

**RSPB Higham Marshes
Habitat Enhancement Project**



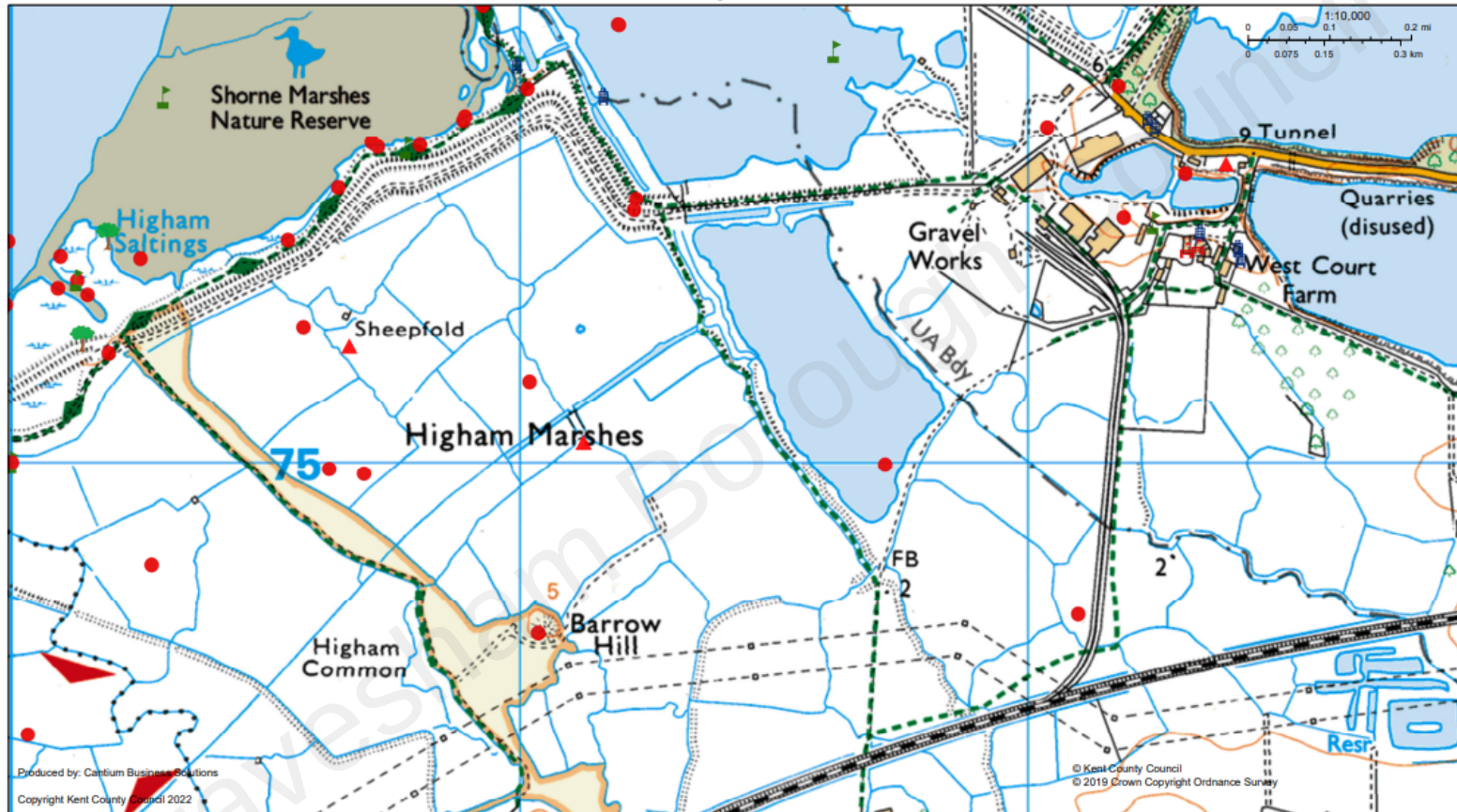
Water Vole (Rob Budgen, 2016)

**Archaeology Gazetteer
Planning Application Proposal Supporting Documentation
Author: Will Tofts**

Maps

Heritage Maps

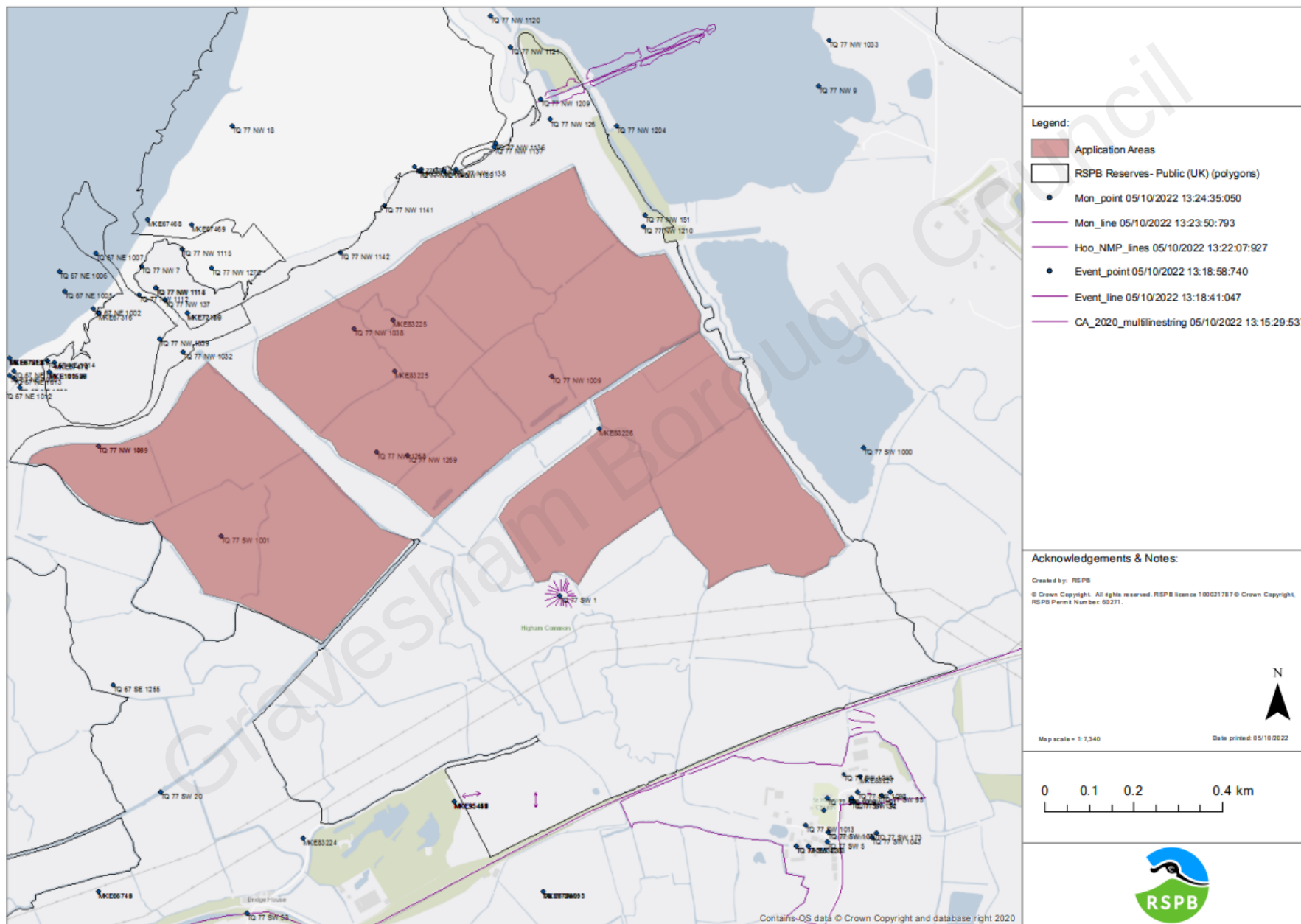
February 1, 2022



Legend

Archaeological Sites and Buildings

	Building		Hedgerow		Maritime
	Farmstead		Landscape		Monument
	Findspot		Listed Building		Place



Assets Outside of Work Area					
Gaz No.	HER no.	Name	Grid (TQ)	Period	Description
HMM1	TQ 77 SW 1001	Drainage pattern in fields, Shorne Marshes	TQ 70275 74798	Unknown	Drainage pattern in fields. Metropolitan police firing range, no access during coastal survey in 2005 <i>Considering the description, likely to be incorrectly identified See appendix 1: as clear pattern of former creeks and regular drainage pattern visible or aerial photographs</i>
HMM2		2nd century Romano-British pottery		Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD	No further details
HMM3	TQ 77 NW 1032	Remains of enclosure, Higham Marshes	TQ 70191 75214	Unknown	Remains of enclosure. An area of grazing land behind the sea wall, no discrete enclosure apparent, though area is bounded in parts by normal drainage ditches
HMM4	TQ 77 SW 1	Barrow Hill, Higham	TQ 7103 7466	Unknown	Barrow Hill. A natural weathered outlier of Thanet Sand. (see AP. 8451) A.P. 8451 shows a very clear ditch round this feature, but no trace of other mounds in Higham Marshes. The crouched burial with Porosphaera beads may have been found here, see TQ77SW11. Barrow Hill is a naturally weathered mass of Thanet Sand. It was dug into by Mr. George Payne and the scars of his excavation may still be seen. George Payne in his Archaeological Survey of the County Kent makes no mention of this site. (Archaeologia Vol.51 1889 pp 1-22 map). A natural

					irregular-shaped, turf covered mound, approximately 3.0m in height with a central mutilation, and other slight hollows in the sides. Outside the main mound and separated from it by a barn is a slight ditch with traces of an outer bank. This has been destroyed on the eastern side by the present deep drainage ditches. The ditch may have been dug for drainage purposes. Similar shallow ditches exist elsewhere on these marshes. However, as this mound is the only feature of its kind on Higham Marshes, it would have been the obvious choice of site for a burial as suggested by Authority 3. It is recognised locally as a sacred place. An antiquity model 25" survey has been made. No physical impacts but an archaeological watching brief on adjacent works will be important in the area north and east of Barrow Hill.
HMM5	TQ 77 NW 1031	Remains of enclosure	TQ 70665 75170	Unknown	Remains of enclosure
HMM6	TQ 77 NW 1038	Ring ditch, Shorne Marshes	TQ 70694 75271	Unknown	Ring ditch. Metropolitan police firing range, no access during coastal survey in 2005 Circular ring-ditch. The RAF 1946 AP shows a large circular feature with a possible pit (shadow on south side) adjacent. There is also a linear feature (former ditch?)

					running north-north-east to south-south-west between the larger circular ditched feature and the smaller ? pit. Possible evidence for salt working? This feature will be cut across by proposed works and will need to be subject to the archaeological watching brief.
HMM7	TQ 77 NW 1009	Remains of saltworks(?)	TQ 71020 75159	Unknown	Remains of saltworks(?) No works proposed in this parcel. Possible salt works identified from photographs.
HMM8	TQ 77 NW 1142	Wooden beams in the saltmarsh at Higham Saltings	TQ 70544 75437	Post medieval to Modern	Horizontal beams, squared, and planking visible in an eroding inlet in the saltmarsh, they are possibly modern. Possible attempt to make a firm platform in the marsh.
HMM9		Pillbox		Modern	No further details
HMM10	TQ 77 NW 1141	Round stakes at base of the sea wall, Higham Marshes	TQ 70643 75542	Post medieval to Modern	Two rows of rounded stakes standing up to 1.5m high and 3m long running perpendicular to the seawall.
HMM11	TQ 77 NW 1139	Scatter of pottery and bone on foreshore by Higham Marshes	TQ 70777 75619	Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD	A scatter of pottery including rim sherds at base of saltmarsh cliff. These finds are possibly related to occupation to the west. One piece of bone may have been butchered.
HMM12	TQ 77 NW 1138	Four round piles on foreshore by Higham Saltings	TQ 70804 75624	Post medieval to Modern	Four vertical piles in a line emerging from the collapsed sea wall facing and they appear out into the foreshore mud. The stakes are 0.25m in diameter and up to 0.5m high.
HMM13	TQ 77 NW 1137	Lines of round wooden posts parallel to the	TQ 70889 75674	Post medieval to Modern	Long rows of stakes, some running parallel to the sea wall, and

		sea wall at Higham Saltings			extending for 40m. There are lines perpendicular to the shore at either end. The one at the west end makes a L-shape, these piles are rounded, and 0.1m in diameter. The eastern row show some evidence of horizontal cross timbers.
HMM14	TQ 77 NW 1136	Upright piles and stakes in foreshore by Higham Saltings	TQ 70893 75681	Post medieval to Modern	Two lines of wooden stakes perpendicular to sea wall. The east row comprises squared stakes and is likely to be modern, it stands up to 2m high with horizontal planks at its base- it may be marking a boundary. The second row only 3 or 4 stakes is possibly a line of mooring posts, they are squared and probably modern.
HMM15		Tank trap		Modern	No further details
HMM16	TQ 77 NW 126	Second World War Pillbox, Higham Marshes	TQ 7101 7573	Modern	A six-sided, asymmetrically shaped concrete pillbox, now buried in the seawall. Second World War Type 24 pillbox in the counterwall, forming the extremity of Higham Marshes. It may have been a backstopper for the GHQ Line 45m to the north (PUID 10141). The top of the pillbox only is visible, the remainder being buried within the counterwall. It probably originated in 1940, to be decommissioned by late 1943, when invasion was no longer considered a possibility.

HMM17	TQ 77 NW 1209	Higham Creek Second World War anti-invasion obstruction, Higham Creek	TQ 7099 7578	Modern	Second World War anti-invasion obstacle consisting of six concrete blocks oriented W-E, on the beach and straddling the sea wall at the side of Higham Creek, with a short length of connected anti-tank ditch running E. The blocks are 1.5 m square, 1.6m high, with fluted sides from the use of corrugated iron shuttering. The top of one of the blocks is inscribed with the names FC GOMAR S BARNARD and R LUCAS. The 100m length of anti-tank ditch is about 2.5 m wide and water-filled. Together, these formed the northern end of that part of the GHQ Line which ran across the Hoo Peninsula from Hoo St. Werburgh. It would have been established in 1940 and decommissioned by the end of 1943. The pillbox (HMM15) about 45m to the SE may be connected
HMM18	TQ 77 NW 151	Second World War pillbox, Higham Marshes	TQ 7123 7552	Modern	Concrete pillbox, type 24, facing N. Buried in old counter wall. Nothing visible, but probing detected a structure approx. 20cm below present surface. Situated on grassland. Not visible during the 2005 coastal survey must be still buried in the sea wall
HMM19	TQ 77 NW 1210	Higham Marshes Second World War pillbox	TQ 7122 7549	Modern	Second World War Type 24 pillbox within the counterwall at the northern extremity of Higham Marshes. It may have been a

					backstopper to the GHQ Line to the north (PUID 10141). It was probably built in 1940 and decommissioned by the end of 1943, when invasion no longer seemed a possibility. It was buried within the counterwall in about 1980.
HMM20	TQ 77 NW 1009	Mesolithic antler pick found	TQ 70 75	Mesolithic - 10000 BC to 4001 BC	Mesolithic antler pick found in Higham Marshes General identification reference for the area. Not specific to the precise location shown on the plan. Flags up general archaeological potential for the area
HMM21		Concrete sheepwash		Unknown	No further details
HMM22		Roman 2nd Century pottery find		Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD	No further details
HMM23	MKE83225	Sheepfold on Higham Marshes	TQ 7066 7528	Post medieval	An outfarm with a loose courtyard plan with a building to one side of the yard. Farmstead completely demolished Site of former sheep fold – the location is repeated on the heritage assets map and it is probable that the southern of the two is an error. The northern of the two marked is clearly the correct location. Site not affected by groundworks.
HMM24		Remains of saltworks(?)		Unknown	No further details
HMM25		Pillbox		Modern	No further details
HMM26		Remains of enclosure, Higham Marshes		Unknown	No further details
HMM27	TQ 77 NW 149	Higham Tudor Thames Defence	TQ 70 75	Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD	A bulwark or blockhouse at Higham, mentioned in 1540, was one of five

					authorised for the Thames defences in 1539. It is now shown on Robert Adam's Map of the Thames Defences 1588. No further information; there is nothing to be seen on the Higham parish foreshore. Possible location of blockhouse, referred to by Spurrell (1885) who describes a quantity of stone and rubble in layers. Mentioned in context with other Thames defences.
HMM28	MKE83226	Sheepfold on Higham Marshes	TQ 7112 7503	Post medieval	A field barn with no associated yard. Farmstead completely demolished. Site of former sheep fold. Site not affected by groundworks
HMM29	TQ 77 NW 1269 TQ 77 NW 1269	Ring ditches and mounds/craters			They reference possible ring ditches and mounds or craters. They appear from the RAF 1946 photos to be similar TQ 77 NW 1038. This parcel has planned works and these will need to be subject to the archaeological watching brief.

Schedule of Proposed Works

Impact Statement

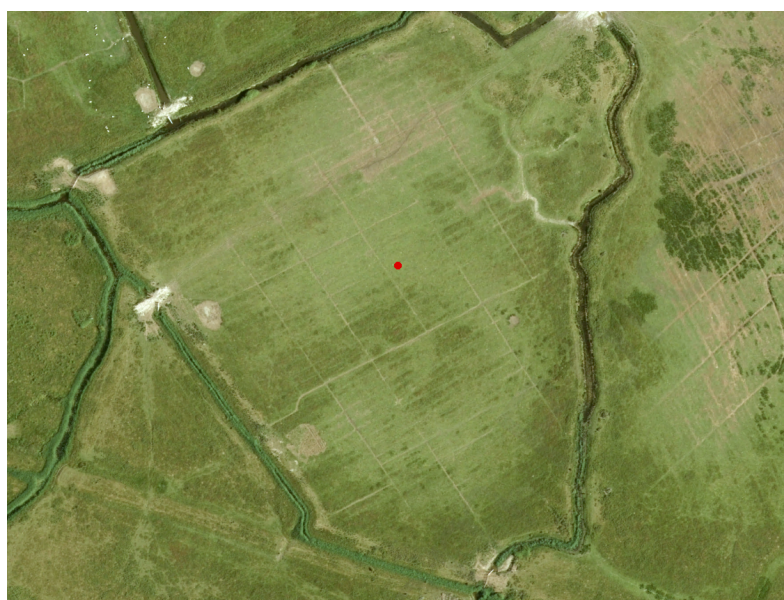
No excavation will be deeper than 500mm below the present ground surface and works are designed to avoid recorded heritage assets. However, as outlined above/in the gazetteer, there is the possibility of impacts to below-ground archaeological remains and former saltmarsh channels with archaeological potential. An archaeological watching brief is proposed during groundworks.

Mitigation Statement

Works will be carried out away from recorded heritage assets. Where this is not possible or there is the potential for presently unknown below-ground archaeological remains or areas of archaeological potential, groundworks will be subject to an Archaeological Watching Brief defined in a Written Scheme of Investigation.

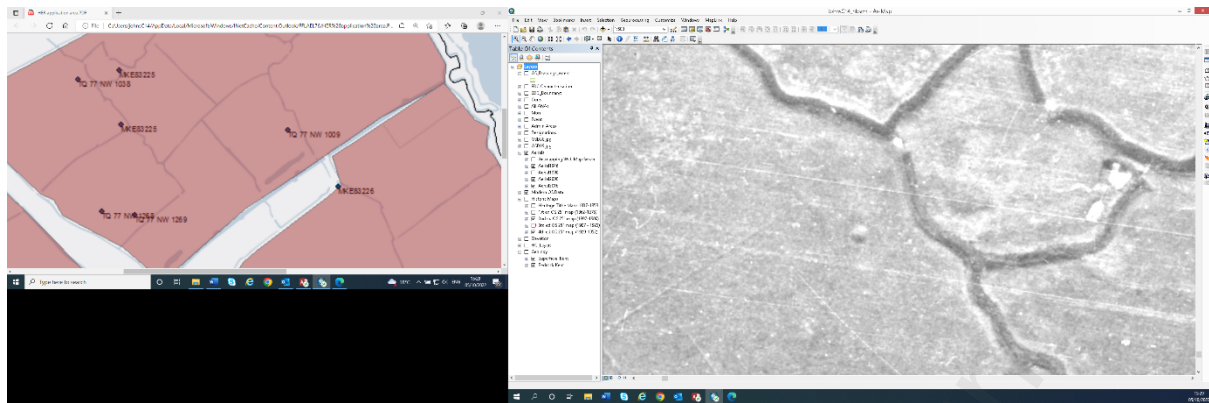
Appendix 1 - Casper Johnson (notes on HER records within the area of proposed groundworks - October 2022)

HMM1 - TQ 77 SW 1001 – regular drainage pattern as recorded on AP in 2016 but also appears visible on RAF 1946. Elements of previous saltmarsh creek system also visible and these, where they will be cut across, will need to be subject to the archaeological watching brief.



HMM4 – TQ 77 SW 1 – Barrow Hill - no physical impacts but an archaeological watching brief on adjacent works will be important in the area north and east of Barrow Hill.

HMM6 – TQ 77 NW 1038 – Circular ring-ditch. The RAF 1946 AP shows a large circular feature with a possible pit (shadow on south side) adjacent. There is also a linear feature (former ditch?) running north-north-east to south-south-west between the larger circular ditched feature and the smaller ? pit. Possible evidence for salt working? This feature will be cut across by proposed works and will need to be subject to the archaeological watching brief.



HMM7 – TQ 77 NW 1009 – No works proposed in this parcel. Possible salt works identified from photographs.

HMM20 - TQ 77 NW 1009 – general identification reference for the area. Not specific to the precise location shown on the plan. Flags up general archaeological potential for the area

HMM23 – MKE83225 – Site of former sheep fold – the location is repeated on the heritage assets map and it is probable that the southern of the two is an error. The northern of the two marked is clearly the correct location. Site not affected by groundworks.

HMM28 - MKE83226 – Site of former sheep fold. Site not affected by groundworks

TQ 77 NW 1269 and 1269 – these HER monument points are not presently in the gazetteer. They reference possible ring ditches and mounds or craters. They appear from the RAF 1946 photos to be similar TQ 77 NW 1038. This parcel has planned works and these will need to be subject to the archaeological watching brief.

