

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF SOUTHWICK ROAD

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SITE

Settlement in Wickham began in the Roman period and is likely to have comprised a small town or villa situated on the Roman road from Chichester ('Noviomagus Reginorum') to Bitterne ('Clausentum'). The road would have passed through Wickham at a crossing point on the River Meon, running directly through the central part of the site.

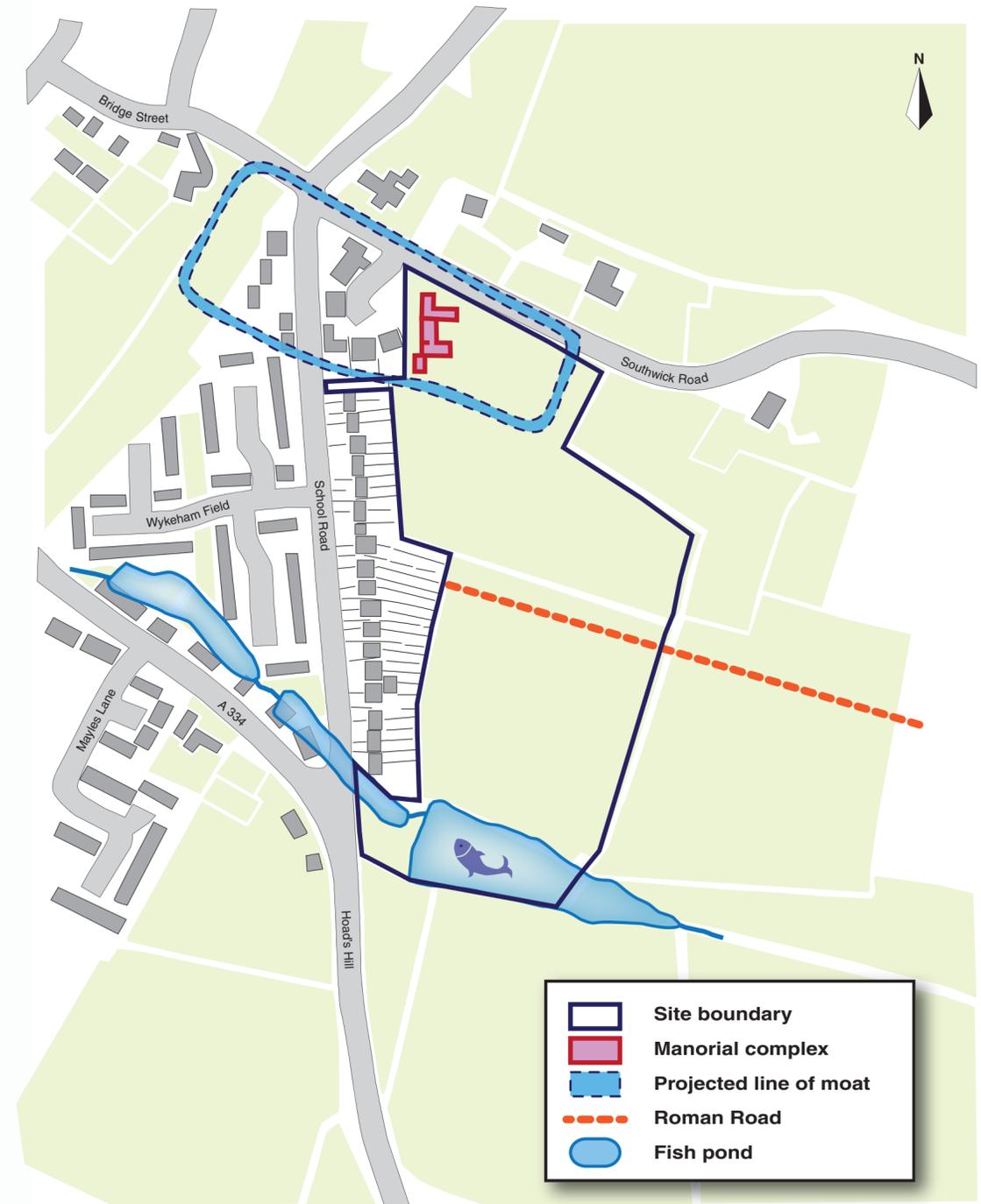
The name 'Wickham' is thought to have derived from the Latin word 'vicus', meaning 'street' or 'quarter'. This suggests a Saxon settlement may have been located on land previously occupied during the Roman period.

From the 9th century onwards settlement at Wickham was divided into two manors, separated by the River Meon. In the later medieval period, the main settlement was focused to the west of the River Meon. A medieval manor house was situated to the east. From the late 13th century onwards Wickham was subject to reorganisation and converted to a Borough in the mid-16th century.

The medieval manor complex of Uvedales, named after the 14th century lords of Wickham, lies within the northern part of the site. The first house was constructed in the late 12th century. It was subject to alterations and rebuilding from the 13th century onwards, including the excavation of a moat and fishponds. Fishponds were constructed for the breeding, raising and storing of freshwater fish.

The manor continued to be occupied until the early 19th century; it was abandoned in 1835. From the 19th century onwards, historic mapping suggests the site was used as agricultural fields.

Whilst the moated manor now lies beneath Southwick Road and School Road, parts of the moat are visible as earthworks within the site. Recent geophysical survey has revealed walls or foundations which could possibly be associated with the manor.



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