South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 8.1 - Archaeological and historical baseline

Date: October 2025

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of report

1.1.1 This Appendix provides the detailed historic environment baseline information for the SESRO Project and informs the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects contained within Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) Chapter 8: Historic environment.

1.1.2 This report contains baseline information only; the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects can be found in Chapter 8: Historic environment and Appendix 8.4: Preliminary assessment of effects for Historic environment. This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Appendix 8.2: Designated assets and non-designated built heritage assets – Statements of significance
- Appendix 8.3: Gazetteer of heritage assets
- Appendix 8.4: Preliminary assessment of effects for Historic environment

1.1.3 A preliminary statement of heritage significance for Designated heritage assets and Non-designated heritage assets is provided in Appendix 8.2: Designated assets and non-designated built heritage assets – statements of significance. This report provides the overall historical context/narrative for the study area, highlighting aspects of particular interest and allowing a consideration of them in relation to other designated and non-designated heritage resources.

1.1.4 For the purposes of this technical appendix, heritage 'significance', as defined in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure (NPSWRI) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government / MHCLG, revised 2023), will be referred to as 'heritage value' hereafter. Within PEI Report Chapter 8: Historic environment, heritage significance (value) is referred to using EIA terminology, 'sensitivity'. As this report contains baseline information only, the term 'heritage value' is used throughout, rather than sensitivity.

1.1.5 The relevant legislation, policy and guidance which has informed this assessment can be found in PEI Report Chapter 8: Historic environment and is not repeated within this appendix.

1.1.6 Heritage assets referred to in this report have been assigned a unique gazetteer number which are listed in Appendix 8.3 Gazetteer of heritage assets. Those assets which lie within the extent of the draft Order limits are assigned 'Assessment 1' numbers, e.g. **A1a, A1b, A1c**, whilst assets within the wider area are numbered sequentially, e.g. **A2, A3, A4**.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 This report provides a baseline of known or potential buried heritage assets (archaeological remains) and above ground heritage assets (structures and landscapes of heritage interest) within or immediately around the draft Order limits. These are identified as having a degree of heritage value meriting consideration in planning decisions and includes

designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including locally listed buildings), and non-designated heritage assets.

1.2.2 Archaeology and built heritage have been a material consideration in the planning process since 1990 and their value is recognised in national and local planning policy. The aim of this report is to:

- Identify the presence of any known or potential heritage assets that may be affected by the Project
- Describe the significance of heritage assets, in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Water Infrastructure, considering factors which may have compromised asset survival
- Determine the contribution that setting makes to the significance of any sensitive (i.e. designated) heritage assets

1.3 Key heritage constraints

1.3.1 The draft Order limits contain 14 no. designated heritage assets. These comprise four Scheduled monuments, seven Grade II listed buildings and three conservation areas. The location of designated heritage assets within the 2km study area are shown on Figure 1. The assets comprise:

- A1a – Scheduled Site SE of Noah's Ark Inn, Frilford
- A1b – Scheduled Ock Bridge (which is also Grade II listed)
- A4 – Scheduled Sutton Wick settlement site
- A10 – Scheduled Dovecote at Culham Manor, 110m south west of St Paul's Church
- A1b – Grade II listed 15th century Ock Bridge
- A1c – Grade II listed late 18th century Noah's Ark Bridge and flanking walls
- A1d – Grade II listed 18th century bridge approximately 50 m south east of Marcham Mill
- A1e – Grade II listed Milestone at SU 4303 9500
- A1f – Grade II listed Milestone at SU 4230 9357
- A1g – Grade II listed Milestone at SU 4381 9637
- A1h – Grade II listed Milestone at SU 4152 9217
- A1i – Culham conservation area
- A1j – Steventon conservation area
- A1k - East Hanney conservation area.

1.3.2 There are a further 18 conservation areas within the 2km study area, including Goosey (A842), Denchworth (A839), Wantage Charlton (A844), West Hendred (A846), East Hendred (A841), Harwell (A843), Didcot Old (A840), Abingdon Northcourt (A837), Abingdon Town Centre (A831), Abingdon Albert Park (A830), Ardington and East Lockinge (A838), Sutton Courtenay (A832), Marcham (A829), Milton (A834), Grove (A835), West Hanney (A836), West Hagbourne (A845) and Drayton (A833).

1.3.3 There are no registered parks and gardens within the draft Order limits. However, there are two Grade II listed registered parks and gardens within the 2km study area. These are Sutton Courtenay Manor (A15) and Albert Park in Abingdon (A14).

1.3.4 There are 60 non-designated historic buildings recorded on Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER), two of which lie within the draft Order limits (Figure 2). These are the Second World War Pillbox at Culham (A1aw) and the Second World War Vehicle Depot (A1cy) at Steventon.

1.3.5 There are 960 archaeological assets recorded on the OHER within the 1km study area for non-designated assets. A total of 209 archaeological assets lie within the draft Order limits (see Figure 2 for the location of Non designated heritage assets).

1.3.6 The non-designated heritage assets include concentrations of archaeological anomalies. These were detected through geophysical survey, aerial photograph interpretation and mapping (AIM) conducted during the 1990s and 2000s for previous iterations of the Project, as well as most recent geophysical survey undertaken in 2024 for the current iteration.

2 Sources and methodology

2.1 Data sources

2.1.1 In order to determine the full historic environmental potential of the draft Order limits as presented in this report, a broad range of standard documentary and cartographic sources, including the results from past archaeological investigations within the draft Order limits and a 1km study area around it were examined in order to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and heritage value of any known or possible heritage assets that may be present. Data sources consulted are listed in Table 2.1.

2.1.2 Where relevant, there is reference to assets beyond these study areas, e.g. where such assets are particularly significant and/or where they contribute to current understanding of the historic environment.

2.1.3 The study areas used for the settings assessment comprise:

- An initial study area of 2km from the draft Order limits for Designated Heritage Assets. Professional judgement has been applied when scoping designated heritage assets potentially affected through changes to setting, and where relevant, assets beyond 2km are considered through the use of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).
- Non-designated above ground heritage assets up to 1km from the draft Order limits affected through changes to setting.

2.1.4 The study areas are defined based on professional judgement and according to the sensitivity of the heritage receptors and the potential effects of the Project. The study area(s) used for the Historic environment assessment are shown in PEI Report Figure 8.1: study area for the historic environment. The selection of assets to be scoped in for full assessment is informed by the use of a ZTV, which is shown in Figure 8.4: Designated Heritage Assets and Reservoir Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (screening/DSM).

Table 2.1 Data sources consulted

Source	Data	Comment
Historic England	National Heritage List for England (NHLE) (with information on statutorily designated heritage assets)	Statutory designations (scheduled monuments; statutorily listed buildings; registered parks and gardens; historic battlefields) can provide a significant constraint to development.
Oxfordshire County Council	Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER)	Primary repository of archaeological information. Includes information from past investigations, local knowledge, find spots, and documentary and cartographic sources.
Vale of White Horse District / South Oxfordshire District	Conservation areas	An area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.
	Locally listed building	Building of local importance designated by the local planning authority due to architectural and/or historic significance and a positive contributor to the character of an area. Whilst not statutorily

Source	Data	Comment
		protected, a building's inclusion on the list means that it is a material consideration in the planning process.
British Geological Survey (BGS)	Solid and drift geology digital map	Subsurface deposition, including buried geology and topography, can provide an indication of potential for early human settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains.
	Online BGS geological borehole record data	
Groundsure / National Library of Scotland	Ordnance Survey Maps from the 1st edition (1860–70s) to the present day.	Provides a good indication of past land use and impacts which may have compromised archaeological survival. Provides an indication of the possible date of any buildings within the draft Order limits.
Local archives	Historic maps (e.g. Tithe, enclosure, estate), published journals and local history	Baseline information on the historic environment.
Historic England / Britain from above	Aerial photographs	Aerial photographs can be used to inform archaeological potential through identification of crop/soil marks representing previously unrecorded archaeological features.
Internet	Web-published local history	Many key documentary sources, such as the Victoria County History, the Survey of London, and local and specialist studies are now published on the web and can be used to inform the archaeological and historical background. The Archaeological Data Service includes an archive of digital fieldwork reports.
	Archaeological Data Service (ADS)	

2.1.5 Annex 1: Figures 1 and 2 show the location of Designated Heritage Assets and known historic environment features within the 1km study area for non-designated heritage assets and the 2km setting study area, as identified by the sources above, the walkover, or during the course of the research carried out for this assessment. These have been allocated a unique 'assessment' reference number (A1, A2, etc), which is listed in Appendix 8.3: Gazetteer of heritage assets and referred to in this report. All distances described in the text are approximate (within 5m).

2.1.6 Archaeological events and isolated findspots (where assets have been removed) have not been assigned a gazetteer number and instead are referred to by their unique HER event number ('EOX0000') and HER monument number ('MOX0000').

2.2 Site survey

2.2.1 The walkovers carried out to date have focused on selected designated heritage assets beyond the draft Order limits, based on their location within the ZTV and professional judgement, to consider potential effects on their setting, and for the purpose of taking

heritage viewpoint photography. At this preliminary stage, site walkover surveys have comprised:

- Targeted heritage walkovers carried out on 18 March and 3 July 2025 for the purpose of appraising baseline setting of Scheduled Monuments on the Ridgeway and the length of the scheduled Grim's ditch (National Heritage List Entry no. 1006305), 3.5km to the south of the Project, to inform the initial viewpoint selection
- Further heritage surveys conducted on the 8 and 9 July 2025, focused on appraisal of baseline setting of Scheduled Monuments and conservation areas within the 2km study area and
- Further site surveys conducted August 13 to August 15 focused on appraisal of baseline setting of listed buildings and conservations area within the wider 2km study area.

2.3 Assessing archaeological potential

2.3.1 Section 4 of this report presents an assessment of archaeological potential for each chronological period, based on the archaeological and historical background of the area, its geology, topography and hydrology, the likelihood for evidence of past activity, and considering past disturbance which may have affected survival. For example, the draft Order limits may have high potential for activity of a particular period, but with a low level of survival. Section 6 includes professional opinion on likely heritage value, where there is low to moderate, or higher, potential for remains to be present.

2.4 Assessing Heritage Value

2.4.1 The NPSWRI defines heritage assets as 'those elements of the historic environment identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest'. Heritage value is defined as 'the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest' (4.7.3).

2.4.2 The determination of the significance is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against the below values, as identified in Historic England Conservation Principles (revised consultation draft Nov 2017):

- *Historic Interest*: the ways in which the asset can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life (illustrative value, or interest). It can be said to hold communal value when associated with the identity of a community. Historical interest considers whether the asset is the first, only, or best surviving example of an innovation of consequence, whether related to design, artistry, technology or social organisation. It also considers an asset's integrity (completeness), current use/original purpose, significance in place making, associative value with a notable person, event, or movement
- *Archaeological Interest:* the potential of the physical remains of an asset to yield evidence of past human activity that could be revealed through future archaeological investigation. This includes above-ground structures and landscapes, earthworks and buried or submerged remains, palaeoenvironmental deposits, and considers date, rarity, state of preservation, diversity/complexity, contribution to published priorities

(research value), supporting documentation, collective value and comparative potential, and sensitivity to change

- *Architectural and Artistic Interest:* derive from a contemporary appreciation of an asset's aesthetics. Architectural interest can include the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures. Artistic interest can include the use, representation or influence of historic places or buildings in artwork. It can also include the skill and emotional impact of works of art that are part of heritage assets or assets in their own right.

2.4.3 These values encompass the criteria that Historic England are obliged to consider when statutorily designating heritage assets. Each asset has to be evaluated against the range of criteria listed above on a case by case basis. Unless the nature and exact extent of buried archaeological remains within any given area has been determined through prior investigation, heritage value is often uncertain.

2.4.4 In relation to designated heritage assets, the assessment considers the contribution which the historic character and setting makes to the overall heritage value of the asset.

2.4.5 Table 2.2 below provides detail on the criteria used for establishing the heritage value of heritage assets.

Table 2.2 Criteria for establishing the heritage value of heritage assets

Heritage Value of receptor	Typical descriptors
Very high	**Archaeological remains:** World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives **Historic buildings:** Structures recognised as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings of recognised international importance **Historic landscapes:** World Heritage Sites recognised for their historic landscape qualities. Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not. Extremely well-preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth, or other critical factor(s)
High	**Archaeological remains:** Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives **Historic buildings:** Scheduled Monuments with standing remains. Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings. Conservation areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national importance **Historic landscapes:** Designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of high quality and importance and of demonstrable national value. Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s)
Moderate	**Archaeological remains:** Non-designated assets that contribute to regional research objectives **Historic buildings:** Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Conservation areas

Heritage Value of receptor	Typical descriptors
	containing buildings which contribute significantly to their historic character. Listed structures such as historic milestones which are not in their original location might warrant this value **Historic landscapes:** Designated special historic landscapes. Undesignated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value. Averagely well-preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factor(s)
Low	**Archaeological remains:** Non-designated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives **Historic buildings:** 'Locally listed' buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association **Historic landscapes:** Robust undesignated historic landscapes. Historic landscapes with importance to local interest groups. Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations
Negligible	**Archaeological remains:** Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological importance **Historic buildings:** Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character **Historic landscapes:** Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest

3 Historic Environment Baseline

3.1 Site Location

3.1.1 The draft Order limits is located within rural land between Abingdon in the north-east and Wantage in the south-west. The majority of the Project lies within the jurisdiction of the Vale of White Horse District Council and a small portion of the eastern boundary of the draft Order limits lies within South Oxford District. Both districts lie in the modern county of Oxfordshire, but formerly lay within the historical county of Berkshire.

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 Topography can provide an indication of suitability for settlement, and ground levels can indicate whether the ground has been built up or truncated, which can have implications for archaeological survival.

3.2.2 SESRO lies in the clay vale of the River Ock (Vale of White Horse) that is bound to the north and south by low sandstone escarpments. In Pleistocene times, the vale was occupied by a large meander of the River Thames, which deposited a sequence of terraced river deposits in response to uplift and climate change. In the Vale of White Horse the low-lying impermeable clay strata provides surface drainage which flows into the meandering Isis, Ock and their tributaries (Dils and Yates 2012, 4).

3.2.3 The topography of the central part of the draft Order limits is generally flat with heights varying between 55.0-60.0m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The ground level gently rises to the north, reaching 66.0m aOD in Frilford to the north-west. To the south, ground levels rise to 70-100.0m aOD along the A417, towards the Berkshire Downs (Ordnance Survey Contour Data).

3.3 Geology and soils

3.3.1 Geology can provide an indication of suitability for early settlement, and potential depth of remains. A summary overview of the geology and soils present within the draft Order limits is presented below and is based on emerging geoarchaeological studies carried out as part of the Project.

3.3.2 British Geological Survey (BGS, 2024) mapping indicates the vale is formed in Amphill Clay and Kimmeridge Clay of late Jurassic to early Cretaceous age, while sandstone escarpments to the north and south comprise the late Jurassic-age Kingston Formation and early Cretaceous-age Gault Formation respectively. Bedrock in the clay vale is generally obscured by a thick sequence of Pleistocene-aged sands and gravels of the Upper Thames Valley Formation and Holocene alluvium.

3.3.3 The area is not thought to have been affected by quaternary glaciation, but glaciers have entered the headwaters of the Thames catchment, meaning far-travelled ‘erratic’ material is present in the region, which was also affected by periglacial weathering and high-energy stream flows during periods of seasonal melt (Maddy et al 1998).

3.3.4 The River Thames and its tributaries have been the main agent of landform evolution across the region throughout the Pleistocene. During cold climate 'glacial' stages river valleys were characterised by meltwater-enriched braided river systems composed of sands and gravels that often include reworked far-travelled glacial sediments. Periglacial processes reworked abundant sediment to form head deposits. Warmer climate 'interglacial' stages were characterised by slopes stabilised by vegetation, low sediment supply and low energy, single or multi-thread rivers that deposited fine-grained sediments often including organic matter.

3.3.5 Head deposits, formed by various slope processes under periglacial and temperate conditions, mantle the low angle escarpment slopes. Holocene sandy-clayey alluvium deposits follow the watercourses and low-lying areas. A sand and gravel unit of uncertain association is located near the northern boundary of the geoarchaeology study area.

3.3.6 Four terraces mantled with sands and gravels have been identified (based on elevation), whilst a large area of undifferentiated sands and gravel mantle the gentle slope within the draft Order limits. Terrace surfaces are present at 75-78.7m aOD (terrace 4), 62-65m aOD (terrace 3), 58- 61m aOD (terrace 2) and 50-53m aOD (terrace 1).

3.4 Overview of past archaeological investigations

3.4.1 Within the draft Order limits, a high quantity of geophysical surveys, as well as archaeological excavations, have been undertaken since the 1980s. A summary of the previous archaeological investigations is provided below and their location within the 1km study area is shown on Figure 3, with those within the extent of the draft Order limits labelled by their unique OHER event ID number (e.g. EOXXXX).

Frilford, Garford and Marcham

3.4.2 In 1987 an archaeological evaluation at Noah's Ark Inn in Frilford (EOX360), the majority of which is located within the draft Order limits to the north-east, revealed the remains of a late Iron Age / Roman temple (A1ei) with associated features and a circular shrine. Between 2001 and 2005 an archaeological excavation (EOX1982) was undertaken within the area (including fields partially outside of the draft Order limits), which was based on the results of the 1987 evaluation, as well as the aerial photographs. The fieldwork led to the discovery of a potential Roman amphitheatre within an area of extensive Roman occupation. The archaeological works within the area, also included a series of geophysical surveys.

3.4.3 Geophysical survey (EOX1287) was undertaken within the field to the north-east of the temple, where the Roman Amphitheatre was thought to be located. The survey identified the terminus wall of the temple complex, as well as several buildings of Roman date and earlier Iron Age ditches. Additional geophysical surveys were undertaken as part of the Vale and Ridgeway Project. The magnetometry (EOX2149) and resistivity (EOX2365) survey results confirmed the information known about the site and added new data, including the presence of the southern enclosure, the southern part of the temenos wall, and the temple itself. Later resistivity survey (EOX3184) was extended to the north-west field, just outside of the draft Order limits, and it determined the exact location and the extent of the temple area, as well as its inner cell.

3.4.4 Geophysical survey (EOX2538) was undertaken along the route of the A415 Marcham By-which recorded anomalies likely indicating the Second World War tank trap located in this area. Following geophysical survey, an excavation (EOX2009) was undertaken, targeting cropmarks and anomalies. This revealed multi-phase occupation of the area, from the late prehistoric to the medieval, as well as recording sections of the Second World War anti-tank ditch (A1cp / A1cq / A1co / A1cn).

3.4.5 Systematic fieldwalking (EOX6834) was carried out at Manor Farm, south of Marcham. Finds from various periods were recorded, including prehistoric worked flints, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval pottery and other material. Trial trenching (EOX7745) undertaken at Manor Farm, uncovered three ditches and a pit, but once again no dateable finds were retrieved.

3.4.6 Linear works were undertaken from Cleve to Fyfield in the form of an archaeological evaluation (EOX3401), located at nine locations along this route, identifying features from Bronze Age to Early Medieval period, including Iron Age and Roman occupation, as well as an Early Medieval 'grubenhaus' (type of Early Medieval sunken feature building) south-west of Drayton.

3.4.7 Geophysical survey (EOX3161) undertaken in Garford in the west of the draft Order limits confirmed aerial photography interpretation revealing evidence of the presence of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery along with later Iron Age and Roman occupation.

Abingdon, Culham and Drayton

3.4.8 In 1988 an archaeological excavation (EOX7078) was undertaken within the eastern part of the draft Order limits near Culham. Trial trenching (EOX1931) revealed a long enclosure, likely of Neolithic date, aligned north south and parallel to the nearby Drayton cursus (A1eh), also of prehistoric date, located just outside of the draft Order limits. A later evaluation undertaken at Stonehill Lane (EOX8) revealed evidence of Roman trackways and a possible cremation indicative of funerary monument (A1ba) near Drayton Cursus, indicating multi-period use of the landscape.

3.4.9 In 2017 an archaeological excavation (EOX6424) was undertaken on prior gravel extraction at Sutton Wick Quarry. The excavation revealed two phases of Late Iron Age activity beneath the alluvium, consisting of linear features forming a series of fields with associated paddocks. Nine pits were recorded containing limited pottery mostly dated between the 1st century BC and the 1s century AD. As well as this, a shallow pit and a few flints were retrieved, broadly dated to the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods.

3.4.10 In 1988, an additional archaeological excavation (EOX7077) was undertaken at the current Abingdon Sewage Works. Alluvium filled linear boundary ditches and a trackway, likely of Medieval date were recorded prior to gravel extraction. A pit with an inhumation and four worked flints was also found, as well as a series of tree-throw holes, one of which contained thirty flint flakes, while others had burnt stones and charcoal in it which were dated to the Neolithic/Bronze age periods. To the south of this site, an additional archaeological excavation (EOX751) revealed a medieval field system, as well as a terminal of a Neolithic enclosure.

3.4.11 A watching brief was undertaken in 1995 (EOX771) within the central part of the draft Order limits, which recorded alluvial deposits along with the continuation of a medieval boundary ditch. In addition, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity was suggested given

the presence of dark fills within three holes, as part of prehistoric land clearance and burning activity in the area. To the south of this machine stripping in advance of gravel extraction (EOX388), post-medieval truncation was evident, which had the effect of removing all traces of previous occupation (if present). Archaeological investigation, in the form of borehole sampling was undertaken in 1998 (EOX1928) in the location of the Project intake/outfall structure, which recorded deposits of peat (preserved land surfaces), representing the edge of a former large palaeo-channel. The investigation also revealed the presence of pollen, as well as pine and birch woodland relating to the early Mesolithic environment, and some charcoal of likely the same date. Mesolithic peat deposits are considered a very rare find for the Upper Thames Valley. A later watching brief (EOX1887) at Culham Reach revealed a series of alluvial layers, but no evidence of prehistoric occupation was identified.

3.4.12 In 1997, an archaeological evaluation (EOX1901) at Drayton revealed a settlement and agricultural site in use from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period. Later archaeological evaluation (EOX3401) confirmed Iron Age and Roman occupation of the area.

3.4.13 During pipeline works at Abingdon, geophysical survey (EOX2109), fieldwalking (EOX1294) and trial trenching (EOX1464) were undertaken in 2003. Two areas of archaeological potential were identified, one north of Abingdon between the railway and Kennington Road and the other in Ridley Park. Limited prehistoric material was retrieved during fieldwalking, and the majority of the finds dated to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. Of the 22 trial trenches excavated, only three contained significant archaeology.

3.4.14 Four trial trenches (EOX7187) were excavated as part of a housing development at Abingdon Road in 2022. The evaluation targeted the area of a mound feature detected during previous geophysical surveys (EOX5838, EOX5839) and trial trench evaluation (EOX5933). The trial trenching revealed ditches and pits dated to the Roman period, as well as two burials, an inhumation and a cremation. Despite earlier evidence suggesting a Bronze Age or Post-medieval date, it was suggested that the mound could have been a Roman funerary monument.

3.4.15 In 2024, an archaeological investigation (EOX7965) was undertaken at Drayton prior to housing development. A series of features dating from the Iron Age to the Roman period were identified, including boundary and drainage ditches, pits and postholes.

East Hanney

3.4.16 To the south of Landmead Farm, trial trenching evaluation (EOX1896) was undertaken in 1994. The trenches targeted earlier geophysical survey results. Pottery and other finds revealed Iron Age and Roman activity. Additional geophysical survey (EOX2198) was undertaken in 2006 together with fieldwalking survey and artefact interpretation analysis (EOX2197) in order to sample the area of the Roman villa. Results showed a trackway running north to south, a number of rectangular enclosures to the west and the villa itself to the east.

3.4.17 An archaeological evaluation (EOX1898) including seven trial trenches, was undertaken in 1997 to the north-east of East Hanney, near Landmead Farm. This revealed two areas of archaeological potential, Middle Iron Age and Roman occupation characterised by settlement and agricultural activity. In 2015 this was followed by a watching brief (EOX5862) which identified an undated ditch and modern pit and several furrows.

3.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.5.1 Unless stated otherwise, all references to 'study area' in Section 3.5 refer to the 1km study area for non-designated heritage assets, which has been used to characterise the archaeological potential of the draft Order limits.

Palaeolithic (1,000,000 BCE to -10,000 BCE)

3.5.2 The Palaeolithic, or Old Stone Age, is the earliest period of prehistory, representing a substantial period of time for which the main surviving evidence is stone artefacts. The British Palaeolithic coincides with the second half of the Pleistocene geological period ('The Ice Age'). During the Pleistocene, there were repeated climatic oscillations between warm, interglacial conditions and severe cold, with the landscape varying from a temperate forested and steppe to arctic and sub-arctic as the climate and environment changed (Wenban-Smith et al., 2014). These extreme climatic changes varied the character of existence over time, as well as impacting upon long-term patterns of colonisation and occupation of Britain, which, due to large and prolonged changes in sea-levels, was intermittently an island and a peninsula of northern Europe during this period.

3.5.3 The initial expansion of hominids into Britain and northern Europe during the Lower Palaeolithic (1,000,000 BCE – 150,000 BCE) seems to have consisted of very occasional forays during periods of warm climate between 800,000 BCE and 500,000 BCE, followed by a more sustained expansion northward into Britian around 500,000 BCE (Wenban-Smith et al., 2014). Between 500,000 BCE and 425,000 BCE, there was a marked deterioration in climate (the Anglian glaciation), leading to most of Britain being covered by ice, and abandonment by (or local extinction of) the hominin population. Following the end of the Anglian glaciation, Palaeolithic occupation became much more frequent in Britain, although not continuous, with periodic changes in climate making Britain uninhabitable.

3.5.4 The Palaeolithic population of Britain seems to have flourished for around 150,000 years following the end of the Anglian glaciation, with numerous sites of this period found across southern Britain. After c. 250,000 BCE, there seems to have been a marked decline in Palaeolithic occupation, and sporadic occupation after this (Wenban-Smith et al., 2014).

3.5.5 The Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 BCE - 40,000 BCE), which saw Neanderthals enter Britian, can be subdivided into two distinct periods of extensive human occupation either side of what was probably a harsh cold climate.

3.5.6 The Upper Palaeolithic (40,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE) saw the first appearance in Britain of anatomically modern humans in c. 30,000 BCE (Wenban-Smith et al., 2014). This period coincides with the coldest part of the last glacial period. Findspots from this period are far less common as it is believed that Britain was largely uninhabited for much of this period or only visited fleetingly (Wenban-Smith et al., 2014).

3.5.7 Palaeolithic artefacts are predominantly stone tools, with the division of the Palaeolithic into three phases, the Lower, Middle, and Upper, primarily driven by changes in stone tool technology over time. The Lower Palaeolithic is handaxe-dominated, with Levallois flak-core technology introduced in the Middle Palaeolithic and of a dominance of blade technology in the Upper Palaeolithic. Stone are found within a range of Pleistocene sediments, with much evidence coming from river terrace gravels. Such sediments were vulnerable to subsequent reworking or destruction, and it is only under rare circumstances that stone tools are preserved in situ.

3.5.8 Within the study area, eight Palaeolithic handaxes are known from four findspots (MOX8963, MOX475, MOX12274, and MOX1258). At least two of these are Lower Palaeolithic, and these were found in river terrace gravel deposits at Culham. Four others date to the Neanderthal Mousterian industry of the Middle Palaeolithic.

3.5.9 Within the draft Order limits, the findspots comprise a Lower Palaeolithic ovate and pointed handaxe (MOX471) recorded in the east of the draft Order limits in Culham, thought to have been found within the Northmoor terrace gravel at Oday Common. A Mousterian handaxe (MOX475) is also recorded in Drayton which was recovered from the bank of small stream and therefore likely not in the original location in which it was deposited. The associated deposit was identified as the Devensian flood plain terrace. The Mousterian industry is primarily associated with the Neanderthals and dated to the Middle Palaeolithic.

Mesolithic (10,000 BCE- 4,000 BCE)

3.5.10 In the Early Holocene, as the climate warmed and glaciers retreated, the expanses of open grassland with sheltered patches of birch and pine which characterised Britain developed into a to widespread mixed woodland of oak, hazel, lime and elm. While the climactic conditions of the Mesolithic were more stable than those of the Palaeolithic period, Britain's natural environment was still subject to considerable change because of rising sea levels, which turned Britain into an island about 7,000 years ago.

3.5.11 The change in climate and natural environment meant that over time Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities inhabited a largely wooded environment, although natural clearings and open areas were present and were also created through deliberate burning. Generally, hunting and gathering focused on river resources, on the mosaic of clearings around rivers, and on less densely wooded upland areas (Hey, 2019). River valleys and coastlines were favoured for providing a predictable source of food from hunting, fishing, and fowling, and fresh water, and were also a means of transport and communication.

3.5.12 The change in climate and natural environment in this period brought about a change in hunting methods which is evidenced through the development of more flexible toolkits and other technologies, such as microliths, that characterise the Mesolithic period. Aside from stone tools and objects, and some rare bone and antler objects, there is a paucity of material culture associated with Mesolithic sites (Hey, 2019).

3.5.13 In contrast to other parts of the Thames-Solent subregion, relatively little is known about the Mesolithic of Oxfordshire (Hey, 2019). However, of note amongst the excavations of Mesolithic sites within the county, is the site at New Planation, Fyfield/Tubney (2.5km to the north-west), where detailed investigation of two dense concentrations of flint has been undertaken, revealing a range of Early Mesolithic activities (Bradley and Hey, 1994). While beyond the study area, the site is notable for its location on a Corillian sand bed (formed by decayed sandstone) on a sandstone ridge 2km south of the River Thames, in-between the River Thames and the River Ock (Bradley and Hey, 1994). This site highlights the potential for *in situ* (in the location in which they were originally deposited) Mesolithic sites to be present on higher ground above the river valleys.

3.5.14 Within the draft Order limits, the HER records a Mesolithic site (A1cr), as well as a Mesolithic flint scatter. The HER also records several findspots of Mesolithic artefacts within the study area. These include the finds of a micro burin, microlith, trimmers, and cores near the Thames at Drayton, and the find of a lithic scatter including 10 unretouched flakes, two fire fractured flints and two cores, and four bladelets near the River Ock, as well

as three further finds of flint flakes and stone tools. These finds are concentrated along the river valleys and show that flint working and tool-making was being undertaken within the area in this period. This follows a broader region trend, where sites and finds are focused along the major river valleys (Hey, 2019).

Neolithic (4,000 BCE – 2,200 BCE)

3.5.15 In the Neolithic period, society changed from a semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle to an agriculturally based society with permanent settlement sites where plants and animals were increasingly domesticated, and pottery was used. Although flake-based tool technology remained in use throughout this period, ground or polished stone tools, particularly axes, were also used. In this period, a range of monument types were introduced which marked and demarcated the landscape in new ways, including causewayed enclosures, cursus monuments, henges, megalithic tombs such as long barrows and bank barrows, and stone circles. Both long barrows and causewayed enclosures form parts of broader traditions with their origins in Continental Europe, while cursus monuments or bank barrows were first built in Scotland (Bradley, 2019).

3.5.16 Archaeological evidence for Neolithic settlement and activity varies in character and intensity throughout the Thames-Solent subregion. In terms of monuments, causewayed enclosures are concentrated within the Thames Valley and southern Cotswolds, long barrows (communal burial mounds) of classic form are not represented across the entire subregion, and henges are uncommon or take unusual forms (Bradley, 2019). At a national level, the Upper Thames Valley has one of the highest concentrations of cursus monuments in Britain.

3.5.17 It is likely that in this period main communications were along river valleys, with rivers often more significant than land routes, and with valleys also providing resources such as reeds, coppice woodland, and muds, clays, sands and gravels used for pottery and structures (Bradley, 2019). This preference for river valleys would explain the distribution of major monument complexes beside the Thames and within its valley; they are often found at confluences, where they would have been particularly accessible (Bradley, 2019)

3.5.18 In line with this pattern, the confluence of the River Thames and the River Ock, which is at Abingdon, within the study area, was a particular focus for monuments and ceremonial activity in this period. In the 1920s, the Early Neolithic Abingdon Causewayed Enclosure was found in this location, and it likely represents the earliest monument in this area, which later saw the construction of a concentration of other monuments, including henges.

3.5.19 Partially within the draft Order limits, on land near the Thames to the west of Drayton and the south of Abingdon, is an important Neolithic and later prehistoric ceremonial landscape, centred around the Drayton North Cursus (A1eh), The cursus was likely one of the earlier monuments within this landscape, and has been dated by excavation in the 1980s to c.2900 BCE (Ainslie and Wallis, 1987). It has been suggested that the site may comprise two cursus monuments, built end to end on either side of a stream (Barclay et al., 2003). Reflecting its long axis, other Neolithic monuments were built besides the Drayton North Cursus, including a long mound (A1ag), which is within the draft Order limits, a long mortuary enclosure (A940), located within the study area approximately 120m to the east of the draft Order limits, and one of the few conventional Neolithic long barrows (A1244) to have been identified on the river gravels, 50m to the east of the draft Order limits within the study area. In addition, the cursus appears to be orientated a towards an excavated site

associated with earlier Neolithic pottery at Corporation Farm, Abingdon, which may be a henge (Barclay et al., 2003). Together, these monuments formed a complex Neolithic ceremonial landscape. Within this landscape there is evidence that there was also settlement: adjacent to the cursus, approximately 170m to the east of the draft Order limits within the 1km study area, is a Neolithic pit alignment, finds from which have been interpreted as suggestive of a domestic Neolithic settlement next to the cursus (A916).

3.5.20 Within the draft Order limits, a second Neolithic long barrow (A1dn) has been identified at the Abingdon Multiplex site, off Marcham Road. This long barrow is visible as a crop mark. It was subject to a trenched evaluation which confirmed the cropmark evidence and found human and animal bone, worked flint, and Peterborough ware pottery in the long barrow's flanking ditches.

3.5.21 Within the study area, another Neolithic long barrow (A908) is present to the east of Culham Manor, Culham, with a surviving earthen mound.

3.5.22 The latter two long barrows, (A1dn) and (A908) at the multiplex site and Culham, also lie within the Thames valley in close proximity to the river, and they likely formed part of a wider ceremonial landscape that included the long barrows themselves, the causewayed enclosure, the cursus, and long mound and mortuary enclosures, and henges.

3.5.23 A number of finds of Neolithic artefacts are known from land within the draft Order limits, including a ground greenstone axe, the surface of which was shaped through abrasion, and a polished axe, the smooth, reflective surface of which was shaped through grinding and polishing. Axes, and particularly ground and polished axes, are thought to have held special significance in the Neolithic period and may have been prized in ceremonies, in trade, or as symbols of status. Greenstone axes and other greenstone objects were made of various green-hued volcanic stones which were quarried in certain, often remote, places, including Great Langdale in Cumbria, the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall, and the Italian Alps, and transported great distances, which may have enhanced their value. As well as the axes, other Neolithic finds within the draft Order limits include flint tools, including two arrowheads, two knives, a scraper, and various retouched flakes, as well as, at two sites, finds of debitage from flint knapping. Further finds of stone tools and flakes are known from within the draft Order limits and are dated to the Neolithic / Bronze Age. A male burial (A1dw) recorded in the eastern part of the draft Order limits, with flints as grave goods also dated to the Neolithic / Bronze Age.

3.5.24 A number of Neolithic finds are also known from the study area, including several ground axes and polished axes, at least three of which are greenstone, a greenstone mace head, and flint scrapers, arrowheads, and other flint tools. Further finds of stone tools and flakes are known from within the study are and are dated to the Neolithic / Bronze Age.

Bronze Age (2,600 BCE – 700 BCE)

3.5.25 The Bronze Age period is characterised by technological change, when copper and then bronze eventually replaced flint and stone as the main material for everyday tools, also being used for a range of bronze weapons such as rapiers, daggers, and palstaves. It is seen as a period of increasing social complexity and organised landscapes, probably due to increasing pressure on available resources, with increased clearance of woodland, and increased intensity of farming and settlement, particularly in the Middle and Late Bronze Age. The Middle Bronze Age saw the enclosure of land through the establishment of coaxial field systems, trackways, and rectilinear enclosures.

3.5.26 During this period the climate deteriorated with colder weather and more rainfall (Lambrick, 2019), which together with the expanding population, necessitated the intensification of agricultural practices and the utilisation of marginal land. Pollen sequences and other biological data from the Thames valley suggest that permanent clearance of forest cover was undertaken earlier on the gravel terraces than the surrounding hillsides or floodplain and continued through the Middle to Late Bronze Age (Lambrick, 2019).

3.5.27 Funerary practice also changed in the Bronze Age. The Early Bronze Age is characterised by beaker burials, a type of burial practice undertaken by the 'Beaker People' who migrated to Britian in this period, bringing with them new customs such as metalworking, new burial practices, and distinctive bell-shaped ceramic 'beaker' pots (Olalde et al., 2018). The Bronze Age also saw the construction of circular earthen or rubble mounds (round barrows), either in isolation as single mounds, or in groups as cemeteries. Often, but not always, these mounds would contain single or multiple burials as well as a circular ditch surrounding the mound, from where material to contribute to building the mounds would be taken. Often superficially similar, although differing widely in size, round barrows exhibit regional variations in form and a diversity of burial practices. Being long-standing landscape features, round barrows often acted as a focus for burials in later periods. Over time, many round barrows were ploughed flat, removing the above-ground earthwork, but leaving, where they were present, the distinctive circular ditches (ring ditches), which often show as cropmarks.

3.5.28 Within the draft Order limits there is evidence of Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement and agriculture, including a Middle Bronze Age coaxial field system and rectilinear settlement (A1bw) in the southern half of the draft Order limits. Abundant evidence for animal husbandry, another site with two possible Late Bronze Age features (a pit and a hollow way), as well as a later prehistoric roundhouse gully (A1bd) was recorded in the central part of the draft Order limits, and a third site with a Middle to late Bronze Age settlement (A1cj).

3.5.29 Within the study area there is further evidence for Bronze Age settlement, including a scheduled Bronze Age settlement consisted of a number of pits and ring ditches and a rectangular ditched enclosure (A11) at Sutton Courtenay, a Bronze Age Field System and Pits (A1020) in vicinity of Drayton North Cursus, approximately 230m to the east of the draft Order limits, and a Middle Bronze Age occupation site, field system, enclosure and burials (A1111) 230m to the south-west of the draft Order limits.

3.5.30 Within the draft Order limits and study area there is also evidence for Bronze Age mortuary and funerary practices, including human remains and ring ditches representing ploughed-out round barrows. There is a concentration of this evidence within the Thames Valley, along the River Thames and at its confluence with River Ock, likely reflecting the continued importance of river corridors to transport and trade in this period (Lambrick, 2019). There is also a concentration of such evidence in proximity to Neolithic monuments, which Bronze Age barrows and burials were often established in proximity to (Lambrick, 2019).

3.5.31 Within the draft Order limits there is a complex of ring ditches on Abingdon Common, near to the Thames, representing a round barrow cemetery (A1ad), with a ditch on the site found to contain an Early Bronze Age cremation in a cordoned urn. Another round barrow cemetery, comprising at least ten barrows (A1dk) is visible as cropmarks within the draft Order limits, on land near the River Ock at Garford. A third round barrow cemetery is present within the draft Order limits, comprising at least three ring ditches (A1q). Two single ring ditches (A1v and A1dy) are also present elsewhere within the draft Order limits.

3.5.32 Further round barrow cemeteries and numerous isolated single round barrows are known within the study area, including 19 ring ditches (A937) at Corporation Farm Barrow Cemetery (which have been destroyed by gravel extraction), approximately 90m to the north-east of the draft Order limits; a ring ditch which was found only 20m to the east of the draft Order limits, containing a miniature bipartite collared urn in a cremation pit (A1107), and a possible surviving barrow mound (A997) 165m to the east, on land near Culham. Bronze Age bowl barrows (A1294) were also constructed within the Neolithic Drayton Cursus complex, and at the site of the Neolithic long barrow at Abingdon multiplex (A897), demonstrating that these earlier monuments attracted or retained interest in this period.

3.5.33 A burial (A1dd) found with a sherd of beaker pottery during excavation for the Didcot/Oxford railway in 1843, likely represents a beaker burial. Finds of a beaker and beaker pottery sherds are also known from the study area, as well as a burial (A1032) which contained a tanged knife, a type which has been associated with the Beaker culture.

3.5.34 Within the draft Order limits, the HER also records a later prehistoric circle and possible enclosure (A1ds), which likely dates to the Bronze Age period.

3.5.35 Much Bronze Age metalwork, including a high proportion of all the known weaponry of the period, as well as tools, has been recovered from rivers, with the River Thames a prolific source of such finds (York, 2002). It is now widely accepted that this material is the result of deliberate deposition of valuable items for 'ritual' reasons, rather than as a result of accidental loss (Bradley, 1990). Within the draft Order limits, a Bronze Age rapier was found in the Thames, while a palstave and a dagger have also been dredged from the river. Further metalwork finds are known from the Thames within the study area.

3.5.36 A number of finds of stone tools and lithic scatters from flint working from this period are known from land within the draft Order limits, including three barbed and tanged arrowheads. Further finds of stone tools and lithic scatters, as well as metalwork and a food vessel, are known from the study area.

Iron Age (800 BCE – 43 CE)

3.5.37 The Iron Age period is characterised by technological change, with iron being adopted for tools and weapons. In this period, the process of woodland clearance and agricultural intensification that characterised the Middle and Late Bronze Ages continued, and increasingly larger areas were farmed and managed landscapes, with field systems, driveways and the large-scale land-divisions like the Grims Ditch suggesting extensive clearance by the Middle/Late Iron Age (Lambrick, 2019). Ditched fields, paddocks and trackways are increasingly evident for the Iron Age in the river valleys and other non-chalkland parts of the Solent-Thames subregion and mainly appear to be associated with pastoral farming. In the Thames Valley, the extensive clearance led to soil erosion, flooding, and alluviation by the end of the period (Lambrick, 2019). By the Early to Middle Iron Age settlements were typically located on topographical and/or land use divisions, while the Middle Iron Age saw appearance of pastoral farmsteads on low-lying land.

3.5.38 The Iron Age is also seen as a period of increasing social organization, with the construction of large-scale earthworks such as hillforts demanding significant resources and often interpreted as symbolising the authority of leaders over their communities (Lambrick, 2019).

3.5.39 Over the Iron Age period the means of disposing of the dead varied, with rites involving cremation becoming uncommon by the Early Iron Age. In the Early and Middle Iron Age most bodies were disposed of in a way that has left no archaeologically detectable remains, probably through excarnation. Cremation became common again in the Late Iron Age, likely as a result of new cultural influences from the continent, with the Late Iron Age seeing increasing trade, exchange, and alliances with continental Europe and the Roman world (Lambrick, 2019).

3.5.40 In the Late Iron Age coin finds suggest that the River Thames was utilized as a political boundary, forming the division between the lands of three groups: *Catuvellauni* (to the east), the *Atrebates* (to the south), and the *Dobunni* (to the west) (Lambrick, 1998). The study area south of the Thames was likely within the land of the *Atrebates* in this period.

3.5.41 In this period several major earthworks were constructed both along the ridgeway, an elevated ridge with extensive views across the landscape, and along the Thames Valley either side of Abingdon, likely to manage and control both land and this major river route and political boundary. These earthworks include three scheduled hillforts within the study area, Segsbury Camp (A1335), Sinodun Hill camp (A1351), and Cherbury camp (A1352), as well as multiple scheduled sections of Grim's Ditch, a bank and ditch which formed a large-scale land-division, and Scutchamore Knob, a large barrow (A1341).

3.5.42 The results of archaeological excavations within the study area suggest that there was a settlement at Abingdon, the confluence of the River Thames and the Rivers Ock and Stert, in the Early Iron Age (Bradey et al., 2008; Bradley and Hey, 1994). By the Middle Iron Age, this settlement was densely populated and had grown to a substantial size. The densely populated status of the settlement in the Middle Iron Age is indicated by the discovery of more than a dozen house sites beneath the abbey house and its car park (Bradey et al., 2008; Bradley and Hey, 1994).

3.5.43 In the Late Iron Age, an oppidum, a defended settlement or proto-town, enclosed by a bank and ditch, was established at Abingdon , likely taking advantage of the strategic location at the confluence of the River Thames and the Rivers Ock and Stert to control trade and exchange (Bradey et al., 2008).

3.5.44 Within the draft Order limits, a settlement (A1a) developed on a ridge besides the River Ock at Frilford, in the north-west of the draft Order limits. A programme of archaeological surveys and excavations provide detailed knowledge of this site, which is scheduled, and uncovered evidence of an Iron Age settlement with a timber temple enclosed by a horseshoe-shaped ditch (Kamash et al., 2010; Kamash et al., 2012).

3.5.45 Further Iron Age settlements are known from land within the draft Order limits, including Early Iron Age settlements (A1y and A1cm), Middle Iron Age settlements (A1br and A1bj), some of which originated in the Early Iron Age and continued to be occupied later, and Late Iron Age settlements, many of which continued to be occupied into the Roman period (A1bl, A1bs, and A1cz).

3.5.46 Within the draft Order limits, there is also evidence for Iron Age field systems (A1ap and A1bq), enclosures and trackways (A1am and A1bx), and a farmstead (A1al).

3.5.47 Within the study area, a possible Iron Age settlement, with a considerable amount of Iron Age pottery, is scheduled (A3oh). There are also several other Iron Age settlements within the study area, including Early Iron settlements and occupation sites (A1109 and A1159), Middle Iron Age settlements (A978), some of which are enclosed (A943), and Late Iron

Age settlements, many of which continued to be occupied into the Roman period (A1005 and A1191). Within the study area, there is also evidence for Iron Age field systems (A1069) and enclosures and trackways (A1041).

3.5.48 Within the study area, an Iron Age burial has also been found, with the individual buried with a sword and shield (A915). Iron Age finds are also known from the study area, including pottery and coins.

3.5.49 This evidence suggests that the study area was relatively densely settled and farmed in the Iron Age.

Roman (43 CE – 410 CE)

3.5.50 The Roman conquest of Britain in 43 CE was preceded by trade, exchange, and alliances. Following the conquest, the province of Britannia was established, and a large area of Britian was 'Romanised' to varying degrees, adopting Roman ways of life, including Roman architecture and urban planning, industrial production and technologies, agricultural methods and practices, law, and material culture (Fulford, 2019). Many late Iron Age sites continued to be occupied into the Roman period, but over time, a distinctive Romano-British culture emerged (Fulford, 2019).

3.5.51 Culturally, the draft Order limits and wider Thames-Solent subregion were within 'Romanised' Britain (Fulford, 2019). The draft Order limits were within one *civitas* (a Roman territorial administrative unit, based on the existing tribal territories of pre-Roman Britain), the *Atrebates* which encompassed parts of modern-day Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, with its *caput* (principal town) at *Calleva Atrebatum* (Silchester, Hampshire) (Fulford, 2019).

3.5.52 After the conquest of Britian, Abingdon, which had been the site of an Iron Age *Oppidum* (a defended settlement or proto-town), continued to be an important place throughout the Roman period. Finds of high-status Roman artefacts and masonry buildings within Abington suggest that it was a nucleated settlement and a local market centre, a role for which is was well-located being in proximity to Roman roads linking the important Roman towns of Dorchester-on-Thames, Alchester, and Silchester, and on a ford of the River Thames, which was a key transport and trade corridor (Fulford, 2019).

3.5.53 Within the draft Order limits, an important religious complex (A1a) developed besides the River Ock at Frilford, on land in the north-west of the draft Order limits, in the same location as the Iron Age settlement (A1a) (Kamash et al., 2010; Kamash et al., 2012). The Romano-British complex (A1a) had two temples and a large *temenos* area (temple precinct) defined by a stone wall with various public buildings outside it, including an unusual large circular structure which has been interpreted as either an amphitheatre or a walled enclosure for a sacred pool (A1af). If this structure were an amphitheatre, then this site would be one of a very small number of smaller, nucleated settlements in Britain, and the only one so far known in the Thames-Solent sub-region, which boasts an amphitheatre (Fulford, 2019).

3.5.54 A network of Roman roads (A1t and A1dx) crosses the draft Order limits, including a road crossing of the River Ock (A1cb). These roads would have facilitated travel between smaller Roman settlements and towns and would have provided access to the wider Roman road network. The roads are supplemented by a network of trackways (A1ba and A1bo) which would have allowed the exploitation of arable land, pasture, and woodland, and access to farmsteads and villa estates.

3.5.55 While the network of roads and trackways was important in this period, it is likely that the River Thames and its tributaries were the major transport routes for both people and goods in this period, with agricultural produce, industrial products, and craft goods shipped along the river.

3.5.56 The HER records nucleated Roamn settlements within the draft Order limits, including an Early Roman settlement (A1bv) with possible two foci, both abandoned by the 2nd Century, and a possible Romano-British settlement in Sutton Wick Field. The HER also records several Romano-British settlements (A1031, A1083, and A1211) within the study area, as well as Romano-British funerary activity, including inhumations (A987) and cremations (A1042), cemeteries (A1216 and A1251), and a possible funerary mound (A1044). It is likely that further nucleated settlements were developed within the draft Order limits and study area over the Roman period, particularly along major through routes such as roads and watercourses, with associated activities undertaken at these sites and within the wider landscape, including funerary activity.

3.5.57 Within the rural landscape, single settlements or settlement complexes including farmsteads and villas and their estates were developed in this period, as well as networks of fields and paddocks. Agricultural production was highly valued and was capable of supporting urbanised populations in towns as well as trade within the larger empire.

3.5.58 Within the north-western part of the draft Order limits, Garford Roman Villa (A1r), a small stone-based corridor building, is known from cropmark evidence and a surface pottery scatter dated to the 2nd century CE and is surrounded by extensive cropmarks of probably contemporaneous field and paddock boundaries. This villa was developed at the site of a probable Middle to Late Iron Age settlement and field system, and it is possible that there was continuity of agricultural practice across the Iron Age and Roman periods at this site.

3.5.59 Two further possible Roman villas are evidenced elsewhere with the draft Order limits by finds of roof tiles and box and flue tiles (A1bc), and by the finds of Roman material and building foundations (A1d1).

3.5.60 Within the study area, on land Sutton Courtney, another Roman Villa, named Dropshot Roman Villa (A1002), is known, and is dated to the 2nd Century CE.

3.5.61 Possible farmstead sites with the draft Order limits include a site (A1ay) where Roman pottery has been found, as well as a site (A1bc) with trackways ditches, and a cremation.

3.5.62 Within the study area, there are further probable Roman farmsteads (A899 and A1139) as well as enclosures that may be related to agricultural activity, some within field systems (A1eg, A1124, A1274, and A1326).

3.5.63 It is likely that there are further farmsteads and villas within the draft Order limits and study area, as well as evidence of associated infrastructure, including trackways, enclosures, and field systems.

Early Medieval (410 CE – 1066 CE)

3.5.64 The Early Medieval period is one of social, political, economic, and cultural change, characterised by the loss of centralised Roman control, the immigration into Britain of Germanic settlers from northern Europe, and the subsequent introduction and widespread adoption of new religious beliefs, distinctive burials and cemeteries, new settlements, and new forms of pottery and metalwork (Dodd, 2019). Germanic influence and settlement of

the region can be traced back to the 6th century CE, likely due to the region's proximity to the Thames and its long-established trade connections.

3.5.65 By the early 7th century CE, the land within the draft Order limits was part of the Kingdom of Wessex, which had taken shape, with its associated ecclesiastical and political centres at Winchester and Dorchester-on-Thames by the second quarter of the 7th century CE, with the River Thames forming the border between the Kingdom of Wessex to the south and the Kingdom of Mercia to the north. Wessex became a Christian kingdom in the 7th century CE, a period which saw the spread of Christianity throughout Britain and the so-called 'Middle Saxon Shuffle' a term coined to describe the apparent desertion of early settlements in favour of new locations for reasons that are still not fully understood. The later centuries of the Early Medieval period are characterised by the nucleation of rural settlements and increasing urbanisation, some of which was brought about in a response to Danish and Viking incursions, raids, and invasion. This was followed by a Danish occupation and settlement from the 9th century CE in an area across the north-east of England known as the Danelaw. The land within the draft Order limits remained outside of the Danelaw and within the Kingdom of Wessex during this time. In the 10th century CE, the Kingdom of Wessex became part a unified kingdom of England.

3.5.66 Although the nature and dispersal of settlement of the earlier part of this period is not well understood, many of the region's modern towns, villages and hamlets can trace their origins to mid- and late- Early Medieval period. Placename analysis shows numerous Old English language elements surviving as suffixes to places throughout the region. Examples include *-wic* or *-wich*, denoting a place or settlement; *-ton* or *-tun*, denoting an enclosure, estate, or homestead, and *-ham*, denoting a farm or homestead settlement. From placename and documentary evidence, it is likely that the villages within the study area, including Sutton Courtney, Drayton and Milton, had origins in this period.

3.5.67 Abingdon is likely to have been the site of an early minster settlement, and was the location of the important Abingdon Abbey, a Benedictine Abbey first founded in 675 CE, before being re-founded in approximately 954 CE. The Domesday Book records the presence of 10 merchants living in front of the church gate, suggesting that a small urban community was becoming established in Abingdon by the end of the Early Medieval period (Dodd, 2019). Archaeological excavations within the town have found remains of Sunken Featured Buildings (SFBs) and have suggested that the settlement's Early Medieval boundaries still followed the line of the defensive ditch of the Iron Age oppidum that once occupied the area (Dodd, 2019).

3.5.68 The HER records further evidence of Early Medieval settlement within the draft Order limits and study area in this period, and it is likely that the area was relatively densely occupied. Within the draft Order limits, the HER records the find of two Sunken Featured Buildings on land south-west of Drayton, likely representing an Early Medieval settlement (A1cf). Within the study area, on land near Drayton, the HER records a high-status Early Medieval settlement, which featured a Great Hall (A1297), a substantial timber-built hall of Early or Middle Saxon date, which was built on top of a Bronze Age bowl barrow near to the Drayton Cursus. A smaller rectangular building lay to the west of this, with three or four other rectangular buildings in the vicinity (A1295). In addition to the Great Hall and rectangular buildings, several SFBs and pits are indicated by cropmarks (A1300; A1306) in the vicinity of the Drayton Cursus. Three post-built structures and three SFBs (A1021) have been excavated to the west of the cursus. To the east of the cursus, cropmarks may indicate the presence of further settlement remains (A1299).

3.5.69 In this period, watermills were used for processing cereals. The HER records the site (A865) of two mills near Ock Bridge within the study area, which were owned by Abingdon Abbey and present by 866-71 CE

3.5.70 Between 1052 CE and 1066 CE, documentary sources record that the Priory of Abingdon was asked to cut a canal (A1cv) between Abingdon and Culham, within the draft Order limits, to avoid dangerous navigation of the Thames.

3.5.71 It has been suggested (on the basis of documentary evidence) that there was a Late Anglo-Saxon Royal deer park (A1331) or enclosed hunting ground present on land within the draft Order limits, with a boundary measuring 4.5 km on the long axis, and 3.0 km across on the short axis, enclosing a roughly oval area of 11 sq. km (Thomas 2021). The boundaries include a stream and ditched and hedged field boundaries, with documentary evidence and historic maps confirming boundaries, which date to the 10th century, and identifying the area as royal land, probably connected with the manor at Wantage.

3.5.72 The Early Medieval period also saw the introduction of furnished cemeteries, which are characterised by a wealth of material culture, including jewellery and weaponry (Dodd, 2019). The HER records several Early Medieval furnished cemeteries within the study area, including the site of a rare early cemetery (A1045) at Caldecott, 250m to the east of the draft Order limits in Abingdon, where the majority of the dated 82 cremation burials and 119 inhumation burials were 5th century in date. Another rare early cemetery in the study area, Goldbury Hill (A8), located 1.6km to the south of the draft Order limits, came into use in the first half of the 5th century AD century and remained in use until the mid-6th century AD. Evidence from across Oxfordshire suggests that there was a marked shift in burial grounds during the 7th century, probably as the result of the spread of Christianity in this period (Dodd, 2019). Further Early Medieval cemeteries are known at Abingdon (A1283), 1km to the north-east, at Sutton Courtney 1.1km to the east (A1284), and adjacent to the north-west part of the draft Order limits at Frilford (A1252).

3.5.73 The county of Oxfordshire also contains good examples of the re-use of Bronze Age barrows and other prehistoric monuments for new burials and cemeteries in the Early Medieval period, when prehistoric monuments often become a focus for later internments (Dodd, 2019). An Early Medieval cemetery (A1347) is known at Blewburton Hill, an Iron Age hillfort and settlement. Barrows were also constructed in the Early Medieval period. In a survey of 940 CE, barrows (A1dc) are mentioned on the eastern boundary of Culham parish, within the draft Order limits, and it is possible that these were of Early Medieval date.

3.5.74 The HER records a range of finds from this period within the draft Order limits and study area, including pottery, brooches, and a coin within the draft Order limits, and pottery, brooches, a sword, a sword hilt, a spearhead, coins, rings, and a fragment of a wheel cross head within the study area.

Medieval (1066 CE – 1540 CE)

3.5.75 The Medieval period began with the Norman invasion of England in 1066 CE under William of Normandy, later William the first of England. To control their new kingdom, the Normans built motte and bailey castles across the country. Within the study area, near Abingdon, a motte, Castle mound at Fitzharris (A7) was built between 1071-84 CE.

3.5.76 When the Normans arrived, they found a kingdom divided into a distinctive and complicated administrative geography. Over 1085-86, the Normans undertook a survey of holdings and liabilities over much of England and parts of Wales, which was compiled into the Domesday Book. The 1086 CE Domesday Book comprises a record of the places, households (the head of a household is recorded, each of these would likely represent five occupants), and natural resources of much of the country during the Early Medieval to Medieval transition.

3.5.77 The Norman assessors grouped information firstly into 'shires'- districts that are in many cases the precursors of modern counties- and then into smaller divisions such as hundreds, wapentakes, and vills (estates). The Domesday Book shows that in 1086 CE the majority of the land within the draft Order limits was within the shire of Berkshire, with a small area of land, on the eastern side of the River Thames, within the shire of Oxfordshire, with the River Thames forming the boundary between the two shires. At this time, the Domesday Book shows that the land within the draft Order limits comprised parts of the land of seven hundreds: the hundreds of Sutton, Wantage, Eagle, Marcham, Dorchester, Hormer, and Blewbury.

3.5.78 Over the course of the Medieval period, the boundaries of ecclesiastical parishes were established, with the process essentially complete by the 15th century. These ecclesiastical boundaries were later adopted in the Post-Medieval period for secular and judicial purposes, with the boundaries essentially unchanged until a number of reforms from the mid-19th century onwards. In the early 19th Century, and likely in the Medieval Period, the land within the draft Order limits comprised land within 19 parishes: Abingdon St Helen, Ardington, Culham, Didcot, Drayton, East Hendred, East Lockinge, Frilford, Garford, Hardwell, Letcombe Bassett, Milton, Sparshot, Steventon, Sutton Courtney, Wantage, West Hanney, and West Hendred.

3.5.79 The Domesday Book shows that many of the villages likely founded in the Early Medieval period continued to be occupied in the Medieval period. Many buildings with Medieval origins and surviving Medieval fabric, typically parish churches, survive within the historic cores of the villages within the study area.

3.5.80 Monasticism grew during the Medieval period, and many monasteries became wealthy with endowments of land and resources. Abingdon Abbey (A6) was rebuilt in the Norman period. Along with Dorchester and Winchester, it was one of the three important most ancient monastic centres within the Thames-Solent subregion (Munby, 2019). Over the Medieval period it grew to become one of the foremost English abbeys, with its income assessed as the sixth largest in the country at the Dissolution. Abingdon Abbey was suppressed in 1538 CE, and its buildings variously dismantled or retained put to various uses. Surviving abbey buildings include a rectory with a hall and solar range, a gatehouse, the former abbey administrative offices (now the Long Gallery), the office of an important official and the Checker Hall (now the Unicorn Theatre), and the Church of Saint Nicolas, which was added to the gateway of the abbey in the 12th century.

3.5.81 In the Medieval period, society was highly stratified. Power was ultimately held by the crown, and to varying degrees by secular aristocrats and church magnates, as well as those in religious communities and manorial lords, with the latter having control over their landholdings and rural communities (Munby, 2019). A number of Medieval manor houses survive within the villages of the study area (A27, A50, A53, A68, and A84) and would have been the seats of manorial lords.

3.5.82 The landscape was clearly ordered this time, with clear transitions from open arable fields to pastures and commons, to wastes, woodlands, and forests. Important resources such as hay meadows were often shared through commons and demesne resources such as woodlands, warrens, and fishponds were controlled through manorial courts and customs (Munby, 2019).

3.5.83 The Thames-Solent subregion is within the area of the country that was characterised by the open fields system, where large open fields, often centred around a nucleated village, were farmed in strips (Munby, 2019). This type of farming, using teams of oxen to pull ploughs across the narrow strips to plant crops, produced distinctive patterns of earthen ridge and furrow. Reflecting this past land use, ridge and furrow (A1bz and A1100) survives within the draft Order limits and study area. Evidence of Medieval paddocks and droveways (A1019) also survives. Barns and farmhouses survive within the study area from this period, including a cruck frame barn (A36) built in approximately 1365 CE, a barn (A38) built in the 15th century for Abington Abbey, which leased it out to tenant farmers, and Home Farmhouse (A54), a farmhouse built in the 14th century.

3.5.84 In this period, doves were kept as a luxury food, and dovecotes were built as status symbols, often by manorial lords. Within the draft Order limits, the HER records two sites of possible Medieval dovecotes (A1dl and A1dz). Fishponds were also created in this period, often by manorial lords and religious houses, both to provide stocks of fish for feast days and as a status symbol. Fishponds are recorded within the study area, including a fishpond (A911) held by the Bishop of Winchester and documented in the Winchester Bishopric Pipe Rolls.

3.5.85 Medieval industries included using watermills and windmills for the processing of cereals and other materials and for fulling cloth, the quarrying of stone, brick and tile production, timber harvesting, and the creation of pottery, cloth, and leather, and metalworking (Munby, 2019). The HER records sites of possible Medieval watermills within the study area, including one represented by earthwork remains (A872) and another recorded by documentary evidence in 1100 CE and in 1446 CE used for grinding corn and fulling.

3.5.86 The River Thames was a significant transport and trade route in this period (Munby, 2019). Smaller rivers were also used for transport and trade, although these are less well understood (Munby, 2019). Road transport was also important in this period, and the Medieval road network, with bridge at key river crossings, was well established (Munby, 2019). Medieval bridges survive within the draft Order limits and study area. Within the draft Order limits, Ock Bridge (A1b) over the River Ock was built in the 15th century on the site of an earlier bridge and survives into the present. Within the study area, both Abingdon Bridge (A5) and Culham Bridge (A9) were also built in the 15th century. The River Thames was a significant transport and trade route in this period (Munby, 2019).

3.5.87 The trend of population growth and prosperity in the subregion was brought into decline with the arrival of the Black Death to southern England in August 1348 CE. This led to the desertion and shrinking of some villages. Later in the Medieval period there was major shift in some areas, and particularly on chalk downlands, from arable to sheep pasture and creation of warrens, the reasons for which were partly economic and related to wool production, and partly due to soil degradation (Munby, 2019). This saw further abandonment of villages, as previously arable land was turned over to pasture, with this process accelerating in the Post-Medieval period.

3.5.88 The HER identifies several deserted medieval villages (DMVs) within the study area. DMVs are settlements that were once settlement communities during the Middle Ages but were later abandoned. Most of these villages were deserted between the 12th and 15th centuries, often due to a combination of factors such as economic decline, changes in agricultural practices or the outbreak of disease.

3.5.89 There are two possible DMVs recorded in the draft Order limits on the basis of documentary records. One example is Southcote (A1eo), located in Denchworth within the western part of the draft Order limits. This settlement is recorded as having been deserted sometime between 1450 and 1700 CE. The second DMV is located in Ardington Wick (A1eb) and is mapped along the southern boundary of the draft Order limits. Neither DMV have been investigated via intrusive archaeological investigation.

3.5.90 In addition to these, the HER also records shrunken villages at Drayton (600m to the east) (A1241) and at East Hanney (250m to the west) (A873), as well as a possible deserted hamlet known as Paufrey (A876) 560m to the west.

Post-medieval (1540 CE – 1901 CE)

3.5.91 The Post-medieval period, from 1540 CE to 1901 CE encompasses dramatic changes to society, including the end of the feudal medieval system, the protestant reformation of the 16th century, the civil war of the 17th century CE, the Industrial and Agricultural revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries CE, the development of transport infrastructure, the rise of capitalism, trade, and colonialism, as well as and technical, scientific, artistic, and economic innovation, and major wars (Hind, 2019).

3.5.92 This period begins in 1540 CE when Henry VIII was undertaking the reformation of the Church of England, following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536-39 CE. The Church had been a major landowner in the region, and through the reformation land was taken from the church and expropriated by the crown, granted to private individuals, and endowed to university colleges. Former monastic buildings were plundered for their materials or converted to new, usually domestic, uses, often as country houses for wealthy individuals, who created large estates, parks and gardens around their new residences.

3.5.93 Abingdon Abbey, one of the foremost English abbeys with its income assessed as the sixth largest in the country at the Dissolution, was suppressed in 1538 CE. Several of its buildings were retained and were put to various uses after the dissolution.

3.5.94 The Wars of the Three Kingdoms, fought between 1639 CE and 1653 CE, saw England, Wales and Scotland plunged into a series of civil wars as Royalists and Parliamentarians fought over the role of Parliament and the monarchy and over religious practices. In 1642 CE, the first year of the First English Civil War, King Charles I made Oxford his capital and the Royalist headquarters, and fortified Abingdon, a strategically located garrison town, to help protect it. In May 1644 CE, when Parliamentarian forces began advancing toward Oxford from Reading, the Royalists abandoned Abingdon, and the Parliamentarians occupied the town on 16 May 1644 CE. In retaliation the Royalists attacked Abingdon on 29 May but were driven off. The Parliamentarians seized the strategically important Culham Bridge (A9) over the Thames and attacked Royalist food convoys to Oxford.

3.5.95 Contemporary maps of Abingdon's Civil War defences have not survived, however maps of other strategically important towns, such as Oxford and Newark, show complex networks of earthwork fortifications and ditches (Devaney, 2008). While map evidence does not

survive for Abingdon, archaeological excavations within the town have identified probable Civil War defensive ditches, which may represent multiple phases of defences, including both Royalist and Parliament defensive ditches (Devaney, 2008).

3.5.96 In the Post-Medieval period, the landscape of Berkshire, which had been characterised by a pattern of mixed arable and pastoral farming across open fields, common lands, and manorial wastes, was transformed by the process of enclosure, with the open landscape replaced by small fields surrounded by hedgerows (Wordie, 2000). This process saw the abolition of rights of common enjoyed by tenants of a manor over some or all of the open lands in a parish, the end of strip farming, and the redistribution of land into individual ownership, with dramatic social and economic effects. This was carried out in order to promote grazing, to consolidate small farms into larger units, and later for emparkment (historical process for enclosing land).

3.5.97 Enclosure could be achieved by both informal means, such as by a neglect in enforcing manorial rights or by an undocumented agreement, or by formal means such as a local agreement drawn up in the form of a deed or by enclosure by Act of Parliament

3.5.98 In Berkshire, enclosure by informal means or by formal but local agreement accounts for all enclosure before 1700 CE, and for a majority of enclosure in the 18th century. Thereafter it was largely superseded by enclosure by Act of Parliament, the growing use of which saw the pace of enclosure accelerate. Over 1700 CE to 1900 CE, over half of the land within the old county of Berkshire was enclosed (Berkshire Record Office (BRA), 2025). This process did not take place evenly either over time or across the county but varied in its intensity. Significant but short-lived activity started in the 1770s CE, with the real peak of enclosure between 1800 CE and 1820 CE. During these two decades, more than half of all Parliamentary enclosure in Berkshire was completed, with over 80% completed by 1830 CE (BRA, 2025).

3.5.99 Informal enclosure is difficult to trace, but in sample of four north-western Berkshire parishes which include land within the draft Order limits and study area, Letcombe Regis with the hamlets of West and East Challow, Wantage with Grove, Charlton, and West Lockinge, East Lockinge with Betterton and West Ginge, and Ardington, research has established that in 1801 just over half of the land in the four parishes was still worked in a traditional common-field system (Afton, n.d). The rest either had never been common or had been enclosed through non-parliamentary means. Compared with other parts of England, this was a relatively large proportion of land still in an area to be enclosed without the use of an act.

3.5.100 Rocque's 1761 Map of Berkshire (Figure 5), the first detailed survey of the county, shows the landscape of the draft Order limits and study area prior to the peak of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century. On this map, large areas of common land and meadow are shown surrounding adjacent to villages such as Marcham, Sutton Courtney, and West Hanney. The majority of the common land and meadow within the study area was land along watercourses, which likely provided rich seasonal grazing. The map also shows large named fields, which were farmed under the open field system until enclosure.

3.5.101 In the early part of the 19th century, land within of East Hendred (1802 CE), Denchworth (1803 CE), Lyford (1804 CE) Letcombe Regis (1804 CE), East Challow (1804 CE), West Challow (1804 CE), Sutton Wick (1804 CE), Sutton Courtney (1804 CE), Charney Basset (1805 CE), West Hanney and East Hanney (1806 CE), Wantage and Grove (1806 CE), and Milton (1810 CE) was enclosed by parliamentary acts, followed in the 1810s by land

within Ardington and West Lockinge (1811 CE), Drayton (1815 CE), Marcham (1818 E) and Fyfield (1816 CE) (BRA, 2025). This was followed in the 1820s CE by land within Garford (1826 CE), and in 1840 CE by further land within West Hanney (BRA, 2025). East Lockinge was enclosed by parliamentary act in 1853 CE, Charlton in 1868 CE, and Steventon in 1883 CE (BRA, 2025).

3.5.102 Enclosure awards, and enclosure maps and estate maps (Royal Berkshire Archives, 1753, 1754a, 1754b, 1842, 1803a, 1803b, 1803c, 1804, 1811, 1838, 1846, 1853, 1861a, 1861b, 1868, 1872, 1883; Corpus Christie College Archives, 1606; Oxfordshire History Centre, 1804a, 1804b, 1818, 1809a, 1809b; New College Archives, 1789, n.d; and St John's College, 1825), show how the process of informal and parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries transformed the landscape within the draft Order limits and study area, with open fields, common land, and wastes, replaced by a pattern of hedged, regularly-shaped fields and new, straight roads. Because several of the enclosure acts made the fencing of the allotments optional on arable and downland, in practice there are fewer hedges in Berkshire than are found in most other areas of the country that were enclosed largely through acts of Parliament. However, even without the hedges, the landscape was divided and allotted through the process of enclosure (Afton, n.d), with 26 maps dating from 17th Century to the 19th Century showing how this process transformed the landscape (Royal Berkshire Archives, 1753, 1754a, 1754b, 1842, 1803a, 1803b, 1803c, 1804, 1811, 1838, 1846, 1853, 1861a, 1861b, 1868, 1872, 1883; Corpus Christie College Archives, 1606; Oxfordshire History Centre, 1804a, 1804b, 1818, 1809a, 1809b; New College Archives, 1789, n.d; and St John's College, 1825).

3.5.103 Plate 1 shows strip farming in open fields in land within the southern part of the study area, near Wantage, in 1754, prior to enclosure. In the Medieval period this land was part of the medieval manor of Priorshold, held by the priory of Ogbourne in Wiltshire and leased to Wantage merchants. After the Dissolution of the priory in 1538, the land continued to be leased to local merchants and farmed under open field system, until its enclosure in the 19th century. Plate 2 shows strip farming on open fields in land within the draft Order limits and the eastern part of the study area, near Drayton, in 1789, on land that passed to the Warden and Fellows of New College in Oxford following the Dissolution. This land continued to be farmed as open fields until it was enclosed in the early 19th century. Plate 3 shows enclosed fields within the study area on land near Abingdon, awarded in 1843 through an enclosure award. This map shows how the process of parliamentary enclosure transformed the landscape, creating large, regular fields for arable cultivation.

Plate 1 1754 map showing open strip fields in land within the southern part of the study area, near Wantage. Excerpt from 'A Map of the Ham, the Manor of Priorshold, the new broke lands in Grove, the common field and Mead of Charlton with Wantage, Charlton and Lattensdowns, 1754'. 1754. Royal Berkshire Archives, D/ECO/P1. (RBA, 1754a)

3.5.104 In 1836 CE the Tithe Commutation Act was passed. This act required that tithes, a tax that originally which required one tenth of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to the local church and clergy, but after the Dissolution often to lay landowners, be converted to more convenient monetary payments called tithe rentcharge. To facilitate this, a national tithe survey was established to find out which areas were subject to tithes, who owned them, how much was payable and to whom. A part of the survey, detailed maps of parishes across the country were drawn up, including of land within the study area. Of the 19 parishes within the draft Order limits at this time, tithe maps of 17 parishes were drawn from 1838 CE to 1843 CE, with maps of the two remaining parishes, Frilford and Garford, drawn in the early 1850s CE. The 20 tithe maps (National Archives 1838, 1840a, 1840b, 1840c, 1840d, 1841a, 1841b, 1841c, 1841d, 1841e, 1841f, 1842a, 1842b, 1843a, 1843b, 1843c, 1846, 1851, 1852, 1853) there are two maps for the parish of Milton) that cover the draft Order limits show the landscape after the peak of parliamentary enclosure in the early 19th century, and prior to the enclosure of land in East Lockinge, Charlton, and Steventon later in the 19th century.

3.5.105 The ideal of enclosure strove toward isolated farmhouses and outbuildings situated in acres of regular fields, managed by farmers using the new techniques and methods developed by the process of agricultural improvement. However, research has shown that in practice new farms were slow to be established following enclosure (Afton, n.d). In West Challow, Letcombe Regis and East Challow, Wantage and Grove, and Ardington, 1841 census data (taken between 20 and 30 years after the enclosure awards) shows little progress in the creation of idealised farms with the farmhouse, barns, stables, and other buildings at their centre (Afton, n.d). By this date, only four out of 76 farms recorded in the parishes had been built in the decades after enclosure, with most farms still located in villages, rather than within enclosed fields. Ten years later, in 1851, another three farms were created, with two more created by 1861. As more farms were created in fields, the number of farms in villages fell, and the landscape moved gradually toward a pattern of farms located within fields at a distance from villages.

3.5.106 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6": mile inch map of 1875-1877 (not reproduced) (OS, 1883) shows the landscape at this time. Compared with the landscape shown in Rocque's Map of Berkshire (1761) drawn over a century earlier, by 1877 the landscape had been transformed into an enclosed landscape of square fields, straight roads, and isolated farmhouses. The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900 (Figure 6) shows the landscape within the study area at the close of the 19th century.

3.5.107 In this period, agricultural buildings were generally timber-framed with brick or rubble plinths and weatherboarding, which was left untreated or tarred black. Roofs were usually thatched or clay peg tiled. The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and HER data show that many Post-medieval farm buildings survive within the study area from this period.

Plate 2 1789 map showing open strip fields in land within the draft Order limits and the eastern part of the study area, near Drayton. Plan of Lands in the Parish of Drayton, County of Berks, belonging to The Warden and Fellows of New College in Oxford, Drawn in the year 1789 by Sam Botham'. 1789. New College Archives. OPA:1992/133/32. (New College Archives, 1789)

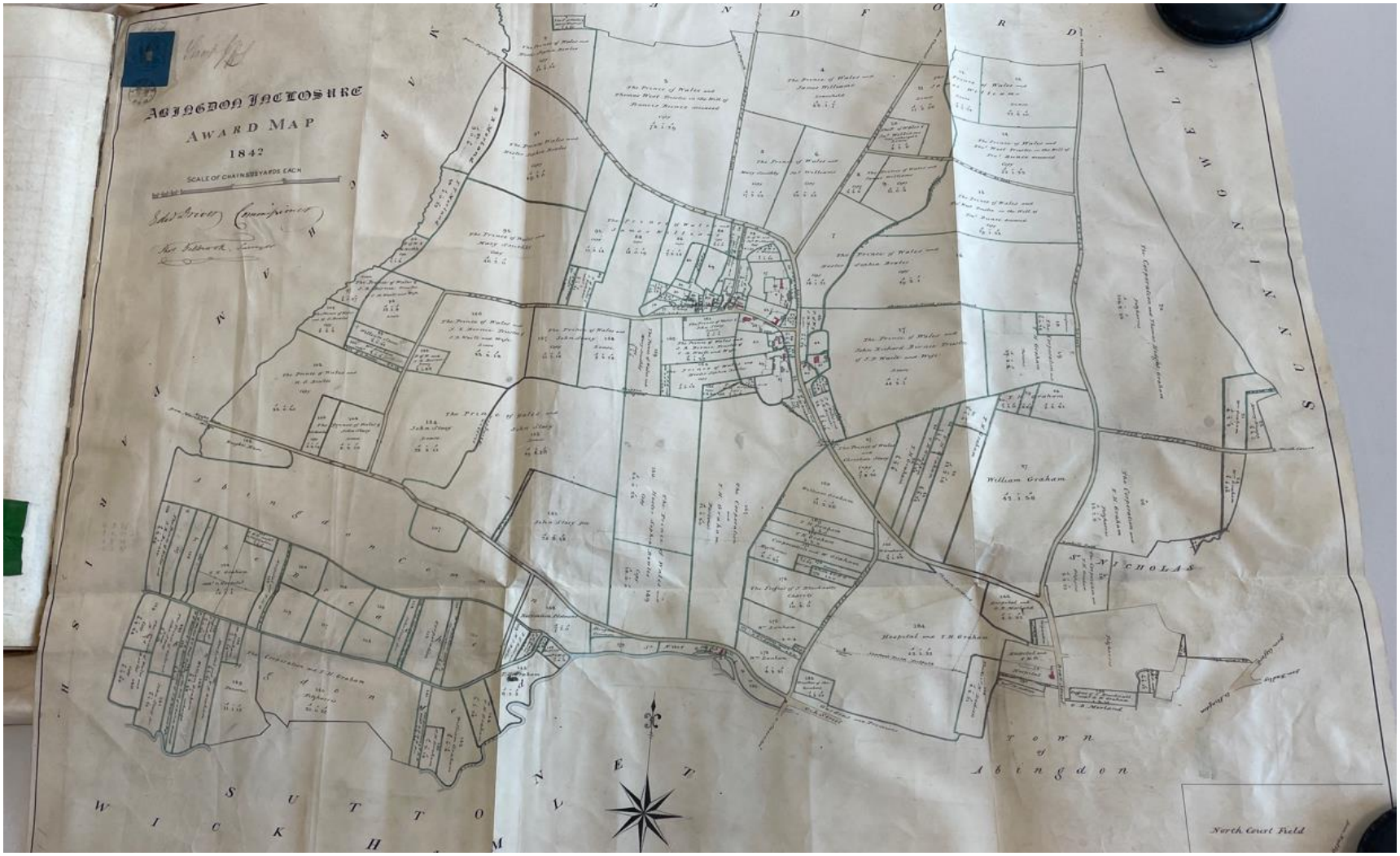

Plate 3 1843 enclosure map of land near Abingdon, showing eclosed fields within the easyern part of the study area. Abingdon Enclosure Award Map. Royal Berkshire Archives, QR/DRC/30/A-B. (RBA, 1842)

3.5.108 Dramatic changes in farming and transportation in this period led to the growth and development of Berkshire's towns and villages. In this period Abingdon grew into a large town with a weekly market and became important for its river port and for trade along the Thames. In the 1550s it became the county town of Berkshire, a status which it retained until it was succeeded by Reading in 1869.

3.5.109 The villages within the study area also grew during this period, with many surviving buildings within them from this period listed. Within the study area, the historic cores of the villages of Marcham, Culham, Sutton Courtney, Drayton, Milton, Steventon, Harwell, East Hendred, West Hendred, Lockinge, Grove, West Hanney, an East Hanney, Denchworth, and Goosey, are conservation areas, and contain concentrations of listed buildings, many in the local vernacular.

3.5.110 The earliest vernacular domestic buildings in this period were timber-framed, with lime rendered infill panels and thatched roofs, with stone used for some higher status buildings. The local stone was a limestone with a soft cream tone which weathers to a pale grey colour. Local brick, sometimes rendered, began to replace timber framing at the vernacular level by the eighteenth century, and soon became the most fashionable building material, although stone remained the higher status building material. As the period progressed, the predominant building materials were warm red brick for walls and clay peg tile for roofs. A smaller number of buildings were constructed with Welsh slate roofs, and some with thatch.

3.5.111 Bricks were made locally, with the site of brick kiln (A879), supported by documentary references to brick makers in 1861 and 1871, within the study area.

3.5.112 As brick became popular, timber framing became regarded as an inferior construction method, generally only used for interior walls and agricultural buildings, and weatherboarding. Many timber houses were re-fronted in brick, the popularity of which continued throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, some houses, other buildings, and boundary walls were still constructed of local stone in this period. Other building materials, although less often used, include local mudstone, chalk, and flint.

3.5.113 As glass became cheaper from the late 16th century CE onwards, windows became progressively larger. Symmetry in elevation treatment assumed more importance during the 18th century, while changes to the position of chimney stacks, from central stacks to end stacks, reflected changes in how houses were used over time.

3.5.114 The rise of religious non-conformity in this period saw the establishment of a range of new places of worship built within towns and villages in this period. Many of these survive within the study area, including Methodist Churches (A881, A930, and A1263), and former Methodist chapels (A857 and A1270).

Industrial revolution and transportation innovation (18th century – 20th century)

3.5.115 During the late 18th century through to the 19th century, the industrial revolution led to dramatic changes in transportation infrastructure, including the growth of the canal network, the building of toll roads, and the introduction of railways. The period also saw the large-scale extraction of resources such as coal, clay, and stone, the rise of brick making, and the manufacture of cloth and paper.

3.5.116 In this period, wind and water mills were used for a range of purposes. While they predominantly were used for milling cereals such as wheat and barley, mills were also used for fulling, and the manufacture of brick, whiting and paper.

3.5.117 In the 1700s, turnpike trusts were established in Berkshire, and toll roads created. These include, in 1755, the B4017 (Faringdon Road, Abingdon Road) from Abingdon to Fyfield.

3.5.118 In 1784, local landowners held a meeting to propose a canal between the Thames and Severn Canal and Abingdon-on-Thames on the River Thames. The idea gained traction after promotion in 1793. In 1794 CE the engineer William Whitworth surveyed the line of the canal, with his surviving plan of that year showing its route (Whitworth, 1794). In 1795, an act was passed parliament to authorise construction, with the canal, named the Wilts and Berks Canal (A1ea), to be 51 miles in length (82 km). Engineers Robert Whitworth and his son Willaim Whitworth were contracted as the engineers for the work. The canal was cut from 1796 to 1810, with another act of parliament passed in 1801 to allow further fundraising. The canal was opened in stages as it was completed, with the final stretch to the Thames opening in 1810. The Wilts and Berks Canal (A1ea) crosses the draft Order limits north-east to south-west, from the River Thames in Abingdon, passing through Grove and Wantage.

3.5.119 The Wilts and Berks Canal (A1ea) was cut as a narrow canal to take narrowboats 72 feet (22 m) long and 7 feet (2.1 m) wide. There were 42 locks along the canal, and three tunnels, as well as three further locks on a branch line.

3.5.120 Goods transported west via the canal consisted of corn and agricultural products, collected from the communities bordering the canal and taken westwards to Bristol and Bath via the Kennet and Avon Canal. In the reverse direction, coal was transported along the canal from the Somerset coal fields to the towns of Wiltshire and Berkshire.

3.5.121 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6": mile map of 1875-1877 (OS, 1883) shows the canal running through the land within the draft Order limits, as well as its locks, bridges, and branches. The canal is again shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1897-1900) (Figure 6).

3.5.122 In 1833, the Great Western Railway (GWR) company was founded, with Isambard Kingdom Brunel appointed as the company's engineer. Brunel engineered the GWR railway (A1ct) between London and Bristol, which opened in 1841, carrying goods and passengers. This railway (A1ct) runs through the draft Order limits from Steventon toward Swindon. To the east of the draft Order limits was the Steventon Railway Station (A863), intended as temporary terminus of the GRW, and built by Messrs Rigby of Westminster in 1840.

3.5.123 The plan for the railway submitted to Parliament by Brunel initially included a line from Didcot to Oxford, but this was dropped under pressure from the University authorities and Eton College. When the railway opened in 1841, it connected London Paddington to Bath and Bristol via Maidenhead. Following a groundswell of local support, a branch from Didcot to Oxford was opened in 1844, which became GWR's route to the Midlands. When the Didcot branch opened, the Steventon Station lost much of its traffic, and in 1855 a GWR branch was built at Abingdon (A907). Figure 6 shows the railway at the turn of the 19th century.

3.5.124 Trade within the Wilts and Berks Canal (A1ea) continued to decline and in 1901 when the Stanley Aqueduct on the canal was breached, a section of the canal run dry of water

blocking boat traffic. In 1914 an Act of Parliament passed, and the canal was formally abandoned.

3.5.125 Following the opening of the Didcot branch in 1844, Steventon Station (A863) lost much of its trade, becoming redundant. The service ended in 1964. The station at Abingdon (A907) was replaced in 1908 following a train accident, and the new building was finally demolished in 1970 when the branch was closed.

Modern (1901 – present)

3.5.126 The 20th century is characterised by its technical, scientific, artistic, and economic innovations, huge social changes, and its global wars and conflicts. The modern history and archaeology of the region is strongly connected to the 20th century's major conflicts: the First (1914 CE -1918 CE) and Second (1939 CE-1945 CE) World Wars, and the Cold War (1947 CE -1991 CE).

Second World War

3.5.127 Berkshire and Oxfordshire played a significant role during the Second World War as one of the main locations for military activities in the country, as well as a refuge for evacuees. This role is reflected in the known heritage assets recorded on the HER, within both within the draft Order limits and the study area. A focus of activity would have been the Abingdon Airfield, 800m to the north-east. forming a base for light bombers and a key site for the Royal Air Ford (RAF) Bomber Command. By the end of the war, the airfield was handed over to the RAF Transport Command which took charge in 1946.

3.5.128 Plate 4 shows the WWII Vehicle Depot (A1cw), located within the draft Order limits near Steventon to the south-east. The depot was used for storing vehicles, likely camouflaged from aerial observation. It also functioned as replacement depot and provision depot, primary for prison supplies. During the Cold War the site was kept in for the storage of Green Goddess fire engines. The depot also contains a pillbox recorded on the HER (A1ax).

3.5.129 A second pillbox is recorded within the draft Order limits at Culham (A1aw) which appears to be extant based on satellite imagery. There are a further 17 pillboxes recorded in the wider study area (A954, A955, A957, A958, A960, A961, A963, A964, A965, A967, A968, A969, A970, A971, A1147, A1153, and A1328). A second world war anti-tank ditch is also recorded extending east to west from Fyfield to Abingdon Road from Abingdon and passes through the north-east of the draft Order limits at Marcham where sections have been recorded (A1cp / A1cq / A1co / A1cn).

3.5.130 These features would have formed part of Britain's wider defence strategy against potential invasion with pillboxes typically positioned to guard key points such roads and bridges.

Plate 4 Two aerial photographs showing the WWII Vehicle Depot (A1cw) in 1950 (left) and in 2024 (right). The image on the left is an exceprt form Ordance Survey Air Photo Mosaic Sheet 41/49 S.W. / SU 49 S.W, taken July 1950, held by National Library of Scotland and reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence. The image on the right is Google Earth imagery dated June 2024, image copright Airbus 2025 and reproduced under Google's general guidelines.

3.5.131 RAF Abingdon (A1354) was used extensively during the 1960s and 1970s, but it was handed over to the British Army in the 1990s and renamed Dalton Barracks. The aircraft buildings are visible in the 1922 Ordnance Survey map and on aerial imagery from 1935. The airfield in Abingdon was the Royal Air Force base until 1992. Since then, it has been used for civil aircraft, air displays and occasional Royal Air Force training.

3.5.132 In the second half of the 20th century, some fields within the draft Order limits and study area were amalgamated to create larger fields, and hedgerows removed. This took place against a background of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy benefiting holders of larger land parcels, and the development of agricultural machinery which made farming larger land parcels more efficient.

3.5.133 The Local Government Act 1972, enacted in April 1974, saw a radical redrawing of the boundary between the counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, which had historically been formed by the River Thames. The boundary change meant that the northernmost part of Berkshire, including the Vale of White Horse and major settlements including Wantage, Didcot, and Abingdon, become part of Oxfordshire, rather than Berkshire. After this boundary change, much of the land within the draft Order limits and study area, which was formerly within Berkshire, was now within Oxfordshire.

3.6 Factors affecting archaeological survival

3.6.1 The main past impact on archaeological survival within the draft Order limits as a whole are modern building developments, mechanised ploughing, historic quarrying, road construction and associated services, pylons and vegetation root disturbance.

3.6.2 The draft Order limits is located on almost entirely agricultural land. A number of the fields have been ploughed in modern times. The impact of this ploughing will depend on its nature, where deep ploughing has been used, this can cause considerable disturbance to any archaeological remains do a depth of around 0.3–0.4 metres below ground level (mbgl).

3.6.3 Fences, gates, stiles and hedgerows demarcating property and field boundaries are found across the land within the draft Order limits. Whilst archaeological features can survive within woodland and hedgerows, there may have been localised truncation from root action. The digging of trenches and holes for fence and gate posts will also have had a similar impact. Ground intrusion could potentially have severely truncated or completely removed any remains within their footprint to a depth of 1.0–1.5 mbgl at these locations.

4 Buried Heritage Assets (archaeological remains) potential and statement of significance

4.1.1 The potential and likely significance of the predicted buried archaeological remains within the draft Order limits is discussed below and divided by chronological period. This is based on the archaeological and historical background of the area, its geology, topography and hydrology, the likelihood for evidence of past activity, and taking into account past disturbance which may have affected survival. This Section also includes professional opinion on the likely heritage value of such remains, where there is potential for such to be present. Non-designated above ground heritage remains are discussed below where they inform archaeological potential. The assessment of the significance of any known Non-designated built heritage remains within the draft Order limits are contained within Appendix 8.2: Designated assets and non-designated built heritage assets - statements of significance.

4.2 Palaeoenvironment

4.2.1 *The draft Order limits has a moderate to high potential for Pleistocene Palaeoenvironmental remains.*

4.2.2 Based on geo-archaeological modelling of the geoarchaeological study area the draft Order limits has known potential to contain three elevated outcrops of sands and gravels from the Pleistocene; The Wolvercote, Summertown-Radley and Northmoor Sand and Gravel Members (varying in thickness from 0.3 to 5.4m). In addition to the topographical information these deposits hold, they have the potential to contain palaeolithic artefacts and/or Pleistocene faunal remains. The overall geoarchaeological potential of these deposits is therefore moderate to high, though predicting the precise location of these artefacts (if present) is difficult to do with accuracy. There is a single Palaeolithic findspot recorded within the draft Order limits comprising a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe (MOX471), probably found within the Northmoor terrace gravels at Oday common during quarrying.

4.2.3 *The draft Order limits has a moderate potential to contain Holocene Alluvium, potentially containing deposits and eco-factual information from which to reconstruct the past environment.*

4.2.4 Alluvial deposits have been identified across much of the draft Order limits with thicker deposits along the Holocene floodplain of the Thames and Ock. Minerogenic deposits such as alluvial silts and clays have potential for the preservation of diatoms, ostracods and molluscs, the assessment of which can provide information on the salt or freshwater nature of deposits.

4.2.5 Peat deposits preserve pollen, seeds and plant fragments, and can also be dated by radiocarbon techniques, important for establishing the chronology for the depositional sequence. It is possible that environmental evidence is present within Holocene alluvium (e.g. Holocene-aged peat in localised area), but it is not expected to be thick or widespread at the draft Order limits. As rivers act as a natural focus for human occupation, it is also possible that these deposits contain Mesolithic and later archaeological artefacts (e.g. stone tools, trackways, fish traps etc).

4.2.6 The heritage value of palaeoenvironmental remains would be **moderate**, deriving from archaeological interest.

4.3 Prehistoric

4.3.1 *Overall, the draft Order limits has a high potential to contain later Prehistoric archaeological remains.*

4.3.2 Across the 1km study area as a whole, there is evidence of multi-period activity from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age. The Project is located within a broad, gently undulating corridor between the chalk uplands of the Berkshire Downs to the south and the River Thames, which intersects the north-east part of the draft Order limits. The presence of higher river gravel deposits, free-draining soils, and the proximity to the river would have made this area attractive for early settlement and agriculture.

4.3.3 Within the draft Order limits, previous investigation has identified evidence for a prehistoric landscape that includes field systems, rural settlement, possible Bronze Age barrows in addition to Neolithic enclosures and other features. Cropmark remains of a probable enclosed settlement with enclosures, pits and trackway of unknown Prehistoric date at Sutton Wick and evidence for multi period use of the landscape across the draft Order limits. Late prehistoric enclosures would be of **moderate** or **high** heritage value, depending on preservation and extent and deriving from archaeological and historic interest.

4.3.4 *The draft Order limits has a known, high potential for Late Iron Age/Romano British settlement remains,* suggesting a sustained period of settlement following the Roman occupation Romano British settlement remains would be of **moderate** or **high** heritage value, depending on preservation and extent, from derived from archaeological and historical interest.

4.4 Roman

4.4.1 *The draft Order limits has a high potential for Roman remains.*

4.4.2 The draft Order limits lies in a known late prehistoric agricultural landscape, where past investigations have revealed continued occupation during the Roman period. in the form of dispersed agricultural settlement. The oppidum (town) at Abingdon, located approximately 7km to the east, likely served as a focal point for settlement during the Roman occupation. At that time, a new strategic road network was established, overlaid on the irregular pattern of earlier fields and trackways. A possible Roman road is projected to run along the western boundary of the draft Order limits (**A1dx**). Highly significant Roman features are located in close proximity to this road, including the Temple at Noah's Ark (**A1a**) in the north-west part of the draft Order limits and a multi-period cemetery site to the south of this feature (**A1251**) which recorded six inhumations of late Romano British date. Further occupation is suggested by occupation south of Hanney Road (**A1cz**) and in the eastern part of the draft Order limits at Drayton (**A1al**).

4.4.3 It is highly likely that further evidence of Roman activity will be present within the draft Order limits, including both potential for dispersed agricultural activity but also for domestic settlement. The significance of Roman remains would depend on their nature and extent but would be of **high** heritage value for evidence of domestic settlement or human remains (derived from archaeological and historical interest).

4.5 Early Medieval

4.5.1 *The Order Limits has a high potential to contain Early Medieval (Saxon) remains.*

4.5.2 The nature and distribution of settlement activity during the early part of this period remain poorly understood, largely due to the ephemeral nature of archaeological remains. However, recorded features and finds within the draft Order limits provide an indication of likely potential. Notably, two sunken-featured buildings have been identified on land south-west of Drayton (A1cf), alongside evidence of a high-status settlement at Drayton (A1297), dating to the early or middle Saxon period. In the later Saxon period, settlement was probably concentrated around established manorial centres, including the minster at Abingdon—located approximately 1 km to the north-east—where an abbey was founded in 675 CE. Documentary sources also suggest that the south-western corner of the draft Order limits may have formed part of a late Anglo-Saxon deer park associated with the manor of Wantage.

4.5.3 It is probable that the majority of the land within the draft Order limits comprised woodland or agricultural fields during this time. The presence of numerous chance finds across the 1km study area, combined with its proximity to known Later Medieval nucleated settlements and the established site at Drayton, indicates a strong likelihood of archaeological remains from this period being present, but likely within localised parts of the draft Order limits.

4.5.4 If present, Early Medieval remains would be of **moderate** or **high** heritage value, depending on preservation and extent, derived from archaeological and historical interest.

4.6 Medieval

4.6.1 *The draft Order limits has a high potential to contain previously unrecorded Later Medieval Remains*.

4.6.2 During this period the majority of the draft Order limits comprised an agricultural landscape outside of the known main centres of settlement, though two possible deserted medieval villages are recorded within the draft Order limits (on the basis of documentary evidence), these are located only partially or along the boundaries of the draft Order limits. Other than chance finds of low significance, there are limited later medieval features and findspots recorded within the draft Order limits.

4.6.3 Potential Medieval remains within the draft Order limits would probably take the form of landscape features such as field boundaries, drainage ditches and buried evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. The heritage value of such remains would be **low** or **moderate**, based on archaeological and historical interest. Evidence of medieval settlement, including previously unrecorded deserted villages (i.e. domestic settlement) would be of **high** heritage value, though such remains are typically rare nationally.

4.7 Post-medieval

4.7.1 *The draft Order limits has a high potential for post-medieval agricultural remains.*

4.7.2 For the majority of the draft Order Limits, the post-medieval landscape would have comprised agricultural farmland. As such, the main potential is for surviving features

relating to land management or cultivation, such as field boundaries and drainage ditches. This assessment has identified evidence of field systems, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs along with evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation recorded by the geophysical survey. Post-medieval agricultural remains such as field boundary ditches of cultivation layers would be of **low** heritage value, based on the archaeological and historical interest of the finds.

4.8 Modern

4.8.1 *The draft Order limits has a high potential for modern remains.*

4.8.2 Historic mapping shows that for the majority of the 20th century the draft Order limits retained its rural character forming agricultural land surrounded by the nearby villages. Following the onset of the Second World War, the establishment of military defences is evident in the draft Order limits and wider area. Notably this includes the upstanding remains of the vehicle depot/pillbox in Steventon (**A1cw**), an extant pillbox in Culham on Burycroft road (**A1aw**) and a 9km long anti-tank ditch (**A1co**) which passes through the draft Order limits in Ardington. Additional wartime assets recorded in the surrounding area include roadblocks and other temporary defensive structures, highlighting the strategic importance of the region during the conflict.

4.8.3 Based on the documented activity within and around the draft Order limits, there is a high potential for further unrecorded modern remains to be present. These remains would likely be in the form of buried footings or foundations associated Second World War defences, such as pillboxes, emplacements, tank traps or other structures associated with wartime defence.

4.8.4 The heritage value of any remains would depend on their nature and extent, but likely **low** for buried footings or hardstanding, raising to **moderate** for well surviving remains (derived from historic and archaeological interest).

5 Summary table of predicted archaeological remains, assigned heritage value

5.1.1 Table 5.1 below contains a high-level summary of the known or likely buried heritage assets within the draft Order limits and their assigned significance. The impact of the Project on the heritage value of these predicted assets is assessed in Chapter 8: Historic environment. For the purposes of the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects presented in the PEI Report, potential archaeological remains have been grouped into receptor groups on the basis of period and nature of remains.

Table 5.1 Potential Non-designation buried heritage assets (archaeological remains) and predicted heritage value

Predicted Non-designated buried archaeological remains	Potential	Heritage Value
Previously unrecorded Palaeoenvironmental remains, in the form of deposits containing environmental/topographical information from which the past environment can be reconstructed.	Moderate to high	Moderate
Previously unrecorded prehistoric remains, including enclosures, dispersed settlement and earthwork monuments	High	Moderate, High or Very High
Previously unrecorded Late Iron Age to Romano-British Remains, in the form of dispersed rural settlement, field boundaries and earthwork features.	High	Moderate, High or Very High
Previously unrecorded Roman remains, likely in the form of rural settlement, including potential villas associated with known settlement sites within the draft Order limits and the nearby Roman road.	High	Moderate, High or Very High
Previously unrecorded Early Medieval remains, localised potential for settlement features and other land management features across the draft Order limits	High	Moderate, High or Very High
Previously unrecorded Later Medieval remains, probably in the form of landscape management features or evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. Localised potential for domestic settlement associated with deserted medieval villages.	High	Moderate or High
Previously unrecorded Post-medieval remains, likely limited to agricultural/landscape management features.	High	Low
Previously unrecorded Modern remains, in the form of the footings/hardstanding of Second World War defensive structures or cut features (e.g. emplacements, pillboxes and anti-tank traps).	High	Moderate or High

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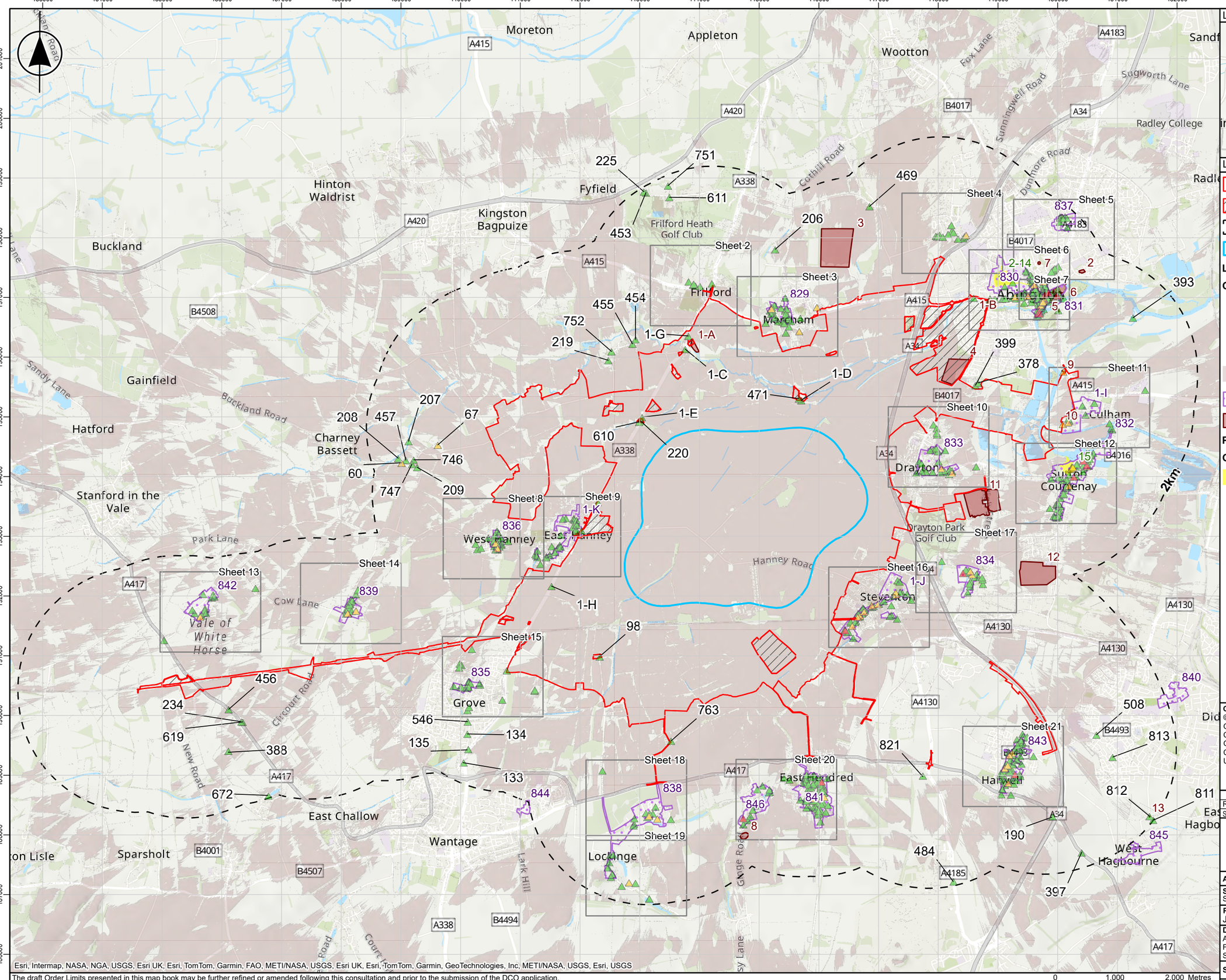
Annex 1 – Figures

Figure 1: Designated Heritage Assets within 2km study area

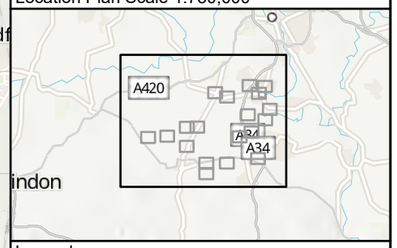


The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

1:60,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 1,000 2,000 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km
- Toe of Embankment

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments

Parks and Gardens

Grade

- II

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 1 of 21

Scale: 1:60,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

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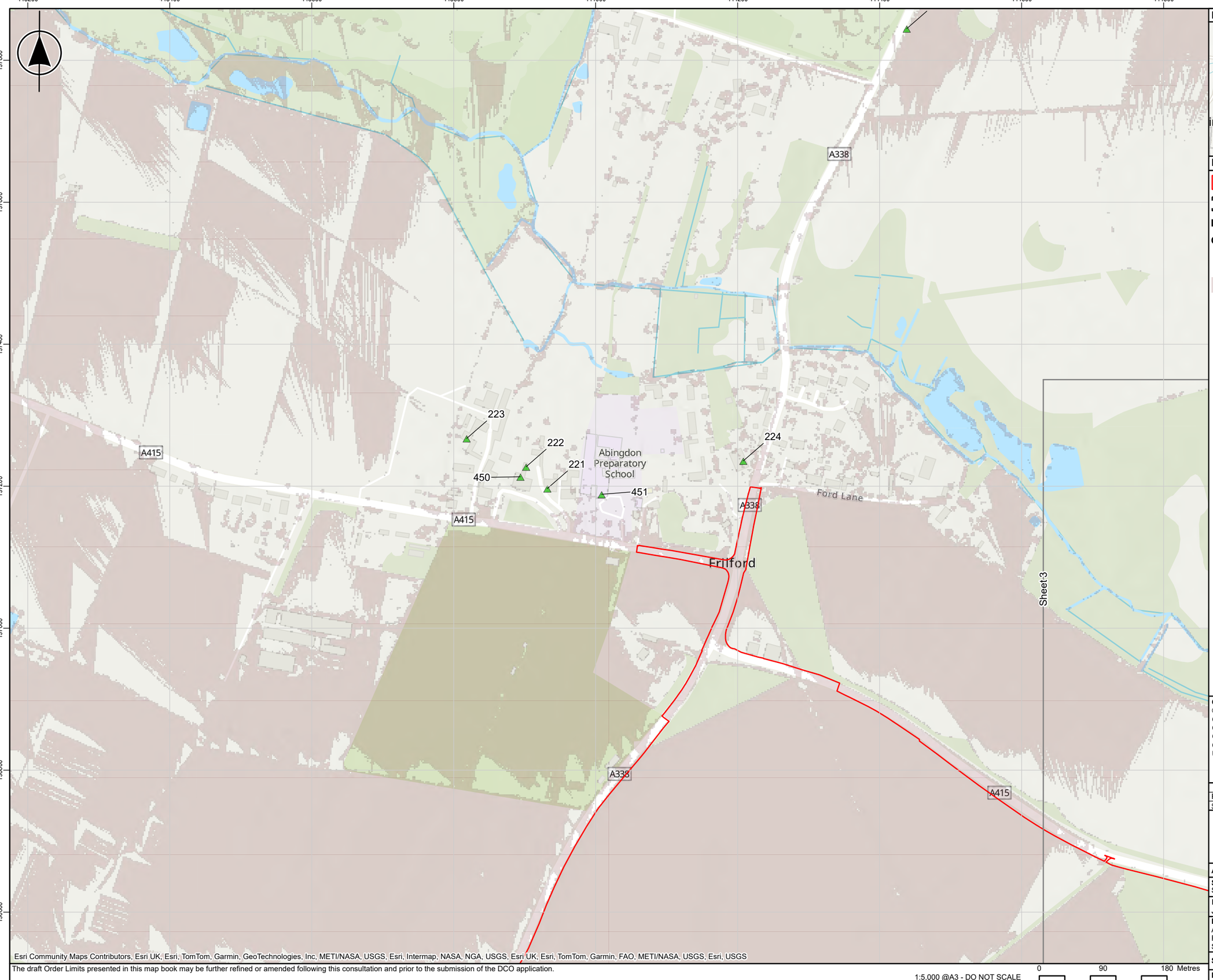
197800 197600 197400 197200 197000 196800 196600



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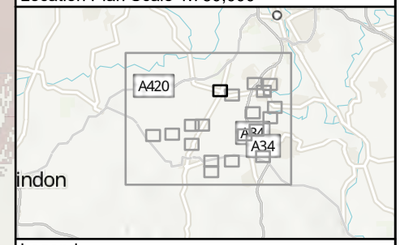
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

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Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 2 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

444800 445000 445200 445400 445600 445800 446000 446200

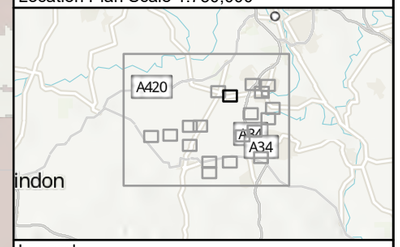
197200 197000 196800 196600 196400 196200

Sheet 2

Kings Avenue
Howard Cornish Road
Fernplace Road
North Street
Gap
New Road
All Saints' Church
Marcham Church of England Primary School
Howard Cornish Road
Marcham Road
A415
Packhorse Lane
Marcham
A415
Frilford Road
Mill Road

476 749 217 39 475 829 460 608 755 218 483 80 210 211 205 605 609 478 212 601 750 756 214 748 603 213 215 826 599 63 216

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 3 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

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1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

447400 447600 447800 448000 448200 448400 448600 448800 449000

198600 198400 198200 198000 197800 197600

Kestrel Road
Merlin Road
Cholswell Road
Sycamore Close
Faringdon Road
Elm Tree Walk
Wildmoor Allotments
A34
Copenhagen Drive
Fieldside
Mons Way
753
Stowford House Care Home
204
430
203
Shippon
The Manor Preparatory School
38
428
429
754
618
617
201
757
Church of St Mary Magdalene
202
Barrow Road
Larkmead School
School of St Helen and St Katherine
Harding Road
Larkhill Road
Sheet 6
Wyndyke Furlong
Coldwell Drive
Larkhill Stream
2-14
830
Spring Road

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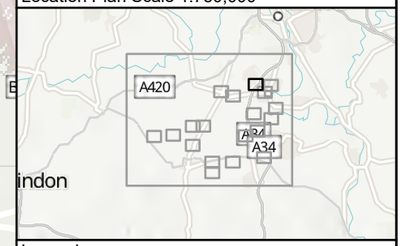
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

Parks and Gardens

Grade

- II

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
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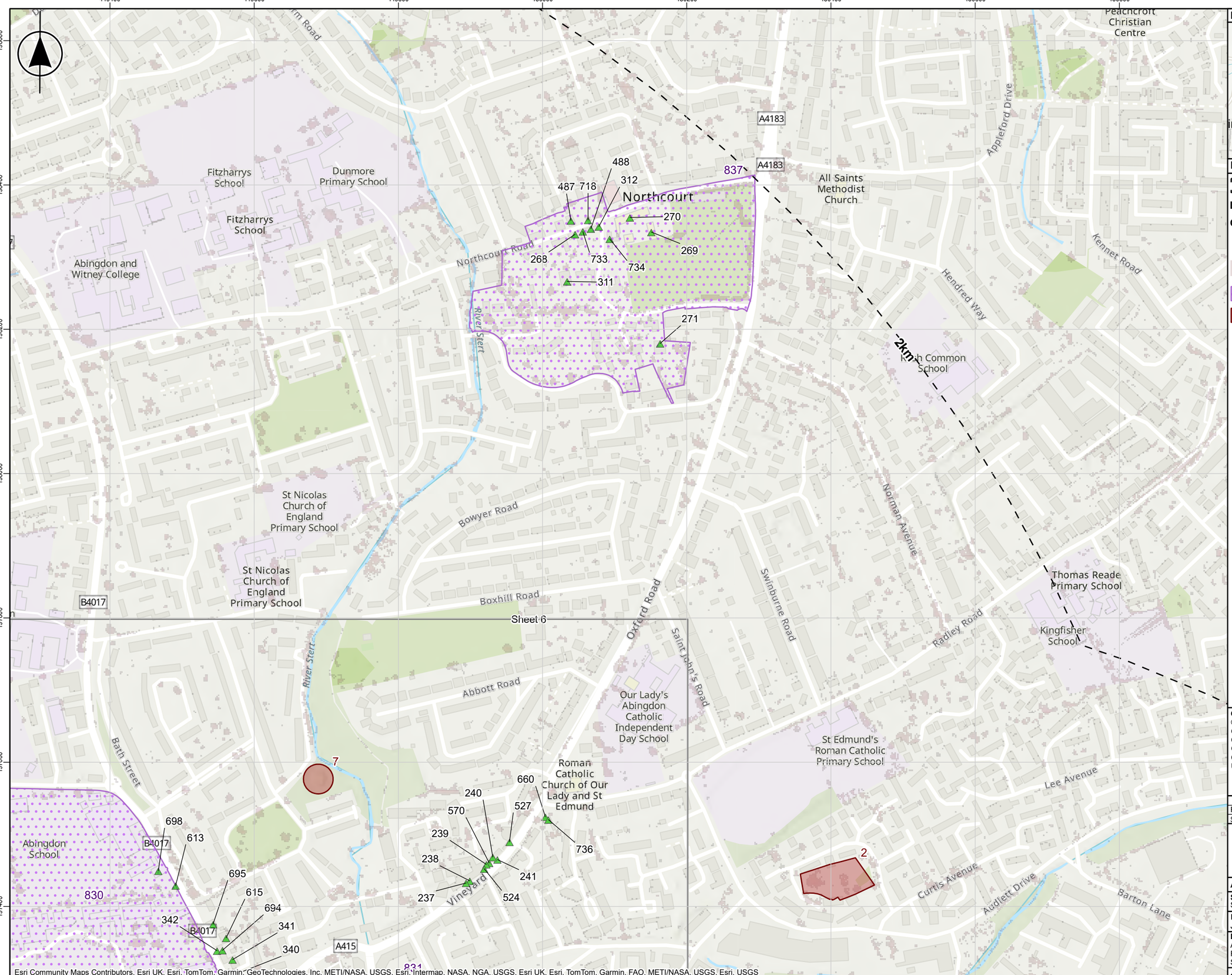
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 4 of 21

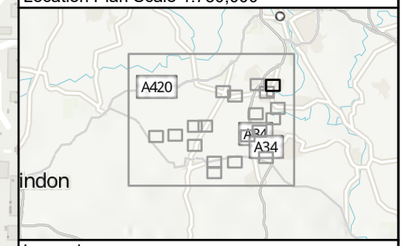
Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Grade**
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

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Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 5 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210 **Rev:** C01

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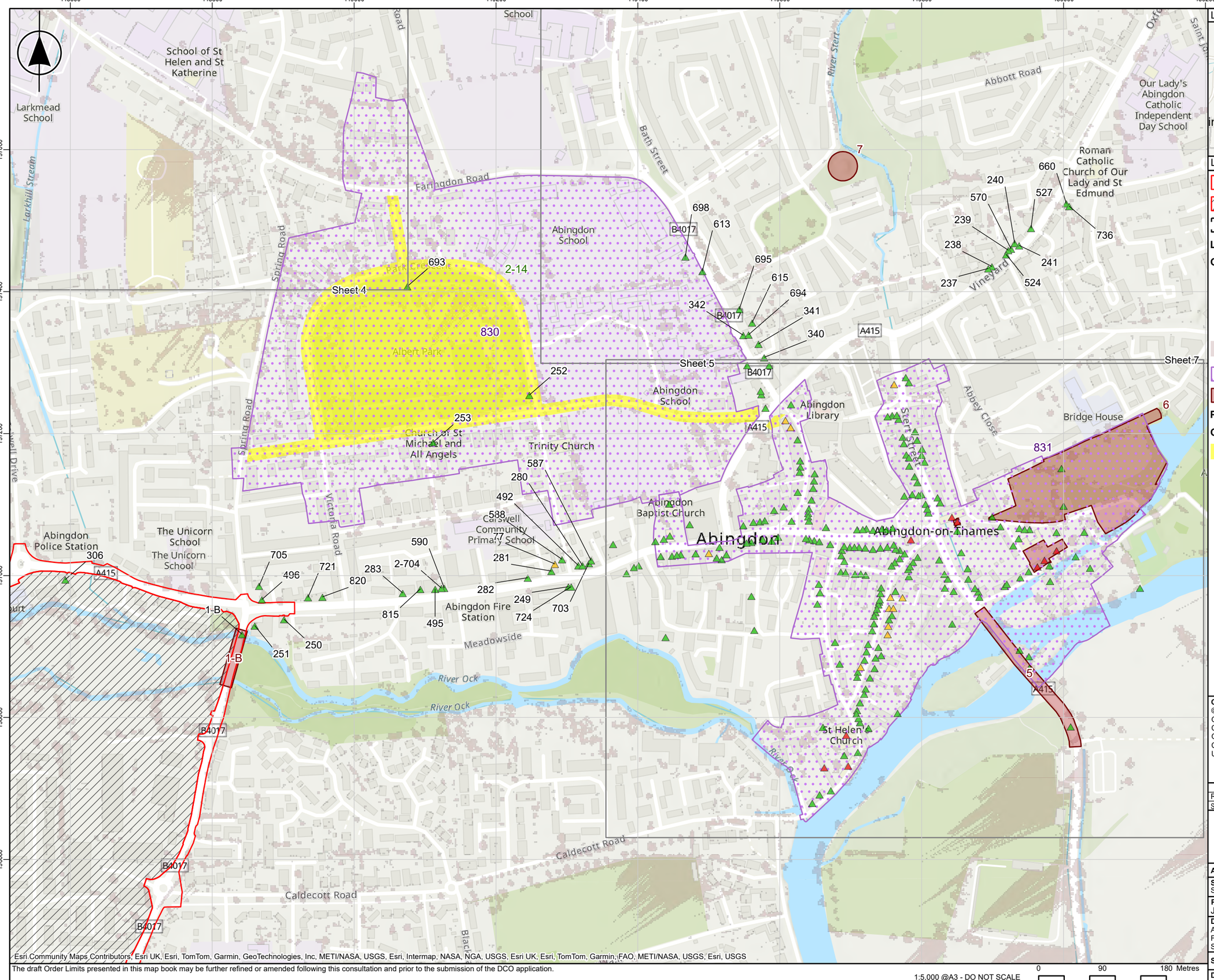
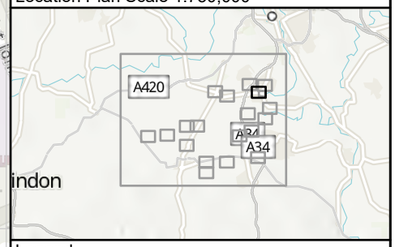
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

Scheduled Monuments

Parks and Gardens

Grade

- II

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1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

Site Name:
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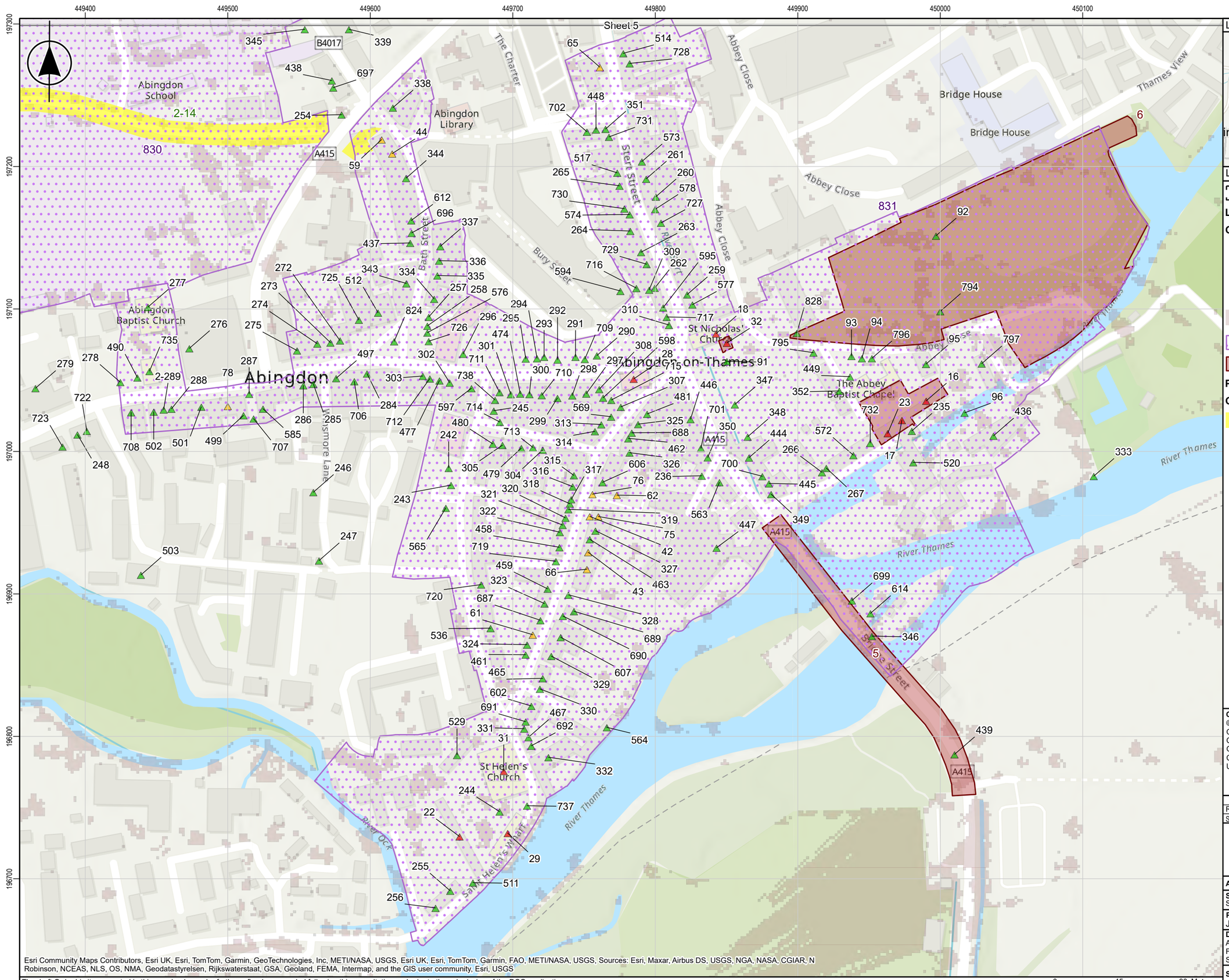
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 6 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210 **Rev:** C01



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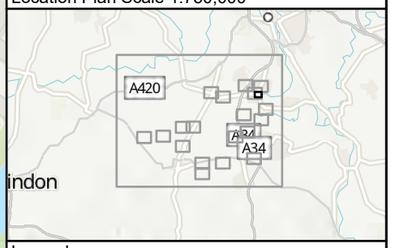

Legend

- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

Scheduled Monuments

Parks and Gardens

Grade

- II

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

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APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 7 of 21

Scale: 1:2,500 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210 **Rev:** C01

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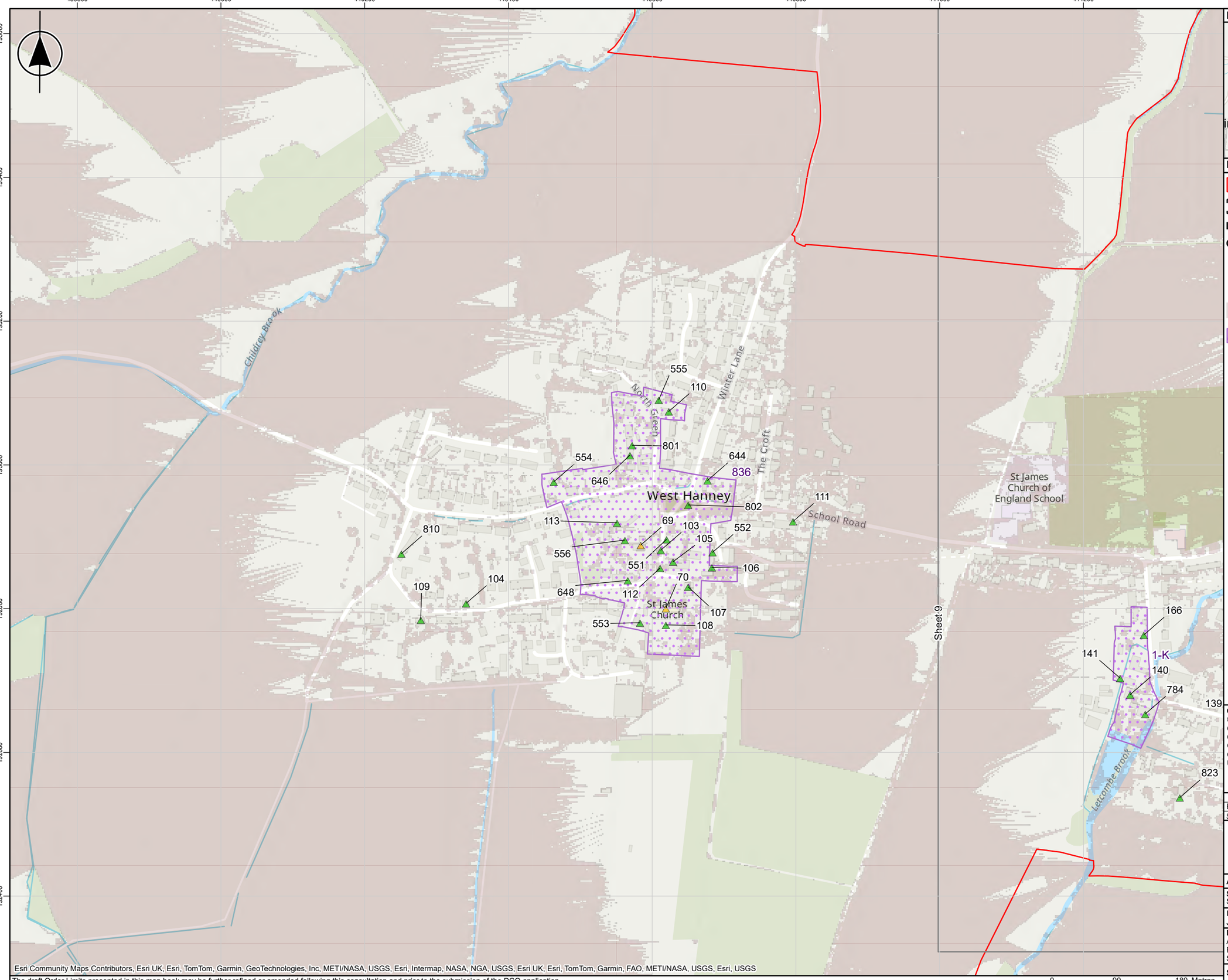
1:2,500 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 45 90 Metres



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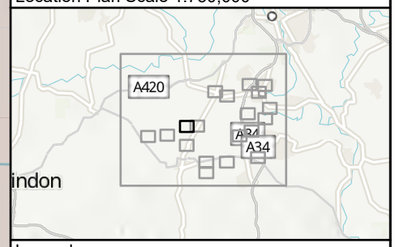
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 8 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

441000 441200 441400 441600 441800 442000 442200 442400 442600

193600 193400 193200 193000 192800 192600 192400

Sheet 8

1-F
1-K
170 473 472 169 167 470 604 764 765 468 466 168 568
819 600 766 171 166 141 140 784 139 783 138 782 823

Ashfields Lane
Holmes Park Play Area
A335
The Green
Steventon Road
Letcombe Brook
East Hanney
Main Street
St James Church of England School
The Paddocks
A338
Berry Lane
Main Street
Letcombe Brook
Summertown
A339

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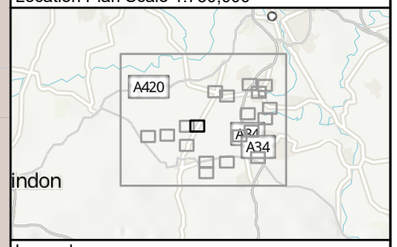
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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Project Name:
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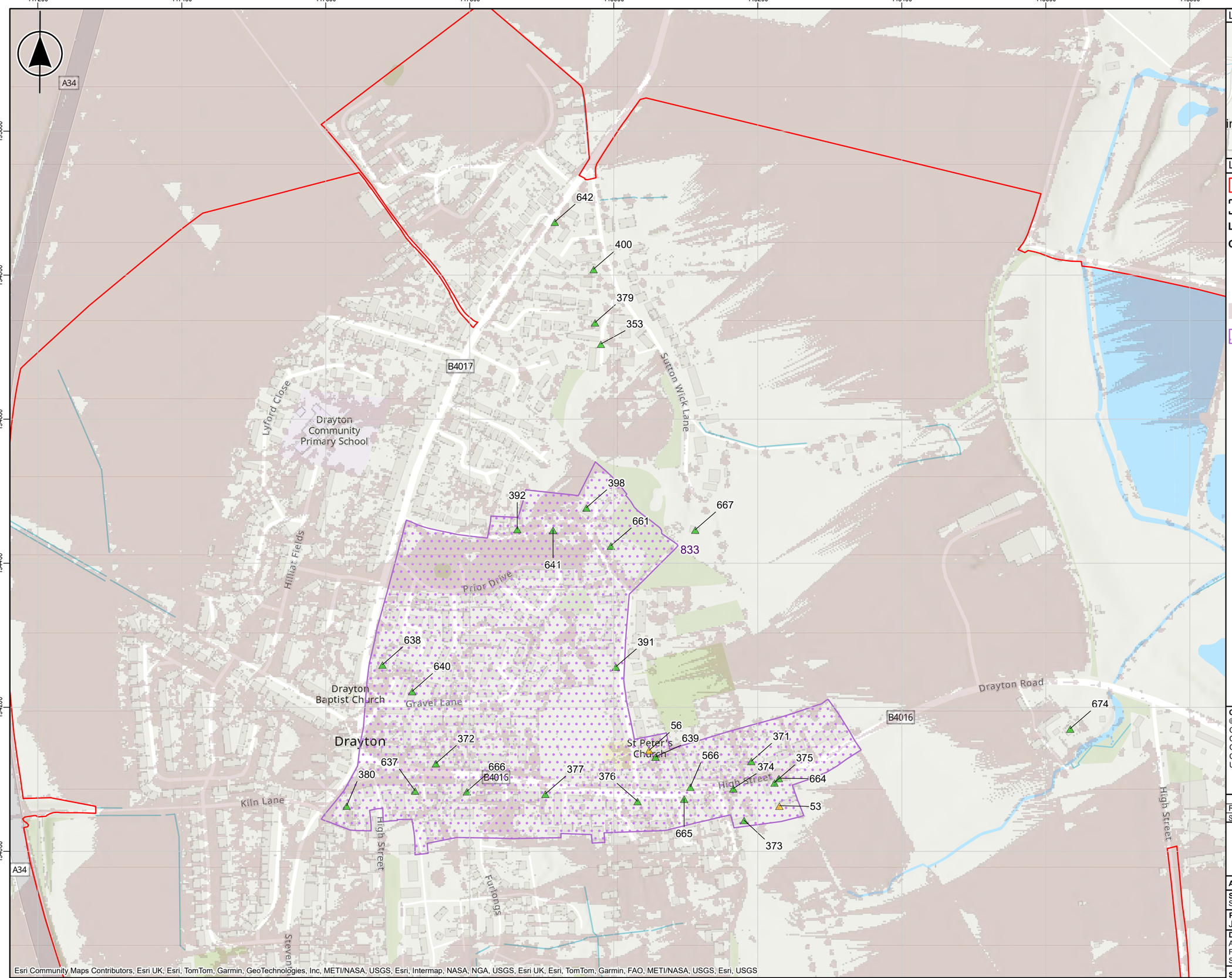
Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 9 of 21

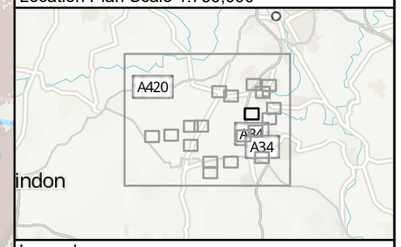
Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Site Name:
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Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 10 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210 **Rev:** C01

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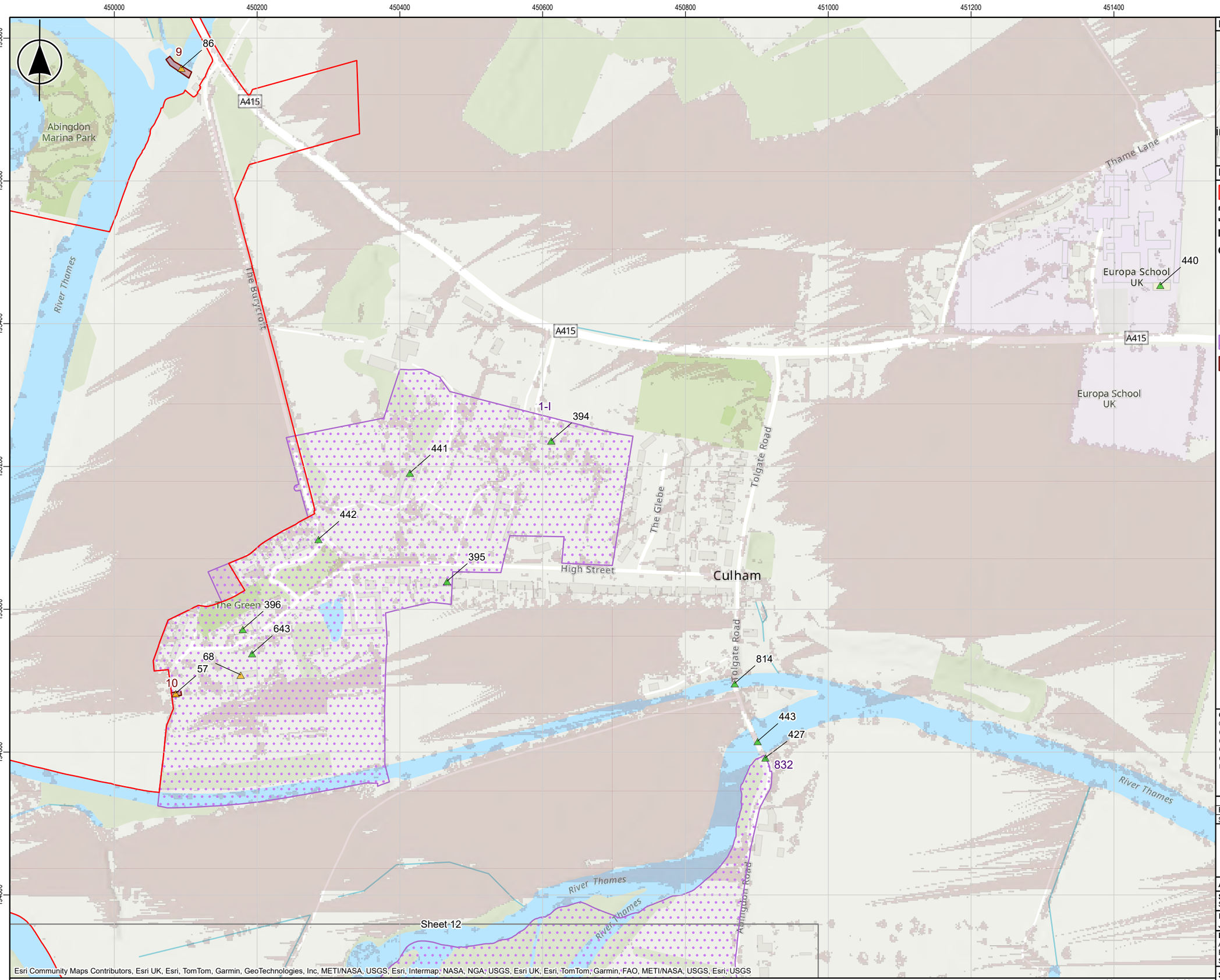
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres



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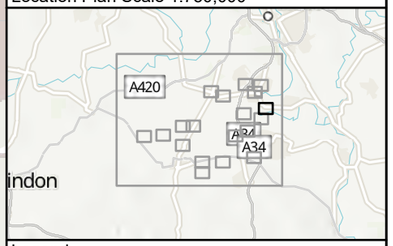
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

Scheduled Monuments

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
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Security Reference: Public

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Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 11 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

449400 449600 449800 450000 450200 450400 450600 450800

194400 194200 194000 193800 193600 193400

Sheet 11

832

B4016

Drayton Road

Churchmere Road

The Green

High Street

Old Wallingford Way

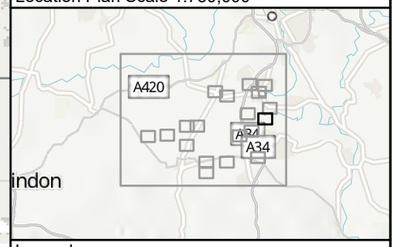
Mill Lane

Sutton Courtenay

15

414 628 684 370 369 685 630 415 662 27 367 413 368 416 663 825 26 361 629 673 58 627 50 51 52 74 426 679 417 24 686 411 625 412 354 366 355 357 418 422 45 358 362 626 677 622 675 423 818 359 817 816 562 356 621 425 419 676 620 360 623 678

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

Parks and Gardens

Grade

- II

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 12 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

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1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

435000 435200 435400 435600 435800 436000 436200 436400 436600

192400 192200 192000 191800 191600 191400 191200

Millaway Lane

Goosey Lane

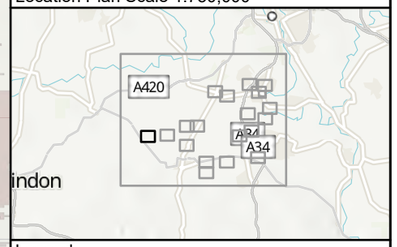
Goosey

All Saints' Church

Vale of White Horse

842 431 226 745 432 435 227 390 433 229 228 434 616 79 387

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Grade**
- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 13 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
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Rev: C01

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1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

437400 437600 437800 438000 438200 438400 438600 438800 439000

192400 192200 192000 191800 191600 191400

Hyde Road

Cow Lane

Circourt Road

Brook Lane

Denchworth

St James's Church

231 233 624 742 744 389 424 839 743 420 230 421 740 41 232 40 741 739

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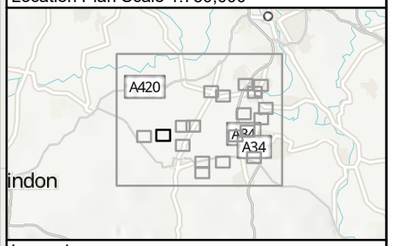
1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Grade**
- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

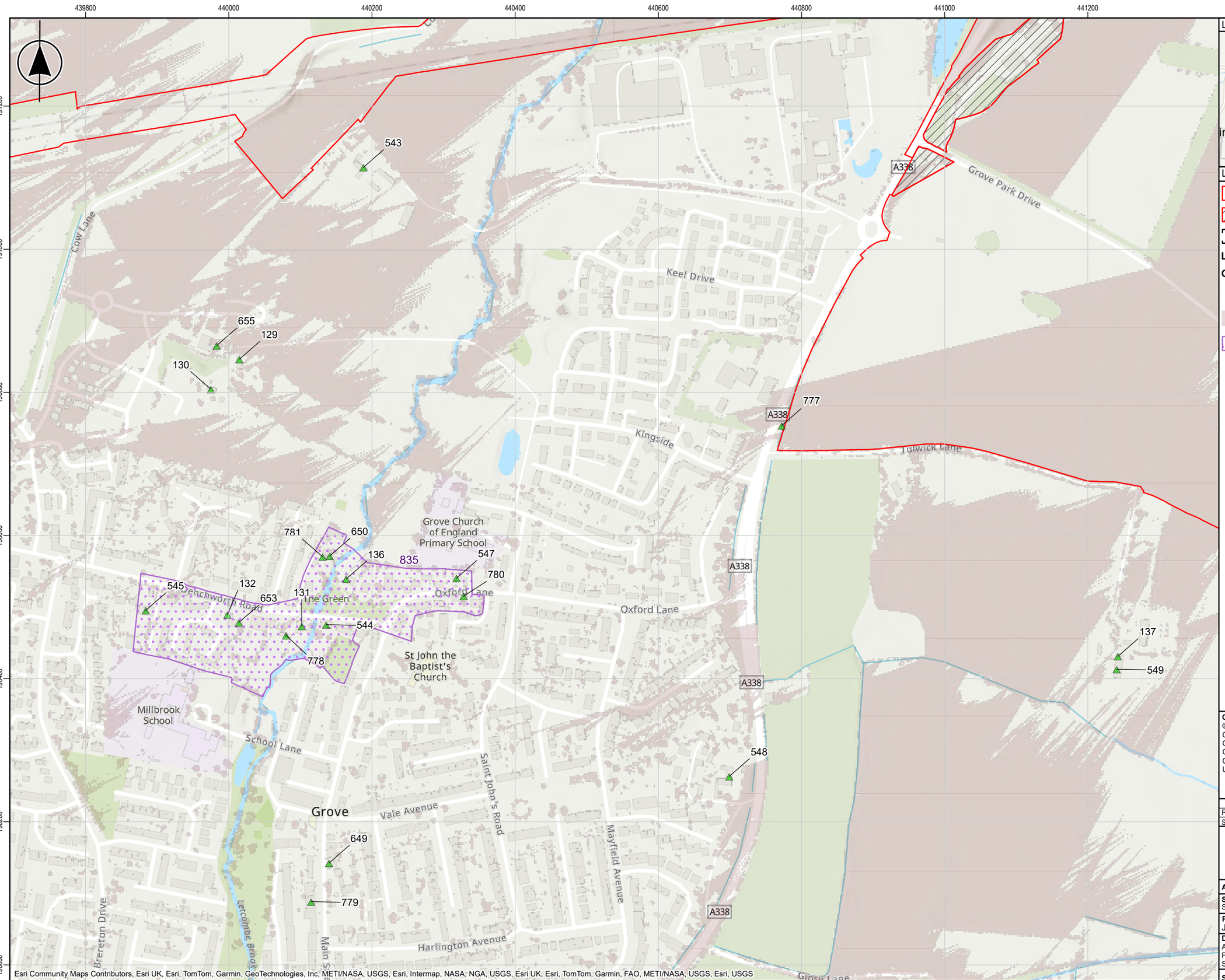
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 14 of 21

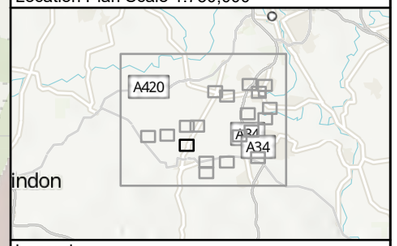
Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 15 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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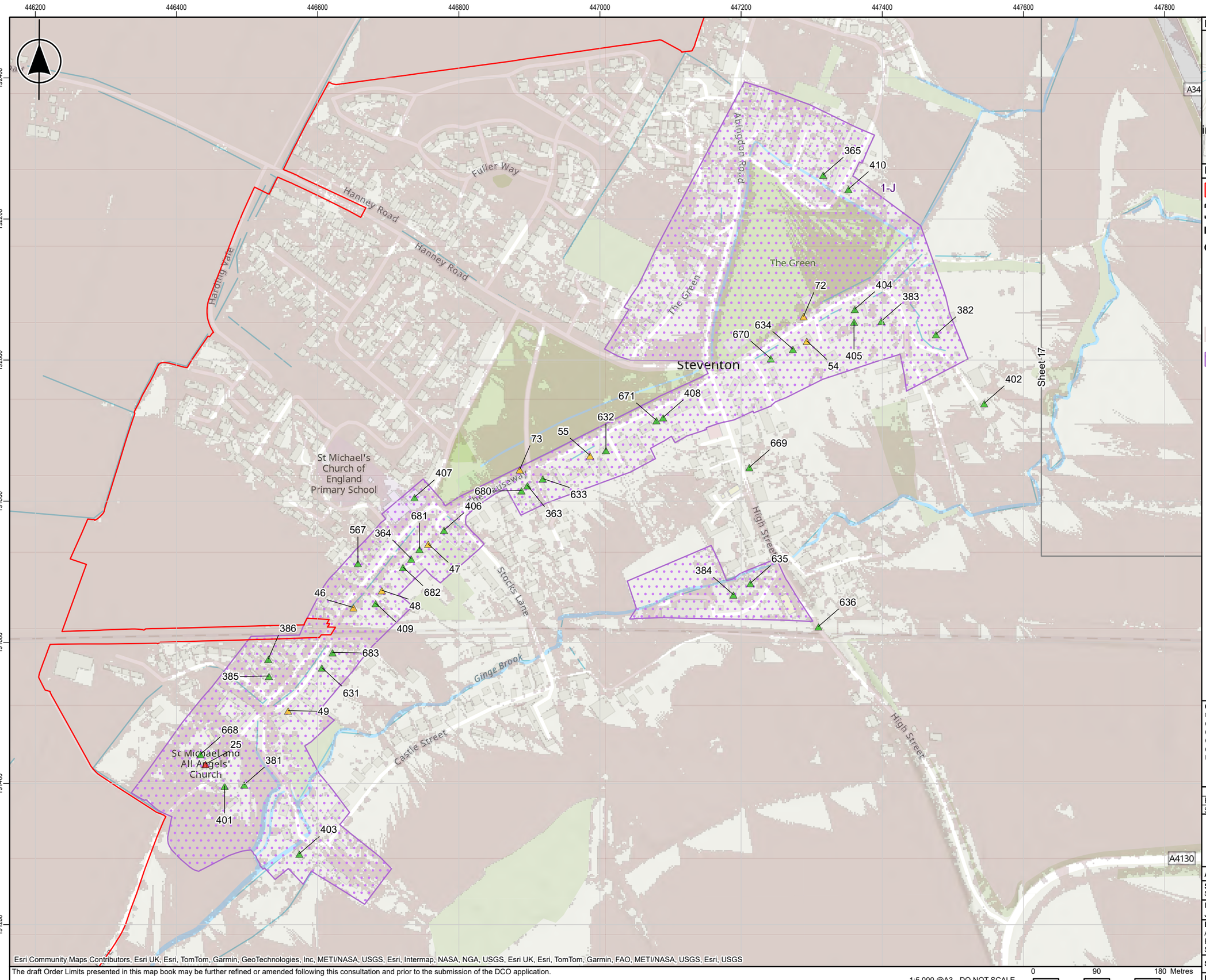

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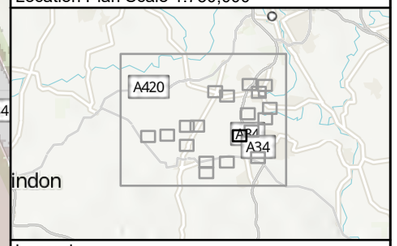

Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 16 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

1:5,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 90 180 Metres

447800 448000 448200 448400 448600 448800 449000 449200

193000 192800 192600 192400 192200 192000 191800

Braystones Golf Club

High Street

Sutton Road

157

Mill Lane

189 654 83 834 20 St Blaise's Church 540 533 773 774 158 535 71 Milton 652 188 792 793 651 827 538

The Squire Barrett Recreation Ground

Old Moor

Moor Ditch

Pembroke Lane

A34

Sheet 16

High Street

Western Avenue

Jubilee Avenue

Innovation Drive

Olympic Avenue

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

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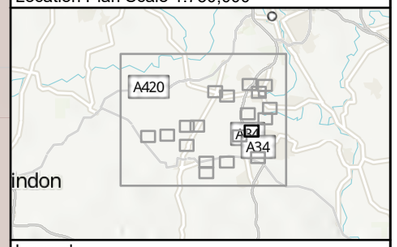
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
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Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 17 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

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189200 189000 188800 188600 188400 188200 188000

99

Grove Park Drive

A417

A417

A417

838

762

Ardington

164 161 162 160

165

School Road

Holy Trinity Church

163 35 34

159

464

90

School Road

Sheet 19

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

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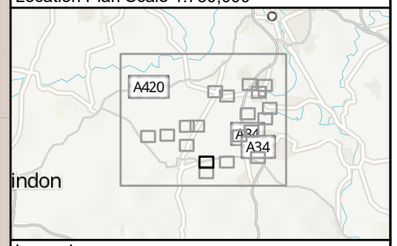
0 90 180 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 18 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

442200 442400 442600 442800 443000 443200 443400 443600

187800 187600 187400 187200 187000 186800

Sheet 18

West Lockinge

838

Lockinge

All Souls Chapel

All Saints' Church

Well Street

Yew Walk

Yew Walk

Park Lane

Bitham Road

Betterton Brook

101 799 100 102 647 800 85 87 550 798 97

2km

Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

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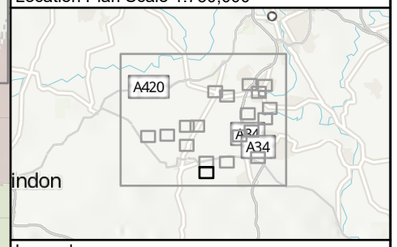
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Grade**
- II*
- II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

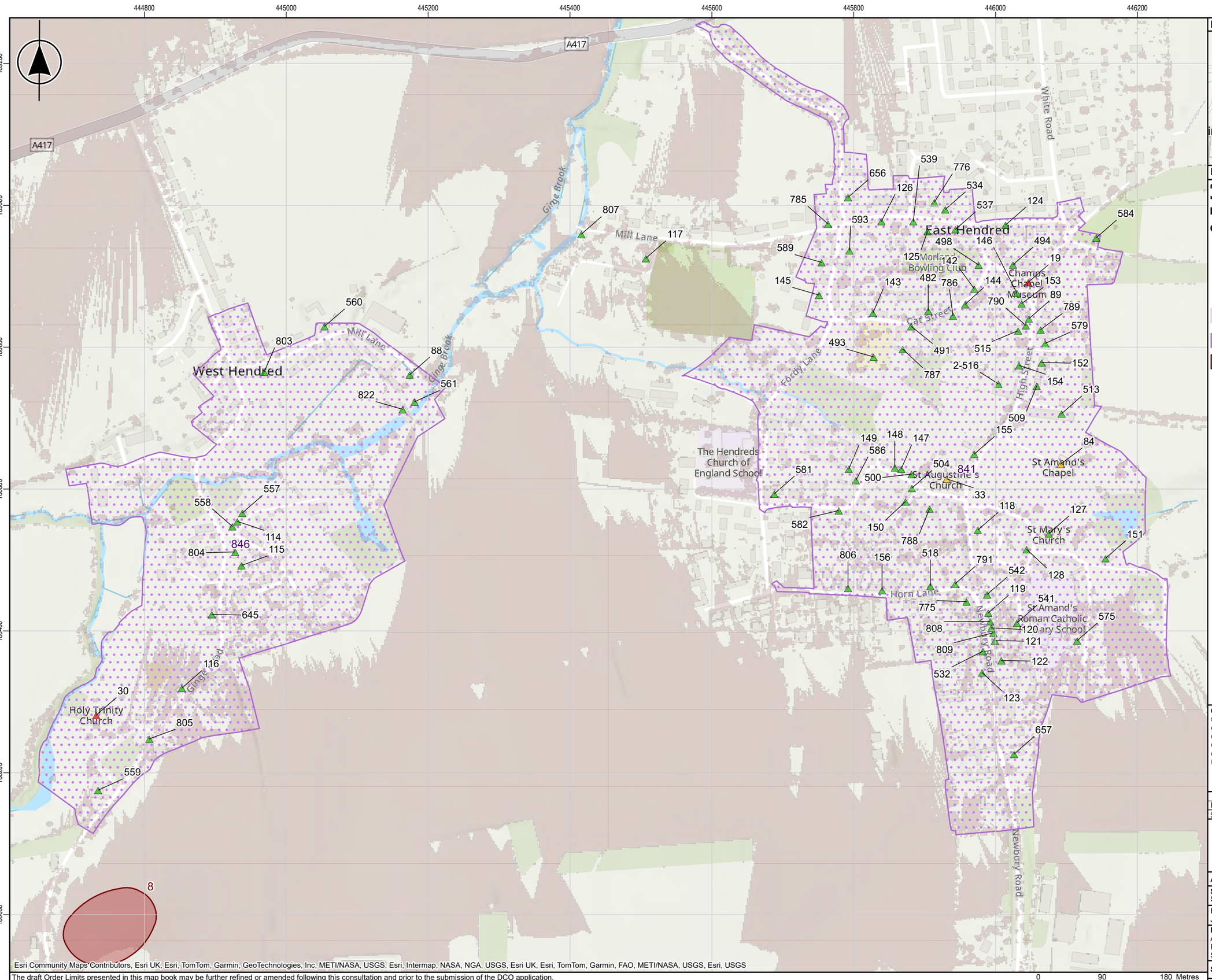
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 19 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01



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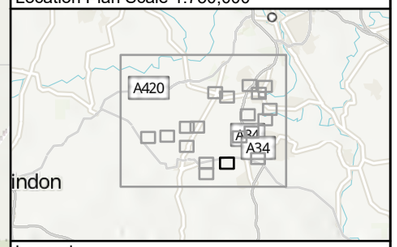
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- Study Area - 2km
- **Listed Buildings**
- **Grade**
  - I
  - II*
  - II
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest
- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

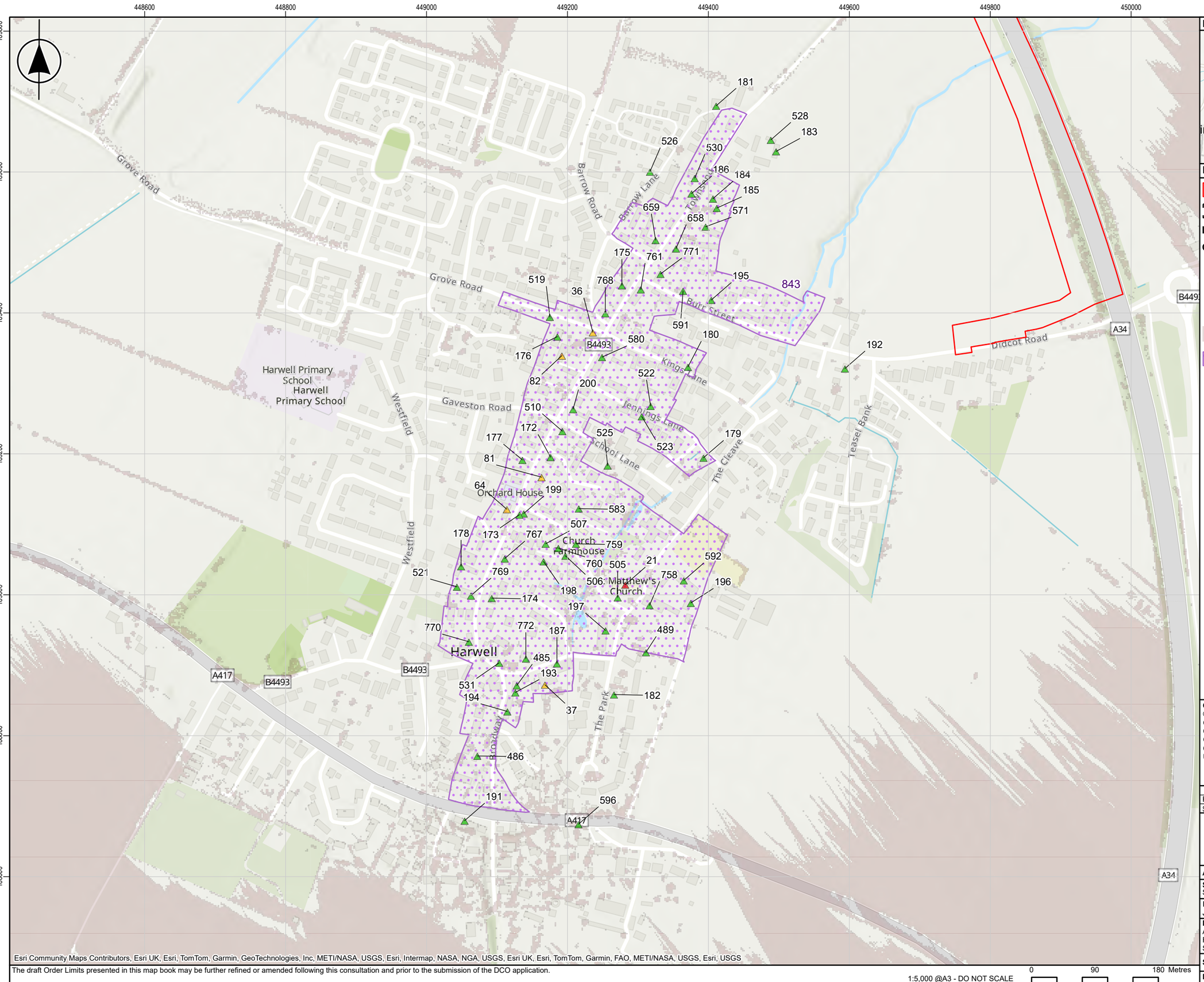
Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 20 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210 **Rev:** C01



Esri Community Maps Contributors, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

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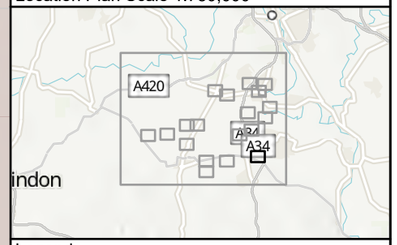
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 2km

Listed Buildings

Grade

- I
- II*
- II

Zone of Theoretical Visibility of proposed reservoir crest

Conservation Areas

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

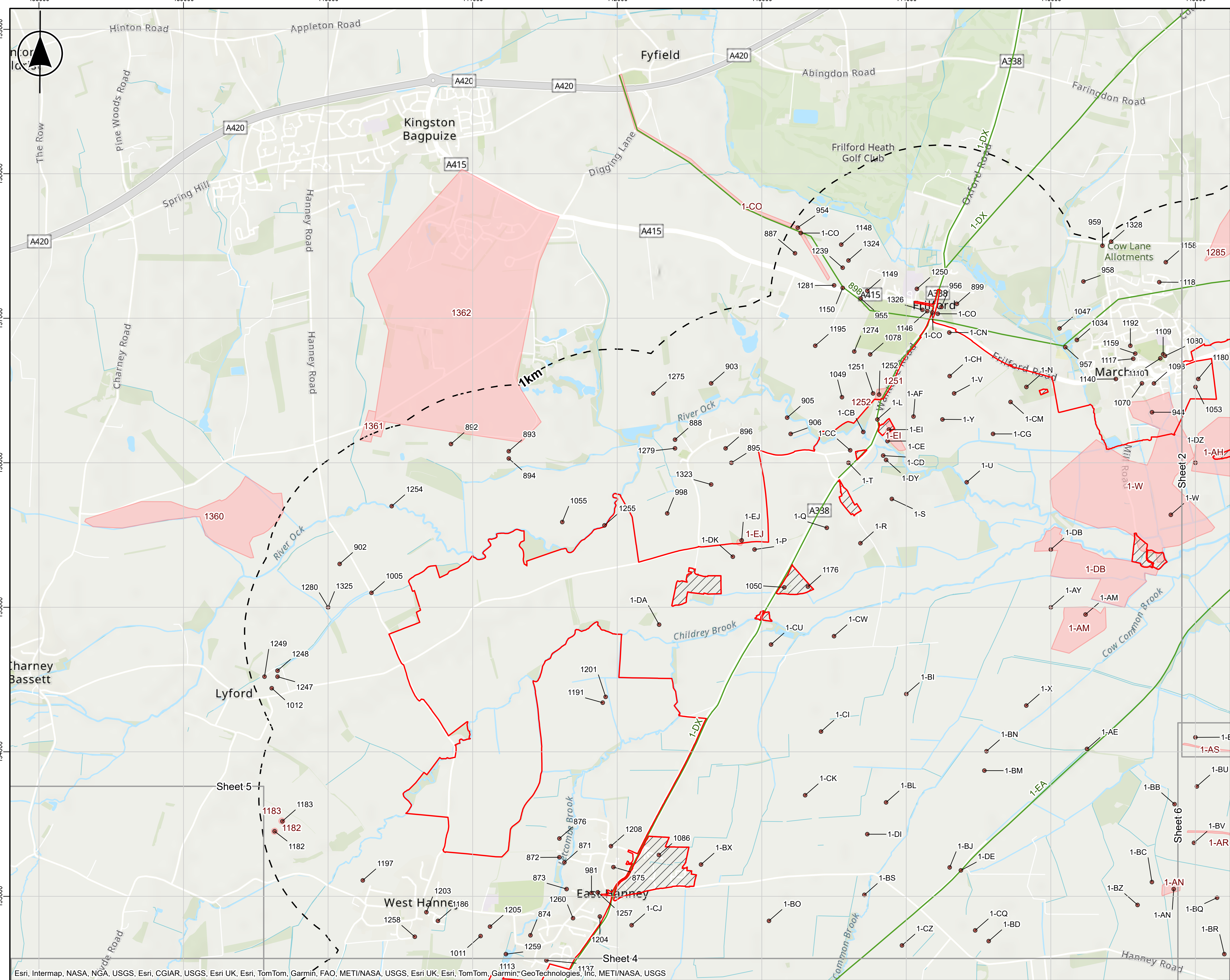
Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 1: Designated heritage assets within 2km study area
Sheet 21 of 21

Scale: 1:5,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000210

Rev: C01

Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area


438000
439000
440000
441000
442000
443000
444000
445000
446000
199000
198000
197000
196000
195000
194000
193000
Hinton Road
Appleton Road
Fyfield
A420
A338
Abingdon Road
Faringdon Road
Kingston Bagpuize
Pine Woods Road
The Row
A415
Digging Lane
Frilford Heath Golf Club
Spring Hill
Hanney Road
1-CO
1-DX
Oxford Road
A415
Cow Lane Allotments
1362
1km
1361
1360
River Ock
Charney Road
Frilford
Marcham
Frilford Road
Mill Road
Sheet 2
1-W
1-DB
1-AM
Cow Common Brook
Childrey Brook
Charney Bassett
Lyford
Sheet 5
West Hanney
East Hanney
Letcombe Brook
Sheet 4
Sheet 6
1-EA
Common Brook
Hanney Road
Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS
0
465
930 Metres

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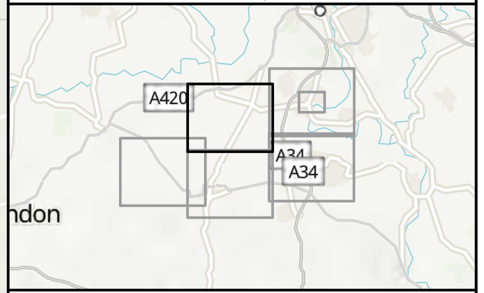
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- Study Area - 1km
- HER Monuments (Point)
- HER Monuments (Line)
- HER Monuments (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A
Security Reference: Public

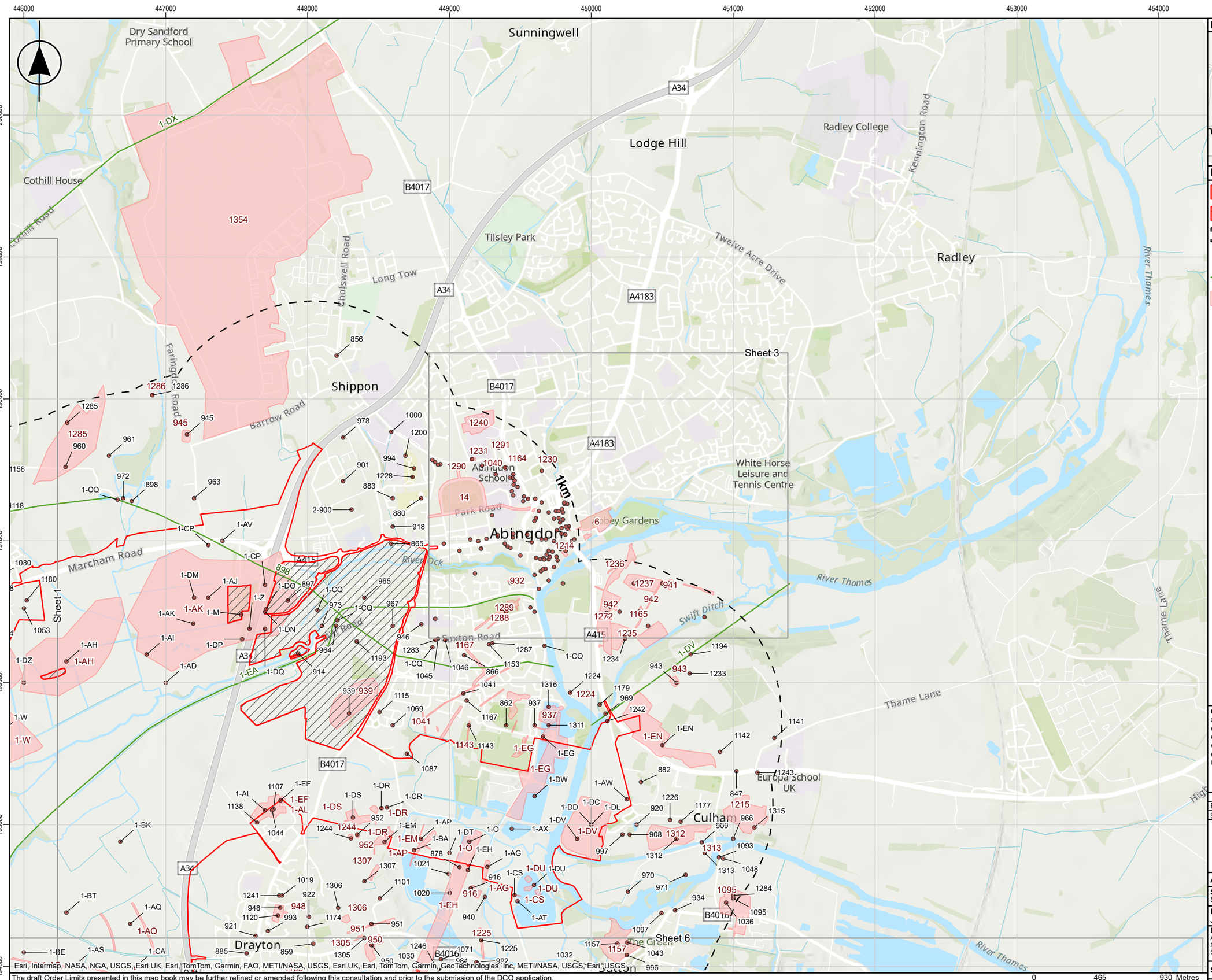
Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 1 of 6

Scale: 1:25,000
Sheet Size: A3
Status: A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000211
Rev: C01



Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

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1:25,000 @A3 - DO NOT SCALE

0 465 930 Metres

Location Plan Scale 1:750,000

Legend

- 🟥 draft Order limits
- ▨ Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- ⌐ ¬ Study Area - 1km
- ● HER Monuments (Point)
- — HER Monuments (Line)
- 🟥 HER Monuments (Polygon)

Copyrights **OS / Grid Reference:** SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

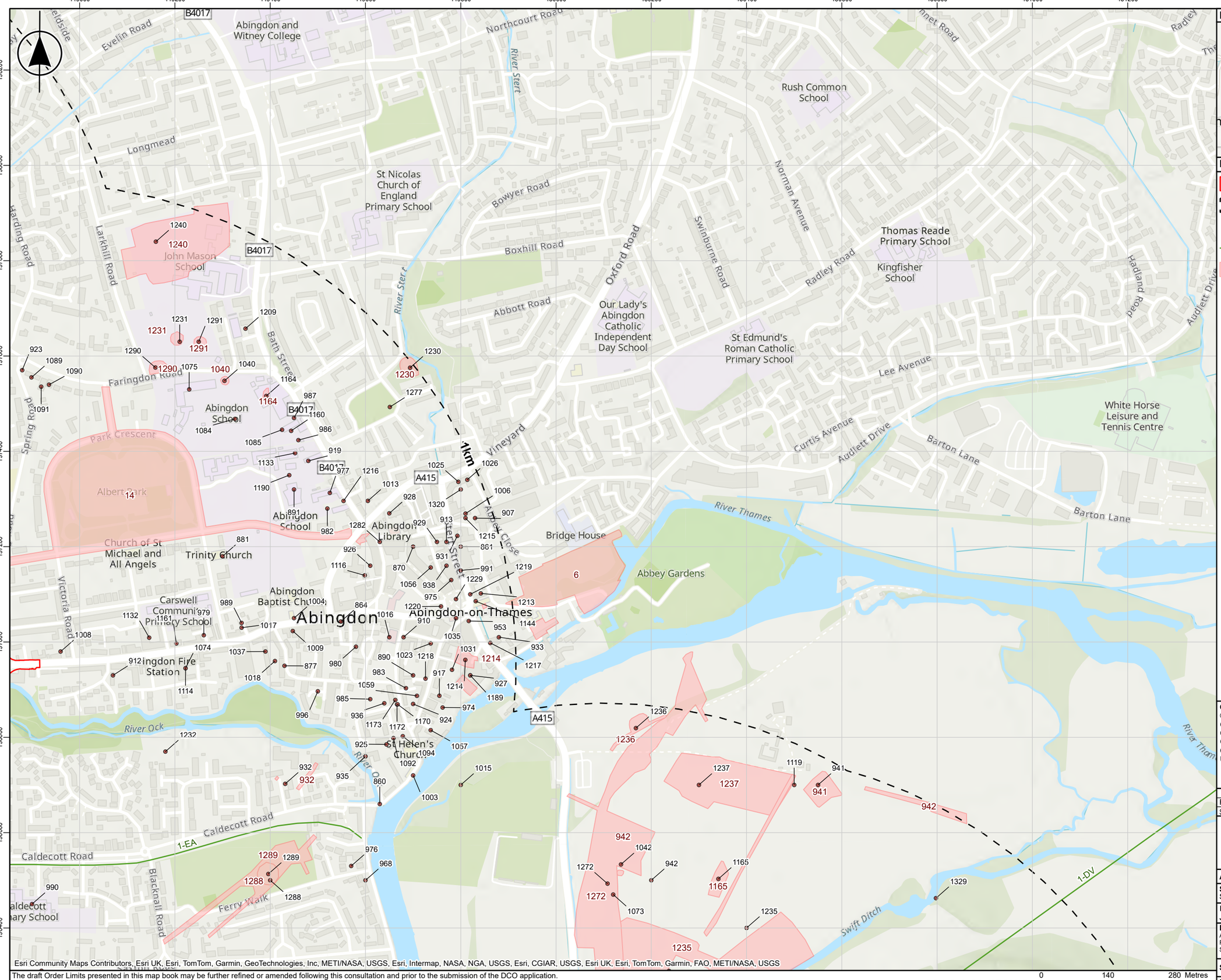
Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 2 of 6

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000211 **Rev:** C01



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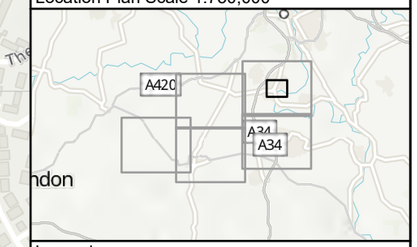
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 1km
- HER Monuments (Point)
- HER Monuments (Line)
- HER Monuments (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 3 of 6

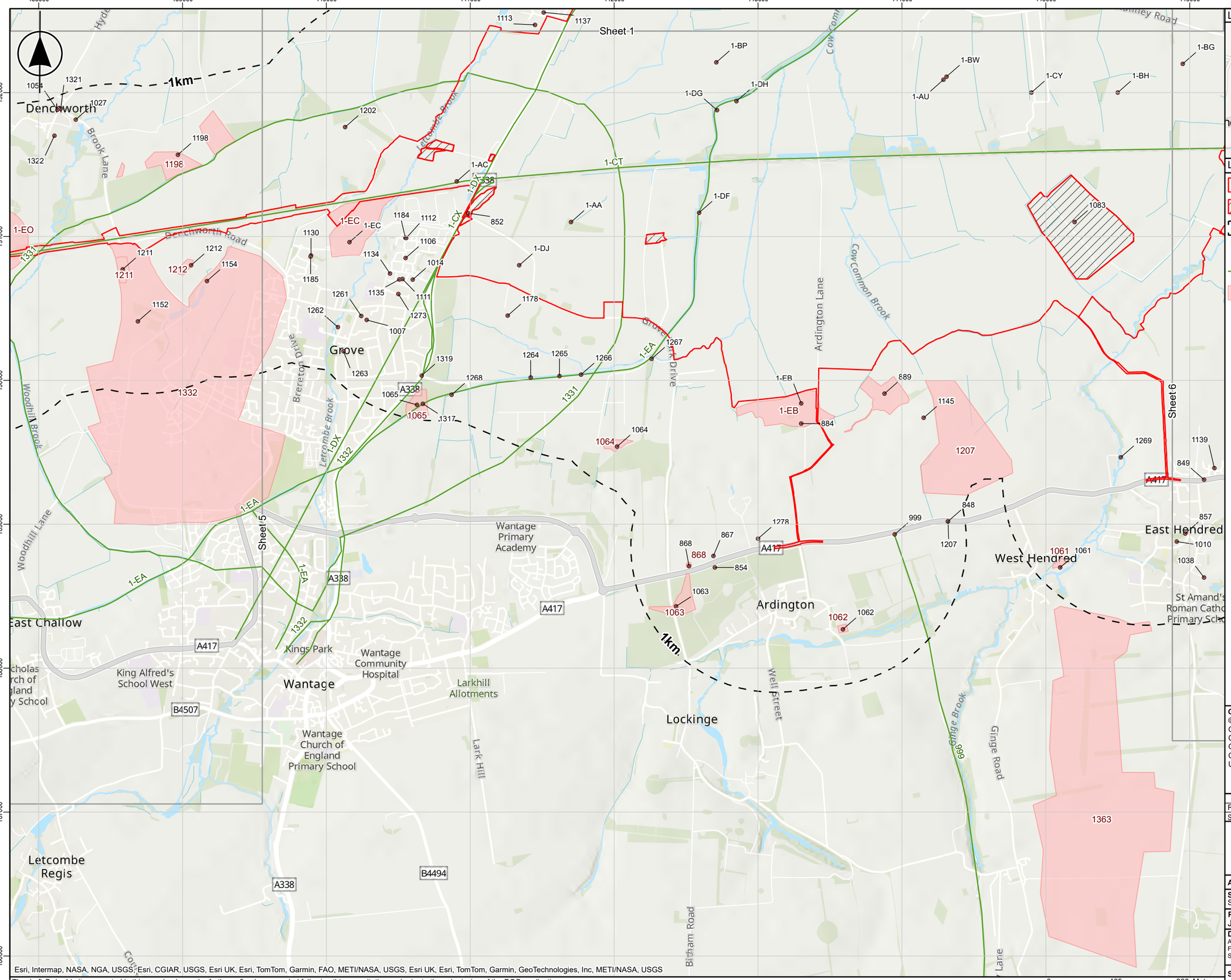
Scale: 1:7,500

Sheet Size: A3

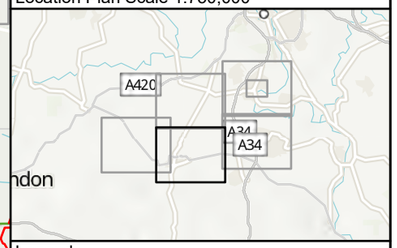
Status: A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000211

Rev: C01



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

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- HER Monuments (Line)
- HER Monuments (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 4 of 6

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000211

Rev: C01

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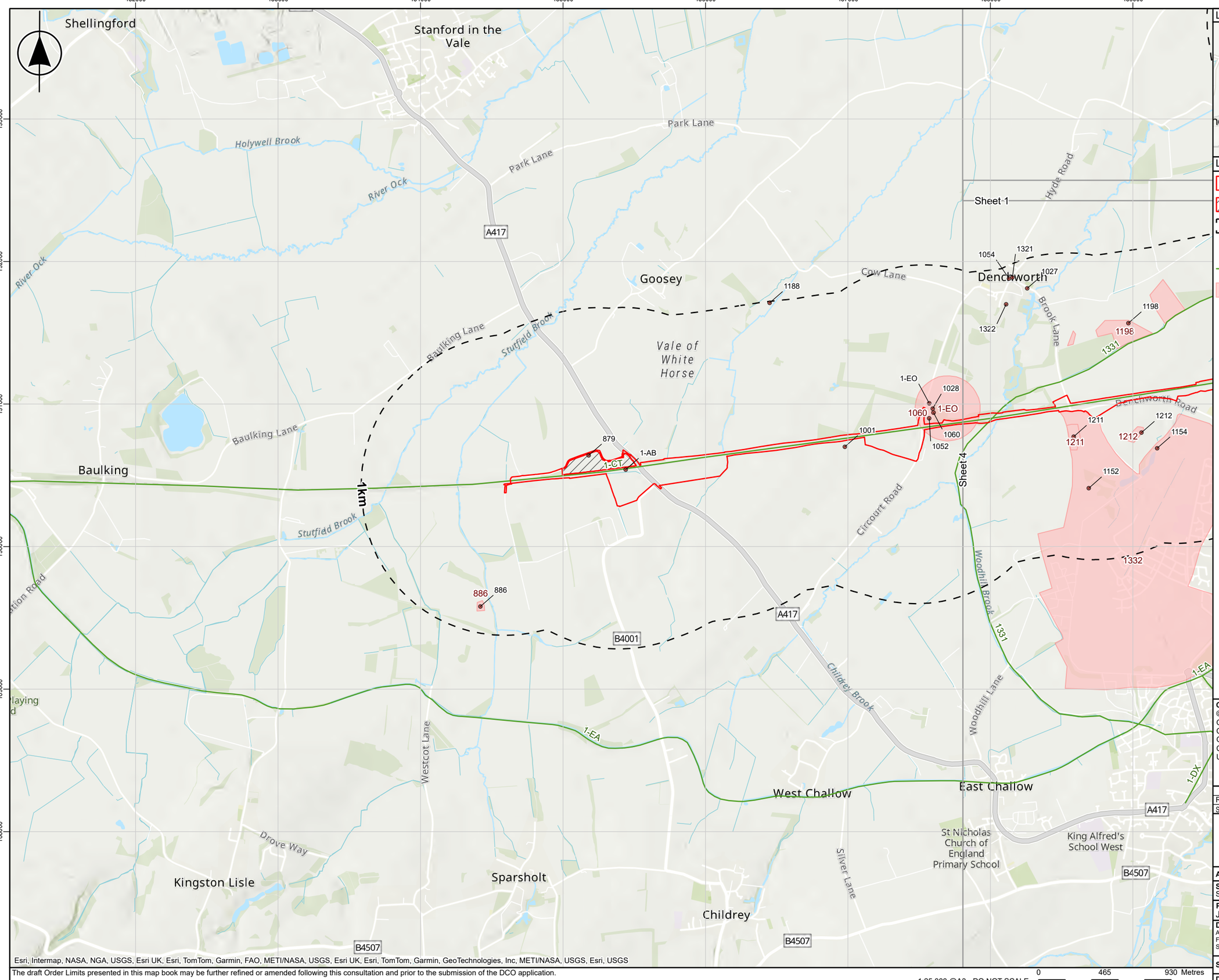

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Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 5 of 6

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
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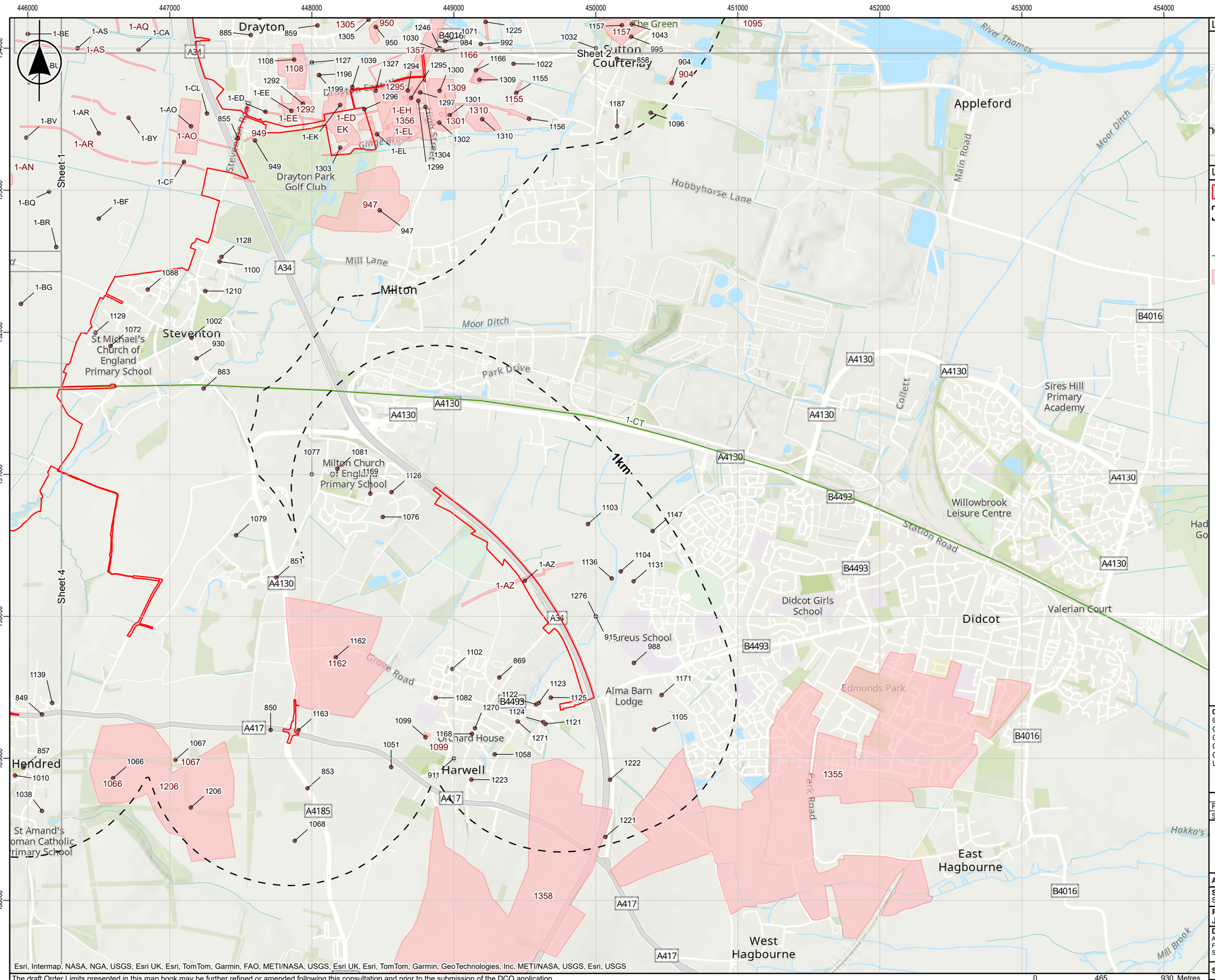
Rev: C01



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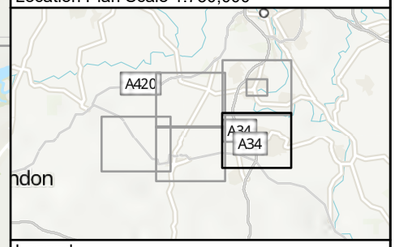
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Study Area - 1km
- HER Monuments (Point)
- HER Monuments (Line)
- HER Monuments (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

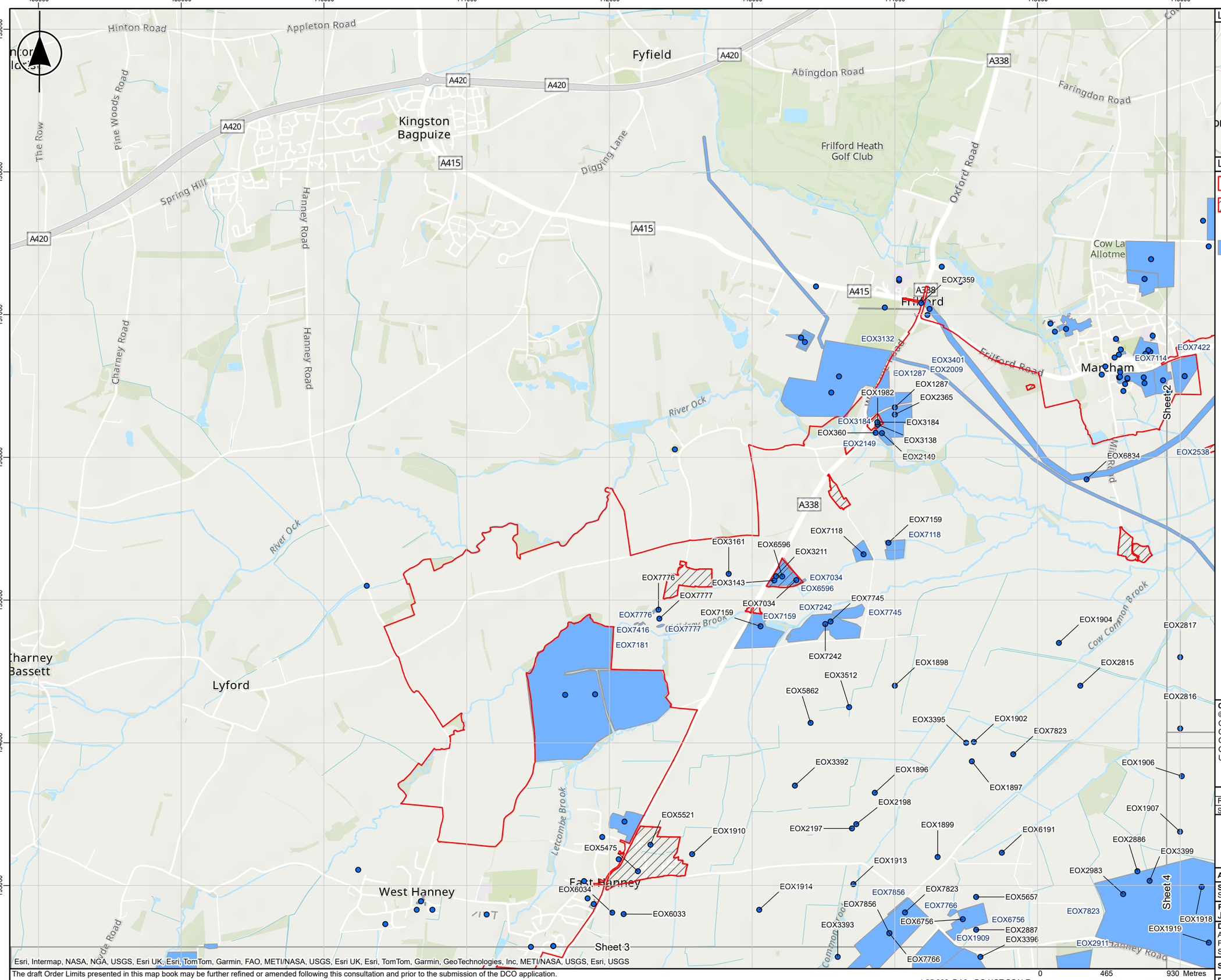
Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 2: Historic environment features and findspots within the 1km study area
Sheet 6 of 6

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

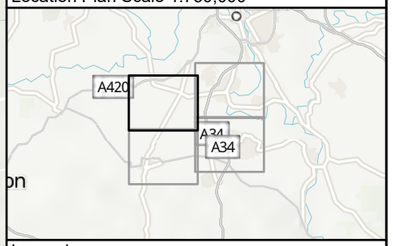
Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000211

Rev: C01

Figure 3: Past archaeological investigations



Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- HER Events (Point)
- HER Events (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 3: Past archaeological investigations
Sheet 1 of 4

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000212

Rev: C01

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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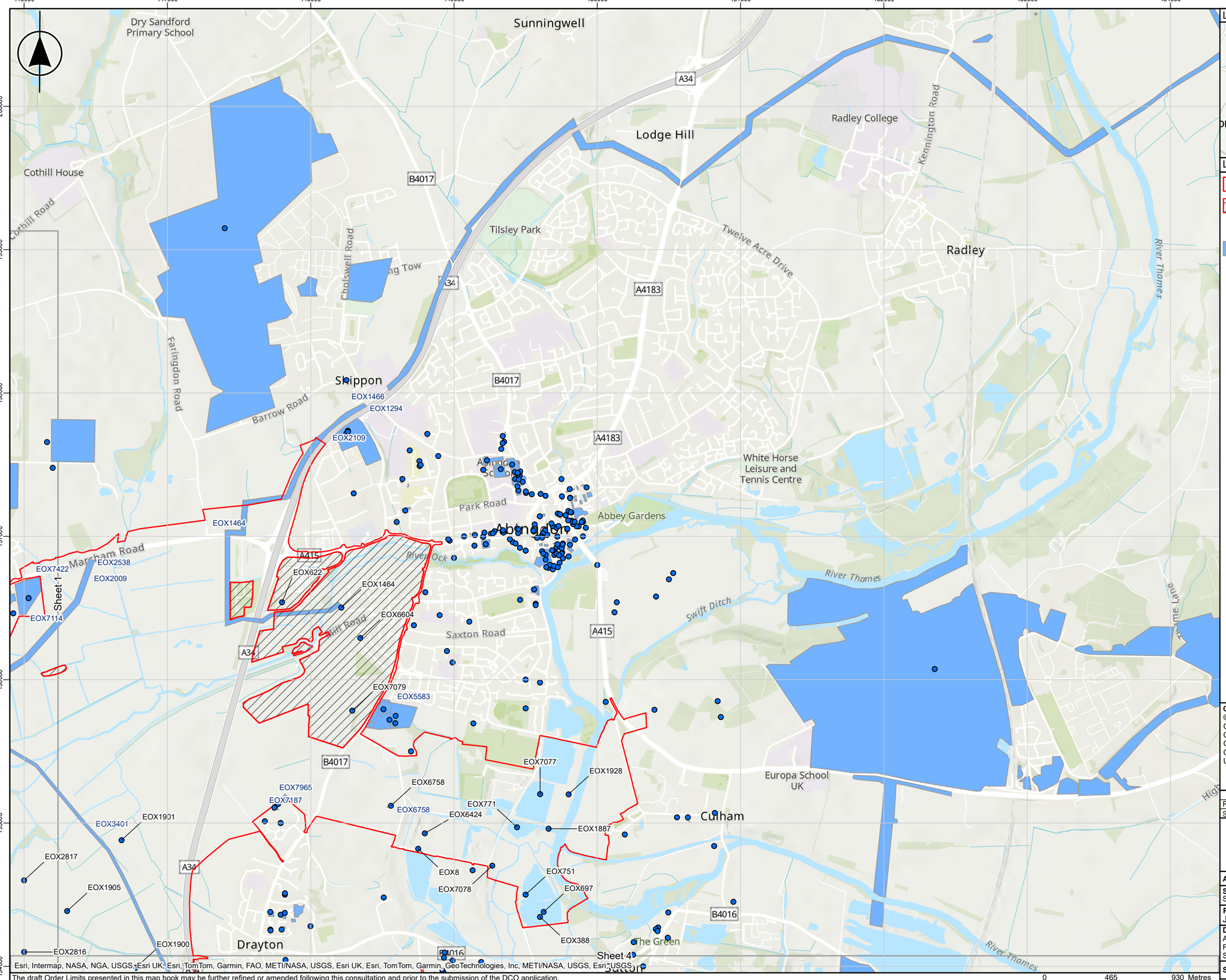

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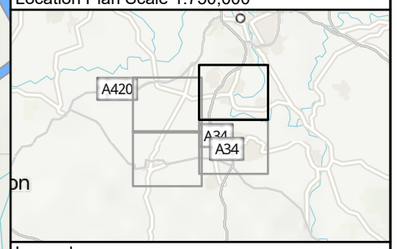
Location Plan Scale 1:750,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits
- HER Events (Point)
- HER Events (Polygon)

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

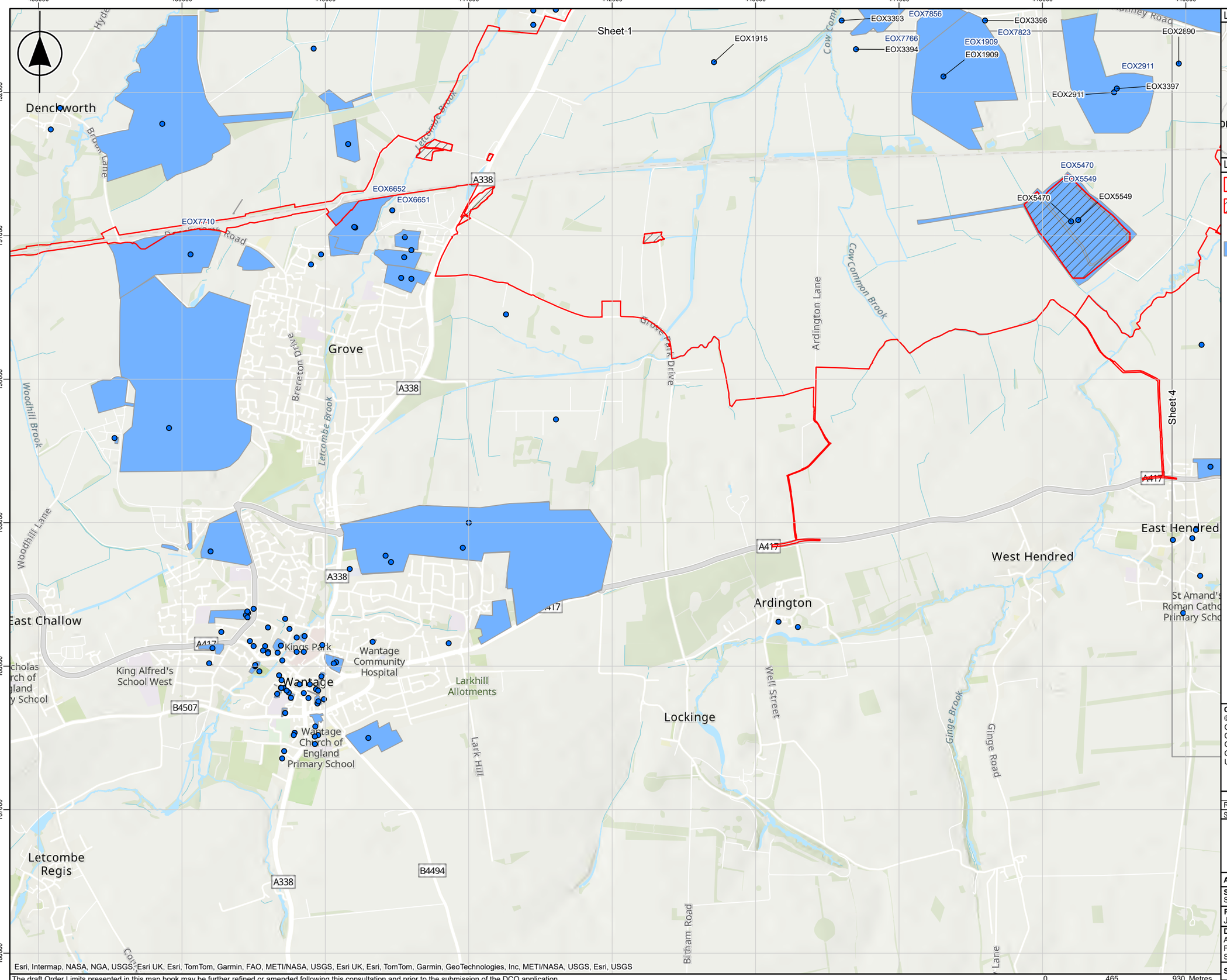
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 3: Past archaeological investigations
Sheet 2 of 4

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000212

Rev: C01



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Legend

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OS / Grid Reference: SU49

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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
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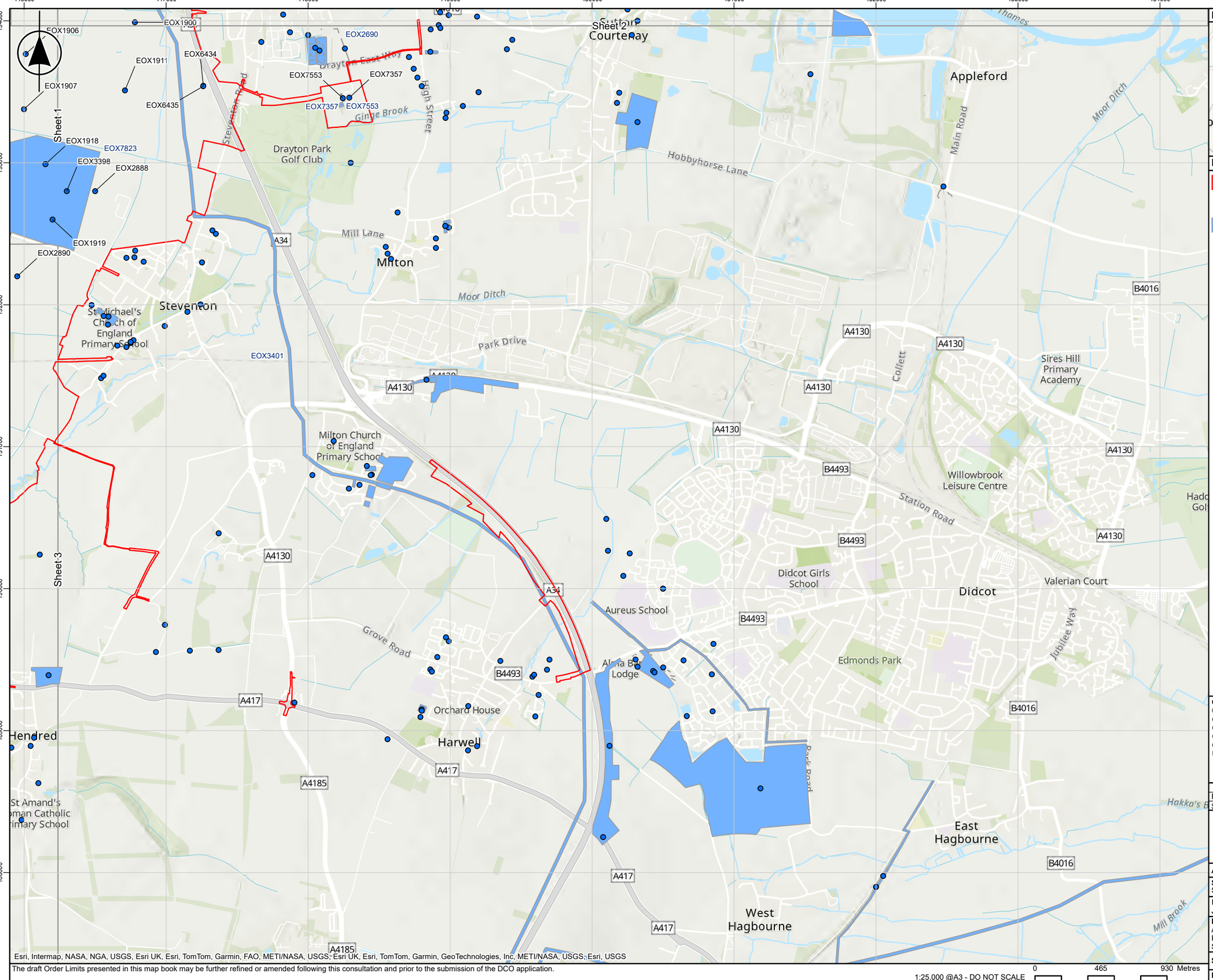
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 3: Past archaeological investigations
Sheet 3 of 4

Scale: 1:25,000 | **Sheet Size:** A3 | **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000212

Rev: C01



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Site Name:
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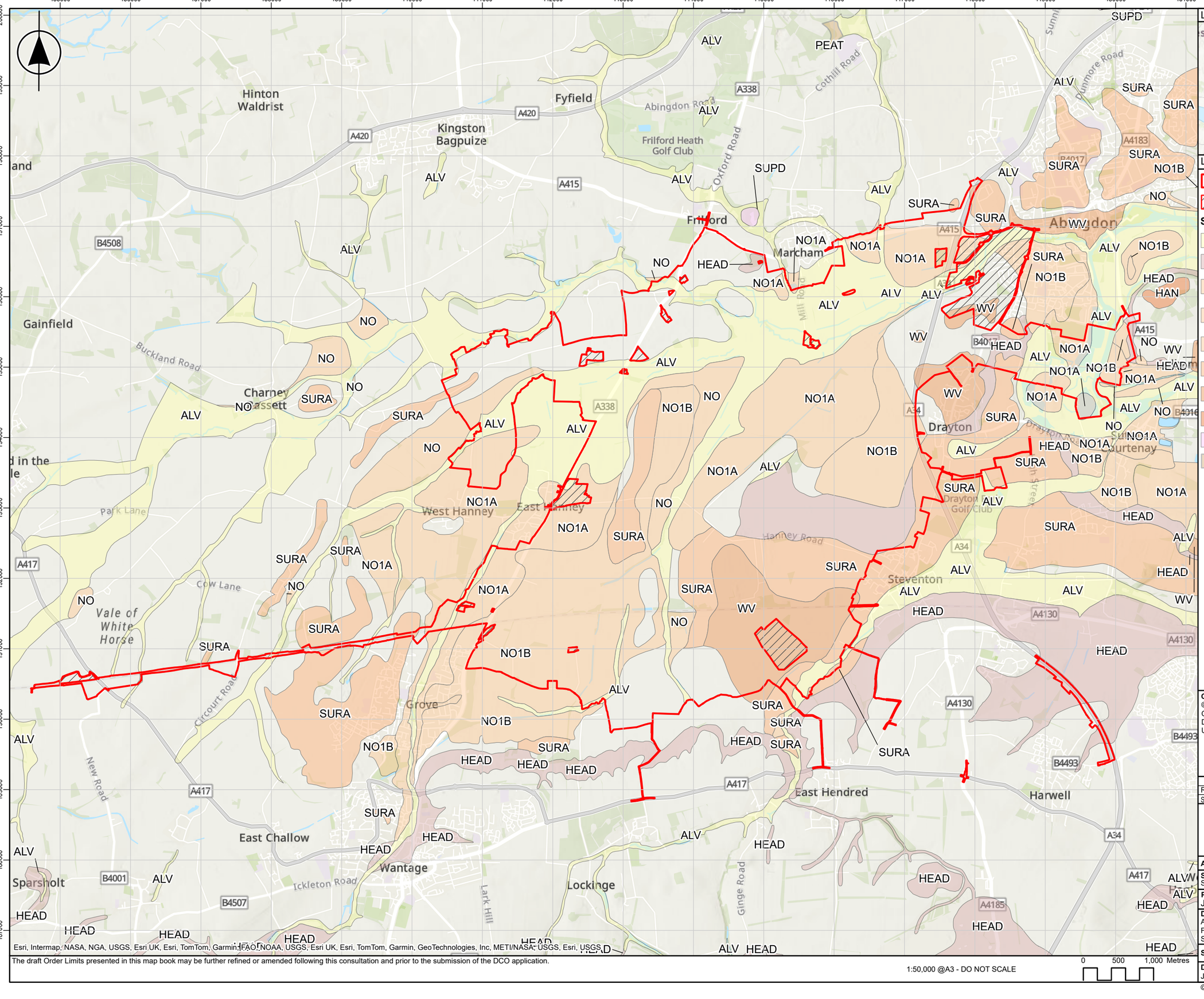
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 3: Past archaeological investigations
Sheet 4 of 4

Scale: 1:25,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000212 **Rev:** C01

Figure 4: Geology Map



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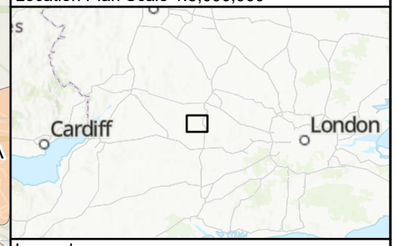

Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits

Superficial Geology

- ALV - Alluvium
- HEAD - Head
- NO1A - Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member, Lower Facet
- NO1B - Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member, Upper Facet
- NO - Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member
- SURA - Summertown - Radley Sand
- WV - Wolvercote Sand and Gravel Member
- HAN - Hanborough Gravel Member
- SUPD - Superficial Deposits
- PEAT - Peat

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 4: Geology map
Sheet 1 of 2

Scale: 1:50,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000213

Rev: C01

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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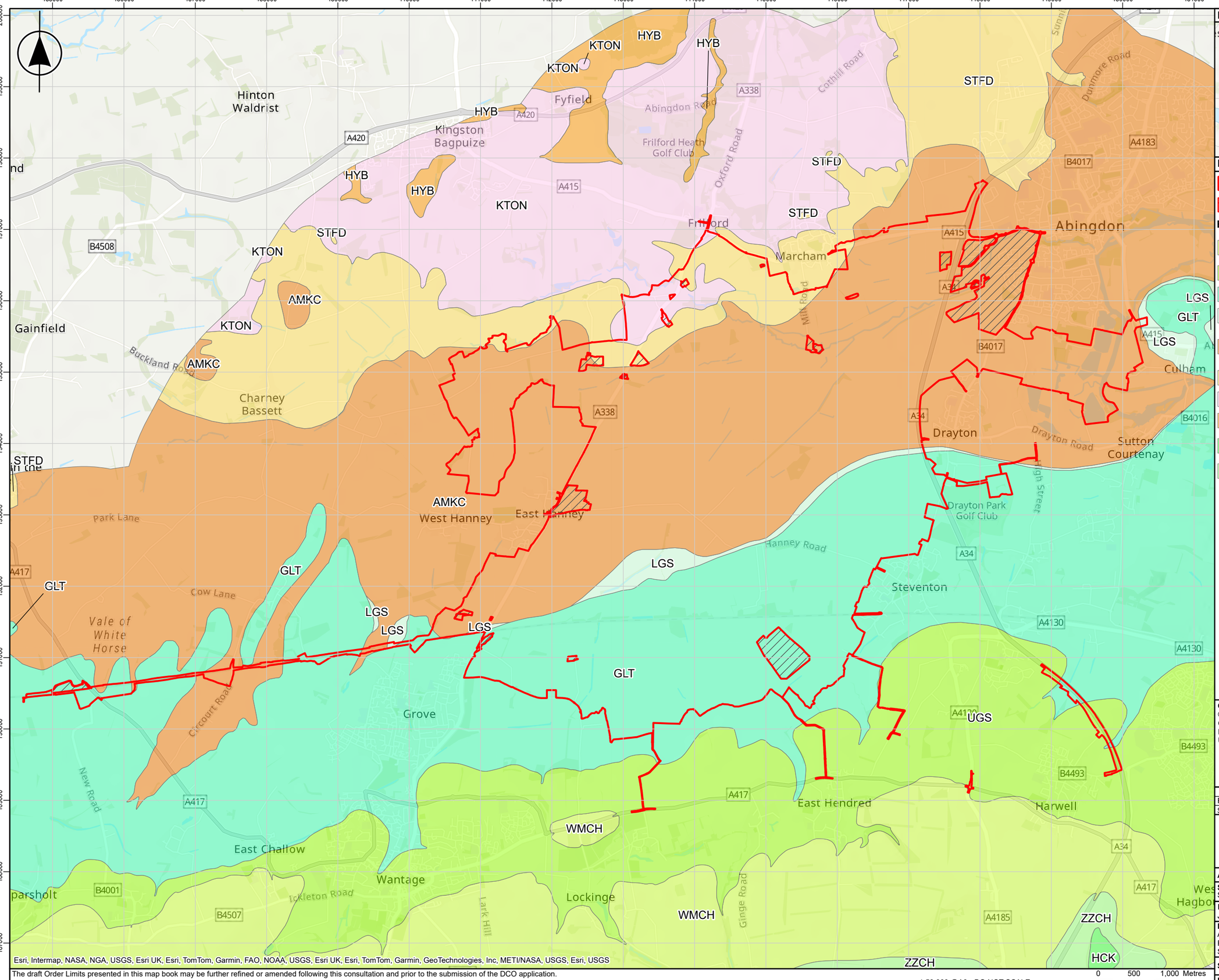

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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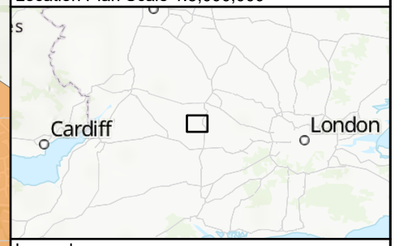
Location Plan Scale 1:5,000,000



Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits

Bedrock Geology

- WMCH - West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation
- UGS - Upper Greensand Formation
- GLT - Gault Formation
- LGS - Lower Greensand Group
- AMKC - Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Undifferentiated)
- STFD - Stanford Formation
- KTON - Kingston Formation
- HYB - Hazelbury Bryan Formation
- HCK - Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation
- ZZCH - Zig Zag Chalk Formation

OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

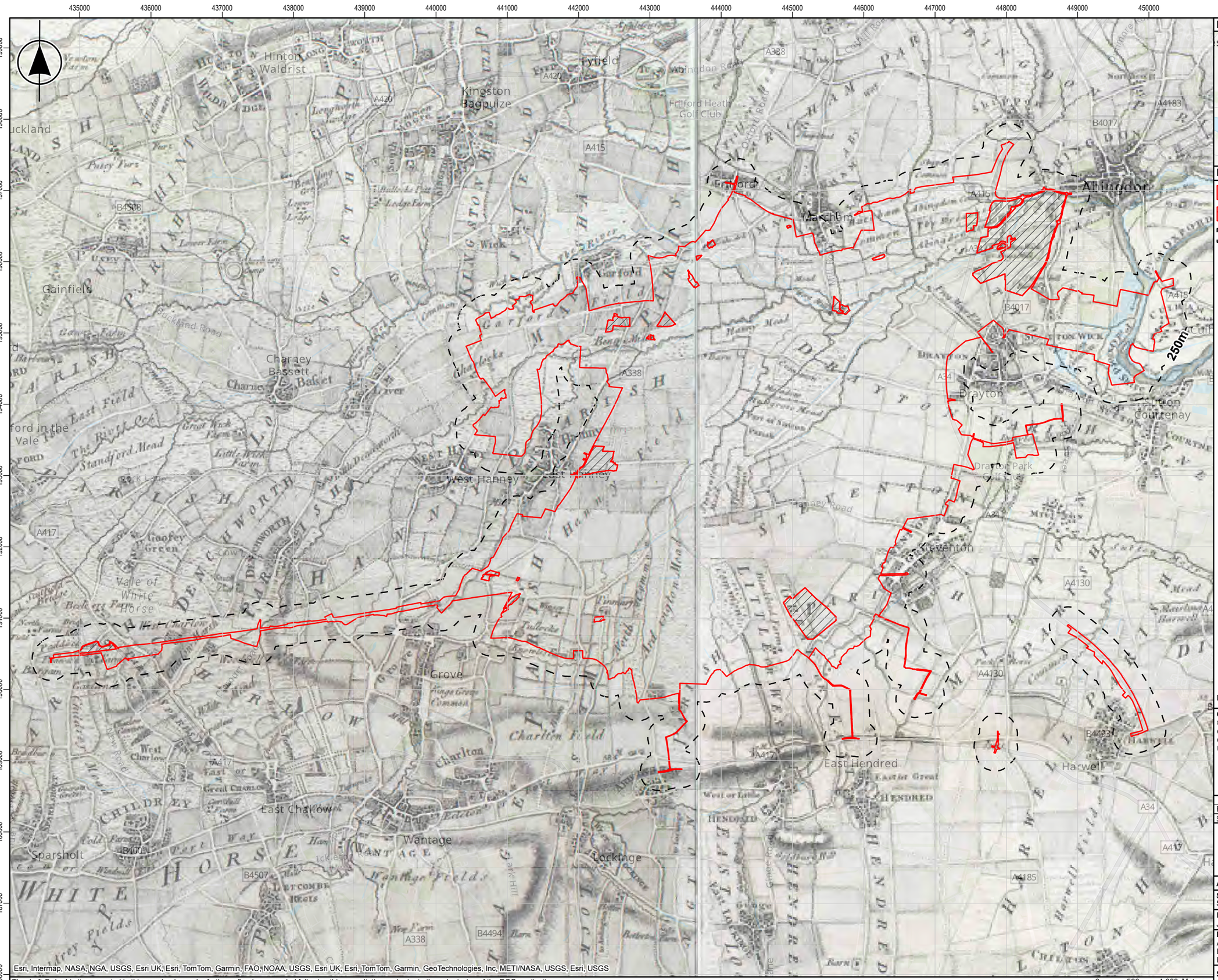
Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 4: Geology map
Sheet 2 of 2

Scale: 1:50,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000213

Rev: C01

Figure 5: Rocque's 1761 Map of Berkshire



Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri, USGS

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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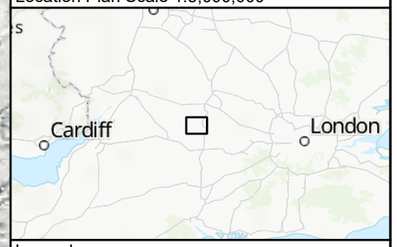

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Not accurately scaled due to the date of the mapping.

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

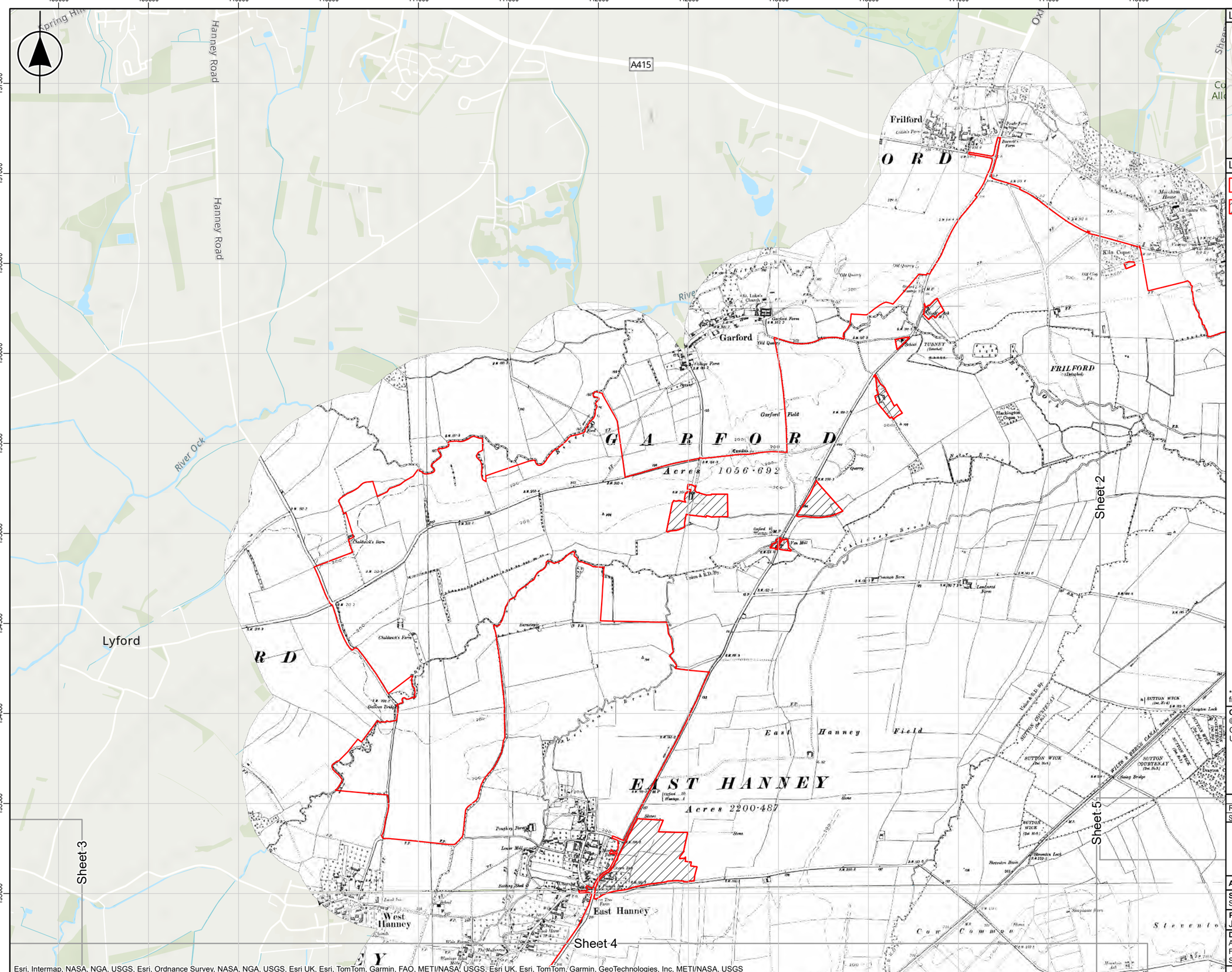
Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 5:
Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire

Scale: 1:50,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000214 **Rev:** C01

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900



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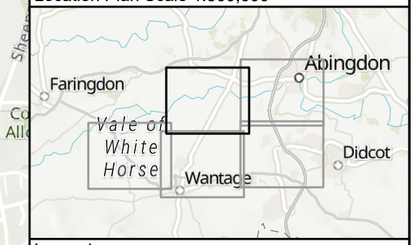

Legend

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- Areas omitted from draft Order limits

*NB the available historical mapping data covers a 250m extent from the draft Order limits.

C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900
Sheet 1 of 5

Scale: 1:20,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000259 **Rev:** C01

Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri, Ordnance Survey, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS

The draft Order Limits presented in this map book may be further refined or amended following this consultation and prior to the submission of the DCO application.

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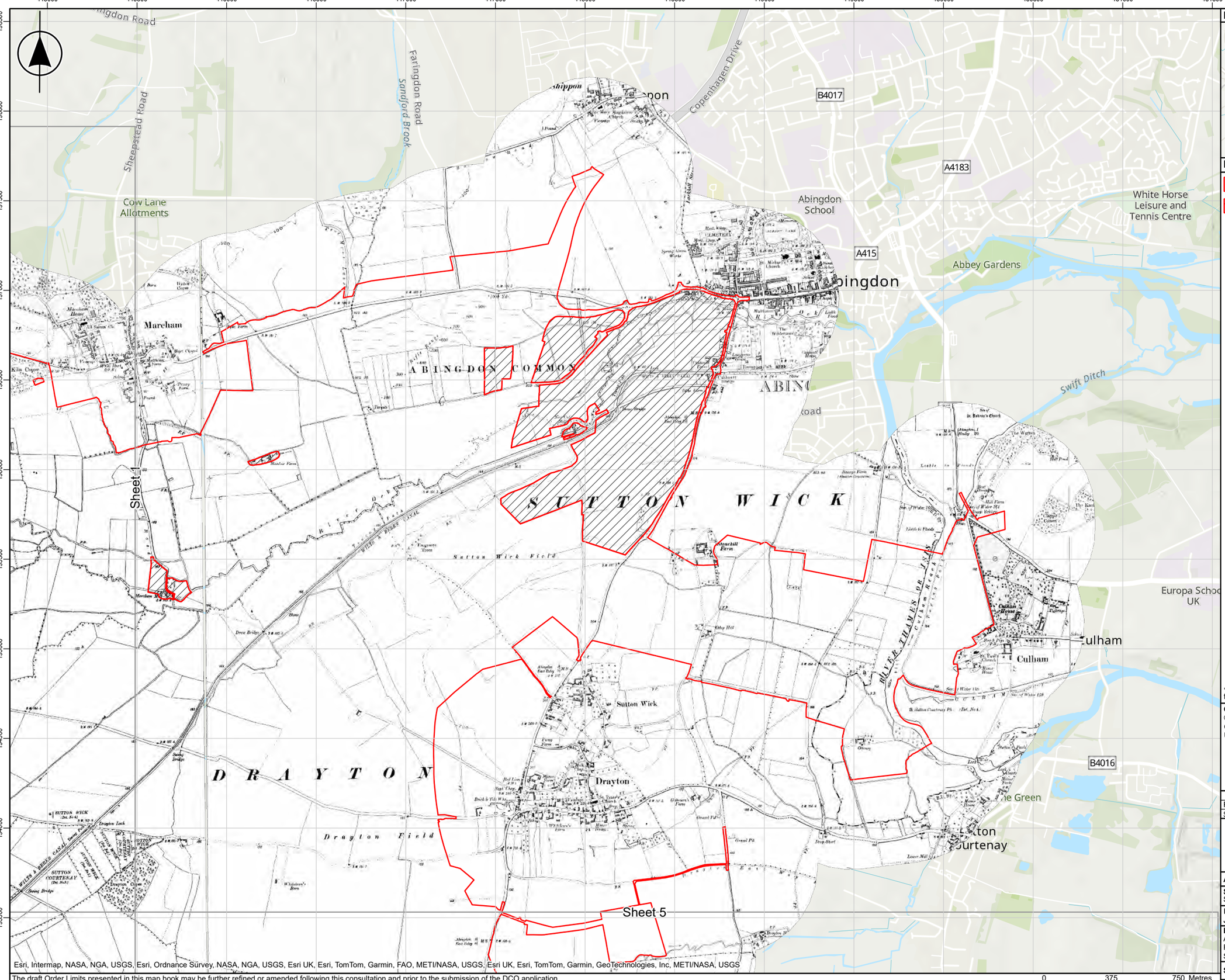

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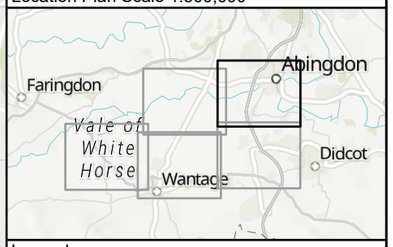

Legend

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OS / Grid Reference: SU49

Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date
C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25

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APFP References: N/A

Security Reference: Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900
Sheet 2 of 5

Scale: 1:20,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000259

Rev: C01

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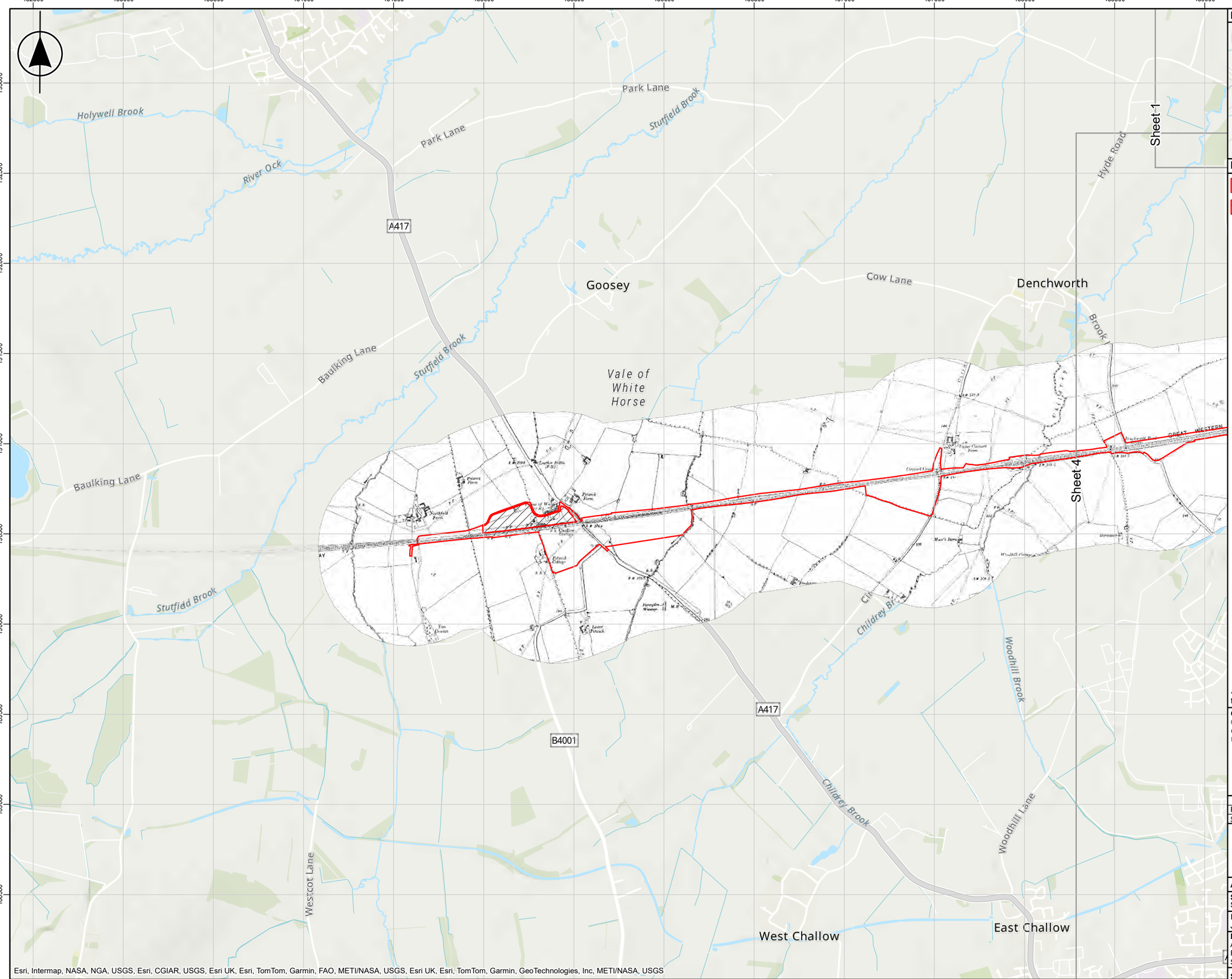

Esri, Intermap, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Esri UK, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS

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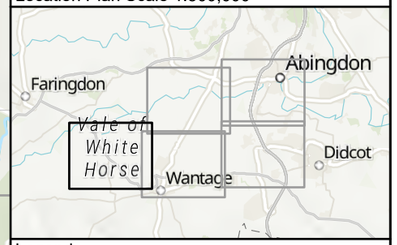

Legend

- draft Order limits
- Areas omitted from draft Order limits

*NB the available historical mapping data covers a 250m extent from the draft Order limits.

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C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
Revision	Authored	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Date

Status: A AUTHORISED AND ACCEPTED FOR CONSULTATION

APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

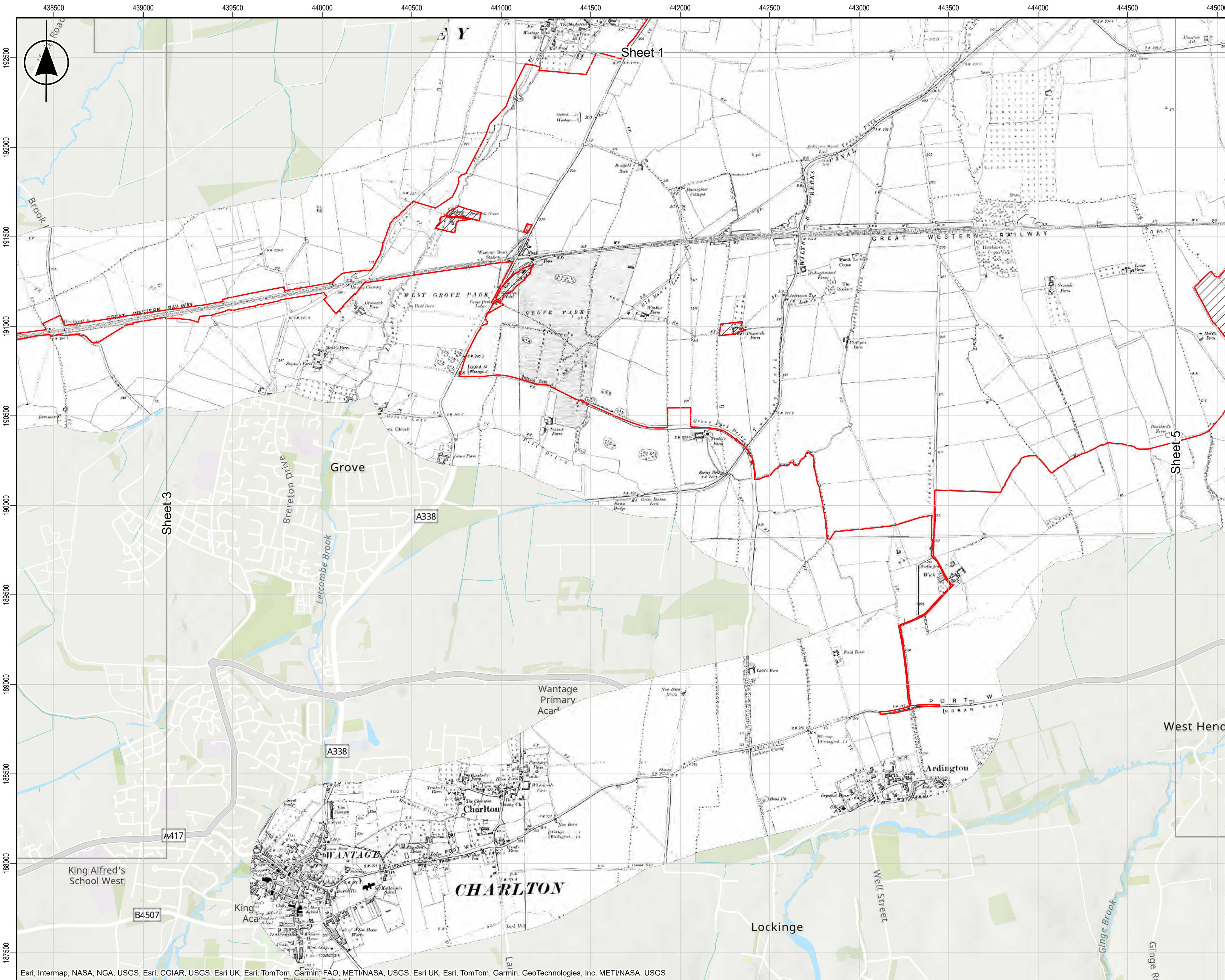
Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
J696 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900
Sheet 3 of 5

Scale: 1:20,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000259 **Rev:** C01



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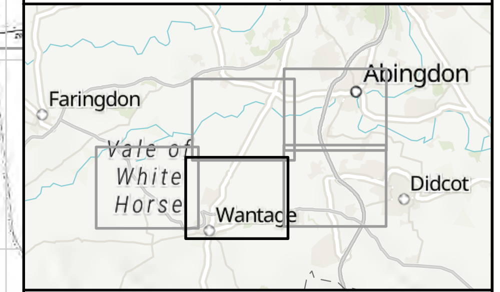

Legend

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C01	MA	CE	VL	AM	07/10/25
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Thames Water

APFP References: N/A **Security Reference:** Public

Site Name:
South East Strategic Reservoir Option

Project Name:
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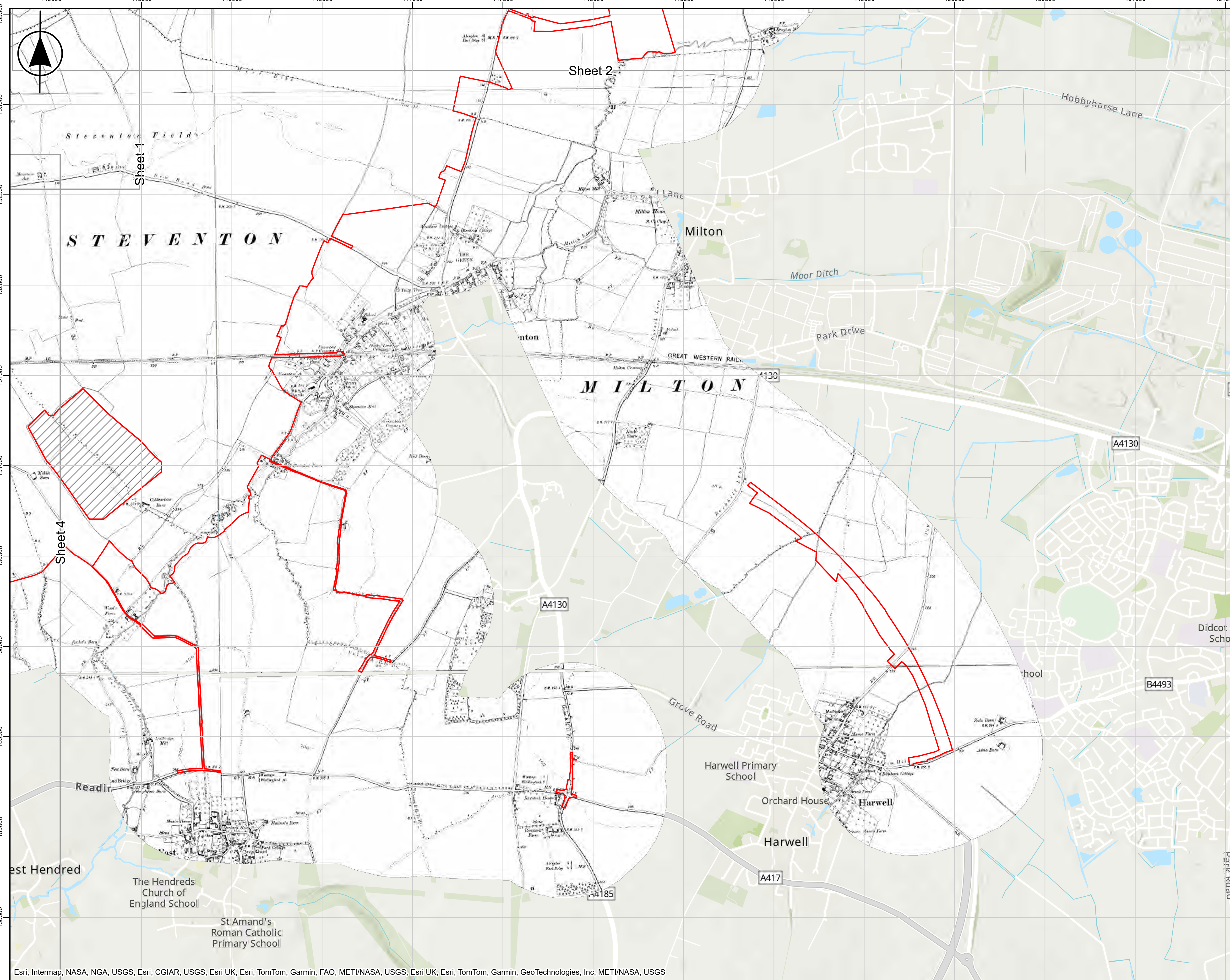
Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900
Sheet 4 of 5

Scale: 1:20,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000259 **Rev:** C01



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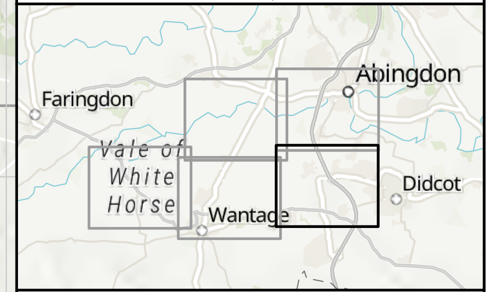

Legend

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Drawing Title:
Appendix 8.1: Archaeological and historical baseline,
Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6": mile map of 1898-1900
Sheet 5 of 5

Scale: 1:20,000 **Sheet Size:** A3 **Status:** A

Drawing Number:
J696-ARB-XXXX-XXXX-MP-EN-000259 **Rev:** C01

It's everyone's water