

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF TWO PARCELS OF LAND
AT WATCHFIELD LAWN
NEAR HIGHBRIDGE, SEDGEMOOR,
SOMERSET
prepared for Hadstone Energy Ltd.
By
John P. Salvatore BA. PhD. MifA.**

April 2013

Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Soils and Geology	1
2. Methodology	1
2.1 Study of cartographic and pictorial evidence	1
2.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation	2
3. Legislation and Guidance	2
3.1 Conservation Areas	2
3.2 Sites, monuments and buildings with statutory designation	2
4. Archaeological and Historical background	3
4.1 Archaeological background	3
4.2 Historical background and historic development of the site	3
4.3 Current land use	5
5. Sites of archaeological and historical interest	5
6. Conclusions	7
Acknowledgements	8
Sources consulted	8
General Bibliography	9

List of figures

Fig. 1 Location plan

Fig. 2 Area A: Detailed location plan showing location and orientation of photos

Fig. 2b Area B: Detailed location plan showing location and orientation of photos

Fig. 3 Sites of archaeological and historical interest (numbered).

Fig. 4 Area A: the site in 1840 reproduced from the Burnham on Sea tithe map

Fig. 5 Area A: the site in *c.* 1884 reproduced from the OS 1:10560 1st edition

Fig. 6 Area B: the site in 1840 reproduced from the Burnham on Sea tithe map

Fig. 7 Area B: the site in *c.* 1884 reproduced from the OS 1:10560 1st edition

Photos: Area A (refer to Fig. 2 for photo location and orientation)

Photo. 1 Mark or Cripps Rhyne (looking north from eastern edge of Field 1.)

Photo. 2 Field 1 looking north (Brent Knoll in the background)

Photo. 3 Field 2 looking SW from Pillmore Lane

Photo. 4 Field 3 (the narrow field) looking SW

Photo. 5 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 2 and 3

Photo. 6 Pillmore Lane looking east

Photo. 7 Field 4 looking SW from Pillmore Lane

Photo. 8 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 4 and 5

Photo. 9 Field 5 looking south from Pillmore Lane

Photo. 10 Detail of post-medieval western boundary of Field 5 (looking west)

Photos: Area B (refer to Fig. 2b for photo location and orientation)

Photo. 11 Field 6 looking NW from gateway in SE corner

Photo. 12 Field 6 looking west from gateway in SE corner

Photo. 13 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 7 and 6

Photo. 14 Field 7 looking NW from gateway in SE corner

Photo. 15 Field 7 looking North from gateway in SE corner (Brent Knoll in distance)

Photo. 16 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 8 and 7

Photo. 17 Field 8 looking NW

Photo. 18 Field 9 looking NW

Photo. 19 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 9 and 8

Photo. 20 Detail of raised ground feature in Field 9 (2m scale)

Photo. 21 Detail of post-medieval field boundary and modern fence between Field 9 and
Burnham Moor Lane

Photo. 22 Field 9 looking SE from track

Photo. 23 Track running approx. SW-NE from Burnham Moor Lane

1. INTRODUCTION

This desk-based assessment (DBA) has been prepared by Dr John P. Salvatore at the request of LDA Design for Hadstone Energy Ltd. to assess the archaeological potential of two parcels of land at Watchfield Lawn near Highbridge, Somerset. This is being undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment, following initial consultation with Sedgemoor District Council and comment from the Senior Historic Environment Officer of Somerset County Council, in advance of a forthcoming planning application for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels (solar array) on both areas.

1.1 Background

The site, which comprises of two separate but closely spaced areas (A and B), lies approximately 1.5km east of Highbridge in the parish of Burnham Without in the District of Sedgemoor. Both areas lie on the coastal edge of the Somerset Levels. Area A is located at Watchfield Lawn just off Pillmore Lane between the M5 Motorway to the west and Magnolia House to the east at ST3375 4780 whilst Area B is located immediately to the east of Burnham Moor Lane at ST3415 4835 (Fig. 1).

1.2 Soils and Geology

The area is known to be former salt marsh with channels draining into the former River Siger the main course of which ran immediately to the south of Area A (see below for further detail on recent research into the alluvial depositions and reclamations in the study area). Below topsoil, the predominant soil type identified in the proposal area comprises alluvial blue/grey clay with peat at a depth of 4m below this.

2. METHODOLOGY

The DBA focussed upon the two proposal areas but also included a surrounding study area of a size deemed suitable to indicate the likely presence and survival of archaeological remains or deposits within the two areas. The assessment sought to identify any significant archaeological or historical sites in the immediate vicinity. A site visit to both areas A and B was also undertaken and it is understood that a programme of archaeological geophysical investigation was undertaken in tandem with this DBA.

The following repositories and sources were consulted:

- Somerset Heritage Centre. (SHC).
- Westcountry Studies Library, Sowton, Exeter .
- Existing archaeological information held by the Somerset Historic Environment Record (SHER).
- English Heritage Listed Buildings online website.
- The National Heritage List for England online website.
- The Heritage Gateway online website
- The English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey of Burnham on Sea and Highbridge.

2.1 Study of cartographic and pictorial evidence

The enclosure awards plan of 1797 for Burnham on Sea was consulted at the Somerset Heritage Centre as was the tithe map of 1840. Copies of the Ordnance Survey plans of the 1st and 2nd editions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the 2nd edition revised plan of 1930 were obtained from the Somerset Heritage Centre. A modern (2002) OS 1:50000, was obtained for reference purposes. Aerial photographic records, including vertical and

oblique photos, ranging from 1946 to 2005, were consulted via the Somerset County Council HER on-line mapping services and an aerial photograph of earthworks at Isleport Farm was examined at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

2.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributes to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscape. Relevant historic landscape characterisation information was supplied by the Somerset Historic Environment Record - the landscape at the both proposal areas A and B was characterised as 'recently enclosed land of the 18th to 21st century.'

3. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This desk-based assessment has been carried out in accordance with The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) guidelines. The IfA defines archaeological desk-based assessment within its standards and guidance document (revised Nov. 2012) as:

....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

This DBA also recognises the statements made in the Government's published National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF: 2012) and in particular paragraph 128 of Chapter 12: *In determining proposals, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

3.1 Conservation Areas

The proposal sites do not lie within any designated conservation area.

3.2 Sites, monuments and buildings with statutory designation

There are no statutorily protected Scheduled Monuments (protected sites of national importance) within the proposal areas. The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument is the Iron Age Brent Knoll hillfort and its associated field system which lies some 3km to the north of the proposal areas (see Fig. 1 for location of Brent Knoll SAM). There are a number of listed buildings in the vicinity of the two proposal sites and these are cited in Section 5 below.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Archaeological background

Somerset is a county rich in prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites. To the north of the proposal area is the Iron Age hillfort of Brent Knoll whilst the Iron Age settlement at Alstone Lake Village lies some kilometres to the south-west on the other side of the River Brue.

The proposal site and the surrounding area may have been unproductive until the draining of the coastal marshlands which appears to have begun in the late 1st century AD; even then the area may have been utilised primarily as a salt marsh with salterns for the panning and collection of salt appearing on the creeks draining into the sea in the Highbridge area (Leech and Leach in Aston and Burrow, eds. 1982, 71). Briquetage (fragments of fired clay vessels and trays used in the extraction of salt) from Roman salt workings has been found extensively in the area and more specifically, just outside the north-eastern edge of the Area A (site 5.1 below). Rippon has stated that the salt production sites around Highbridge lay directly upon the saltmarsh surface (1997, 71). Roman pottery and some possible evidence for Roman buildings has been found to the west of Isleport Farm (see Nash 1971, 97 and Fig. 1 for a summary) where a former coastal inlet may have allowed for Roman occupation on its banks.

4.2 Historical background and historic development of the area

The process of land reclamation on the coastal margins of the Somerset Levels was slow, but some of the places which, from archaeological evidence, must have been flooded in late Roman times were settled by Domesday (Nash, 1973). The deposition sequences of the coastal areas alongside the River Severn have been studied by Mullin *et al* (2009). The authors have detected that the area east of Burnham was underwater in the late Bronze Age but had been reclaimed by the Roman period. However, a further sea transgression in the late 4th century put the area once more underwater until the further reclamations of the medieval period.

Immediately prior to the Norman Conquest Burnham (on Sea) was held by the Saxon Brictsi. During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings (recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086) the manor of Burnham was passed to Walter (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 24.7) but the proposal areas may have been too far to the east to have been included in these holdings and are later included within the parish of Burnham-Without, demonstrating that they were some distance from the manorial centre. The Domesday records show extensive tracts of meadow at Burnham which reflects again the low-lying nature of the land. The northern boundary of Burnham follows the course of the vanished river, named as the Siger in 663, which may have been the principal waterway in the Roman and early Saxon periods (Leech, 1981). Land at Burnham (though not necessarily a settlement) is mentioned in the late 9th century in King Alfred's will (Rippon, 1994). The place-name may derive from the Old English *Wac-felt* meaning the moist or marsh meadow (Hill 1914, 72). Some of the rhynes (drainage ditches) in the area may be of considerable antiquity particularly perhaps the Westhill Rhyne, which forms part of the parish boundary between Burnham and Huntspill, and which runs into the River Brue. Its employment as a parish boundary suggests that it may have been a feature in the landscape in Saxon times. Cripps Rhyne (formerly Mark Rhyne) runs into the Walrow along the eastern edge of the proposal area (Photo 1). There has been a gradual process of land reclamation to the south of Burnham and west of Highbridge and changes in the

drainage and the coastline in the Medieval and post-Medieval periods perhaps affected Highbridge more than Burnham with a continuous process of sand deposition and silt build up at the inlet mouth. All the minor sea inlets referred to in a 7th century boundary charter were blocked by early Medieval times (Nash, 1973), as was the River Siger. The main channel of the River Siger appears to have run immediately south of Area A whilst a narrower branch also south of the proposal site headed eastwards towards Magnolia House (see 5. 3 below and Fig. 3). A small arm of the Siger ran NE-SW through Area B to join a larger arm into the river just to the west of Area A.

The landscape south of Bleadon Hill has been extensively studied by Rippon who argues that the area between the Axe and the River Siger was protected from inundation during Roman times whilst to its south open saltmarsh was retained for salt production (1997, 77 and Fig. 18). Areas of peat may not have been settled until later in the historical period and this appears true of the parish of Mark which lies to the east of the parish of Burnham Without – Mark is not mentioned in Domesday.

In the area south of Brent Knoll an extensive area of marshland is shown as Brent Marsh on 17th and mid-18th century maps of the county. This area contains evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture. This suggests that the area was reclaimed in the medieval or immediate post-medieval period and then subsequently became marshland again (Brunner and Farr-Cox 2006). This would fit the known later place-name evidence for the areas now occupied by farms (see below).

In more recent times the present fields of both Areas A and B may have been moorland into the early 19th century. Certainly, the area immediately to the south of Area A was called South Moor in 1797 when a number of fields farmed in common were amalgamated into larger fields with formalised boundaries (Burnham on Sea Inclosure Awards, 1797). The plan accompanying the 1797 document does not show proposed enclosure nor any field boundaries present within the proposal area at that date but it does illustrate the rather irregular pattern of the existing albeit amalgamated field pattern on South Moor. It might be conjectured therefore that Area A had not been enclosed by the end of the 18th century. The long regular and straight field boundaries extending both north and south from Pillmore Lane (formerly Pitmoor Lane) are almost certainly therefore the product of early 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure where more precise surveying equipment has been employed in their creation. These field boundaries may be seen on the 1840 Tithe Map of Burnham on Sea (Fig. 4) where the fields south of Pitmoor Lane (from 1048 at the west to 1053 at the east) all have straight and near parallel alignments. As might perhaps be expected from their low-lying situation, none of the fields shown within the proposal area on the 1840 Tithe Map are arable; the majority were down to pasture with three (1051, 1052 and 1054) being meadow. The field boundaries survive unchanged to appear on the OS plans of around 1884 (Fig. 5) and 1930. One boundary however has disappeared by 2001 – that dividing fields 906 and 910 on the 1884 OS plan. The boundary between these two fields may clearly be seen on an aerial photograph of 1971 (SHC Ref. HSL71 216 Run 33E) but it has gone by the time the area is overflowed in 2001 (HER Ref. 147810 prn 10278); it did however return a clear geophysical signal (see group 8 on the Substrata Report 13026). Apart from this, all of the field boundaries shown on the 1840 Tithe Map were extant at the time of the site visit to Area A in February 2013 (see photos 5, 8 and 10 below). The geophysical investigation also recorded anomalies indicative of recent (?20th century) ploughing.

Likewise, Area B lies within an area of former moorland, in this case Burnham Moor which gives its name to Burnham Moor Lane. The long straight ditched and tree-lined field boundaries again suggest post-medieval enclosure (see above). Three of the four fields named on the tithe map retained the name Burnham Moor – these were Nos 812, 813 and 815 (Fig. 6). The exception was 814 which was called The Eleven Acres; all four fields were recorded as pasture in 1840. The four fields shown on the tithe map appear with their boundaries apparently unchanged on the 1st edition OS plan of 1884 (Fig. 7).

Although recorded as pasture in 1840 all of the fields have at some time been ploughed as appears to be clear from geophysical investigation) where closely spaced and parallel linear anomalies are indicative of former ploughing (Stratascan report: Job No 3333). It is possible that such ploughing was associated with WWII employment of marginal land for food production. Where such marginal land was utilised in this manner it was commonplace that it reverted to former use (such as pasture) following the cessation of hostilities. Whilst this is by no means certain this may provide an explanation for a feature in Field 9 of Area B could be a raised track or some feature of probable 20th century date. The feature is not marked on the OS 2nd edition plan of 1930 although it appears to show clearly on an aerial photograph of 1947 (SHC 334100 148200) where a possible building on the line of the track is also shown. There is no building at the site today although at the time of site visit the raised linear feature appeared as a low bank no more than about 20cm above ground level and about 2m wide (Photo 20). The geophysical investigation showed no sign of the putative track but the ‘building’ location showed clearly as a circular anomaly (see Stratascan report).

4.3 Current land use

From east to west the fields of Area A are shown as 1 to 5 on Fig. 2. At the time of visit (February 2013) the fields were all down to pasture with sheep being grazed in Field 1 – that closest to Cripps’ Rhyne which forms the eastern edge of the proposal area (see Photos 1 and 2). A line of telephone poles crosses the proposal site from NW-SE – these are shown on Photo 3. Access to the site is via Pillmore Lane (Photo 6) which originally connected through to the A38 to its west but now ends where the M5 has cut across its route; the lane has retained its hard standing. Pillmore Lane forms the northern boundary of the proposal area. The western field boundary of Field 5 (Photo 9) forms the western boundary of the Area A; there is a further field between Field 5 and the M5 motorway which lies outside of the proposal area and which acts as a buffer between Field 5 and the M5 (refer to Fig. 2).

From east to west the fields of Area B are shown as 6 to 9 on Fig. 2b. with Field 9 being adjacent to Burnham Moor Lane. At the time of visit (April 2013) the fields were all down to pasture (see Photos 11 to 22). Access to the site is via a gate from Burnham Moor Lane into Field 9. An unmade track runs just outside the northern boundary of the proposal area (Photo 23).

5. SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INTEREST

With the exception of Brent Knoll (shown on Fig. 1) the sites listed below are located and numbered on Fig. 3. An asterisk (i.e. *1.) denotes sites close to the boundary of the proposal areas A or B.

References given with SHER numbers are those of the Somerset Historic Environment Record. NGR = National Grid Reference. SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument

*1. SHER 10990: NGR ST 3420 4780

A small scatter of Romano-British briquetage associated with salt making was found just to

the north of Pillmore Lane during works for the M5 in the 1970s. The find spot is given as field 865 on the Burnham Tithe Map which places it just to the north of the proposal area.

*2. SHER 29686: NGR ST 3355 4738

The former course and channels believed to be of the River Siger. Analysis of lidar data has revealed the presence of numerous relict river channels. Most of these had been partly identified from aerial photographs but the lidar has revealed much more of the system.

<http://webapp1.somerset.gov.uk/her/map.asp?mapx=334682&mapy=147497&prn=1325>

The most extensive example is the drained area between Brent Knoll and the Polden ridge. It appears to represent a salt marsh channel of late Roman to early medieval date when a 7th century charter refers to the River Siger. It is not clear if this refers to the main channel or the northern branch. The mapped course of the River Siger is shown in blue on Fig. 3. The main channel lies immediately to the south of Area A; a smaller arm of the river runs through Area B.

3. SHER 13256: NGR ST 3468 4749

Magnolia House a building reputedly of 1802, incorporating part of a lesser 17th century fabric is a Listed Grade II building lying 0.6km east of the proposal site. The house is said to have been a non-conformist meeting-place in the 18th century. A non-conformist grave to John Weile exists nearby.

English Heritage Listed Building Number: 434355.

English Heritage Unified Designation System Asset Number: 1251628.

4. SHER 10995: NGR: ST 335 475

Medieval and post medieval finds located during M5 work in Plots Numbers 1012, 1013, 1014 and 1025 on 1841 Tithe map, between Pillmore Lane and Walrow.

5. SHER 10278: NGR ST 3322 4781

Isleport Farm was in existence in the 15th century. The early 19th century farmhouse is of Flemish Bond brickwork and is a Listed Building at Grade II.

English Heritage Listed Building Number: 433726.

English Heritage Unified Designation System Asset Number: 1251495.

6. SHER 11169: NGR ST 3320 4777

Isleport Farm earthworks. A complex of undated earthworks south of Isleport Farm with a rectangular enclosure.

7. SHER 12388: NGR ST 3290 4720

Undated cropmarks of a possible enclosure and trackway. Trackway orientated NNESSW. To the east a double line of parallel marks orientated E-W ends in a circular terminal forming a banjo shape. In the SE corner of the field is a circular mark with ditches running south and east from it to the field boundary. In the SW part of the field is a possible circular enclosure.

*8. SHER 10218: NGR ST 3410 4820

Medieval and post-medieval pottery finds. These were located during works for the construction of the M5 and the find spot is on the western side of Burnham Moor Lane opposite Area B.

9. SHER 10290: NGR ST 3430 4720

Post-medieval windmill site.

10. SHER 17941: NGR ST 3305 4837

Milestone shown on OS map of 1904.

11. SHER 11113: NGR ST 3410 5099 (Location shown on Fig. 1)

Brent Knoll hillfort. An Iron Age hillfort defended by a bank and outer ditch with counterscarp bank, and a second bank on the north-east. The defences consist of a bank, strengthened by scarping, a berm and a second scarp.

English Heritage SAM 24001

6. CONCLUSIONS

Known evidence of prehistoric activity within the proposal site is absent and prehistoric occupation in the area may have been restricted to the higher ground (for example at and around Brent Knoll in the Iron Age) although a lake village settlement has been recorded at Alston (SHER 10918, SHER 10504) a few kilometres to the south-west. However, undated earthworks and cropmarks to the west and south (sites 5.6 and 5.7 above) may indicate settlement in those areas particularly perhaps the earthworks at Isleport Farm although these are undated. Evidence for Romano-British salt workings has been found just to the northeast of the proposal site (5.1 above) and there is the potential for this activity to have extended into the proposal areas. A geophysical investigation of Area A undertaken in tandem with this DBA has produced no geophysical signal conclusively indicating the presence of salt workings/briquettage which leave a distinct 'signature' below ground (Dean pers. comm).

Moreover, the history of alluvial deposition at both areas A and B (with the disappearance of the River Siger and many metres of alluvial clays perhaps being laid down from the 3rd century onwards up until the reclamations of the medieval period) means that prehistoric remains and Roman remains earlier than the 3rd century could well be at a greater depth than is detectable by geophysical investigation. Crucially such remains should they exist below the alluvial depositions would therefore be at a greater depth than any below ground disturbances associated with the current proposals.

In the event, geophysical investigation of Area A (Substrata: Report 130326) produced a record of anomalies within the top 1m – 1.5m below present ground surface which indicated the presence of potential archaeological remains in Fields 2, 4 and 5. Those in fields 4 and 5 were identified as possible linear features whilst those in field 2 were identified as a linear and a possible trackway with parallel ditches. Given the statements in the previous paragraph, such anomalies, if they prove to be archaeological, will post-date the main periods of alluvial deposition and are highly likely to post-date the medieval reclamation period as well.

Geophysical investigation of Area B (Stratascan: Report Job 3333) produced what appears to be evidence of ploughing possibly of different periods but no anomalies indicative of potential archaeological remains other than a slight curvilinear signal of uncertain derivation in Field 8 extending eastwards from the boundary with Field 9.

The site visit of April 2013 identified a possible raised track in Field 9 of Area B which appears to be associated with a possible building or structure detectable on an aerial photograph of 1947 and indicated as an anomaly on geophysical mapping (Stratascan: Report

Job 3333). It has been conjectured that the structure, which does not appear on a plan of 1930, might be associated with short-term WWII farming practices.

Extant features at both parts of the proposal site include post-medieval field boundaries which are believed to be the product of Parliamentary Enclosure (in this case of the early 19th century) and are therefore historically significant. These boundaries take the form of straight parallel ditches which are flanked mostly by small trees and bramble (see Photos 5, 8 and 10 of Area A and Photos 13, 16, 19 and 21 of Area B). The Mark or Cripps's Rhyne which forms the eastern boundary of Area A may be of greater antiquity. None of these boundaries are to be removed or affected by the proposed works.

Further assessment work

The potential archaeology in Area A will be tested by evaluation trenching at a future date in order to establish its nature and significance. A mitigation strategy would be offered dependent upon the results of evaluation and in accordance with the requirements of the Somerset Archaeological Officer. This same staged process would be extended to Area B if required.

Statement on setting

Brent Knoll (site 5. 11 above) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument which is prominent in the otherwise low-lying landscape. English Heritage has published detailed guidance in relation to the setting of heritage assets (2011). This guidance includes a list of issues which might be taken into consideration when assessing the effect of a proposed development upon a monument or building including its location and siting. The proposal area discussed here is approximately 3km south of Brent Knoll but more significantly it lies close to and to the east of the M5 motorway whilst Brent Knoll lies to the west of the M5. Views from the Brent Knoll monument to the east and south-east are first intruded upon by the M5 motorway and the proposed solar farm areas A and B would not produce an additional significant intrusive element in terms of the setting of the SAM of Brent Knoll.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was administered by Rob Shaw for LDA Design. The assessment was compiled by John P. Salvatore, a member of the Institute for Archaeologists, and the illustrations prepared by Tony Ives of T. Eye Illustrations. The archaeological assessment of Burnham and Highbridge produced for English Heritage by Clare Gathercole was particularly useful and has been used in the compilation of this report. Thanks to Emma Siddons of Hadstone Energy Ltd for her assistance and thanks also to the staff of the Somerset Heritage Centre and Nell Corbett of LDA Design for help in aspects of the research for this assessment. The Archaeological Geophysical investigation of Area A was undertaken by Substrata Ltd and is attached with this report. An Archaeological Geophysical investigation of Area B is being undertaken by Stratascan Ltd. Thanks to the staff of the Somerset Historic Environment Service including Bob Croft, Steve Membury and Richard Brunning for their helpful comments

SOURCES CONSULTED

Unpublished sources

Somerset County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)

Dean R., 2013: Land at Watchfield Lawn, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, Sedgemoor, Somerset. Substrata: Report 130326.

Desalle, T., 2013: Geophysical Survey - Watchfield Lawn, Somerset. Stratascan: Report Job 3333.

Somerset Heritage Centre

Burnham Inclosures (1797) SHC Ref. SROQ/RDe66

Burnham on Sea Tithe Map and Apportionment (1840). SHC Ref . DD\DHR/6

Ordnance Survey (OS)

1:10560 map 1st edition c.1884-87 Sheet 38.4

1:10560 map 2nd edition: c.1900 Sheet 38.4

1:10560 map 2nd edition (revised) 1930 Sheet 38.4

1: 50000 OS map 2002: sheet 182

Printed sources

Aston, M. and Burrow, I. (eds) 1982: *The Archaeology of Somerset*.

Aston, M. and Lewis, C. (eds) 1994: *The Medieval Landscape of Wessex*.

Brunning, R. and Farr-Cox, F., 2006: The River Siger Rediscovered: LIDAR Survey and Relict Landscape on the Somerset Claylands. *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* 16, 7-15.

Gathercole, C. 2002: An archaeological assessment of Burnham on Sea and Highbridge, English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey.

Hill, D. 1982: 'The Anglo Saxons 700-1066,' in Aston and Burrow (eds), 109-117.

Hill, J.S. 1914: *The Place-Names of Somerset*.

Leech, R. and Leach, P. 1982: 'Roman Town and Countryside,' ' in Aston and Burrow (eds), 63-87.

Leech, R., 1981: 'The Somerset Levels in the Romano-British period,' in *The Evolution of Marshland Landscapes*.

Mullin, D., Brunning, R. and Chadwick, A. 2009: Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase 1 Report for English Heritage (HEEP Project No. 3885)

Nash, S G, 1973: 'A deep water inlet at Highbridge,' *Proc. Som. Arch. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 117, 97-101

Rippon, S, 1994: "Medieval Wetland Reclamation in Somerset", in Aston & Lewis (eds), 1994.

Rippon, S, 1997: *The Severn Estuary: Landscape Evolution and Wetland Reclamation*.

Thorn, C. and F. 1980: *Somerset Domesday*.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage, 2011: The setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage guidance.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2012 (Revised): Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.

Communities and Local Government, 2012: National Planning Policy Framework.

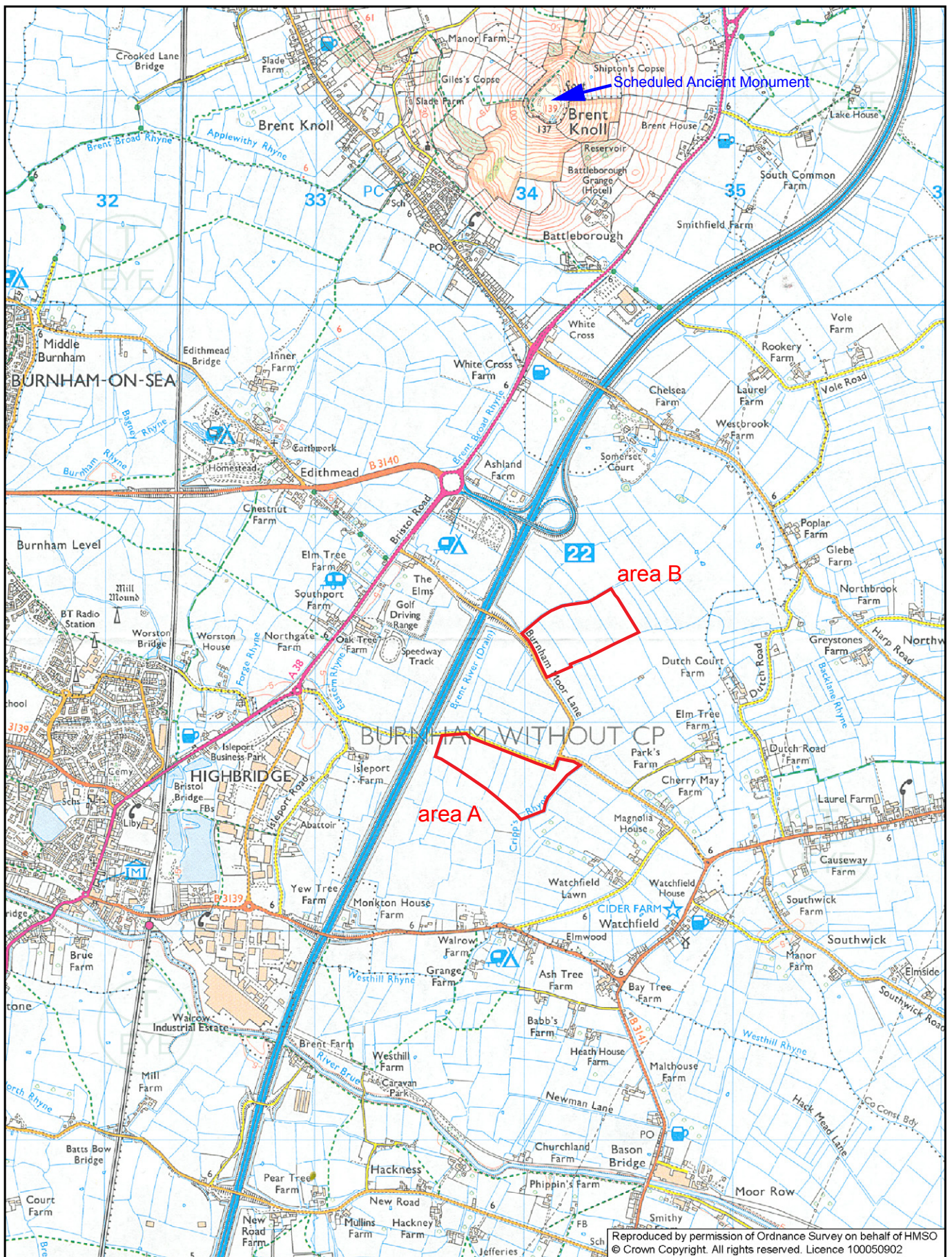


Fig. 1 Location plan.

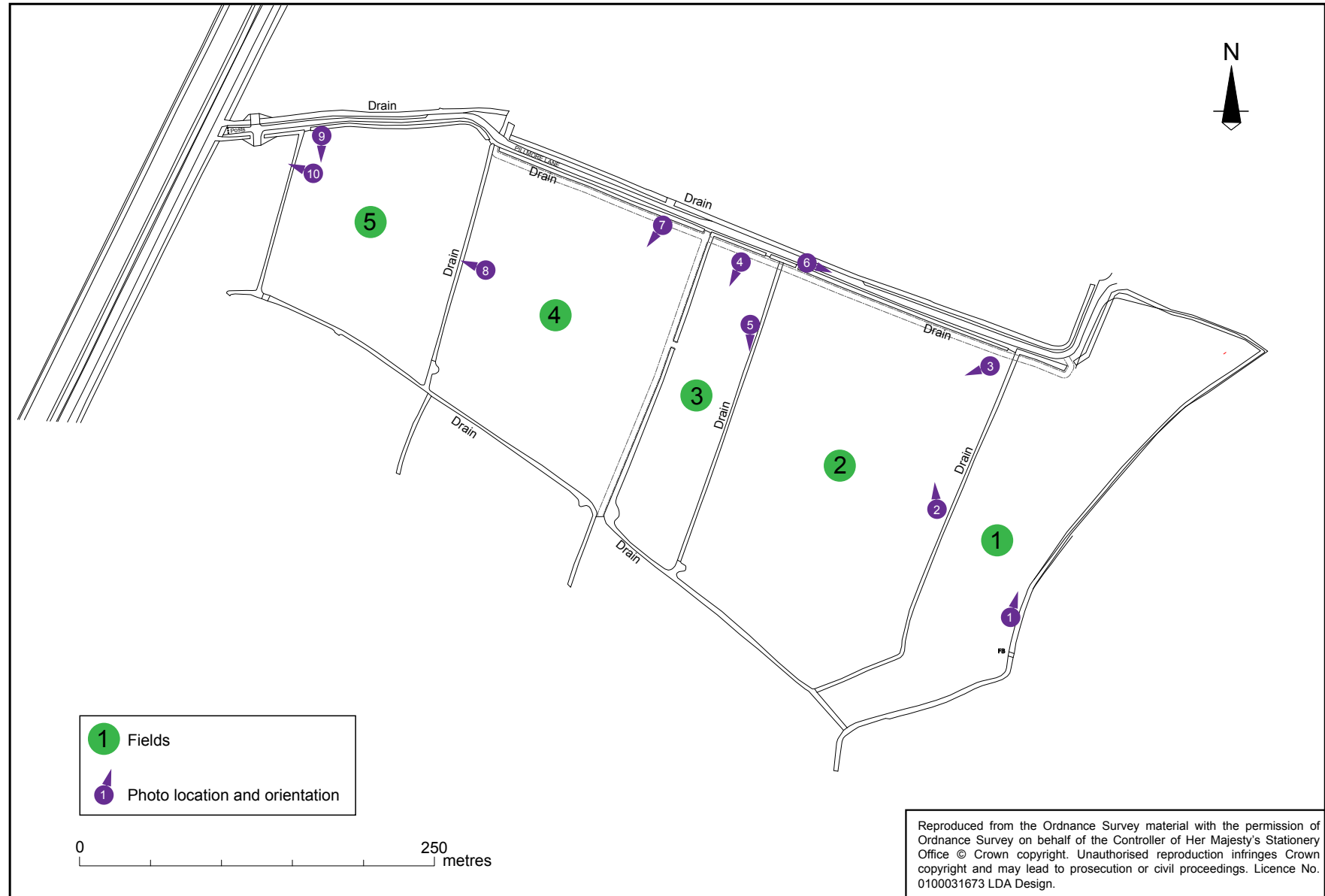


Fig. 2 Area A: Detailed location plan showing location and orientation of photos

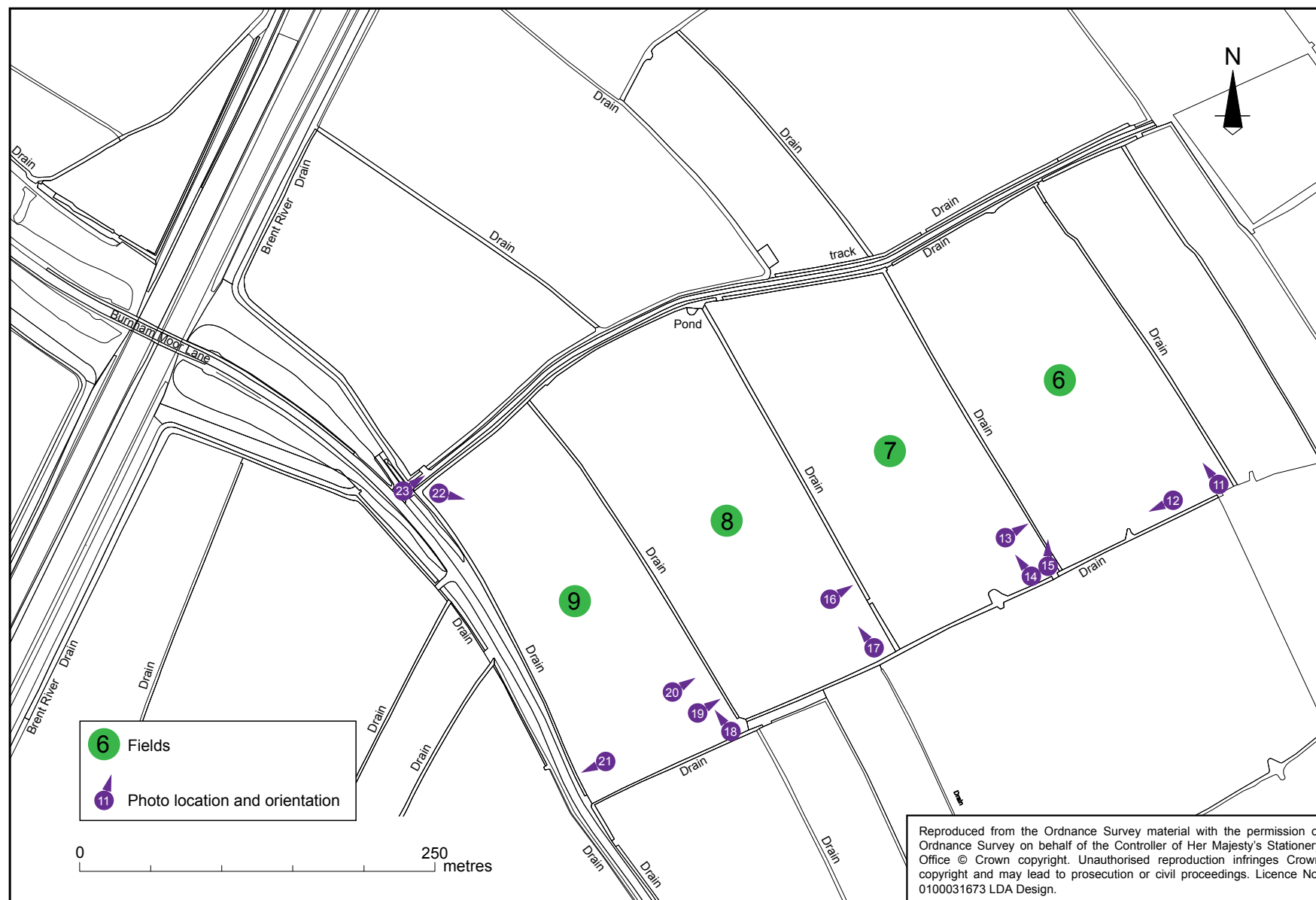


Fig. 2b Area B: Detailed location plan showing location and orientation of photos

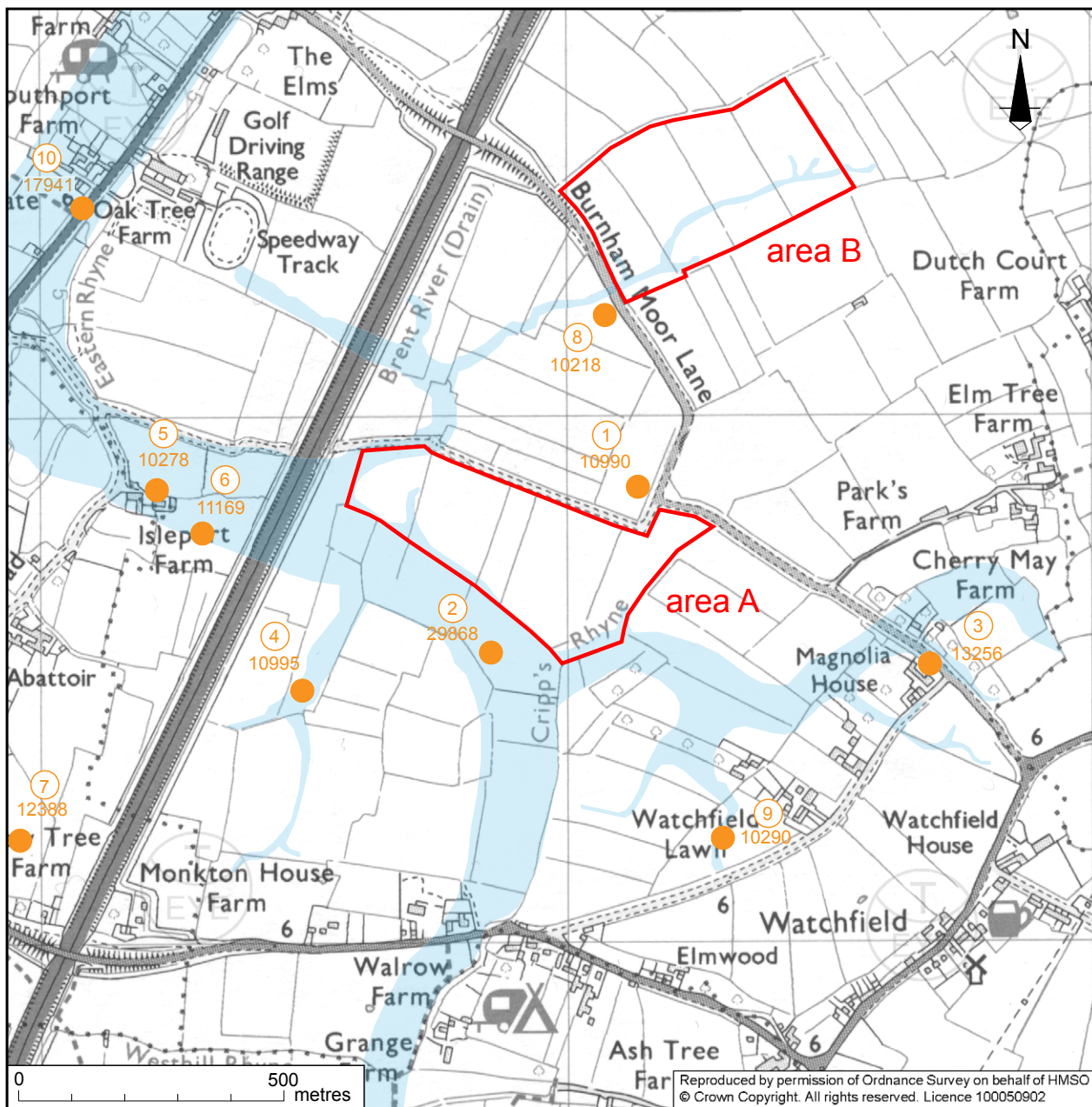


Fig. 3 Sites of archaeological and historical interest (numbered).

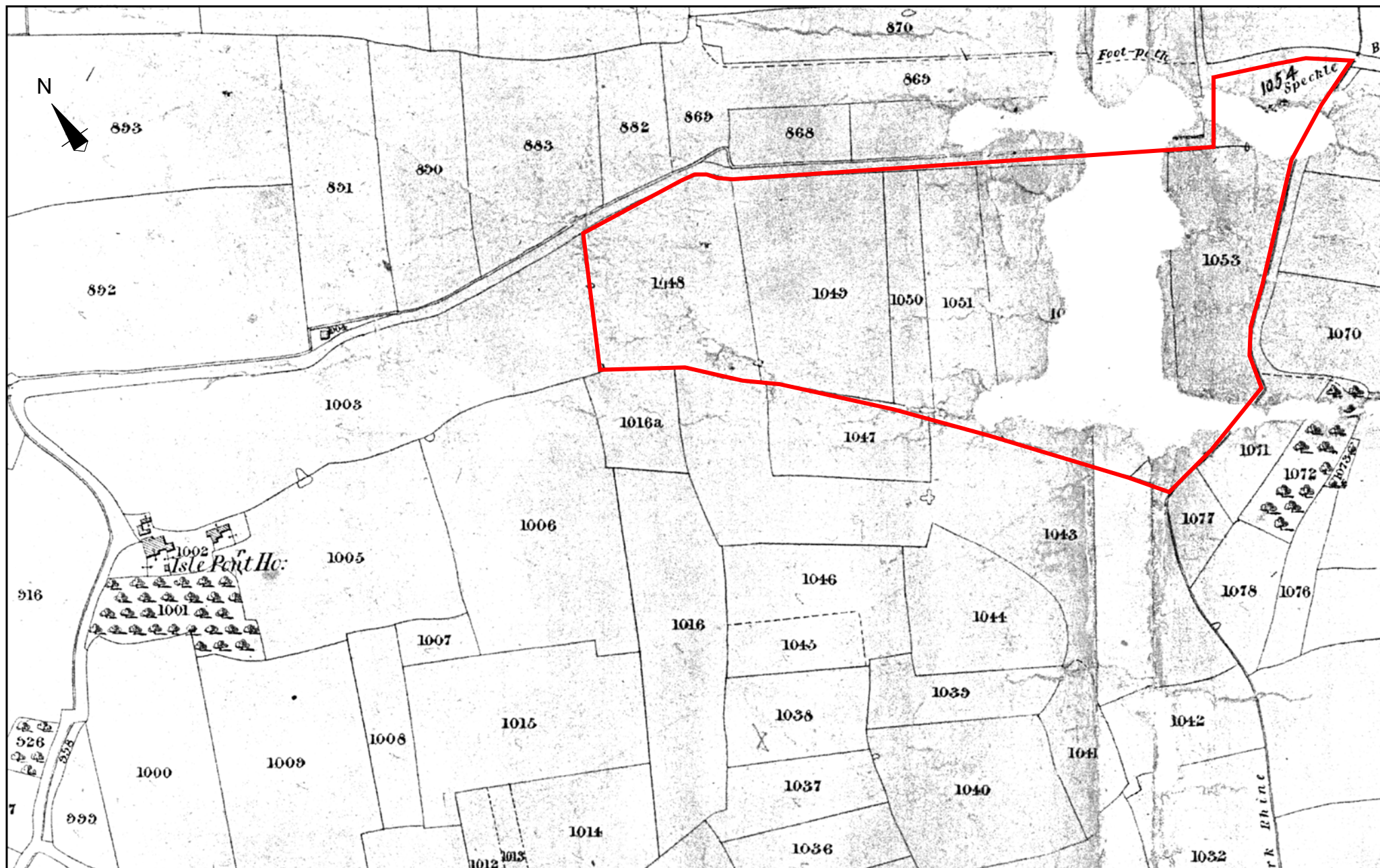


Fig. 4 Area A: the site in 1840 reproduced from the Burnham on Sea tithe map (courtesy of the Somerset Heritage Centre).

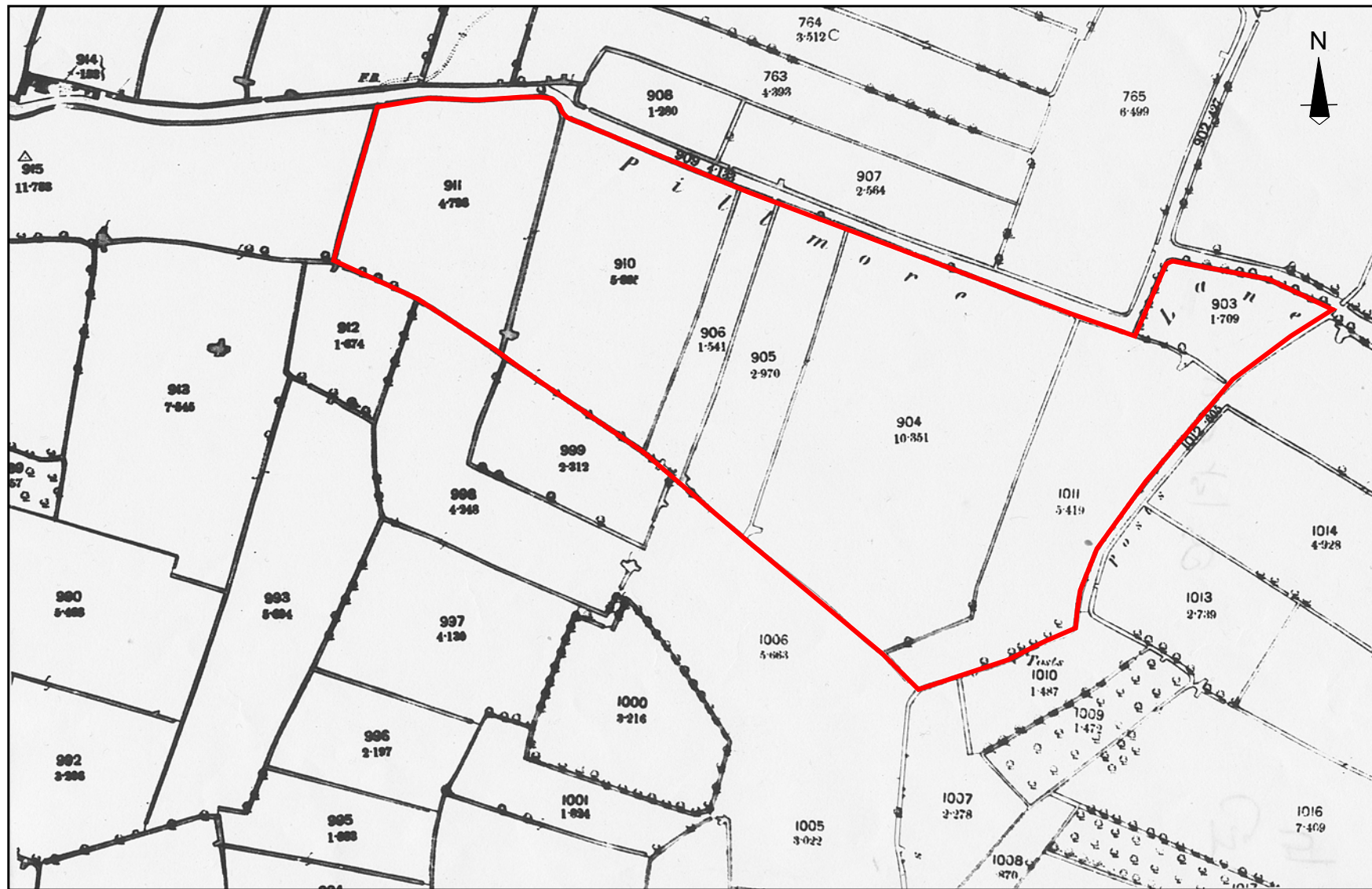


Fig. 5 Area A: the site in c. 1884 reproduced from the OS 1:10560 1st edition (courtesy of the Somerset Heritage Centre).

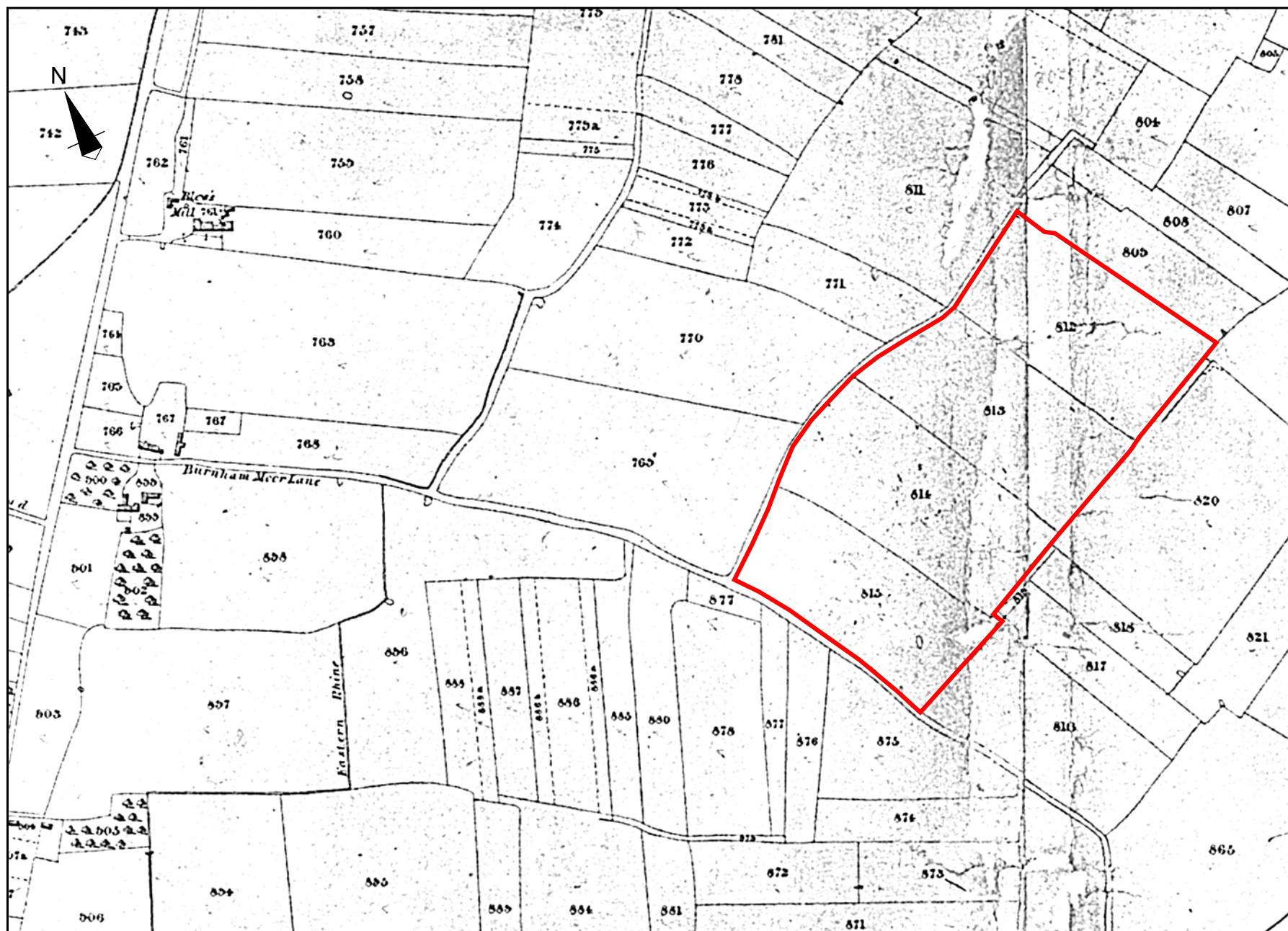


Fig. 6 Area B: the site in 1840 reproduced from the Burnham on Sea tithe map

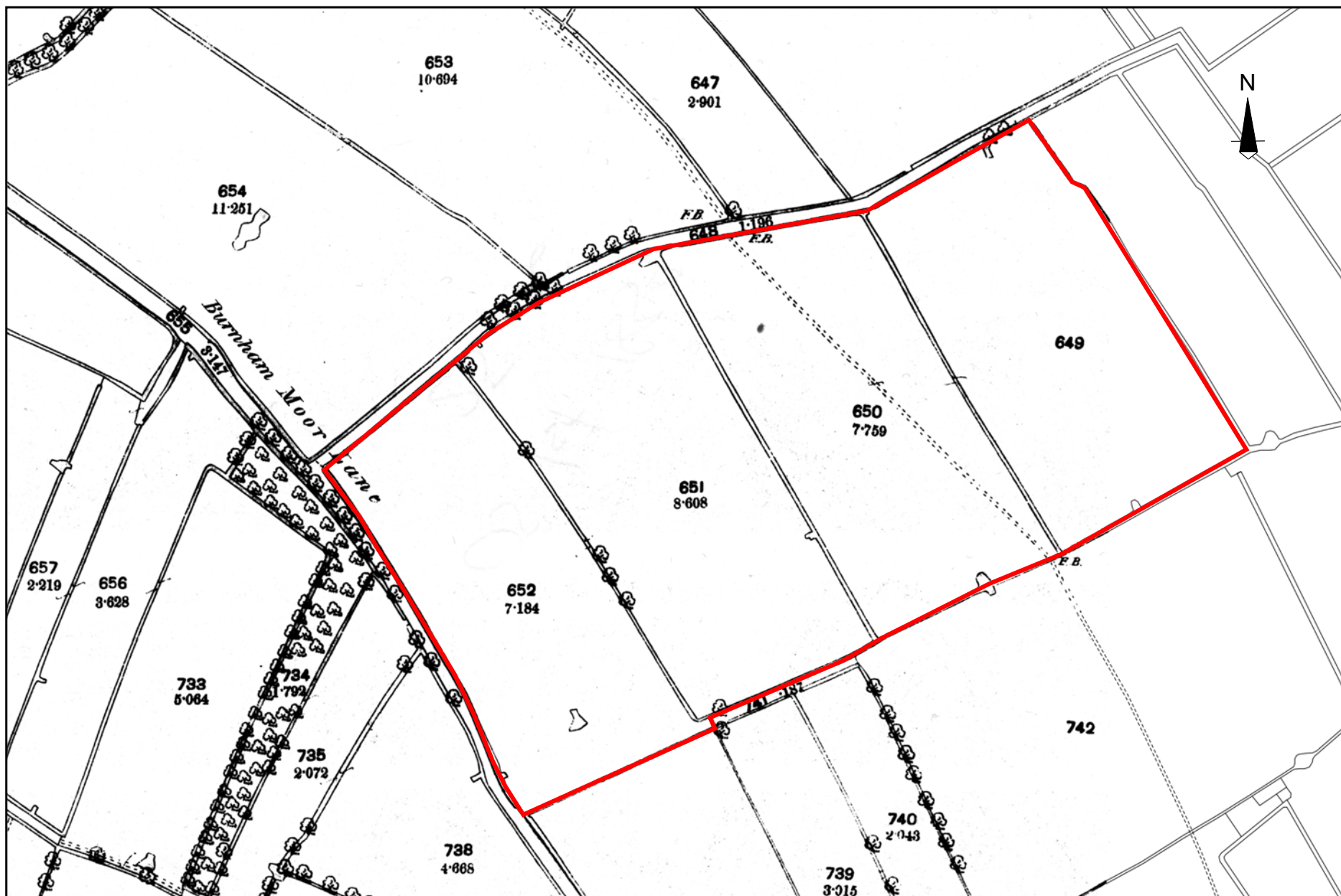


Fig. 7 Area B: the site in c. 1884 reproduced from the OS 1:10560 1st edition (courtesy of the Somerset Heritage Centre)



Photo. 1 Mark or Cripps Rhyne (looking north from eastern edge of Field 1)



Photo. 2 Field 1 looking north (Brent Knoll in the background)



Photo. 3 Field 2 looking SW from Pillmore Lane



Photo. 4 Field 3 (the narrow field) looking SW



Photo. 5 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 2 and 3



Photo. 6 Pillmore Lane looking east



Photo. 7 Field 4 looking SW from Pillmore Lane



Photo. 8 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 4 and 5



Photo. 9 Field 5 looking south from Pillmore Lane



Photo. 10 Detail of post-medieval western boundary of Field 5 (looking west)



Photo. 11 Field 6 looking NW from gateway in SE corner



Photo. 12 Field 6 looking west from gateway in SE corner



Photo. 13 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 7 and 6



Photo. 14 Field 7 looking NW from gateway in SE corner



Photo. 15 Field 7 looking North from gateway in SE corner (Brent Knoll in distance)

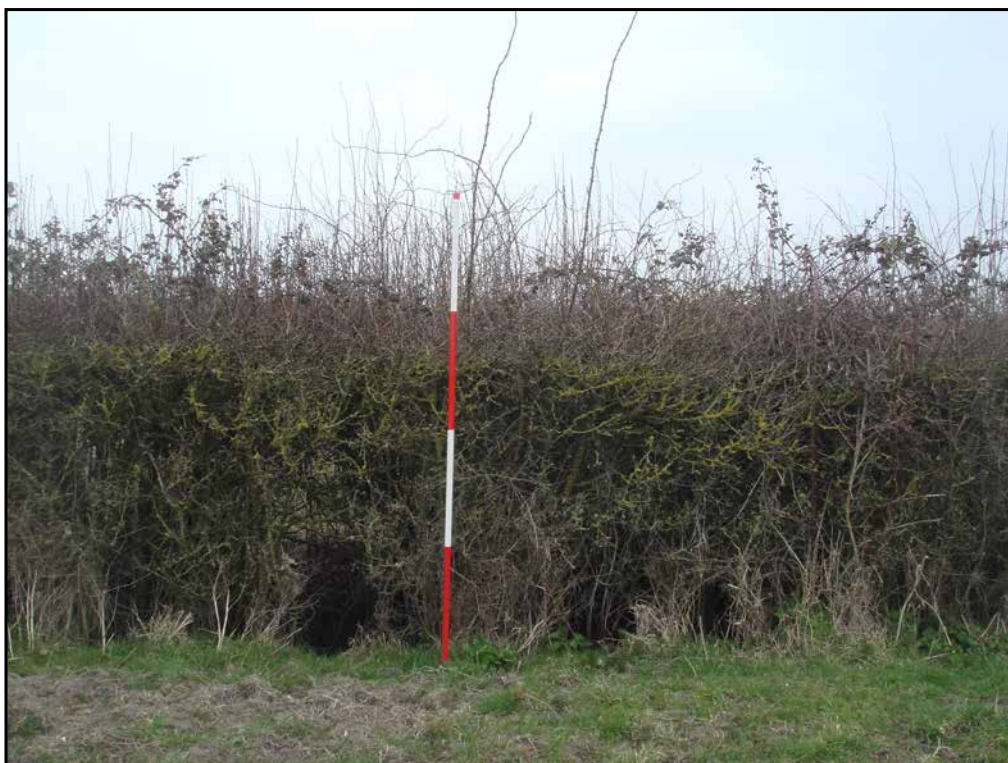


Photo. 16 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 8 and 7



Photo. 17 Field 8 looking NW



Photo. 18 Field 9 looking NW



Photo. 19 Detail of post-medieval drain/field boundary between Fields 9 and 8



Photo. 20 Detail of raised ground feature in Field 9 (2m scale)

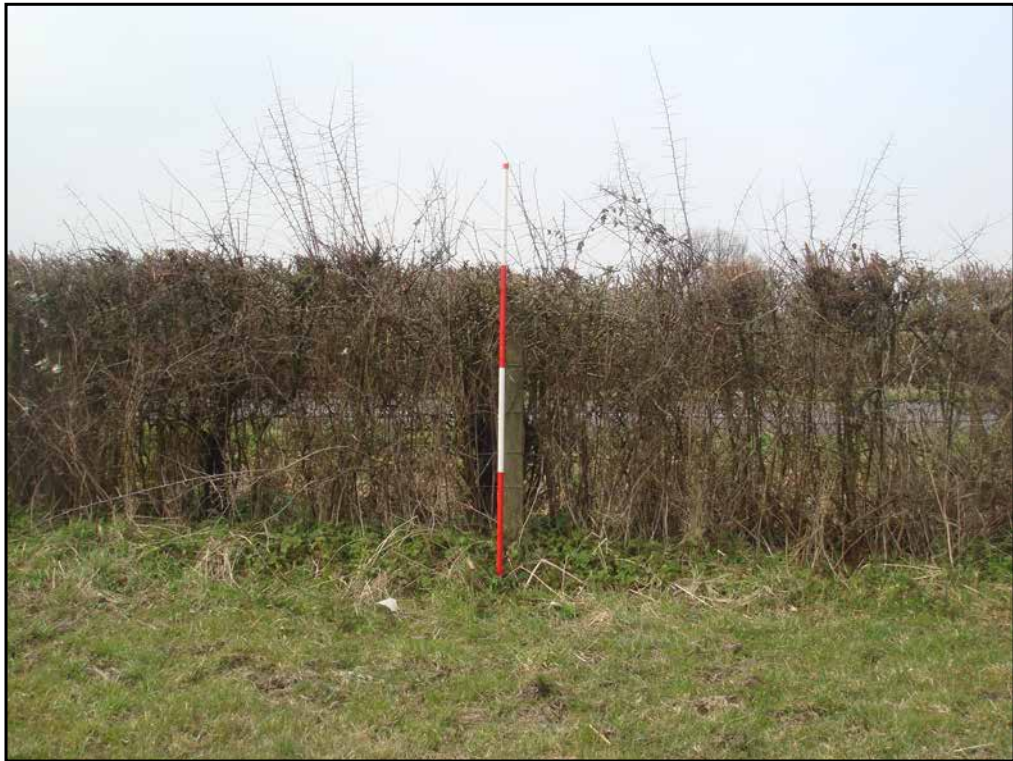


Photo. 21 Detail of post-medieval field boundary and modern fence between Field 9 and Burnham Moor Lane



Photo. 22 Field 9 looking SE



Photo. 23 Track running approx. SW-NE from Burnham Moor Lane