

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Land at Stourton, Great Sturton, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for SPD Studio. It considers c.74ha of land, proposed for development as a solar farm, located west of Great Sturton, Horncastle, Lincolnshire centred at NGR TF 194 769.

The assessment provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the proposed development of the site. It assesses their significance and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework in relation to archaeology and Policy SP11 in the East Lindsey District Local Plan Core Strategy 2018. Built Heritage assets are not assessed in this report.

Data available from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority shows that there are no Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development site. There are no Scheduled Monuments assessed as sensitive to the proposed development outside the site.

The data provided by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record records the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head within the site. No other non-designated heritage assets are currently recorded within the site.

Based on the archaeological data for the site and the surrounding area, as well as the LiDAR and Google Earth data, the site is considered to have a low potential for Earlier Prehistoric remains and low to moderate potential for Roman remains. The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains of all other periods is assessed to be low/negligible. Any such evidence would be significant for their evidential value and likely be of local importance depending on their potential to contribute to relevant research agendas.

There are no fundamental heritage constraints to the site's development. A geophysical survey would help to further understand the site's archaeological potential as assist with any future planning application.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment of land west of Great Sturton, Horncastle has been prepared by RPS for SPD Studio in support of a proposed solar farm development.
- 1.2 The irregular shaped c.74ha site, also referred to in this report as the study site, is located c.1.5km to the west of Great Sturton (NGR TF 194 769, Figure 1), in the central part of Lincolnshire. It is bounded by Sotby Wood to the north and north-west, open fields to the east and south-west and by a single-track road to the south.
- 1.3 This document has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, to identify and provide a description of the significance of archaeological heritage assets on the site and the likely effects of the proposed development. This study concentrates on identifying any archaeological interest in the site to provide the archaeological assessment required by local planning policy.
- 1.4 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings was obtained from the Historic Environment Record and Historic England's National Heritage List for England.
- 1.5 The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through review of 19th and 20th century map resources. A site inspection was undertaken on 29th November and 8th December 2021.
- 1.6 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 study enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development and identify any necessary mitigation measures.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently updated in July 2021. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported 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 (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

National Planning Policy

- 2.4 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;
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
 - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 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 194 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that 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.
- 2.6 *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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 *Significance (for heritage policy)* 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.

- 2.10 *Setting* is defined 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.
- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - 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.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available. Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.13 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.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.14 Relevant Local Planning policy for East Lindsey District is currently provided by the East Lindsey District Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted July 2018), which sets out the vision and strategic policies for the growth and development of the District up to 2031. Policy relating to archaeology and the historic environment is provided in Policy 11:

SP11 – Historic Environment

1. The Council will support proposals that secure the continued protection and enhancement of heritage assets in East Lindsey, contribute to the wider vitality and regeneration of the areas in which they are located and reinforce a strong sense of place.

2. Proposals will be supported where they:

- *Preserve or enhance heritage assets and their setting;*
- *Preserve or enhance the special character, appearance and setting of the District's Conservation Areas. Proposals should take into account the significance of Conservation Areas including spaces,*

street patterns, views vistas and natural features, and reflect this in their layout, scale, design, detailing, and materials;

- *Have particular regard to the special architectural or historic interest and setting of the District's Listed Buildings. Proposals will be expected to demonstrate that they are compatible with the significance of a listed building including fabric, form, setting and use;*
- *Do not harm the site or setting of a Scheduled Monument; any unscheduled nationally important or locally significant archaeological site. Appropriate evaluation, recording or preservation in situ is required and should be undertaken by a suitably qualified party;*
- *Preserve or enhance the quality and experience of the historic landscapes and woodland of the District and their setting;*
- *Are compatible with the significance of non-designated heritage assets in East Lindsey;*
- *Do not have a harmful cumulative impact on heritage assets;*
- *Promote a sustainable and viable use which is compatible with the fabric, interior, surroundings and setting of the heritage asset, and;*
- *Conserve heritage assets identified as being at risk, ensuring the optimum viable use of an asset is secured where it is consistent with the significance of the heritage asset. This may include redevelopment or enabling development, particularly where a use would benefit the wider.*

3. The Council will support proposals for replacement shop fronts or alterations to shop fronts, including new signage, affecting heritage assets where it can be evidenced that retention and repair cannot be achieved and providing the materials and design protect and enhance the special interest of the building and its setting. Retention and repair of shop fronts will normally be expected where these contribute to the significance of a heritage asset.

Definition of Heritage Assets

Designated heritage assets in East Lindsey are;

Listed buildings (including attached and curtilage structures)

Conservation Areas

Scheduled Monuments

Registered Battlefields

Registered parks and gardens

Non-Designated heritage assets in East Lindsey are;

Buildings of local interest

Sites of archaeological interest

Unregistered parks and gardens and other landscape features

Buildings, monument, place, areas or landscapes positively identified as having significance in terms of the historic environment as identified in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record or through Neighbourhood Plans and the development management process.

- 2.15 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the geology within the study site as mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation with superficial deposits recorded as Diamicton till across the majority of the study site. A band crossing the north-eastern part of the site is recorded to have no superficial deposits (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>; accessed on 22/11/2021).
- 3.2 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identifies the soils within the majority of the study site as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 18). A band crossing the eastern part of the site in an east-west alignment is recorded to have loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (Soilscape 20; <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>; accessed on 22/11/2021).

Topography and Landscape Character

- 3.3 The study site is located c.1.5km west of the hamlet of Great Sturton and to the immediate south and east of Sotby Wood. The topography is gently undulating between c.45m AOD in the north-east to c.35m AOD in the western part of the site, which lies on the lower south-eastern slopes of Beacon Hill (c.3km to the north-east).
- 3.4 In Landscape Character terms, the study site is located within the southern central part of the National Character Area (NCA) of the *Central Lincolnshire Vale*. This area is characterised as a tranquil, rural and sparsely settled landscape. An imperceptible rise in landform across the centre of the NCA means that the northern half drains north into the River Ancholme and out to the Humber, while the southern end drains into the River Witham and The Wash. Most of this natural drainage pattern has been straightened, deepened and confined within steep embankments and the land drained (Natural England 2013).
- 3.5 The closest water course to the study site is the River Bain, located c.3.3km to the east.

Site Conditions

- 3.6 A site visit was carried out on 29th November and 8th December 2021.
- 3.7 The site forms part of three large arable fields and one whole arable field in the east of the site (Plates 1-4). The fields are divided by hedgerows, the majority of which broadly follow the historic boundaries already established on the 1848 Hatton Tithe Map. The exception is the north-south aligned boundary in the western part of the site,
- 3.8 The fields within the site were recently harvested and, by the time of the site visit, either ploughed or under young crop. No earthworks were discernible during the site visit.
- 3.9 A small parcel (c.0.2ha and part of an arable field) is located c.800m south-west of the main site and is proposed to contain the sub-station (Plate 5).

Review of available LiDAR and Google Earth Data

- 3.10 The LiDAR data, using the Open Survey Data 1m spatial resolution dataset for the site (Figure 4), shows the location of a slightly curved, historic field boundary in a roughly west to north-east alignment within the western and central part of the site. This boundary is known from the 1848 tithe map (Figure 6).

- 3.11 South of this former boundary (roughly parallel to it and extending towards the north-east), a diffuse linear feature is visible following a slight natural ridge and may be of geological origin. A roughly circular small depression within the southern part of the site close to the site boundary shows the location of a former pond, which is depicted in historic mapping from the late 19th to the first half of the 20th century (Figures 7 and 8).
- 3.12 Furthermore, the LiDAR data shows evidence for modern agricultural activity as well as the undulating topography across the site.
- 3.13 Google Earth imagery, especially from 2007 (Figure 10) shows cropmarks also associated with modern ploughing and drainage systems across the site. Furthermore, the locations of several historic field boundaries (all known from the tithe map) are visible within the central field to the south of Sotby Wood.
- 3.14 Within the 2007 image, clear evidence for Medieval ridge and furrow with the typical s-shaped selions is visible in the very western part of the site and beyond. Further evidence of ridge and furrow, albeit less clear, is located in the northern part of the central field. A faint enclosure is visible, with at least its southern and eastern boundaries corresponding with the boundaries recorded on the tithe map (see parcel 28 on Figure 6). Within the enclosure, a regime of ridge and furrow is faintly visible, at an angle to the modern ploughing in a roughly north-west to south-east alignment.
- 3.15 Other faint and dispersed linear and curvi-linear 'features' can be seen throughout the site, which may be geological, but a man-made origin cannot be ruled out at this point. This could possibly be confirmed/disproved by a geophysical survey.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000	-	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	-	1799
Modern	AD 1800	-	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site (Figure 3), also referred to as the search area, held on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the 19th century onwards until the present day.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Scheduled Monuments

- 4.4 Data obtained from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority confirms that there are no Scheduled Monuments within the site or the surrounding 1km search area (Figure 2). No Scheduled Monuments are assessed as sensitive to development within the site.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.5 The HER identifies one non-designated asset located within the study site; the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head (MLI40299) found in 1935 '*by a pupil of Hatton School*'. The axe-head is a group VI, banded axe-head.
- 4.6 No other non-designated heritage assets are currently recorded within the study site.

- 4.7 A gazetteer of HER records within the search area is included in Appendix 1. Their locations are shown on Figure 3.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.8 The southern part of the study site, parallel to the single-track road, is crossed by the Theddlethorpe to Hatton gas pipeline. A watching brief (ELI531), preceded by magnetometer survey and field walking, were carried out and recorded eight archaeological sites dating from the late Prehistoric to the early Medieval periods within the overall pipeline route (Ellis 1994). However, none were recorded within the study site and only one within the wider search area: an assemblage of 65 flints (MLI43354), including tools, flakes and debitage, which was recorded c.650m south-west of the site.
- 4.9 Previous archaeological work within the search area is limited and the remaining 'event' records relate to archaeological monitoring and recording (ELI11366) along a cable renewal scheme c.700m south-west of the site¹, which recorded a possible Roman ditch or pit. Furthermore, a trial trench evaluation and subsequent watching brief (ELI11279 and ELI11278) were carried out c.850m south-west of the study site, which recorded Prehistoric flints, Roman to Modern pottery and tile.
- 4.10 The previous archaeological investigations are recorded within the gazetteer of HER records included in Appendix 1 and are shown on Figure 3.

Earlier Prehistoric

- 4.11 Within the study site, a Neolithic polished axe-head (MLI40299) was found by chance in 1935. A similar small Neolithic polished axe-head (MLI40300) was found during ploughing in 1927 c.200m east of the study site.
- 4.12 Further afield, Prehistoric flint scatters (MLI43354 and MLI98675) and a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead were found between c.500m and 850m south-west of the study site.
- 4.13 Based on the limited available archaeological data, the potential for Prehistoric remains within the site is unknown. However, due to the site's distance from a major river course, the site's potential for archaeological remains dating to these periods is probably low.

Iron Age/Roman

- 4.14 The HER contains no Iron Age and/or Roman records within the study site.
- 4.15 The line of a Roman road (MLI40313) passes through the parish of Sotby, c.350m north of the study site and connects Lincoln with Burgh le Marsh.
- 4.16 Early Iron Age to Roman artefact scatters, including an arrowhead as well as Iron Age and Roman pottery, and fragmentary remains of at least two human skeletons (MLI40307, MLI40298 and MLI40302) were found between c. 500-650m south-west of the study site, mostly by school children in the 1930s.
- 4.17 A Roman ditch and unstratified pottery sherds (MLI98676) were recorded during a watching brief (the same crossing the study site) c.950m south-west of the study site.
- 4.18 The watching brief has not recorded any evidence for Iron Age and/or Roman activity within the study site. However, due to the limitations of a watching brief as well as the proximity to a Roman

¹ Distances are measured from the main site, unless otherwise stated.

road, the potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains from these periods is unknown, but potentially enhanced.

Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

- 4.19 The HER records one asset of Saxon/Early Medieval date within the search area; a 6th century cruciform fibula (MLI40303) found by chance in 1936 approximately 500m south-west of the study site.
- 4.20 The Domesday Survey (1086) records the settlement of Hatune (modern Hatton), which is located c.650m west of the study site. Furthermore, the former settlement of *Sudtone* is recorded in Domesday, with an approximate location plotted in the vicinity of the southern site boundary². However, the settlement's exact location is lost.
- 4.21 Google Earth records evidence for Medieval ridge and furrow (see paragraph 3.13) within the study site and it can be assumed that at least some parts of the site were located in the agricultural hinterland of the settlements of Hatton, *Sudtone* and Sotby. Sotby is recorded on the HER as a Medieval shrunken village (MLI89137), located c.700m north-east of the study site.
- 4.22 The remaining Medieval records within the search area are located in and around Hatton, including ridge and furrow between c.300-900m to the west of the site (MLI42952-55).
- 4.23 The exact location of the lost settlement of *Sudtone* is not known, but the watching brief crossing the southern part of the site has not recorded any settlement evidence in that area. Based on this and the Google Earth data, the site was likely located within the agricultural hinterland of Hatton and *Sudtone* and significant remains from these periods is assessed to be low.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression)

- 4.24 All records dating to the Post-Medieval and Modern periods are related to buildings/monuments of a well-defined extent and nature. These generally add little to the understanding of the study site's archaeological potential and are therefore not discussed in any further detail.

Historic map regression

- 4.25 The earliest mapping consulted is the 1819 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Figure 5), which shows the site located to the east of Hatton. A stream is depicted to cross the northern part of the site and a path/track is present leading from the centre of the study site towards the road outside the southern boundary. Sotby Wood does not yet exist, and a kiln is depicted to the north of the site.
- 4.26 The 1848 Hatton Tithe Map (Figure 6) shows the study site divided into at least 17 parcels and two large parcels outside of tithable land in the east and north. The central and western part of the site was primarily used as agricultural land with a small number of parcels used as pasture. The location of some of these internal field boundaries is still preserved on both LIDAR and Google Earth imagery. The former stream crossing the site appears to have been straightened into a drain serving as a boundary between the central and northern part of the site. The path/track depicted on the earlier OS drawing is now longer present within the site.
- 4.27 By 1886 (Figure 7), the internal organisation of the site is changed, with the western and central part of the site now being part of c.10 parcels of land and the northern field being divided into c.5 parcels. Two public footpaths cross the site, one in the west and one in the east and both in a roughly south-west to north-east alignment. A small pond is present in the southern part of the site, close to the site boundary and a second pond is located to the west of the eastern footpath. To the north, parts

² <https://opendomesday.org/place/TF1976/sudtone/>

of the agricultural land is starting to be turned into wood plantations, the areas adjacent to the study site annotated as Dobb Holt, Clay Close Holt and Oak Holt.

- 4.28 The study site underwent little change during the following decades, as illustrated by the 1956 OS map (Figure 8). The pond in the southern part of the site is no longer present and the western footpath was no longer depicted by 1907 (map not reproduced). The wood plantation to the north steadily grew and forms a single large area divided into multiple sections to the north and west of the study site. The mapping also shows the estimated findspots of the polished axe-heads, one within and one to the west of the site.
- 4.29 By the 1980s (Figure 9), most internal field boundaries were removed and only drains remain, dividing the study site into five areas. The woodland to the north is now collectively annotated as Sotby Wood. At some point before 2000, an east-west aligned drain within the northern field disappears and the study site is divided into four areas. This is illustrated by the Google Earth images from 2007 and 2019 (Figure 10), which represent the site as it appears today.
- 4.30 The map review demonstrates that the study site has been used as agricultural land and been ploughed since the Medieval/ Post-Medieval periods. The potential for significant Post-Medieval remains is assessed to be low/negligible.

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

- 4.31 The HER identifies one non-designated asset located within the study site; the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head (MLI40299) found in 1935. As a single find, this record is of limited archaeological interest. It is unclear whether further remains are present, but it is likely to be a stray and indicative of a degree of Neolithic activity within the area.
- 4.32 Based on the archaeological data for the site and the surrounding area as well as the LiDAR and Google Earth data, the study site is considered to have an unknown, but probably low potential for Earlier Prehistoric remains and an unknown, but possibly enhanced potential for Roman remains. The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains of all other periods is assessed to be low/negligible. Any such evidence would be significant for their evidential value and likely be of local importance depending on their potential to contribute to relevant research agendas.

5 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Proposed Development

- 5.1 The study site is proposed for the development of a solar farm

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

- 5.2 The HER identifies one non-designated asset located within the study site; the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head (MLI40299) found in 1935.
- 5.3 Based on the archaeological data for the site and the surrounding area, as well as the LiDAR and Google Earth data, the study site is considered to have an unknown, but probably low potential for Earlier Prehistoric remains and a low-moderate potential for Roman remains. The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains of all other periods is assessed to be low/negligible. Any such evidence would be significant for their evidential value and likely be of local importance depending on their potential to contribute to relevant research agendas.
- 5.4 The constructional techniques employed in development/construction of solar farms are of limited impact including localised insertion of stanchions/footings for solar panel frames; possible excavation of service runs for connection cables; construction of inverters and substations; limited infrastructure in the form of access roadways etc. Therefore, there is some potential for buried archaeological remains now present on the study site to be truncated or removed.
- 5.5 The parcel proposed to contain the sub-station is located c.800m south-west of the main site and is located as close as 100m to Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval find scatters (MLI98675-78). The impact of the construction of a sub-station is greater than the solar farm's impact on the main site and the potential for truncation and/or removal of any possible associated archaeological remains is also greater.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for SPD Studio. It considers c.74ha of land, proposed for development as a solar farm, located west of Great Sturton, Horncastle, Lincolnshire centred at NGR TF 194 769.
- 6.2 The assessment provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the proposed development of the site. It assesses their significance and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework in relation to archaeology and Policy SP11 in the East Lindsey District Local Plan Core Strategy 2018. Built Heritage assets are not assessed in this report.
- 6.3 Data available from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority shows that there are no Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development site. There are no Scheduled Monuments assessed as sensitive to the proposed development outside the site.
- 6.4 The data provided by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record records the findspot of a Neolithic polished stone axe-head within the site. No other non-designated heritage assets are currently recorded within the site.
- 6.5 Based on the archaeological data for the site and the surrounding area, as well as the LiDAR and Google Earth data, the site is considered to have a low potential for Earlier Prehistoric remains and low to moderate potential for Roman remains. The potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) remains of all other periods is assessed to be low/negligible. Any such evidence would be significant for their evidential value and likely be of local importance depending on their potential to contribute to relevant research agendas.
- 6.6 There are no fundamental heritage constraints to the site's development. A geophysical survey would help to further understand the site's archaeological potential as assist with any future planning application.

Sources Consulted

General

Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record

LiDAR

Google Earth

Internet

British Geological Survey – <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

British History Online – <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Domesday Online – <http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/>

Historic England: The National Heritage List for England <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

National Planning Policy Framework – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2>

Soilscape – <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>

The Genealogist – <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

Bibliographic

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard & Guidance for historic environment desk based assessment 2014, updated 2020.

Department of Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* 2012 (revised July 2021)

Department of Communities and Local Government/Department of Culture Media and Sport/English Heritage *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* 2010

Ellis, T. E., *Theddletorpe to Hatton Gas Pipeline 1988. Archaeological Report.* 1994

Historic England (formerly English Heritage) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment 2008 (new draft 2017)

Historic England Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment July 2015 unpublished document

Historic England Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets December 2017 unpublished document

Natural England, *National Character Area (NCA) profile 44: Central Lincolnshire Vale*, 2013

Cartographic

1819 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Horncastle Sheet)

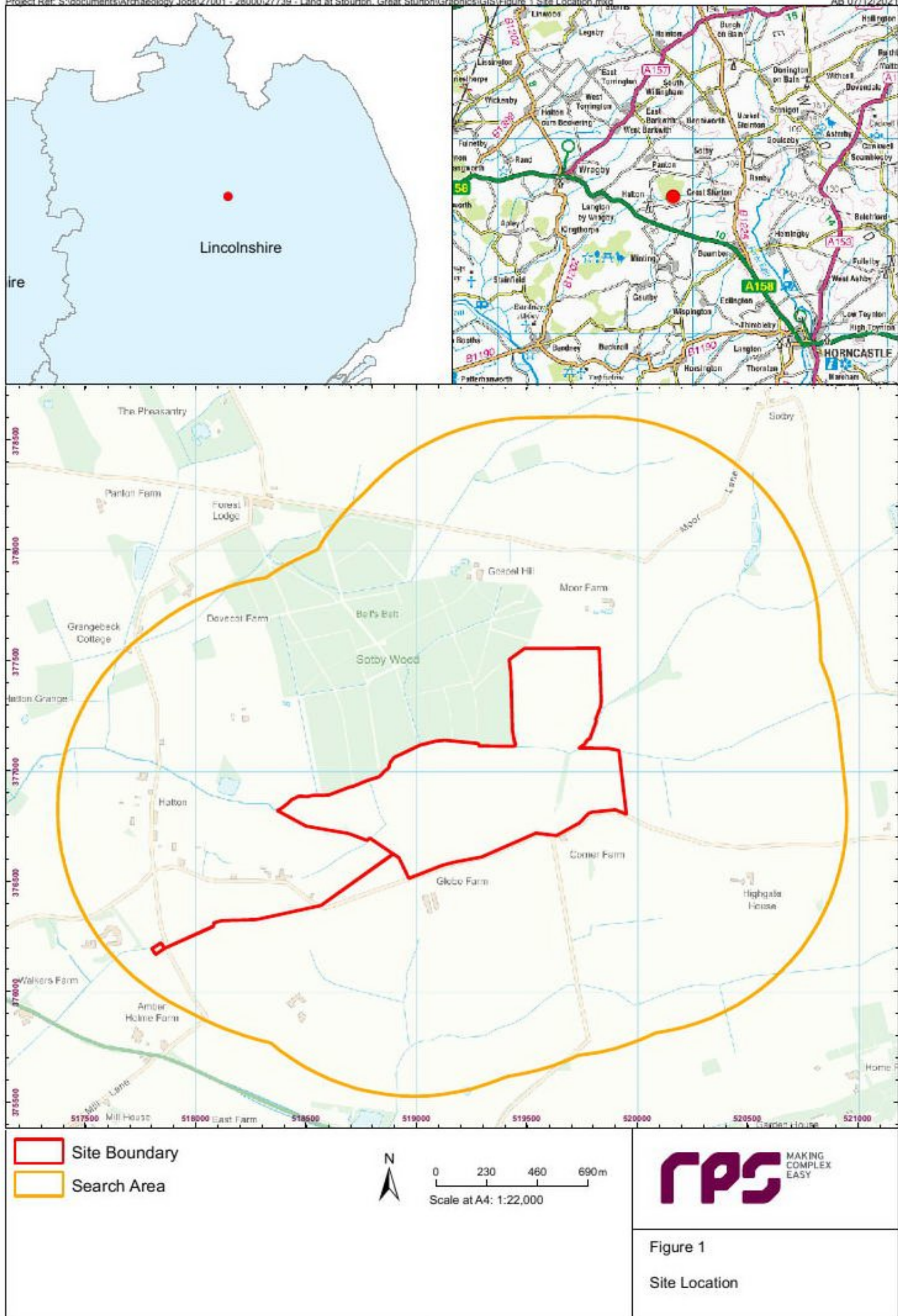
1848 Hatton Tithe Map

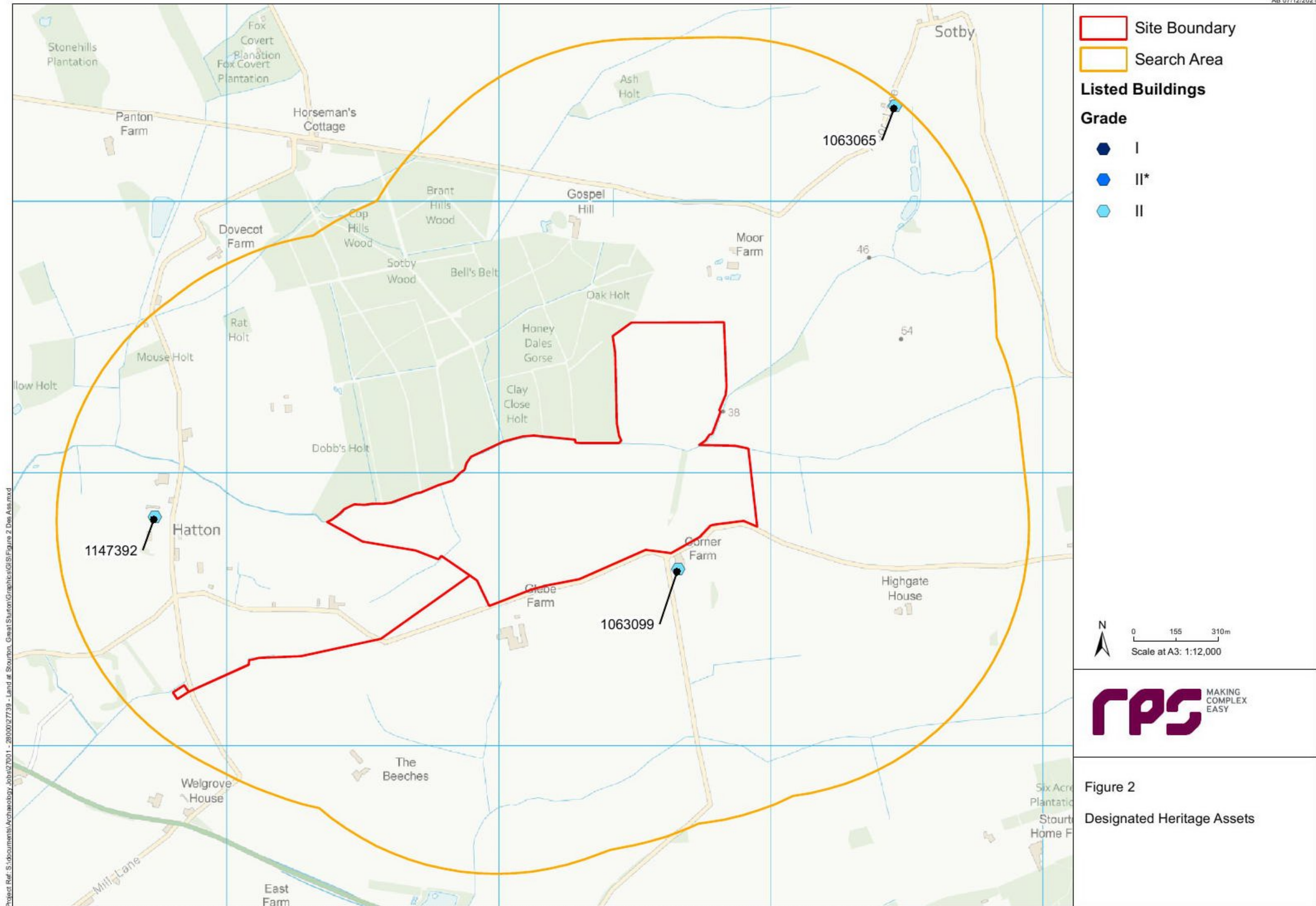
Ordnance Survey 1:2500 editions: 1887, 1906, 1975, 1994

Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 / 1:10,560 editions: 1886, 1907, 1950-1951, 1956, 1982-1983, 2000, 2006, 2021

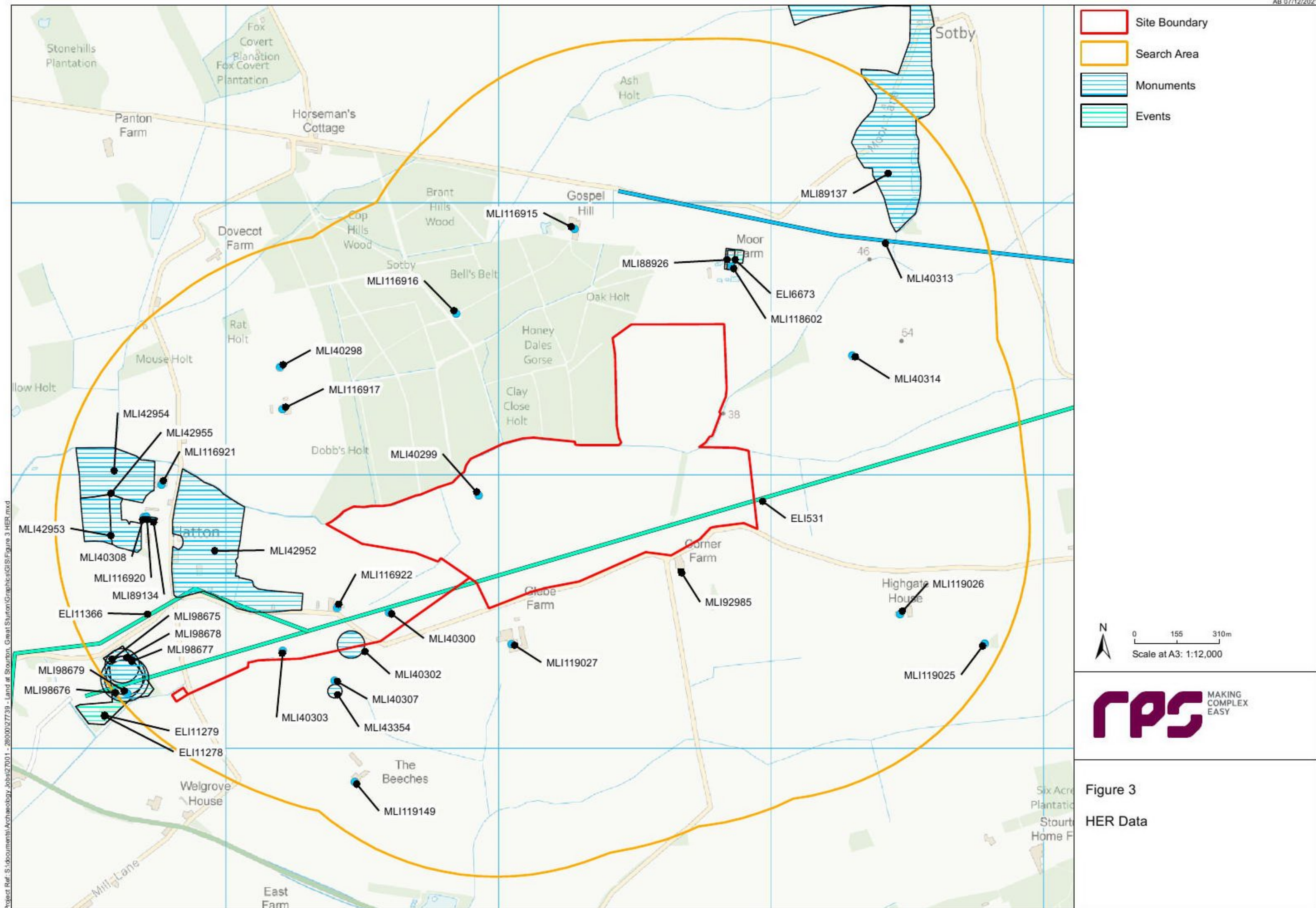
Google Earth: 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2016, 2019

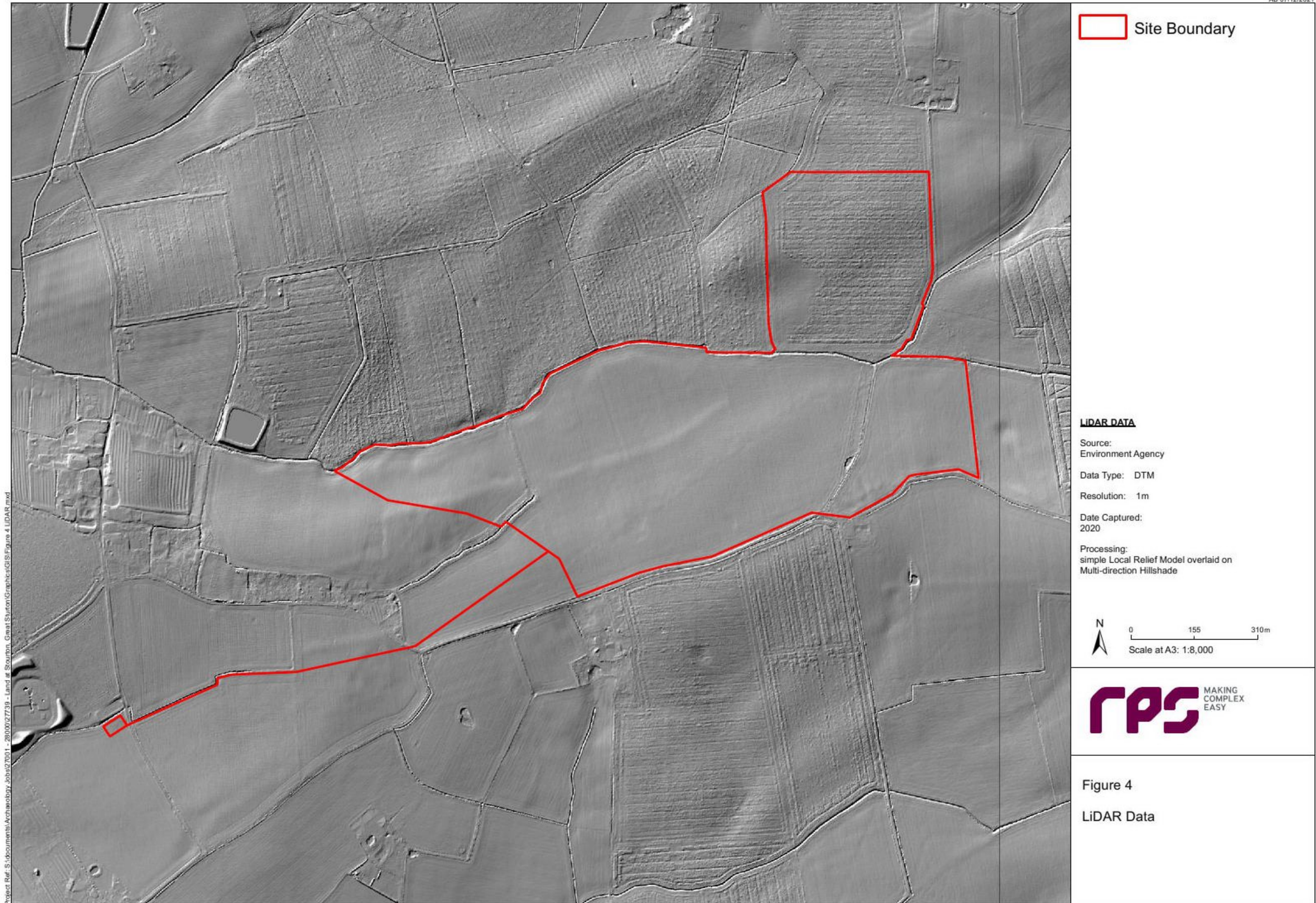
FIGURES

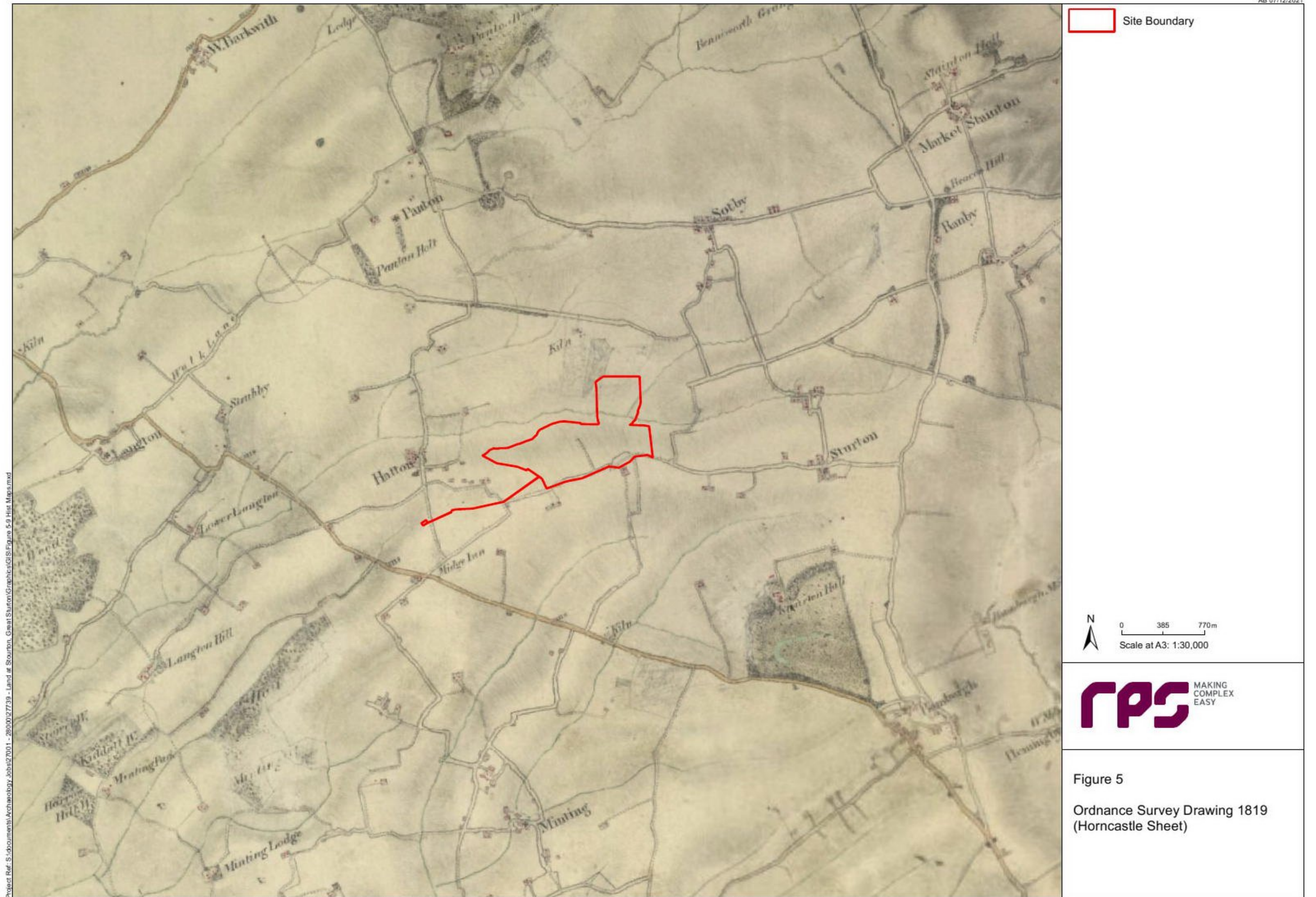




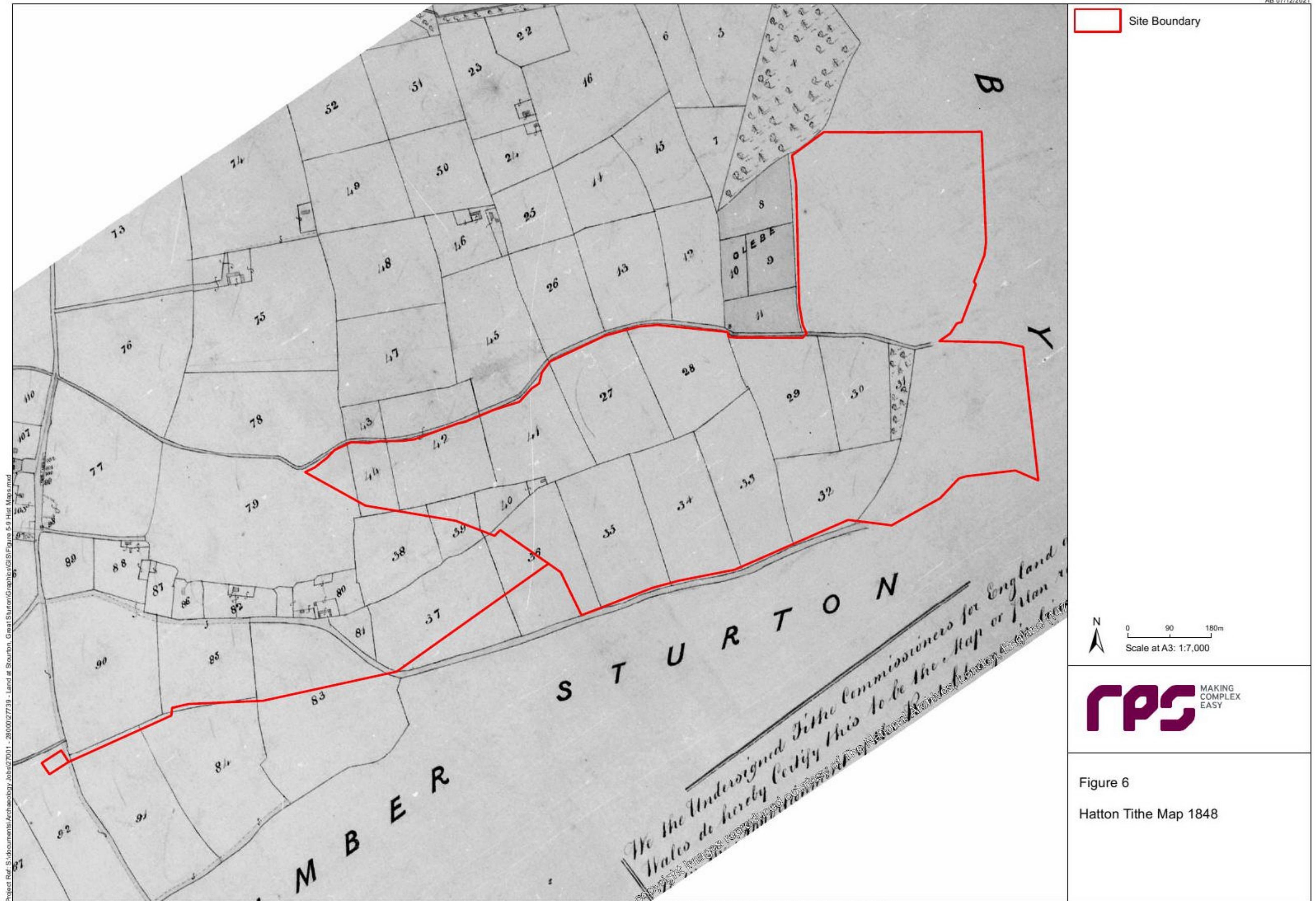
Project Ref: S:\documents\Archaeology Jobs\27001 - 28000\27739 - Land at Stourton, Great Sturton\Graphics\GIS\Figure 2 Des As.mxd







Project Ref: S:\documents\Archaeology Jobs\27001 - 28000\27739 - Land at Stourton, Great Stourton\Graphics\GIS\Figure 5-9 Hist Maps.mxd



Site Boundary



0 90 180m
Scale at A3: 1:7,000

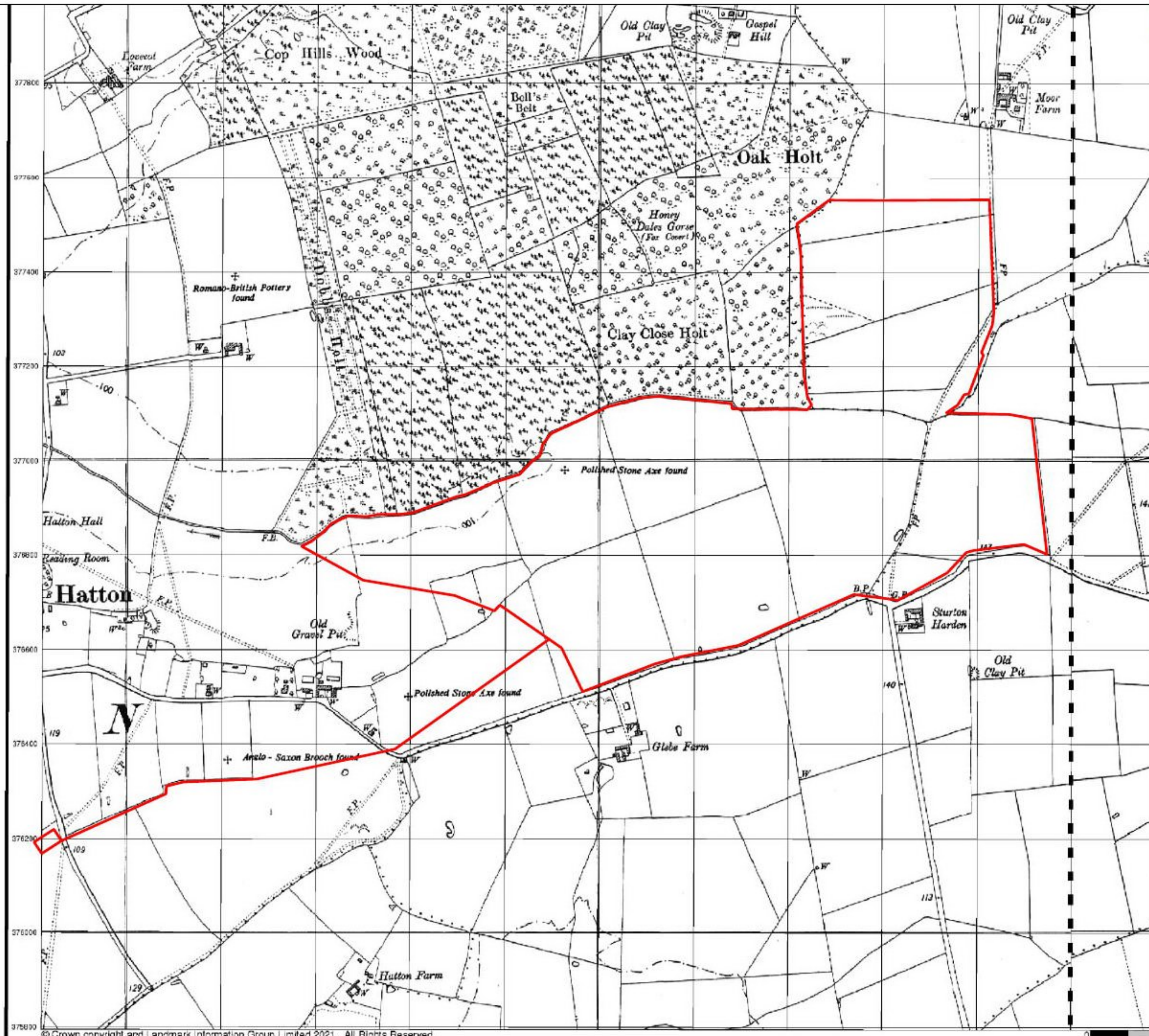


Figure 6

Hatton Tithe Map 1848



Project Ref: S:\documents\Archaeology Jobs\27001 - 28000\27739 - Land at Stourton, Great Stourton\Graphics\GIS\Figure 5-9 Hist Maps.mxd



 Site Boundary

N
0 100 200m
Scale at A3: 1:8,000



Figure 8
Ordnance Survey Map 1956

 Site Boundary


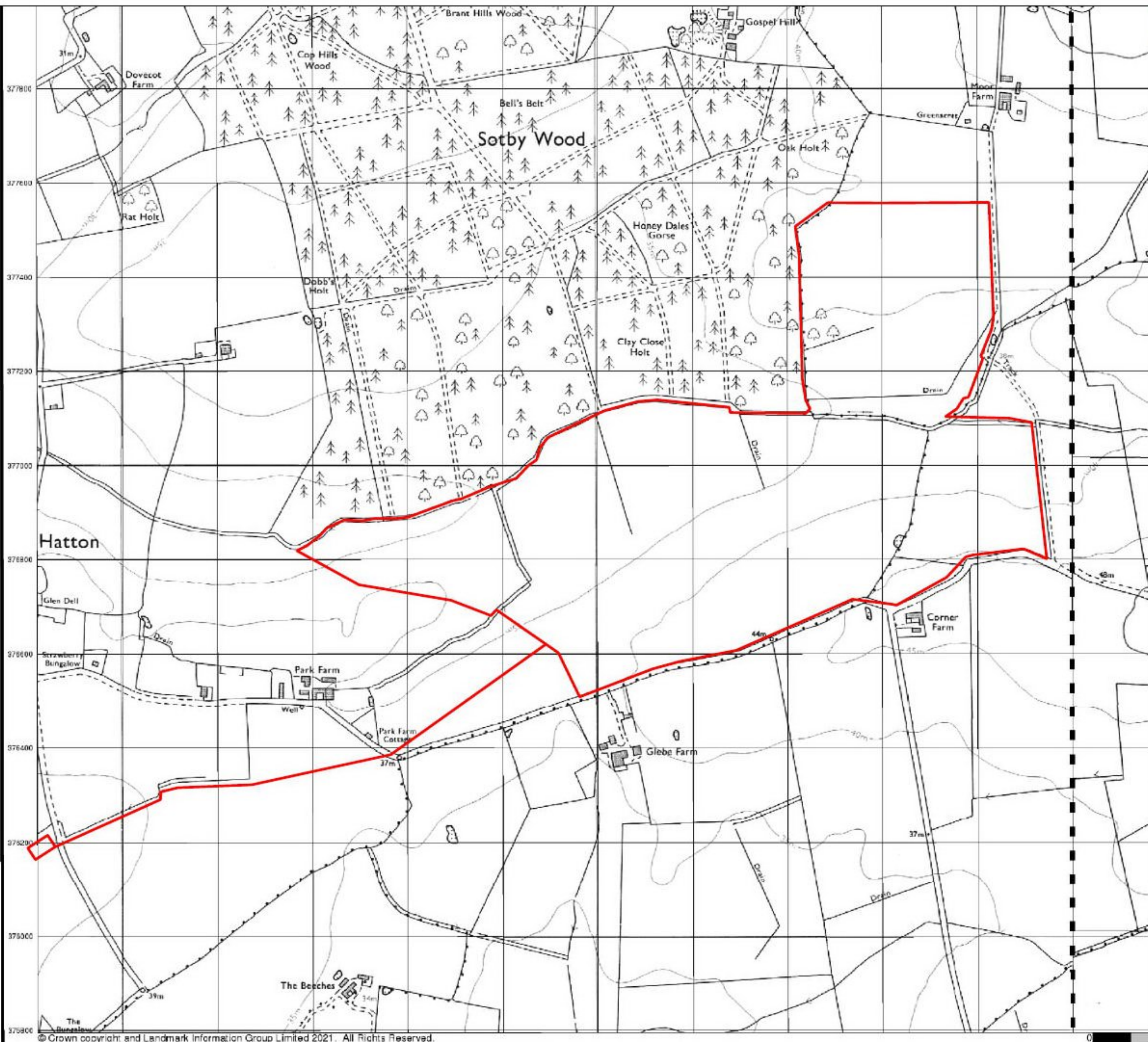

0 100 200m
Scale at A3: 1:8,000



Figure 9
Ordnance Survey Map 1982-1983



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 Site Boundary





0 140 280m
Scale at A3: 1:11,000



Figure 10
Google Earth Imagery 2007 (top)
and 2019 (bottom)

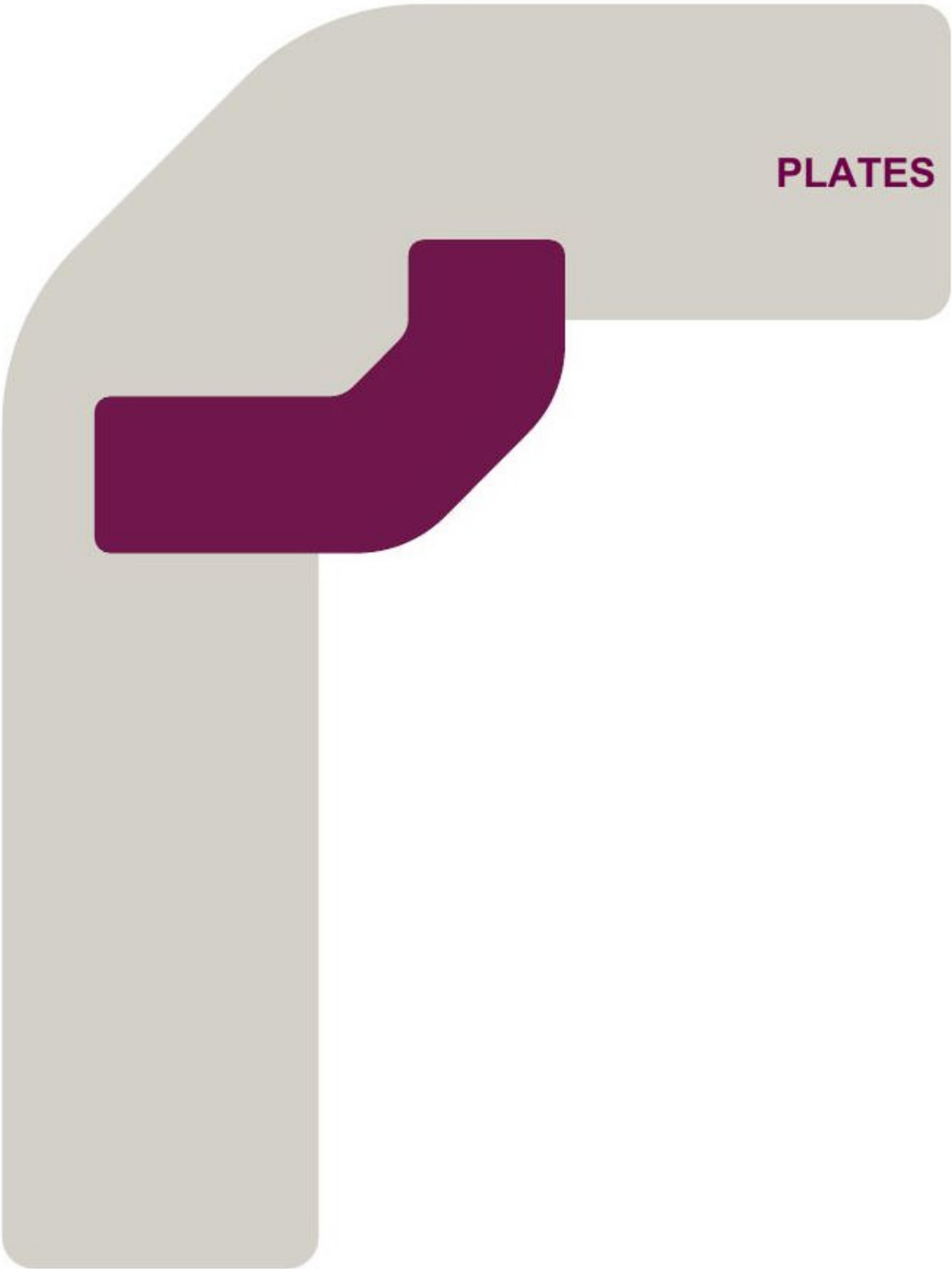




Plate 1: View across the northern part of the site towards the south-east



Plate 2: View across the eastern part of the site towards the north-east.



Plate 3: View across the central and western parts of the site with Sotby Wood in the top right corner



Plate 4: View across the central part of the site towards the south-west



Plate 5: View across the parcel proposed to contain the sub-station

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Gazetteer of HER Entries

Lincolnshire Historic Environment Records

HER No.	Name	Location	Date
	Monuments		
MLI40298	RB POTTERY FOUND, HATTON	TF 1820 7740	Roman
MLI40299	POLISHED STONE AXE-HEAD FOUND, HATTON	TF 1893 7693	Neolithic
MLI40300	POLISHED AXE FOUND, HATTON	TF 186 765	Neolithic
MLI40302	Romano-British and possible Iron Age sherds and a barbed and tanged arrowhead, Hatton	TF 1846 7638	Bronze Age to Roman
MLI40303	Anglo-Saxon Cruciform Fibula, Hatton	TF 1821 7636	Saxon/Early Medieval
MLI40307	BARBED AND TANGED ARROWHEAD, IA AND RB POTTERY AND RB SKELETONS FOUND, HATT	TF 1840 7625	Iron Age to Roman
MLI40308	JETTON OF WOLF LAUFER OF NUREMBERG FOUND, HATTON	TF 1770 7685	Medieval
MLI40313	Roman Road, Sotby	TF 2024 7788	Roman
MLI40314	Trackway, Sotby	TF 203 774	Undated
MLI42952	RIDGE AND FURROW E OF HATTON	TF 1804 7676	Medieval
MLI42953	RIDGE AND FURROW west of HATTON	TF 1763 7682	Medieval
MLI42954	RIDGE AND FURROW NW OF HATTON	TF 1759 7700	Medieval
MLI42955	RIDGE AND FURROW W OF HATTON	TF 1752 7683	Medieval
MLI43354	FLINT ASSEMBLAGE FOUND ON ROUTE OF GAS PIPELINE	TF 1840 7620	Neolithic to Bronze Age
MLI88926	Moor Farm barn, Sotby	TF 19855 77793	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI89134	Church of St Stephen, Hatton	TF 17736 76842	Medieval to Modern
MLI89137	Sotby Shrunken Medieval Village	TF 2044 7855	Medieval
MLI92985	Sturton Harden Corner Farmhouse, Great Sturton	TF 1967 7665	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI98675	Prehistoric flint scatter, Hatton Compressor Station, Hatton	TF 1762 7630	Mesolithic to Bronze Age
MLI98676	Roman ditch and unstratified pottery sherds, Hatton Compressor Station, Hatton	TF 1762 7625	Roman
MLI98677	Medieval pottery, tile and brick scatter, Hatton Compressor Station, Hatton	TF 1763 7626	Medieval
MLI98678	Post medieval artefact scatter, Hatton Compressor Station, Hatton	TF 1763 7625	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI98679	Undated clay objects and animal tooth, Hatton Compressor Station, Hatton	TF 1763 7620	Unknown
MLI116915	Gospel Hill, Hatton	TF 1928 7790	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI116916	Unnamed farmstead, Hatton	TF 1884 7759	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI116917	Unnamed farmstead, Hatton	TF 1820 7724	Post Medieval to Modern

LAND AT STOURTON, GREAT STURTON, HORNCastle, LINCOLNSHIRE;
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

MLI116920	Hatton Hall, Hatton	TF 1771 7685	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI116921	Unnamed farmstead, Hatton	TF 1776 7697	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI116922	The Old Barn, Hatton	TF 1841 7651	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI118602	Moor Farm, Sotby	TF 1985 7777	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI119025	Unnamed farmstead, Great Sturton	TF 2078 7638	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI119026	Highgate House, Great Sturton	TF 2078 7638	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI119027	Glebe Farm, Great Sturton	TF 1905 7638	Post Medieval to Modern
MLI119149	The Beeches (Hatton Farm), Baumber	TF 1905 7638	Post Medieval to Modern
	Events		
ELI531	Theddlethorpe to Hatton Gas Pipeline 1988	TF 2793 7957	
ELI6673	Building survey at Moor Farm Barn, Sotby 2004	TF 19868 77796	
ELI11278	Watching Brief at Hatton Compressor Station 2009	TF 1759 7623	
ELI11279	Evaluation at Hatton Compressor Station 2009	TF 17593 76231	
ELI11366	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording along the Lincoln to Hatton Electricity Cable Renewal Scheme 2010	TF 1137 7542	

