



Katherine Farm, Avonmouth, Bristol

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment



**KATHERINE FARM,
AVONMOUTH**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wessex Water to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land within the Bristol Sewage Treatment Works, Avonmouth, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 353522 179580 (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site includes some of the ancillary farm buildings of Katherine Farm. One of these buildings is a stone barn which appears to be 18th century in date. It lies just south of the farmhouse of Katherine Farm.

The archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in connection with a proposal to demolish the stone barn and other ancillary farm buildings and build a new stores building for the Sewage Works. The depth of the proposed foundations is not known or if the proposed development will involve any piling, but the development is likely to have an impact on any surviving *in situ* archaeological deposits.

The Site lies on a thick band of post glacial alluvial deposits known as the Wentlooge Formation, which consists of estuarine silts and sands with peat layers, formed under marshy conditions.

The desk-based assessment has shown that 18 archaeological sites and findspots dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, medieval post-medieval and modern periods occur within the Study Area, an area extending 500m from the Site boundary. There is one Scheduled Monument within the Study Area, the 'Merebank' (SM no. AV27988), which lies 400m south-west of the Site.

The occurrence of recorded archaeological sites within the Study Area is moderate to high for most prehistoric periods. Stabilisation layers (soil layers which indicate breaks in the cycle of inundation and alluviation that enabled the formation of these soils under drier conditions) dating from the Mesolithic and the Bronze Age have been found sealed within the Wentlooge alluvial deposits during archaeological evaluation and excavation immediately adjacent to the Site. The Bronze Age layer contained pottery sherds, imported stone and bone suggesting Late Bronze Age activity. There is therefore a high potential for similar deposits within the Site itself. The evidence for Iron Age and Roman period activity is low, but nearby sites such as Hallen and Western Approach Retail Park indicate that some potential for archaeological deposits from these periods exists. It is probable that Katherine Farm has medieval origins. There is a moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits from this period within the Site.

Standing buildings on the Site, the 18th century stone barn as well as 19th and 20th century ancillary buildings, will be demolished. These are part of the history of Katherine Farm. The foundations of these buildings are likely to have had an impact on any surviving *in situ* archaeological deposits within the footprint of the proposed building, although the extent of this damage is not known. Stabilisation horizons sealed within the Wentlooge deposits are unlikely to have been adversely affected by these footings because they are often found at some depth below ground level. In the adjacent archaeological excavation the Mesolithic stabilisation horizon was found at about 1.7m below ground level, while the Bronze Age stabilisation horizon was found at about 1.2m below ground level.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Charlotte Mathews. This report was researched and compiled by Andrew Armstrong. S.E. James prepared the illustrations.

KATHERINE FARM, AVONMOUTH

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wessex Water to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of land within the Bristol Sewage Treatment Works, Avonmouth (**Figure 1**), centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 353522 179580 (hereafter ‘the Site’).

1.1.2 The Site includes some of the ancillary farm buildings of Katherine Farm. The earliest of these buildings is a stone barn which appears to be 18th century in date. It lies just south of the farmhouse of Katherine Farm. Evaluation and excavation of land adjacent to the Site in 1998 revealed two stabilisation layers (soil layers which indicate breaks in the cycle of inundation and alluviation that enabled the formation of these soils under drier conditions) dating from the Mesolithic and the Bronze Age (Wessex Archaeology 1998a; Allen *et al* 2002). These were sealed within the Wentlooge alluvial deposits. The Bronze Age layer contained pottery sherds, imported stone and bone suggesting Late Bronze Age activity.

1.1.3 The archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in connection with a proposal to demolish the stone barn and other ancillary farm buildings and build a new stores building for the Sewage Works (**Figure 2**). It was undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application for this new building in order to provide the planning authority with further information on the nature of any archaeological remains which may survive on the Site.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site comprises a rectangular area of land and includes the stone barn (**Figure 3, Plate 1**), an adjacent single storey brick building to the south-west and other ancillary farm buildings (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). Sewage Work structures and features surround the Site on three sides: to the south-east, south-west and north-west. The modern farmhouse of Katherine Farm lies to the north-east of the Site.

1.2.2 The Site is flat, lying at approximately 6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The solid geology comprises Triassic/early Jurassic mudrock. This is overlain by a thick band of post glacial alluvial deposits known as the Wentlooge Formation, which consists of estuarine silts and sands with peat layers, formed under marshy conditions (Allen 1992).

1.2.3 The Site is situated on the Henbury Level, an area of low lying, flat artificially drained land, forming part of the Avon Levels. The relatively dry and stable pasture landscape of the Levels today is a result of centuries of

gradual land reclamation, achieved through the creation of sea defences and artificial drains.

2 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near to, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and policies for the historic environment are included in relevant regional and local structure plans.

2.2 National Legislation and Guidance

- 2.2.1 The principal legislation concerning the protection of important archaeological sites is the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (as amended). This act provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Monuments (SMs). Under this act Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) must be sought for any works which may affect a designated Scheduled Monument.

- 2.2.2 Guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of the archaeological resource within the planning process is provided by *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990. The underlying principle of this guidance is that archaeological resources are non-renewable, stating that:

‘Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation’ [Para. 8]

- 2.2.3 Protection for historically important buildings is principally based upon the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*. Recent guidance on the approach of the planning authorities to development and historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment is provided by *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG15), issued by the Department of the Environment in September 1994. Paragraph 2.16 of PPG15 states:

‘Sections 16 and 66 of the Act [(Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990)], require authorities considering applications for planning permission or listed building consent for works which affect a listed building to have special regard to certain matters, including the desirability of preserving the setting of the building’.

- 2.2.4 Buildings or structures Listed as of particular architectural or historic interest benefit from statutory protection. These may include buildings or structures of national (Grade I, Grade II*) or local (Grade II) importance. The setting of a Listed Building can be a material consideration in determining a planning application.

2.3 Regional and Local Planning Guidance

- 2.3.1 Bristol City Council has statutory duties regarding the control of development. With regard to the historic environment, the authority has drawn up policies and management plans incorporating statutory advice from the national guidelines outlined above (PPG 15 and PPG 16). These plans seek a balance between necessary development and the protection of the historic environment.

The Joint Replacement Structure Plan

- 2.3.2 The Joint Replacement Structure Plan was adopted on the 23rd September 2002, by the councils of the former Avon authority and replaced the Avon County Structure Plan. It was consulted as development control information regarding the treatment of the historic resource. The Plan deals specifically with archaeological sites.

The Bristol City Council Local Plan

- 2.3.3 The Bristol Local Plan was adopted in 1997 and contains policies relating to archaeology and the historic environment.

- 2.3.4 Policy B22 'Sites of archaeological significance' states:

'(I) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.

(II) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desk-top study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.'

- 2.3.5 The Bristol City Local Plan will in time be fully replaced by the Bristol Local Development Framework. During the interim period the Local Development Scheme confirms the existing planning policies, but any

development should take into account the Proposed Alterations to the Bristol local plan (2003). Which reworded policy B22 in the following way:

‘(i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.

(ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desk-top study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that:

(I) The archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings, or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance.

(II) Provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.’

3 METHODS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site within the context of a 500m radius Study Area centred on the Site (**Figure 1**). The aim of the assessment is to establish, as far as reasonable and practical, the nature and extent of any known or potential archaeological and historical resource within the Site. The assessment has attempted to determine the extent to which past and present land uses may have diminished or enhanced the archaeological potential of the Site. A brief summary of the different sources consulted as part of this assessment is given below.

3.2 Bristol Sites and Monuments Record (BSMR)

3.2.1 Bristol City Council (BCC) maintains a digital database of all archaeological sites, findspots and archaeological events within Bristol and its administrative boundary. The information included in the gazetteer of this report was mainly collated from a search undertaken by Bristol City Council of the BSMR, and forms the basis of the assessment. The BSMR is not a record of all surviving archaeological features and artefacts, but a record of all currently known archaeological data. As such it does not preclude the discovery of further remains, as yet unknown.

3.3 Documentary Sources

- 3.3.1 A search of other relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out in the Bristol Records Office, the Bristol Local Studies Library, Gloucester Records Office and Wessex Archaeology's own library. The sources referred to are listed in **Section 6**.

3.4 Aerial Photographs

- 3.4.1 Aerial photographs obtained from the National Monuments Record in Swindon for the desk-based assessment on the adjacent site (Wessex Archaeology 1998a) were reassessed.

3.5 Cartographic Sources

- 3.5.1 Historical maps for the area of the Site were consulted. Maps provide detailed information on the development and use of the Site in the post-medieval and modern periods. They can also inform as to the potential survival of archaeological deposits which may have been damaged or removed by later development or landscaping.
- 3.5.2 The maps consulted as part of this study are listed in **Section 6**.

3.6 Previous Studies

- 3.6.1 In 1998, Wessex Archaeology carried out a desk-based assessment of the Bristol Sewage Treatment Works which covered much the same area as this report (Wessex Archaeology 1998a). Since 1998 however the area around the Site has undergone extensive redevelopment and consequently a considerable amount of archaeological investigation has taken place in the immediate vicinity. This work has been well summarised by Allen *et al* (2002) and Locock (2001). In brief, much of the area to the north and west of the Site has undergone extensive investigation and a number of archaeological sites have come to light.

3.7 Best Practice Guidance

- 3.7.1 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA 1994, revised September 2001).

3.8 Assumptions

- 3.8.1 The BSMR data consists of secondary information derived from varied sources only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 There are no sites or findspots recorded within the Site although there are 18 sites and findspots recorded within the Study Area ranging in date from the Mesolithic to Modern periods. These include one Scheduled Monument the Merebank (SM no. AV27988), which lies 400m south-west of the Site.
- 4.1.2 There are no Listed Buildings within the Study Area, and the Site does not lie within any conservation areas or registered parks.
- 4.1.3 Archaeological sites have been assigned a unique Wessex Archaeology (WA) number for the purposes of this report. These numbers are plotted on **Figure 1** and are listed chronologically in the Gazetteer (**Appendix 1**).

4.2 The Henbury Level

- 4.2.1 The Site lies in the historic parish of Henbury, which was formerly in Gloucestershire but is now in Bristol. The Henbury Level forms part of the Avon Levels.
- 4.2.2 The current dry pastoral nature of the Henbury Level is the product of centuries of human intervention. This gradual process of land reclamation has involved the canalisation of a number of natural waterways into a network of drainage features known as rhines or rheens, and the creation of sea defences along the coast.
- 4.2.3 Rippon (1997) has developed a model for this reclamation which suggests human occupation starting on high ground in small nucleated settlements. Gradual expansion then followed through the enclosure of characteristically ‘lobe-shaped’ land parcels. This pattern of irregular fields and dispersed small-scale settlements appears to develop from the Late Saxon period to the 12th or 13th century.
- 4.2.4 Rippon then suggests an ‘intermediate’ phase of piecemeal development as these small settlements expand outwards, reclaiming land in more regularly arranged fields. The final phase of reclamation is associated by Rippon with post-medieval enclosure, and is characterised by large rectangular fields.
- 4.2.5 Prior to the Late Saxon period, the Henbury Level was subject to varying degrees of seasonal inundation making long-term settlement activity unlikely away from the high ground near the coast and to the east.
- 4.2.6 This long sequence of inundations gradually deposited a series of estuarine silts/sands and peat up to 15m deep, known as the ‘Wentlooge Formation’. Archaeological deposits are found sealed within this formation in the form of buried soils containing finds and environmental evidence (and more rarely, features). These soil horizons represent brief and localized periods of stabilised higher ground not subject to constant flooding which would have taken the form of fenland islands within a reedy marshland. These small

islands developed soil layers which were then preserved under later alluvial flooding. As Locock (1999)suggests:

‘It is therefore not surprising to see that these stabilisations are often extremely localised in time and space, the product of minor shifts in the local topography, rather than providing continuous stratigraphic units across large parts of the levels.’

- 4.2.7 It is on these ‘stabilisation layers’ that short term settlement activity has been recorded throughout the Levels. These layers indicate that an area was at one point, high and dry enough to have formed an island within the marshland. It does not follow that every such island was settled, but each stabilisation layer certainly has the potential to contain archaeological evidence of human activity.

4.3 Palaeolithic (c. 500,000-10,00BC)

- 4.3.1 There is no evidence within the Study Area for remains from the Palaeolithic period. *In situ* evidence from the Palaeolithic is generally found at a considerable depth below the current ground level, buried by later Wentlooge alluvial build-up. The exception to this is the inter-tidal zone in which Palaeolithic finds can occur. The Site does not lie within this zone.

4.4 Mesolithic (c. 8,500-4,000BC)

- 4.4.1 Evidence for the Mesolithic period is more common. Human activity during this period was migratory and seasonal. Humans are likely to have tried to exploit the marshland and coastal zone, but are unlikely to have settled there, favouring the high ground to the east. Any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the Site are likely to have been overlain by the Wentlooge Formation.
- 4.4.2 There is one Mesolithic deposit recorded within the Study Area (**WA1**), a humic layer sealed within the alluvial clays of the Wentlooge. This humic layer represents a soil horizon which was radiocarbon dated to the Mesolithic period. It was found during excavation adjacent to the Site and within the Avonmouth Sewage Works at a depth of between 4.8m and 5.1m aOD (sealed by over 1.5m of overlying alluvial deposits) (Allen *et al* 2002). The evidence indicates that similar localised soil horizons may be found throughout the North Avon levels.

4.5 Neolithic (c. 4,000-2,400BC)

- 4.5.1 The Neolithic period saw the establishment of more permanent settlements and farming replacing the earlier migratory hunter-gathering lifestyle. As with the Mesolithic, human settlement is likely to have been focused on the high ground to the east, with the Levels being exploited for hunting and seasonal grazing. Soil horizons, which are thought to be Neolithic in date, have been recorded in three areas to the north and west of the Site (**WA2-4**).

4.6 Bronze Age (c. 2,400-700BC)

- 4.6.1 During this period, human exploitation of the wetland environments of the Levels would probably have been transient and seasonal, perhaps exploiting the marshland for game and pasture. Bronze Age activity has been recorded at numerous sites across the Avon Levels associated with buried stabilisation deposits.
- 4.6.2 Soil horizons dated to the Bronze Age, some of which are associated with human occupation/exploitation activity are recorded within the Study Area (**WA5-11**). Excavation adjacent to the Site and within Avonmouth Sewage Works, uncovered a layer containing Late Bronze Age pottery sherds, imported stone and animal bone (Allen *et al* 2002). In Kites Corner (**WA9**), limited structural evidence (two shallow post holes and a few stakeholes) accompanied by quantities of burnt stone, charcoal, pottery and animal bone have been recorded (Locock 2001). Two further sites at Little Googs and Stinkums (**WA10-11**) contained charcoal and possible burnt stone. There is clear potential for similar deposits within the Site.

4.7 Iron Age (c. 700BC-AD 43)

- 4.7.1 The earliest known human settlement of the Levels is dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age and is best represented by the excavated site at Hallen, some 600m to the north of the Site (Gardiner *et al.* 2002). The settlement, which is the first of its type to be recorded on the Avon Levels, consisted of round houses within pallisaded enclosures, and seems to have been based on a pastoral economy. There is no record of any Iron Age activity within the Study Area.

4.8 Roman (c. AD 43-410)

- 4.8.1 Recent excavations over a kilometre to the north of the Site at Western Approach Retail Park (Wessex Archaeology 2005) have shown that Roman settlement does exist on the Henbury Level. No activity of this date has yet been revealed within the Study Area. At Cabot Park (**WA12**), a single soil horizon found during an evaluation was interpreted as Roman.

4.9 Post-Roman and Saxon (c. AD 410-1066)

- 4.9.1 Rippon has argued that there was a period of tidal flooding during the Post-Roman period (Rippon 1997, 78). He suggests that much of the medieval settlement would be a 'recolonisation' of the Henbury Level after a period of abandonment. Certainly there is no evidence for Post-Roman or Saxon settlement within the Study Area.
- 4.9.2 The lack of settlement is reflected by place-name and field-name evidence which suggests that the Saxon land-use of the Levels was predominantly meadow land, managed from settlement elsewhere, probably focused on the higher ground to the east of the Levels (Rippon 1997) and on the higher ground of the coastal margins to the west.

4.10 Medieval (c. AD 1066-1499)

- 4.10.1 At the time of Domesday, settlements such as Redwick in the higher coastal region and settlements to the east are mentioned, but there is no clear reference to any individual settlements within the marshland of the Henbury Level. By the late 13th early 14th century, documentary references to arable land holdings within the Level itself would suggest that the basic land division and drainage of the pre-Conquest period had become more organised.
- 4.10.2 It is during this period that the slow spread of land reclamation can be charted, with settlements initially surrounded by small field systems slowly encroaching on the common marshland between settlements. This of itself would have required considerable improvements in the drainage of the levels. The Merebank (**WA13**) with its associated 'rhines' is likely to be part of this improved drainage scheme, which would have opened up a large area of the levels to agricultural exploitation, an earlier Saxon date for the Merebank has been suggested (Locock and Lawler 2000), but not yet proven.
- 4.10.3 The BSMR records that there is some potential for a medieval (perhaps moated) precursor for Katherine Farm which lies immediately adjacent to the Site (**WA14**). Excavations by Wessex Archaeology have uncovered a number of medieval ditches and post-medieval ditches in the area immediately to the north-west of Katherine Farm (**WA15**). Pottery sherds within the ditches suggest medieval and post-medieval occupation in the vicinity. Medieval settlement is known one kilometre to the north at Rockingham Farm, where a 12th century moated site and associated field systems have been identified (Locock and Lawler 2000). In this case, the moat would have served to keep the settlement area drained. The BSMR also records an 'unnamed' farm 200m south-west of the Site (**WA16**). A map of 1771 (**Figure 4**) records this farm as the 'Old House'. The name suggests that this farm also may have a medieval origin.

4.11 Post-medieval (1500-1799)

- 4.11.1 Cartographic and documentary evidence shows that in 1771 Katherine Farm was the home farm of an estate which was one of several held by E Southwell Esquire (later Lord de Clifford), probably as part of the Manor of Kings Weston. It is shown on the 1771 estate map (**Figure 4**) with two substantial buildings (presumably the farmhouse (demolished and replaced in the 1950s)) and main barn (presumably the still extant stone barn). The plots within and near the Site include Katherine House and garden (294), the House Ground (295), Rush Close (299), Orchard (300), lease (301), paddock (302) and Great Rush Close (303). Lawrence Weston Road, to the north-east of the Site, was an established route by this time. Most of the land in the Study Area is recorded as pasture, with some woodland and orchards.
- 4.11.2 The Southwells were an important family in the area who owned a number of estates locally, and who had their seat at Kings Weston. Sir Robert Southwell (Father of Edward Southwell) had gained the Henbury estates in 1679 probably from Sir Humphry Hook. Robert Southwell was an important

political figure, being made Secretary of State for Ireland by William III (at the time a post of great significance). Edward Southwell also attained distinguished public service as chief secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, later becoming Lord de Clifford.

- 4.11.3 The Henbury Level has a number of artificial linear watercourses to drain the freshwater from the inner lying meadows, which carried the boundaries of the Late Saxon holdings across the Level. Documentary evidence cannot provide satisfactory dating of these rhines, ‘however most of the identifiable pre-Conquest boundaries crossing the Henbury Level follow artificial watercourses, banks or roads for the greater part of their length (Wessex Archaeology 1998b, 3). The medieval Red Book of Worcester describes the Manor of Henbury *as in maorio de Hambury in Salso Marisco* (Hollings 1950, 327; Smith 1964, 126) indicating that there was still a considerable amount of salt marsh in the area. A great deal of ‘ridge and vurrow’ can be seen on the 1940s aerial photographs of the area (see Wessex Archaeology 1998a, Fig 2). ‘Ridge and vurrow’ are plough or spade-dug gullies within fields on the levels (Rippon 1997, 19). Water in the fields drains from the ‘vurrows’ into the grips and from them into the field boundaries. The fact that much of this drainage pattern is straight may indicate that this is likely to be the result of later farming rather than a result of the medieval open field system. It has been suggested that much of northern Henbury Level at least may have been utilised mainly as seasonal grazing land (Lawler 1994; BARAS 1996). A contour survey of land near Moorend Farm found some survival of ‘ridge and vurrow’ marks within the fields in that area (**WA17**).

4.12 Modern (1800-present)

- 4.12.1 The Henbury Inclosure Map and Award of 1822 again shows the main two buildings (farmhouse and barn) of Katherine Farm (**Figure 4**). By this date, a building has been added to the south-west side of the stone barn, this would appear to be the single storey brick building which still exists today. The buildings lie within the distinctive oblong land parcel, although the plot is not numbered on the map. The areas both to the east and west of the Farm are left blank on the map, although fields to the north and south are shown and numbered. The Westbury on Trym/Henbury Inclosure appears to have been one of a number of Special Acts ‘of lands not including open field areas’ (Tate 1943, no. 147). However, in view of the fact that the earlier estate map of 1771 shows that the land to both the north/south and east/west of the farm belonged to Lord de Clifford, then the blank areas seem unlikely to have been open fields at the time of the Award.
- 4.12.2 The Ordnance Survey First Edition one inch map c.1830 (not illustrated), names Katherine Farm, and the farmhouse and barn can just about be made out at this small scale. Poplar Farm (**WA18**) to the south-east of the Site is shown for the first time on this map but is not named, whereas Madam Farm (also still extant, to the north-west of the Site, which was another of the estate farms of Lord de Clifford) is named.
- 4.12.3 In 1833, the Southwell family sold the Katherine Farm estate to Mr Philip John Miles (Wessex Archaeology 1998a). The Site is shown on the Henbury

Tithe of 1841 (**Figure 4**), the building to the south-west of the barn is again shown. Poplar Farm (**WA18**) is also shown on the Henbury Tithe. It must have been built at some point in the late 18th or early 19th century, and like Katherine Farm formed part of the estate owned by Philip Miles.

- 4.12.4 By 1881, a north-west extension had been added to the single storey brick building (**Figure 5**). While other farm buildings were added over the course of the next century the basic form of the barn was not changed on either the 1915 or 1950 Ordnance Survey maps. The most recent plan of the barn shows an associated structure in the north-east and another adjacent to the south. Neither structures are shown on the 1950 OS map and are likely to be of recent date.
- 4.12.5 A photograph possibly dated from the 1940s/50s presented to the City Archaeologist by a relative of a former resident, shows a very substantial house which is believed to have been Katherine Farm (**Cover**). The house is not mentioned in the local survey of rural houses (Hall 1983).
- 4.12.6 The photograph shows a three-storey stone-built house with a symmetrical front elevation, a double ridge roof under pan tiles with steep pitch, and four chimneys. There are ashlar quoins around the door and each window opening (type of stone unknown, probably Pennant sandstone). The lintels are possibly made from a single stone but this is difficult to determine from the photograph. The ground floor has a central door (half-wooden panel with four upper glass panels) and four sash windows each with 12 lights. The first floor has five sash windows each with 12 lights. The second floor has five small casement windows each with four lights. The casement windows of the second floor are substantially smaller than those of the ground and first floors, and may indicate servants quarters.
- 4.12.7 The use of pan tiles on the roof together with the front elevation symmetry and the sash windows suggest an 18th century date for the farmhouse (Clifton Taylor 1987, 275; Brunskill 1987, 130). Comparison with local examples suggests an early 18th century date (Bob Jones pers. comm.).
- 4.12.8 Aerial photographs show that the farmhouse at Katherine Farm was a substantial house with a double ridge roof and a central footpath leading to the front door, suggesting that the house shown in the photograph (**Cover**) was Katherine Farm. If it was, it now no longer exists and has been replaced by a modern house, although a number of smaller ancillary buildings still survive. Aerial photographic evidence confirms the demolition of a substantial house and its replacement by a modern property between 1946 and 1955. A photograph of 1955 (RAF/1530 /0248 11/2/1955) shows a new house located slightly to the south of the original one with a newly laid out garden feature/drive.
- 4.12.9 To the south of the now demolished house stands the stone barn which is possibly contemporary with the house in the photograph. It appears to be shown on the maps from 1771 and is certainly present on the 1944 aerial photographs. The building looks 18th century in date with its coursed random rubble Pennant stone and dressed stone quoins (**Figure 3, Plate 1**).

The brick single storey building to its south-west is shown on the 1822 Inclosure Map and the 1841 Tithe map suggesting that if the barn was 19th century it would have been built in brick.

- 4.12.10 The roof of the stone barn is eccentric (longer slope on the north-west side than on the other side) suggesting an industrial function. The ground floor window has been inserted on the south-east side as well as a door at first floor level on the north-east elevation. The central doorway is original - the barn may have been used as an animal barn with a hayloft above.
- 4.12.11 The barn is clearly shown on the 1881, 1915 and 1950 Ordnance Survey maps (**Figure 5**). A building roughly in this location is also shown on the 1771 Estate map, 1822 Inclosure map and the 1841 Tithe map (**Figure 4**). The building shown on these maps is likely to be the stone barn and it is probably early 18th century in date. Other smaller farm buildings survive in the complex.
- 4.12.12 The aerial photographs also show the progress of the Sewage Works. Photographs from 1955 show no sewage works, whilst by 1969 three large sludge lagoons have been built to the south and south-west of the Site. These are no longer extant.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Summary of Archaeological Potential

- 5.1.1 The occurrence of recorded archaeological sites within the Study Area is moderate to high for most prehistoric periods. Stabilisation layers dating to the Mesolithic and to the Bronze Age have been found sealed within the Wentlooge alluvial deposits immediately adjacent to the Site, and there is clear potential for similar deposits within the Site itself. The Bronze Age layer contained pottery sherds, imported stone and animal bone suggesting activity.
- 5.1.2 The evidence for Middle and Late Iron Age and Roman activity is low, but nearby sites, such as Hallen and Western Approach Retail Park, indicate that some potential for archaeological deposits from these periods exists.
- 5.1.3 There is no evidence for Post-Roman or Saxon activity within the Study Area. The levels are likely to have been exploited for agriculture rather than settlement during this period, and the potential for archaeological deposits is low.
- 5.1.4 It is probable that Katherine Farm has medieval origins and that it may have been a moated site. Medieval pottery was found in ditches just to the north-west of the Site during excavations in 1998 suggest nearby medieval occupation. The site at Rockingham Farm and the Mere Bank suggest that the levels had been reclaimed and settled by this time. There is a moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits from this period within the Site.

5.2 Impact of Previous Development

- 5.2.1 The construction of post-medieval and modern buildings on the Site is likely to have had an impact on any *in situ* archaeological deposits within the footprint of the proposed building, although the extent of this damage is not known. Stabilisation horizons sealed within the Wentlooge deposits are unlikely to have been adversely affected by this previous development because they are often found at some depth below ground level. In the adjacent archaeological excavation the Mesolithic stabilisation horizon was found at about 1.7m below ground level, while the Bronze Age stabilisation horizon was found at about 1.2m below ground level.

5.3 Likely Impact of Proposals

- 5.3.1 The creation of the proposed stores building on the Site will involve the demolition of the stone barn and other ancillary farm buildings and is likely to impact any surviving *in situ* archaeological deposits. The depth of the proposed foundations is not known or if the proposed development will involve any piling.
- 5.3.2 Archaeological impacts may potentially arise from the following groundworks:
- construction of new foundations, pile caps and piles;
 - site clearance;
 - grading and mounding of land areas, changing the levels and contours on Site;
 - construction of new access points and roads, car parking or landscaping; and
 - construction of services, (foul drainage, water, electric etc.).

5.4 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 5.4.1 There is a **moderate** to **high** potential for archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age and medieval period to survive within the Site.
- 5.4.2 Depending on the scale and nature of the proposed development, the Local Planning Authority may require archaeological investigation and recording in advance of and/or during development. Building recording to establish the significance and more information about the stone barn may be required to support the planning application. Trial trenching prior to development may also be required in order to establish the extent and significance of any surviving archaeological remains and allow appropriate archaeological mitigation.

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6.2 Cartographic sources consulted in this assessment:

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1611 John Speed Map of Gloucestershire (reprint)

1771 'Maps of several estates belonging to E. Southwell Esqr. in the Tithings of Kings Weston and Lawrence Weston in the Parish of Henbury' (Katherine Farm) BRO: 26570 (principally surveyed 1771 and drawings completed in 1772 by Issac Taylor)

1773 Isaac Taylor Map BRO: 29351 – Bristol Plan 230

1822 Inclosure Map for Westbury on Trym/Henbury (GRO: Q/RI 154)

1830 OS First Edition 1 inch (reprint, with additions to 1878)

1841 Henbury Tithe map BRO: EP/A/32/22

1881 Ordnance Survey 25" (BRO: OS 221(a)) (Gloucestershire LXV 11 & 14)

1915 Ordnance Survey 25" (BRO: OS 221(b))

1950 Ordnance Survey 25" (BRO: OS 221(c))

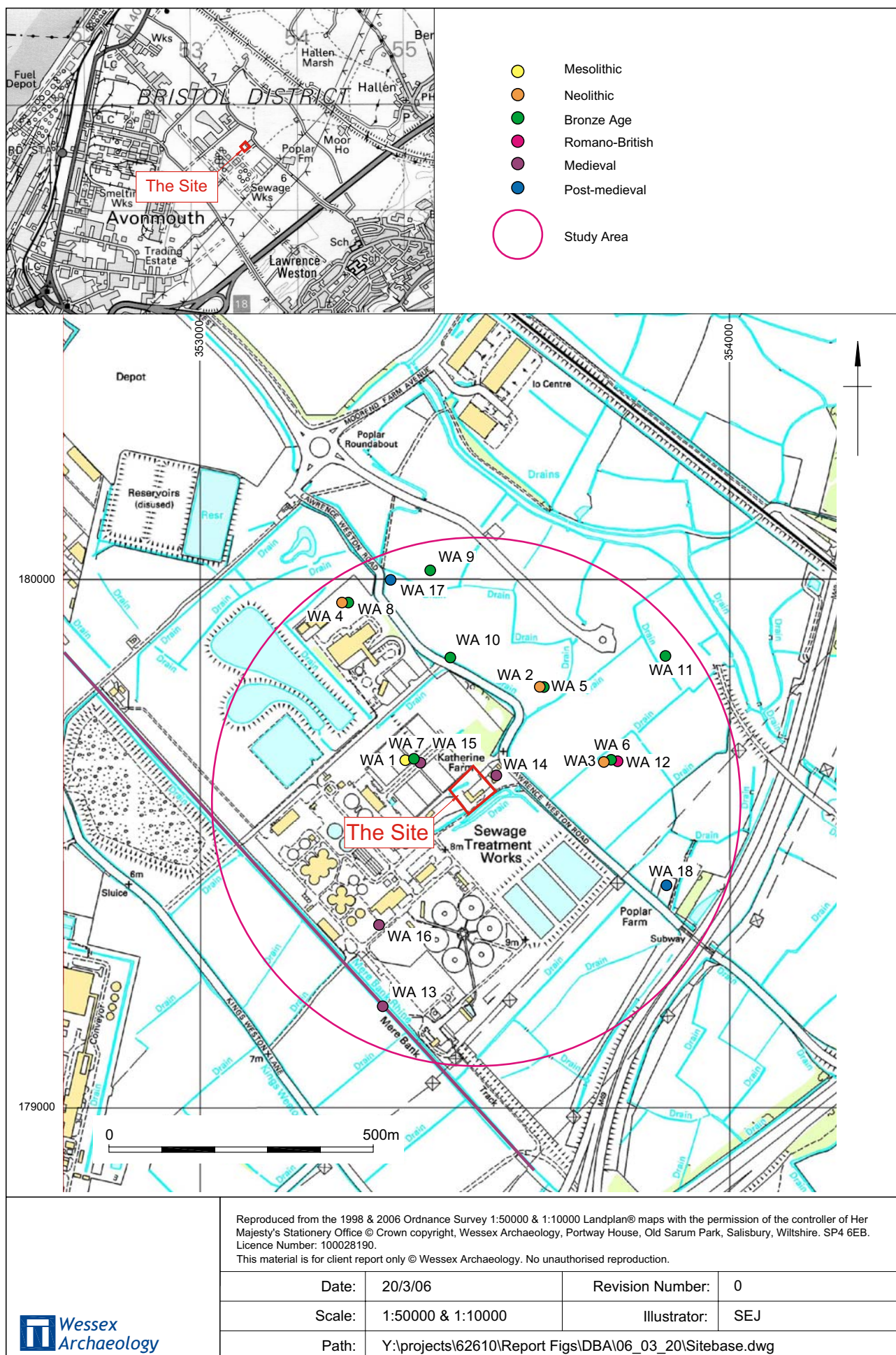
Appendix 1: Gazetteer of historical sites and monuments within the Study Area

All WA Nos are located in **Figure 1**.

WA No.	BSMR no.	Period	Description	Eastings	Northings	Designation
1	21420/1	Mesolithic	A humic layer found during excavation within Avonmouth Sewage Works at between 4.8m and 5.1m aOD. Radiocarbon dating showed that the deposit was formed during the Mesolithic period	353400	179660	NA
2	21714	Neolithic	Gleyed horizon (the BaRAS layer) dating to the Neolithic period found during evaluation at Cabot Park, Avonmouth.	353648	179797	NA
3	20887	Neolithic	A buried soil horizon (the BaRAS layer) interpreted as being Neolithic in date was found during evaluation at Cabot Park, Avonmouth.	353776	179660	NA
4	22115	Neolithic	A Neolithic organic layer was discovered during an evaluation and borehole survey at Avonmouth Refuse Disposal Works.	353275	179957	NA
5	21714	Bronze Age	Gleyed horizon dating to the Bronze Age period found during evaluation at Cabot Park, Avonmouth.	353648	179797	NA
6	20887	Bronze Age	A buried soil horizon (the B layer) interpreted as being Bronze Age in date was found during evaluation at Cabot Park, Avonmouth.	353776	179660	NA
7	21420/1	Bronze Age	A humic layer containing Bronze Age pottery sherds was discovered during evaluation and excavation at Avonmouth Sewage Works.	353400	179660	NA
8	22115	Bronze Age	A Bronze Age humic layer was discovered during an evaluation and borehole survey at Avonmouth Refuse Disposal Works.	353275	179957	NA

WA No.	BSMR no.	Period	Description	Eastings	Northings	Designation
9	21073/21995	Bronze Age	Excavations at Kites Corner have uncovered Bronze Age activity in the form of pottery, animal bone, charcoal and limited structural evidence (sealed within a humic deposit).	353435	180018	NA
10	NA	Bronze Age	An evaluation at Little Googs revealed a humic deposit containing a dense scatter of charcoal and possible burnt stone next to a palaeochannel. (Locock 2001).	355473	179853	NA
11	NA	Bronze Age	An evaluation at Stinkums revealed a humic deposit containing a dense scatter of charcoal and possible burnt stones. (Locock 2001).	353880	179856	NA
12	20887	Roman	A buried soil horizon interpreted as being Roman in date was found during an evaluation at Cabot Park, Avonmouth.	353776	179660	NA
13	3205	Medieval	Merebank, a straight liner earthbank with flanking ditches which runs north-west from Lawrence Western towards the River Severn as far as Hoar Gout. Excavation has indicated a 12th or 13th century date for this monument.	353345	179193	SAM (AV27988)
14	9008	Medieval	Katherine Farm, a complex of buildings first recorded on a map of 1771. It is likely to be medieval in origin.	353560	179630	NA

WA No.	BSMR no.	Period	Description	Eastings	Northings	Desigation
15	21420/1	Medieval	A number of medieval and post-medieval ditches were recorded in the area immediately to the west of Katherine Farm during an evaluation.	353400	179660	NA
16	9011	Medieval	The BSMR recorded this as an unnamed farm, but a map of 1771 recorded it as the 'Old House'. There is potential for a medieval origin for this farm.	353338	179347	NA
17	20422	Post-Medieval	A contour survey on land near Moorend Farm found some survival of ridge and vurnow, which corresponded to the 1771 field boundaries.	353360	180000	NA
18	9009	Post-Medieval	Poplar farm, built in the late 18th or early 19th century.	353882	179422	NA



Site location showing sites from gazetteer

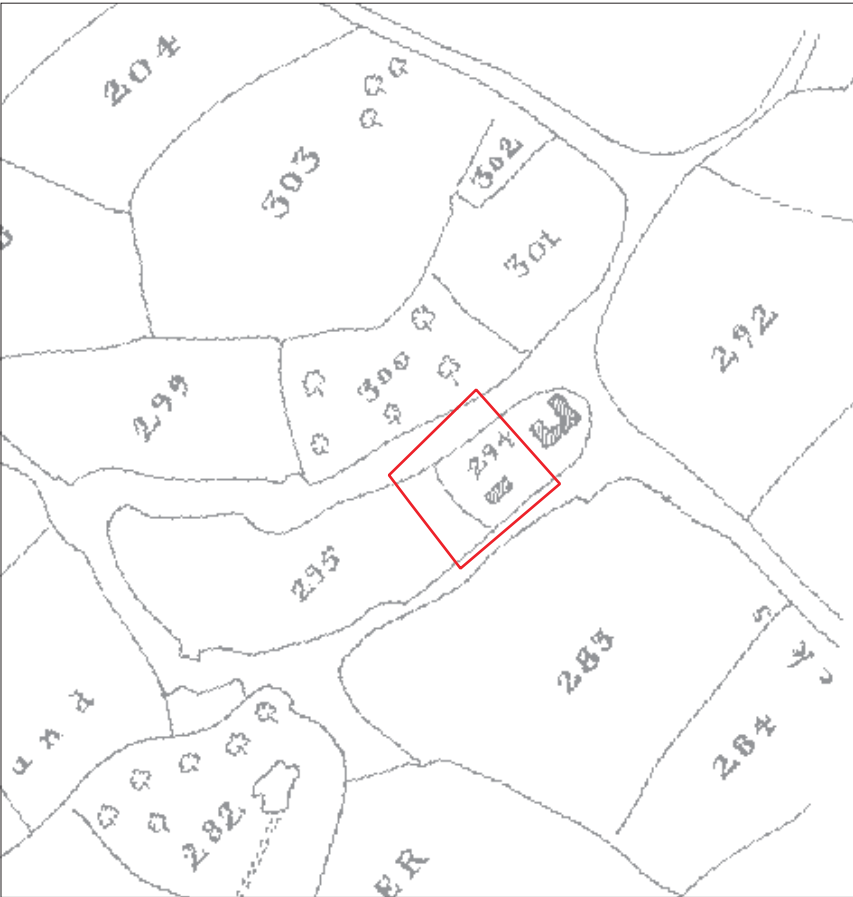
Figure 1



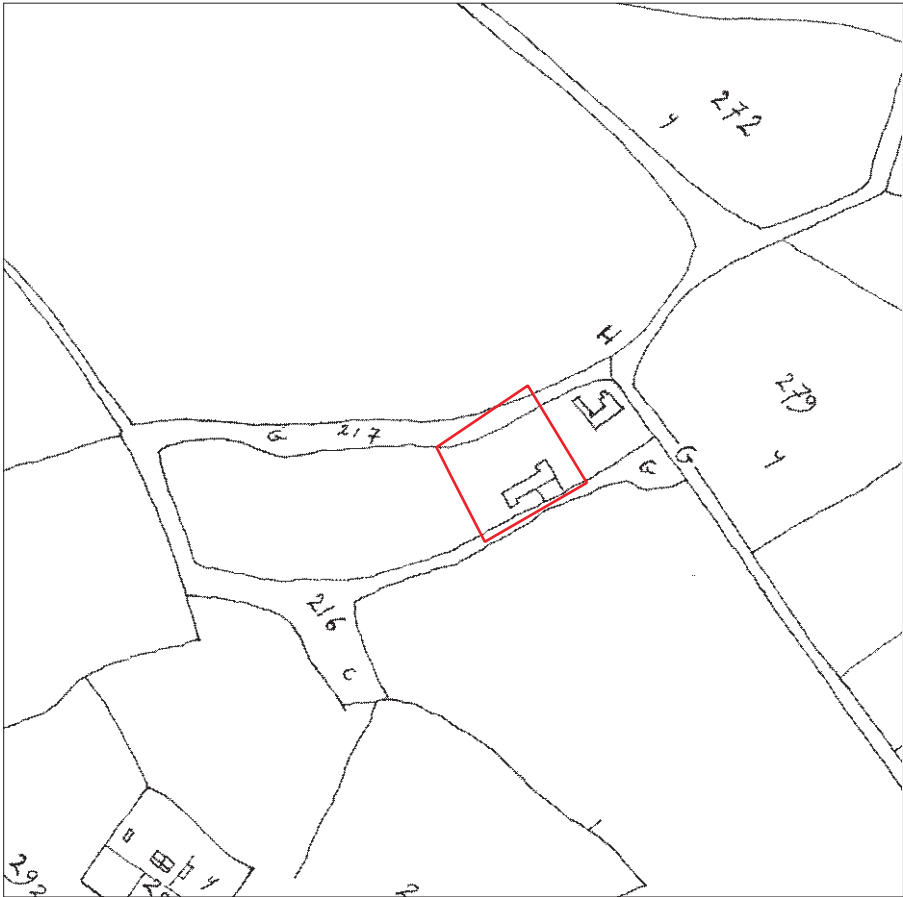
Plate 1. Stone barn viewed from the east



Plate 2. The Site viewed from the south



1771 Estate map

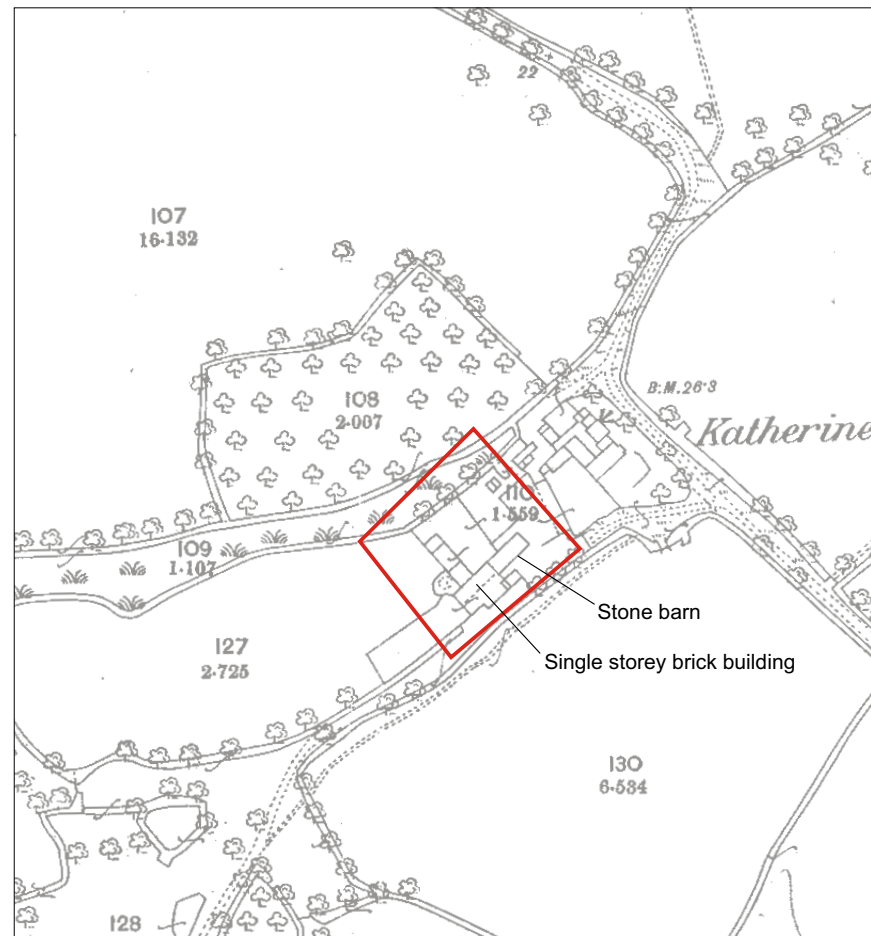


1822 Henbury Inclosure map

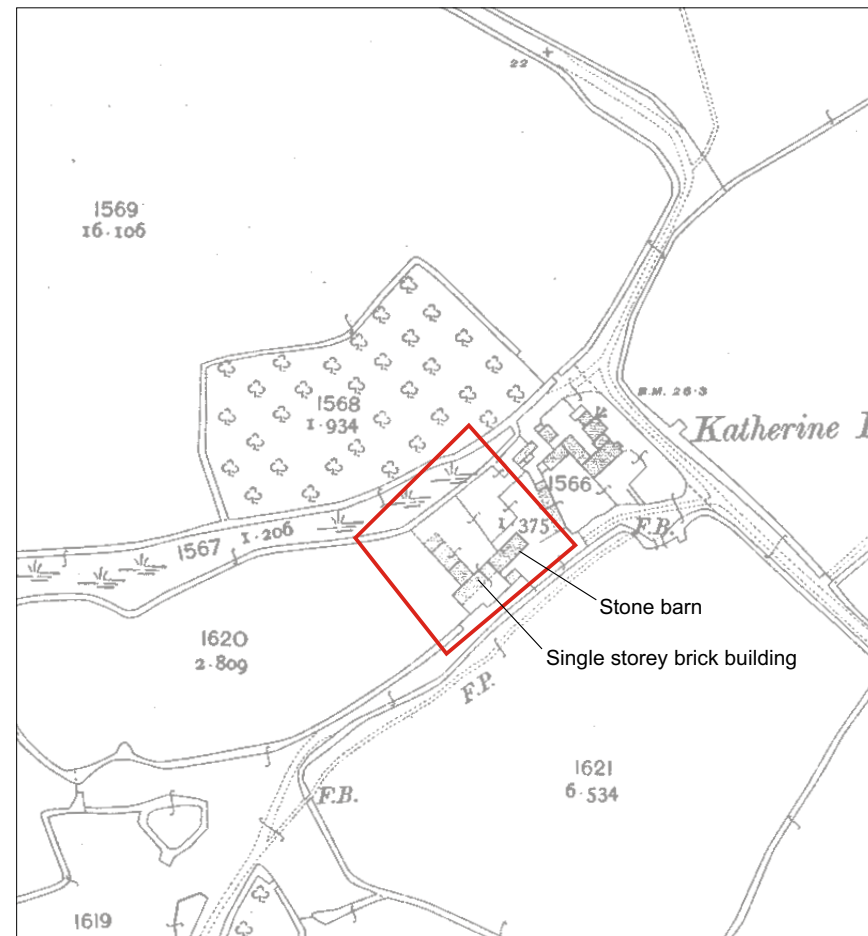


1841 Tithe map

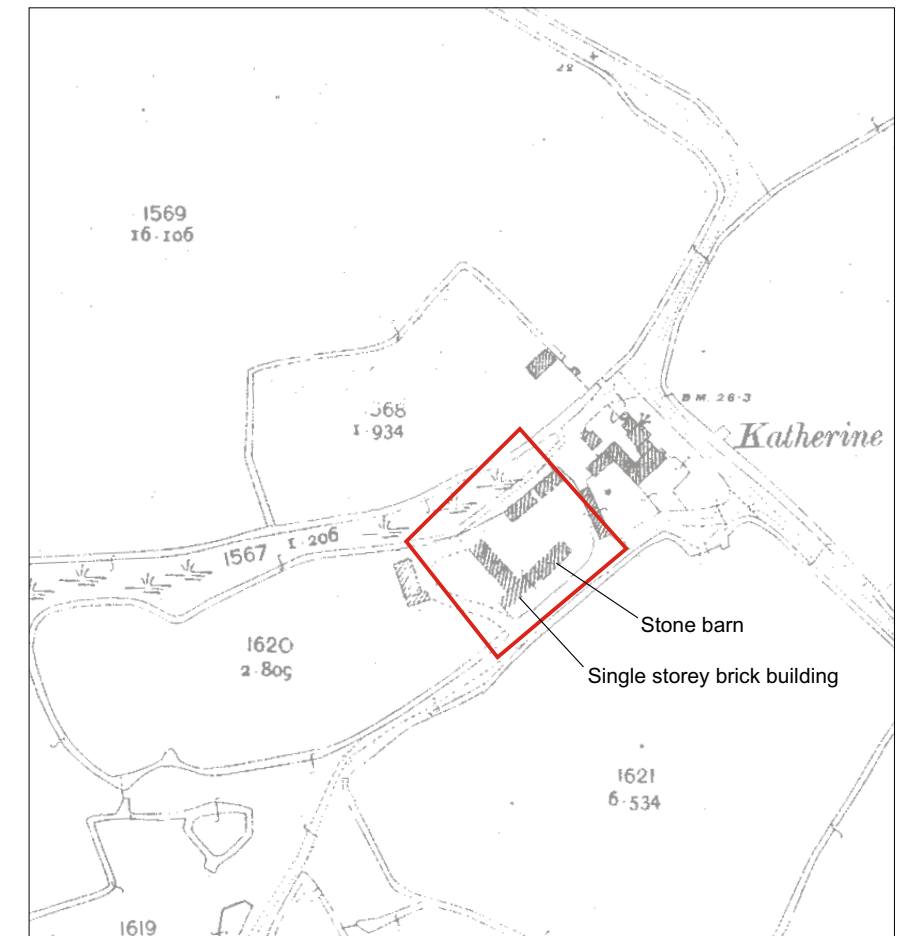




1881 Ordnance Survey map



1915 Ordnance Survey map



1950 Ordnance Survey map



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