



Desk-based archaeology assessment

Land at Beechlands Road, Medstead

Bargate Homes Ltd

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

15 Middle Pavement, Nottingham, NG1 7DX

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SLR Project No.: 433.000068.00003

Executive Summary

This desk-based archaeology assessment was undertaken by SLR Consulting Ltd of behalf of Bargate Homes Ltd to determine the potential archaeological significance of a Site located along Beechlands Road, Medstead, Hampshire, England (NGR SU 66757, 35748).

The assessment utilises the latest data and records acquired from the Hampshire HER, as well as primary research of archaeological records within a 1km study area to facilitate and determine likely potential for similar finds within this particular Site.

The baseline research identified low potential for prehistoric, Romano-British, Medieval and Post-Medieval remains to exist within the Site, and negligible potential for Anglo-Saxon. Anticipated remains may comprise residual or chance artefactual remains from any of these periods.

While the wider research identified four listed buildings in the study area, this report does not present a settings assessment.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CA	Conservation Area
CUCAP	Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography
DBA	Desk-Based Assessment
HS	Desk-based archaeology assessment
DSM	Digital Surface Model
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
ha	Hectares
HER	Historic Environment Record
HLC	Historic Landscape Character
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
NMP	National Mapping Programme
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
os	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance



1.0 Introduction

In February 2024 SLR Consulting Ltd was commissioned by Bargate Homes Ltd to prepare a desk-based archaeology assessment in relation to a proposed development at Beechlands Road, Medstead, Hampshire, England (NGR SU 66757, 35748) (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'; Fig 1 and Appendix D).

1.1 The Site

The Site is located between Beechlands Road and Stoney Lane, Medstead and comprises a field surrounded by modern housing developments in rural East Hampshire. The immediate boundaries of the Site comprise the aforementioned modern housing developments with small sections of woodland and hedgerows. The Site location is shown on Figure 1.

The proposed development is for:

Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 70 dwellings with vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, landscaping, drainage and associated works.

1.2 Scope of Report

This report presents the results of a desk-based archaeology assessment prepared in respect to heritage assets of an archaeological nature. It identifies sensitive heritage assets within the Site and its vicinity, and discusses their significance, in accordance with the NPPF (2023) paragraph 200. The potential effects of development are discussed in accordance with terminology of the NPPF.

1.3 Standards

The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant statute, policy and guidance, including the NPPF (2023), the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2020), Historic England's Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017), and Historic England's Statements of Heritage Significance (2019).



2.0 Methodology

2.1 Data procurement

2.1.1 Archaeology

A 1km study area was utilised for the purposes of baseline data collection.

The study was undertaken with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists code of conduct and appropriate standards (2008, updated 2014, revised 2019).

2.1.2 Sources consulted

The following sources were consulted:

- the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), for all records relating to designated heritage assets;
- the Environment Agency's library of open access LiDAR data (DSM, DTM and point cloud);
- the Ordnance Survey open-source library, for topographic and cartographic data, including elevation point cloud, contour and hydrological data;
- historic cartographic sources, including large-scale county surveys, tithe mapping and early Ordnance Survey editions;
- Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer, for mapped archaeological earthworks and other features identified by the aerial investigation unit;
- Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer, for online access to the historic aerial photo archive;
- the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP) online;
- other online resources, including: the British Geological Survey; the Cranfield University Soilscapes viewer; and the National Library of Scotland's online mapping database.
- Hampshire County Council's online planning application portal, for relevant documentation submitted in relation to proximate applications;
- grey literature relating to excavations within, and within proximity to, the Site.

2.1.3 HER data

A proportionate level of HER data, sufficient to inform the assessment of archaeological potential, significance and potential impact presented in this report, was obtained. The HER data was reconciled and analysed within the context of the objectives of the present assessment.

While all of the HER data received has been reviewed and considered, not all HER records (sites and events) are discussed further within this report, only those that are of relevance to the determination of potential, significance and potential impact.

HER Data is/are reproduced with the permission of © Hampshire County Council AHBR

All data supplied by the HER is presented in Appendix A.

2.1.4 LiDAR data

Digital terrain model (DTM) and digital surface model (DSM) LiDAR data, at 1m resolution, was processed Relief Visual Toolbox and QGIS. Multiple hill-shade and shaded-relief models were created, principally via adjustment of the following variables: azimuth, height, and 'z-factor' or exaggeration. The models created were then colourised using pre-defined ramps and classified attribute data, to reveal the micro-topography and allow for analysis. Identified features are discussed in the relevant places within this report.



2.1.5 Site inspection

Field observations were undertaken in March 2024 in order to assess the Site within its wider landscape context, identify any evidence for previous disturbance, and examine any known or suspected archaeological features. The site comprises two small-scale, grassland fields located in the settlement of Four Marks. The boundaries of the site are primarily formed by well-established hedgerows and trees. Nothing of archaeological or historic origin was observed during the walkover.

2.1.6 Limitations of the study

The reports conclusions are limited by the extent and quality of existing information and therefore its usefulness in predicting the extent and definitive location of the archaeological resource must be qualified. No specific archaeological surveys have been undertaken.

2.2 **Assessment of Significance**

The NPPF defines 'significance' as:

'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic'.

The NPPF glossary and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) define these interests as follows:

- Archaeological interest: "there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point."
- Architectural and artistic interest: "These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture."
- Historic interest: "An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity."

Historic England's recently published guidance: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12 (2019), 1 concurs with the use of this terminology and methodology, both of which are thus adopted for the purposes of this report.

This approach allows for a detailed and justifiable determination of heritage significance and the interests from which that significance derives. In accordance with the NPPF and the PPG, the level of significance attributed to heritage assets is then articulated as follows:

Designated heritage assets of the highest significance. These are identified in paragraph 206 of the NPPF as comprising Grade I and II* Listed buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields, and nondesignated archaeological remains of demonstrably equivalent significance to that of Scheduled Monuments (as identified in footnote 63);

Designated heritage assets of less than the highest significance. These are identified in paragraph 206 of the NPPF as comprising Grade II Listed buildings and Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens; and

Non-designated heritage assets. These are defined within the PPG as "buildings, monuments, Sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets".2

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¹ Historic England, Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12 (Swindon, October 2019).

² MHCLG, PPG, paragraph 039, reference ID: 18a-039-20190723.

Assessment of Effects 2.3

When discussing designated heritage assets, potential development effects are described in terms of harm to significance, in accordance with the NPPF (2023), which references the follows levels of harm:

'Substantial harm or total loss'

Being a level of harm that would "have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced";3 and

'Less than substantial harm'

Being any lesser level of harm than that defined above; recent case law has confirmed that this includes any level of harm (not considered substantial) regardless of its quantification, e.g. the finding of a 'negligible' level of harm must still be treated as less than substantial harm and be weighed in the balance under paragraph 208.

As clarified in the High Court, preservation of a heritage asset does not mean no change; it specifically means no harm. ⁴ This is echoed by Historic England in 'Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' (GPA2), which states that "Change to heritage assets is inevitable but it is only harmful when significance is damaged".5

With reference to the broad parameters referenced above, the PPG provides that the category of harm identified for any given asset be 'explicitly identified', and that the extent of that harm be 'clearly articulated'.6 For purposes of this assessment, this has been done with reference to a 'scale', e.g. at the lower/upper end of the scale of less than substantial.

In discussing non-designated heritage assets, the NPPF does not provide that harm be categorised as either 'substantial' or 'less than substantial', only that the scale of any harm or loss is articulated. For purposes of this report, this has been expressed using professional judgment, with reference to the heritage interests defined within the NPPF, PPG and Historic England's 'Statements of Significance' (2019).

The assessment of anticipated development effects can thus be seen to have been undertaken in accordance with a robust methodology, formulated within the context of current best practice, the relevant policy provisions, and key professional guidance.



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³ Bedford Borough Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2013] EWHC 2847 (Admin), para. 25.

⁴ R (Forge Field Society) v Sevenoaks District Council [2014] EWHC 1895 (Admin).

⁵ Historic England, GPA 2, p. 9.

⁶ MHCLG, PPG, paragraph 018, reference ID: 18a-018-20190723.

3.0 Statute, Policy & Guidance

3.1 Statute

Scheduled Monuments are protected from physical development effects under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)**.

The setting of Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Protected Wrecks, and World Heritage Sites is protected under **Chapter 3**, **Section 58B of The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55)**, as well as affording these types of assets with additional layer of statutory protection of their physical elements. The Act states that, with respect to duty of regard to these heritage assets in granting permissions (in exercise of planning functions):

"In considering whether to grant planning permission or permission in principle for the development of land in England which affects a relevant asset or its setting, the local planning authority or (as the case may be) the Secretary of State must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the asset or its setting."

Conservation Areas may be of archaeological interest and are protected under Section 72(1) of the **Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)**; this provides that 'special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character of that area'.

Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and World Heritage Sites do not have any statutory protection in and of themselves, though all are afforded a high level of protection under national planning policy.

3.2 Planning Policy

3.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (Revised 2023)

Applicable national policy comprises the National Planning Policy Framework (2023), and specifically the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 200, which states that:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. 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. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a Site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.'

Paragraphs 205 and 206, which provide for designated heritage assets, and state respectively that:

'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance,' and

'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck Sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.'

Paragraph 207, which relates to instances of 'substantial harm', and states that:



'Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the Site; and
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the Site back into use.'

Paragraph 208, which relates to instances of 'less than substantial harm', and states that:

'Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.'

Paragraph 209, which relates to non-designated heritage assets, and states that:

'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.'

3.2.2 Local Planning Policy

Local planning policy is provided in:

- East Hampshire District Council and South Downs National Park Authority Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan) adopted 2014
 - Policy CP2: Spatial Strategy
 - o Policy CP30: Historic Environment
- The Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan adopted 2016

Directly relevant parts of the aforementioned policies are quoted below:

Policy CP20 LANDSCAPE

The special characteristics of the district's natural environment will be conserved and enhanced. New development will be required to:

- a) conserve and enhance the natural beauty, tranquillity, wildlife and cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park and its setting, and promote the opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities, and be in accordance with the ambitions within the emerging South Downs Management Plan:
- b) protect and enhance local distinctiveness sense of place and tranquility by applying the principles set out in the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan: Submission Plan January 2016; 45 district's Landscape Character Assessments, including the Community/ Parish Landscape Character Assessments:
- d) protect and enhance natural and historic features which contribute to the distinctive character of the district's landscape, such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows, soils, rivers, river corridors, ditches, ponds, ancient sunken lanes, ancient tracks, rural buildings and open areas;



Policy CP30 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Development proposals must conserve and, where possible, enhance the District's historic environment. All new development will be required to:

- a) conserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park if in the National Park and take account of this cultural heritage where the National Park's setting is affected;
- b) reflect national policies in respect of design, landscape, townscape and historic heritage;
- c) conserve, enhance, maintain and manage the district's heritage assets and their setting including listed buildings, conservation areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, archaeological sites and Historic Parks and Gardens;
- d) ensure that the development makes a positive contribution to the overall appearance of the local area including the use of good quality materials of appropriate scale, profile, finish, colour and proven weathering ability;
- e) take account of local conservation area appraisals and town and village design statements where they exist.



4.0 Archaeological Baseline

The evidence is presented in chronological order in broadly accepted periods such as Bronze Age, Iron Age etc. The HER data lists 13 non-designated sites/features/findspots within the study area, none of lie within the Site boundary. In addition, there are no past archaeological events on or in the vicinity of the Site recorded in the HER.

This section sets out the archaeological baseline relative to the Site and its immediate surrounds in order to identify known archaeological heritage assets and to inform an understanding of the Site's broader archaeological potential. Historic Environment Data is depicted on Appendix A.

4.1 Designated heritage assets

There are no designated heritage assets located within the Site boundary. Designated heritage assets with 1km of the Site boundary include four Grade II listed buildings (NHLE1096164, NHLE1096165, NHLE1179395 and NHLE1338966) but there are no designated scheduled monuments within the study area.

4.2 Geology & Topography

The site is situated within the bounds of the village of Medstead, north of the village of Four Marks, c.265m north of the Medstead and Four Marks railway station. The Site sits within a number of smaller residential areas set within a rural landscape, with the northern boundary of the South Downs National Park lying around 985m to the southeast.

Hampshire County Council's Landscape Character Assessment defines the study area as part of the East Hampshire Wooded Downland Plateau, describing this region as an elevated chalk landscape with an abundance of broadleaved woodland plantations and copses amongst a mixed agricultural landscape.

The British Geological Survey Onshore GeoIndex shows the bedrock geology of the site to be exclusively Seaford Chalk Formation overlain with superficial deposits of clay with flint and possibly Head with clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS, 2024). The presence of red clay and flint overlaying chalk and flint were confirmed in a borehole (SU63NE30) dug nearby the A31 in the Knights Plantation area in 2016, *c*.800m southeast of the site.

According to the Hampshire Historic Landscape Types (HLT), the Site is located in a small parliamentary type area, characterised with small regular fields with straight boundaries. The site itself is an irregular shaped field of pasture divided into several plots by fences, hedging and rows of mature trees. To the east and north it is surrounded by small Modern residential developments fronting onto Beechlands Road and Five Ash Road. To the south, the site is bounded by Boyneswood Lane and to the west by Stoney Lane where several larger and more secluded properties are standing.

The Site is situated on a higher point in the landscape, with the area within the Site itself being relatively flat ground at a level comprised between 196m AOD and 207m AOD.

4.3 Previous Fieldwork

No previous archaeological fieldwork has been carried out within the Site boundary, however, there have been three evaluations, one excavation and one watching brief carried out within 1km of the Site boundary.

A watching brief was carried out from September 1999 to January 2000 by Berkshire Archaeological Service ⁷during the construction of a development at Hazel Road, Four Marks, *c*.582m to the south of the Site boundary. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features of significance, but did record two late post-medieval features, namely a broad bank or lynchet, and a brick lined pit, likely to be a well or cistern.



⁷ HCC 2000, HER ID 50278, Post-Medieval Occupation at 89 Hazel Road, Four Marks https://maps.hants.gov.uk/historicenvironment/herResults.aspx?monuid=50278 Accessed 06/03/2024

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> In May 2015, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at land at Lymington Bottom Road (NGR 466379 135067) by Archaeology South East (ASE)8 in advance of a residential development c.810m to the southwest of the Site. A total of six archaeological features were identified, a ditch, two possible ditch termini and three small pits. No distinct concentration of activity was pinpointed, with the features being located singly per trench. Most features, however, were noted in the northernmost of the two fields. Among the features, only one was dated: a pit yielded a shard of likely Neolithic pottery alongside worked flint, including a Neolithic chisel arrowhead. This feature contained a significant amount of flint nodules and might have represented a post-hole with packing material. Other unstratified prehistoric discoveries included five pieces of residual worked flint.

> Based on the results of this evaluation, in August 2015, strip map and sample excavations were carried out by ASE9 at the northern part of the residential development Site. Aside from potential agricultural remnants of uncertain, but postulated prehistoric date, the archaeological investigation uncovered limited indications of Neolithic activity at the Site. This included a solitary pit yielding flint artefacts spanning from the Middle Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, along with a shard possibly belonging to an Early Neolithic Plan/Decorated Bowl or Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware. On balance the pit likely dates to the Middle Neolithic and is suggested by ASE to signify either temporary or more enduring habitation linked to the utilisation of a favourable environment near the River Wey, which lies 15km to the southeast, adding to evidence that the banks of the Wey, sheltered by the downs, were a favourable location during this period of prehistory. The dating of various tree-throw features that were identified remain undetermined.

> An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Service¹⁰ in December 2015 as a condition of planning permission for housing development at Land at Friars Oak Farm. Boyneswood, c.544m to the east of the Site boundary. A total of 30 trial trenches were dug, with no finds or features revealed, and the site was determined to have no archaeological potential.

> In July 2017 an archaeological field evaluation was carried out by LP Archaeology at Boyneswood Lane, c.164m to the east of the Site boundary, prior to the final submission of planning for a housing development. 18 trenches measuring 30m by 2m were dug with archaeological remains being present in one of these trenches, in the form of a single linear feature. This feature is thought to be a former field boundary ditch, with the OS map of 1870 showing an east-west field boundary passing through the site close to where the feature was found, and likely dates to the post-medieval period.

Chronological Background

4.4.1 **Prehistoric**

The HAHBR records no evidence of prehistoric activity within the Site boundary, or within the 1km study area.

The East Hampshire Landscape Characteristic Assessment (EHLCA) (2006) of the area around the Site describes it as defined by an almost continuous clay cap overlying the chalk bedrock (Landscape Type 2: Clay Plateau). Discoveries of flint hand axes amidst the remaining clay-with-flint deposits suggest the potential existence of Palaeolithic hunters in the area. Prehistoric farmers tended to steer clear of the downland soils topped with clay-with-flint due to their unmanageable and acidic nature. However, indications from scattered flint remnants hint at some utilisation of more hospitable soil patches, especially within valleys and regions once covered by now vanished wind-blown (loessic) soils. The EHLCA also notes a number of prehistoric Scheduled Monuments within the wider area around the Site, with two barrows (NHLE 1012830 and NHLE 1012639) c.2.2km and 2.4km northwest of the Site respectively, and an unclassified earthwork close to Medstead (NHLE 1001920), c.1.8km to the northwest of the Site boundary.

¹⁰ Taylor, A. (2015). Land at Friars Oak Farm, Boyneswood Road, Medstead, Hampshire: An Archaeological Evaluation. Reading: Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd. https://doi.org/10.5284/1055395 (accessed 01/03/2024)



⁸ Priestley-Bell, G. (2015). An archaeological evaluation on land off Lymington Bottom Road, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire. Archaeology South-East. https://doi.org/10.5284/1075031 (accessed 29/02/2024)

⁹ Margetts, A. (2015). Land at Lymington Bottom Road, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire. Archaeology South-East. https://doi.org/10.5284/1054469 (accessed 29/02/2024)

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A single flint waste flake was recovered from the spoil heap during a watching brief carried out during the development of a site at 89 Hazel Road, Four Marks (SLR5) c.582m from the Site boundary. This was determined to almost certainly represent a residual artefact dropped by chance, due to it being found in isolation without other finds of a similar nature in the vicinity, rather than representing longer term habitation.

An excavation by ASE in 2015 revealed limited indications of prehistoric activity c.180m to the southwest of the Site, in the form of a solitary pit feature with flint artefacts from the Middle Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, as well as a shard that may belong to an Early Neolithic Plan/Decorated Bowl or Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware.

4.4.1.1 Summary of prehistoric potential

The potential for prehistorical archaeology to remain at the Site is considered to be low. If present it is likely to encompass individual find spots rather than be representative of long-term habitation, as the historic landscape character report suggests this area may have been avoided for long term settlement due to the acid nature of the soil making it less manageable than other, more fertile areas.

4.4.2 Romano-British

There is no evidence of Romano-British activity within the Site boundary. The Winchester to London Roman Road (SLR10) runs through the southern portion of the study area, c.725m to the southeast of the Site boundary. Two Roman coins have also been found within 1km of the Site boundary, the first being a coin of Constantius II (SLR1), found c.555m to the southwest of the Site, and the second being a denarius picturing Marcus Aurelius (SLR4) found c.619m to the south of the Site, c.171m from the Roman Road, likely to have been dropped a passerby on the road. Roman archaeological sites are relatively uncommon on in the area, with no villas unearthed and the majority of evidence concentrated along the roadways (HCC 2012). The closest documented Roman settlement, Vidomis (NHLE1001837), is thought to have been situated near the modern village of Neatham, approximately 8.9km northeast of the study area.

4.4.2.1 **Summary of Romano-British potential**

The potential for Romano-British activity within the Site is considered to be negligible. One of the coins likely relates to the thoroughfare, potentially dropped by travellers passing through.

Despite the Site's proximity to a Roman road, there is no additional evidence supporting Roman habitation in the Medstead vicinity. Consequently, the likelihood of discovering Roman remains on the site is deemed low. Any findings would likely constitute residual artifacts of minimal significance, as the area likely remained wooded during the Roman era, and evidence is concentrated more along the roadways, with no evidence of settlement near the study area.

4.4.3 **Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval**

The HAHBR shows no evidence of Anglo-Saxon or early medieval activity within the Site boundary or within the 1km study area.

Neither Medstead nor Four Marks are mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, with the closest recorded settlement to the Site being Chawton, c.4km to the northeast, followed by Bighton c.5km to the west, and Alresford c.8km to the west. Documentary evidence suggests that Medstead was likely a part of the Liberty of Alresford at the time, as the early church at Medstead might have been one of the three churches associated with Alresford¹¹.

Alresford's entry describes a land comprising ploughland, meadowland, and woodland. It's likely that Medstead was part of the 'Liberty of Alresford,' granted to Winchester church by Kineweld, King of the West Saxons, around the mid-6th century upon his conversion to Christianity. Therefore, it's probable

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¹¹ Doubleday, H.A., A history of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, pub. 1900 https://archive.org/details/historyofhampshi03doubuoft/page/n431/mode/2up Accessed 05/03/2024

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that Medstead existed as a church and hamlet from this period. Furthermore, the Early Medieval origins of the settlement are reinforced by the name "Medstead," which likely derives from Old English "*maed*," meaning meadow, or a personal name, along with "*stede*", meaning an inhabited place¹².

4.4.3.1 Summary of Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval potential

There is a negligible potential for Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval remains to be present within the Site, as it sits c.1.8km southeast of the centre of the village of Medstead. Any finds associated with this period are likely to be representative of findspot rather than established habitation and as such would be considered to be of low importance.

4.4.4 Medieval

There are no archaeological remains from the medieval period recorded within the HAHBR inside the Site boundary or within the 1km study area.

Outside the study area evidence suggests that Medstead remained relatively unchanged during the medieval period. St Andrews Church in Medstead (13597), *c*.1.7km from the Site boundary, is first mentioned in 1086 AD and HAHBR records show it was expanded around 1136 AD.

Chawton Deer Park (**19107**), *c*.2.7km to northeast of the Site, is first mentioned in 1295 AD as being in ownership of John de St John, according to HAHBR. Some evidence remains of the deer park in the form of pales (**19106**) also recorded as being *c*.2.7km to the northeast of the Site.

Though there seems to have been some change within the village of Medstead, with the expansion of the church, there is nothing to suggest that the area around the Site changed significantly in terms of settlement and exploitation, meaning it likely continued to exist as woodland during this period.

4.4.4.1 Summary of Medieval potential

There is considered to be low potential for Medieval remains to survive within the Site boundary. No previous archaeological investigations in the area have found evidence of activity from this period, which suggests it remained unchanged at this time. If evidence of intensified exploitation of the area, i.e. woodland clearance, were to be found, it would be of low to moderate significance, given its potential to answer research questions as outlined in Chapter 14.4 of the Solent-Thames Research Framework.

4.4.5 Post Medieval

There are no recorded post-medieval heritage assets within the Site boundary.

Within 1km of the Site boundary, there are a number of post-medieval records that suggest the area around the Site became more intensively occupied and exploited for agricultural use during this period. The Hampshire County Council historic landscape type suggests this area was converted into small parliamentary enclosures during this period.

There are four Grade II listed buildings dating from this period within the study area: Southdown (NHLE 1338966), Southdown Farmhouse (NHLE 117939), a wheelhouse and donkey wheel (NHLE 1096165) and a barn (NHLE 1096164).

In the southern portion of the study area, a watching brief carried out during development of a site at 89 Hazel Road, Four Marks (**SLR5**) *c.*582m from the Site boundary revealed a number of late post-medieval features, including two possible lynchets and a well, all of which contained post-medieval and modern debris.

A possible post-medieval field boundary or ditch was recorded during an archaeological evaluation of land at Boyneswood Lane (**SLR9**) *c*.164m to the east of the Site boundary in 2017, which may relate to an east-west field boundary that appears on the OS map of 1872-1874.

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¹² Watts, V.E., The Cambridge Dictionary of English place-names, p. 405. Published 2010.

There are also three earthwork features of uncertain origin visible on LiDAR which are suggested to date to the post-medieval period, c.608m to the northeast of the Site boundary (SLR11, SLR12 and SLR13). These are suggested to relate to an extensive enclosure bank and were first identified during an NFNPA Forestry England Survey in 2021. According to HAHBR records they enclose a large area of Chawton Park Wood, before running out of the woodland to a narrow end to the east. There are numerous breaks in the bank, with size and condition varying along its length and some sections reaching 1.5m high.

Speed's 1611 Map of Hampshire (Plate 1) provides minimal detail, marking 'Meydsted' in Part of Fawley Hundred and outlining hills between it and Alton to the east.



Plate 1: John Speed's Map of Hampshire, published 1611, with approximate Site location outlined in red. Accessible at <u>Old Maps Online</u>

Cary's 1794 New Map of England and Wales, With Part of Scotland, offers more detail, depicting current roads like Ropley Street, as well as South Town.



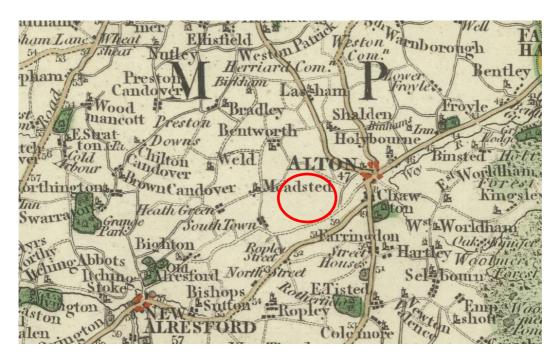


Plate 2: John Cary's New Map of England and Wales, With Part of Scotland, sheet 15, with approximate Site location outlined in red. Accessible at Old Maps Online

Greenwood's 1826 Map of Hampshire (not reproduced here) offers clearer detail, situating the site east of a triangular plot with a copse of trees, south of Redhill, and north of Wind Mill Inn. Remarkably, the site's shape remains consistent with modern times, indicating minimal changes over the years.

The Medstead Parish Tithe Map of 1848 (not reproduced here) shows the Site covering two numbered plots, indicating their use as arable land during that period.

The 1872-74 OS Map (not reproduced here) depicts the site almost identically to its current state, with notable changes south of the Winchester to London Railway, opened in 1868. The village of Four Marks has yet to develop, with rural surroundings dominated by arable plots and Weathermore Plantation to the west.

The 1897 OS Map (Plate 3) shows few changes in the area, with old chalk pits visible northwest and south of the site. Notable alterations include woodland clearance to the east, transitioning to pasture, indicating a shift towards more regulated land use.



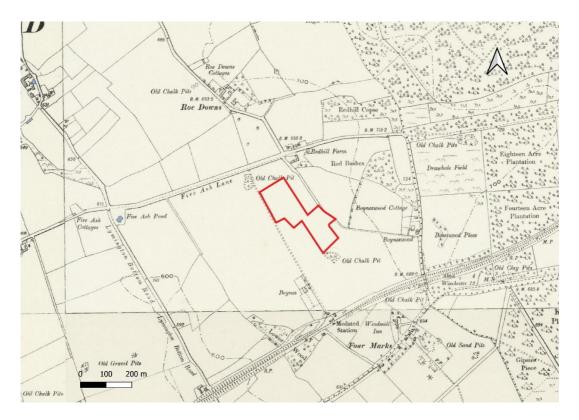


Plate 3: 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, published in 1897. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

4.4.5.1 Summary of Post Medieval

The potential for post-medieval remains on the Site is considered to be low. Analysis of historic mapping shows the Site and the area directly around it remained relatively unchanged during this period in terms of development, with the exception of the emergence of Four Marks to the south of the Site. The historic map regression suggests an increase in agricultural activity in the area, with the conversion of land into small parliamentary enclosures during this period. Both the Medstead Parish Tithe Map of 1848 and OS maps from the late 19th century depict the site as arable land, with some changes in land use patterns such as woodland clearance and pasture conversion.

Three earthwork features, possibly dating to the post-medieval period, have been identified northeast of the Site boundary. These features are suggested to relate to an extensive enclosure bank, enclosing a large area of woodland, possibly denoting the park boundaries at one time.

If remains from this period were to be present, these would likely be in the form of field boundaries or chalk pits and would be considered to be of low-negligible significance.

4.4.6 Modern

The first part of the Modern period shows little change for the study area. The 1949 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 4) shows that occupation has intensified, with houses being built to the north, north east, north west and west of the Site, and the emergence of the village of Four Marks to the south. Towards the east, a cluster of detached houses had emerged around a newly constructed road known as Windsor Road. Development along Boyneswood Lane persisted, and the site itself showed notable changes, with a new house situated at its southeastern corner and several secluded residences lining the road connecting Five Ash Lane to The Boynes property.



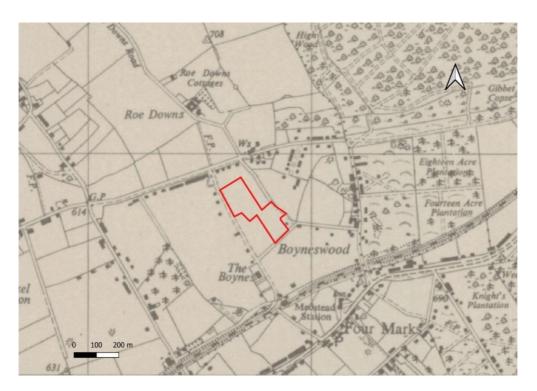


Plate 4: 25 Inch Ordnance Survey, published in 1949. Reproduced with permission of National Libraries of Scotland

Most of the heritage assets from the Modern period around the Site relate to the Second World War, including a WWII Bomb site (**SLR8**) located *c*.405m to the northeast of the Site, an Underground Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (**SLR3**) located *c*.800m to the northwest of the Site boundary, and a WWII searchlight battery (**SLR2**) located *c*.831m to the southwest.

By the OS Map of 1964 (Plate 5) numerous residential areas had sprung up in the study area, and the village of Four Marks had expanded southward. Although minimal changes can be observed within the Site boundary, the surrounding residential zones continued to evolve.



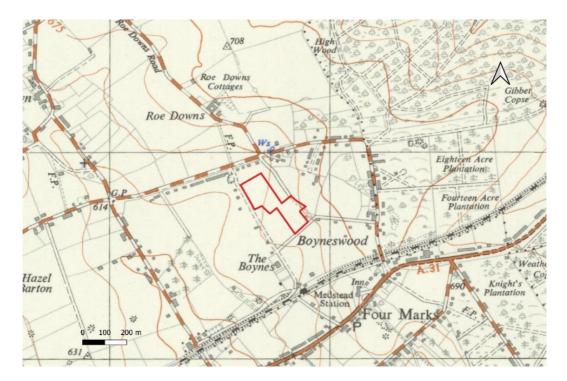


Plate 5: 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map, published 1964. Reproduced with permission of the National Library of Scotland.

4.4.6.1 **Summary of Modern potential**

The potential for modern remains on the Site is considered to be negligible. Historic mapping and analysis of aerial photography show that, although the surrounding area was developed over this period, the Site itself has remained unchanged. This period is also well documented in the area, so it is highly unlikely that there are any unknown heritage assets from this period within the Site or around

4.5 **Lidar and Aerial Photographic Review**

LiDAR data for the study area is depicted on Plate 6. Analysis of the data identified possible former field boundaries around the study area, as well as potential plough marks within the Site, which corresponds with its agricultural use in the past. The LiDAR also highlights the former chalk pit c.45m to the southeast of the Site, which can be seen on the 1897 OS map (Plate 3). No further anomalies were identified.



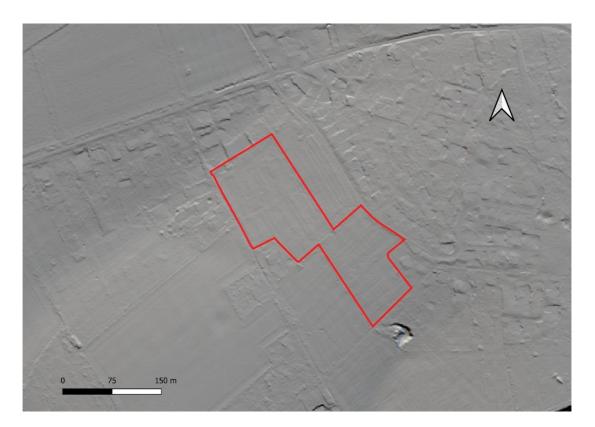


Plate 6: LiDAR imagery of the Site

Assessment of aerial photographs, specifically the 1947 Air Photo Mosaic Sheet (41/63 N.E. / SU 63 N.E) revealed a number of visible structures of an unknown function within the Site boundary (Plate 7) and the adjoining field to the west. These structures are unlikely to be of a permanent nature as there is no record of them in the HER, and they do not appear on any available maps of the area. It is possible that these structures relate to WWII, due to the date of the aerial photography and the proximity of the Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (**SLR3**).



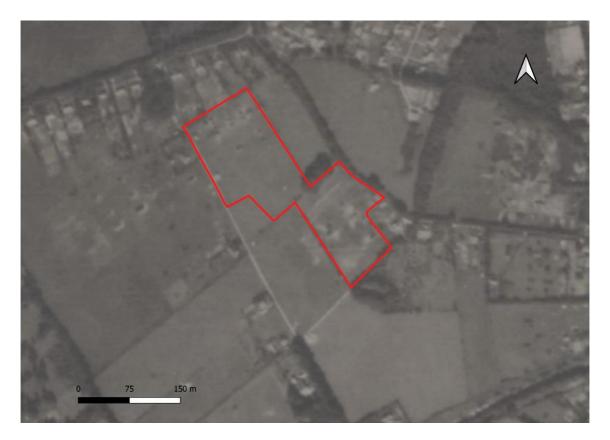


Plate 7: 1947 Air Photo Mosaic Sheet (41/63 N.E. / SU 63 N.E). Reproduced with permission of the National Library of Scotland

4.6 Site Inspection

A site walkover was undertaken in March 2024 in order to assess the Site within its wider landscape context, identify any evidence for previous disturbance, and examine any known or suspected archaeological features. The site comprises two small-scale, grassland fields located in the settlement of Four Marks. The boundaries of the site are primarily formed by well-established hedgerows and trees. Nothing of archaeological or historic origin was observed during the walkover.

4.7 Summary potential

Based on an understanding of the baseline provided above, any sequential events which may have affected potential from preceding periods, the summary potential for remains to be extant within the boundary of the Site is as follows:

- Prehistoric Low
- Roman Negligible
- Anglo-Saxon Negligible
- Medieval Low
- Post-Medieval Low
- Modern Negligible.



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5.0 Archaeology: Statement of Significance & Effects

5.1 Potential Remains

This assessment has identified that the following archaeological remains may be affected by the proposals:

- Residual Prehistoric artefacts
- Medieval evidence of land clearance
- Post-medieval agricultural remains

5.2 Significance

Residual Prehistoric Artefacts

Prehistoric artefacts would retain some archaeological interest which would contribute to an understanding of activity within the wider context of the Site, but may not necessarily indicate immediate areas of occupation, which are not anticipated within the Site. Their likely residual nature would also lessen this significance. However, as the Solent-Thames Research Framework Chapter 8.1 highlights the need for better dating of sites and deposits from this period, if remains from this period were found, they would be of moderate significance in answering key questions. These remains however would not be considered heritage assets of the highest significance under the terms of the NPPF and would not require preservation in situ.

Medieval evidence of land clearance

Evidence of land clearance during the medieval period are considered to be of low potential, but if there were indications of increased exploitation in the area, such as woodland clearance, its importance would range from low to moderate, based on its ability to address the research inquiries specified in Chapter 14.4 of the Solent-Thames Research Framework. Such remains would not be considered heritage assets of the highest significance under the terms of the NPPF and would not require preservation in situ.

Post-medieval agricultural remains

Remains relating to medieval or post-medieval agricultural regimes and field systems would retain little archaeological interest and would be considered of low significance overall. They may contribute to our understanding of local land management regimes, but this would be limited. More recent remains may be of insufficient interest to be considered heritage assets. Such remains would not be considered heritage assets of the highest significance under the terms of the NPPF and would not require preservation in situ.

5.3 Development Effects

The description of development states:

Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for up to 70 dwellings with vehicular and pedestrian accesses, public open space, landscaping, drainage and associated works.

Overall ground disturbance whether for landscaping works or house foundation platforms, as well as the construction of the new access and internal roads and any new utility services may harm any archaeological remains present within the Site boundary, that are not currently recorded within the HFR

In the worst case the proposed development would harm significance through the removal of archaeological remains. Any harm should be weighed in the planning balance consistent with paragraph 209 of the NPPF.



6.0 Compliance with Statute and Policy

6.1 Archaeology

6.1.1 Statute

The proposals would not cause direct impact to a Scheduled Monument. The proposals would not engage consideration of the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6.1.2 National Policy

The assessment provided by this report has set out the significance of potential archaeological remains in full accordance with paragraph 200 of the NPPF.

6.1.3 Local Policy

The development would be fully compliant with the East Hampshire District Council and South Downs National Park Authority Joint Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan) (2014), Policy CP2: Spatial Strategy and Policy CP30: Historic Environment, and The Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan adopted (2016), Policy CP20: Landscape.

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7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Archaeology

This assessment has identified no known and anticipated archaeological remains (heritage assets) within the Site and has discussed the significance of what is known and recorded within a given study area in accordance with the NPPF (2023) paragraph 200. The possible effect of the proposals upon the significance of those remains, as a result of physical truncation during construction groundworks, has also been considered. It is acknowledged that in the absence of any intrusive archaeological surveys a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological deposits cannot be given.

This assessment has identified that there are no designated archaeological remains located within the Site or anywhere in the vicinity, and therefore no designated archaeological remains would be adversely affected by the proposals.

The baseline assessment has identified low potential at most for any archaeological remains to be present within the Site, including residual prehistoric artefacts, evidence of land clearance in the medieval period and post-medieval agricultural remains. Such remains are not anticipated to be significant enough to preclude development nor warrant preservation in situ.

Overall, the proposals are considered to be consistent with the provisions of the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), the NPPF (2023), and the relevant policies contained within the Local Plan.



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8.0 Bibliography

8.1 Documentary Sources

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English Heritage, 2008, Conservation principles - policies and guidance for the

sustainable management of the historic environment

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Historic England. (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2023) National Planning Policy Framework

Rackham, O 1986: A history of the Countryside

University of Nottingham (UON) (2024) Key to English Placenames Available: http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/

8.2 Cartographic and Archival Sources

John Speed's Map of Hampshire, published 1611

John Cary's New Map of England and Wales, With Part of Scotland, published 1794

Christopher Greenwood's Map of Hampshire, published 1826

Medstead Parish Tithe Map of 1848

25-Inch Ordnance Survey Map, published 1897

25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map, published 1949

25-Inch Ordnance Survey Map, published 1964

Air Photo Mosaic Sheet (41/63 N.E. / SU 63 N.E), published 1947

8.3 Websites

www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

<u>www.british-history.ac.uk</u> for historic background and documentary sources including, Victoria County History

https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/advanced-search/ for the National Heritage List for England

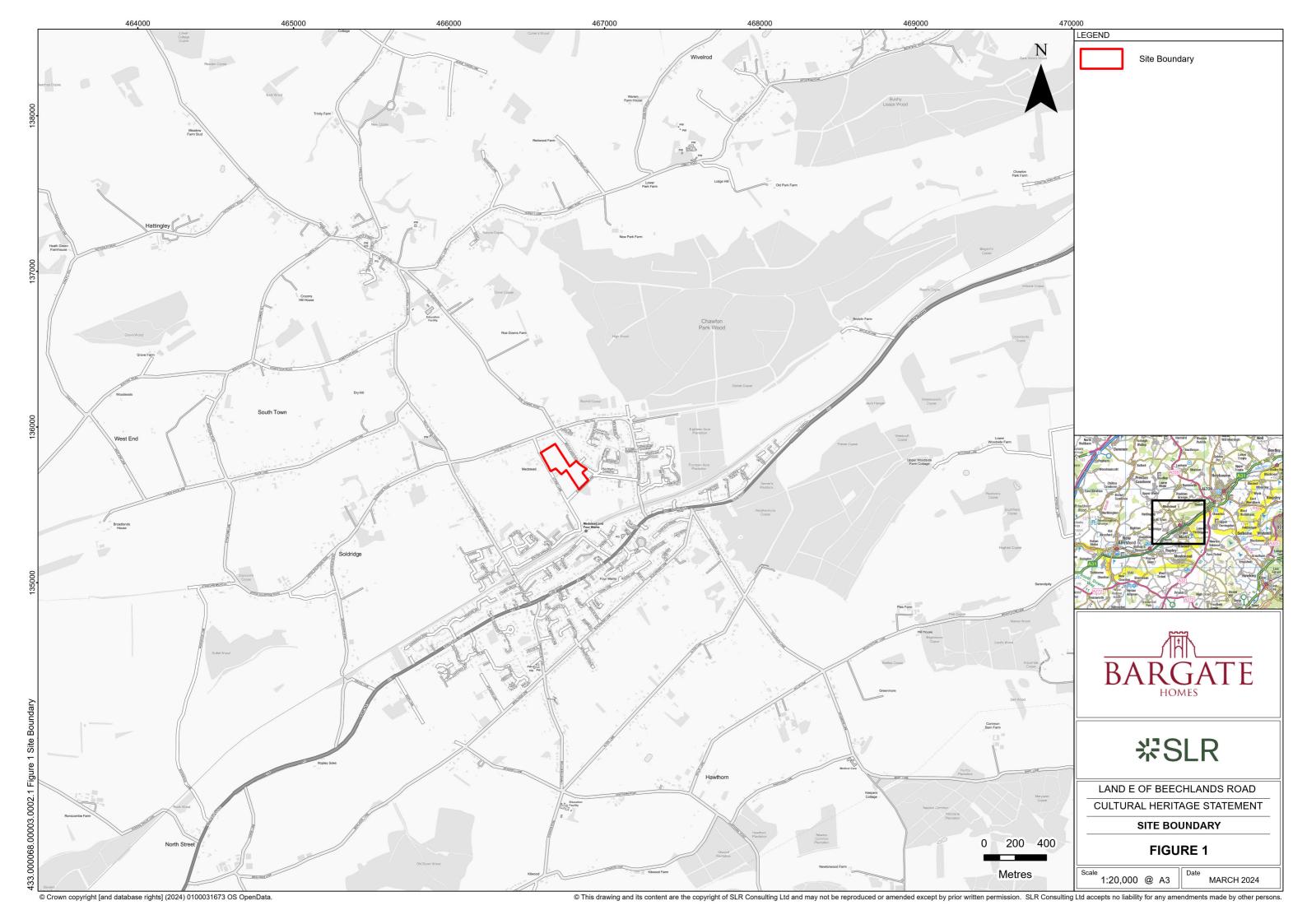
www.pastscape.org.uk/ for records in the Historic England Archives database https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html for BGS map





Appendix A Site Location

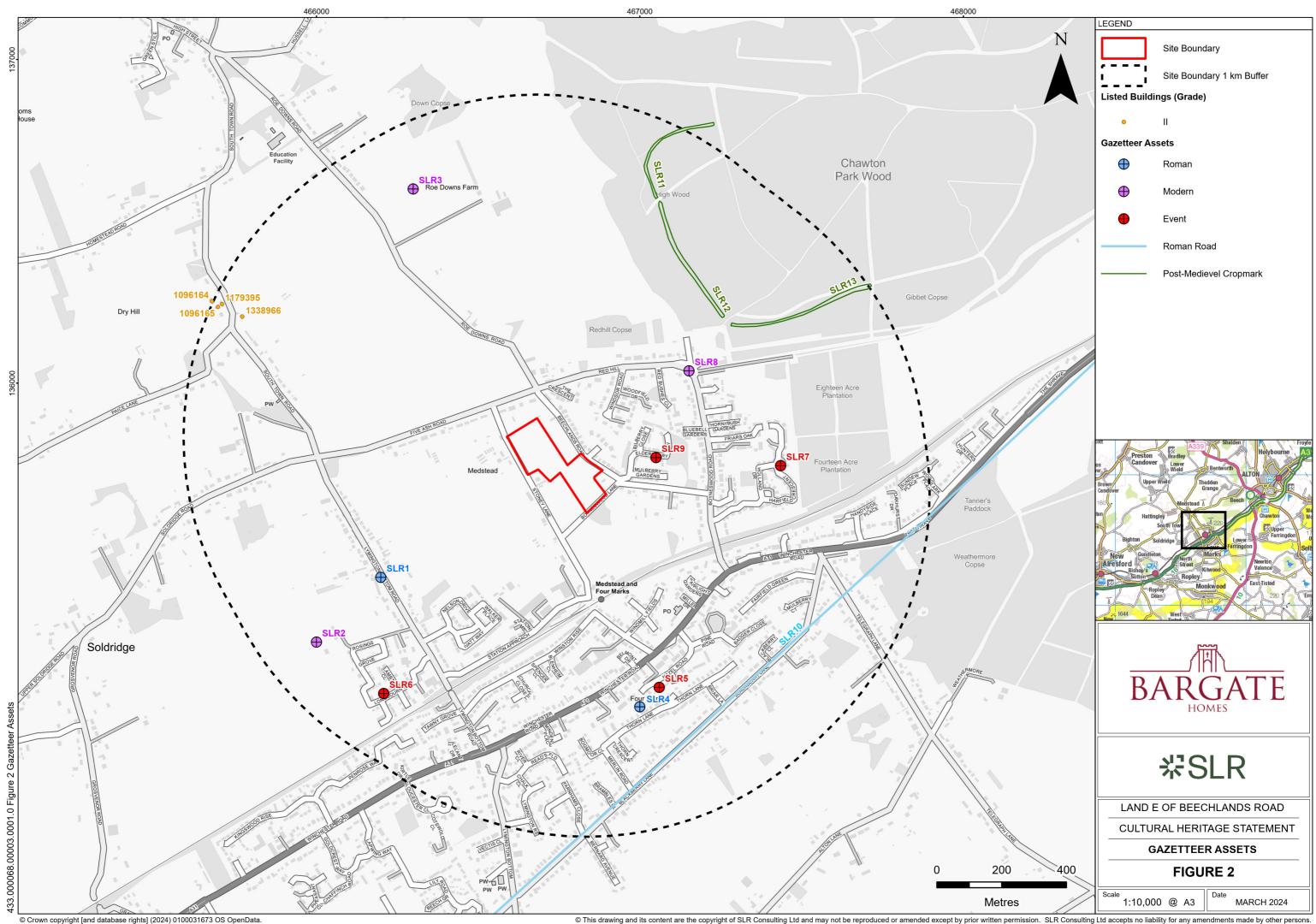






Appendix B HER Figure & Site Gazetteer





© Crown copyright [and database rights] (2024) 0100031673 OS OpenData.
© This drawing and its content are the Phistoric England 2021. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021. The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 10/06/21. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from HistoricEngland.org.uk. Gazetteer Assets dataset retrieved through © Hampshire County Council 2024.

Table 1: Heritage Assets

Reference	Monument Type	Description	Period
SLR1	Coin of Constantius II. Circumstances of find not known. In Alton Museum (1967).	FINDSPOT	Roman
SLR2	Searchlight battery may survive	MONUMENT	Modern
SLR3	Underground Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post; closed October 1968		Modern
SLR4	Denarius of Marcus Aurelius (161-180). Found in garden.	FINDSPOT	Roman
SLR5	A watching brief revealed no archaeological features of significance on the site. Two late post medieval features were observed.	EVENT	Modern
SLR6	Archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Lymington Bottom Road.	EVENT	Modern
SLR7	Archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to development.	EVENT	Modern
SLR8	Approximate location of a WW 2 bomb site	MONUMENT	Modern
SLR9	Evaluation undertaken on land scheduled for housing development.	EVENT	Modern
SLR10	Winchester to London Roman Road	MONUMENT	Roman
SLR11	Earthwork visible on LiDAR	MONUMENT	Post-medieval
SLR12	Earthwork visible on LiDAR	MONUMENT	Post-medieval
SLR13	Earthwork visible on LiDAR	MONUMENT	Post-medieval

Table 2: Designated Heritage Assets

Reference	Name	Grade/Status
NHLE 1096164	Barn Immediately North West of Southdown Old Farmhouse	II
NHLE 1096165	Wheel House and Donkey Wheel Immediately South West of Southdown Farmhouse	II
NHLE 1179395	Southdown Old Farmhouse	II
NHLE 1338966	Southdown	





Appendix C Site Photos





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TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Project
BEECHLANDS ROAD, MEDSTEAD
VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA ELEVATION: 1.5M ABOVE GROUND LEVEL DISTANCE FROM NEAREST EDGE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE: 0M

PROJECTION: CYLINDRICAL ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 96% AT A1 VIEW AT COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH VIEWING BOX INCORPORATES UP TO 90° HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW DATE AND TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 06/03/2024 AT 12:40 MAKE AND MODEL OF CAMERA: NIKON D600 MAKE AND FOCAL LENGTH OF LENS: 50MM DIRECTION OF VIEW: SOUTH-EAST



VIEWPOINT 3: LOOKING SOUTH-EAST TOWARDS THE SITE FROM ROE DOWNS ROAD/ NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 224.

CAMERA ELEVATION: 1.5M ABOVE GROUND LEVEL DISTANCE FROM NEAREST EDGE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE: 277M

PROJECTION: CYLINDRICAL ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 96% AT A1 VIEW AT COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH VIEWING BOX INCORPORATES UP TO 90° HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW DATE AND TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 06/03/2024 AT 13:26 MAKE AND MODEL OF CAMERA: NIKON D600 MAKE AND FOCAL LENGTH OF LENS: 50MM DIRECTION OF VIEW: SOUTH-EAST

浆SLR TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY BECHLANDS ROAD, MEDSTEAD VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY



VIEWPOINT 3 CONTINUED: LOOKING SOUTH-WEST TOWARDS THE SITE FROM ROE DOWNS ROAD/ NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 224.

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TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

| Project | BEECHLANDS ROAD, MEDSTEAD | WILLIAM | WILLIA WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY



VIEWPOINT 6: LOOKING NORTH-WEST INTO THE SITE FROM BOYNESWOOD LANE/ PROW HP/155/33.

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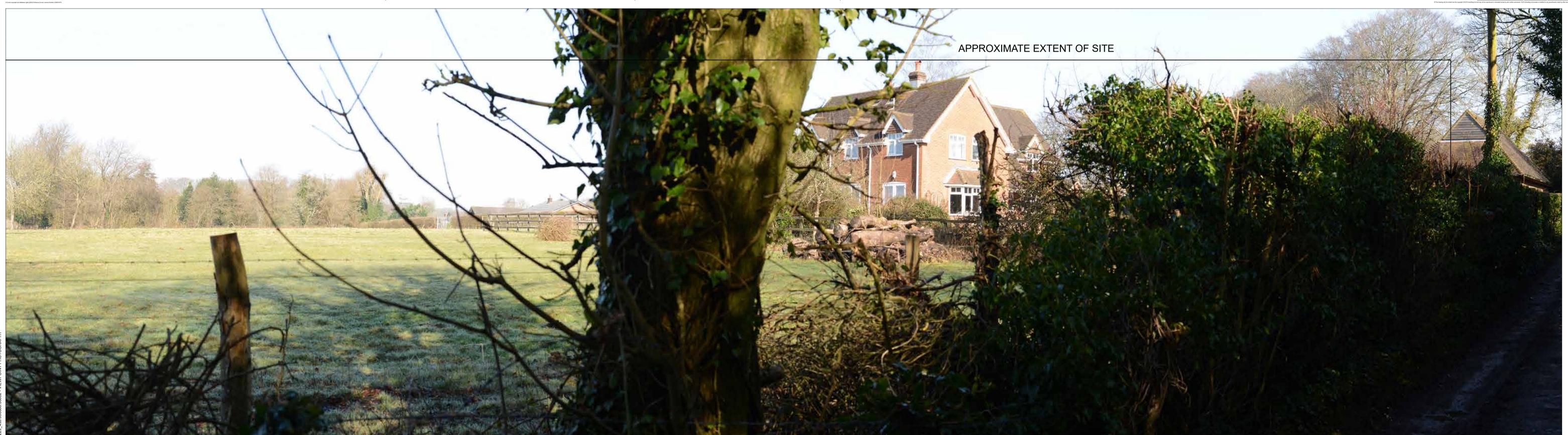
TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

Project BEECHLANDS ROAD, MEDSTEAD VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA ELEVATION: 1.5M ABOVE GROUND LEVEL DISTANCE FROM NEAREST EDGE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE: 0M

PROJECTION: CYLINDRICAL ENLARGEMENT FACTOR: 96% AT A1 VIEW AT COMFORTABLE ARM'S LENGTH VIEWING BOX INCORPORATES UP TO 90° HORIZONTAL FIELD OF VIEW DATE AND TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 06/03/2024 AT 10:49 MAKE AND MODEL OF CAMERA: NIKON D600 MAKE AND FOCAL LENGTH OF LENS: 50MM DIRECTION OF VIEW: NORTH-WEST



VIEWPOINT 6 CONTINUED: LOOKING NORTH-EAST INTO THE SITE FROM BOYNESWOOD LANE/ PROW HP/155/33.

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TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

Project
BEECHLANDS ROAD, MEDSTEAD
WIGHPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY

