**. A programme of low-density test pitting was undertaken over an area totalling 31.5ha of pasture straddling the steep-sided dry valley known as Hemdean Bottom, at the northern edge of Caversham. This evaluation was undertaken by Wessex archaeology in 1991 prior to residential development of the site. The archaeological potential of the site lay in the Neolithic to Bronze Age material recovered from the gravel and chalk ridge, forming the western boundary of the site. Flint artefacts were recovered from the topsoil on the western perimeter, and a single flake from within the test pits. An archaeological watching brief identified burnt flint and a single flake and a small area of Romano-British activity **(34)**.
- Geophysical survey at the Common Recreation Ground, Emmer Green (ERM1883) **(31)**. A geophysical survey was carried out on a small group of circles observed on aerial photographs. The magnetometry survey clearly showed the main feature to be a ring ditch with an internal second ring. The radar survey showed a linear feature running northeast-southwest across the ring ditch, which has an interruption on its eastern side, and two distinctive circular terminations leading into the inner circle. This is identified as a probable Bronze Age barrow cemetery.
- Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green (ERM260) **(33)**. A limited excavation was carried out with the guidance of Colin Burgess of Reading Museum in the 1950s, in the vicinity of a known Roman pit, in order to attempt to find any signs of a structure. A deep post-hole and a short length of discoloured soil was revealed. The post hole contained an iron brooch of AD 1-40 date. The post socket yielded sherds of coarse Roman pottery. There were also indications of a second, a smaller post about 15 feet from the first. Fragments of burnt wattle marked daub were found in the post socket fill. This was thought to indicate a structure of unknown purpose, tentatively dated to the early 1st – 4th century. A small quantity of material indicating possible prehistoric occupation was also retrieved.
- 10-18 Highdown Road, Emmer Green (ERM476) **(36)**. An archaeological evaluation comprising six trenches was undertaken in 2005 by TVAS. A single undated ditch was recorded amongst otherwise modern features.
- In February 2017 an archaeological evaluation was carried out of land off Peppard Road **(37)**. The works involved the excavation of an initial fifteen 50m

x 2m trenches. A further five trenches were subsequently excavated as a contingency allocation to investigate the extent of remains revealed in the initial trenching. The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity at a low density across the area and the presence of a probable Roman farmstead focused on the central and eastern areas.

Negative Evidence

- 16 Brooklyn Drive (ERM542) **(17)**. An archaeological watching brief was conducted by TVAS in 2006. No significant archaeological results are recorded.
- Highdown School, Surley Row (ERM 603) **(18)**. An archaeological field evaluation comprised two trenches across the main construction area. The stratigraphy comprised 0.11m of topsoil, overlying 0.15m of made ground (dark brown/grey silt with brick fragment inclusions). From 0.26m down the trench was dug into sandy gravels with flints and no archaeological finds or features were observed.
- 42 Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire (ERM718) **(19)**. An archaeological evaluation comprised five trenches. No archaeology was identified.
- 43 Grove Hill, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire (ERM993) **(23)**. An archaeological evaluation comprising 4 trenches produced no evidence of archaeological activity.
- Brindles, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green (ERM1266) **(24)**. An archaeological evaluation was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services in 2011. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.
- Archaeological Evaluation at 182 Kidmore End by TVAS. 2008 (ERM889) **(25)**. This lay in close proximity opposite to Smiths Gravel Pit and close to the Kidmore Road pits, which are former gravel pits noted for finds of Palaeolithic artefacts. Although the relevant levels had survived on the site, and there was clearly potential to encounter archaeological deposits, none were revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation.
- Former Garages, Evesham Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire (ERM1420) **(26)**. An Archaeological evaluation by TVAS in 2013 comprising 4 trenches produced no evidence of archaeological activity.
- Land to the rear of 48 Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire (ERM2111) **(27)**. An archaeological watching brief by TVAS in 2017 produced no evidence of archaeological activity.

4.4.4 In summary, archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the Site has revealed evidence of late prehistoric activity, including a Bronze Age barrow cemetery **(31)**, Iron Age and Roman settlement including at least one possible preserved Iron Age ring-ditch building **(30, 32)**, a possible 1st-4th century building **(33)**, and Roman period features possibly indicative of nearby settlement to the south-west **(30, 32)** and a farmstead to the north-east **(37)**. Geophysical survey of the Site suggests that further archaeological deposits may survive, possibly as pits associated with the Middle Bronze Age site excavated just to the south, although this requires confirmation as similar results can be produced by natural processes.

4.5 Archaeological Periods

- 4.5.1 The timescale of the archaeological periods referred to in this report is shown below. The periods are given their usual titles. It should be noted that for most cultural heritage assessment purposes the boundaries between them are not sharply distinguished, even where definite dates based on historical events are used. All site numbers refer to Figs 1 & 3.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic (c. 950,000 BC - c. 10,000 BC)

Prehistoric: Mesolithic (c. 10,000 BC - c.5,000 BC)

Prehistoric: Neolithic (c. 5,000 BC - c.2,300 BC)

Prehistoric: Bronze Age (c. 2,300 BC - c. 600 BC)

Prehistoric: Iron Age (c. 600 BC - AD 43)

Romano-British (AD 43 - c. AD 410)

Early Medieval (c. AD 410 - AD 1066)

Medieval (AD 1066 - AD 1540)

Post-medieval (AD 1540 to date)

4.6 Prehistoric

- 4.6.1 The vicinity of the Site has produced a rich assemblage of Palaeolithic material (**42, 47 – 51**) largely derived from deposits within the 'Caversham Channel', an ancient route of the Thames which ran north-east between Reading and Henley (Wymer 1999, map 3). This is complemented by numerous additional finds beyond the Study Area. Palaeolithic finds within the Study Area include several handaxes from Tanner's Farm Pit north of the Site (**42**), another handaxe from Cucumber Wood immediately adjacent to the Site (**47**), five handaxes from Smith's gravel pit to the south-west (**49**), a cordate hand axe (**50**), and flint flakes (**51**). A large gravel pit at Caversham Hill (**48**) has produced a considerable number of palaeoliths. An additional Palaeolithic handaxe is recorded in the PAS data (BERK-7F2596).

Neolithic

- 4.6.2 The Neolithic period saw dramatic cultural and technological change with the introduction of agriculture to Britain and the gradual adoption of a sedentary lifestyle. Flintwork dated to the Neolithic (**52-53**), including an isolated axe and a possible occupation site characterised by numbers of Neolithic worked flint, implements, 'celts', and pot boilers. Other broadly dated prehistoric flints have been retrieved including handaxes (**41, 43**), scrapers (**41, 46**), a flint arrowhead (**45**) and an artefact scatter (**44**). The line of a prehistoric ridgeway follows the crest of the Chiltern ridge where it lies to the west of the Study Area (**40**).

Late Prehistoric

- 4.6.3 Continuing technological development and rising population in the Bronze Age and Iron Age led to craft specialisation and the evolution of complex societies. The Early Bronze Age is characterized by the introduction of metals, generally associated with new types of pottery such as Beakers, and the construction of new types of ceremonial sites, notably round barrows often forming linear cemeteries on ridges. The Middle and Late Bronze Age saw a change in emphasis away from ceremonial and monumental landscapes towards the development of large-scale agricultural landscapes, typified by blocks of field systems associated with scattered settlements. Within the region the emergence of this more organised landscape can be seen in the construction of major

linear boundary features on the chalk downs and the development of more permanent and substantial settlements.

- 4.6.4 A Bronze Age barrow cemetery has been identified at Emmer Green by aerial photography and geophysical survey (55). This is attested by 11 circular features, the largest of which has a diameter of approximately 22m, with the external ditch being 2m wide and probably at least 0.6m deep (as demonstrated by ground penetrating radar). Internal lamination in the ditch fill suggests gradual deposition of material and multiple episodes of backfilling. It also contains an internal stakehole ring 11m in diameter. A nearby hoard of three socketed Bronze Age axes, apparently broken up in antiquity, was recovered during the construction of Emmer Green Primary School in 1951 (54).
- 4.6.5 Recent investigation of the former Reading Golf Course Site to the immediate south of the application site has produced evidence of Middle and Late Bronze Age activity. These comprised a series of Middle Bronze Age pits, some of which were unusually deep, a few postholes and two cremation burials. The main concentration of pits (c 37) were seemingly arranged in an arc oriented broadly north-south and located immediately south of the west side of the application Site (56). The two cremation pits were located slightly east of the main feature concentration from north-west to south, with a few outliers (57). An outlying feature (or features) was also identified (58).

4.7 Iron Age and Romano-British

- 4.7.1 Rapid socio-economic growth occurred during the Iron Age, alongside a rise in population and the increasing exploitation of what had previously been more marginal environments. The archaeological resource generally suggests that society was becoming more organised and more tribal in its nature. As one of the nearest parts of Britain to the Continent, the south-east experienced contact with Rome from an early date, first as trade and then as conquest. The HER record shows a concentration of Iron Age features to the south and west of the Site. Finds located to the south include a gold stater (59), a gully with Middle Iron Age period finds and three undated postholes (60), and a late Iron Age – Roman ditch, possibly related to a long-lived north-south boundary ditch (70), and nearby dated posthole (61). To the south-west of the Site a series of postholes and a small area of collapsed clay wall (62) yielded a 1st century iron brooch, a sherd of Belgic butt beaker, burnt wattle-marked daub, part of a clay floor, pieces of millstone grit and much iron clinker. Together this has been taken as evidence of a late Iron Age or Roman building (1st - 4th century) (64). Roman pits (67, 69) have been found in close proximity to this possible building, one containing 16 coins and pottery (69). Evidence of a Roman farmstead has been found to the north-east of the Site (63). Several Roman findspots have been recorded: Romano-British pottery has been found south-west, at Shripnell's Farm (65), and single Roman coins have been found just to the north-east of the Site (43, 66), and also further to the south-east (71), with a Roman bracelet also found nearby (68).
- 4.7.2 The recent excavations at Reading Golf Course found further evidence of Romano-British settlement, located in the south-east of the Site and corresponding to part of a small farm, with no objects of wealth, such as coins nor imported pottery (72). Some linear features continued southwards beyond the development site boundary. Outlying deposits were identified further north (73, 74).

4.8 Medieval

- 4.8.1 The decline of Roman authority saw a return to older ways of life, and an influx of settlers from Germanic lands across the North Sea. The first mention of Reading is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle under the date 871. It is thought that the Danes invaded

Wessex in that year, took Reading and threw up fortifications on the strip of land between the Kennet and the Thames. And there they were unsuccessfully attacked by King Ethelwulf and his brother Alfred. Again, in 1006, it is thought that Reading was burned by the Danes (Ditchfield and Page, 1923). A castle existed at Reading and was held by Stephen in his campaign against Matilda in 1150, after which it was destroyed. In 1121 Reading Abbey was founded by Henry I and became an important focus for the town's development (ibid).

- 4.8.2 The early history of Caversham, to the south-east of the Site, is also thought to be Saxon in date¹⁰, although it is first mentioned in Domesday Book, with a former manor house thought to lie in the vicinity of the more recent Caversham Park **(15)**. As Reading developed in the medieval period, Caversham was held by high ranking noble families. The HER records no medieval monuments or findspots within the Study Area.

4.9 Post-Medieval

- 4.9.1 In the post-medieval period the Site lay to the north-west of Caversham Park **(15)**. This estate was owned by Lord Craven during the mid to late 17th century, who rebuilt the Elizabethan manor house after 1660, probably with William Winde as the architect. The estate was sold in 1697, passing by the 1720s into the hands of William, first Baron, and later Earl, Cadogan (d 1726). Cadogan, a soldier and friend of the Duke of Marlborough, rebuilt the manor house in grander style, probably on a new site. Extensive formal gardens were laid out. These were largely swept away by a new design by Lancelot Brown in the mid-1760s. The house was burnt down and rebuilt more than once in the following period, and was sold in the 1920s, being used as a school in the 1930s and then by the BBC during the war. The HLC records the former presence of early post-medieval enclosure followed by field amalgamation to form prairie style pasture prior to the conversion to amenity use in 1921.

- 4.9.2 Apart from the 14 listed buildings of post-medieval date **(1-14)** – see section 4.2.3 and Appendix 1) that lie within the immediate Study Area, a further four post-medieval entries are recorded on the HER. These comprise:

- 16th century coins **(43)**;
- Site of Donkey Wheel, Grove House, Emmer Green **(75)**;
- Water Tower **(76)**.
- Site of Second World War heavy anti-aircraft battery at Tanner's Farm, documented as extant in 1942. No remains **(77)**;
- Linear features corresponding to boundaries on the Caversham Tithe map of 1846 were revealed during archaeological investigations (trackway in Area B and other features in in Area A **(78)**).

Undated

- 4.10 A single undated feature has been recorded within the Study Area corresponding to a possible boundary bank 110m long located north-east of the Site **(79)**.

¹⁰ https://www.cadra.org.uk/uploads/wysiwyg_editor/files/History-Resources/cavershamhistory.pdf
accessed March 2025

5.0 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- 5.1 No estate maps have been identified for the Site, and the earliest map available showing any detail is Rocque's map of Berkshire dated to 1761 (Fig. 5). Due to the age and scale of the map it has been difficult to position the Site accurately and the Site outline is therefore only approximately located. The Site corresponded to a narrow strip of land bounded to the south, west and east by roads, and to the north by the break of slope where the land slopes away northwards.
- 5.2 The Caversham tithe map produced in 1846 shows the land divided into two fields, with a road to the south (Fig. 6). The plot occupying the west of the Site (plot 280: The Hayles?) was owned by Christ Church College, Oxford, and leased by Thomas Brown. The plot to the east (plot 282: Cucumber Hill) was owned by the Reverend John Holding and leased by Isiah Fuller. Both plots were under arable crops. Cucumber Wood is clearly indicated occupying part of the land immediately north of the Site. Plot names within the land to the south have a prevalence of the variations ley, lye and leigh, likely derivations of the Saxon leah meaning unenclosed land or clearing, which suggest that these were once part of the commons on the edge of Reading (ASE 2021 and Appendix 2).

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot Name	Activity
280	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	The Hayles (?)	Arable
281	Not Found			
282	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Cucumber Hill	Arable

Table 1: Tithe Apportionments

- 5.3 Ordnance Survey mapping from 1878 onwards shows the Site in greater detail. The 1878 - 1879 map (Fig. 7) shows no change within the Site from the tithe survey. The road south of the Site was falling into disuse by this date. By 1898 (Fig. 8), the line of the former road, which had continued in use as a track for most of its length, was shown as the U. D Boundary (Urban District). By 1914 (Fig. 9), the golf course had been established, including the Site, although the field boundary dividing the Site was still present. By 1936 (Fig. 10) the field boundary had been removed. The 1956 map (Fig. 11) shows some of the trees and patches of rough within the golf course.

6.0 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6.1 No historic aerial photographs were located which clearly showed the Site. Images provided by Google Earth are available from 2003 onwards. The line of the former road to the immediate south of the Site can be picked out in image 6.1, but shows better on the LiDAR image below (Plate 6.3). A close-up view of the 2003 image (Plate 6.2) shows a regular series of linear features at the east end of the Site. These appear to have been picked up in the geophysical survey also and are most likely to correspond to drainage for the golf course, or possibly earlier agricultural drains.



Plate 6.1: Aerial View 2003 (Google Earth)



Plate 6.2: Aerial View 2003 – detail of east end (Google Earth)

- 6.2 LiDAR data from DEFRA (1m DTM) was consulted. A clearer image was however produced using readily available online data¹¹. In addition to the linear depression created by the former road south of the Site and a number of features relating to golf course landscaping, there appears to be an irregular depression present at the base of the slope at the east of the Site which may be a former unmapped quarry pit.

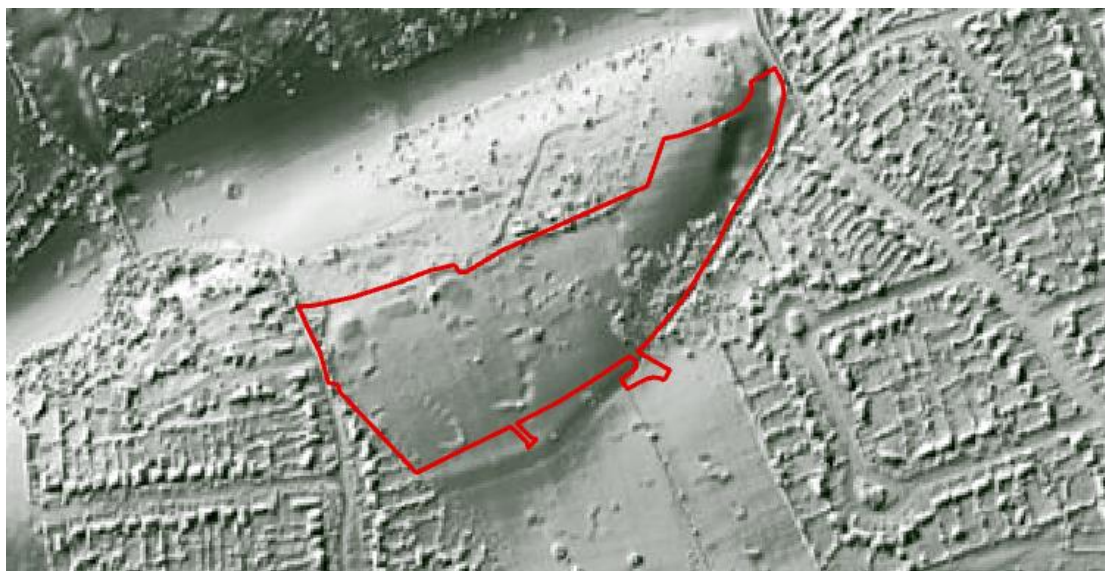


Plate 6.3: LiDAR image

¹¹ <https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map> accessed March 2025

7.0 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 7.1 A walkover survey by the author was undertaken on 29th June 2022 during the early phases of the application. The objective of the walkover survey was to identify historic landscape features not plotted on existing maps, together with other archaeological surface anomalies or artefact scatters, and to assess the existence of constraints or areas of disturbance that may have impacted upon the predicted archaeological resource. The walkover survey was rapid and was not intended as a detailed survey.
- 7.2 The Site comprises three character areas. The eastern end is occupied by a golf fairway that slopes away sharply eastwards at the east end with some areas of rough ground (Plates 7.1 - 7.9). This area is bounded to the south by a track and woodland (7.9 - 7.12). The west end is characterised by fairway with greens and sandy bunkers and numerous mature trees (7.13 – 7.18). The southern boundary at this end slopes down towards a low valley formerly occupied by roadway.
- 7.3 The eastern part of the Site is occupied by a smooth fairway, generally flat and level at the west end (Plate 7.1). No visible trace of the south-west – north-east oriented linear features identified by aerial photography was observed; this tends to confirm their identification as field drains. The ground surface tips away sharply towards the east end of the Site (Plate 7.2), the extreme east end, beyond a pathway, occupied by a patch of rough flattish ground against the eastern hedge (Plate 7.3). Where the Site curves towards the north-east there is evidence of landscaping, the ground level rising abruptly to a flat area formerly occupied by a green (Plate 7.4). A patch of low scrubby trees occupies the north-west corner of the Site (Plate 7.5). The base of the slope of the main fairway is occupied by the two low depressions also visible on LiDAR which appear to be man-made and may be evidence of extractive activity on the verge of the former road (Plate 7.6).
- 7.4 The western limit of the eastern fairway was examined for evidence of the former field boundary (Figs. 5 - 7). No clear evidence of this remains visible above ground, although it may just be possible to make out two very low parallel linear mounds (Plate 7.7). A large low depression in the fairway was apparent on the west side of this (Plate 7.8). Several similar additional depressions are visible broadly on the alignment of the former field boundary: cutting through it on the southern edge of the fairway (Plate 7.9), just to the south in the adjacent woods (no image), and further south-west in a patch of woodland (Plate 7.10). At least some of these may correspond to the extraction of tree-stumps along the line of the former boundary. However, the wedge-shaped scrub woodland bounding the fairway to the south has a somewhat irregular surface in general, and these low depressions may also be the evidence of localized extractive activity or other intrusions most likely modern in date such as former golf bunkers.
- 7.5 Similar depressions can also be made out in the northern bank of the trackway bounding the south-east of the Site (Plates 7.9 – 7.10). This trackway corresponds to the line of the former road. It is bounded by banks to either side, particularly towards the southern end and has the character of a low hollow way (Plates 7.11 – 7.12). It is also bounded by well-spaced mature trees to either side.
- 7.6 The western end of the Site is generally flat (Plate 7.13) though with sandy pockets created by bunkers (Plate 7.14), and the ground level at the north-western end has largely been made-up to create level ground (Plate 7.15). There is some localized evidence of underground services (Plate 7.16). Various mounds and depressions correspond to golf course features, and mature trees dot the fairways (Plate 7.17). The southern limit of the Site tips away gently towards the low valley that bounds the south

and south-east of the Site and that was exploited as a throughway by the former road (Plate 7.18).

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

- 8.1 A preliminary review of the cultural heritage evidence detailed earlier indicates that there are no known heritage assets within the Site. However, archaeological deposits of prehistoric and Romano-British date have previously been found in close proximity to the Site. Recent trial trench evaluation and targeted mitigation associated with an earlier application identified a significant Bronze Age pit cluster immediately south of the west end of the Site including some unusually large pits and two Middle Bronze Age cremations. Remains of a Roman-British farm were also found towards the south end of the former golf course. Recent geophysical survey of the Site itself identified a scatter of discrete anomalies that, if not geological, may be further pit features suggesting that archaeological deposits extend into at least the western part of the Site.
- 8.2 As such, it is considered that there is the potential for as yet unknown heritage assets of archaeological interest (i.e. below-ground archaeological remains) to be present within the Site. This comprises:
- A moderate-high potential for flint scatters of Palaeolithic date and deposits of Romano-British date, and a high potential for deposits of Bronze Age date, including cut features (e.g. pits, ditches, postholes, ecofacts and artefacts) based on the proximity of excavated evidence;
 - A moderate potential for features of other late Prehistoric date;
 - A low potential for medieval and post-medieval deposits with the exception of deposits relating to post-medieval field boundaries for which the potential is high.
- 8.3 A desk-based assessment can generally only consider the potential of a site in principle. Its conclusions usually require testing by fieldwork in order to confirm whether remains are actually present and, if this is the case, to establish their character, condition and extent and thus indicate the weight that ought to be attached to their preservation. It must always be acknowledged that remains of a type for which there is no prior evidence may be found on a site by fieldwork.
- 8.4 The significance of any heritage assets that may exist on the Site cannot be determined in advance of confirmatory fieldwork, but the available evidence from the wider Study Area would suggest that any buried deposits present are most likely to be of local or regional significance.

9.0 PREVIOUS IMPACTS ON HERITAGE POTENTIAL

- 9.1 The construction of the golf course is likely to have had an impact on buried archaeological deposits, with ground disturbance and potential truncation of buried archaeological deposits across the whole of this area. Key impacts are:
- Landscaping to create the fairways and bunkers of the golf course;
 - Any excavation for services, and underground drainage pipes;
 - Tree-planting.
- 9.2 The tithe survey (1846) records the entire Site as under arable cultivation. As such, the Site has been subject to plough damage during at least the late post-medieval period prior to conversion to golf course, and possibly through the early post-medieval period. This will also have truncated archaeological deposits to some extent. Evidence from archaeological work carried out within the Study Area suggests that archaeological deposits have survived beneath former ploughsoils.

10.0 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 10.1 In considering the potential impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets that are present, it is necessary to understand both the significance of the asset and the likely degree/magnitude of impact. The proposed development comprises 70 residential units with associated access, gardens and services and landscaping (Fig. 12). These will occupy the high ground in the west half of the Site. An area along the north side of the new housing is reserved for 'Swale/Attenuation' for which the final size and position is yet to be determined. A soft play area will occupy the east end of the high ground. The east end of the Site will remain undeveloped, and some of the larger trees in the west of the Site will be retained, as will the woodland within the Site and the trees along its boundaries.
- 10.2 No details of the construction methodology were available at the time of reporting, but the likely impacts of the proposed construction phase are relatively straightforward to identify. Based on this information available the following impacts are expected, all of which may damage or destroy any buried archaeological deposits present on the Site:
- Site preparation/setting up of compounds etc;
 - Landscaping and levelling;
 - The excavation of footing trenches for new buildings;
 - Excavation and levelling for roads and parking;
 - The excavation of any below ground services e.g. drainage;
 - Any excavations for the Swale/Attenuation area; and
 - Excavations for installation of the Soft Play Area.
- 10.3 There are no known heritage assets recorded within the perimeter of the Site recorded on the HER. However, archaeological fieldwork on and around the Site suggests there is a high potential that the proposed scheme will reveal and potentially impact on archaeological deposits of prehistoric and Romano-British date, and a high potential for localised deposits relating to mapped former field boundaries. There is also a moderate-high potential that the underlying gravels may contain artefacts of Palaeolithic date, although such finds tend to be localised and unpredictable – the gravels may also have some palaeoenvironmental potential, although that is less likely.
- 10.4 Some of the perimeter Site boundaries to the east, west and south-west of the Site (where they do not form part of the curtilage of existing dwellings) lining the former roadway now preserved as a track may be considered to be 'important historic hedgerows', as defined by The Hedgerows Regulations 1997¹² (usually those which are recorded on the 1843 tithe map: Fig. 5). Any alterations to extant historic hedgerows may impact on their heritage significance, therefore wherever possible it is advised that they are retained.

¹² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made>, accessed April 2022

11.0 CONCLUSIONS

- The Site has a moderate-high potential for artefacts of early prehistoric (Palaeolithic) date (in the underlying gravels) and deposits of the Romano-British period, a high potential for later prehistoric deposits, notably the Bronze Age, and a low potential for deposits of medieval to post-medieval date, with the exception of late post-medieval field boundaries/tracks for which the potential is high;
- Although geophysical survey across the land south of the Site did not identify any significant archaeological anomalies, subsequent trial trench evaluation and targeted mitigation identified two concentrations of activity – Middle Bronze Age pits including two cremations located immediately south of the west end of the Site and part of a small Romano-British farmstead at the south end of the former golf course. Recent geophysical survey of the current Site has identified further pit-like anomalies across the western part of the Site;
- The Site has been exposed to some truncation from arable cultivation and possible considerable truncation from landscaping for the creation of the golf course, however the recent adjacent investigation attests to good potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits;
- The proposed works are likely to have an impact upon any surviving archaeological deposits within the Site.

12.0 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

- 12.1 The assessment has outlined the archaeological potential of the Site and examined the effects of existing impacts, and as far as possible, the effects of the proposed impacts upon that potential. This assessment is based on a desk-based survey of existing information, and cannot therefore be considered to be a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological deposits in any given area. This section offers a suggested programme of further fieldwork which will confirm the presence or absence of archaeological deposits. It should be stressed that these recommendations are for information only and represent the professional opinion of Archaeology South-East. The requirement for and scope of any further archaeological work, will be determined by the Local Planning Authority (South Oxfordshire District Council) and their archaeological advisors (Oxfordshire County Council).
- 12.2 This study has shown that the Site has a high potential for previously unknown archaeological remains from the prehistoric to Romano-British period, including a known potential of the Black Park Gravel Member for Palaeolithic artefacts (section 2.2). Geophysical survey across the golf course immediately south of the Site identified an absence of significant anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin. However, subsequent trial trench investigation identified concentrations of deposits dating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. Geophysical survey within the Site has identified pit-like anomalies which could be of archaeological origin and represent an extension of the known Middle Bronze Age site. It is recommended that a trial trench evaluation to an agreed sample size of the Site be undertaken across the Site area to establish the presence or absence of any sub-surface archaeological deposits, with provision for geoarchaeological test-pitting to examine the underlying gravels. This can be carried out under an appropriate planning condition and, depending on the results, would inform an appropriate further mitigation strategy for the Site which could include preservation in situ (through design modification) or by record through archaeological excavation and recording.

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Appendix 1 - Summary Table of Heritage Assets (designated and non-designated) and archaeological events within the Study Area (refer to Figs 1 - 3)
(Designated heritage assets are indicated)

Site No.	HER No.	Eastings	Northings	HER Description	Period
Listed Buildings (Designated)					
1	DRM1643	472104	176385	203 AND 205, PEPPARD ROAD: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
2	DRM1513	472098	176401	207-217, PEPPARD ROAD: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
3	DRM1550	471549	176103	46, SURLEY ROW: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
4	DRM1752	471325	176704	BARN TO NORTH EAST OF OLD GROVE HOUSE: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
5	DRM1657	471231	176356	CAVERSHAM GROVE (NOW HIGHDOWN SCHOOL, EMMER GREEN) HIGHDOWN SCHOOL: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
6	DRM1514	472157	176310	ENTRANCE GATES AND GATE PIERS TO CAVERSHAM PARK: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
7	DRM1547	471546	176053	GROVE COTTAGE, SURLEY ROW: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
8	DRM1548	471323	176275	KITCHEN GARDEN WALLS TO SOUTH AND EAST OF STABLE BLOCK OF CAVERSHAM GROVE: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
9	DRM1656	471346	176301	MUSIC ROOM AT HIGHDOWN SCHOOL, EMMER GREEN: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
10	DRM1686	471317	176674	OLD GROVE HOUSE, SURLEY ROW: Grade II* Listed	Post-medieval
11	DRM1751	471682	175994	SPRINGFIELD, CONVENT OF ST LUKE, SURLEY ROW: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
12	DRM1617	471275	175897	ST AGNES, GROVE HILL: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
13	DRM1750	471289	176315	THE STABLE BLOCK AT HIGHDOWN SCHOOL, EMMER GREEN: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
14	DRM1749	471571	176024	TUDOR COTTAGE, SURLEY ROW: Grade II Listed	Post-medieval
Registered Park & Garden (Designated)					
15	DBF20 MRD6282	472385	176426	Caversham Park, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire. The C18 and C19 gardens are registered. An original Elizabethan manor house was rebuilt after 1660 and burnt down in the late 18th century. Rebuilt it was again burnt down and replaced in the mid-19th century. It has since served to house The Oratory School, and the BC monitoring service.	Post-medieval
Archaeological Events					
16	ERD79	471655	176518	Archaeological watching brief at Emmer Green Primary School.	N/A
17	ERM542	471686	177031	Archaeological watching brief at 16 Brooklyn Drive, Emmer Green.	N/A
18	ERM603	471287	176393	Archaeological watching brief at New Hall, Highdown School, Emmer Green.	N/A
19	ERM718	471193	176992	Archaeological evaluation at 42 Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green.	N/A
20	ERM776	471801	176442	Archaeological evaluation at 41-49 Grove Road, Emmer Green.	N/A
21	ERM910	471178	175939	Archaeological watching brief at 275-291 Hemdean Road.	N/A
22	ERM809	471780	176594	Archaeological watching brief at Cedarcot, Lyefield Court, Emmer Green.	N/A
23	ERM993	471231	175958	Archaeological evaluation at 43 Grove Hill, Caversham.	N/A
24	ERM1266	471751	176631	Archaeological evaluation at Brindles, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green.	N/A

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25	ERM1268	471690	176543	Archaeological watching brief at Emmer Green Primary School, Grove Road, Reading.	N/A
26	ERM1420	471917	176251	Archaeological evaluation at Former Garages, Evesham Road, Emmer Green.	N/A
27	ERM2111	471141	177032	Archaeological watching brief at Land to the rear of 48 Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green.	N/A
28	ERM964	470698	176418	Archaeological test pitting at Shipnell's Farm, Caversham.	Prehistoric
29	ERM657	471783	176575	Archaeological evaluation at Cedarcot, Lyefield Court, Emmer Green.	Iron Age
30	ERM1163	471608	176567	Archaeological evaluation and excavation at Emmer Green Children's Centre.	Iron Age
31	ERM1883	471978	176588	Geophysical Survey at The Common Recreation Ground, Emmer Green.	Prehistoric/ Roman
32	ERM1136	471619	176546	Archaeological evaluation at Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre	Prehistoric/ Roman
33	ERM260	471327	176749	Archaeological excavation at Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green.	Prehistoric/ Roman
34	ERM965	470651	176419	Archaeological watching brief at Shipnell's Farm, Caversham.	Prehistoric/ Roman
35	ERM784	471180	175941	Archaeological evaluation at 275-291 Hemdean Road, Caversham.	Post-medieval
36	ERM476	471189	176796	Archaeological evaluation at 10-18 Highdown Road, Emmer Green, Reading.	Undated/Post-medieval
37	EOX6198	472350	177770	Land off Peppard Road: Evaluation	Roman
38	ERM2432	471600	176770	ASE DBA Reading Golf Course, 2019	n/a
39	ERM2435	471620	176830	Geophysical Survey Reading Golf Club	n/a
Non-Designated Heritage Assets					
40	PRN 8866	469936	177102	Prehistoric ridgeway along the crest of the Chiltern ridge.	Prehistoric
41	MOX24152	470900	177400	Findspot: Prehistoric implements (Celt and scraper) found at Tanners Farm.	Prehistoric
42	8093 - MOX7853	471200	177800	Palaeolithic Handaxe and Flake (Tanner's Farm Pit): Three or four ovoids from the fine, bedded sandy gravel at Tanner's Farm Pit.	Palaeolithic
43	MRD15752	471638	177310	The garden of 164 Kidmore End Road has yielded a fossil Coxcomb Oyster, prehistoric handaxes, a Roman coin and 16th century coins and medieval pottery.	Prehistoric to Post Medieval
44	MRD6340	470689	176278	Findspot: Prehistoric artefact scatter and feature at Shipnell's Farm, Hemdean Bottom, Caversham.	Prehistoric
45	MRD12556	471908	177239	Findspot: Flint arrowhead - 16 Crawshay Drive, Emmer Green, Reading.	Prehistoric
46	MRM16056	471798	176443	Findspot: A prehistoric flint scraper and a flint flake, 41-49 Grove Road, Emmer Green.	Prehistoric
47	MOX7888	471379	177154	Findspot: Palaeolithic Handaxe (Cucumber Wood)	Palaeolithic
48	MRD1229	471918	176164	Findspot: Palaeoliths - Gravel Pit at Caversham Hill, Caversham, Reading.	Palaeolithic
49	MRD8672	470640	176219	Findspot: Palaeoliths - 182 Kidmore Road, Caversham: "Smith's Gravel Pit". Handaxes and flakes.	Palaeolithic
50	MRD8678	470930	176350	Findspot: A cordate hand axe - Emmer Green, Reading.	Palaeolithic
51	MRD15713	471796	175987	Findspot: Flint flakes at land at Heathcroft, Marshland Square, Emmer Green, Reading.	Palaeolithic
52	MRD8687	470470	176320	Findspot: Neolithic axe - garden of 113C Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading.	Neolithic

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53	MRD1233	470750	176310	Neolithic finds suggesting a site - Hemdean Bottom, Reading.	Neolithic
54	MRD8627	471640	176530	Findspot: Late Bronze Age axeheads - Emmer Green Late Bronze Age axeheads - Emmer Green.	Bronze Age
55	MRM16170	471924	176647	BARROW CEMETERY and Ring Ditches identified via cropmarks, aerial photography and geophysical survey.	Bronze Age
56	MRM18656	471368	176913	Bronze Age site - Reading Golf Club, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading: A series of Middle Bronze Age deep pits, a few postholes and two cremation burials were revealed (see 57). The 37 pits, a few postholes and two cremation related deposits were seemingly arranged in an arc oriented from northwest to south, with a few outliers. Identified during archaeological investigations at this site.	Bronze Age
57	MRM18656	471437	176935	Two Bronze Age cremation burials: Cremation Pit 134: single adult, C14 1423-1259 cal. BC. Cremation Pit 135: adult female 1430-1286 cal.BC. The total pottery assemblage from the excavation comprised of 324 sherds of Middle Bronze Age(including a globular urn) and some possibly of Late Bronze Age date or transitional elements.	Bronze Age
58	MRM18656	471538	176711	Outlying Bronze Age feature (s) identified in Evaluation.	Bronze Age
59	MRD8631	471608	176491	Findspot: Gold stater - St Barnabas Road, Caversham.	Iron Age
60	MRM16101	471792	176568	A gully with associated finds dated to the Middle Iron Age period, and three undated postholes, were revealed during the course of an archaeological field evaluation on the site - Cedarcot, Lyefield Court, Emmer Green, Reading.	Iron Age
61	MRM16443	471610	176550	Late Iron Age/Roman features found in an excavation at the Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre	Iron Age
62	MRD1237, MRD1238, MRD1239, MRD1240	471320	176740	Post holes and possible structure at 7 Highdown Hill Road, Reading.	Iron Age - Romano-British
63	MOX27041	472350	177770	Roman farmstead and low level later prehistoric activity in area.	Prehistoric to Roman
64	MRD1235	471321	176740	Romano-British site near 7 Highdown Hill Road, Reading, Berkshire identified during a watching brief	Romano-British
65	MRM16259	470544	176651	Romano-British pottery and CBM - Shipnells Farm, Hemdean Bottom, Caversham.	Romano-British
66	MOX23662	471620	177294	Findspot: Roman Coin.	Roman
67	MRD1236	471318	176741	Roman pit at 7 Highdown Hill Road, Reading.	Roman
68	MRD8626	472150	176950	Findspot: Roman bracelet - Rose Hill Cottage, Emmer Green.	Roman
69	MRD8689	471317	176689	Roman pit at Old Grove House, Emmer Green, Berkshire. Pit contained roman pottery and 16 coins.	Roman
70	MRM16442, MRM16443	471625	176549	Ditch dated to early Roman period at Emmer Green Youth and Community Centre identified during an archaeological evaluation.	Roman
71	MRM17642	472008	176690	Findspot: Roman coin - rear garden of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire - A denarius (50BC – AD50) was found in a back garden of a house.	Roman

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72	MRM18655	471700	176727	Roman Settlement Evidence: low status farmstead, likely to continue to the south.	Roman
73	MRM18655	471429	176843	Outlying Roman period activity	Roman
74	MRM18655	471465	176843	Outlying Roman period activity	Roman
75	MRD5505	471400	176300	Site of Donkey Wheel, Grove house, Emmer Green.	Post Medieval
76	MRD5512	472204	177502	Water Tower	Post Medieval
77	29817 - MOX28205	470800	177100	Site of Second World War heavy anti-aircraft battery at Tanner's farm, documented as extant in 1942. No remains.	Post Medieval
78	MRM18657	471520	176830	Linear features corresponding to boundaries on the Caversham Tithe map of 1846 were revealed during archaeological investigations at this site.	Post Medieval
79	29818 - MOX28206	471810	177890	A possible boundary bank, of unknown date, is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs. It is 110m long.	Undated

APPENDIX 2:

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot Name	Activity
271	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Bottom Right & part of Hampstead	Arable
279	Catherine Hill	Joseph Giles	The Dean	Arable
280	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	The Hayles (?)	Arable
281	Not Found			
282	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Cucumber Hill	Arable
284	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Lye Close	Arable
285	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Great Costalls ?	Arable
288	Rev'd John Holding (?)	Isiah Fuller	Lye Field	Arable
289	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Ley Field	Arable
290	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Ley Field	Arable
291	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Grove Fm Orchard	Arable
293	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Leigh Field	Arable
294-5	Not Found			
296	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Oightle / Bightle ?	Arable
299	George Dew Esq.	Isiah Fuller	Little High Down	Arable
300	John ...?	John James Fogg	Great High Down	Arable
301	Christ Church College, Oxford	Thomas Browne	Bight	Arable
303	Not Found			
305	Catherine Hill	Joseph Giles	Juniper	Arable
306	Catherine Hill	Joseph Giles	Red Acre	Arable

Tithe Apportionments (land within and near the Site)

PLATES



Plate 7.1: Looking east towards the east end of the Site, on the high ground



Plate 7.2: Looking downslope towards the east end of the Site



Plate 7.3: Extreme east end of the Site



Plate 7.4: Elevated ground in north-east corner of the Site



Plate 7.5: Round ground and scrub in north-east of the Site, looking north-west



Plate 7.6: Two depressions at base of slope towards east end of the Site



Plate 7.7: Possible trace of north-east south-west field boundary, looking north-east



Plate 7.8: Depression adjacent to field boundary



Plate 7.9: Depression on south edge of the fairway aligned with field boundary



Plate 7.10: Depression in woodland west of the track end



Plate 7.11: Looking east along the track



Plate 7.12: Depression in bank on east side of the track



Plate 7.13: Looking west across west end of the Site



Plate 7.14: Example of bunker in west end of the Site



Plate 7.15: Land levelling in north-west of the Site



Plate 7.16: Evidence of localized services in west end of the site



Plate 7.17: Looking northwards towards north-west corner of the Site



Plate 7.18: View north-west from outside the Site at the west end showing low valley

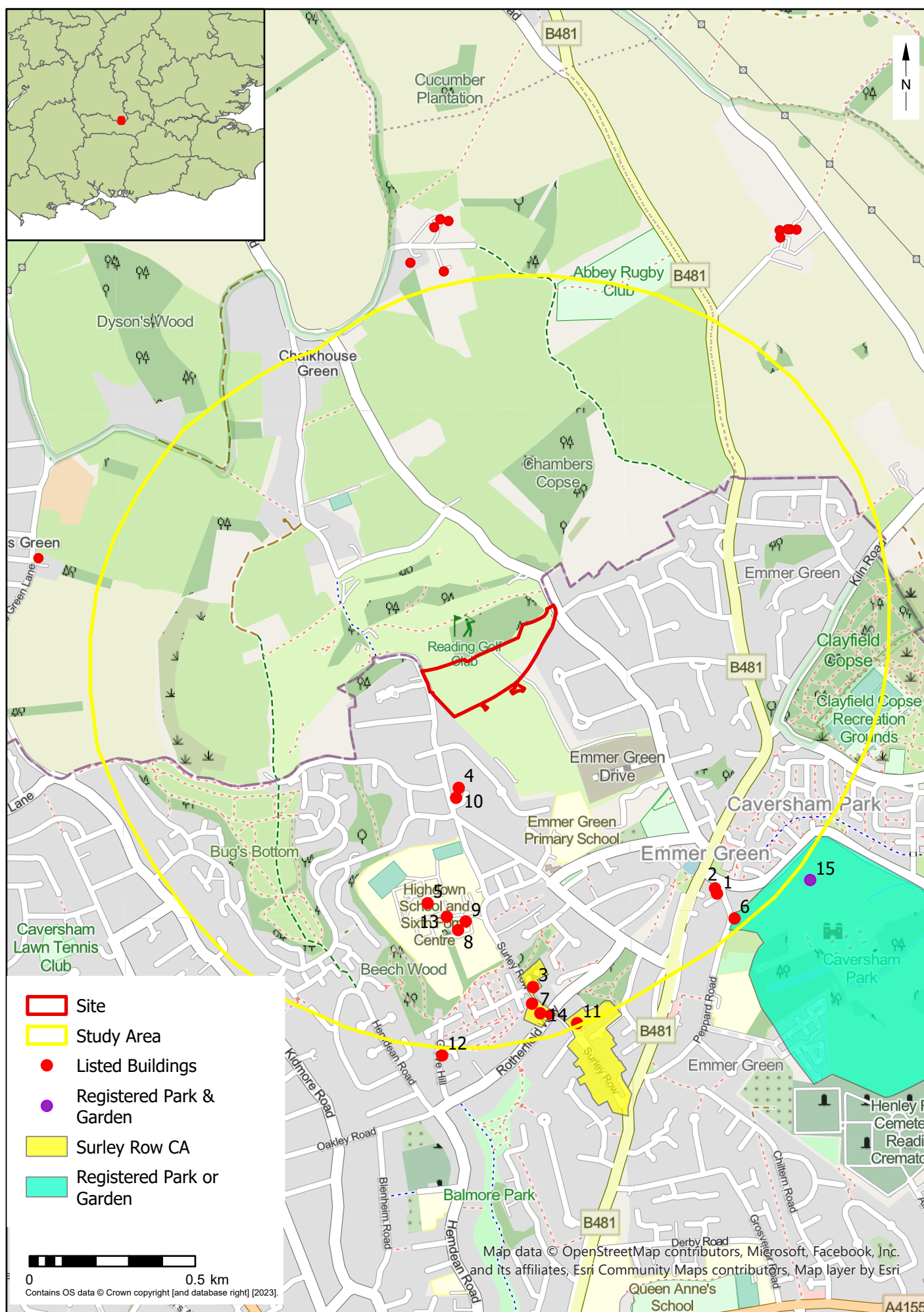
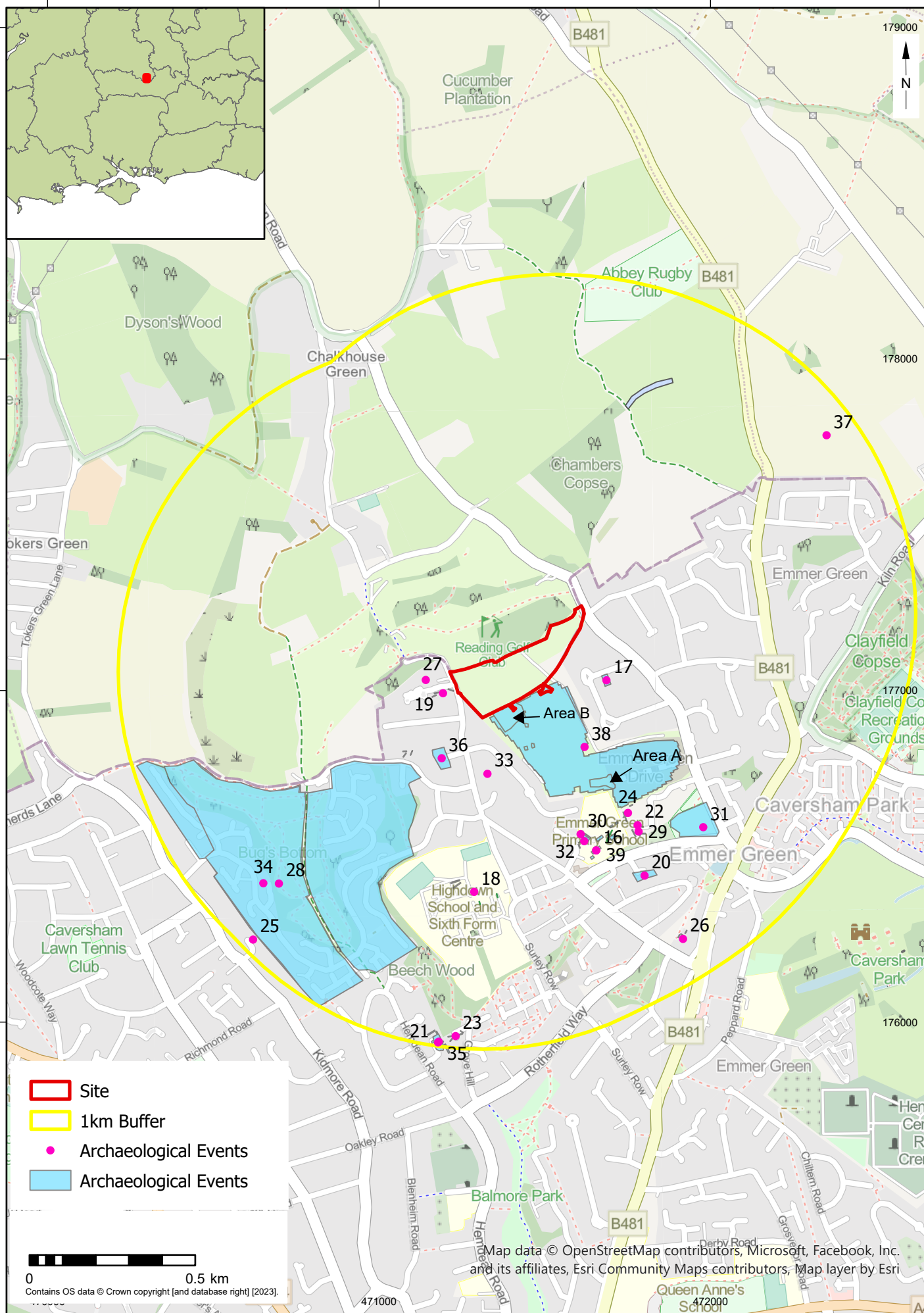
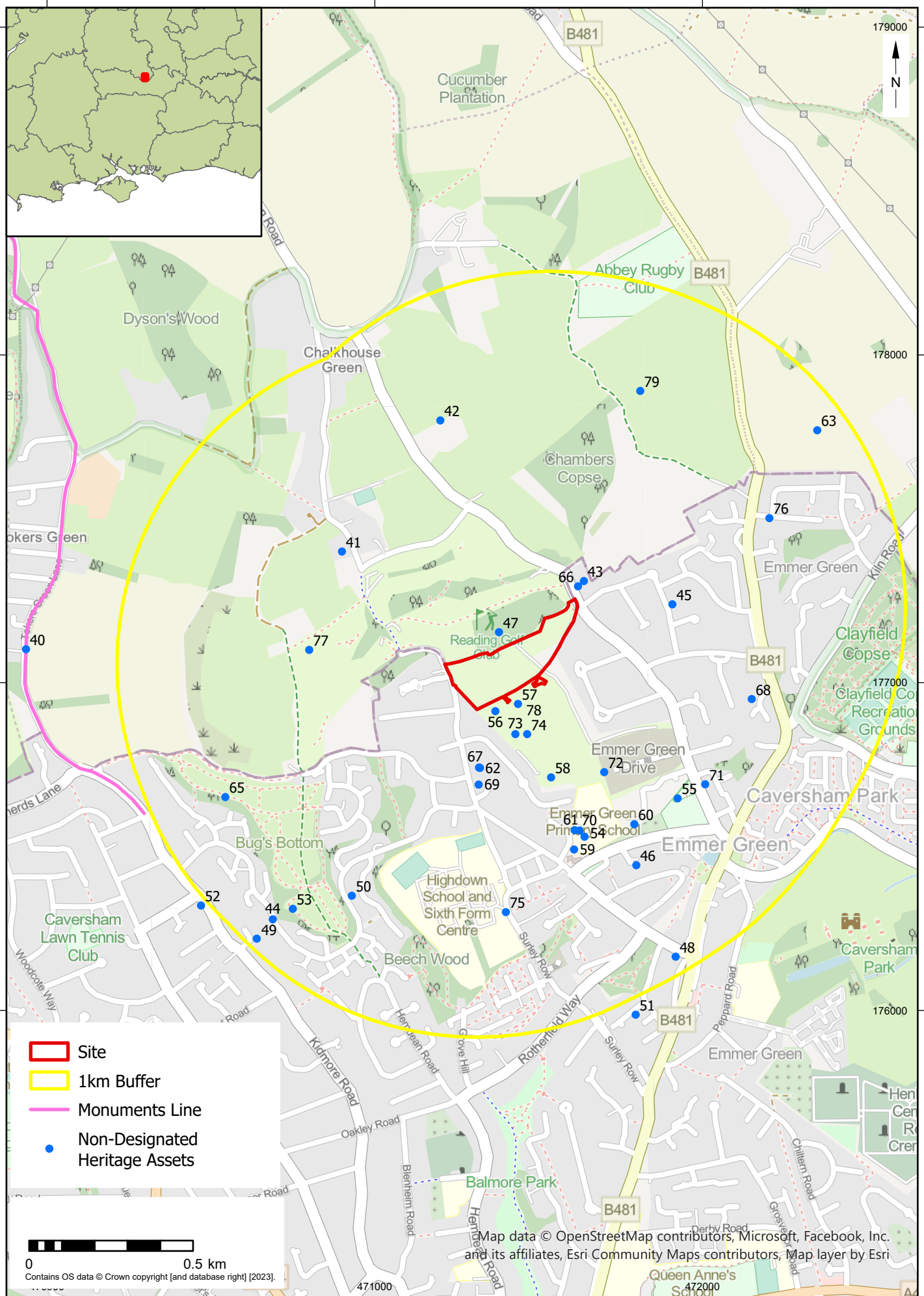


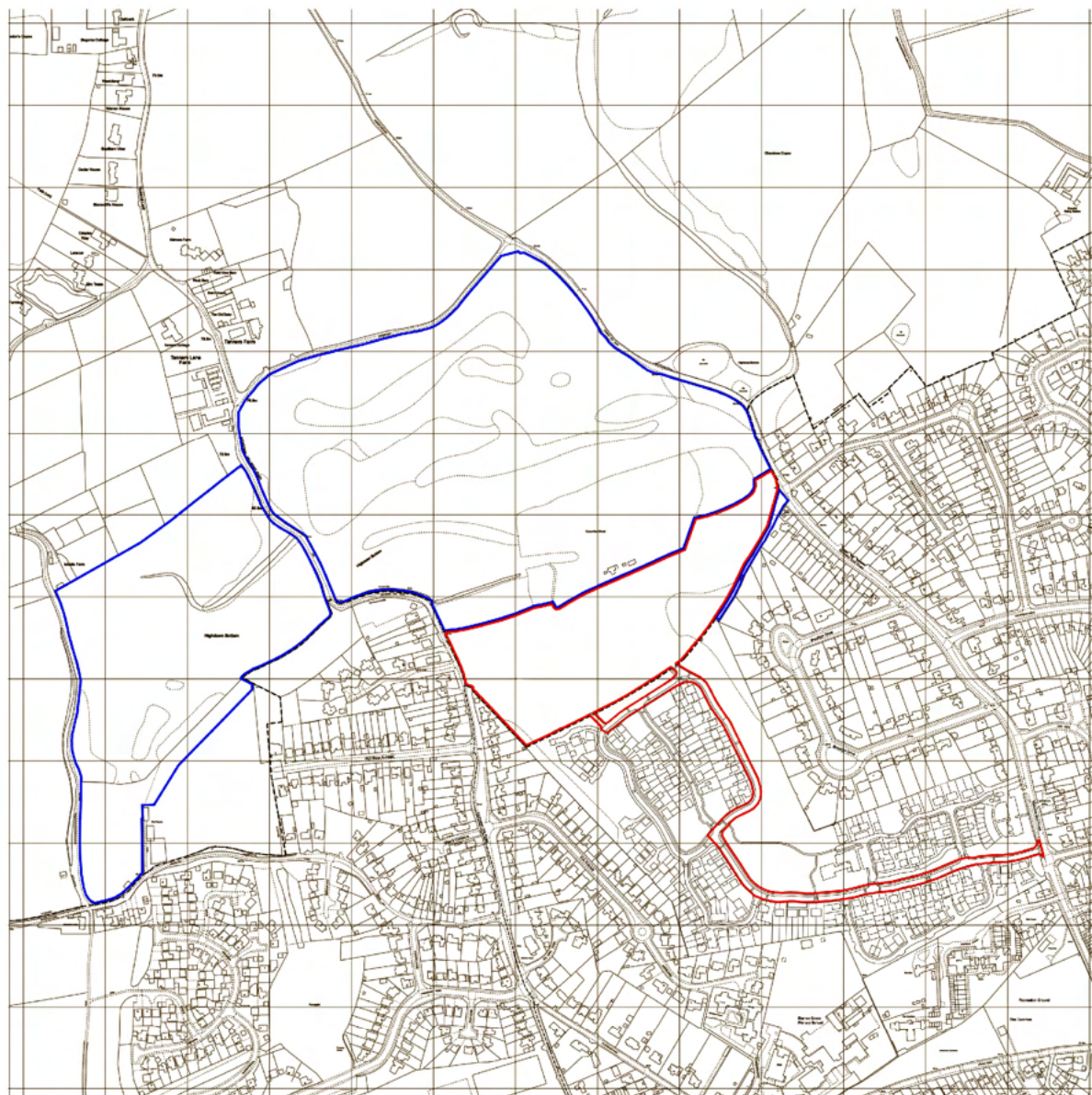
Fig. 1



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Project Ref: 250162	March 2025	Site Location and Archaeological Events	
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Project Ref: 250162	March 2025	Site Location and Non-Designated Heritage Assets	
Report Ref: 2025059	Drawn by: APS		



Metres
1:2500

Supplied by: Lefkarp Mapping Ltd 08 May 2015
As shown on map and reference to: 015 015 015
Centre coordinates: 47 150 17110



Fairfax

Fairfax (Reading Ltd) & RGC (SODC) Ltd

project:

Land to the west of:

KIDMORE END ROAD,
EMMER GREEN,
OXFORDSHIRE

title:

LOCATION PLAN

date: Apr '25

scale: 1:2500@ A1

drawing number:

2507/PL D1

Rev.

B

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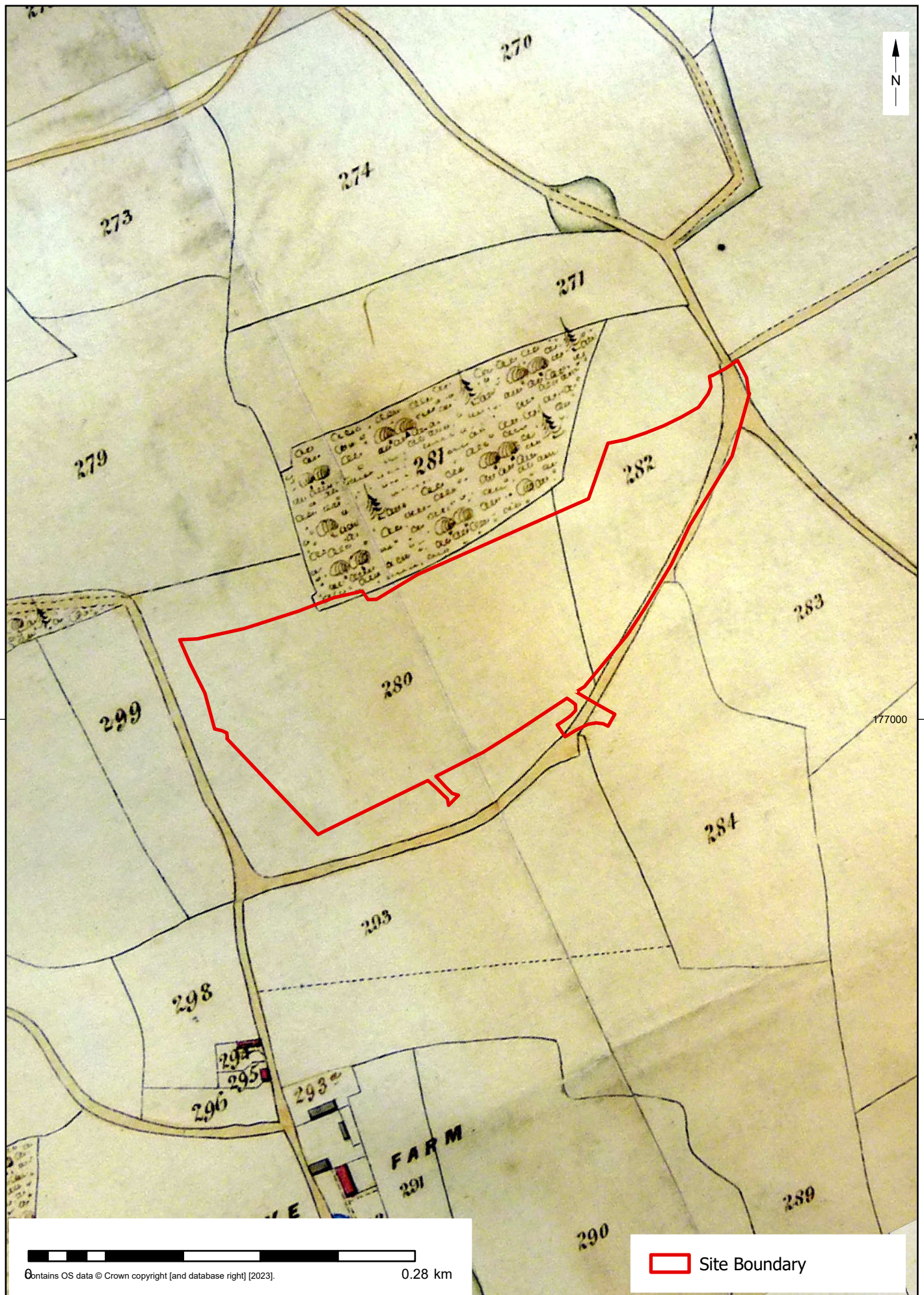
Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire

Existing Site Layout (Red-Line)

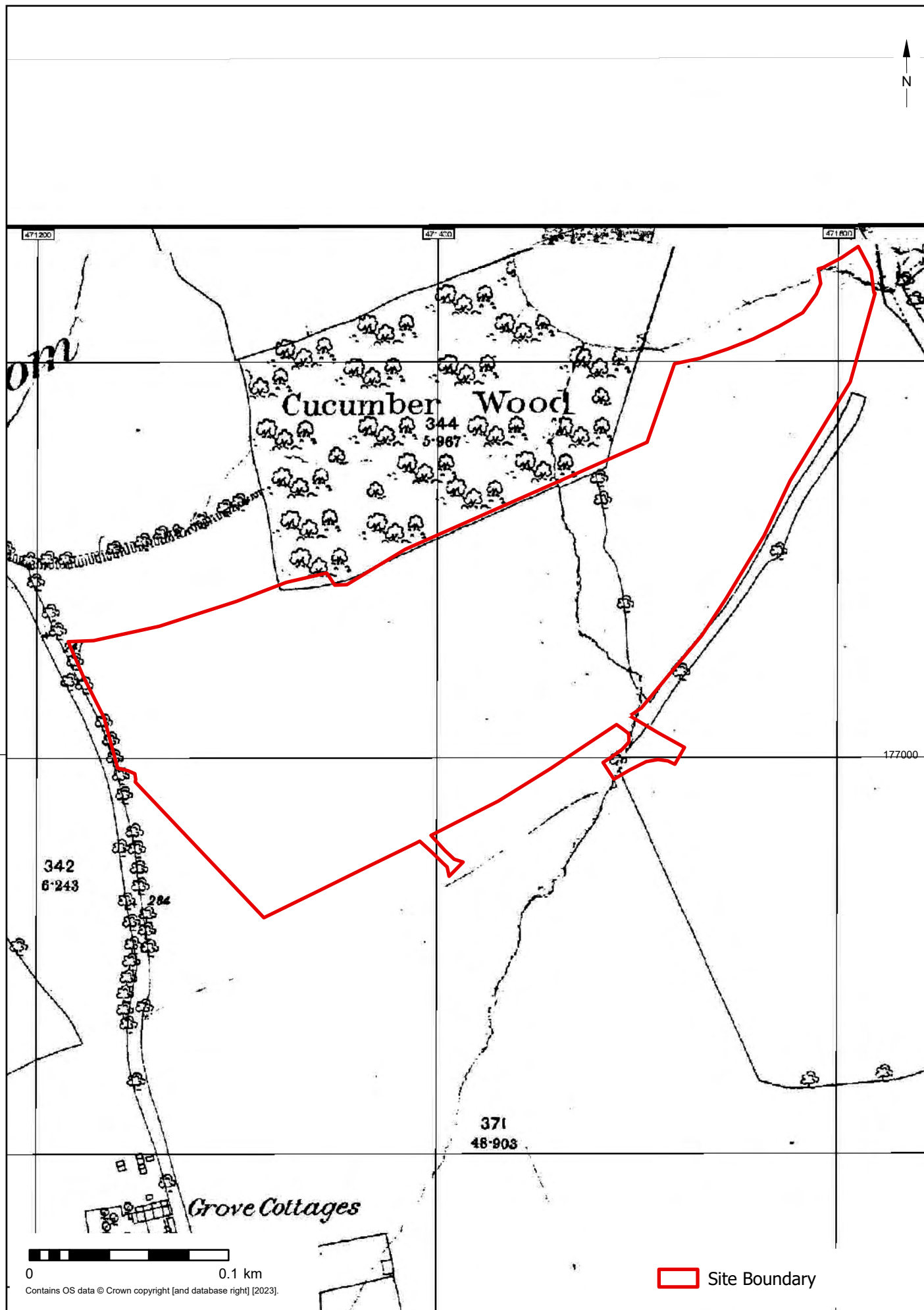
Fig. 4



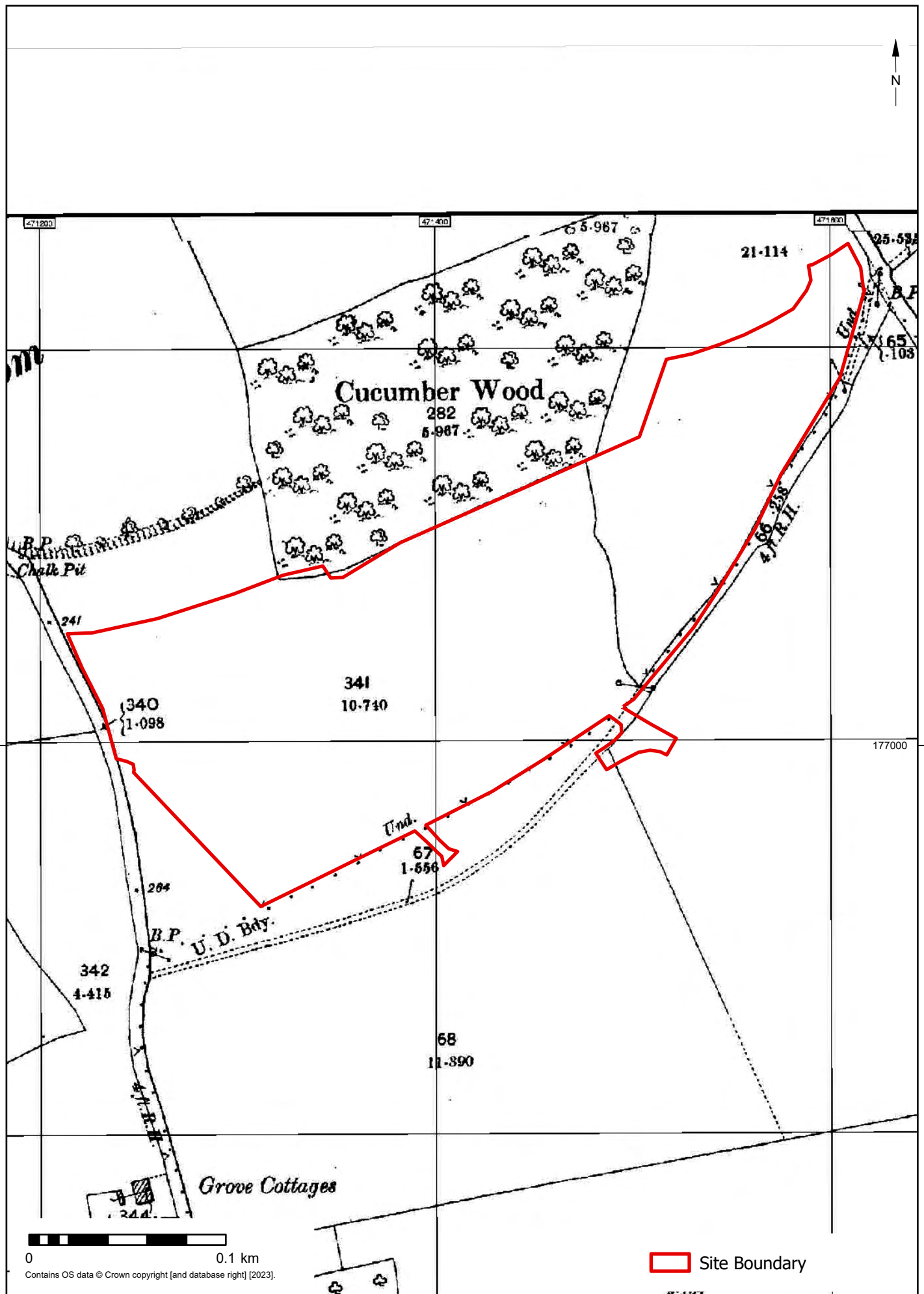
© Archaeology South-East		Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 250162	March 2025	Rocque's Map of Berkshire 1761	
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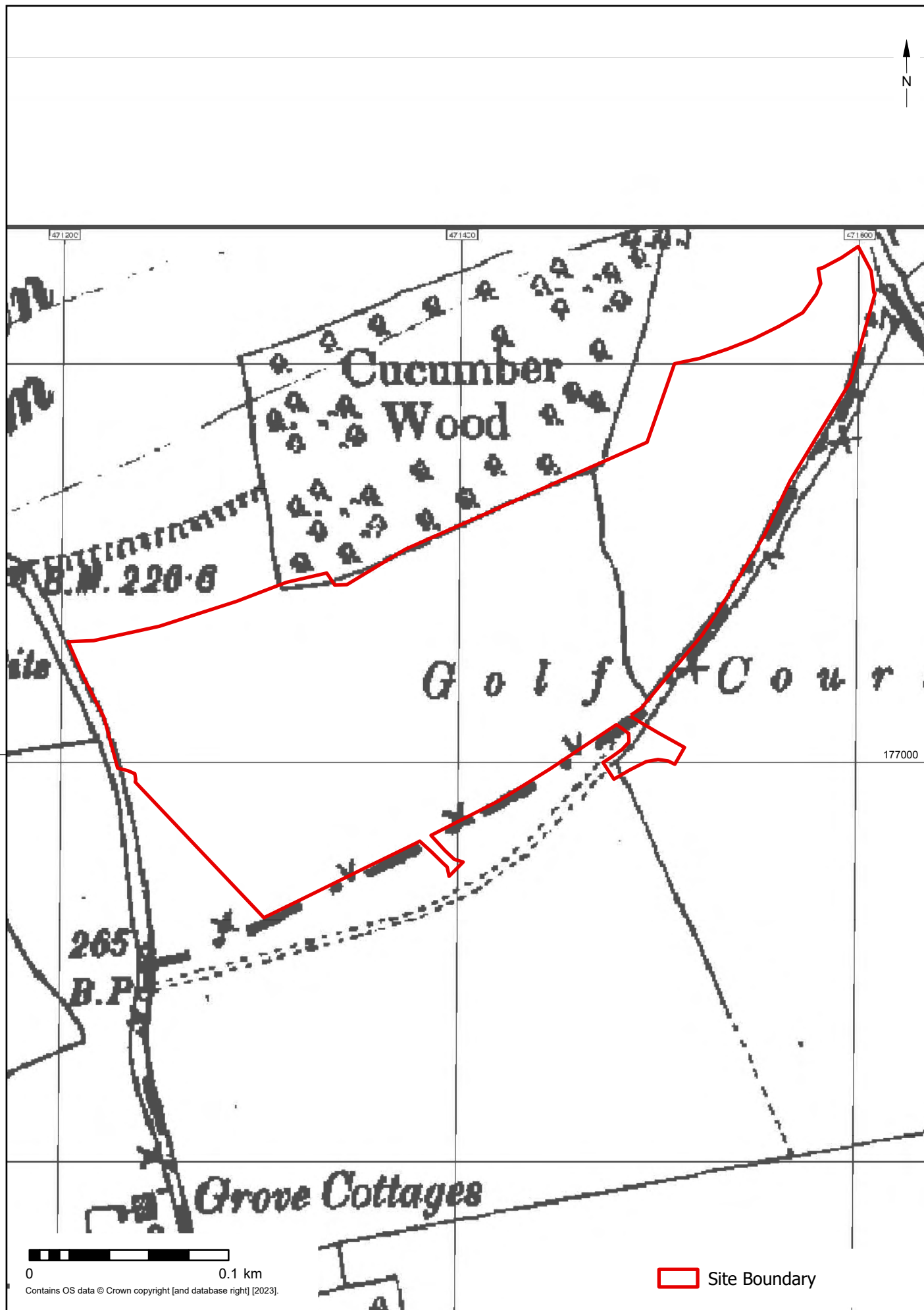
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Project Ref: 250162	March 2025	Caversham Tithe map 1846	
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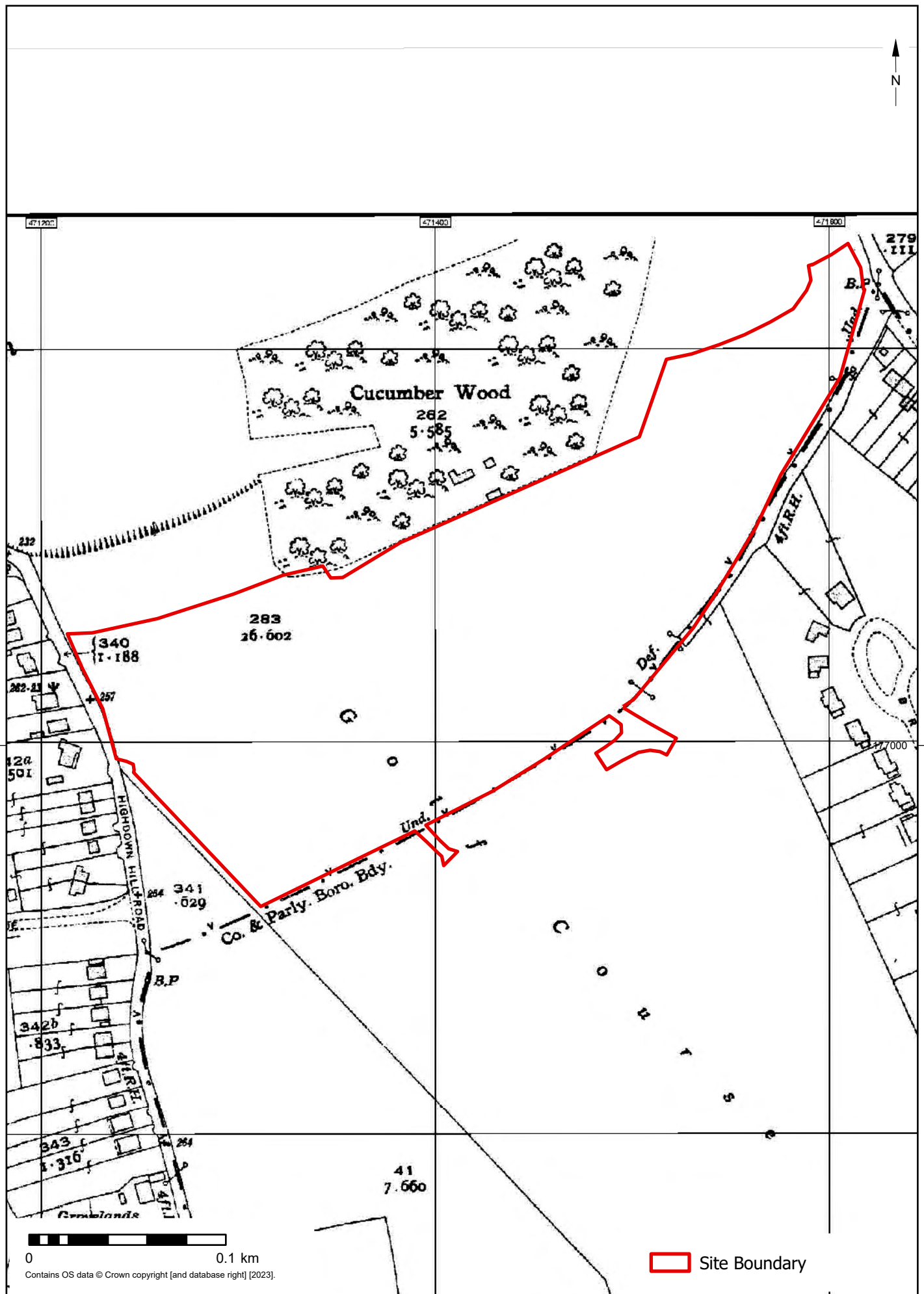
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Project Ref: 250162	March 2025	1878-1879 Ordnance Survey	
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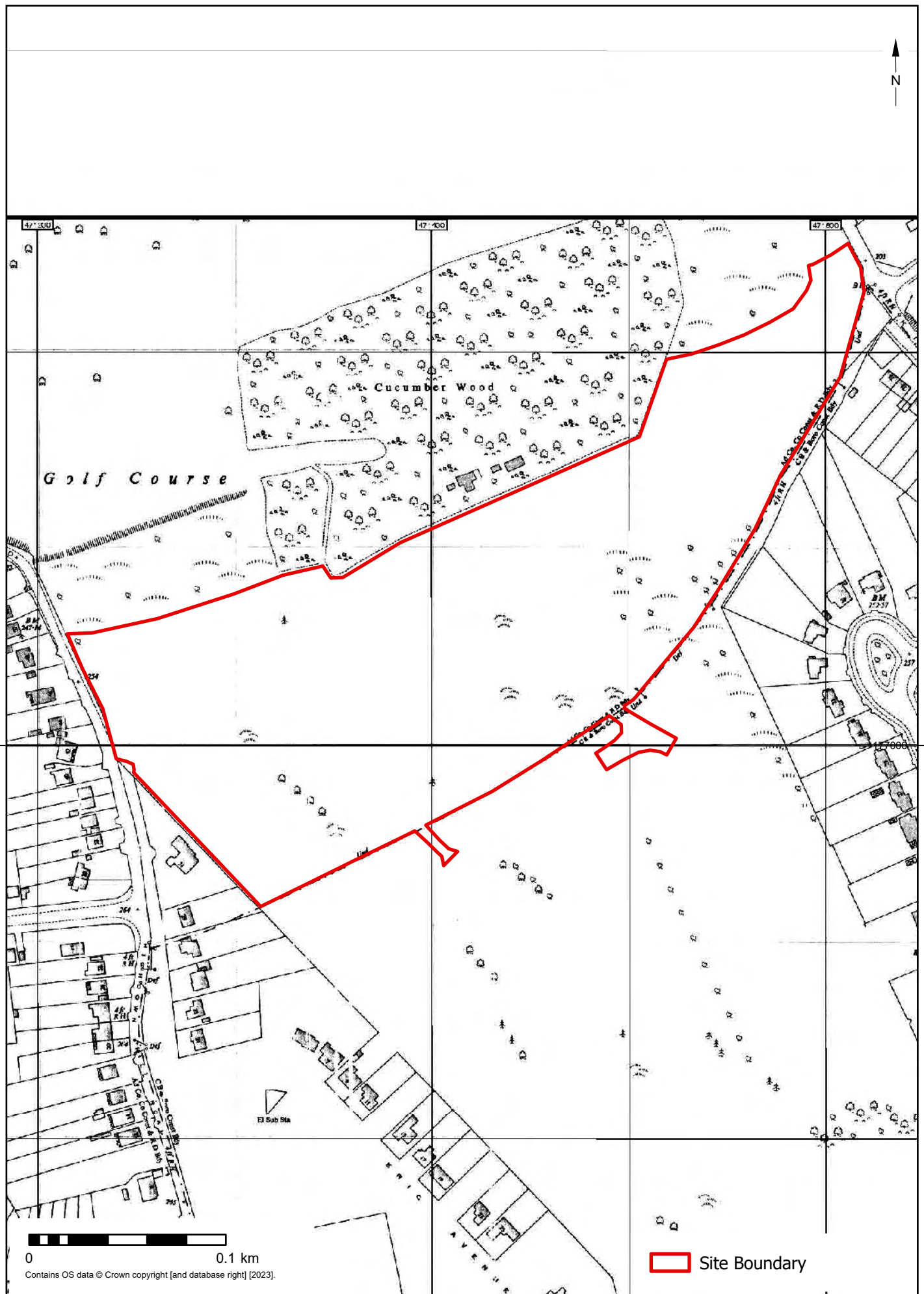
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