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**A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE PROPOSED A30 JENKINS HILL
ON-LINE DUALLING IMPROVEMENTS**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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A Preliminary Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed A30 Jenkins Hill On-line Dualling Improvements

A preliminary assessment of the proposed A30 Jenkins Hill was carried out to compile the known archaeological information for the area and to ascertain the possible disturbance to these features the on-line dualling will cause. A wide range of sources were consulted to collect the information needed which included the Sites and Monuments Record of Surrey County Council, Geological Maps, an array of antiquarian and later maps, the English Place-Names volume for Surrey and a number of literary sources, as well as consulting with Geoffrey Cole, the principal local archaeologist at the Archaeology Centre in Bagshot.

Geology (fig 1)

The area of the A30 under examination lies on three types of geology: Bracklesham Beds, Barton Beds and Plateau Gravel. The Bracklesham and Barton Beds are known for their lack of fertility, particularly being prone to dessication, and the proximity of Bagshot Heath and Olddean Common support this idea. The majority of Bagshot village lies on the Bracklesham Beds and the remainder of the route lies mainly on Barton Beds; the outcrop of Plateau Gravel close to the brow of Jenkins Hill is only very narrow but further on towards Camberley, the gravel returns in a slightly wider strip. The many references to the area of Bagshot in the 17th and 18th centuries all comment on how barren and sandy the area was, and were it not for the positioning of the 'Great West Road' (A30) then Bagshot itself probably would not have evolved.

The occurrence of archaeological features on these types of geological strata are generally few and far between with only the Prehistoric periods occasionally producing artefacts or features of archaeological interest; as will be seen from the Sites and Monuments Record, this appears to be true for the area of the A30 and its environs.

The Sites and Monuments Record (fig 2)

There are a number of Sites and Monuments Record entries for the area of the proposed on-line dualling improvements; these have been divided into those along the route of the A30 and those centred in Bagshot High Street.

1429 An Iron Age coin hoard consisting of 4 or 5 British Qc (British Remic)

uninscribed AV quarter staters from Camberley

1431 A Mesolithic tranchet axe from Camberley

3190 A Neolithic retouched flint flake from Camberley (also two other Neolithic flint flakes, one with retouch, were provenanced as coming from near Camberley

3189 A possibly Neolithic flint flake found at the Old Dean Estate, Camberley

3235 A possible barrow on a spur, north of Collingwood House, partly destroyed by firebreak for pylons; a circular mound of distinctive profile, about 50m diameter, 2 to 3m high. A Bronze Age date is likely if this is correctly identified as a barrow

Bagshot Town Centre:

2773 Possible Mesolithic Flakes found during excavations in 1986 by G Cole at 19-31 High Street (Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 212, 1986, GH Cole)

2774 Very thin scatter of abraded 3rd-4th century RB coarse Grey Ware pottery found in the 19-31 High Street excavations (*ibid*)

2775 Various 13th-14th century ditches, post holes and beam slot trenches were sectioned during excavations at 19-31 High Street (*ibid*)

2776 Excavations located the outfall of an early 17th century wooden water pipe and a possible artificial watering pond for animals. It went out of use by the early-middle 18th century (*ibid*)

2777 Excavations at the King's Arms Public House in 1984 revealed a possible late medieval house platform cut by early 17th and later pits, gullies and post holes; a robbed sandstone wall footing on the possible house platform and a pond of a flat-bedded watercourse which was deliberately back-filled from the late 16th to mid-17th century. This pond was possibly a fishpond as documentary sources refer to fishponds in the Groves adjoining the Inn (Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 193, 1984, GH Cole)

2781 Excavations at 48-54 High Street revealed a sequence of occupation starting with a 'defensive' ditch and bank structure to the north of the area (beneath the High street) with ditch silting and filling of 12th century date; 13th-14th century timber-framed buildings with extensive occupation levels; 15th century massive stone buttressed structure and later stonework additions, 16th century leather working area and rubbish filled ditch producing in excess of 40 shoe fragments and bone awls, and 17th century timber-framed buildings and courtyard and 18th-19th century brick-built pub and shop foundations (Surrey

Archaeological Society Bulletin 202, 1985, GH Cole)

- 2782 Roman material found during the High Street excavations (*ibid*)
- 2783 Two trial excavations at Hartdene, Bagshot Bridge produced Mesolithic cores and flakes (Surrey Archaeological Collections 75, 1984, 267, GH Cole)
- 2784 Again at Hartdene, medieval and post-medieval pottery was found but no structures; a stratified sequence of clay pipe bowls from the early 17th to mid 19th century were also recovered (*ibid*)
- 3693 14th century pottery and post-medieval wall foundations (Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Report 1986-87, GH Cole)

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England's National Monument Record Excavation Index also has references to archaeological work carried out in Bagshot.

44, 48-54 High Street (A on fig 2)

In addition to the SMR details, a 16th century building was constructed on the former medieval waste area bordering on a timber revetted ditch, and subsequently demolished in the mid 17th century; the building was most likely used as a drinking house as many fragments of flagons, glass bottles, bowls and wine glasses were recovered (G Cole, Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 197, 1983).

56 High Street (B on fig 2)

The initial occupation was represented by the remains of waterlogged and well-preserved sole plates and plank and post walls of part of a timber building constructed from reused materials. The building has been constructed in a slight hollow with external backfilling to the walls consisting of dirty sand and gravel. From this filling a complete iron hafted and bladed shovel was excavated together with pottery, bone and leather, which, combined with the adjacent coinage and stratigraphic relationships, indicates occupation dates of about 1300-1350. This building was bounded, on the only side available for excavation, by a roughly flint-cobbled area, and was on an alignment eccentric to the modern street plan and appeared to be substantially located beneath the modern High Street.

A timber-post fence line cut into the earliest building and was on a similar alignment and was followed by a massive timber-post structure, of early 16th century date, which was on the modern street alignment. After this,

the land had been filled to raise the ground levels above the waterlogged ground, and a stone building constructed, having a large fireplace at the north-east end. This building was thought to be a drinking house because of the amount of Germanic stonewares, wine glasses and goblets, tin-glazed earthenwares, local glazed wares and clay pipes; it was dated to c1550-1640. The area was then unoccupied until the mid-late 18th century when several cottages were constructed (G Cole, Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 231, 1988).

Bridge Road and Half Moon Street (C and D respectively on fig 2)

G Cole carried out excavations at Brookside, Bridge Road and off Half Moon Street in 1982-3; he found little of note except for a 17th century pathway running alongside the Windle Brook along with a few pits, and some Sarsen sandstone wall foundations which also dated from the 17th century and which may have been a rear extension to the Bell Inn, a public house which went out of use in the 1780s (G Cole, Surrey Archaeological Collections 80, 1990).

Minor works have been carried out at the Sultan's Pleasure car park (1990; E on fig 2), OAP bungalows in Park Street (1984; F on fig 2) and 4 Guildford Road (1990; G on fig 2) but no details of these are known at present. Geoffrey Cole of the Archaeology Centre in Bagshot was consulted for additional information on the archaeology of Bagshot but this information is still awaited.

42 London Road (H on fig 2)

Since preparing the foregoing text, additional information has been acquired; full details are given as Appendix 1. There are two points of particular interest about this site; firstly, unlike most of the other sites excavated in Bagshot, this one did not produce any material of medieval date, and secondly, there is clearly a very interesting Roman site here with some indication of earlier Prehistoric activity.

Place-Names

The English Place-Names Society volume 10 contains the place-names for the county of Surrey, and in the section under Windlesham with Bagshot it has several names of interest to this study.

Bagshot Bagsheta (1164), Bagshote (1330) and Bagshot heath (1609) - there are many other records of the name of Bagshot and the general meaning is 'Bacga's sceat or angle of land'; The volume also says

in 1254 'Geoffrey de Baggesate al. de Bagescete held Bagessete'.

Basing Stone The stone stood near the Jolly Farmer Inn on the A30 and was originally recorded in 1446 as Besauntstone, later featuring on maps by Norden in 1609 and Senex in 1729. The EPNS volume says that it was either connected with a gold coin in use then, or later associated with Basing family, who held lands in Bagshot Manor.

Pennyhill House This is recorded as Pennyhillfeld in 1609

Map Sources

Senex 1729 (fig 3)

The extract from the Senex in fig 3 shows the A30 running from Bagshot to Blackwater and beyond; the village is not shown in detail as the map is at too small a scale to indicate clearly the layout of the buildings, however, a line of dwellings along each side of the High Street can be seen. There are no houses along the line of the A30 but an interesting point is the prominent position held by the Golden Farmer Inn (present day Jolly Farmer) on the brow of Jenkins Hill (not named) and the position, further along, of the Basingstone. It is worth noting that the Golden Farmer is shown on the southern side of the road on the Senex but in later maps (for instance the Rocque map of 1768) it is on the northern side of the road.

Rocque 1768 (fig 4)

The Rocque map of 1768 shows the area of Bagshot in slightly better detail with some development in housing since the Senex, spreading mainly behind the High Street frontages; there are also a number of fields behind these houses but they do not appear to bear much resemblance to later field layouts. The ground either side of the 'A30' is still devoid of houses and the Golden (Jolly) Farmer Inn is shown, as mentioned above, on the northern side of the road. The Basing Stone is not marked but there appears to be a milestone in roughly the same position as the stone marked on the Senex.

The Tithe Map 1841 (fig 5)

The 1841 Tithe Map and Award gives a very succinct plan of Bagshot and parts of the surrounding area (unfortunately the Jolly Farmer end is not recorded on the Windlesham Tithe Map), and it shows how Bagshot had expanded since the late 18th century. The general layout of the roads and buildings quite

strongly resemble those of today though obviously Bagshot is far more built up now than 150 years ago. Experience of archaeological investigation in historic villages and towns elsewhere in Surrey suggests that the Tithe Map generally gives an accurate guide to the location of medieval settlement. The importance of the street frontages is paramount as there is no reason to think that they would not have followed the medieval layout (particularly with the archaeological evidence already gained from them).

The field and place-names on the award are quite informative with places like the Kings Arms Inn (no. 406) and Bell and Crown Public House (no. 425) recorded (known for their medieval antecedents), and fields such as 'Jenkins's Plat' (at the bottom of the modern Jenkins Hill; no. 437). The land along the road has very plain names but tell us something of their use, such as nursery & garden (426), barn yard & plat (439) and further and middle nursery (430 and 431); the prevalence of nursery land in the area is something that has continued even into modern times.

Unfortunately, areas that were not titheable were obviously not recorded and the land south-west of Bagshot is not mapped apart from a few fields in the farthest south-west corner (430-433).

1st Edition Ordnance Survey six inch map 1872 (fig 6)

The OS 1st edition six inch shows quite an increase in development even though there is only 30 years between it and the Tithe Map, and, as can be seen, Bagshot now bears a strong resemblance to the modern layout of the town. There are extensive nursery areas along the south side of the A30 leaving the town, some of which are still there today, and Pennyhill House is now shown with some extensive gardens bordering the road; in the 20th century this was turned into a country club and golf course. Jenkins Hill was actually called Basingstone Bottom and the area to the west of the Jolly Farmer (now a post office) leading into Cambridge (Camberley) Town was still undeveloped (it eventually became a large estate on the outskirts of Camberley).

Bagshot town, as mentioned, had by now developed a pattern of occupation very similar to the modern day town, with built-up areas along the main road and side roads but obviously missing the bypass round the town centre and also the railway line running north-south.

Literary Sources

A number of sources were consulted to see if there were any written records which could allude to the presence of possible archaeological material in the

area under examination. The oldest sources were the Victoria County History of Surrey and the History of Surrey by Manning and Bray; these told much about the long history of Bagshot but gave away little of archaeological use.

A *History of Bagshot and Windlesham* by Mary Eedle (1977) tells in great detail the known history of the area but one interesting point that she makes is the finding of some framework of the old timber inn called the Bell at number 75-79 High Street; this was probably part of the wooden gallery sometimes found in medieval inns.

Another book, *The Golden Farmer - The Inn and the Highwaymen* by GCB Poulter (1934) tells the story of the Jolly Farmer Inn, which lies at the top of Jenkins Hill and has already been subject to quite a lot of disturbance over the last few years. Though much of it traces the story of William Davis, the original 'Golden Farmer' and his daring exploits as one of England's great highwaymen, there is a very useful fact mentioned; in March 1932, Surrey County Council were widening the road around the top of the hill, next to the then Jolly Farmer, when they came across 25 yards of sandstone wall fronting, a silver-plated iron stirrup, a wine glass and part of an 18th century Delft or Caughly beer mug. It is very probable that these finds relate to the Golden Farmer Inn, which certainly existed in the 18th century, and may be of 17th century or earlier origin; obviously more excavation in the area would help to locate and determine the age of any foundations that might exist, and there is the possibility that disturbance from the on-line dualling may uncover some more of the Inn.

Conclusion

The route of the proposed on-line dualling can be divided into three areas:

a) the area of Bagshot High Street, b) the line of the A30 from the village to the top of Jenkins Hill, and c) the area around the Jolly Farmer Inn and beyond.

Bagshot High Street Area

The area of Bagshot High Street has been designated as one of high archaeological potential. A series of excavations has demonstrated that the settlement existed from at least the 13th-14th century although the place-name is recorded from 1164. There are also scattered indications of Roman activity in the area. Figs 7-9 show, at approximately the same scale, the development of this in 1841, 1869 and at the present day. The earliest map, as has been suggested above, may well reflect the medieval pattern, with only the frontages to the main road built on, and fields coming right up to the the buildings. The

Bypass does in fact cut across these former fields, and it may therefore be thought unlikely that the widening works will have an impact on medieval Bagshot. Some caution is necessary, however, since at least one excavation (at 56 High St; B on fig 2) has indicated that the line of the High St has not remained static since the medieval period. It is unfortunate that no details are available with regard to excavation work at sites E and F on fig 2, as these are immediately adjacent to part of the A30 widening. It may be suspected, though, that the silence is due to little of archaeological interest having been discovered. It is hoped that accurate information will become available in due course. The results from the recent excavations at 42 London Road (site H on fig 2, information received after the preparation of the foregoing report) seem to confirm the interpretation of the likely extent of medieval occupation but also demonstrate the presence of Roman settlement not far from the northern end of the proposed dualling.

Bagshot Village to Jenkins Hill

The area along the road leading out of the village has had dwellings in the past though generally it has been given over to fields or nursery land; there has been a lot of modern development since the beginning of the 20th century and much of this area has already probably been disturbed. There may, however, be a particular interest in the area of the 'The Cedars' (named on fig 8). Buildings are shown there in 1841 (fig 7) and it is possible that the Rocque map of 1768 (fig 4) also indicates structures in the same area. Although more recent development may have disturbed earlier remains it would still be of considerable importance to establish the date of origin of settlement in this location. Further up the hill on the right is Penny Hill, which now has a golf course and country club on it, as mentioned before. There were gardens there in the 19th century but little is known of them and the area bordering the road appears to always have been devoid of anything of interest, archaeological or historical, with simply a wide border consisting mainly of trees. The land to the left of the road again has either been nursery land or rough land, with only recent houses being built.

West of the Jolly Farmer

The area of the Jolly Farmer pub, as mentioned, could have 17th or 18th century remains of the former inn that was built nearby, though the precise location of it is still unknown (NB the different positions on the Senex and Rocque maps). There has been much road widening around the pub, making it

into a large roundabout so again the possibility of any archaeological remains having been disturbed must be quite high, though this does not necessarily mean that all the remains, if there are any, will have been destroyed. The area beyond this leading into Camberley, though some archaeological remains have been found, has generally been developed in modern times and the few remains that have been found seem to be isolated finds.

Summary

The general area which the road crosses may be said to have a low-to-moderate potential for the discovery of remains of archaeological interest. A more specific interest may be identified where the A30 passes through Bagshot Village, in the vicinity of the Cedars, and around the Jolly Farmer. In none of these cases is the evidence wholly satisfactory (except, perhaps, for the indications of Roman settlement near the north end of the proposed dualling - site H on fig 2), and disturbance from modern development is very probable.

Dinah Saich, the Sites and Monuments Record Officer, has already indicated that field evaluation by trial trenching should follow this preliminary assessment. Such work must obviously be directed at the specific localities of interest identified above, but should also take account of the more general potential by a balanced sample of the areas. Before undertaking such work a careful correlation between the locations where the road will produce disturbance beyond its present limits and those areas where other modern disturbance has occurred will need to be made, so as to identify suitable positions for trial trenching.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT 42 LONDON ROAD, BAGSHOT, SURREY

A PRELIMINARY NOTE

The site was located adjacent to the South Western side of the Windle Brook where riverine transgressions and regressions had deposited layers of compacted fine gravels and alluvial silts from Prehistoric periods until, at least, the 3rd Century AD, thus leaving the flood plain natural gravels.

Documentary research had identified a Leather Tanning Industry on or near this site from c. AD 1596 to c. AD 1851. Excavations revealed substantial disturbance in the area furthest from the Windle Brook commensurate with the removal of all stratigraphy down to the riverine gravels in the 17th century and the later use of the area for the dumping of occupation and possible tanning debris during the 18th and 19th centuries. No Tannery structural features were recorded in this area unlike that closer to the Windle Brook where an intact Tanning Pit had been located during evaluation excavations in 1992 and was fully excavated in 1993. This pit had been cut into the riverine silts and originally lined with horizontal timber planks. Substrating layers and the filling of the pit suggested a use period from the early 17th century with the pit being non-functional by c. AD 1680. The lowest levels of the Tanning Pit fill included highly organic layers from which various items of joinery and a complete Tanning Pit *Paddle*, approximately 2.000m long, were recovered.

No evidence was recorded for any Medieval occupation of this site, which, considering the substantial depths of Medieval stratigraphy in Bagshot village, is of importance to the understanding of the village development from c. AD 1150.

Part of a late Roman/early Christian cemetery was discovered wherein two graves, both aligned East-West, were excavated. Whilst neither grave produced any faunal remains, probably due to the very high acidity of the ground water, grey silty stains within the gravel backfills may have indicated the positions of such. Each grave was accompanied with deliberate deposits in their upper fillings including Fossils and a Hone Stone from one and Hammer Stones, a Hone Stone, sherds of coarse grey Barnham Ware Pottery and half of a Finger Ring from the other. The Finger Ring was of particular significance, being fashioned from Jet and with a monogrammatic *Chi-Rho* cross on a raised bezel; it probably dates to the late 4th to 5th century.

Two phases of Roman occupation were recorded with part of a through-draught kiln and adjacent flint cobbled yard overlying an earthfast, post constructed building with external drip gully of c. AD 150-220 and adjacent stone foundationed structure.

Considerable quantities of iron working iron slag were recorded which together with sherds of Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery probably indicate a localised continuation of the iron working industry recorded during excavations at South Farm, Lightwater, Surrey (1986-1992).

Prehistoric activity on the riverine silts and gravels was indicated by isolated shallow depressions and gullies containing burnt gravels and struck flint flakes, scrapers and cores.

The complexity of the stratigraphy combined with the variable weather conditions of July 1993 did not permit the completion of the intended scope of the project and it is hoped to continue the research in 1994. A more detailed report on the 1992 evaluation and the 1993 excavation will be prepared in due course.

A total area of 170 sq.m was sampled incorporating the small evaluation areas of 1992 and the excavation team comprised in excess of 50 university students and volunteers.

The excavations were sponsored by the Surrey Heath Borough Council and the Windlesham Parish Council and directed by Geoffrey H Cole, MIFA for the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust.

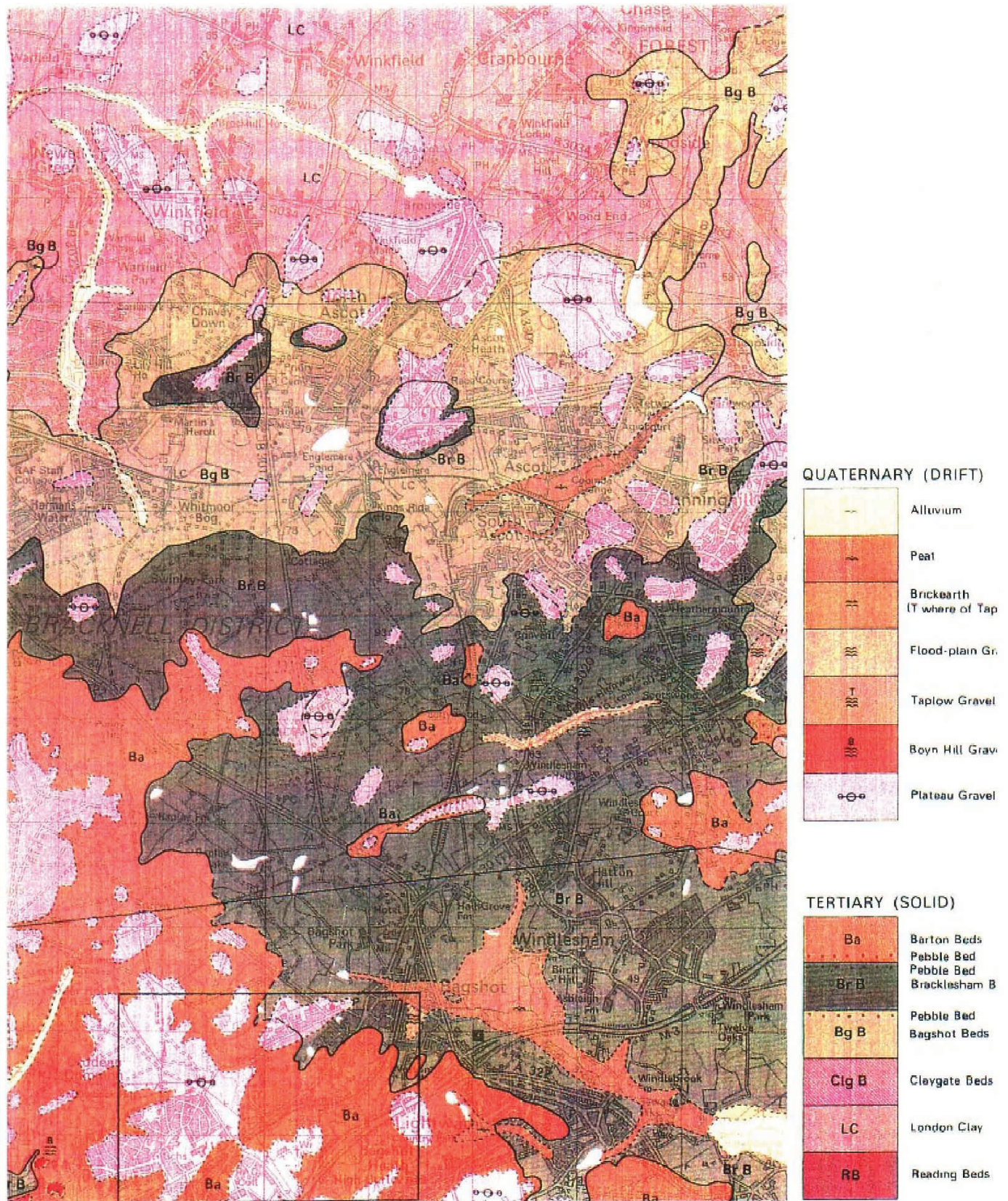


Fig 1 An extract from the Ordnance Survey Geological map of the solid and drift geology for the area of Bagshot (outlined in black); scale 1:50,000

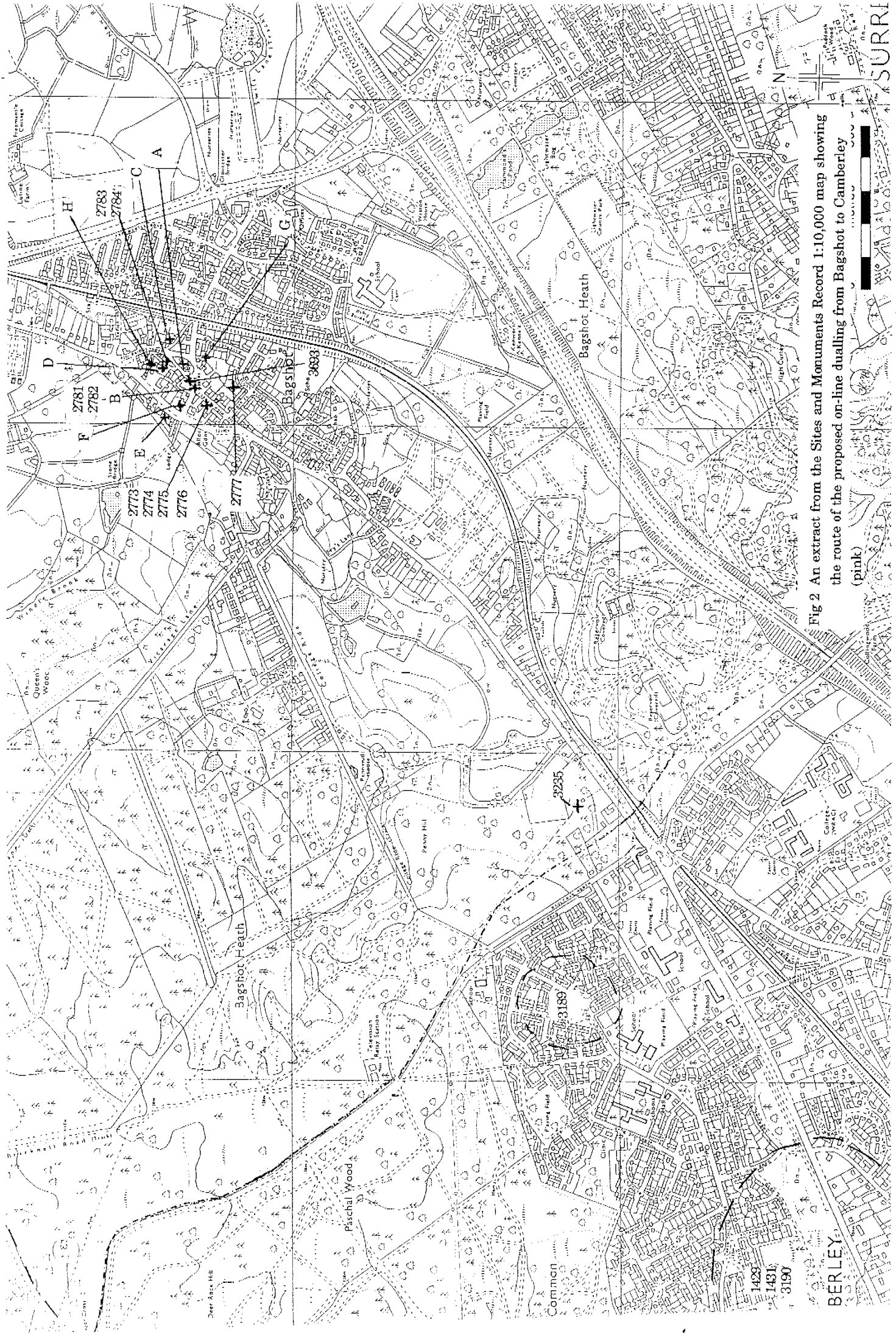


Fig 2 An extract from the Sites and Monuments Record 1:10,000 map showing the route of the proposed on-line dualling from Bagshot to Camberley (pink)

SURREY

1429
1431
3190

BERLEY

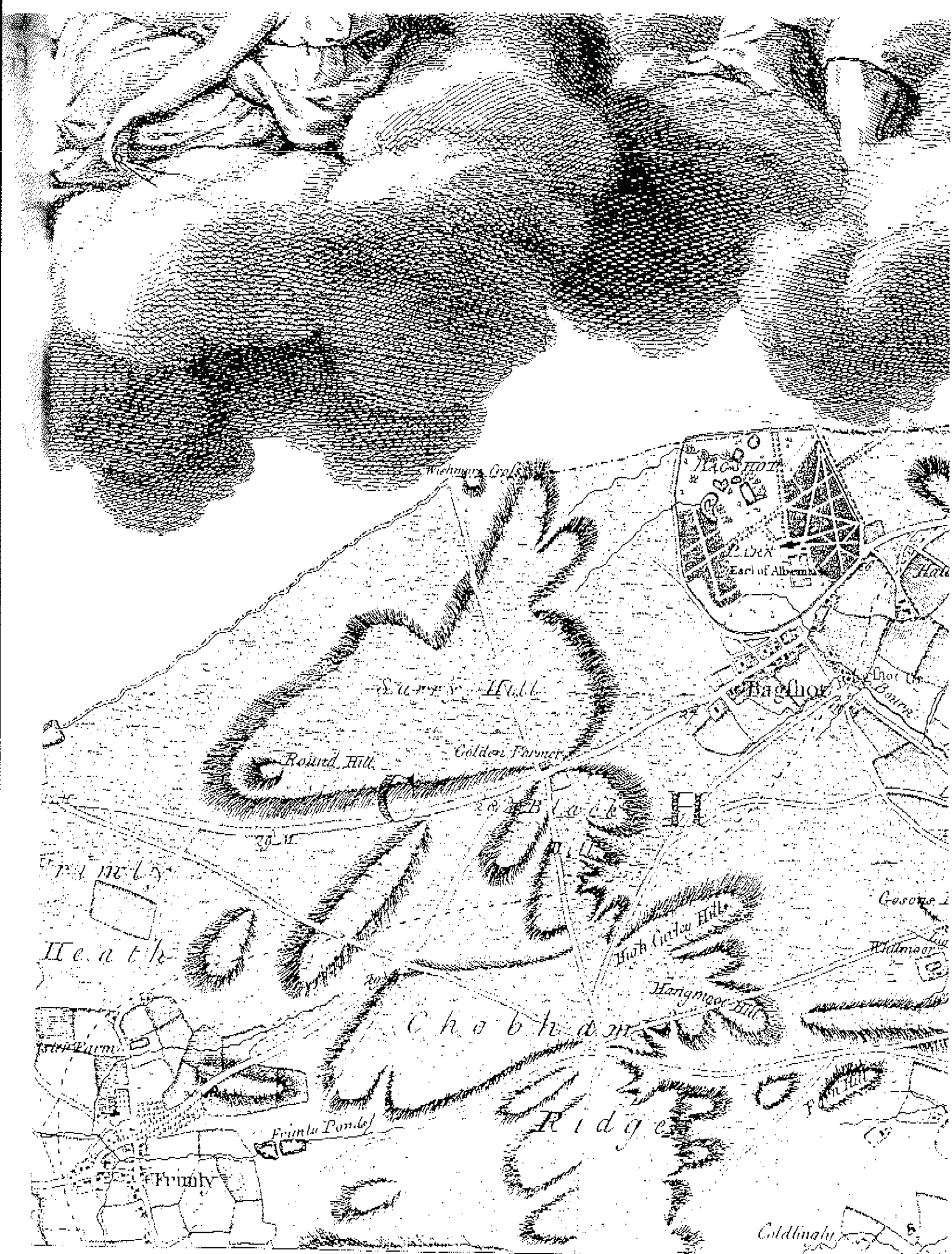


Fig 4 The Rocque map of 1768 showing the village of Bagshot and the position of the Golden Farmer Inn

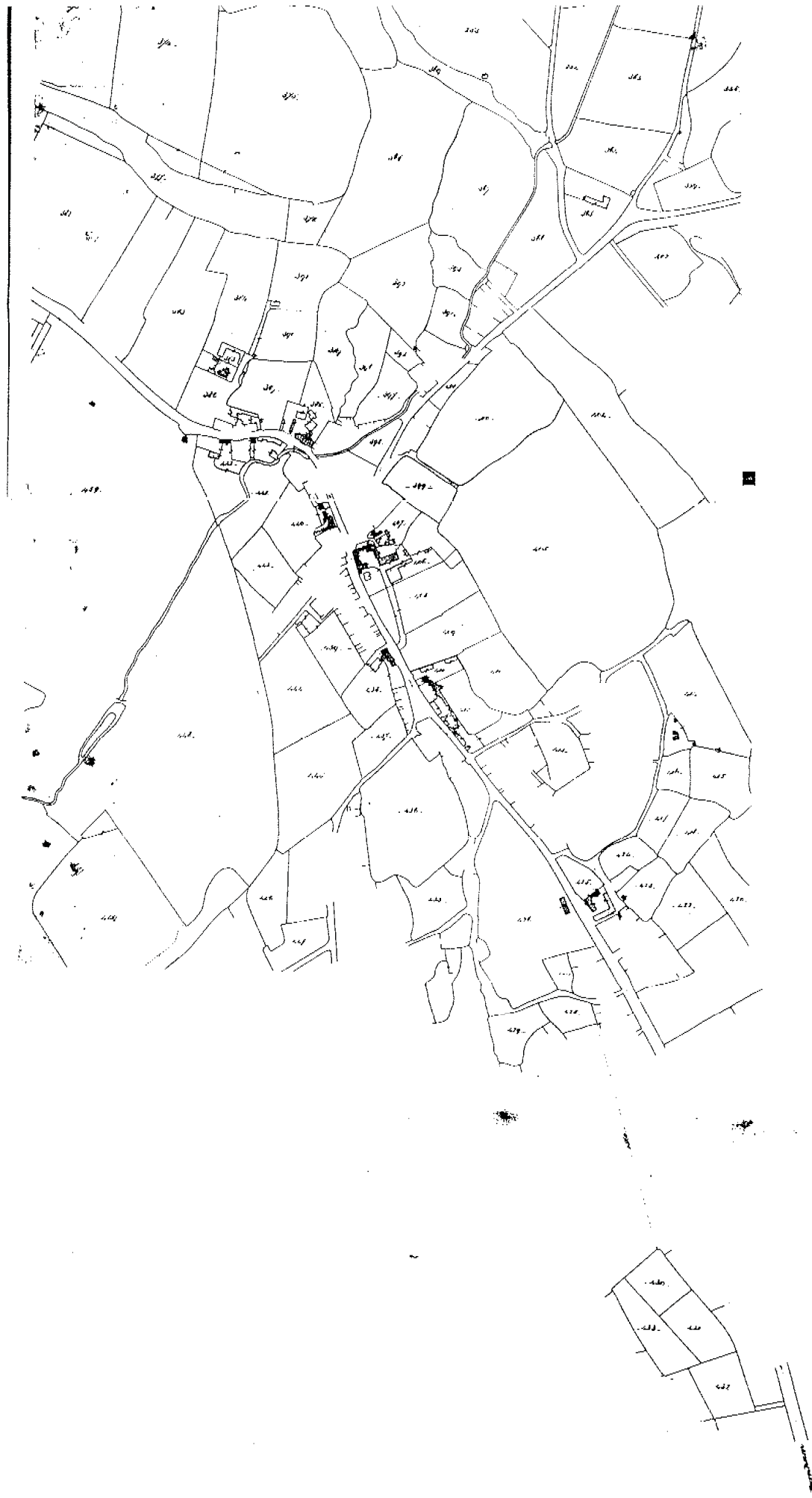


Fig 5 An extract from the 1841 Tithe Map for Windlesham showing the village of Bagshot and the fields along the main road west

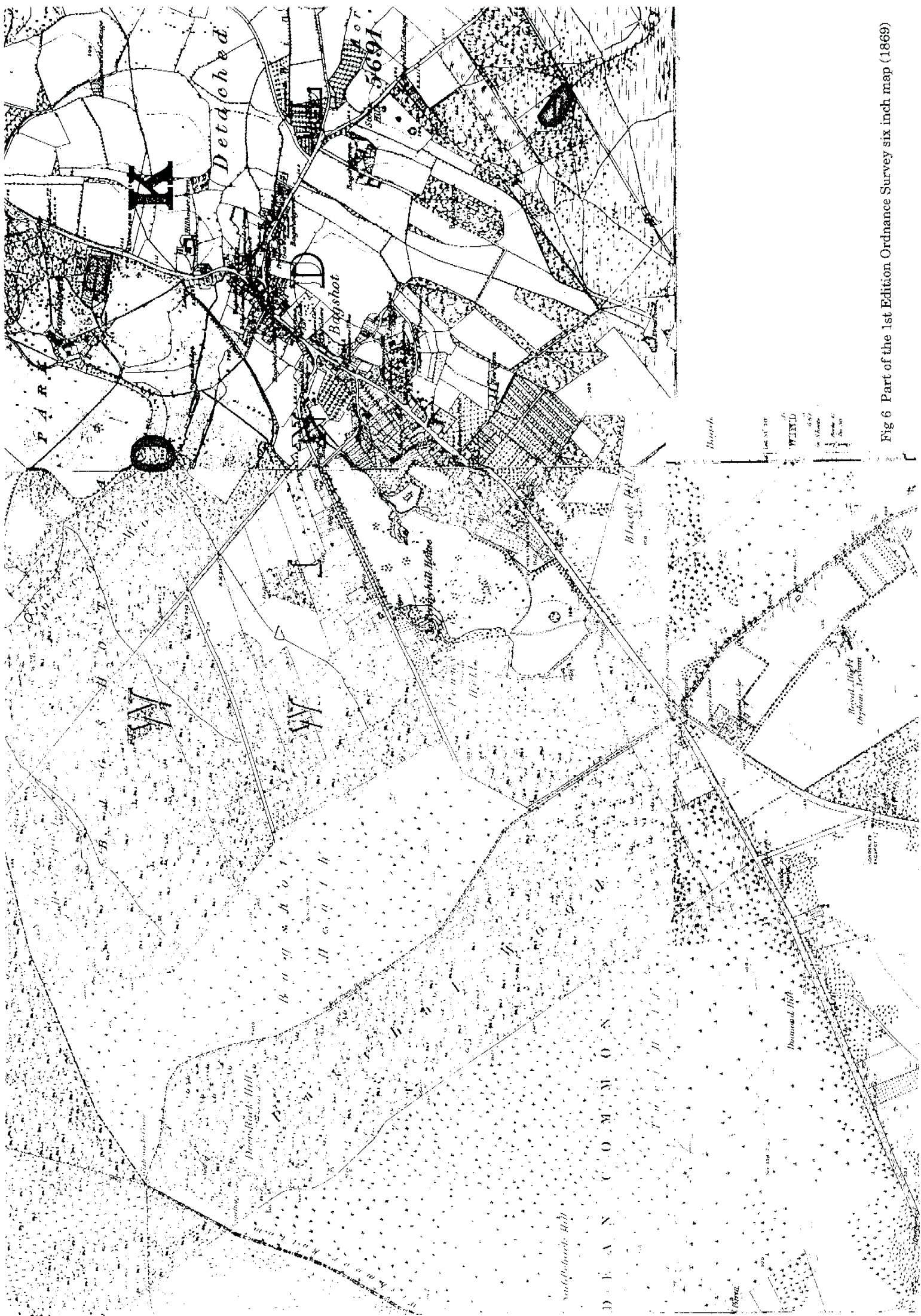


Fig 6 Part of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey six inch map (1869)

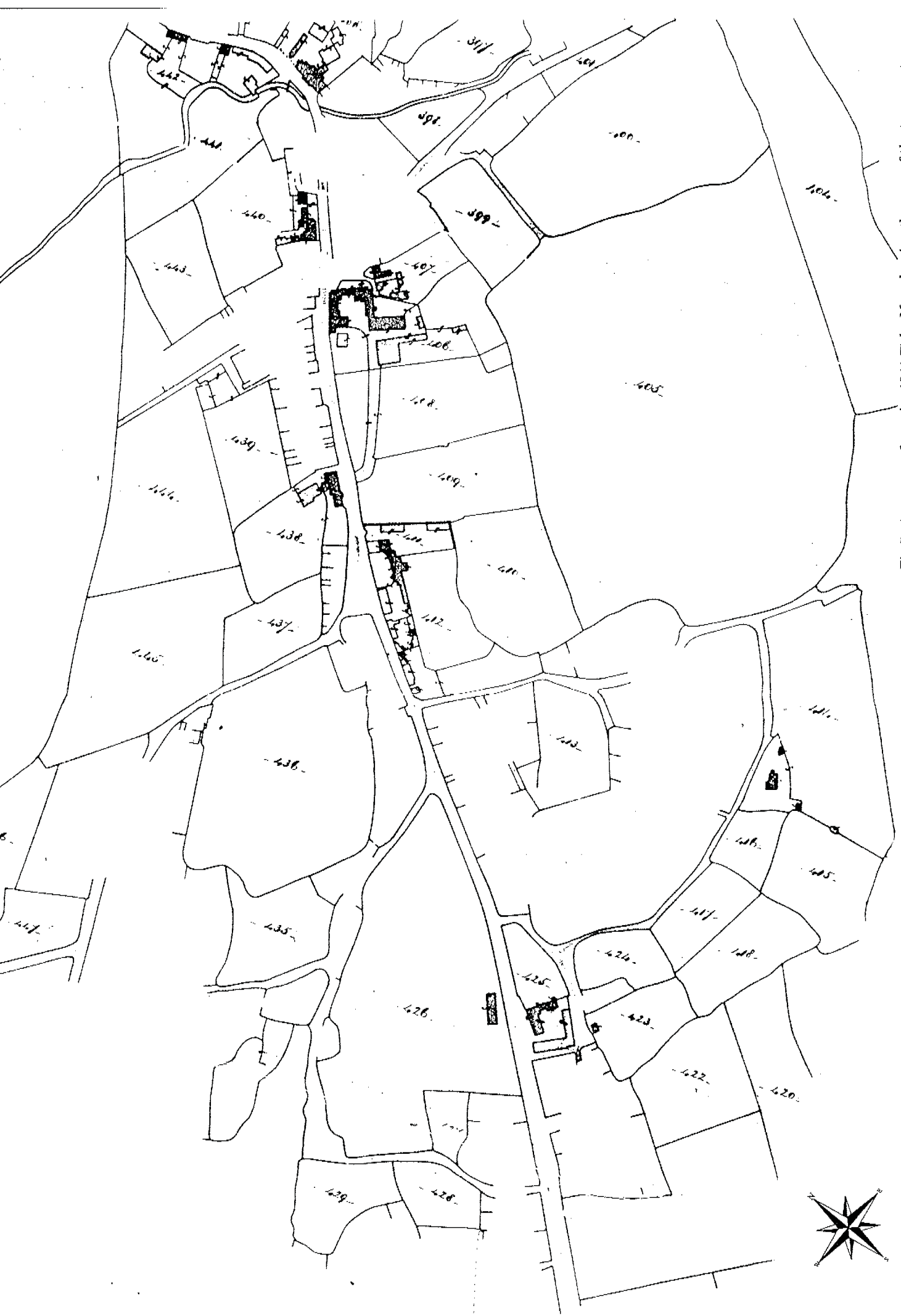


Fig 7 An extract from the 1841 Tithe Map showing the area of the town centre in more detail

