

NGR: SK 0575 0085

A report on a programme
of archaeological works

Marches Archaeology

Captain's Barn Farm Caverswall Staffordshire

**Report on an
archaeological desk-based assessment**

September 2003

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of archaeological works**

Marches Archaeology Series 303

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**Captain's Barn Farm
Caverswall
Staffordshire**

**Report on an archaeological
desk-based assessment**

NGR: centred on SJ 951 456

Report by
Jo Wainwright and Jane Kenney

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September 2003

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**Captain's Barn Farm
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Summary

There are no Sites and Monuments listed within the study area. The only activity apart from cultivation that can be proved as taking place in the study area is small scale extraction which is indicated on the Ordnance Survey Plans.

The desk-based assessment did not identify any archaeological remains on the site but its scope can not demonstrate that no such remains exist. Field evaluation would be required to achieve this.

1 Introduction

An Environmental Impact Assessment is being prepared for an application to develop land at Captain's Barn Farm, Caverswall for sand and gravel extraction. The site is situated at NGR: SJ 951 456 (Fig. 1). The Advisor has produced a 'Brief for a desk-based assessment'. Halletc, on behalf of the client C. E. & J. M. Dale, commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services detailed in the Brief.

2 Scope and aims of the project

The Brief stated the scope of the archaeological project. In summary it was to consist of:
desk based assessment
preliminary visual investigation to locate any easily identifiable sites of potential archaeological significance

The purpose of Desk-based Assessment is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as "to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the context, leading to one or more of the following: the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource; the formation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised; the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research".

The aim of this study is to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment of the likelihood of the survival of archaeological deposits within the study area.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

The desk based study involved the consultation of primary and secondary sources. The Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted. Visits were made to Staffordshire County Record Office, Lichfield Record Office, the William Salt Library and the Development Services Department at Staffordshire County Council. Copies of aerial photographs held by the English National Monuments Record were obtained.

The following sources were considered:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithes maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological and soils
information.

Fieldwork

A site visit was made on 9th September 2003 to identify any visible archaeological remains. An archaeologist walked over the area of the proposed development. It was non-intrusive and no artefacts or ecofacts were collected. Several non-archival digital photographs were taken of the site.

4 Description of the site and geological background

The site lies in the civil parish of Caverswall and is lies approximately 220 metres O.D (Fig. 1). The development area covers 10.58 hectares within 5 separate fields. The land slopes down to the east from a low ridge to the west of the site. Current land use within the development area is arable and pasture.

The underlying solid geology is comprised of red clayey conglomerates and sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (formerly Bunter Pebble Beds) (Hallett, 2003). Boulder clay is shown on geological maps (A. Carp, pers comm).

The River Blithe is 1 kilometre to the west of the site and there is a stream running in the valley bottom 100 metres to the east of the site. Settlement on gravels close to water courses is well attested in the prehistoric era.

5 Archaeology and history of the area

No archaeological sites are listed on the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as being within the study area. The summary that follows sets the site within the context of the wider archaeological and historical landscape.

Prehistory

Within 3 kilometres of the site there has been several finds dated to the Neolithic period. In Caverswall itself a polished stone axe was recovered from the churchyard (SMR: 3977, Fig. 1) and a polished axe-hammer made of basalt was uncovered close by (SMR: 1625, Fig. 1).

To the north of the site a flint scatter which included scrapers was recovered from Werrington (SMR: 547, Fig. 1). It is possible that some of this assemblage is of a later Bronze Age date. There is further evidence of Bronze Age activity in the area in the form of a round barrow 2 kilometres south of the site (SMR: 888, Fig. 1).

Roman

There are no known Roman settlements in the locality but Hanley Banks has been suggested as a possible Roman trackway (SMR: 2340, Fig. 1) and a Roman coin was found 2.5 kilometres west of the site (SMR: 30030, NGR: SJ 9250 4500). The Roman road to Uttoxeter ran along the line of the A50, which is 3 kilometres to the south of the site.

Medieval

A Saxon origin for Caverswall has been claimed (Rogers, 2000). This is based on the place-name evidence for an early spelling of *Cafhere Walle* which translates as Cafhere's Spring (Cameron, 1988). The Domesday entry for Caverswall reads:

*in Caverswall 1 virgate of land. Wulfheah holds from him.
Goding held it; he was a free man. Land for 3 ploughs.
In lordship 1;
10 villagers and 2 smallholders with 3 ploughs.
Meadow, 6 acres; woodland 1 league long and ½ wide:
a half of Stoke (-on-Trent) Church, with ½ caracute of land.
Value 30s (Morris, 1976).*

There are no medieval sites listed in the SMR closer than 2 kilometres from the site. At Caverswall there is evidence of medieval settlement (SMR: 2405, Fig. 1) and a 13th century moated site/castle (SMR: 1232, Fig. 1). Close to Caverswall at Swan Bank there is an oval enclosure and mound which is possibly a medieval motte (SMR: 559, Fig. 1). A medieval moated site existed at Weston Coyney (SMR: 2115, Fig. 1) and the remains of a cross or standing stone have been located at Washerwall (SMR: 549, Fig. 1).

Post-medieval

Early maps of the County of Staffordshire were consulted but none showed the study area in detail. An early estate plan of 1743 shows the development area as being within the Manor of Hulme (Fig. 2). The plan shows that the area was largely formally enclosed by 1743. Most of the roads can be traced as present roads or paths on the modern map (Fig. 1). Fields just north-east of the study area at Morville Hall Farm are almost exactly the same today as in

1743. These fields were marked as pre-existing enclosures in 1743. The fields over the study area were marked as ‘new land’, presumably to be enclosed following the boundaries laid out on the map. These boundaries are almost exactly the same as what exists today. A building is shown to the south of the study area in 1743, but it is not named. There are no buildings shown where the farm complex is today and the land is marked as belonging to Ron (B?)arker.

The Tithe Plan of the Manor of Weston Coyney of 1841 shows the fields of the study area almost exactly the same as shown on modern maps (Fig. 3). The only change was the removal of a hedge line dividing parcel 117 and 120 and the insertion of a track between parcels 127 and 128. Outside the study area the farm building complex is in the same position but demolition and building work to the complex has obviously taken place. The area of rough land with trees to the south-west of the study area shown on the Tithe Plan is still in existence today. The following table is an excerpt from the apportionment that accompanied the Tithe Plan.

No	Landowner	Occupier	Name and description of land/premises	State of cultivation
117	Parker Thomas Hawe Esquire	Wright William	The Hill	Pasture or meadow
118	ditto	Wright William	Far Pit Field	Arable
119	ditto	Wright William	Near Pit Field	Pasture or Meadow
120	ditto	Wright William	The Hill	Arable
121	ditto	Wright William	Big Croft	Pasture or Meadow
128	ditto	Wright William	Barn Field	Pasture and Meadow

The field names Far Pit Field and Near Pit Field presumably indicate that extraction was taking place or had taken place in these fields at some point. Boulder clay is shown at this point on the geological maps. A field west of the site (122) was known as Gravel Pit field.

The 1890 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6 Inch Plan shows no change to the general field layout in the study area but several extraction pits and a pond is visible (Fig. 4). The 2nd Edition 6 Inch Ordnance Survey Plan of 1900 shows no further changes to the site (Fig. 5). The 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Plan of 1880 is exactly the same as the, presumably copied, 1890 6 Inch Plan and is not illustrated. Other later Ordnance Survey Plans consulted showed no significant changes within the study area.

The area is not within a major coalfield but there was small scale coal mining taking place in the vicinity. Various deeds in the parish index at the Staffordshire County Record Office mention coal mines but none of these were close enough to the study area to warrant detailed inspection.

A linear feature is shown on an aerial photograph from 1971 (Plate 1) (Fig. 1). This is the line of an existing gas main.

6 Field inspection

The field at the north (117 and 120 on Tithe Plan) was under sugar beet at the time of inspection so no earthworks were visible if indeed they exist. The field to the south (128 on Tithe Plan) was stubble and some recent earthmoving had taken place towards the eastern boundary of this field. Both these fields would be ideal for field walking to pick up any find scatters. The remaining smaller fields (Near and Far Pit fields on Tithe Plan) are under pasture and had slightly undulating surfaces suggesting they had not been heavily ploughed recently. The pond shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Plan at the southern end of one of these fields still exists today.

7 Conclusions

There are no SMR sites recorded in the study area but there are several listed in the vicinity. Activity is attested in the locality during the prehistoric period with finds and a barrow recorded. There was Roman activity in the area but again there are no recorded finds or sites within the study area.

A Saxon foundation for Caverswall has been claimed (Rogers, 2000). However, the study area is not close to the village and the first appearance in the records shows the land as a part of the Manor of Hulme. The modern parish boundary shows Hulme as being situated in Werrington parish. The evidence from the Tithe Plan also suggests that the study area had closer ties to lands to the west as the site is situated in the Manor of Weston Coyney.

The only activity apart from cultivation that can be proved as taking place in the study area is the small scale extraction presumably of clay and/or gravels which is indicated on the Ordnance Survey Plans.

From the evidence of the desk-based assessment no significant archaeology has been proven to exist within the study area. The limitations of a desk-based assessment are such that this absence of evidence cannot be used to indicate firmly that no archaeological deposits exist. Settlement on gravels close to water courses is well attested in the prehistoric era and the use of part of the site for gravel extraction probably in the post-medieval period is suggested by the field names shown on the Tithe Plan. In this area the extraction may have removed a significant part of the archaeological resource. Only by field evaluation techniques such as field walking, geophysical survey and trial trenching can a balanced assessment of the archaeological potential of the site be gained.

8 References

Plans in the Staffordshire County Record Office

Plan of the Manor of Hulme, 1743 D(W) 63
Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, First Edition, XVIII NE, 1890
Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, Second Edition, XVIII NE, 1900
Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, XVIII NE, 1925
Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, XVIII NE, 1951
Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 Inch, First Edition, XVIII.4 NE, 1880
Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 Inch, Second Edition, XVIII.8 NE, 1900
Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 Inch, XVIII.4 and XVIII.8 NE, 1924

Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 Inch, XVIII.4 NE, 1939
Ordnance Survey Plan, 25 Inch, XVIII.8 NE, 1937

Plans in the Lichfield Record Office

Tithe Plan and apportionment of the Manor of Weston Coyney 1841

Aerial photographs in the Development Services Department, Staffordshire County Council

HSL UK 6392	28 July 63	frames 9706-9707
HSL UK 6347A	2 June 63	frames 022-023
3492	18/5/92	frames 017-019
0882	14/5/82	frame 155
13971	2/10/71	frame 173

Aerial photographs in the National Monuments Record

RAF/1406G/UK/646	11 Aug 45	frames 3194-3195
MAL/71139	2 Oct 71	frame 174
MAL/82008	14 May 82	frame 155
OS/88214	6 Aug 88	frame 055

Unpublished source obtained from the client

Hallettec, 2003, *Captains Barn Farm - Environmental Impact Assessment*, forthcoming.

Published sources

Cameron, *English Place-names*, 1988
Higham, M.M.B, Caverswall, *Staffordshire Life*, Vol.5, No.3, 1952
Morris, J, *Domesday Book: Staffordshire*, 1976
Rogers, M.J.W, *The Spirt of the Place*, 2000

9 The archive

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to The Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

The archive consists of :

- 5 copies of aerial photographs
- 1 set of notes
- 1 copy of this report

The site code is CBFC03A

Appendix 1: Summary of SMR sites

All sites are listed in the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record.

SMR 547	SJ 942 472	Flint scatter including scrapers. Probably Neolithic with some possible Bronze Age pieces.
SMR 3977	SJ 9516 4280	Neolithic polished stone axe from Caverswall Churchyard.
SMR 1625	SJ 9520 4280	Neolithic polished axe-hammer, made of basalt
SMR 888	SJ 9548 4338	Bronze Age round barrow
SMR 2340	SJ 9555 4423	Hanley Banks, trackway suggested as Roman in origin but no supporting evidence.
SMR 30030	SJ 9250 4500	Roman coin found (no further details)
SMR 2405	SJ 9510 4280	medieval settlement of Caverswall, mentioned in Domesday Book, has 13th century moated site/castle.
SMR 559	SJ 9421 4303	Oval enclosure and motte-like mound. Undated but possibly medieval motte.
SMR 2115	SJ 9357 4373	Medieval moated site
SMR 549	SJ 934 478	Standing stone, boundary stone or part of medieval cross
SMR 1232	SJ 9508 4279	Caverswall Castle, medieval and Jacobean

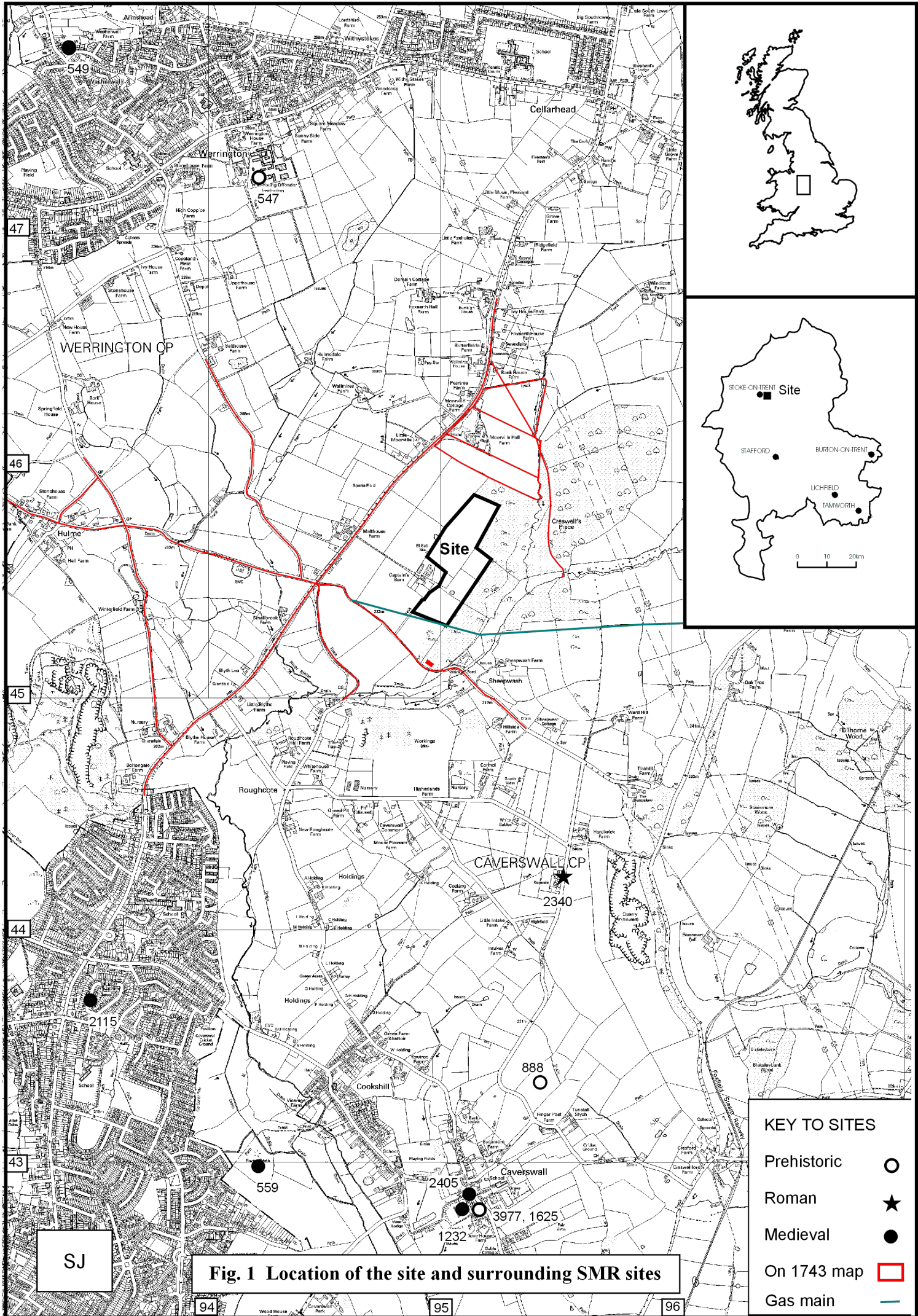


Fig. 1 Location of the site and surrounding SMR sites

KEY TO SITES	
Prehistoric	○
Roman	★
Medieval	●
On 1743 map	□
Gas main	—



Fig. 2 Plan of the Manor of Hulme 1743

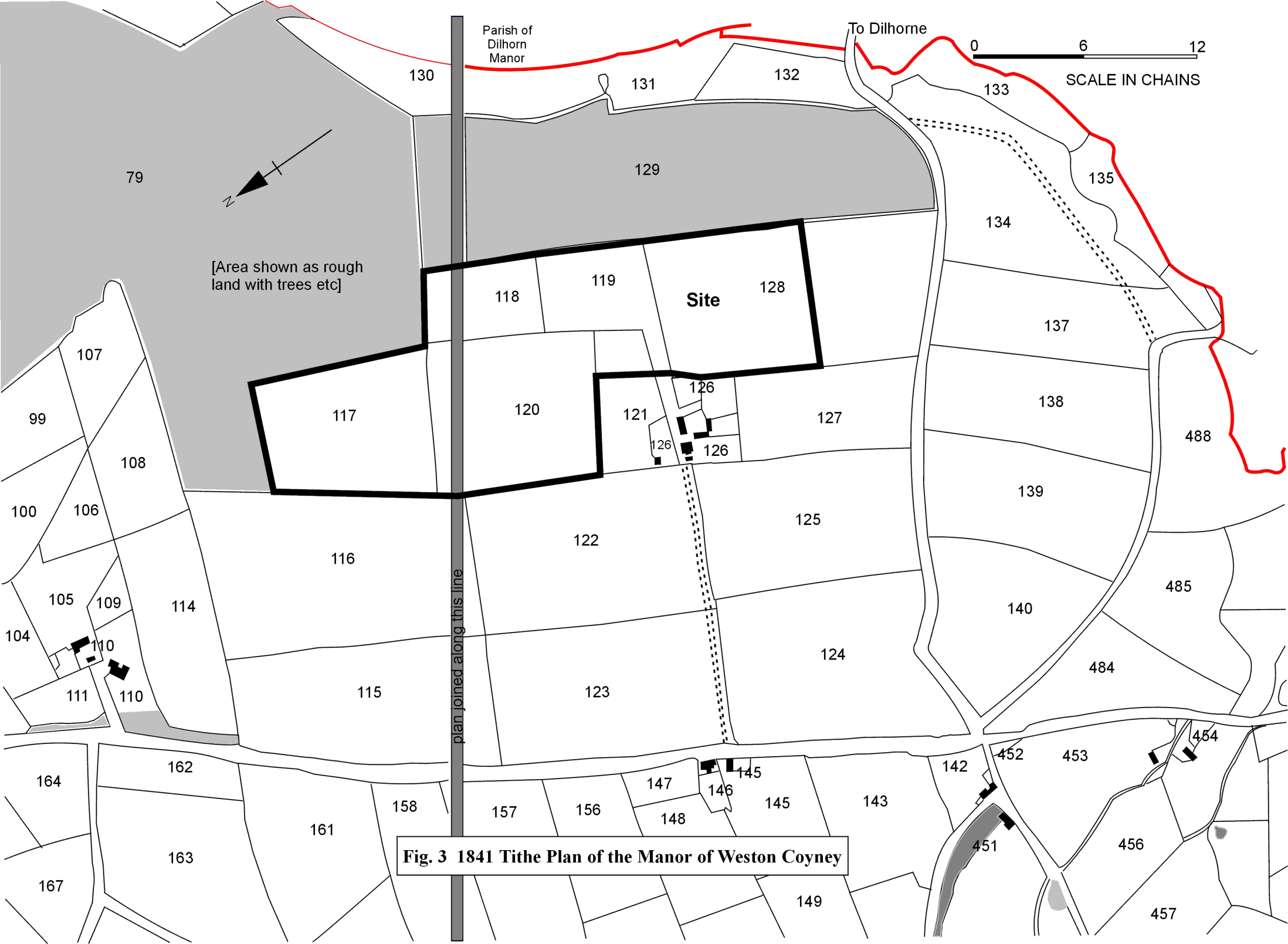


Fig. 3 1841 Tithe Plan of the Manor of Weston Coyney

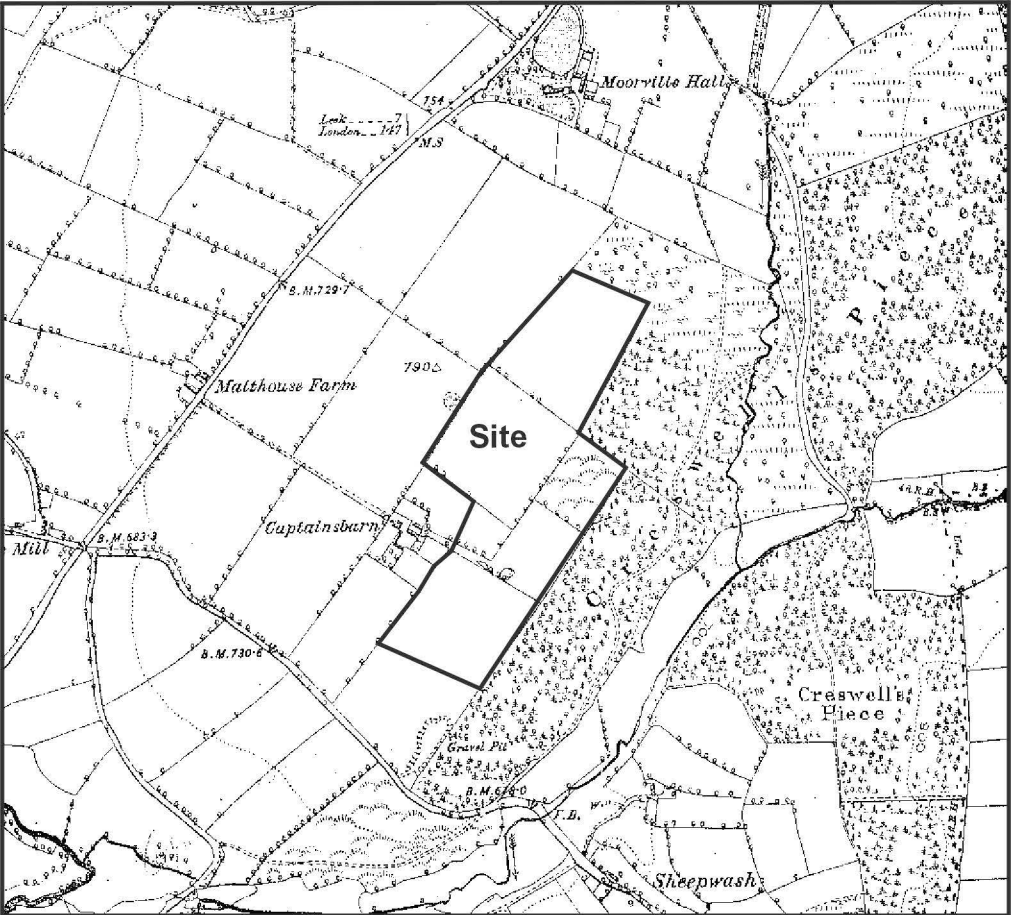


Fig. 4 Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, 1st Edition, 1890

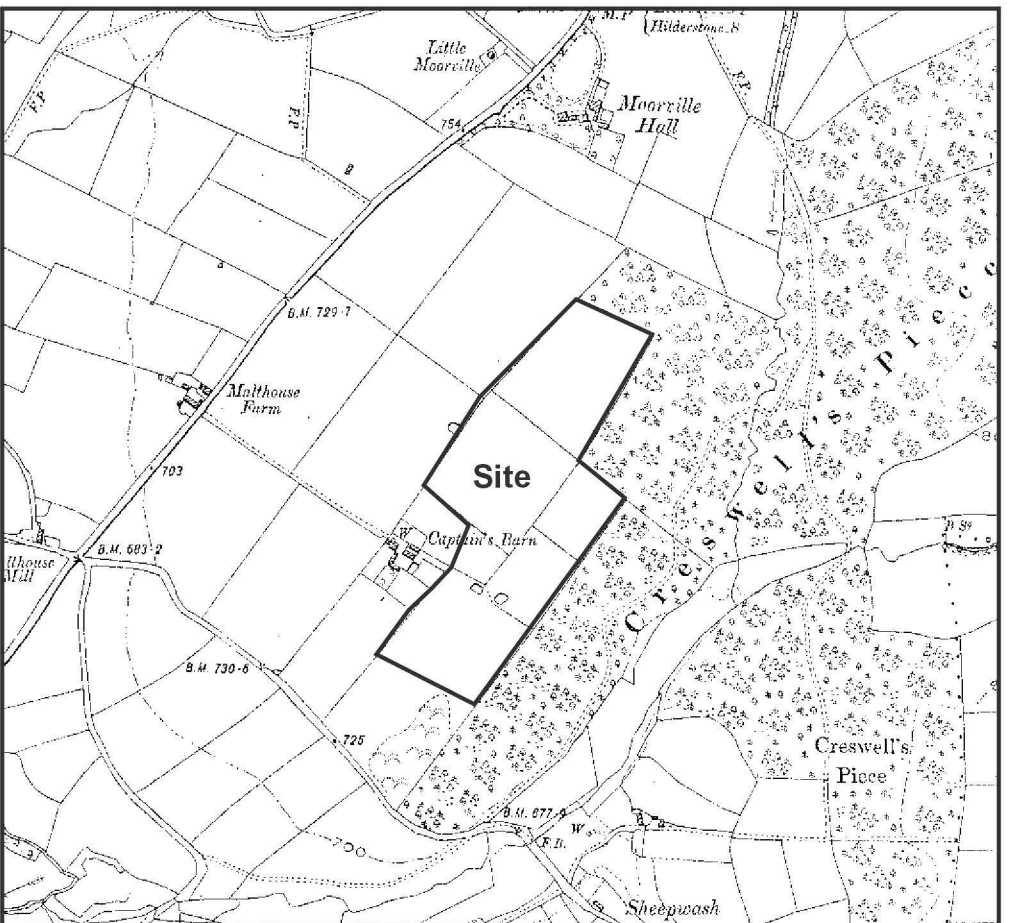


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey Plan, 6 Inch, 2nd Edition, 1900



Plate 1 1971 Aerial Photograph of the site, Film No: MAL/71139, Frame No:174