

Heritage Statement:
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Land to the West of Kennetholme Quarry
Colthrop, Thatcham
West Berkshire
RG19 4NT

National Grid Reference: SU 536 662

Dr Peter Wardle, Colin Lacey & Dr Heather Papworth
15/12/2016

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Version Control

Version No	Draft	Content Added/Omitted	Date
0.5	Client Draft		
0.7	LPA Draft	Client Comments	
1	Issued Report		
1.5		Revised Redline	15/12/16

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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
Land to the West of Kennetholme Quarry, Colthrop, Thatcham West
Berkshire RG19 4NT
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1. Summary

The land is located in an area in which nationally important prehistoric archaeological remains have been recorded. It is in the vicinity of a Roman road and air photographs from the 1940s to the 1980s show extensive crop marks over the southern and western parts of the site.

The land is, however, heavily disturbed. This will undoubtedly have an effect on the preservation of below-ground archaeological remains.

The areas in which crop marks were observed were subject to extensive topsoil stripping in the 1980s to an unknown depth. The level of archaeological survival here is unknown.

The remainder of the land to the east and northeast is extensively disturbed by the excavation of water treatment lakes / lagoons and has been recently used for fill and quarrying. There is considered to be no potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains in this part of the land.

Two fields to the west of the site are considered to have good potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Client

This report was commissioned by Matt Taylor of JSA Planning on 21st April 2015 for and on behalf of the landowners (Grundon Waste Management Limited and the Henry family).

2.2 Confidentiality and Copyright

This document is to remain confidential for a period of 12 months or until it forms part of a formal planning application or until otherwise indicated by the client. The copyright of this report belongs to the Historic Environment Consultancy. No liability to third parties is accepted for advice and statements made in this report.

2.3 The Land

This report is an archaeological desk based assessment on 45 Ha of land the location of which is as follows

Address:	Land to the West of Kennetholme Quarry, Colthrop, Thatcham
County:	West Berkshire
Post Code	RG19 4NT
Grid Reference:	SU 536 662

The general location is shown in Figure 1 and the specific location in Figure 2.

This report forms part of the Heritage Statement which will accompany the planning application for a proposal to extract gravel.

2.4 Site Visit

The land was visited by Dr Peter Wardle, Colin Lacey and Dr Heather Papworth on the 4th June 2015 and again on the 27th July 2015.

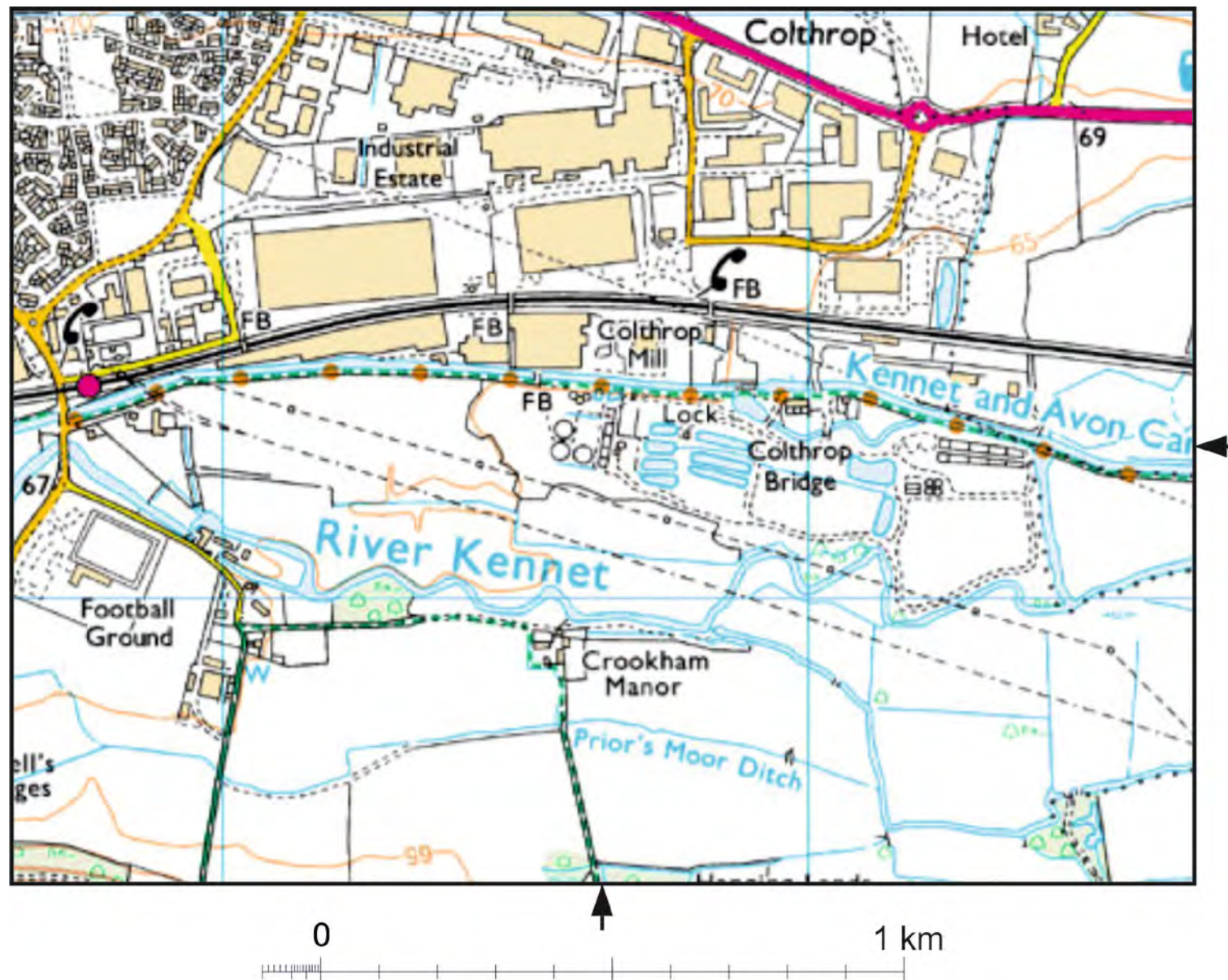


Figure 1: General Location Plan, 1:10,000 @ A4



Figure 2: Detailed Location Plan. Scale 1:5,000 @ A3

For reasons of clarity, the land is divided into 10 areas, as follows:

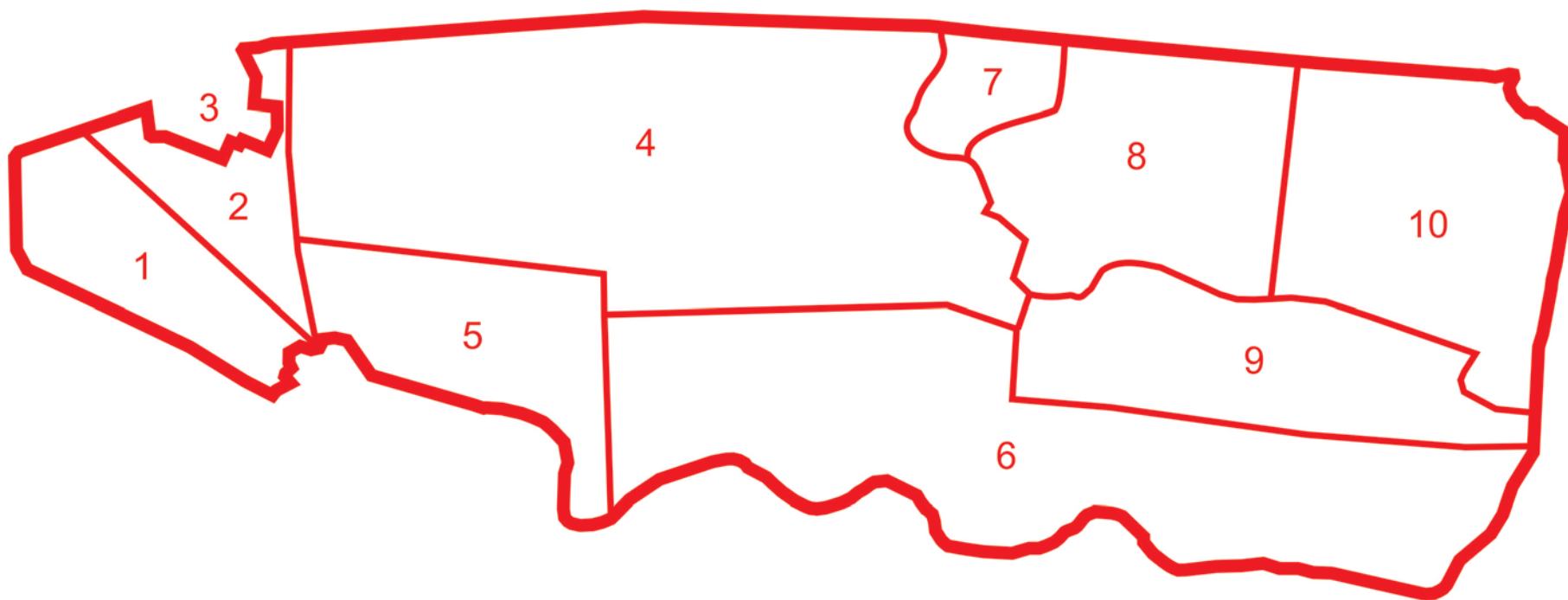


Figure 3: Area divisions (1:5000 @ A4)

2.5 Current Land Use

The land is currently a mixture of fallow land, pasture, quarrying, former landfill and disused industrial.

2.6 Topography

The land is flat, in the floodplain of the River Kennet, at a height of 65mOD.

2.7 Geology

To the south and east: London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt And Sand, with superficial deposits of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel. To the northwest: Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt And Sand, with superficial deposits of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel.

3. Historic Background

3.1 The History of the Settlement

Colthrop is located to the east of Thatcham and Newbury and the southwest of Reading. It originated as a manor of Thatcham and is identified with the Domesday manor of Crokestrope. The name is variously referred to as Cold-throp, Col-thorp, Cole-trop and Crochestrope. The suffix 'throp' or 'thorp' means a village, while the affix 'Col' is probably a corruption of the Domesday name of 'Croche'.

The manor was in the hands of Henry I, who granted it at the same time as the manor of Aldermaston to Robert Achard. It was held of the lords of Aldermaston, the Achards and their successors the Delameres, until the 16th century, but the overlordship disappeared when the manor was released to Henry VIII by the under-tenants, the Warden and scholars of St. Mary's College, Winchester.

A 'several fishery' (a private fishery founded upon ownership of the underlying soil) was held by the lords of the manor in the 14th century and four were mentioned in a 1547 manor rental document - one in the Kennet, two in 'Allforde's Stream' and the fourth in the 'King's Stream' alias 'High Stream'.

3.2 The Mill

The first reference to a mill in Colthrop occurs in 1376. Two mills are reported to have been built in 1472, one likely to be a rebuilding of the earlier corn mill, the second considered to be a fulling mill. By 1689, it appears the fulling mill had been converted into a corn mill owing to the decline in the textile industry in the area. Prior to 1799, both mills were replaced by a paper mill.

The paper mill was located on the north side of the canal around Colthrop Lock, immediately opposite the land. It continued to operate until the late 20th century. Paper sack manufacture had been started at Colthrop in 1927. In 1930 this operation had been transferred to Aylesford and was subsequently sold to Albert E Reed and Company in 1932.

The mill had its own railway sidings and locomotive.

In 1950 the Reed Paper Group Limited took a financial interest in the Colthrop site, taking over completely in 1956. In May 1955, work was started on a new building (the North Board Mill), which was completed in May, 1958, at a cost of £5 million. The paper mill closed in 2000. The northern part of the land features water treatment tanks and infrastructure relating to the paper mill. A pipe bridge crosses the canal from the former mill buildings.



Plate 1: Mill buildings (blue) viewed from the canal towpath



Plate 2: Mill buildings and pipe bridge viewed from the canal towpath



Plate 3: Mill buildings viewed from the canal towpath

3.3 The Canal

The northern boundary of the land is formed by the towpath of the Kennet and Avon Canal. The canal has an overall length of 87 miles stretching from Bristol in the west to Reading in the East and is made up of two lengths of navigable river linked by a canal. From Bristol to Bath the waterway follows the natural course of the River Avon before the canal links it to the River Kennet at Newbury, and from there it continues to Reading on the River Thames.

The section of the canal from Reading to Newbury (technically a river navigation / canalised river known as the Kennet Navigation) was opened in 1723. This is the stretch of water running to the north of the land. The southern boundary of the land is formed by the River Kennet. The river has numerous bends at this point and the canal was constructed to provide a straighter, more easily navigable alternative.

The canal finally opened in entirety from Bristol to London in 1810 and became a busy freight route, but it fell into disuse in the 1950s after seeing a decline in traffic following the opening of the Great Western Railway in 1841, despite the canal company lowering tariffs on passage.

In 1852 the Great Western Railway took over the canal's operation, levying high tolls at every toll point and reducing the amount spent on maintenance. Ice-breaking was stopped in 1857, and traders were further encouraged by preferential tolls to use the railway rather than the canal. In 1861 a new order prohibited any traffic on the canal at night, and, in 1865, boats were forced to pass through locks in pairs to reduce water loss. By 1868 the annual tonnage had fallen from 360,610 in 1848 to 210,567.

Water abstraction in the 1870s near Fobney Lock to the east of the land was a contributory factor to the silting up of the canal and some locks and consequently several towpaths and wharves were closed. The decline continued with the Great Western Railway seeking to close the canal in 1926 following a loss of £18,041 the previous year. Their request was rejected and they were charged with improving their maintenance of the canal. The freight trade was in decline, but the canal was beginning to be used for recreational purposes.

Following the Second World War, the canal was transferred into the control of the British Transport Commission. The last through passage of the canal was made in 1951 by the narrowboat 'Queen'.

The restoration of the canal was instigated in 1963 by the newly formed British Waterways. The stretch of canal between Reading and Hungerford Wharf, including the section to the north of the land, was opened in 1974. The canal was fully opened in entirety by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990.

In 2011, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs designated the Kennet and Avon Canal a 'national cruiseway' – a legal requirement on British Waterways to maintain the canal to a standard that ensures cruising craft can safely navigate the entire length of the waterway.

Monkey Marsh Lock, located to the west of the site, beyond Chamberhouse Mill Lane, is one of two remaining operational turf-sided locks in the canal. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The canal is not affected by the proposed works.



Plate 4: View towards Colthrop Lock from the towpath



Plate 5: Lock gates, Colthrop Lock

3.4 The Railway

The Reading to Taunton Line, a major branch of the Great Western Main Line runs to the north of the land. The line is the principal route from London to Devon and Cornwall and is formed from the Berks and Hants Line of the Great Western Railway and part of the Wilts, Somerset and Weymouth Railway. The stretch running to the north of the land was formerly under the operation of the Great Western Railway.

The Great Western Railway Company was founded in 1833 with a plan to link London with the midlands, the southwest and the west of England. The railway was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the stretch running past the land was opened in 1847, originally running between Reading and Hungerford. The Berks and Hants Extension Railway was opened in 1862, extending the track from Hungerford to Devizes. The railway was initially laid on 7ft broad gauge lines. Conversion to standard gauge occurred in the late 1870s with the last broad gauge train running on the 20th June 1874. In 1906, the line was extended to Taunton.

Thatcham Station is located to the northwest of the land. It was opened on 21st December 1847. The station buildings were replaced in 1893, the replacements demolished in 1965. The current station buildings were constructed in 1987,

The railway is still a busy mainline with frequent passenger and freight services. It is not affected by the proposed works.

3.5 The Second World War

During the Second World War, the canal became part of the General Headquarters Anti-Tank (GHQ) Line– a defensive line running from the coast near Highbridge in Somerset

east through the Thames Valley before skirting around the south and east of London to Essex, where it turned north, finally ending in Edinburgh.

Immediately following the withdrawal of the British army from Dunkirk in late May 1940, Britain was the closest it had been to being invaded for centuries. Since the previous conflicts in the nineteenth century, technology had advanced to such an extent that Britain's once formidable coastal defences were now inadequate against the advanced, highly mobile weaponry of the twentieth century. The development of the aeroplane, faster ships and the most feared of new weapons, the tank, meant the risk to the country was dramatically increased.

On approximately June 4th, as soon as the withdrawal from Dunkirk was complete, General Sir Edmund Ironside, Commander in Chief of Home Forces, gave the order for the most intense period of military construction in England for centuries. The concept was simple – to create defended lines, or 'stoplines' across the country that would 'block the progress of armoured columns, setting them up for a counter-attack.

Wherever possible, a stopline would exploit a natural or previously man-made obstacle, such as a river, railway cutting, or in this case, a canal. Where this was not possible, defensive earthworks were constructed.

The GHQ Line consisted of a continuous stretch of natural features, anti-tank obstacles, roadblocks and bridges prepared for demolition should the need arise. The line was punctuated with pillboxes and gun emplacements of varying sorts, which, using the limited weaponry available in the aftermath of Dunkirk, were intended to destroy the attacking force as they became stuck at the anti-tank obstacles. Field artillery and even anti-aircraft units, which were mobile and had no permanent structures built for their use, would support pillboxes. Several more stoplines were constructed in areas to the south and west of the GHQ line, in order that an attacking army would have to break through several lines before being able to take control of the country.

The section of the GHQ line running to the north of the land was known as the GHQ Blue Line which ran along the Kennet and Avon Canal from the River Avon near Melksham to Reading. The towns of Newbury, Hungerford, Devizes and the village of Semington were chosen as defended nodal points along the line and three bridge-heads at Pewsey Wharf, Burbage and Woolhampton were to form crossing points for defending forces, providing unhindered passage across the canal. The section of the blue line between Newbury and Calcot was manned by soldiers of the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

In the area between Hungerford and Reading, in which the land is located, at least 30 2-pounder anti-tank gun emplacements were constructed along with a number of infantry pillboxes. An open 6-pound anti-tank gun pit was constructed near the canal bridge to the west of Thatcham station. Slit trenches and weapon pits were excavated around bridges and locks in order that they could be kept under fire during attack.

In the vicinity of the land, the open 6-pound anti-tank gun pit mentioned above is located west of the road bridge adjacent to Thatcham Station. West of this, a pillbox was constructed within a cottage. By 1996, the cottage is reported to have fallen down around the pillbox which was then concealed by debris and undergrowth. Further west, a Type 22 infantry pillbox is located on the southern bank of the canal adjacent to a Monkey Marsh Lock.

A second Type 22 infantry pillbox is located on the northern bank of the canal east of the railway station car park.

A variation of a Type 28a anti-tank pillbox considered likely to have been used with a 2-pound anti-tank gun is located on the south side of the canal adjacent to Colthrop Lock and close to the entrance bridges to the quarry site. This is located adjacent to the site and is currently in use. It has a secure door and ventilation grilles and a warning of high voltage on the door.

To the east of the land, a pair of Type 28a pillboxes was located on the northern bank of the canal, adjacent to a road bridge. One of the pair has been demolished, the other entirely buried. East of the road bridge, a Type 22 shell-proof infantry pillbox is located.

In 1940 an ordnance depot was constructed to the west of Thatcham Station, with its own railway sidings. After the war, the land was used by the Royal Logistics Corps until 1999 when it was redeveloped as a housing estate.

Neither the wartime structures nor their remains are affected by the proposal.



Plate 6: Pillbox adjacent to Thatcham Station overlooking the canal



Plate 7: Pillbox adjacent to Thatcham Station overlooking the canal, detail



Plate 8: Pillbox at Colthrop Lock



Plate 9: Detail of pillbox at Colthrop Lock

3.6 Historic Photographs



Plate 10: View westwards towards the land from the towpath, 1976

(© Copyright Dr Neil Clifton and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licensing, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/393627>)



Plate 11: View westwards towards the land from the towpath, 1976

(© Copyright Dr Neil Clifton and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licensing, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/394310>)



Plate 12: View westwards towards the land from the towpath, 1976

(© Copyright Dr Neil Clifton and licensed for reuse under Creative Commons Licensing, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/394385>)



<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW041085>

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Plate 13: 1951 aerial view of the eastern end of the land



Plate 14: 1951 aerial view of the eastern end of the land

4. Map Regression Exercise

4.1 Methodology

A variety of maps are presented in the map regression analysis which have been obtained, copied and digitised in a variety of ways and in addition certain conventions have been chosen. The following paragraphs list these conventions.

Map Date

The published map date is used.

Scale

The map has been rescaled to 1:1000 when the map is detailed enough to warrant this. This is achieved by applying a change of scale factor to the published scale. For maps which have been photographed a similar method is used but by measuring a distance on the historic map compared to a measured map. Such scaling is marked “approximate scaling” that is the scaling is within $\pm 10\%$. Where a map cannot be scaled with certainty within $\pm 10\%$ ie it is marked “not to scale”. For smaller scales the maps are rescaled to approximately 1:2500 or 1:5000.

Distortion

Where a map has been distorted by photography or similar the map is corrected using photo-rectification software where this assists the interpretation of the map.

Locations of the Buildings

It is conventional to mark the location of the building or site by edging the boundaries in red. This convention is not followed as by definition it will obscure the mapping of the boundaries. Instead there are arrows which point to the position of the building.

Overlays

Where we present an overlay no attempt has been made to correct the historic map to the map projection and error apportionment of digital OS. Instead the overlay are presented with the best fit of the detail of the historic map to the OS data.

GIS corrected Maps

The use of digital historic maps which have been corner corrected so that they fit OS digital data are avoided as far as possible.

Symbol Sets

The symbol sets for the historic maps can be found on our web site www.historicenvironment.co.uk

Map North

Maps are presented with North at the top of the page. No correction is made so that the maps line up with Grid North not true North.

Errors

We regularly come across errors in mapping. These are discussed in the text and how we have investigated them.

Overlays

Where a map is overlaid onto OS data this is to be regarded as indicative not exact. The maps are adjusted so that the detail that is being considered matches OS data this will include:

1. Correct so that the historic map is orientated on grid north.
2. Scale

No attempt is made to correct for map projection.

The following table lists the sources for the maps used, how they have been copied and digitised, and why they are included in the map regression exercise. Where the source is given as “collection” an original or a high quality reproduction is owned by the Historic Environment Consultancy.

4.2 John Speed's Map of 1610



Figure 4: Extract of John Speed Map of 1610, 1:50,000 @ A4

Colthrop, located on the river between Thatcham and Brypton, is not marked on the map.

4.3 Robert Morden's Map of 1695



Figure 5 Extract of Robert Modern's Map of 1695, 1:50.000 @ A4
Colthrop is still not depicted.

4.4 Bloom's Map of 1715



Figure 6 Extract of Bloom's Map of 1715, 1:50,000 @ A4
Colthrop is still not depicted.

4.5 1810 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map

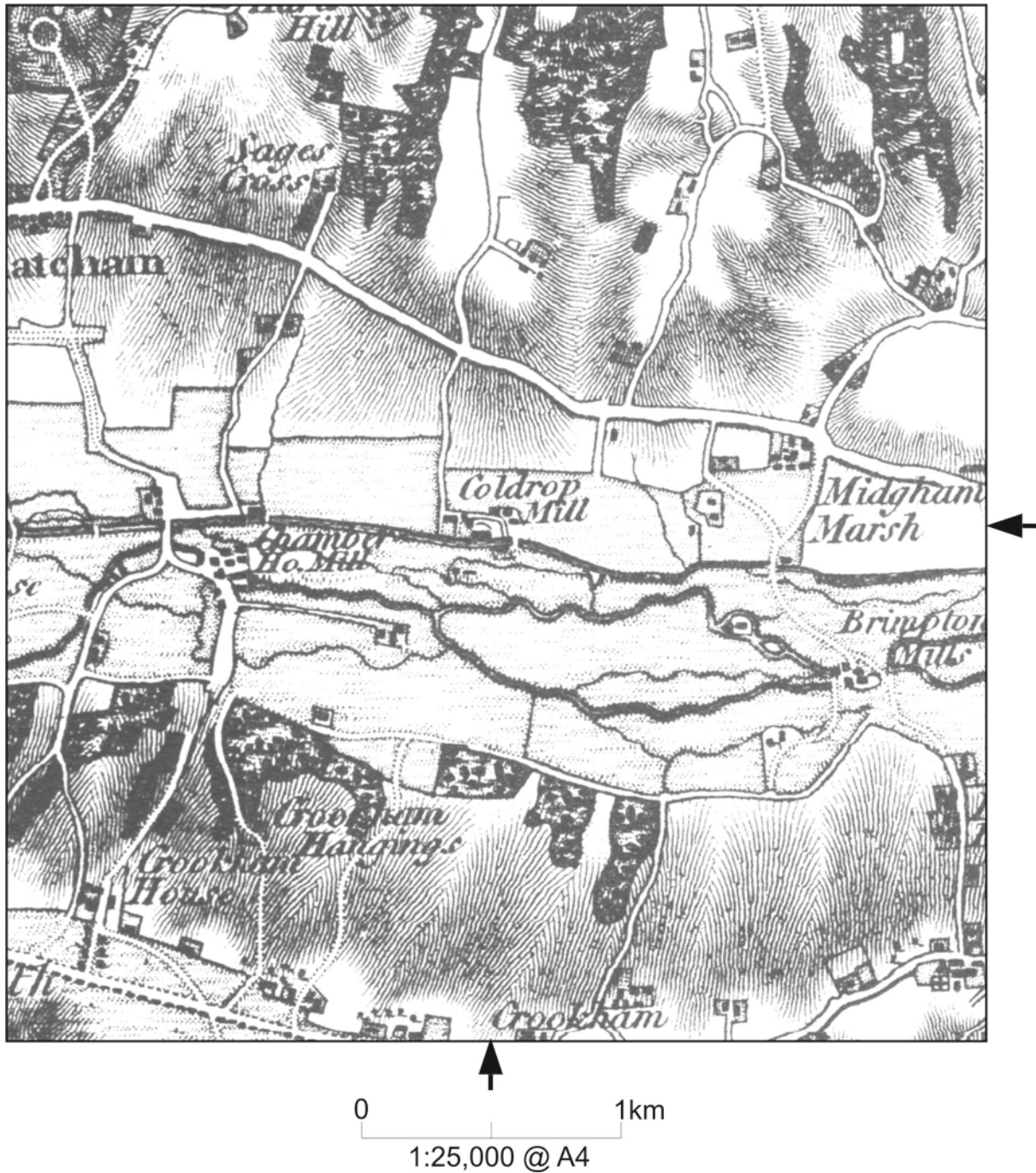


Figure 7: 1816 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map enlarged to 1:25,000
'Coldrop Mill' and 'Chamber House Mill' are present, marking the northern and western limits of the land. The canal is depicted.



Figure 8: 1877 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Plan enlarged to 1:5,000
The land is made up of a number of agricultural fields.

4.6 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan

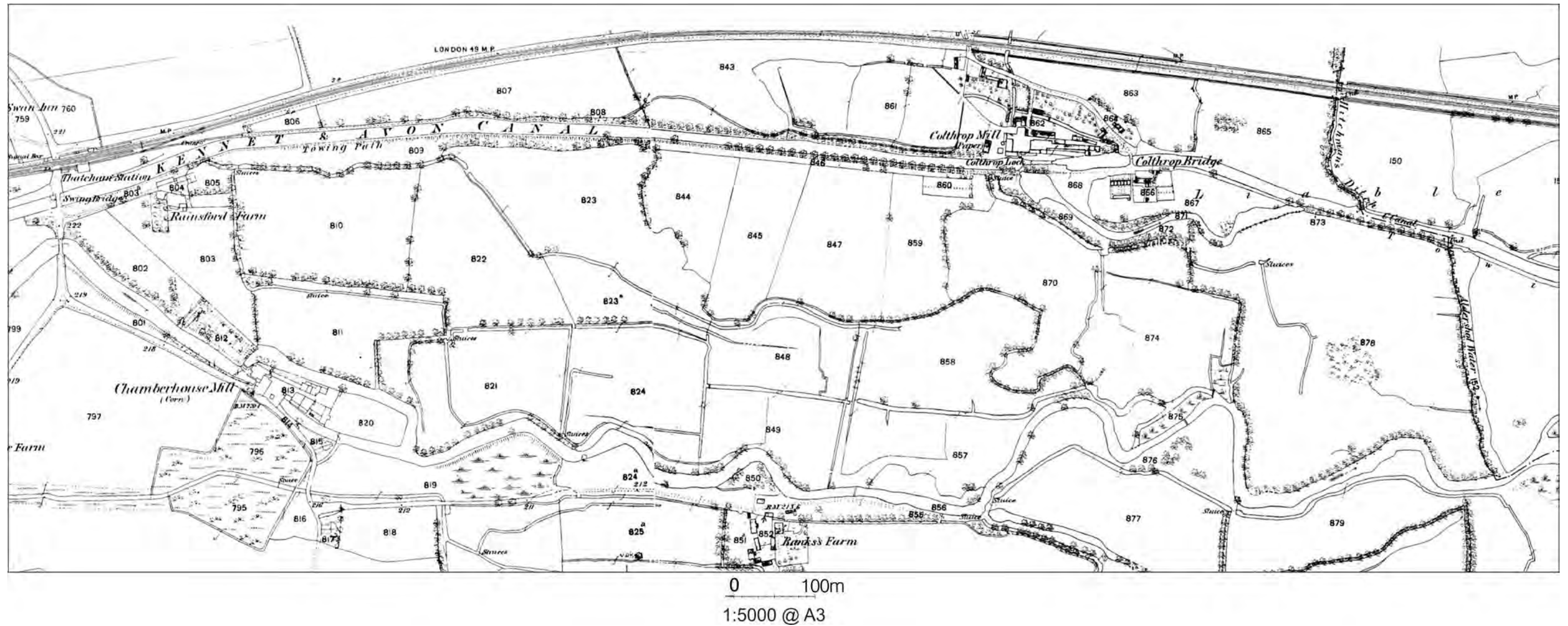


Figure 9: 1880 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan reduced to 1:5,000

4.7 1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan

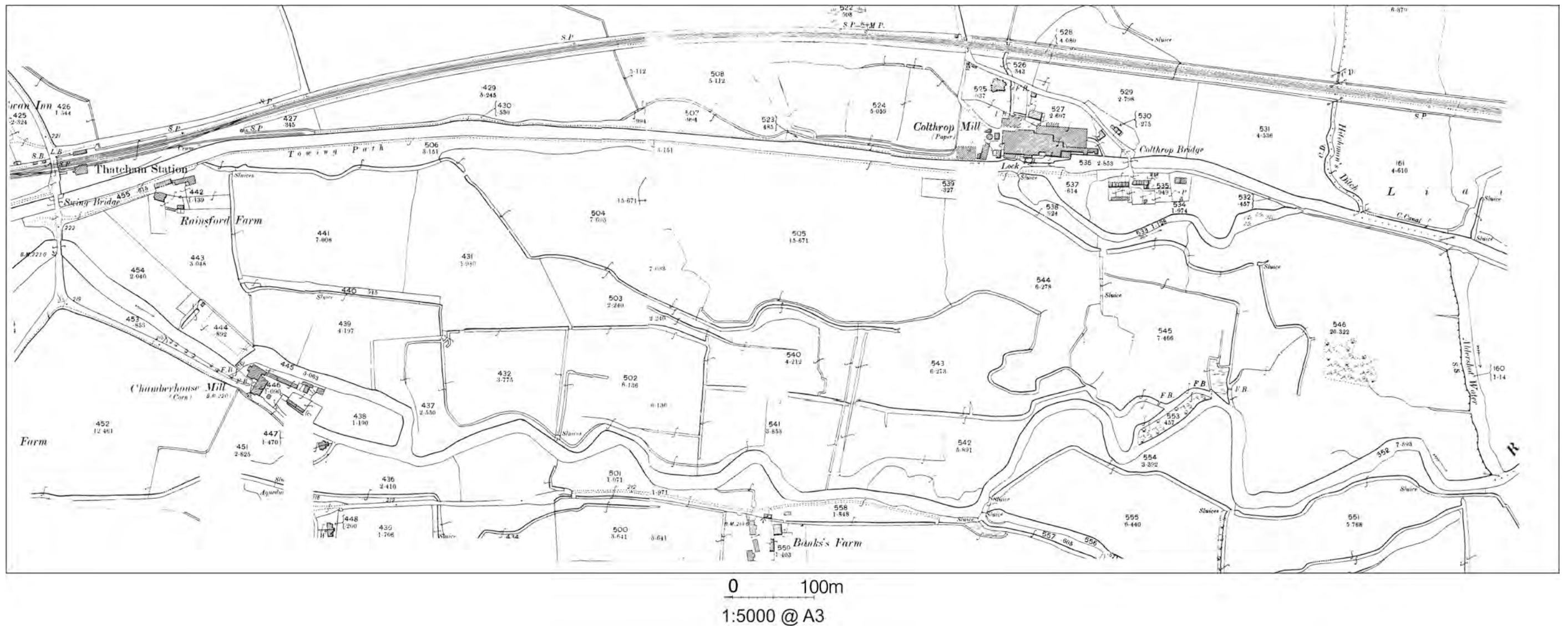


Figure 10: 1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan reduced to 1:5,000

4.8 1911 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan

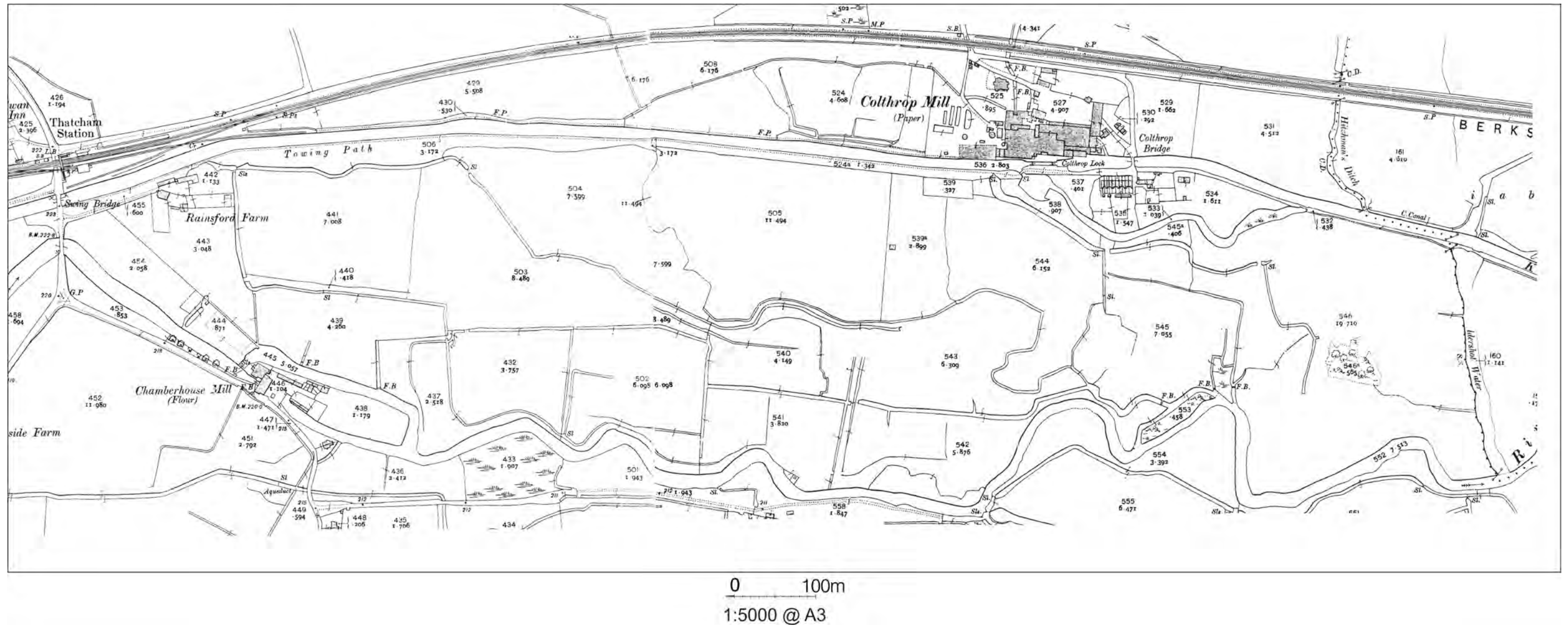


Figure 11 1911 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan reduced to 1:5,000

4.9 1932 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan

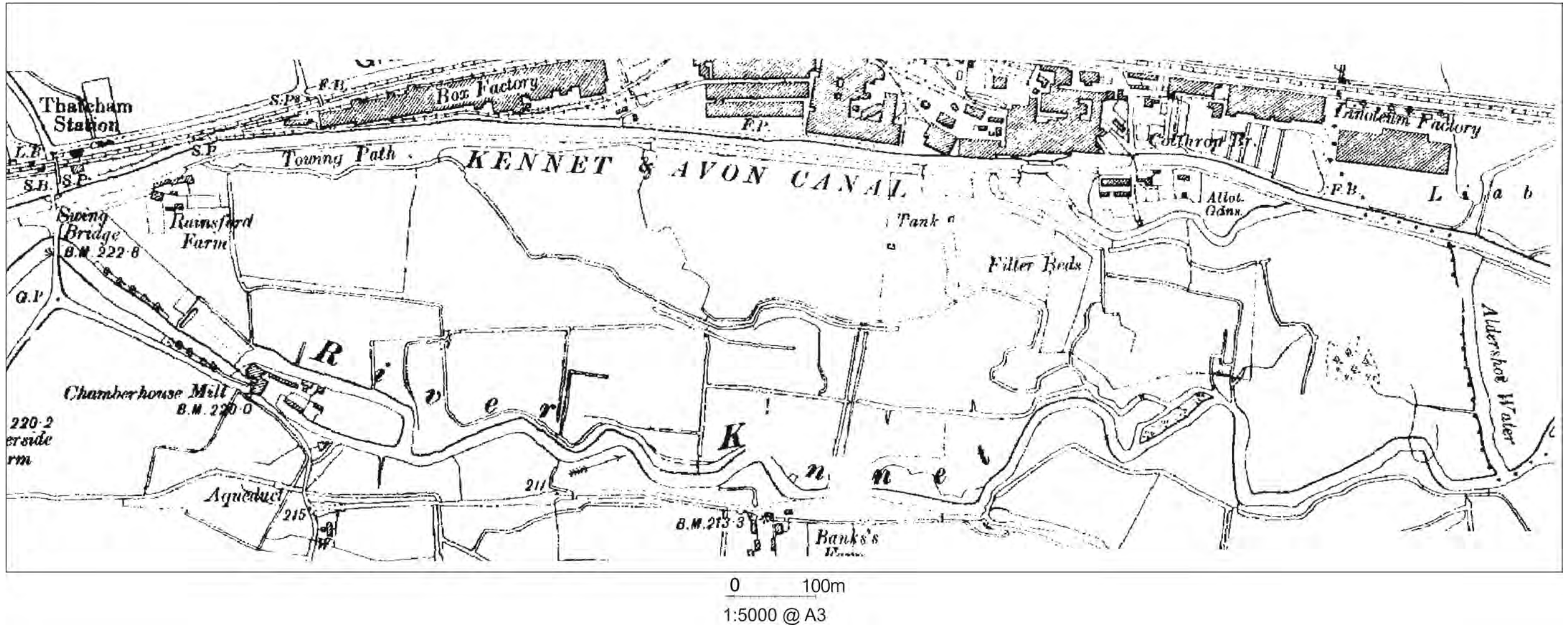


Figure 12: 1932 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 Plan enlarged to 1:5,000

4.10 1933 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan

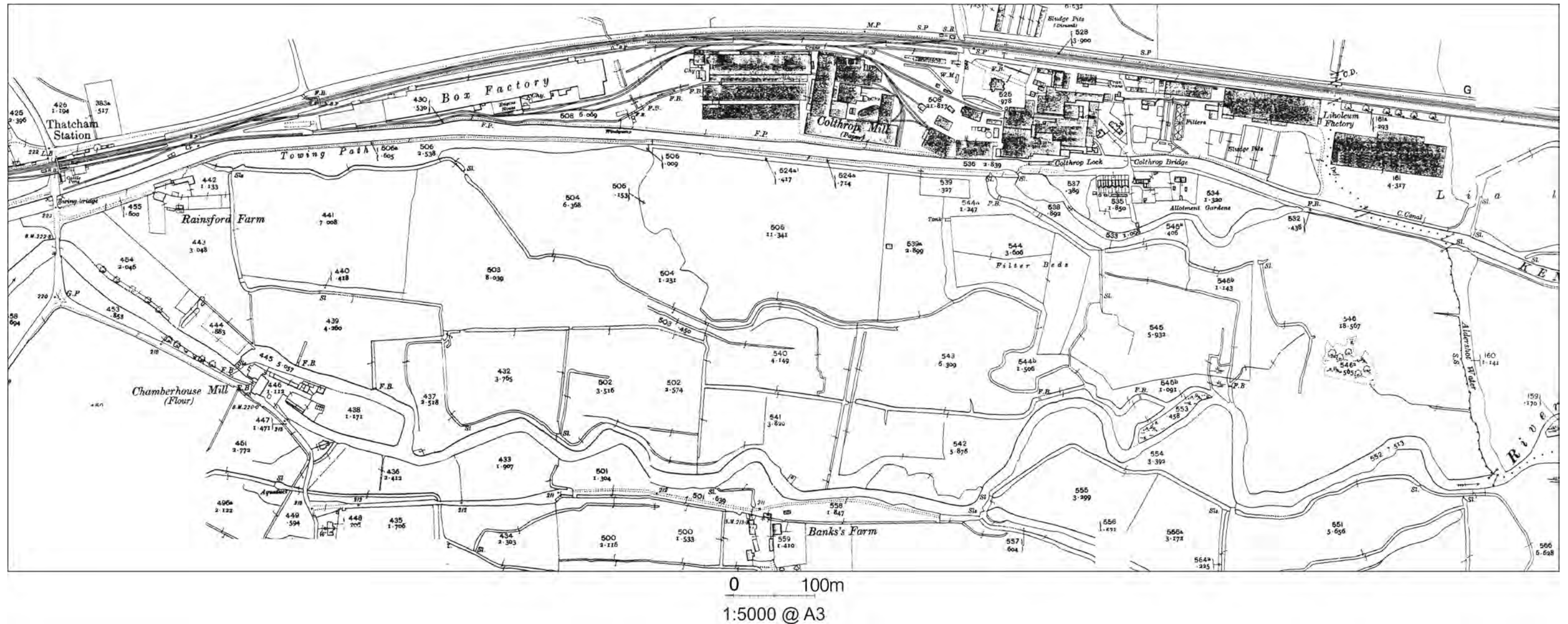


Figure 13: 1911 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan reduced to 1:5,000

4.11 1960-61 Ordnance Survey 10,000 Plan

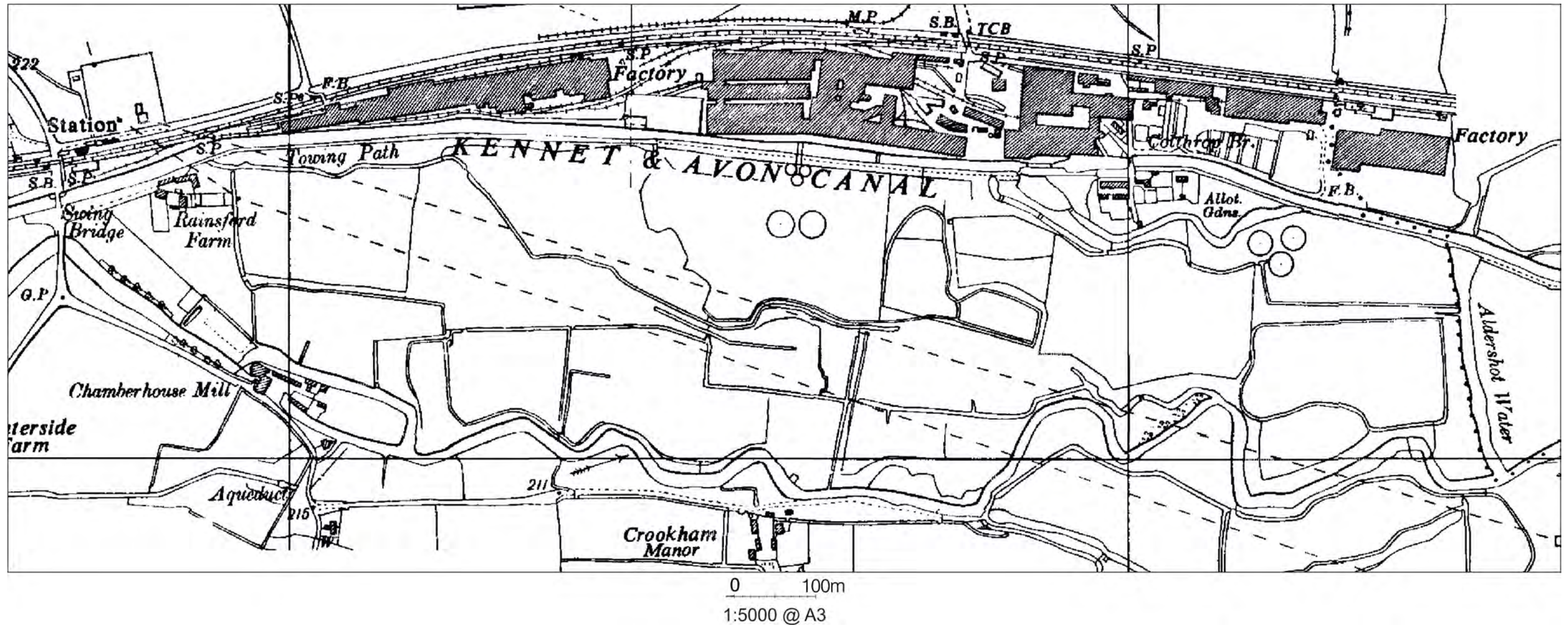


Figure 14: 1911 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan enlarged to 1:5,000

4.12 1968-72 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan

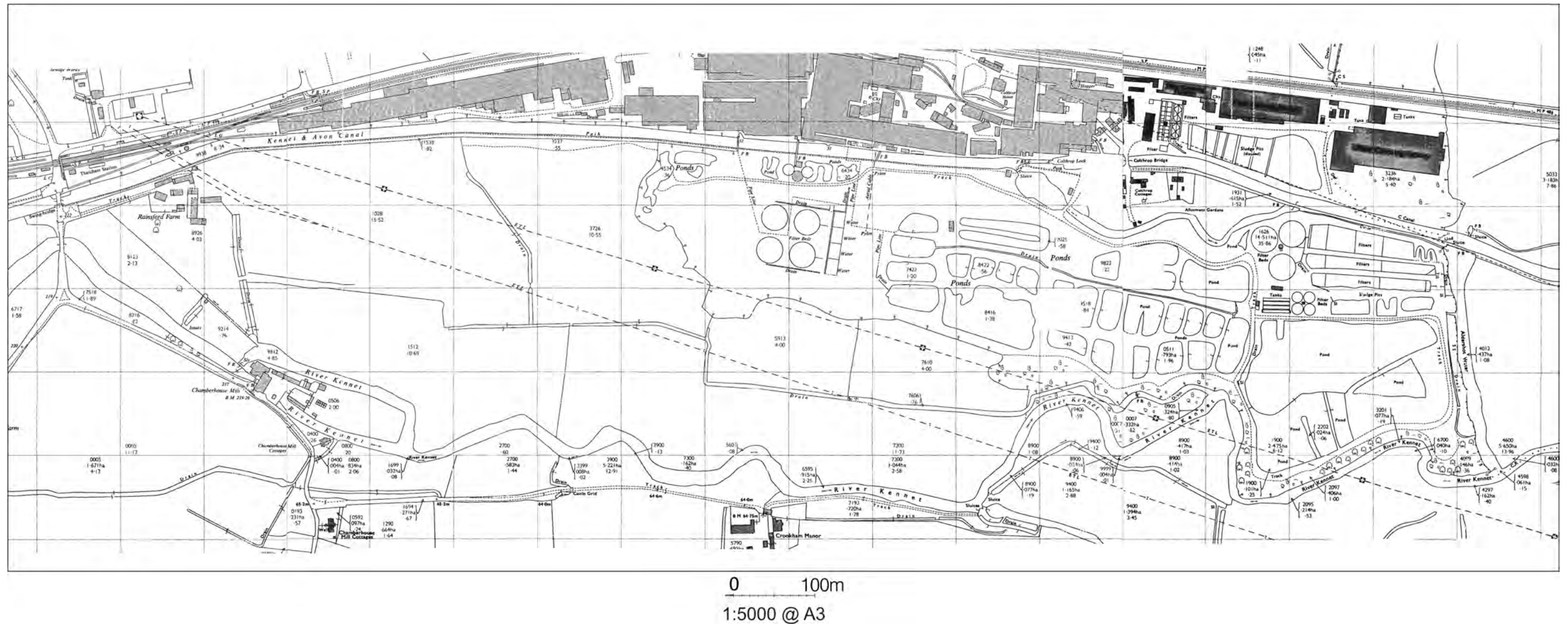


Figure 15: 1968-72 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Plan reduced to 1:5,000

4.13 1991 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan

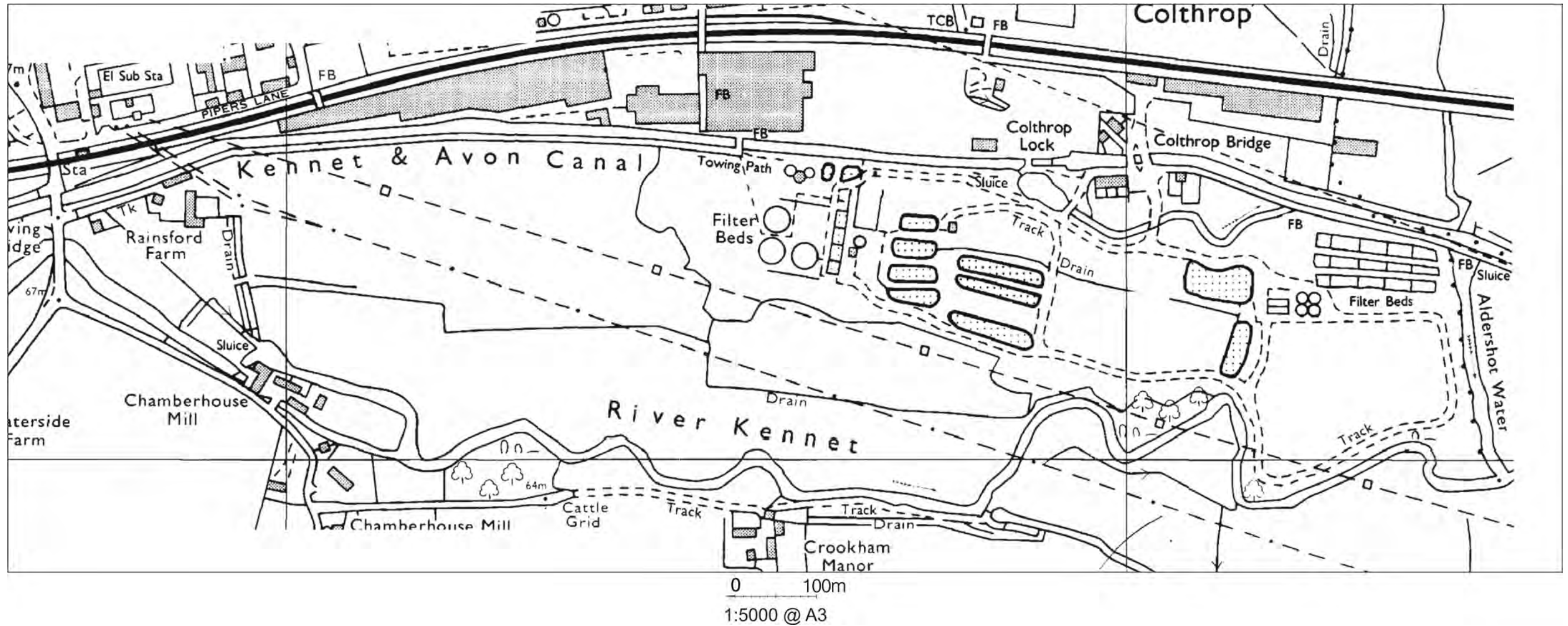


Figure 16: 1991 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan enlarged to 1:5,000

4.14 Modern Digital Ordnance Survey



Figure 17: Modern digital Ordnance Survey map, 1:5000 @ A3 (Partial Coverage)

5. Previous Archaeological Investigations on the Development Area

No previous archaeological work is known to have been carried out in the area, however the land is included in the study area of the 2013 Museum of London Archaeology *Assessment of archaeological resource in aggregate areas West Berkshire* which studied the densities of archaeological sites and finds on differing geologies in the areas surrounding the Kennet, Lambourn and Pang rivers.

The land is located in the sand/gravel geological subdivision of the 2013 study. The findings suggest the density of archaeological assets in these areas is higher for the prehistoric and Roman periods although by the medieval period, the sand/gravel geology is less significant in influencing patterns of activity.

An earlier project, the Lower Kennet Valley Survey, included the area of Colthrop in its 2nd / 3rd phase, carried out in the 1980s. The survey consisted of an extensive programme of fieldwalking along with the study of aerial photographs and documentary sources. The project again highlighted the links between the pattern of settlement and land use depending on the topography and underlying geology. Considerable impact on the archaeological record is noted to have occurred as a result of recent human activity, however the potential for the survival of remains in un-exploited areas is highlighted.

6. Archaeological Remains, Sites and Monuments in the Vicinity of the Development Area

A search of the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record was carried out on a 500m buffer around the land perimeter. Full results are available on request.

6.1 Early Prehistoric – Pre Bronze Age

A Mesolithic blade was found during a 1988 evaluation at Kennetholme Farm, c. 1.2km from the centre of the land. A strip, map, record exercise at the farm in 2009 revealed multi-period ditches and gullies ranging in date from the prehistoric to the modern period. The prehistoric landscape is considered to have been a raised gravel terrace (suitable for farming), a floodplain meadow over a palaeochannel (the former course of the River Kennet) and a riverine sandbank. Further work in 2010-11 recovered more flints including waste flakes and some blades considered to date from the late Mesolithic to the Neolithic. A palaeochannel was also encountered.

A 1997 evaluation at Chamberhouse Farm, c. 1.9km from the centre of the land, revealed a possible palaeochannel of the River Kennet and in-situ Mesolithic / post-glacial flint and faunal remain scatters, potentially of national importance.

An evaluation in 1988 in a field north of the Kennet at Brimpton, c. 1.15km from the centre of the land, produced evidence of a river channel and small river or stream channels.

In addition, two Mesolithic flakes were found at Aldershot Water, the stretch of water to the east of area 10, c. 800m from the centre of the land.

Three Neolithic axes along with a number of unidentified bones were located in the late 19th century at Bank's Farm, c. 300m from the middle of the land.

Work concerning fish passes on the River Kennet in 1998 has highlighted the high potential for the preservation of Mesolithic remains in the Kennet Valley area, in which the current land is situated. It states that Mesolithic remains are sealed beneath alluvium whereas later sites generally lie on top of the alluvium.

6.2 Later Prehistoric – Bronze Age and Iron Age

A Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead was found in gravel in 1921 to west of Colthrop Mill, c. 600m from the centre of the land. A further example was found during the 1960s at the edge of a gravel extraction site, which appears by grid reference to be located in area 4 of the current land. The spear was taken to Newbury Museum although disintegrated on examination. Late Iron Age / Roman field drainage ditches were revealed during the 1997 Chamberhouse Farm evaluation.

6.3 Roman

During the 1988 evaluation at Kennetholme Farm, c. 1.2km from the land, the Roman road from Silchester to Cirencester was identified in three trenches. In the 2009 and 2010-11 strip-map-sample exercises, the road was again recorded, with evidence for its ditches having been recut. The route of the road runs to the north of the land and the canal, and at the eastern end adjacent to the current area of gravel extraction, it follows the northern boundary.

The Roman road is also noted in air photographs of the area.

To the north of the canal, close to Colthrop Mill, the skeletons of a horse and man were found during gravel extraction in 1921. Along with these, a wheel was found. A personal comment from one of the workers suggests a “hard surface and wooden stakes in the direction of Thatcham, were found nearby, and believed at the time to be a road” (Trans. Newbury District Field Club 1934-7). Roman pottery has been found during fieldwalking in the area.

6.4 Early Medieval – Pre 1066

A Saxon or Viking iron spearhead was found while digging the foundations at Colthrop Mill.

6.5 Medieval – Post 1066-1485

Medieval ditches were found during the 1997 evaluation at Chamberhouse Farm c. 1.9km from the land and a possible medieval field system was found during the 2009 work at Kennetholme Farm.

Fieldwalking in the area around the land has produced three concentrations of medieval pottery and tile.

The 12th century Colthrop Manor is considered to have been located c. 830m from the centre of the land.

6.6 Post Medieval 1485-1700

Post medieval ditches were recorded during the 1997 evaluation at Chamberhouse Farm.

A small number of pits are known from the 2010-11 Kennetholme Farm works.

An evaluation at Midgham, c. 1300m from the land, revealed parts of a possible 18th-19th century watermeadow.

A stray find of a post medieval printing block was made at Manor Farm, 940m from the centre of the land. This is thought to relate to a former local linoleum factory.

A spherical metal object probably of 19th century date, was found in the field northeast of Colthrop Mill, some 675m from the centre of the land.

6.7 Undated Evidence

A cluster of pits and postholes of indeterminate date was found during the 2009 works at Kennetholme Farm. In the 2010-11 works, a ring gully and a field system with possible droveway were found along with possible evidence for roundhouse which had been rebuilt at least once. Dates for these features could not be ascertained.

An evaluation at Midgham, 1300m from the land, revealed an undated ditch.

An evaluation in a field north of the River Kennet at Brimpton, 1150m from the centre of the land, revealed quarrying of uncertain date.

6.8 Negative Evidence

The Roman road, projected from mapping, was not encountered during a 1994 excavation and watching brief on Aylesford Way, 600m from the centre of the land. No other artefacts were found. Further work in the Aylesford Way area in 1997 comprised two trenches excavated to 1.2m in depth, again with no archaeological remains present.

A watching brief on the construction of fish passes on the River Kennet in 1999, some 575m from the centre of the land, failed to identify any archaeological features.

7. On site Observations - Current Topography

The land is flat with the majority of the land lying within the 65m contour marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map. The land is divided into a number of fields, and to the northeast, active quarry workings.

8. Aerial Photographic Evidence

A search of the Historic England archive of air photographs was carried out. Prints were consulted dating from the 1940s to the 1990s. These photographs were supplemented with images from Google Earth to give an impression of the land to the present day, detailing the development and eventual redundancy of the paper mill and its works on the southern side of the canal.

Photographs prior to the 1980s show extensive cropmarks across areas 4,5,6 and 9 – the parts of the land not affected by the paper mill. These cropmarks are considered to relate to both archaeological and glacial features.

An extract of an air photograph from 1947 is reproduced overleaf, followed by a plot of earthworks taken from the 1947 and 1964 air photographs. Large square features are noted to the east of area 4, and a number of fields of ridge and furrow are noted in fields 5, 6 and 9.

The air photos from 1981, 1984 and 1985 show the topsoil being stripped over the fields previously showing cropmarks. By 1988, the topsoil strip appears to have ceased and the fields are back under agriculture, albeit with considerably lessened cropmarks. There are faint traces of the square features remain although the majority of the ridge and furrow is no longer apparent.

This is perpetuated through more recent photographs. It is suggested that the stripping of areas 4,5,6 and 9 has had considerable impact on below-ground archaeology.

Detailed air photos of each area are included in the area-by-area section below.



Plate 15: Extract of 1947 air photograph (1:5000 @ A4)

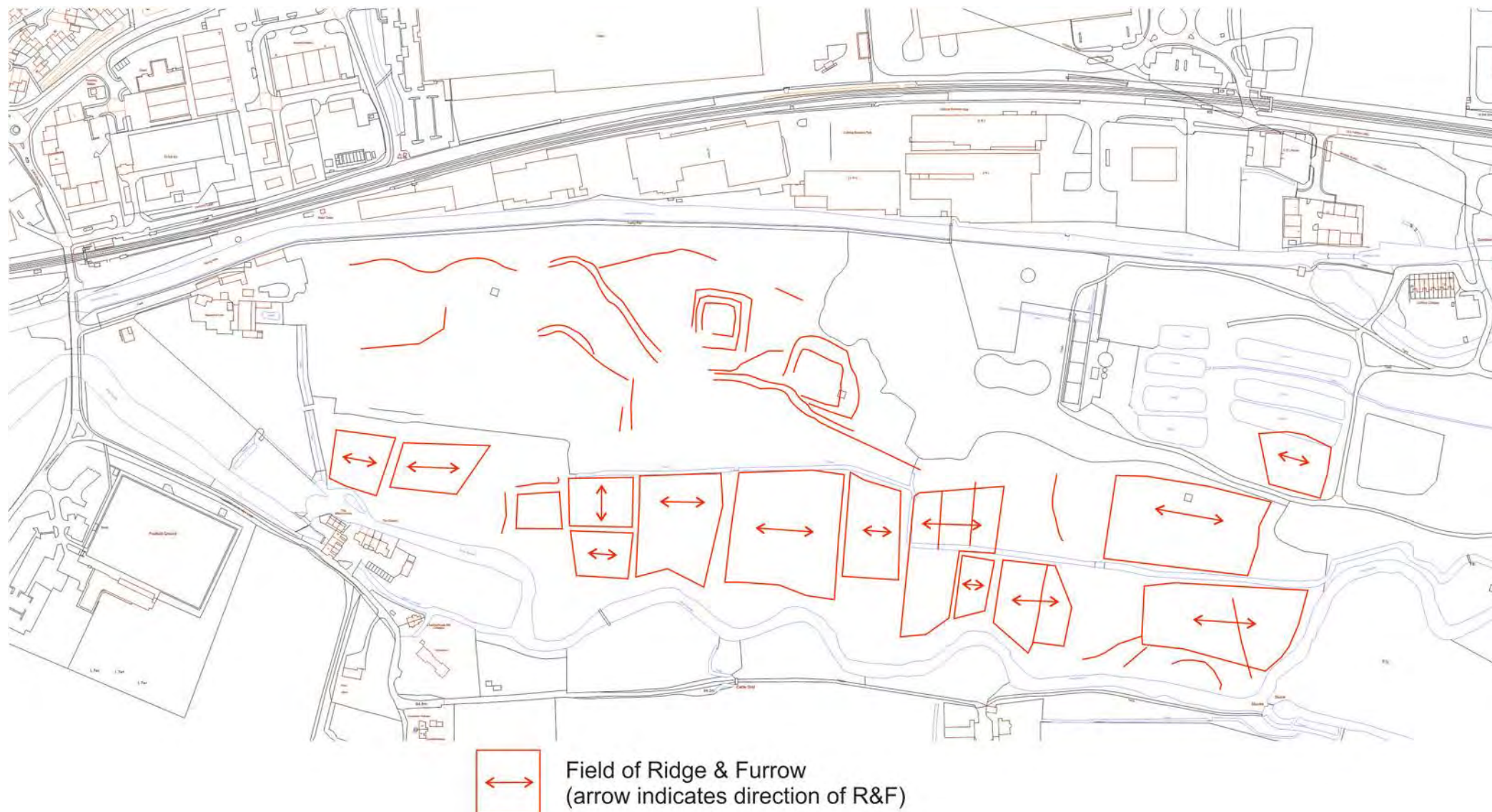


Figure 18: Plot of earthworks from 1947 and 1964 air photos (1:5000 @ A4)

Plate 16: 1981 air photo showing start of topsoil strip, 1:5000 @ A4
Stripping has commenced in areas 4 and 6.



Plate 17: Extract from 1984 air photo showing strip underway, 1:5000 @ A4



Plate 18: Extract of 1985 air photo showing topsoil strip underway, 1:5000 @ A4

Heritage Statement Land to the West of Kennethholme Quarry



Plate 19: Extract of 1988 air photo following reinstatement of land after topsoil strip, 1:5000 @ A4

Plate 20: Extract from 1998 air photo, 1:5000 @ A4
No cropmarks are visible.

Heritage Statement Land to the West of Kennethholme Quarry



Plate 21: 2005 air photo (Google Earth) 1:5000 @ A4
Some parch marks are visible in area 4.



Plate 22: 2010 air photograph (Google Earth) 1:5000 @ A4
Few cropmarks are visible.

9. Extent of Modern and Recent Ground Disturbance & Deposit Survey

The Environment Agency records an Authorised Landfill occupying the eastern part of the land. Details are as follows:

Site details	
Site name	Colthrop Board Mill Landfill
Site address	Colthrop Board Mill, , Thatcham, Newbury, Berkshire, RG13 4NJ
Licence details:	
Operator's name	S Grundon (Waste) Ltd
Licence type	A7 : Industrial Waste Landfill (Factory curtilage)
Licence status	Closure
Waste Management Licence number	86026
Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Reference number	-
Environmental Permit Reference number	EAEPR\EA/EPR/UP3499EV/T003

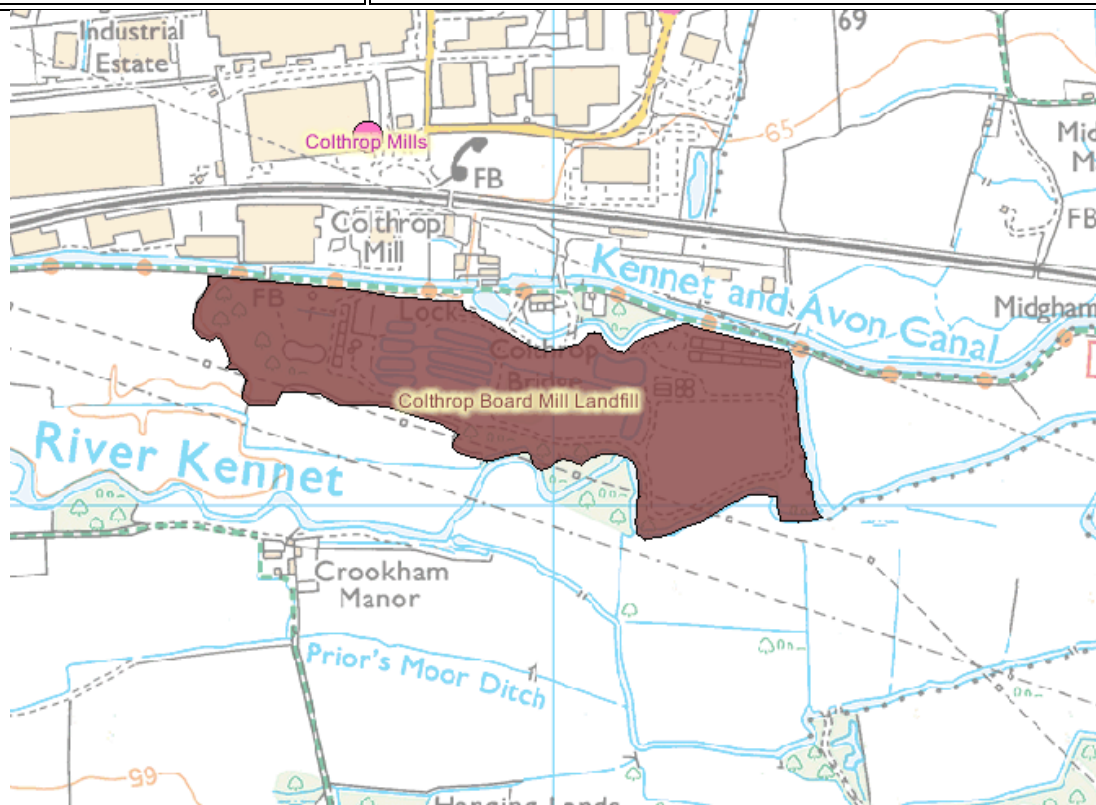


Figure 19: Extent of landfill (not to scale)

The licensed landfill affects the entirety of areas 7, 8 and 10 of the site.

In addition to the 1980s topsoil strip illustrated by the air photographs above, covering areas 4, 5, 6 and 9 and the construction of the farm buildings and latterly the recent housing estate in area 2, it is suggested that areas 1 and 2 are the only parts of the site in which no disturbance is known. As the depth of the topsoil strip (mentioned above) is unknown, the level to which archaeology is likely to be truncated is also an uncertainty.



Figure 20: Areas of disturbance, 1:2500 @ A4

Grey: 1980s topsoil strip, depth unknown

Black: Extensive disturbance from groundworks, water treatment works and landfill

10. Conclusion

The land is located in the Kennet Valley – an area with known archaeological potential. There are nearby sites with national significance. A Roman road runs to the north of the site and a number of Roman sites / findspots are known from the area.

A Bronze Age spearhead was found on the site in the 1960s and air photograph evidence from prior to the 1980s shows clear ridge and furrow across a number of fields and further cropmarks suggest the presence of square earthworks, linear earthworks and palaeochannels in area 4.

The site is, however, heavily disturbed.

Throughout the 20th century, the paper mill on the northern side of the canal has used the northeast part of the site for water treatment and waste disposal.

The part of the site comprising areas 7, 8 and 10 has been used for landfill of industrial waste.

Aerial photographic evidence suggests areas 4, 5, 6 and 9 were subject to a topsoil strip of unknown depth in the early 1980s. Aerial photographs following this show the earthworks have been dramatically affected.

Areas 1 and 2 are the parts of the site with the highest potential for preservation of below-ground archaeological remains.

Areas 4, 5, 6 and 9 have visible archaeological remains on earlier air photographs and the survival of below ground remains is dependent on the depth of the remains and the depth to which the site was excavated in the 1980s.

Areas 7, 8 and 10 are heavily disturbed and there is not considered to be any potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains.

11. Appendix: Bibliography

- Alexander, C. 1998. *Ironsides's Line*. Storrington: Historic Military Press
- Ehrenberg, M.R., 1977. *Bronze Age Spearheads from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire*. British Archaeological Reports 34.
- Lacey, C. 2003. *Fireshed: The Application of GIS Techniques to Historic Military Data*. Southampton: University of Southampton. Available online at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/49310003/>
- Lowry, B. (ed) 1996. *20th Century Defences in Britain*. York: Council for British Archaeology
- Ruddy, A. J. 2003. *British Anti-Invasion Defences 1940-1945*. Storrington: Historic Military Press
- Wessex Archaeology. 2013. *Outbuildings at Rainsford Farm, Crookham Hill, Thatcham, West Berkshire - Historic Building Record*. Report Ref 89920.01. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology

Journals Consulted include the following:

- Berkshire Archaeological Journal Vols 65 (1970) & 71 (1981-2)
- Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club Vol. II-1872-1875
- Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club 1934-1937

12. Appendix: Area Descriptions

Area	Current Use	Disturbance	HER Entries
1	Pasture	None	
2	Pasture	None	
3	Farm / housing	Construction of 19 th -20 th century farm buildings and modern housing	MWB16860 – Rainsford Farm FARMSTEAD dating to the pre- to late 19 th century AD
4	Agricultural	Possible topsoil strip, c. 1981-5	MWB18053 – In gravel pit FINDSPOT of spearhead dating to the Middle Bronze Age (1600 – 1001 BC)
5	Agricultural	Possible topsoil strip, c. 1981-5	
6	Agricultural	Possible topsoil strip, c. 1981-5	
7	Scrub / trees	1960s trackway, 1970s pond, ?1980s dumping (possible pond infill), landfill	
8	Disused industrial	Extensive disturbance relating to industrial structures and water treatment tanks / ponds, landfill	
9	Agricultural	Possible topsoil strip, c. 1981-5	
10	Former filter beds / tanks	Water treatment filter beds / tanks, landfill	

12.1 Area 1

Area 1 is a diagonal field running northwest-southeast at the eastern end of the site. The southwest boundary is formed by the River Kennet. The southeast part of the site is wooded and there was no access to this area. Historic air photographs show what appears to be a row of tanks in this area.

Area 1 is not thought to have undergone any modern disturbance. Below-ground archaeological remains, if present, may be well preserved.



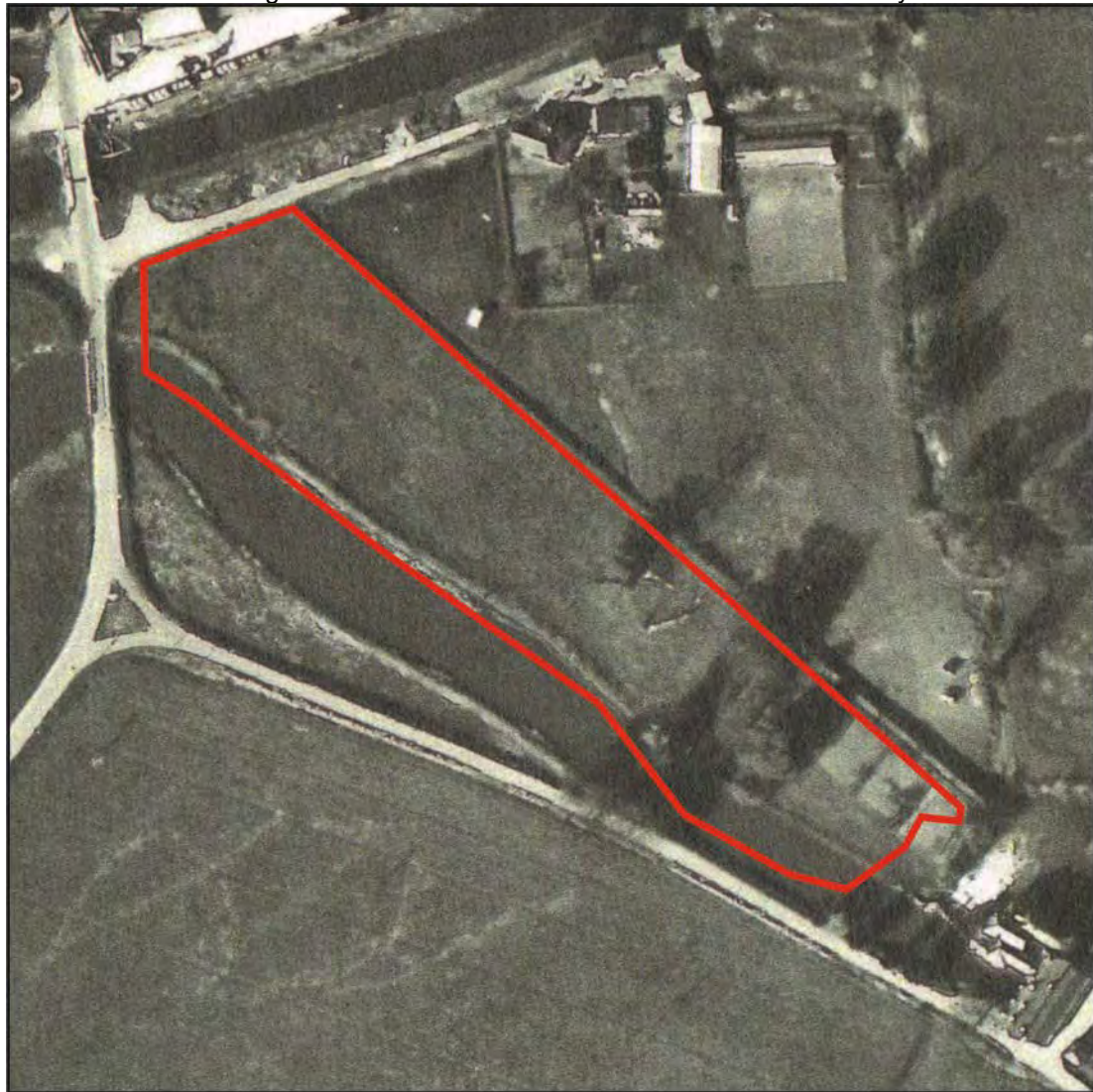
Plate 23: Area 1 viewed from across the River Kennet to the southwest



Plate 24: Southeast aspect, area 1



Plate 25: Northwest aspect, area 1



0 100m
1:2000 @ A4

Figure 21: 1957 Aerial Photograph of Area 1



Figure 22: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 1

12.2 Area 2

Area 2 is a triangular area of land between area 1 to the southwest, area 3 to the north and areas 4 and 5 to the east.

The area is not thought to have undergone any modern disturbance. Below-ground archaeological remains, if present, may be well preserved.

On examination during field visits, the ground surface appears to be uneven which may suggest the presence of below-ground archaeological features or palaeochannels.



Plate 26: View onto area 2 from the north



Plate 27: Southeast aspect, area 2



Plate 28: Southwest aspect, area 2



Plate 29: Northwest aspect, area 2

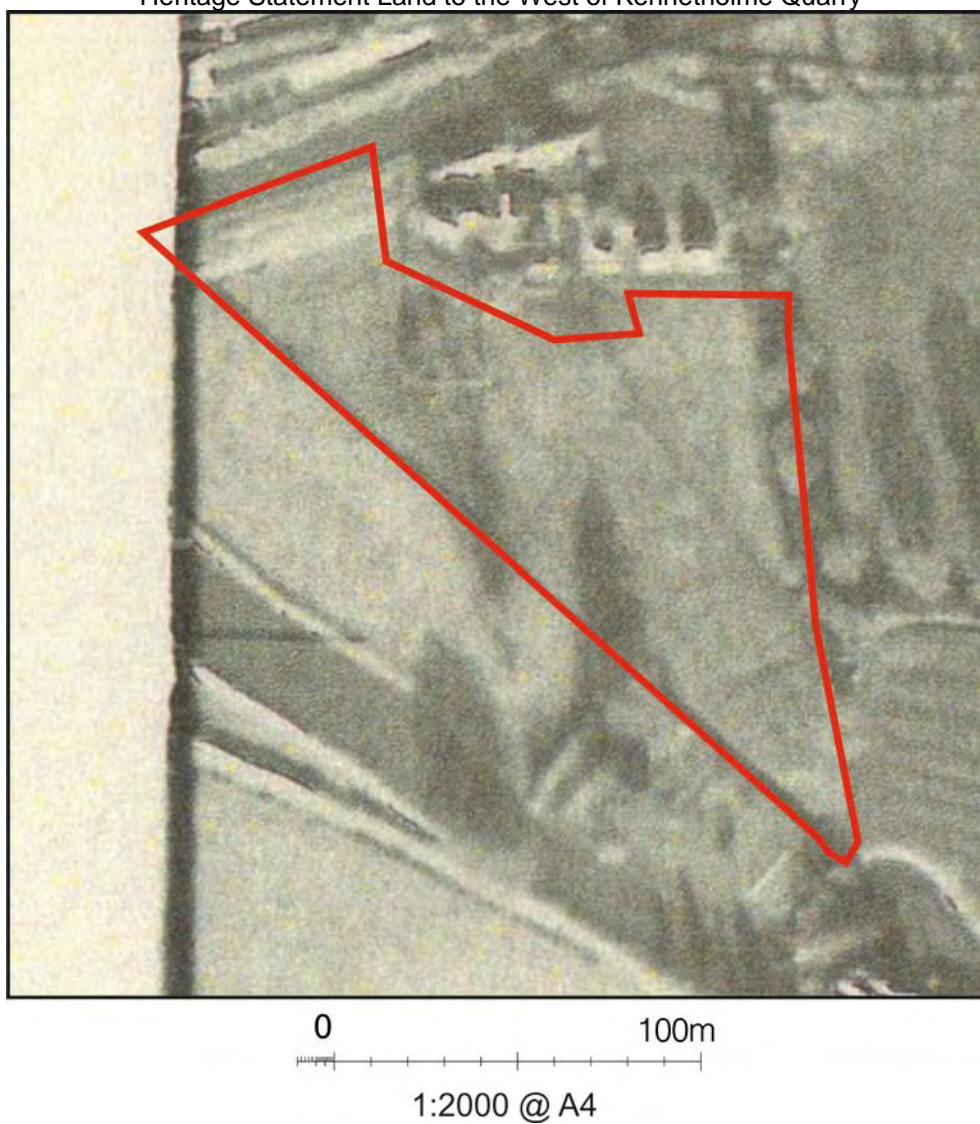


Figure 23: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 2

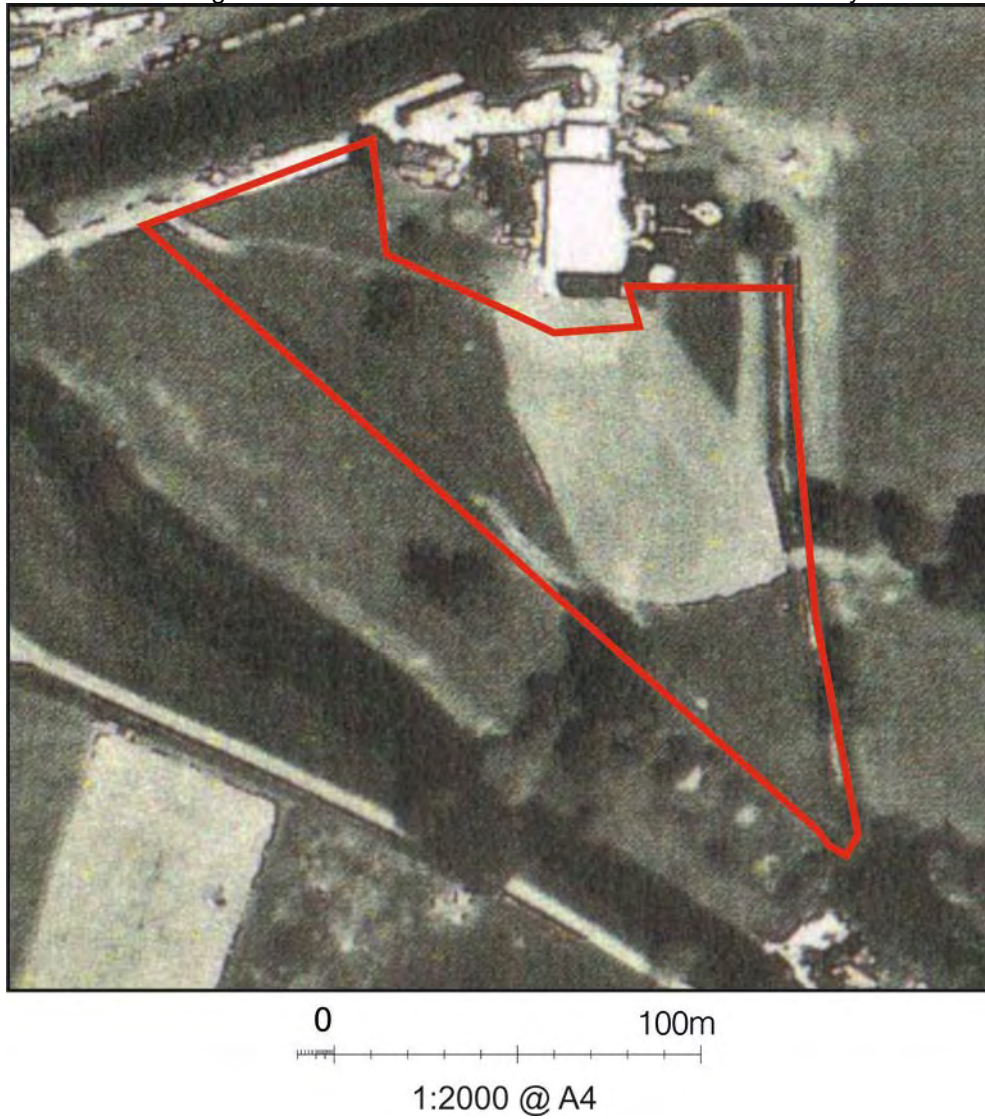


Figure 24: 1967 Aerial Photograph of Area 2

Area 2 appears to be subdivided into areas under different cultivation.

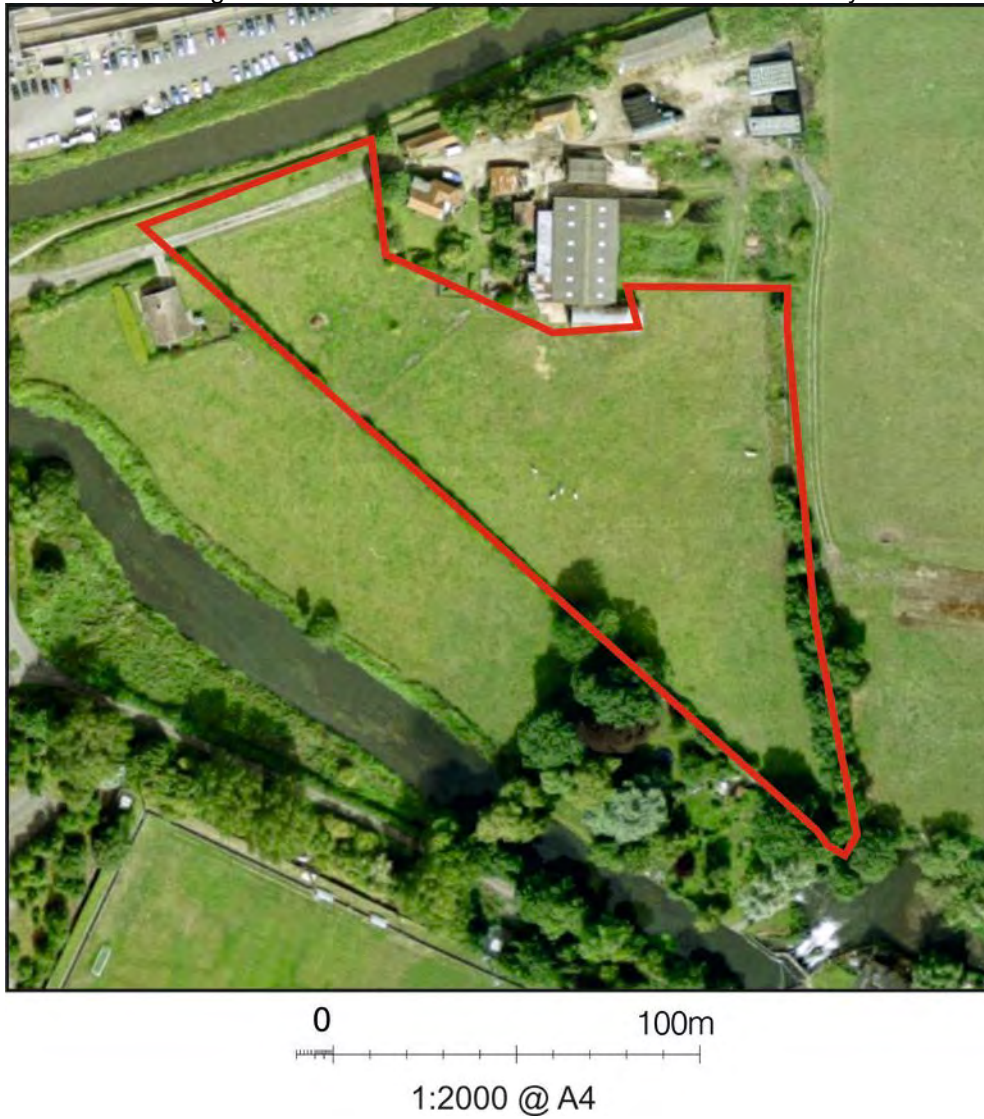


Figure 25: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 2

12.3 Area 3



Plate 30: View of area 3 from the west

Area 3 is occupied by a modern housing estate on the location of the earlier Rainsford Farm. The privacy of the residents has been respected and no photographs of the development were taken.

The farm was recorded in 2013 by Wessex Archaeology prior to the rearrangement of the farm.

The former farm layout can be seen in the following historic aerial photographs:

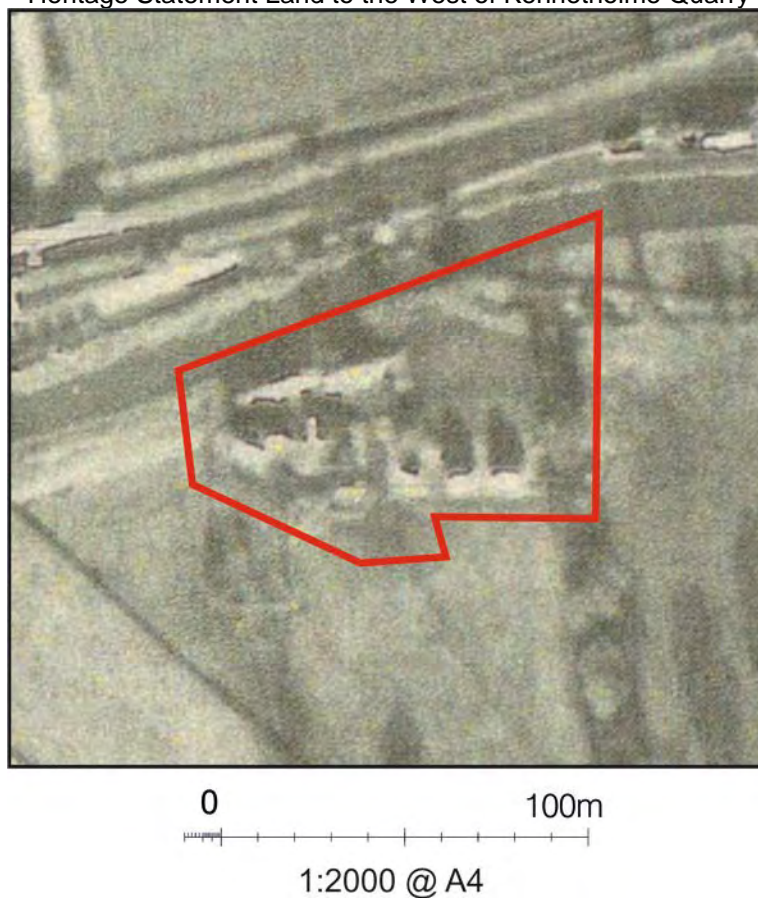


Figure 26: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 3

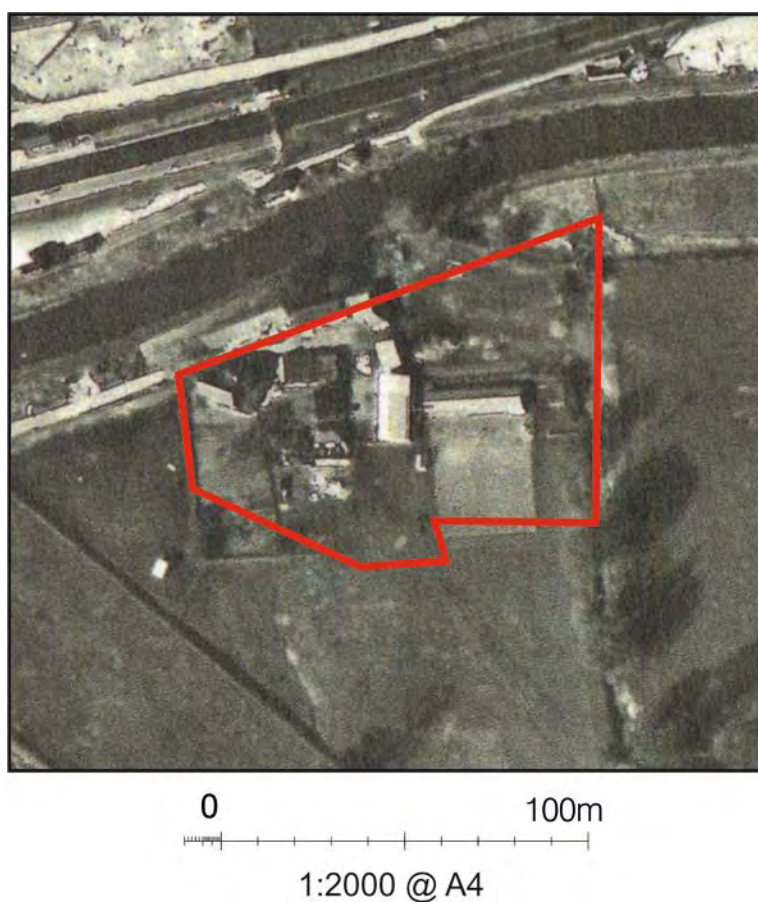


Figure 27: 1957 Aerial Photograph of Area 3

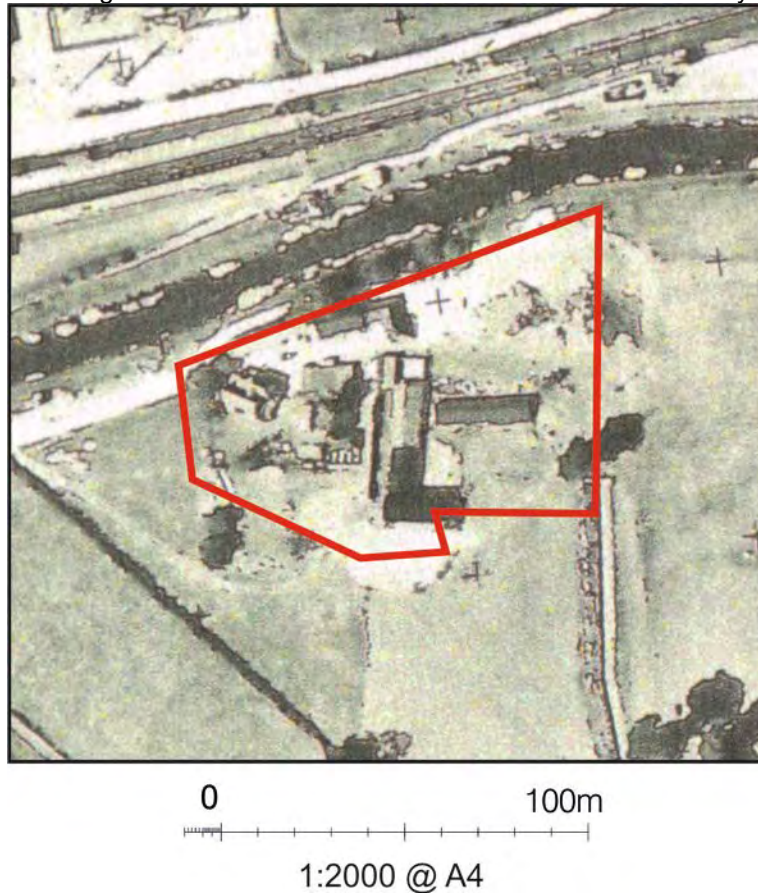


Figure 28: 1964 Aerial Photograph of Area 3



Figure 29: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 3

Only one of the former farm buildings remains – a steel-framed barn to the north of the site, constructed of corrugated sheet material. The barn backs onto the canal towpath.



Plate 31: Barn to north

12.4 Area 4



Plate 32: Panoramic view of area 4 from the northwest



Plate 33: Panoramic view of area 4 from the east



Plate 34: Panoramic view of area 4 from the canal towpath

Area 4 is bounded by the canal towpath to the north, areas 7 and 8 to the east, a drainage ditch to the south and areas 2 and 3 to the west.

The field has a number of possible earthworks apparent in its eastern half. These have been identified both during field visits and from aerial photographs. Their origin is unknown.

A large willow tree of some age is noted towards the east of centre of the field. The location of this tree coincides with a field boundary / drainage ditch marked on the 1877 Ordnance Survey map, suggesting this tree is a relic of this boundary. It may have been an earlier tree incorporated into the boundary when the area was divided. The tree marks the corner of a boundary which although changing route in the 1960s, remained until the late 1960s – 1990s.



Plate 35: Willow tree, area 4



0 100m

Figure 30: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 4, Scale 1:2500
Square earthworks are noted to the right of centre of area 4.

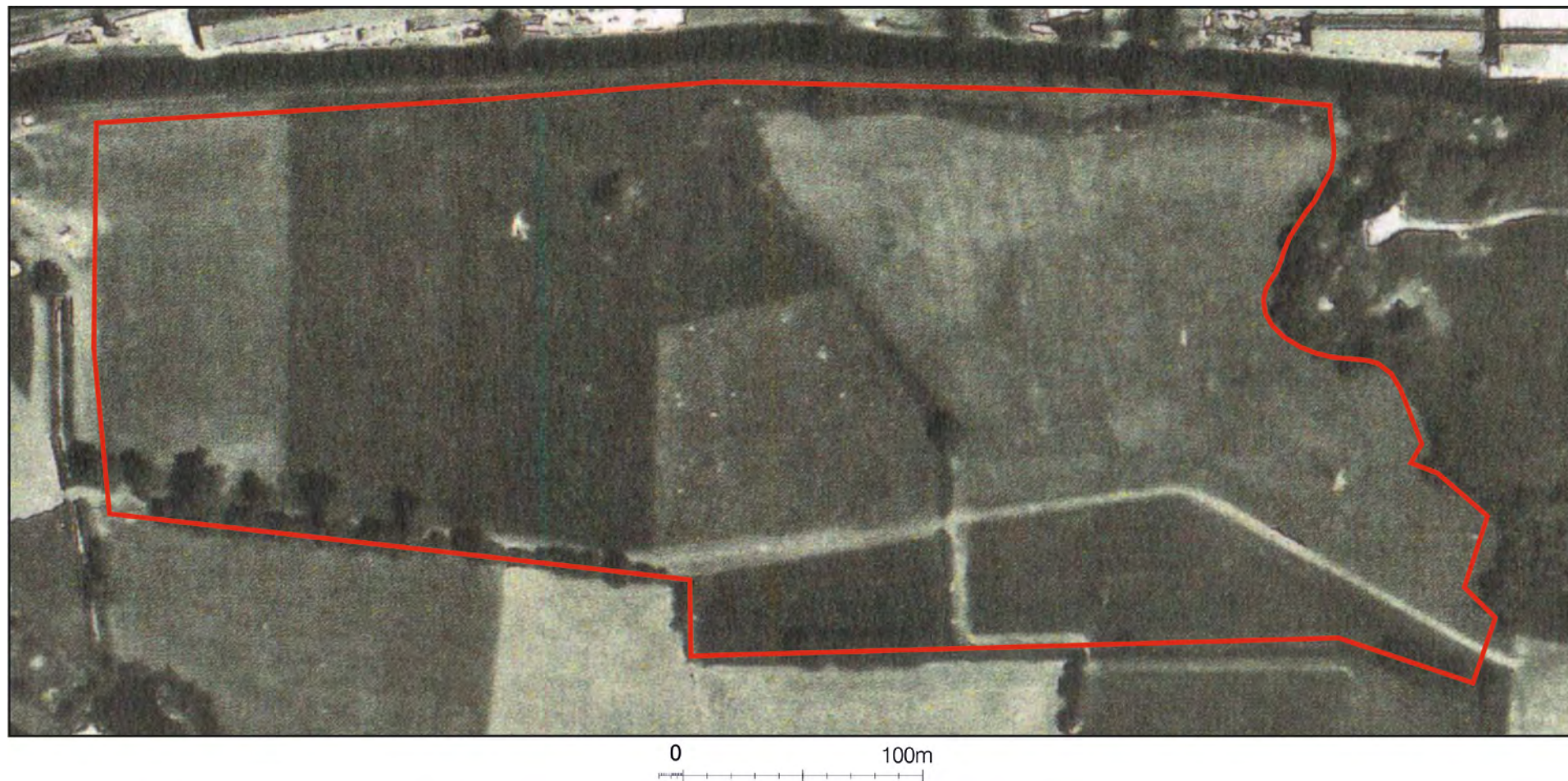


Figure 31: 1967 Aerial Photograph of Area 4, Scale 1:2500

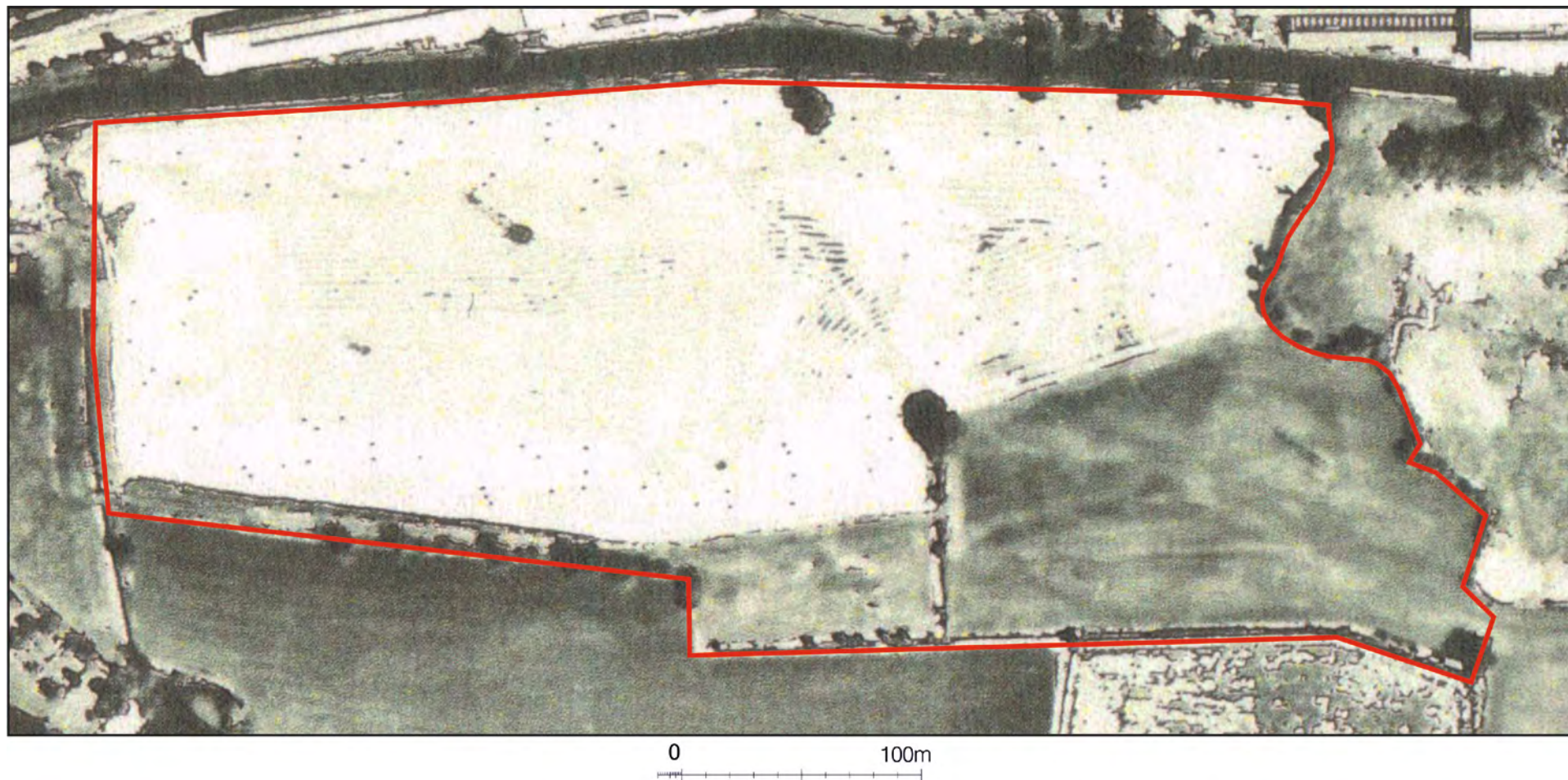


Figure 32: 1981 Aerial Photograph of Area 4, Scale 1:2500

Area 4 is depicted during the 1980s topsoil strip

Examination of air photographs from the 1980s suggests the area was subject to topsoil stripping. This has inevitably had an impact on the survival of below-ground archaeology and on the earthworks noted in the early air photographs. The modern air photo below shows the earthworks, including the square enclosure, is no longer as distinct, suggesting some degree of truncation has occurred.

A bank is present along the southern boundary of the area, rising up to the drainage ditch. This bank is considered to be a further relic of the stripping of topsoil.

The West Berkshire Historic Environment Record lists entry MWB18053 as being located in area 4. The entry relates to a Bronze Age spearhead, found in the 1960s 'just below the ground surface' during gravel extraction. The spearhead disintegrated on examination at Newbury Museum. This evidence is threefold: In the first part, it suggests Bronze Age activity from within the site, secondly, that archaeological remains are known close to the surface, and thirdly that the ground was disturbed in the 1960s for gravel extraction.



Plate 36: Bank along southern boundary of area 4



Figure 33: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 4, Scale 1:2500
Some parch marks are present to the right of area 4.

12.5 Area 5



Plate 37: Panoramic view of area 5 from the northeast



Plate 38: Panoramic view of area 5 from the northwest



Plate 39: Panoramic view of southern aspect, area 5

Area 5 is bounded by area 4 to the north, area 6 to the east, the River Kennet to the south and area 2 to the west.



Plate 40: The River Kennet viewed from area 5

Air photographs prior to 1984 show ridge and furrow in this area, however the 1984 photograph shows an extensive topsoil strip has occurred. The ridge and furrow is no longer visible in more recent air photos. This is considered likely to have had a negative impact on the survival of other below ground archaeology should any have been present.

Figure 34: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 5
Ridge and furrow is noted to the left of the area.



Figure 35: 1967 Aerial Photograph of Area 5

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12.6 Area 6



Plate 41: Panoramic view of area 6 from the southeast



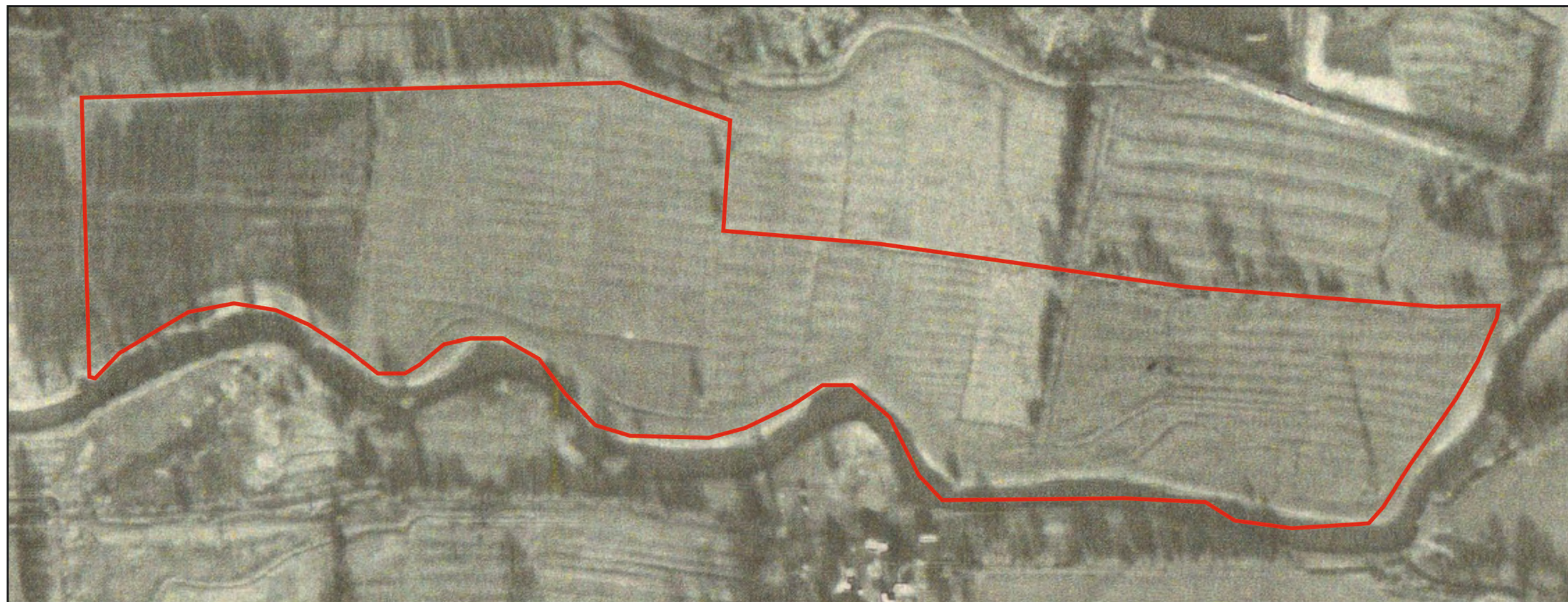
Plate 42: Panoramic view of area 6 from the southwest

Area 6 is located to the east of area 5, south of areas 4 and 9 (from which it is separated by a drainage ditch) and is bounded to the south and east by the River Kennet.



Plate 43: Sluices on the River Kennet, viewed from the southeast corner of area 6

Pre-1980s air photographs show a number of fields of ridge and furrow covering area 6. Similarly to area 5, the area appears to have been subject to extensive topsoil stripping in the 1980s which has removed all traces of ridge and furrow from the current landscape. This is considered likely to have had a negative impact on the survival of other below ground archaeology should any have been present.



0 100m
1:2000 @ A4

Figure 37: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 6
Fields of ridge and furrow are apparent across area 6.

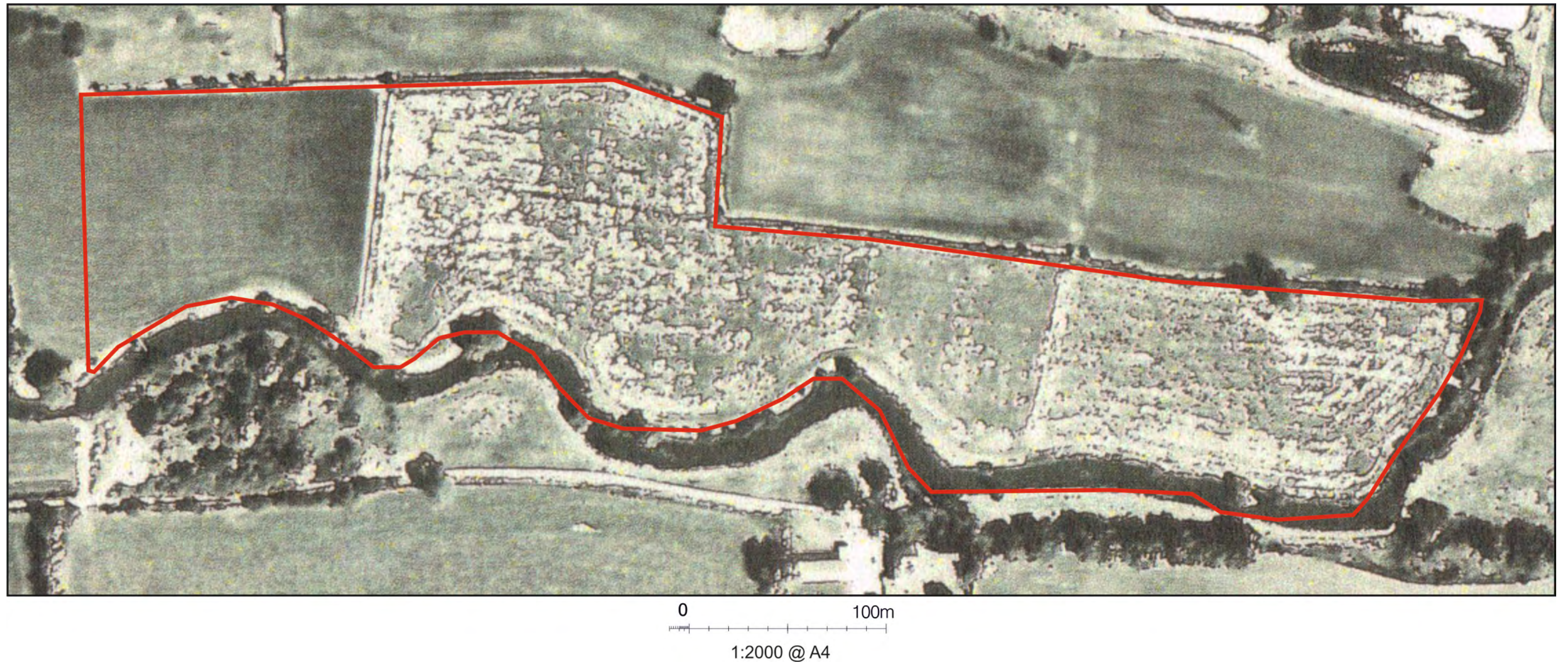


Figure 38: 1981 Aerial Photograph of Area 6
Topsoil strip is underway.



0 100m
1:2000 @ A4

Figure 39: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 6
No earthworks are visible.

12.7 Area 7

Area 7 is a small area of scrub / woodland located to the east of area 4, south of the canal and west of area 8.



Plate 44: Area 7 viewed from the west

Air photograph evidence for area 7 shows a 1960s trackway, 1970s pond, and possible 1980s dumping which may have taken the form of the infilling of the pond.

A fair amount of ground disturbance is considered to have occurred in this area which is likely to have affected the survival of below-ground archaeology.

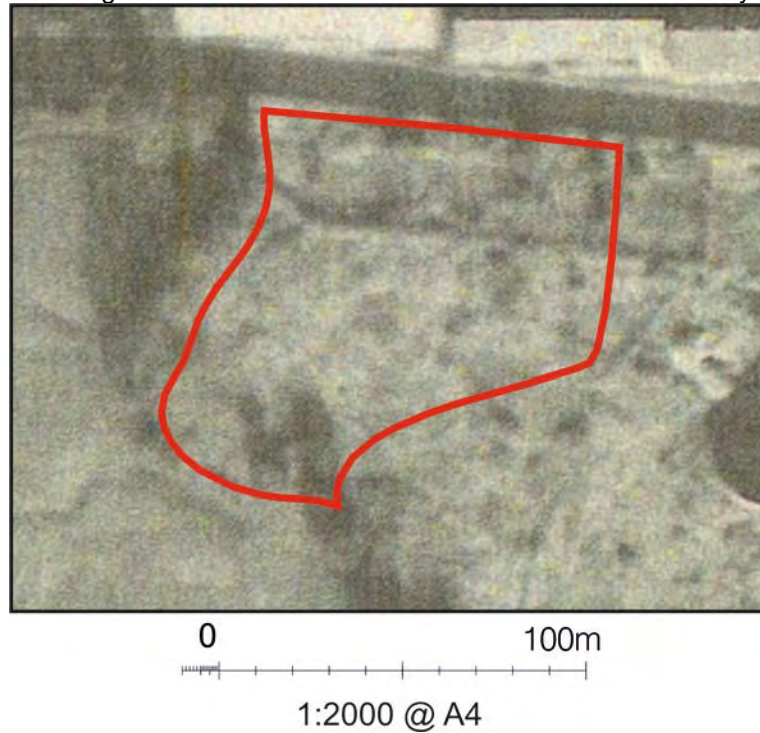


Figure 40: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 7

The area is occupied by scrub.

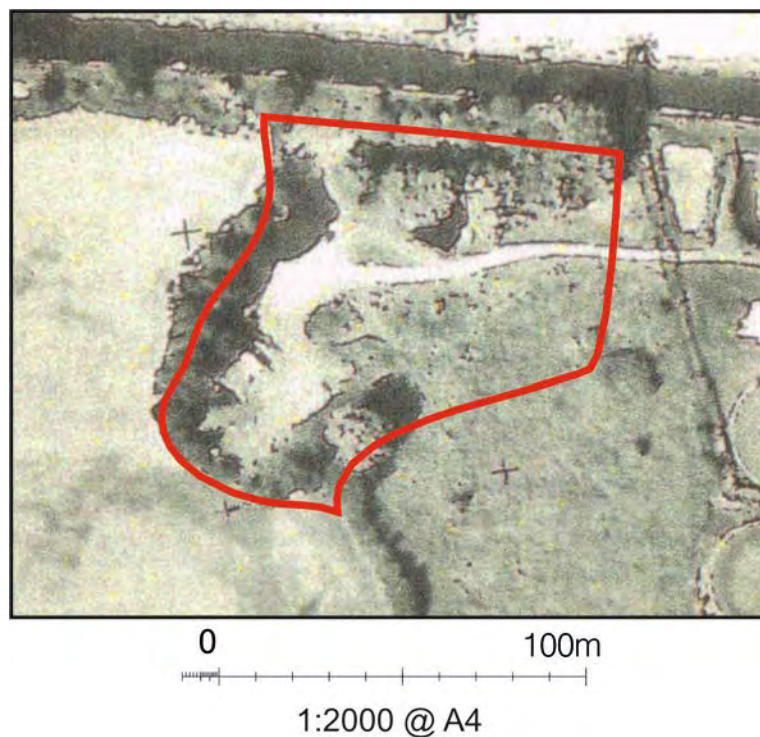


Figure 41: 1964 Aerial Photograph of Area 7

Some excavation has occurred. The western part of the area may be a lake or dump.

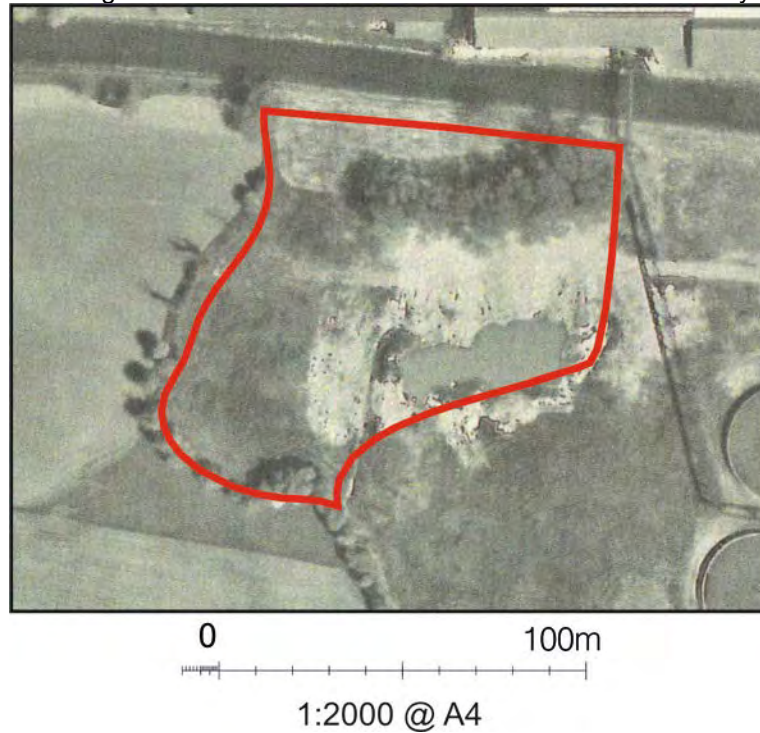


Figure 42: 1978 Aerial Photograph of Area 7

Excavation has occurred on the eastern part of the area.

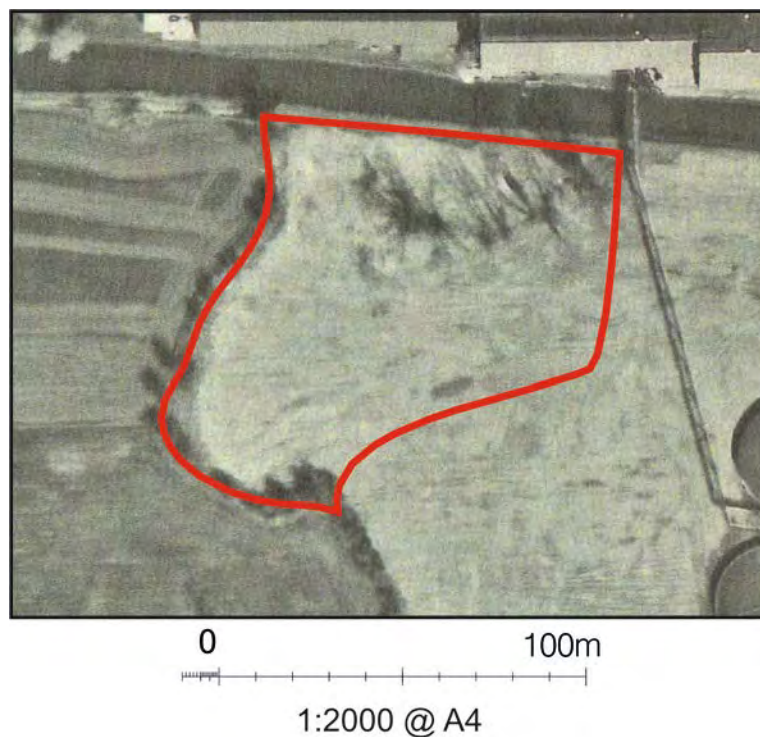


Figure 43: 1984 Aerial Photograph of Area 7

Excavations have been backfilled.

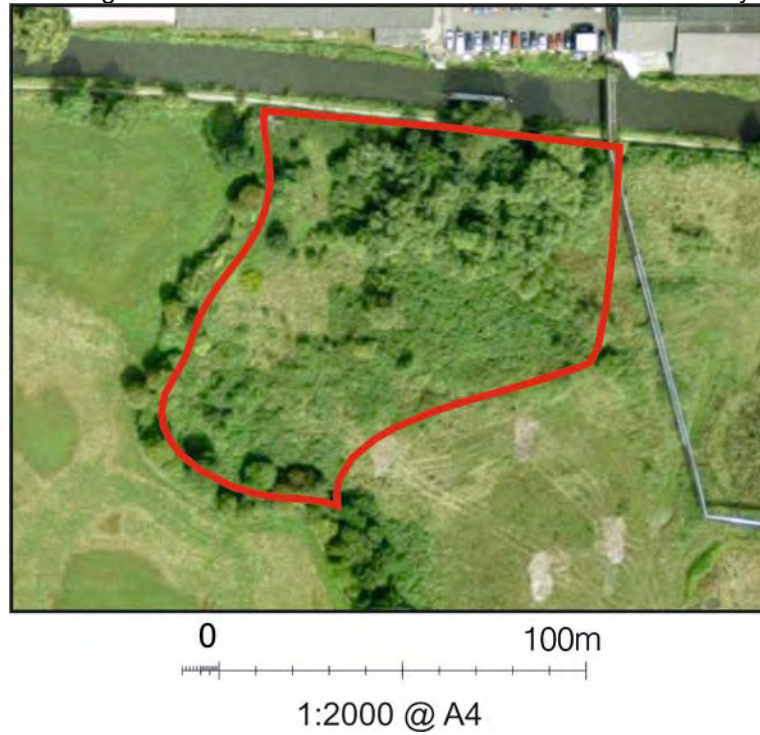


Figure 44: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 7
The area is returning to scrub.

12.8 Area 8

Area 8 is a former industrial area comprising piping, settlement tanks and lagoons, a water tower and other facilities relating to the cleaning of water from the former paper mill located on the opposite side of the canal to the site. A pipe bridge carried pipelines to and from the mill. Some tanks, the water tower and other infrastructure are still present.

A great deal of ground disturbance is considered to have occurred in this area and the survival of below-ground archaeology is therefore considered to be unlikely.



Plate 45: Area 8 viewed from the west



Plate 46: Area 7 viewed from the west



Plate 47: View of area 7 from the southeast



Plate 48: View of area 7 from the southeast



Plate 49: Panoramic view of area 7 from the southwest



Plate 50: Pipe bridge crossing the canal to area 8



Plate 51: Water tower, area 8

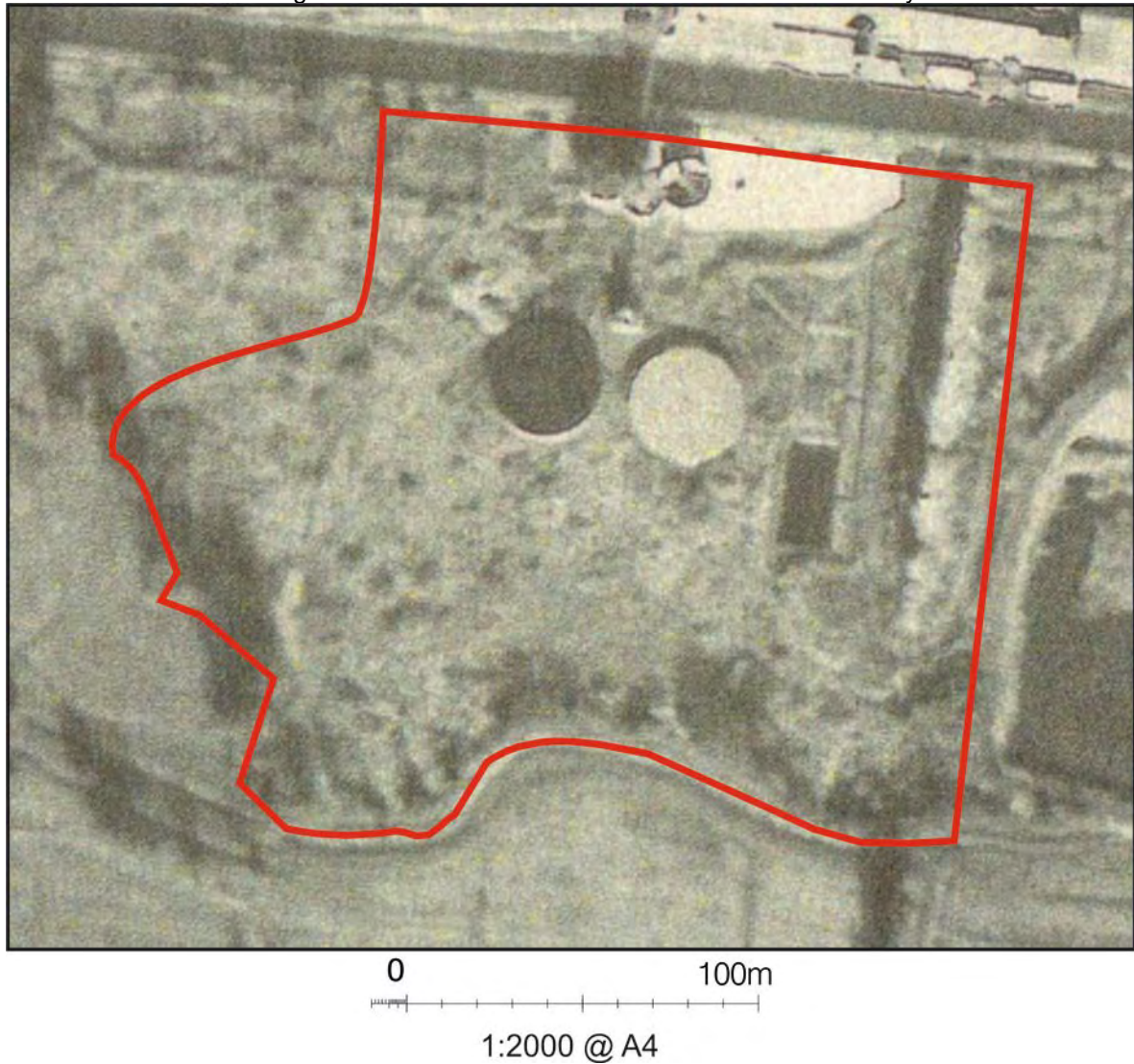


Figure 45: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

Two large round tanks are present, with a square tank to the east.

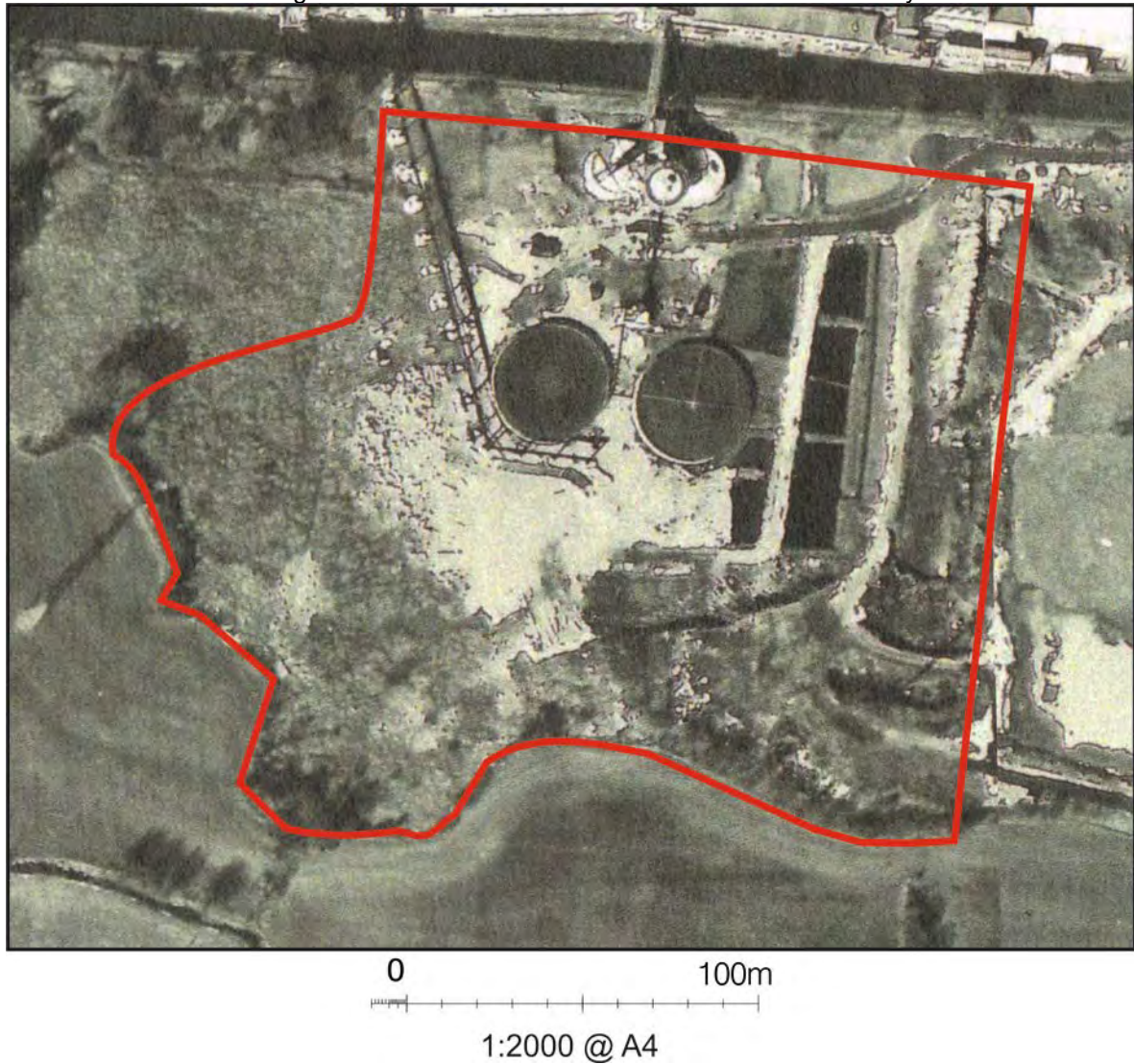


Figure 46: 1957 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

The pipe bridge has been installed and new rectangular tanks are present to the east of the round tanks. The water tower appears to be present.

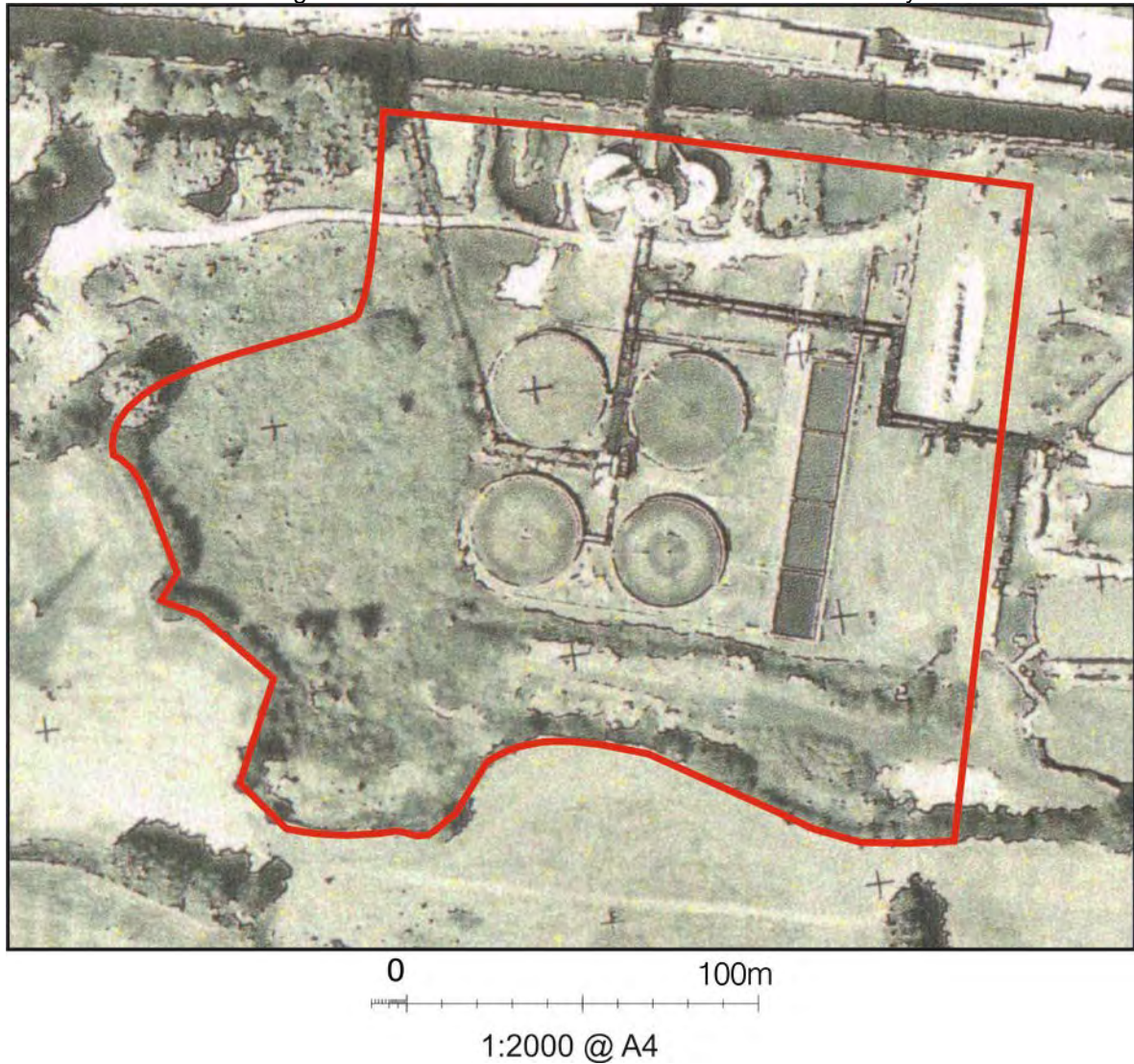


Figure 47: 1964 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

Two more large round tanks are present. The rectangular tanks have been rearranged and the pipe bridge continues to the east.

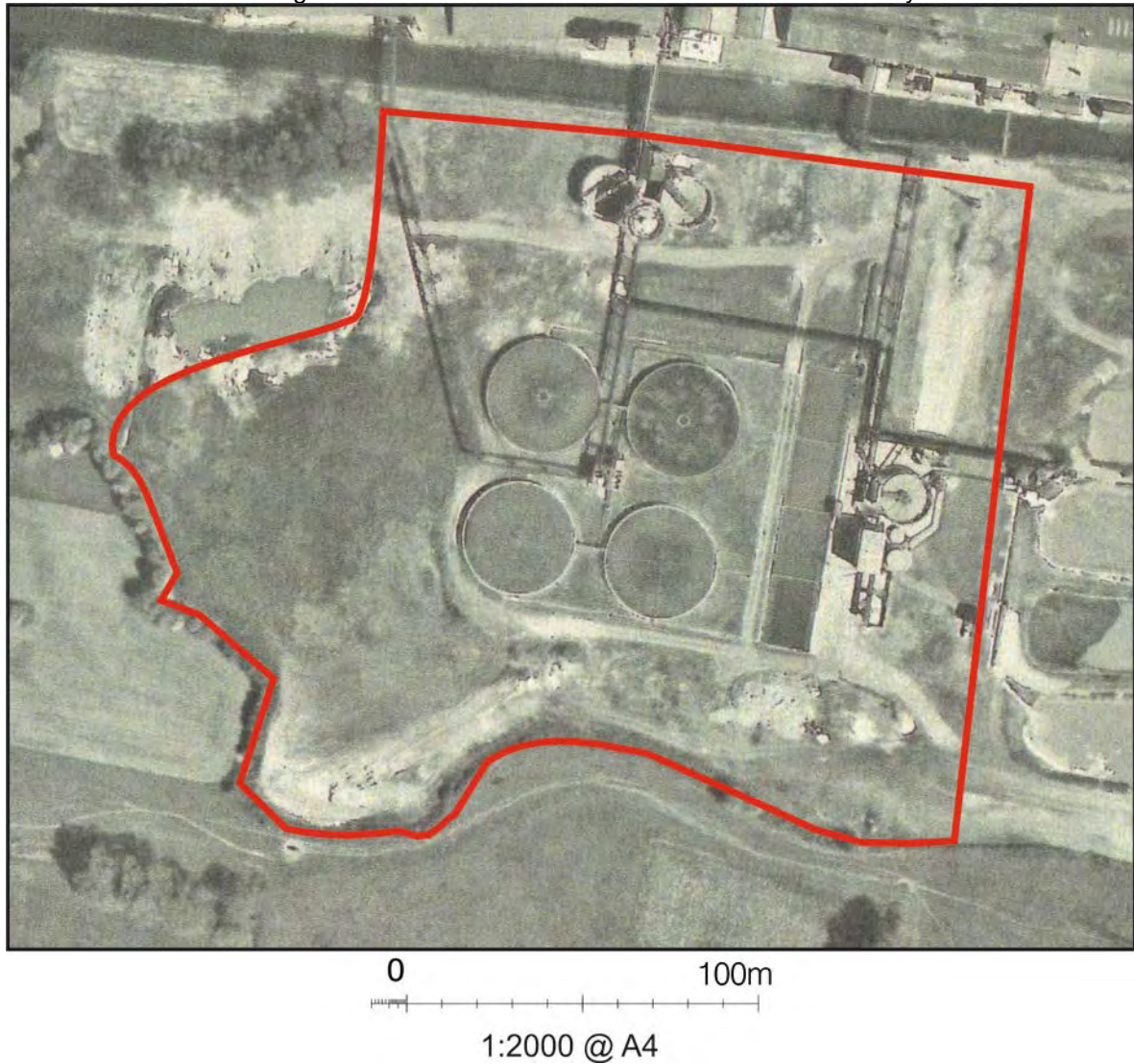


Figure 48: 1978 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

Further infrastructure has been constructed to the east of the round tanks.



Figure 49: 1998 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

The infrastructure has become disused and is beginning to be overgrown.



1:2000 @ A4

Figure 50: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 8

12.9 Area 9

Area 9 is bounded by areas 8 and 10 to the north, area 6 to the south and area 4 to the northeast.



Plate 52: View into area 9 from the northeast



Plate 53: Area 9 viewed from the southwest



Plate 54: Panoramic view of area 9 from the north



Plate 55: Panoramic view of area 9 from the south

Area 9 was, like areas 5 and 6, covered by ridge and furrow until the 1980s topsoil strip. There is no evidence for ridge and furrow in the present landscape. The survival of below-ground archaeology is considered to be unlikely.

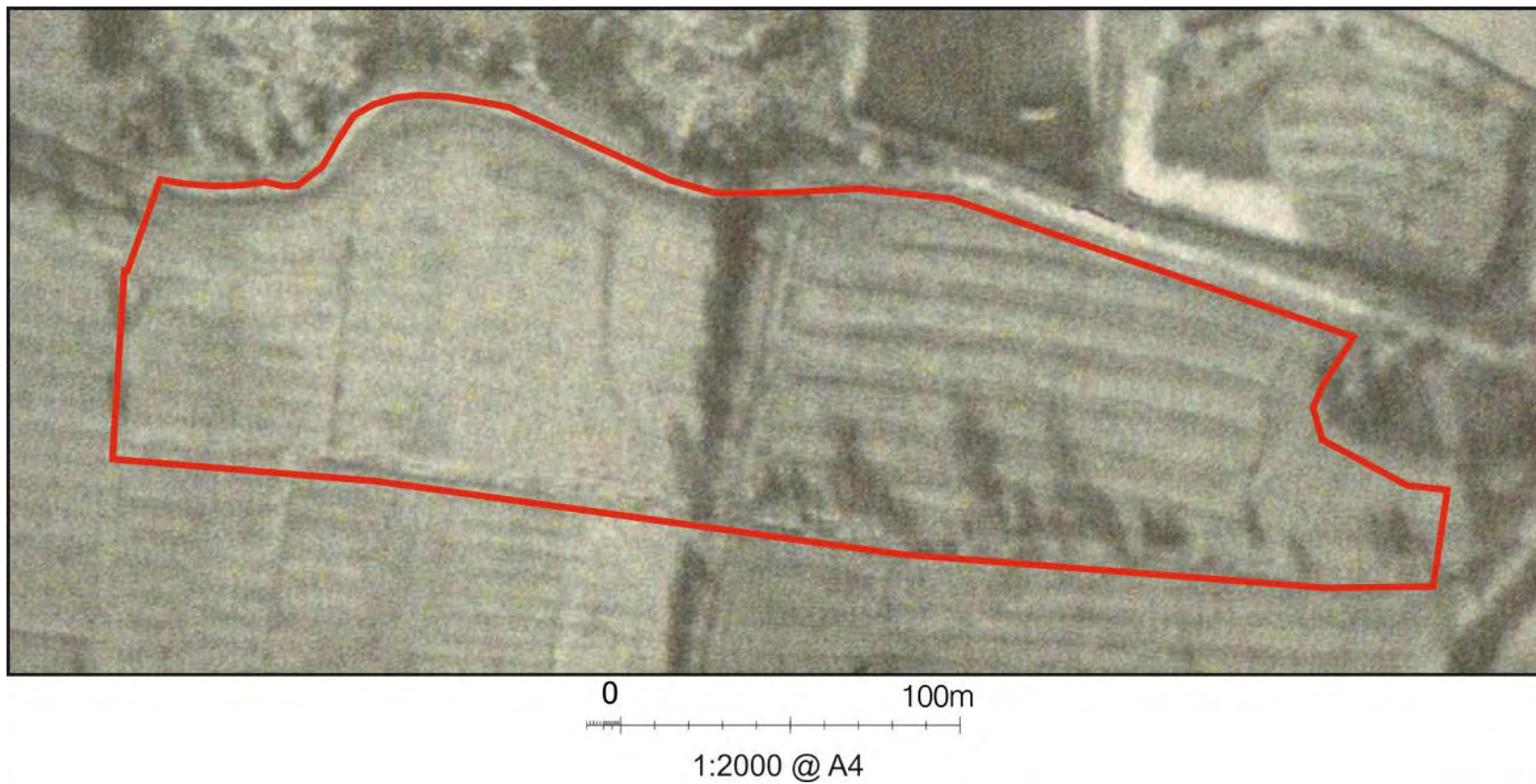


Figure 51: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 9
Fields of ridge and furrow are present across the area.

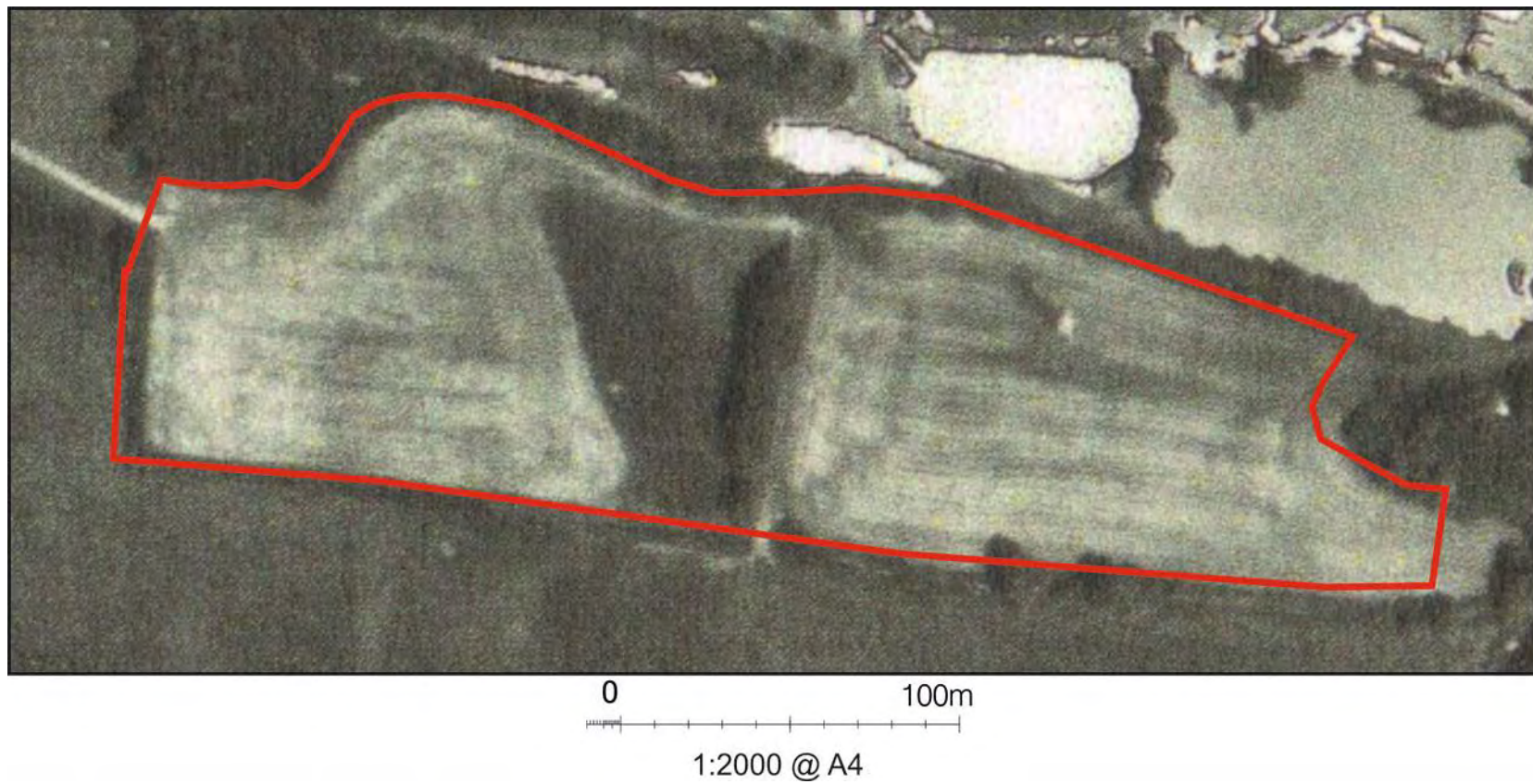


Figure 52: 1967 Aerial Photograph of Area 9

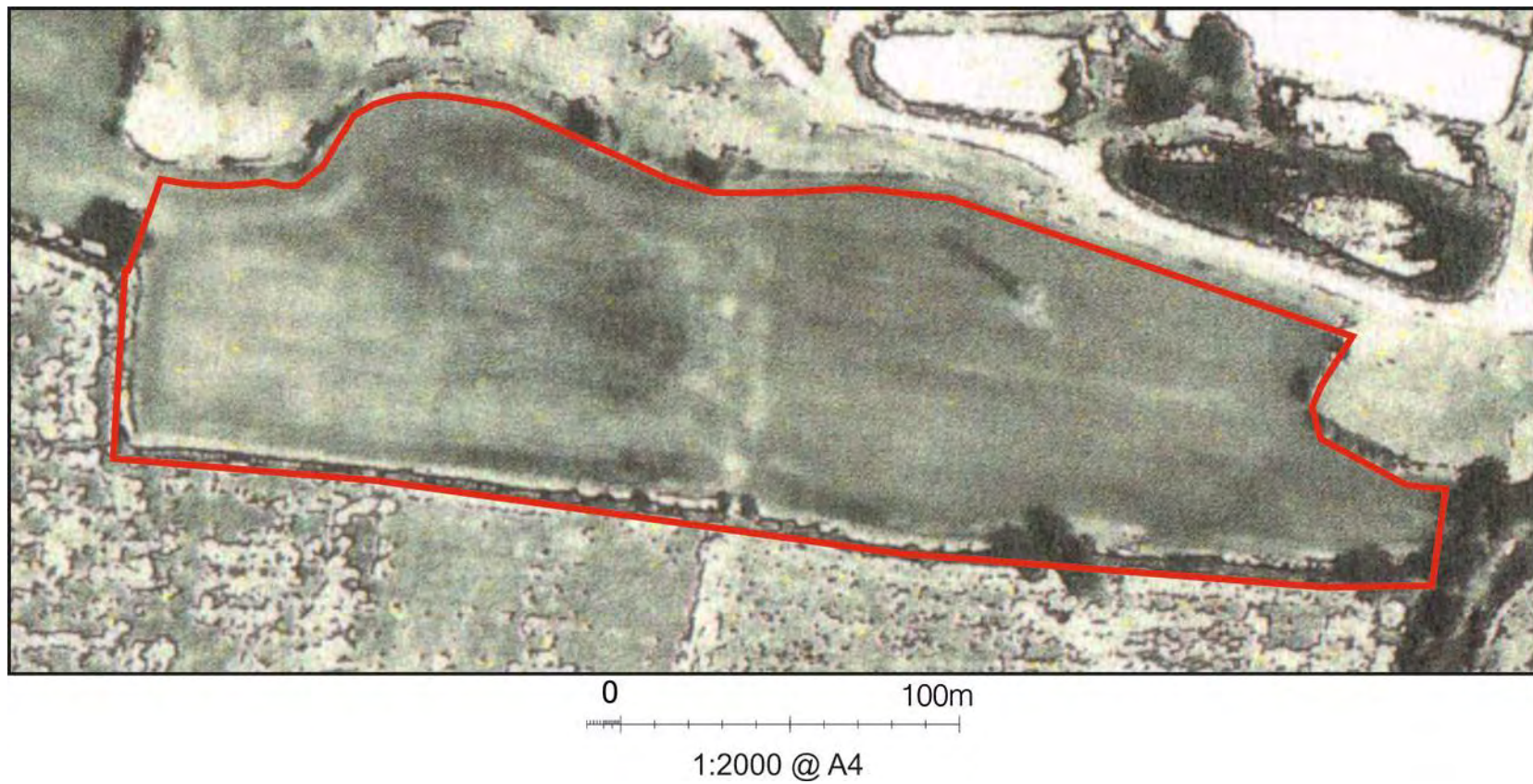


Figure 53: 1981 Aerial Photograph of Area 9

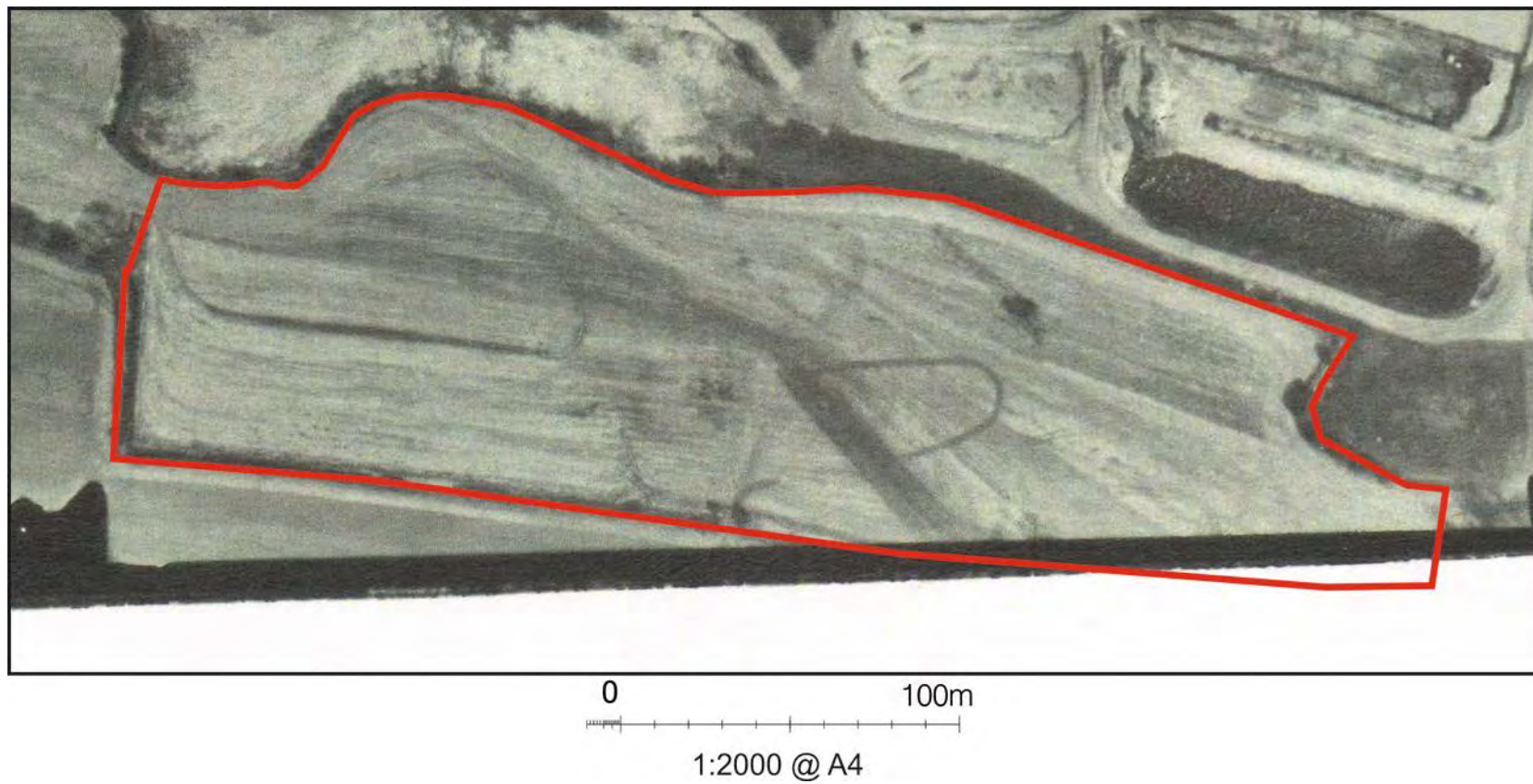


Figure 54: 1985 Aerial Photograph of Area 9
The area has been stripped.

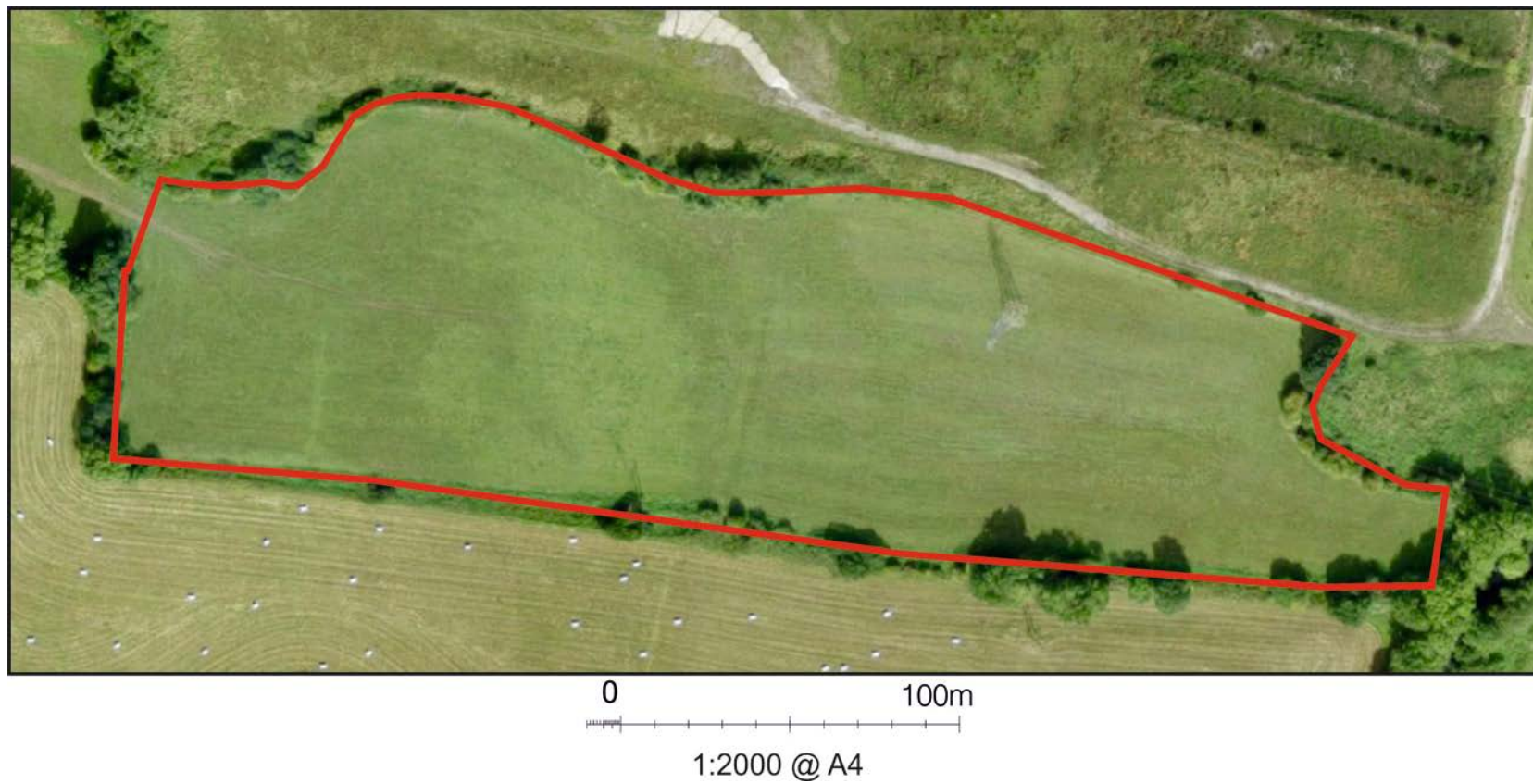


Figure 55: 2005 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 9

12.10 Area 10

Area 10 is located to the north of area 9 and the River Kennet, east of area 8. The northern boundary is formed by the canal and weir pool.

The area was until 1998-2004 the location of a number of lagoons connected with the water purification process for the paper mill. The lagoons are still depicted on the modern Ordnance Survey map.

The survival of below-ground archaeology in this area is considered to be highly unlikely.



Plate 56: View across area 10 from the east



Plate 57: Panoramic view across area 10 from the southeast



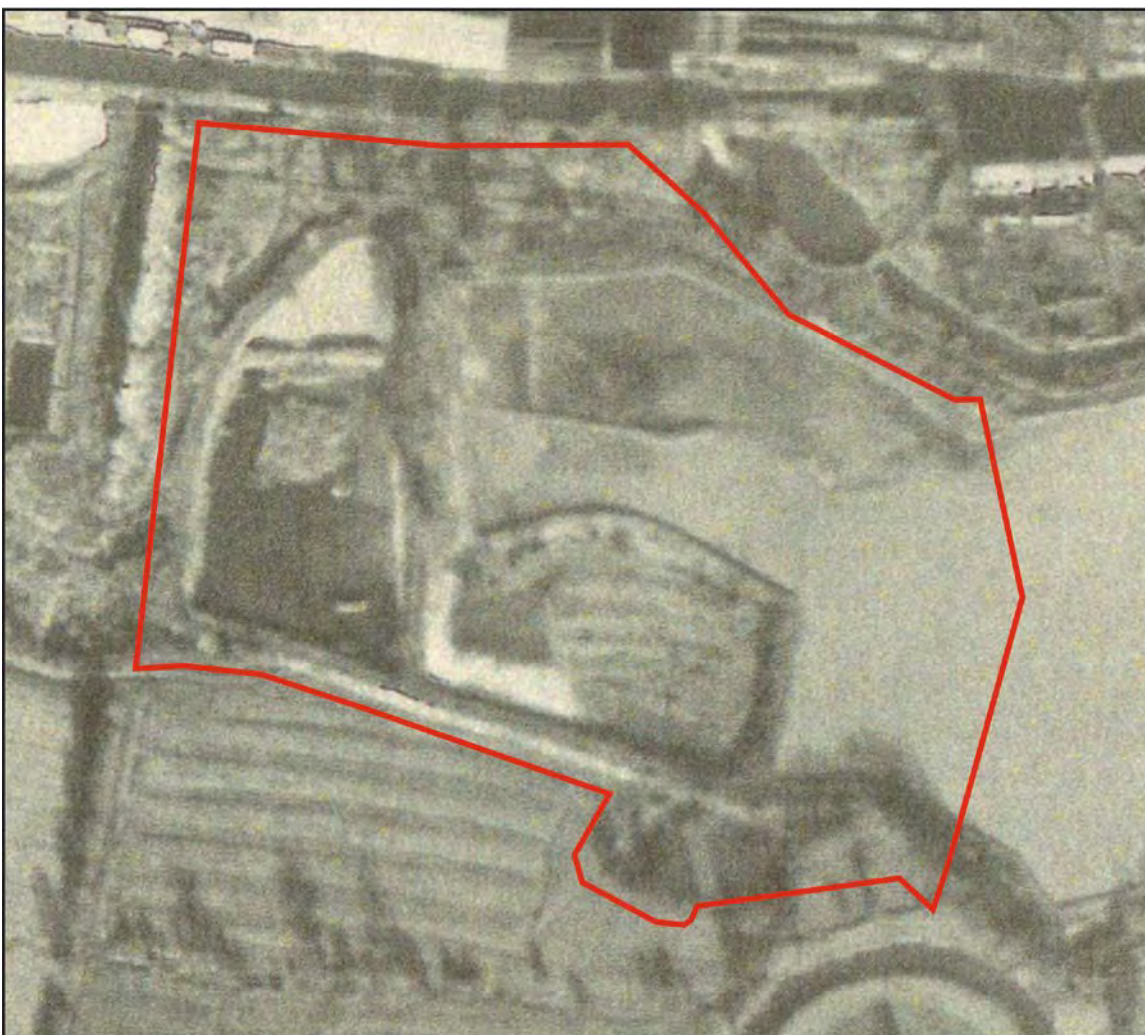
Plate 58: Panoramic image of area 10, viewed from the south



Plate 59: Panoramic image of area 10, viewed from the west



Plate 60: Area 10 viewed from the canal towpath



0 100m

Figure 56: 1947 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500

Some ridge and furrow is present in a small field to the south of the area. A lake appears to be present to the west.

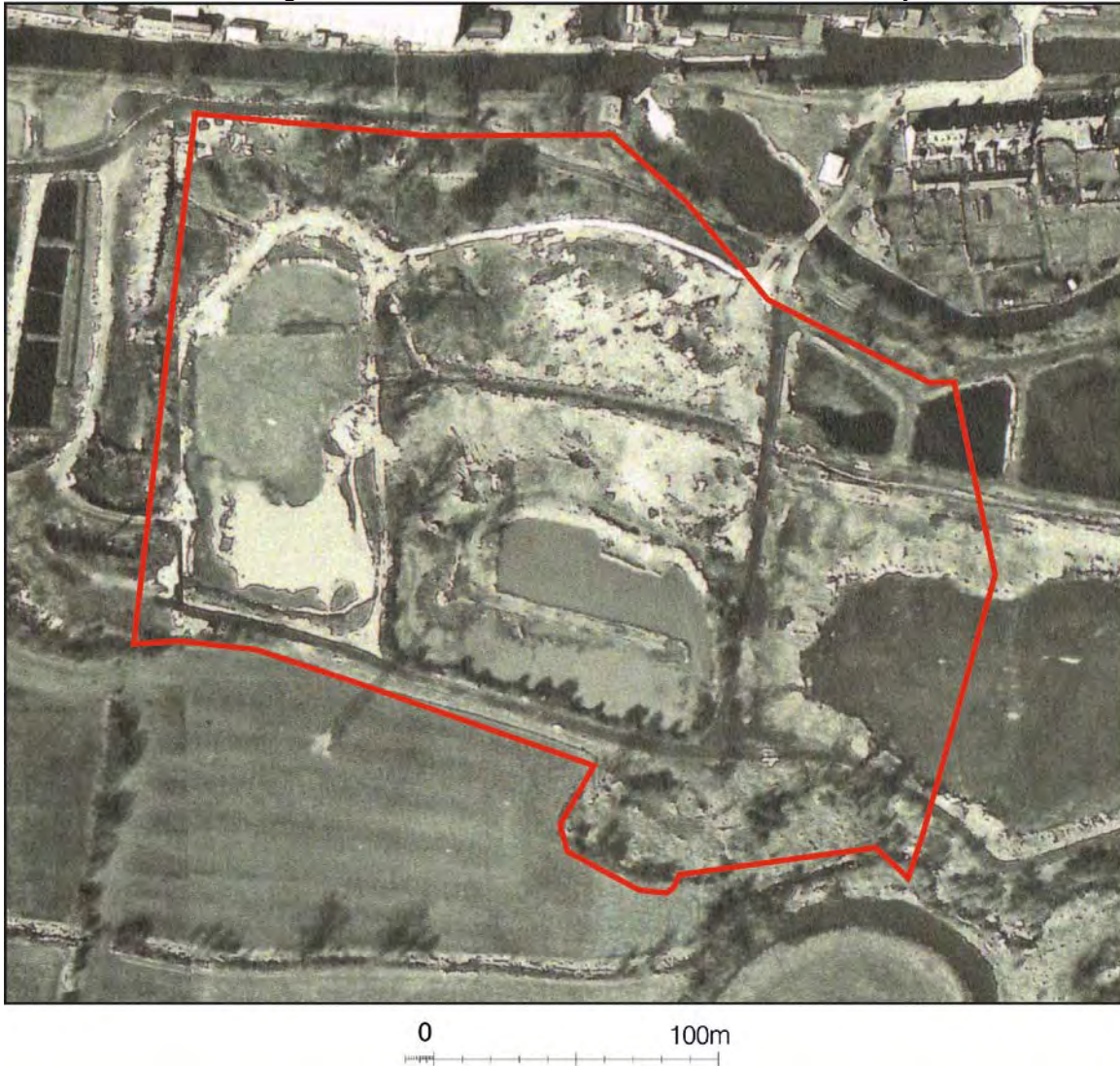


Figure 57: 1957 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500

The area has been extensively disturbed. A lake is present to the south where ridge and furrow was previously noted.

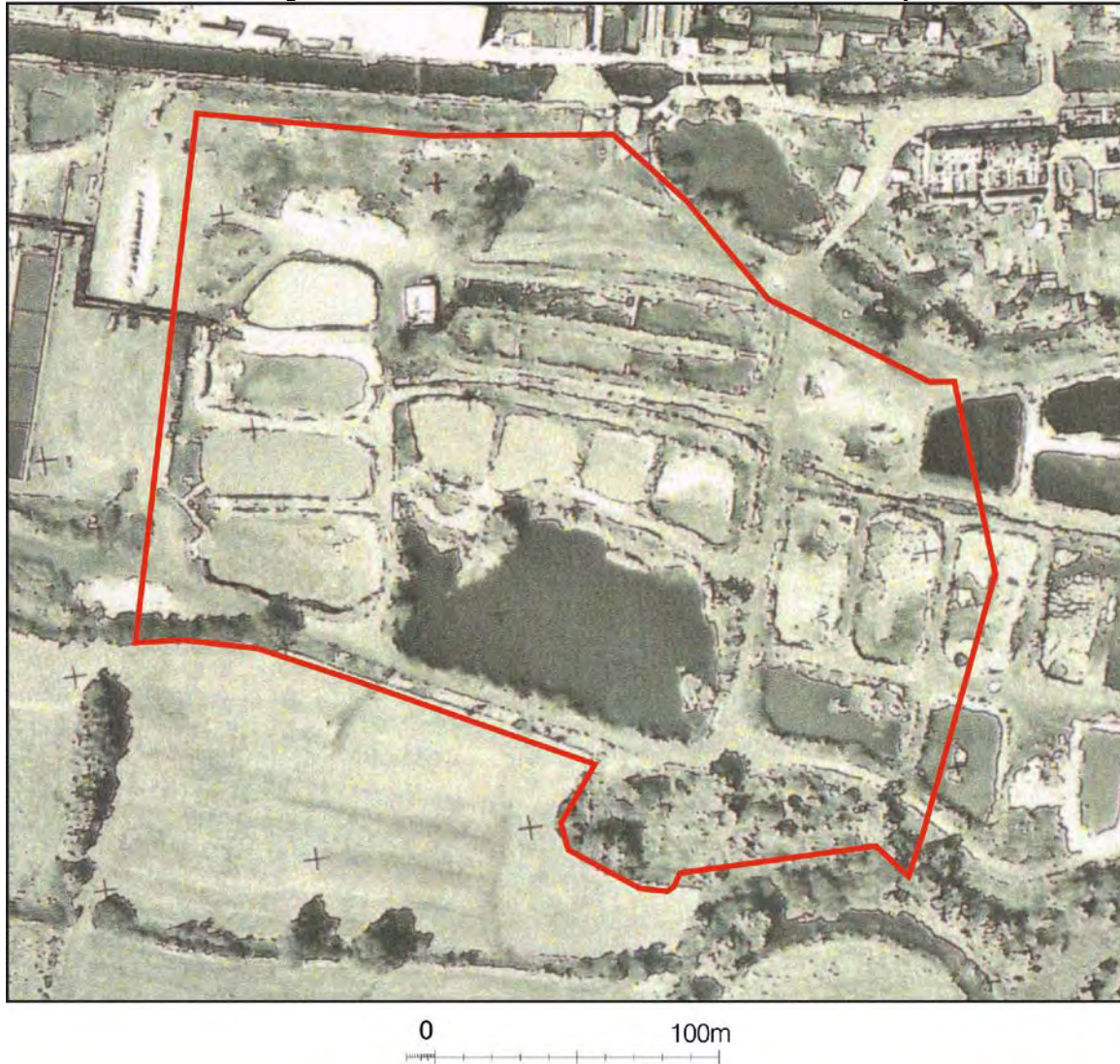


Figure 58: 1964 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500
Lakes / lagoons are now present across the area.



Figure 59: 1978 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500

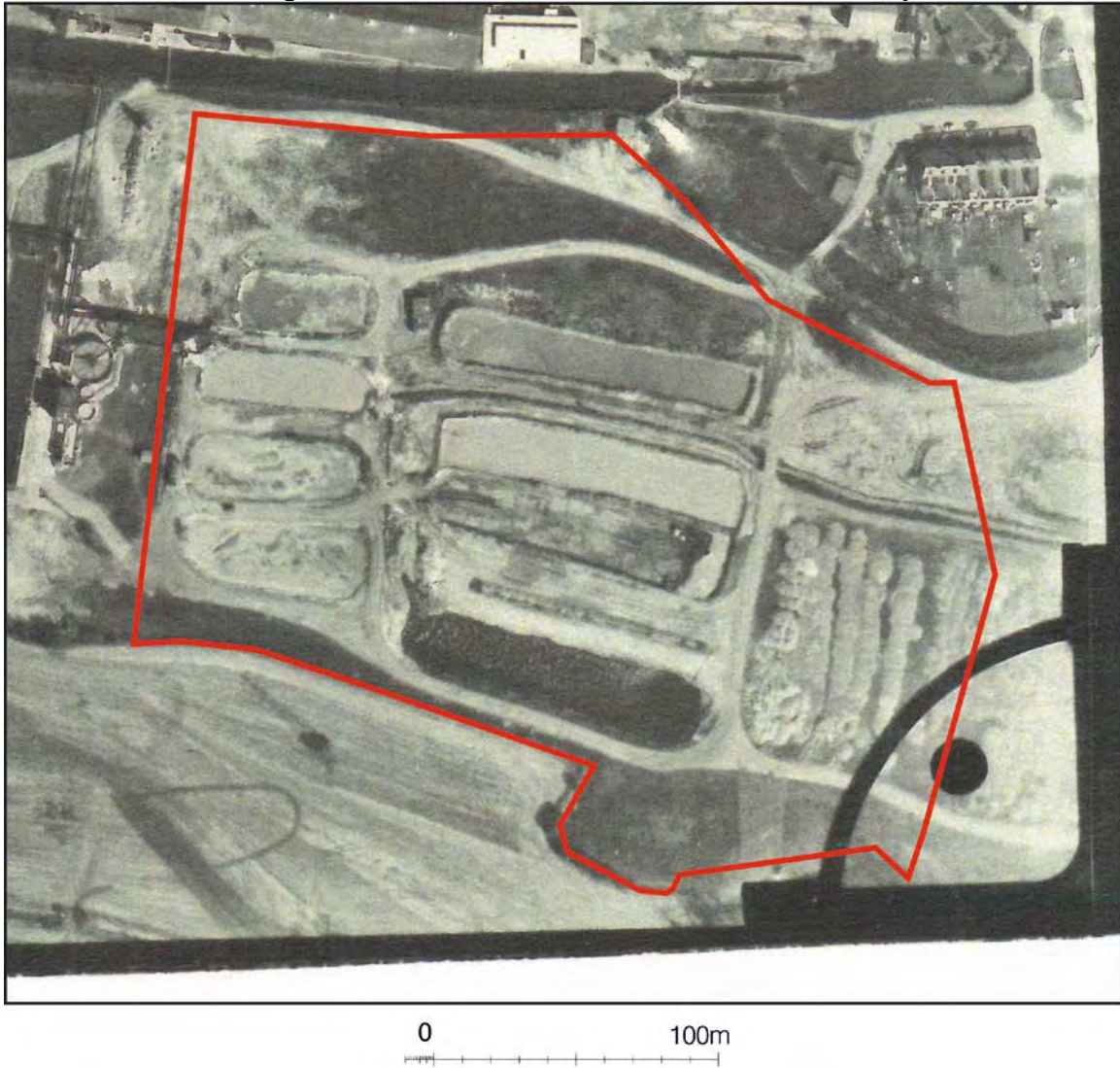


Figure 60: 1985 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500



Figure 61: 2005 Aerial Photograph of Area 10, Scale 1:2500
Earthworks show the former location of the lakes.

13. Definitions:

Term	Definition
Archaeology	The study of past human activities, before the end of the post medieval period at 1700 AD, from the material remains which these activities produce.
Remains	Includes any sign or trace of the thing in question.
Archaeological Site	The place or position occupied by, and the place where, physical remains of past human activity, including those remains, can be discovered.
Evaluation	Small scale inexpensive trial archaeological excavation carried out before planning permission is granted in order to determine the weight that ought to be placed upon the preservation of an archaeological site.
Industrial Archaeology	The study, using archaeological methods, of industrial processes from ancient times to the present day.
Mitigation Strategy	A strategy for ameliorating the effects of a development on an archaeological site, by means of a foundation design which reduces the amount of ground disturbance, or a programme of archaeological investigation, recording and research.
Preservation in situ	The physical preservation of archaeological remains and sites in the place where they are to be found.
Planning Archaeologist	The person who advises the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. This may be somebody within the authority but can be an external post in a County Council, English Heritage or another body.
Period Definitions	
Neolithic	Circa 4000-2500 bc uncalibrated radio-carbon years
Earlier Bronze Age	2500-1200 bc
Later Bronze Age	1200BC-800 bc
Iron Age	800 bc-50 AD
Romano-British	AD50-AD410
Early Medieval	AD410-1086
Medieval	1086-1485
Post Medieval	1485-1700
Tudor	1485-1558
Jacobean	1603-1702
Georgian	1702-1837
Early Modern (Imperial)	1700-1837
Victorian	1837-1901
Modern	1901-present day
Geological definitions	
Particle sizes	The Wentworth Scale is used
Made Ground	Non natural deposits which may have the potential to be archaeological remains. It is noted that the identification of made ground as being modern is the prerogative of archaeologists.