

LAND TO THE EAST OF COMBERTON

Heritage Technical Note

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REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1. This Technical Note has been prepared by RPS Heritage to inform the proposed development on land East of Comberton, South Cambridgeshire ('the study site'). The study site is currently being promoted through the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan process and this report has been prepared to identify the key heritage constraints and opportunities associated with the redevelopment of the site; identify any issues that may preclude the allocation of the study site; and provide advice related to the form and design of the proposed development. It should be read alongside all other supporting documentation prepared in relation to the current promotion of the study site for residential development.
- 2. The study site is located on the eastern edge of Comberton and currently comprises a single grassed field parcel. It is bound by existing, post-war dwellings to the north and west, with a mature treeline forming the eastern boundary, which in turn leads on to a farm track. The southern boundary is more loosely planted and allows views to the agricultural land beyond.
- 3. The study site is proximate to a range of designated heritage assets, the majority of which are located within the Comberton St Mary's Conservation Area. This conservation area includes the historic village of Comberton which is a small, nucleated settlement centred on the crossroads of the B1046 (Barton Street) and Green End and South Street. It also stretches further to the south to include the Grade I listed Church of St Mary, together with the neighbouring Grade II* listed Glebe Cottage. The study site is located outside of the conservation area, but shares intervisibility with parts of it. In addition, a scheduled monument, Settlement site W of Town End's Farm, is located to the east of the study site.
- 4. In accordance with relevant Historic England guidance, notably GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets and HEAN3: The Historic Environment and Study site Allocations in Local Plans, this assessment has been prepared to identify the heritage constraints and opportunities associated with the proposed allocation and subsequent development of the study site and demonstrate the suitability of the study site for residential development.
- 5. The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), the Cambridge Record Office, and other online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings was obtained from the CHER and Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Information on Conservation Areas was obtained from South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- The assessment establishes that the proposed development study site is located within 500m of the scheduled monument of the Settlement study site W of Town's End Farm, Barton (NHLE 1006879). Remains relating to this heritage asset may be regarded as being of national importance. No other non-designated heritage assets have been recorded within the study site.
- 7. This assessment has demonstrated that the proposed allocation, and subsequent development, of the study site will have no impact on the significance of the scheduled monument or the majority of listed buildings within the vicinity of the study site. There is potential for some limited, less than substantial harm, to the significance of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, but suitable mitigation measures have been introduced in the masterplan to minimise any such impacts, which will remain 'less than substantial' in magnitude and towards the lower end of this scale. The significance of the Comberton St Mary Conservation Area will also be conserved.
- 8. This desk-based assessment also considers the potential for as-yet to be discovered archaeological assets within the study site and concludes that the site has a low potential for significant archaeological evidence across all periods.
- 9. The evidence reviewed in this assessment report is considered to provide an appropriate level of detail to inform the emerging allocation, in line with national and local planning policy, and

demonstrates that there are no overarching heritage constraints that would preclude the allocation of the study study site.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This Technical Note has been prepared by RPS Heritage to inform the proposed development on land East of Comberton, South Cambridgeshire ('the study site'). The Study site is currently being promoted through the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan process and this report has been prepared to identify the key heritage constraints and opportunities associated with the redevelopment of the study site; identify any issues that may preclude the allocation of the study site; and provide advice related to the form and design of the proposed development. It should be read alongside all other supporting documentation prepared in relation to the current promotion of the study site for residential development.
- 1.2 The study site is located on the eastern edge of Comberton and currently comprises a single grassed field parcel. It is bound by existing, post-war dwellings to the north and west, with a mature treeline forming the eastern boundary, which in turn leads on to a farm track. The southern boundary is more loosely planted and allows views to the agricultural land beyond.
- 1.3 The study site is proximate to a range of designated heritage assets, the majority of which are located within the Comberton St Mary's Conservation Area. This conservation area includes the historic village of Comberton which is a small, nucleated settlement centred on the crossroads of the B1046 (Barton Street) and Green End and South Street. It also stretches further to the south to include the Grade I listed Church of St Mary, together with the neighbouring Grade II* listed Glebe Cottage. The study site is located outside of the conservation area, but shares intervisibility with parts of it. In addition, a scheduled monument, Settlement study site W of Town End's Farm, is located to the east of the study site.
- 1.4 In accordance with relevant Historic England guidance, notably *GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* and *HEAN3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans*, this assessment has been prepared to identify the heritage constraints and opportunities associated with the proposed allocation and subsequent development of the study site and demonstrate the suitability of the study site for residential development.
- 1.5 The assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), the Cambridge Record Office, and other online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings was obtained from the CHER and Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Information on Conservation Areas was obtained from South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 1.6 The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material, and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise. A site inspection was undertaken on 3 February 2020. All work was undertaken in accordance with the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment' (ClfA 2012).
- 1.7 The study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the study site and the significance of heritage assets within and around the study site. As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 Legislation related to listed buildings and conservation areas is provided by Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Section 66 provides protection to listed buildings and their settings, with section 72 related to the protection of conservation areas.
- 2.3 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and it was last updated in February 2019. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014, with the guidance on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment last updated 23 July 2019. (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment).
- 2.4 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

National Planning Policy

- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
 - Delivery of sustainable development;
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
 - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.6 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 189 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.7 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.8 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 2.9 A *Nationally Important Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.

- 2.10 *Significance* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- 2.11 *Setting* is defined as: 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.
- 2.12 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
 - Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - Protects the settings of such designations;
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of study sites not significant enough to merit *insitu* preservation.
- 2.13 The PPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available.
- 2.14 Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.15 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.16 The site is located within the local planning authority of South Cambridgeshire.
- 2.17 The Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire updates and replaces the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework which was adopted between January 2007 and January 2010 and covered the period up to 2016. In March 2014, the Local Plan and its supporting documents were submitted for independent examination to the Secretary of State and were adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council on 27th September 2018.
- 2.18 The policy of the Local Plan which is relevant to heritage and the study site is Policy NH/14:

POLICY NH/14: HERITAGE ASSETS

1. Development proposals will be supported when:

a. They sustain and enhance the special character and distinctiveness of the district's historic environment including its villages and countryside and its building traditions and details;

b. They create new high-quality environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character including in innovatory ways.

12. Development proposals will be supported when they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their settings, as appropriate to their significance and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly:

c. Designated heritage assets, i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens;

d. Non-designated heritage assets including those identified in conservation area appraisals, through the development process and through further supplementary planning documents;

e. The wider historic landscape of South Cambridgeshire including landscape and settlement patterns;

f. Designed and other landscapes including historic parks and gardens, churchyards, village greens and public parks;

g. Historic places;

h. Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest human habitation to modern times.

- 2.19 In considering the heritage implications of any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government policy and the Local Plan policy (NH/14).
- 2.20 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the study site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

3.1 The 1:50k British Geological Survey records the bedrock within and around the study site as Gault Formation Mudstone with no overlying superficial deposits recorded (<u>http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk</u>). Areas to the north and west of the study site are overlain with river terrace deposits of Sand and Gravel, whilst further to the north the superficial deposits are largely of Oadby Member Diamicton.

Topography

- 3.2 The study site lies on relatively flat former agricultural ground with a gradual fall to the south. Ground levels within the study site are at approximately 28m aOD at the north and 26m aOD at the southern edge of the study site.
- 3.3 The available LiDAR data (Figure 10) for the study site shows the that the field surface is relatively flat and exhibits no trace of earthworks.
- 3.4 The Tit Brook, a tributary to the River Cam, forms the southern boundary of the study site. The study site is bounded to the boundary north and west by residential properties along Swayne's Lane and Bush Gardens, respectively. A metalled byway, known as the Herringfield Drift, defines the eastern boundary of the study site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site (Figure 2), also referred to as the study area, held on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the 16th Century until the present day.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the study site conditions and whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.4 There is no record of any previous archaeological investigation within the proposed development area. Within the wider area there has been a relatively small amount of recorded archaeological work; the CHER records a total of five previous archaeological events within 1km of the study site.
- 4.5 The nearest archaeological investigation was the monitoring of the of the Comberton to Eversden pipeline (CHER ECB1162) which was undertaken in 1993 by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit. In the vicinity of the study site he pipeline followed the route of The Drift, which is located immediately to the east of the proposed development area. No significant archaeological features were recorded within the study area as part of this investigation (CCCFAU 1993).
- 4.6 Other fieldwork has focussed on development in the vicinity of the parish church. In 2002, an archaeological evaluation (CHER ECB936) was undertaken at Church Farmhouse Barns, *c*. 440m

to the south-west of the study site by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit. No archaeological deposits or features were observed (CCCFAU 2002).

- 4.7 In 2007 archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches at St Mary's Church by Archaeological Solutions (CHER ECB2626), c. 475m to the southwest of the study site. The investigation revealed the clunch foundation of the north aisle of the church and a number of burials (Archaeological Solutions 2017).
- 4.8 In 2011 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Solutions at The Valleys (CHER ECB3617), *c*. 570m to the north of the study site. The investigation of four evaluation trenches and eight test pits revealed residual fragments of Post Medieval pot but no archaeological features (Archaeological Solutions 2011).
- 4.9 In 2015 an Aerial Photographic Survey was undertaken of land at Bennell Farm, by Oxford Archaeology East (CHER ECB4582). The survey area was located to the west of the village, to the north of West Street, *c*. 800m to the west of the study site. The survey identified traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, some potential ditched enclosures and possible boundary ditches. Subsequent geophysical survey and trenching of this development study site (OAE 2016) was confined to a 3.88ha area more than 1km to the west of the proposed development area; it revealed parts of an extensive system of ditches and furrows relating to the Post-Medieval and possibly Medieval agricultural use of the study site (OAE 2016).

Prehistoric

- 4.10 There is very little evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. The CHER contains no records relating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods within the study area.
- 4.11 The CHER records the recovery of a Neolithic axe as an unstratified find (CHER 3223) *c*. 600m to the south of the proposed development area.
- 4.12 Other evidence includes the identification of cropmarks that appear to show the remains of probable Prehistoric features. These include possible Iron Age or Roman enclosures east of Church Farm (CHER MCB25530), 275m to the south-east of the study site. Possible Iron Age or Roman enclosure have also been identified north of Wimpole Road (CHER MCB25531) and southeast of Fox's Bridge Farm (CHER 07992) approximately 1km to the south-east and south of the study site respectively.
- 4.13 From the evidence available, the study site is assessed as having a low potential for yet to be discovered Prehistoric activity.
- 4.14 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.15 What follows comprises a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the study site, also referred to as the study area, held on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area.
- 4.16 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Roman

- 4.17 There is relatively little evidence for Roman activity recorded on the CHER within the study area, but it is likely that the wider area was relatively well occupied during this period.
- 4.18 Cropmarks of a Romano-British settlement covering 12.6ha are recorded at Townsend Farm (CHER 3374) 450m to the east of the study site. The cropmarks appear to suggest the presence of the remains of several enclosures, trackways and ditches. A large portion of cropmarks fall within the

Scheduled Monument of the Settlement study site W of Town's End Farm, Barton (NHLE 1006879) which covers a 7.8ha area between the Tit Brook and the parish boundary. The study site is likely to be multi-period and may also contain evidence for Iron Age and Saxon activity.

- 4.19 The CHER records the recovery of Roman metal artefacts (CHER 11838 and CHER MCB16021) c.800-850m to the south-southwest of the proposed development area. The finds were recovered from near an area of cropmarks of a field system (CHER MCB21318) thought to be of Roman or Iron Age in date. The same area has also produced finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, including two later Roman Coins (PAS CAM-3EAF94 and PAS CAM-3F1666) and an unusual lead weight of uncertain date (CAM-828200). The activity in this area is area is likely to be related to the study site of a Roman Villa, located just outside the study area, which was revealed between Comberton Church and the Bourn Brook during gravel quarrying in 1842.¹
- 4.20 The Portable Antiquities scheme records the recovery of a clipped silver siliqua (PAS DEV-D2E942), probably dating to *c*. 375-395 AD, from the village, but the exact location of the find study site is uncertain.
- 4.21 Whilst there is clearly significant Late Iron Age and Roman settlement activity in the wider area, there is no evidence to suggest that any of the activity extends into the proposed development area. As such, the study site is assessed as having a low potential for yet to be discovered Romano-British activity.

Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval

- 4.22 The village of Comberton is likely to have Anglo Saxon Origins. Its name is believed to have derived from the Old English for a 'Farmstead of a man called Cumbra' (Mills 2011, 126).
- 4.23 At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 Comberton had a recorded population of 44 households, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements². It was divided between four landowners and is likely to have been a polyfocal settlement.
- 4.24 Saxon and Early Medieval archaeological remains within the study area are scarce. The CHER records the recovery of a fragment of an early Saxon brooch (CHER MCB16020) from a field *c*. 850m to the south-southwest and sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery (CHER 7761) from Reeds Pit, located *c*. 670m to the of the study site.
- 4.25 From the evidence available, the study site is assessed as having a low potential for yet to be discovered Anglo-Saxon activity.

Medieval

- 4.26 Most of the Medieval monuments identified within the study area relate to traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. Many of these survive as extant earth works (CHER 3396) whilst others have been ploughed flat but remain visible as cropmarks (CHER 9579, CHER MCB20809, CHER MCB21317). The closest of these former fields are the extant remains to the south of Swayne's Lane, *c*. 90m to the west of the study site.
- 4.27 There is a notable lack of evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation within most of the fields to the east of the study site, however cropmarks of former furlong boundaries have been identified within the field immediately to the east, and also in those to the south (CHER MCB27314). Other furlong

¹ <u>http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=368941</u>

² https://opendomesday.org/place/TL3855/comberton/

boundaries have been located to the west of Royston Lane (CHER MCB27313) and north of Barton Road (CHER MCB27315) towards the fringes of the study area. Probable medieval field boundaries are also visible as earthworks on air photographs (prior to 2013) to the east of Green End (CHER MCB25533), c. 830m to the north-west of the study area, and to the east of the parish boundary with Barton (CHER MCB25617), *c*. 810m to the east of the proposed development area.

- 4.28 The CHER records that a concentration of Medieval earthworks (CHER 09225) are visible as cropmarks and on LiDAR surveys of the area around Church End, *c*. 560m to the south-west of the study site. The earthworks are recorded as comprising a hollow way, field boundaries, ridge and furrow, a possible house platform, pond and a plough headland.
- 4.29 Study of LiDAR imagery has identified the possible remains of a road or causeway and at least two house platforms (CHER MCB21304) in the fields north of Foxbourne, *c*. 710m to the north-east of the study site. Further to the east, cropmarks of undated enclosures (CHER 09578) have been identified towards the eastern fringes of the study area (within the parish of Barton). The area also contains traces of Medieval or Post Medieval pre-enclosure field system (CHER MCB25619) identified by LiDAR survey.
- 4.30 Cropmarks of parts of incomplete enclosures alongside evidence of ridge and furrow (CHER 09575) have been identified 700m east of Fox's Bridge Farm, c. 975m to the south-east of the study site.
- 4.31 The study area also contains two moated sites. The moat at Birdlines Manor Farm (CHER 1102) was located *c*. 550m to the west-southwest of the study site but was backfilled in the 20th Century. It is thought to be the site of an earlier manor house that was went out of use by the 14th Century. The probable site of Green's Manor (formerly Merke's Manor) that was known to have been in existence in 1365 is located to the west of Green End, *c*. 790m to the north-west of the study site.
- 4.32 Towards the centre of the village an ancient stone cross (CHER 0415) once stood at the crossroads, c. 540m to the west of the proposed development area.
- 4.33 From the evidence available, the study site is assessed as having a low potential for Medieval activity with the exception of likely traces of features associated with medieval cultivation.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.34 Most of the Post-Medieval and Modern Heritage assets within the study area relate to extant built heritage which is beyond the scope of this archaeological assessment.
- 4.35 Perhaps the most unusual monument is the site of the former Comberton Maze (CHER 3242) which once occupied an area to the north-east of the crossroads, *c*. 500m to the north-west of the study site. Whilst the origins of this circular turf-maze are uncertain, it was once occupied part of the village green before being incorporated into the grounds of the school playground. The CHER records that it was buried under tarmac in 1925.
- 4.36 The CHER records a small number of Post-Medieval and 19th century monuments within the study area, these include coprolite extraction pits (CHER 3216), the study site of the former School (CHER MCB27796) and the study site of a former malthouse with adjoining blacksmiths workshop (CHER MCB27796). Whilst the former buildings were located to the north of the crossroads, the coprolite workings are recorded as located in fields *c*. 475m to the north-east of the proposed development area.
- 4.37 Potential significant Post-Medieval finds from within the study area are limited that of a Post Medieval silver dress hook (PAS CAM-EF8F75) that was recovered from a field to the west Royton Road *c*.
 1km to the south-west of the study site. This is likely to have been a casual loss.
- 4.38 The evaluation at The Valleys (CHER ECB3617) produced Post Medieval pottery, building material and clay pipe (CHER MCB19544) from the topsoil and subsoil layers excavated within the test pits.

- 4.39 The village of Comberton is shown on Saxton's 1579 map of Cambridgeshire in his 'Atlas of the Counties of England and Wales'. It is represented by a stylized drawing of a church building and is one of many that represent the numerous villages west of the main settlement of Cambridge. This representation of the village and its surroundings is repeated in Overton and Bowles' map of Cambridgeshire dating to 1710-1713.
- 4.40 The earliest available map that shows the study area in detail is the Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1808 which shows the layout of the village including buildings, roads/trackways, surrounding fields, and some natural features such as watercourses and relief (Figure 3). The proposed development area is shown as being located within a large field to the south-east of the main village. No buildings or other features of interest are shown within the bounds of the proposed development area.
- 4.41 The 1840 Tithe Map (Figure 4) shows the study site itself in detail. By this time the fields surrounding Comberton had been enclosed by Act of Parliament and trackway known as The Drift had been constructed and defined the eastern boundary of the development area. The study site had been divided into two land parcels. The largest field occupied the northern *c*. 90% of the proposed development area is recorded in the associated 1839 apportionment document as arable allotment land. The southern part of the study site, alongside the Tit Brook, is noted as arable land "In stallon north of drain".
- 4.42 By the time the first accurately surveyed large-scale 25" Ordnance Survey map of the study area had been published in 1887 (Figure 5) the division between the northern and southern fields had been removed, however the a new boundary had been created *c*.30m south of northern field's northern limit which would later defined the northern boundary of the proposed development area. By 1902 (Figure 6) this northern subdivision is labelled as "Allotments" suggesting that the study area itself was no longer used for this purpose.
- 4.43 The Ordnance Survey mapping undertaken over the course of the 20th Century shows the gradual expansion of Comberton, with residential housing developments being built on former agricultural land. By 1974 (Figure 7) the present study site boundaries had been established, with the field to the west having been developed as Bush Close, and the former allotment area to the north now accommodating three separate domestic plots. An additional three houses were added to the easternmost plot prior to 1994.
- 4.44 The 21st Century has seen little change to the study site or its immediate surroundings, with the exception of the addition of a further house in the plot to the north-west of the proposed development area in *c*. 2007. Review of the available aerial photographs of the study site between 1945 and 2020 (Figure 8 & 9), indicate that the study site has been in use as a single agricultural field for most of the last 75 years.

Assessment of Significance (Designated Assets)

- 4.45 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the 'significance' of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its 'heritage interest' to this or future generations.
- 4.46 The assessment has established that there are no designated heritage assets on the proposed development study site, and that there will be no direct impact upon the significance of any designated heritage assets.
- 4.47 The Settlement site W of Town's End Farm, Barton (NHLE 1006879) is located *c*. 450m to the south east of proposed development area. By nature of its Scheduled status the monument of is of national importance.
- 4.48 The significance of the Scheduled Monument is vested in its evidential value and its potential to contribute to our understanding of this type of Roman rural settlement. Its current setting, within an undeveloped rural context, makes a minor positive contribution to its significance and potential future

appreciation of this Heritage Asset. The study site currently provides a minor contribution to this rural setting; however, it is heavily screened by vegetation along the Drift and by Watts Wood which restricts intervisibility between the two areas.

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

^{4.49} As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below and mapped where possible on Figure 2:

Period:	Identified Potential	Archaeological	Identified Significance	Archaeological
Prehistoric	Low		Low (Local)	
Roman	Low		Medium (Local to	o Regional)
Anglo-Saxon	Low		Low (Local)	
Medieval	Low		Low (Local)	
Post Medieval	Low		Low (Local)	

4.50 This demonstrates that the study site overall has a low potential for surviving archaeological remains from all periods. The archaeological potential and significance of the study site will not therefore preclude its allocation and subsequent development.

5 BUILT HERITAGE APPRAISAL

- 5.1 This Heritage Assessment has been prepared by RPS Heritage to inform the proposed development on land East of Comberton, South Cambridgeshire ('the Site'). The Study site is currently being promoted through the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan process and this report has been prepared to identify the key heritage constraints and opportunities associated with the redevelopment of the study site; identify any issues that may preclude the allocation of the study site; and provide advise related to the form and design of the proposed development.
- 5.2 The study site is located on the eastern edge of Comberton and currently comprises a single grassed field parcel. It is bound by existing, post-war dwellings to the north and west, with a mature treeline forming the eastern boundary, which in turn leads on to a farm track. The southern boundary is more loosely planted and allows views to the agricultural land beyond.
- 5.3 The study site is proximate to a range of designated heritage assets, the majority of which are located within the Comberton St Mary's Conservation Area. This conservation area includes the historic village of Comberton which is a small, nucleated settlement centred on the crossroads of the B1046 (Barton Street) and Green End and South Street. It also stretches further to the south to include the Grade I listed Church of St Mary, together with the neighbouring Grade II* listed Glebe Cottage. The study site is located outside of the conservation area, but shares intervisibility with parts of it. In addition, a scheduled monument, Settlement site W of Town End's Farm, is located to the east of the study site.
- 5.4 The proposed allocation and development of the study site has the potential to affect the following heritage assets:
 - Church of St Mary (Grade I; NHLE 1310174) located 480 metres southwest of the Study site
 - Church Farmhouse (Grade II; NHLE 1127797) located 435 metres southwest of the Study site
 - The Cottage (Grade II; NHLE 1331101) located 495 metres southwest of the Study site
 - Comberton St Mary's Conservation Area
- 5.5 The following section provides an initial assessment of the significance of all built heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed development. In accordance with Historic England guidance in GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets it assesses their significance, with consideration given to how, and to what extent, their settings contribute to that significance. This allows the heritage constraints and opportunities presented by the study site to be understood and has informed the constraints heat map at Appendix B: Constraints Plan.

Assessment of Significance

Church of St Mary

- 5.6 The Church of St Mary is a medieval parish church with surviving 13th, 14th and 15th century fabric. It underwent restoration in the 19th century and now comprises a nave and chancel, north and south aisles, a south porch and prominent west tower of 3 stages. The building is constructed from light rubblestone, with limestone dressings, with limited use of Ketton stone. Together the use of these local stones provides a light appearance to this building which is constructed in a broad Perpendicular style.
- 5.7 The building is set in relative isolation, well to the south of the core of the settlement and proximate to the medieval Glebe Cottage and a small number of post-medieval buildings. This small enclave of buildings sits away from the core of Comberton, with this relative isolation providing additional prominence to the church.

- 5.8 Beyond this, the setting of the Church of St Mary is rural and includes gently undulating agricultural land. The relative isolation of the building, coupled with its prominent west tower, means that it is frequently experienced from this agricultural land, which includes the site to the northeast. Views from the Site take in the upper stages of the west tower, which is seen amongst planting and often alongside the Cottage, which is discussed below. Although these views do not allow for a detailed appreciation of the architectural interest of the listed building, they do provide an experience of the parish church within a rural setting, while its deliberate landmark qualities are also evident. However, with the exception of those views from the very southern extent of the Site, the church is experienced beyond a foreground of late 20th century development which provides a visual buffer between the listed building and much of the Site.
- 5.9 Therefore, the Study site does provide some wider rural context to the listed building, but any such contribution to its significance is limited, and primarily provided through permitting views of the tower within relative isolation and within its rural surroundings.

Church Farmhouse

- 5.10 Church Farmhouse is an 18th century building of 2 storeys plus attic. It has a double-depth plan and is constructed from painted brick with a plain tile, half-hipped roof, with the 2 sections separated by a central valley. The building has a near symmetrical design, comprising 5-bays with box sashes. Church Farmhouse possesses architectural interest evident in its early Georgian design and style, together with historic interest as an 18th century agricultural building.
- 5.11 The Farmhouse is located to the north of the Church of St Mary, with 18th and 19th century agricultural buildings sitting between the two listed buildings. These ancillary buildings represent the historic agricultural function of the Farmhouse and strongly contribute to its significance. Church Farmhouse is separated from the core of Comberton to the north by agricultural fields, with additional fields to the east and west presenting a clear, rural and agricultural setting, which reflects the historic role of the building and contributes to its historic interest and overall significance.
- 5.12 The Study site is located to the northeast, beyond intervening post-war housing at Bush Close. Although the Study site forms part of the wider rural surroundings of the listed building, the 1839 Tithe map does not show any shared ownership or direct functional link between the Study site and listed building. In winter months, partial views of the upper stages of the building, including its roof and 20th century dormers, are permitted from the southern extent of the Study site. From the remainder of the Study site views are prevented by the intervening vegetation and built development. Those views that are permitted present only a very partial experience of the listed building. Although these views do reflect the rural setting of the listed building, they do not allow an appreciation and understanding of the Farmhouse's architectural interest or its historic role. They are consequently considered to make a very limited contribution to its significance.

The Cottage

- 5.13 The Cottage is a late 18th century, 2 storey building which has been substantially enlarged and altered in the 20th century. It is a timber-framed construction, finished with render and with a thatched roof. The building's significance is drawn from its architectural and historic interest as a post-medieval dwelling constructed in a vernacular style.
- 5.14 The building is located on the fringe of Comberton, to the east of the Church of St Mary and adjacent to the surrounding agricultural land. It therefore has a rural setting with open views permitted over agricultural land to the east. Views between the Study site and the listed building are restricted by the large, late 20th century agricultural shed immediately to the north of the Cottage. This means that only limited views are permitted of the listed building from the southern extent of the Study site. Although these do allow the listed building's architectural interest to be partially experienced, along with its rural setting, the limited nature of these views means they make only a slight contribution to the overall significance of the Cottage.

Comberton and St Mary's Conservation Area

- 5.15 The Comberton and St Mary's Conservation Area convers two distinct areas, with the northern extent including the historic core of Comberton and the southern extent including the small settlement centred on the Church of St Mary. The conservation area includes several listed buildings, including the Grade I listed Church of St Mary and the Grade II* listed Glebe Cottage. Its significance is drawn from the surviving medieval street layout and wealth of historic buildings dating from the medieval period to the 19th century.
- 5.16 Until the Second World War the conservation area retained a largely rural setting, with very little development expanding beyond the historic core. However, the later 20th century has seen marked growth within Comberton, with post-war housing developments now surrounding much of the historic core and visually separating it from its surrounding rural context. The exception to this is the smaller enclave surrounding the Church of St Mary which retains much of its historic rural setting.
- 5.17 The majority of the conservation area is, therefore, separated from the study site by intervening postwar housing. The study site is not considered to make any contribution to these elements of the conservation area, with its contribution to the significance of the area around St Mary's Church, and the other nearby listed buildings, limited from those reasons established above. Overall, therefore, the presence of the conservation area is not seen as an overriding constraint to development.

6 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON HERITAGE ASSETS

Site Conditions

6.1 The study site is located on the eastern edge of Comberton and currently comprises a single grassed field parcel. It is bound by existing, post-war dwellings to the north and west, with a mature treeline forming the eastern boundary, which in turn leads on to a farm track. The southern boundary is more loosely planted and allows views to the agricultural land beyond.

Proposed Development

- 6.2 The study site is currently being promoted for residential development of approximately 100 dwellings, with associated infrastructure and landscaping. The design development process is at an early stage, however key principles have been identified by the design team to minimise any potential adverse impacts to the setting and significance of surrounding heritage assets and, where possible, maximise opportunities for enhancement.
- 6.3 The detailed assessment work has determined that the southern area of the study site is of highest sensitivity in built heritage terms. From here the fullest views of the Church of St Mary and surrounding heritage assets are permitted, with some views provided from here that are devoid of post-war development and allow an appreciation of the historic rural setting of the heritage assets. Therefore, the southern part of the Site will be retained as public open space, providing new public views of the church and limiting the visual impact of the proposed development on views from within the Site. The building line will not extend further south than the current development to the west at Bush Close, with lower density development located within the area immediately north of this.
- 6.4 These design measures will ensure that the proposals will not alter the current rural approach to the Church of St Mary, or the character of its wider setting. Although some views of the church from within the study site will be altered, these currently include existing twentieth-century dwellings and the proposed allocation therefore not reducing the ability to appreciate or understand the significance of the Church of St Mary. The proposed allocation and subsequent development of the study site is therefore likely to have no impact on the significance of this Grade I listed building. Further design work undertaken through the allocation and application process will also assist in retaining or capturing some of these views, if necessary.
- 6.5 The visual disconnection between the study site and the Settlement site W of Town's End Farm, coupled with the retain open space, will mean that the character of the scheduled monument's setting will not be changed and the proposed allocation will have no impact on the significance of this designated heritage asset.
- 6.6 The allocation will also have no impact on the other designated heritage assets discussed within this report.
- 6.7 There are no known archaeological assets within the study site. The constructional techniques employed in modern development are such that it is improbable that any archaeological remains now present within the eastern half of the study site would survive the development process. A programme of archaeological recording, including geophysical survey and trenched evaluation would be recommended in mitigation of this impact.
- 6.8 This assessment has established that the study site has a low potential for significant archaeological remains of all periods, however, this assessment would be ground-proofed by the programme of survey suggested above.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The study site has been assessed for its below ground archaeological potential.
- 7.2 As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Significance:
Prehistoric	Low Potential and Low (Local) Significance
Roman	Low Potential and Low to Medium (Local - Regional) Significance
Anglo-Saxon	Low Potential and Low (Local) Significance
Medieval	Low Potential and Low (Local) Significance
Post Medieval	Low Potential and Low (Local) Significance
Modern	Low Potential and Low (Local) Significance

- 7.3 This desk-based assessment has established that no designated heritage assets are present within the study site.
- 7.4 The assessment establishes that the proposed development study site is located within 500m of the scheduled monument of the Settlement site W of Town's End Farm, Barton (NHLE 1006879). Remains relating to this heritage asset may be regarded as being of national importance. No other non-designated heritage assets have been recorded within the study site.
- 7.5 This assessment has demonstrated that the proposed allocation, and subsequent development, of the study site will have no impact on the significance of the scheduled monument or the Church of St Mary the Virgin, both of which are designated heritage assets of the 'highest significance'. The significance of the Comberton St Mary Conservation Area will also be conserved. This is due to the employment of suitable mitigation measures and the retention of important views to these heritage assets. The proposals will also retain their wider rural settings and approaches to them.
- 7.6 This desk-based assessment also considers the potential for as-yet to be discovered archaeological assets within the site and concludes that the study site has a low potential for significant archaeological evidence across all periods.
- 7.7 The evidence reviewed in this assessment report is considered to provide an appropriate level of detail to inform the emerging allocation, in line with national and local planning policy, and demonstrates that there are no overarching heritage constraints that would preclude the allocation of the study site.

Sources Consulted

General

British Library Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Cambridgeshire Archives

The National Archive

Internet

British Geological Survey – <u>http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html</u>

British History Online - http://www.british-history.ac.uk/

Domesday Online - http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/

Historic England: The National Heritage List for England – <u>http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/</u>

Local Plan - <u>https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/the-adopted-development-plan/</u>

Portable Antiquities Scheme - <u>www.finds.org.uk</u>

The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain - https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl/

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- Oxford Archaeology East (OAE). 2016, *Post-medieval Ditches and Furrows and Undated Postholes, Bennell Farm, Comberton Cambridgeshire.* Report No. 1880.

Cartographic

1579 Saxton's map of Cambridgeshire

- 1710 -1713 Overton and Bowles Cambridgeshire
- 1808 Ordnance Survey Drawing
- 1832 Cary's Map of Cambridgeshire
- 1840 Tithe Map, Comberton, Cambridge
- 1887 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey County Series 25"
- 1902 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey County Series 25"
- 1938 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey County Series 25"
- 1974 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey National Grid
- 1976 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey National Grid
- 1989 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey National Grid
- 1994 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey National Grid
- 2003 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey Landline

Aerial Photographs

RAF Imagery from 1945

Google Earth Imagery from 2000, 2003, 2006, 2015 and 2020

LIDAR DATA

2011 Environment Agency LiDAR data - 1m resolution (captured 04/05/2011)





NB 11/02/2020









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Site Boundary

1km search radius

Designated Heritage Assets:

Scheduled Monument

Non-designated Heritage Assets:

HER Records Point

- Monuments
- Buildings
- 🕂 Findspots
- Parks and Gardens

HER Records Polygon

- Monuments
- Landscape

Previous Archaeological Work:

- HER Events Line
- HER Events Polygons





Figure 3

Historic Environment Records -1km study area

NB / 11/02/20



Approximate site location

Ο



Not to Scale Illustrative Only



Figure 4

1808 Ordnance Survey Drawing







NB / 11/02/20

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Site Boundary		
	Site Boundary	Figure 10

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Legend

Site Boundary

LIDAR DATA

Source: Environment Agency

Data Type: DSM

Resolution: 1m

Date Captured: Mar - Apr 2017

Processing: simple Local Relief Model overlaid on Multi-direction Hillshade





Figure 11 LiDAR Data



Appendix A

Cambridgeshire HER Data

Pref Ref	Name	Record Type	Mon Type	Evidence	Date
1101	Moated site, Comberton	MON	MOAT; FISHPOND	EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK	Medieval
1102	Moated site at Birdlines Manor Farm, Comberton	MON	MOAT	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	Medieval
3216	Coprolite pits, Comberton	MON	COPROLITE WORKINGS	EARTHWORK	Post Medieval
3223	Neolithic axe, Comberton	FS	FINDSPOT	UNSTRATIFIED FIND	Neolithic
3242	The Maze, Comberton	PG	MAZE	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	Post Medieval
3374	Romano-British settlement, Townsend Farm, Comberton	MON	SETTLEMENT; PIT; RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; FIELD BOUNDARY; CURVILINEAR ENCLOSURE; TRACKWAY; PIT	CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK;	Early Iron Age to 5th century Roman
3396	Ridge and furrow, Comberton	LND	RIDGE AND FURROW	EARTHWORK	Medieval
3415	Site of stone cross, Comberton	MON	CROSS	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	Medieval
7761	Saxon-Medieval pottery, Comberton	FS	FINDSPOT	UNSTRATIFIED FIND	Early Saxon to Medieval
7992	Cropmarks of possible Iron Age or Roman enclosures 290m southeast of Fox's Bridge Farm , Comberton	MON	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; FIELD BOUNDARY; ROUND HOUSE (DOMESTIC); OVAL ENCLOSURE; FIELD BOUNDARY; RING DITCH	CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK;	Early Iron Age to 5th century Roman
9225	Medieval earthworks, Comberton	MON	RIDGE AND FURROW; BANK (EARTHWORK); DITCH; POND?; HOUSE PLATFORM?	EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK	Medieval
9575	Medieval earthworks, Comberton	MON	ENCLOSURE; RIDGE AND FURROW	CROPMARK; CROPMARK	Medieval
9578	Enclosures, Barton	MON	ENCLOSURE	CROPMARK	Unknown
9579	Ridge and furrow, Comberton	MON	RIDGE AND FURROW	CROPMARK	Medieval
11838	Roman metal artefacts, Comberton	FS	ARTEFACT SCATTER	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	Roman
MCB16020	Brooch fragment, Comberton	FS	FINDSPOT	UNSTRATIFIED FIND	Early Saxon
MCB16021	Roman finds, Comberton	FS	FINDSPOT	UNSTRATIFIED FIND	Roman
MCB19544	Post medieval pottery, The Valleys, Comberton	FS	FINDSPOT	FIND	Post Medieval
MCB20809	Ridge and Furrow, Bennell Farm, Comberton	MON	RIDGE AND FURROW	CROPMARK	Medieval
MCB21304	Medieval to post medieval house platforms and road, north of Foxbourne, Comberton	MON	ROAD; HOUSE PLATFORM	EARTHWORK; EARTHWORK	Medieval to 19th century
MCB21317	Field system, south of Mulberry Montessori School, Comberton	MON	RIDGE AND FURROW; DITCH; FIELD SYSTEM	CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK	Medieval
MCB21318	Field system, south of Mulberry Montessori School, Comberton	MON	DITCH; FIELD SYSTEM	CROPMARK; CROPMARK	Early Iron Age to 5th century Roman
MCB25530	Iron Age or Roman enclosures 570m east of Church Farm, Comberton	MON	FIELD BOUNDARY; RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE; TRACKWAY	CROPMARK; CROPMARK; CROPMARK	Early Iron Age to 5th century Roman
MCB25531	Possible Iron Age or Roman enclosures north of Wimpole Road, Comberton	MON	FIELD BOUNDARY; ENCLOSURE	CROPMARK; CROPMARK	Early Iron Age to 5th century Roman
MCB25533	Earthwork of medieval field boundaries, Comberton	MON	FIELD BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Medieval
MCB25617	Probable Medieval boundary ditches 400m	MON	BOUNDARY DITCH	CROPMARK	Medieval

	south of Comberton Road, Barton				
MCB25619	Medieval and post medieval field boundary banks north and west of Barton	MON	FIELD BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Medieval to 19th century
MCB27313	Furlong boundaries in the parishes of Toft & Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27313	Furlong boundaries in the parishes of Toft & Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27313	Furlong boundaries in the parishes of Toft & Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27314	Furlong boundaries in the parish of Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27314	Furlong boundaries in the parish of Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27314	Furlong boundaries in the parish of Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27315	Furlong boundaries in the parishes of Barton & Comberton	LND	FURLONG BOUNDARY	EARTHWORK	Unknown
MCB27796	Former school, Comberton	MON	SCHOOL	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	19th century
MCB27797	Former Malthouse with adjoining blacksmiths workshop, Comberton	MON	MALT HOUSE; BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE; DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE	19th century

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