

BATTLEMEAD COMMON

BERKSHIRE

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS



View from top of Cliveden mansion in 2019, view of Battlemead Common (National Trust).

Commissioned by

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

from

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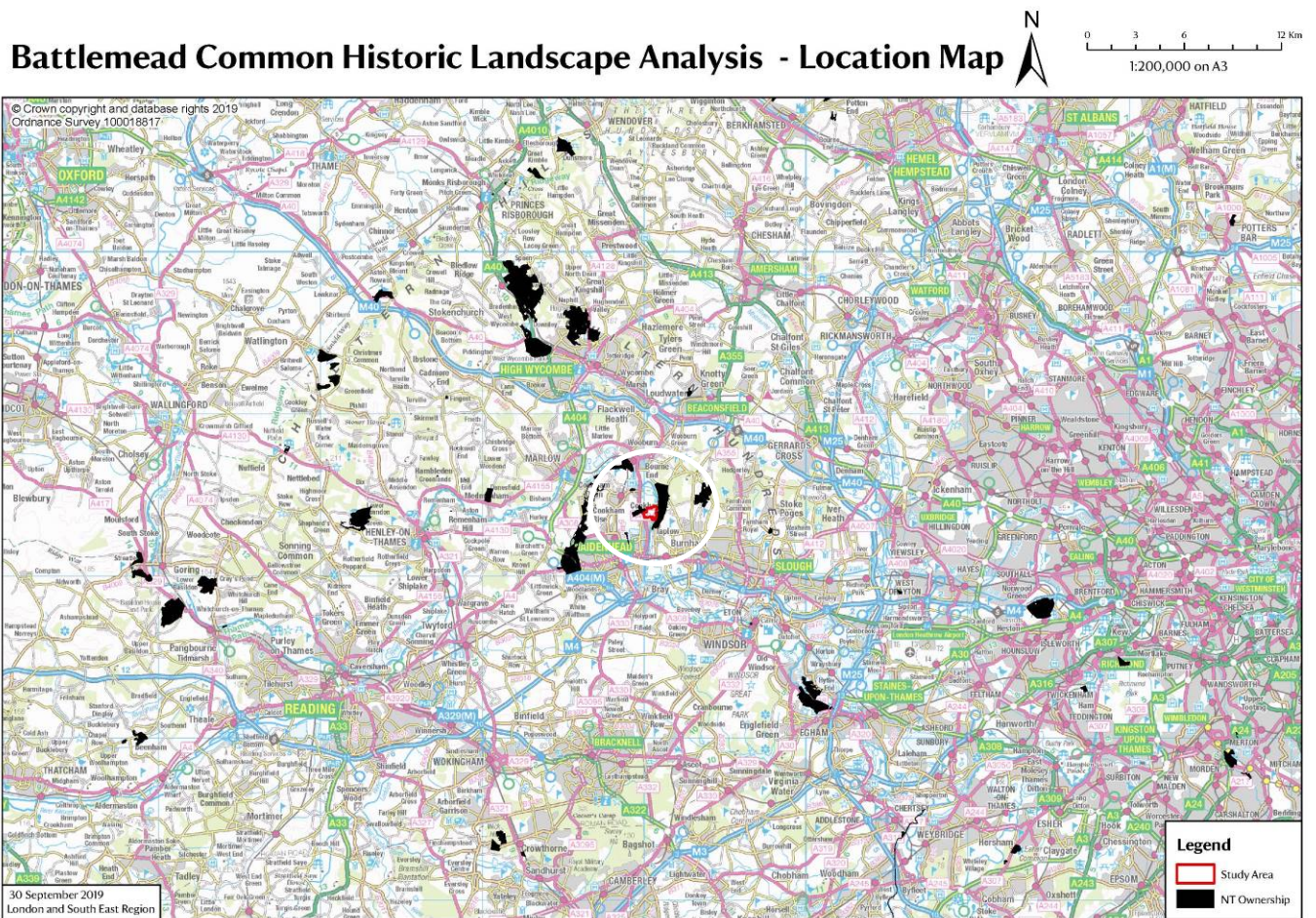


Figure 1 Location & Geographical Context.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - OS 1:25,000

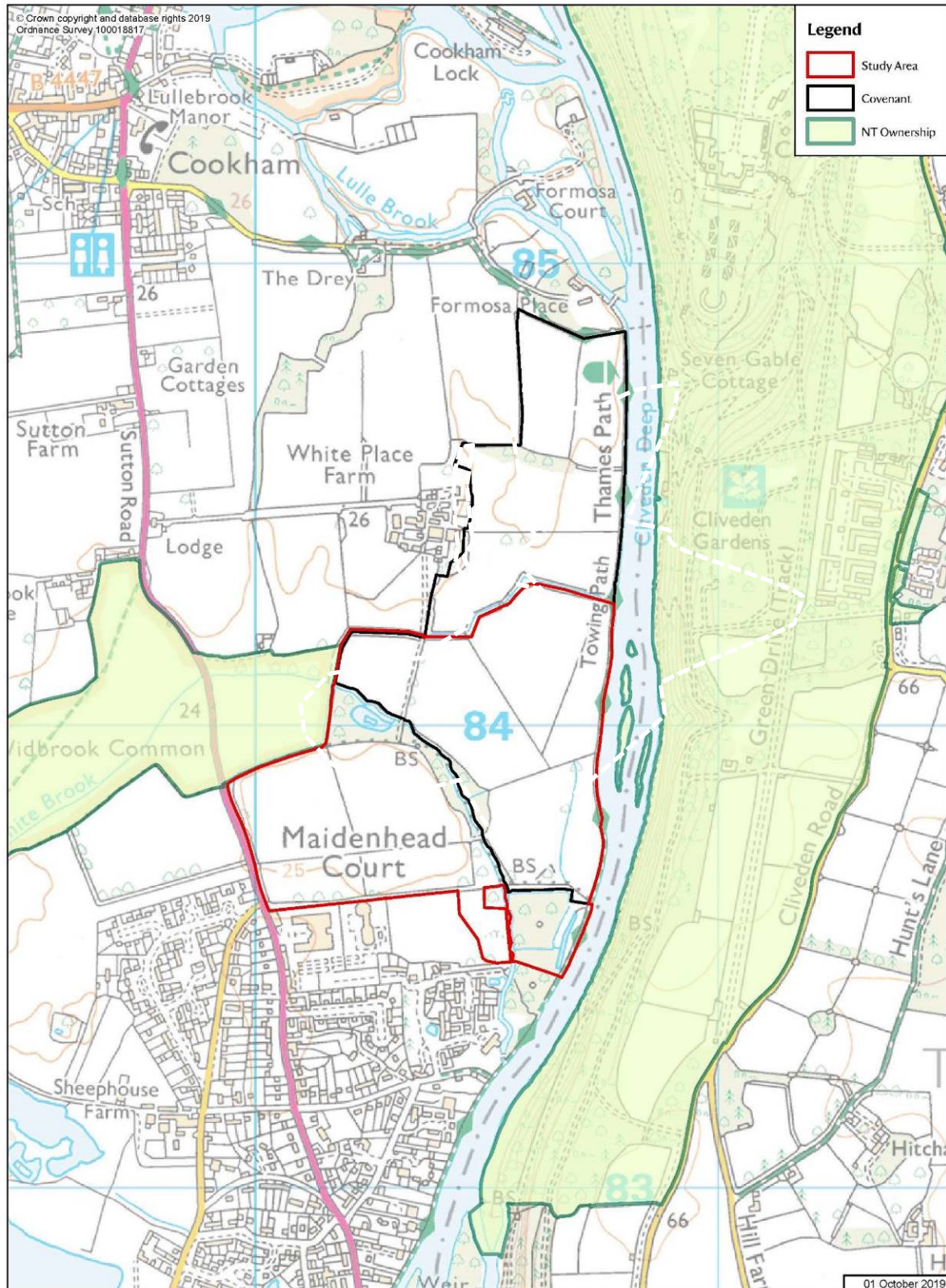
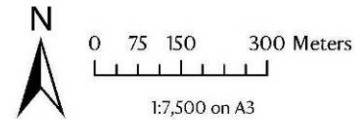


Figure 2 Map of Study Area, Ownership of RBWM (in red) & National Trust Covenanted Areas.

The irregular shape of the Royal Borough's ownership in the willow fields area is due to the past purchase by White Place Farm of land owned by the Environment Agency for flood bund construction. This left parcels on the west bank of the White Brook still in the ownership of Royal London Asset management.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - OS 1:25,000



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1:3,750 on A3

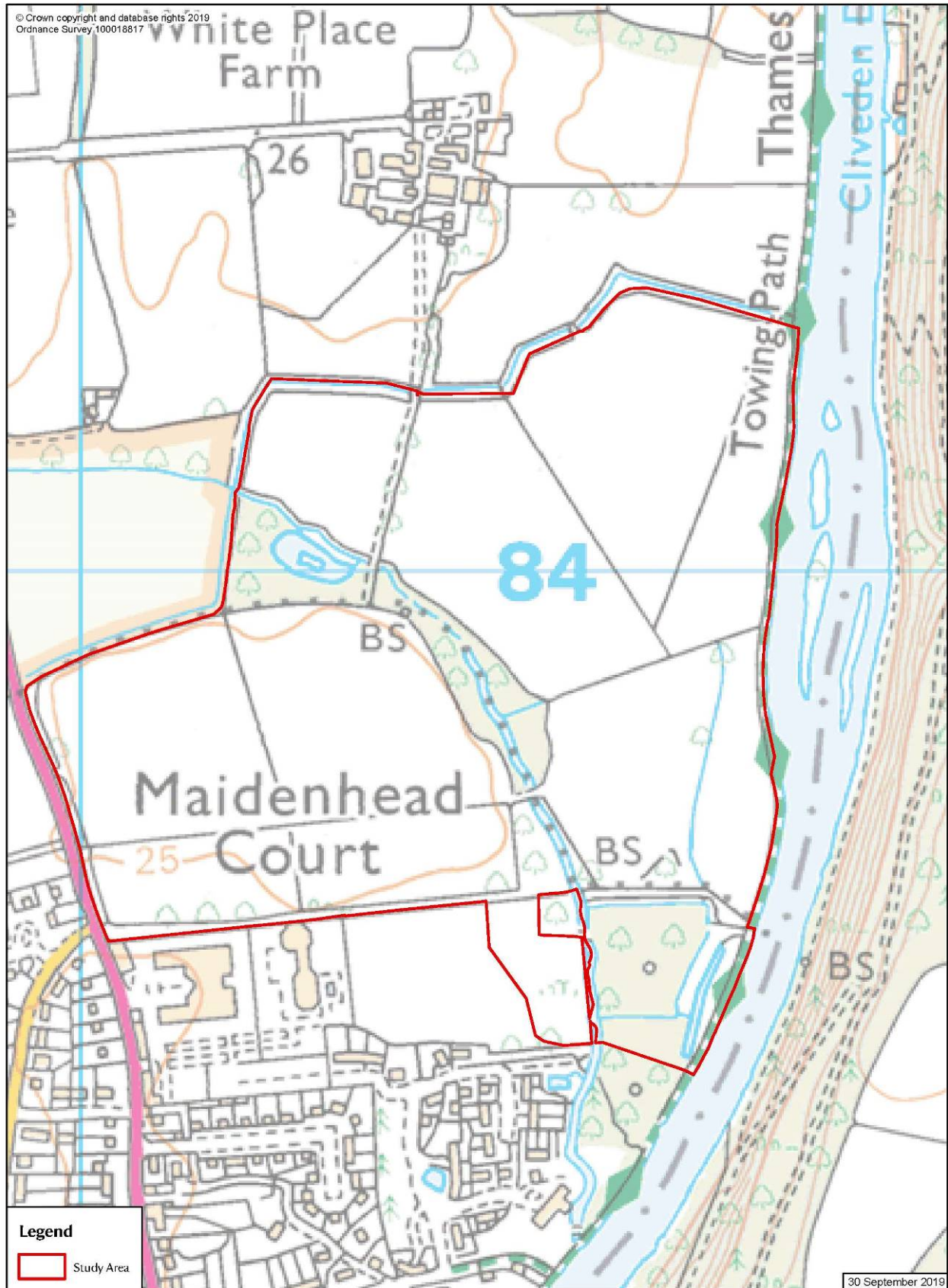


Figure 3 Map of Study Area, 1:25,000 base map.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - OS 1:10,000



Figure 4 Map of Study Area, 1:10,000 base map

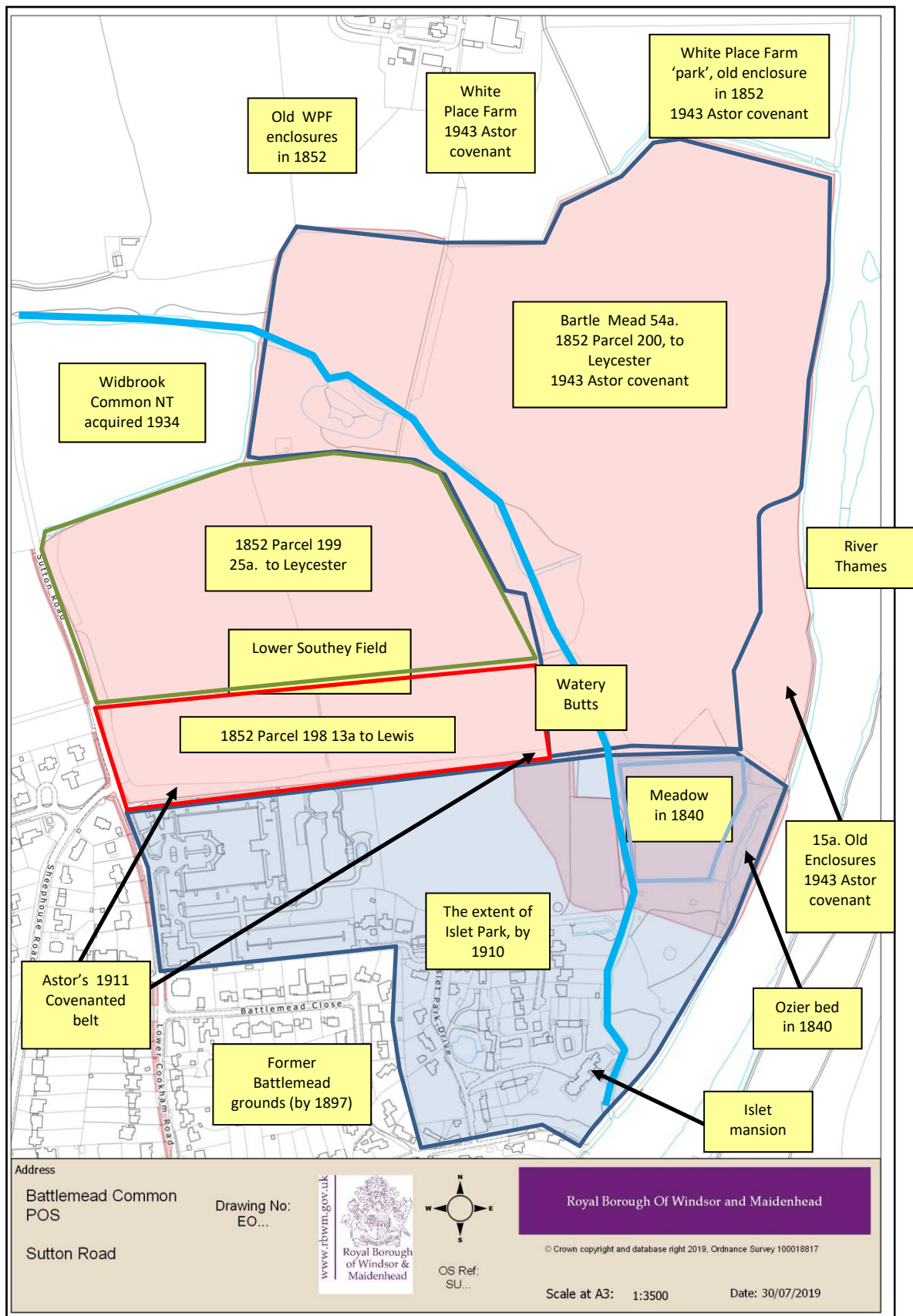


Figure 5 Study Area Features Map
RBWM ownership in pink.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 HISTORIC CHARACTER OF BATTLEMEAD COMMON

The historic character at its most fully developed was as part of an agricultural estate was established by the late 1920s. The area was principally the southern farmland of White Place Farm providing Thames-side grazing for a renowned dairy herd, within the larger Cliveden estate owned by the Astors. It was bisected by the White Brook, curving gently across the area. Much of this character survives despite the current divided ownership of White Place Farm. It was based on the agricultural character established by the 1852 Parliamentary Enclosure of Cookham. After 1893 the area was part of the fields serving the model dairy farm established by the Astors, except for a small area to the south-east which was a meadow surrounded by watercourses within the Islet country house estate for Edward Wagg (now an unmanaged willow plantation). These two areas have been united within the ownership of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as part of Battlemead Common, a new name for this area.

The layout of the area was dominated by the White Brook bisecting it in a wide arc and with significant specimen trees (largely oak) alongside it. It was visually enclosed by Astor c.1910 to the west and south by belts to screen the view of Islet estate and other nearby development from Cliveden. Some subdivisions of the two major fields occurred, most notably those in Lower Southey which were marked by specimen trees relating to use for stud purposes. Since the late C17 there was a strong visual link between the study area and Cliveden mansion and landscape, and, from still earlier, also with White Place Farm, and the River Thames. Astor ornamented this agricultural land as part of White Place farm with belts, boundary specimen trees and iron park fencing, to enhance the established agricultural character, reflecting its origins since at least the medieval period that had persisted through the major upheaval of reworking cultivation methods in the mid-C19. Tree species used for particular purposes, e.g. belts, field divisions and along the White Brook help to define the character and layout by this point.

After the 1920s it seems that no significant development occurred in the study area.

1.2 SURVIVAL AND CURRENT CONDITION

The current character is based on the historic agricultural, riparian and sylvan character established its most fully developed by the late 1920s. It has suffered no major losses or changes but in some respects has become degraded with neglect. The land has strong boundaries to the west and south defined by belts of mature trees, and to the east, defined by the River Thames. The boundary to the north is more permeable, marked by a drainage ditch and fence, reflecting the later C19 and C20 connection with White Place Farm.

The fields are now degraded agricultural land, with flooding creating a wetland east of the White Brook in Battle Mead. A thicket is growing north of the pond instead of it being open agricultural land. The former meadow at the south-east corner, originating in Islet estate, is now an unmanaged willow plantation surrounded by neglected watercourses. The area is bisected by the White Brook, its course marked by many mature trees but the watercourse is poorly maintained. Many mature trees survive but standing and fallen dead wood in open land and in the watercourses damages the agricultural character, and is especially damaging if visible from Cliveden. Historic iron park fences have gone, replaced by modern style and materials, in many cases additional not following historic lines, and some boundaries are inappropriately marked by hedges, e.g. alongside the Thames towpath. Some heavy duty features have damaged the agricultural estate character, such as the bridge and linked causeway, the modern roadside gateway and hard standing car park. The historic setting survives well to the west, north and east, comprising rural Cookham agricultural land, White Place Farm as Astor's model dairy farm, the river and most dramatically the Cliveden estate including mansion and wooded cliffs. It has been considerably damaged to the south with the encroachment of offices and residential areas at the northern edge of Maidenhead.

1.3 CONCLUSIONS

- a) The particular agrarian use and layout of Battlemead Common based on its development by the late 1920s is key to the historic character. The elements of ornamentation (trees and iron fencing/gates) added by the Astors as part of White Place Farm enhance this. In this respect it is of local significance.
- b) The agricultural landscape by the 1920s was grazed sward divided into several paddocks and framed by trees and watercourses, open to the Thames to the east. The traditional grazed management of the sward has ceased and it is mowed; part is flooded by water from the neglected White Brook, damaging the traditional management regime and historic character.
- c) The characteristic watercourses and their drainage role are of particular significance both practically and as key historic elements, with important connections to the wider landscape including Widbrook Common and its own watercourses, and the River Thames. The area floods regularly as part of the wider flood plain between Cookham and Maidenhead in extreme weather events. The watercourses on Battlemead Common have been neglected and are in decline.
- d) As well as the traditional land and watercourse management, the mature trees are of high significance. As varied mosaic of several origins they make a specific contribution to the character. They include Astor's early C20 ornamental tree screen/ belt around the south and west sides and the grove at the south end of the White Brook; mature boundary trees (mostly oak?) along the White Brook, probably of C19 origin; specimens marking former field boundaries of various origins, both ornamental early C20 and as C19 or earlier boundary standards. All mature trees should be surveyed for their species and ages and contribution to the various phases of development and the pattern of species and distribution perpetuated as far as possible.
- e) The historic landscape at its most fully developed was largely part of the White Place Farm agricultural estate, with ornamental features, that now forms the immediate setting to the north, together with the rural agricultural landscape of Cookham, the river landscape of the Thames, and the great country house landscape and buildings of Cliveden. The relationship with these important historic assets enhances the historic significance of Battlemead Common. This confers additional significance, in a regional context.
- f) White Place Farm land was viewed as a flat, open, grazed landscape framed and divided by trees.
- g) In some contrast to the working agricultural landscape of White Place Farm, the south-east corner of Battlemead Common by the 1920s was an ornamental meadow in the adjacent Islet estate, enclosed by watercourses with an old ozier bed adjacent on the riverside. The meadow has been replaced by a willow plantation, unmanaged for many years; the watercourses are poorly understood and neglected.
- h) Most of the land enjoyed reciprocal views with the elevated parts of Cliveden, particularly the parterre and related buildings including the mansion (late C17, rebuilt 1850s), clock tower (1861) and chapel (early C18), which are of the highest significance. Views from Cliveden of Battlemead as part of the

extensive bucolic scene, which have been a key part of the design since the late C17, are considerably more important than in reverse. i.e. while a spectacular view of Cliveden mansion and environs hangs above Battlemead, this is a happy accident rather than a designed feature. The reverse views of Battlemead, based on its historic fabric and character, are of the utmost significance. The former Islet estate land was deliberately screened by trees from Cliveden.

- i) Recent development close by to the south on the former Islet estate and its environs has heightened the significance of the study area in relation to its role in views from Cliveden, acting as physical and visual buffer. Thus it is of still greater importance that the surviving historic character and fabric of this setting should be retained intact.
- j) An improved understanding of the heritage asset and its setting has identified a strong integral relationship with the land to the north as part of Astor's White Place Farm, and its role as part of that. However, further research and analysis will increase the understanding of the traditional management of the land, watercourses and trees and its contribution to the historic character and function of the area.
- k) Land to the south is under great pressure from redevelopment and further development. Such change could cause substantial harm to the setting of Battlemead and its rural character, and to the views from Cliveden towards Maidenhead that Astor attempted to protect with the south and west belt planting. Development of tall buildings in central Maidenhead could also damage these views.
- l) The substantial harm by development or departure from traditional management makes no positive contribution to, nor better reveals, the historic significance of the asset. This includes new boundaries, boundary materials, structures, hard standing, altered palette of trees, altered land and watercourse management.
- m) Once the fabric and management of the landscape are irreversibly changed the essential historic rural character will be lost, damaging the setting of important historic assets particularly White Place Farm and the still more important Cliveden mansion and estate.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study demonstrates the development, historic character and significance of the historic agricultural land recently named Battlemead Common which previously formed the south section of the farmland of White Place Farm to the north. It has been commissioned by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), with a particular aim to understand the historic significance of the area that it owns (Figures 2-4), within the wider local historical context. This area is largely based on land formerly part of the historic White Place Farm to the north, except at the south-east tip in the willow fields area. The irregular shape of the Royal Borough's ownership at this point is due to the past purchase by White Place Farm of land owned by the Environment Agency for flood bund construction. This left parcels on the west bank of the White Brook still in the ownership of Royal London Asset management. National Trust restrictive covenants apply to the riverside half of the area as formerly owned within White Place Farm by the 2nd Viscount Astor (who conferred the covenants in the 1940s), except for the south-east tip which he never owned (Figure 2).

This study provides an overview for understanding the area as an historic asset, and its heritage features. This includes the immediate landscape setting, in which the National Trust has a major interest as both a landowner of Widbrook Common to the north and west and the extensive Cliveden designed landscape estate to the east, and in managing restrictive covenants on the site and the White Place Farm setting. It is intended to support appraisals of proposals for change in the site. In order to understand the area owned by the RBWM it has been necessary to assess the setting as it originated in a unified manner as part of a traditional estate farm, under single management (which has since been fragmented in management and ownership).

The aim is to provide heritage evidence for the owner and other bodies with responsibilities in land use change such as the National Trust to help manage change in the surroundings in a way that conserves the significance of Battlemead Common. The study is flexible and can be amended as the understanding of the study area increases.

The study will serve several purposes for the RBWM. It will inform long term management of the site in relation to historic significances alongside other considerations; inform proposals for changes to the historic environment relating to the National Trust covenant stipulations; and provide the basis for interpretative material, both written and visual for on-site, digital and printed media. It may also be used for funding applications.

2.2 METHODOLOGY & SOURCES

The methodology has concentrated on the historic development and interest of the study area, identifying key features and character, levels of significance, archaeological aspects, and the historic geographical context including aspects of the rest of White Place Farm, Widbrook Common, the River Thames and the Cliveden estate, and the former Islet estate to the south, including the visual relationship with the surrounding landscape. The content and presentation was agreed with the client to ensure that the resultant information was tailored to the specific purposes.

The research element underpinned the project. The historic development of the Battlemead land had not previously been systematically researched and analysed in detail. Key sources were scattered between repositories including:

- Berkshire Record Office, Reading (BRO), for C19 estate maps, county and parish maps, printed sources.
- Bucks County Record Office (Centre for Bucks Studies, CBS), Aylesbury, for the estate records for White Place Farm as part of the late C19 and C20 Astor archive for the Cliveden estate; these are key for items specific to the study area including title deeds, plans including historic field names, covenanted land records, land management and the 1966 sale particulars.
- Museum of Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading, Astor collection: White Place Farm farming records for 1900-66 contribute to the understanding of land management and current structure.

- The Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) archaeological records and reports of finds and investigations underpin the archaeological understanding and potential of the area and its setting.

Records survive in other locations, but those above have been judged to be the most informative.

Historic designations relating to the study area and environs are mapped in Figure 37.

The project has benefitted from historic material gathered by the author for several projects including while working for the National Trust on the Cliveden estate including for the 2009 Conservation Plan which contributes to the understanding of both the study area and the contextual aspects.

As well as research the project was informed by walk-over site surveys by the author over several visits during summer 2019 and a detailed knowledge of the landscape of the Cliveden estate.

Mrs Ann Darracott on behalf of Maidenhead Civic Society made a seminal contribution to this project in the form of records and a great depth of understanding of the study area which she generously shared and has proved invaluable.

2.3 NAMING OF AREAS AND FEATURES

Battlemead Common is the study area, which is defined in Figures 2-4 as being within the ownership of RBWM. It lies at the south end of Cookham parish in the historic county of Berkshire, within the unitary authority of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (see Figure 1, Location & Geographical Context).

Within this the agricultural land has been referred to in two main areas, as shown on Figure 5, derived from historic names:

1. Bartle Mead, north and east of the White Brook
2. Lower Southey, south and west of the White Brook

Beyond Bartle Mead, to the south is the willow field that was incorporated as a meadow in the former Islet estate, together with an ozier bed dividing it from the river.

Key features are identified in Figure 5, Study Area Features Map.

Topography is identified in Figure 6, Topography.

River Catchment is mapped in Figure 7.

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

BRO = Berkshire Record Office

CBS = Centre for Bucks Studies

HER = Berkshire Historic Environment Record

MCS = Maidenhead Civic Society

MERL = Museum of Rural Life

WPF = White Place Farm

2.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Valuable help and advice was contributed by Jason Mills, Countryside Manager, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) Parks & Countryside Team; Anthony Hurst, Parks & Countryside Manager, RBWM; Joanne Mirzoeff, Covenants Officer, National Trust; staff of Berkshire Record Office (BRO), Centre for Bucks Studies (CBS), Museum of English Rural Life, Reading University (MERL) and Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

Ann Darracott on behalf of the Maidenhead Civic Society was particularly helpful and contributed greatly to the overall understanding of the site, and supplied various photographs.

Historic images have kindly been authorized for reproduction by the following.

British Museum

Watercolour by Myles Birkett Foster, Figure 14

Berkshire Record Office

D_EX 43_3_9 Widbrook Common Map c.1825, Figure 23

D_P 43_28_1b Cookham parish map 1840, Figure 24

D_D1_43_1b Cookham parish tithe map 1844, Figure 25

Q_RDC_94E Cookham enclosure map 1852, Figure 26

Centre for Bucks Studies

Ordnance Survey 1875-78 Ma203/2R, Figure 27

1937 Astor estates map D 158/9, Figure 33

1966 Astor Estate Map with field names D 158/70, Figure 34

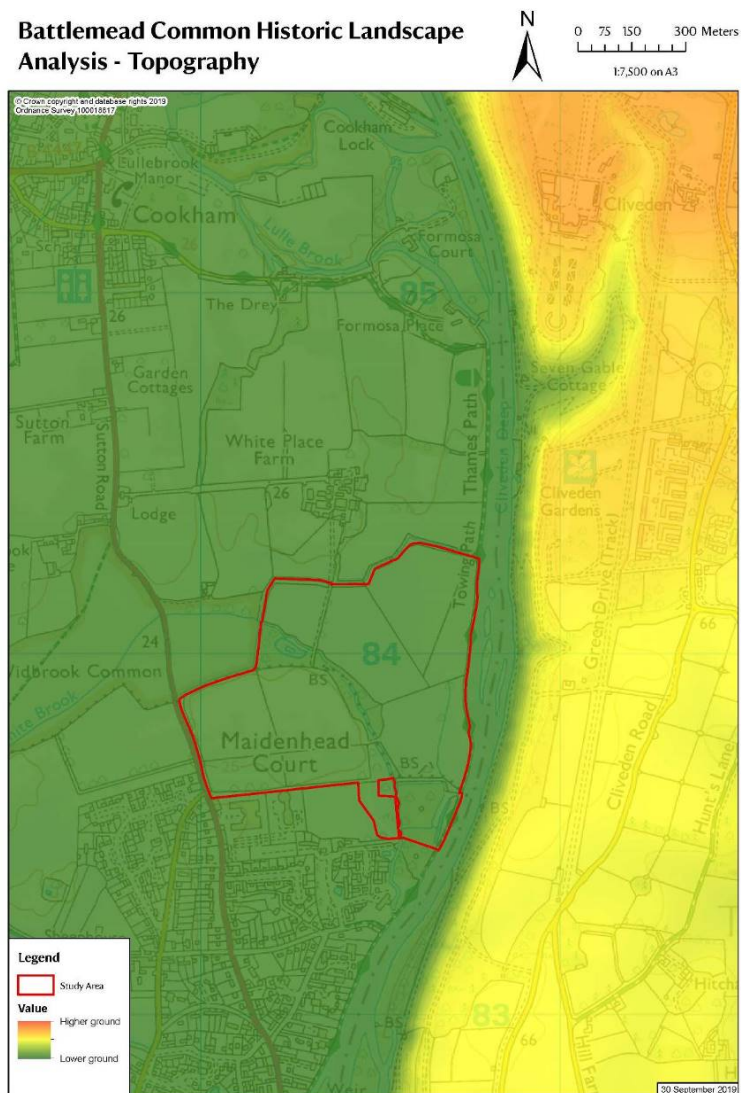


Figure 6 Map of Topography.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - River Catchment



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1:7,500 on A3

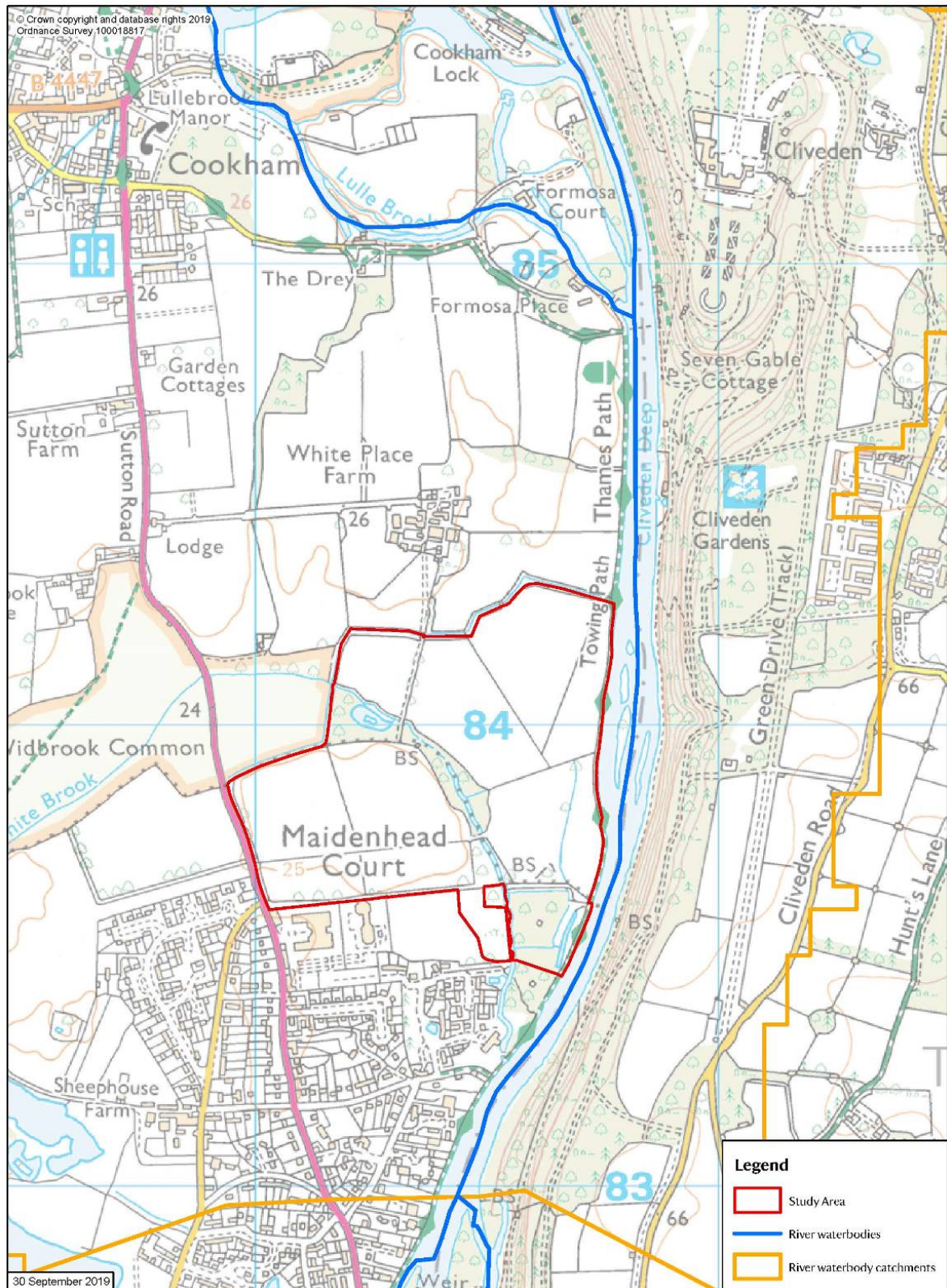


Figure 7 River Catchment Map.

3 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT PHASES AND CHARACTER TO 1925

This section is based on sources in Appendix 1, References, and analysis of the information in Appendix 2 Chronology, Appendix 3, Historic Mapping, Appendix 4 (Figures 20-34), Sequence of Historic OS Maps (Appendix 4) and observations from the walk-over site surveys.

Historically three major phases of ownership and management of the study area have cumulatively contributed to the establishment of the present fabric and character. Alongside these the development of the setting is closely related in influencing this.

3.1 SINCE AT LEAST 1300 TO 1840S (OVER 500 YEARS, NUMEROUS COMMONERS)

Key Documents:

1840 Map of Cookham parish (BRO D/P 43/28/1A (schedule); D/P 43/28/1B (map)) [pre-enclosure map] (Figure 24)

1844 Tithe map, Cookham parish, BRO D/D1/43/1b (map) and 1a (award) (Figure 25)

3.1.1 Development

- Much of the study area was common land of Cookham parish, cultivated partly as arable in many narrow strips (Lower Southey Field) and partly as common pasture/meadow (Bartlemead and Watery Butts).
- The division was marked by the White Brook which before it was connected to Strandwater flowed out of the Thames, draining it through Widbrook Common to the north-west and then south to Maidenhead. It is unlikely to have flowed westwards in the 1840s because of the connection with Strandwater. This was probably done so that flood water from Cookham could be returned to the Thames. This was the direction of flow until the mid-C20.
- By the 1840s in the south-east corner some private enclosures, over previous centuries, included narrow meadows adjacent to the river with the long narrow ozier bed, and the square (later willow plantation) meadow that was later part of Islet estate. North of study area fields of White Place Farm were also old enclosures.
- Widbrook Common was a key element of the communal parish farming system west and north of the study area, through which the White Brook flowed originally westward away from the Thames, then from the 1840s to the mid-C20 into the Thames (see direction of flow in OS maps in Appendix 4 & eg fig 29 et seq).¹
- Farm and associated buildings at White Place Farm existed since at least the C16 and possibly earlier. In this period the study area was not part of that farm.
- Archaeological evidence indicates that the area has been inhabited for thousands of years (see Section 6).

3.1.2 Character by 1840s

The character was a typical mosaic of rural cultivation using traditional practices in this Thames riverside Chiltern area. This centuries-old character was based on the practice of farming in common by Cookham villagers, both arable and grazing closely associated with the management of the White Brook, along with some long established enclosed fields. These vernacular practices and character apparently derived from at least the medieval period.

Before the enclosure of the Common fields, commoners' rights had fallen out of use on the fields but were maintained in the meadow pasturage (Darby). Southey was an open field and Bartle Mead was an open meadow (see Darby 1909 p292). This explains the 1852 Enclosure map where Lower Southey is divided but not Bartlemead.

The following features represented a long established pattern of cultivation and early habitation:

¹ NB the current flow out of the Thames reverses if sufficient water flows out of Strandwater and certainly reverses in flood conditions.

- Many strips farmed in open field in Lower Southey.
- Communal grazing on Bartle Mead.
- Several old enclosures near to river and in Watery Butts alongside White Brook.
- White Brook dividing Lower Southey open arable field from Bartle Mead meadow to north-east.
- Ozier bed on riverside at south-east corner.
- Land bounded to north by White Place Farm and its enclosed fields; to west Lower Cookham Road, river to east, to south continuation of open fields towards Maidenhead.
- The waterways including the White Brook and the Thames-side setting was a key element.
- The adjacent Thames west bank was kept free of woody vegetation because of the adjacent towpath, affording views over the area from key elevated sections of Cliveden (mansion, parterre, Half Moon and clifftop walk) and the riverside (Spring Drive and Spring Cottage).
- Burial mound in north-east corner near river (noted on OS 25" as 'Tumulus').

3.1.3 Significant Events in the Setting

- Adjacent to the north White Place Farm developed in private ownership (from mid-C18 the Leycesters) surrounded by privately enclosed fields within wider common arable fields and grazed commons, and by mid-C19 approached from Lower Cookham Road by an avenue.
- Cliveden estate developed adjacent on the opposite side of the river from the late C17 with the building of the mansion and laying out of a formal and informal cliff-side and cliff-top landscape at heroic scale, closely visually and physically related to the prestigious Thames. This included the two-storey domed temple at the cliff edge, prominent from the land below and planting the cliff with trees. The meadows beyond including White Place Farm and the Battlemead study area formed the key setting. Cliveden buildings and landscape dominated White Place Farm, and Battlemead study area.
- In the Cliveden estate a mid-late C18 informal cliff-top walk linked Cliveden and Taplow Court, possibly designed by 'Capability' Brown, overlooking the river and rural land beyond, including the study area.
- In Cliveden in the C18 the spring became a place of resort for the aristocratic owners and guests, including royalty. In 1813 a rustic pleasure pavilion (cottage) was built and a garden laid out around the spring, creating a private spa. 180 degree views from the pavilion and garden overlooked the river and White Place Farm beyond (including the study area) which remained open and unobscured by trees.
- 1km to south-east C7 royal burial mound in later churchyard by Taplow Court, originally prominent from opposite side of river.
- Development on the east side of the river of Taplow Court mansion and its environs from C17; development of designed cliff-side and cliff-top landscape contiguous with Cliveden.
- Latterly the flow of the Thames adjacent to the east was controlled; it was embanked and locks built at Cookham and Boulter's Lock.
- The White Brook (probably originating as a man-made drain) was connected in the early C19 with the Strand Water and thence flowed into the Thames possibly to drain Cookham in times of flood.

3.2 1852-93 ENCLOSURE AND AWARD TO FEW PEOPLE, MULTIPLE OWNERS (C.40 YEARS)

Key Documents:

1852 Enclosure Map of Cookham parish (BRO Q/RDC/94/E (map) (Figure 26)

1875 Ordnance Survey maps at 6" & 25" scale (Figures 27 & 28)

3.2.1 Development

The Enclosure completed in 1852 changed almost entirely the communal management of the study area which before then was cultivated by a large number of people, mostly residents of Cookham parish. The enclosure award/agreement allocated property to individuals based on their ownership rights to common fields as noted on

the Enclosure Map (Figure 26). The award gave them a consolidated piece of ground within the common, in exchange for them giving up their rights (grazing, growing or whatever) over the whole. Essentially it 'privatised' formerly communally managed land under a smaller number of ownerships. The process was very controversial as it ranked owners' rights above tenants' rights, with the latter getting nothing (pers. comm. Mark Stevens, Head Archivist BRO 2019). However, the type of land management remained, with grazing in Bartlemead and arable in Lower Southey by a much smaller number of owners in larger parcels.

This resulted in the following happening within and around the study area:

- Multiple parcels of land enclosed into 3 main fields managed by only 2 people instead of dozens.
- 54a. Bartlemead retained its former boundary, awarded to Leycester estate of White Place Farm and remained cultivated as meadow.
- Two parallel rectangles of former open arable field enclosed in the north section of Lower Southey, south and west of White Brook; the larger (25a) to north awarded to Leycester estate; the smaller (13a) to south awarded to Lewis.
- Lower Southey field boundary between Leycester and Lewis land marked by 15 specimen trees (OS 1875). Some survive as mature specimen oak in 2019.
- Adjacent to the south of the study area as part of the enclosure of Lower Southey field, 3 more parallel fields, formerly numerous arable strips, were enclosed, and awarded to Vaughan, Oxford University and Stephens. (These were in the next phase covered by Islet and Battlemead mansions and grounds.)

3.2.2 Character Established by 1893

The 1852 Enclosure extinguished the centuries-old communally managed vernacular character of Lower Southey, with the enclosure into a few much larger parcels and loss of multiple farmers managing the land. By 1893 the 38a Lower Southey field in the study area was managed by only two owners, one of whom ran in tandem with White Place Farm (the north section of Lower Southey) and the other who had no other land adjacent (the south section of Lower Southey). A 'modern' character was established for this area of much larger, more efficiently cultivated parcels of fenced or hedged farmland.

A considerable portion, the 54a. Bartle Mead, however, retained its vernacular character as a single meadow and was not subdivided. It too was awarded to Leycester, the owner of White Place Farm.

The White Brook continued to be managed as a drainage waterway. The ozier bed by the river remained.

3.2.3 Significant Events in the Setting

- Cliveden mansion rebuilt on C17 great terrace by Barry (1850s) and Clutton's clock tower erected (1861) all in classical style. Prominent from many places beyond river including study area.
- Spring Cottage, Cliveden, rebuilt 1857 by George Devey, enhancing its riverside significance for its aristocratic owners as a luxurious private spa, and guests including royalty – Queen Victoria.
- Taplow Court rebuilt by Burn (1850s) in Tudor style.
- Widbrook Common remained grazed common land, through which the White Brook flowed.

3.3 1893-1925 DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL MODEL FARM (ASTOR AT WHITE PLACE FARM); & COUNTRY HOUSE ESTATE (ISLET) (30 YEAR PHASE)

Key Documents:

1897, 1910, 1925, 1932 Ordnance Survey maps at 6" & 25" scale (Figures 29-32 & Appendix 4)

1966 'blue print' map in Astor papers, CBS (Figure 34)

3.3.1 Development

- 1893: WW Astor buys most of study area as part of the Leycester estate's White Place Farm including Bartlemead and north section of Lower Southey (26a).²
- WPF consolidated at fullest extent by buying south section of Lower Southey (13a). Date unclear, but probably by Waldorf as is regarded as founding the Cliveden Stud³ (unless this area was bought from Thomas Lewis by WWA when bought the Leycester section).⁴
- WPF fenced with iron park fencing, in some places in a characteristic pattern with spiked palings (e.g. along towpath). Other stretches have another pattern of bars.
- By 1910 Lower Southey field fenced into four paddocks, the southern two apparently as stud paddocks.
- Trees planted along N-S internal division of Lower Southey supplementing those established on W-E division following the 1852 field line, resulting in cruciform pattern; some survive in 2019.
- By 1910 Waldorf Astor divided Bartle Mead into two with fence line running from south-west to north-east. Riverside paddock reinstated based on old enclosure.
- 1910 Waldorf Astor plants belts around the external boundaries to west (against Lower Cookham Road) and south (against Islet country house estate). Views of Cliveden left open, including to wooded cliff, mansion, chapel and clock tower.
- 1911 Wagg covenants with Lady Palmer and Waldorf Astor to erect and maintain an iron boundary fence and to plant and maintain a screen of trees and shrubs between his land and the Glen Island and Cliveden Estates (Land Registry entry BK18938, see Section 9.5.4).

3.3.2 Historic Character by the late 1920s

These minor alterations defined the intentional character at its most fully developed, much of which survives. The intentional character at its most fully developed was established by the late 1920s as part of the White Place Farm land, much of which survives despite divided ownership. It was based on minor modifications to the agricultural character established by the 1852 Enclosure. After 1893 the area had largely become part of the fields serving Astor's dairy farm with a small area to the south-east incorporated within the Islet country house estate for Wagg.

The layout of the area was dominated by the White Brook bisecting it in a wide arc and with specimen trees (largely oak) alongside it, and was enclosed by Astor c.1910 to the west and south by belts to screen the view of Islet and other nearby development from Cliveden. Some subdivisions of the two major fields occurred, most notably those in Lower Southey which were marked by specimen trees. There was a strong visual link between the study area and Cliveden mansion and landscape, and also with White Place Farm, and the River Thames. Astor had ornamented his agricultural land as part of White Place farm with belts, boundary specimen trees and iron park fencing, to enhance the established agricultural character, reflecting its origins since at least the medieval period that had persisted through the major upheaval of reworking cultivation methods in the mid-C19. Tree species used for particular purposes, e.g. belts, field divisions and along the White Brook help to define the character and layout by this point.

After this no significant development occurred in the study area.

² After Enclosure Bartlemead (plot 200 on the Enclosure map) stretched all the way down to where the White Brook joined the Thames which at that time flowed into the river not out of it. WW Astor when he bought White Place Farm from the Leycester Trustees bought all of Bartlemead as well as the part of Lower Southey held by the Trustees. Therefore when Wagg bought what is now one of the willow fields, he was probably buying Astor land, hence the boundary marker with WWA on one side and EW on the other two. [Pers. comm A Darracott, 02 October 2019.](#)

³ Horse Racing History online (The National Horse Racing Museum) notes that Waldorf Astor founded the Cliveden Stud with Conjure, his first horse bought while he was still at Oxford from whom he bred 5 winners.

⁴ Possibly Waldorf bought from Sir Charles Gervaise Boxall who sold parcels of Lower Southey to Edward Wagg from 1887 to 1909; Over, L, *The Evolution and History of Whitebrook Park, Maidenhead, Berks* unpub report for Hitachi Europe Ltd (1991), 3.

3.3.3 Significant Events in the Setting

The most significant events in the setting were adjacent to the north with Astor's development of White Place Farm into a model commercial dairy farm, and adjacent to the south with the laying out of the park and gardens for Islet and erection of major service structures for this by the Lower Cookham Road.

- 1893. WW (later 1st Viscount) Astor bought White Place Farm as an adjunct to Cliveden which he bought at the same time, and developed it as a commercial dairy farm run along progressive lines.
- He acquired land near the Lower Cookham Road enclosed in 1852 and laid out a kitchen garden to serve Cliveden.
- He extended the avenue from White Place Farm west to the Lower Cookham Road to a new gatehouse including two lodges in Old English style.
- In 1906 WW Astor gave the Cliveden estate to his son, Waldorf, and daughter-in-law, Nancy.
- Astor and or his son, Waldorf (later 2nd Viscount) developed the White Place farmstead into a large dairy unit with modern efficient new buildings from the 1890s into the 1920s.
- In c.1900-10 Islet park and gardens were fully developed beyond the south boundary of the study area alongside the enlargement of the house on former Lower Southey enclosed farmland. It included the previously enclosed small meadow and adjacent ozier bed on the river side now part of the study area. The south end of the White Brook where it met the Thames was a feature and the house incorporated a boat house at this point.

4 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS & CHANGES SINCE 1925

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The study area achieved its most fully developed by c.1925, as part of Waldorf Astor's White Place Farm model agricultural holding. The south section had reached its final ornamental role in Islet country house estate.

Little further significant change occurred after that date as part of a deliberate development phase. The surviving historic fabric and character is largely based upon this, incorporating surviving earlier features such as the White Brook. Subsequent changes have had varying effects on the fabric and character by 1925, mostly damaging.

4.2 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND CHANGES TO STUDY AREA

1943. 2nd Visct Astor conferred covenants on riverside areas of the study area as part of wider White Place Farm riverside areas on the National Trust.

1943. 2nd Visct Astor gave most of the study area to son William (later 3rd Visct) as part of White Place Farm gift.

1966 3rd Visct Astor sold White Place Farm including the study area.

Subsequent changes to the study area related to farming practices and management of the White Brook.

- By 1966. Subdivision of Bartle Mead into smaller paddocks (see 1966 Astor Blue Print Map, CBS D 158/70).
- By 1966. Creation of pond by White Brook north of Lower Southey. A feature was present from 1912-55 (OS), and a pond is mapped from 1955 (OS).
- Late C20. Cricket bat willows planted on willow island on Islet estate land that originated as old meadow.
- The causeway was put down across Bartle Mead at an existing crossing of the White Brook between Lower Southey and Bartle Mead.
- Sporadic management of course of White Brook.
- The loss of the fences established by the 1920s dividing Lower Southey into four paddocks.
- Ploughing of Bartle Mead and conversion to arable.
- Loss of late C19/early C20 metal boundary fencing which were it seems part of Astor's model farm.

4.3 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND CHANGES TO SETTING

1934. Widbrook Common acquired by the National Trust as part of the 350ha Commons of the Manor of Cookham largely bought by local residents.

1943. 2nd Visct Astor gifted Cliveden to the National Trust.

1943. 2nd Visct Astor gave White Place Farm to his son William (later 3rd Visct) including most of the study area.

1943. 2nd Visct Astor conferred covenants on White Place Farm to the National Trust including riverside parts of the study area.

1966 3rd Visct Astor sold White Place Farm including the study area. He had kept the farm as a dairy farm but developed a herd of pedigree Ayrshires which were also sold.

c.1980s beyond south boundary of study area redevelopment of Islet park for offices and low density housing, retaining much of the woody planting and some historic buildings.

c.2012 to the north the conversion of White Place Farm to residential units.

At some point the west Thames bank by the towpath ceased to be maintained free of vegetation, with the resultant growth of alders and other trees gradually screening the study area from the river and partially screening it from the Cliveden estate including Spring Drive and Spring Cottage.

5 CURRENT CHARACTER

5.1 OVERVIEW

The current historic character is based on the historic agricultural and sylvan character established its most fully developed by the late 1920s. It has suffered no major losses or changes but has become degraded with neglect and the recent introduction of new features site-wide that do not enhance the historic character, principally fences, gateways, parking, hedges. The land has strong boundaries to the west and south defined by belts of mature trees, and to the east, defined by the River Thames. The boundary to the north is more permeable, marked by a drainage ditch and fence, reflecting the later C19 and C20 integral connection with White Place Farm.

See Appendix 6 for a photographic survey of the landscape and features, both within the site and in the setting.

5.2 WATER MANAGEMENT

- The traditional management of the watercourses has been abandoned. The practical detail and significance is poorly understood.
- The important role of the White Brook in draining the River Thames towards Maidenhead is under threat with neglect of the watercourse. This degradation is worsening with accumulating debris and silt.
- Flooding east of the White Brook in Bartle Mead has caused a wetland on formerly grazed agricultural land. This has apparently been caused by collapse of the White Brook bank initiated by poaching by livestock that was never repaired.
- The course of the White Brook bisecting the area is marked by many mature trees but the watercourse is unmaintained and subject to silting up and blockage by debris.

5.3 LAND MANAGEMENT AND TREES

- The fields are now degraded agricultural land, resulting from recent neglect of traditional management.
- Many mature trees survive but extensive standing and fallen dead wood in open land and in the watercourses damages the agricultural character and fabric, historically well-maintained by the Astors, and is especially damaging where visible from Cliveden.
- Some areas have been abandoned particularly the southernmost section around and including the willow island. Management of the land has ceased, and of the watercourses formerly an important feature of the landscape and for their contribution to drainage of the area.
- The proportion of grazed land to woodland established by the 1920s is important to the historic character, including the types of distribution of trees in boundaries and species used. This survives well but has begun to be degraded by introduction of new planted features, particularly a hedge alongside the towpath on formerly open land which is fenced against the field. A thicket is growing north of the pond instead of it being open agricultural land and a further relatively recent hedgerow is maturing alongside the track from the pond towards the farmstead.

5.4 BOUNDARY LINES & TREATMENTS

- Historic ornamental iron park fences (apparently dating from the 1890s-1920s) have gone, replaced by modern style and materials which do not follow historic precedent.
- Many additional fences have recently been added which do not follow historic lines, inappropriately dividing the agricultural land. These considerably alter the character, departing from the historic precedent. Some are inappropriately marked by hedges, e.g. the hedge alongside the Thames towpath.
- The visual relationship of Battlemead (i.e. the east field) with the Thames bank was very strong until at least World War II, being clear of trees and woody vegetation for the purposes of the tow path, so that the islands and far bank, the Cliveden estate, were clearly visible (see historic views in Figures XX-XX).
- Conversely Battlemead was clearly visible from the upper parts of the Cliveden estate, particularly the

mansion and parterre, and the riverside Spring Drive. This relationship is now largely obscured by alders on the river bank managed by the Environment Agency and the recent hedge near the towpath.

- Some heavy duty features have damaged the agricultural estate character, such as the gravel haulage bridge and linked causeway, the modern roadside gateway and hard standing car park.

5.5 SETTING

- The historic setting survives well to the west, north and east, being of rural Cookham agricultural land, White Place Farm as Astor's model dairy farm, the river and most dramatically the Cliveden estate including mansion and wooded cliffs.
- It has been considerably damaged to the south with the encroachment of offices and residential areas at the northern edge of Maidenhead.



Figure 8 East Field: Sept. 2002 when still grazed (top left, A Darracott); 2019, causeway flanked by 'wetland' (August 2019)

apparently resulting from neglect of the White Brook bank and poaching by livestock (top right).

East Field 3rd Sept 2019 showing white deposit of dead blanket weed on left (bottom, A Darracott). Note change since Sept 2002.

6 VIEWS & SETTING

Key to Significance and Condition

Significance is categorised as follows:

- A Very significant: Fundamental to the historic interest of site.
- B Significant: Essential parts or elements specific to the site.
- C Some significance: Contribute to historic complexity.
- D Not significant: Do not affect the historic character.

Condition is categorised as follows:

- 1 Good 2 Fair 3 Poor 4 Obscured but recoverable 5 Lost

6.1 SIGNIFICANCE AND CURRENT CONDITION OF KEY HISTORIC VIEWS INTO THE SETTING

Many viewpoints occur in the study area, but unlike an ornamental landscape the viewpoints are not designed and the subject of views is relatively by chance. It is perhaps more appropriate to establish the key subjects of views as elements of the visual setting as follows.

Key Views Established by Early C20			
To	From	Significance/ Condition	Comments
1. Over river Thames to Cliveden mansion and Chapel a mile distant. Grade I Listed buildings and Registered landscape, all in ?AONB	Mainly obtained from Bartle Mead, views north-north-east	A/1	A strong visual relationship at sporadic points. Significance derives from long-established visual connection since C17 and ownership connection when study area reached its most fully developed, 1893-1966. Little changed.
2. Over farmland to White Place Farmstead, 200-300m distant Group of grade II Listed buildings	From Bartle Mead at various points particularly along north boundary, views north	A/2	A strong visual relationship at sporadic points. Significance derives from long-established visual connection since medieval period and ownership connection when study area reaching its most fully developed, 1852-1966. Damaged by recent conversion to residential with associated external changes.
3. Over White Place farmland & Widbrook Common to distant ridge to west, including Mount Hill over 2 miles away	From Bartle Mead at various points particularly in north half, views west	B/1	Extensive views. Little altered.
4. Islet water tower	From Lower Southey glimpses through belt on south boundary, view SW	C/2	Belt planted to screen Islet entirely from Cliveden. Glimpses from study area appropriate.
5. Over river Thames to Cliveden woodland on cliff	Mainly obtained from Bartle Mead, very prominent to E	A/1	River not a strong feature; view dominated by high and extensive cliff-side planting leading south into contiguous Taplow Court.

6.2 SIGNIFICANCE AND CURRENT CONDITION OF KEY HISTORIC VIEWS FROM THE SETTING TO THE STUDY AREA

Views of the study area are important elements of various historic assets in the setting. Key views are as follows. They are mapped in Figure X.

Key Views Established by Early C20			
From	To	Significance/ Condition	Comments
1. Cliveden mansion, terrace, parterre and Chapel over river Thames, views south-south-west a mile distant. Grade I Listed buildings and Registered landscape	View south-south-west mainly of riverside portions of study area: Bartle Mead, etc. Viewed as integral part of rural scene backed by Lower Southey and within rest of White Place Farm and Widbrook Common. Islet park and buildings to S screened by belt Astor insisted Wagg planted in 1910 and adjacent screen Astor planted himself.	A/1	A strong visual relationship. Significance derives from long-established visual connection since C17 and ownership connection when study area reached its most fully developed, 1893-1966. Little changed except for conversion of White Place farmstead to residential.
2. White Place farmstead, over farmland to south, 200-300m distant. Grade II Listed buildings	Views south to Bartle Mead at various points particularly along south boundary	A/2	A strong visual relationship with Bartle Mead as backdrop for long-established agricultural views. Significance derives from visual connection since medieval period and ownership connection when study area at most fully developed, 1852-1966. Damaged by recent conversion to residential with associated external changes.
3. Cliveden clifftop path and riverside Spring Drive: west over river Thames inc. Spring Cottage. ⁵ Grade I Listed Registered landscape Grade II listed building	Views west and south-west to Bartle Mead seen within the integral setting of White Place Farm and Widbrook Common beyond	A/1	River a strong feature; study area forms a calm agricultural backdrop and has had this link since Cliveden begun in late C17.
4. River Thames & towpath	Views westwards to Bartle Mead within the integral setting of White Place Farm	A/1	Immediate setting for River and towpath since medieval period and earlier. Strong visual, physical and historical link.

6.3 SUMMARY OF VIEWS

6.3.1 Views from the Study Area

Many viewpoints occur in the study area, but unlike an ornamental landscape the viewpoints are not designed and the subject of views is relatively by chance. Views are mainly related to the two main areas established by the early C20 (Bartle Mead and Lower Southey), which are bisected by the White Brook and associated planting. They are largely visually screened from each other by this feature. Some are shown in the photographs in Appendix 6.

Lower Southey is largely self-contained visually due to the belts planted by and for Astor to the south and west, and the trees along the White Brook to the north and east. Although largely introverted, it enjoys occasional glimpses beyond, such as through the east gateway over Bartle Mead to the wooded Cliveden cliff, north into Widbrook

⁵ Views relating to Spring Cottage, originating as a pleasure pavilion and garden for a private spa, are discussed in more detail in SR Historic Environment Ltd, 'Spring Cottage North Garden Action Plan: Rejuvenation & Planting', 2019 for the National Trust.

Common, and south-west to Islet water tower. The belts are of high significance in establishing the enclosed historic character at its most fully developed, by the 1920s.

Bartle Mead is much less introverted than Lower Southey. Although it too is screened to the west and south by C19 and early C20 trees, including a continuation of Astor's screening of Islet, it is dominated visually by the Cliveden estate to the east and north. The mansion, nearby buildings and designed landscape have overshadowed this area and the rest of Cookham since the late C17. The high wooded cliff provides the immediate backdrop to the east of Bartle Mead offering surprise burst views of the elevated mansion and nearby buildings in a spectacular cluster. These extend in an arc from eastwards to the Cliveden wooded cliff, to the north-east towards a fine group of country estate buildings comprising the Cliveden mansion (originally built late C17, rebuilt mid-C19) and associated buildings including the domed Chapel (early C18) and Clock Tower (mid-C19). This has hardly changed. Less dramatically from Bartle Mead are views of White Place Farm to the north set in farmland which are of significance for the long historical continuity even though the ownership was not united until the mid-C19.

The key historic views out of the study area are shown on Figure 9.

Viewsheds out of the study area are mapped in Figure 10.

6.3.2 The Role of the Study Area in External Views

From external positions, the study area is most important in historic views from the east (the river, the Cliveden estate, the cliff and cliff-top walk) and north: Cliveden estate, mansion, terrace, parterre and Chapel/Octagon Pavilion, and White Place Farm. A selection of artistic historic depictions are shown in Figures 11-14. These show clearly the role played by the study area in views from the elevated areas of Cliveden to the north. Of these, recent images of the most important view, from the mansion, in 2004 and in 2019 are shown in Figures 15-17.

The study area still contributes in great part to views from the west as a backdrop to Widbrook Common largely in the form of the treed boundaries rather than the open areas. The study area is strongly screened in views from the south, in the former Islet estate, by trees planted for the Astors, from areas redeveloped in the late C20.

Bartle Mead is of the highest significance as part of traditional agricultural views from the elevated viewpoints in Cliveden including the cliff-top walk and the mansion group. At riverside level the meadow forms the backdrop from the drive along the bottom of Cliveden and more obliquely from Spring Cottage to the north framed in front by the river. It also forms the immediate agricultural setting for White Place Farm to the north, the river and the towpath on the west side of the river, which are all at around the same level.

The open area of the field of Lower Southey forms a minor part of the backdrop from the elevated parts of Cliveden including the cliff-top walk and the mansion group, as it is less visible behind the trees enclosing it. However the trees around it have a highly significant role in the same views. In particular the south belt planted by and for Astor screens views from Cliveden of the former Islet estate beyond. This has gained even greater significance since large-scale offices and housing development were built in the late C20 on the former gardens and parkland. The west belt along Lower Cookham Road has similarly gained even greater significance since housing developments were built in the late C20 west of the road.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Key Historic Views to Setting

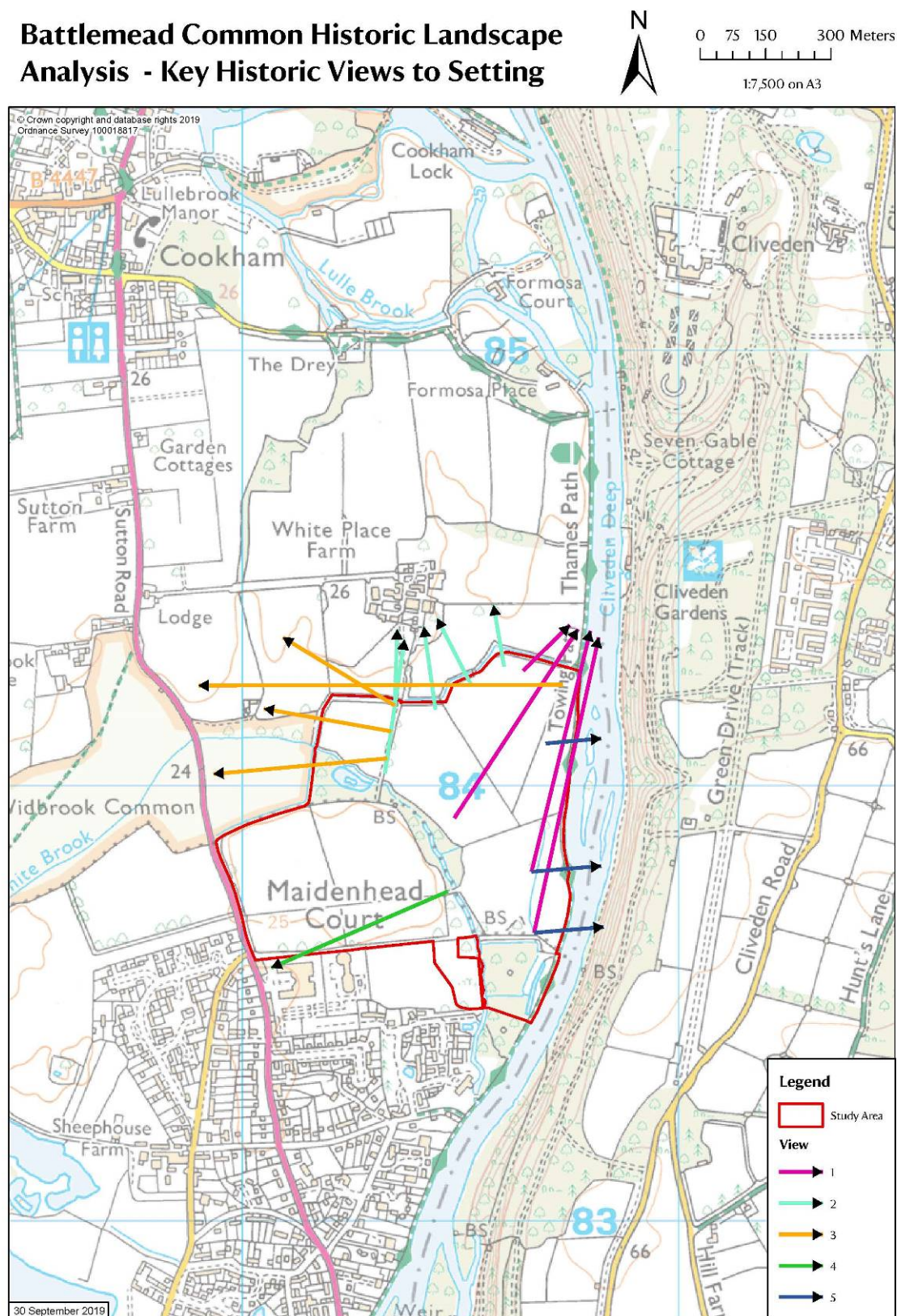


Figure 9 Views from Study Area into Setting.

Numbers on the map marks the numbered viewpoint in the table above.

Numbers on the maps represent the numbered viewpoints in the table below.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Viewshed looking out

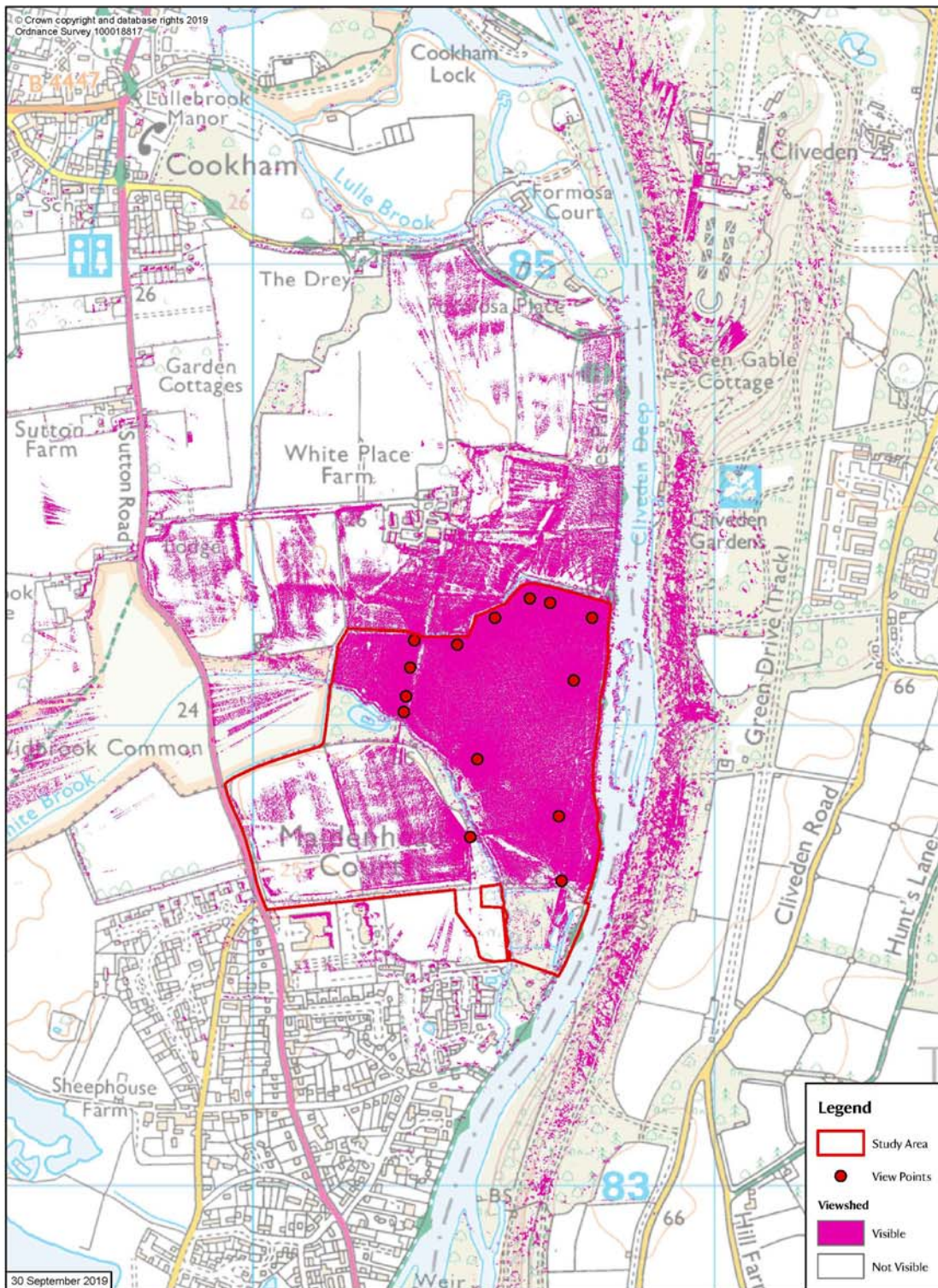
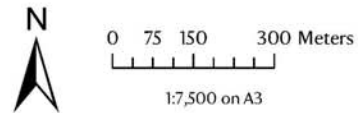


Figure 10 Viewsheds out from the study area, from viewpoints circled.

6.4 HISTORIC VIEWS OF THE STUDY AREA TO AND FROM CLIVEDEN

The following views are presented in chronological order.

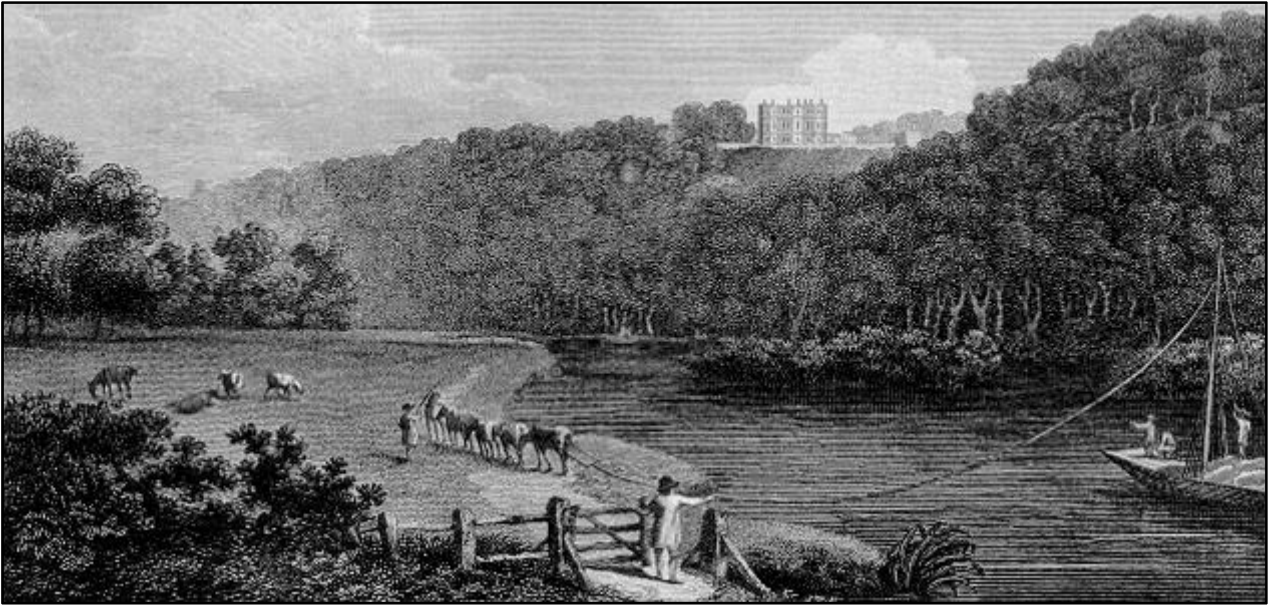


Figure 11 1790-92 Cliveden from the Thames, to left White Place Farm land, possibly Battlemead engraving based on Courbold watercolour.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/culture-and-leisure/centre-for-buckinghamshire-studies/online-resources/historic-photographs/>

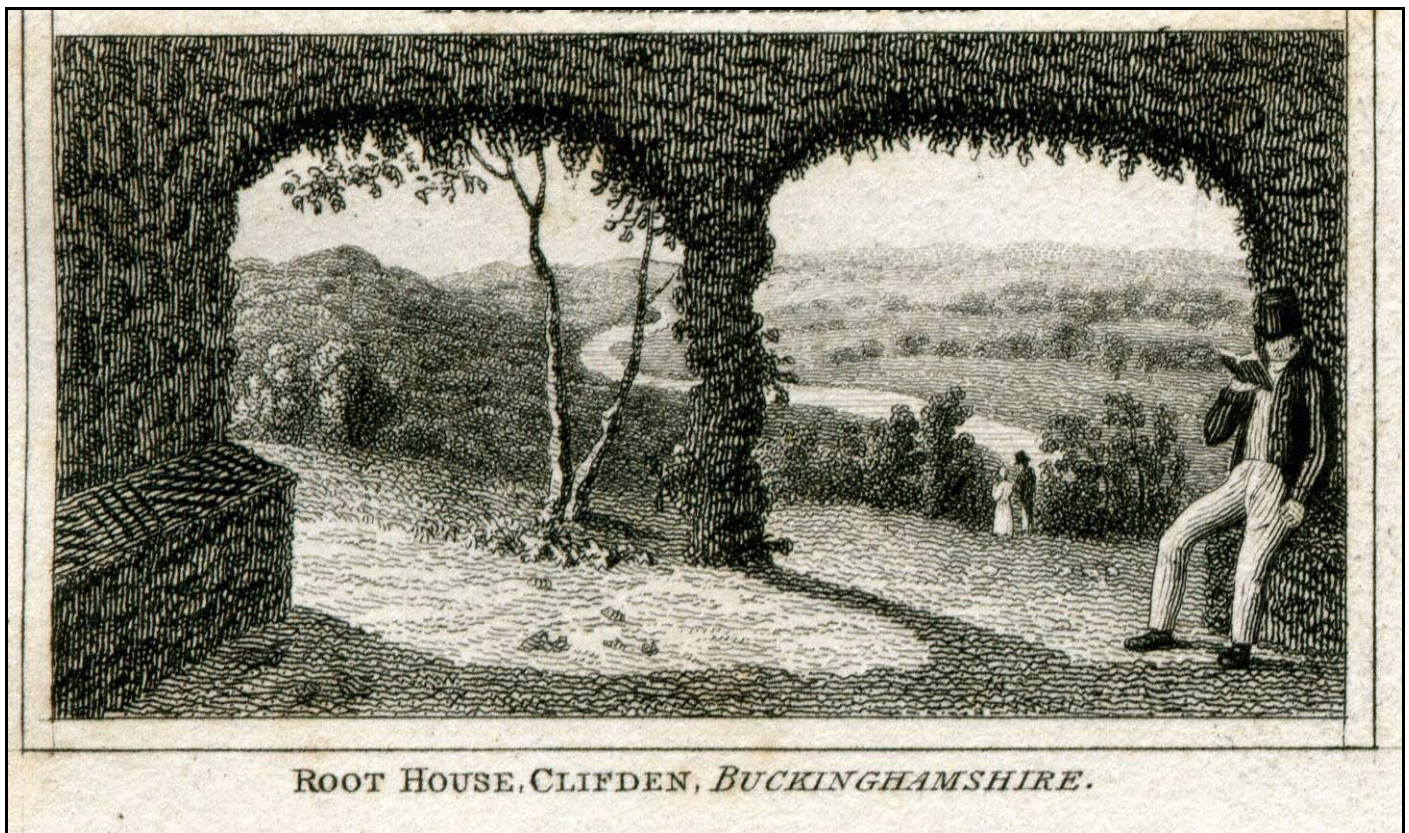


Figure 12 1827 View over Battlemead from Cliveden, *The Regent or Royal Tablet of Memory*.



Figure 13 1829 View over Battlemead from Cliveden, engraving,



Figure 14 a The Thames From Cliveden c.1870s, looking south-west towards Maidenhead, watercolour Myles Birket Foster, British Museum 1985,0608.32. © The Trustees of the British Museum
Battlemead is in the middle distance just beyond the river. This view was taken in the period after Enclosure in 1852 and before the acquisition of the land by WW Astor from Leycester in 1893.



Figure 14 b The Thames From Cliveden c.1870s, detail of Battlemead, watercolour Myles Birket Foster, British Museum 1985,0608.32. © The Trustees of the British Museum
Trees are confined to sparse specimens on the main field boundaries; there is no woody vegetation on the riverside.

6.5 CURRENT VIEWS FROM CLIVEDEN MANSION

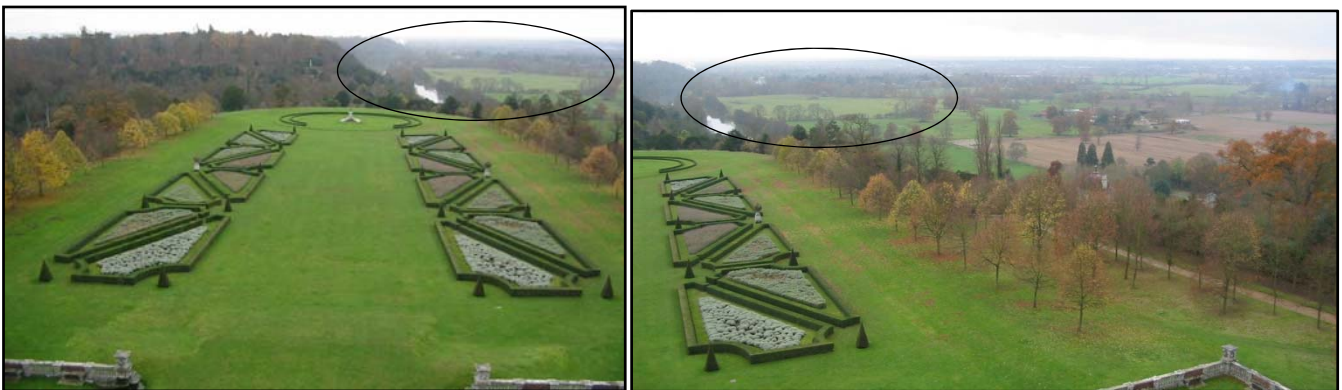


Figure 15 View from top of Cliveden mansion in 2004.



Figure 16 View from top of Cliveden mansion in 2019 (National Trust).



Figure 17 View from top of Cliveden mansion in 2019, closer view of study area (National Trust).

6.6 SETTING

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, revised 2018) makes it clear that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral (NPPF glossary). It also notes that Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification (para 194).

6.6.1 Historic England

Historic England has provided advice on *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3*. The advice note includes a '(non-exhaustive) check-list of potential attributes of a setting that may help to elucidate its contribution to significance'. As the advice note states, 'only a limited selection of the attributes listed is likely to be particularly important in terms of any single asset.'

English Heritage, *The Setting of Heritage Assets*, 2015.

Section 9

'Setting is not a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation ... Its importance lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset. ...'

'Where the significance of a heritage asset has been compromised in the past by unsympathetic development affecting its setting, to accord with NPPF policies, consideration still needs to be given to whether additional change will further detract from, or can enhance, the significance of the asset. Negative change could include severing the last link between an asset and its original setting; positive change could include the restoration of a building's original designed landscape or the removal of structures impairing views of a building'

Settings of heritage assets change over time. Understanding this history of change will help to determine how further development within the asset's setting is likely to affect the contribution made by setting to the significance

of the heritage asset. Settings of heritage assets which closely resemble the setting in which the asset was constructed are likely to contribute to significance

Because setting does not depend on public rights or ability to access it, significance is not dependent on numbers of people visiting it; this would downplay such qualitative issues as the importance of quiet and tranquility as an attribute of setting, constraints on access such as remoteness or challenging terrain, and the importance of the setting to a local community who may be few in number.

4. Assessment of views

Views are a subset of the whole setting, and certain aspects are of particular relevance to Battlemead Common.

Relevant aspects of English Heritage guidance are as follows:

English Heritage, *Seeing the History in the View*, May 2011 [p. 13]

‘Changes Experienced when Moving Through the Viewing Place

Views are often kinetic (i.e. the observer is moving) and so, if necessary, there should be separate consideration and explanation of how the visibility and appearance of the heritage asset may change as the observer moves around the Viewing Place. This may include a description of the asset’s visual relationship to other features in the view. Some views will have a more extensive Viewing Place than others.’

6.6.2 Aspects of Setting Applicable to Battlemead Common

Relevant definitions and guidance can be applied in the following ways to the historic setting of Battlemead:

- ‘setting’ refers to how an historic asset is understood and appreciated in relation to its surroundings and physical context
- all heritage assets have a setting
- extent of a setting is not fixed and can change as an asset and its surroundings evolve or as understanding of the asset improves – recent historic research has improved our understanding of the significance of the study area and the role of surrounding land in this context; also the contribution of the study area to the setting of important historic assets including Cliveden, White Place Farm, the River Thames and Cookham Commons, particularly Widbrook Common.
- setting is not confined to visual aspects – it is more than just views relating to a heritage asset (i.e. the fact that an area cannot be seen from a heritage asset does not exclude it from the historic setting) but embraces the significant surroundings strongly historically related to, or from which the asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from the asset.
- setting does not need to be ‘designed’ as part of the heritage asset
- setting clearly relates to an understanding of the significance of a heritage asset

- understanding the relationship to the historic asset and its significance is the starting point for any evaluation of the historic setting.
- the definition of setting of a heritage asset is much more than purely visual.

6.6.3 Defining the Battlemead Setting

The setting of Battlemead Common is of the utmost importance to the historic character of the site. Conversely the character and appearance of Battlemead Common is of very high significance for several historic assets in their own setting, as discussed below. The setting is of historic importance in long views west, north and east as set out above.

Battlemead Common is surrounded on three sides, to the west, north and east, by the rural Thames-side setting which is the largely unchanged historic setting established by the mid-C20. This is principally based on two aspects:

1. To the north and west the historic parish landscape of Cookham including Widbrook Common and White Place Farm established by the mid-C20
2. to the east the River Thames and beyond this the spectacular landscape and buildings of Cliveden which have developed ornamentally since the late C17.

These lead seamlessly in character into the wider Thames Valley landscape of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire as it winds through the Chilterns, which at this point is particularly rich in country houses and their designed landscapes as well as rural parishes with relatively little damaging change to their historic fabric and character.

Immediately to the south the setting is the outskirts of suburban Maidenhead including residential areas and office complexes which form the northern boundary of the conurbation. This moved from Cookham enclosed agricultural land in the early C20 with the layout of Islet country house, park and gardens including the construction of various associated service structures close to the south-west corner of the study area including a tall water tower as part of a complex of country estate buildings. Beyond Islet, Battlemead was a similar but smaller estate on former Cookham agricultural land also contiguous with the study area.

Astor sought to preserve his view from Cliveden mansion towards Maidenhead unencumbered by these other estates that were developing when he bought Cliveden. He must have had some influence on the vendor of the Islet land so that the new owner of Islet (Wagg) in 1910 was compelled by a deed of covenant to plant a belt alongside his north boundary.⁶ In the same year Astor also planted a belt on his side and carried this along the west, roadside boundary too.⁷ These belts have matured and carry out exactly the role desired by Astor, additionally screening Battlemead Common from the development to the south and south-west.

The ornamental landscapes of Islet, Battlemead and other nearby houses were largely overlaid by residential and office complexes in the later C20, including to the west of the Lower Cookham Road. The belts around two sides of Battlemead Common are of the utmost importance in screening these developments not only from Battlemead Common but also from distant Cliveden.

⁶ Land Registry BK18938 mentions the sale in 1911 of part of the Glen Island estate to Edward Wagg who then built Islet Park. This is the land immediately to the south of what was White Place Farm. Wagg covenanted with Lady Palmer and Waldorf Astor (later 2nd Viscount) to erect and maintain an iron boundary fence and to plant and maintain a screen of trees and shrubs between his land and the Glen Island (Taplow) and Cliveden Estates. Trees run south of the flood bund and along the Thames Path. The boundary was marked by a metal post that still exists in what is now the willow field that is marked WWA (William Waldorf Astor, 1st Viscount).

⁷ MERL MS 1066 1/365

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW: EVIDENCE AND POTENTIAL

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the archaeological aspects of the study area. It identifies the major periods of archaeological evidence to date, together with a summary of the types of features, information about interpreting the evidence, potential for further evidence and the key significances.

7.2 SOURCES

This section is largely informed by material from the Berkshire Historic Environment Record. A search was commissioned for an area in Berkshire including a buffer of 500m from the study area boundary in order to highlight significant archaeological potential (the data is mapped in Appendix 7, Figures 35-38, including Monuments and Findspots, Historic Landscape Characterisation, Historic Designations and Archaeological Events, all within a 500m buffer of the study area). The following information and analysis is largely drawn from this source, amplified by observations from walk-over surveys by the author of the report, and further information and analysis supplied by the National Trust Regional Archaeologist, Gary Marshall.

This has implications for the potential of the adjacent Battlemead Common study area for evidence of this period.

7.3 SUMMARY OF KEY PHASES OF EVIDENCE

Period	Evidence	Notes
Neolithic	4000 to 2201 BC. Fragmentary evidence found at White Place Farm: flint axe. Large quantity of struck flint flakes at Meadowside near Sheephouse Farm. Implements dredged from Thames between Boulters Lock and Cookham	Scattered evidence in setting not attached to any particular settlement.
Bronze/Iron Ages & Romano-British	Evidence at White Place Farm for 3 contiguous periods of occupation: Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (800-1000BC), Middle/Late Iron Age and Early Romano British, c. 600 years. Evidence of cropmarks, pits, enclosure ditches, pottery, charcoal, cereals, chaff and weed seeds. Possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery & ring ditches on Widbrook Common. Taplow Mound (see next entry) recently found to be part of a Bronze Age enclosure (Oxford Archaeology excavations).	Focussed on White Place Farmstead in setting.
Saxon	C7 royal burial in mound next to later Taplow Court in churchyard, east of Thames, 1km south of study area. Known as Taplow Mound it was probably visible for some distance when first built. Bartle Mead traditionally said to be site of C10 battle between Saxons and Danes. Darby questions whether this is a modern invention. Saxon spearheads found in river at Boulters Lock & near Babham Ferry, Cookham	The firm evidence occurs in the setting. The certainty of a battle on Bartle Mead is dubious.

Medieval to 1500	Cultivation of open fields and commons with associated banks, routes, drainage ditches.	Evidence in the study area probably surviving poorly due to re-organisation and changed cultivation methods after 1852 Enclosure
C16	Buildings at White Place Farm	This was the main settlement and is in the setting; it is most unlikely that the study area had any settlement.
Mid-C17 Civil War	Battle evidence, based on the reputed battle and cannon ball found in late C19.	This is in the setting. Possibility of evidence in study area as it is adjacent.
1500-1852	Features associated with common farming practices with open fields and common grazing. Similar to those of the medieval period but further development may have occurred.	Evidence in the study area probably surviving poorly due to re-organisation and changed cultivation methods after 1852 Enclosure.
Mid-C19-early C20	Structures associated with post-enclosure agricultural methods including field boundary materials and shelters in Lower Southey.	In study area, evidence seems to be sporadic due to removal in late C20/early C20

Figure 18 shows a selection of recent archaeological finds in White Place Farm land through metal detecting.



Figure 18 Display of Recent Archaeological Finds at White Place Farm by Nick Burston (gift to farmer John Edwards) (photo Joyce Delasalle).

These indicate the potential for finds below ground level at Battlemead.

7.4 POTENTIAL

Depending on the degree of subsequent interventions, the potential for archaeological evidence of the various key periods and features of the study area is as follows.

7.4.1 High

Features with high potential include those where the ground has been little disturbed since the feature was abandoned. The waterlogged environment is likely to have high potential for the survival of environmental evidence preserved in in-filled pits and ditches, particularly for the pre-historic period. Evidence may include:

- High likelihood for palaeolithic evidence on the Thames terraces. This could fulfil some of research aims of the Solent-Thames Research Framework prepared jointly by Oxford and Wessex Archaeology.
- Ancient trees, both living and surviving evidence of past trees in the form of pits and stumps
- Post-medieval agricultural features including enclosures
- C19/early C20 boundary materials such as iron fencing and gates, e.g. relict stretches of iron park fence and gateways associated with Astor's stipulation c.1910 that the south boundary must be fenced from Islet.
- Water bodies, especially the White Brook and pond, features such as sluices, banks, dams, discarded items.
- Features associated with the Islet estate in the south-east corner of the study area.
- Three surviving granite boundary marker stones for northern expansion of Borough of Maidenhead in 1934 (marked on Figure 3). See images in Appendix 6, Section 14.3, nos 25-27. Two on the west side of Bartlemead have been relocated (25 & 26). The third (27) is alongside the towpath at the south end.
- A triangular metal post in the willow field bears WWA on one side and EW on the other two sides, one for Astor ownership (1910, but marked WWA after Waldorf, 2nd Viscount took over) and the other two marked for Edward Wagg. See images below and in Appendix 6, Section 14.3.



The triangular metal marker post in the willow field, EW on two sides (left), and WWA on one (right) (A Darracott).

7.4.2 Low-Moderate

Low to moderate potential is likely where features have been abandoned or removed for a considerable time or the ground has been greatly disturbed such as major clearance, remodelling and drainage works. However, it is difficult to say what we do not know about potential buried archaeology. It may be in good condition below ground.

Features may include:

- Prehistoric and Romano British features and finds, which are likely to be scattered, without defining earthworks, and so may be invisible on the surface.
- Bronze Age cemeteries, given that the barrow cemetery at Cockmarsh is nearby.
- Saxon evidence, given the possible Saxon defences at nearby Sashes island, under investigation by Marlow Archaeological Society.
- Medieval features, buildings, routes, and agricultural evidence. Mid-C19 Enclosure and other activities are likely to have had a severe damaging effect. E.g. site of 'Tumulus' excavated in late C19 and now hardly

visible.

- C17 Civil War battle evidence.
- Agricultural features C16-mid-C19 developing medieval layout. Mid-C19 Enclosure activities are likely to have had a severe damaging effect.

7.4.3 **Unsuspected Level of Potential**

In addition evidence may survive more broadly in the historical context in places for which there is little or no visual indication of presence.

7.5 **SIGNIFICANCE**

There are no designated Scheduled Monuments.

The importance of the archaeological evidence in the study area is local in relation to understanding the cultural significance, particularly in relation to a continuum of agricultural management in several regimes for many centuries. This is based on the ensemble of archaeological evidence as an example of multi-period archaeological features arising from human activity for many centuries, reflecting typical rural activity in the Thames Valley.

Individually the most significant aspects are as follows:

1. Prehistoric and Roman finds and sites nearby indicate that this period could well yield significant evidence.
2. Medieval activity particularly agricultural and drainage.

Alongside this the most important archaeological evidence relates to the post-medieval agricultural features.

Other evidence is of variable significance depending on its position, level of survival and period, particularly where it indicates a focus of activity or settlement.

8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section is divided into two addressing various aspects of the historic environment:

- a) an overview of the significance of the study area in the wider context and
- b) assessment of the significance of individual features to the study area historic character and fabric.

The significances are based on the analysis in rest of the report which are referred to where relevant.

8.1 HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE IN THE WIDER CONTEXT

Level of Significance beyond Battlemead Common:

A Exceptional i.e. national/international

Aspects of the study area which are of national and international significance within broad thematic contexts, or have a particular significance through personal association or significantly enhancing our understanding of a particular historic function or purpose.

B Considerable i.e. regional (Thames Valley)

Aspects of the study area which are of regional significance within broad thematic contexts.

C Some/Moderate i.e. local (Cookham, Maidenhead, Taplow)

Aspects of the study area which are of local significance.

D Little/Neutral

Aspects which have little or no significance, without being intrusive or damaging.

Int Intrusive/damaging

Aspects which are visually intrusive, damage the historic character or fabric of the property.

8.2 OVERALL

B-C

The intrinsic significance of Battlemead Common is as a typical area of enclosed Berkshire Thames-side farmland that has survived intact and in relatively good condition, representing part of the history of Cookham parish. This confers on it local value C.

This significance is considerably enhanced when it is considered as the setting for various heritage assets ranging from international to local significance including:

1. Grade I Listed Cliveden mansion and associated listed estate buildings; in particular within the study area Bartle Mead in the east half is highly visible in long views towards Maidenhead; it has always formed a key element of the setting in the designed views. Lower Southey also contributes to these views but is partly screened by the trees along the White Brook, becoming more prominent in winter.
2. Grade I Registered Cliveden country house landscape including the parterre, and the cliff-top and waterside routes and Spring Cottage; the study area has always formed a key element of the setting in the designed views as outlined in 1. above.
3. The cluster of Grade II White Place Farm buildings, of C16-early C20 origin, with a key phase in the late C19/early C20 as a progressive model dairy farm for Waldorf Astor, as a key element supporting the Cliveden country house estate.
4. A former part of the White Place Farm holding since the mid-C19 and associated particularly with the Astors' model dairy farm from 1893 as a key element supporting the Cliveden country house estate.
5. The River Thames as a heritage and cultural asset of high significance nationally, for which this forms part of the historic rural setting contiguous with White Place Farm to the north
6. As the southernmost buffer of suburban Maidenhead for the rest of Cookham parish and Cliveden; the belts insisted on by Astor to the south and west boundaries are of the highest significance in enhancing this.
7. Cookham Commons, in particular Widbrook Common and the system of waterways leading to Maidenhead,

for which this forms the historic rural parish setting and was formerly an element held in common ownership (before mid-C19 Enclosure).

8.3 SIGNIFICANCE CATEGORIES AS SET OUT IN THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK⁸

8.3.1 Historic Significance

B-C

Battlemead Common is a typical area of enclosed Berkshire Thames-side farmland including watercourses and a variety of mature trees contributing to the historic character that has survived intact and in relatively good condition, representing part of the social and agricultural history of Cookham parish. (C)

The significance is considerably increased when it is considered as the setting for a number of important historic assets (see above). See Section 6 Views and Setting. (B)

8.3.2 Archaeological Significance

C

The known archaeological significance is moderate. The potential is high for various periods based on the long history of riverside occupation in the area since prehistoric times, and unbroken agricultural use since at least the medieval period. See Section 7, Archaeological Overview.

8.3.3 Aesthetic Significance

B

The intrinsic aesthetic significance is moderate/local based on the agricultural character as it was never part of a designed landscape. However this significance is enhanced by the close association with the Cliveden estate between 1893 and 1966 and the measures that Astor took within the site in the 1890s and 1900s to use it to enhance and protect the setting of his designed landscape and the ornamentation on the site that occurred, including belts to the west and south, and ornamental iron fencing. The aesthetic character as it survives represents the layout and presentation at its most fully developed by the 1920s as part of Astor's White Place Farm model farm including study paddocks.

8.3.4 Architectural Significance

D

Architectural significance is absent as there are no buildings present nor were there any historically.

8.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF KEY FEATURES TO BATTLEMEAD COMMON HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

The following formed key features of the historic character and fabric by the zenith of the layout in the early C20.

- A Exceptional significance: Fundamental to the historic interest.
- B Considerable significance: Essential parts or elements specific to the character and fabric.
- C Some significance: of historic interest; contributes to historic complexity.
- D Little significance.
- E Damages the historic character.

⁸ NPPF, revised 2018, with additional guidance on the definition of these significances in MHCLG Guidance on the Historic Environment revised 23 July 2019; see Appendix 5 below for definitions of these four headings.

A Exceptional significance

The layout and ornamented character of the land established by the 1920s: the specific mosaic of agricultural land use, its openness and main parcel boundaries presented to a high standard of agricultural management with a significant and aesthetic aspect characteristic of White Place Farm.	
White Brook as a flowing watercourse and connection to other Maidenhead watercourses	Trees originating before 1893: the planting pattern and distinctive combination of species
Bartle Mead field	Visual relationship with setting, including screening to south
Lower Southey field	Site of bridges and gateways
Ozier bed	Belts to south and west planted by Astor c.1910

B Considerable significance

Iron park fencing erected by Astor, consolidating character of study area as part of White Place Farm; a line survives north of the study area near the farm buildings	Willow field, formerly part of Islet park and historically managed as meadow or open parkland
Iron marker post for Astor & Wagg (1910) and stones for Borough of Maidenhead (1934)	Trees planted by Astor to mark division of Lower Southey into four paddocks
Track from White Place Farm and spur to river	Materials of bridges
Division of Lower Southey into 4 paddocks by 1920s including banks from 1852 and early C20, used for Cliveden stud.	Mature trees marking division of Lower Southey into 4 paddocks; W-E line marks the initial 1852 Enclosure division into 2 parcels (oak); N-S line planted by Astor (lime, horse chestnut).

C Some significance

Pond	Site of 'tumulus'
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D Little significance

Paddock subdivisions established mid-C20-1966	
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E Damaging to Historic Character

Hedgerow along east side of track dividing Bartle Mead, north of pond	Timber fencing that does not follow historic precedent by mid-C20 in position and/or materials
Galvanised gates	
Change of management of pond triangular parcel to trees	Hedges that do not follow historic precedent by the mid-C20 in their position
Hard standing car park	?Causeway
Late C20/C21 development to south and south-west	Wetland by causeway
Transmitter tower by White Brook, north of Lower Southey	Standing and fallen dead wood in open land and in prominent places seen from Cliveden
Electricity poles	Domestic character of environs of converted buildings on south side of White Place Farm, and garden fencing
Development to south and south-west	

9 APPENDIX 1 REFERENCES

9.1 PUBLICATIONS

Buckinghamshire County Museum, *Buckinghamshire Landscapes 1444 to 1997* (1997), 28, 30 [Birkett Foster view from Cliveden, 1870s]
Country Life (15 November 1919), 617-20. [article on model farming practices by Astor at White Place Farm]
 Darby, S, *Place & Field Names in Cookham Parish, Berks* (1899)
 Darby, S, *Chapters in the History of Cookham* (1909)
 Darracott, A, *Maidenhead Civic Society News* (February 2019), 7-10.
 Darracott, A, *Maidenhead Civic Society News* (July 2019), 8-9.
 Ditchfield, PH, Page, W, *A History of the County of Berkshire* vol. 3 (1923), 124-33. [Victoria County History, Parish of Cookham.]
 Lysons D. *Magna Britannia: Bedfordshire. Berkshire. Bucks .v.2* (1813), 267.

9.2 UNPUBLISHED REPORTS, NOTES, ETC

Darby MSS: Stephen Darby's handwritten notes in 18 bound volumes plus index, which formed the basis for *Chapters in Cookham* (1909). Maidenhead Library.
 Darracott, A, for Maidenhead Civic Society, 'York Stream [Maidenhead] - a review of past efforts to keep the stream clear', 2006.
 Maidenhead Waterways, Technical Note on the White Brook Channel Maintenance, June 2019.
 Wessex Archaeology, White Place Farm, Historic Building Recording, 2004. (copy in Berks HER)
 Wessex Archaeology, White Place Farm, Archaeological Evaluation 2006. (copy in Berks HER)
 Wessex Archaeology, White Place Farm, Archaeological Excavation & Watching Brief 2012. (copy in Berks HER)

9.3 MAPS

1761, Rocque Map of Berkshire (BRO)
 1809, Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing, sheet 126 (British Library)
 c.1825, Widbrook Common map (BRO D_EX 43_3_9)
 1840 Map of Cookham parish (BRO D/P 43/28/1A (schedule); D/P 43/28/1B (map)) [appears to be pre-enclosure map]
 1844 Tithe map, Cookham parish, BRO D/D1/43/1b (map) and 1a (award) [similarities to 1840 map; parcel numbering system different]
 1848 Map of Cookham Commons (BRO D/EZ69/1/15/2) [Widbrook Common shown in outline]
 1852 Enclosure Map of Cookham parish (BRO Q/RDC/94/E (map); BRO Q/RDC/94/1A (award))

 1875 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 6" & 25" scale (see also 1875 25inch OS base estate map CBS Ma203_2R)
 1897 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 6" & 25" scale
 1910 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 6" & 25" scale
 1925 Ordnance Survey 4th Edition, 6" & 25" scale
 1932 Ordnance Survey Revised Edition 6" & 25" scale
 1937 Visct Astor Cookham & Taplow estates (CBS D 158_9) based on 1932 OS 25"
 1966 Astor estate 'blue print' map of White Place Farm (CBS D 158_70)

9.4 IMAGES

9.4.1 Artistic Images

No historic artistic images taken within or specifically of the study area have been identified so far. Several historic images show the study area as the backdrop to or framing scenes. These include in chronological order:

1790-92, Courbold, View of Cliveden from the Thames towpath north past White Place Farm land, possibly Battlemead, engraving (Bucks County Council) <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/culture-and-leisure/centre-for-buckinghamshire-studies/online-resources/historic-photographs/> based on

1790-92, Courbold, watercolour, British Museum BM 1890.0512.32

<https://www.watercolourworld.org/painting/untitled-cliveden-house-buckinghamshire-tww00c51d>

1793, View from Hedsor Lodge south towards Maidenhead, aquatint, J Farington, published by Boydell (in Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, *Historic Views of Buckinghamshire* (2004), Figure 41).

1827, View from Cliveden south over Battlemead, *The Regent or Royal Tablet of Memory*.

1829, View from Cliveden south over Battlemead (Bucks County Council).

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/culture-and-leisure/centre-for-buckinghamshire-studies/online-resources/historic-photographs/>

c.1870s, The Thames From Cliveden, looking south-west towards Maidenhead, watercolour Myles Birket Foster, British Museum 1985,0608.32.

9.4.2 Aerial Views

Aerial views illustrate the study area from as early as the 1920s (Britain from Above), and the 1940s (Historic England Archive and possibly Cambridge University Archive) and at various intervals since. However, these sources were beyond the scope of this project.

9.5 ARCHIVES

9.5.1 Berkshire Record Office (BRO)

See Maps above. Also holds copy of Derby (1909).

9.5.2 Centre for Bucks Studies (CBS)

Astor Cliveden and Cookham Estate Papers

D 158/9 Plan of Visct Astor's estates at Cookham and Taplow, 1937

D 158/23 Cliveden Estate cash book Dec. 1952- Dec. 54; White Place Farm not identified

D 158/36 title deeds including White Place Particulars 1751 belonging to Captain Leycester, a digest of deeds from the C17 with a schedule of 1751 including Bartlemead.

D 158/37 schedule of covenanted lands; 1 page deed of Covenant, Astor to NT

D 158/39 Rush Mead, farm production statistics

D 158/ 41/1 Sale particulars White Place Farm, 1966, estate correspondence on the sale of 250 head White Place Ayrshire herd, and proof sale particulars of farm with annotations.

D 158/ 41 /2 Sale particulars White Place Farm, 1966, estate correspondence including on boreholes and water supply. Field schedule.

D 158/70 Map with field names White Place Farm, 1966 'blue print'

Transcript of Schedule of Fields in Study Area In Astor ownership in 1966 (D 158/ 41 /2; parcel numbers relate to 1925/1932 OS 25")

Parcel no.	Description	area acres	Arable	Woods, etc	Notes by SR 2019
654	Field: Tumulus	21.386	21.386		NE corner of Bartle Mead; split into three paddocks
656	Water: duck pond	3.534		3.534	West of Bartle Mead bisected by White Brook; named as Bridge Field on Blue print map 1966
667	Field: Southey Upper	11.899		11.889	In north half of Lower Southey
668	Field: Southey Lower	12.981		12.981	In north half of Lower Southey
669	Woodland	1.956		1.956	West of Widbrook by Lower Southey fields formerly Watery Butts
670	Field: Widbrook	22.328	22.328		NW corner of Bartle Mead; split into three paddocks
671	Field: Water Meadow	15.106		15.106	S end of Bartle Mead
675	Spinney	0.960		0.960	S boundary of Bartle Mead against Islet park. East end of belt to screen Islet
678	Woodland	1.209		1.209	West of Widbrook by Lower Southey fields formerly Watery Butts
679	Field: Gardens Lower	5.771		5.771	In south half of Lower Southey including belt along south boundary against Islet
680	Spinney	0.884		0.884	West section of belt along south boundary against Islet; also includes south part of belt against Lower Cookham Road
681	Field: Gardens Upper	5.006	5.006		In south half of Lower Southey
683	Spinney	0.605		0.605	North part of belt against Lower Cookham Road

NB this excludes study area parcels in other ownership: 677, 676, 711 and 712 then in Islet grounds to the south.



Figure 19 1966 Map with field names of White Place Farm, 'blue print' (CBS D 158/70)

9.5.3 Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)

MS 1066 1/365-378 Estate correspondence and reports on the running of White Place Farm, 1904-1950s; little specifically about study area but indicative of how the land was probably used as part of the dairy farm and Astor's particular attitudes to running it as a 'working' farm rather than a showpiece.

9.5.4 Land Registry

1911 Land Registry BK18938 sale of part of Glen Island estate

1913 Land Registry BK63357 Hatch's orchard sold to Waldorf (later 2nd Viscount) Astor

1918 Land Registry BK63357 Right of access for Sutton Lodge Farm for drainage works; ref Astor NT covenant 1943

Commentary on information in Land Registry Documents, A Darracott July 2019

BK18938 BK18938 In 1911 part of the Glen Island estate was sold to Edward Wagg who had built Islet Park. It is assumed this was to the south of White Place Farm, in the vicinity of Islet Park.

The vendor Gertrude Millicent Palmer (d.1929) was wife of the deceased Sir Roger Palmer, 5th Baronet (d.1910) who had built Glen Island house further south on the opposite side of the Thames (currently being turned into flats as part of the Taplow Riverside development. Edward Wagg covenants with both Mrs Palmer and Waldorf (later 2nd Viscount) Astor committing himself to erecting and maintaining an iron boundary fence and also agrees to plant and maintain a screen of trees and shrubs between his premises (Islet Maidenhead) and the Glen Island and Cliveden Estates. Wagg probably planted the trees alongside the section of Thames Path to the east of the willow fields together with the mature trees in those fields. These trees are immediately south of the flood bund and along the Thames Path to the east of the willow trees section of Battlemead Common. Mrs Palmer insisting on the tree screen may have been a favour to Astor.

BK63357 Refers to White Place Farm. WWA Astor bought Battlemead and the northern part of Lower Southey from the Leycester estate in 1893 (see Figure 26, Enclosure Map). His son Waldorf placed a restrictive covenant in 1943 on most of Battlemead in favour of the National Trust to preserve the view from Cliveden. The East Field of the new Battlemead Common is within the covenanted area. Details of the covenant on page 4 of the Land registry document

It was probably Waldorf Astor who bought the southern part of Lower Southey for his brood mares. He is regarded as the founder of the Cliveden Stud. BK63357 refers to the sale in 1913 by Fanny Isabella Hatch of land to Waldorf Astor but this land was a strip running north from Widbrook Cottage and is outside the area owned by the Royal Borough (i.e. to the north).⁹

White Place Farm was bought by Hall Aggregates in 1970 for extracting gravel. Renamed RMC Aggregates it was later purchased by CEMEX. East Berks Ramblers negotiated with RMC Ltd in 1977 for a path across to the river as their Silver Jubilee project. This was scotched in a letter from Leisure Sport Ltd in 1978 saying the boundary walk they had discussed was part of a leisure development on the site and that the area had been purchased for the purpose of gravel extraction. No permission to extract gravel has been given probably because of the landscape and agricultural value of the site.

BK239565 Refers to the site east of the Lower Cookham Road formerly part of Islet estate Maidenhead. Note reference to a right of way retained by the transferor presumably to give access to the road. This may be how the land in this area became split.

In the recent past Royal London Asset Management owned from the Lower Cookham Road to the west bank of the White Brook and Quintain PLC owned from the east bank to the Thames. This may also be why, before the flood bund was built by the EA, staff at Stiefel Laboratories could cross a little bridge and reach the river.

⁹ Figure 24 et seq (i.e. Figs 26 to 34) show Widbrook Cottage

Figure 24 1840 Cookham parish map BRO D_P 43_28_1b

Figure 25 1844 Tithe Map, Cookham Parish BRO D_D1_43_1b

Figure 26 1852 Enclosure Map, Cookham Parish (BRO Q_RDC_94E)

As early as ca 1875 this land had trees on it (see Fig 27 OS & others) and is most likely the Hatch's orchard referred to in 1910 (see Chronology). It seems Waldorf already had an interest in this land before he bought it as the chrono refers to planting being carried out there. Possibly he leased it from Fanny Hatch before buying it. See also the blog *Historical Cookham* by James Hatch whose grandmother sold Hatch's orchard to Waldorf Astor. He lived at Widbrook Cottage for his first 21 years and the blog has much information about White Place Farm.

BK253728 Agreement in 1987 to lease land for 25 years to Stiefel Laboratories. Their title registered in BK239565. Stiefel Laboratories moved out some time ago and Royal London have been unable to develop the site either for a new office block or housing. The laboratories site and the adjacent green field are designated in the draft Borough Local Plan (BLP) for housing.

Summary of the Management of White Place Farm from *Country Life*, article on White Place Farm, 15 November 1919

Written by agricultural editor (see letter from Edward Hudson to Astor, 16 Sept 1919, in MS 1066 1/367 requesting permission to commission article)

As a dairy farm White Place Farm was report to be very different from either that of the rich landowner (examples given were Sandringham (royal), Tring Park (Rothschild) and Mentmore (Rosebery)) or at the other end of the scale the working farmer.

Instead Lord Astor used the example of Mr Wilfred Buckley [(1873–1933), promoter of clean milk] to guide his approach: to produce clean hygienic milk, to run the farm on business-like and commercial basis and to have good conditions of labour.¹⁰ In some respects it resembles that of an ordinary dairy farmer, in others it is v different. It shows that with ordinary cows and capital the working famer may win the solid reward of increased payment by getting his milk officially passed and certified.

The sort of animals are exactly such as an ordinary famer might have sent to marked or driven from it – serviceable, useful milkers [i.e. no expensive pedigree herd]. There is a sprinkling of 1000 gall cows, one or two with a pedigree but the herd was being built up by judicious purchases and addition of calves from best milkers and bulls so that the quality is good but not out of the common.

Measures to keep milk clean were at that time unusual but simple based on cleanliness of cows and staff.¹¹ Clean cows, clipped long hairs, milkers wash and dry their hands, wear overalls, equipment scalded daily. A large concrete collecting yard helped to keep the cows clean and was hosed daily. He adopted this advanced system from America.

This was an establishment still in the making. Much work had been done in building and concreting but more remained to be done. The cows were milked in iron stalls minimising the use of wood which was less hygienic. The quantities of feed were carefully administered according to need. There was much sluicing down of the dairy and beasts with copious water while cattle feeding before milking. After milking the milk was never touched again and was immediately bottled. The resultant bacteria count was much below average.

[The farmhouse was ?largely rebuilt c.1900. OS maps show substantial buildings erected in the early 1920s, by 1925, including Cow House (c.1925), milking parlour (by autumn 1919, see CL photos), dairy (contemporary with milking parlour, c.1919) (Wessex Archaeology, 2004, HER ID ERM474)]

¹⁰ A copy of Wilfred Buckley's 1917 book is in the Astor Collection at MERL. *Farm records and the production of clean milk at Moundsmere* with an introduction by The Hon. Waldorf Astor.

¹¹ In the United States such 'certified' milk, guaranteed free of the bovine tubercle was widely available but in England it was quite unknown. The dairy industry generally derided Wilfred Buckley's views on the need for improved methods in the production and distribution of milk. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, accessed 27 July 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/94260>

10 APPENDIX 2 CHRONOLOGY

Abbreviations

BRO = Berkshire Record Office

CBS = Centre for Bucks Studies

Darby 1909 = Stephen Darby, *Chapters in the History of Cookham* (1909)

Darby MS = Stephen Darby's handwritten notes in 18 bound volumes plus index in Maidenhead Library

Darby 1899 = Stephen Darby, *Place & Field Names in Cookham Parish, Berks* (1899)

HER = Berkshire Historic Environment Record

MCS = Maidenhead Civic Society

MERL = Museum of Rural Life

VCH = Victoria County History

WPF = White Place Farm

Date	Event	Source
Neolithic Period	4000 to 2201 BC. Fragmentary evidence at White Place Farm: flint axe. Large quantity of struck flint flakes at Meadowside near Sheephouse Farm. Implements dredged from Thames between Boulters Lock and Cookham. This has implications for the potential of the adjacent Battlemead Common study area for evidence of this period.	HER 00304.00.000 - MRW363 HER 00612.00.000 - MRW995
Bronze/ Iron Ages & Romano British	Evidence at White Place Farm for 3 contiguous periods of occupation: Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, Middle/Late Iron Age and Early Romano British, c. 600 years. This based on evidence of cropmarks, pits, enclosure ditches, pottery, charcoal, cereals, chaff and weed seeds. Possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery & ring ditches on Widbrook Common. This has implications for the potential of the adjacent Battlemead Common study area for evidence of this period.	Wessex Archaeology, 2006 & 2012 HER 00304.00.000 - MRW363 HER 00304.01.000 - MRW364 -68
early C7	Royal burial in mound next to later Taplow Court in churchyard, east of Thames, 1km south of study area. Mound visible for some distance when first built.	
C10	Bartle Mead traditionally said to be site of battle between Saxons and Danes. Darby questions whether this is a modern invention. Saxon spearheads found at Boulters Lock & near Babham Ferry, Cookham.	Darby, 1909. HER 00276.00.000 - MRW7948 & 00294.00.000 - MRW7985
1303	Survey (Extente) in the reign of Edward I Lord of the manor of Cookham described part of study area as <i>Battlemeade</i> , 29 acres and Withie Brook 3a, both meadow (i.e. to be mowed).	Darby, 1909, p. 31; Darracott, MCS, 2019
1370	Land present named Southey. A Southey possibly gave his name to Upper and Lower Southey arable open fields (indicated on mid-C19 maps).	Darby, 1899 p91
Medieval period	Battlemead used for growing hay and pasture, and was one of the open meadows with 'Commoners rights' until enclosure in 1852. So-called 'Tumulus' in NE corner of Bartle Mead excavated in 1883 was probably site of a medieval building as found only domestic articles no earlier than C14.	Darracott, MCS, 2019 HER 00287.00.000 - MRW362

1469	John Southey was a tenant of Richard Bullock. White Place Farm was part of Bullocks. Reputed manor of Bullocks was also called White Place.	Darby MS vol 10, p33 transcript of Cookham Court Oct 1469; <i>VCH</i> , 124-33
1475	Payments to free tenants of Cookham and others, for mowing and scattering grass and lifting, cocking (making cones) and stacking the hay on Batillyngmede.	Darby MS vol 17, p74-75, transcript of Duchy of Lancaster Min. Accts 724 no 11 800 p69-91
C16	Farmstead at White Place Farm present by now; the farmhouse & two of the existing barns have C16 origins (on stylistic grounds) and the dovecote has bricks of this period (although the LB description gives it early C18 origin).	Wessex Archaeology Report, 2004.
1596	It is noted in a later document, concerning Withbrook meadow that: ¹² Elizabeth I by her letters patent under the seal of the Exchequer bearing the date 4th March in the 39th year of her reign grants two parcels of meadow to Ralph Bird, Richard Deane and Thomas Dodson for the use of the inhabitants and parishioners of the said parish of Cookham for the term of their lives and the longest liver of them under the yearly rent of 140 shillings payable half yearly at Lady Day and Michaelmas by equal portions. At the death of any of them, Ralph, Richard, Thomas, there is to be paid 13 shillings and 4 pence (nomine heriot). The lessees are to repair, cleanse and maintain all the ditches, banks and fences of the said premises from time to time.	Darby MS, vol 18, 52
1609	Bartlemead consists of 61 ½ acres among 19 owners described as a Lammas meadow held in severalty for the hay crop and in common of pasturage by the owners during the remainder of the year	Darby, 1899, 10
1611	The Crown seized goods, chattels and two parts of his lands including White Place, the manor of Bullocks and meadows including Bartlemead to pay the fine of their owner Edward Manfield, Knt , a recusant.	Darby, 1909, 319, Darby MS vol 18, p198
1622/3	James I granted the meadow granted by Elizabeth I to Henry Vane Sen. after the death of the last survivor of Ralph, Richard, Thomas (see 1596)	Darby MS vol 18, p53
1640s	Field east of White Place Farm supposed site of Civil War battle, 6lb cannon shot found in C19	HER 00286.00.000 - MRW361
1650-51 during the Common wealth	In list of tenants Edward Manfield Knt held Bullocks, Shawses and other lands also Slowgrove and meadow in Bartlemead Battling Meadow was surveyed; it was reputed to be a possession of Charles Stuart, late king of England. Battling Meade bounded with the river Thames towards the north-east, the fields called Lockfields toward the south-east, certain field or parcel of ground called Withbrook towards the south-west and the land of Sir Edward Manfield towards the north-west containing by estimation 35 acres more or less (value £29 3s 4d). All feeding pasturage or after crop of Batlingmeade claimed to lie in common from All Saints Day (1 st November) until the first Monday in Lent.	Darby MS vol 18 p 60,p66, 67 Transcript of Exchequer Aug. Off. Parl. Survey no 14- Survey of the Manor of Cookham 1650-1651, p50-69 and Darracott, MCS 2019

¹² Defined as bounded with a field called Sutton on the north and with two fields called Southie and Sherling south and butting upon Mr Francis Harrisons land west and Bartlemead east Containing 60 acres 3roods and 11 perches (Darby MS vol 18, p52-53)

1650-51	Battling Meadow seized by virtue of an Act of Parliament and then sold.	Darby MS vol 18 p66; Darracott, MCS, 2019
1656	Deed (or poss 2 deeds) for land in White Place Estate	CBS D 158_36
1663	Deed for land in White Place Estate	CBS D 158_36
1673	Deed for land in White Place Estate	CBS D 158_36
1674	Edward Manfield of Clevedon (Cliveden) involved in the sale of White Place that had in 1671 been leased for 500 years. Cliveden was acquired by the Manfield family in 1600, selling it to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham c.1666. He died in 1687 and Cliveden was sold back to the Manfield family who sold it to George Hamilton Earl of Orkney in 1696.	Darby MS vol 17 p 26 Transcript of Close Roll 26 Charles II 1674; Close Roll said to have the field names; Crathorne p10, 34
1680s	Cliveden mansion built above river to east.	
1691	Deed for land in White Place Estate [need more detail from doc]	CBS D 158_36
1697	Deed for land in White Place Estate [need more detail from doc]	CBS D 158_36
1751	Schedule of land in White Place Estate based on 5 tenanted holdings. Includes in the 'Common Field' (as opposed to 'arable'), 34a. in Upper Southey, 32a. in Lower Southey. 27a., part of 152a. holding; in Bartle Mead 'meadow', all in possession of Mr Poulton of total 83 a. of meadow he held.	CBS D 158_36
1761	Map shows Lower Cookham Road with Lower Southey as arable and Bartlemead and parcels adjacent on riverside as meadow. Osier bed on riverside of Battlemead. Inaccurate in some respects as Widbrook shown too far north, bounding S side of WPF. S end of Lower Cookham Rd has a strong kink towards river, ironed out later? The White Brook did not connect with Strandwater until c.1813.	Rocque Map of Berkshire Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing (OSD) sh. 126. & OS 1 st edition 1", 1813
1763	The manor of Bullocks, alias Whites Place, purchased by George Leycester. It had been by purchase the property of Ralph Moore until he died in 1577 and was afterwards in the family of Smith.	D. Lysons <i>Magna Britannia</i> .v.2 1813, 267
1809	Similar situation to 1761 (Rocque). Course of Brook shown more accurately; south end of Lower Cookham Road follows present course (moved, straightened?). Arable land west of Brook, meadow to east. Planting on E edge of Battlemead, probably osiers. Widbrook Common marked.	Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing (OSD) sh. 126.
c.1813	By now the White Brook was linked to the south end of Strand Water bringing water from Cookham, probably to reverse the flow away from the Thames so that flood water didn't reach Maidenhead and entered where Islet Park was later built. ¹³	1 st edn. 1" Ordnance Survey, based on Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing (OSD) sh. 126.
1813	White Place Farm owned by George Leycester's grandson George Hanmer Leycester (1763-1838). ¹⁴	D. Lysons <i>Magna Britannia</i> .v.2 1813, 267
1825ish	Field names marked adjacent to Common with the number and situation	Widbrook Common

¹³ NB around this time (c.1790-1817) The Cut was put through Ockwells estate upgrading an existing stream connecting it from North Ascot via Bracknell Forest, draining into the Thames at Bray. It was diverted from its original course westwards to the River Loddon via [Stanlake Park](#) south of Twyford to alleviate flood risk. Was this part of a concerted waterways improvement scheme for the tributaries along the Maidenhead stretch?

¹⁴ Among other things he was an English amateur cricketer who made 50 known appearances in first-class cricket matches between 1790 and 1808 and was a prominent early member of the MCC

	of trees on the boundaries including along Lower Withey (51), & Bartle Mead (55).	map BRO D_EX 43_3_9
1838	d. George Hanmer Leycester. Property then managed by Trustees of the Will until at least 1852.	
1840	Pre-enclosure map (Figure 24) with very useful survey book. Lower Southey (arable) and Bartle Mead (meadow) divided into many plots allocated to various commoners. Within the study area: Commonable meadows p. 94 Parcels 988-90 Bartlemead 54a Parcel 999 Water butts alongside W side of Widbrook Old Inclosures Parcels 927-40 ish = WPF old fields with farm at centre Commonable Arable Lower Southey Field Parcel 1000 Sydenham Mead furlong Parcels 1001-3 Lock Mead furlong All subdivided into many parcels. Compare with tithe map Widbrook Cmn Islands: Parcels 984-87, 991-2 called Ozier Eyotts Ozier beds: Parcels 998 & 995 on W bank ¹⁵ ; 995 now owned by RBWM	BRO D/P 43/28/1A (Enclosure schedule) BRO D/P 43/28/1B (Map of whole parish 163" x 106")
1844	Tithe map (Figure 25) & Award; shows land ownership pre-enclosure, similar to 1840 map, probably based on same survey; numerous field strips and divisions of meadows; over 70 small plots in study area; WPF existing enclosed fields numbered 460s owned by Leycester will Trustees; mansion unoccupied. WPF farmed by John Mills. Widbrook Common parcel 475; square to SE Vaughan owned and was meadow.	BRO D/D1/43/1b (map) and 1a (award) Award v creased and binding gone; water damaged but easier to use than microfilm.
1847	The Cookham enclosure commissioners announce as part of enclosure of common land that they have set out a watercourse, 10' wide, commencing at SW corner of a Common Meadow called Bartle Mead, proceeding SW through this common meadow to the NW corner of an inclosed meadow called Slowgrove belonging to the trustees of the late Lady Dunboyne, thence SW to SE corner of an ozier bed belonging to the trustees of the will of the late George Hanmer Leycester, deceased where it enters the River Thames. This confirms that the Leycester ownership of Bartlemead extended to the confluence with the Thames where the watercourse <u>entered</u> the river	<i>Reading Mercury</i> , 24 July, p.1
1848	Enclosure-related map shows all Commons in parish. Widbrook Common in outline with road across it and Brook. Little other detail.	Map of Cookham BRO D/EZ69/1/15/2
1852	Enclosure of Cookham (but not the Commons), map (Figure 26) Former Lower Southey Field (part of open field system) divided into 5 parallel fields leading off Lower Cookham Road. From north to south given to: GH Leycester (25a), Thos Lewis (13a), Vincent Vaughn deceased (8a), Univ of Oxford (11a), Wm Stephens (12a). Leycester also had 54a Bartle Mead (meadow), north of White Brook. Stephens had 5a Watery Butts,	BRO Q/RDC/94/E (Enclosure Map); BRO Q/RDC/94/1A (Enclosure Award)

¹⁵ The osier is a small Eurasian willow which grows in wet habitats. Historically it was coppiced, being a major source of the long flexible shoots (withies) used in basketwork for transporting goods. Small river islands were often put down to osiers when they were frequently inundated but not permanently flooded.

	Stephens had 12a Lock Mead to S of this on which Islet later built. Widbrook Common to NW.	
1875	<p>1st detailed plan of final layout after enclosure, much as depicted on 1852 Enclosure Map. Battle Mead undivided and separated from Lower Southey by White Brook from several parallel rectangular fields. Osier beds next to river.</p> <p>WPF reached by an avenue from the west, with parkland to the east leading to the river. Kitchen garden NW of WPF.</p> <p>Boat House at NE corner north of tumulus.</p> <p>Fields stretch south to where the Cookham Road meets the river. 2 bridges across White Brook in present places. Track south from farm to bridge over drain gave access to Bartle Mead which was undivided.</p>	OS 25" 1 st edition
1887	To be let, White Place Farm ... in first-rate cultivation ... 88a. pasture, 70 of arable, with good cottage and garden.	<i>The Standard</i> , 02 July, p. 7
1893	<p>William Waldorf Astor (later 1st Visct Astor, 1848-1919) bought Cliveden. Separately Astor bought WPF from Leycester Estate including Battlemead field. As part of WPF he probably obtained the 25a. northern part of Lower Southey Field that was awarded to the Leycester estate at Enclosure in 1852 (Parcel 199 on Enclosure map).</p> <p>At WPF a model farm was later developed by Waldorf for a substantial herd of cows, farmhouse rebuilt, new pump house, large cowhouse (listed II), dairy buildings and imposing gatehouse. The kitchen garden in NW corner had already been established by Hugh Grosvenor, Duke of Westminster (who owned Cliveden 1868-93) to serve the Cliveden estate after kitchen gardens in front of the mansion were removed, supplementing walled & fruit gardens there.</p>	<p>Crathorne p128</p> <p>Bootle & Bootle p95</p> <p>Enclosure 1852 BRO Q/RDC/94/E (map); Q/RDC/94/1A (award)</p> <p>VCH</p> <p>Listed Building entry HE</p> <p><i>Country Life</i> 1919 & WPF files at MERL.</p>
1897	<p>Fields much as in 1875 except that southernmost one, no. 651 lost to Islet grounds with parkland and kitchen garden. Islet house present with compartmentalised gardens tightly drawn around it.</p> <p>WPF starting to be developed, with large new building on S side of farm.</p>	OS 6 & 25"
1904	140 cows in milk producing 28k quarts annually.	MERL MS 1066 1/365
1906	<p>William Waldorf Astor (1st Visct) presented Cliveden and its collections to his son Waldorf (later 2nd Visct, 1879-1952) and daughter-in-law Nancy (1879-1964).</p> <p>Presumably WW included WPF in this gift as part of the estate.</p> <p>It seems that the development of the model farmstead was for Waldorf.</p>	NT Guide Book, 1994.
1910	<p>By now Waldorf Astor had use of (if not actually ownership of) the south part of Lower Southey Field (1852 Enclosure parcel 198). He had sub-divided the former 2 fields of Lower Southey (Parcels 198 & 199) into four quarters with a central fence running south, and a narrow belt along south boundary leading into belt beyond White Brook along north edge of former 677 (now owned by Islet). Four fields were fenced with 1 shelter in west-east fence line shared between fields to N & S. Created track from WPF to these fields. The 4 fields were used for the stud farm brood mares.</p> <p>Remodelling of Islet park to south largely complete on either side of White Brook including enlarged house, park, kitchen garden, drives, pleasure grounds with ornamental 'Hive'.</p>	OS 6 & 25"

1910	Belts planted around Southey field: invoice 'to plant belts on top of Meadows Southy and widen belts on rides 6000 trees 6 men 3 weeks; trees £30@ 10/- hundred; to trench ground £20 extra. Part of wider planting also carried out at 'Hatchs Orchard and 'By Mill'.	MERL MS 1066 1/365
1911	Sale of part of Glen Island estate by Gertrude Palmer after the death of her husband Sir Roger (d.1910) to Edward Wagg. This sale also involved Waldorf Astor and he would have owned the ditched land now planted with willow, the southern end of Bartlemead. Wagg had already built Islet Park mansion, entrance gates and a water tower. Wagg covenants with Lady Palmer and Waldorf (later 2nd Visct Astor) to erect and maintain an iron boundary fence and to plant and maintain a screen of trees and shrubs between his land and the Glen Island and Cliveden Estates. Mature trees on the willow fields would have been planted by him and probably those east of the fields along the Thames Path. Boundary marked by a metal post that still exists in the willow fields that is marked WWA (William Waldorf Astor, 1 st Viscount).	Land Registry BK18938
1913	Waldorf Astor bought land on Widbrook Common from Fanny Isabella Hatch and added it to WPF for his herd (visible on Figure 27 as parcel 491, et seq.). This was the strip of land planted with trees, probably an orchard (see Figures 29-33) north of Widbrook Cottages, outside the study area. Supply of water from well and pump house (in WPF farmstead) for this land ordered in deeds to continue until mains water available.	Land Registry Entry and Map BK63357 UNCLEAR. RBWM DEEDS DID NOT HELP
1915	43 head of cattle including dairy cows, plus 54 bullocks	MERL MS 1066 1/365
1916	Permanent grass on the farm 70 acres for mowing and 64 acres not for mowing this season. Labour included prisoners, conscious objectors, soldiers and women. Dairy grew from 43 to 100 dairy cows.	MERL MS 1066 1/366
1918	Right of access granted for Sutton Lodge Farm for drainage works.	Land Registry BK63357
1919	Astor's dairy farm techniques described. While they were advanced in terms of producing clean, hygienic milk in an efficient manner, it was not a great country estate showpiece such as Rosebery's at Mentmore. The herd were 'ordinary' cows not fine pedigree stock.	<i>Country Life</i> (15 Nov.)
1925	Paddocks in Lower Southey divided by fences flanking routes along them, apparently for horses. 2 shelters, each on fenceline shared by 2 fields. The Belt on S boundary of Lower Southey widened.	OS
1929	Southey to be ploughed and arable cropped.	MERL MS 1066 1/376
1932	Small triangular extension north into Bartle Mead (field 671 from 677, increasing the screening for Islet	OS
1932	A right of navigation along the White Brook established.	Thames Conservancy Act.
1934	National Trust acquired Widbrook Common as part of 350 ha Cookham Commons	NT Land Map online
1937	Estate plan of Cookham & Taplow estates, shows land held by Astor	Estate Plan on OS base CBS D 158_9
1940	Over 200 acres of WPF as meadow or pasture of 313 acres.	MERL MS 1066 1/373
1943	Value of WPF £19.5k. Believed only viable as a farm because of additional pasture available at Cliveden and Newmarket stud.	Corresp in file at MERL MS 1066 1/373

	<p>2nd Visct Astor gave WPF to son William (1907-66), later 3rd Visct Astor; he continued to run it as a model dairy farm, building up a large herd of pedigree Ayrshires.</p> <p>2nd Visct Astor confers restrictive covenant on National Trust on WPF including part of the RBWM land but not all. Mainly parcels near the river: 1925/1932 OS field nos: 654, 670, 671, 675 on RBWM land (spinney and pasture); also 648 parkland between farmstead and river.</p> <p>Covenant referred to in Title Deed Land Registry BK63357 with schedule of Restrictive Covenants (also plan but this not seen). The first stipulation from the Restrictive Covenant (in BK63357 p4) is that: No act or thing shall be done or placed or permitted to remain upon the land which shall injure prejudice affect or destroy the natural aspect and condition of the land.</p>	<p>Schedule of covenanted land, CBS D 158/37</p> <p>Land Registry BK63357 inc. schedule of Restrictive Covenants</p>
c.1949	The Strand Water/ White Brook confluence was connected to a spring further west, again to reverse the flow so that the stream reached Maidenhead town centre.	Borough of Maidenhead Minutes vol 40 1947-49; Darracott, York Stream Study, 2006, p8
1952	d. Waldorf Astor, 2 nd Viscount Astor	
1966	<p>d. 3rd Visct Astor; sale of White Place Farm;</p> <p>Astor estate files of sale correspondence include schedule of field names, draft sale particulars, and map marking field names. Herd of pedigree Ayrshires established.</p> <p>Subsequently there were several owners, mostly gravel extraction companies. From the 1960s the Edwards family farmed as tenants until the land was sold to John Edwards.</p>	<p>CBS D 158/70 D; 158/41/1; 158/41/2</p> <p>Land Registry BK63357</p>
1988-89 (winter)	Thames Water clears White Brook of fallen trees before dredging to improve flow downstream in Maidenhead.	Darracott, 2013, 10; York Stream Report for MCS.
2000-2002	<p>Flood bund built along south boundary of Battlemead Common as part of Maidenhead flood alleviation scheme (Jubilee River).</p> <p>White Brook on Widbrook Common was blocked with reeds and silt so that no water could flow and ditches near the river were full of water.</p>	Darracott, 2013, 13; York Stream Report for MCS.
2003	Flood in January-February.	
2003-05	Clearing of fallen trees and dredging of White Brook by Environment Agency so that ditches did not hold water constantly.	Darracott, 2013, 13; York Stream Report for MCS.
2014 onwards	Maidenhead Waterways maintain White Brook.	
2014	Flood in January-February.	
2018	RBWM buys 110 acres of White Place Farm consisting of Battlemead former meadow and Lower Southey former arable open field, plus areas 201-203 in Watery Butts, plus a small area of former Islet country estate, naming it Battlemead Common.	
2019	August. White Place Farm put on the market for £4.5m including yards, buildings, farmhouse, dovecote and 67ha. land, with rights of common grazing (57ha. pasture, 3ha. wood/scrub; 7 ha. buildings, yards, etc).	Savills Sale Particulars

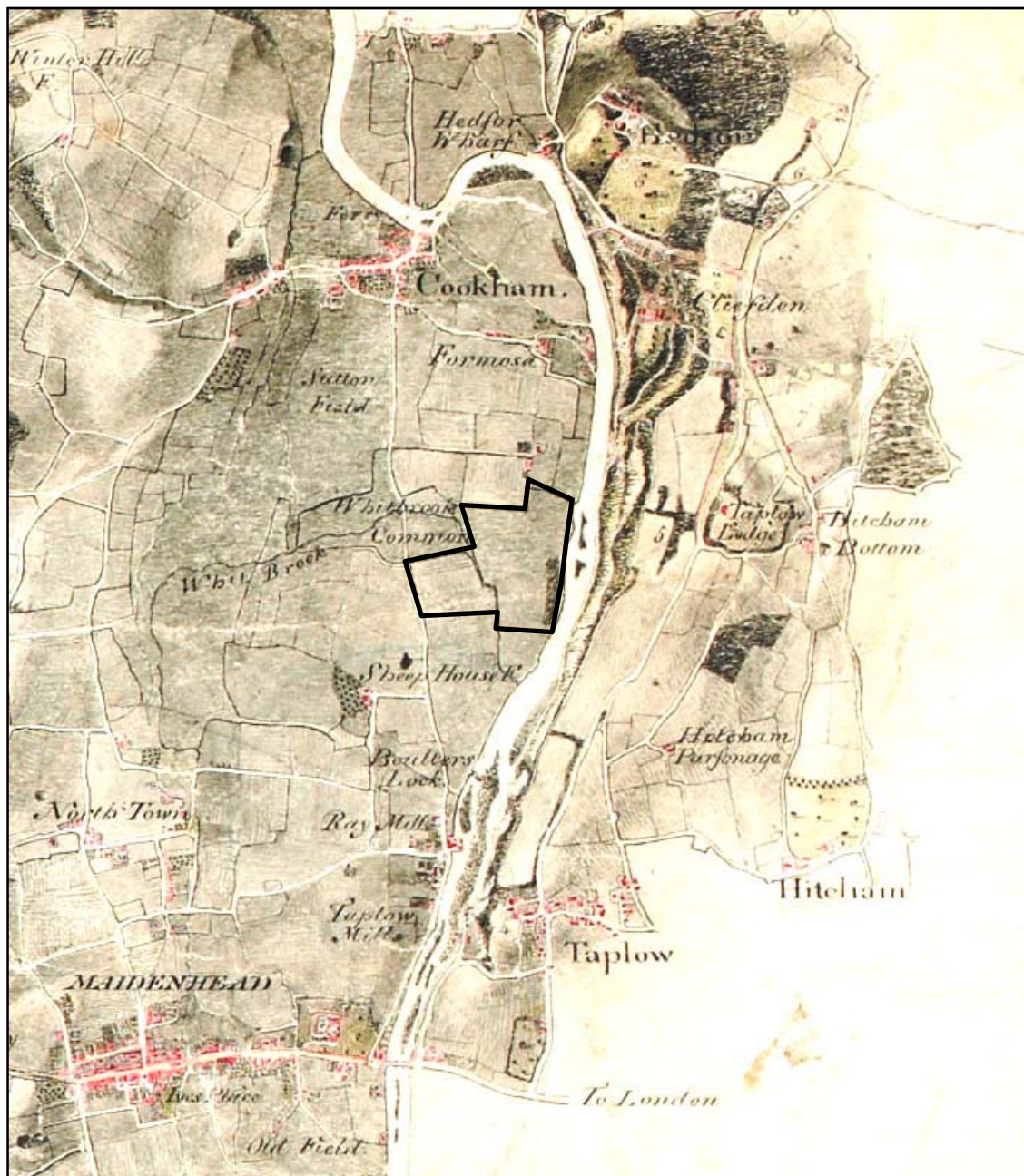


Figure 21 1809 Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing, sh. 126

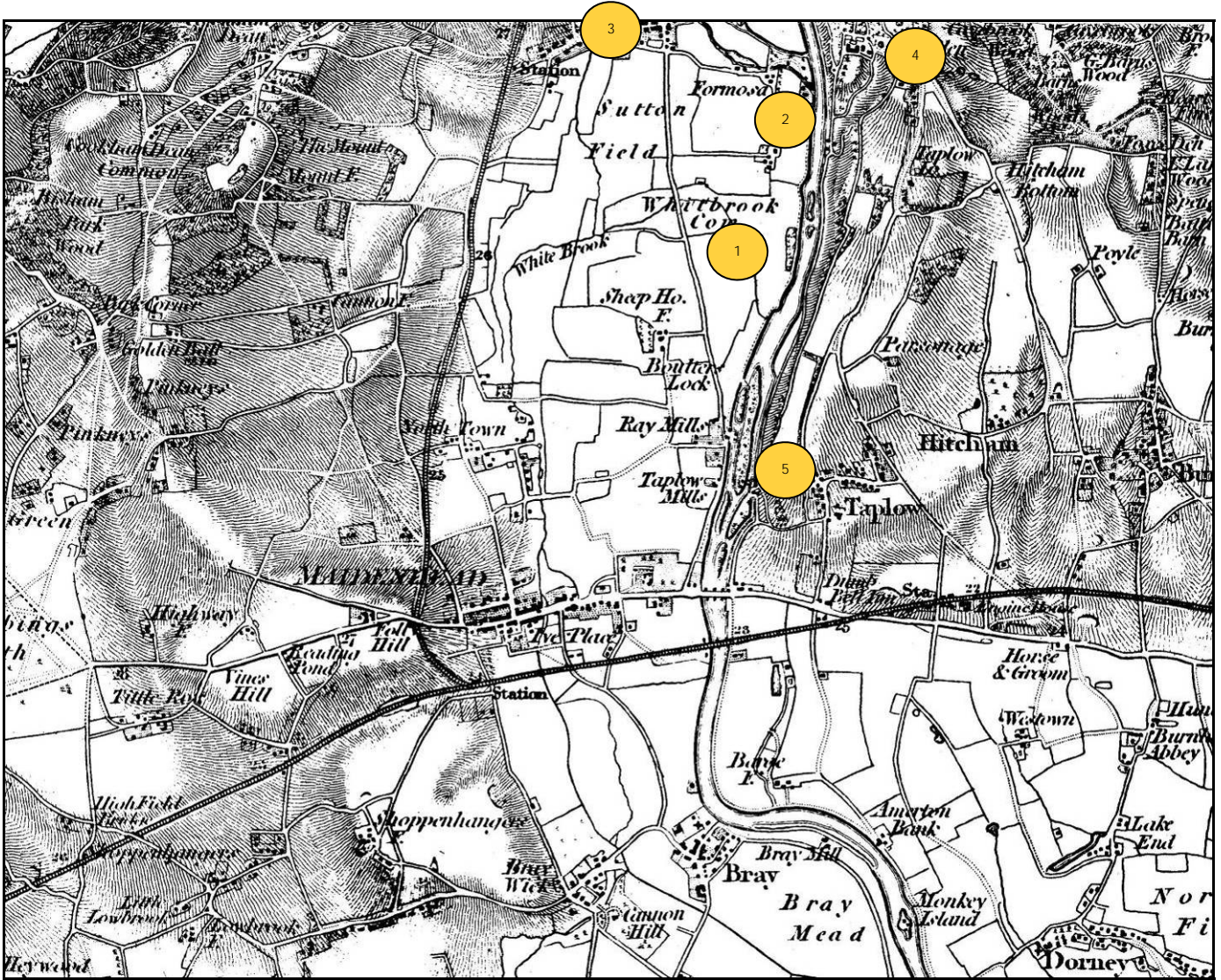


Figure 22 1813 Ordnance Surveyor's 1st edition 1" scale, published 1822.

Note the shaded elevated ground flanking the fields and commons of Cookham west of the Thames.

1. Study area
2. White Place Farm
3. Cookham
4. Cliveden
5. Taplow Court

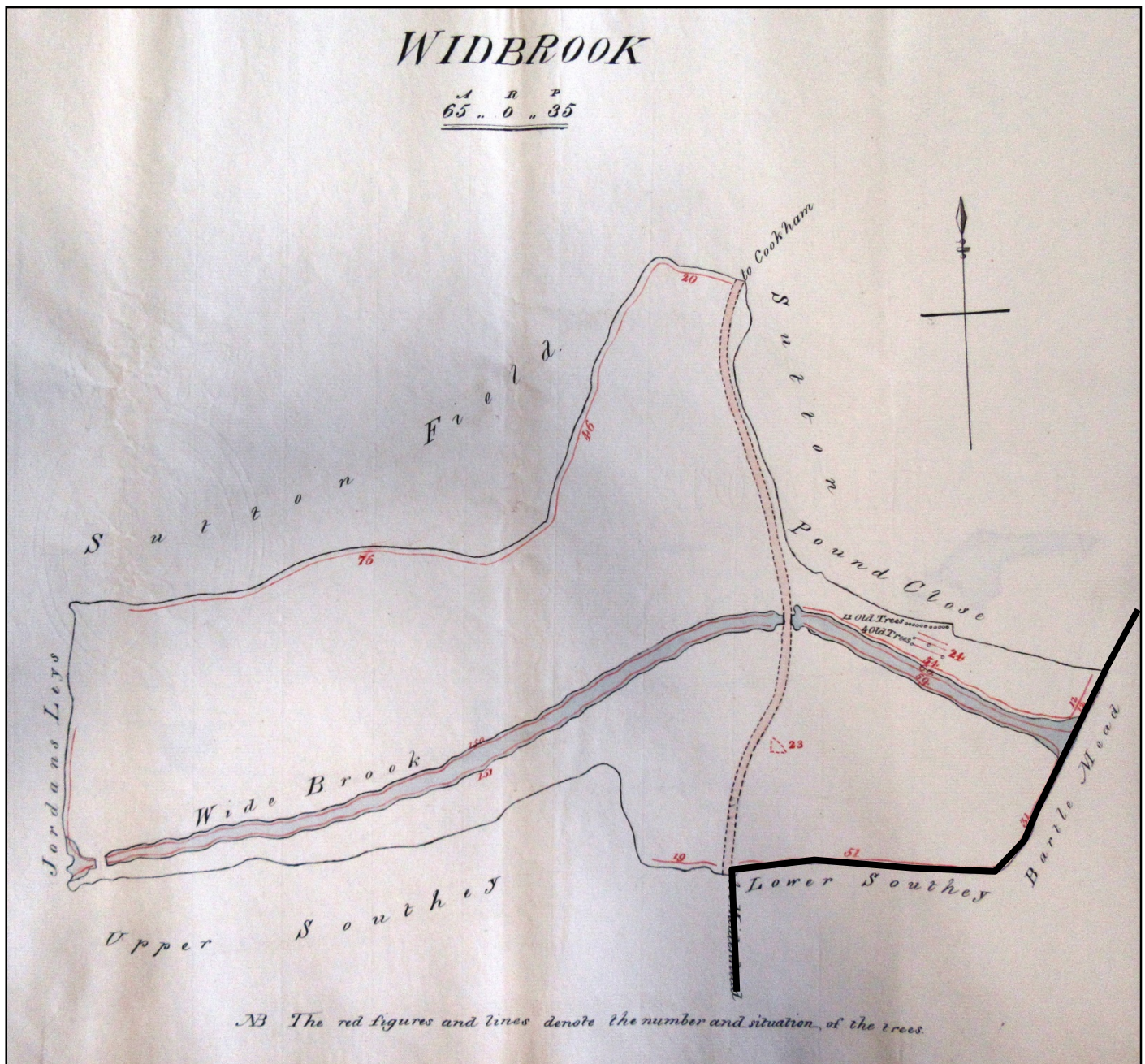


Figure 23 c.1825, Widbrook Common map BRO D_EX 43_3_9

Part of the study area boundary is marked in black.

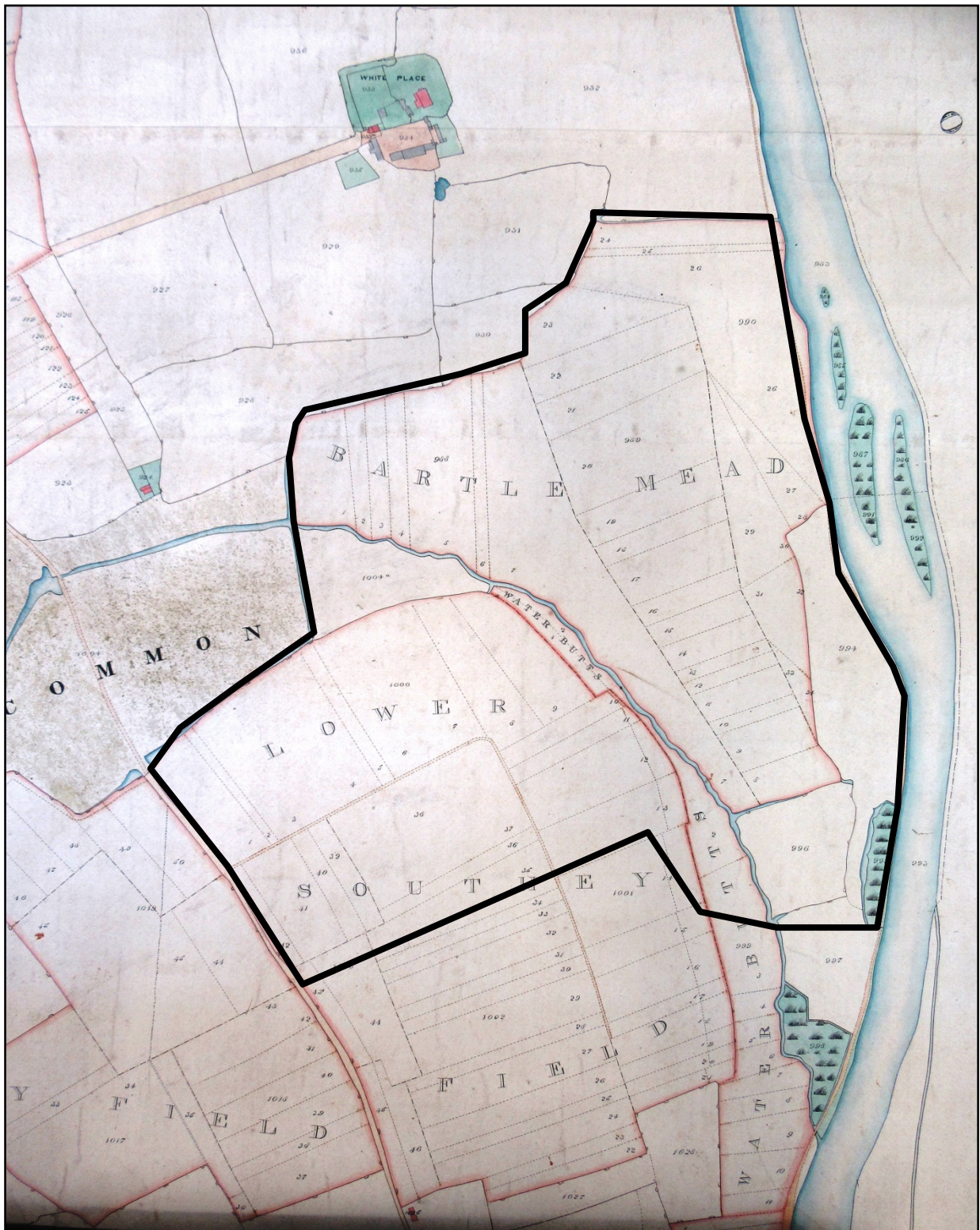


Figure 24 1840 Cookham parish map BRO D_P 43_28_1b



Figure 25 1844 Tithe Map, Cookham Parish BRO D_D1_43_1b



Figure 26 1852 Enclosure Map, Cookham Parish BRO Q_RDC_94E



Figure 27 1875-78 Ordnance Survey 25" scale CBS Ma203_2R

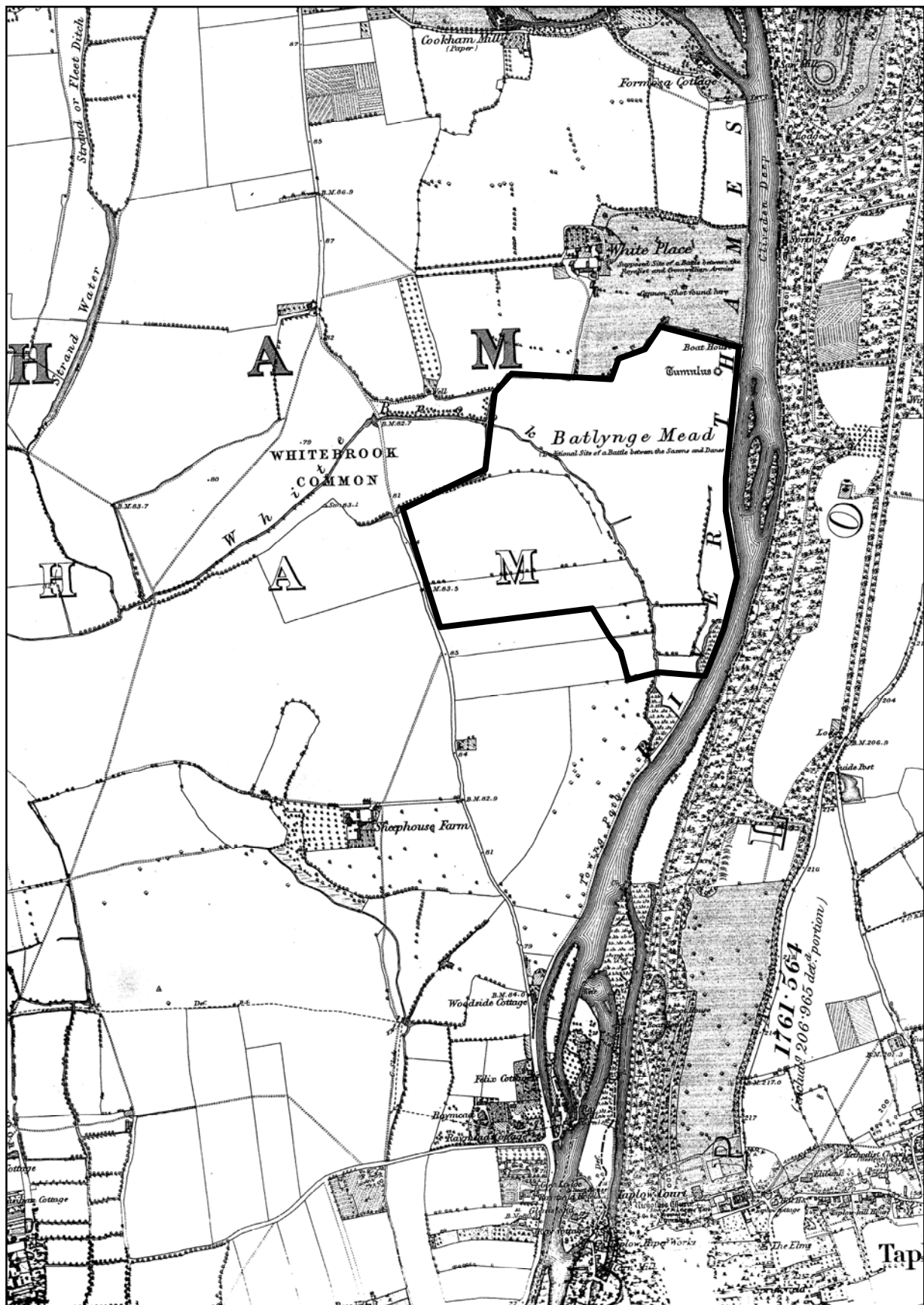


Figure 28 1875-78 Ordnance Survey 6" scale

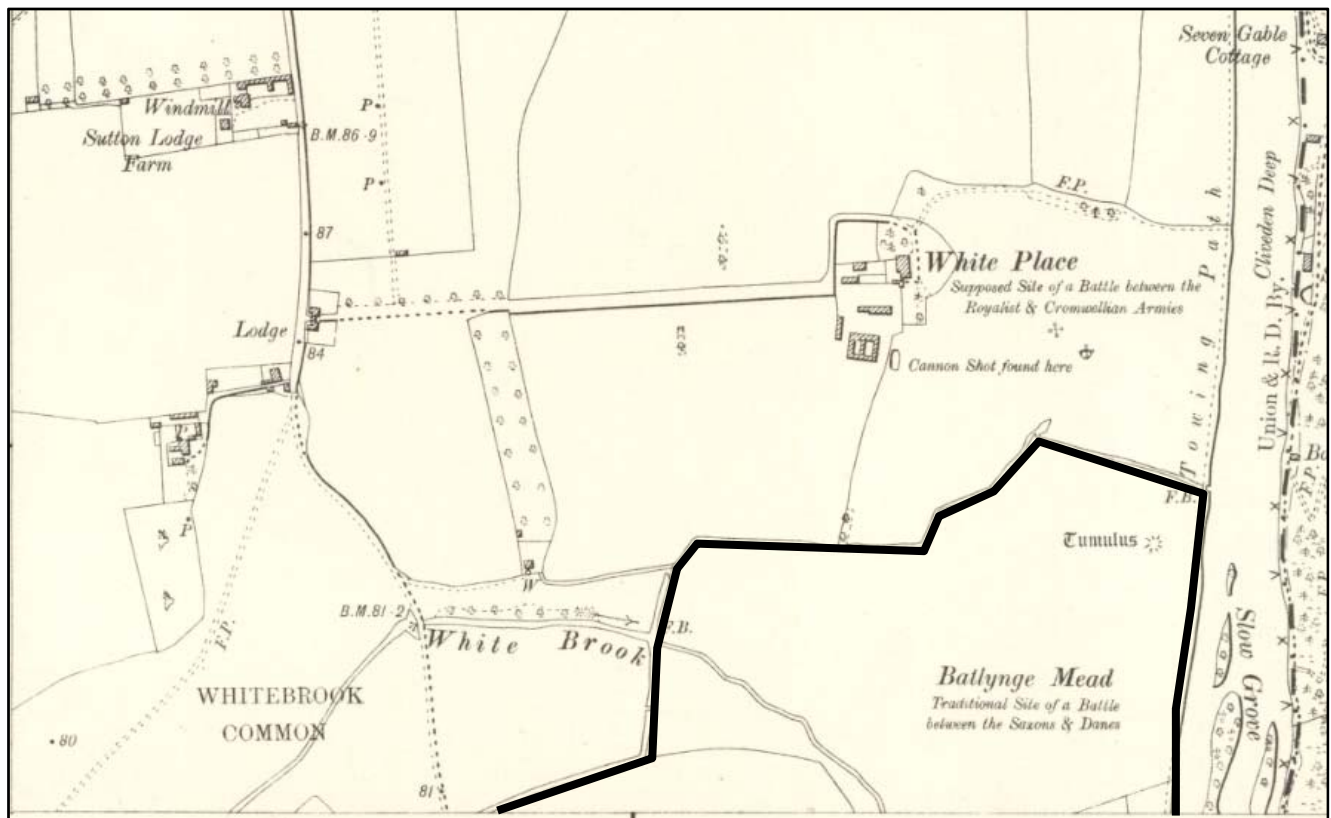


Figure 29 1897 Ordnance Survey 25" scale, north half of study area.

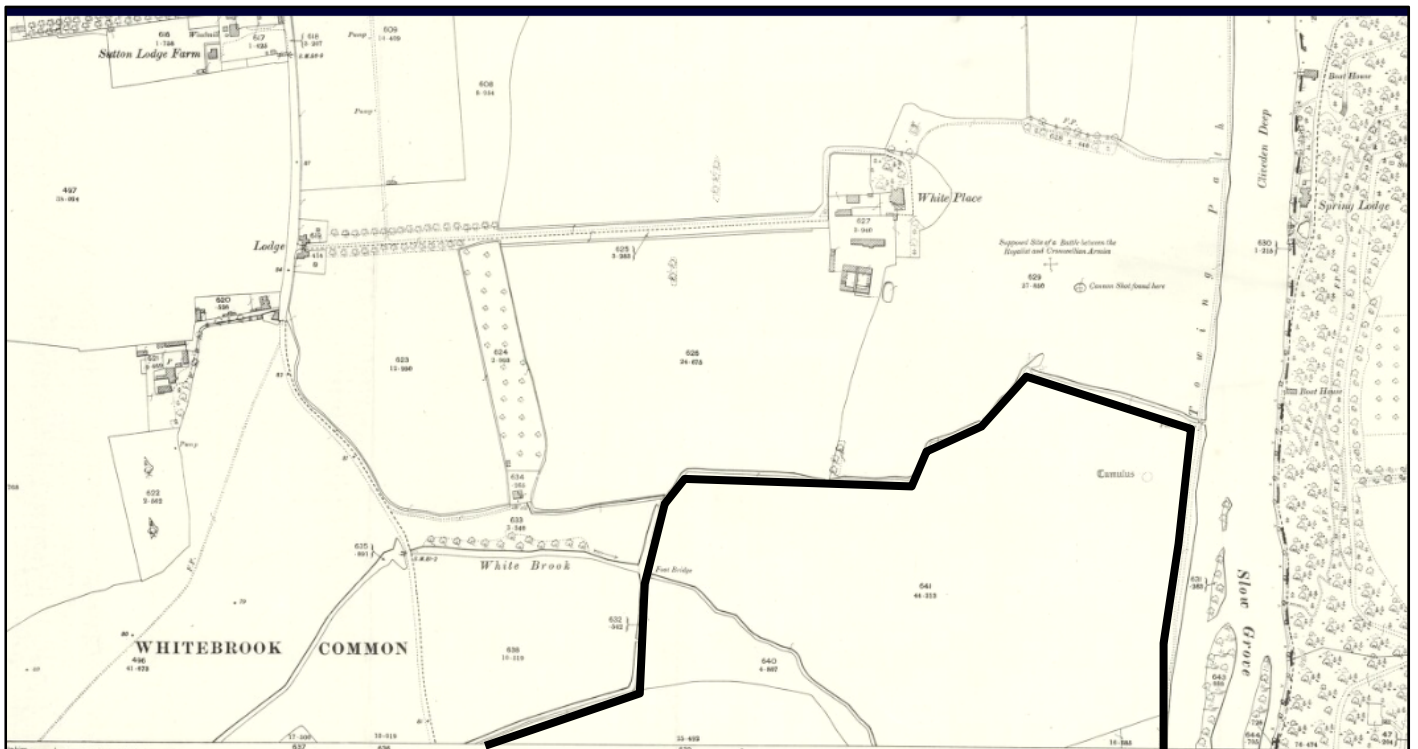


Figure 30 1897 Ordnance Survey 25" scale, north half of study area.

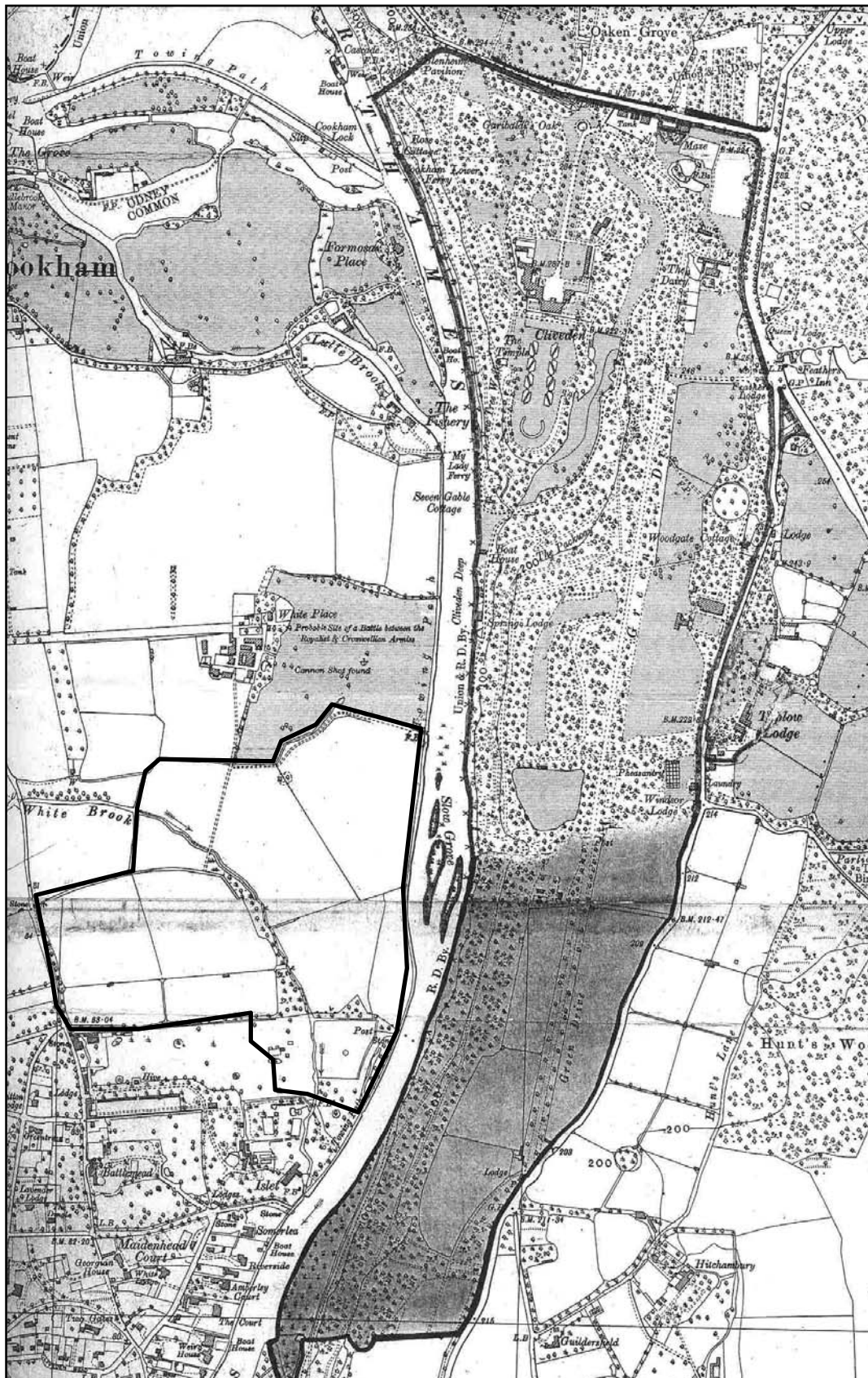


Figure 31 1923 Ordnance Survey 6" scale, published 1926, south half of study area.

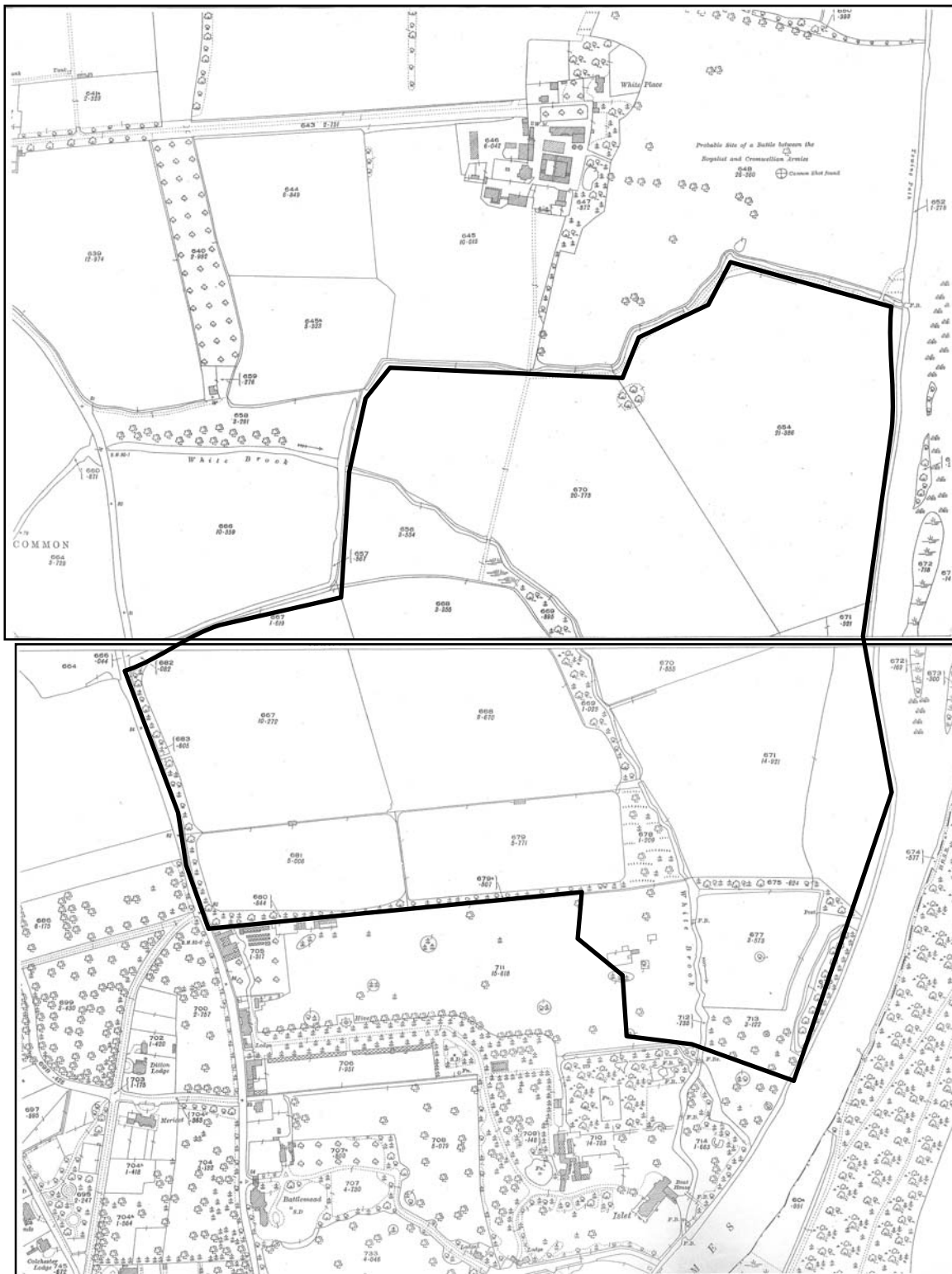


Figure 32 1923 Ordnance Survey 25" scale, published 1925.

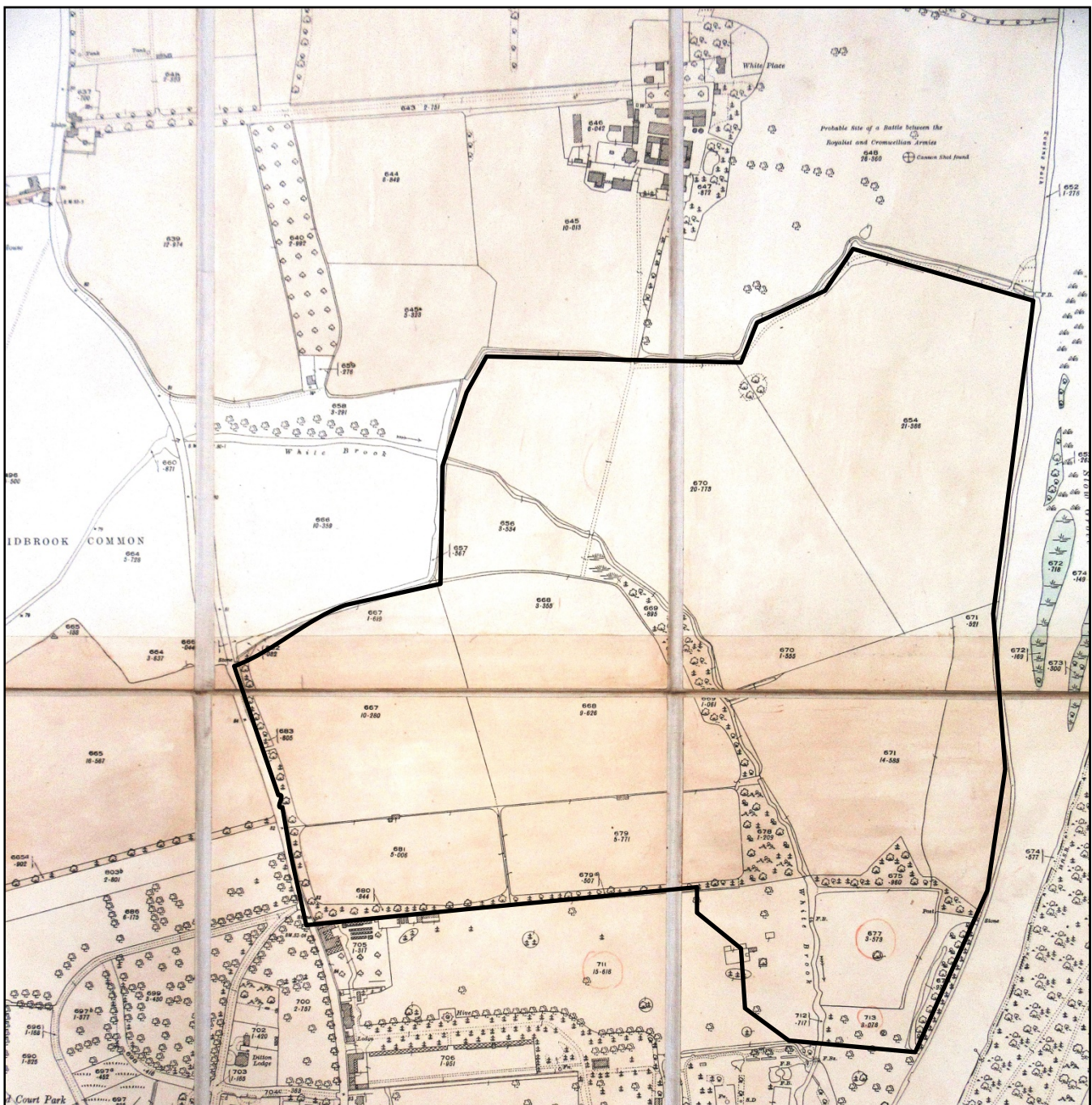


Figure 33 1937 2nd Viscount Astor estates map, CBS D 158_9.

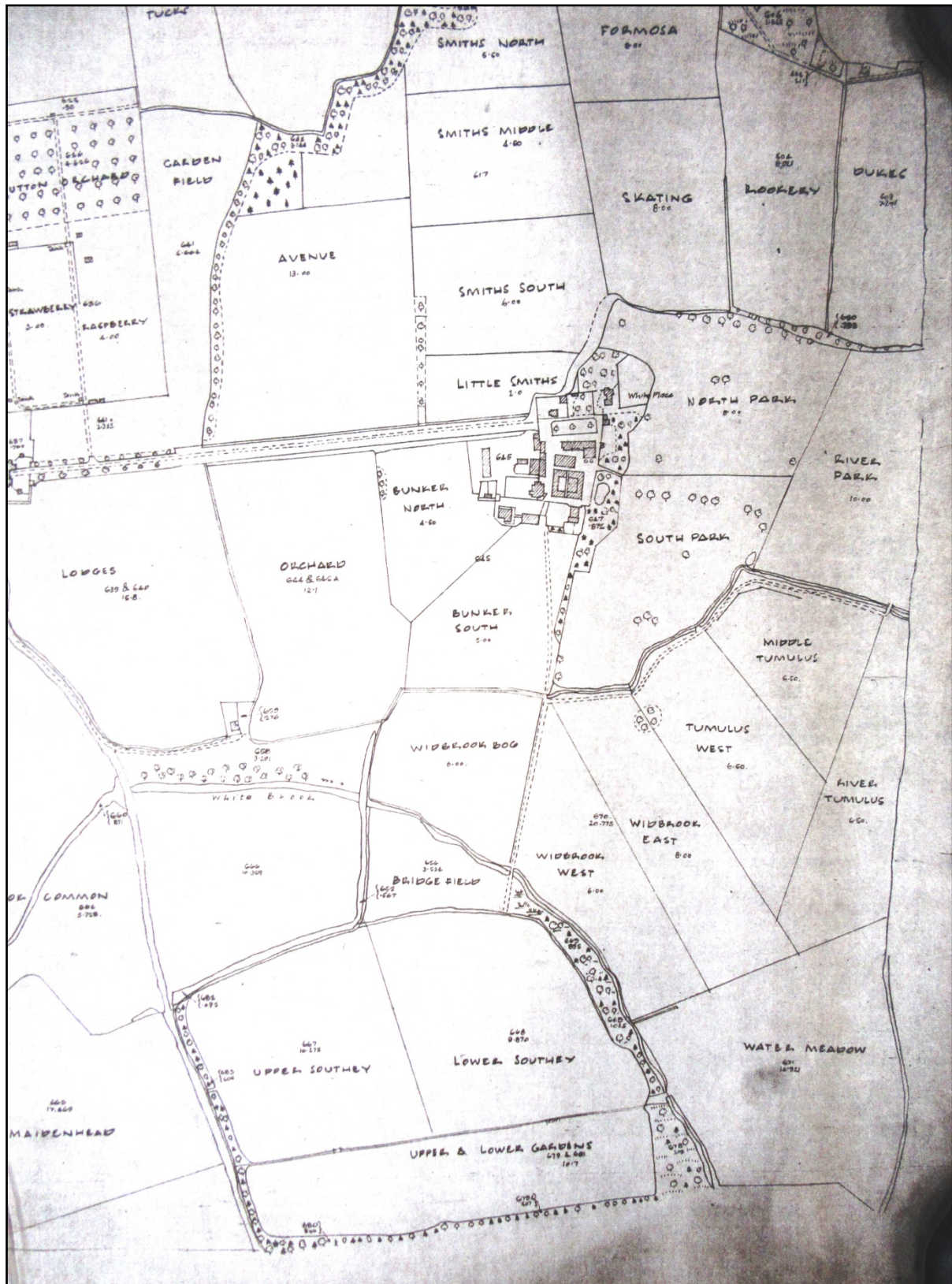
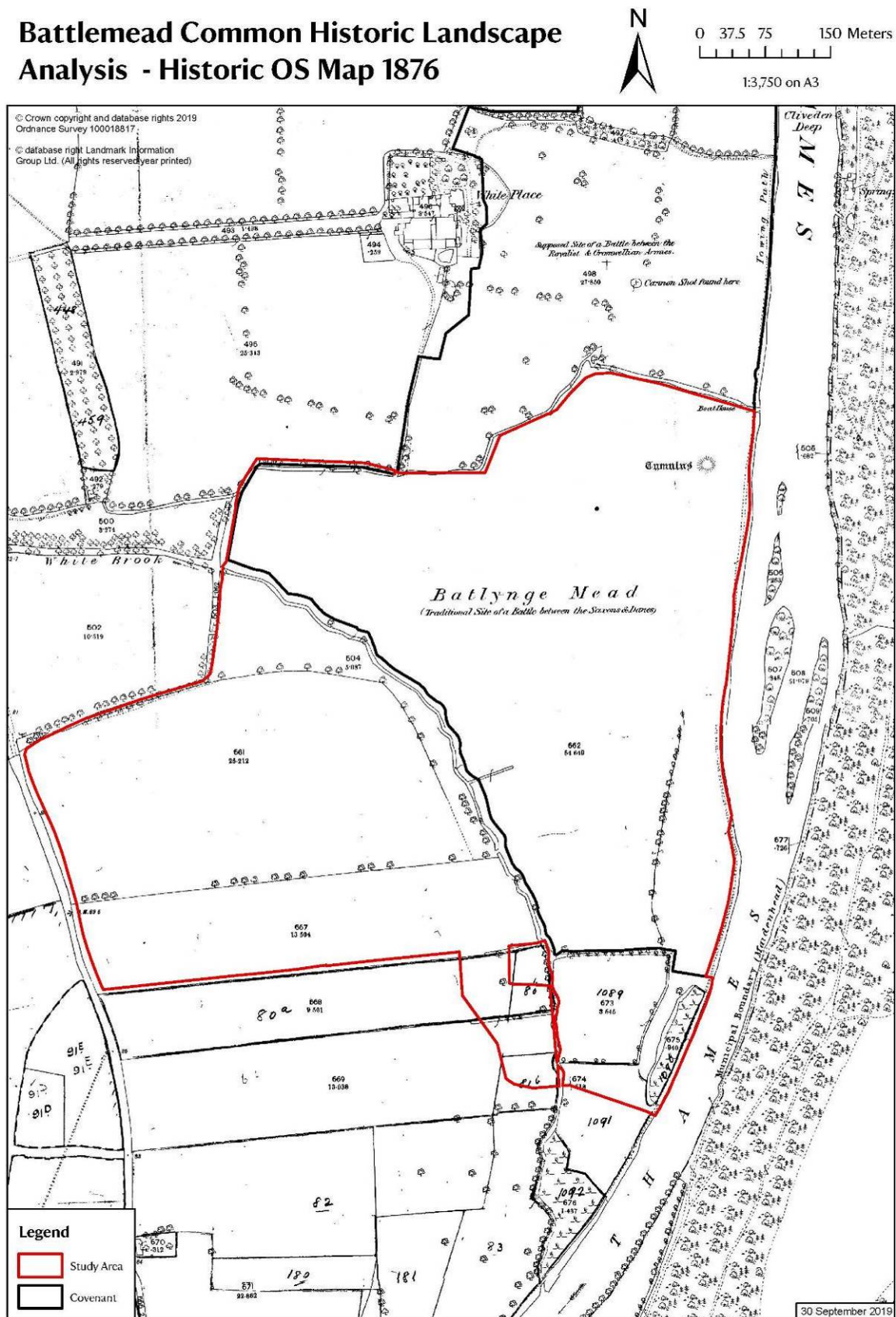


Figure 34 1966 Astor Estate blue print map of White Place Farm (CBS D 158_70) including field names

12 APPENDIX 4 SEQUENCE OF HISTORIC OS MAPS, 1875-1974

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1876

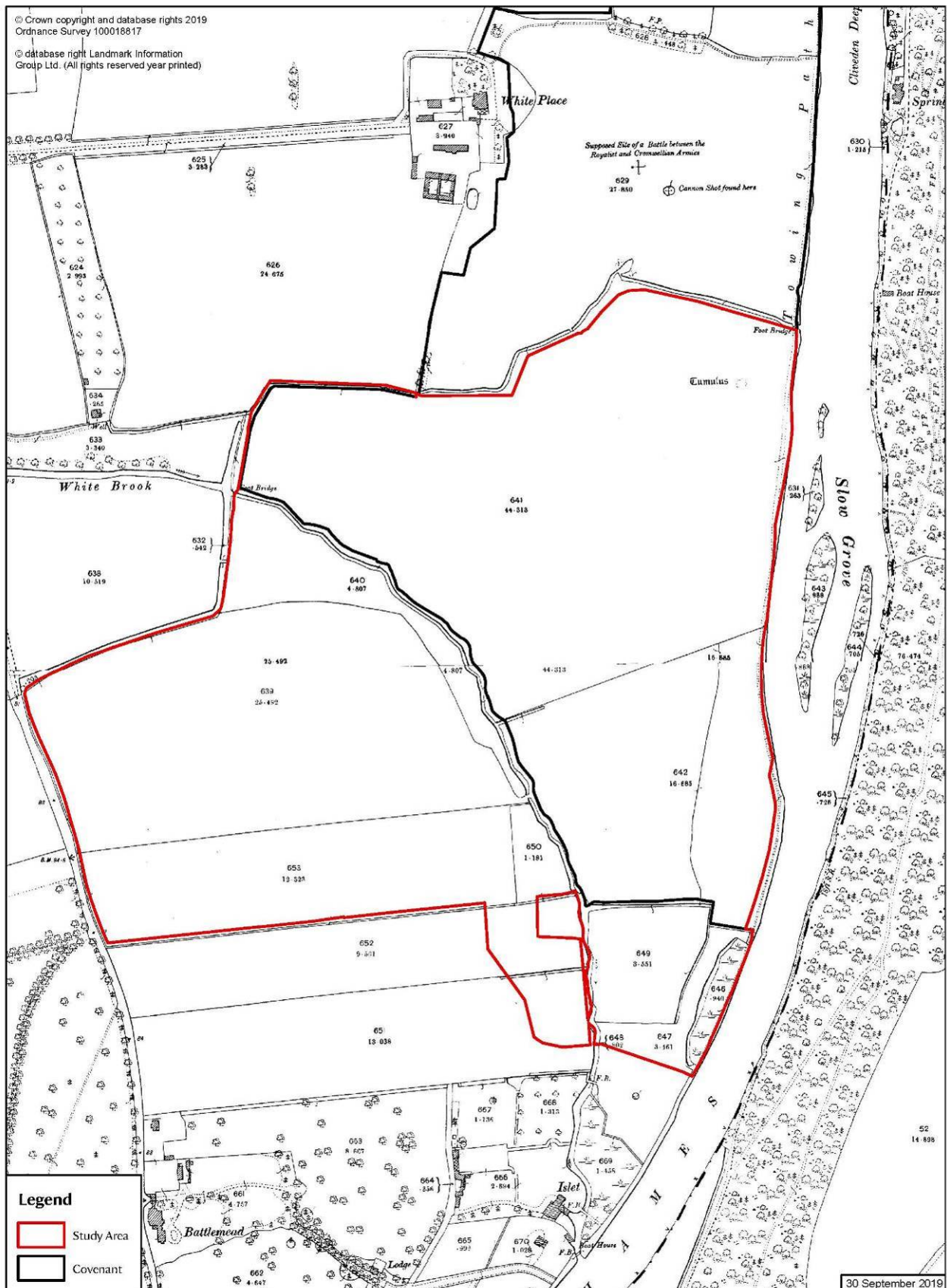


Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1899



0 37.5 75 150 Meters

1:3,750 on A3

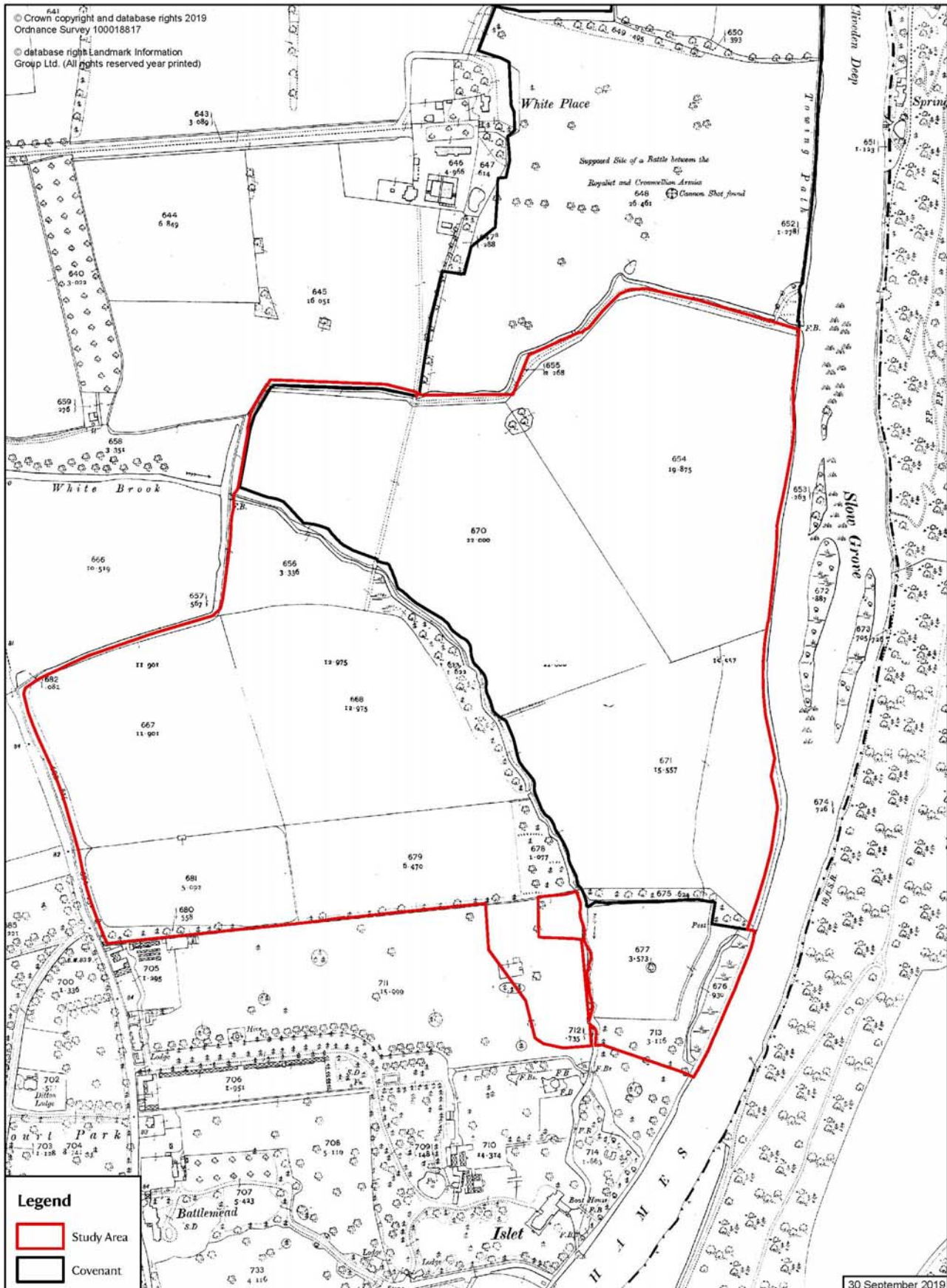


Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1912



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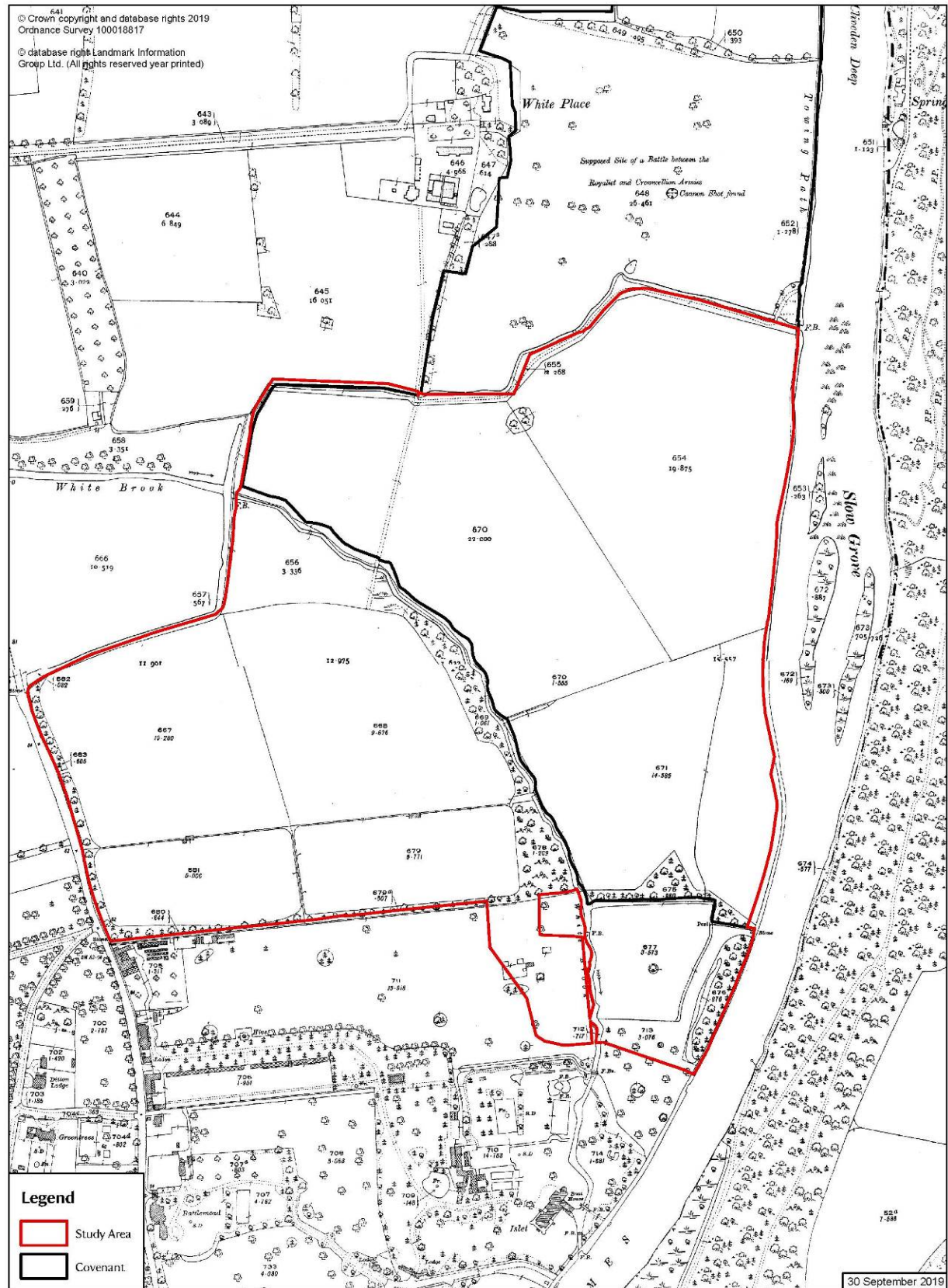
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Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1912/1932



0 37.5 75 150 Meters
1:3,750 on A3

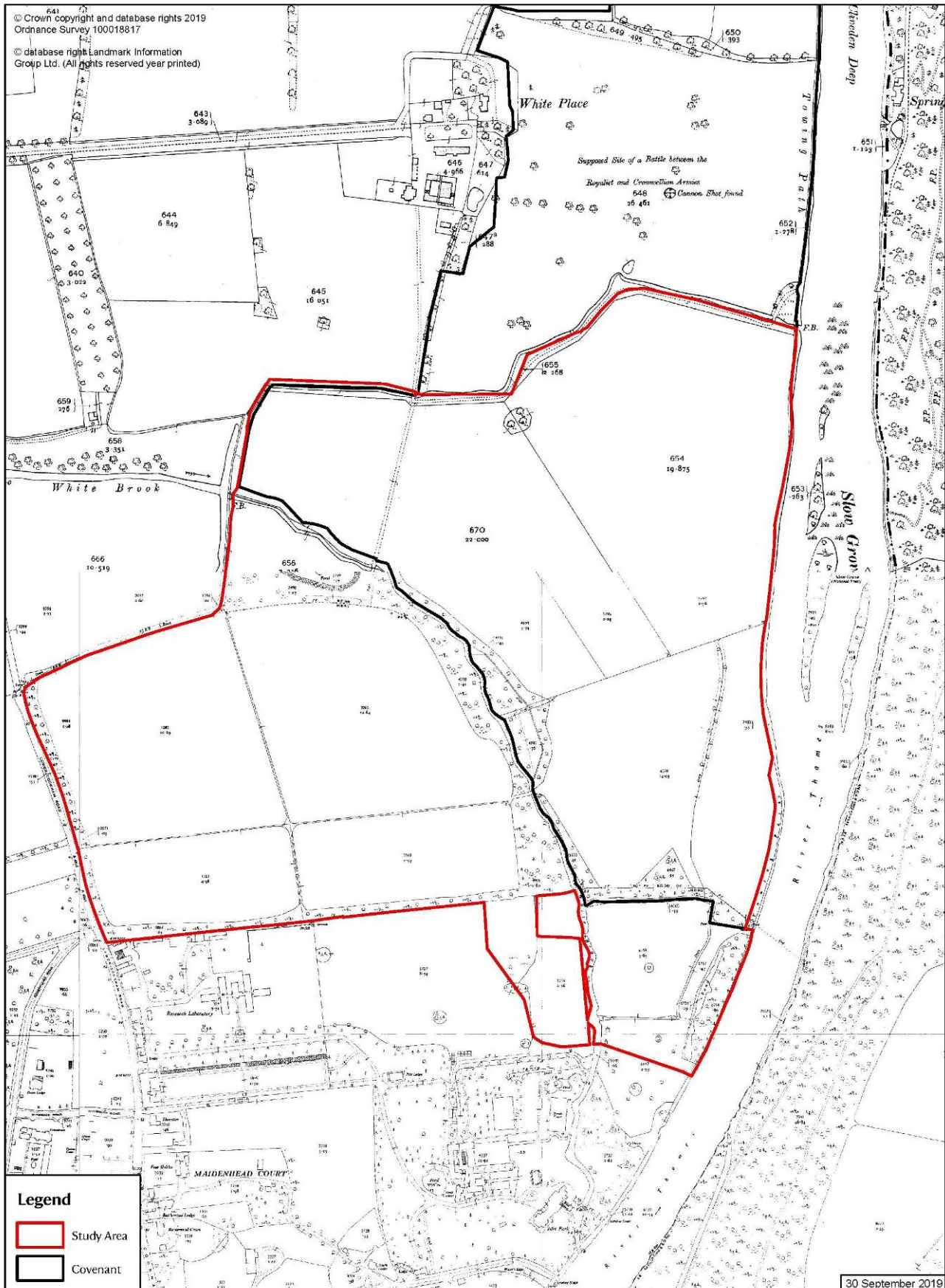


Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1912/1955



0 37.5 75 150 Meters

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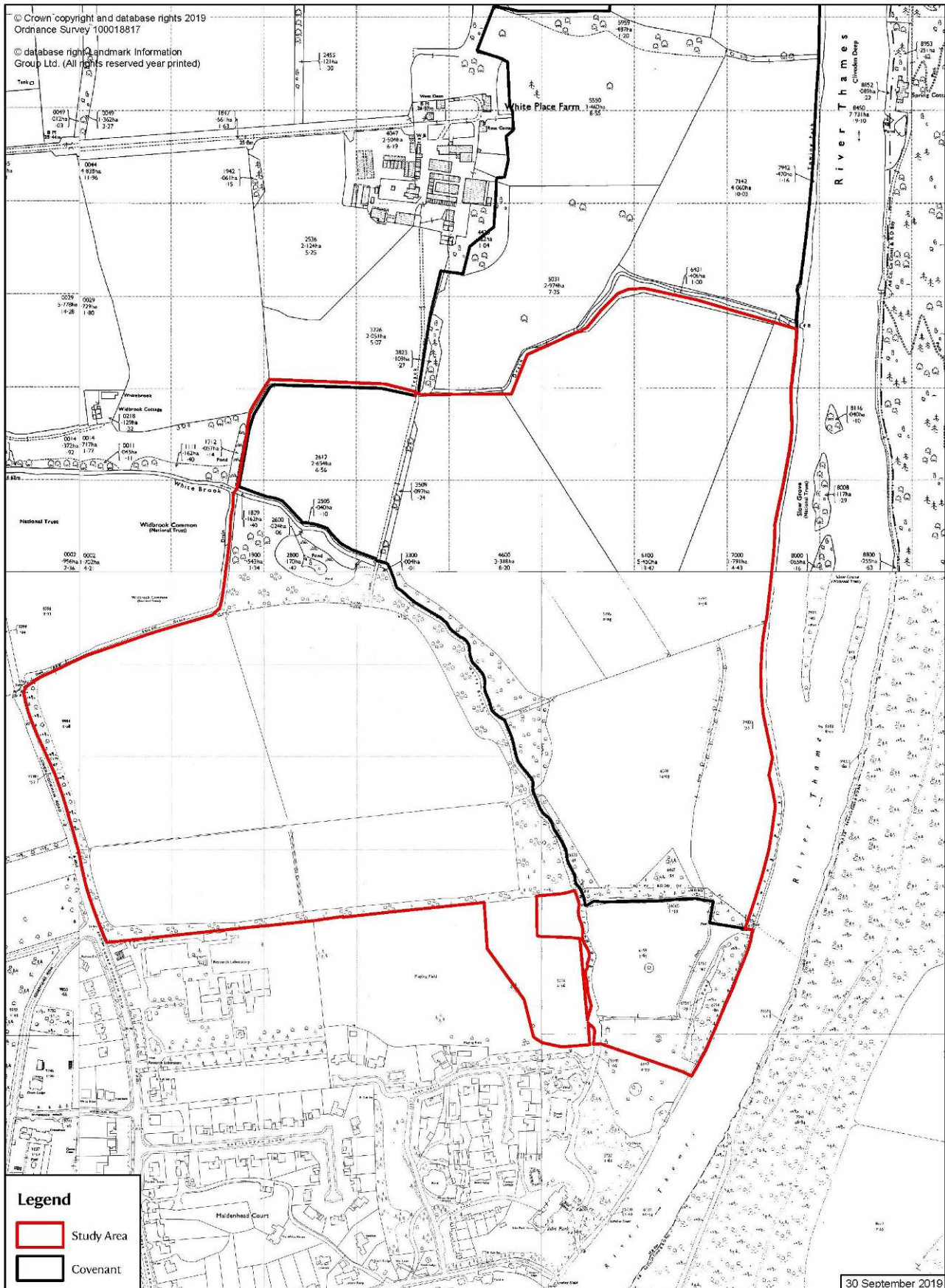


Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic OS Map 1955/1971/1972



0 37.5 75 150 Meters

1:3,750 on A3



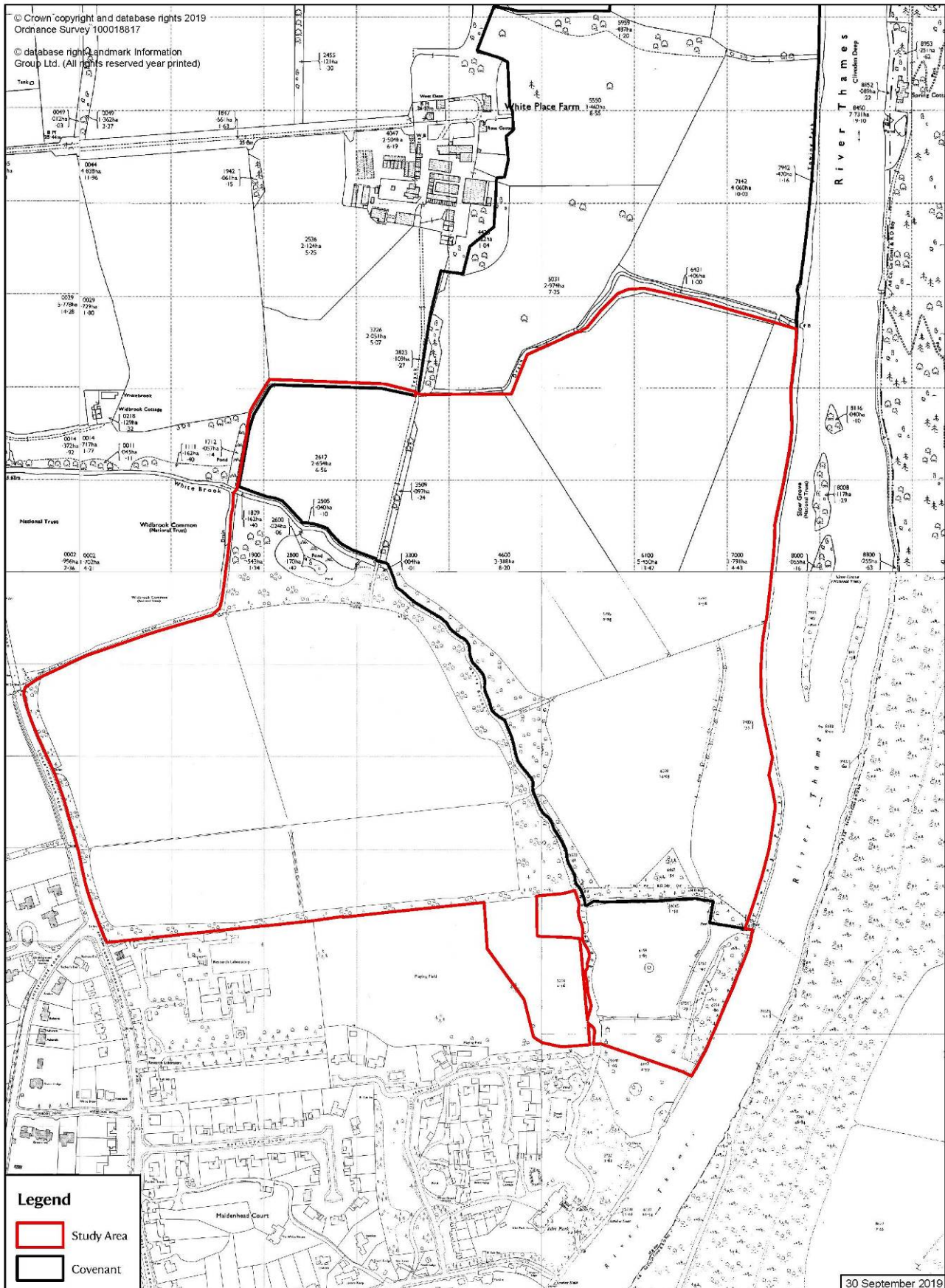
Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis

- Historic OS Map 1955/1971/1972/1974



0 37.5 75 150 Meters

1:3,750 on A3



13 APPENDIX 5 MLCHG GUIDANCE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT, JULY 2019, DEFINITIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCES

What is 'significance'?

'Significance' in terms of heritage-related planning policy is defined in the [Glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework](#) as the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

The National Planning Policy Framework definition further states that in the planning context heritage interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. This can be interpreted as follows:

- archaeological interest: As defined in the Glossary to the National Planning Policy Framework, there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- architectural and artistic interest: These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.
- historic interest: An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

In legislation and designation criteria, the terms 'special architectural or historic interest' of a listed building and the 'national importance' of a scheduled monument are used to describe all or part of what, in planning terms, is referred to as the identified heritage asset's significance.

Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 18a-006-20190723

Revision date: 23 07 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#plan-making-historic-environment> accessed 01 August 2019

14 APPENDIX 6 CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS, SUMMER 2019

14.1 LOWER SOUTHEY



Entrance off Lower Cookham Road, new gate and hard standing, dead wood.
View east to Cliveden woods (left); view north-east to trees along White Brook (right).



Entrance off Lower Cookham Road, new gate and hard standing, dead wood.
View north-west to west belt (left); view north to trees along White Brook (right).



From entrance off Lower Cookham Road, view north-east towards Cliveden mansion (obscured).



Transmitter tower in north belt of White Brook (left); from junction of lines of trees towards centre of field NE to Cliveden mansion (1850s on late C17 terrace), chapel (early C18) and clock tower (1861)



Line of mid-C19 oak planted after Enclosure (1852) running west to east (left);
Entrance to Bartle Mead on west boundary across White Brook (right). New fencing.



South boundary belt near White Brook (left); west along line of oak towards west belt and distant hill (?Mount Hill?)



Gateway to Bartle Mead over White Brook, causeway beyond, view east to Cliveden woods.
New fencing and gateway, historically inappropriate material and line. (A Darracott)



Late C19/early C20 stock fencing: pedestrian gateway at south-west corner adjacent to Islet boundary wall and
Cookham road (left); fencing along Widbrook Common on west side of road (right)

14.2 BARTLE MEAD



Views from bridge: south-east towards willow field (left); east to Cliveden woods (centre); west along White Brook (right). The bridge considerably damages the historic character in style and materials.



From causeway: view north-east towards Cliveden mansion (left, obscured); north towards White Place Farm (right). The lagoon has been caused by damage to the banks of the White Brook and damages the agricultural character.



From causeway: view north-east to Cliveden mansion, terrace, chapel and clock tower.



View west along causeway towards Lower Southey.



From causeway: view north to White Place Farm.



Causeway between north boundary of Lower Southey and Bartle Mead: view north to White Place Farm (left); view south into Lower Southey (right). New fencing, historically inappropriate in style and position.



West tip of Bartle Mead: view north to White Place Farm along track (left); view west (right).



North end of track: view east over river (obscured) towards Cliveden woods, running right into Taplow Court woods.



View from north-east corner: SW towards Islet water tower (intended by Astor to be obscured by belts) (left); Gateway to towpath, replacement, old iron fence on right, plethora of non-historic styles (right).



East boundary against tow path, new hedge and fence line, not historically appropriate.



View from south boundary to Cliveden mansion, terrace, clock tower & chapel.



Late C19/early C20 iron stock fencing adjacent to White Brook south of gravel extraction bridge: post for strained wire (left); park rail style (centre); another style of post for straining wire, on boundary with willow plantation (right). These probably date from the Astor ownership.

14.3 MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH, 3 BOUNDARY STONES WHICH MARK THE NORTHERN EXPANSION OF BOROUGH IN 1934

All 3 stones are marked BS on the OS maps. See Figure 3 which marks them clearly.

The relocated/resited stones were placed as near to their original position as possible



No. 25, on the NE boundary of the west field as found (left); after relocation in February 2019 (centre, right) (A Darracott).



No 26 east of the White Brook near the south boundary of Bartlemead, retrieved and relocated in 2004 (left) and as in March 2019 (right) (A Darracott).



No. 27 at east boundary near Thames Path in 2019 (right-hand two, courtesy of A Darracott).

14.4 PROPERTY MARKER POST IN THE WILLOW FIELD



Triangular metal property marker post, early C20, EW on two sides (left), and WWA on one side (right) (A Darracott).

14.5 WHITE PLACE FARM



From north end of track in Bartle Mead: view west across south fields to Mount Hill (left); north to farm, milking house (left) and dairy (right), both c.1919 and shown in *Country Life* article of that year



White Place Farm from north boundary of Bartle Mead



Iron park rail fencing used for internal boundaries.



White Place Farm 'park' from north boundary of Bartle Mead, view to Cliveden mansion, clock tower and chapel.



From north boundary, view west across south fields to Mount Hill



External spiked paling boundary fencing against tow path (left).

Towpath, view south from north-east corner of Bartlemead. Woody vegetation has obscured the formerly open views along it of Battlemead (to right) and Cliveden (to left) (right).



White Place Farm 'park' from north boundary of Bartle Mead with scattered specimen trees, view to Cliveden north woods. Galvanised gates and modern timber fences damage historic character.

15 APPENDIX 7 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD: MAPS OF LOCATIONS AND FINDS

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Monuments and findspots within 500m buffer

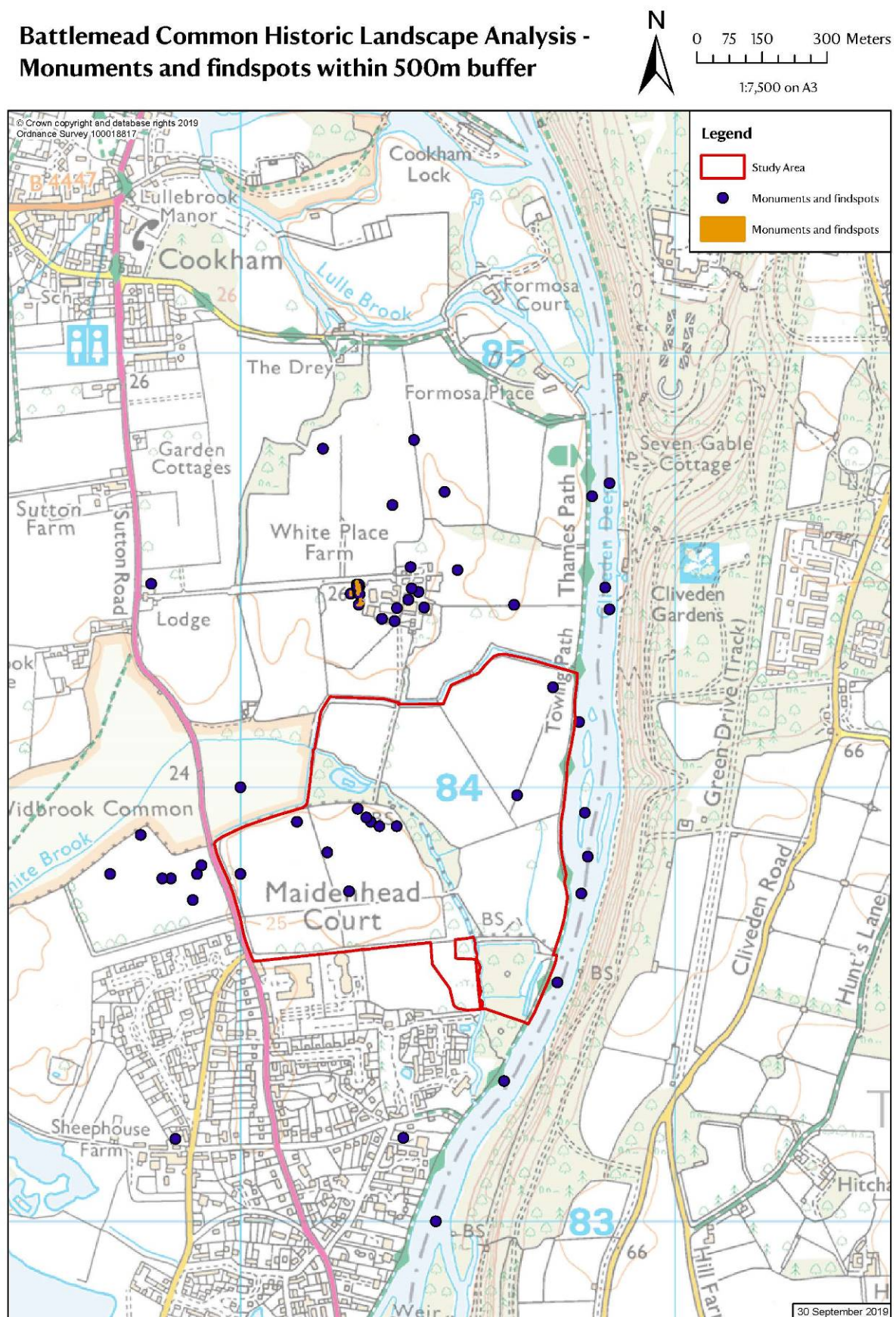


Figure 35 Monuments & Findspots within 500m buffer of study area, Berks HER.

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - HLC areas within 500m buffer



0 75 150 300 Meters
1:7,500 on A3

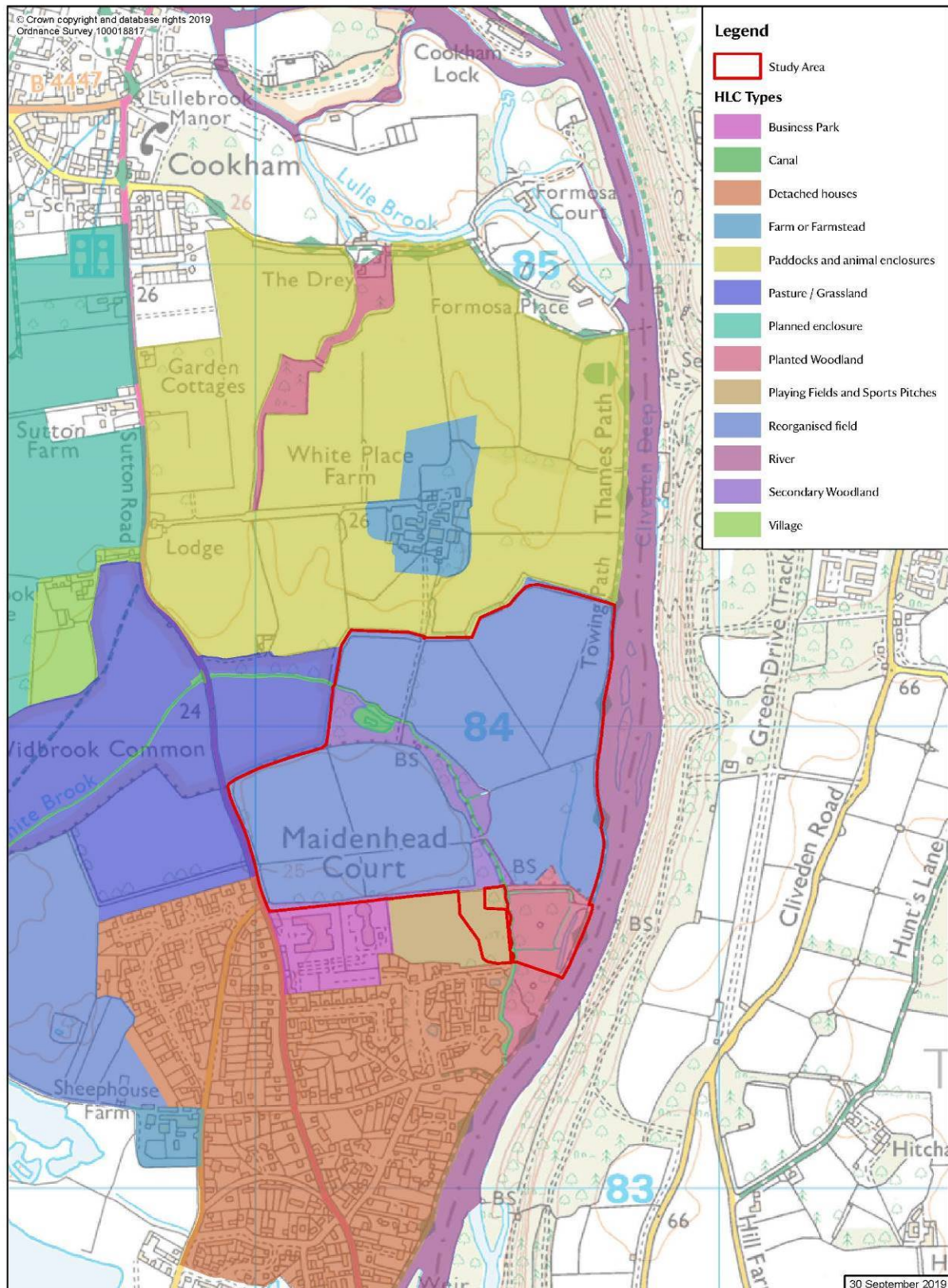


Figure 36 Historic Landscape Characterisation within 500m buffer of study area, Berks HER

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Historic designations

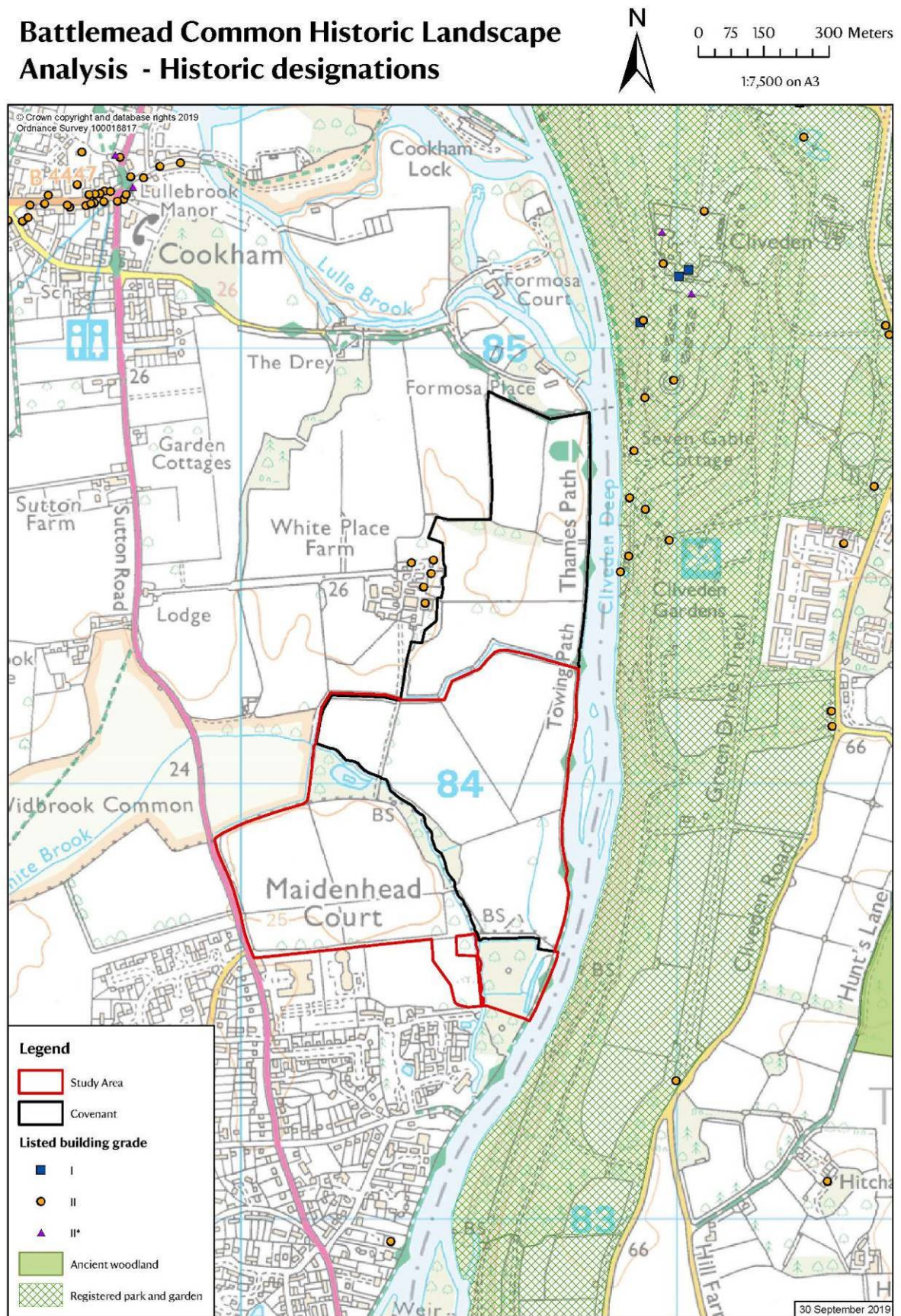


Figure 37 Historic Designations within 500m buffer of study area, Berks HER

Battlemead Common Historic Landscape Analysis - Archaeological events within 500m buffer



0 75 150 300 Meters
1:7,500 on A3

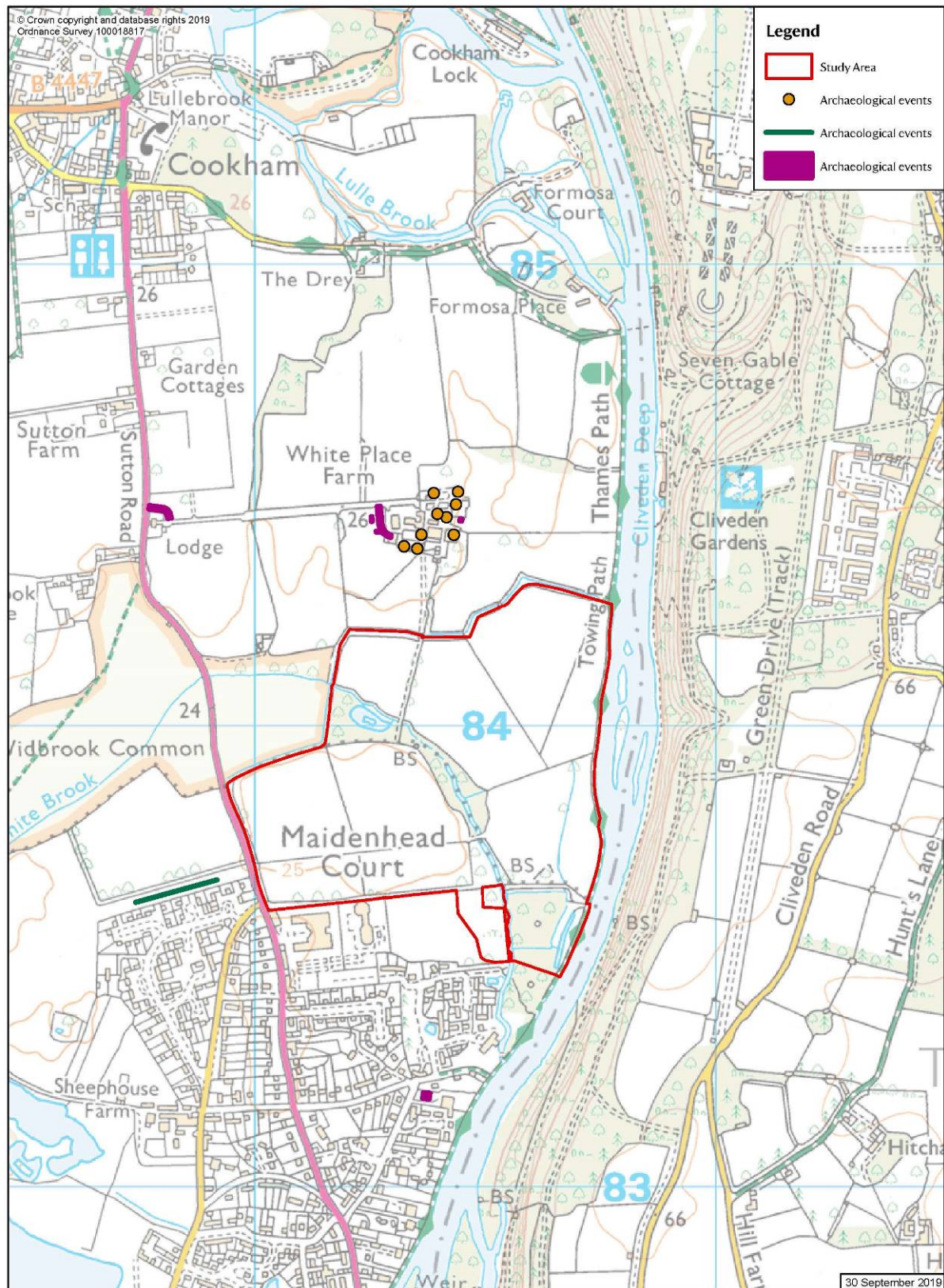


Figure 38 Archaeological Events within 500m buffer of study area, Berks HER