

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Bunbury

Archaeological Strategy



2003

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Bunbury: Area of Archaeological Potential

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified in Bunbury, comprising three Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs). Each Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*. For example, in the Ecclesiastical Centre (Archaeological Character Zone 1), the defining characteristics include the medieval church of St Boniface and the potential site of the College of Canons.
- 1.2 Each Archaeological Character Zone may also include sites and features which are not defining characteristics but are nonetheless of archaeological and historical importance, and these are identified as *Secondary Characteristics*. For example, Archaeological Character Zone 1 includes the potential remains of a Saxon Minster, and this has therefore been identified as a Secondary Characteristic.
- 1.3 The list of characteristics is not exhaustive, and it is possible that other types of important archaeological remains and features exist within each Archaeological Character Zone. The boundaries of the AAP and the Archaeological Character Zones, and the list of Primary and Secondary Characteristics are intended as a guide for planners and developers. They are based on current knowledge, and are therefore subject to change as new information is revealed.

2. Existing Designations (Figure 1)

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	None
Listed Buildings	Grade I - Church of St Boniface Grade II* - Chantry House Grade II - Fourteen
Conservation Areas	Two – Higher Bunbury and Lower Bunbury.

3. Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

Zone 1: Ecclesiastical Centre

Primary Characteristics	
St Boniface's Church and Churchyard	The fabric of the church dates mainly from the mid-14th century, although architectural fragments of the Norman church survive. It underwent remodelling in 1386 when Sir Hugh Calveley established a college in the church, and in 1527 when Sir Ralph Egerton built a new Chantry chapel.
College of Canons	A moated enclosure, which was part of the College was recorded in the 19th century to the north-west of the churchyard of St Boniface.
Chantry Priests House	Built c 1527 to house the two priests from the Ridley Chapel in the church of St Boniface, which had also been built by Sir Ralph Egerton. Earthworks located east of the House may be the foundations of buildings associated with this.
Medieval Settlement	Settlement is likely to have been clustered around the churchyard, particularly along the northern and western boundaries.
Road Pattern	The churchyard of St Boniface overlies an earlier road layout. The current road pattern is probably the product of medieval planning carried out when the college was established.

Secondary Characteristics	
Early Medieval Church	It is suggested that a Saxon Church stood on the same site as the church of St Boniface, potentially a minster or mother church. There may have been settlement associated with this.
Post Medieval Settlement	A number of post medieval buildings survive in this area, including 17th century Grade II listed structures.

Zone 2: Medieval Settlement

Primary Characteristics	
Medieval Settlement	Property boundaries, which appear to respect narrow, medieval tenements have been identified on Bunbury Street, Vicarage Lane and School Lane.
Medieval and Post Medieval Market Place	This has been identified as the triangular area at the intersection of Bunbury Lane, Vicarage Lane and School Lane.

Secondary Characteristics	
Post Medieval Settlement	A number of buildings survive from this period, including Grade II listed buildings.

Zone 3: Shrunken Medieval Settlement?

Primary Characteristics	
Medieval Settlement	An area of potential medieval settlement has been identified from existing property boundaries. It is not known when this area of settlement fell out of use.

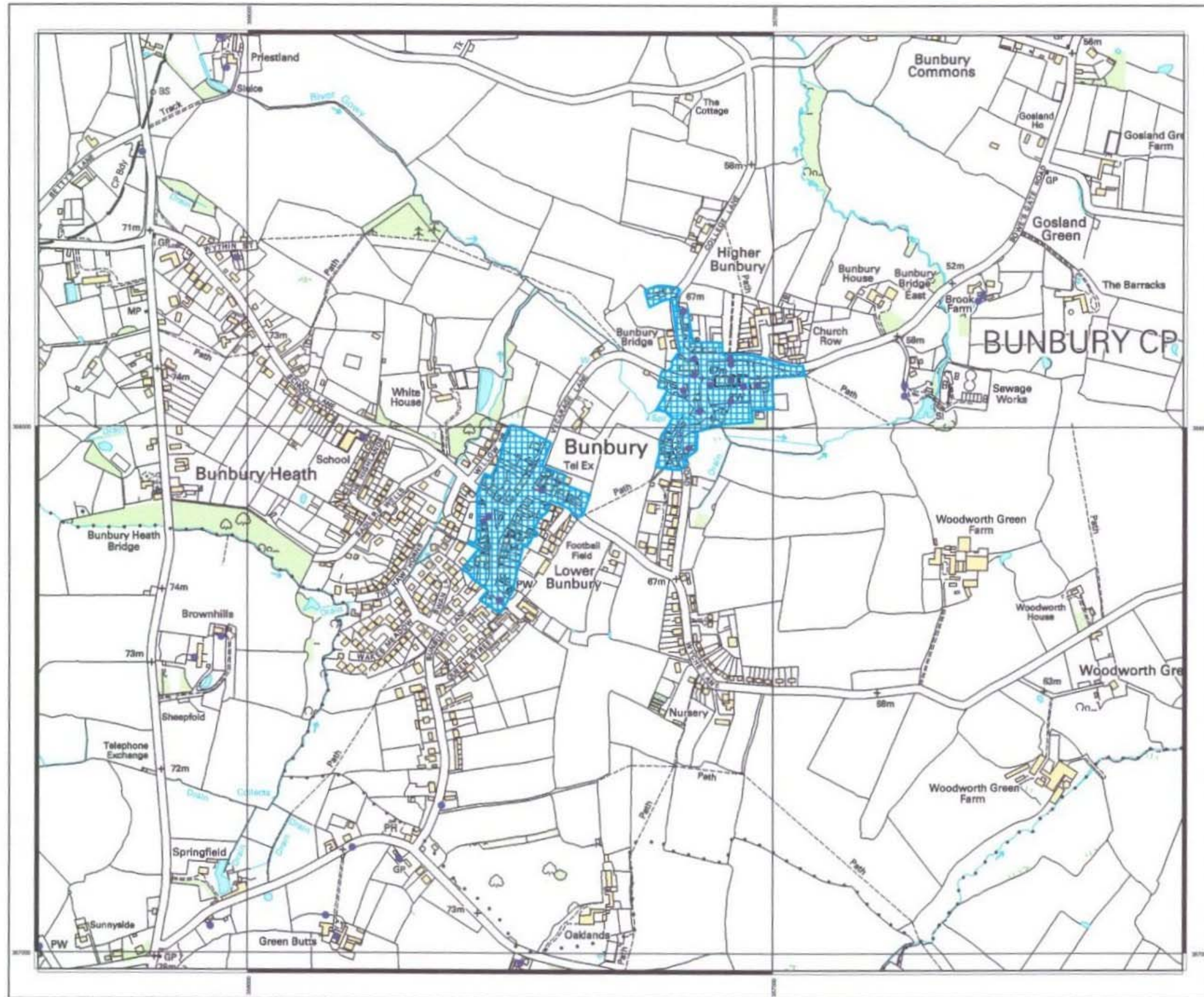




Figure 1: Bunbury Existing Designations

-  Listed Building
-  Conservation Area

1:7000

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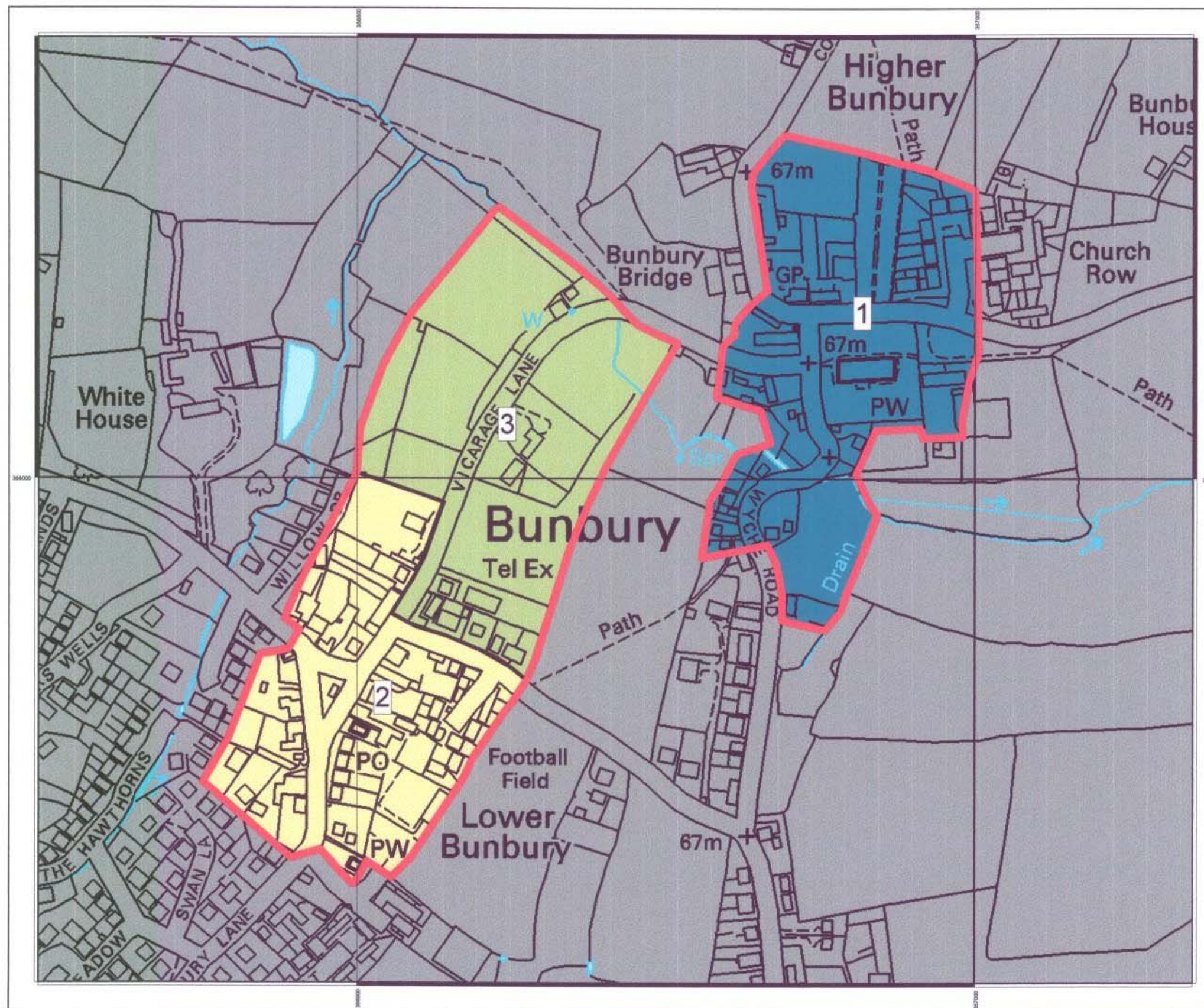






Figure 2: Bunbury Area of Archaeological Potential and Archaeological Character Zones

-  Area of Archaeological Potential
-  ACZ 1: Ecclesiastical Centre
-  ACZ 2: Medieval Settlement
-  ACZ 3: Shrunken Medieval Settlement?
-  Area Outside the Historic Core

1:3000

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