

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT OF LAND AT GREAT
BOSSINGHAM FARM,
BOSSINGHAM, CANTERBURY, KENT.

November 2019

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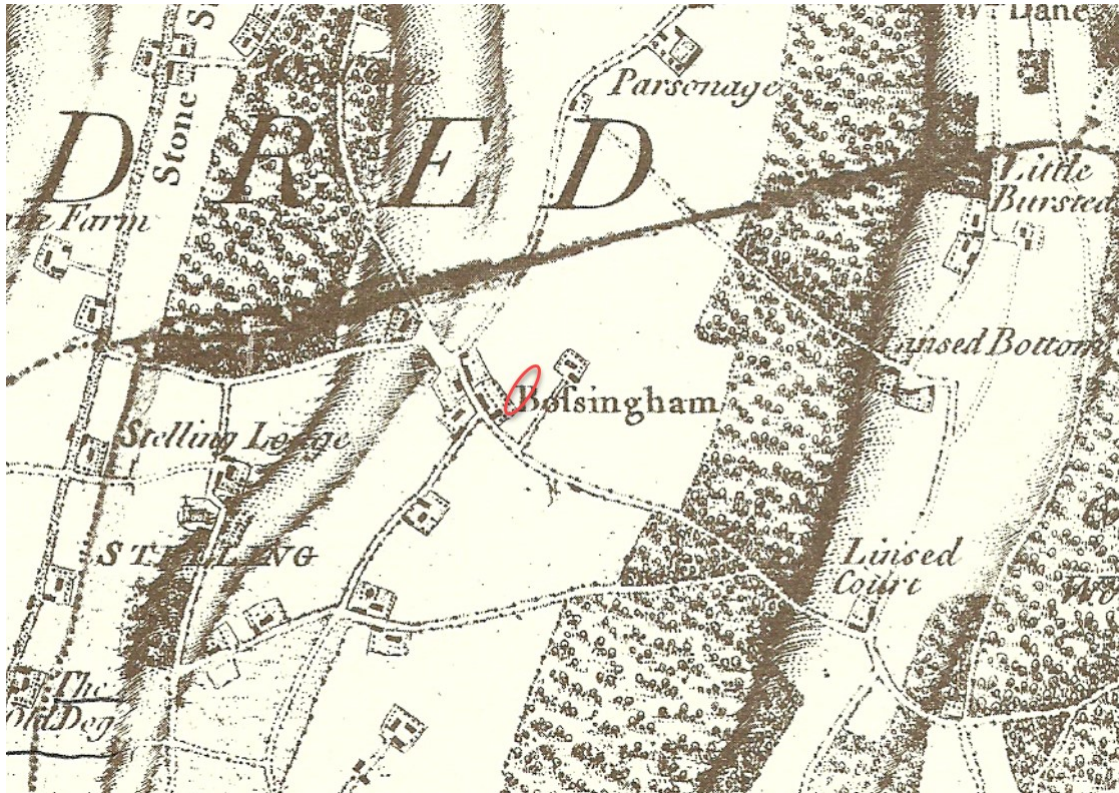


Figure 1: 1767 Andrews and Dury Map of Bossingham

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Bossingham is a small village located five miles south of Canterbury and two miles north of the village of Stelling Minnis and one mile south of the village of Upper Hardres.

There is little by way of below ground archaeology in the wider area around Bossingham. North east of PDA in Bursted Wood, east of Upper Hardres Court is a possible barrow or boundary marker (TR 15 SE 42). A chance find of a bronze age spearhead was found in Lynsore Wood in 1952 in a ditch to the east of the PDA (TR 14 NE 1). The area to the east of the PDA is a high ridge and beyond that the Barham Downs. It is likely that the area was extremely wooded in the prehistoric period and not heavily populated. Roman activity occurred to the west, with the Roman Road of Stone Street just under 1.5km away. Bossingham did not have an entry in the Domesday Book but nearby Stelling Minis did. At the time Stelling Minnis was very small with just one household of a smallholder with enough land for 1.5 plough team and woodland for 2 swine. The Domesday Book does mention one church. The Lord at the time of the invasion was Alred of Yalding and by 1086, Bishop Odo was the tenant in Chief. North of Bossingham the area of Lower and Upper Hardres was quite large and had 31 households and

also had a church. The Hardres family owned the area for 700 years after the Norman conquest.

It is thought that the origins of the name mean's 'Bosa's Field'. In old English it was written as 'Bosing camp', with the camp being corrupted to '-cum' and later '-ham'. Alternative spellings included 'Bosingkomp' in 1264 and 'Bosyncompe' in 1343.

Hasted, an historian at the end of the 18th century describes Stelling as in 'wild, hilly country' with barren soil of unfertile red earth. Bossingham is not even mentioned suggesting at this period is remained a small hamlet.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2019 Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIFA of SWAT Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of available data on land at Great Bossingham Farm, Bossingham, Canterbury, Kent.

1.2 Historic mapping, aerial photographs and the HER records were studied and archaeological activity within 500m of the proposed development site is minimal.

1.3 The principal elements of the archaeological survey involved the creation of a record and description of any known archaeological and historical sites within the environs of the PDA (Proposed Development Area) together with an analysis and interpretation of the site's origins and historic development.

1.5 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, East and East Kent 2012*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.6 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by aerial photographs and annotated plans.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located on the eastern side of at the north eastern end of Mann's Hill in Bossingham, Kent in an area behind the residential houses on Great Bossingham Farm. The NGR to the centre of site is TR 15181 49060 (Fig. 6).



Figure 2: 1879 OS Surveyors Drawing of Bossingham

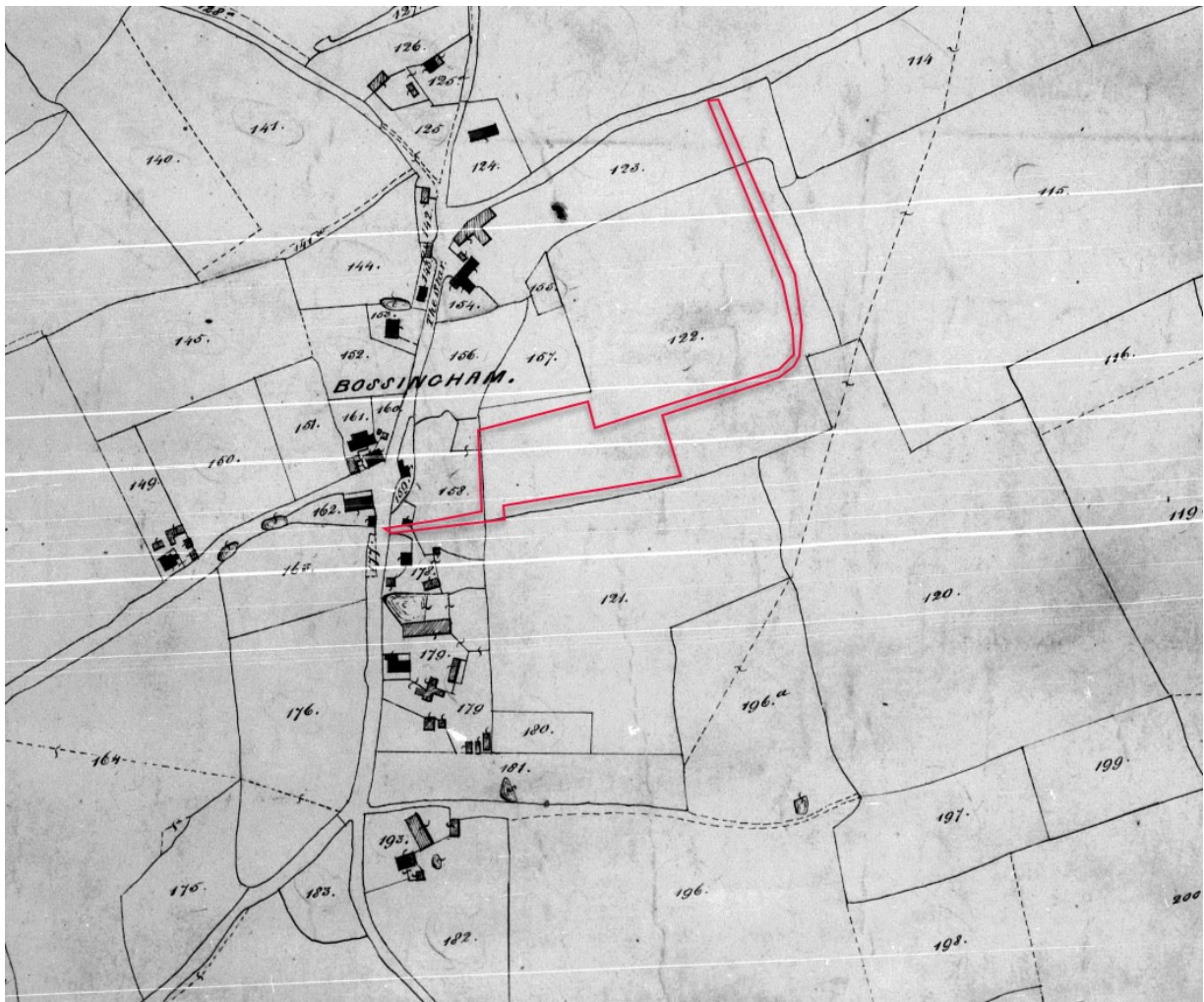


Figure 3: 1839 Great Hardres Tithe Map

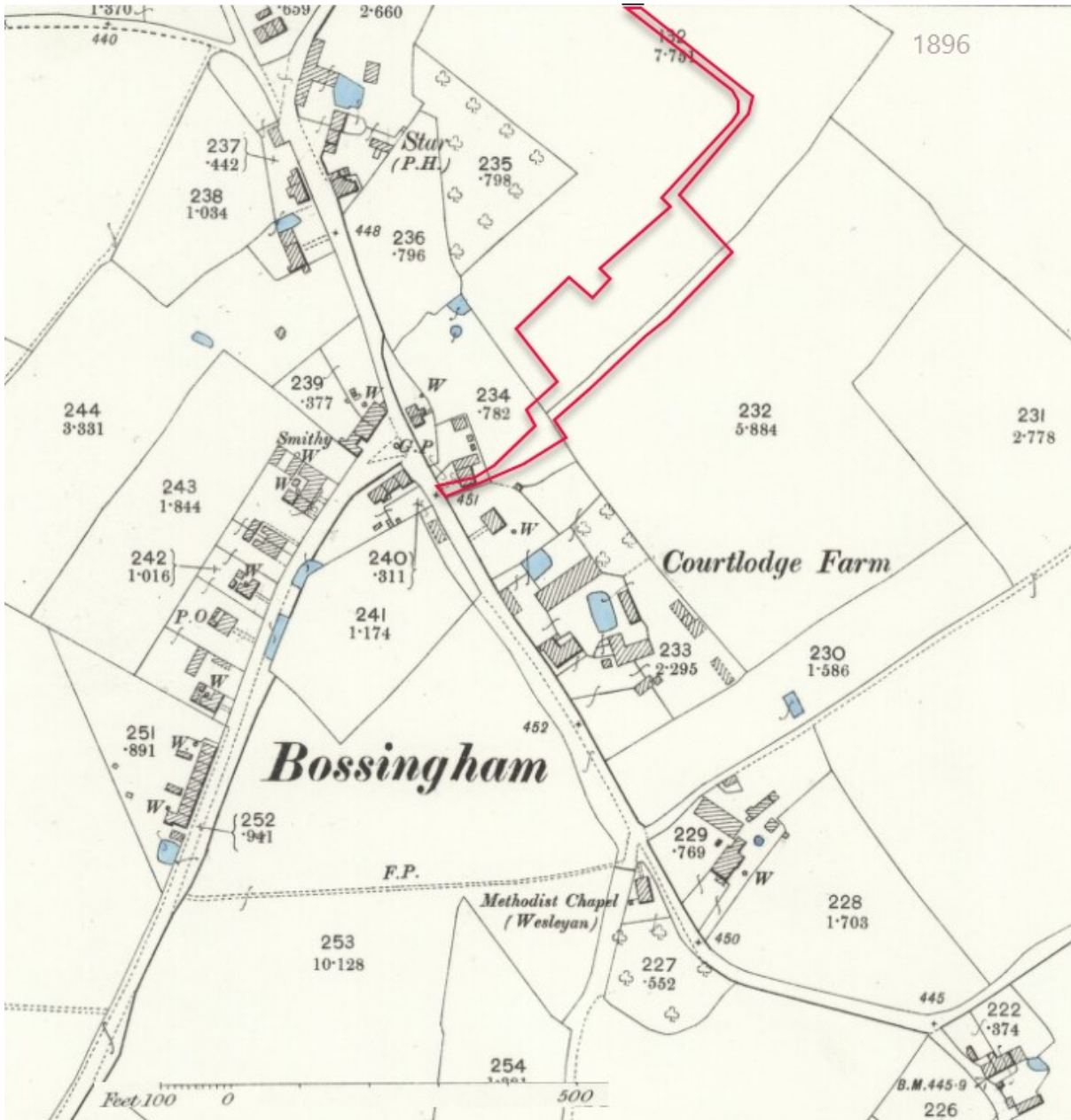


Figure 4: 1896 OS map of Bossingham

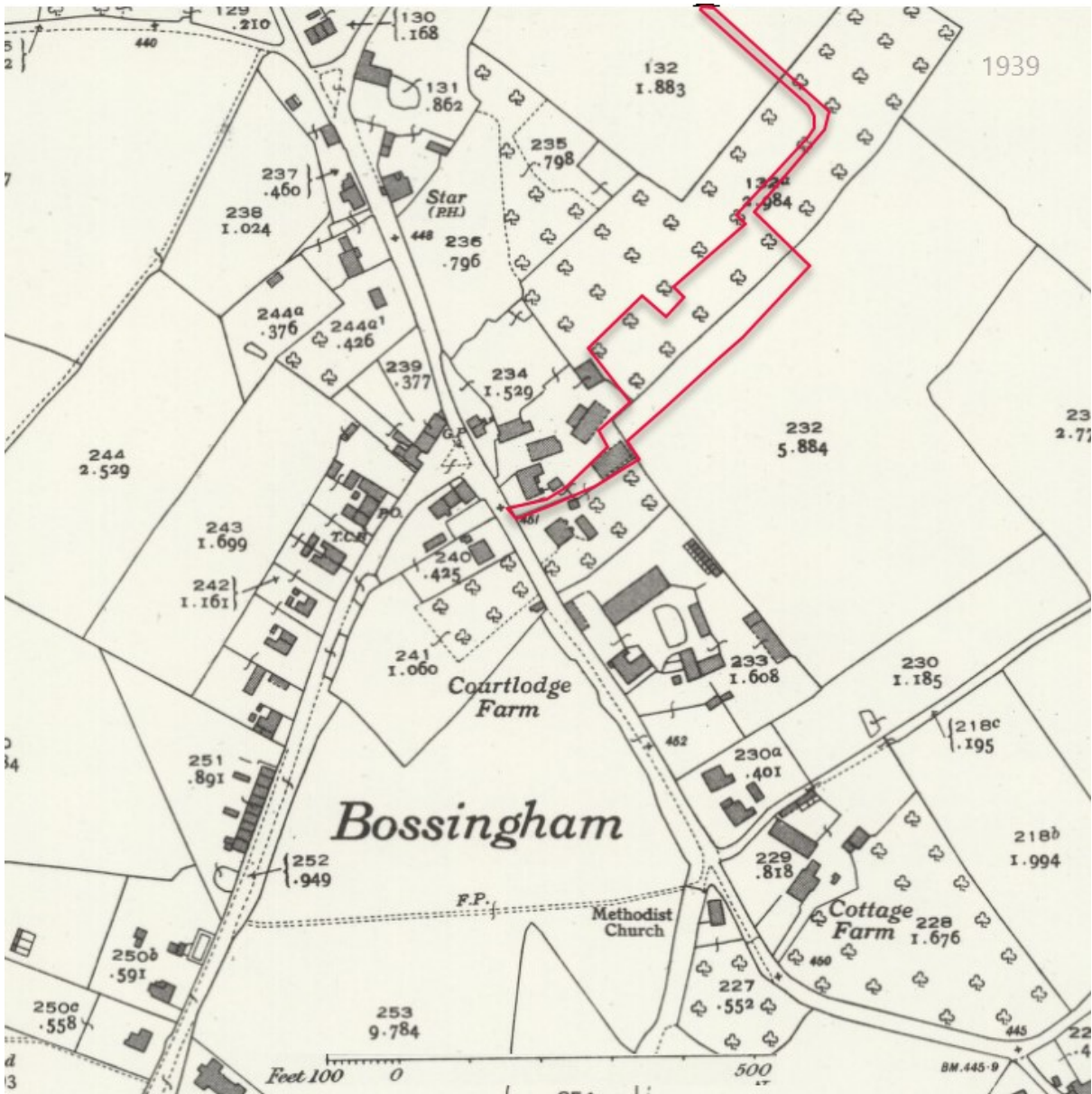


Figure 5: OS map surveyed in 1939

2.5 Historic Background

2.5.1 A map assessment of the Andrew's and Dury map of 1767 shows a sparsely populated and wooded landscape with scattered farms. Bossingham is a small hamlet congregated around a number of roads that meet (Fig. 1). This area is mainly agricultural with fields of pasture, arable and woodland with scattered farms. The map suggests that the area to the north east of the PDA includes a couple of buildings access via a track. The 1797 Ordnance Surveyors Drawing shows little change other than the buildings to the north east of the PDA no longer are seen in this map or any following. It is unclear how reliable position of the buildings seen in the 1769 map are and they may belong as outbuildings to the Court Lodge Farm situated south east of the PDA that has remnants of a trackway aside it in a north

easterly direction (Fig. 2). The tithe map is the first map that clearly shows the buildings (Fig.3). Area designated 179 is the Court Lodge Farm (MKE 87685) with the Grade II listed farmhouse (TR 14 NE 122). The PDA is predominately part of a large arable field designated 122 and owned by Henry Atwood and occupied by John Atwood. Area 178, which has a building located on the northern side of the entrance track to the PDA belongs to William Whitnal and is a house a yard, likely to be the farmhouse for Great Bossingham Farm (TR 14 NE 111), a Grade II listed building. Opposite the 'T' junction is York Cottage (TR 14 NE 114), a Post Medieval Grade II listed building. On the southern side of the T junction is Long Cottage (TR 14 NE 116), and on the northern side Japonica Cottage (TR 14 NE 119), both Post Medieval and Grade II listed. On the southern side of the entrance to the PDA are a pair of cottages (TR 14 NE 128), which are locally listed. In the 1896 OS map, the field boundaries in which the PDA sites remains unchanged (Fig. 4). By 1939, the field has been divided into two with half of the field now an orchard (Fig.5). The hamlet has now become a small village including a public house and properties located along the roads as ribbon developments.

2.5.2 Assessment of the aerial photography (Plates 1-4) confirm that the majority of the PDA was a mixture of arable, and orchards, at the south western end a large farm building had been built within the PDA. By 1960, little had changed. However, by 1990, the original farm building had been demolished and in the remainder of the PDA a number of other large buildings had been built, which were used as chicken sheds and with a large area of concrete hardstanding to the south west of the large northern shed.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

3.1 The KCCHER records (Fig. 4) show that the majority of records are those of Listed Buildings, locally listed buildings and Farmsteads, predominately along The Street, Bossingham Street and Mann's Hill, being the centre of the village. There were no below ground archaeological records in the assessment area. Even in the wider region immediately around Bossingham, archaeology prior to the Post Medieval period is non-existent.

4.0 CONSERVATION AREA

4.1 The conservation area (Fig. 8) essentially covers the extent of the settlement Bossingham, along the Street, Mann's Hill and also out along Bossingham street and Hardres Court Road. Only the far south east corner of Bossingham is not within the Conservation

Area. The Conservation Area was designated in 1995 although no appraisal has yet been produced. The majority of the 'T' junction in the village with most houses circa 18th century. The PDA lies within the northern extent of the Conservation area in what is predominately fields, with the exception of the farm buildings and chicken sheds. Either side of the entrance to the PDA from Mann's Hill is the Grade II listed Great Bossingham Farmhouse and the locally listed building of The Cottages. Due to the curve of the entrance track and the buildings lining the road, the farm buildings are not visible from the road. The rear of both houses would have views towards the sheds, though the view from Great Bossingham farm is limited by a residential house called Tullivers and from The Cottages by fencing and trees. The view towards the PDA from the Grade II listed Court Lodge is also restricted by vegetation. The current development of modern farm buildings, is considered to have a negative impact on the Conservation Area.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 A review of the available data shows that the site of the PDA is of low archaeological interest. The proposed development is for five residential units and a workshop on the site of the current dilapidated chicken sheds, which lie within the Conservation Area for Bossingham and had a negative impact. Great Bossingham Farm is essentially a modern farm (there is no associated farmstead record with that of the farmhouse), where the buildings were built in an area that had been arable field and orchards until sometime between the 1960 and 1980s. These modern sheds with concrete hardstanding areas are likely to have had a high impact upon any potential archaeology at the site. Therefore, the proposed development will not impact on any known archaeological resource. The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further assessment and/or archaeological works should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

6.0 PARAMETERS

6.1 The archaeological survey was conducted using on-line data from Historic England and other agencies.

Dr Paul Wilkinson PhD., MCIfA., FRSA. Dated 10th June 2019



Plate 1: Aerial image of the site in 1940s (Google Earth)



Plate 2: Aerial image of the site in 1960s (Google Earth)



Plate 3: Aerial image of the site in 1990 (Google Earth)



Plate 4: Aerial image of the site in 2017 (Google Earth)

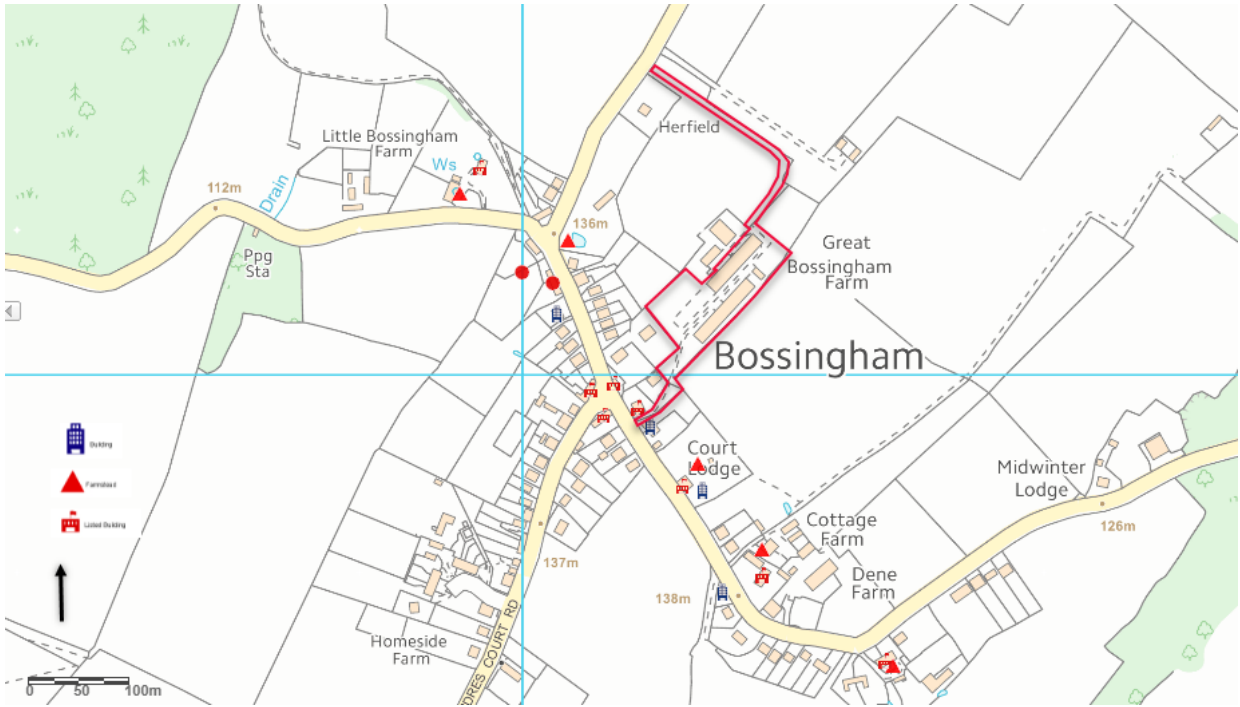


Figure 6: Site plan 1:5,000 and KCC HER Data



Figure 7: Proposed Development

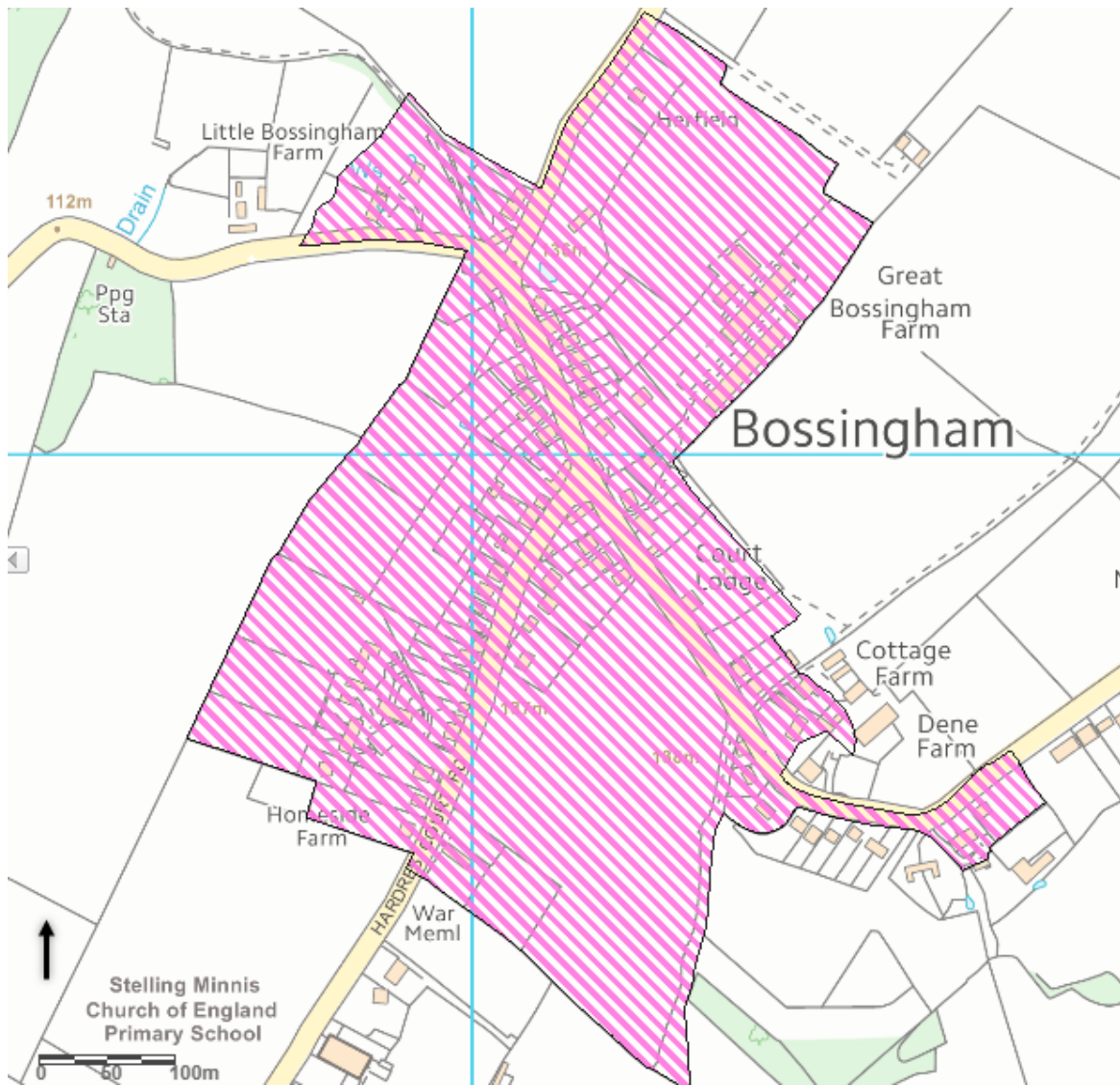


Figure 8: Conservation Area



Plate 5: Entranceway into the PDA (facing NNE)



Plate 6: Entranceway into the PDA (facing SSW)



Plate 7: View across PDA (facing NE)



Plate 8: View of the western barn building (facing NNE)



Plate 9: View of the building at the north eastern end of the eastern most barn (facing ENE)



Plate 10: View of the north western corner of the eastern most barn (facing SSW)



Plate 11: View across the PDA on the western side (facing SW)



Plate 12: View across the PDA (facing SW)