



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT**

**LAND AT STATHERN
MELTON MOWBRAY
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**NOVEMBER 2018
(REVISED DECEMBER 2018)**

**Local Planning Authority:
Melton Borough Council**

**Site centred at:
SK 7732 3153**

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Executive Summary

This archaeological desk-assessment considers approximately c.1.85 hectares of land at Stathern, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire proposed for residential development.

The assessment provides a description of heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development and addresses the information requirements of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework in relation to heritage. A separate Built Heritage Assessment has been prepared in support of the application.

The assessment has established that there are no Scheduled Monuments on the development site or within the search area. There is no historic association between the site and any Scheduled Monuments and as a result, the proposed development will not impact upon the heritage significance of any Scheduled Monuments within the wider area.

A geophysical survey conducted within the site by Magnitude Surveys has found no evidence of hitherto-unknown significant archaeological features at the site; identifying anomalies of ridge and furrow, natural and modern origin only.

There is a pocket of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks which remain extant, although extremely degraded, across c.0.8ha of the c.1.85ha site. The ridge and furrow has some associative and historic value in relation to the historic core of Stathern. However, much of land to the north, west and south of Stathern contains extant ridge and furrow earthworks of greater complexity and preservation. Due to degraded nature of the earthworks on the site and their lack of complexity, the impact of its loss on the heritage significance of the settlement is deemed negligible/nil.

The hedgerows forming the south-western, north-western and south-eastern external boundaries of the site are considered Important Hedgerows as per criterion 5(a) of Part II of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

Based on the evidence obtained from the geophysics and HER data, the site has limited potential for Prehistoric unenclosed activity and no potential for enclosed settlement. The Planning Archaeologist is however, likely to require evaluation of the site in the form of trial trenching. Given there is no indication that the study site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to prevent or constrain development, it is considered that any further archaeological investigation could be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Stathern, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, has been researched and prepared by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS Group PLC) on behalf of HSSP Architects.
- 1.2 The site, also referred to as the study site, is located to the north of Stathern, off Blacksmith End. It comprises approximately 1.85 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference SK 7732 3153 (Figure 1). The study site is a rectangular plot bounded to the north-east by a field boundary and outlying field, to the south-east by Blacksmith End, to the south-west by modern housing and to the west by field boundaries and outlying fields.
- 1.3 This assessment has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, to identify and provide a description of the significance of archaeological assets on the site and the likely effects of future development. This study concentrates on identifying any archaeological interest in the site and assessing the potential impact of development on the archaeological significance of any identified assets. A separate Built Heritage Assessment has been prepared in support of the application.
- 1.4 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER), the Leicestershire Record Office and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments was obtained from Leicestershire's Historic Environment Record (HER) and Historic England's National Heritage List for England. The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material, and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site inspection was undertaken on the 17th October 2018.
- 1.5 The study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site and the significance of any archaeological heritage assets within and around the site. As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development.
- 1.6 A geophysical survey was conducted by Magnitude Surveys in support of the forthcoming planning application. The survey found no evidence of hitherto-unknown significant archaeological features on the site; identifying anomalies of agricultural, natural and/or modern origin only. The agricultural responses clearly show the layout of the former Medieval ridge and furrow within part of the site.

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government planning policy, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.2 On 24th July 2018, the Government published the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced previous national policy relating to heritage and archaeology. The revised NPPF supersedes the earlier version (NPPF 2012).
- 2.3 Section 16 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 16 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, and
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 189 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, including any contribution made by their setting, and that the 'level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance'.
- 2.5 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
- 2.6 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

- 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.
- 2.8 *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.
- 2.9 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, 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.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.10 The NPPG is a web-based resource which is to be used in conjunction with the NPPF. It is aimed at planning professionals and prescribes best practice within the planning sector. The relevant section is entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Local Plan Policy

- 2.11 The Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 was adopted on the 10th October 2018; it sets out the Council's policies for the use and development of land across the Borough. The relevant policy for the historic environment is:

Policy EN13 – Heritage Assets

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.

Melton Borough has a number of important historic assets. These include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and non-designated heritage assets (ranging from nationally to locally important heritage features).

The Borough of Melton contains heritage assets that are at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. These will be conserved, protected and where possible enhanced. 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 including non-designated heritage assets when considering proposals for development affecting their significance and setting. 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;

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: and

F) the use of Article 4 directions where appropriate.

G) taking account of any local heritage assets listed in Neighbourhood Plans.

- 2.12 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.

3.0 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND SITE CONDITIONS

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 mapping records the solid geology of the study site as Charmouth Mudstone Formation mudstone in the majority the site with a narrow band of Brandon Formation sandstone along the north-western boundary of the site. The superficial deposits comprise clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits from the Langar Head Formation.

(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

3.1.2 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales website records the site as having type '18' slowly permeable seasonally wet loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/index.cfm>).

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 The study site lies within the Natural England Character Area 74: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds. The area is described as a 'a belt of Wold landscapes formed by gently dipping Jurassic rocks which stretch from the Cotswolds to Lincolnshire'.

3.2.2 The site is located on the northern edge of Stathern. The site slopes north-westwards with the southern tip situated at just under 75m AOD and the northern tip of the site situated at just under 70m AOD (Figure 11).

3.3 Site Conditions

3.3.1 A site visit was undertaken on 17th October 2018. The whole site was accessible and comprises one field (Figures 1, 11 and 12; Plates 1-4).

3.3.2 The site is bounded to the north-west by field boundaries and outlying fields (Plate 1), to the north-east by a tarmacked path (Plate 3), to the south-east by Blacksmith End (Plate 2) and to the south-west by modern housing (Plate 3).

3.3.3 Within the site are remnant ridge and furrow earthworks arrayed northwest-southeast. Remnant earthworks were also visible in the field to the north-east which extended beyond the site to the north-west. The ridge and furrow earthworks are not recorded on the HER but are considered a non-designated heritage asset within this report. The section below discusses the significance and development impact upon the ridge and furrow on site. It will not be discussed elsewhere in the report.

3.3.4 The geophysics demonstrates that the ridge and furrow previously existed across the vast majority of the site. The 2011 GoogleEarth image (Figure 10) shows ridge and

furrow earthworks across the site. However, the earthworks identified on site during the site visit are severely degraded and cover a small pocket of the site comprising a total area of c.0.8ha across the c.1.85ha site (Figure 12; Plate 3). No other earthworks were noted during the walkover survey.

- 3.3.5 The earthworks are too degraded to reliably establish the number of ridges that remain on site. However, from the geophysics, it appears the earthworks originally comprised at least 3 ridges. Each ridge, or 'Land', displays the typical drawn-out aratral curve indicative of Medieval ploughing practice (Gray 1959; Hall 1982; Historic England 2011; Rackham 1986). The longest extant land measures c.120m in length, with a width of c.7m (Clark 1960; Upex 2004).
- 3.3.6 From GoogleEarth, there are numerous fields to the north, west and south of Stathern which contain ridge and furrow remains. The field to the north-east contains a pocket of remnant ridge and furrow. The two large fields to the north-west of the site comprise particularly well-preserved ridge and furrow remains, orientated north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east. These earthworks outside of the site and those to the west and south-west of Stathern demonstrate a clear and complex layout of remnant earthwork ridge and furrow.

Significance

- 3.3.7 The heritage significance of ridge and furrow, and other open field cultivation evidence, within the eastern Midlands has been assessed by David Hall on behalf of English Heritage (Hall, 2001). The objectives of the report were 'to select priority townships of nationally important examples suitable for preservation', defined by criteria of field system completeness, compactness of sample, association with village earthworks and the quality of the historical documentation. After a pilot survey based on Northamptonshire the methodology was extended in the report to the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, although it covered some of the counties only partially. The report identified a total of 43 'priority townships' which represented the best survival, and where preservation should be a priority. Stathern, and therefore the study site, was not included in the list 43 priority townships.
- 3.3.8 The ridge and furrow on the site lacks complexity and survives only as an isolated pocket within a wider expanse of better preserved earthworks outside the site. There do not appear to be any additional associated earthwork features such as hollow ways or balks on the site, although there is a possible joint in the field to the north-east located on the geophysics, which was not visible as an earthwork.

- 3.3.9 Ridge and furrow earthworks have little archaeological interest as potential sources of data, but derive their significance from their illustrative value; they aid understanding of Medieval farming practices and the shift in the agricultural economy from arable to pasture; and have been shown to contribute to the character of the landscape, to local identity, and to a 'sense of place' (Hall, 2001). The earthworks have minimal aesthetic value owing to their degraded and isolated appearance and some, although degraded, evidential value attesting to the agricultural use of the site and changing use and subsequent impacts over time. The ridge and furrow has associative and historic value in relation to the historic core of Stathern and form a very minor part of the settlement's wider historic setting as a part of its former agricultural hinterland. The site's contributions to the significance of the historic core are however, extremely reduced by the degraded nature of the earthworks and the construction of intervening 20th-century development. The ridge and furrow earthworks are of local interest.
- 3.3.10 Ridge and furrow is not an unusual survival in the locality and is part of once extensive and now heavily eroded set of landscape features that has some visual appeal but which, unlike most significant earthworks, contains within its own matrix little or nothing of archaeological interest.

Impact

- 3.3.11 Much of the remnant ridge and furrow within the site has been removed by ploughing and better preserved examples exist within the local landscape. The earthworks within the study site form a minor part of the secondary historic setting of the historic core of Stathern. However, due to their degraded nature, their loss is expected to have a negligible impact upon the significance of the historic core of Stathern.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Timescales used in this report are as follows.

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	450,000 BC	-	10,001 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 BC	-	4,001 BC
Neolithic	4,000 BC	-	1,801 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 BC	-	601 BC
Iron Age	600 BC	-	AD 42

Historic

Romano-British	AD 43	-	409 AD
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410	-	1065 AD
Medieval	AD 1066	-	1485 AD
Post-Medieval	AD 1486	-	1799 AD
Modern	AD 1800	-	Present

4.2 Introduction

4.2.1 This chapter reviews existing archaeological evidence for the site and the archaeological / historical background of the general area, based on a consideration of evidence in the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) for the study site and a surrounding 1km search area.

4.2.2 A gazetteer of archaeological monuments, designated heritage assets, and archaeological investigations and events is provided in Appendix 1. The locations of Designated Heritage Assets and HER entries within the search area are shown on Figures 2 and 3.

4.2.3 This chapter reviews existing archaeological evidence for the site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area and, in accordance with the NPPF, considers the potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological assets on the site.

4.2.4 Chapter 5 subsequently considers site conditions and whether any theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

4.3 Designated Heritage Assets

4.3.1 Data obtained from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority confirms that there are no Scheduled Monuments within the study site or search area (Figure 2).

- 4.3.2 The nearest Scheduled Monument to the site is 'The Grange Moated Site', located c.3.4km south-west of the site. The Scheduled Monument is screened from the site by mature trees and intervening built development and the site does not form part of its historic landscape context. There are no historic associations between any Scheduled Monuments and the site and as a result Scheduled Monuments are not considered further in this report.
- 4.3.3 A separate Built Heritage Assessment has been prepared in support of the application which will assess any impact upon any designated and non-designated built heritage assets in the vicinity of the site.
- 4.3.4 Designated heritage assets within the search area are listed in the gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix 1) and are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.4 **Non-Designated Heritage Assets and previous archaeological investigations**
- 4.4.1 A geophysical survey was conducted by Magnitude Surveys in support of the forthcoming planning application. The survey found no evidence of hitherto-unknown significant (non-agricultural) archaeological features at the site. The agricultural responses clearly show the layout of the former Medieval ridge and furrow within the majority of the site.
- 4.4.2 A pocket of remnant ridge and furrow survives above ground within the site. These earthworks are considered a non-designated heritage asset in this report and are discussed above in Section 3.3.
- 4.4.3 Ten archaeological 'event' records are recorded on the HER in the search area.
- 4.4.4 The investigations undertaken in closest proximity to the site did not reveal any significant archaeological features. These comprise two Strip, Map and Sample investigations c.240m south and c.290m south-west of the site (HER ELE5787 & ELE7655) and two watching briefs c.320m south-east and c.390m south (HER ELE10618 & ELE6886).
- 4.4.5 Trial trenching and excavation, undertaken following geophysical survey, c.600m south-east of the site (ELE4754, ELE4755 & ELE4787) revealed Roman, Saxon and Medieval features and a probable Post-Medieval wall.
- 4.4.6 The remaining events comprise two Historic Building surveys (ELE7343 & ELE9818) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (ELE10296).

- 4.4.7 Any archaeological fieldwork in the search area which is relevant to assessing the archaeological potential of the site is discussed below. A gazetteer of all Events and Monuments is provided in Appendix 1 and shown on Figures 3 & 4.

4.5 **Prehistoric**

- 4.5.1 The geophysical survey undertaken at the site (Magnitude Surveys 2018) did not identify any anomalies suggestive of Prehistoric activity on the site. There are no recorded archaeological assets dating from the Prehistoric period on the HER within the study site.
- 4.5.2 The HER contains two records of Prehistoric activity within the wider search area.
- 4.5.3 Two Mesolithic flint blades and two flint flakes were found c.700m south-east of the site (MLE9489) and a Neolithic polished stone axe, thought to be have been found from the local area, is recorded c.390m south of the site (MLE7273). It is not recorded in the HER how these artefacts were recovered but they are likely to represent a very low 'background noise' of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity in the search area.
- 4.5.4 The geophysical survey revealed no potential Prehistoric features within the site. From these results and the HER data, the site is assessed as having a negligible potential for significant Prehistoric activity.

4.6 **Romano-British**

- 4.6.1 The geophysical survey undertaken at the site (Magnitude Surveys 2018) did not identify any anomalies suggestive of Romano-British activity on the site. There are no recorded archaeological assets dating from the Romano-British period on the HER within the study site.
- 4.6.2 The HER data includes two records relating to finds or features of Romano-British date within the search area.
- 4.6.3 Two ditches containing Romano-British pottery (MLE16547) were identified during trial trenching (ELE4755) to the south-east of the Church, c.630m south-east of the site. A single sherd of Roman pottery was found c.850m south-east of the site.
- 4.6.4 Roman material often appears in HERs because of the volume of cultural material relative to most other periods and because much of that material is readily identifiable. The limited number of Roman features and material recorded from the

search area suggests that the absence of evidence may be genuine and not simply a reflection of the limited amount of fieldwork undertaken in the search area.

- 4.6.5 The geophysical survey revealed no anomalies indicative of Romano-British activity within the site. From these results and the HER data, the site is considered to have a negligible potential for archaeological features of Romano-British date.

4.7 **Saxon/Early Medieval**

- 4.7.1 The geophysical survey undertaken at the site (Magnitude Surveys 2018) did not identify any anomalies suggestive of Saxon/Early Medieval activity on the site.

The early Medieval/Medieval settlement of Stathern is recorded c.20m south of the site (HER MLE8887). Domesday Book (1086) records a very large settlement at Stathern, suggesting it was settled by at least the late Saxon period. The settlement is recorded as '*Stachedrine*' - a settlement with nine ploughlands worked by two lords, and five men's plough teams. The historic core of Stathern likely focused on the Church of St Guthlac (MLE12687), located c.370m south of the site at its closest point. No anomalies indicative of settlement activity were identified on the site during the geophysics.

- 4.7.2 A posthole and linear feature, each containing Early Saxon pottery and a Late Saxon/Early Medieval linear and four postholes were found c.640m south-east of the site during trial trenching (MLE16548 & MLE16549; ELE4755).
- 4.7.3 A casual find of a Saxon brooch (MLE6624) was also found south-east of the Church, c.640m south-east of the site.
- 4.7.4 The geophysical survey revealed no potential archaeological features within the site dating from the Saxon/Early Medieval period and the study site is well removed from the Saxon/Early Medieval archaeological evidence within the surrounding area. The presence of former ridge and furrow on the site confirms it lay outside the historic core of the settlement and formed part of its agricultural hinterland. The site is considered to have a negligible potential for significant (i.e non-agricultural) remains dating from this period.

4.8 **Medieval**

- 4.8.1 Remnant, albeit heavily-degraded, earthwork remains of ridge and furrow were identified on part of the site during the site visit. These are discussed in greater detail in Section 3.3.

- 4.8.2 The geophysical survey recorded no other anomalies indicative of Medieval activity.
- 4.8.3 There are two entries of Medieval date recorded in the HER within the study area, including the site of a possibly Medieval chantry (MLE17122) c.180m south of the site.
- 4.8.4 Late Medieval post holes were also identified c.640m south-east of the site during trial trenching (ELKE4755), which had also revealed Saxon and early Medieval features (para. 4.7.4).
- 4.8.5 The geophysical survey revealed no potential non-agricultural archaeological features within the site dating to the Medieval period. The extant ridge and furrow on the site demonstrates that the site formerly comprised part of the agricultural hinterland of the settlement of Stathern. The site is therefore, considered to have a negligible potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological features of Medieval date.

4.9 **Post-Medieval/Modern**

- 4.9.1 The geophysical survey undertaken at the site (Magnitude Surveys 2018) did not identify any anomalies suggestive of Post-Medieval activity on the site. There are no recorded archaeological assets dating from the Post-Medieval period on the HER within the study site.
- 4.9.2 Within the wider search area there are twenty-seven recorded Post-Medieval sites, including the Post-Medieval Listed Buildings. The majority of the recorded Post-Medieval sites are of no relevance to this study – the sites have well-defined extents or are casual finds which add little to an understanding of the site's archaeological potential.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 4.9.3 The site is located within an area of 'Fields and Enclosure Land; Planned Enclosure containing Ridge and Furrow' (HLE9171), according to the Historic Landscape Characterisation project.

Historic Map Regression

- 4.9.4 The earliest mapping available is the 1799 Stathern Enclosure Map (Figure 5; Leicestershire Record Office ref. DE9504). The mapping shows the site comprises part of two fields; part of an enclosed large field in the north and a narrow strip in the south-west, separated by an internal boundary. The north-western, south-eastern and south-western external boundaries of the site are also visible on this map. It should be

noted that the curvilinear line on the map in the northern field is a crease in the map and does not represent a feature on the site.

- 4.9.5 The 1884 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (Figure 6) shows the site in the same layout as the Enclosure Map. A north-west to south-east footpath is also depicted on the map.
- 4.9.6 There are no changes to the layout of the site between 1884 and 1904, although two additional footpaths are shown on the 1904 map (Figure 7). By 1921, the internal boundary was removed resulting in the site comprising one field (Figure 8).
- 4.9.7 No other changes are recorded on the site, although to the south-west of the site a series of buildings including a factory were constructed by 1972 (Figure 9).
- 4.9.8 The aerial photography available on GoogleEarth shows the remnant ridge and furrow within the site (Figure 10) but does not show any other changes to the site's layout.
- 4.9.9 The geophysical survey revealed no potential archaeological features within the site of Post-Medieval/Modern date. The map review demonstrates that the study site has remained undeveloped through the later Post-Medieval period. The site is considered to have a negligible potential for unknown archaeological features of Post-Medieval date.

4.10 **Assessment of Significance**

- 4.10.1 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF 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.
- 4.10.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the study site or within the search area. There are no historic associations between any Scheduled Monuments and the site and as a result the proposed development will not impact upon any Scheduled Monuments.

Historic Hedgerows

- 4.10.3 The south-western, north-western and south-eastern external boundaries of the site are depicted on the 1799 mapping and survive as mature hedgerows and trees. These hedgerows are therefore considered Important Hedgerows as per criterion 5(a) of Part II of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997; that is to say, the hedgerows are shown on mapping predating the Inclosure Acts (criterion 5(a)).

Potential

- 4.10.4 The study site contains an area of extant Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, albeit an extremely partial survival lacking in complexity. The significance of these features is discussed in great detail above in Section 3.3.
- 4.10.5 The geophysical survey revealed no potential significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological features within the site. Although the ridge and furrow may be masking earlier evidence on the site, from the HER data the site has limited potential for Prehistoric unenclosed activity and no potential for enclosed settlement. The study site is considered to have a negligible potential for significant as-yet-unknown archaeological features dating from all periods.

5.0 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & IMPACT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

5.1 The Proposed Development

- 5.1.1 The study site is proposed for residential development. An Illustrative Masterplan will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority with the Planning Application.

5.2 Impact on Archaeological Assets

- 5.2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments on the study site and the Scheduled Monuments within the search area are screened from the site by intervening built development. There are no historic associations between any Scheduled Monuments and the site and as a result the proposed development will not impact upon any Scheduled Monuments.
- 5.2.2 The study site contains an area of extant Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, albeit an extremely partial survival lacking in complexity. These features are discussed in great detail above in Section 3.3.
- 5.2.3 The geophysical survey found no evidence of hitherto-unknown significant archaeological features at the site; identifying anomalies of agricultural, natural and modern origin only. The agricultural responses are indicative of ploughing trends (ridge and furrow) within the site. From these results and the HER data, the study site is considered to have a negligible potential for significant as-yet-unknown archaeological remains dating from all periods.
- 5.2.4 The construction techniques employed in modern development are such that the ridge and furrow, and any potential buried archaeological remains now present on the study site, would not survive the development process.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 In line with government and local policy, this Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of the land at Stathern, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
- 6.2 The assessment provides a description of heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development and addresses the information requirements of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework in relation to heritage.
- 6.3 The assessment has established that there are no Scheduled Monuments on the development site or within the search area. There is no historic association between the site and any Scheduled Monuments and as a result, the proposed development will not impact upon the heritage significance of any Scheduled Monuments within the wider area.
- 6.4 A geophysical survey conducted within the site by Magnitude Surveys has found no evidence of hitherto-unknown significant archaeological features at the site; identifying anomalies of ridge and furrow, natural and modern origin only.
- 6.5 There is a pocket of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks which remain extant, although extremely degraded, across c.0.8ha of the c.1.85ha site. The ridge and furrow has some associative and historic value in relation to the historic core of Stathern. However, much of land to the north, west and south of Stathern contains extant ridge and furrow earthworks of greater complexity and preservation. Due to degraded nature of the earthworks on the site and their lack of complexity, the impact of its loss on the heritage significance of the settlement is deemed negligible/nil.
- 6.6 The south-western, north-western and south-eastern hedgerows forming the external boundaries of the site are considered Important Hedgerows as per criterion 5(a) of Part II of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 6.7 Based on the evidence obtained from the geophysics and HER, the site has limited potential for Prehistoric unenclosed activity and no potential for enclosure settlement. The Planning Archaeologist is however, likely to require evaluation of the site in the form of trial trenching. Given there is no indication that the study site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to prevent or constrain development, it is considered that any further archaeological investigation could be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition.

SOURCES CONSULTED

General

Historic England National Heritage List for England (list.historicengland.org.uk)
Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk)
British Geological Survey (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)
Soilscapes (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/index.cfm>)
Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER)
Melton Borough Council
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October 2013.
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Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*
HISTORIC ENGLAND, 2017. *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 3
(Second Edition) – The Setting of Heritage Assets*

Cartographic

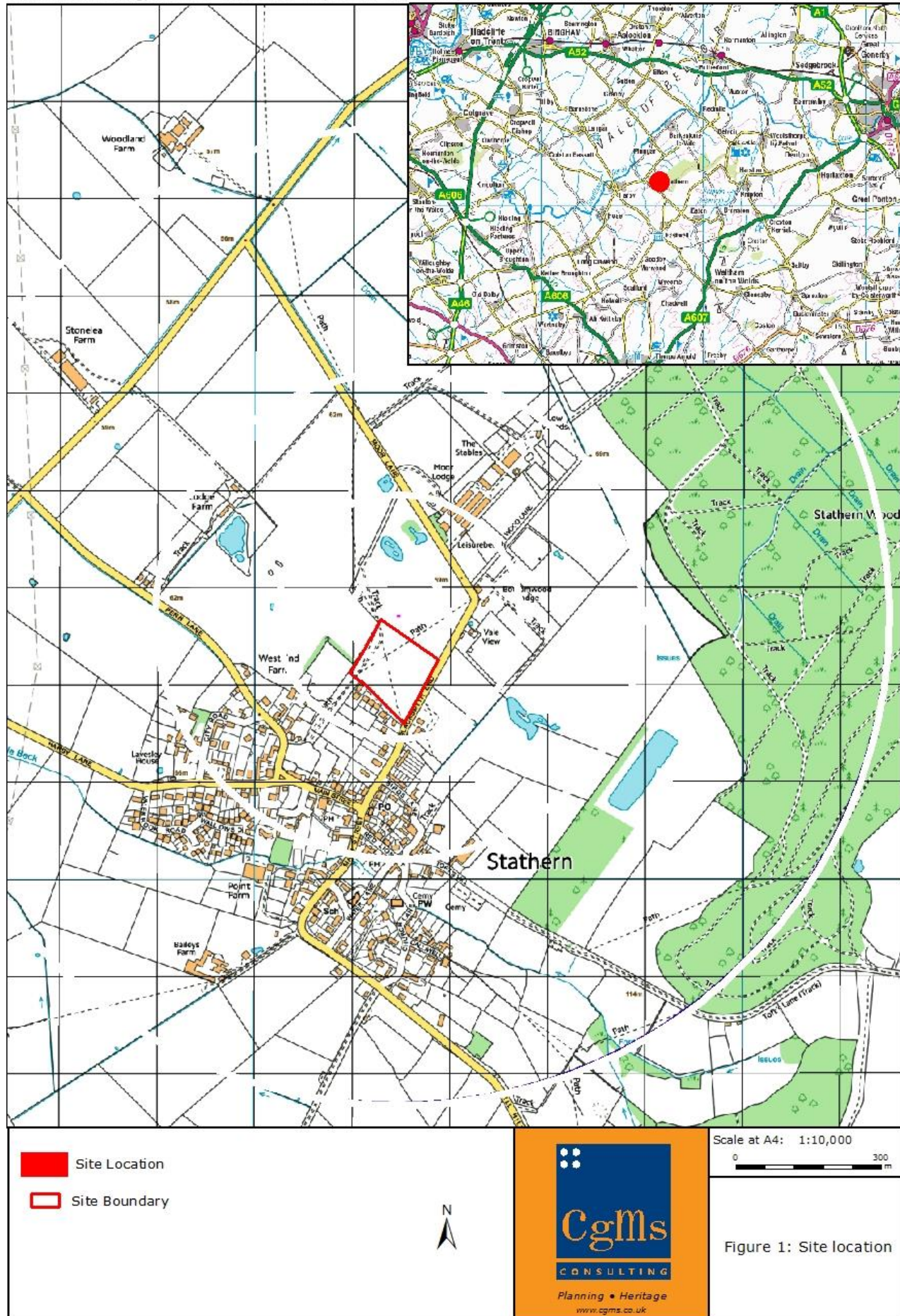
1799 Enclosure Map of Stathern (Leicestershire Record Office ref. DE9504)

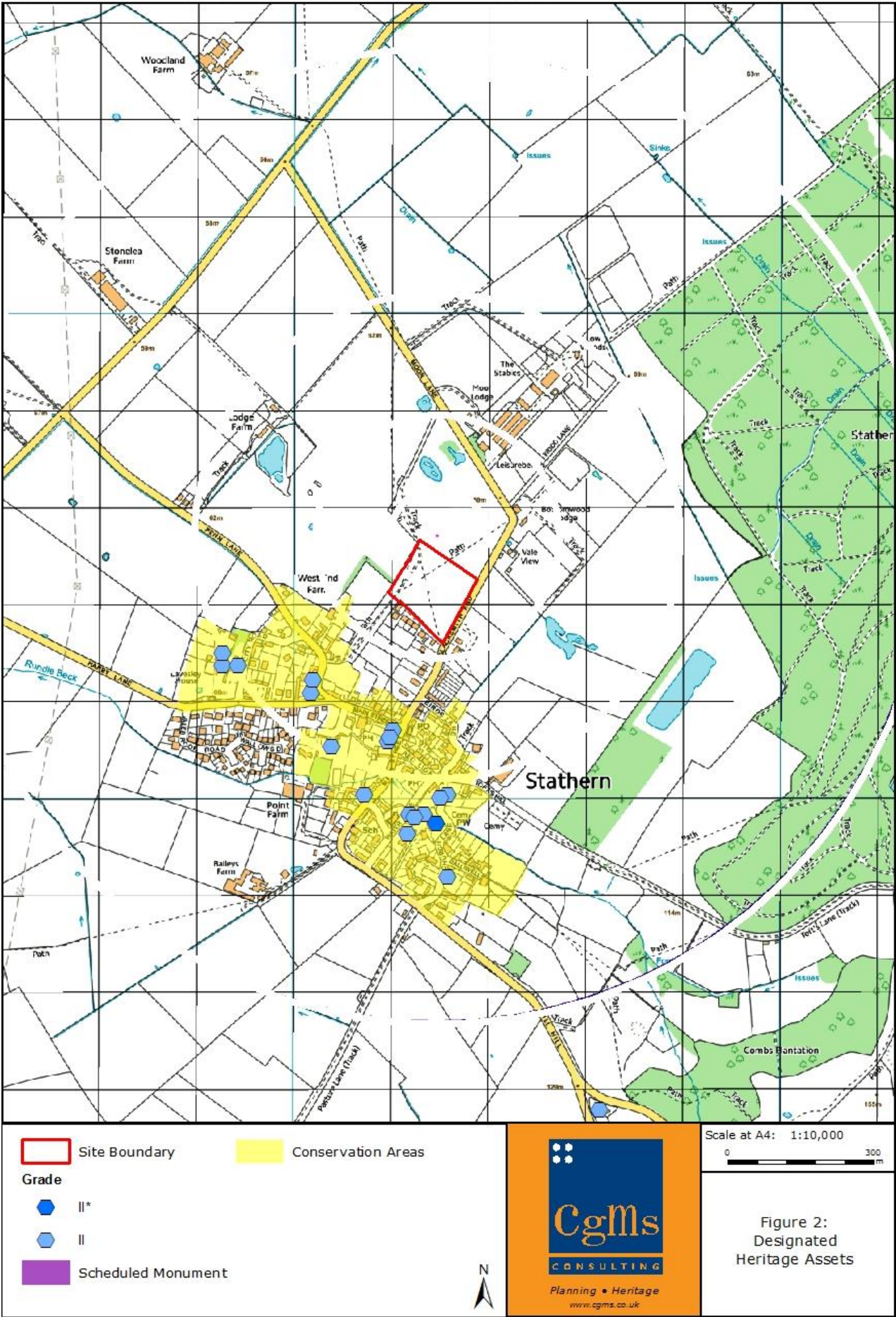
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1975, 2000, 2006, 2018

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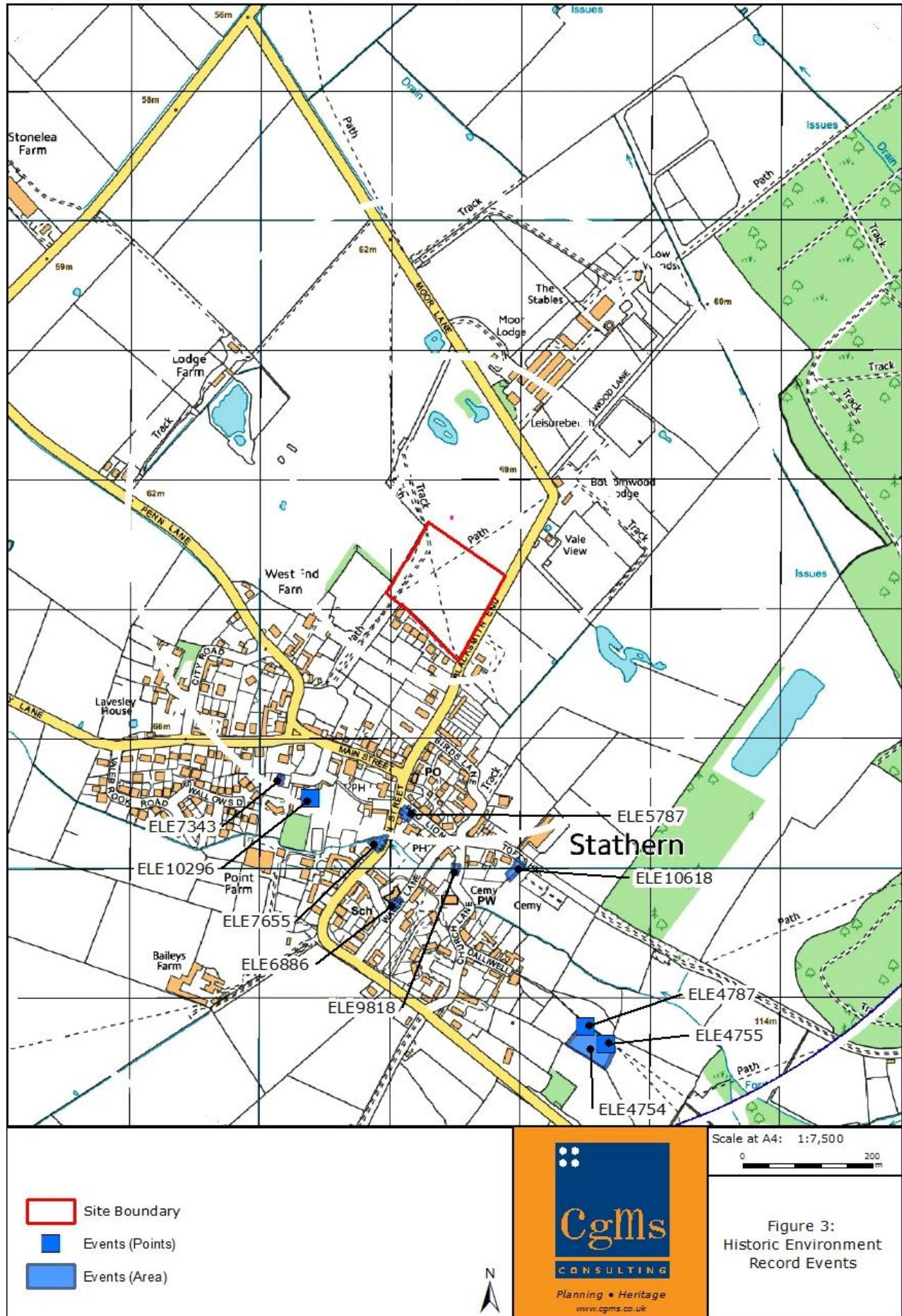
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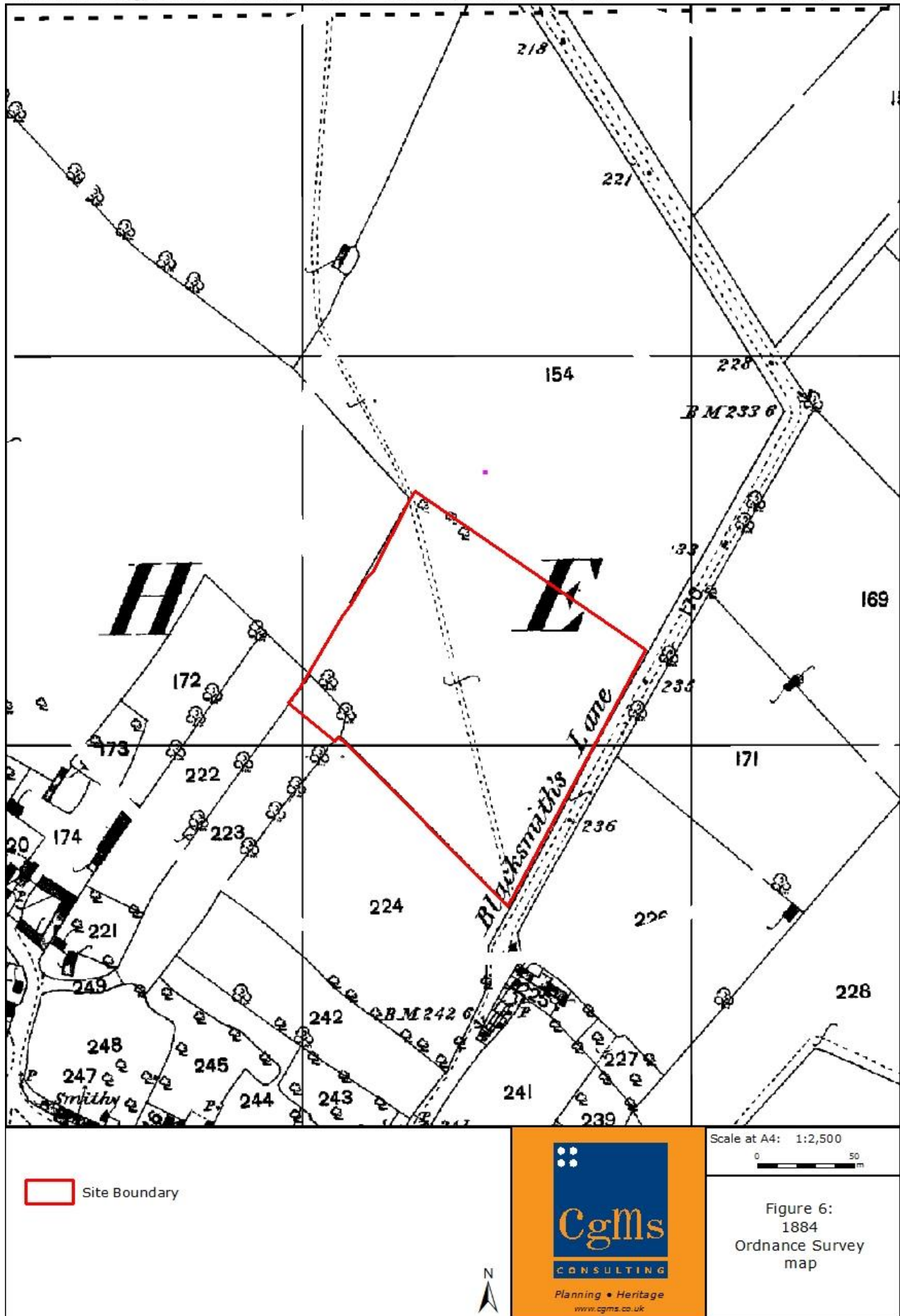
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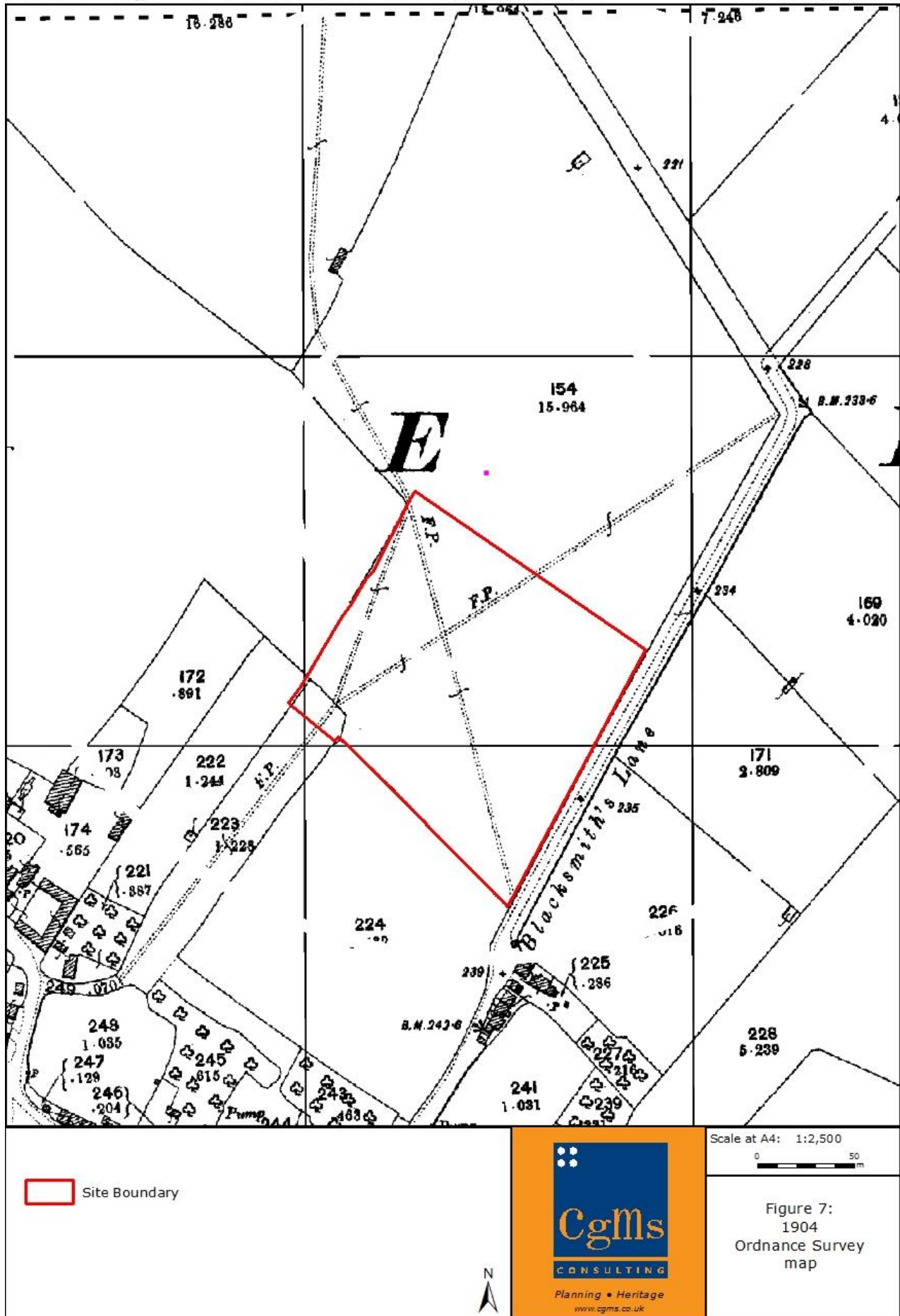
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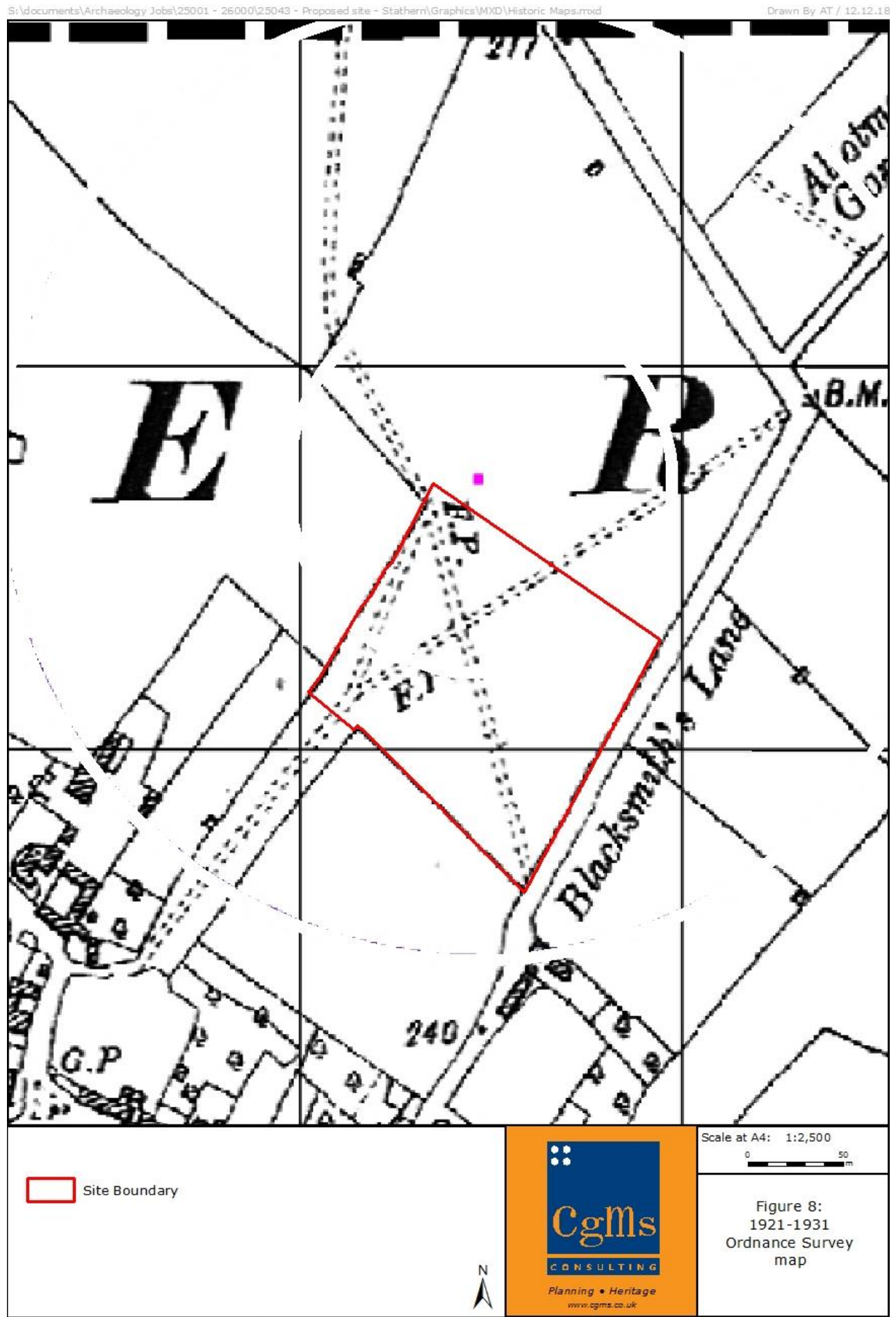
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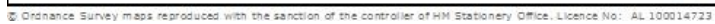
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Plate 1. View south-west across the site



Plate 2. View south across the site, showing remnant ridge and furrow



Plate 3: View east along tarmacked road along the north-eastern boundary of the site



Plate 4. View west across the site

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF HER DATA

HER Number	Name & Description	Location	Date
	Monuments		
MLE4165	Windmill south-east of St. Guthlac's Church Documentary evidence for a post-medieval windmill.	SK 773 309	Post-medieval
MLE6224	Anglo-Saxon brooch found south-east of Stathern Church	SK 775 307	Anglo Saxon
MLE7273	Neolithic axe, possibly from Stathern Found in an out-house of the vicarage in the 1970s	SK 772 309	Neolithic
MLE8887	Historic settlement core of Stathern Known as Stachedirne in 1086 (Domesday Book).	SK 771 310	Anglo Saxon to Post-medieval
MLE9848	Roman pottery from Stathern Wood A single base sherd from a Roman greyware strainer was found in the late 1990s	SK 779 308	Roman
MLE9489	Mesolithic flint from the south end of Stathern Wood	SK 778 309	Mesolithic
MLE9848	Roman pottery from Stathern Wood A single base sherd greyware strainer	SK 779 308	Roman
MLE10175	Civil War token from south-east of Mill Hill A very rare token commemorating the raising of the Royal standard at Nottingham on 22nd August 1642 - the start of the Civil War	SK 775 306	Post-medieval
MLE15363	Site of Stathern Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane, Stathern The chapel was created in 1825 by converting a dovecote. Dove holes are still visible on the north wall	SK 770 311	Post-medieval to Modern
MLE15990	World War II pillbox north of Vale View Hexagonal type 22 pillbox, concrete with a brick outer skin	SK 775 305	Modern
MLE16547	Roman site south-east of the church In 2001 two Roman ditches (aligned north-east/south-west) were sample excavated; they had Roman pottery in their fills	SK 775 307	Roman
MLE16548	Early Anglo-Saxon remains from south-east of the church Excavation in 2001 recorded a post hole and a linear feature containing early Anglo-Saxon pottery	SK 775 307	Anglo Saxon to Medieval
MLE16549	Anglo-Saxon/medieval remains south-east of the church Excavation in 2001 recorded a linear feature and four postholes containing Anglo-Saxon and early medieval pottery	SK 775 307	Anglo Saxon to Medieval
MLE16550	Late medieval features south-east of the church Excavation in 2001 recorded four aligned post-holes	SK 775 307	Late Medieval
MLE16551	Post-medieval remains, Hacker's Hall site Excavation in 2001 recorded a two metre long stretch of well preserved iron stone wall at the highest point on the site	SK 774 307	Post-medieval
MLE17122	Medieval chantry on or near present Chantry House A medieval chantry is said to have stood on or near the present Chantry House. The medieval window incorporated into Chantry House (probably C15th) may well have come from this building	SK 770 311	Medieval
MLE18631	War Memorial Institute, Main Street, Stathern Red brick hall with a tablet listing those who died in World Wars I & II	SK 771 311	Modern
	Listed Buildings		
	Grade II*		
MLE12687	CHURCH OF ST. GUTHLAC, CHURCH LANE (WEST SIDE)	SK 772 309	
	Grade II		
MLE10880	The Nurseries, 10, City Road, Stathern	SK 768 313	
MLE10881	The Nurseries, 12, City Road, Stathern	SK 768 312	
MLE10882	Point Farmhouse (Belvoir Vale Riding Academy), 24, Main Street, Stathern	SK 771 310	
MLE10883	Vigornia Cottage, 18, Main Street, Stathern	SK 771 311	
MLE10884	Glenleigh, 16, Main Street, Stathern	SK 771 311	
MLE10885	Ashleigh, 14, Main Street, Stathern	SK 772 311	
MLE10886	Sumners Farmhouse, 2, Main Street, Stathern	SK 770 312	
MLE10887	Eastbury House, 6, Penn Lane, Stathern	SK 770 312	
MLE12688	The Manor House, 2, Church Lane (West Side)	SK 772 310	
MLE12689	Bassingdean And Adjoining House To North, 3, Church Lane (East Side), Stathern	SK 773 310	
MLE12690	Ivy House, 31, Church Lane (East Side), Stathern	SK 773 308	
MLE12692	The Old Rectory And Attached Outbuilding, 8, Water Lane, Stathern	SK 772 309	
MLE12693	Attached Outbuilding To The Old Rectory, 8, Water Lane, Stathern	SK 772 309	
MLE12694	Garden Boundary Wall To N.W., N.E. & S.E. Of The Old	SK 772 309	

	Rectory, Water Lane, Stathern		
MLE12695	Stables South Of The Old Rectory, Water Lane, Stathern	SK 772 309	
MLE12696	Church Cottage, 6, Church Walk, Stathern	SK 772 309	
MLE12697	Chantry Cottage, 3, Chapel Lane, Stathern	SK 770 311	
MLE12698	Blacksmiths Cottage, 4, Church Lane (West Side), Stathern	SK 772 309	
MLE12699	House Adjoining To The North Of Bassingdean, 1, Church Lane (East Side), Stathern	SK 773 310	
MLE12700	Greensmith Cottage, 8, City Road, Stathern	SK 768 312	
MLE12701	Lavesley House, 14, City Road, Stathern	SK 768 312	
	Event/Activity Full Report		
ELE4754	1999 Geophysical survey south east of Church	SK 775 307	
ELE4755	2001 Trial Trenching to the south east of the Church	SK 775 307	
ELE4787	2002 Excavation at Hacker's Hall site	SK 774 307	
ELE5787	2009 strip, map and sample exercise at The Beeches, Main Street, Stathern		
ELE6886	2003 An archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Stathern Primary School, Water Lane, Stathern	SK 772 309	
ELE7343	2010 Historic Building Survey Report: Stathern Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane, Stathern	SK 770 311	
ELE7655	2011 An archaeological investigation at The Bungalow, 22, Main Street, Stathern	SK 771 310	
ELE9818	2010 historic building survey, The Old Manor House and Blacksmith's Cottage, Church Lane, Stathern	SK 772 309	
ELE10296	2017 heritage impact assessment, Chantry House, 3, Chapel Lane, Stathern	SK 770 311	
ELE10618	2016 watching brief, Hillcrest, Tofts Hill, Stathern	SK 773 309	