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**A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PREFERRED ROUTE OF THE A30  
TRUNK ROAD HONITON-EXETER IMPROVEMENT**

by

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## SUMMARY

This report seeks to assess the impact of the Dept of Transport's proposed A30 Trunk Road Improvement scheme between Honiton and Exeter on the historic environment. This assessment, which is based on documentary research, has been funded by English Heritage working in agreement with the DoT. Its findings should be included in the DoT's Environmental Assessment of the road scheme. As with the eastern portion of the scheme, between Honiton and Marsh, a wealth of archaeological sites and features - settlements, boundaries etc. - exist along, or lie directly adjacent to, the route.

The proposed route between Honiton and Exeter covers a distance of 17.6km and passes through ten parishes. It traverses an ancient landscape which contains substantial evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon activity, in addition to medieval settlements and field systems.

Section 3 points to the need for a programme of archaeological fieldwork, to record and excavate known sites and undoubtedly to discover new ones. Research undertaken so far has already identified 32 sites of archaeological significance (Appendix II) which all require further investigation of varying degree. These include three Listed Buildings: Sowton Lodge, the Church of SS Philip and James and Patteson's Cross (Appendix II, Nos. 1,23,25), which require conservation. No other historic features meriting conservation have been identified by this assessment.

In the short term, the principal recommendation of this report is that a programme of fieldwork costing £3750 should be carried out in 1990/91.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological assessment of the line of the proposed A30 improvement between Honiton and Exeter. The assessment was funded by English Heritage through Devon County Council and carried out by Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit in 1988-9.

### 1.1 The preferred route (Fig. 1)

Of the three routes initially suggested by the Department of Transport for the section of new road between the M5 Motorway at Exeter and Strete Raleigh, the Blue Route was chosen as the preferred route. East of Strete Raleigh the Green route was the only alternative. The plan of the final preferred route was published in August 1988 (Drg. No. 3460/P/352).

From Junction 29 of the M5 Motorway the route runs to the south of the present A30 passing to the south of the village of Clyst Honiton, and Exeter Airport. At Lower Southwood Farm the alignment of the route turns north-eastwards towards Straightway Head, passing to the north of the hamlet of Allercombe. After rejoining the course of the present A30 just east of Straightway the route follows the same general alignment towards Honiton. Its course consists of two loops to the north of the present road at the river crossings of the Tale at Fairmile and the Otter at Fenny Bridges. The existing dual carriageway is reached just to the east of Iron Bridge. The total length of this route is 17.66km.

It should be noted that the line of the Blue Route to Strete Raleigh, unlike the rest of the A30/A303 improvement scheme, represents a completely new communications corridor. The preferred route in this area cuts across the line of existing routeways and boundaries which generally follow a more north-south alignment. The course of the present A30, which is of Roman origin (see below 2.9), forms the dominant east-west route corridor through this part of East Devon.

### 1.2 The assessment

This assessment has been based on the plan of the preferred route produced by the Department of Transport in August 1988 (Drg. No. 3460/P/352). This plan does not show the width of the intended carriageway nor the width of the working corridor within which disturbance will occur. Junction arrangements and other constructional details are also omitted from this plan. For this reason a corridor of some 100m has been considered, mainly from an historic viewpoint with reference to available documentary sources, with the area being extended in the vicinity of likely junctions and slip-roads. No fieldwork has yet been undertaken.

The assessment is intended to identify sites of archaeological or historic interest along the line of the preferred route. Recommendations for further work are given, and it is also recommended that the findings of this report are included in the Department of Transport's Environmental Assessment of the scheme.

A variety of documentary sources have been consulted at the Devon Record Office, the Westcountry Studies Library in Exeter, and the Devon County Sites and Monuments Register at County Hall. A full list of sources identified in this survey is given in Appendix I.

### 1.3 Topography

The area crossed by the preferred route divides into three south-flowing river valleys: the Clyst, Tale and Otter. These valleys are generally wide and gently sloping, with the countryside between also of undulating character. The only major topographical feature is an escarpment, formed by the Triassic pebble beds, which rises to a height of 160m at Straightway Head. The soils to the west of this feature are fertile marls overlying Permian mudstones. The eastern dip slope of the escarpment, however, is frequently marked by more barren heathland. Permanent grassland is the predominant feature of the landscape, but there is some arable land in the well-drained soils in the west of the area.

## 2. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The sites identified in this assessment are described as they occur geographically from west to east. Topics such as Roman roads, which have a more general significance over the whole route, are treated separately.

### 2.1 Sowton parish

The preferred route passes through the northern extremity of this parish just to the south of the current A30 carriageway.

#### 2.1.1 Sowton Lodge (Figs. 2, 5; SX97029313)

This is a former lodge to Bishops Court (which lies further south) and is dated 1834. It is single-storeyed with two cross-wings and rear lateral stacks. It is protected as a Listed (Grade II) Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest by the Department of the Environment. The building lies adjacent to the present motorway slip road.

#### 2.1.2 Enclosures or settlement sites (Figs. 2, 5)

Two buried archaeological sites, which were identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, lie to the south of the present A30 carriageway.

- (i) SX97759332: a single-ditched rectangular enclosure c. 50m square, with linear features adjacent.
- (ii) SX97849324: a group of small rectangular enclosures, possibly three adjacent.

These sites are probably of prehistoric or Roman origin. They were identified during the summer of 1984 when weather conditions favourable to producing cropmarks prevailed. Few similar sites have been examined by archaeological excavation, but where they have (as at Hayes Farm, Clyst Honiton) the sites have been found to be much more complex and extensive than the aerial photographs suggested. The group of fields immediately south of the present A30, approximately as far east as Sowton Lane (SX97259320 to SX98159332) must therefore be regarded as of archaeological interest.

#### 2.1.3 Deserted farm site: Jacket's (Fig. 6; SX98109330)

A holding of about 16 acres belonged to this tenement which formed part of Sowton Manor. It was certainly in existence by 1620 but the date of its origin is not known (see Alcock 1975). The buildings were still in existence in 1839 (Sowton Tithe Map) but had disappeared by 1888. The road to Sowton Lane was also subsequently straightened in the vicinity of the farm.

#### 2.1.4 Brickfield (Fig. 6; SX98409323)

The existence of a brickworks in this area is suggested by the field names Brickfield in 1775, and Brick Acre in 1804 (Alcock 1975, 168; Map 4). The brickworks had evidently disappeared by the mid 19th century as there is no reference to it in the Sowton Tithe Apportionment of 1837.

### 2.2 Clyst Honiton parish

After crossing the River Clyst the route passes to the south of the village of Clyst Honiton and then skirts the parish boundary with Farringdon.

#### 2.2.1 Deserted settlement: Dillings (Fig. 7; SX98919314)

The site of this farm which was also known as Withen in the 18th century is now occupied by Marlborough Cottages. There were, however, two further dwelling houses to the north, as shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 (Fig. 7). Another house lay immediately to the east of the farm site. On the 1st edition OS 6" map (sheet 81NW) surveyed in 1887-8 only Marlborough Cottages are shown.

#### 2.2.2 Deserted settlements: Fair Oak (Fig. 8; SY00129308)

The Tithe Map shows a group of houses in this area which were collectively known as Fair Oak. The main farm site appears to have been situated alongside the lane running south into Farringdon (at the above NGR). The present Fair Oak Farm is also shown on the Tithe Map adjoining the road towards Aylesbeare. These sites were all depicted on the 1st edition OS 6" map (1890), but the original farm site has now disappeared.

Two fields to the east of the farm sites were called by the name of 'Croft' in the Tithe Apportionment. This might suggest the presence of further settlement sites in the vicinity. The name Fair Oak is documented as early as 1292 according to the English Place Name Society (Gover *et al* 1932, 584).

Brickfield (Fig. 8) There is also a field bearing this name in the Apportionment which at that time was under pasture. This would suggest that any associated brickworks or kilns had long been disused.

#### 2.2.3 Wares Farm (Fig. 8; SY00729300)

This farm lies on the parish boundary between Clyst Honiton and Farringdon though just inside the latter parish. The farm buildings are shown on the Clyst Honiton Tithe Map of 1839, so there may be a historical connection with this parish. The farm is thought to have been in existence by 1452 (*ibid* 588).

### 2.3 Aylesbeare parish

The route passes through only the northern extremity of this parish before it turns eastwards into Rockbeare parish.

#### 2.3.1 Deerpark (Fig. 2, No. 10; SY01129300)

A small copse at Marwood Cross is named on OS maps as Deer Park Copse (1:2500 sheet 81.5, 6" 81NW, both surveyed 1888, published 1889). The Tithe Apportionment field names in this area are uninformative, so the original extent of any deer park is not clear. Nothing is known historically of a park here, although the manor of Aylesbeare was held by a member of the Courtenay family in the 13th century.



## 2.4 Rockbeare parish

The route cuts through the central area of this parish, running in a north-easterly direction. It passes just to the north of the hamlet of Westcott and about 350m to the north-west of the hamlets of Upcott and Allercombe.

### 2.4.1 Portway (Fig. 3)

This name is applied to a field lying on the north side of the lane leading from Southwood towards Clyst Honiton (1843 Tithe Apportionment No. 353). The name suggests an important routeway leading to a town or market place and the lane mentioned above must have formed part of this routeway. Its overall course is not at present certain but it is significant that the alignment of the lane closely follows that of the parish boundary.

### 2.4.2 Medieval open fields (Fig. 9)

It seems likely that each of the settlements mentioned above as hamlets, together with the larger hamlet of Marsh (now Marsh Green), were each surrounded by a system of open fields which were cultivated communally by the inhabitants. These open fields, which formerly contained narrow subdivided plots, have since been enclosed and amalgamated and therefore are not obvious on modern maps. There is some clear evidence, however, for the existence of open fields to the north and west of Upcott, indicated by the behaviour of surviving trackways which turn sharply at right-angles and change direction. These were formerly access roads to the fields, and their course often indicates the former boundaries of the furlongs. The course of the parish boundary with Whimble follows a similar pattern and suggests that the fields existed when it was laid out. Further evidence comes in the form of field names such as Headland Orchard (Tithe Apportionment No. 551) and Footland (*ibid.*, No. 517) which indicate strips of land at the end of furlongs where the plough was turned. The preferred route crosses this group of fields at Upcott, between SY03829428 and SY04209468.

## 2.5 Whimble parish

The area within this parish affected by the route lies entirely to the south of the present A30 and it forms the eastern slope of the pebble ridge escarpment. The route passes between East Strete and Strete Raleigh Farms and thence to the B3180 at Straightway Head.

### 2.5.1 Bramberry field (Fig. 3, No. 15; SY04659475)

This field name is recorded in the Whimble Tithe Apportionment of 1841 (No. 976). It is possible that the 'berry' element in the name may refer to earthworks of ancient origin, but the situation of the field in a valley seems to preclude a defensive site. Further research will be needed to discover any earlier forms of this name. A later sale catalogue (DRO, 69/9/2 Box 9/21), in fact refers to it as 'Brambury' mead (1884).

### 2.5.2 Brickyard, Strete Raleigh (Figs. 10-11; SY05309530)

This brickworks was in existence by 1841 (Tithe Map) but its date of origin is at present not known. It appears to have been working up until 1884 when it was put up for sale, but no trace has yet been found in commercial directories after this date. Both bricks and tiles were made here and the site contained kilns, sheds and reservoirs according to the description in 1884 (DRO 69/9/2/Box 9/21).

The brickworks are sited on the line of a road which formerly ran in a straight line north-eastwards from Marsh Green to the present A30 near Straightway Head. This road no longer exists to the north of the brickworks site.

#### 2.5.3 Castle Fields (Fig. 3, No. 17; SY05809560)

Two fields bearing the names 'Little Castle' (Tithe Apportionment Nos. 1025-6) lie on the south side of the B3174 to Ottery St Mary. In the 1884 sale (op.cit.). Nos. 1026-7 were called 'Castle Field' and No. 1025 (part) was described as 'adjoining Little Castle'. These names evidently refer to an archaeological feature, probably in the form of earthworks, although its location is unknown at present. This area was unenclosed common land until the mid 19th century and therefore any such features could have survived as obvious landmarks until enclosure took place.

### 2.6 Talaton parish

The route passes through the southern extremity of this parish after crossing the present A30 at Birdcage Copse. The River Tale is crossed at about 400m north of Fairmile.

#### 2.6.1 Talaton Mill and leat (Fig. 12; SY08659730 & SY08559749)

The mill site itself lies about 200m to the south of the preferred route. There was a mill in Talaton at the time of the Domesday Book but it is not certain if this was Talaton Mill or Talewater Mill further upstream. The mill was in operation until 1925 and was sometimes also referred to as Taphouse Farm. The mill leat runs from a weir at SY08459851, 1.2km to the north, and is cut by the route at SY08559749. Along a leat of this length there may well have been other mill sites apart from the surviving one. Further documentary research should identify any further mills.

#### 2.6.2 Brickworks near Talaton Mill (SY086976)

This site possibly lay to the north of the mill and was situated between the road to Talaton and the River Tale. It is first documented in 1777 (DRO, 961M/T23) as a 'brick plott' but as this was an assignment of a lease it had evidently been in use for some time before this date. The exact location of the site is uncertain, the only details given being the bounds on the south and west side as the River Tale. A field named 'Brick Meadow' is recorded in the Tithe Apportionment (No. 649; see Fig. 12), although this may refer to another site.

### 2.7 Ottery St Mary parish

This large parish is traversed by the route in two areas: on its north-western corner near Straightway Head and on its northern side where the majority of land affected in this parish lies. The parish of Talaton separates the two areas. The route does not diverge far from the present A30 and follows a generally similar alignment near the settlements of Taleford, Gosford and Ash.

#### 2.7.1 Church of St Philip and St James (Fig. 12; SY08749741)

This church was built around 1838 by Sir John Kennaway in Early English style. It lies in the parkland surrounding Escot House further to the north. It formed the parish church for the ecclesiastical parish of Escot which was created in 1840 out of adjoining parts of Ottery St Mary and Talaton. It is protected as a Listed Building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade C (now equivalent to Grade II). The preferred route passes about 100m to the north.

2.7.2 Medieval open fields (Fig. 12; SY08859755 to SY09609775)

A system of medieval open fields similar to that described in 2.4.2 above existed in the area on the north side of the A30 (undoubtedly a Roman road at this point - see 2.10 below) just east of the River Talc. This covers an area of about 80ha. There is a characteristic trackway called Longlands Lane which is shown on the Tithe Map. This provided access to all the fields. Although most individual holdings had been amalgamated by the mid 19th century the communal nature of the landholdings is shown by the different tenements which held land there. There were seven of these: Hoskins Farm, Chaplins, Gosford, Lower Gosford, Taleford, Clapperentale Farm and Ash. The preferred route cuts through this area between the NGRs given above.

2.7.3 Patteson's Cross (Fig. 12; SY09579764)

This is a memorial cross designed by Butterfield and stands on the junction of the A30 with the road to Gosford. It was erected in the late 19th century to the memory of John Coleridge, missionary Bishop of Melanesia, who was murdered by natives in 1871. It consists of a square brick column on a stone base with a stone cap surmounted by a cross. It is protected as a Listed Building, Grade II.

2.7.4 ?Prehistoric settlement site near Patteson's Cross (Fig. 4, No. 26; SY096977)

A prehistoric habitation site is suggested by a concentration of flint and chert artefacts found in a field to the west of the cross. About 150 pieces were found in a small area. These formed part of the Carter Collection in Exeter Museum.

Further sites of this kind are likely to be found along the route but their discovery has been hampered by lack of fieldwork and the predominance of pasture fields in the area.

2.7.5 Castle Hill (Fig. 13; SY109987)

This place-name is applied to the area to the north-west of Skinner's Ash, now traversed by the Exeter-Waterloo railway line. The antiquity of the name is not certain but it is shown on the 1st edition OS 6" map, sheet 70NW (1891). The Tithe Map does not provide any further information and the field names in this area are also uninformative. An estate map of 1825 (DRO, B961M/E2) carries the name Castle Hill, however, and Benjamin Donn's map of Devon (1765) calls the area Tower Hill. The nature and location of the feature to which these place-names refer are at present unknown but this may be elucidated by further documentary research and fieldwork.

2.7.6 Prehistoric ring ditches (Fig. 13; SY10659880)

These features were discovered as cropmark sites by aerial photography in 1985. There appear to be two circular ditches lying close together (less than 20m apart) in a field to the north of Castle Hill. Without proper archaeological excavation their date and purpose cannot be ascertained, but ring ditches generally represent the sites of round barrows (i.e. burial sites) of the second millennium BC. They are often found in groups, and the fact that a ditch survives below ground to give a cropmark indicates the undisturbed survival of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material. Some connection may be possible between this site and the place-name Castle Hill described above although the features lie over 100m to the north.

## 2.8 Feniton parish

The route enters the western part of Feniton parish between Fenny Bridges and Buckerell Cross. It then crosses the River Otter before rejoining the existing A30 dual-carriageway east of Iron Bridge.

### 2.8.1 Fenny Meadow: site of battle 1549 (Fig. 13; SY114988)

During the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 the rebels from Cornwall and the west of Devonshire unsuccessfully laid seige to Exeter (Hoskins 1952, 233-4). During this time troops were sent down with Lord Russell to suppress the rebellion. The two sides met in battle at this site just above the River Otter, with rebels attempting to block the nearby main road into Exeter. The rebels were defeated here in July 1549 and the relief of Exeter followed soon afterwards.

There are unlikely to have been fortifications of any substance here since the battle site was probably chosen at short notice. There may well be burials of those who fell in the battle here, however, as well as miscellaneous finds of weapons.

### 2.8.2 Down's Barn (Fig. 13; SY11089880)

This is shown on the Feniton Tithe Map (c. 1840) and recorded in the Apportionment as Down's Barn and Courtlage (No. 654). It formed part of the Glebe of the parish and was included in a small holding of 12 acres. There is no indication of this building on the 1st edition OS 6" map surveyed in 1887 (sheet 70NW). Nothing more is known of the history of this site although further information should be forthcoming from church records.

## 2.9 Roman road, Exeter-Honiton (Fig. 9)

As noted in the introduction, the course of the present A30 undoubtedly follows a Roman alignment from Honiton to Exeter. There is ample documentary evidence in the form of place-names, including the Anglo-Saxon charter of Ottery St Mary (2.10 below). There is also the settlement of Strete which is mentioned in the Domesday Book and which took its name from the road in the vicinity of Straightway Head. Furthermore, there are also several field names in Ottery St Mary parish adjacent to the A30 which include the -street element (e.g. Boostreet, Bathstreet, Barberstreet). These names often imply a very substantial paved road of Roman origin. There is evidence for the existence of this paving surviving into the 18th century particularly in the vicinity of Fairmile (Donn's Map of Devon 1765, Fig. 14, and Davidson 1833, 60).

The preferred route crosses the present A30 between Straightway Head and Fairmile. Further east at Patteson's Cross it passes close to the carriageway on the northern side, crossing two fields called Higher and Yonder Boostreet.

Recent excavations alongside the Exeter to Dorchester road near Axminster have revealed the presence of Roman occupation extending over a wide area adjacent to the road. The existence of similar occupation sites adjoining the Honiton to Exeter road cannot, therefore, be ruled out. The most likely areas for such occupation are in the vicinity of Patteson's Cross and east of Fenny Bridges where the proposed route passes close to the Roman road.

## 2.10 Anglo-Saxon estates

### 2.10.1 Strete (Fig. 9)

The Roman road described above carries parish boundaries along almost its entire length between Fairmile and Exeter. The only exception to this is at

Whimble where the majority of the parish lies to the north of the road. There is however an area of c. 250ha lying to the south of the A30 belonging to Whimble parish. The settlements within this area are Strete, East Strete, and Strete Raleigh and it is fair to assume that this land unit represents the Domesday estate of Strete which was formerly bounded by the Roman road. This is confirmed by the fact that in the Middle Ages Strete was included in East Budleigh Hundred, lying to the south of the A30 road, rather than Cliston in which Whimble parish lay.

The preferred route cuts through the south-western boundary of this estate, north of Upcott at SY04209468 and through the eastern boundary, the B3180, at SY06359588.

#### 2.10.2 Ottery St Mary (Fig. 9)

The parish of Ottery St Mary, as it existed up to c. 1840, formed a land unit of some antiquity and importance. In 1061 Edward the Confessor granted the manor and hundred of Ottery to the canons of St Mary at Rouen. The charter describing this grant survives and it includes a description of the bounds of the estate. These bounds have been examined by Rose-Troup (1939) and were concluded to be the same as those of the ecclesiastical parish. The parish itself also formed a hundred in the Domesday Book as well as in medieval times, and was administered as a single manor by its ecclesiastical owners.

The preferred route cuts the western side of the estate along its boundary with Strete (2.10.1 above). The road here (B3180) is described as a Herepath or 'army path' in the 11th-century charter. It forms part of a long ridgeway stretching from the coast near Exmouth to the Blackdown Hills in the north. It is possibly prehistoric in origin, as it appears to be cut by the Roman road.

On the western side the boundary with Feniton is cut at SY10989877 at Castle Hill (see 2.7.5 above). This is described in the 12th-century charter as lying between Heathfield Mere and the River Vine. Rose-Troup (1934, 203) suggests that this area was common or waste land in the medieval period.

#### 2.10.3 ?Prehistoric boundary, Ottery St Mary (Fig. 9)

There is a very marked boundary feature in the eastern side of the Ottery estate which can be traced for at least 6km in a north/south direction. In this area it runs between two major Roman roads (the A30 and A3052 Exeter-Dorchester road) but at the northern end it appears to extend beyond the A30. Its course through Ottery St Mary parish closely reflects that of the parish boundary which lies 300m to the west, and at the southern end it carries the parish boundary between Aylesbeare and Harpford. The course immediately to the south of the A30 is not certain but it would appear to link up with the parish boundary between Whimble and Talaton where it joins that road (see Fig. 9). This arrangement suggests that the feature is cut by the Roman road and is likely to be of prehistoric origin. Further work on this feature will therefore be necessary as the suggested course is cut at SY06559628.

#### 2.11 Parish boundaries

As well as the sites described above in 2.10, which themselves formed parish boundaries, the preferred route cuts through several other medieval parish boundaries. Some of these employ natural features, mainly streams and rivers, i.e. Clyst Honiton/Sowton (River Clyst); Talaton/Ottery St Mary (River Tale). Others follow the course of an ancient road or track, i.e. Whimble/Ottery St Mary (Herepath in 2.10.2); Ottery St Mary/Talaton (Roman road 2.9).

The remaining boundaries follow man-made features normally hedgebanks or banks and ditches:

- i) Clyst Honiton/Aylesbeare: cut at SY00869308 (Fig. 2, No. 9);
- ii) Aylesbeare/Rockbeare: cut between SY01829320 and SY02159324 (Fig. 3, No. 11);
- iii) Rockbeare/Whimble: cut at SY04209468 (see 2.10.1 above and Fig. 9);
- iv) Ottery St Mary/Feniton: cut at SY109899877 (2.10.2 above; Fig. 4, No. 29);
- v) Feniton/Gittisham: cut at SY11649883 - this may be an old watercourse (Fig. 4, No. 32).

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

#### 3.1 Results

This preliminary assessment of the preferred route has identified a number of archaeological sites lying in the vicinity of the roadline (a total of 32 as indicated in Appendix II). The majority of sites date to the medieval and later period but this is to be expected as the report is based on documentary sources. This is not a definitive list of the archaeological sites along the route, and it must be noted that further sites are likely to come to light during subsequent fieldwork and at the soil-stripping stage during construction. A summary list of sites is given below.

#### Prehistoric

Cropmarks, Sowton	2.1.2	Fig. 2, No. 2	
Bramberry field name	2.5.1	3	15
Ridgeway Ottery St Mary boundary	2.10.2	3	19
Lithic scatter nr. Patteson's Cross	2.7.4	4	26
Ring ditches nr. Fenny Bridges	2.7.6	4	28

#### Roman

Roman road Honiton-Exeter	2.9	4	20
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#### Saxon

Estate and boundaries: Strete	2.10.1	3	18
Estate and boundaries: Ottery St Mary	2.10.2	4	29

#### Medieval & Post-Medieval

Jacket's, deserted settlement	2.1.3	2	3
Dilling's, deserted settlements	2.2.1	2	5
Fair Oak, deserted settlements	2.2.2	2	6
Wares Farm, medieval farmstead	2.2.3	2	8
Open fields, Rockbeare	2.4.2	3	13
Talaton, mill and leat	2.6.1	4	21
Open fields, Ottery St Mary	2.7.2	4	24
Site of battle, Fenny Bridges	2.8.1	4	30
Parish boundaries	2.11	2-4	9, 11, 14, 18, 29, 32

#### 18th-19th century

Sowton Lodge	2.1.1	2	1
Brickfield, Sowton	2.1.4	2	4
Brickfield, Fair Oak	2.2.2	2	7
Brickworks, Strete	2.5.2	3	16
Brickfield, Talaton	2.6.2	4	22
Church of St Philip & St James, Escot	2.7.1	4	23



Patteson's Cross	2.7.3	4	25
Downs Barn, Feniton	2.8.2	4	31
<u>Unknown date</u>			
Deer Park, Aylesbeare	2.3.1.	2	10
Portway	2.4.1	3	12
Castle field names, Whimble	2.5.3	3	17
Castle Hill, nr. Fenny Bridges	2.7.5	4	27

### 3.2 Recommendations for conservation and further investigation

In view of the wealth of archaeological sites identified in this preliminary assessment it is recommended that a programme of further archaeological investigation is initiated. This assessment was undertaken at a relatively early stage during the planning of the road construction and it is envisaged that the proposed programme of archaeological work, as outlined below, should be co-ordinated with the progress of the road scheme.

**3.2.1 Sites requiring conservation.** At this stage it is possible to identify three sites which should not be disturbed by the construction of the new road. These are Listed Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest: Sowton Lodge (2.1.1; Fig. 2, No. 1); Church of St Philip and St James (2.7.1; Fig. 4, No. 23); Patteson's Cross (2.7.3; Fig. 4, No. 25). However, it should be noted that additional sites or features demanding conservation may emerge during the course of further investigations as outlined below.

**3.2.2 Fieldwork and documentary research.** A detailed field survey of the entire length of the preferred route should be carried out in 1990-1. This survey ought to include areas where slip-roads, junctions and associated workings are planned. It should be timed so as to permit the examination of bare fields, thereby identifying any prehistoric sites visible in the form of lithic scatters.

Documentary work may be necessary for any new sites identified in the survey and further research should be carried out on those sites described in this report which are of uncertain location and status. A further report should be produced at this stage.

**3.2.3 Final assessment and archaeological investigations.** When the final route has been agreed and the detailed plans of the proposed work are available, a final assessment should be made. This should take the form of a brief report containing specific recommendations and proposals for archaeological investigations based on research already undertaken. These will take the following form:

- i) Building recording: to make a drawn and photographic record of structures and buildings which are to be demolished (if any).
- ii) Archaeological investigations:
  - (a) limited excavation/evaluation: for those sites of a well-defined linear nature (such as hedgebanks) or those of undefined extent and uncertain nature. In the case of the latter further excavation as in (b) may be necessary;
  - (b) area excavation: this will be necessary for those sites of an extensive nature, such as settlement sites, and will involve soil stripping over wide areas. These will need to be undertaken prior to the commencement of the road construction work.

Sites of a potentially complex nature (e.g. Enclosures, see 2.1.2) should be evaluated before construction work commences. This will ensure the adequate provision of time and resources to be devoted to sites needing extensive excavation.

iii) Documentary research: to be carried out in conjunction with (i) and (ii).

3.2.4 Watching brief. During the construction work further archaeological sites are likely to be revealed, especially those of prehistoric or Roman date which may leave no trace on the surface. A watching brief carried out with the co-operation of the site contractors should be undertaken at this stage to record these sites. Financial provision for any excavation which may be necessary should also be made through contingency funding.

3.2.5 Report preparation/publication. Detailed reports for each of the projects undertaken in 3.2.2 above should be produced together with a synthesized report of the results of archaeological recording within the scheme as a whole.

#### 3.2.6 Costs

At this stage it is not possible to provide costings for the programme of recording which will be required as outlined in 3.2.2 above. However, it is estimated that the secondary programme of fieldwork described in 3.2.1 will cost £3750 and should be undertaken in 1990-1. It is recommended that this work be funded by the Department of Transport as part of the budget for the overall scheme.

### **Acknowledgements**

This assessment was funded by English Heritage and the project was administered by Devon County Council under the general supervision of S.C. Timms and F.M. Griffith (DCC) and C.G. Henderson (EMAFU). Thanks are due to Mrs M. Rowe and her staff at the Devon Record Office and to Mr I. Maxted and his staff at the Westcountry Studies Library for their assistance with the documentary research. S.D. Turton and S. Simpson carried out the documentary research and the illustrations were prepared by T. Dixon.

### **Appendix I: List of sources consulted**

#### Devon Record Office

Tithe Maps and Apportionments for the parishes of:

Sowton; Clyst Honiton; Aylesbeare; Farringdon; Rockbeare; Whimble; Ottery St Mary; Talaton; Feniton; Buckerell; Gittisham.

OS 6" maps, 1st edition

Benjamin Donn's Map of Devon 1765, Devon Cornwall Record Soc. New Ser. 9 (1965)

69/9/2 Collection of 19th-century and later sale catalogues

961M Kennaway estate papers



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- Alcock, N. 1975 'Fields and Farms in an East Devon Parish', Rep. Trans. Devonshire Ass. 107, 93-172.
- Davidson, J. 1833 The British and Roman Remains in the vicinity of Axminster.
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 1932 The Place-Names of Devon.
- Hoskins, W.G. 1952 Devon.
- Rose-Troup, F. 1939 'The Anglo-Saxon Charter of Ottery St Mary', Rep. Trans. Devonshire Ass. 81, 201-220.

**Appendix II: List of sites from west to east (see Figs. 2-4)**

1. Sowton Lodge: listed building
2. Cropmark sites.
3. Deserted settlement, Jacket's.
4. Brickfield, Sowton parish.
5. Deserted settlement, Dilling's.
6. Deserted settlements, Fair Oak.
7. Brickfield, Fair Oak.
8. Wares Farm, medieval farmstead.
9. Parish boundary: Clyst Honiton/Aylesbeare.
10. Deer park place-name.
11. Parish boundary: Aylesbeare/Rockbeare.
12. Portway, ancient road.
13. Medieval open fields, Upcott, Rockbeare.
14. Parish and Saxon estate boundary : Rockbeare/Whimble (Strete).
15. Bramberry field name.
16. Brickworks: Strete Raleigh.
17. 'Castle' field names.
18. Medieval parish and Saxon estate boundaries: Whimble (Strete)/Ottery St Mary
19. Prehistoric ridgeway: Ottery St Mary boundary.
20. Roman road Exeter-Honiton.

21. Talaton mill and leat.
22. Brickfield nr Talaton mill.
23. Church of St Philip & St James, Escot; listed building.
24. Medieval open fields, Ottery St Mary
25. Patteson's Cross, 19th-century memorial; listed building.
26. Lithic scatter. ?Prehistoric settlement site.
27. Castle Hill, place-name.
28. Prehistoric ring ditches.
29. Medieval parish and Saxon estate boundary: Ottery St Mary/Feniton.
30. Fenny Meadow, site of battle, 1549.
31. Down's Barn, Feniton.
32. Medieval parish boundary: Feniton/Gittisham.

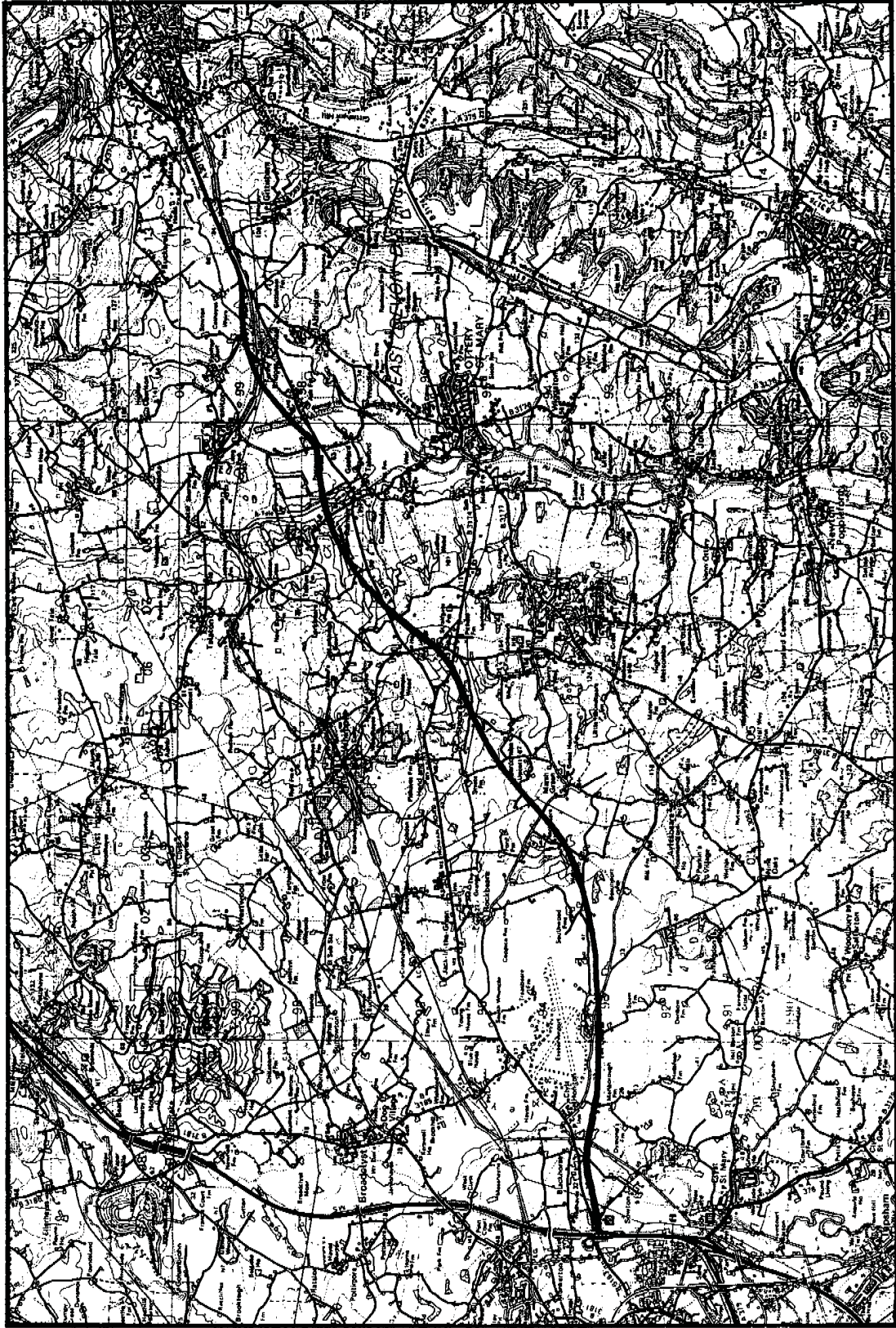


Fig. 1 The preferred route of the A30 Exeter - Honiton



Fig. 2 Location of sites, Sowton to Aylesbeare (see Appendix II)



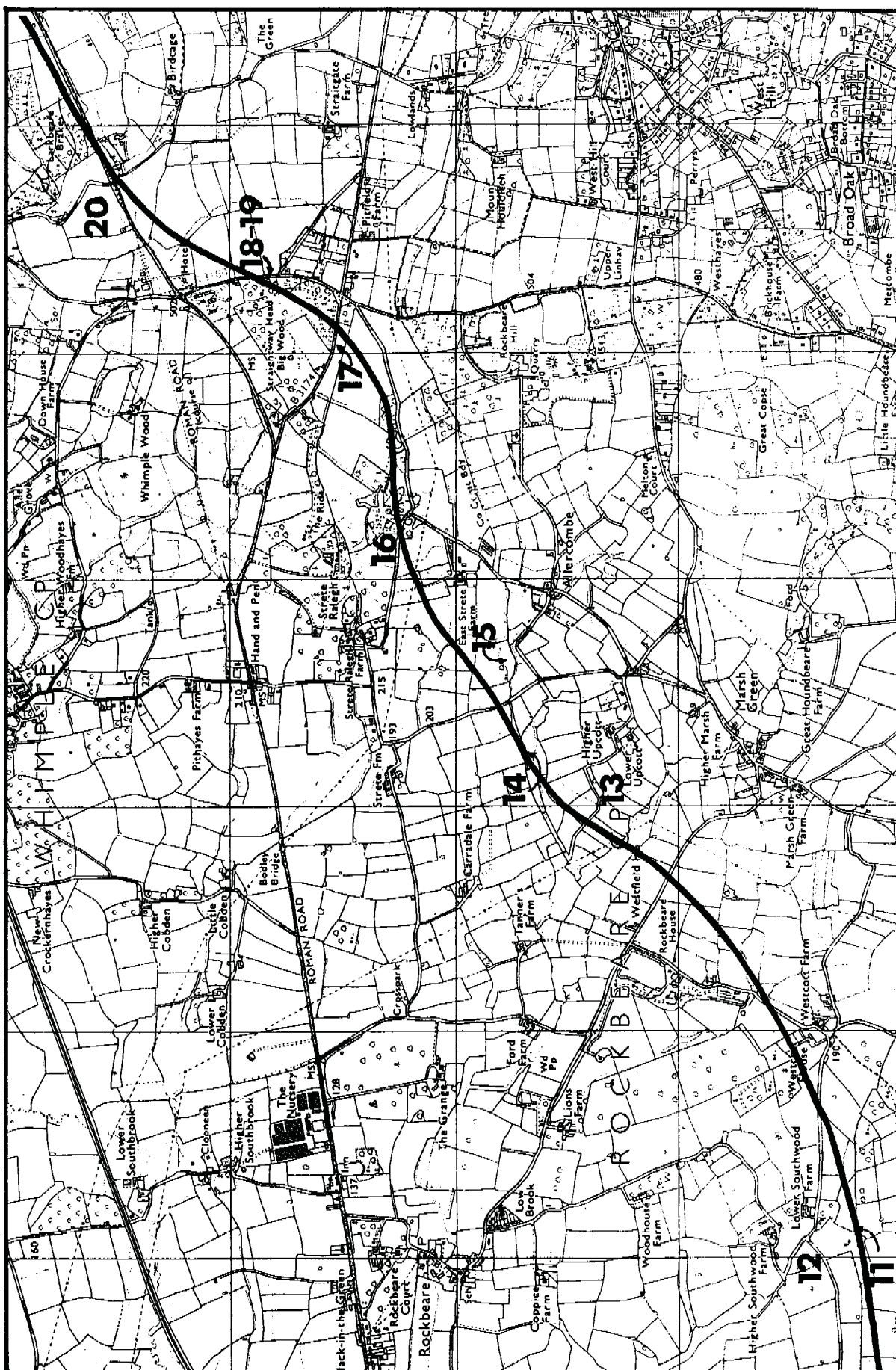


Fig. 3 Location of sites, Rockbeare to Ottery St. Mary (see Appendix II)

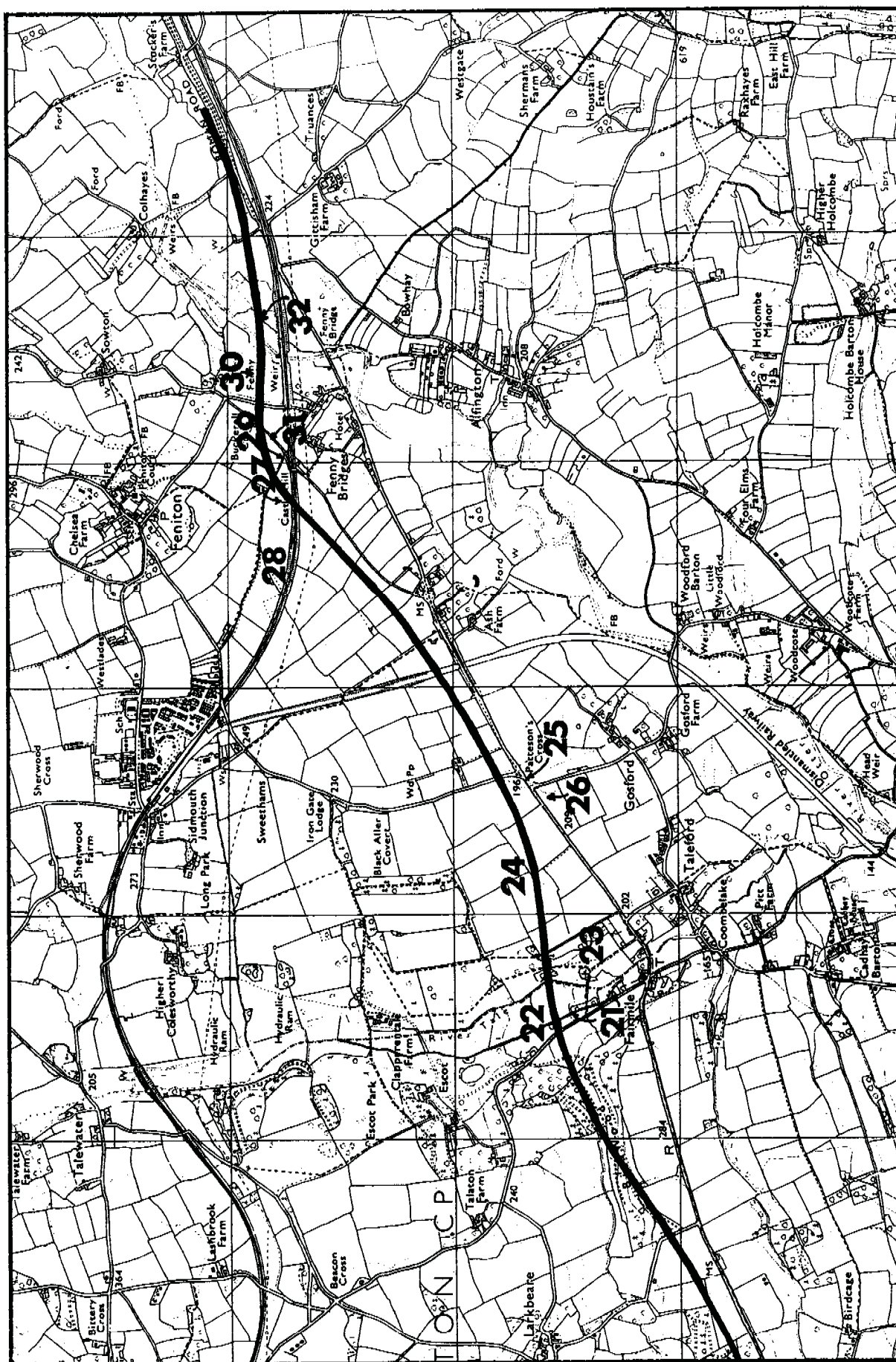


Fig. 4 Location of sites, Ottery St. Mary to Feniton (see Appendix II)

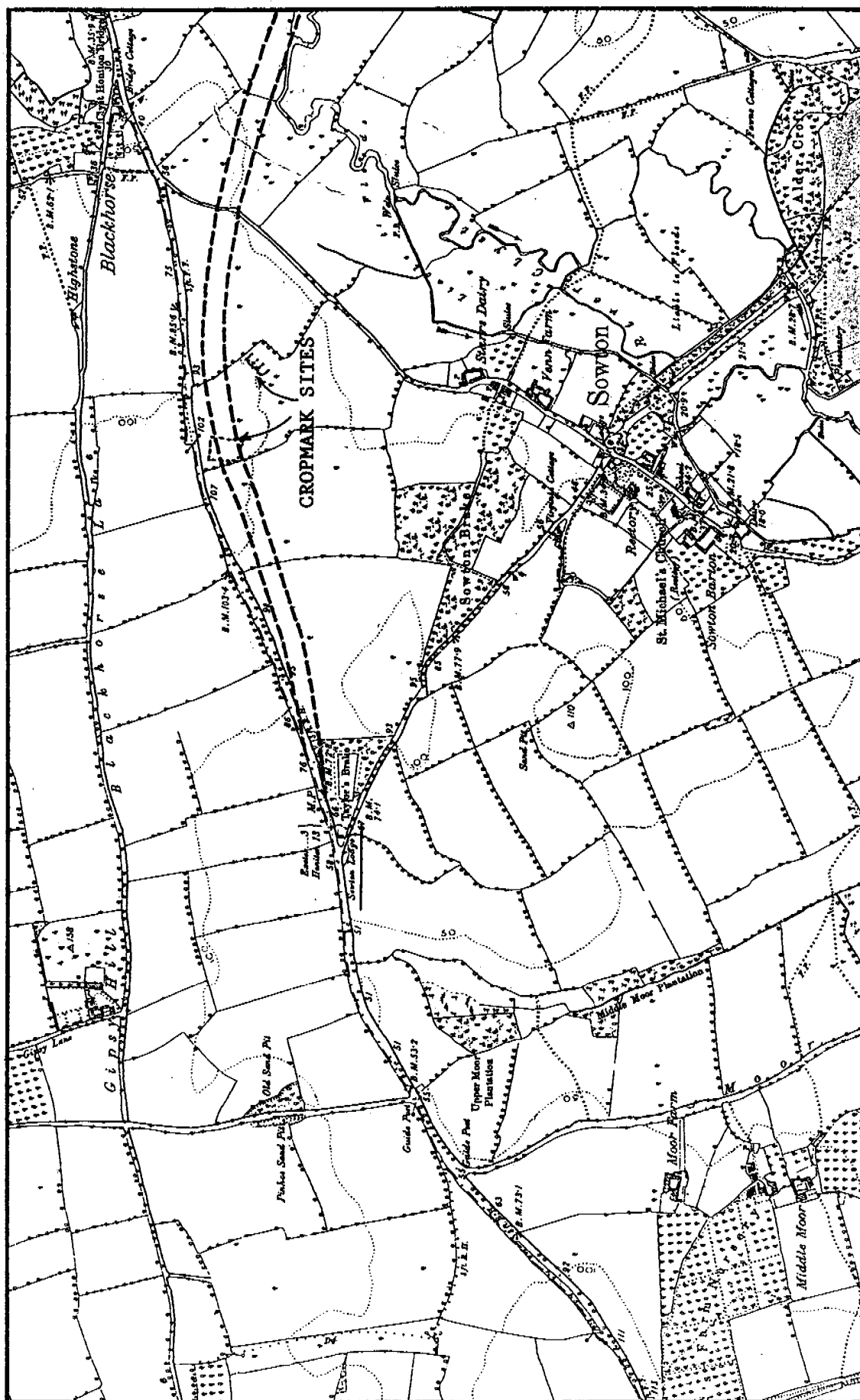


Fig. 5 Sites in Sowton parish (base map OS 6" 1st ed. sheet 80 NE)

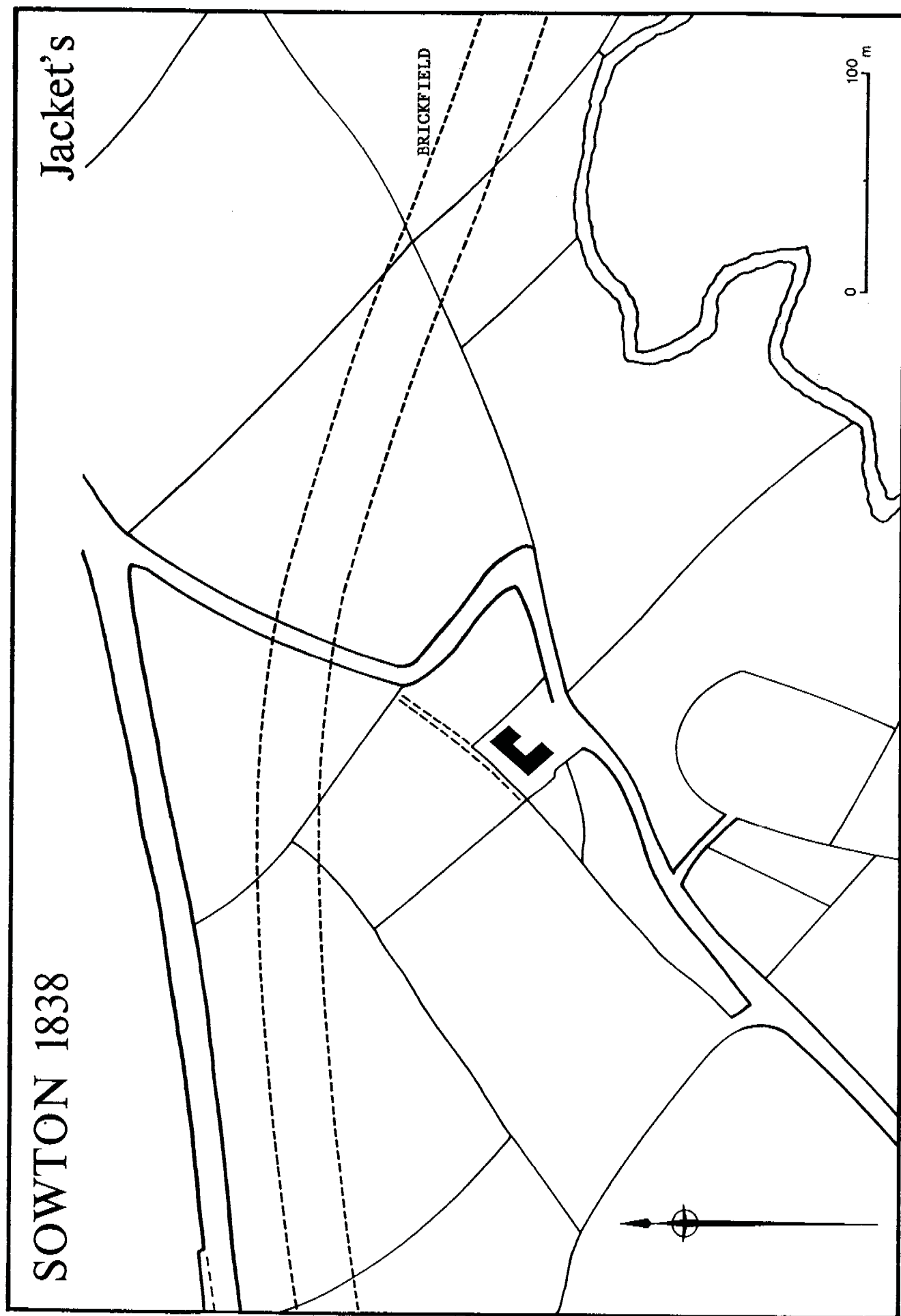


Fig. 6 The site of Jacket's from Sowton Tithe Map (1838)



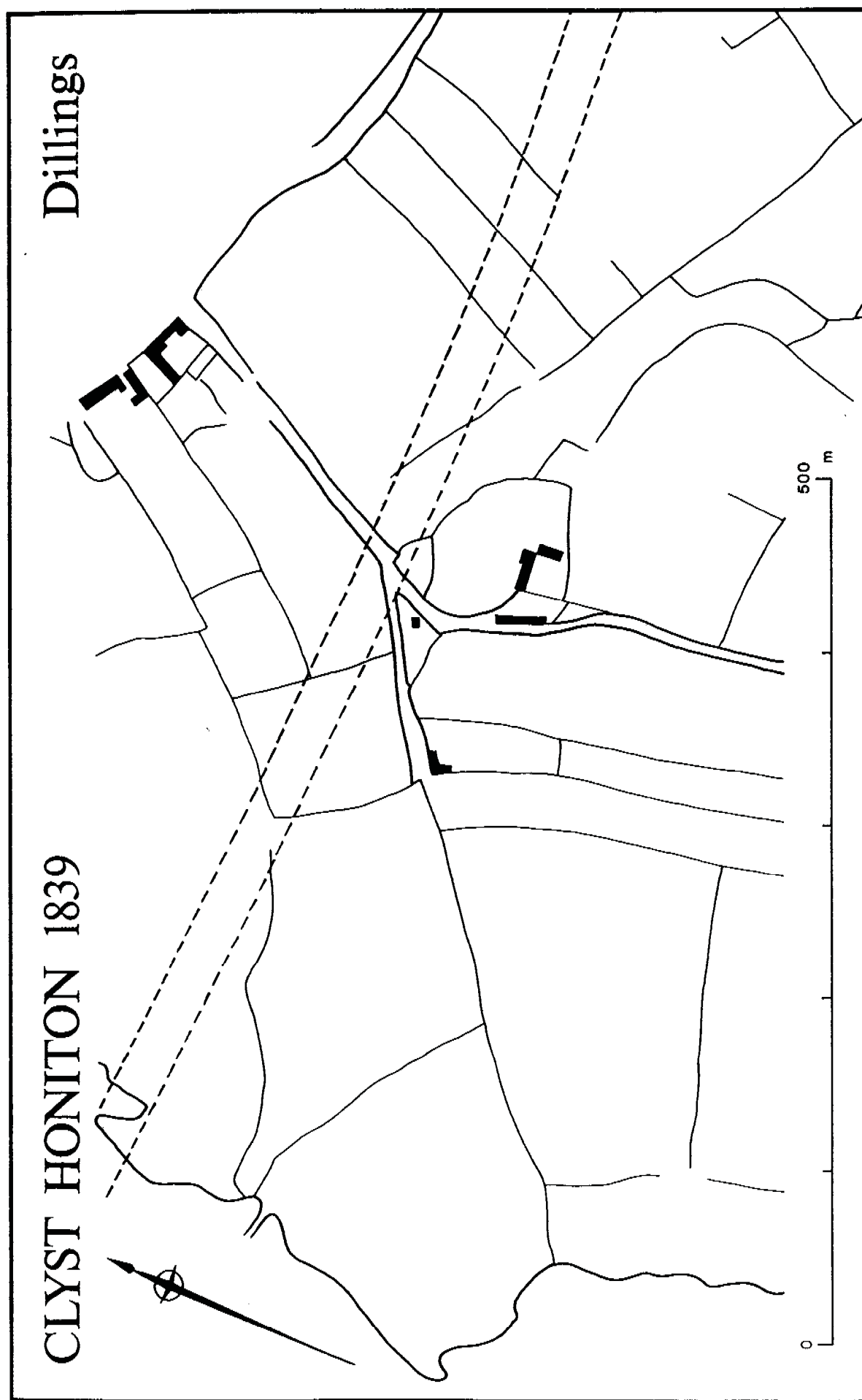


Fig. 7 The site of Dilling's from Clyst Honiton Tithe Map (1839)

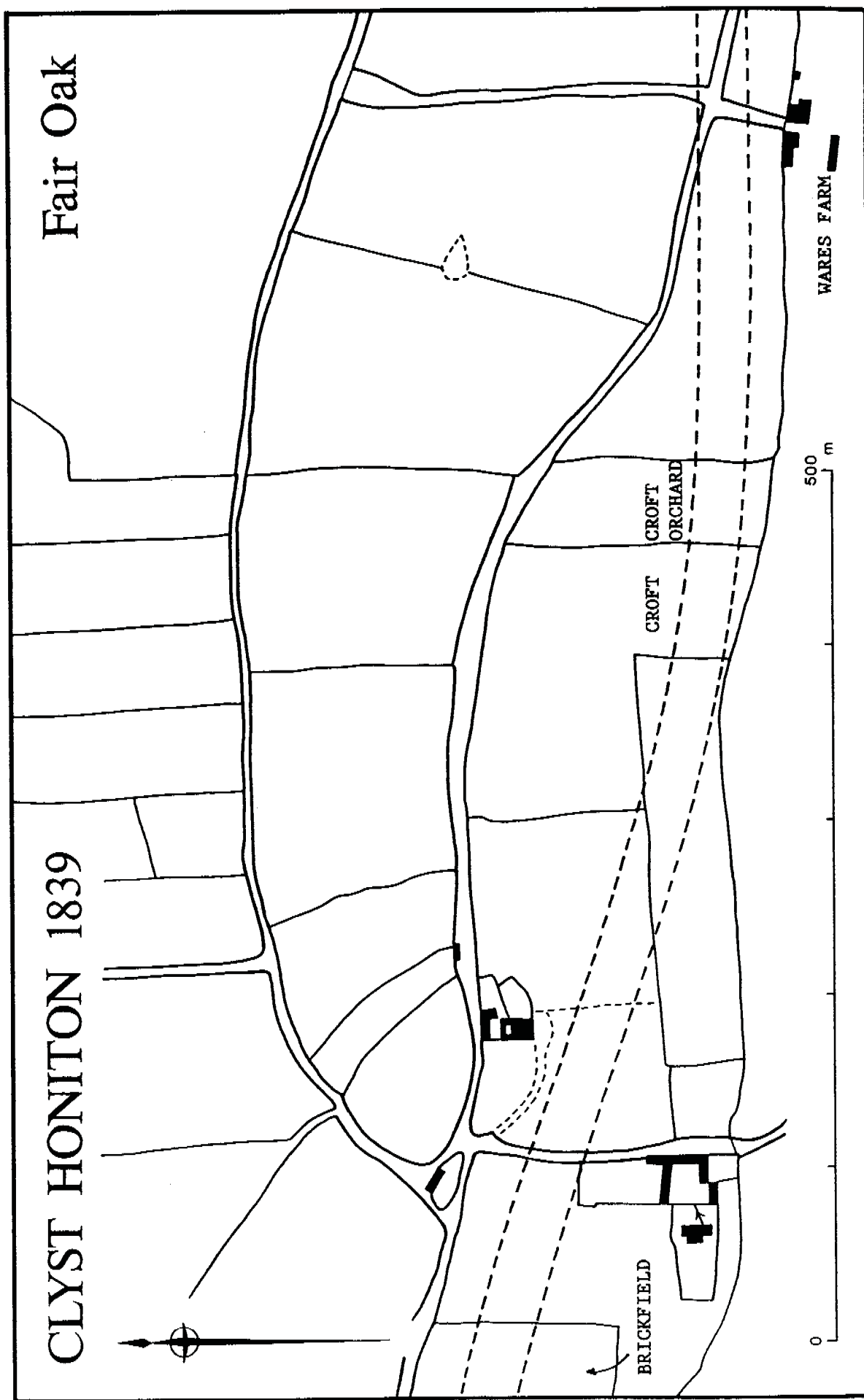


Fig. 8 Settlements at Fair Oak, from Clyst Honiton Tithe Map (1839)

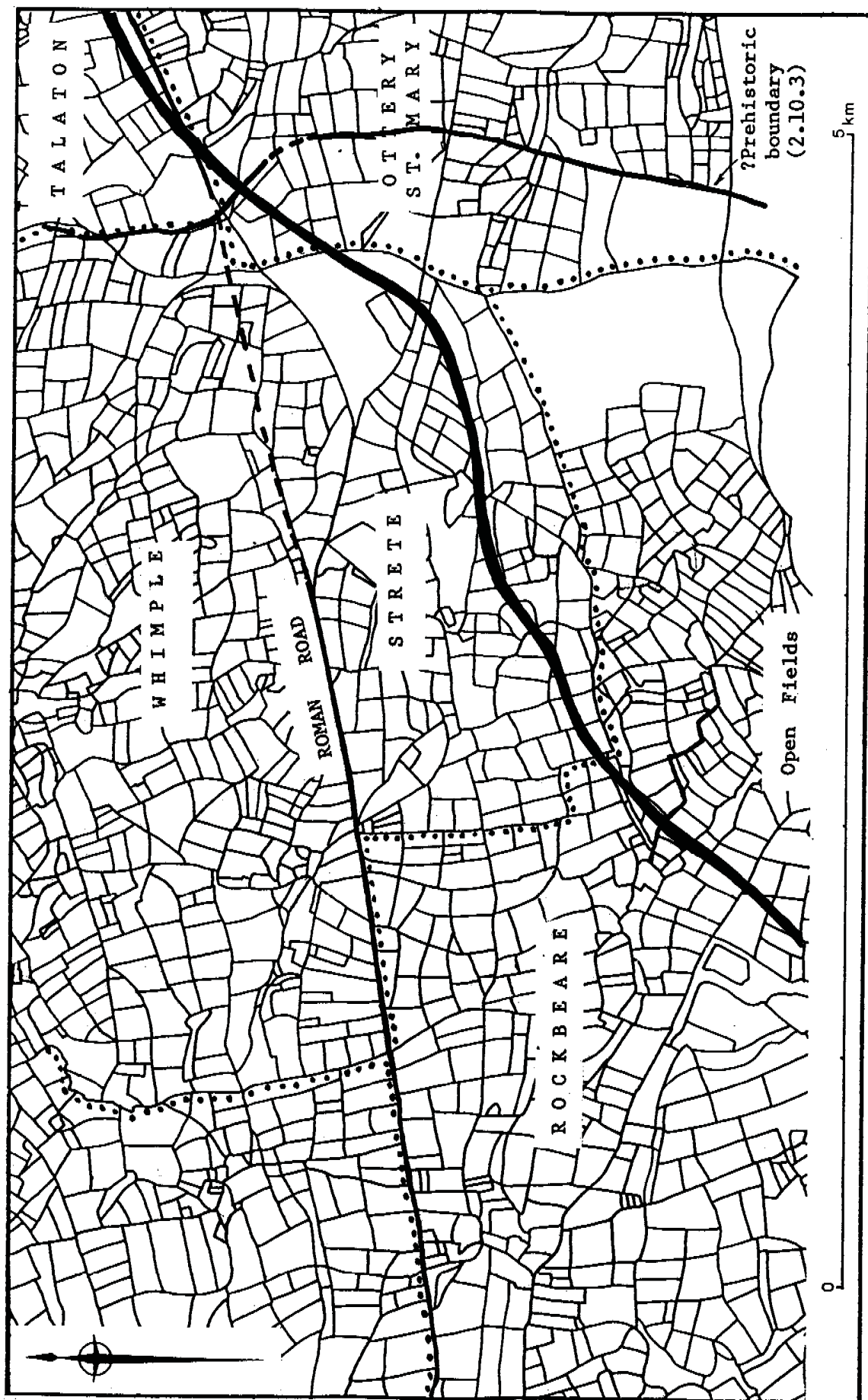


Fig. 9 Saxon estate boundaries for Strete and Ottery St. Mary with adjoining parish boundaries. Medieval open fields in Rockbeare also shown (1:25000 base map)

# BRICKYARD, Strete Ralegh

1884

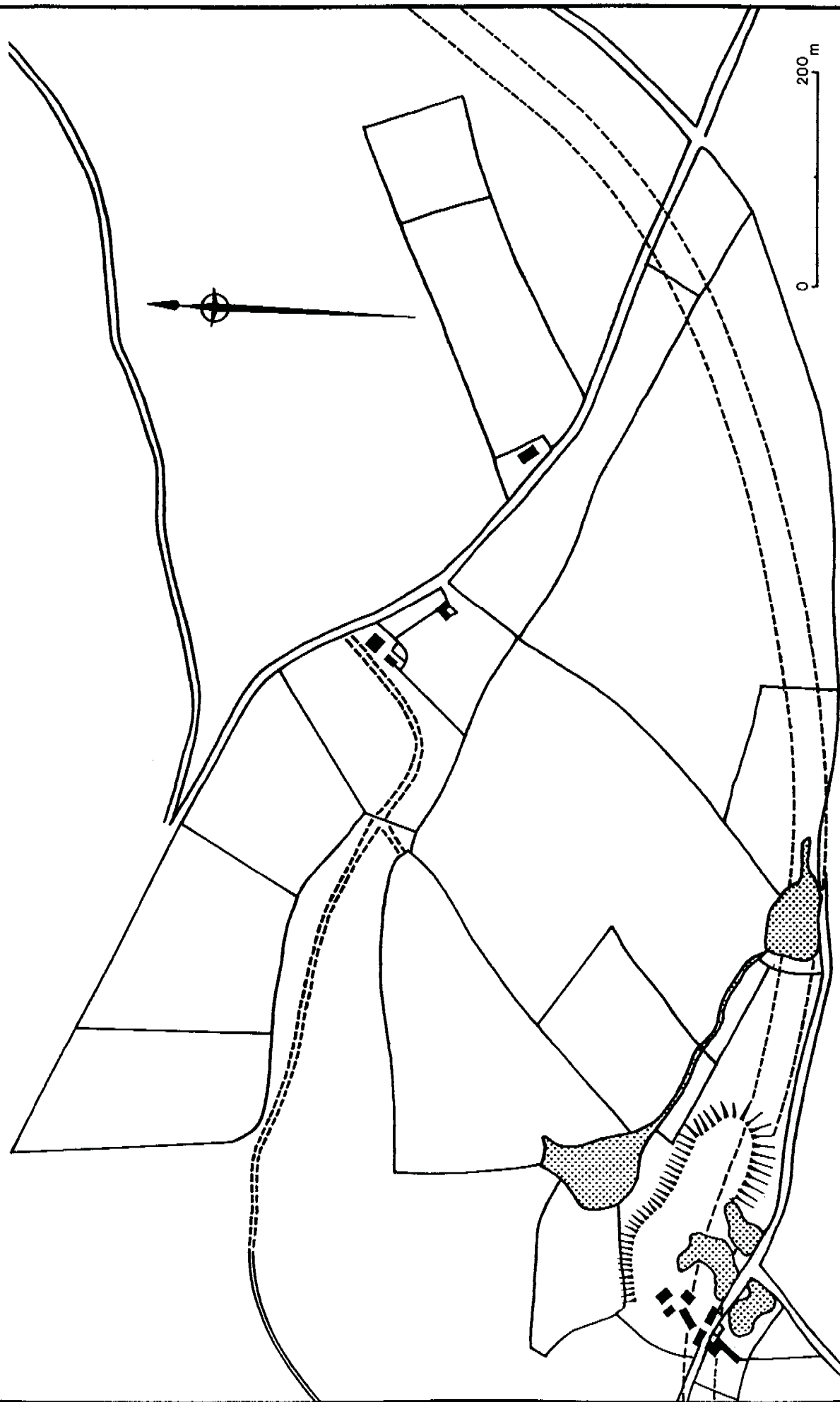


Fig. 10 The brickyard at Strete Ralegh, 1884 (based on DRO, 69/9/2 Box 9/21)

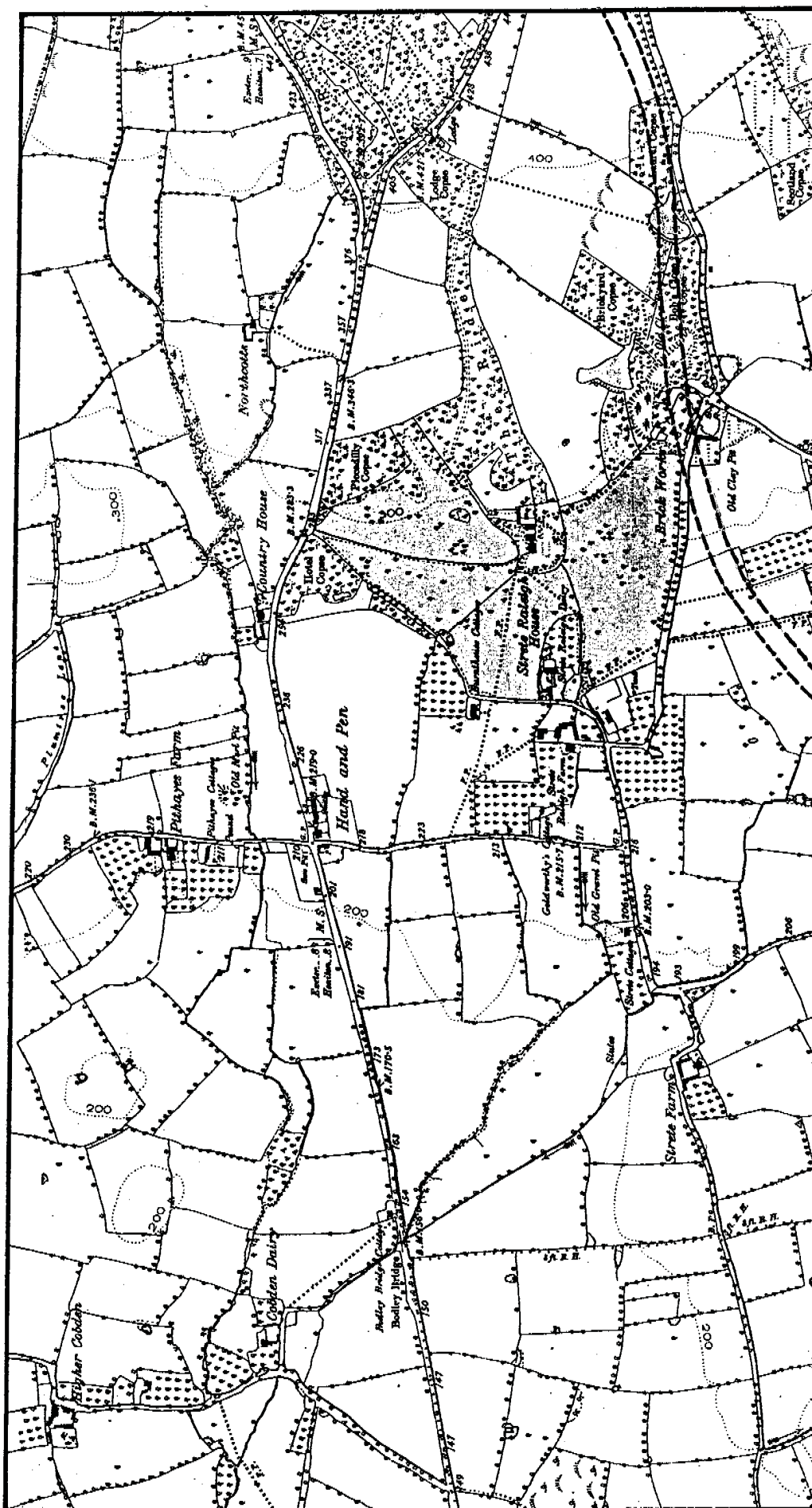


Fig. 11 The Strete area in 1890 (OS 6" 1st ed. sheet 69SE)

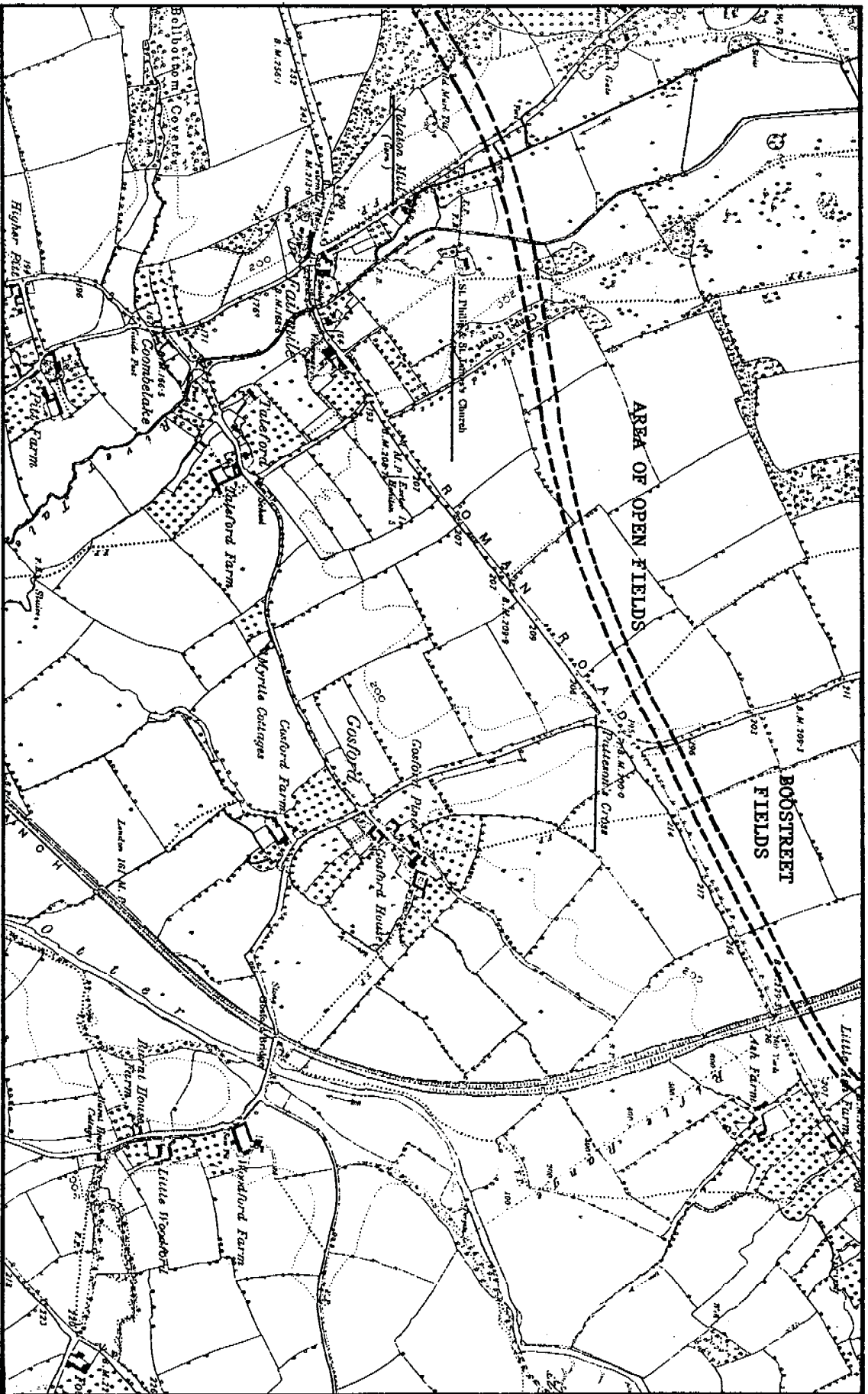


Fig. 12 The Fairmile area in 1891, including Talaton Mill (OS 6" 1st ed. sheet 70SW)



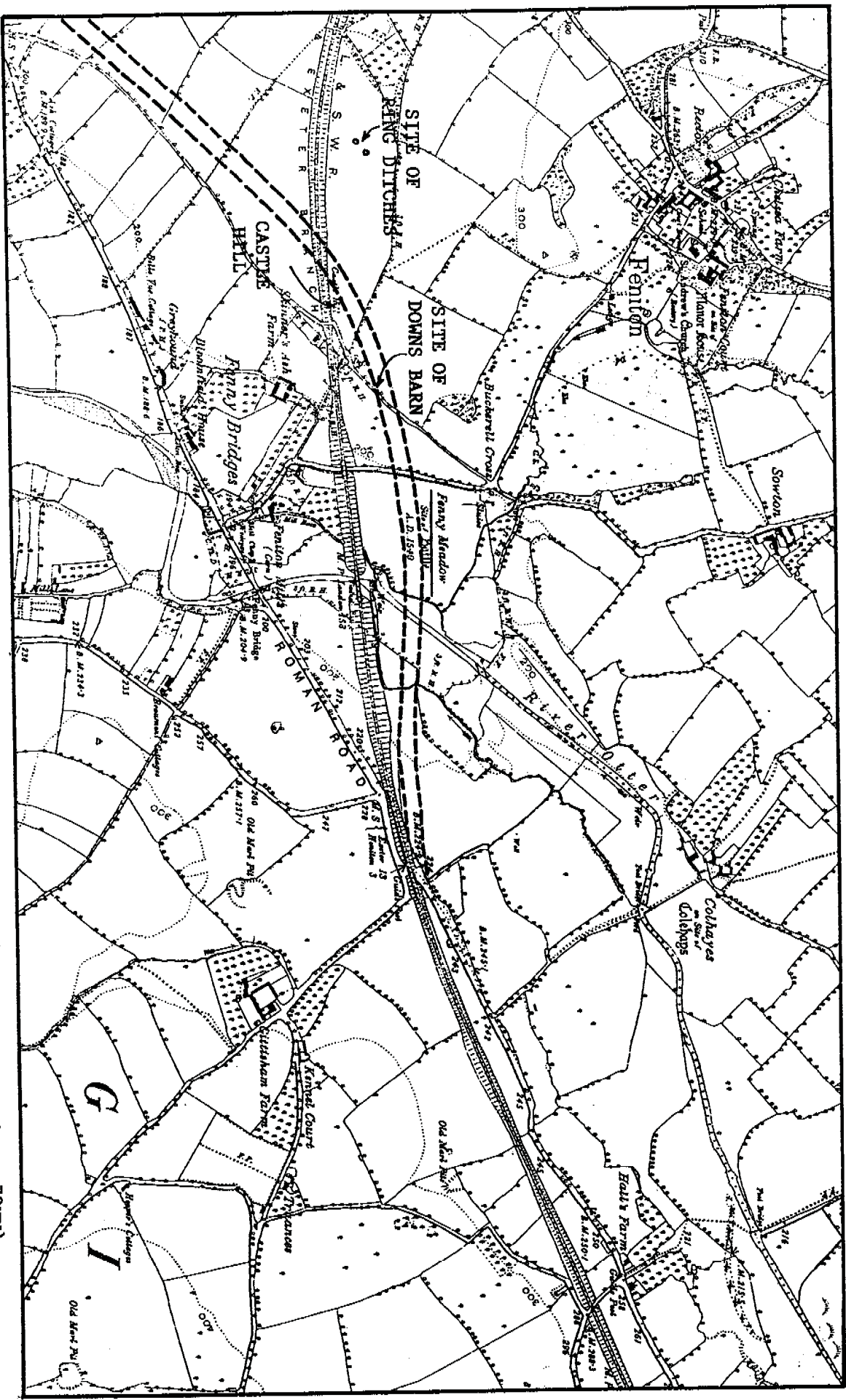


Fig. 13 The Fenny Bridges area in 1891, showing Castle Hill and Fenny Meadows (OS 6" 1st ed. sheet 70NW)

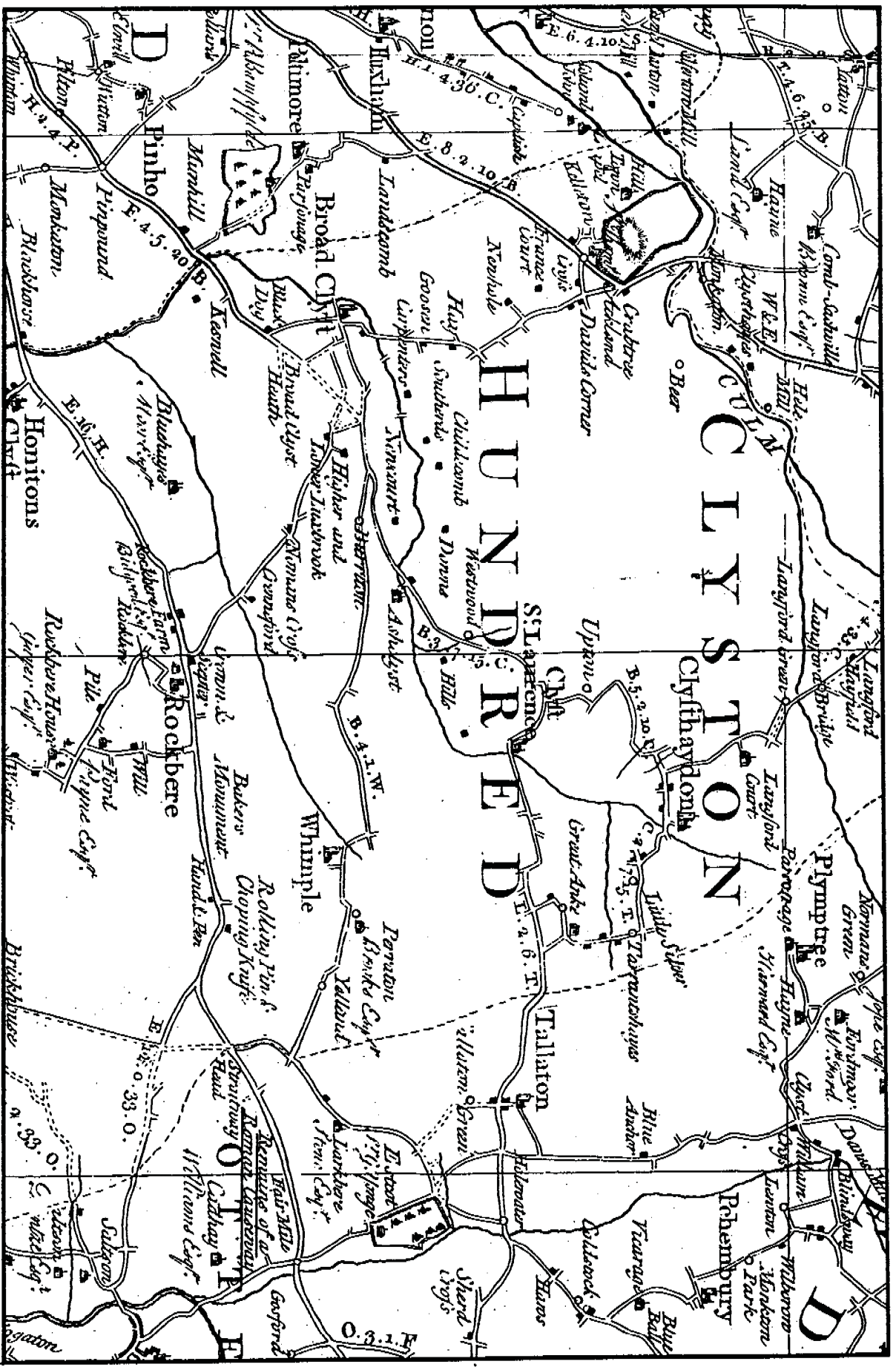


Fig. 14 Extract from Donn's Map of Devon 1765 showing the Roman road