



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT**

**LAND OFF BACK LANE
LONG CLAWSON
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning • Heritage

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

SEPTEMBER 2016

**Planning Authority:
Melton Borough Council**

**Site centred at:
NGR 472476, 327192**

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Executive Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared on behalf of Marrons Planning and assesses the archaeological potential of land off Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire. This report forms part of the desk-based assessment required by paragraph 128 of the NPPF to identify the presence of heritage assets and, where present, to assess impact on their significance.

This report considered archaeological assets only. Built Heritage issues are assessed in a separate Heritage Statement.

This desk-based assessment has established that no designated archaeological assets are present within the study site itself and that the proposed development will have no more than a minor impact on the significance of the Scheduled moated site located 110m to the north-west.

Based on current evidence the site has been shown to have a moderate-high potential for Saxon remains, which could potentially be of regional significance (if present). A moderate potential for the recovery of Roman artefacts has also been identified. The study site is known to contain extant earthworks relating to Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, but these are deemed to be of no more than local significance.

The level of significance of any remains not only depends on rarity, but also on levels of preservation. It is possible that historic farming of the study site, as evidenced by the extant remains of Medieval ridge and furrow, would have disturbed or truncated any earlier remains that may be present, which could result in a reduction of their significance.

Given the archaeological potential identified and the possible levels of significance of Saxon remains (if present), it is likely that the Local Planning Authority will require a programme of archaeological evaluation in order to identify and assess the presence, level of preservation, extent and significance of any archaeological features within the study site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared by Richard Smalley MCIfA of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Marrons Planning.
- 1.2 The assessment considers land off Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire (hereafter referred to as the study site) which is currently being considered for residential development. The study site has an area of approximately 0.9 hectares and is centred at National Grid Reference 472476, 327192 (Fig. 1).
- 1.3 In accordance with government policy on archaeology within the planning process (Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework) and the Melton Borough Council Local Plan, this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the study site.
- 1.4 Additionally, in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014), it incorporates an examination of evidence in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), Historic England Archive (HEA), the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office, incorporates published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site inspection was undertaken in August 2016.
- 1.5 As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to assess the significance of any designated and undesignated heritage assets within the study site, assess the potential for as yet to be discovered archaeological assets and enables potential impacts on assets to be identified, along with the need for design, civil engineering or archaeological solutions.

2.0 RELEVANT PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 Statutory Framework

Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979

2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) protects the fabric of Scheduled Monuments, but does not afford statutory protection to their settings. Relevant policies relating to the protection of the setting of scheduled monuments are contained within national and local development plan policy, and guidance published by English Heritage for assessing and managing change within the setting of heritage assets is set out in 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' (English Heritage 2011) and English Heritage's Good Practice Advice Note 3 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' (English Heritage 2015).

2.2 Policy Background

2.2.1 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced previous national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (PPS5: Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment). The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was published online 6th March 2014 and updated 10 April 2014 (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>).

2.2.2 The Planning Practice Guide previously issued in support of PPS5, together with accompanying English Heritage documentation, was cancelled 25 March 2015, to be replaced by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, and GPA 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets.

2.2.3 Section 12 of the NPPF, entitled *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 12 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:

- Delivery of sustainable development
- Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment
- Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, and
- Recognition that heritage contributes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.

- 2.2.4 Section 12 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 128 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be ***no more than sufficient*** to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.2.5 ***Heritage Assets*** are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.2.6 Annex 2 also defines ***Archaeological Interest*** as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- 2.2.7 A ***Designated Heritage Asset*** comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.2.8 ***Significance*** is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, **artistic or historic**. **Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.**
- 2.2.9 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas).
 - Protects the settings of such designations.
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions.

- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.

2.3 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

2.4 The Melton Local Plan was adopted in 1999 and provides the local planning framework for the Borough. The Local Plan contains the following policies relating to archaeology:

POLICY BE10

DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IF IT FAILS TO PRESERVE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE AND INTEREST OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OR THEIR SETTINGS, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR NOT.

POLICY BE11

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL ONLY BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS OF COUNTY OR DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE IF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OUTWEIGHS THE LOCAL VALUE OF THE REMAINS. IF PLANNING PERMISSION IS GIVEN FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT REMAINS OF COUNTY OR DISTRICT SIGNIFICANCE, CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED TO ENSURE THAT THE REMAINS ARE PROPERLY RECORDED AND EVALUATED AND, WHERE PRACTICABLE, PRESERVED.

2.5 Melton Borough Council is in the process of preparing the emerging new Local Plan (2011-2036). This draft emerging Local Plan contains the following policy relating to heritage assets:

POLICY EN13 – HERITAGE ASSETS

MELTON BOROUGH HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT HISTORIC ASSETS. THESE INCLUDE LISTED BUILDINGS, CONSERVATION AREAS, SCHEDULED MONUMENTS (SMs) AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN ADDITION TO OTHER IMPORTANT HERITAGE FEATURES.

THE BOROUGH OF MELTON CONTAINS HERITAGE ASSETS THAT ARE AT RISK THROUGH NEGLECT, DECAY OR OTHER THREATS. THESE WILL BE PRESERVED, PROTECTED AND WHERE POSSIBLE ENHANCED.

THE NPPF PROVIDES NATIONAL POLICY FOR CONSIDERING PROPOSALS WHICH AFFECT A HERITAGE ASSET. THIS INCLUDES THE NEED TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF A PROPOSAL ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ASSET AND THE NEED FOR A BALANCED JUDGMENT ABOUT THE SCALE OF ANY HARM OR LOSS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE ASSET.

THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS AND THE WIDER HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT THROUGH:

- A) SEEKING TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HERITAGE ASSETS AND THEIR SETTINGS WHEN CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON, IN, OR ADJACENT TO THEM. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHOULD AVOID HARM TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC SITES, BUILDINGS OR AREAS, INCLUDING THEIR SETTING;**
- B) SEEKING NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHARACTER AND DISTINCTIVENESS OF THE LOCAL AREA;**
- C) ENSURING THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CONSERVATION AREAS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE IDENTIFIED SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THOSE AREAS, AND SEEKING TO IDENTIFY NEW CONSERVATION AREAS, WHERE APPROPRIATE;**
- D) SEEKING TO SECURE THE VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF HERITAGE ASSETS THROUGH USES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE HERITAGE ASSET AND ITS CONSERVATION; AND**
- E) ALLOWING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE BOROUGH WHERE THE USES ARE APPROPRIATE AND WOULD NOT UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OR SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE ASSET.**

2.6 This assessment therefore seeks to establish whether archaeological evidence from the site or its vicinity suggests that the study site contains heritage assets as defined by the NPPF and falls within the scope of policies contained within the current Melton Local Plan (1999) and the emerging new Melton Local Plan (2011-2036).

3.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The study site is positioned on a narrow strip of Sandstone (Brandon Sandstone Beds), which is itself located within a wider area of Mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded for the study site (British Geological Survey Map 142, 2002).

3.1.2 No geotechnical information is currently available for the study site.

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 Long Clawson is situated in a gently undulating landscape in the Vale of Belvoir, in the north-eastern part of Leicestershire. The study site itself comprises a relatively flat parcel of land to the south of the central part of the village and has a height of approximately 73m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3.2.2 There are no large watercourses located in close proximity to the study site. However, a brook flows from south-north, parallel to Mill Lane, approximately 170m to the south-east.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The timescales used in this report are as follows:

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	800,000	-	12,000	BC
Mesolithic	12,000	-	4,000	BC
Neolithic	4,000	-	1,800	BC
Bronze Age	1,800	-	600	BC
Iron Age	600	-	AD 43	

Historic

Roman	AD	43	-	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD	410	-	1066
Medieval	AD	1066	-	1485
Post Medieval	AD	1486	-	1800
Modern	AD	1800	-	Present

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This assessment is based on a consideration of evidence in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), the Historic England Archive (HEA) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for the study site and a zone 1km in extent surrounding its boundary. The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office was also consulted in order to examine historic maps relating to the study site.
- 4.1.2 There are no designated archaeological assets (such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Battlefields) identified within the study site; however, a Scheduled moated site (NHLE 1012560) is recorded approximately 110m to the north-west. Non-designated heritage assets recorded by the HER and HEA (i.e. archaeological finds/features within the study site and its surroundings) are also reviewed below and their distribution is illustrated at Appendix 1.
- 4.1.3 This chapter reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with the NPPF, considers the potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological evidence on the study site.

4.1.4 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the study site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

4.2 **Previous Archaeological Investigations**

4.2.1 The HER and HEA record no previous archaeological investigations on the study site. However, a number of watching briefs and trial trenching is recorded for the wider study area. The closest of these include:

- **HER ELE4898** – An archaeological watching brief undertaken on the foundation trenches for a new village hall, approximately 10m south of the study site. A Medieval boundary ditch, Saxon pit and subsoil was recorded along with fragments of late Saxon pottery. Post-Medieval finds were also recorded.
- **HER ELE1946** – A site visit to land south of The Hollies, 30m to the east of the study site. A fragment of Roman greyware and a piece of tessera was recorded, along with two fragments of Medieval pottery.
- **HER ELE2370** – An archaeological watching brief undertaken 60m south-east of the study site. Roman pottery and Saxon/Medieval finds were recorded.
- **HER ELE8082** – An archaeological evaluation undertaken at no. 2 Back Lane, 60m north-east of the study site. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.
- **HER ELE9658** – A geophysical survey undertaken at Sandpit Lane, 190m south-west of the study site. No features of a probable or possible archaeological origin were identified.

4.2.3 These investigations will be discussed further, where relevant, in the sections below.

4.3 **Prehistoric (Palaeolithic – Iron Age)**

4.3.1 No Prehistoric activity is recorded by the HER or HEA for the study site and Prehistoric finds recorded in the wider study area are restricted to artefactual evidence, including the recovery of a number of Bronze Age flint tools (HER MLE20038) and a fragment of Iron Age pottery (HER MLE20035), during a watching brief (HER ELE7847) 365m to the north-east.

4.3.2 A fragment of an Iron Age quernstone and an almost complete whetstone (HER MLE7670) was recovered during works in a ditch adjacent to Waltham Lane, 960m to the south-east of the study site.

4.3.3 The archaeological watching brief undertaken 10m south of the study site (HER ELE4898) and the evaluation 60m to the north-east (HER ELE8082) did not record any Prehistoric finds or features.

4.3.4 Current evidence shows that the study site is located within a landscape that was utilised during the Prehistoric period. However, no Prehistoric finds or features are recorded on, or close to, the study site and none of the archaeological investigations undertaken close to the site identified any Prehistoric activity. Therefore, a low potential is identified for Prehistoric activity within the study site.

4.4 **Roman**

4.4.1 No Roman activity is recorded by the HER or the HEA for the study site. However, the site visit to land at The Hollies (HER EHE1946) by the *Melton Fieldworkers* (a community archaeology group) recovered a fragment of Roman Greyware pottery and a single piece of tessera (with plaster attached and signs of paint), approximately 30m east of the study site (HER MLE6013). Three sherds of Roman pottery (HER MLE7969) were also recovered close to the study site during a watching brief undertaken approximately 60m to the south-east.

4.4.2 The archaeological investigations undertaken at no.32 East End (HER ELE5019, ELE7847, 380m to the north-east) identified a number of post-holes and gullies containing Romano-British pottery, suggesting the presence of Roman occupation in this location.

4.4.3 Other fragments of Roman pottery are recorded in the wider study area including south of Coronation Avenue (HER MLE22385), 715m south-west of the study site, and off The Sands (HER MLE16519), 123m to the north-east, showing that Roman activity is recorded across Long Clawson as a whole.

4.4.4 Although there is no evidence for Roman activity on the study site, it is evident that the land around Long Clawson was utilised during this period. Archaeological investigations undertaken in close proximity to the study site have found evidence for Roman activity in the form of pottery sherds and a tessera. Therefore, a moderate potential is identified for Roman artefactual evidence on the study site.

4.5 **Saxon – Early Medieval**

- 4.5.1 The HER and HEA record no evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity within the study site itself.
- 4.5.2 Long Clawson is recorded in the Domesday Survey as *Clachestone*. At this time the land is divided and held by three individuals, namely: Earl Hugh, Robert the Usher and Robert de Tosny (Williams and Martin 2003). The name of the village is believed to be derived from a Scandinavian male name *Klak*, combined with the Old English *tun*, **meaning village or farmstead. A translation therefore would read “The settlement associated with Klak” (Bourne 2003).**
- 4.5.3 An archaeological watching brief undertaken approximately 10m south of the study site (HER ELE4898) identified a sub-oval pit measuring 0.9m long x 0.60m wide and 0.06m deep. This pit contained a single grey clayey silt fill, from which three fragments of 10th – 11th century pottery was recovered. The watching brief also recorded a layer of subsoil, up to 0.2m thick, containing fragments of pottery of a possible Saxon origin (HER MLE16751). The presence of this subsoil would suggest that at least part of the area had been under an agricultural regime during this period (Archaeological Project Services 2007).
- 4.5.4 The watching brief undertaken 60m south-east of the study site (HER ELE2370) also revealed evidence for Saxon activity in the form of six pieces of Saxo-Norman pottery (HER MLE6818), and the archaeological investigations undertaken at no.32 East End, 380m north-east of the study site, recorded a stone structure approximately 4.3m wide and at least 7m long (HER MLE9524). A possible hearth was recorded within the building and a line of small post-holes may be indicative of an internal partition. Several fragments of possible Saxon pottery were associated with the structure.
- 4.5.5 Two fragments of Early Medieval pottery (HER MLE8745) were also recovered by the Melton Fieldworkers during a site visit to The Hollies, approximately 30m east of the study site.
- 4.5.6 Current evidence shows that a settlement existed at Long Clawson during the Saxon- Early Medieval period. Although no evidence for Saxon activity is recorded on the study site itself, Saxon finds and features have been recorded close-by (approximately 10m south). Therefore, a moderate – high potential is identified for the presence of Saxon evidence on the study site.

4.6 **Medieval**

- 4.6.1 The HER records the study site as lying within the Medieval settlement core of Long Clawson (HER 8746). However, the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for the area shows the site just beyond the historic core, comprising paddocks and closes. It is also noted that **Back Lane** forms the northern and eastern boundary of the study site, which would suggest that it lay **beyond Long Clawson's** Medieval settlement core, within the wider agricultural landscape. This is further reinforced by the presence of extant ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks within the study site itself, as identified by the site visit.
- 4.6.2 The archaeological watching brief (HER ELE4898) undertaken approximately 10m south of the study site identified a 30m x 2m ditch which contained a fragment of Medieval pottery. This ditch has been interpreted as a boundary ditch (HER MLE16751), which also correlates with earthwork evidence for a hedge or fence line (Archaeological Project Services 2007), and reinforces the interpretation of an agricultural landscape extending southwards from Back Lane.
- 4.6.3 The earthwork remains of a Medieval moated manor house (HER MLE3532) are recorded approximately 110m north-west of the study site. This site is also a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1012560) and is discussed further in Section 5 below. A series of outlying earthworks (HER MLE8744) are also recorded by the HER to the north of Back Lane, north-west of the study site. These earthworks are non-designated, but are associated with the Scheduled moat and comprise a series of building platforms, an outer courtyard, and a possible circular dovecote. The earthwork remains of two Medieval fishponds (HER MLE3533) are also recorded in this field, approximately 90m west of the study site. A plan of these earthworks is shown in Figure 7. This plan suggests that the Medieval earthworks related to the moated Manor do respect the line of Back Lane and that they do not extend into the study site.
- 4.6.4 Further earthwork evidence for Medieval settlement, including house platforms and hollow ways, is recorded throughout the village at Long Clawson (see HER Monument plot in Appendix 1), with particular concentrations in the eastern and western parts, which may lend support to the theory that the Long Clawson was previously two separate settlements which have combined to create one long, linear village.
- 4.6.5 The Medieval St Remegius Church (HER MLE12623) is recorded approximately 185m north-west of the study site. The present church is mostly of 14th and 15th century

construction; however it is believed to have its origins in the Norman period. The church went through substantial restoration in the late 19th century.

4.6.6 Settlement continued in Long Clawson throughout the Medieval period, with a particular focus on the moated manor site and the church. The presence of ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks on the study site, and its location to the south of the line of Back Lane indicates that it formed part of a Medieval agricultural landscape and consequently lay beyond the historic settlement core. Therefore, a low potential, restricted to agricultural remains of limited significance, has been identified for Medieval activity on the study site.

4.7 **Post-Medieval and Modern**

4.7.1 The HER and HEA record no Post-Medieval/Modern assets within the study site itself. However, several non-designated assets of this period are recorded by the HER within a 1km radius (see Appendix 1), with a particular focus in the western part of the village.

4.7.2 In this period, understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER and HEA.

4.7.3 The 1780 Long Clawson Enclosure Map (Fig. 2) shows the study site comprising part of a square shaped field located adjacent to Back Lane. The study site evidently forms part of a wider agricultural landscape extending southwards from the village. Clusters of residential settlement can be discerned beyond the site to the north and north-east, and to the west centred around the church.

4.7.4 The 1884 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 3) shows an area of mixed woodland in the **north-eastern part of the study site**. **The site's eastern-most** boundary has been removed, however the presence of two trees in this location mark its former position. A public footpath is now shown crossing the western half of the study site in a north-east to south-west orientation. A pond is shown within the site, close to its southern boundary.

4.7.5 The 1903 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 4) shows little change within the study site, **however it is evident from this map that the site's eastern** boundary has been re-established.

4.7.6 The 1973 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 5) shows the removal of the woodland in the north-eastern part of the study site. There are no other significant changes within the study site itself, which remains in agricultural use. A new residential estate has been constructed off Sand Pit Lane, to the south-west of the study site.

4.7.7 The 2016 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 6) shows no change within the study site itself. However a new village hall and cricket pitch have been constructed immediately to the south.

4.7.8 Current evidence suggests that the study site has been used for agricultural practices since at least the mid-18th century, and this is likely to be the case for the whole of the Post-Medieval and modern periods. Therefore, a low potential restricted to agricultural activity of limited significance, is identified for these periods.

4.8 **Designated Heritage Assets**

4.8.1 There are no designated heritage assets recorded within the study site. The Scheduled Monument known as Moated Site North-east of St Remigius' Church (NHLE 1012560) is located 110m north-west of the study site and is assessed in Section 5 below.

4.9 **Historic Landscape**

4.9.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record records the study site as **forming part of Long Clawson's Medieval settlement core (HER MLE8746)**. However the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) records the study site as *Paddocks and Closes* (HLC HLE11251).

4.9.2 The site visit undertaken as part of this assessment confirmed the presence of extant ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks on the study site. This demonstrates that the site has been used for agricultural purposes since at least the Medieval period.

4.9.3 All but the eastern of the **study site's perimeter** boundaries are mature hedgerows which are shown on late-18th century mapping and, as such, when assessed against the relevant criteria could be theoretically historically important; however the overall ecological assessment that the site's hedgerows do not qualify as 'important' under the 1997 Regulations is noted.

4.10 **Assessment of Significance**

Ridge and Furrow Cultivation (Non-Designated)

- 4.10.1 The ridge and furrow on the study site is one of several examples evident on aerial photographs of the landscape surrounding Long Clawson, forming part of a wider agricultural landscape surrounding the Medieval settlement.
- 4.10.2 English Heritage (now Historic England) in **'Turning the Plough' (Hall 2001)** identifies 43 priority sites which are highlighted due to their field system completeness, compactness of sample, association with village earthworks and quality of the historical documentation. Long Clawson is not one of those areas.
- 4.10.3 There are few places left within the landscape where ridge and furrow truly reflects its historical and archaeological importance and is of national significance. These places tend to be large contiguous areas of ridge and furrow which can give a true indication of open field systems (Hall 2001). Although the ridge and furrow within the study site is extant and visible, aerial photographs indicate that it forms a small, isolated portion in the wider landscape and the remains in the site are not as well preserved as others evident around the village; as a result it has limited historic and archaeological legibility/importance.
- 4.10.4 The extant earthwork evidence for Medieval cultivation activity on the study site is therefore considered to be of local significance and should not preclude development.

Other Non-Designated Archaeological Assets

- 4.10.5 A moderate potential has been identified for Roman evidence within the study site; however this potential is largely restricted to artefact recovery. Fragments of Roman pottery have been recovered in close proximity to the site and the isolated tessera find may tentatively point to a Roman structure in the vicinity; however there is currently no evidence that this would be located on the study site itself. The recovery of isolated Roman artefacts from within the study site would be of local significance.
- 4.10.6 A moderate-high potential has been identified for the presence of Saxon-Early Medieval archaeological remains within the study site. The regional research framework for the East Midlands states that Saxon sites in Leicestershire are still relatively poorly understood and, as such, any remains of this date on the site could potentially be of regional significance.
- 4.10.7 A low potential has been identified for all other periods.

4.10.8 The level of significance of any remains not only depends on rarity, but also on levels of preservation. It is possible that historic farming of the study site, as evidenced by the extant remains of Medieval ridge and furrow, would have disturbed or truncated any earlier remains that may be present, which could result in a reduction of their significance.

5.0 SCHEDULED MONUMENT SETTING AND SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section assesses the effect of the proposed development to the setting and significance of Scheduled Monument known as *Moated Site North-East of St Remigius' Church* (NHLE 1012560), located 110m north-west of the study site.
- 5.1.2 The methodology and guidance (The Setting of Heritage Assets and Conservation Principles) used for this part of the assessment is included in Appendix 2.

5.2 Description of the Monument and its Setting

- 5.2.1 This Scheduled *Moated Site North-East of St Remigius' Church* is recorded approximately 110m north-west of the study site. The monument comprises extant earthwork remains arranged in a square moated area, measuring approximately 70m x 70m and includes the southern, eastern and part of the western arms of the moat. The extent of the northern arm of the moat is unclear due to later infilling. Thirteenth century documentary references indicate a relationship between the moat and the *Bozon* family, who are referred to as having owned a 'castle' by the church at Long Clawson.
- 5.2.2 **The monument's primary setting is strongly related to its position within an area of green open space located between Back Lane, School Lane, Church Lane and Sand Pit Lane, and its close proximity to the church and other associated Medieval remains in that area. However, as the site of a former Manor, the monument would have had administrative/ownership control over the village itself and parts of the wider agricultural landscape. Therefore, the study site, being located within the agricultural landscape of Long Clawson, can be seen to form part of the monument's wider setting.**
- 5.2.3 The site visit undertaken for this assessment showed that the study site is separated by the open space and by Back Lane itself. Furthermore, the site is screened from the Scheduled Monument by the tall, mature, dense hedges that flank Back Lane. It is noted that south-east-facing views from the monument itself, beyond its immediate setting, are to the hills on the horizon in the distance (see Plate 5).

5.3 Assessing the Monument's Significance (from *Historic England's List Entry*)

- 5.3.1 There are approximately 6000 moated sites known in England, these often comprising wide ditches, partly or completely enclosing a central island of dry ground, upon which stood domestic or religious buildings; however some seem to have been used for

horticultural purposes. The majority of the moated sites are located in the central and eastern parts of England and the peak period for their construction seems to be between c.1250 and c.1350 AD. The majority of such sites were prestigious aristocratic residences and the moat was intended as more of a status symbol as opposed to for practical defence. Moated sites form a significant class of Medieval monument and provide an understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside.

- 5.3.2 The moated site at Long Clawson primarily derives significance from its historical connections with the Bozon family, local Lords of the Manor from 1304 – 1539 AD and an important Leicestershire family and from its physical remains represented by a well preserved moat island which has considerable potential for the survival of building remains within its raised interior; there is also potential for the survival of organic material within the moat arms themselves.
- 5.3.3 The monument also derives significance, to a lesser degree, from its setting. This assessment has established that the study site does not lie within the primary setting of the monument, this being restricted to the large pasture field in which it is located.
- 5.3.4 It is considered that the study site does lie within, and forms a small part of, the **monument's wider setting, which comprises the wider local** agricultural landscape. The agricultural nature of the study site acts as a continuation of the rural landscape that would have surrounded and served the Manor during the Medieval period.
- 5.3.5 **This wider setting can be seen as secondary to the monument's physical remains** (from which the majority of significance is derived), and to its primary setting (from where the monument is primarily experienced). In this sense, the study site can be seen to make a minor contribution to the significance of the Scheduled moated site. Furthermore, it is noted that the study site is largely screened from the Scheduled Monument by mature, dense hedges along back lane and that the views southward are to the elevated hill-line in the distance.
- 5.3.6 The study site does contain slight extant evidence for Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (see 4.10 above). Given that the Scheduled Manor is likely to have had administrative control over the land, it is likely that the ridge and furrow served the Manor. In this sense, as with the wider setting, there is a contextual relationship between the study site and the monument. However, it is noted that the ridge and furrow is not of the highest level of preservation and forms only a small part of a wider spread of such evidence in the landscape surrounding Long Clawson. Furthermore, as the monument and study site are physically and visually separated and screened by

boundaries such as dense hedges and a road. The historic landscape is not legible and it is not possible to appreciate the contextual relationship between the ridge and furrow and the Scheduled Monument. Therefore, the ridge and furrow on the study site is considered to make no more than a negligible contribution to the significance of the Scheduled Monument.

5.4 **Impacts upon the Monument**

5.4.1 As described in the Historic England List Entry, the Scheduled moated site (NHLE 1012560) derives the majority of its significance from its good level of preservation, its relationship with an important local family and its potential to contain archaeological evidence to further the understanding of the Medieval period. **The proposed development will have no physical impact on the monument's earthwork remains and will therefore have no impact on the key aspects of its significance as described by Historic England (www.historicengland.org.uk).**

5.4.2 **The monument does derive some significance from its setting. The monument's primary setting is strongly related to its position within an area of open green space where the moat's association with the Medieval church and other contemporary earthworks can be appreciated. The study site is separated and screened from this area by mature hedges and by Back Lane, it does not contain settlement earthworks and it is therefore not seen to lie within the monument's primary setting.**

5.4.3 As a moated Manor, the monument would have acted as a centre of administration and ownership for the wider landscape. The study site, as an area of Medieval agricultural land serving the Manor, can therefore be seen to lie within the **monument's wider setting. However, this wider setting comprises the landscape surrounding the village, of which the study site forms only a small part. As such, the study site itself can be seen to make only a minor contribution to the monument's significance.**

5.4.4 Proposed development within the study site would result in the alteration of a small part of the monument's wider setting, changing its use from agricultural land to residential. This alteration of use would not affect the understanding of the monument's significance which is primarily derived from its historic connections with the Bozon family and from its well preserved physical remains (its historic and evidential values). In visual terms, the introduction of roof lines may interrupt views of the wider landscape from the monument. However, these views are long distance views of hills and are not of key historic landscape features. As the study site is seen

to make only a minor contribution to its significance, any harm to the monument will be less than substantial (minor harm) as described in Appendix 2.

6.0 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT ON HERITAGE ASSETS

6.1 Site Conditions

6.1.1 The study site was visited in August 2016 (Plates 1-6) and comprised a single agricultural field under pasture. The presence of extant physical remains relating to Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was noted across the site.

6.1.2 The site visit established that there was no intervisibility between the study site and the earthwork remains of the Scheduled moated earthworks, located 110m to the north-west, these being screened by dense, mature hedges.

6.2 The Proposed Development

6.2.1 A residential development of approximately 25 units, including an element of affordable housing, is proposed. The development will also include vehicular access and pedestrian and cycle access from Back Lane, areas of public open space and landscaping. Existing trees and hedgerows are to be retained.

6.3 Impact on Archaeological Assets

Designated Assets

6.3.1 This assessment has established that the proposed development on the study site will result in no more than less than substantial (minor) harm to the significance and setting of the Scheduled Moated site 110m to the north-west.

Non-Designated Archaeological Assets

6.3.2 A moderate-high potential has been identified for Saxon remains on the study site, and a moderate potential has also been identified for the recovery of Roman artefacts. The presence of Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks on the study site is also noted, however these are deemed to be of local significance and should not preclude development. Groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to remove any archaeological remains within the study site.

6.3.3 Given the potential identified and the possible levels of significance of Saxon remains (if present), it is likely that the Local Planning Authority will require a programme of archaeological evaluation in order to identify and assess the presence, level of

preservation, extent and significance of any archaeological features within the study site.

7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This desk-based assessment has established that no designated archaeological assets are present within the study site itself and that the proposed development will have no more than a minor impact on the significance of the Scheduled moated site located 110m to the north-west.
- 7.2 Based on current evidence the site has been shown to have a moderate-high potential for Saxon remains, which could potentially be of regional significance (if present). A moderate potential for the recovery of Roman artefacts has also been identified. The study site is known to contain extant earthworks relating to Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, but these are deemed to be of no more than local significance.
- 7.3 The level of significance of any remains not only depends on rarity, but also on levels of preservation. It is possible that historic farming of the study site, as evidenced by the extant remains of Medieval ridge and furrow, would have disturbed or truncated any earlier remains that may be present, which could result in a reduction of their significance.
- 7.4 Given the potential identified and the possible levels of significance of Saxon remains (if present), it is likely that the Local Planning Authority will require a programme of archaeological evaluation in order to identify and assess the presence, level of preservation, extent and significance of any archaeological features within the study site.

SOURCES CONSULTED

General

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Historic England Archive
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office
British Geological Survey
National Planning Policy Framework
Melton Local Plan (1999)
Draft Melton Local Plan (2011-2036)
Historic England National Heritage List
East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework

Bibliographic, Website and Documentary

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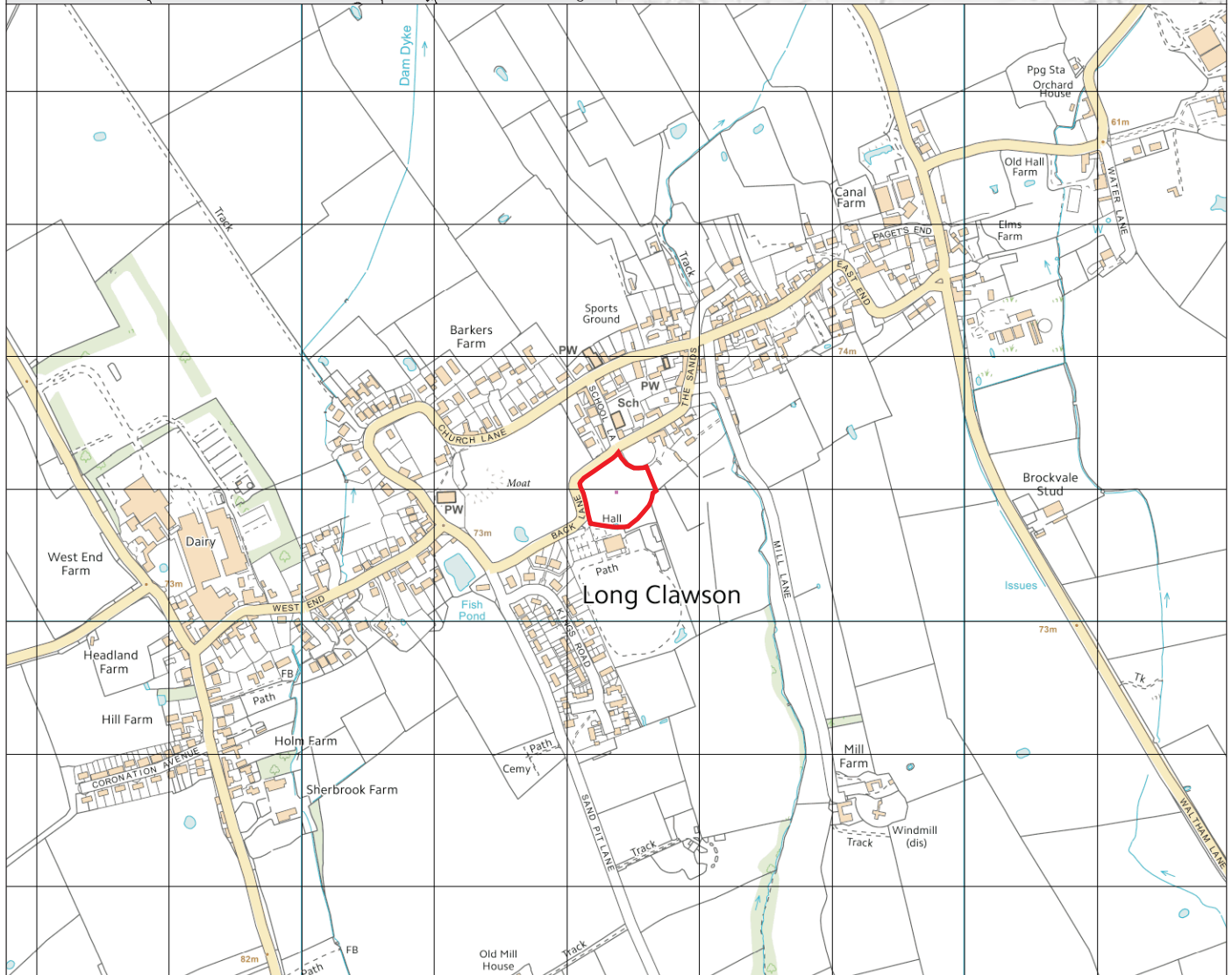
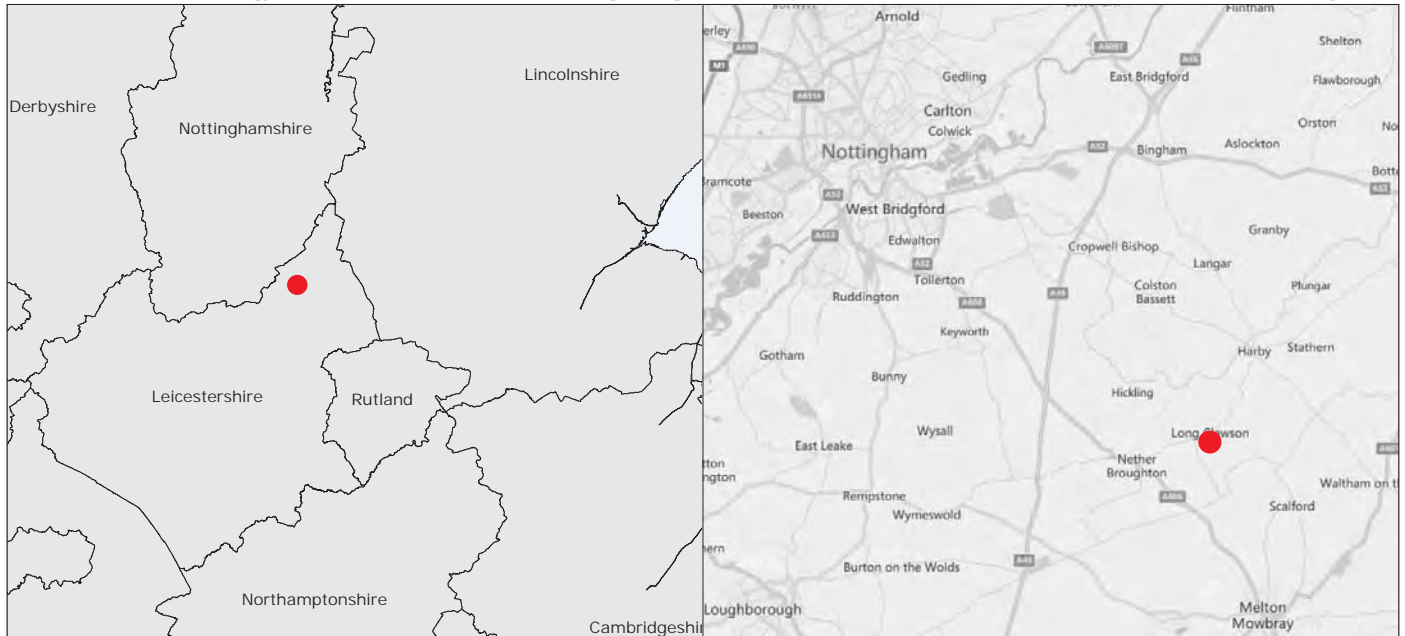
ULAS (2011) *An Archaeological Evaluation at 2 Back Lane, Long Clawson, Leicestershire*. ULAS Report 2011-171

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Cartographic Sources

1780 Long Clawson Enclosure Map

Ordnance Survey, 1884	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1903	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1920	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1973	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1993	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1993	1:2500
Ordnance Survey, 1884	1:10560
Ordnance Survey, 1901	1:10560
Ordnance Survey, 1904	1:10560
Ordnance Survey, 1921-1931	1:10560
Ordnance Survey, 1952	1:10560
Ordnance Survey, 1959	1:10000
Ordnance Survey, 1978	1:10000
Ordnance Survey, 2000	1:10000
Ordnance Survey, 2006	1:10000
Ordnance Survey, 2016	1:10000



Legend

- Site Location



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Figure 1:
Site Location



Legend

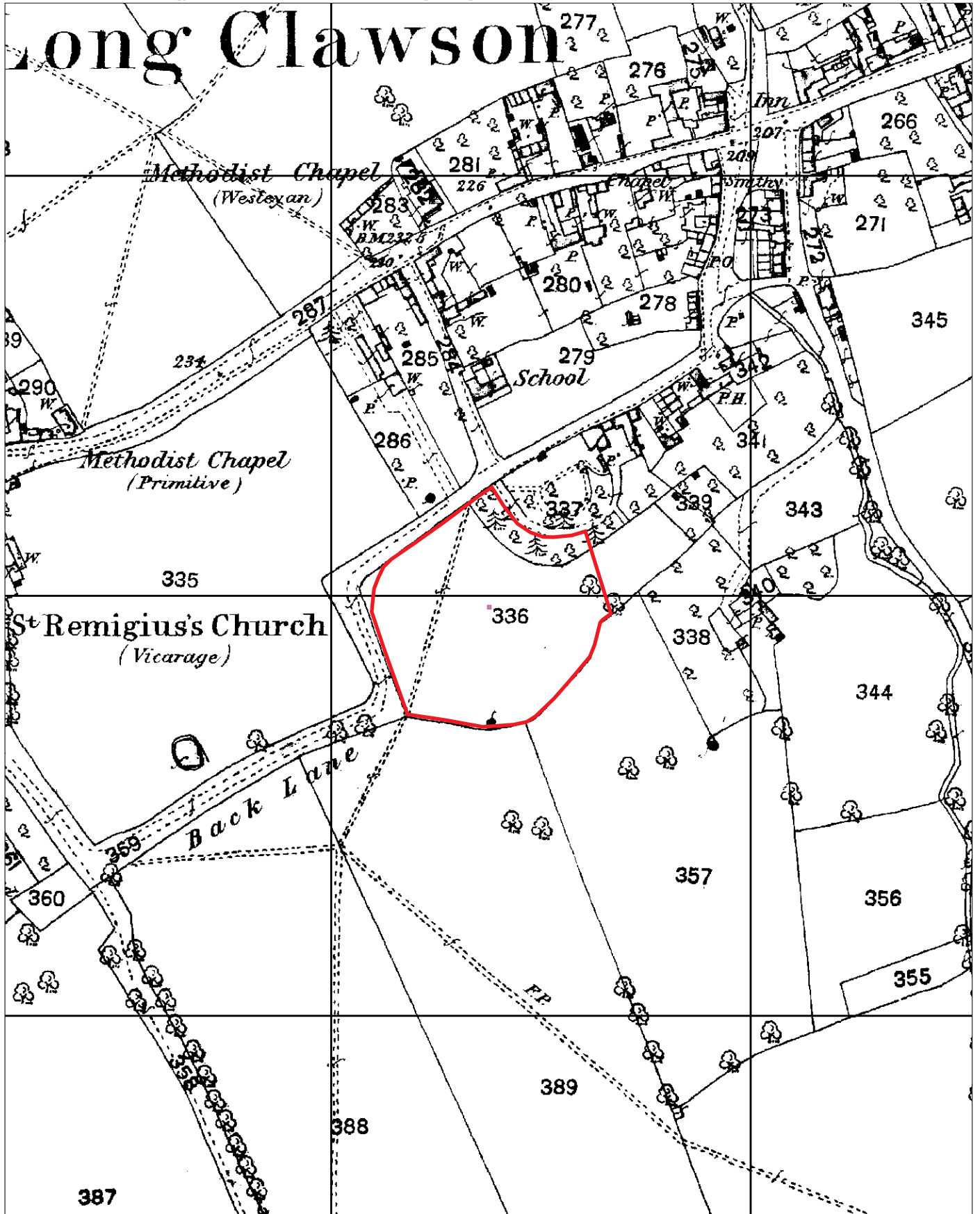
— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Figure 2:
1780 Long Clawson
Enclosure Map



Legend

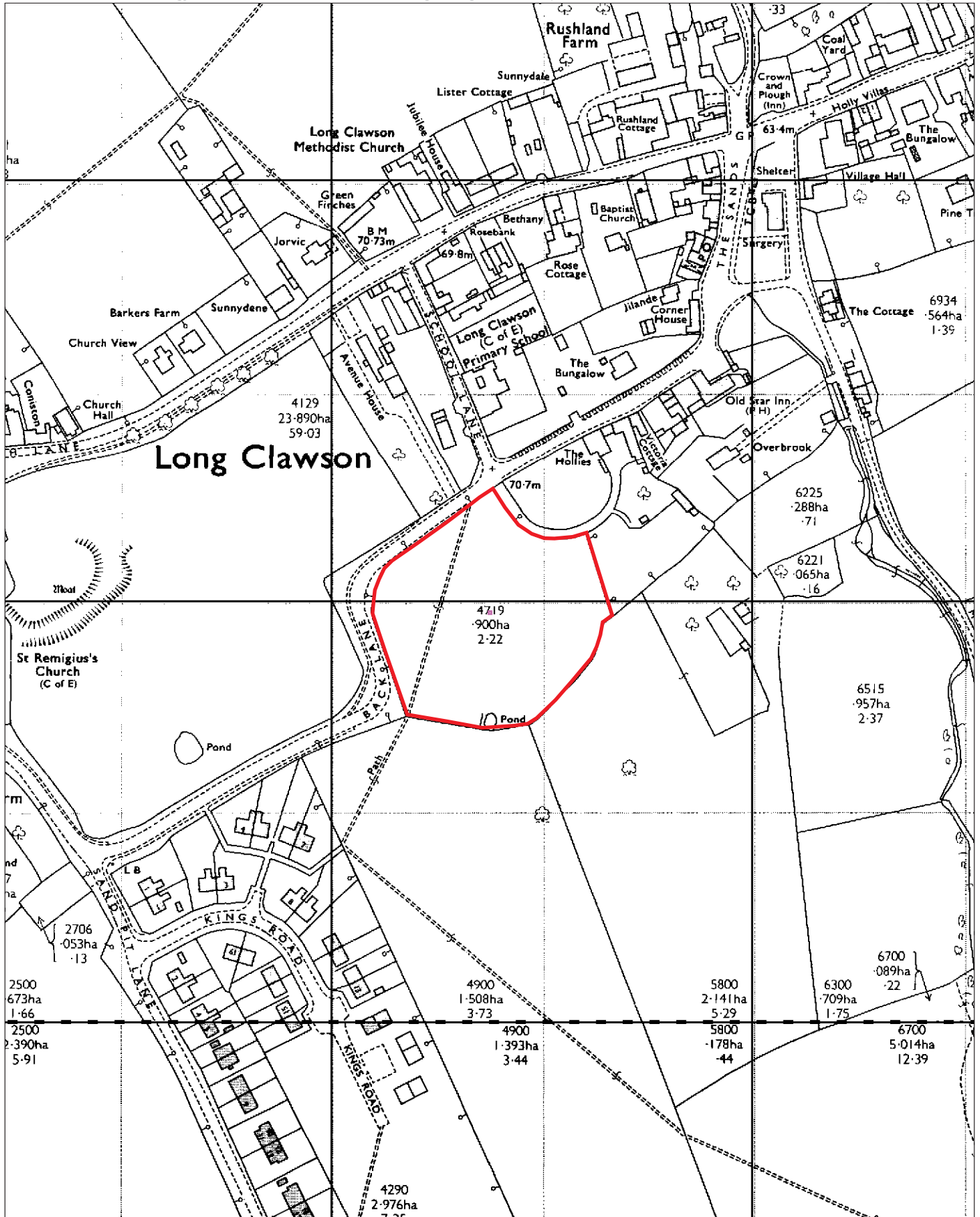
— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Figure 3:
1884 Ordnance Survey
Map



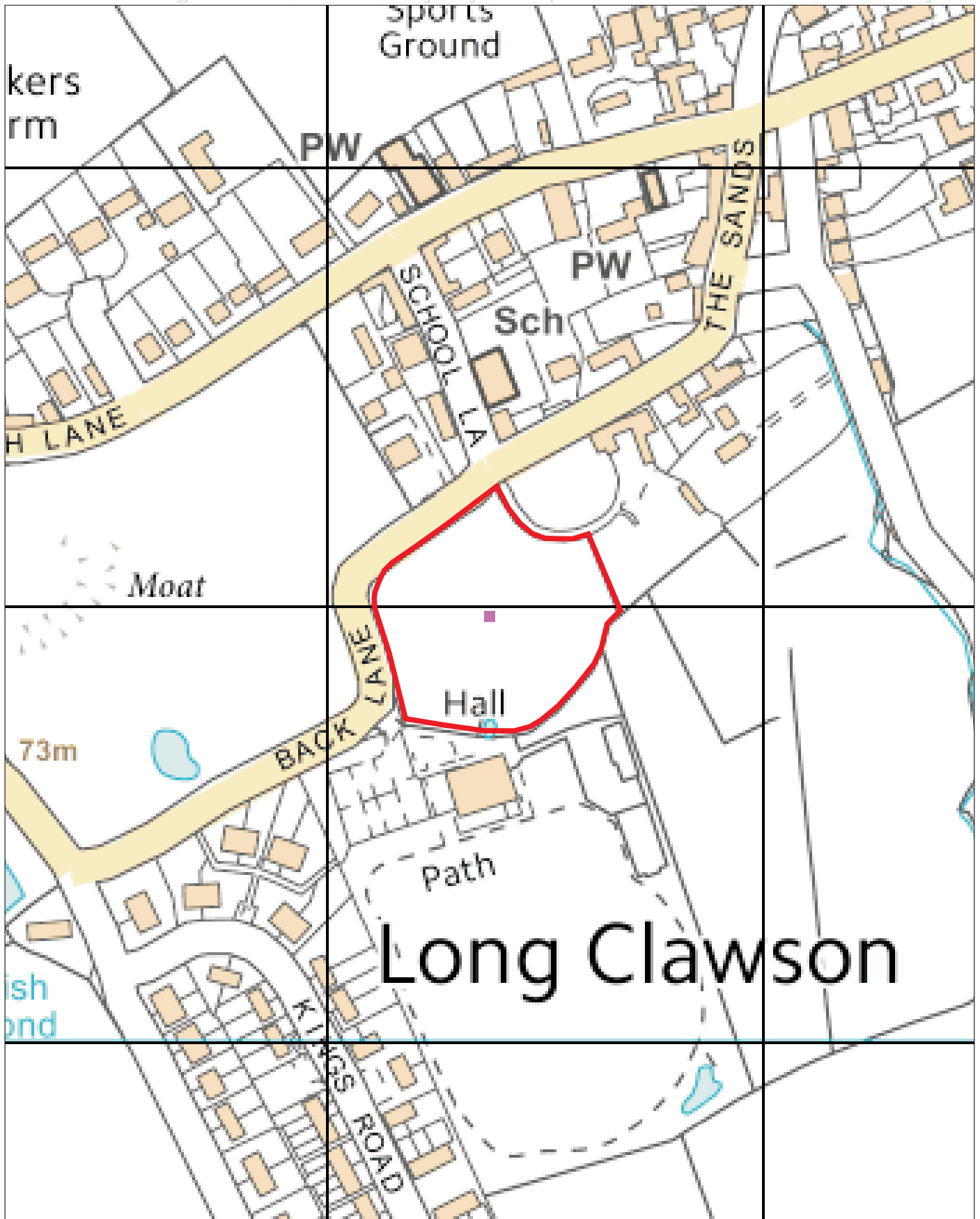
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— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
 Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
 Long Clawson

Figure 5:
 1973 Ordnance Survey
 Map



Long Clawson

Legend

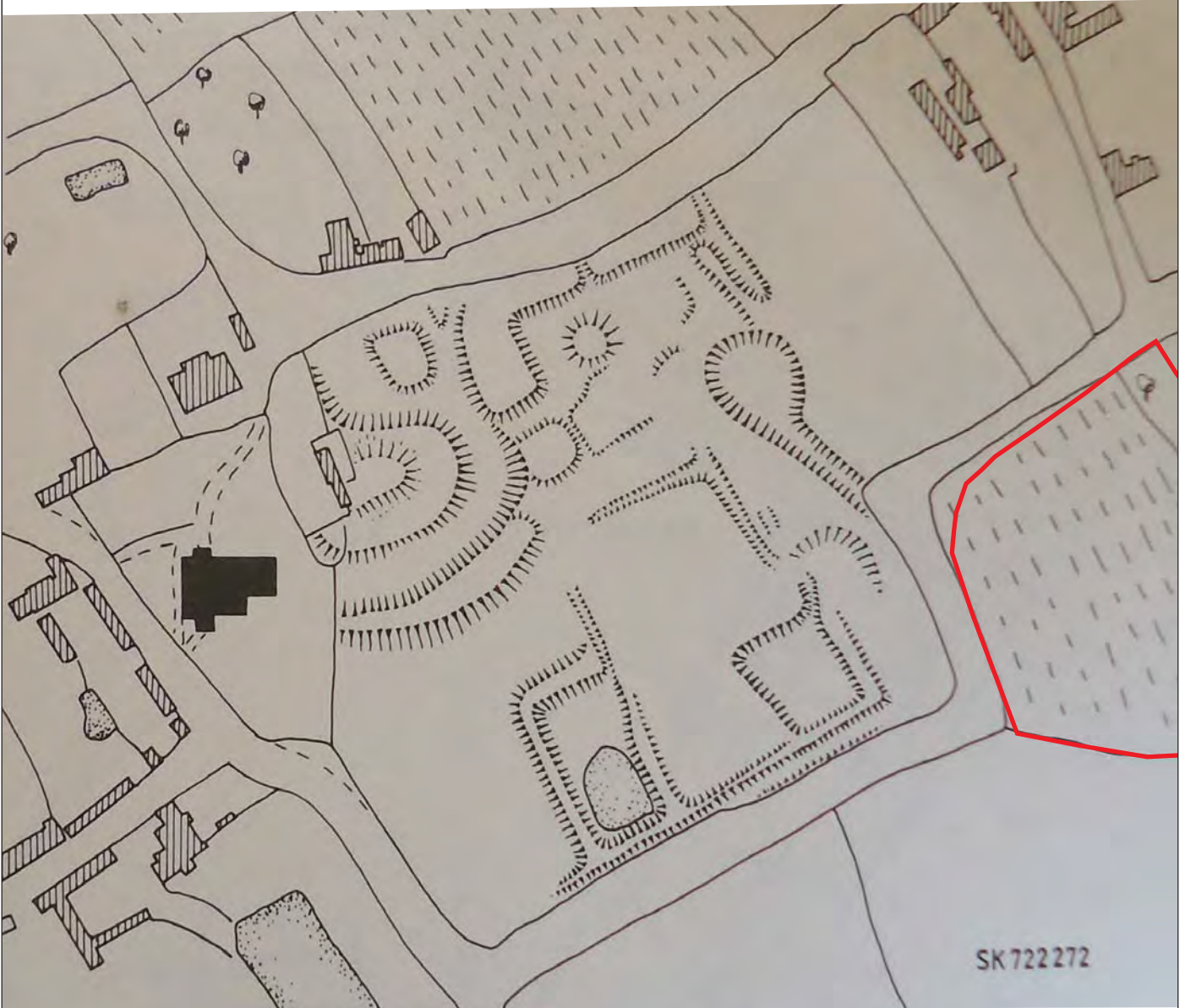
— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Figure 6:
2016 Ordnance Survey
Map



Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Figure 7:
Medieval Earthworks at
Long Clawson, after
Hartley 1987



Plate 1: Looking west along the study site's northern boundary



Plate 2: Looking south-west across the study site



Plate 3: Looking north-east across the study site



Plate 4: Looking east across the study site, showing ridge and furrow remains



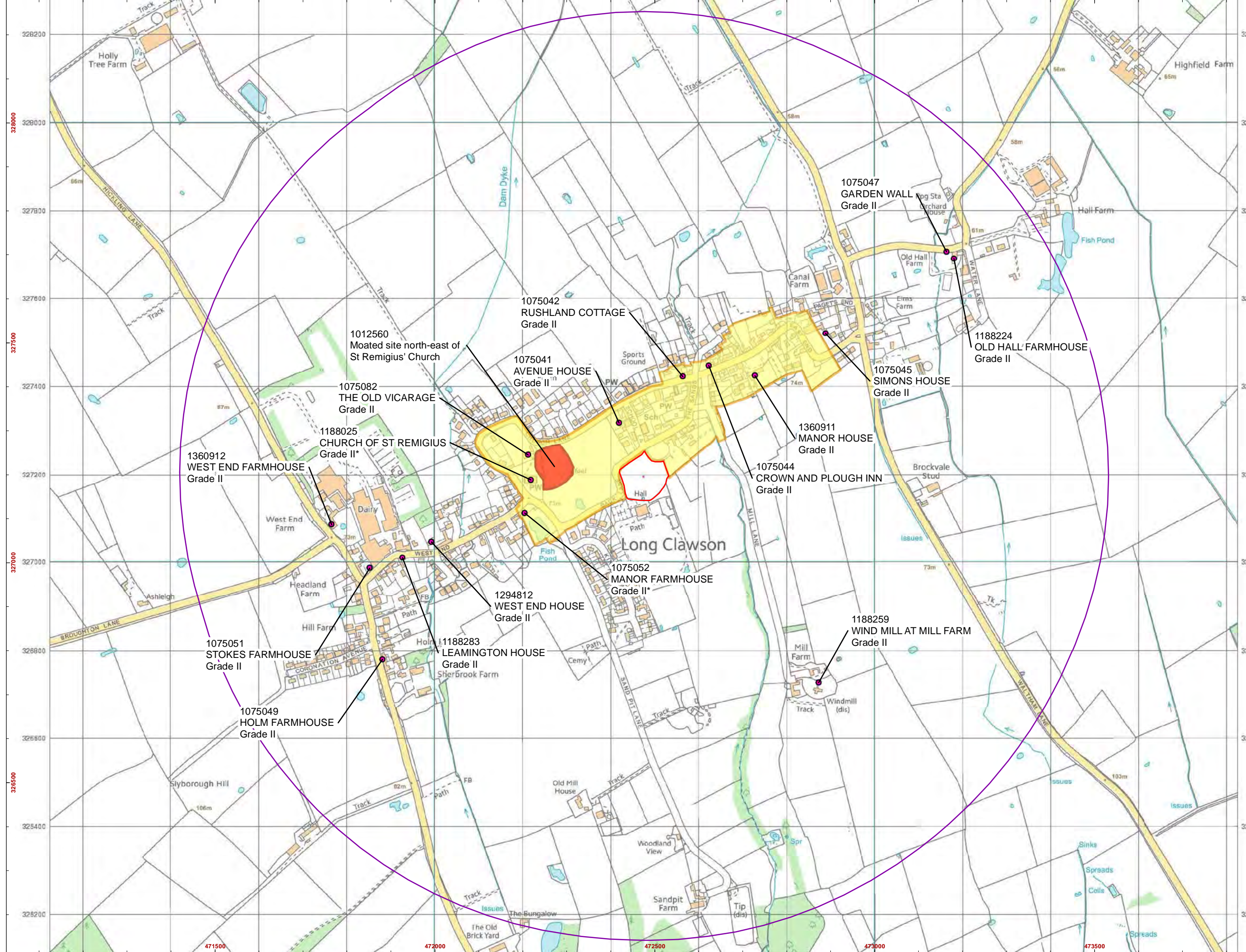
Plate 5: Looking south-east from Scheduled Monument towards the study site



Plate 6: Looking north-west over the study site towards the Scheduled Monument

Appendix 1

Historic Environment Record and Historic England Archive plans



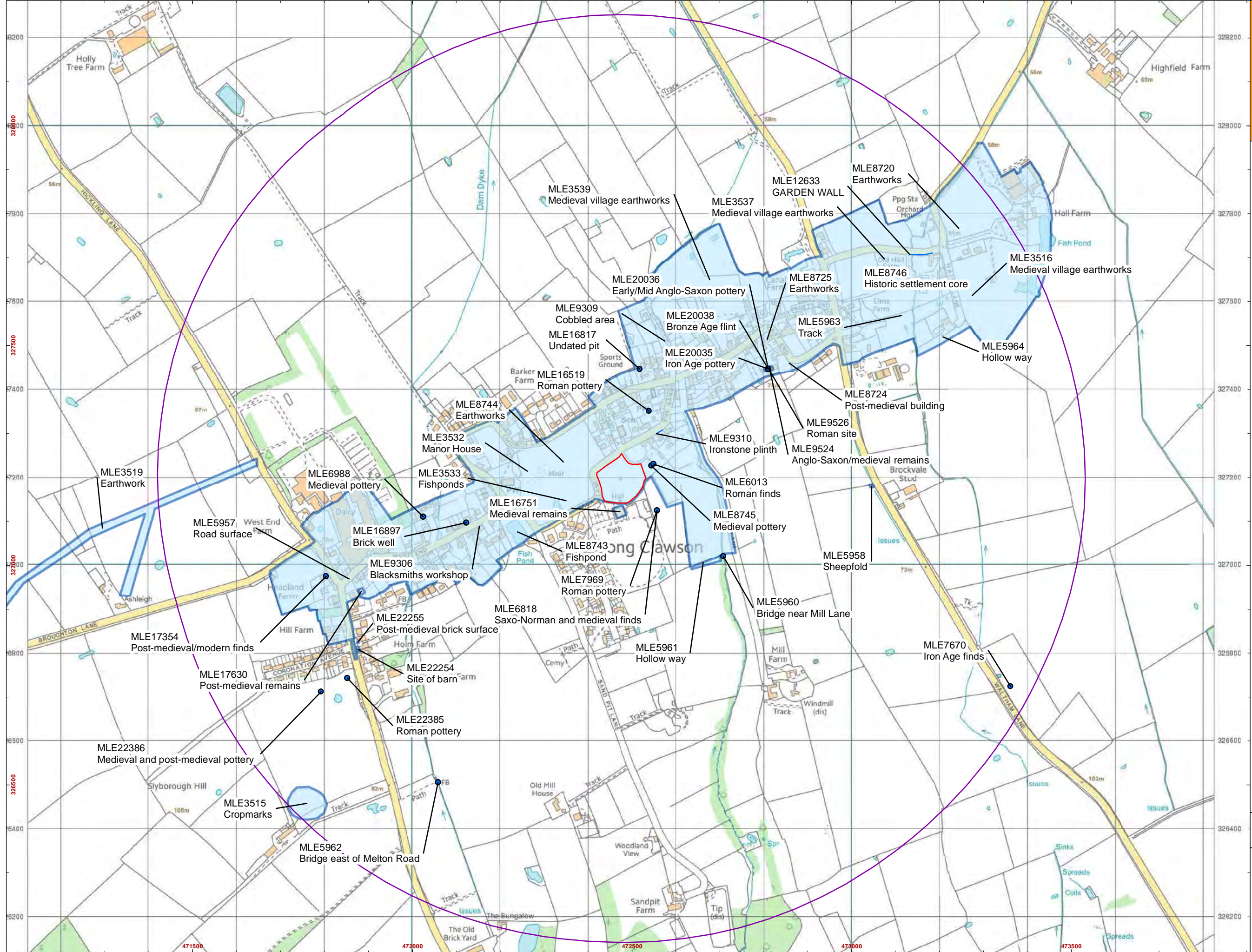
- Site Boundary
- 1km Radius
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building
- Conservation Area

N

Scale at A3: 1:8,000

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Appendix 1:
Designated Heritage
Assets



- ▭ HER Monument
- ▭ Site Boundary
- 1km Radius
- HER Monument
- HER Monument



Scale at A3: 1:8,000
0 250 m

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Appendix 1:
HER Monuments



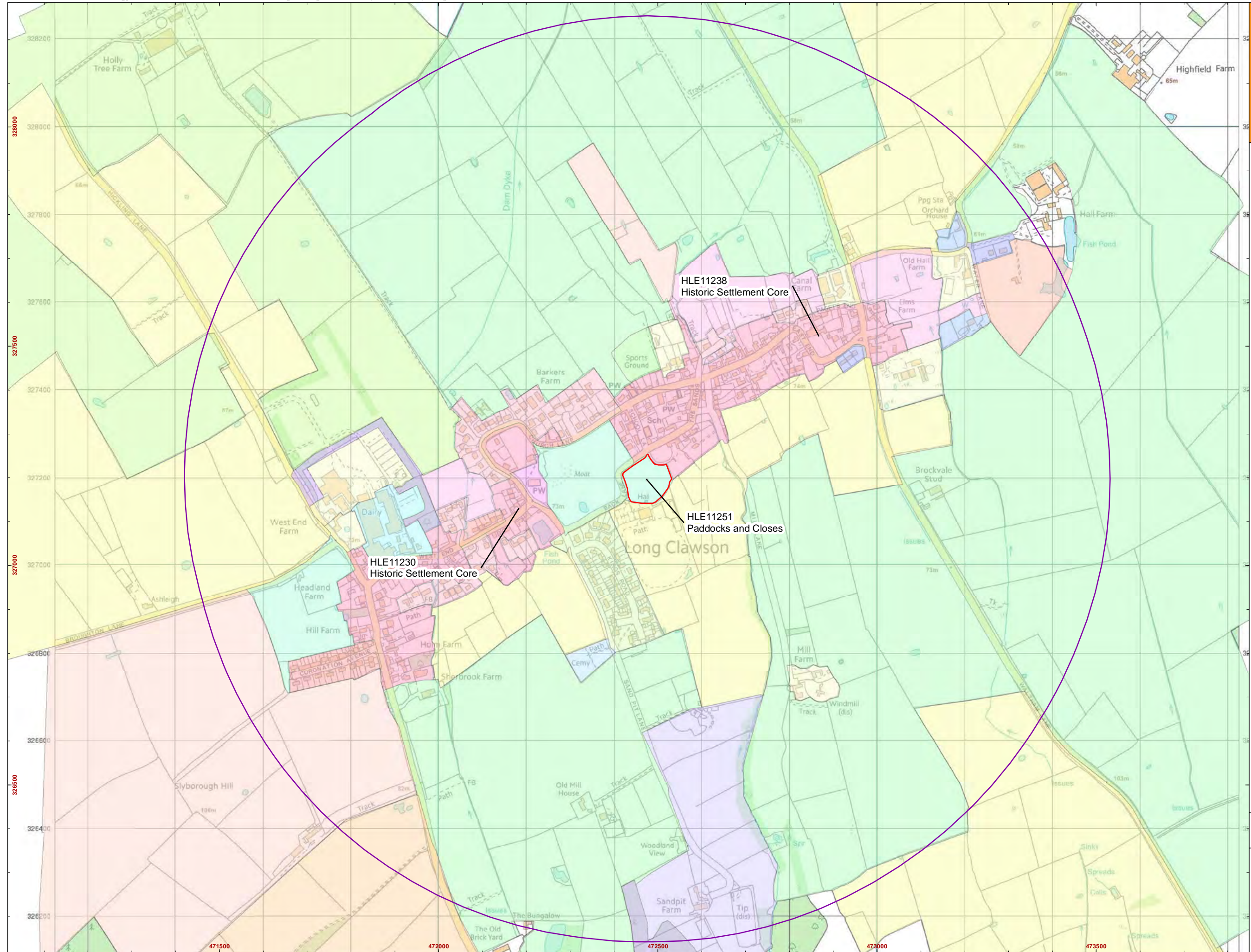
- Site Boundary
- 1km Radius
- HER Events
- HER Events

N
↑

Scale at A3: 1:8,000

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Appendix 1:
HER Events



- ▭ Site Boundary
- 1km Radius
- HLCType**
- ▭ Commercial and Retail
- ▭ Farm Complex
- ▭ Historic Settlement Core
- ▭ Other Large Rectilinear Fields
- ▭ Other Plantation
- ▭ Other Small Rectilinear Fields
- ▭ Paddocks and Closes
- ▭ Piecemeal Enclosure
- ▭ Planned Enclosure
- ▭ Planned Enclosure Containing Ridge and Furrow
- ▭ Post 1960s Residential Development
- ▭ Post-1880s Industrial Complex
- ▭ Pre-1880s Settlement Detached
- ▭ Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure
- ▭ Religious
- ▭ Settlement 3rd-4th ed Semi Detached
- ▭ Settlement Pre-1960s Detached
- ▭ Settlement Pre-1960s Semi Detached
- ▭ Small Irregular Fields
- ▭ Sports Fields
- ▭ Very Large Post-War Fields



Scale at A3: 1:8,000
0 250 m

Land off Back Lane
Long Clawson

Appendix 1:
HLC Data

Appendix 2

Scheduled Monument Setting and Significance Assessment Methodology

METHODOLOGY

Establishing the Significance and Setting of Heritage Assets

The starting point for evaluating the impact of a proposed development on heritage assets is to establish the significance of those assets, as well as the contribution their setting makes to that significance. Guidance on approaches to establishing significance is laid out in the NPPF and through Historic England documents, as summarised below.

National Planning Policy Framework

With regard to national and local planning policy the impact of development proposals on the setting of the nearby heritage assets need to be considered. Government policy on development affecting heritage assets and their settings is contained in the NPPF paragraphs 129 and primarily in paragraph 132. Paragraph 132 applies in particular to Designated Heritage Assets. Although the emphasis of these policies is on physical change, it is clear that development within the setting of a heritage asset can harm its significance, or cause loss to its significance.

Setting is defined in Annex 2 of NPPF as:

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

The Setting of Heritage Assets

The Setting of Heritage Assets (Historic England, 2015) sets out guidance on the management of change within the settings of heritage assets. It reiterates the NPPF Annex 2 definition of setting (see above). Key to this document is that the protection of the setting of heritage assets need not prevent change but the impact of change needs to be properly assessed.

The guidance sets out a 5 staged process for practical and proportionate assessment of potential impact of proposed development on the setting of heritage assets and the resultant decision making process. Stages 1 and 2 are used in the identification and assessment of a heritage baseline:

1. **Identification of heritage assets which are likely to be affected by proposals** – The guidance states that if development is capable of affecting the contribution of a heritage asset's setting to its significance, or the appreciation of

its significance, it can be considered as falling within the asset's setting. Importantly, it is made clear that an impact on setting does not necessarily equate to harm to the asset, and may be positive or neutral. This judgement of impact instead depends upon a detailed understanding of the individual heritage asset's significance, of which setting may form a greater or lesser part.

2. **Assessment of whether and what contribution setting makes to the significance of a heritage asset** – This depends upon an understanding of the history and development of the site, utilising historic mapping where possible. This assessment should also be informed by the physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets, the way in which the asset is experienced and the asset's associations and patterns of use. All this information will provide a baseline for establishing the effects of a proposed development on the significance of a heritage asset.
3. **Assessing the effects of proposed development on the significance of a heritage asset** – With the baseline information gathered at Stage 2 it will be possible to identify a range of effects a proposed development may have on the setting of a heritage asset, which will be evaluated as beneficial, neutral or harmful to the significance of the heritage asset. The location and siting, form and appearance, permanence and any other effects of proposals will all inform the assessment process.
4. **Maximising enhancement and reduction of harm on the setting of heritage assets** – Measures to reduce harm could include relocation of all or parts of a development, changes to the layout, screening, etc. Where harm cannot be eliminated, design quality of the proposed development may be one of the main factors in assessing the balance of harm and benefit.
5. **The final decision about the acceptability of proposals** – This will depend on the range of circumstances that apply to a heritage asset and the relative sensitivity to change. Decisions are therefore made on a case by case basis, recognising that all heritage assets are not of equal importance and the contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies.

The guidance reiterates the NPPF in stating that where the effect of a proposed development to the setting of a designated heritage asset would result in 'substantial' harm to its significance, this harm can only be justified if the development delivers substantial public benefit and that there is no other alternative (i.e. redesign or relocation). This assessment considers Stages 1 to 3 for each asset or group of assets.

Following this, Stage 4 will be considered for those assets where there is a potentially significant affect on their settings.

Guidance by Historic England on setting and context is particularly relevant to this assessment. Historic England define setting as:

"Setting' is an established concept that relates to the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape. Definition of the setting of a significant place will normally be guided by the extent to which material change within it could affect (enhance or diminish) the place's significance."

Context is defined as:

"Context' embraces any relationship between a place [or asset] and other places. It can be, for example, cultural, intellectual, spatial or functional, so any one place can have a multi-layered context. The range of contextual relationships of a place will normally emerge from an understanding of its origins and evolution. Understanding context is particularly relevant to assessing whether a place has greater value for being part of a larger entity, or sharing characteristics with other places."

Conservation Principles

Conservation Principles was published by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2008. The guidance relates to the sustainable management of the historic environment. Four key values are ascribed to heritage assets (pages 27 to 32 of the document), and understanding these values is fundamental to understanding their significance. The four values are:

- Evidential
- Historical
- Aesthetic
- Communal

The Guidance sets out a staged approach in determining these values (introduced in paragraphs 5 and 6). It is this approach which is used to undertake 'Stage 2' above.

Methodology for Assessment of Predicted Impacts on Asset Significance

Assessment of impacts

The assessment of the overall effect of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets is evaluated by taking into account both the significance of the heritage asset and the degree of harm or benefit on that significance which would result from the proposed development.

The significance of heritage assets is a term which is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF, and comprises the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. All designated heritage assets are considered to be of high significance.

The assessment of the degree of harm or benefit to the significance of designated assets is based upon the extent to which factors that contribute to the significance of the assets would be affected, either through physical impacts or effects to their setting. Setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of the asset, may affect the ability to appreciate significance, or may be neutral.

The level of harm to the significance of a heritage asset is dependant on the contribution of **the heritage asset's setting to its significance and the overall degree of change/effect** to its setting.

Table 1 provides definitions for varying degrees of harm to heritage assets, which allows an effect to be categorised, with the benefit of professional judgement. This provides a sliding scale of harm which, along side an understanding of the significance of the heritage assets affected, allows for an informed decision to be taken, taking account of the harm identified and the benefits of the proposed development.

Table 1: Criteria for Appraisal of degree of harm to the significance of heritage assets	
Degree of harm	Definition
Substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total or substantial loss of the significance of a heritage asset.• Substantial change affecting the setting of a heritage, such that the significance of the asset would be totally lost or substantially reduced (e.g. the significance of a designated heritage asset would be reduced to such a degree that its designation would be questionable; the significance of an undesignated heritage asset would be reduced to such a degree that its categorisation as a

Table 1: Criteria for Appraisal of degree of harm to the significance of heritage assets	
Degree of harm	Definition
	heritage asset would be questionable).
Less than substantial – Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial loss or alteration of the significance of a heritage asset. • Considerable change affecting the setting of a heritage asset, such that the asset's significance would be materially affected/considerably devalued, but not totally or substantially lost.
Less than substantial – Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight loss of the significance of a heritage asset. This could include the removal of fabric that forms part of the heritage asset, but that is not integral to its significance. • Some change affecting the setting of a heritage asset, but not to the degree that would result in a meaningful devaluation of its significance. • Perceivable level of harm, but insubstantial relative to the overall interest of the heritage asset.
Negligible/No Material Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very slight change to a heritage asset which doesn't result in material harm to its significance. • Very minor change to a heritage asset's setting which would not materially affect the heritage asset's significance.
No harm/ Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect to a heritage asset or its setting.

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