

Heritage Statement:  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

**Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd,  
Great Witley  
Worcestershire  
WR6 6HR**

National Grid Reference: SO 756 659

Dr Peter Wardle & Colin Lacey  
14/12/2016

Document Reference Number 2016/1348  
Version 1

**Heritage Statement:**  
**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**  
**Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley, Worcestershire**  
**WR6 6HR**

Dr Peter Wardle and Colin Lacey  
14/12/2016

**Table of Contents**

1. Summary .....	v
2. Introduction .....	6
2.1 The Client .....	6
2.2 Confidentiality and Copyright .....	6
2.3 The Land .....	6
2.4 Site Visit .....	6
2.5 Current Land Use .....	10
2.6 Topography .....	10
2.7 Geology .....	10
3. Historic Background .....	10
3.1 The History of the Settlement .....	10
3.2 Documentary Evidence .....	10
4. Map Regression Exercise .....	11
4.1 Methodology .....	11
4.2 Saxton's Map of 1577 .....	12
4.3 John Speed's Map of 1608 .....	13
4.4 Jansson's Map of 1646 .....	14
4.5 Robert Morden's Map of 1695 .....	15
4.6 Moll's Map of 1727 .....	16
4.7 Bowen's Map of 1788 .....	17
4.8 1832 1 Inch to 1 Mile Ordnance Survey Map .....	18
4.9 Moule's Map of 1837 .....	19
4.10 Tithe Map of 1839 .....	20
4.11 1840 Ordnance Survey Plan .....	21
4.12 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan .....	22
4.13 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan .....	23
4.14 1920 Estate Plan .....	24
4.15 1920 Sales Plan .....	25
4.16 1954 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan .....	26
4.17 1973 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan .....	27
4.18 Modern Ordnance Survey Plan .....	28
5. Designation .....	29
6. Previous Archaeological Investigations on the Development Area .....	31

7. Archaeological Remains, Sites and Monuments in the Vicinity .....	31
7.1 Early Prehistoric – Pre Later Bronze Age .....	31
7.2 Later Prehistoric – Later Bronze Age and Iron Age .....	31
7.3 Roman .....	31
7.4 Early Medieval – Pre 1066.....	32
7.5 Medieval – Post 1066 .....	32
7.6 Post Medieval .....	32
8. Onsite Observations - Current Topography.....	33
8.1 West Field.....	33
8.2 East Field.....	35
9. Aerial Photographic Evidence .....	37
10. Borehole & Other Geotechnical Information.....	43
11. Extent of Modern and Recent Ground Disturbance .....	44
12. Geophysical Survey .....	44
13. Conclusion .....	44
14. Appendix: Bibliography .....	44
15. Appendix: Listing Description.....	45
16. Appendix: Geophysical Survey Plots .....	49
17. Appendix: Definitions .....	53

### Table of Figures

Figure 1: General Location Plan, 1:10,000 @ A4 .....	7
Figure 2: Detailed Location Plan, west field Scale 1:2500 .....	8
Figure 3: Detailed Location Plan, east field Scale 1:2500.....	9
Figure 4: Extract of Saxton's Map of 1577, 1:50,000 @ A4 .....	12
Figure 5: Extract of John Speed Map of 1608, 1:50,000 @ A4.....	13
Figure 6: Extract of Jansson's Map of 1646, 1:50,000 @ A4.....	14
Figure 7: Extract of Robert Modern's 1695 Map, 1:50,000 @ A4 .....	15
Figure 8: Extract of Moll's 1727 Map, 1:50,000 @ A4.....	16
Figure 9: Extract of Bowen's Map of 1788, 1:50,000 @ A4 .....	17
Figure 10 1810 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map enlarged to 1:10,000 .....	18
Figure 11: Extract of Moule's Map of 1837, 1:50,000 @ A4 .....	19
Figure 12: Tracing of 1839 Tithe Map.....	20
Figure 13: 1840 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan.....	21
Figure 14: 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan.....	22
Figure 15: 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan.....	23
Figure 16 1920 Estate Plan reproduced at 1:2500 .....	24
Figure 17: 1920 Sales Plan Reproduced at 1:2500 .....	25
Figure 18: 1954 Ordnance Survey 1:1:10,000 Plan Enlarged to 1:2500.....	26
Figure 19: 1973 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan.....	27
Figure 20: Modern Ordnance Survey Plan.....	28
Figure 21: The scheduled area (green) in relation to the site (red), 1:2500 @ A4 .....	29
Figure 22: Historic detail of the designated area.....	30
Figure 23: Location of nearby boreholes (not to scale).....	43
Figure 24: Magnetometer plot, western field, not to scale.....	49
Figure 25: Geophysical interpretation, western field, not to scale.....	50
Figure 26: Magnetometer plot, eastern field, not to scale .....	51
Figure 27: Geophysical interpretation, eastern field, not to scale .....	52

## Table of Plates

Plate 1: Designated area viewed from the northeast .....	31
Plate 2: View into eastern part of the west field .....	33
Plate 3: Eastern aspect of the west field (panoramic image) .....	34
Plate 4: Southeast aspect of west field (panoramic image) .....	34
Plate 5: View from northeast corner of east field .....	35
Plate 6: View of the east field from the southeast (panoramic image) .....	36
Plate 7: 1945 Google Earth air photo (not to scale) .....	37
Plate 8: 1948 NMR air photo (not to scale) .....	38
Plate 9: 1962 NMR air photo (not to scale) .....	39
Plate 10: 1962 NMR air photo (not to scale) .....	40
Plate 11: 1999 Google Earth air photo (not to scale) .....	41
Plate 12: 2006 Google Earth air photo (not to scale) .....	42
Plate 13: 2013 Google Earth air photo (not to scale) .....	42

**Heritage Statement Part 1:  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment  
Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley, Worcestershire  
WR6 6HR  
Dr Peter Wardle and Colin Lacey**

## **1. Summary**

This report concerns an two pieces of land in Great Witley, Worcestershire: an 'L'-shaped field to the south of Stourport Road and east of The Glebe (the west field) and a field to the north of Worcester Road and west of the B4197 (the east field).

The southeast corner of the east field is part of the Grade II\* listed parkland of Witley Court, a Jacobean country estate, the centre of which lies c. 1.5km to the southeast of the site.

Casual finds of roman, medieval and post-medieval coins are known from the parish of Great Witley. An archaeological excavation in the field immediately south of the site produced a small number of undated features largely considered to be relating to former boundaries.

The application area is located away from any known settlement. A 1994 landscape survey of Witley Court concluded that it is more likely any deserted medieval settlement is located to the south and east of the Witley Court grounds. Evidence from historic mapping and aerial photographs suggests the area has been open land since at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A magnetometer survey of both fields was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd in February 2016. A number of anomalies were identified however it is unclear as to whether these are of archaeological origin. The report on the geophysical survey summary is as follows:

*A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd within two fields at Great Witley, Worcestershire. The results of the survey demonstrate the presence of a number of positive linear anomalies with a north east to south west orientation that may relate to ditch-like features. Several negative anomalies have also been located in the western part of the site, but it is not possible to determine if these are of natural or anthropogenic origin. In the eastern part of the site, weakly positive responses may relate to natural features. Modern anomalies can also be seen within the data, including magnetic debris, services, agricultural anomalies and vehicle ruts.*

Plots of the geophysical survey are appended.

There are no known below-ground archaeological remains. The Geophysical Survey located a number of anomalies whose origin is unknown. Therefore all below ground archaeological matters can be dealt with by condition requiring a programme of archaeological work which will iniatially consist of archaeological trial trenching.

There are no known below-ground archaeological remains or any suggestion of the potential for their survival in the development area.

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 The Client**

This report was commissioned by: Marsten Developments (Worcester) Ltd

### **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 4.096 Ha of land the location of which is as follows:

Site Address:	Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley
County:	Worcestershire
Post Code	WR6 6HR
Grid Reference:	SO 756 659 (centre)

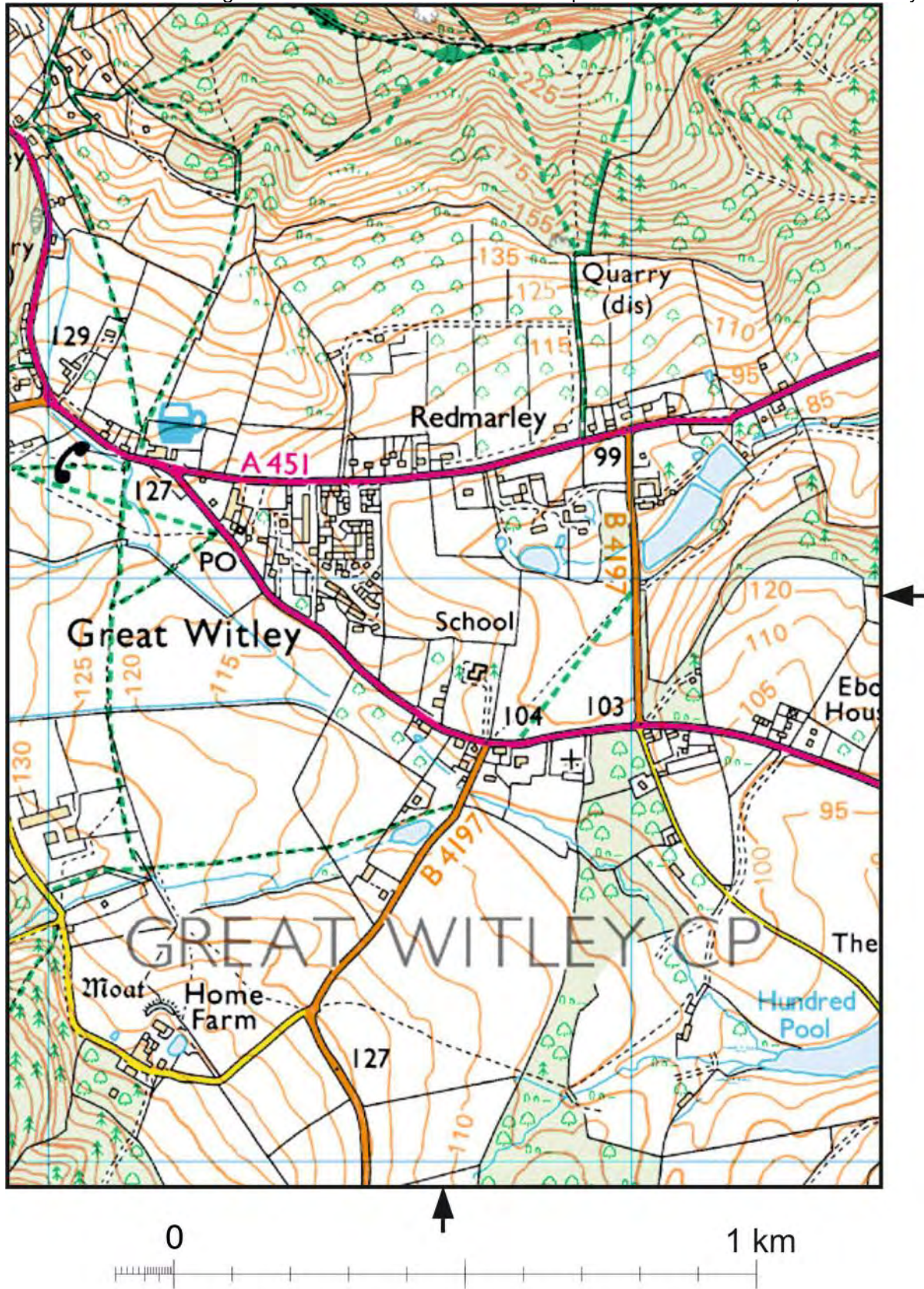
The general location is shown in Figure 1 and the specific location in Figure 2.

The site is an 'L'-shaped field to the south of Stourport Road and east of The Glebe.

### **2.4 Site Visit**

The Site was visited by Dr Peter Wardle on 4th September 2015.





Metres 1:10,000 @ A4

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





**Figure 2: Detailed Location Plan, west field Scale 1:2500**





**Figure 3: Detailed Location Plan, east field Scale 1:2500**

## **2.5 Current Land Use**

The land is currently under pasture.

## **2.6 Topography**

The west field slopes downhill from west to east at a height of 99 - 115mAOD. The east field slopes downhill from southwest to northeast at a height of 103.5 - 92mAOD.

## **2.7 Geology**

Northern part of site: Wildmoor Sandstone Formation – Sandstone, no superficial deposits  
Southeast corner: Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation - Sandstone.

# **3. Historic Background**

## **3.1 The History of the Settlement**

Great Witley is located in the northwest of Worcestershire. The name 'Witley' originates from the Old English *wiht* meaning bend (i.e. in a stream) and *leah* – a forest, wood, glade or clearing.

The Iron Age hillfort of Woodbury Hill, located 1 mile SSW of the site, may have been the earliest centre of occupation in the area.

There is evidence for a church in Great Witley in 1277. It is mentioned again in 1326. The present church was constructed in 1735 at the corner of Witley Park, the landscaped grounds of Witley Court.

Witley Court, an expansive Jacobean house is located to the southeast of the site. It was left derelict after a substantial fire in 1937 and is now listed to grade I and in the custody of English Heritage. Between the years of 1843 and 1846, Witley Court was the residence of Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV. Whilst there, she financed the first village school.

## **3.2 Documentary Evidence**

A tracing of the 1839 tithe map, showing field names, is published online by the Witleys Oral History Group, and is reproduced in the map regression exercise below. The tracing labels the west field as 'Stourport Road Piece' and indicates an orchard in the northeast corner, a field to the southwest and a meadow to the southeast. The west field

## **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.

#### **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.



#### 4.3 John Speed's Map of 1608



**Figure 5: Extract of John Speed Map of 1608, 1:50,000 @ A4**

The village of Witley is present at the edge of a park.



#### 4.4 Jansson's Map of 1646



**Figure 6: Extract of Jansson's Map of 1646, 1:50,000 @ A4**

The village of Witley is present at the edge of a park.

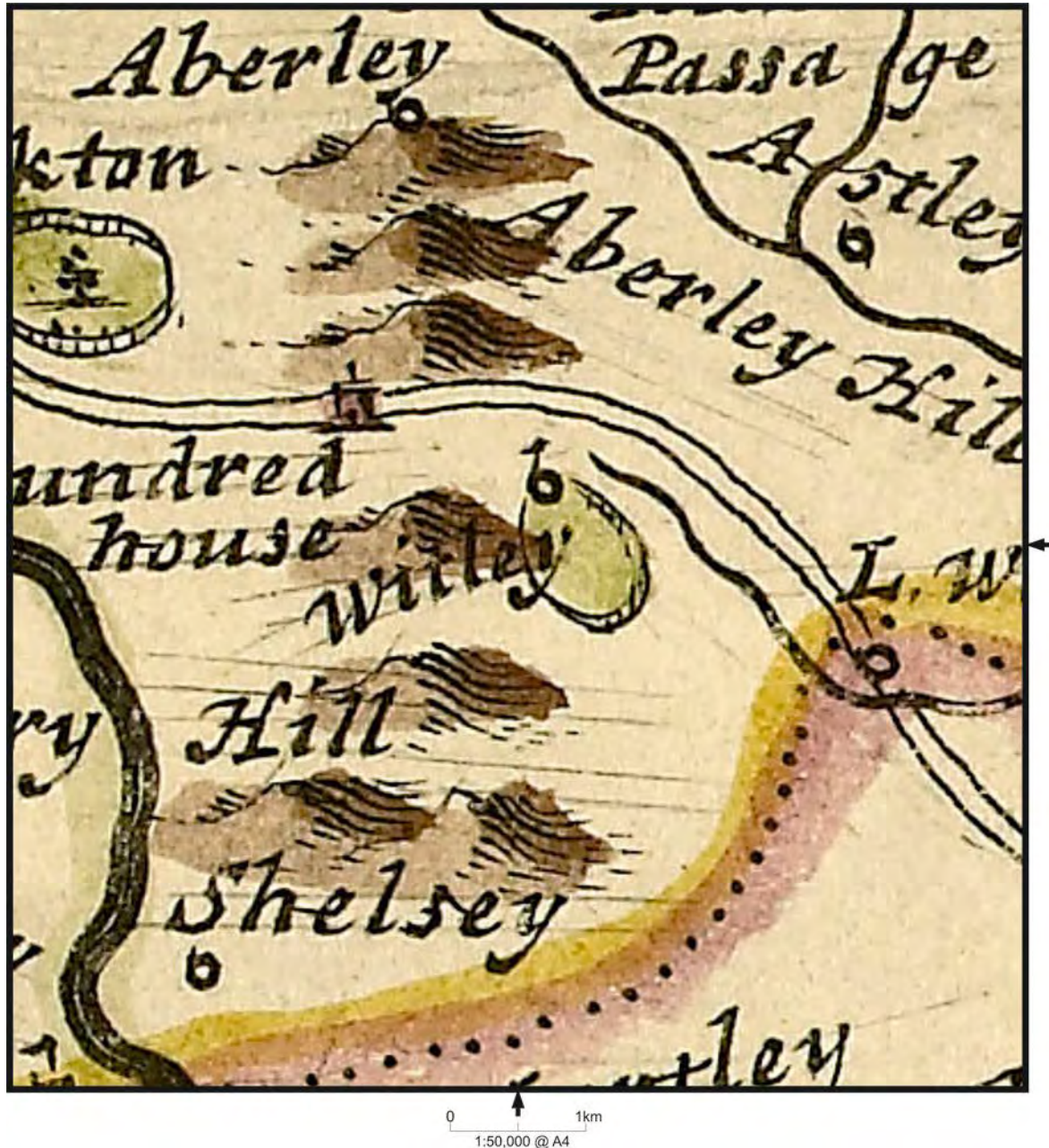


#### 4.5 Robert Morden's Map of 1695



**Figure 7: Extract of Robert Modern's 1695 Map, 1:50,000 @ A4**  
Witley Magna is shown as a minor village adjacent to parkland.

#### 4.6 Moll's Map of 1727



**Figure 8: Extract of Moll's 1727 Map, 1:50,000 @ A4**  
Witley is shown adjoining a park.



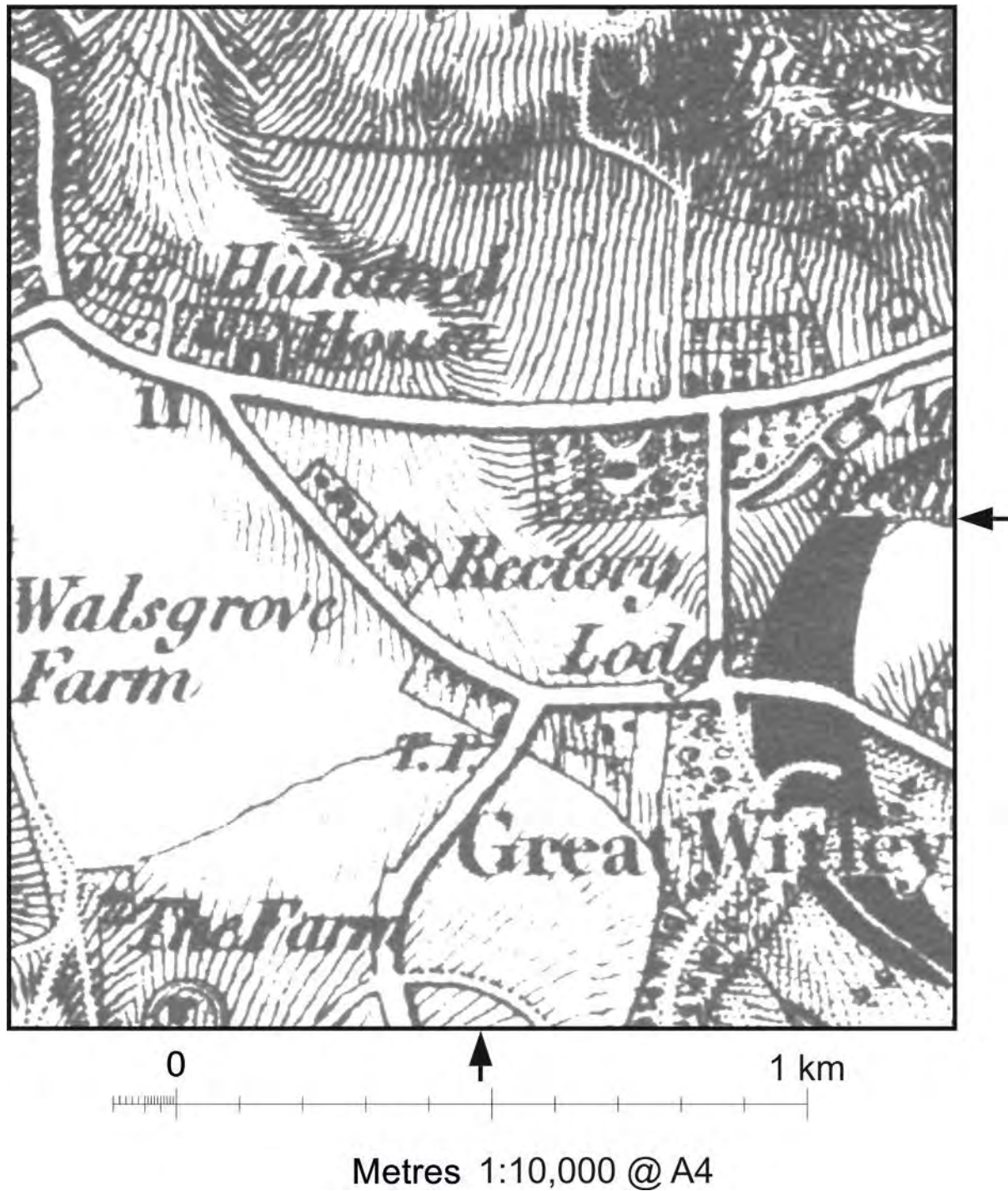
#### 4.7 Bowen's Map of 1788



**Figure 9: Extract of Bowen's Map of 1788, 1:50,000 @ A4**

Witley is labelled 'Witley mag'. A church is depicted adjacent to the park.

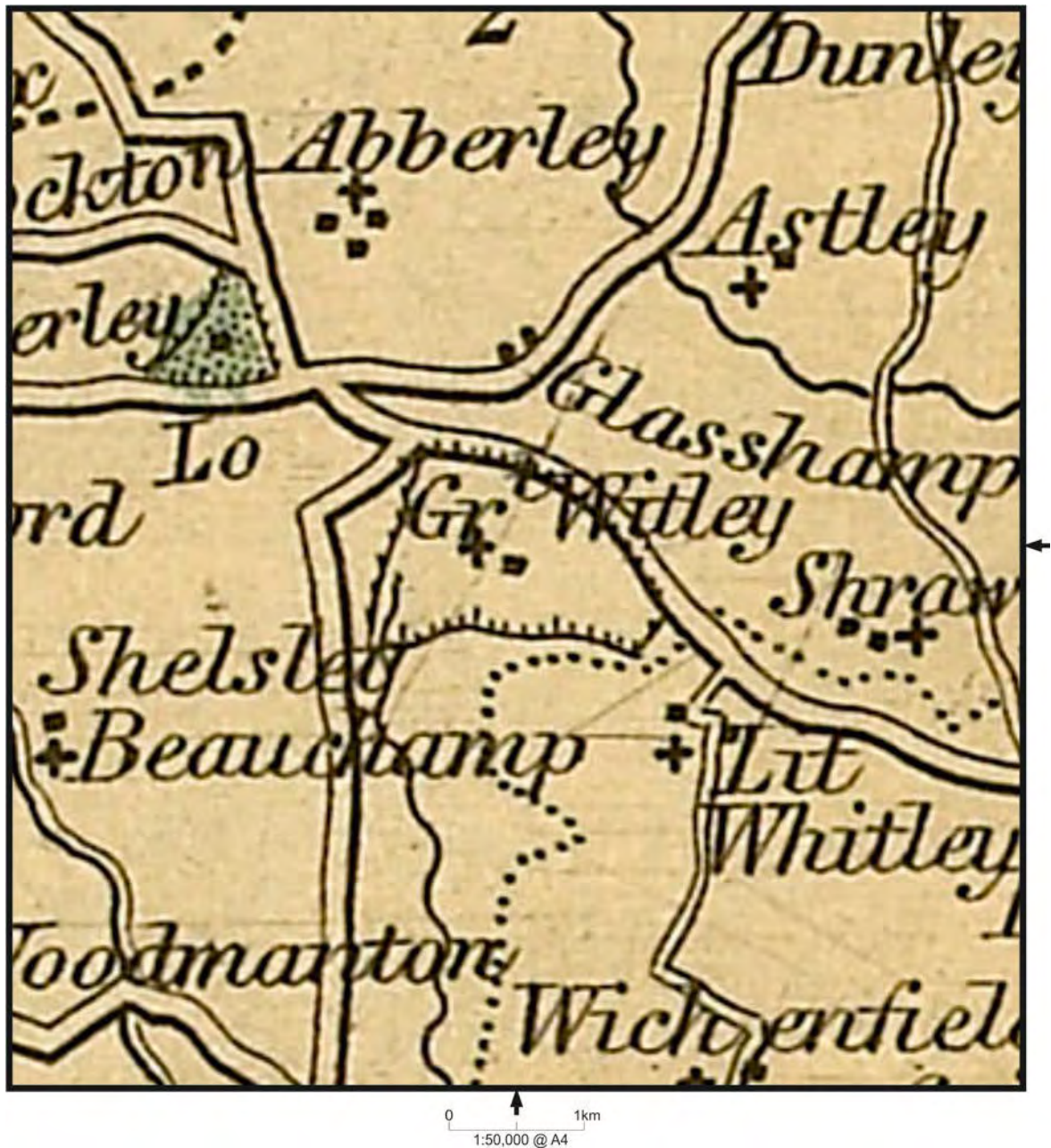
#### 4.8 1832 1 Inch to 1 Mile Ordnance Survey Map



**Figure 10 1810 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map enlarged to 1:10,000**  
The land is shown as open.



#### 4.9 Moule's Map of 1837

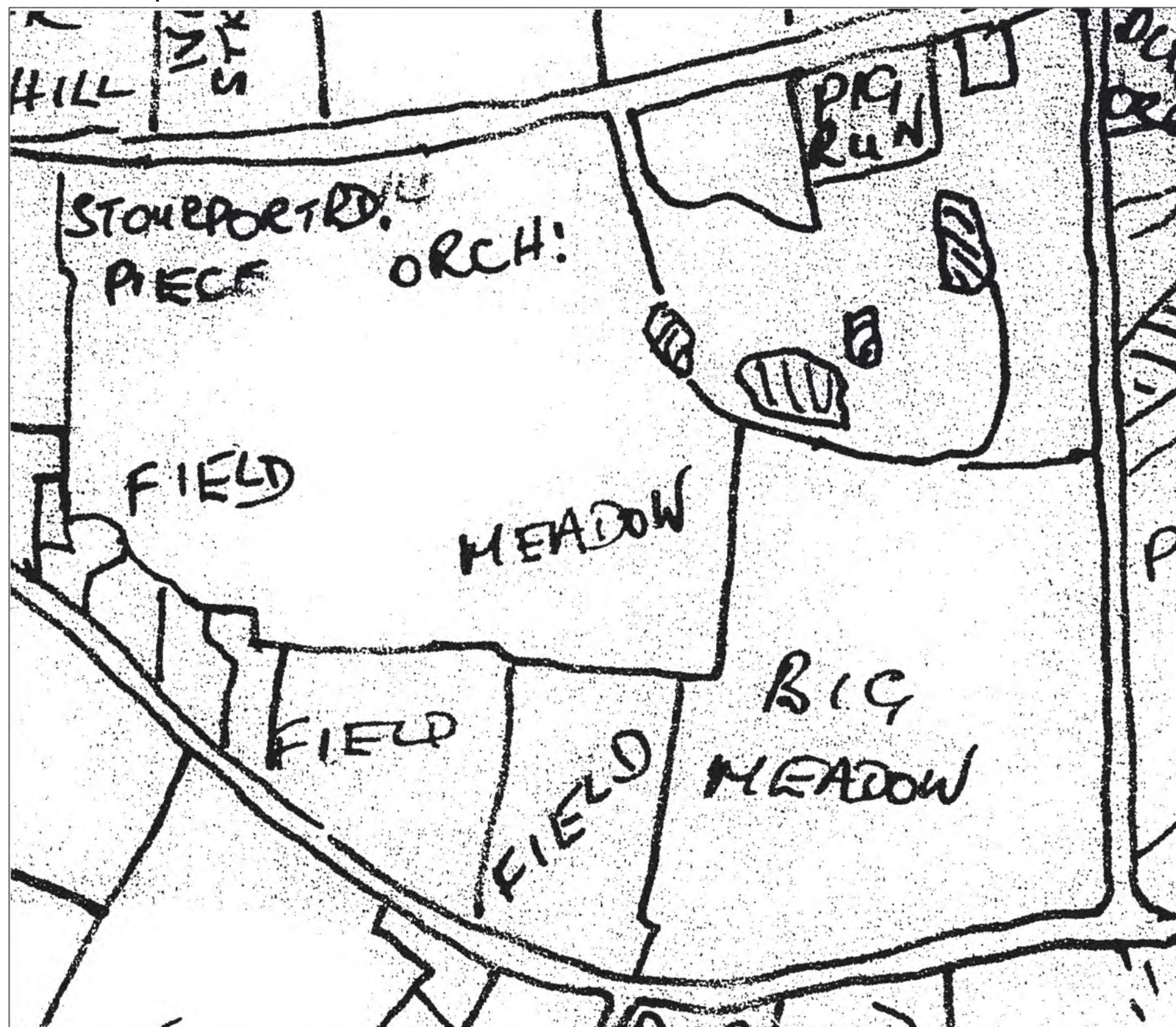


**Figure 11: Extract of Moule's Map of 1837, 1:50,000 @ A4**

Great Witley is shown as being located within a park.



#### 4.10 Tithe Map of 1839



0 500m  
1:2500 @ A3

**Figure 12: Tracing of 1839 Tithe Map**

The area comprising the west field is part of a larger area of land labelled 'Stourport Rd Piece'. The land contains a field, orchard and meadow although the boundaries between are not shown.

The area of the east field is labelled 'Big Meadow'.



4.11 1840 Ordnance Survey Plan

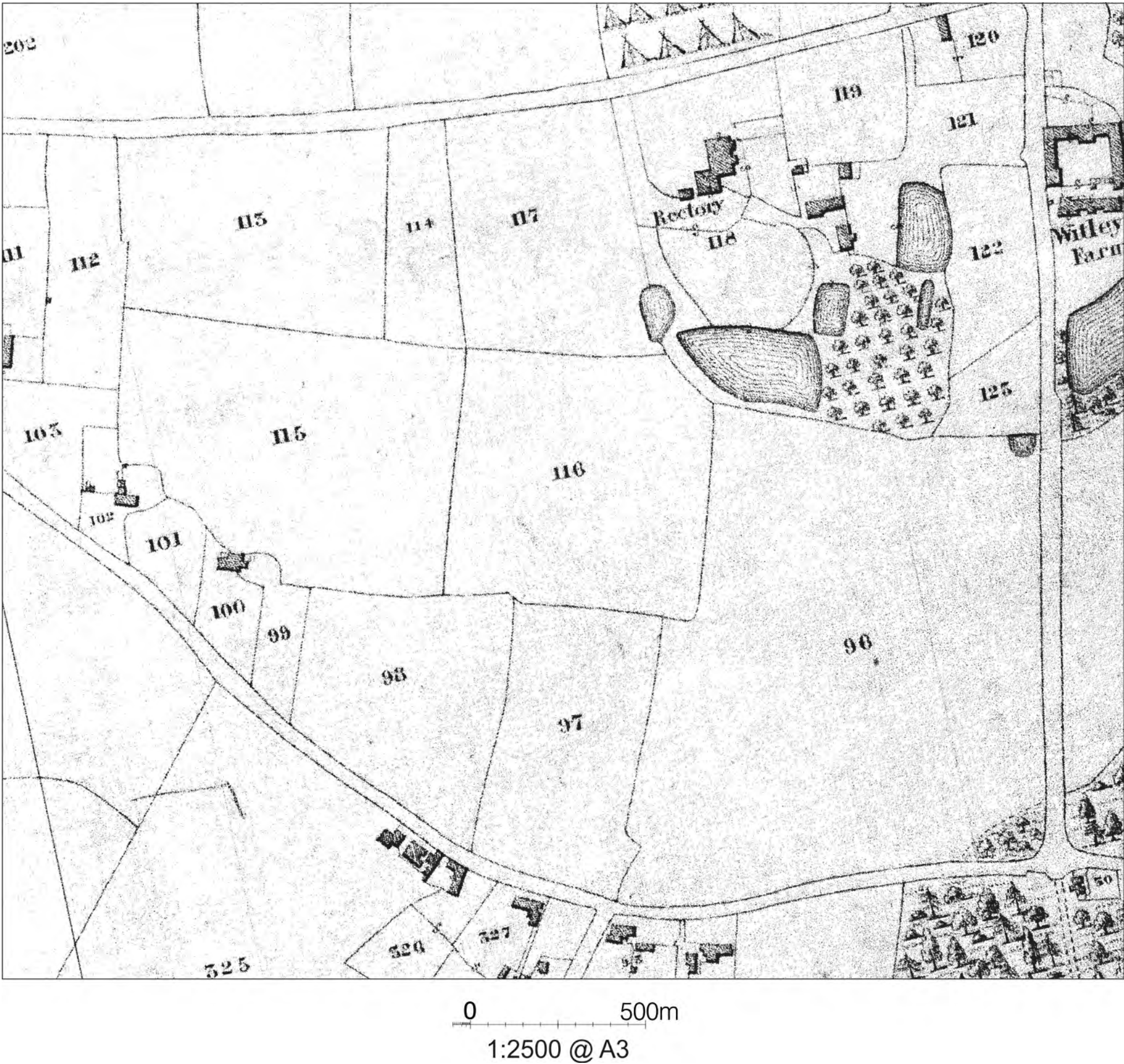


Figure 13: 1840 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

The land is open fields.

The west part comprises the eastern part of field 113, field 114, the eastern part of field 115 and field 116. No features are noted.

The east field is an open field, numbered 96.

A small triangular patch of woodland is present in the southeast corner of the field. This is the northwest part of the Witley Court parkland.

4.12 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

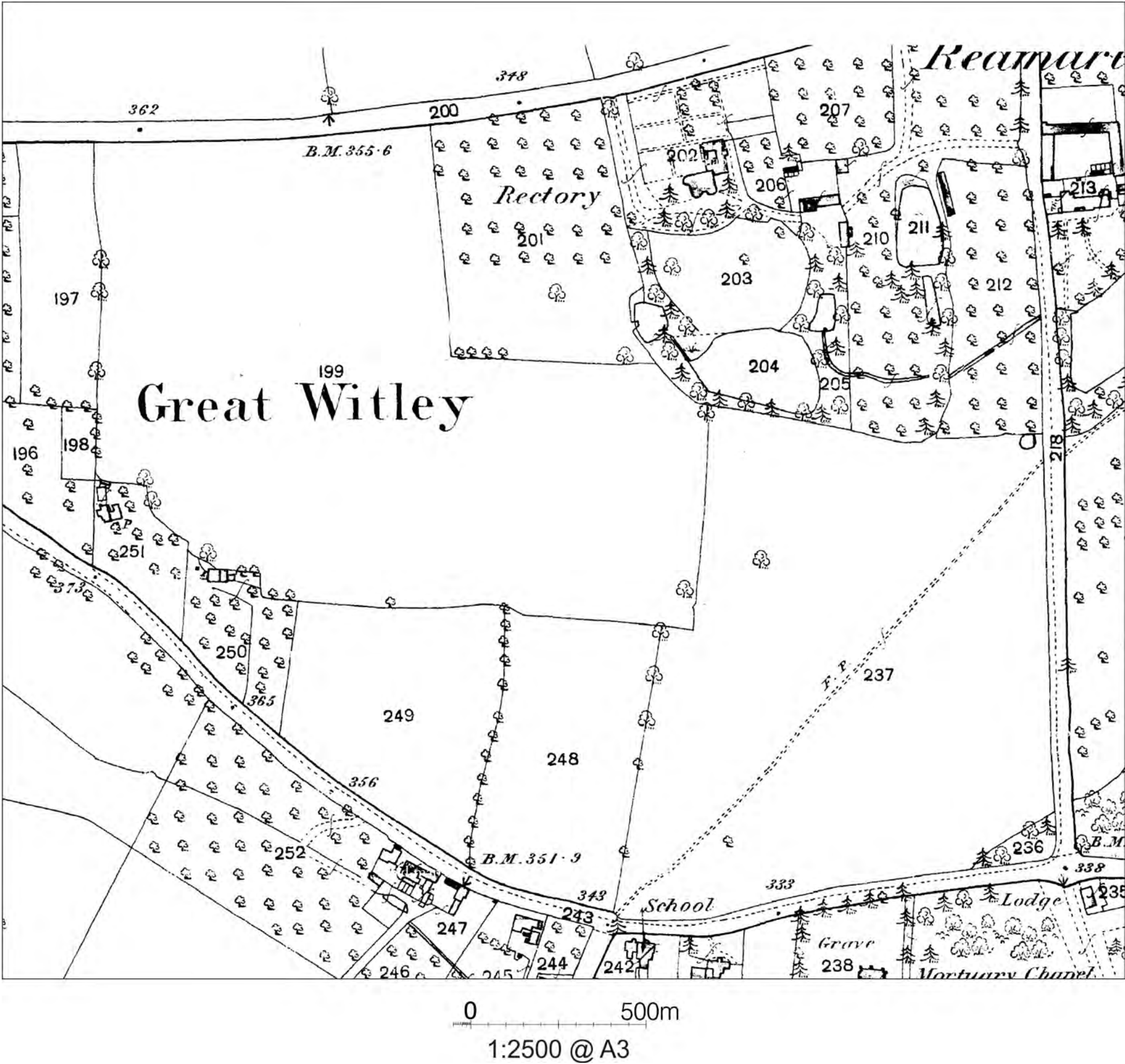


Figure 14: 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

The piece of land to the northeast of the west field has been labelled 'Rectory'. The land is now one open field.

A footpath is present running from southwest to northeast across the east field.



4.13 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

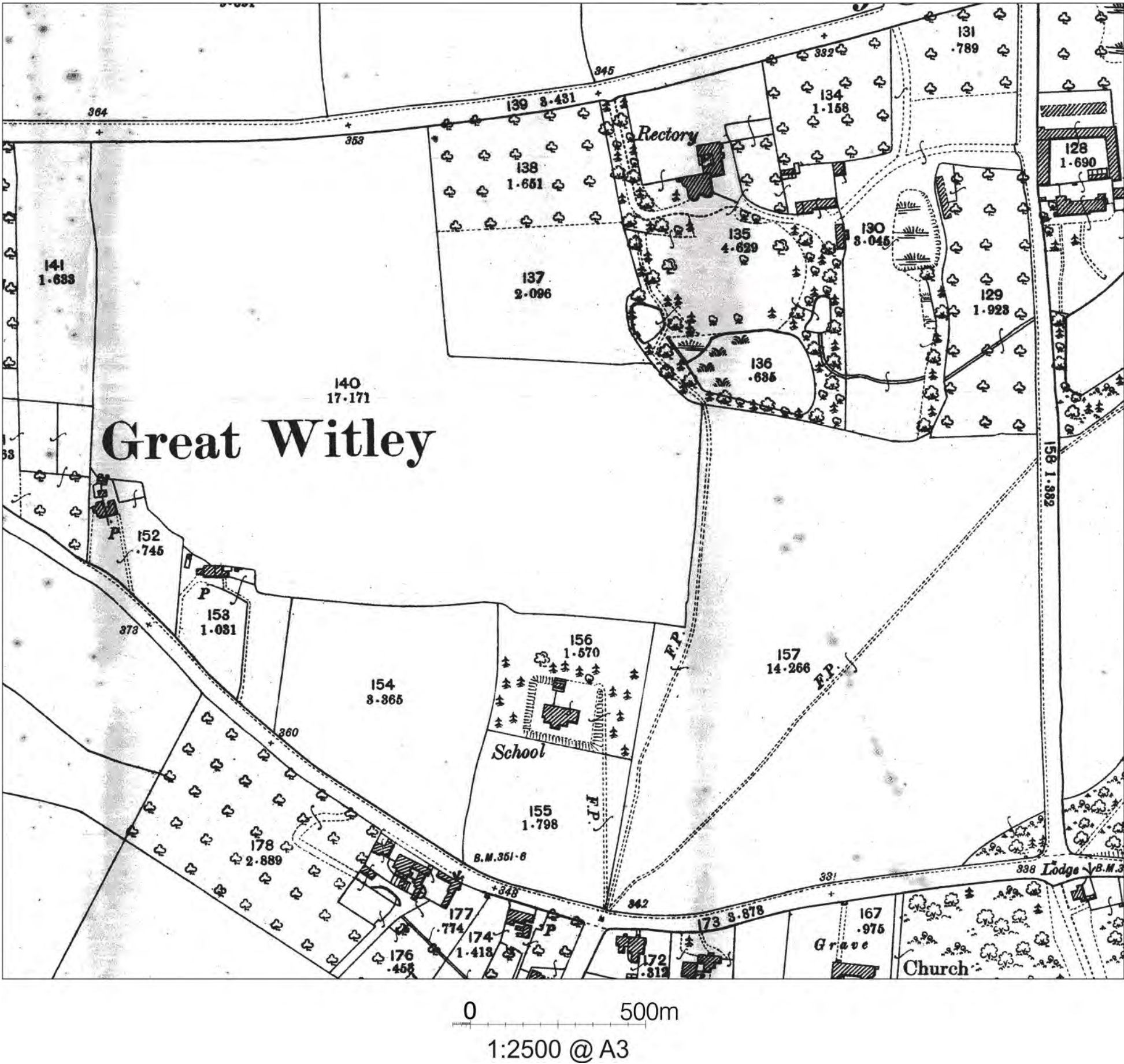


Figure 15: 1903 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

There is no change to the layout of the west field.

A second footpath is present running from the southwest corner to the northwest corner of the east field.



4.14 1920 Estate Plan



Figure 16 1920 Estate Plan reproduced at 1:2500

The land is shown as open fields. The parkland in the southeast corner is marked..

0 500m  
1:2500 @ A3



4.15 1920 Sales Plan

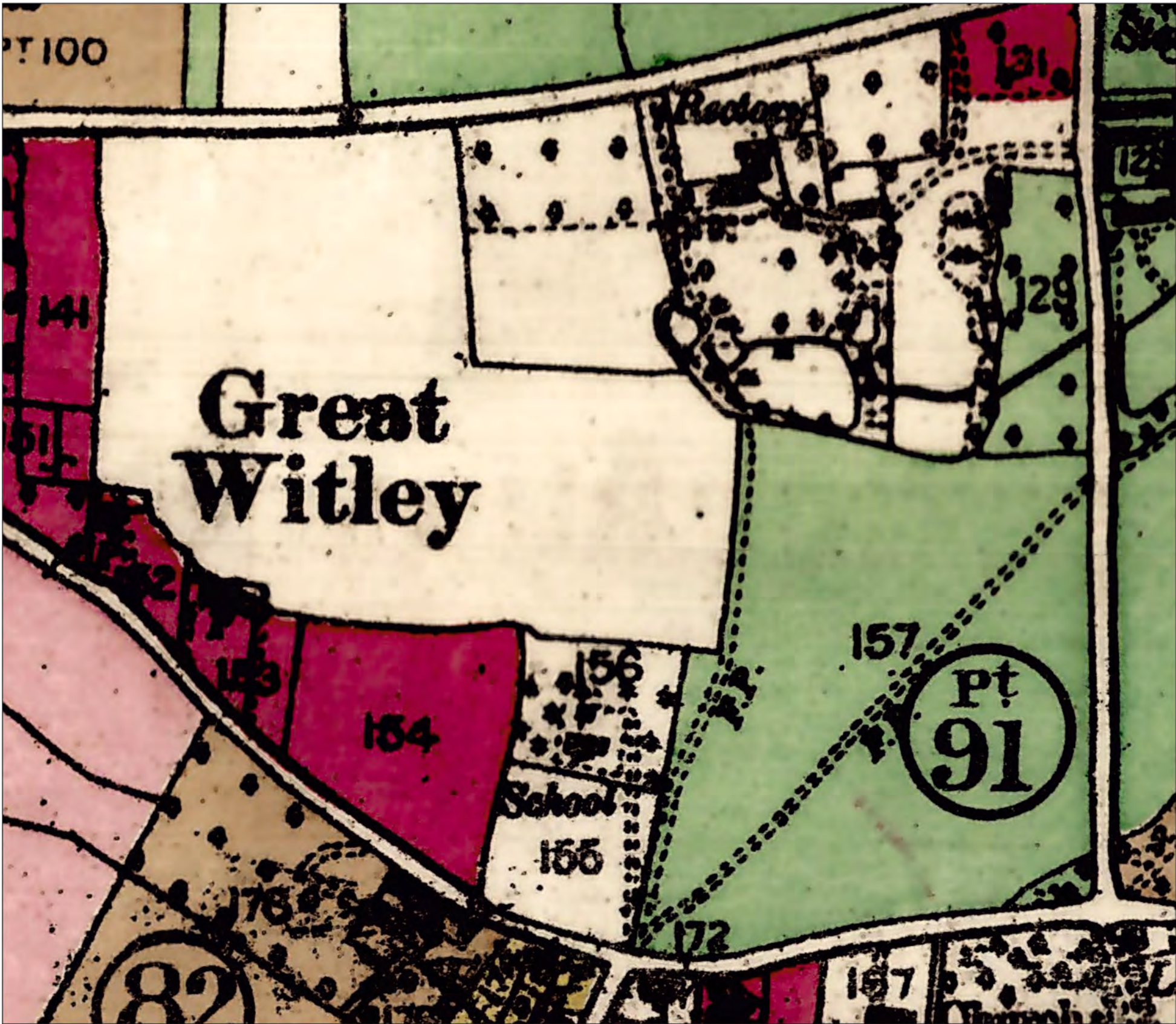


Figure 17: 1920 Sales Plan Reproduced at 1:2500  
There is no change in the layout of the land.

0 500m  
1:2500 @ A3



4.16 1954 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Plan

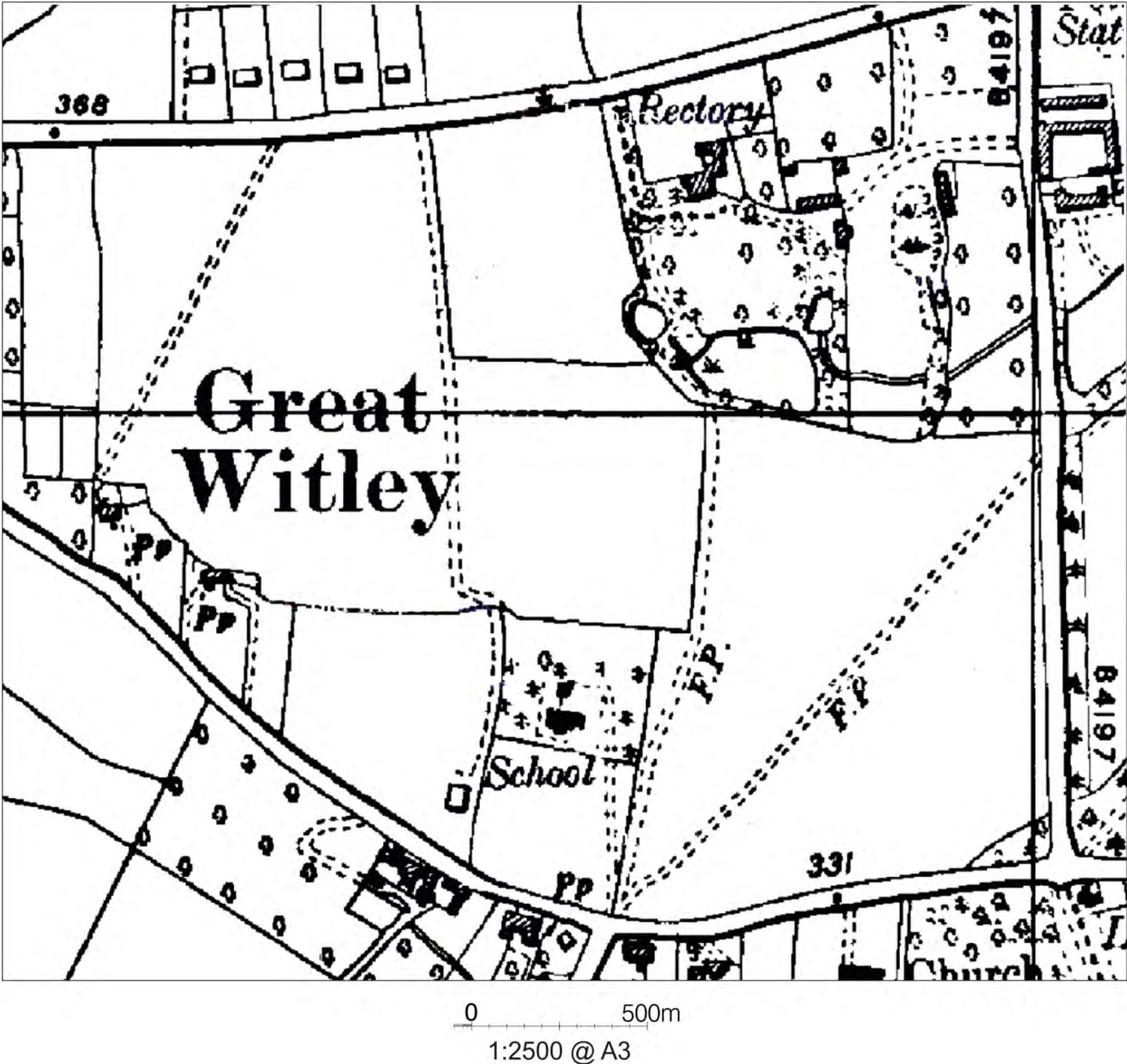


Figure 18: 1954 Ordnance Survey 1:1:10,000 Plan Enlarged to 1:2500

Trackways are present running through the west field to the south from Stourport Road.

There is no change in the layout of the eastern field.



4.17 1973 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan



Figure 19: 1973 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Plan

The Glebe has been constructed to the west of the west field leaving the land in its current form.

The small triangular wooded area in the southeast corner of the east field is now absent.

4.18 Modern Ordnance Survey Plan



0 500m  
1:2500 @ A3

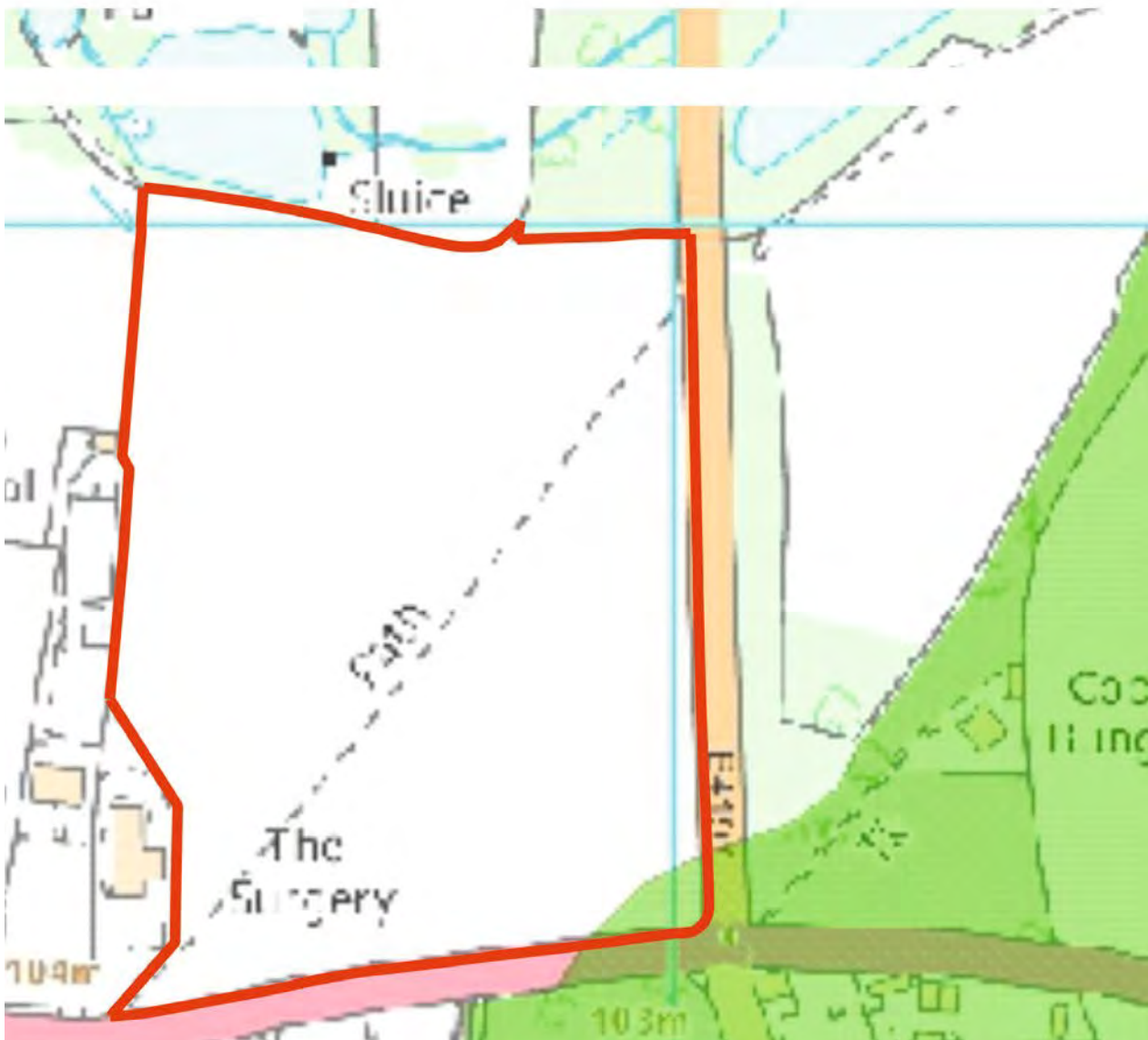
Figure 20: Modern Ordnance Survey Plan

The land is in its current form.



## 5. Designation

The southeast corner of the east field is part of the 350ha Grade II\* listed Witley Court park. This was a landscape park laid out in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and amended by George Stanley Repton and William Andrews Nesfield in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The focal point of the landscape was the house, Witley Court. A number of ornamental buildings were constructed in the park which also contained lakes and wooded areas.



**Figure 21: The scheduled area (green) in relation to the site (red), 1:2500 @ A4**

The listing description is appended. In particular, attention is drawn to the following paragraph:

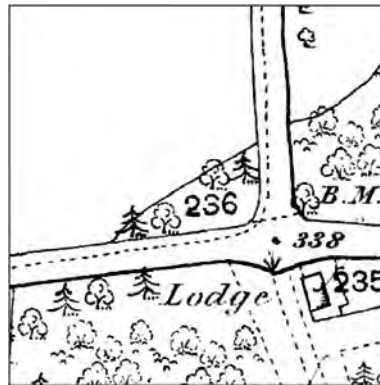
Desk Based Archaeological Assessment Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley  
*Witley Court lies to the north-east of an extensive park, although now (the late C20) the parkland character has largely been lost and much of the land is arable. Decay and tree felling had begun by the end of the C19.*

This is the case with the part of the park occupying the corner of the site.

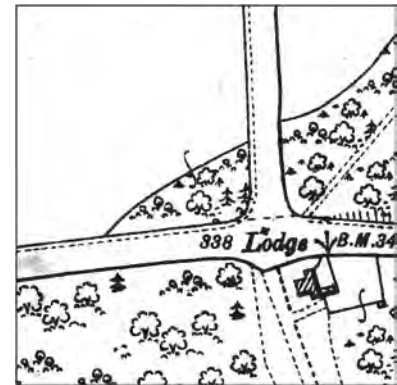
Evidence from historic mapping and air photography shows that this area of the site was occupied by trees and scrub until at least 1954, but by 1962, the vegetation, excepting a small number of trees on the boundary, had been removed, leaving open farmland. There is no trace on the ground of the former park.



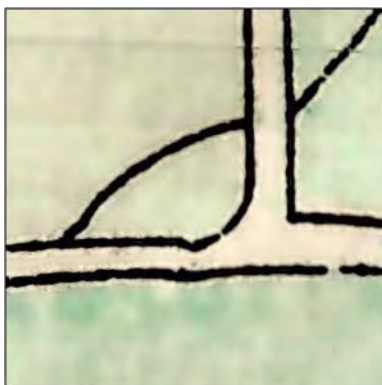
1840 OS, 1:2500



1884 OS, 1:2500



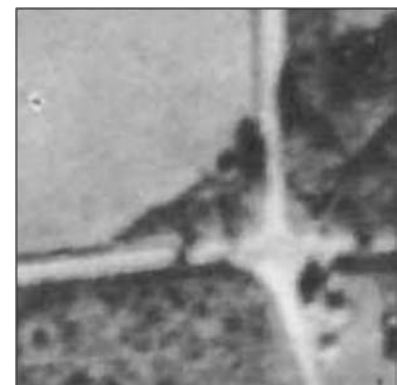
1903 OS, 1:2500



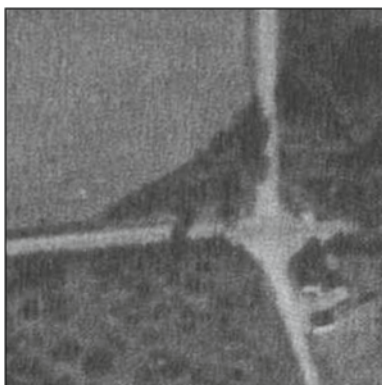
1920 Estate Plan, 1:2500



1920 Sales Plan, 1:2500



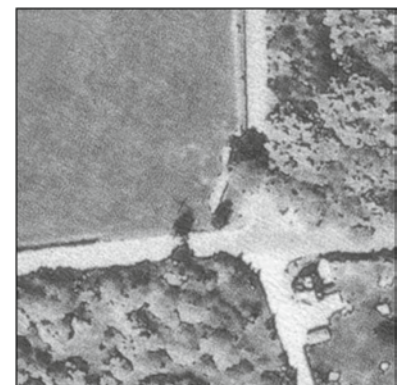
1946 Air Photo, 1:2500



1948 Air Photo, 1:2500



1954 OS, 1:2500



1962 Air Photo, 1:2500

**Figure 22: Historic detail of the designated area**





**Plate 1: Designated area viewed from the northeast**

The gatehouse to the park is visible opposite the site on Worcester Road.

## **6. Previous Archaeological Investigations on the Development Area**

No archaeological investigations are known to have occurred within the development area.

An excavation was carried out in 2014 on land immediately to the south of the west field (Holt 2014). This followed a 2013 evaluation. The excavation identified a number of undated archaeological features comprising two ditches, a gully and three pits sealed beneath a post-medieval colluvial deposit. A probable modern pit cut through the colluvium.

## **7. Archaeological Remains, Sites and Monuments in the Vicinity**

A search of the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record was carried out on the land and its vicinity. Full results are available on request.

### **7.1 Early Prehistoric – Pre Later Bronze Age**

Palaeolithic potential are noted in the Historic Environment record in the area immediately northeast of the land and c. 85m SW of Worcester Road to the south. The area comprising the land is not included within these areas of potential.

### **7.2 Later Prehistoric – Later Bronze Age and Iron Age**

There is no evidence for later prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the land.

### **7.3 Roman**

Finds of a number of silver and copper alloy Roman coins have been made within the parish of Great Witley, recorded as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Desk Based Archaeological Assessment Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley  
A highly abraded sherd of Severn Valley Ware was recovered during the 2014 excavation to the south of the land. This was interpreted as most likely to be residual.

#### **7.4 Early Medieval – Pre 1066**

There is no evidence for early medieval activity in the vicinity of the land.

#### **7.5 Medieval – Post 1066**

Pottery dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from the 2014 excavation in the field immediately south of the land.

A medieval silver coin is recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme as being found in the parish of Great Witley.

Three locations of a deserted medieval settlement are suggested in the vicinity of the site. A 1971 letter and list from C. C. Dyer suggests the settlement is located 1.15km southeast of the land in the parkland surrounding Witley Court. A 1969 Worcestershire County Museum typescript lists a suspected deserted medieval village on the far side of the Witley Court chapel, 1.5km from the land. The third proposed location of the settlement, made in the 1963 Medieval Village Research Group annual report is in the location of the housing estate adjacent to the land, in the area occupied by Chiltern Close, The Glebe and Fountain Close. See [http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob\\_id=114147#](http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=114147#) for further information.

A 1994 landscape survey of Witley Court concluded that it is more likely any deserted medieval settlement is located to the south and east of the Witley Court grounds.

There is no mention of a deserted medieval settlement in the results of the Historic Environment Record search.

#### **7.6 Post Medieval**

Pottery and ceramic building materials dating from the post-medieval and modern periods was recovered from the 2014 excavation in the field immediately south of the land, along with a pit dated to the post-medieval or modern period.

Finds of post-medieval coins are known from the parish, recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Worcestershire Historic Landscape Assessment records the land as lying within post-medieval fields and enclosed land (piecemeal enclosure).

In addition, a number of features dating from the Second World War are known from the Great Witley area.



## **8. Onsite Observations - Current Topography**

### **8.1 West Field**

The land slopes gradually from east to west.



**Plate 2: View into eastern part of the west field**



**Plate 3: Eastern aspect of the west field (panoramic image)**



**Plate 4: Southeast aspect of west field (panoramic image)**



## 8.2 East Field

The east field slopes gradually from east to west.



**Plate 5: View from northeast corner of east field**



**Plate 6: View of the east field from the southeast (panoramic image)**

## 9. Aerial Photographic Evidence

A selection of aerial photographs from the Historic England archive and Google Earth were consulted. Nothing of note appears within the land. Examples are reproduced below:



**Plate 7: 1945 Google Earth air photo (not to scale)**





**Plate 8: 1948 NMR air photo (not to scale)**

The development to the west has not yet been started.



**Plate 9: 1962 NMR air photo (not to scale)**

Construction of the housing estate to the west of the west field has begun. The eastern part of the west field is subdivided from the remainder.





**Plate 10: 1962 NMR air photo (not to scale)**

The division between east and west of the west field is still present. The development to the west of this field is gradually progressing.





**Plate 11: 1999 Google Earth air photo (not to scale)**

The development to the southwest of the west field has been completed.



**P: 2005 Google Earth air photo (not to scale)**





**Plate 12: 2006 Google Earth air photo (not to scale)**



**Plate 13: 2013 Google Earth air photo (not to scale)**



## 10. Borehole & Other Geotechnical Information

The National Geoscience Data Centre collection of onshore scanned boreholes, shafts and well records was consulted via the British Geological Society Geology of Britain Viewer.

Two boreholes were located to the northwest of the land:



**Figure 23: Location of nearby boreholes (not to scale)**

SO76NE7: A well dug in 1942 comprised 21m of an old well dug 'a few years ago' below which mottled sandstone was encountered.

SO76NE28: A disused well formerly supplying Hundred House Hotel. The well shaft was dry and no information regarding stratigraphy is publically available.



## 11. Extent of Modern and Recent Ground Disturbance

The Environment Agency map of known landfill sites has been consulted. The land is not shown as having been used for landfill.

Historic mapping and aerial photographs do not show any ground disturbance from former buildings or other structures within the boundaries of the land.

Ground disturbance is considered likely to be limited to that occurring from agriculture.

## 12. Geophysical Survey

A magnetometer survey of both fields was carried out by Archaeological Surveys Ltd in February 2016. A number of anomalies were identified however it is unclear as to whether these are of archaeological origin.

The report on the geophysical survey summary is as follows:

*A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Ltd within two fields at Great Witley, Worcestershire. The results of the survey demonstrate the presence of a number of positive linear anomalies with a north east to south west orientation that may relate to ditch-like features. Several negative anomalies have also been located in the western part of the site, but it is not possible to determine if these are of natural or anthropogenic origin. In the eastern part of the site, weakly positive responses may relate to natural features. Modern anomalies can also be seen within the data, including magnetic debris, services, agricultural anomalies and vehicle ruts.*

Plots of the geophysical survey are appended.

## 13. Conclusion

There are no known below-ground archaeological remains. The Geophysical Survey located a number of anomalies whose origin is unknown. Therefore all below ground archaeological matters can be dealt with by condition requiring a programme of archaeological work which will initially consist of archaeological trial trenching.

## 14. Appendix: Bibliography

Appleton-Fox N. 1994. *Witley Court, Great Witley, Worcestershire: Report on an Archaeological Landscape Survey*. Hereford: City of Hereford Archaeology Unit, Hereford Archaeology Series 215.

Holt R. 2014. Land North of Worcester Road, Great Witley, Worcestershire: Archaeological Excavation. Cirencester: Cotswold Archaeology, Report No. 14173

## 15. Appendix: Listing Description

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: WITLEY COURT

List entry Number: 1000901

Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Worcestershire	Malvern Hills District Authority		Great Witley
Worcestershire	Malvern Hills District Authority		Hillhampton
Worcestershire	Malvern Hills District Authority		Little Witley

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II\*

Date first registered: 28-Feb-1986

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens

UID: 1898

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

A landscape park, including improvements in the early C19 by John Nash and G S Repton, and formal mid C19 gardens by W A Nesfield, associated with a country house which in the mid C19 was among the most magnificent in England.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT



Witley was purchased by Thomas Foley, the son of a Stourbridge nail manufacturer, from the Russells of Strensham in 1655. The Foleys retained ownership until 1835 when Witley was bought by the trustees of the eleventh Lord Ward (cr first Earl of Dudley 1860), under whom, when he came of age, Witley was transformed into a 'Victorian palace'. His descendant sold the property in 1920, after the death of his wife in a bathing accident, to Sir Herbert Smith (d 1943), a Kidderminster carpet manufacturer, who put Witley up for sale in 1938, the year after the house was consumed in a great fire. It was purchased by a firm of demolition contractors who by 1945 had removed much of the non-structural fabric from the house and felled many of the mature trees in the park. The post-war years also saw the piecemeal sale of the parkland and farms from the estate. In 1972 the house and surrounding grounds were taken into state Guardianship, and a large-scale programme of restoration works instigated in the later 1990s was in progress in 1997.

## DESCRIPTION

**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING** Witley Court lies south-east of the village of Great Witley and the A443 which runs through it, from Ludlow c 35km to the north-west to Droitwich c 15km to the east. The high ground of Abberley Hill rises to the north, and that of Woobury Hill to the west. The watercourses crossing and ponded within the park drain south-east to the River Severn, 5km to the east. The registered area comprises c 350ha.

**ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES** Witley Court is approached along very rough kilometre-long drives from the north-west and from the east. At the end of each is an elaborate ashlar lodge (both listed grade II) in the French Second Empire style, built in 1884 to designs by Henry Rowe and Son of Worcester.

In the mid C18 a causeway was constructed to carry a drive southward from the public road to the house across the Front Pool. This arrangement was superseded by the present one in the early C19.

**PRINCIPAL BUILDING** A great fire swept Witley in 1937, and what remains today (listed grade I) is a consolidated shell. Of the C17 house of the Russells there remains the twin towers to the north between the long wings added 1683 by Thomas Foley. In 1790 it was transformed into a vaguely Palladian-style mansion with a three-storey central block and two projecting wings on the north side. In the early C19 porticos were added on both sides of the building, that on the south, garden front being by John Nash (1752-1835). In 1860 Samuel Whitfield Daukes (1811-80) transformed the house into a virtual palace, retaining the porticos but adding four-storey towers and two-and-a-half-storey wings with canted bays at their ends. A curving seven-bay wing was added on the left side of the garden front with a thirteen-bay Orangery (wing and Orangery separately listed grade II\*) at its end. The whole building (and the adjacent church) was clad in Bath stone and surmounted by a balustrade.

On the west side of the house is a service court and the remarkable baroque parish church of Great Witley (listed grade I), consecrated in 1735 and attributed to Gibbs (1682-1754).

**GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS** In the later C18 the surroundings of Witley Court were laid out as a landscape park with deer. George Stanley Repton (1786-1858) installed terracing and balustrading around the house in the early C19. In 1854 William Andrews Nesfield (1794-1881), then the country's most prestigious garden designer, came to Witley, and between that date and 1860 the setting of the house was transformed by the

Desk Based Archaeological Assessment Land between Stourport Rd & Worcester Rd, Great Witley  
creation of extensive and intricate gardens in the French and Italian styles south and east of the house, with great fountains as centrepieces.

The main gardens lie south and east of the house, defined by stone balustrading with ha-ha beyond. All is now rough lawn, with some specimen and some self-seeded invasive trees, especially around the exterior. Restoration works are currently in progress (1997). To the south of the house the ground falls away before rising again, the end of the garden (overall c 180m long from north to south and c 140m wide) lying within a massive apsidal projection. Monumental iron gates ('The Golden Gates') originally terminated the projection, while to either side of the start of the projection are stone pavilions (listed grade II) of c 1860, designed in a slightly Hindu style by Samuel Daukes. In the centre of the garden is the spectacular Perseus and Andromeda Fountain (listed grade I) of c 1860. Nearer the house, and to either side of the central path, are circular features, the remains of infilled flower beds.

The gardens east of the house, c 110m east/west by c 80m north/south, also terminate in an apsidal projection. In their centre is the Flora, or Triton, Fountain (listed grade II\*) of c 1860. Both of Witley's great fountains were sculpted by James Forsyth. The stone edgings of parterre beds protrude through the grass.

PARK Witley Court lies to the north-east of an extensive park, although now (the late C20) the parkland character has largely been lost and much of the land is arable. Decay and tree felling had begun by the end of the C19.

Running along the east/west valley which drops steeply away below the north forecourt is Front Pool, a linear lake with a weir at its west end and a boathouse (ruinous 1997) below the house. North-east of Front Pool is woodland called The Wilderness. West of Front Pool is Hundred Pool; between the two pieces of water is the former Engine House. About 150m west of Hundred Pool is Red House, a grouping of five small octagons, built in 1828 to a design by George Repton as a breeding kennel for Lord Foley's hounds. This was converted for residential use in the early C20.

To the south of Witley Court the ground rises, the highest ground lying in the south-west edge of the park, where a few small parcels of woodland represent all that survives of Deerbarn Covert, which in the early C20 formed a broad belt of woodland along the southern border of the park.

The existing park, created by the mid C16, was enlarged after 1718 when additional land north-east of the house was purchased. This was probably the time when the Hundred Pool was created, followed in the 1730s by the Front Pool with its Cascade, removed in the early C19. Also in the earlier C18, Keeper's Lodge (destroyed during the 1950s) was built as an eyecatcher 750m south-west of the house, on the site of a lodge documented in 1664 and 1732, to a design by Henry Flitcroft (d 1769). At the same time ornamental plantations were laid out. A Wilderness had been planted east of Front Pool by 1784. By 1793 the park had been extended east to include the Warford Pool and Lodge Pool. Between 1804 and 1817 Nash and Repton improved the park.

KITCHEN GARDEN Witley's octagonal walled kitchen garden (walls in part listed grade II) lies c 100m west of the west end of the house's service court and forms part of Nash's improvements at Witley in the early C19. On the north side of the garden is the former gardener's house (listed grade II), now divided into two dwellings.







16. Appendix: Geophysical Survey Plots



Figure 24: Magnetometer plot, western field, not to scale



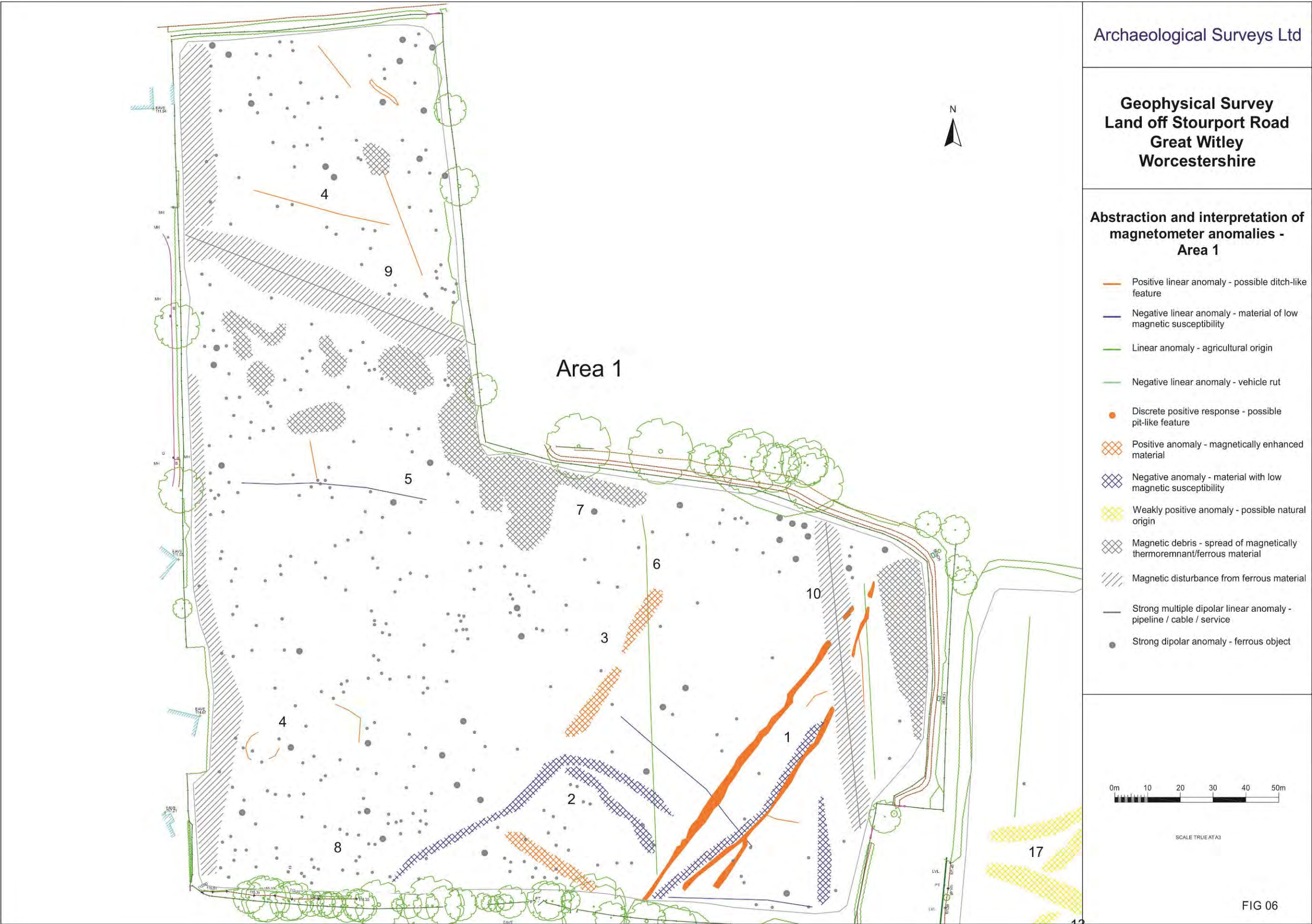


Figure 25: Geophysical interpretation, western field, not to scale



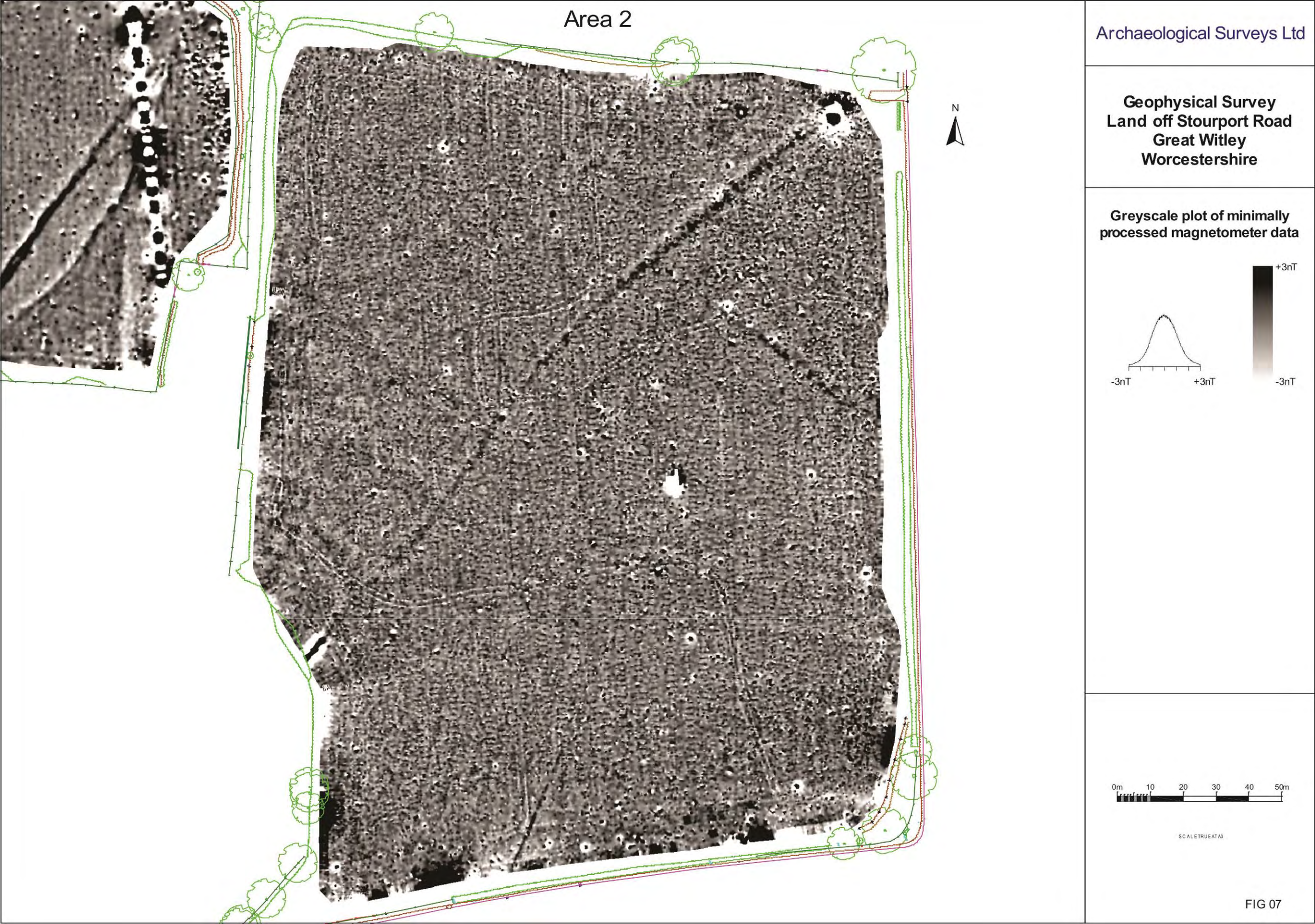


Figure 26: Magnetometer plot, eastern field, not to scale





Figure 27: Geophysical interpretation, eastern field, not to scale

## 17. Appendix: 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.