

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of the Proposed Development at Aspinall Close, Bekesbourne, Kent

NGR: TR 18924 55670



Report for Townscape Investments Ltd

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SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Contents

<i>Appendix 1 Archaeological Sites</i>	
<i>List of Plates</i>	iii
<i>List of Figures</i>	iii
1. SUMMARY.....	6
2. INTRODUCTION.....	7
2.1 Geology and Topography.....	7
2.2 Planning Background.....	8
2.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.....	9
2.3 The Proposed Development.....	12
2.4 Project Constraints.....	12
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	12
3.1 Introduction.....	12
3.2 Desktop Study – Institute For Archaeologists (revised 2011).....	12
4. METHODOLOGY.....	13
4.1 Desk-Based Assessment.....	13
4.1.1 Archaeological databases.....	13
4.1.2 Historical documents.....	13
4.1.3 Cartographic and pictorial documents.....	13
4.1.4 Aerial photographs.....	15
4.1.5 Geotechnical information.....	15
4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources.....	15
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT.....	16
5.1 Introduction.....	16
5.2 History of the Site.....	17
5.3 Archaeological and Historical Development.....	18
5.4 Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas.....	20

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.....	21
6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.....	21
6.2 Roman-British.....	22
6.3 Iron Age.....	22
6.4 Anglo-Saxon.....	23
6.5 Medieval.....	23
6.6 Post-Medieval and Modern.....	23
6.7 Summary of Potential.....	24
7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....	25
7.1 Introduction.....	25
7.2 Existing Impacts.....	25
7.3 Proposed Impacts.....	26
7.3.1 The general development of the site.....	26
7.4 Proposed mitigation for the impact of the construction process.....	27
8. MITIGATION.....	28
9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.....	28
9.1 Archive.....	28
9.2 Reliability/limitations of sources.....	28
9.3 Copyright.....	29
10. REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	29

List of Plates

- Plate 1. Google Earth view 1940
- Plate 2. Google Earth view 1960
- Plate 3. Google Earth view 1990
- Plate 4. Google Earth view 2013
- Plate 5. View of Site (looking North)
- Plate 6. View of Site (looking East)
- Plate 7. View of Site (looking North)
- Plate 8. View of Site (looking south)
- Plate 9. View of Site (looking North east)
- Plate 10. View of Site (looking West)

List of Figures

- Front cover: Andrews Dury map of 1769
- Figs.1, 2, 3 Site location, survey and proposed development
- Fig.4 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1873
- Fig.5 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1898
- Fig.6 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1907
- Fig.7 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1955
- Fig.8 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1979
- Fig.9 Historic mapping OS 1:2500 1989
- Fig.10 Historic mapping OS 1:2000 1993
- Figs. 11-16 HER maps

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1 SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) has been commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment in advance of the proposed residential development at Aspinall Close, Bekesbourne, Kent CT4 5DN as part of the planning application submitted by Townscape Investments Ltd.

This Desk Based Assessment examines the wide variety of archaeological data held by Kent County Council and other sources.

Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarised as:

- *Prehistoric: Low*
- *Iron Age: Moderate*
- *Romano-British: Moderate*
- *Anglo-Saxon: Low*
- *Medieval: Moderate*
- *Post-medieval: High*
- *Modern: High*

The Desk Based Assessment concludes that:

- *The site has **moderate** potential for any archaeological discoveries.*

The PDA is located in the village and parish of Bekesbourne, within the district of Canterbury, in the east of the County of Kent and the southeast of England.

Bekesbourne is a rural village just north of the village of Patrixbourne and the A2

Dover road. The PDA lies outside of the conservation area to the west of the village, west of Station Road, Old Palace Road and the Nail Bourne River and south of the railway line. The plot forms a rectangular parcel of agricultural land of some 1.18 acres (NGR: TR 18924 55670) accessed via Aspinall Close to the east. The plot is bounded to the north and west by agricultural land and to the south and east by a small medium density residential development surrounding Aspinall Close and Birfons Road; sporadic development continues along The Street and Keepers Hill. The Historic Landscape Character is Orchards in Parliamentary type enclosures of small regular fields with straight boundaries. The site of the 'Old Palace', the former 16th century Archbishop's Palace (Kent SMR: 366) and the remains of Cobham Court are to the east (Fig.1 & Plates 5-10).

2 INTRODUCTION

SWAT Archaeology has been commissioned by Townscape Investments Ltd to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to supplement a planning application for the proposed residential development at Aspinall Close, Bekesbourne, Kent CT4 (Figures 1, 3). The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. The PDA is centered on National Grid Reference: TR 18924 55670.

Archaeological events in the area are centred on the Archbishops medieval 'Old Palace' complex (TR15NE30/737), sited 450m east of the PDA. Canterbury Archaeological Trust carried out excavations at the site in 1976 and 1977 (EKE4072) and 1990 (EKE4429). In 1997 they performed a negative watching brief (EKE5343) on the construction of a new conservatory at the site and in 2009 they performed a second watching brief (EKE11193) at Flint Cottage, on the groundworks for a garage, revealing a compact brick rubble layer relating to the 19th century.

Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic in the study area have been accessed and the information from these investigations has been incorporated in to the assessment.

The report is also a desk-based appraisal from known cartographic, photographic and archaeological sources and is a research led statement on the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

It may be that intrusive investigations, such as a Geophysical Survey and/or an Archaeological Evaluation, with machine cut trial trenching, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as a Planning Condition.

2.1 Geology and Topography

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is situated upon Bedrock Geology of Seaford Chalk formation – Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas.

These rocks were formed in warm shallow ‘chalk’ shelf seas with little sediment input from the land. They often consist of a calcareous ooze of the microscopic remains of plankton, especially the disc shaped calcite plates or coccoliths that make up the spherical coccolithophores.

Superficial Deposits are Head - Clay And Silt, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes. These rocks were formed from the material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

The PDA sits at an average height of 85.3ft (25.99m) AOD.

2.2 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

Policy 12 is the relevant policy for the historic environment:

2.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

2.2.2 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 (NPPF 2012).

Canterbury City Council in the Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2 list a number of policies relevant to archaeology:

Policy HE1. Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

HE2. World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone

HE4. Listed Buildings

HE8. Heritage Assets

HE11. Archaeology

HE12. Area of Archaeological Importance

Policy HE1 relates to the importance of the historic environment, HE2 to the World Heritage site, HE 4 and 5 to Listed Buildings, HE 5-10 to the Conservation areas, HE12 to the World Heritage site and HE 13 to Historic Parks and Gardens.

Policy HE11 concerns below ground archaeological remains, their evaluation, excavation and mitigation strategies:

Policy HE11

The archaeological and historic integrity of designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other important archaeological sites, together with their settings, will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. Development, which would adversely affect them, will not be permitted.

Where important or potentially significant heritage assets may exist, developers will be required to arrange for field evaluation to be carried out in advance of the determination of planning applications. The evaluation should define:

- *The character, importance and condition of any archaeological deposits or structures within the application site;*
- *The likely impact of the proposed development on these features (including the limits to the depth to which groundworks can go on the site); and*
- *The means of mitigating the effect of the proposed development including: a statement setting out the impact of the development.*

Where the case for development affecting a heritage asset of archaeological interest is accepted, the archaeological remains should be preserved in situ.

Where preservation in situ is not possible or justified, appropriate provision for preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative. In such cases archaeological recording works must be undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by the City Council's Archaeological Officer or a competent archaeological organisation that has been agreed by the City Council in advance.

Regional Policies

The South-East Research Framework (SERF) is on-going with groups of researchers producing a Resource Assessment, which will identify research questions and topics in order to form a Research Agenda for the future.

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practise Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practise Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government. The Good Practise Advice notes emphasises the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process. Significance is defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also it’s setting”. The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary 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”.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

2.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise of a planning application for residential development with associated parking, access roads and landscaping.

2.4 Project Constraints

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by Townscape Investments Ltd in order to supplement a planning application for the proposed residential development at Aspinall Close, Bekesbourne, Kent CT4 5DN (TR 18924 55670), to establish the potential for archaeological features and deposits.

3.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (2014). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

“a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (CiFA 2014)

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desk-Based Assessment

4.1.1 Archaeological Databases

The local Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Kent County Council provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area (PDA) and the surrounding environs of Canterbury.

The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 500m radius of the proposed development site and relevant HER data is included in the report. The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also searched as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

4.1.2 Historical Documents

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc., were considered not relevant to this specific study.

4.1.3 Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

A cartographic and pictorial document search was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Kent County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 4-16).

Map Regression 1867 - 1994

In the Andrews, Drury, & Herbert Map of 1769 (front cover) the PDA is part of a larger field that forms a large network of agricultural fields probably belonging to one of the three farmsteads that surround it; Byrons, Howlets Farm and Milestone Farm. The field is bounded to the southeast by the road that in a later map leads from Bekesbourne Palace in the south to Howlets Palace in the north and will later become Station Road; the southwest boundary is 'Pilgrims Way', the route to Canterbury (Fig.4).

In the OS Map of 1873 the PDA forms the northwest corner of field 76 that probably belongs to the farmstead to the southwest. It is bounded by a trackway to the northeast and northwest boundary that lead to and from the farmstead. The field in which the PDA is located is bounded to the southeast by a road with one smallholding and a trackway to the southwest; the main entrance to the farmstead. The village of Bekesbourne is located to the south on 'Pilgrims Way' (Fig.4).

In the OS Map of 1898 the fields have been amalgamated and the PDA is a small, rectangular section of an area covering some 99.308 acres. The surrounding area remains unchanged (Fig.5).

In the OS Map of 1907 the field has been sectioned off and has tree coppices to the centre and all four boundaries. The surrounding area remains unchanged (Fig.6).

In the OS Map of 1955 the area has undergone significant development. The field in which the PDA is located is now a medium density residential development centred on Frons Road and Allotment gardens (9662/1.42). The PDA (9265/1.18) is a 'Filter Bed' that probably serves the residential development. The road to the southwest is Station Road leading to Bekesbourne Station and the railway. The farmstead is significantly reduced in outbuildings and the land has been cultivated as orchard or hops (Fig.7).

In the OS Map of 1979 the PDA is no longer being used as a Filter Bed and garages have been built on the southwest boundary. The surrounding area remains largely unchanged (Fig.8).

In the OS Map of 1989-92 the PDA and the surrounding area remain largely unchanged (Fig.9).

4.1.4 Aerial Photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken. In 1940 the PDA formed the north corner of a larger field that appears to be the site of a complex of WW2 Nissen huts which were a prefabricated steel structure originally designed during WW1 and extensively used in WW2 and designed by Major Peter Nissen. The site of the PDA is located to the northwest boundary of Station road (Plate 1). Entry to the main field was from the southwest boundary, where a trackway leads to the area that is now the PDA, an enclosure of four Nissen huts and two copses of trees. Fields and orchards bound the field to the north, west and east. A smallholding is on the east boundary and further buildings, probably agricultural are to the southwest. By 1960 the field has been divided into allotment garden plots, presumably to serve the new medium density housing estate to the southwest (Plate 8). The smallholding is still in place on the southeast boundary and the northeast and northwest boundaries remain open to fields. In 1990 the allotments have been disbanded, the field has been left to meadow and the hedge boundaries have been allowed to mature; the surrounding area remains unchanged (Plate 7). By 2013 the southeast of the field (Plate 3) has been developed into a medium density housing estate that is built around Aspinall Close; the PDA and the surrounding area to the north remain unchanged.

4.1.5 Geotechnical Information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

4.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological studies, landscape studies; dissertations, research frameworks and websites are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Introduction

Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
	Neolithic	c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
	Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
	Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon		AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval		AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern		AD 1901 – present day

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

The Archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain through to the post-medieval period. The geographic and topographic location of Canterbury is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel and communication since the Neolithic.

This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape, followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on the previous page in **Table 1**.

5.2 History of the site

The Manor of Bekesbourne was originally known as 'Livingsborne' named for 'Levine', a Saxon, who held it in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and from a small 'bourn' or stream, that runs through it, known as the Little Stour, a tributary of the Stour River.

The Canterbury area has been inhabited since prehistoric times and the city was first recorded as the main settlement of the Celtic tribe of the Cantiaci, which inhabited most of modern-day Kent in the first century AD. Evidence of Iron Age occupation, in the form of pottery, was found during excavations carried out by Canterbury Trust in 1978 and several coins from this period have been discovered from the use of metal detectors, c.500m east of the site (MKE57444/57446/57447/57764/57766).

In 43 AD the Romans invaded Britain, captured the area and named its main town *Durovernum Cantiacorum* making it one of the 28 cities of Roman Britain, however, when the Romans left Britain in 410 AD Canterbury was largely abandoned. The village of Bekesbourne is centred 2.9 miles (4.7 km) east of Canterbury and developed along the Roman Road that ran from London to Dover. Roman burials (TR15NE9) were discovered in a shaft during the digging of railway cuttings, c.400m northwest of the PDA and a Romano British votive mini axe was found at Howletts (TR15NE67) c.400m to the north. Excavations by Canterbury Archaeological Trust at the Old Palace, c.500m east, uncovered Roman pottery (TR15NE10).

Environmental evidence suggests that the area was flooded during the Saxon period and that occupation remained within the Canterbury walls or on higher ground towards Patribourne where it was centred around the church of St Mary.

Jutish refugees arrived; possibly intermarrying with the locals and their presence was confirmed in 1936, when a Jutish inhumation, accompanied by a bronze brooch with ring and dot ornament, a string of beads and a Jutish bottle (TR 25 NW 31) was discovered in a garden south of Patribourne.

After the Norman conquest, it came into the possession of Odo, Bishop of Baieux, but this was short-lived; in 1076 he was charged with defrauding the Crown and the Diocese of Canterbury and was forced to return a number of his properties and then in 1082 he was again disgraced for planning a military operation to Italy that was thought to have been based around his own ambition of becoming Pope. The Manor of Bekesbourne was confiscated by the Crown and was later given to William de Beke for the service of 'finding one ship for the King' and so the Manor acquired the name of Bekesbourne.

During the 12th century, the parish church of Bekesbourne was built and dedicated to St Peter (TR 15 NE 7) of which the nave and tower still survive. The chancel was built in the 13th century providing the first recorded example of brick mathematical tiles. The church is now a Grade I listed building. The construction of the church and the discovery of an early medieval cemetery, excavated by F. Jenkins (TR 15 NE 1) confirm that the area became more suitable to habitation during this period.

In 1344 Cobham Manor house was built for the de Cobham family and became under their ownership, the Court of Shepway, the highest of the Cinque Port Courts. The parish was within the liberty of the town and port of Hastings and as such exempt from the jurisdiction of the justices of the county of Kent. The Mayor of Hastings was appointed as one of the principal inhabitants and his deputy acted for him, keeping law and order. When that practice was stopped, the inhabitants had to travel over fifty miles to apply for redress, which proved impractical and the parish became known as an ungovernable and lawless place.

The original Manor house on the site of the Old Palace and Gate House was built in the 14th century for the Doget family. The family were London Wine Merchants and while they farmed the manor, it only formed a small part of their property portfolio. Canterbury Cathedral Priory took possession of the Manor in 1443 and towards the second half of the 15th century improvements were made to convert the property into accommodation for the firmarii and recreational facilities for the monastery.

The chapel was dedicated to Dom John Thorton, suffragan Bishop to Archbishop William Warham in 1501.

The village lies on the route of the Pilgrims Way, the trail that led thousands of weary medieval feet towards Canterbury Cathedral and the shrine of Thomas Becket. During the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the property was surrendered to the Crown along with several religious houses in Canterbury. Thomas Becket's shrine in Canterbury was demolished, the gold, silver and jewels removed to the Tower of London and his image, name and feasts obliterated throughout the Kingdom, ending the pilgrimages and certainly impacting the village of Bekesbourne.

Thomas Cramner, Archbishop of Canterbury gained possession of the property in 1540 and developed it into a Palace for his retirement. Archbishop Whitgift further improved it between 1589 and 1592, but in 1647, the civil war broke out and the palace was pillaged. The Commonwealth Commission sold the property and in 1656 a contract was made with a local carpenter for its demolition. During the 19th century the property was completely rebuilt and the original buildings remained beneath the ground until a sewer channel was excavated in 1976 revealing brick walls and drainage. A series of excavations by Canterbury Trust followed.

Bifrons, named from the Roman God Janus (the two faced) for its two front wings is a 17th century mansion house, built by the brother of the Dean of Canterbury and located c.400m south of the PDA. Several local buildings formed part of this estate including Bifrons cottage (TR15NE677), the north east Lodge (TR15NE692, the former Oasthouse (TR15NE740), Godden house (TR15NE741), Oast cottages (TR15NE850), Lion cottage (TR15NE848) and a house located 100 yards north east of the junction with Frons Road (TR15NE849).

During WWI the village became the site of an aerodrome, which thrived as the home of the Kent Flying Club until World War II, when it was closed. There are several WWII military buildings and features within the area around the PDA, namely roadblocks, a rail-block on the nearby London, Chatham, Dover Railway, an anti-tank gun emplacement and a pillbox. The Home Guard Headquarters were sited at the village hut, a fortified house, no.48 in the list of defensive structures was probably at

Bekesbourne Railway Station and a Civil Defence First Aid Post was located at the infants' school.

5.3 This section of the assessment has focused on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape (500m radius centered on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 16 in **Table 1**.

A preliminary review of the cultural heritage data shows that the site has **medium** archaeological potential.

5.4 Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

No events, monument, buildings or events are recorded within the confines of the proposed development area (PDA). Seventeen Listed Buildings, thirteen Findspots, seven monuments, six buildings, two farmsteads and one landscape are recorded within a 500m vicinity of the PDA; No Listed buildings share intervisibility with the PDA.

The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated in the assessment.

5.5 Walkover Survey

A walkover survey by the writer of this report was accomplished on Tuesday 12th July 2016 (Plates 5-10). Weather conditions were dry and overcast. The reason for the survey was to:

1. Identify any historic landscape features not shown on maps

2. Conduct a rapid survey for archaeological features
3. Make a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material
4. Constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation

The walkover survey was not intended as a detailed survey but the rapid identification of archaeological features and any evidence for buried archaeology in the form of surface scatters of lithic or pottery artefacts.

The PDA consists of one field bounded to the east by allotment gardens and Aspinall Close, to the south by garages and Cranmer Close and to the west by Bifrons Road. At the time of the site visit the field had been cleared of foliage and bushes (Plates 5-10). The site was more or less level with an OD height of about 25m OD. Although the field was walked no archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in Kent, especially along the Medway and Stour Valleys. Palaeolithic presence within the assessment area has not been found.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Kent HER has no record of archaeological evidence from this period within the assessment area.

The Neolithic period, the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry is represented by one record within the assessment area. No Neolithic archaeological features have been found within the vicinity of the PDA.

The Bronze Age was a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level. This period is not represented within the assessment area.

The potential for finding remains that date prior to this period within the confines of the proposed development is therefore considered **low**.

6.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or *civitas* of the Cantiaci, the tribe occupying the area that is now Kent, was Canterbury). The Kent HER has five records dating to the Iron Age period, within the assessment area; all of which are copper alloy coins recovered by metal detecting c.400-500m east of the PDA (MKE57446/57766/57447/57764/57444). Therefore the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is also considered **moderate**.

6.3 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years.

The predominant feature of the Roman infrastructure within Kent is arguably the extensive network of Roman roads connecting administrative centres: the towns to military posts and rural settlements (villas, farmsteads and temples) increasing the flow of trade, goods, communications and troops. Canterbury or *Durovernum Cantiacorum* was a major town of the Roman province of Britannia and the regional capital and the Canterbury.

There are two records relating to this period within the assessment area. A Romano British votive mini axe was found at Howletts c.400m north of the PDA and Roman burials were found in a shaft c.500m northwest. The PDA is sited close to the Roman road and the Stour River, therefore, the potential for finding archaeological features or deposits from this period is considered **moderate**.

6.4 Anglo-Saxon

The Anglo-Saxon period is not represented within the assessment area. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the PDA is considered as **low**.

6.5 Medieval

The Medieval period has seven records within the assessment area. A Gold finger ring (MKE94972) found c.300m east, Parsonage farmhouse (MKE57739) c.400m northeast, the Old Vicarage (TR15NE758) c.500m south, St Mary's church (TR15NE7) c.500m south and three coins found by metal detecting c. 500m southeast (MKE79293/79295/79296). Therefore the potential for finding remains dating to the medieval period is considered as **moderate**.

6.6 Post Medieval to Modern

The Post Medieval period is well represented within the assessment area by buildings surviving from the period. An 18th century Grade II listed house (TR15NE849) is located c.100m south. Godden House (TR15NE741) and Sondes house (TR15NE851) are 17th century listed buildings, c.300m south and southwest. Within c.400m are 2 Vine Cottages an 18th century building (TR15NE798) to the south. Bifrons (TR15NE1021), Bifrons Cottage (TR15NE863), Lion Cottage (TR15NE848) and the Oasthouse (TR15NE740) are 19th century listed buildings to the south and the Lodge of Bifrons is a 19th century listed building (TR15NE692) southwest.

Within c.500m is Bifrons a 16th century monument (TR15NE368) to the southwest and to the east are the Palace Landscape (TR15NE30), the listed 16th century Old Palace (TR15NE737) and the Gatehouse (TR15NE608). The Oast Cottage (TR15NE850) and Court Cottage (TR15NE738) are 17th century listed buildings found to the south. Riverside cottages (TR15NE928/833) and the Footbridge (TR15NE582)

are 18th century buildings also found to the south and the Bridge over the ford (TR15NE543) is an 18th century building to the east.

The environment around the PDA was largely agricultural and Parsonage farm is an example of a farmstead (MKE86419) that survives c.400m northeast.

The records from the modern period relate to WWII. A Roadblock (TR15NE844) is c.100m east, a second roadblock (TR15NE863), a pillbox (TR15NE904) and the Home guard headquarters are located c.400m northeast and a fortified house (TR15NE876) is c.400m north. A railblock (TR15NE868) is found c.500m northwest, an anti-tank gun (TR15NE870) c.500m northeast and a First Aid post (TR15NE879) c.500m east.

The potential for finding remains dating to the post-medieval to modern period is therefore considered as **high**.

There are four undated records. A farmstead (MKE86422) c.400m south and three metal detecting finds of two copper alloy medieval style buckles (MKE79290/79291) and a medieval copper alloy pin (MKE79292) c.500m southeast.

6.7 Summary of Potential

The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site but this potential can only be tested by fieldwork. Research has shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **Low**
- Iron Age: **Moderate**
- Roman: **Moderate**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Low**
- Medieval: **Moderate**
- Post-Medieval and Modern: **High**

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

Cartographic Regression, Topographical Analysis, and Historic Research have provided evidence for the historic use of the site. By collating this information we have assessed the impact on previous archaeological remains through the following method of categorisation:

- **Total Impact** - Where the area has undergone a destructive process to a depth that would in all probability have destroyed any archaeological remains e.g. construction, mining, quarrying, archaeological evaluations etc.
- **High Impact** – Where the ground level has been reduced to below natural geographical levels that would leave archaeological remains partly in situ either in plan or section e.g. the construction of roads, railways, buildings, strip foundations etc.
- **Medium Impact** – Where there has been low level or random disturbance of the ground that would result in the survival of archaeological remains in areas undisturbed e.g. the installation of services, pad-stone or piled foundations, temporary structures etc.
- **Low Impact** – Where the ground has been penetrated to a very low level e.g. farming, landscaping, slab foundation etc.

7.2 Existing Impacts

7.2.1 Cartographic regression (4.1.3), Topographic analysis (4.1.4) and Historical research (5.2) indicate that the site has largely been the subject of agriculture until the earlier part of the 20th century, when it became a possible military yard and then by 1955 a filter bed that probably served the nearby housing estate (this was

removed by 1979) therefore, previous impacts to archaeological remains from construction are considered to be **medium** in this area.

7.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The site is within an enclosure that was once subject to agricultural use, however during the 19th century it was developed as an agricultural yard and later as a filter bed, therefore the impacts of the construction and use of these features will have largely superseded any consideration of agricultural effects and the impact of agriculture is considered to be **medium**.

7.3 Proposed Impacts

7.3.1 The general development of the site

At the time of preparing this archaeological assessment, the extent of the proposed development was for the construction of residential housing, associated access roads and landscaping.

7.3.2 The very nature of construction can have a negative impact on below ground deposits through the movement of plant, general ground disturbance and

contamination and excavation. Therefore, extensive impact can be expected within the development area once construction begins.

7.3.3 With due consideration to the impacts sited above the following is an assessment of the specific impacts and their relation to this development:

- Ground contamination from the storage and use of materials may have an adverse effect on soil sampling and recording of shallow deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground vibration, weight displacement and surface disturbance from the movement and use of plant and machinery may cause disruption of shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground penetration from the erection of access equipment, barriers etc. could result in isolated damage to shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Landscaping may result in the displacement of shallow features and deposits – **Medium impact**
- Ground stripping and levelling could remove shallow deposits and features and leave the archaeological horizon open to damage or destruction from the foot, plant or vehicle traffic – **High impact**
- Trenching for the installation of services may involve the removal of shallow deposits or features and further damage the archaeological horizon sited immediately below or neighbouring archaeology – **High impact**
- The excavation of the foundations may result in the entire removal of the archaeological feature or deposit from a localised area, subsequently intruding on related neighbouring archaeology – **High impact**
- The long-term effect of the development will be in the new use of the site and changes resulting therein. In this case the possibility of higher foot and vehicular traffic to the site – **Low impact**

7.4 Proposed mitigation for the impact of the construction process

The adherence to the general requirements required by HSE to increase safety, reduces risk and lessens the impact of the construction process.

8. MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record, in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **moderate** archaeological potential.

9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Setting of Listed Buildings

One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with *The Setting of Heritage Assets – English Heritage Guidance* (English Heritage 2011). This guidance states that “*setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset*” (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).

The Listed Buildings share no intervisibility with the PDA (Plates 3-6)

9.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Kent County Council (Heritage) within 6 months of completion.

9.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological ‘grey’ literature held at Kent County Council, and therefore considered as being reliable.

9.3 Copyright

Swale & Thames Survey Company and the author shall retain full copyright on the commissioned report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights are reserved, excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to RDA Architects for the use of this document in all matters directly relating to the project.

Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA.

13th July 2016

10 REFERENCES & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Canterbury District Local Plan Publication Draft 2 (2014)

IFA (2014) STANDARD AND GUIDANCE for historic environment desk-based assessment.

National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

Data provided by Kent HER

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

KHER Ref	Type	Location	Period	Description
EKE4072	Excavation	c.450m E	Post Medieval	1976 Excavation at The Old Palace
EKE4429	Excavation	c.450m E	Post Medieval	1990 Excavation at The Old Palace
EKE11193	Watching Brief	c.500m E	Modern	2009 WB at Flint Cottage, the Old Palace
EKE5651	Building Survey	c.500m S	12 th Century	1993 St Mary's Church, Patricbourne
EKE5343	Watching Brief	c.450m E	Post Medieval	1997 WB at The Old Palace
TR15NE7	Listed Building	c.500m S	Medieval	GI St Mary's Church, Patricbourne c.12 th C.
TR15NE9	Monument	c.500m NW	Roman	Roman burials discovered 1858
TR15NE30	Monument	c.500m SE	Post Medieval	Archbishops Palace c.16 th C.
TR15NE67	Findspot	c.400m N	Romano British	Romano British axe from Howletts
TR15NE368	Monument	c.500m SW	Post Medieval	Bifrons House c.16 th C. country house
TR15NE928	Building	c.500m S	Post Medieval	Riverside Cottage (1 Vine Cottage) c.18 th C.
TR15NE798	Building	c.400m S	Post Medieval	2 Vine Cottages c.18 th C.
TR15NE1021	Building	c.400m S	Post Medieval	Biffrons Cottage, The Street (Outbuilding) c.19 th C.
TR15NE758	Listed Building	c.500m S	Medieval	GII The Old Vicarage c.15 th C.
TR15 NE677	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post Medieval	GII Biffrons Cottage c.19 th C.
TR15NE692	Listed Building	c.400m SW	Post Medieval	GII NE Lodge of Biffrons c.19 th C.
TR15NE738	Listed Building	c.500m S	Post Medieval	GII Court Cottage c.17 th C.
TR15NE739	Listed Building	c.400m NE	Medieval	GII Parsonage Farmhouse c.15 th C.
TR15NE740	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post Medieval	GII Former Oasthouse c.19 th C.
TR15NE741	Listed Building	c.300m S	Post Medieval	GII Godden House c.17 th C.
TR15NE543	Listed Building	c.500m E	Post Medieval	GII Bridge over Ford near Parish Church c.18 th C.
TR15NE608	Listed Building	c.500m E	Medieval	GII Gatehouse, The Old Palace c.16 th C.
TR15NE851	Listed Building	c.300m SW	Post Medieval	GII Sondes House c.17 th C.
TR15NE850	Listed Building	c.500m S	Post Medieval	GII Oast Cottages c.17 th C.
TR15NE848	Listed Building	c.400m S	Post Medieval	GII Lion Cottage c.19 th C.
TR15NE833	Listed Building	c.500m S	Post Medieval	GII Riverside Cottages c.18 th C.
TR15NE849	Listed Building	c.100m S	Post Medieval	GII House approx. 100yds NE of Junction with Frons Road c.18 th C.

TR15NE582	Listed Building	c.500m S	Post medieval	Footbridge near the Green c.18 th C.
TR15NE863	Monument	c.400m NE	Modern	WWII Roadblock under viaduct on Bekesbourne Lane
TR15NE844	Monument	c.100m E	Modern	WWII Roadblock on Station Road
TR15NE868	Monument	c.500m NW	Modern	WWII Rail block on the London, Chatham, Dover Railway near Bekesbourne Railway Station
TR15NE870	Monument	c.500m NE	Modern	WWII Anti-tank gun emplacement in the vicinity of Bekesbourne Hill
TR15NE904	Building	c.400m NE	Modern	WWII Pillbox built into the viaduct over Bekesbourne Lane
TR15NE912	Monument	c.400m NE	Modern	WWII Home Guard Headquarters in the village Hut
TR15NE876	Building	c.400m N	Modern	WWII fortified House on Bekesbourne Hill
TR15NE879	Building	c.500m E	Modern	WWII Civil defence first aid post at the infant's school
TQ85SE300	Monument	c.1000m E	Post Medieval	1853 Chatham & Dover Railway
MKE57444	Findspot	c.500m E	Iron Age	Copper Alloy coin 120BC – 80BC Apollo/Bull Charging (MD)
MKE57446	Findspot	c.400m E	Iron Age	Copper Alloy coin 50BC-30BC (MD)
MKE57447	Findspot	c.500m E	Iron Age	Copper Alloy coin 50C-30BC Boar/Lion (MD)
MKE57764	Findspot	c.500m E	Iron Age	Copper Alloy coin 800BC-42AD (MD)
MKE57766	Findspot	c.400m E	Iron Age	Copper Alloy coin 800BC-42AD (MD)
TR15NE737	Listed Building	c.450m E	Post Medieval	GII The Old Palace 1552
TR15NE1072	Landscape	c.1000m N	Medieval	Howletts c.15 th /16 th C.
MKE79290	Findspot	c.500m SE	Unknown	Copper Alloy Medieval spectacle buckle (MD)
MKE79291	Findspot	c.500m SE	Unknown	Copper Alloy Medieval annular buckle (MD)
MKE79292	Findspot	c.500m SE	Unknown	Copper Alloy Medieval pin (MD)
MKE79293	Findspot	c.500m SE	Medieval	Silver coin Medieval double petard of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy 1467-1477 (MD)
MKE79295	Findspot	c.500m SE	Medieval	Silver coin Medieval penny of Edward III minted in Durham 1356-1361 (MD)

MKE79296	Findspot	c.500m SE	Medieval	Silver coin Medieval penny of Edward I minted in London 1302-1303 (MD)
MKE86419	Farmstead	c.400m NE	Post Medieval	Parsonage Farm, Loose courtyard, detached farmhouse, isolated position, less than 50% loss of original form
MKE86422	Farmstead	c.400m S	Unknown	Farmstead in Patrixbourne, dispersed cluster plan, located within village, no alteration, Oast
MKE94972	Findspot	c.300m E	Medieval	Gold finger ring 1200-1299AD (MD)

Plates



Plate 1. General view of site (looking north)



Plate 2. General view of site (looking north-east)



Plate 3. View of site from top of Cranmer Close (looking north)



Plate 4. View to access to site (looking south)



Plate 5. View along south boundary of site (looking north-east)



Plate 6. View to site through allotment gardens (looking north-west)

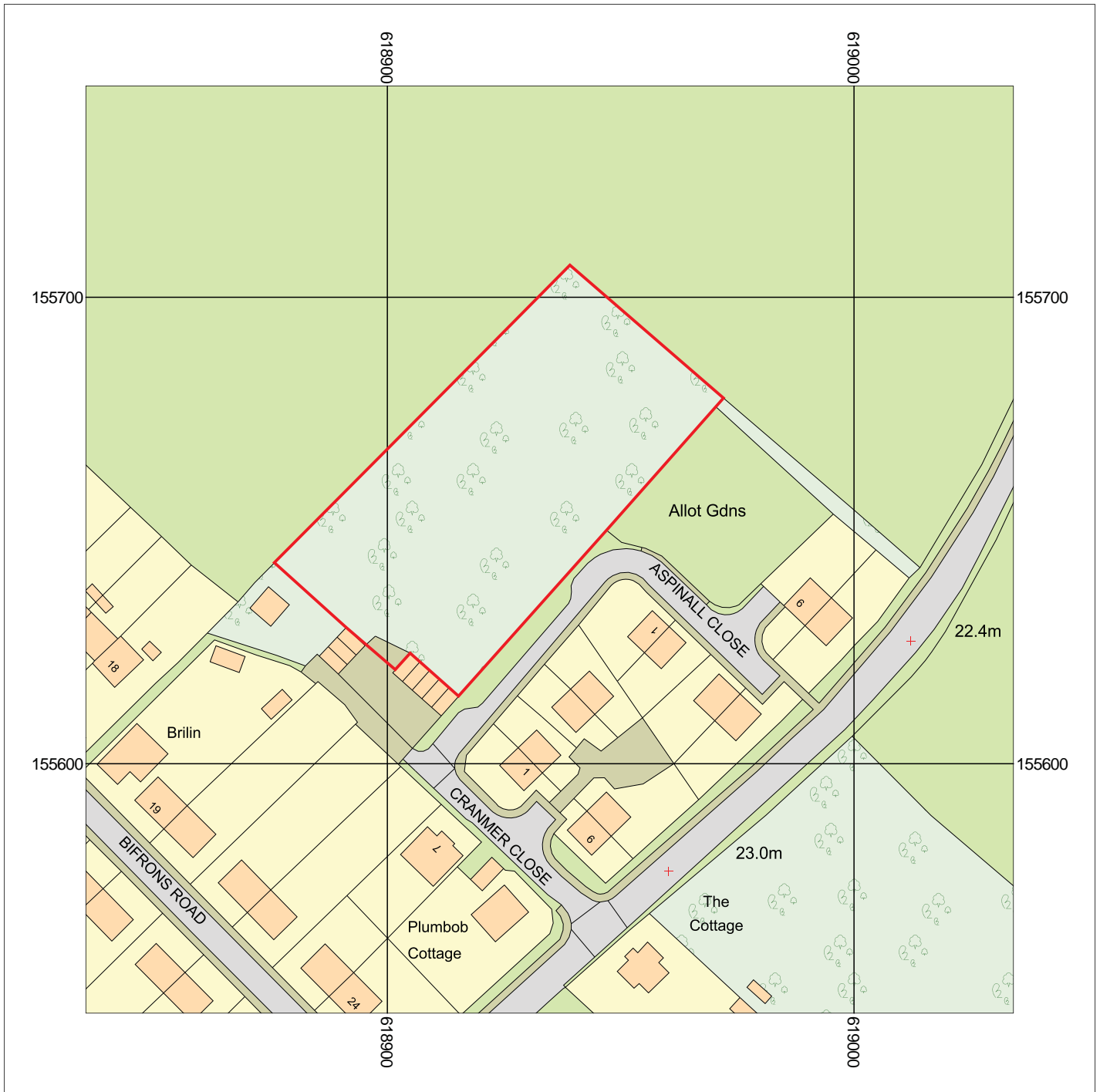


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:1250.

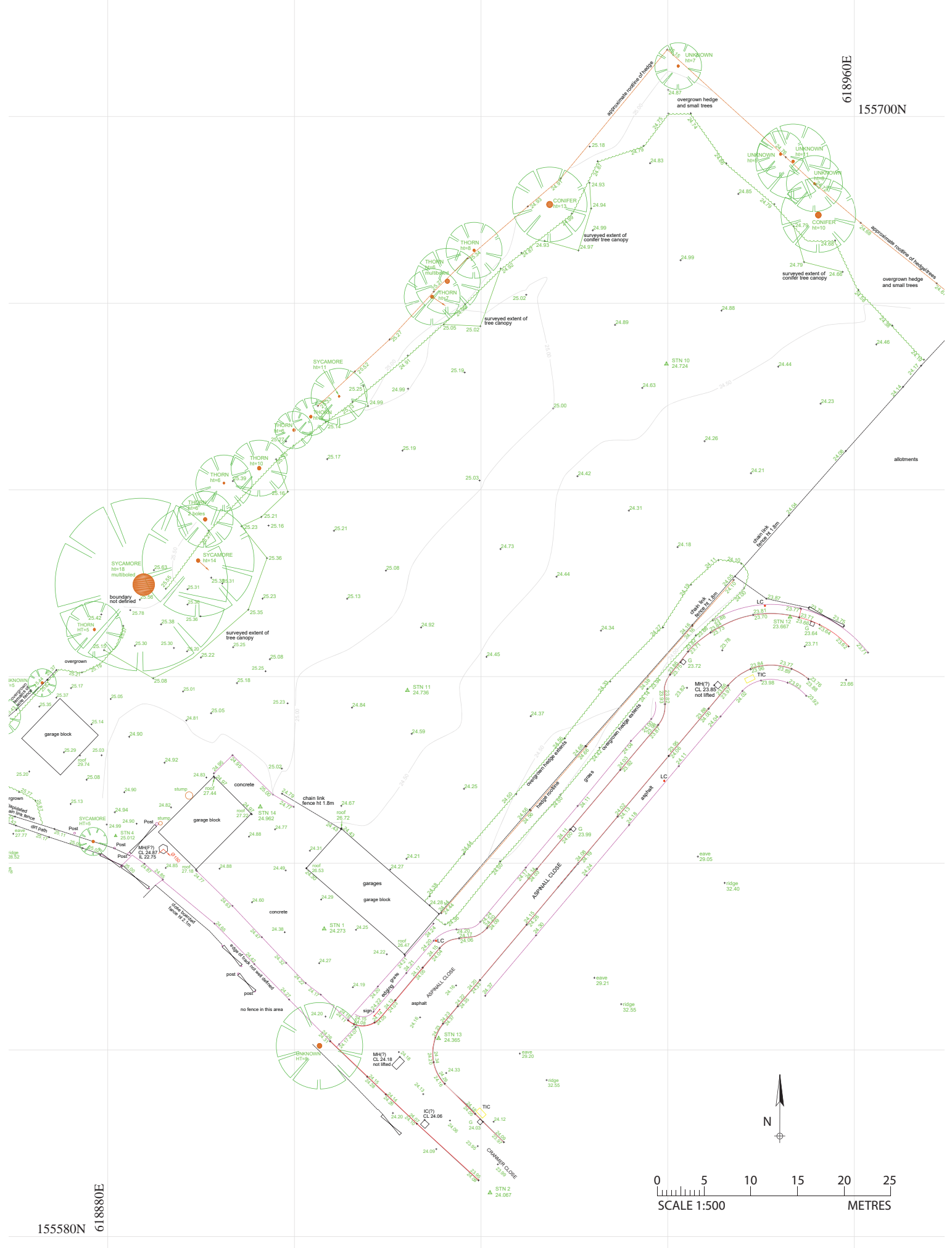


Figure 2: Site survey plan, scale 1:500.



Figure 3: Plan of proposed development, scale 1:500.

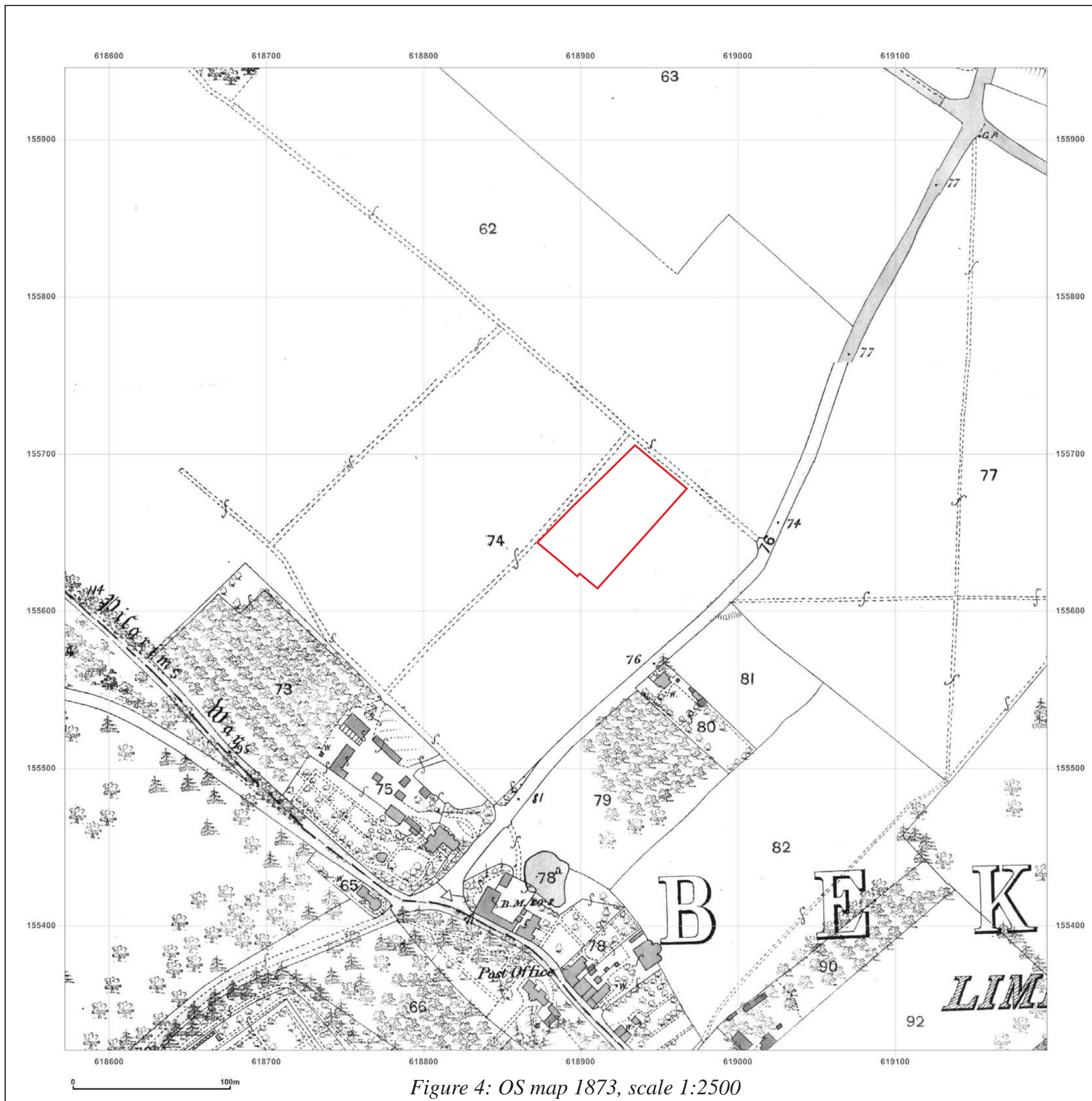


Figure 4: OS map 1873, scale 1:2500

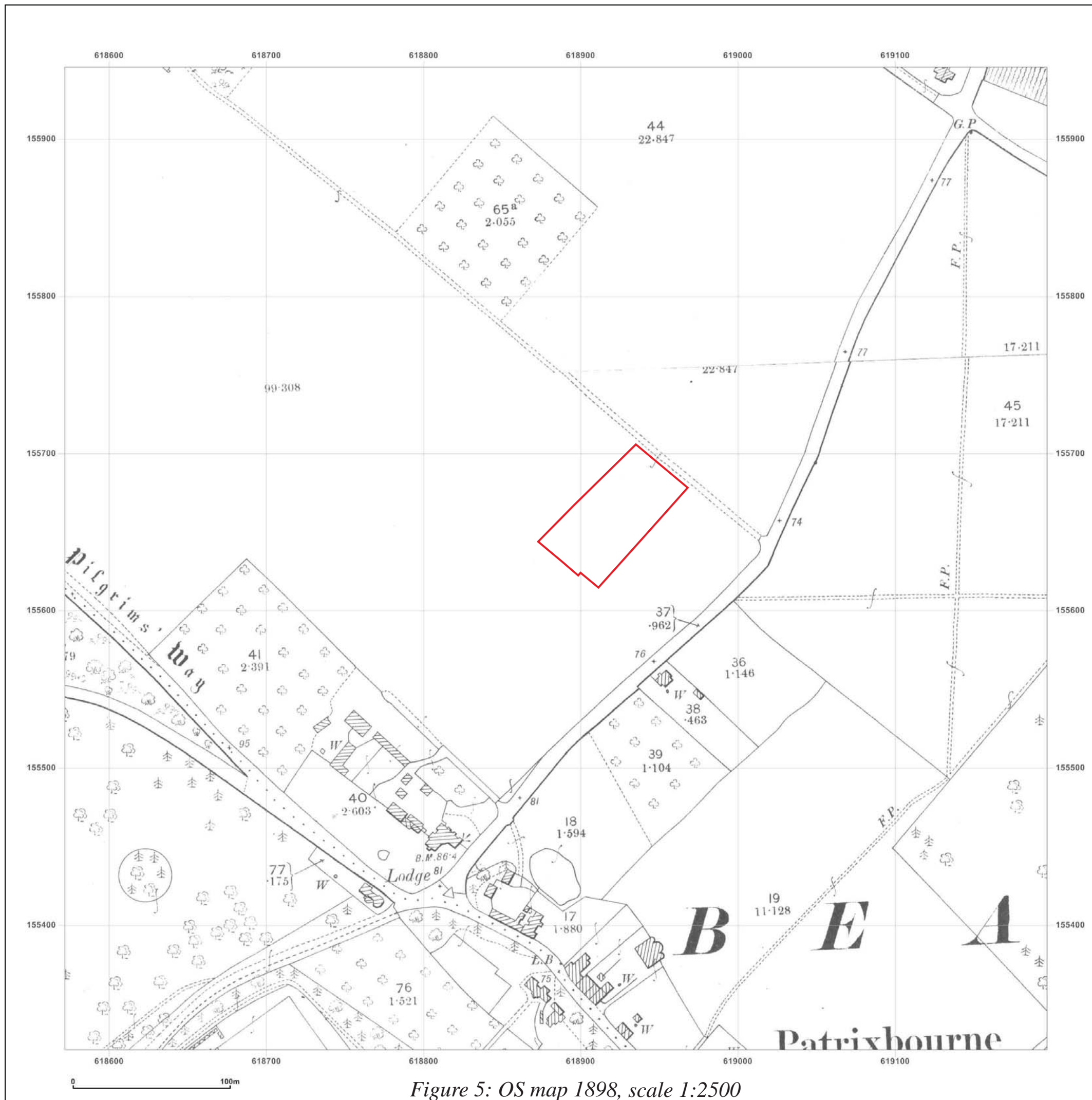


Figure 5: OS map 1898, scale 1:2500

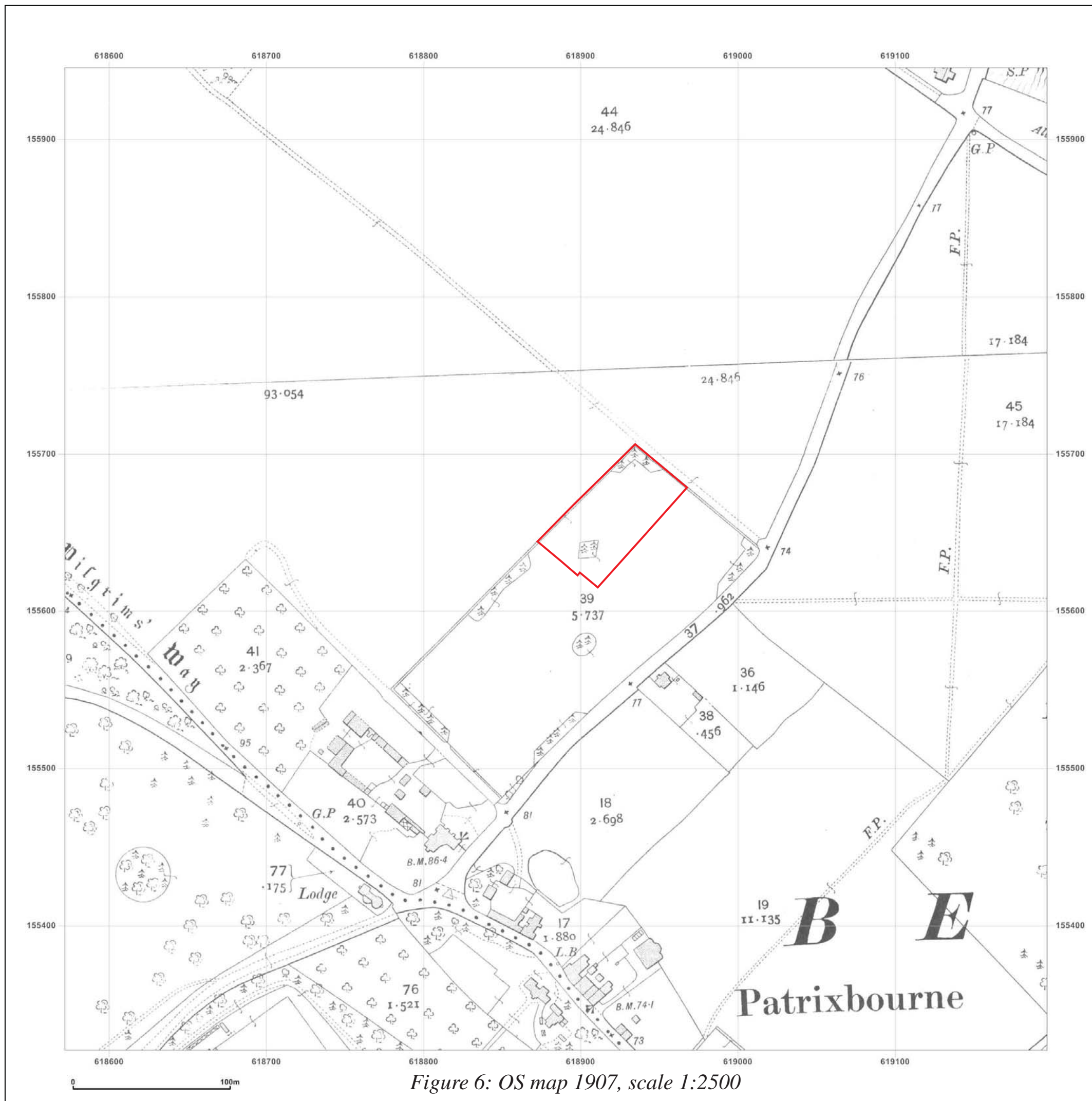


Figure 6: OS map 1907, scale 1:2500

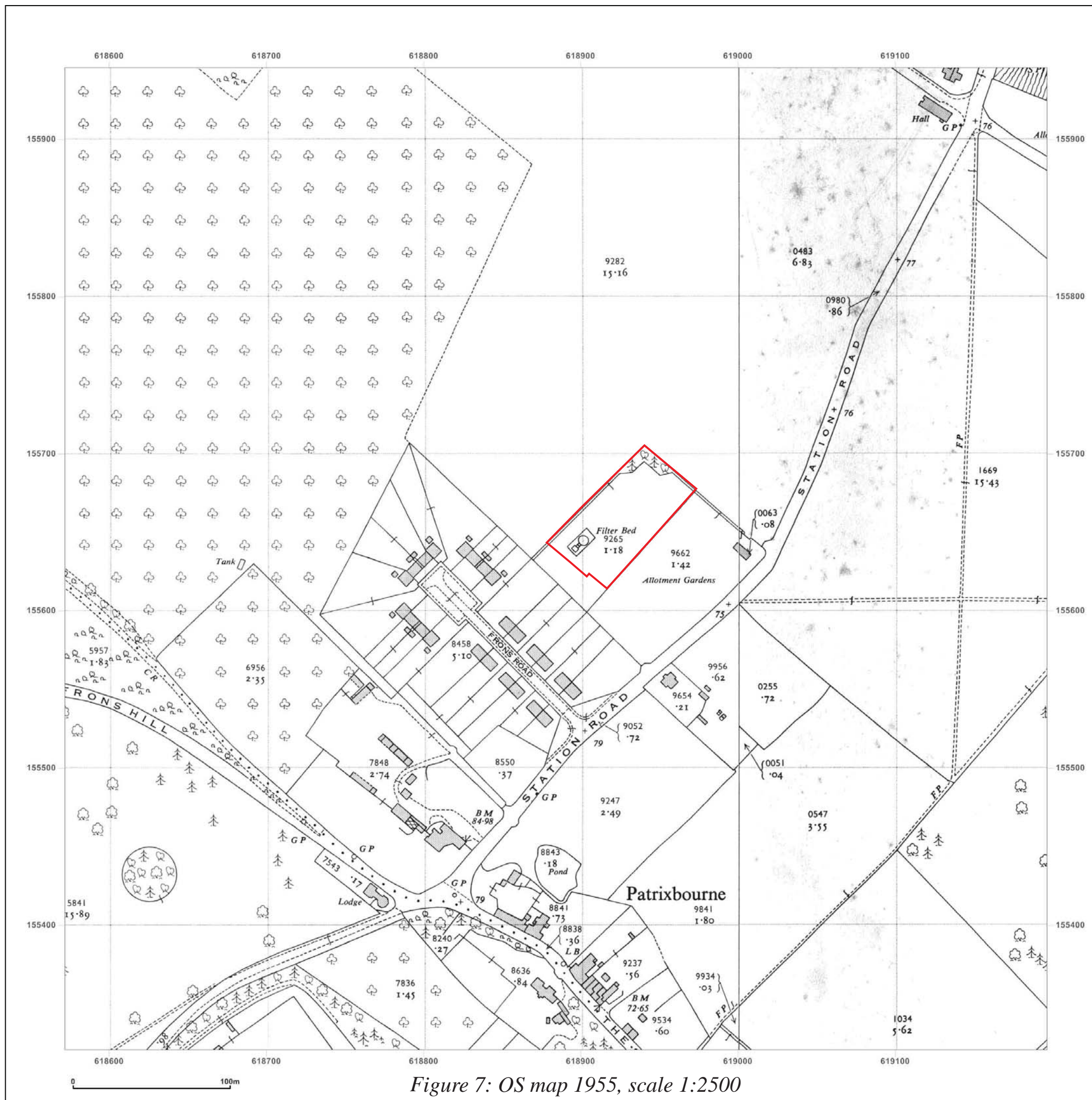


Figure 7: OS map 1955, scale 1:2500

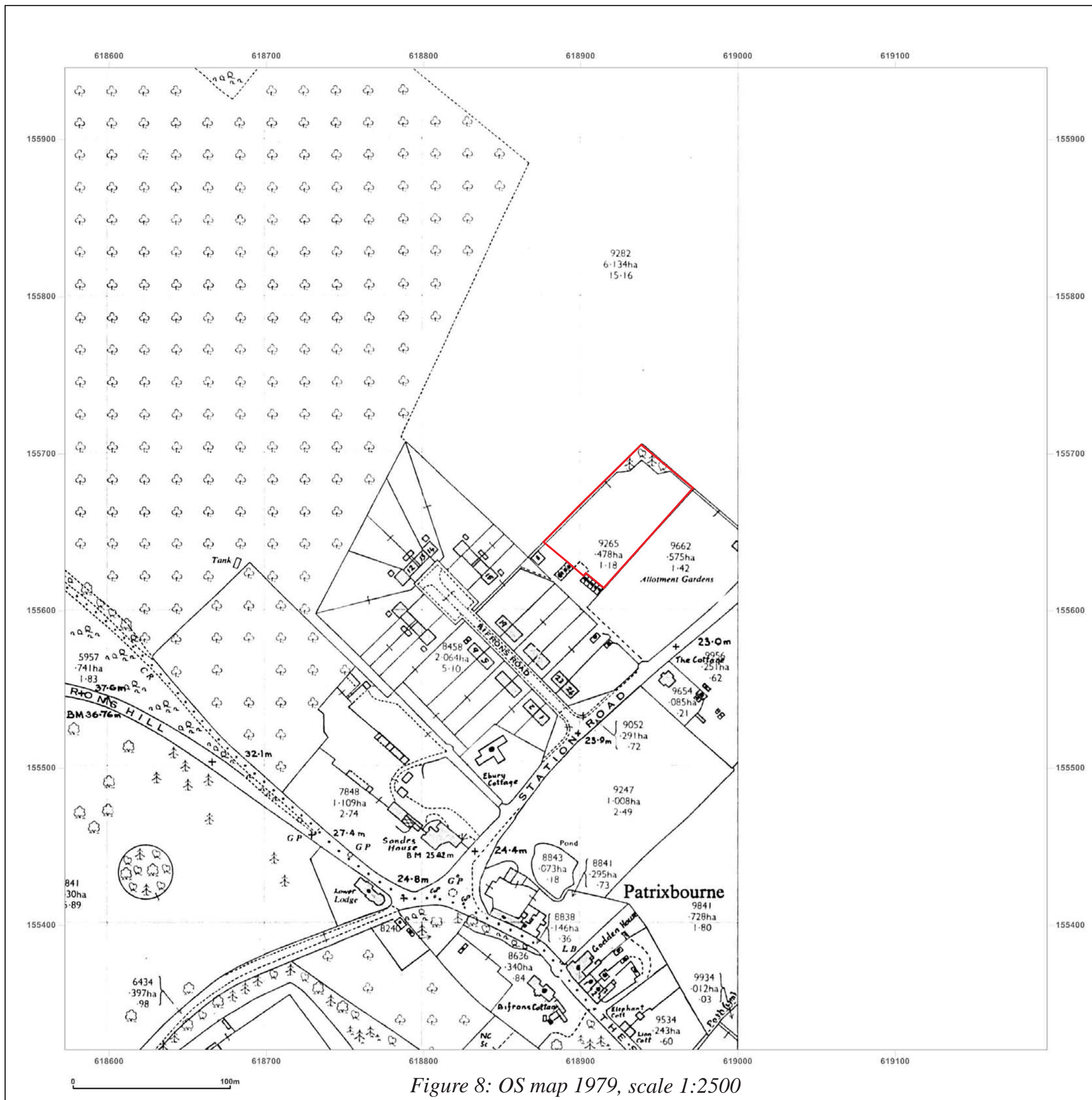


Figure 8: OS map 1979, scale 1:2500

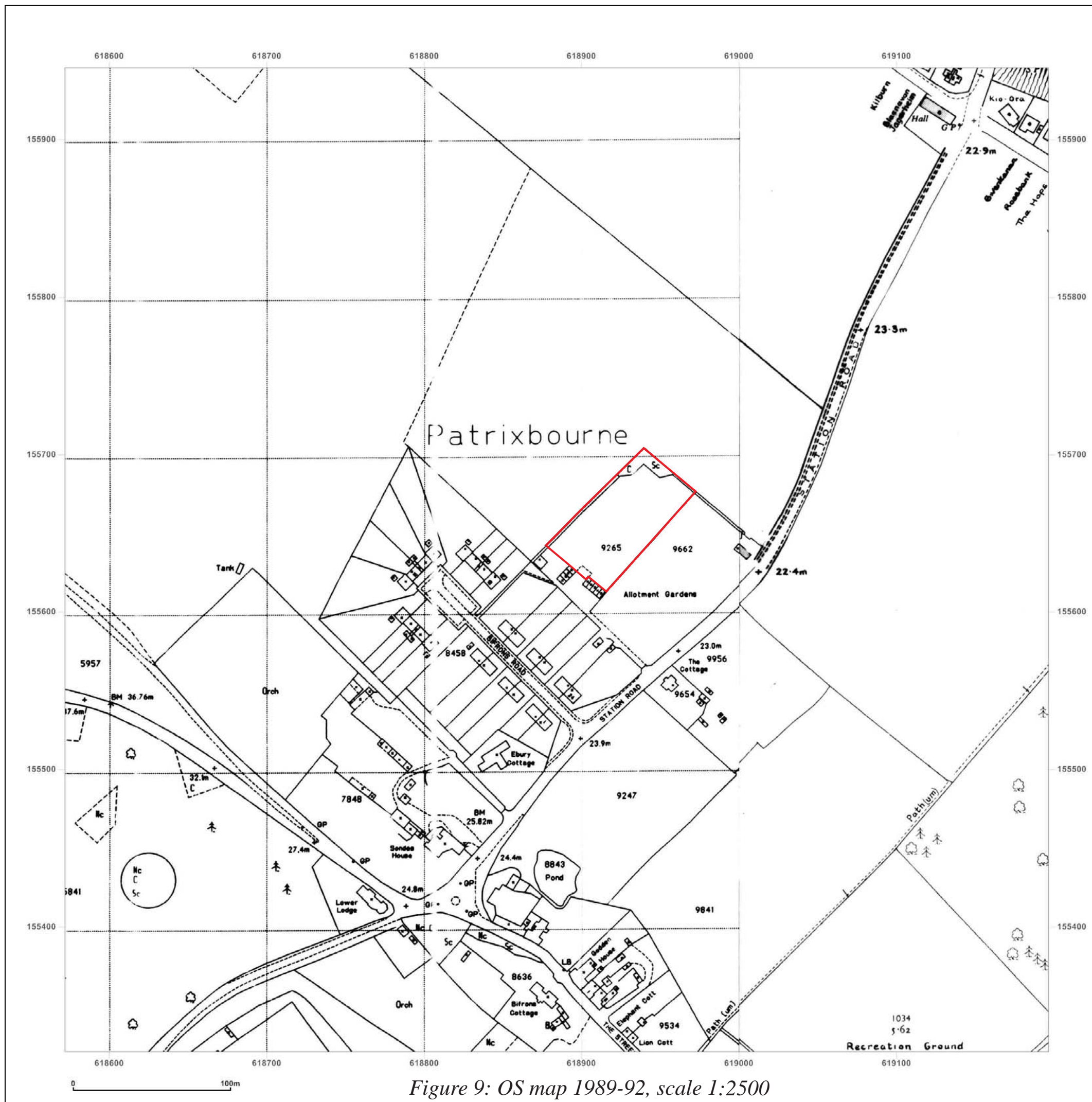


Figure 9: OS map 1989-92, scale 1:2500

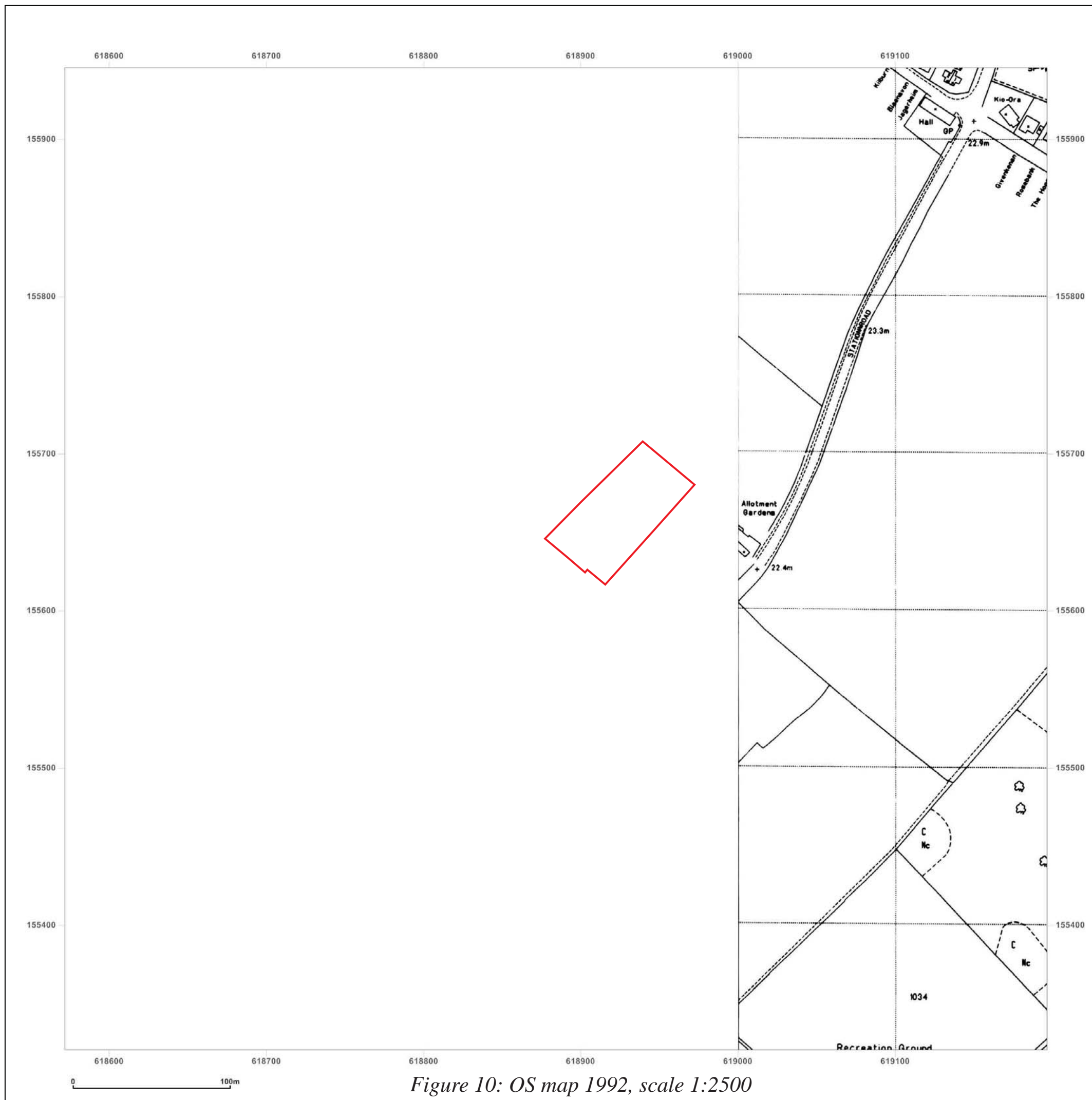
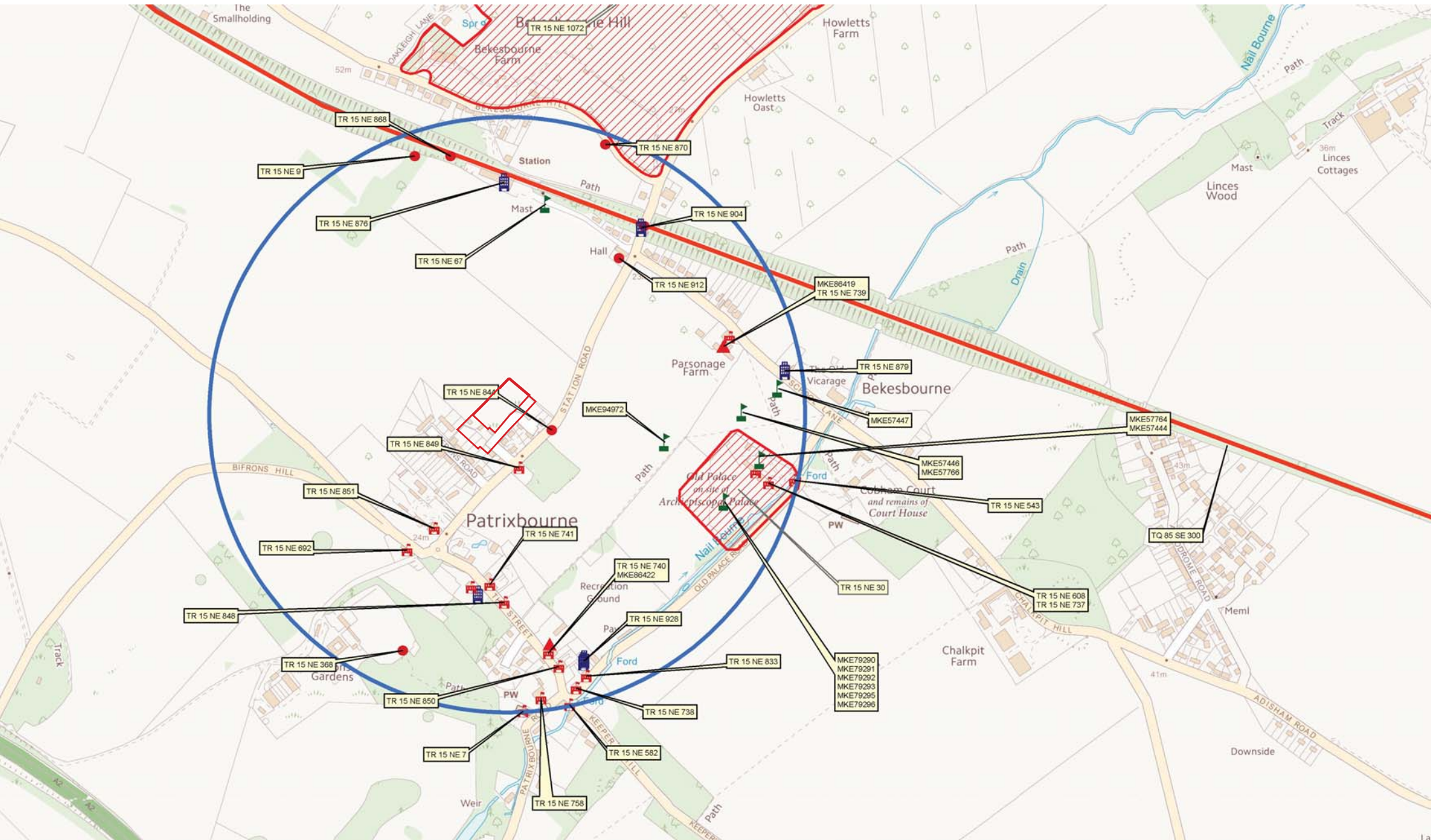


Figure 10: OS map 1992, scale 1:2500



0 87.5 175 262.5
METRES



Figure 11: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspinal Close - Monuments.

Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspinal Close - Events

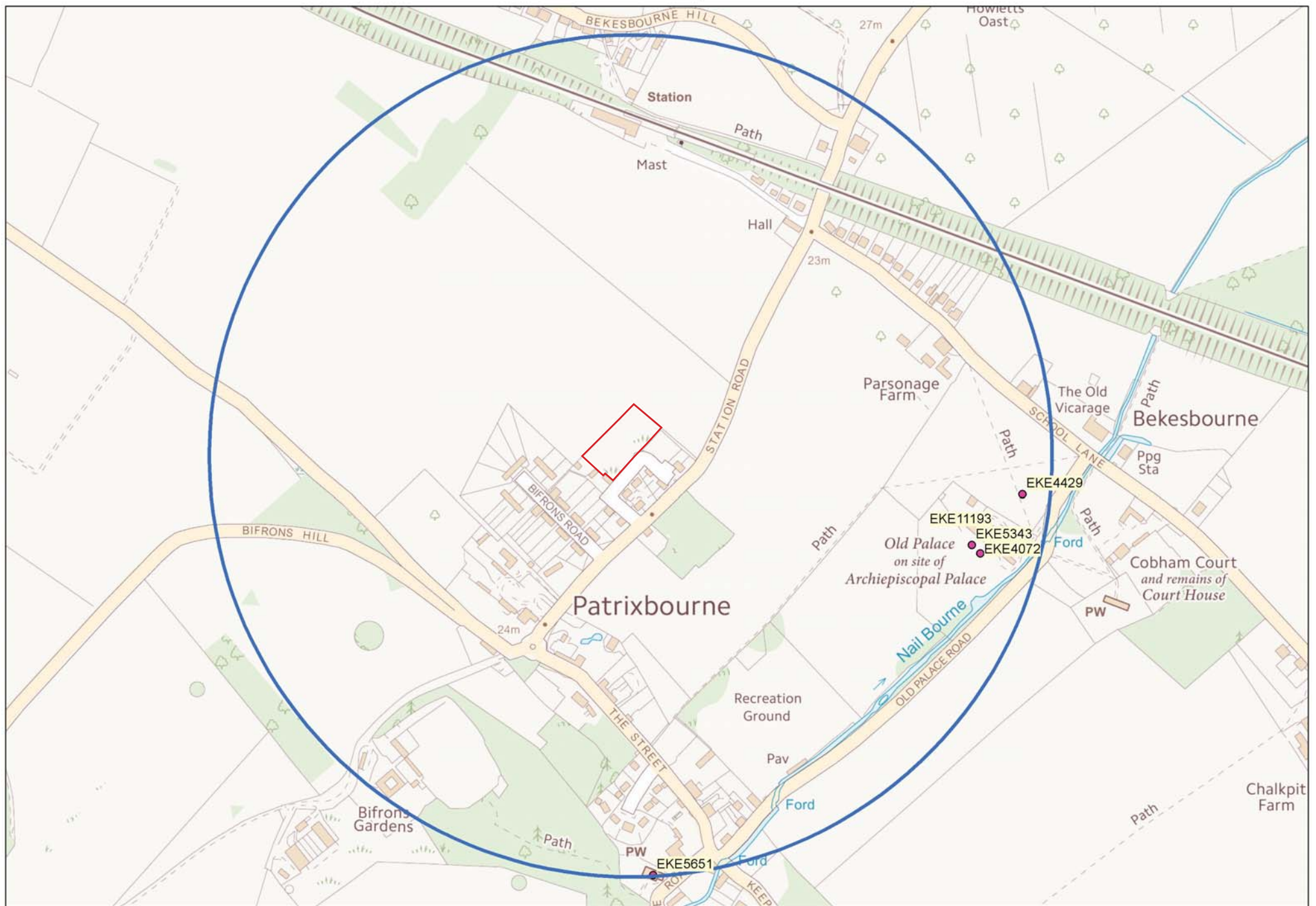


Figure 12: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspinal Close - Events.

Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspal Close - Reports

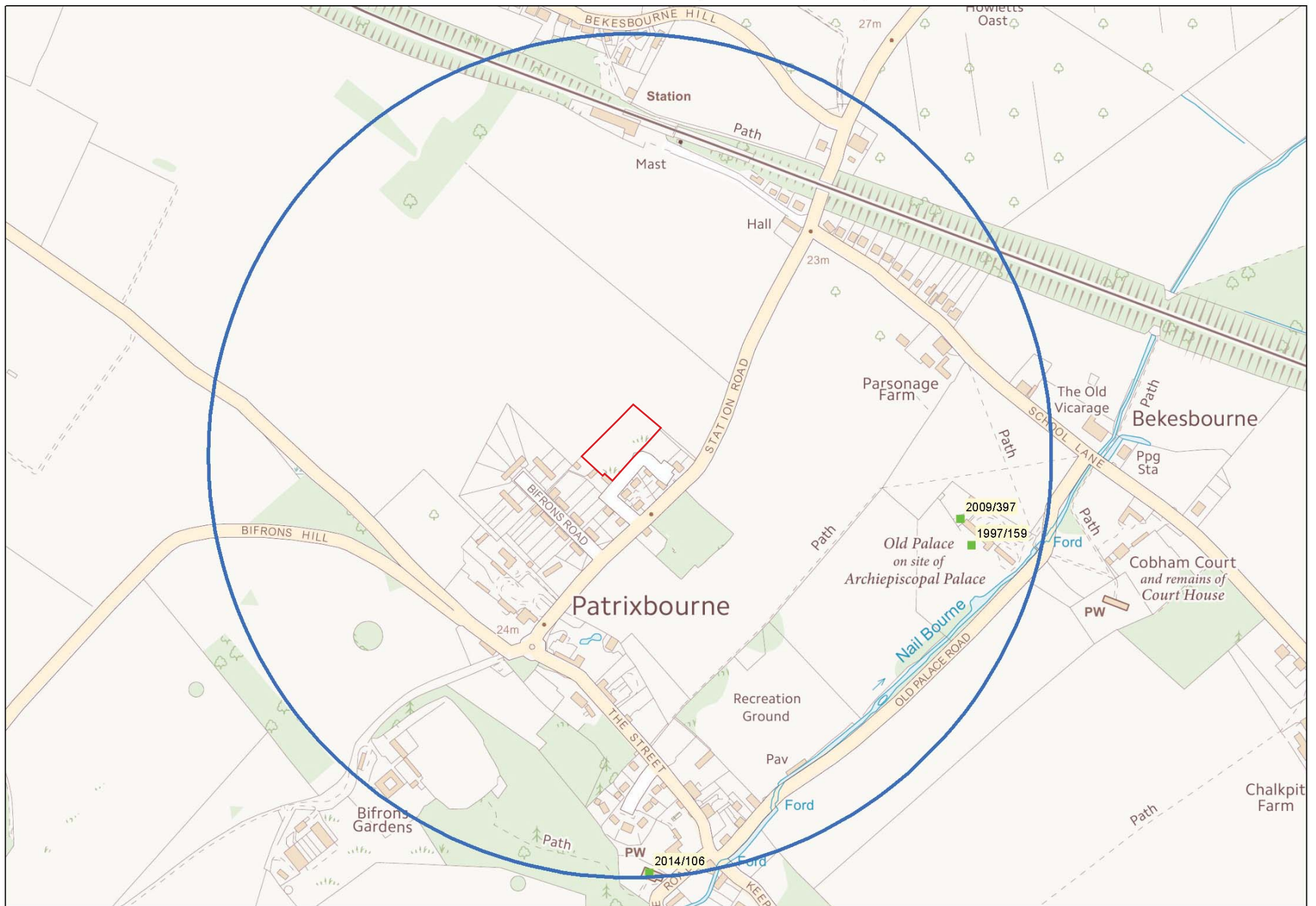


Figure 13: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspal Close - Reports.

Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspinal Close - Historic Landscape Character

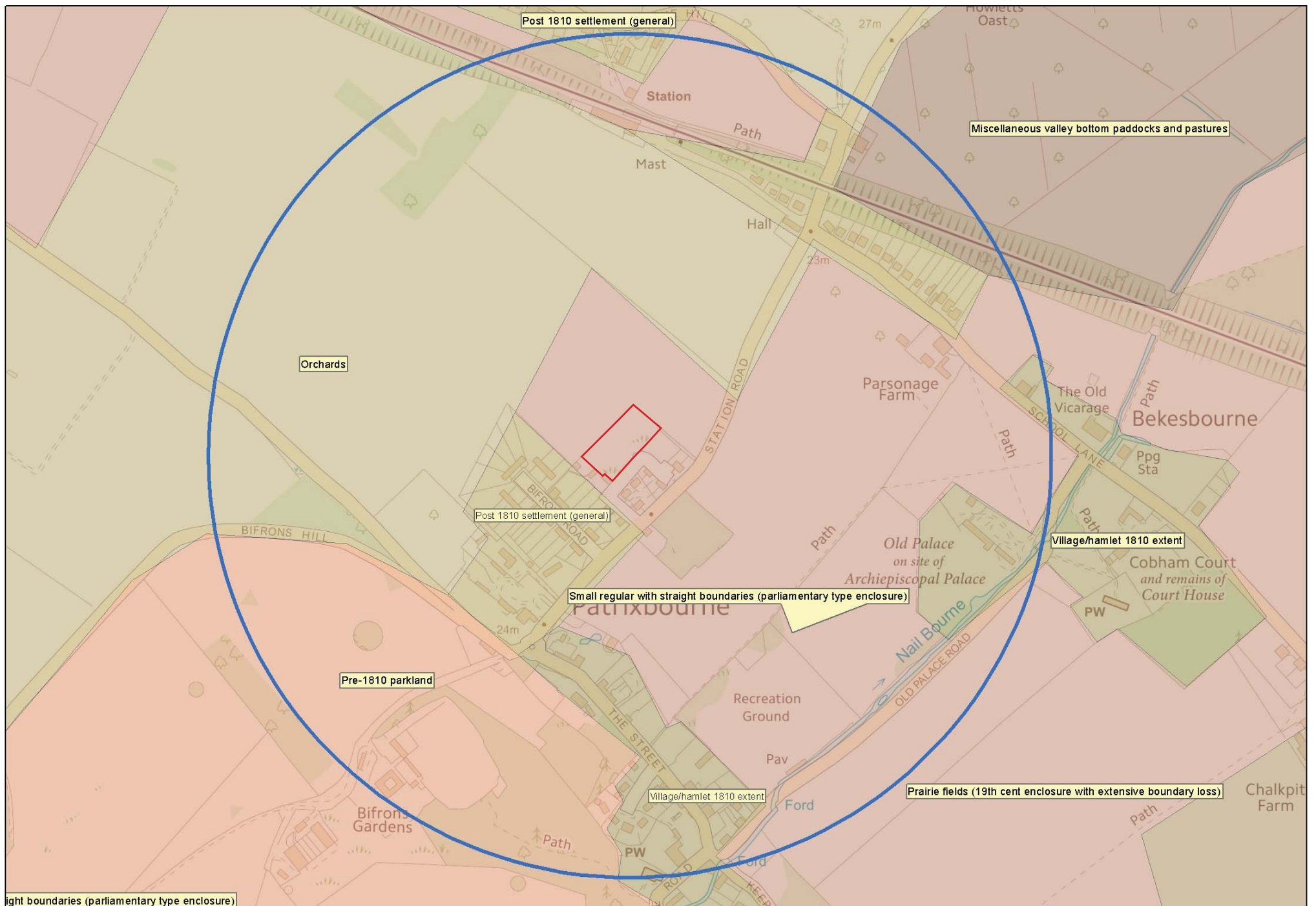


Figure 14: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspinal Close - Historic Landscape Character.

Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspal Close - Designations

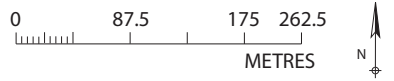
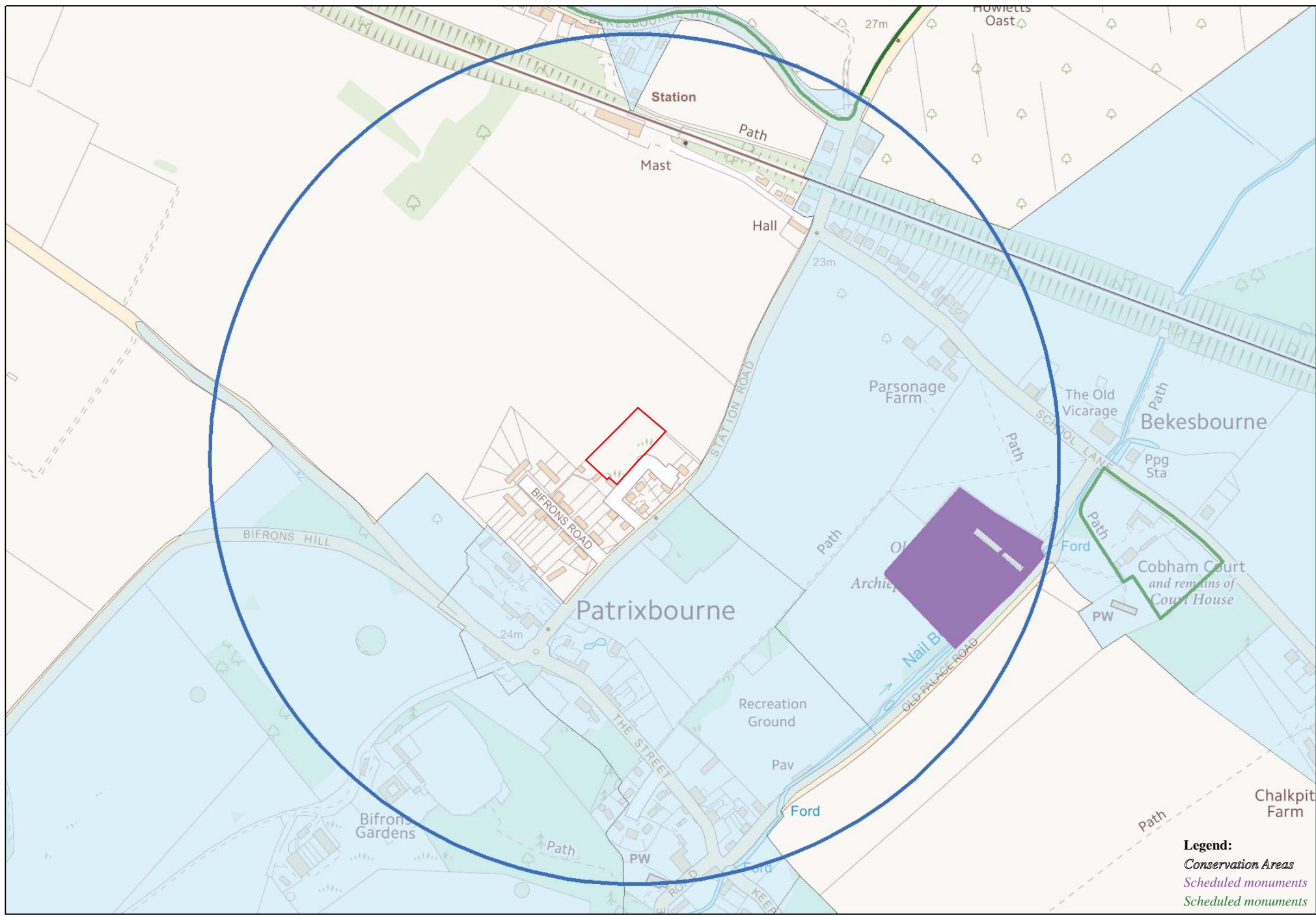


Figure 15: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspal Close - Designations.

Legend:
Conservation Areas
Scheduled monuments
Scheduled monuments

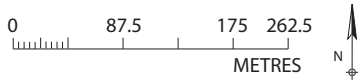
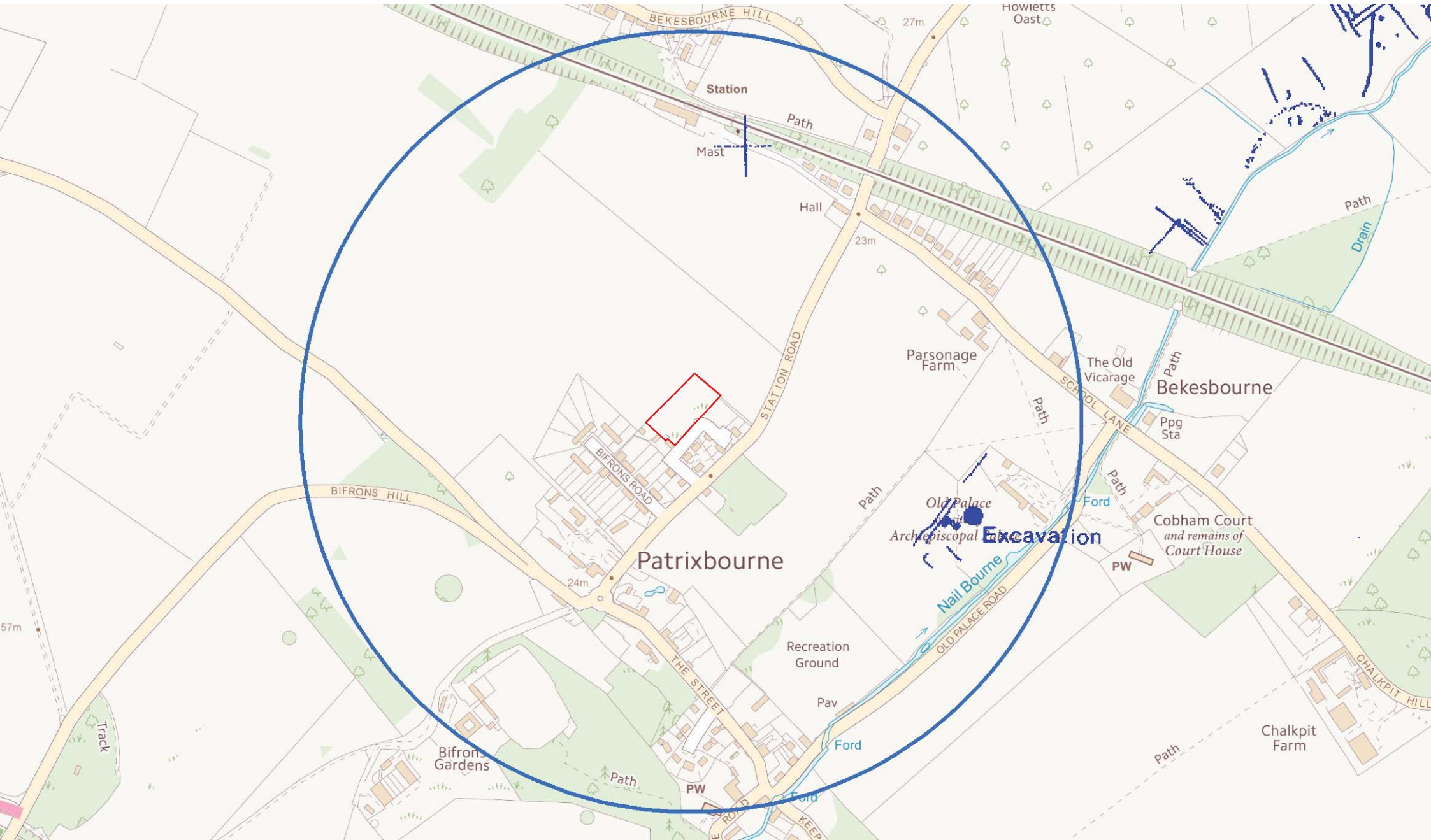


Figure 16: Kent Historic Environment Record - Aspin Close - Cropmarks.



Plate 1: Google aerial photograph from 1940

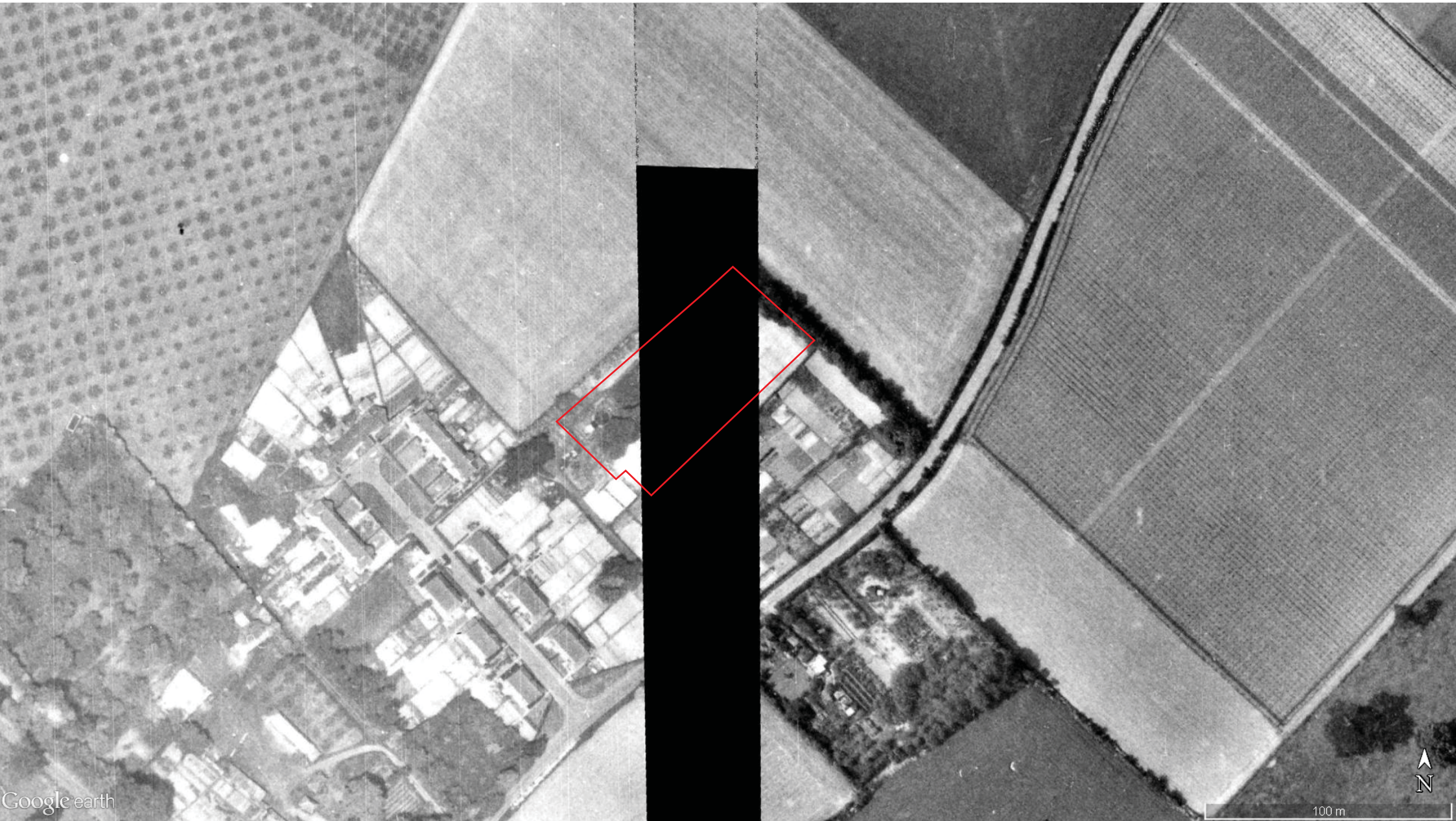


Plate 2: Google aerial photograph from 1960



Plate 3: Google aerial photograph from 1990



Plate 4: Google aerial photograph from 2013