
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OF LAND AT
HARPUR HILL,
BUXTON,
DERBYSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Harpur Homes Limited

January 2014

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: SK 070 703

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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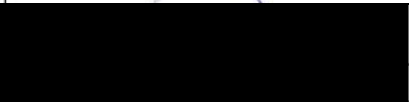
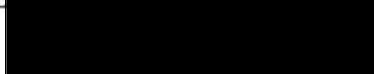
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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.1	Definition of Desk-Based Assessment.....	1
2.2	Planning Background.....	1
2.3	Site Location	1
2.4	Geology and Topography	1
3.	AIMS	1
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
5.1	Historical data	2
5.2	Cartographic data	2
5.3	Aerial photographic data.....	3
5.4	Archaeological data	3
5.5	Walkover survey	4
6.	CONSTRAINTS	5
6.1	Heritage constraints	5
6.2	Other constraints	5
7.	ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT	5
8.	ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE	5
9.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	7
	Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area.....	8

Appendices

1. Glossary

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 The assessment area showing the proposed development site
- Figure 3 Extract from the Enclosure award plans, 1771-1774
- Figure 4 Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25” map, 1898
- Figure 5 Extract from the 1922 edition Ordnance Survey 25” map
- Figure 6 Extract from the 1938 edition Ordnance Survey 25” map
- Figure 7 Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area
- Figure 8 Results of the walkover survey

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Northern part of site, general view
- Plate 2 Northern part of site, entrance from Burlow Road
- Plate 3 Northern part of site, east side
- Plate 4 Northern part of site, northwestern edge of area, showing escarpments of possible former quarrying just outside site
- Plate 5 Northern part of site, slight earthwork near middle of area
- Plate 6 Southern part of site, general view
- Plate 7 Southern part of site, entrance from Hillhead Lane
- Plate 8 Southern part of site, northern part of area
- Plate 9 Southern part of site, western part of area
- Plate 10 Southern part of site, small brick shed near centre of area
- Plate 11 Satellite image showing evidence of previous ploughing of the northern part of the site

1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed residential development at Harpur Hill, Buxton, Derbyshire.

Mesolithic (10,000 – 4000 BC), Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) and Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) stone tools are recorded from within the assessment area. Four Bronze Age barrows have been recorded within the assessment area, though two have been destroyed by quarrying.

A possible road and a pottery scatter attest to some limited activity during the Roman period (AD 43-410). Two Saxon (AD 410-1066) burial mounds have also been identified, though there is no known accompanying settlement of this period.

During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site perhaps lay within open ground, perhaps waste or moor, and does not appear to have been farmed. Harpur Hill is mentioned early in the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1066) and may have been a settlement for quarry workers. The surrounding land was enclosed late in the 18th century and the pattern of fields remains mostly intact, although has been affected by later quarrying and railway construction.

The site is now open pasture land, though parts at least of it have been ploughed previously. A walkover survey did not reveal anything of archaeological interest.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

An archaeological desk-based assessment is defined as an ‘assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to

identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Knights Solicitors LLP on behalf of Harpur Homes Limited to undertake a desk-based assessment of land at Harpur Hill, Buxton, Derbyshire. The assessment is required in support of a proposed planning application for residential development at the site.

2.3 Site Location

Buxton is located 32km west of Chesterfield and 48km northwest of Derby, in the administrative district of High Peak, Derbyshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site comprises two areas either side of Burlow Road and is centred on National Grid Reference SK 070 703 (Fig. 2).

2.4 Geology and Topography

Local soils are of the Malham 2 Association, typical brown earths (SSEW 1983). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Carboniferous limestones of the Bee Low Formation which is traversed by a linear band of Lower Millers Dale Lava (GSGB 1978).

The northern area lies on a moderate slope down to the southeast from a height of 365m OD dropping down to 345m OD. The southern area also lies on a slope down, this time to the northeast and heights range from 360m OD to 340m OD. The proposed development area encompasses some 11.88 hectares.

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based

assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the assessment area. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

4. METHODS

In the following text, the terms *Site* refer to the limits of the application site and the *Assessment Area* comprises an area of approximately 1km radius from the centre of the Site.

The research undertaken in the compilation of this archaeological desk-based assessment involved the examination of all available sources relevant to the Site at Harpur Hill, and the immediate surrounding area. These sources consisted of:

- Historical documents, held in the Derbyshire Record Office
- Enclosure, and other maps and plans, held in the Derbyshire Record Office
- Recent and early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps
- The Historic Environment Record, located at Derbyshire County Council
- Archaeological and historical books and journals

A full list of the sources is contained within the bibliography.

This research was supplemented by a walkover survey of the Site, undertaken to assess the current ground conditions, land-use patterns and to ascertain the presence of any surface finds of an archaeological character, and of features that might indicate the presence of archaeological remains.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Data

Buxton is first mentioned around 1100. Referred to as *Buchestanes*, the name is

derived from the Old English *būg-stān*, indicating a rock that moved, *e.g.* a logan stone (Ekwall 1989, 79).

Harpur Hill is mentioned as early as 1636 (DRO D37/MT/724). The village was fairly small, with approximately 100 houses for quarry workers, until gradual expansion occurred during the 20th century.

5.2 Cartographic Data

The Site lies to the southeast of the centre of Buxton. Historic maps of the assessment area, held by the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO), were examined as part of research carried out for this report. Extracts from these maps appear as Figures 3 to 6.

The earliest maps examined relate to the enclosure of Buxton and date from 1771 or 1774 (Fig. 3). The northern area shows the Site to be largely as it appears today, covering two fields and part of a third. The northernmost field has a pond located along its southern boundary. The southern area lies across two maps, of which only the eastern field appears on the second map, on which the field is broadly similar in shape to its current appearance. The western part of the southern area falls across three small fields with the possible depiction of buildings immediately to the north (DRO Q/RiC 32). The attached schedule lists the following owners or tenants.

Field No.	Owner/tenant
65	Francis Eyre
346	?Joseph Gould
352	Joseph Mellor
353	Thomas Mellor
357	John Sutton
358	Joseph Mycocks
359	Robert Allsop

The title award of the 1850s does not depict the Site.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25” map of 1898 shows broadly the same

arrangement of fields as depicted on the enclosure award (Fig. 4). The major addition is the Cromford and High Peak railway network, although the Site itself was not affected by this, and to the west a large expanse of quarrying.

There are some significant changes on the 1922 edition map (Fig. 5). Field boundaries are relatively unchanged, though there has been some amalgamation of fields in the eastern part of the northern area. This is largely due to a limestone quarry, Burlow Lime Works, that has extended into this field. Within the southern area, the larger eastern field has been divided in two by a track and a building is shown part way along it with a small enclosure to the southwest. To the north of this area, piecemeal development has occurred with rows of terraces, possibly for quarry workers, visible. In the subsequent 1938 map, quarrying has encroached further into the northern area (Fig. 6). Further housing has sprung up along Burlow Road in the southern area and a filter tank is shown within the eastern field. By 1973, this eastern field has been amalgamated once more, the building removed and a pumping station established downslope of the filter tank adjacent to Hillhead Lane.

5.3 Aerial photographic Data

No aerial photographs were examined as part of this assessment.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds within the assessment area are held at the Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

Prehistoric

The earliest archaeological material is represented by worked flints of Mesolithic date retrieved northwest of the site (Fig. 7, No. 1). The flint scatter was found in a basal soil layer on land that had probably never been ploughed. Flint cores indicated that knapping was occurring at the site. A

subsequent evaluation failed to find any features (Garton and Guilbert 1992).

Stone axes (Nos. 2 and 3) and two flint scatters (Nos. 4 and 5) attest to Neolithic activity within the assessment area. One flint scatter (No. 4) produced over 100 flints and may indicate a seasonal or permanent settlement. The remaining Neolithic material may indicate casual loss.

Four barrows of Bronze Age date are recorded within the assessment area (Nos. 6 to 9) of which only Fox Low barrow survives 350m to the north of the Site. A flint (No. 10) was also found within a later, Saxon, barrow.

Romano-British

The principal Roman site is the route of 'The Street' (Fig. 7, No. 11), which once connected the Roman town of *Aquae Arnemetiae* (Buxton) to *Derventio* (Little Chester, near Derby). The route has yet to be firmly established and it has been suggested that the actual route lies beneath the modern road (A515) which runs parallel to the northeast. The line marked 'Roman Road' has instead been interpreted as a medieval estate boundary (Challis 1992).

To the southeast of the Site, fieldwalking produced a number of pottery sherds of the period (No. 12) which may indicate the presence of a settlement.

Saxon

To the west of the Site are two burial mounds or *hlaeaws* (Fig. 7, No. 13). These were assigned a Saxon date by the excavator in the 19th century and, if correct, may belong to a class of 7th century barrow burials known throughout the Peak District. These are generally high status burials, thought to belong to an elite class perhaps involved in the export of lead (Loveluck 1995).

Medieval

There are no medieval entries recorded at

the HER. It is probable that the Site lay within open moor and was not utilised except for seasonal pasturing or limited quarrying.

Post-medieval

Located on the northern fringe of the assessment area is a triangular enclosure (Fig. 7, No. 14) which was recorded on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map as being of some antiquity. However, it is now considered to be a sheep-fold or other stock enclosure of possible 17th – 18th century date.

To the south and west of the Site are two limekilns (Nos. 15 and 16), one of a number in the region which were probably served by the adjacent limestone quarries.

The principal site of this period relates to the Cromford and High Peak Railway (No. 17) which traverses the southwest part of the assessment area and includes its original contour and later direct courses. The HER entry is a general one and omitted from Table 1 are a number of individual features recorded during an audit of the surviving remains (Jessop 2004). These remains include accommodation bridges, embankments, cuttings, boundary walls and loading areas.

Modern

No modern sites are recorded within the assessment area.

Undated

An undated whetstone (Fig. 7, No. 18) and the site of an oval enclosure (No. 19), since removed by quarrying, are recorded within the southern part of the assessment area.

Previous archaeological interventions

There have been 2 previous archaeological interventions within the assessment area, though none have occurred at the Site itself. They both occurred on land to the north where Mesolithic flints were recovered.

5.5 Walkover Survey

The site was visited on the 7th January 2014 in order to assess the ground conditions, to identify any potential archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work. The weather conditions were overcast and raining, heavy at times. The results of the survey are shown on Figure 8.

The site is in two parts to either side of a busy B road (B5053, Burlow Road). The northern part of the site is north of the junction of Burlow Road and Heathfield Nook Road (Plate 1) and is bounded on the east by a railway line.

There are high hills to the west of both areas. Most of the boundaries of both areas are formed by drystone walls, with some barbed wire fencing. Both areas are pasture land with fairly short grass.

Access to the northern part of the site is from gates on Burlow Road (Plate 2) and Heathfield Nook Road (Plate 3). This northern part of the site steepens and rises to the north and northeast, but drops away to the southeast. Immediately northwest of the northern part of the site are slight escarpments and rock exposures that are perhaps indications of former quarrying (Plate 4). A slight earthwork near the centre of the northern part of the site marks the location of a pond shown on old maps of the area (Plate 5). A large manure heap was located on the eastern side of the area.

The southern part of the site lies to the south of Burlow Road, behind existing houses, and is bounded on the east by Hillhead Lane, with a disused railtrack just to the south (Plate 6). Access to the southern part of the site is via a gate on the eastern boundary, Hillhead Lane (Plate 7). An overhead cable, supported by telegraph poles, runs alongside this eastern boundary of the southern section of the site, and above the access point.

The southern part of the site rises gently to the southeast, with higher ground to the south (Plate 6). To the west and northwest the southern part of the site declines and levels out (Plates 7 and 8). A prominent former railway embankment is located a little to the southwest of the site (Plate 9). Near the centre of the site is a small brick building, probably a store for animal food (Plate 10). Around the building is an area of bare earth with a scatter of brick fragments (Plates 8 and 10). In this same area, and extending northwestwards, is an intermittent line of trees that probably defines the location of a former field boundary (Plate 10).

There was no visible sign of buried services within the boundaries of the Site.

Both parts of the site are suitable for non-invasive and invasive archaeological evaluation (geophysical survey, test pitting and trial trenching).

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

There are two Scheduled Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act of 1979 (HMSO) within the assessment area (Fig. 7, Nos. 7 and 13). They are Fox Low Round Barrow (350m to the north) and the two Saxon burial mounds (650m to the west). There is no inter-visibility between these two monuments and the Site.

There are no listed buildings located within the assessment area.

All other archaeological remains within the assessment area are protected only through the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework which identifies the historic environment as a non-renewable resource (DCLG 2012). Its fragile and finite nature is a particularly important consideration in planning. The effect of an application on the significance of a heritage

asset or its setting is a material consideration in determining the application.

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity *etc.*) at the site.

If further archaeological intervention is required, the excavation of trenches would entail a certain degree of risk which would be enhanced by the use of a mechanical excavator.

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Past impact appears to have been largely agricultural since at least the post-medieval period. Prior to this, the Site may have moor or waste and perhaps used for seasonal grazing. Quarrying has occurred in the northern area during the mid 20th century and building has occurred in the eastern field of the southern area. The northern part of the site has been ploughed previously (Plate 11).

Proposed development entails the construction of two low density housing estates in each of the two areas forming the Site. These have accompanying road networks as well as open spaces, both public and private. Foundation and service trenches are likely to impact on any buried archaeological remains.

8. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

Information collated in the production of this document has allowed an assessment of the known and potential archaeological resource.

Prehistoric finds are known from within the assessment area. These are dispersed

throughout the assessment area and may attest to casual loss or transient human activity, rather than indicating settlement, although the Mesolithic finds to the north may indicate some prolonged use of the hilltop. Barrows are also evident throughout the assessment area, though none have been recorded at the Site. Potential for prehistoric remains is, therefore, considered moderate to high.

There are two Roman sites, a scatter of pottery to the southeast of the Site which may indicate a settlement of the period and the route of a possible Roman road lies to the northeast. Potential is considered low for Roman activity at the site itself.

Two Saxon burial mounds are located to the west of the Site. No accompanying settlement is known so potential is also considered to be low.

No medieval remains are recorded within the assessment area and it is possible that the Site was open moorland or waste during this period. Therefore, potential for medieval remains is low.

A walkover survey identified no surface indications of archaeological interest. The site is not suitable for fieldwalking as it is currently pasture (although the northern block, at least, has been ploughed in the past (Plate 11)). As the southern area is mainly pasture, an alternative method of evaluation will be required, such as test-pitting. Test-pitting has been demonstrated as a useful means of evaluation on Carboniferous limestones, particularly in the recovery of prehistoric lithic material (Brightman and Waddington 2011, 57).

It is considered that an expressly worded planning condition could be attached to any planning permission to secure appropriate archaeological field evaluation prior to the commencement of any development of the site.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A Knott of Knights Solicitors LLP for commissioning this work on behalf of Harpur Homes Limited. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Thanks are due to Nichola Manning of the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record for providing HER information, as well as to the staff of the Derbyshire Record Office. Elizabeth Bates kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All of the following references were consulted in the research. However, as some of them duplicated evidence given in others, or proved not to be relevant to the assessment, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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Ordnance Survey, 1922 *Derbyshire Sheet XXII. 5., 25"*

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SSEW, 1983 <i>Soils of Midland and Western England</i> , 1:250 000 map sheet 3		

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government

Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area

Map No.	HER No.	Description	Period	National Grid Reference
1	MDR9070	Flint scatter	Mesolithic	SK 0685 7127
2	MDR149	Two stone axes	Neolithic	SK 068 699
3	MDR349	Stone axe	Neolithic	SK 064 707
4	MDR101	Flint scatter	Neolithic	SK 069 697
5	MDR102	Flint scatter	Neolithic to Bronze Age	SK 075 698
6	MDR392	Round barrow (site of)	Bronze Age	SK 067 712
7	MDR268	Fox Low round barrow	Bronze Age	SK 0672 7123
8	MDR77	Round barrow (site of)	Bronze Age	SK 0673 6993
9	MDR92	Round barrow (site of)	Bronze Age	SK 073 698
10	MDR391	Flint	Bronze Age?	SK 0625 7054
11	MDR354 MDR355 MDR377 MDR11318	Postulated course of 'The Street'	Roman	-
12	MDR102	Pottery	Roman	SK 075 698
13	MDR265	Two barrows or 'hlaews'	Saxon	SK 0625 7053
14	MDR271	Enclosure	Post-medieval	SK 0783 7137
15	MDR341	Hoffman kiln (site of)	Post-medieval	SK 064 708
16	MDR12412	Limekiln (remains of) and quarry	Post-medieval	SK 0687 7011
17	MDR7889	Cromford and High Peak Railway (includes other entries relating to the same)	Post-medieval	-
18	MDR103	Whetstone	Undated	SK 074 697
19	MDR87	Oval enclosure (site of) identified from aerial photographs	Undated	SK 068 698



Figure 1 - General location plan

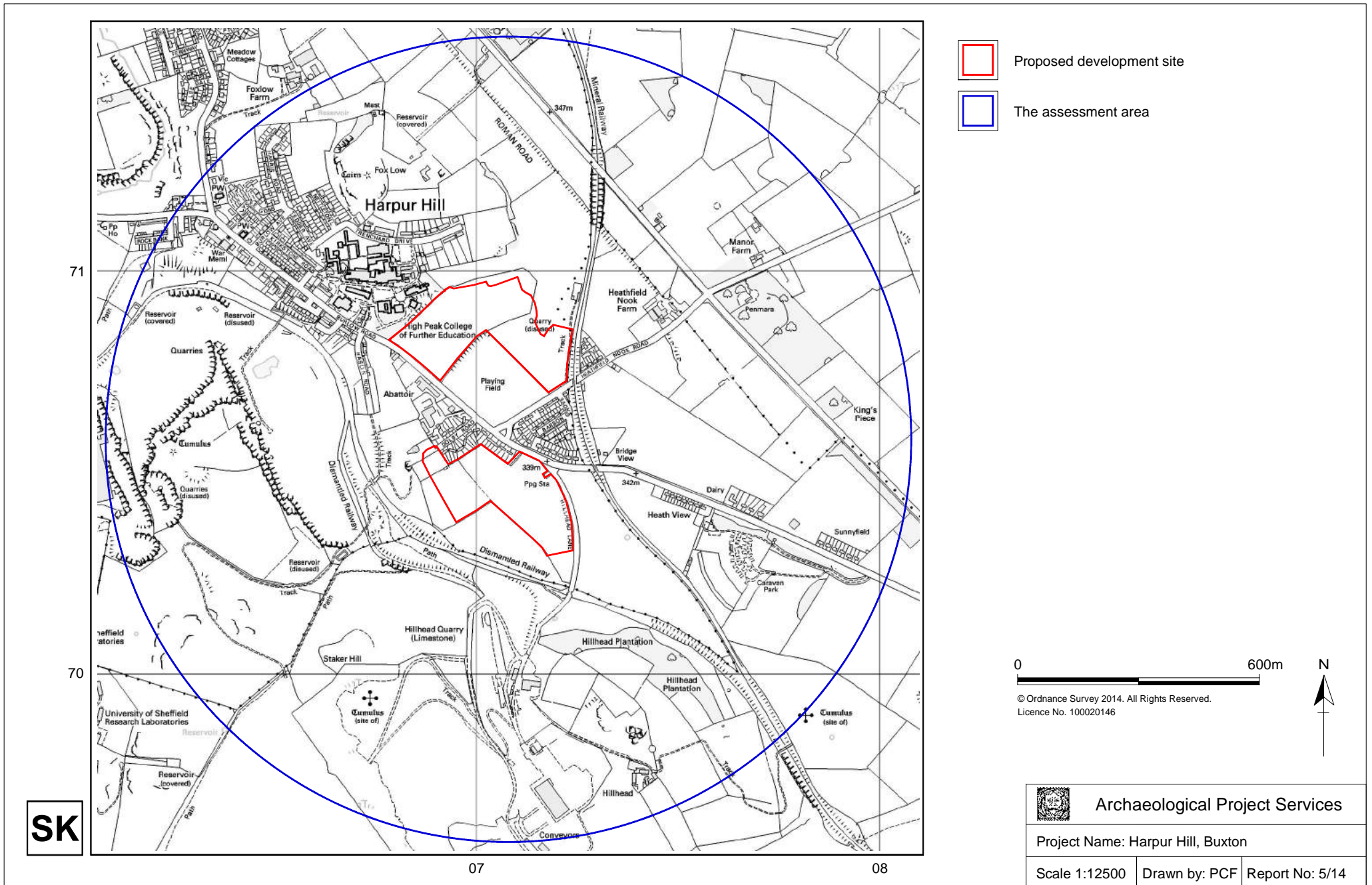


Figure 2 - The assessment area showing the proposed development site

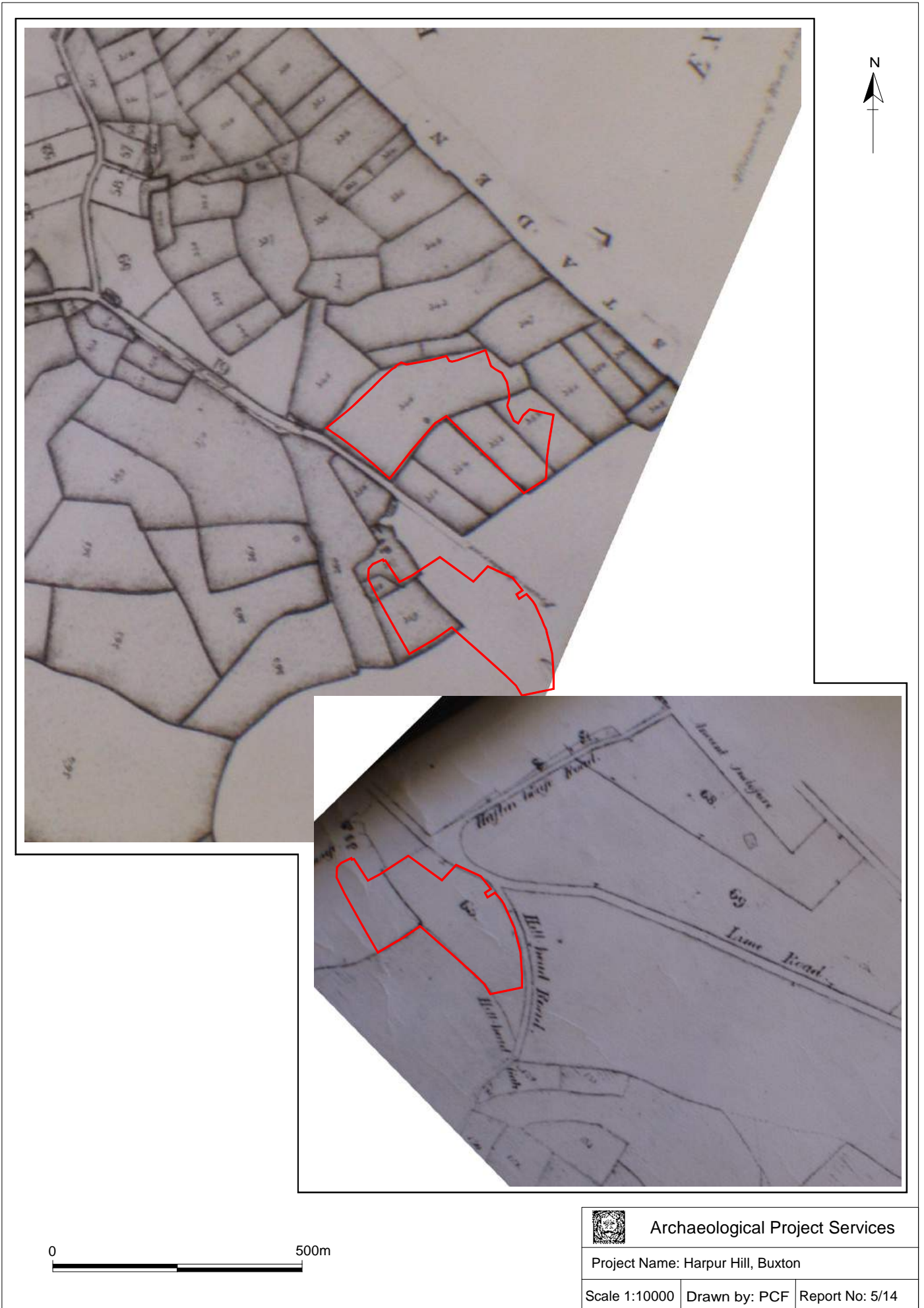


Figure 3 Extract from the Enclosure Award plans, 1771-1774




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Figure 4 - Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" map, 1898




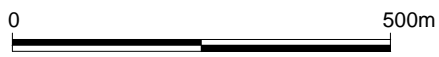
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Project Name: Harpur Hill, Buxton		
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Figure 5 - Extract from the 1922 edition Ordnance Survey 25" map




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Harpur Hill, Buxton		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 5/14

Figure 6 - Extract from the 1938 edition Ordnance Survey 25" map

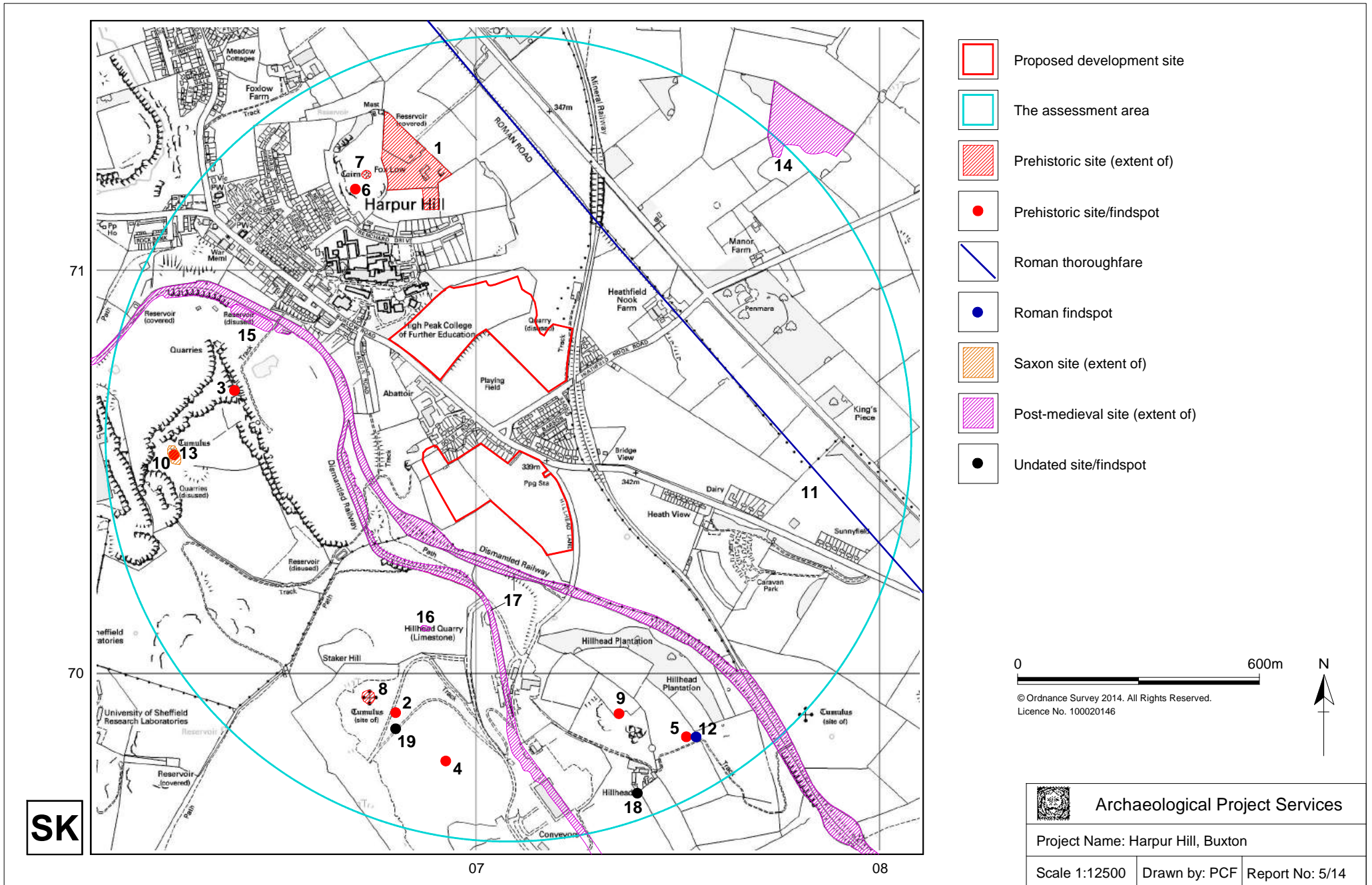
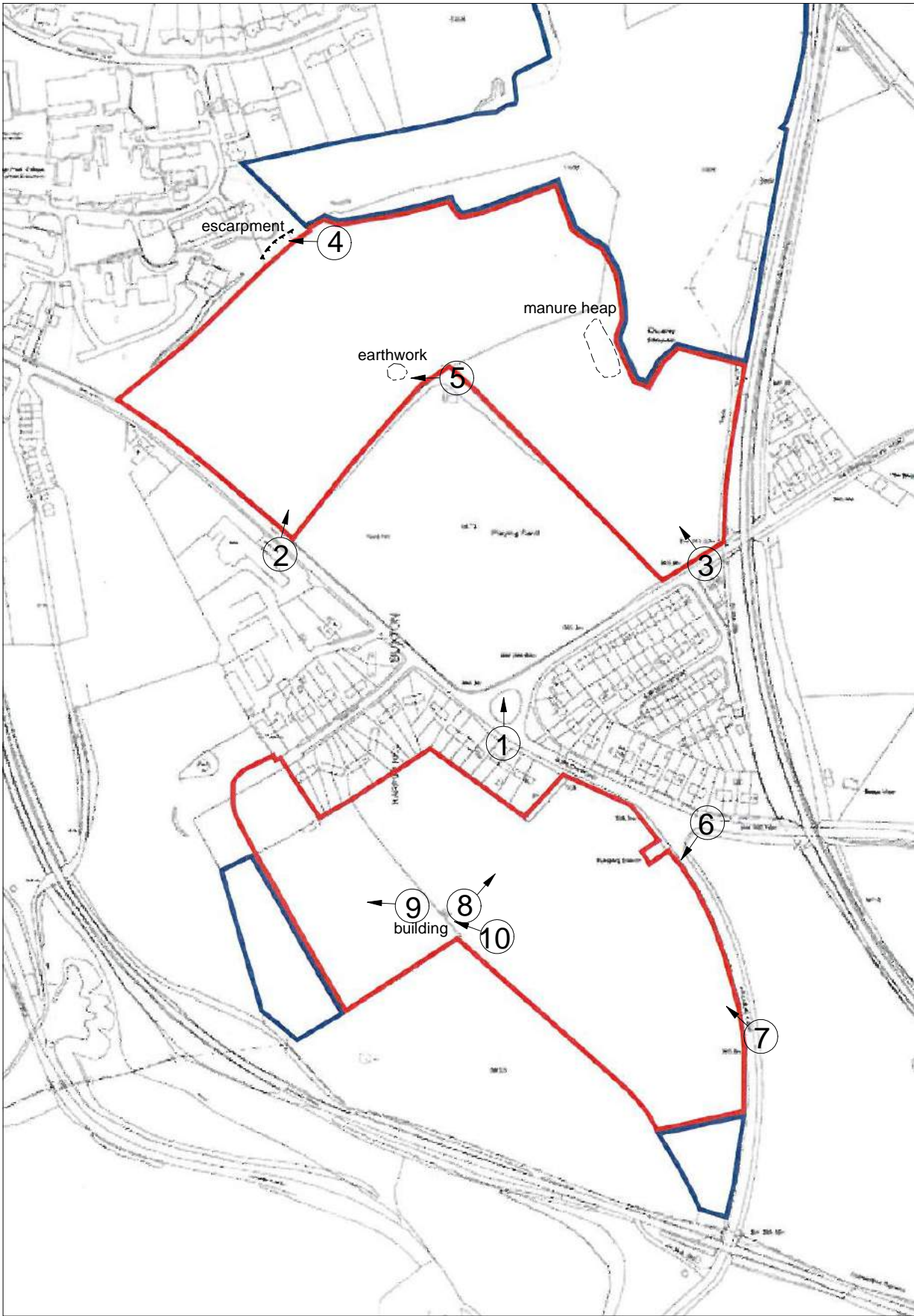


Figure 7 - Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area



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Plate number and direction of view



Archaeological Project Services

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Scale 1:4000

Drawn by: GT

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Figure 8 - Results of walkover survey



Plate 1 Northern part of site, general view, looking north



Plate 2, Northern part of site, entrance from Burlow Road, looking north



Plate 3 Northern part of site, east side, looking northwest



Plate 4 Northern part of site, northwestern edge of area, showing escarpments of possible former quarrying just outside site, looking west



Plate 5 Northern part of site, slight earthwork (left of centre) near middle of area, looking west



Plate 6 Southern part of site, general view, looking south



Plate 7 Southern part of site, entrance from Hillhead Lane, looking northwest



Plate 8 Southern part of site, northern part of area, looking northeast



Plate 9 Southern part of site, western part of area, with former railway embankment beyond, looking west



Plate 10 Southern part of site, small brick shed near centre of area, looking northwest



Plate 11 Satellite image showing evidence of previous ploughing of the northern part of the site

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.