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Welcombe and South Hole, Hartland, North Devon;
Archaeological Assessment

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of Cornwall Archaeological Unit and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Freedom of Information Act

As Cornwall Council is a public authority it is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which came into effect from 1st January 2005.

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Cover illustration

The prehistoric fort of Embury Beacon, on the summit of the National Trust property, eroded by the sea. The remains of an inner rampart stand on the very edge of the cliff to the right. Note also the dewpond in the ground behind, formerly part of extensive coastal rough ground, a medieval common (CAU aerial photograph, F30 87, 1990).

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Abbreviations

ACVP	Atlantic Coast and Valleys Project
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CC	Cornwall Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CRO	Cornwall Record Office
HBSMR	Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (National Trust database)
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Service, former name of CAU
HLC	Historic Landscape Character
MDV	Monument number in Devon HER
NDRO	North Devon Record Office (Barnstaple)
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMP	National Mapping Programme (plotting from aerial photographs)
NRHE	National Record of the Historic Environment
NT	The National Trust
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCHME	(Former) Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
SfM	Structure from Motion (survey using drone, providing 3-D modelling)
TNA	The National Archives (Kew)

1 Summary

An archaeological management survey of the National Trust's property at Welcombe and South Hole, near Hartland on the north coast of west Devon, was carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council (CAU, CC) in 2015. The property is in a spectacular area, remote from towns, with rocky shore and high cliffs, and a prominent coastal ridge forming the spine of the property, bounded inland by steep valley sides.

The report assesses the archaeological sites and historic landscape, to enhance the understanding, protection and presentation of this resource. Sites adjoining or near the property are also considered, to show how they relate to those within. Methods used comprise study of archives, historic maps and other documentary sources, followed by a 'walkover' to record and assesses features and areas on the ground, and by further analysis and evaluation drawing on the results of both desk-based study and fieldwork.

On the coastal ridge are remains of prehistoric activity. The outer enclosure of an Iron Age fort on a high crumbling clifftop, Embury Beacon, overlies linear features, and these may be traces of earlier fields, though their extent and origin remain unclear. A mound by the fort has been interpreted as a Bronze Age barrow. Embury itself may have been a hilltop 'multiple enclosure' fort, with a higher, occupied enclosure, eroded away into the sea in recent decades, within a broad one likely to have been used in handling livestock. The assessment identifies early routes running east and south from Embury, visible in places as lanes, linking the fort to the surrounding landscape and settlements from which such livestock, and their handlers, may have assembled.

An ancient route to the south ran through much of the Trust property. This survives in part as public footpath and road through Knap and Strawberry Water, where its ford on the Welcombe river was only bridged, to serve the present road via South Hole, in the late 19th century. It led to a probable Iron Age to Roman period 'round' or enclosed farming settlement at Mead, where a hedge bank thought to incorporate a rampart bounds the Trust's land, and a possible buried external ditch lies partly in the property.

Medieval farmland and commons can be distinguished, despite later ploughing over parts of both, and some routes linking them are still in use. The seaward half of the study area, and steep ground on the east of the ridge, lay in rough common grazing or wood pasture, part used for outfields, and part taken in as fields were expanded or were laid out to support Knap, probably a later medieval settlement. The farmland of South Hole shows derivation from a sub-divided field system developed in several phases, with hedges or scarps on some strip boundaries, a strong head bank, and massive lynchets or accumulations of ploughsoil downslope. Recent work at Embury Beacon has revealed medieval re-use, probably related to the beacon of the place-name. Post-medieval change can be seen at Welcombe Mouth, where the lane to the beach was cut through earlier fields. This was used to carry sea-sand to 'sweeten' surrounding farms. Earthworks nearby may indicate limited occupation, perhaps linked with this, or with an earlier way to the sea, a fragment of which remains on the cliff.

This varied resource is affected by coastal erosion, long-term vegetation change, and visitor pressure. Measures proposed to address these issues and opportunities include;

Control scrub growth: maintain existing pasture, re-introduce or increase grazing in prioritised areas, and cut scrub on sites with high archaeological sensitivity or potential.

Re-introduce other traditional land-management: coppice/s and orchard could be re-established on parts of the steep eastern slopes, used in these ways in the past.

Provide for further archaeological work: monitor eroding sites at Welcombe Mouth as well as Embury; consider drone survey to provide a photo-realistic model of Embury; combine archaeological and geological study at Welcombe Mouth; extend geophysical survey by Embury; seek archaeological guidance for groundworks at specified sites.

Enhance community and visitor experiences: produce guide/s to past use of the coast, relating this to the wider historic landscape; review provision of routes contributing to perceptions of landscape development; research the histories of individuals or families of the area; consider the feasibility of celebratory lighting of a beacon at Embury.

Fig 1 Map showing the location of study area on the north coast of West Devon

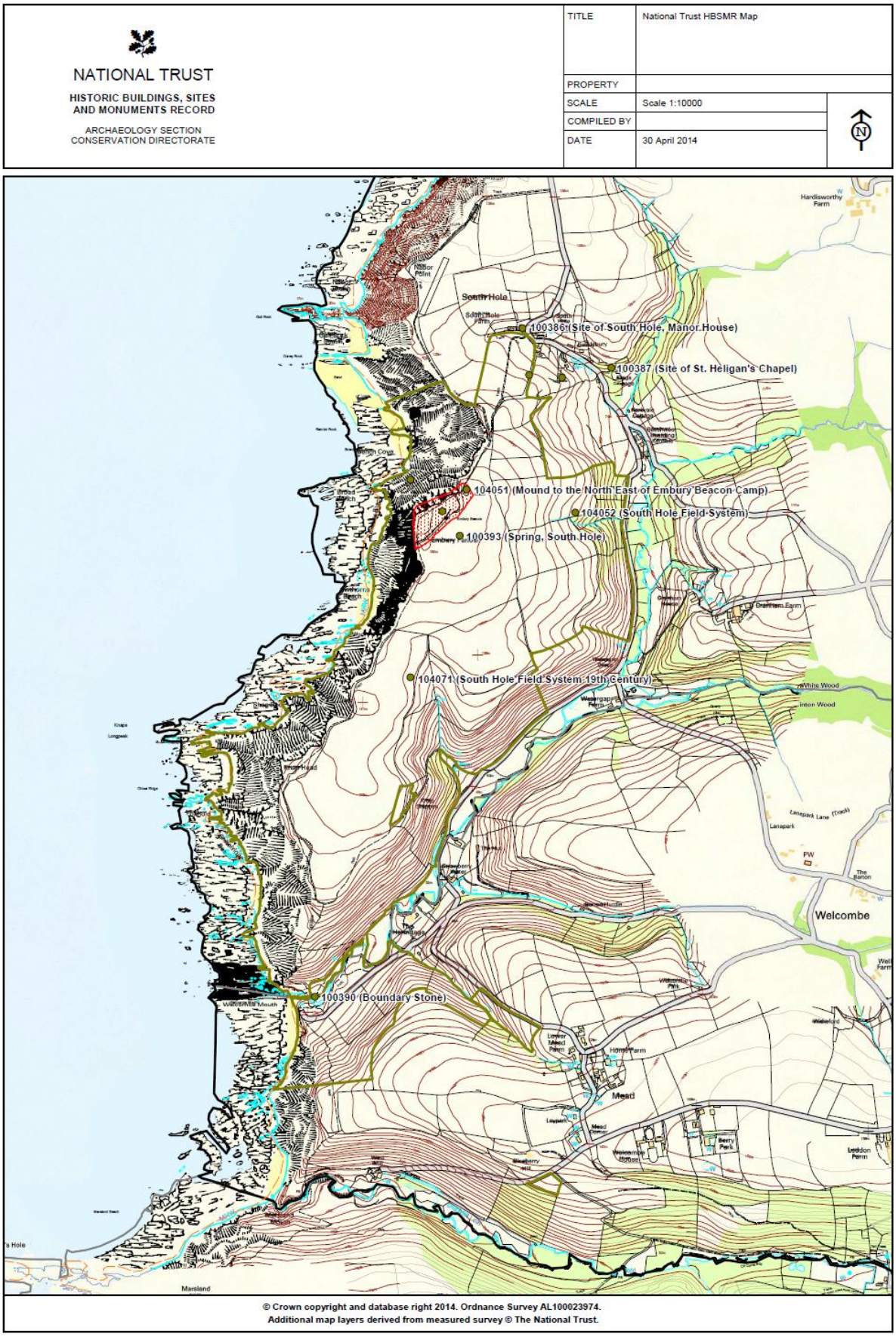

Fig 2 NT map showing the extent of the property (outlined in green), with numbered sites recorded in the NT SMR prior to the survey, and Scheduled Monuments (red)

2 Introduction

2.1 Project background

An archaeological assessment of the National Trust's property at Welcombe and South Hole on the north coast of West Devon was commissioned by Jim Parry on behalf of the Trust, and carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), part of Cornwall Council (CC), in 2015. It follows a project brief by Jim Parry of 20th February 2015, which identifies this area as one where initial review has indicated a wealth of archaeological remains, and a consequent need for full study to clarify and enhance understanding of the resource, and identify future management and conservation needs.

2.2 Aims

As specified in the brief, the project is designed to elucidate the distribution, nature, extent and importance of the archaeological remains of the assessment area, and also the character of its historic landscape. It aims to enhance the understanding, protection and presentation of the archaeological resource of the property, through the following;

- Informing decisions to protect and manage the archaeological resource, and proposals such as HLS applications, management and conservation plans.
- Identifying areas where further archaeological work is appropriate to provide detailed information for the drawing up of management recommendations.
- Producing a statement of significance of the historic landscape and its value.
- Assessing the archaeology of the Welcombe and South Hole study area as a whole, in its wider local or regional context.
- Including remains of interest of all dates and types, including any structures, industrial remains, landscape features, etc., and extending also to evidence for previous activity that may have damaged or destroyed the resource.
- Considering the impact of current land management on monuments and their settings, and making recommendations for future management.

2.3 Methods

2.3.1 Desk–based assessment

An initial desk-based assessment was carried out to identify known or potential archaeological sites or historic structures, and provide information about the history, development, and past and present management of sites and landscape. Sources consulted include the following (see Section 7 for further details);

- The county Historic Environment Record (HER) for Devon, and that for Cornwall.
- The National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE).
- The first and second edition 25 inch OS and other historic maps (Section 7.1).
- Readily available publications, and 'grey literature' reporting by HES (Historic Environment Service, Cornwall Council; now CAU, CC) and other organisations.
- The NT's Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR).

2.3.2 Fieldwork

The fieldwork consisted of a walkover survey, that is, systematic walking over the study area, recording and assessing sites identified through the desktop survey, and others visible on the ground, using a base map incorporating the results of the desktop study.

2.3.3 Post-fieldwork

The field observations of earthworks, landscape features and character, and of management issues such as erosion and scrub growth, were then used in further analysis of the development of the area, assessment of its significance and needs, and production of site gazetteers.

3 Location and setting

3.1 Study area

The study area lies on the great headland and historic district of Hartland on the north coast of west Devon, close to the border with Cornwall (Fig 1). It extends from Mead in the parish of Welcombe to South Hole in Hartland Parish. Welcombe Mouth, on the south in the property, is particularly well-visited for its open beach and spectacular scenery, remote from any large settlement. It lies around 13km by road from the medieval borough of Hartland, now often regarded as a village, at the centre of the headland, and 30km from the larger coastal town of Bideford further east.

The assessment covers the National Trust property, an irregular block of coastline over 126 hectares (some 310 acres) in extent, mostly bounded on the inland side by minor roads (Figs 2, 55). (Within this block there are two very small areas which, as indicated by the National Trust map forming Fig 2, are not included in the NT property; one lies at Knap Shippen, and one on the valley floor east of Welcombe Mouth.)

The assessment also includes some of the many archaeological sites and landscape features adjoining or close to the NT boundary, selected for particular relevance to the resource within the property.

3.2 Geology and Topography

The bedrocks of this area around Hartland Point are sedimentary, the shales and sandstones of the Crackington formation; the clifftops featuring past or active slumps of unstable upper sandstones (Fig 3), and also massive ridges corresponding to the harder rock (Knight and Hegarty 2013, 15, 149). Soils are of the kind known as 'Neath', typical brown earths, and, in the valley bottoms filled with peri-glacial 'head' deposits, the brown podzolic soils of the Manod type (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Fig 3 Cliffs showing the prominent, vulnerable, pale cap of sandstone at Embury Beacon

The topography is varied and spectacular (Figs 3, 4). The intertidal zone is striated with rocks, interspersed with sand at Welcombe Mouth on the south and at Broadbench Cove to the north. The cliffs, bounding even the relatively accessible Welcombe Mouth, rise to sheer faces at Embury Beacon, the highest point on the Hartland coast at around 160m above sea level. An undulating plateau runs behind the broken coastal slopes, forming a distinct ridge or block of high land, defined on the inland side by steep valleys - the 'coombe' or deep, flat bottomed vale of Welcombe, and its tributary valley from South Hole – which together cut almost all around it. This ridge makes up the greater part of the study area (Fig 2). The seaward end of Welcombe, above the beach, features a series of ancient valley floor levels cut by the river through the peri-glacial head, now grassy and dry, resembling giant steps (Fig 5).

Fig 4 Welcombe from the coast, with The Hermitage, and Strawberry Water beyond

3.3 Designations

The complex of earthworks at Embury is designated a Scheduled Monument of National Importance, as 'Embury Beacon Camp and barrow', SM ref 1003845, Legacy number Devon 169 (Fig 2).

Because of its vulnerability to coastal erosion, this SM was included on the HE (Historic England) national register of Monuments at Risk in 2012. It was removed from that HE register in 2013, presumably as a result of the completion of a programme of archaeological recording work there (see Section 3.4), though it remains subject to active erosion on a clifftop with visible cracking and crumbling.

3.4 Recent archaeological work

The spectacularly sited complex of earthworks at Embury (cover photo) attracted wider notice as an antiquity by the early 19th century. It is marked on the OS drawing of 1804 and subsequent OS maps (see Figs 53, 54), and a profile of the outer works is included in the Victoria County History (Page 1906).

Recent archaeological study has also focussed on Embury, the earthworks being on a high clifftop on an upper layer of sandstone, particularly vulnerable to ongoing, quite rapid weathering and slumping (Fig 3). In 1972-1973 a contour plan was produced and nine trenches were excavated in response to recent damage and the risk of major collapse (Jefferies 1974, 136, 138). Large cracks were visible in the cliff edge under the fort at that time, and substantial parts of the cliff and clifftop ground were known to have already fallen, including a very large piece taking away some of the interior of the earthworks following a storm in about 1940.

As erosion and slumping continued, further recording was undertaken to assist in the management of the earthworks and in the planning of more excavations. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) surveyed Embury Beacon and the pond to its south west at a large scale in 1997 (Fletcher and Probert 1997). In 2012, geophysical survey was carried out, extending over Embury Beacon, and into the former common beyond, but reaching less than half way across the common to the boundary of the medieval strip-derived field system to the east (Sims *et al* 2014, 72). Ten trenches were then excavated in varying positions, on, between and outside the ramparts, though of these 6 were found to lack archaeological interest and are not described in the published report of the work (*ibid*).

4 Archaeology, History and Development of the Landscape

Sites are identified by NT HBSMR numbers where these existed previously (see Fig 2), or by Project numbers (with the prefix A if inside the property, and B if outside). See the site map for locations (Fig 55) and gazetteers for further details (Appendices A, B).

4.1 **Bronze Age** (c2,500-1,500 cal BC)

In the prehistoric era the cliffs stood much further out in places, and particular hollows, folds and shelves behind them, distinctive features of the landscape for centuries, did not exist; the coastline of today having been formed by ancient slumping of unstable rock, and by cutting through river action of softer geological deposits in the valley floor (Section 3.2). The summit of the area with its weak sandstone top at Embury (Fig 3), now truncated by near-vertical cliffs, may have been part of a more rounded coastal hill (discussed further in the context of its use for an Iron Age fort, in Section 4.2).

In Welcombe below Strawberry Water are deep channels cut by the river, some dry following switching of the course of the water. These help by analogy to show how a large discrete area of platform-like features, nearer the sea, was made in a similar way (Fig 5). The river, having made a deep channel, cut sideways from it across the valley floor to the north west, leaving the platform now used for parking. (See note on dating evidence for this, in Section 4.4.) From the early 19th century, as historic maps show (Fig 53, and inset to Fig 55), this lower part of the river has run closer to the northern side of the valley floor; further ancient river terraces lie beyond it to that side also.

Fig 5 Boundary bank, left of centre, on river terraces at Welcombe Mouth; a kink at the nearer end of the visible part of the boundary may mark a medieval river course

Also visible are a possible building platform A12, right of centre on the inland side of the coastal footpath with its stepping stones A11; and part of the parking area, left

It is likely that as a result of such profound changes to both cliff margin and lower valley floor, early settlement sites on the coast have been lost. This coast was a highly diverse environment, with access to the shore for fishing and gathering shellfish from Welcombe, and perhaps at several other points now obscured by old cliff falls. Such points can be expected to have been used as bases for obtaining and processing food and materials, and for seasonal or more permanent occupation. Buried traces will remain; a worked flint indicating prehistoric activity, though not closely datable (Anna Lawson-Jones, CAU, pers comm), has been exposed by coastal erosion at Welcombe Mouth (**Site A9**); and other flint artefacts are recorded from just beyond the NT property to the north (**Site B29**).

There is evidence to suggest that a mound just outside the (later) prehistoric fort of Embury is a Bronze Age barrow (**Site 104051**), though its origin is not entirely clear. The mound (Fig 6), shown as a tumulus on the 1884 OS map (Fig 53), was recorded in the 1997 survey as a 'ploughed-down and somewhat amorphous mound [which] now measures a maximum 26.0m (NE-SW) by 20.0m and up to 1.1m in height on the down slope side' (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 6).

A trench dug as part of investigation of the Embury fort in 2012, across the south side of the mound only, showed that it was made of soil and stone with no quarry ditch. It was considered to be a barrow because sections 'appear to show deliberately laid deposits….consistent with the construction of a Bronze Age barrow'; a tiny amount of burnt bone and charcoal, too small for detailed study, was recovered from the 'soil and stone core' of the mound; and some residual sherds of Bronze Age pottery were found in a later ditch dug into it (Sims *et al*, 73, 95).

Fig 6 Mound north east of outworks at Embury, with hollow on its south (foreground)

The site of the 2012 trench through it is indicated by a vegetation mark to the right

A separate mound, some 15m across and 1m high, stood at the north east end of the inner rampart of Embury, but is now eroded away. That feature is noted in the Victoria County History as an earthwork, previously seen as a barrow, but re-interpreted as remains of a bank forming part of an entrance to the inner rampart itself lost to the erosion of the cliff (Page 1906, 576). This re-interpretation was supported by the results of excavation in 1972-1973, when the feature, described as 'a slight rise in the ground' on the cliff edge, was found to be 'the last remaining traces of the now almost totally eroded entrance through the inner rampart' (Jefferies 1974, 138).

The Embury area may also have a Bronze Age field system (**Site A36**). The investigations of the outer rampart at Embury revealed two parallel buried features, running ESE-WNW, overlain by the earthworks of the fort on a different alignment. These were interpreted as ditches probably of field boundaries pre-dating the fort and forming part of a larger system of prehistoric land division (Sims et al 2015, 77). Analysis of pollen, soils and other evidence from the excavations for environmental conditions at Embury in the past indicates that after woodland clearance and transitional hazel growth, heathland and grassland were established, the grassland increasing prior to construction of the outer rampart, when there was also extensive, concentrated animal trampling, indicating management of livestock (*op cit*, 92-94, 99).

Half a dozen parallel linear crop-marks east of Embury are visible on aerial photographs of 2010 (as seen on Google Maps). These seem most likely to be caused by the underlying geology, but as they share the alignment of the excavated features recorded as ditches overlain by the rampart they could be of similar origin. (The geophysical survey plan included in the excavation report shows a possible buried feature east of the fort on the ESE-WNW alignment but this was not excavated.) The RCHME survey of Embury records a low linear scarp extending diagonally across the fort within the outer rampart and apparently representing an earlier phase in the development of the site, running under a mound on the cliff edge east of the inner rampart found in 1974 to form part of the fort's inner entrance. The surveyors thought this to be 'doubtfully part of a pre-existing field-system or a sub-division of the earthwork' and possibly part of an outwork (to what is now the inner rampart) associated with a lost eastern entrance (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 3, 7). The line of the scarp in question, NNE-SSW, is perpendicular to that of the possible pre-fort field boundary ditches noted above, so it may represent a head boundary or major sub-division of the suggested field system.

Also near Embury is a potential prehistoric settlement site on the inland side of the ridge (**Site B20**). Features with some resemblance to earthworks in rough ground near probable spring **Site 46**, including one which could be a rounded building platform, are visible from above and at a distance, lying outside the NT property (**Site B20**; Fig 7).

Fig 7 Spring west of South Hole (centre) with possible earthworks below to the right

If a settlement, the site could be associated with the potential Bronze Age field system noted above – but at present this is only a suggestion, as the features here may be natural or of some other origin. It is likely that the Mead and Welcombe ridges were also farmed, and settled; while the cliffs, and ancient woodland or secondary hazel woods on the steep valley slopes, were hunted and exploited for firewood and timber (see note on palaeo-environmental evidence from Embury, in Section 4.2, below).

Altogether there are some possible indications by Embury of a co-axial field-system of Bronze Age type, likely to have been worked from settlement/s on the spring line below (whether situated on the slopes west of South Hole, or elsewhere). Part of the field system's potential area is overlain by the medieval strip-derived fields of South Hole (**Site 104052**, and see Section 4.4). The remainder extends onto the historic commons to seaward of the strip fields, where there is evidence of prehistoric use for livestock, and where a barrow may have stood, perhaps marking the territory and also deriving a spiritual significance from this marginal place high above the sea.

4.2 Iron Age and Romano-British period (c1,000 BC-AD 500)

Embury Beacon

The dramatic clifftop earthworks here, on the north of the study area, are recorded as Hembury Beacon on the 1804 and 1814 surveys, and on later maps as Embury Beacon (**Site 104051**; Figs 3, 8, 9). The place-name includes the Old English element *burh*, 'fort' (Gover *et al* 1932, 659). The OS drawing at a scale of 2 inches to a mile made in 1804, and the first, one-inch OS map of 1814, indicate two lines of ramparts running round a crescentic inner enclosed area on the cliff edge. These early maps do not show the wide space between the ramparts, probably simply because they are schematic. The inter-vallum space appears on the first detailed, 25 inch scale OS map of 1884 (Fig 53), which also records a separate name for this outer enclosure, Embury Parlour, seemingly referring to its relationship to the inner enclosure being perceived as similar to that of a parlour to a hall in a traditional house.

Fig 8 Inner ditch, with remains of the inner rampart on the left, at Embury Beacon

The high, sheer cliff falls away from the far side of the surviving part of the rampart, already cut away longitudinally, and the rampart remains appear overhanging in places

The fort stands on a point of unstable sandstone, on the highest part of this coast (Jefferies 1974, 136; Figs 3, 9). It is subject to erosion and periodic collapse; these processes can be seen to have changed it greatly, even since the beginning of the 19th century when it is first mapped. The Hartland parish tithe apportionment survey of 1844 (Fig 52) does not record the earthworks as such, but does depict a length of clifftop, corresponding with the whole western side of the fort, with a break in the line marking the cliff edge, and another line offset from this to the seaward, west side. The use of broken lines would seem to indicate that a belt of ground on the west of the fort, along with some of the interior and of the ramparts, had slumped prior to 1844.

Fig 9 Embury Beacon on the highest point of the coast, from the clifftops to the south

In the period between the OS mapping of 1884 and that of 1904 (compare Figs 53, 54) the inner enclosed space was further reduced by collapse, losing perhaps a third of its area of 1884. A few years later this area surviving within the inner work, 'greatly reduced by the fall of the cliff', was measured at approximately 70m along the clifftop (north east-south west) by 15m (Page 1906, 576). By the early 1970s, there was only a tiny remnant of the inner area, measuring around 30m along the clifftop by 5m (Jefferies 1974, site plan, 139, and 145). It has since eroded away, and the inner rampart hangs on the cliff edge. Recording and investigation of the site was triggered by imminent loss of the inner enclosure in 1972 and has continued in several phases.

Excavations in 1972-1973 extended across the inner area surviving at this time, and also included a strip 6m wide across the centre of the inner rampart, and a 3.5m strip all along its top; the already part-eroded area of the entrance to the inner rampart, on the cliff edge on the Broadbench Cove side; and half a dozen small parts of the area between the ramparts (Jefferies 1974, 138, 139, 141, 145). In 1997 the RCHME surveyed the earthworks of the site and immediate surroundings (Fletcher and Probert 1997). Further work followed in 2102 as part of a wider project to enhance visitor experience of the South West Coast Path (Knight and Hegarty 2013, 177). Geophysical survey was undertaken across the fort and over an area extending roughly half way across the former common to its east. Trenches were then excavated at the entrance and its outwork, and on the alleged barrow nearby (**Site 104051**, see Section 4.1), and in the area between the inner and outer ramparts, and at points outside the fort on some of the features indicated by the geophysical survey (Sims et al 2015, 73). The main results of the various investigations are summarised below.

Outer rampart The 1970s trench through the outer rampart was made towards the south end of the surviving stretch of this earthwork, where it was *c*6.5m wide and 1.5m high. The excavator found that its fabric differed from that of the inner rampart, comprising mostly large, angular pieces of sandstone. However, both banks were simply constructed in dump fashion from local materials probably from their respective ditches (Jefferies 1974, 139, 143).

The RCHME recorded features of the rampart which may indicate time depth in its development (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 3, 5). Its line shows two marked changes in angle, one near each end of the surviving length. A low earthwork beyond the ditch of the rampart, running parallel with it, could be remains of a counterscarp bank, and this is more distinct and mound-like towards the west - possibly because of activity related to later cultivation in and around the prehistoric earthworks associated with a southern, secondary gap through the rampart (Fig 10), or conceivably because it relates to an earlier phase of the earthworks marked also by the kink in their line west of the later gap and by traces of a linear work within that. Five raised areas on the rampart may indicate dumping of material onto it.

Fig 10 Gap in the rampart to Embury Parlour; the fort's inner rampart is visible beyond

Outer entrance and associated outwork The rampart has a univallate curving outwork to the north (Fig 11), apparently forming a staggered approach to the fort from an outer entrance further north now lost to the sea (a gap at the south end of the outwork where this would be expected to meet the outer rampart being a later feature).

The RCHME surveyors suggested the outwork may be a later adaptation (Jefferies 1974, 136; Fletcher and Probert 1997, 3, 7). The 2012 investigations found that the outer entrance had revetment and other structural features, and was remodelled in several phases (Sims *et al* 2014, 77-85). Radiocarbon dating of charcoal obtained from buried soil beneath the outwork rampart gave a result calibrated to 360-100 cal BC, indicating that the earthwork was constructed in (or after) the Late Iron Age (*op cit*, 94). The 2012 excavations also revealed evidence for re-furbishing of the outworks, probably associated with provision of a fire-beacon for coastal defence, in medieval times; the outer ditch having been re-cut between the second half of the 11th century and the early 13th century AD (see further Section 4.4).

Fig 11 Outworks of Embury's north east entrance (itself lost to the sea), looking south

Between the ramparts The trenches excavated in the 1970s just inside the outer rampart revealed a few traces of past activity but no clear prehistoric (or other) features. An oval depression in Trench IX towards the south 6.5m long and 4m wide was thought to be a possible deliberately made pond, but no evidence for the date of formation or use of this was found, though it was thought to have filled up 'when the [rampart] bank was still in an unstable state' (Jefferies 1974, 149). The RCHME surveyors found little in this area apart from a poorly defined linear scarp running NNE-SSW across it (Fig 12) which they suggested might be part of a pre-existing field system (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 7), potentially of great interest in view of other evidence for a Bronze Age field system here (Section 4.1). The four trenches (numbered 4-7) dug at intervals across this area in 2012 were found to be lacking in archaeological interest (Sims *et al* 2014, 72, 73).

Fig 12 Embury Parlour from the south, with low earlier bank running east-west across it

Inner rampart This earthwork, now effectively sectioned longitudinally by erosion (Fig 8), was interpreted in 1972-3 as a simple structure, with no revetment or a palisade along the crest, at least where the latter was explored by a 3.5m trench along it (Jefferies 1974, 139, 141). The part excavated did show one post-hole which was dug through the bank material and had unusual characteristics, and may perhaps have been a secondary, more recent structure (see note on this in the context of use of the site for a beacon, in Section 4.4). The entrance through this rampart was thought to have been just north of the length surviving in the 1970s, a mound in front (east) of this on the cliff edge being interpreted as part of an associated barbican-style bank.

Within the inner rampart Post- and stake-holes uncovered in 1972-3 at the rear of the inner bank (i.e. west of or [originally] inside it) were almost certainly the remains of a building, and two hearths and most of the admittedly limited finds of potsherds and stone artefacts came from this area. It was suggested that these features represent occupation of the interior contemporary with construction of the inner rampart, though it was not possible to demonstrate this relationship or recover the plan of any structure/s (Jefferies 1974, 139, 145, 153). Of the 81 small smooth beach pebbles found, 36 were in an area of around 1 square metre on the inside of the inner rampart, at its base, and these were thought to have been sling ammunition for defending the ramparts (*op cit*, 151).

General character of the fort Jefferies notes the difficulty of establishing the original plan of the earthworks, since most of the site may have been lost to coastal erosion before the time of the earliest mapping. However, he points out that in their wide spacing (Fig 10) the ramparts are similar to those of the multivallate forts of the South-West, the outer parts of which are thought to have been used for penning or other management of livestock (Jefferies 1974, 153, 154). The RCHME suggests that the Embury headland may have been large enough to accommodate a large multiple enclosure fort similar to that of Clovelly Dykes on the other, east side of the great protrusion of the coast forming the district of Hartland (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 7-8).

The excavations have yielded little positive evidence to show how the site worked, apart from two spindle-whorls found in the inner part of the fort, indicating pastoral activity (Jefferies 1974, 151). However, the lack of settlement-related artefacts, features or deposits in the sampled areas of the outer enclosure could be explained by its having been used for livestock, and the hollow in it on the south already mentioned, measuring some 6.5m by 4m and 1.5m deep, could have been a pond for watering animals. The pottery from the fort, limited in quantity, is mostly of the South Western Decorated ware of Late Iron Age type (Jefferies 1974, 151; Sims *et al* 2014, 96).

The setting of the fort (See also **Site A36** and Section 4.1 for evidence for an earlier field system by Embury, shaping the landscape inherited by the builders of the fort.) The report of the excavations at Embury in the early 1970s mentions that 'Not far from the entrance to the fort is a spring which supplies one of the several streams which flow into the steep valley….' (Jefferies 1974, 136). The implication is that this could have been a source of water for the fort, though some 70m away. The feature in question (**Site 100393**) is a pond, rather than a spring, as noted in 1997 by the RCHME surveyors who included it in their plan of the fort. It is rounded in plan and is retained by a bank on the downslope side (Fig 13), so is a 'dewpond', made to provide a source of drinking water for livestock (fed by rainwater rather than dew). It may have a clay lining deliberately laid to help retain water, though this is not clear. The age of this dewpond is uncertain; it may date from medieval or post-medieval times when it was close to the mouth of very extensive coastal common grazing grounds; from the later 19th century when this spot was central to the remaining rough common grazing (it is not shown on the OS maps of 1884 and 1904, Figs 53 and 54, but might perhaps have been missed by the OS surveyors); or from the earlier 20th century when the remnant common was improved in several phases. The pond has dried up, though it still serves as a drinking place, having a water bowser beside it possibly supplied by a pipe from the springline below.

Fig 13 Dewpond near Embury, the outer rampart of which can be seen on the skyline

Landscape beyond Embury Beacon

Elsewhere in and around the study area are possible 'rounds' or enclosed, high status farming hamlets of the Iron Age to Romano-British periods. One may be seen west of Mead, in the shape of an oval field (**Site A6**). This was recorded as part of the 1842 survey (Fig 52) as Closy (the name perhaps referring to a very long-established enclosed character which will have stood out particularly when medieval strip fields prevailed around it). The shape and size of the field, together with its location in ancient farmland on the shoulder of a valley, indicate that it may represent a round with its enclosing rampart modified to form the hedge bank (Fig 14). Its primary relationship *vis-a-vis* other landscape features, in particular with the road on its north (**Site B6**), would be consistent with this interpretation. If a round, the site appears relatively undisturbed, apart from on its east side where one of the farmsteads of the hamlet of Mead has developed within it – a feature of interest in its own right, since medieval settlement generally shifted away from such enclosed sites.

Fig 14 Closy field, Mead (centre, grazed by dark Devon cattle), from the south west

The hedge bank of the oval enclosure may be formed from an Iron Age rampart (Site A6). The NT property extends to the west side of this field (to its left in this view).

Part of the potential site of the round's buried external ditch lies in the NT ownership. This is marked by a slight shelf with rushy vegetation in the edge of Garden Gate, the Trust's field adjoining Closy (Fig 15). Garden Gate may also contain remains of prehistoric fields associated with the round, possibly visible as low earthworks (Fig 16).

Fig 15 Likely site of the buried ditch of a prehistoric round, in the margin of the NT land

Fig 16 Field with possible low prehistoric earthworks by probable round, looking west

Another round may have lain on the next ridge to the north of Mead, west of Welcombe, as indicated by the -berry element of the place-name Strawberry Hill (from *burh*, old English 'fort', Gover *et al* 1932, 659). This name is given in the 1842 tithe schedule (Fig 52) for a large steep field at the end of the Welcombe ridge, as well appearing on the 1804 and later surveys as the name of the smallholding on the valley floor below, also known as Strawberry Water. A curve in a field boundary above Strawberry Hill field could mark the north side of an enclosure largely re-absorbed into the surrounding farmland (**Site B12**), but this is only a provisional interpretation.

There is evidence also for routes through the area which may have served to link Embury and other prehistoric settlements. An early route to the south may be represented by a linear feature extending from the fort's outwork (**Site A35**), recorded on the geophysical survey and part included in an excavation trench in 2012 but with no published result (see Sims *et al* 2015, 72, 73), and beyond that by extant ways – by a track part shown on the 1884 OS map forming Fig 53 (part of it would seem to have been diverted by then around an intake from the common) and then by a lane through Knap (**Site A28**), to a ford, now bridged, at Strawberry Water (**Site B13**) and on by the road to the probable round at Mead (**Site A6**; Figs 17, 18). A route running from the coast just north of Embury through the core of South Hole and on to Firebeacon Cross and beyond, noted in the discussion of medieval re-use of Embury for a beacon (**Site A47**; see Section 4.4), is very likely to originate from a prehistoric ridgeway.

Fig 17 View north from west of likely round, along early route to Embury (on skyline)

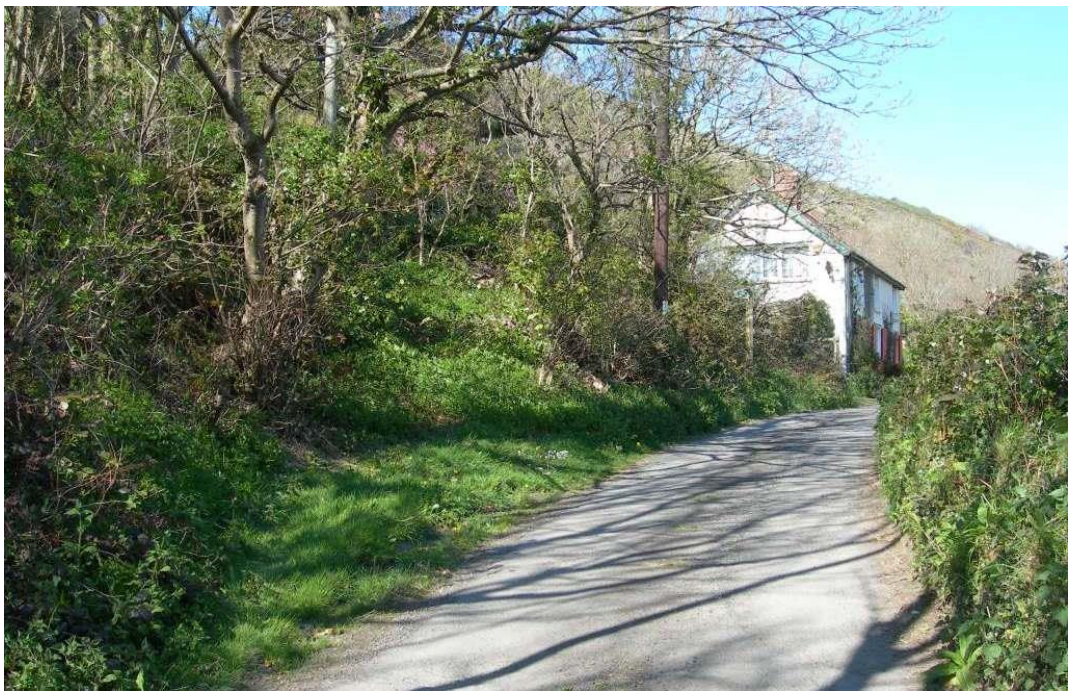

Fig 18 Road branching off part of primary route at Knap still used as footpath further up

4.3 **Early Medieval** (cAD 500-1000)

Patterns of settlement, farming and communication developed from the early medieval period still largely shape the study area and its district, Hartland. The place-name Hartland is Old English 'hart-island estate' (Gover et al 1931, 72; Gelling 1984, 246). This was probably a district-name for the country inland from Hartland Point, rather than originally a settlement-name (Gelling and Cole 2000, 83). Hartland was a great estate, bequeathed by King Alfred in his will of *c*881 to his elder son Edward (Hooke 1994, 104). It was also a hundred (an early administrative unit), and an enormous parish, originally extending over more than 19,000 acres. Estate and parish supported a minster or superior church, that of St Nectan in the hamlet of Stoke, served by a group of clergy living communally, forming a major religious centre in the pre-Norman period, honouring the shrine of the local, pre-Saxon Saint Nectan (Orme 1991 5, 7, 14). An enclosure at South Hole itself has been interpreted as an early Christian cemetery, but the evidence for this is not clear (**Site B22**).

The study area includes parts of two of the five manors within Hartland, Welcombe and South Hole, both established by the time of the Domesday survey, 1086. Another of these manors, Meddon, east of Welcombe and just 6km from South Hole, is said to be a rare example of a manor which the Saxon holder was allowed to retain, though he was dispossessed of Welcombe, which was granted to the Bishop of Coutances (Pearse Chope 1940, 24). With a great number of other lands in England, especially in Devon and Somerset, it formed part of the personal fief given by William I in reward to this Bishop, Geoffrey of Mowbray, who was chief chaplain at the Battle of Hastings and involved in the Conqueror's coronation (Thorn and Thorn 1985b, Ch.3).

The place-names South Hole and Welcombe reflect aspects of the topography of the Trust's property. Welcombe is Old English 'spring-valley' (Gover *et al* 1931, 79), the spring being presumably the holy well associated with the chapel of St Nectan which was to become the parish church in later medieval times (Hoskins 1954, 512). The lower part of the valley, in the Trust's ownership, shows the typical form of a coombe, broad with steep sides and flat bottom. South Hole (like North Hole in the north of the Parish of Hartland) is said to derive its name from a cleft, at the head of a side valley, in which it lies (Gover *et al* 1931, 74); though it seems possible that the term hole was used locally for a sea cove, as perhaps at Sandhole to the north (see Fig 52, top right).

At Domesday, Welcombe had 10 acres of meadow, while South Hole had only 5 (Thorn and Thorn 1985a, 36.3, 3.90). The meadows are likely to have lain on the valley floors, as they did in later times (*cf* Section 4.5); the smaller area of those of South Hole may then reflect the smaller size of its valley. The 10 acres of pasture recorded for each manor probably included coastal rough ground, either side of Welcombe Mouth, including some later recorded as commons, and some later taken in to fields (**Sites A1, A21, A22, A26, 104071, A32, A39**). Domesday Book lists no woodland for South Hole, so it may be that its steep slopes east of the coastal ridge in the study area (now bearing secondary woodland) had been cleared of ancient woodland other than, perhaps, some hazel coppice, and were rough grazing, reckoned in the manor's 10 acres of pasture, though this is only one possible interpretation. South Hole had 'land for 4 ploughs and 1.5 ploughs there', so it had fields in a system of convertible husbandry, where part was cultivated and part was ley, in rotation.

The field system of South Hole survives well, with later extensions and adaptations (**Site 104052**); its Historic Landscape Character (HLC) as developed in the medieval period is discussed in Section 4.4. Its extent, within the NT property, is shown on the site location map, Fig 55. An early part of the system, east of Embury, is identifiable, through analysis of the relative chronology of the several lobes of fields shown by the relationships of boundaries recorded on the historic maps and aerial photographs and part visible on the ground. This core of the medieval farmland may represent the arable recorded for South Hole at Domesday - or part of it, since other strip-derived fields lie around the inland side of the hamlet, beyond the NT property.

4.4 **Medieval** (*c*AD 1,000-1500)

Fire beacon at Embury

The name of this Iron Age fort (**Site 104050**), Hembury or Embury Beacon, suggests it was used (or prepared) for a fire beacon. As the most prominent clifftop on this side of Hartland, the place would be a natural choice for watchers over the sea. It has a clear line of sight to a high hill some 3km inland above the head of a tributary stream of the Welcombe river, called Firebeacon (by a road junction of that name). Analysis of the historic maps indicates a former route, potentially prehistoric in origin (**Site A47**, noted below in relation to South Hole hamlet), linking the two places quite directly, running via Middle Butterbury (now Golden Park) and South Hole. A rental or survey of the Manor of Hartland made c1365 (CRO AR/2/561) refers to 'Fyrbyken (all the tenants of Westfyrbekyn, land Delalagkelond)' in Hartland, and a lease of *c*1541 (32 Hen VIII) includes West Ferebeken and Est Ferebekend (CRO AR/4/2045), both by Firebeacon Cross. Embury and Firebeacon may then have been links in a medieval beacon chain.

If there was a fire pit or brazier here, it may have been positioned on or by the prehistoric ramparts, or within the inner enclosure which may have risen to a summit clear of the ramparts, but which was already truncated by coastal erosion by the time of the 1804 survey and has since been lost to the sea. The RCHME surveyors of the fort note an earlier suggestion by Russell that one of the earthworks at Embury may have been a beacon mound, and point out that 'Whether the term Embury Beacon originally described the headland, a fire Beacon or the earthworks themselves is not known but modern usage refers to the latter' (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 1, 3).

Infrastructure provided to retain the combustible material might be either a bowl-like hollow lined with stone, or a brazier, and other structures might have been required for securing dry fuel, tethering watchers' horses, and the like. The investigations of the early 1970s found that the inner rampart, otherwise of simple dump construction, had one post-hole 6.1m from the north end and 2.4m out from the west section. This had been dug through the bank material, and had a well-preserved post-pipe 25cm in diameter of very loose, grey soil, with packing stones still in position around it, and a slab of sandstone 35cm square with a conical hole chipped in the centre for the post butt (Jefferies 1974, 139, 141). These unusual characteristics may perhaps indicate that it was erected in the historic era, perhaps for a use connected with a beacon.

In the 2012 excavation of part of the south side of the mound east of the fort (**Site 104051**; Fig 6), evidence of burning was found. Charcoal from context 108, described as 'the primary barrow deposit', was 'more abundant and….likely to represent a deliberate dump of spent fuel wood' (analysis by Dana Challinor, Sims et al 2015, 92). This context was not selected for radiocarbon dating and is not mentioned in the discussion of the mound, which notes only a very small amount of burnt material in a different deposit, 114. The mound is possibly a barrow, but not certainly, and in theory spent fuel here might be derived from a beacon pit or brazier nearby, though none has been identified. The geophysical survey shows a possible buried feature south of the mound where a hollow is visible on the ground, but this seems to be linear (part of it appears in the excavation plan as feature 103, with a burnt area 104 beyond it described as probably of recent origin; the section drawing does not extend to these).

While the site of the beacon itself is unknown, and may well have been lost to the sea, an important discovery of the 2012 excavations, likely to relate to it, was that the outworks of the fort, remodelled in several phases, were re-furbished in medieval times. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the primary fill shows that the outer ditch was re-cut between the second half of the 11th century and the early 13th century, as noted by Michael Allen and Paul Rainbird (Sims *et al* 2014, 94, 98, 99). This may indicate that Embury was used to protect and shelter watchers and beacon-keepers, possibly in the earlier 13th century when, as described by Rainbird, there is documentary evidence for fortification at Hartland and for defence of North Devon ports against incursions of pirates from Lundy Island (shown on the location map, Fig 1). Lundy is clearly visible on the horizon from here (atmospheric conditions permitting!).

South Hole hamlet

Of the four mixed-farming settlements adjoining the study area – South Hole, Knap, Mead, and West Mead - the hamlet of South Hole on the north east (**Site B21**) was the most important historically, being the centre of a Domesday Manor (Section 4.3). A medieval settlement further to the north east, Hardisworthy, is recorded as a separate manor in 1301, but is said to have been formerly part of the Manor of South Hole (Pearse Chope 1940, 44). Census returns of the mid-19th century record an abandoned dwelling in South Hole as well as six households, and maps made around that time show small enclosures and irregularities in field boundaries, possible sites of abandoned farmsteads indicating a shrunken settlement (Figs 52, 53).

Early roads, now part shifted or discontinued as routes, run through South Hole, one east-west (**Site A47**; Fig 19) and one north-south (**Site B24**). The east-west route may have originated from a prehistoric ridgeway serving Embury, respecting the cleft of South Hole, and passing to the east over the high moor at Bursdon, marked by barrows. It is likely that the core of the hamlet lay where these routes crossed, at an open space irregular in plan with a longer axis extending east-west, visible on the 1844 survey (Fig 52), and interpreted as a communal green or 'townplace'.

Remains of a manor house on the north west edge of the hamlet (**Site 100386**) are recorded on the 1884 map (Fig 53). Both this map and the 1844 survey, Figure 52, show the farmstead there apparently taken out of strip fields, and served by a lane to the north which also appears secondary (**Site B25**), so if a mansion, it may have been late- rather than early medieval in origin (see Fig 31).

Fig 19 View from old commons by Embury along an overgrown early route to the east

A chapel at South Hole was among five in Hartland parish (referred to in earlier documentation as a group but not numbered or named) licensed in 1400 (Pearse Chope 1940, 81). According to Pearse Chope these chapels were Holy Cross at South Hole, St Wenn at Cheristow, St James at Milford, St Mary at Firebeacon, and St Martin at Meddon, though other sources state that the dedication at South Hole was to St Heligan. The likely site of the chapel, by the townplace, is indicated by a rock-cut platform and by the names of surrounding fields (**Site 100387**; see also **Site B22** and Section 4.3 for a suggested early Christian cemetery).

Records survive of a few of the people supported by the fields and commons of medieval South Hole. A Robert de Laholle, of South or North Hole, witnessed a document relating to Hartland Manor, probably in the 13th century (CRO AR/1/593). John Moreman, born in South Hole *c*1490 and educated at Oxford, was prominent in Church affairs in Cornwall (Pearse Chope 1940, 188-189). He was Prebendary of Glasney College, Penryn, and from 1529 was Vicar of Menheniot, near Liskeard, where he established a famous school. He was imprisoned under Edward VI - the Cornish rebels of 1549 demanded his re-instatement - before being freed by Queen Mary.

South Hole fields and commons

The medieval field system of South Hole covers the eastern, inland side of the ridge below Embury, forming the north east part of the study area (**Site 104052**). Figure 55 shows its extent within the NT property; medieval fields associated with the hamlet also lie north and east of the NT land. The system is now defined by hedge banks, medieval or later, with cropmarks and low earthworks of former boundaries, some recorded on the 1844 map (Fig 52), and some on aerial photographs or the NMP plot. It is derived from 'open' or sub-divided fields, where dispersed holdings of strips lying in large stock-proof fields - the strips separated only by plough-sculpting and perhaps some boundstones - were worked from different farms in South Hole. The fields here, having been laid out on the edge of a great coastal common, were extended into this within the medieval period, forming temporary outfields (**Site A33**) as well as lasting intakes.

The medieval strips share a continuous boundary bank against the commons (and outfields) on the west, and inside this line, respect other boundaries defining 'cropping units', the large sack-shaped, stock-proof, sub-divided fields. The junctions of these units show chronological relationships between them, indicating that the system was extended from the hamlet in several phases within the medieval period. Other hedge banks were built on some of the formerly open strip boundaries when the system was adapted in late- or post-medieval times. Dog-legs in boundaries mark some strip ends otherwise lost from view. Field boundaries running along the contours have 'lynchets', waves and troughs in the ground formed by the accumulation and ploughing away of soil above and below the boundary, massive on the steeper slopes (Figs 20, 21, 38). Secondary strips taken out of commons on the very steep slope of King's Hill on the east run along the contour, forming 'strip lynchets' (**Site A42**; Fig 47).

Fig 20 Lynchet below Hawkwell; post-medieval pottery was found here, at Site A38

Within the NT part of the field system, West of Parkvale, several strip-derived fields were named Hawkwell, as noted in the 1844 tithe apportionment schedule. This naming very probably refers to a nearby well or spring visible on the ground, in the far, south east, corner of the earliest part of the field system (**Site A37**; Fig 21). A field beside the NT land on the north is of interest both for its name listed in the 1844 schedule, Harp, it being triangular in plan like a medieval harp (see Fig 22); and for its sub-division into holdings unmarked by built boundaries, also recorded in the apportionment of 1844 (when quarters of it were in different ownership) but possibly medieval in origin. The NT field east of Harp (containing Site 48) has good evidence from the NMP for division into open strips some 20m wide, though these have been amalgamated.

Fig 21 Hawkwell, the nearest spring to Embury, possibly used from prehistoric times

The bump in the centre of the skyline is a broad lynchet, marking a medieval boundary

The lanes running through the fields west of South Hole gave access to the strips, and beyond them to the coastal rough ground, with its common grazing and, perhaps, access to the beach north of Embury for fish and for sea-sand to enrich the fields (**Sites 100392, A47, A48**; Fig 22). A primary east-west route linking the heart of the hamlet and the commons (**Site A47**) may have formerly opened to the commons in a broad funnel used in herding stock, later enclosed to form the Trust's oval field, Higher Dean Head, leaving a hedged passage and lesser funnel on its north side. The route may once have extended east to Firebeacon and beyond (see above in this Section).

South Hole Common was huge, probably extending along the coast from Sandhole north of Embury to Welcombe Mouth, and down the steep slopes east of the Embury ridge, before parts of it were taken in to farm (**Sites A1, A21, A22, A26, 104071, A32, A39**). The great area remaining open in the early 19th century is shown schematically as rough ground on the 1804 OS drawing. The tithe survey of 1844 (Fig 52) records both common ground, and areas enclosed from this but still bearing its name. Part of the common, on the sharp north side of Welcombe Mouth, still persists as heathland, relatively open (Fig 41); while most of the common on the coastal plateau has been ploughed (before conversion to pasture in the Trust's ownership) and that on other steep slopes and clifftops is disused and cloaked in scrub (Figs 33, 39, 43, 44).

Fig 22 Mouth of commons by Embury from the north, with lane from South Hole Farm

The lane, visible here as a double hedgerow left of centre (100392), joins the early east-west route above it (A47), at what may have been a broad funnel opening to the common later enclosed to form the oval field visible beyond the junction of lanes. Note also Harp, the triangular field appearing in the photo by the sea to the right of Embury.

Besides the arrangements of access from the farms for rough grazing, already mentioned, there are indications of another vital use of the commons, as a source of fuel. Names or classifications of areas on the valley sides, recorded in the tithe survey schedule, refer to gorse, and to brakes, possibly of hazel which can be seen here in places and which may have been coppiced in the past (**Sites A26, A39**; Figs 23, 48).

Fig 23 Hazel east of Loosehill field, on the steep common south of South Hole

Other medieval settlements in the area

Knap This settlement is flanked by National Trust land including the fields and rough grazing on clifftops and valley sides which supported it (**Site B15**). It takes its Saxon name from the 'knap' or hill on its west, a swelling in the south end of the Embury ridge. It originates from a medieval hamlet, less well-documented than South Hole, probably because it is later in origin, lower in status, and much more marginal, lying in a low, deep, narrow cleft. Although the settlement is not directly named in medieval documentation, local men recorded in medieval times, Thomas ate Knappe (1330) and Reginald de la Mede (1333), were probably members of families of Knap and Mead respectively (Gover *et al* 1931, 79-80). Abandoned strip-like fields on steep slopes west of Knap, along with features indicative of derivation from strips in its existing fields nearer the coast (reverse-J curves, and dog legs in boundaries), show that this land was farmed co-operatively, from more than one farmstead, so point to a medieval hamlet (**Site A29**; Fig 24).

Fig 24 Sunlight catches a low bank, probably a medieval boundary, at Site A29, Knap

The two separate sites of buildings at Knap Farm today - one on the edge of the Welcombe valley floor (**Site B16**), and the other, now known as Knap Shippen, by one of the springs around the head of a steep little side valley adjoining – were separate holdings in the mid-19th century (Section 4.6). There are indications that Knap Shippen is post-medieval in origin, so the medieval settlement may have included other farmhouse/s at Knap, now lost. (The tithe survey of 1844, Fig 52, shows several similar small irregular enclosures at Knap, but it is not clear whether these represent former farmsteads or simply garden type plots on the valley floor.)

Mead As noted above, a record of the 14th century points to a local man who took his name from Mead, and the 1844 survey (Fig 52) shows this was a medieval hamlet with arrangements of small curvy farmstead enclosures, a surrounding strip-derived field system, and radiating early roads to Welcombe churchtown, valley meadows and sea coves (**Site B4**). One farmstead with associated small plots was taken out of the large oval enclosure thought to be a prehistoric settlement site (**Site A6**). The National Trust's fields on the coastal slopes on the south side of Welcombe Mouth appear to have been shaped from the outer medieval strip fields of Mead, altered to form part of the holding of West Mead (Fig 30), probably post-medieval in origin (Section 4.5).

Welcombe The manor of Welcombe was given for a yearly rent to John de la Herne *c*1240 (CRO AR/1/103). John de la Herne, residing at Laherne on the north coast of mid-Cornwall, would have let Welcombe to a sub-tenant or left its management to an heir. It was recorded as a free tenement of the manor of Connerton in west Cornwall, 65 miles away, in 1463 (Fox and Padel 2000, lx, lxii, lxiii). A chapel at Welcombe is documented in 1189 when Richard I confirmed earlier grants to the abbot and canons of Hartland including those of chapels in the parish, among them 'the chapel of Welcum with all its appurtenances' (Pearse Chope 1940, 57). Hartland Abbey, built in the valley below the Minster in 1157 and consecrated in 1160 for a community of Augustinian canons, was supported by tithes from its very extensive parish, including Welcombe, as well as by the rents of its own lands (Holdsworth 1999, 211).

In 1508, Welcombe became a separate parish, the Abbot of Hartland, Richard Lorymer, agreeing to provide a priest and a curate there (Pearse Chope 1940, 24, 89). (The Abbey was only dissolved in the mid-16th century; Lysons and Lysons 1822, clxxxiii.) The north boundary of the parish passes through the National Trust property above Welcombe Mouth as it runs along the floor of the great coombe, which presented a natural boundary between estates and administrative areas, respected by all the medieval arable lands. A boundstone or possibly a series of these (no remains are known at present) appear on the 1884 OS map on the north side of the water, just above the falls at Welcombe Mouth (**Site 100390**; see Figs 34, 53).

During this period, Welcombe Mouth will have been seasonally busy with people and pack animals from the surrounding farmsteads. On the north side of the waterfall are remains of a trackway above the beach, truncated by coastal erosion, very likely to represent a medieval route to the shore from Knap, pre-dating the present one to its south (Figs 25, 26, 34).

Fig 25 Part of an early track cut and/or worn into the northern cliff, Welcombe Mouth

The earthwork has been truncated by erosion of the cliff beyond this point; see Fig 26

Fig 26 Beach at the Mouth, with a track, cut off by the sea, on a shelf in the cliff (left)

In medieval times the track will have sloped on down to the shore on the far left. It served to carry sand dug from between the rocks and loaded on pack animals, to enrich farmland with its lime, and probably also to haul fishing boats or catches to safety.

At present no documentary evidence for medieval settlement at Welcombe Mouth is known, but archive research is desirable to pursue this possibility. The sheltered and level or gently sloping areas on and around the ancient, natural river terraces may have been occupied by fishermen, perhaps on a temporary or seasonal basis. A potential earthwork respected by a field boundary above the head of the waterfall (Fig 29), if a building platform, could perhaps be later medieval, though it seems more likely to date from the post-medieval period when the present access lane running down the valley to the sea was made (Section 4.5).

Another feature near the top of the falls at the Mouth is significant for showing how people adapted from medieval times to the natural sculpting of this area. Running down the river-cut scarp on the south side of the large platform now used for parking is a boundary bank considered to be medieval in origin, cut above the scarp by the sanding lane now serving the car park. A kink near, but above, the base of this built bank may mark the point where it stopped on the watercourse of medieval times (before being extended on an altered line as the river shifted north); and so may represent part of the boundary of the young parish of Welcombe of those times (Fig 5). The potential for early boundary markers may then extend beyond the site of the boundstone/s mapped in 1884, noted above.

4.5 **Post-medieval** (*c*1500-19th century)

A track, fairly straight and broad (though bumpy!) runs down the valley bottom to the coast at Welcombe Mouth from the tarmac road west of Strawberry Water (**Site A5**). This track is in use today, leading to the river terraces above the beach where there is a car park, and serving as the main vehicular access to this part of the coastline and to the National Trust property (Fig 27). It is depicted on the OS drawing of 1804, and may be dated to the post-medieval period, since it bisects fields considered to be medieval in origin, adapted to it and later converted to rough grazing, now part covered in scrub (**Sites A17, A18**).

A dramatic incline below the parking area, cut aslant the cliff, shows how the route was originally made to access the shore (**Site A8**). This steep seaward end of the route, now used only as a footpath, is cut through the deep peri-glacial head deposit filling the valley bottom, and into the slaty bedrock (Figs 28, 42). It has a regular gradient and width, allowing it to be used by pack-animals to carry or haul heavy material from the beach.

Analogy with similar coastal roads elsewhere in the south west indicates that this is a sanding way, used in transporting sea-sand and seaweed inland to enrich the fields. There is also specific evidence, in the form of several field-names, for the use of this particular route for sanding. One of the fields cut by the lane (visible on the slope above it in the rear ground of the photo, Fig 27) is named Sand Park, probably a reference to the passage of sand, or to use of part of the field for temporary storage of sand beside the route (**Site A19**). Further inland, one of the farmsteads in the hamlet of Mead had a small enclosure by the road with which the Mouth track connects, named Sand Wharf, and very likely to have been used to pile sand ready for that farm's use (**Site B5**). The incline and lane from the Mouth will have been regularly filled with droves of donkeys or ponies laden with sand heading for such sites in the surroundings.

Fig 27 Sanding way running inland from Welcombe Mouth, through earlier fields

The track skirts a deep river terrace (left), cutting a hollow above it (foreground, right).

Fig 28 Sanding way rising from the Mouth, with possible shallow steps for pack animals

A possible building platform across the stream (**Site A12**) may be associated with exploitation of the resources of the beach in this period, or earlier (Fig 29).

Fig 29 Possible building platform on a river terrace at the Mouth (centre), looking north

The coast path runs past the seaward end of the feature (foreground). A boundary of medieval origin on its north west side appears to respect the site, being straight here, and sinuous beyond it. However the boundary has been rebuilt in post-medieval style.

Further up the Welcombe valley, the small settlement of Strawberry Hill, or Strawberry Water, is marked on the 1804 OS drawing (**Site B11**). The single historic farmstead here was fitted into the coombe under the lower edge of the medieval strip-derived arable fields, perhaps in the century or so prior to that OS survey. Its land was solely meadows on the valley floor, so it must have been a specialised smallholding, such as a dairy. A contrasting farmstead is that of West Mead (**Site B1**), again plotted in 1804 (and mapped in detail, and labelled with its name, on the 1844 tithe survey – see Fig 52). This was set among the earlier fields of Mead, and probably represents late- or post-medieval expansion or dispersal of mixed farming from that hamlet (Fig 30).

Fig 30 Earthworks at the site of West Mead (centre) from the NT property to the north

The medieval hamlet of South Hole, lying close to the northern end of the National Trust property and linked with it by historic routeways to the hamlet's fields and commons (**Site B21**), continued to change and develop in post-medieval times, as indicated by the historic mapping consulted. The present assessment indicates potential for study of the layout of the settlement, its buildings, and its documentation in the Hartland Abbey and other records.

South Hole was among the places named in an inquisition of 1591 to 1594 into the possessions of a condemned man, Sir John Perrott (TNA E178/675). Documents associated with the seating plan of the early 17th century for the church in Hartland (as shown by a transcription by Stephen Hobbs, available on the Genuki website for Hartland) record seven households at South Hole with rights to seats there. The South Hole residents included one gentleman, James Prust; the others were mostly occupied in farming. It is possible that James Prust was one of the descendants of the old gentry family of that name, originally from Gorven, still resident in the Hartland area in 1822 (Lysons and Lysons, clxxx).

Perrott, or Prust, or both, may well have been associated with the 'Manor House (Remains of)' recorded on the 1884 OS map at South Hole Farm on the north of the hamlet (**Site 100386,** Figs 31, 53). The relationships between this farmstead and surrounding landscape features indicate it may be late- or post-medieval in origin (see comment on this in the discussion of South Hole hamlet in Section 4.4).

Fig 31 South Hole Farm from the west; the road seen above it cuts strip-derived fields

The NT field in the foreground is the site of an enclosure, A49, south of the farmstead

Expansion of the fields of South Hole onto the commons on the coastal plateau seems to have been limited in this period, but enclosures now covered with secondary woodland, extending over a substantial area on the steep slopes south of the hamlet, are of post-medieval type (**Sites A43, A44**; Fig 32). One of these was an orchard, at least by the time of the tithe survey of 1844; it may have supplied apples for making cider at South Hole, though no cider mill site is recorded there at present.

Fig 32 North boundary of field named Plot, west of the South Hole to Watergap road

This is a subdivision of an intake, probably post-medieval, on steep common ground.

4.6 Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Much of the formerly open seaward side of the long, high coastal ridge, or hill truncated by the sea, which makes up the greater part of the National Trust property, was fenced and farmed in the 19th century. By the time of the tithe survey, 1844, fields south of centre of the NT holding, probably derived from medieval cropping units but reverted to rough ground, were classed as 'arable and coarse pasture'. In the period between the mapping of 1844 and that of 1884, a broad belt north of centre was taken out of the commons (**Site 104071**), and by the time of the map revision of 1904 a third of the ground north of that, east of Embury Beacon, was improved (compare Figs 52, 53, 54).

The Embury fort itself (**Site 104050**) has a secondary gap most likely to be for farm access through the outer rampart towards its south west end (Fig 10), and a possible plough headland inside this rampart, indicating that its outer enclosure has been ploughed in the past (Fletcher and Probert 1997, 3, 5). The name recorded for this enclosure on the 1884 map, Embury Parlour, might have been given to it because of a need to refer to the place for the purposes of such re-use. The results of the geophysical survey of 2012 however show no signs of cultivation (or other features apart from an earlier earthwork mentioned in Section 4.1) in that area, so perhaps the 'parlour' was merely broken from scrub and grazed.

Welcombe Mouth remained relatively unchanged. No new buildings were made here, and the possible building represented by a platform by the head of the waterfall, if it *was* a structure, was abandoned by this time, as it is not shown on the historic maps. The main development was a substantial quarry (**Site A2**) opened on the clifftops to the south (Fig 33). The track to the beach (**Site A5**) probably continued to be used mostly for herding animals to and from the adjoining rough pasture, and for carrying sand on the backs of donkeys or ponies, as in post-medieval times.

Fig 33 Clifftop quarry south of Welcombe Mouth (foreground), under dense low scrub

Note also the later coastal path skirting this and running on across Welcombe Mouth.

Rights to the wreckage of ships and cargoes found off Hartland and South Hole continued to be controlled or contested, as shown for example by claims of 1856-1860 (TNA BT 297/92). Two boilers at Knaps Longpeak (**Site B9**) are from a Norwegian freighter, the Sjofna, run aground in fog in November 1944 and part salvaged and broken up for scrap at Welcombe Mouth; rescuers had managed to bring ashore the whole crew of captain, nine seamen, two dogs and a ship's cat, the cat rather scorched by one of the rockets fired to carry a line on board (Pastscape, 766924).

By the mid-19th century this coast began to be more widely appreciated for its dramatic scenery (Fig 34). The Rev Hawker, Vicar of Morwenstow across the border in Cornwall from 1834 to 1875, was also curate at Welcombe for 30 years from 1851, and was a prolific poet and lover of the coast, building a hut on the cliffs of Morwenstow for contemplation (Hutton 2004). An early guidebook to the region described the Hartland district as having a coast both little visited and thinly inhabited, yet featuring many beautiful scenes, including 'the valley and mouth of Welcombe' among these (Anon 1859,152).

Fig 34 Waterfall at Welcombe Mouth, with boundary bank and boundstone site above it

Note also the early way to the shore A15 (left, centre ground); possible post-medieval enclosures A13 and A14 (centre), and building platform A12 (right of the boundary)

Before the end of the century particular walks around this area were established, featuring Embury Beacon 'a noble cliff of natural masonry, crowned by the remains of an earthwork, with well-defined banks and ditches. From the Beacon we may follow a track at first near the cliff and then down to Knap, a house on the verge of the thorn-decked valley of Welcombe – church and village high up on the opposite side. It is a plunge into the valley, down which flows a good-sized brook, over which there is a bridge almost under Knap' (Ward 1897, 75).

A few improvements were made to roads. At Strawberry Water, the ancient ford was superseded by a bridge (**Site B13**; Fig 35) around 1875 when the necessary land was offered to the Highway Board (NDRO 2414 A-2/Z 126). At Knap a hairpin bend at the mouth of the side valley was avoided, by carrying a new roadway across this mouth on a causeway over the floor of the main coombe (the new road is to the right in Fig 18; the old road is **Site B17**). These works may have helped stimulate the building of the nearby villa, The Hermitage (**Site B7**; Fig 36), designed in 1891 by Joseph Yeardye, an architect based in Ilfracombe, for the Rev Bromley (NDRO B-6/35/1-4). Further development was probably deterred by the great distance from the nearest large town.

Fig 35 Bridge of the later 19th century spanning the ancient ford at Strawberry Water

Fig 36 The Hermitage, an isolated villa of 1891 spectacularly sited in lower Welcombe

Note a possible linear feature (centre rear ground, left of the main spread of flowering gorse) on the north side of the valley, one of the areas made inaccessible by scrub.

The tithe schedule and census returns, combined with the detailed tithe and OS surveys, provide details of how the medieval farming landscape developed in the 19th century. The 1841 census (as transcribed by Kathy Miller) records this western part of Welcombe parish as having a miller at West Mill (south of the study area); and four farms, two cottages (occupied by the families of a farm labourer, and of a shoemaker), and one household with independent income (where lodgers appear listed but crossed out) at Mead, just outside the study area; and a single farming family at Strawberry Water. The Welcombe census for 1871 gives acreages for the farm holdings here, varying from just 4 acres at Strawberry Water to 30, 50, 60, and 150 acres at Mead.

The general pattern of settlement in western Welcombe parish remained similar between 1841 and 1871, though there were some significant changes, including the establishment of the Welcombe Hotel, where a gardener and his wife were in residence. The Hartland Parish census returns for both 1841 and 1871 list two farmworkers' households at Knap, one at Watergap, and six households at South Hole – one supported by a farm of 93 acres, the others by farm labour. South Hole also had an uninhabited house, and an Independent Chapel, in 1841 and 1871.

The greatest changes in the study area in the 20th century, apart from the continuing coastal erosion most striking at Embury Beacon, have been those relating to the use of the land and its vegetation cover. On the one hand, all of the undulating back and gentler upper eastern sides of the long ridge below Embury, formerly common (partly improved in several phases in the 19th century) and ancient farmland, was ploughed, before being converted to permanent pasture. As a result, the contrast in HLC between medieval farmland and coastal rough ground was blurred, since large parts of each now had similar vegetation and land-use, and within the strip-derived field system, the low strip boundaries and massive contour lynchets, apart from those maintained to form the modern field boundary banks, were smoothed over (Figs 37, 38). On the other hand, the cliffs became covered in dense thorny scrub, due to the abandonment of the traditional grazing there; and a succession of scrub and self-sown trees spread along the steeper inland sides of the Embury ridge, for the same reason (Figs 39, 43, 44).

Fig 37 Plough-smoothed former common and boundary by the outer rampart of Embury

The very low boundary, extending from the foreground on the left of the photo to the fence in front of the flowering gorse on the fort's rampart, may be an earlier, modern fence line; the 1904 map shows progressive improvement of this former rough ground.

Fig 38 Smoothed medieval field, Higher Hawkwell, east of the common below Embury

A lynchet on the east side of Higher Hawkwell, modified by amalgamation of this field and that below it, and by later ploughing, runs through the centre of this view, from the foreground to the far hedge, against which its great width can be seen in profile.

Fig 39 Successional growth, Welcombe (by the Knap valley, centre, hidden by scrub)

Gorse has colonised the shoulder of the ridge where the 1904 map shows improvement of rough ground, enclosed from the commons in the mid-19th century; while thorny scrub followed by secondary woodland has spread through common and coppice below

The place was also been shaped in the 20th century to fit the needs of its continuing role as a resource for people exploring the spectacular and tranquil coastline. A continuous route over the clifftops was established as part of the long-distance south-west coastal footpath (**Sites A4, A30**), and stepping stones (**Site A11**) were provided by the beach at Welcombe, busy with visitors in summer (Figs 33, 40).

Fig 40 Stepping stones on the long-distance coastal footpath by Welcombe Mouth falls

5 Summary Statement of Significance

This coast was appreciated in Victorian times for its picturesque topography, the clifftop ridge rising to a summit cut by the sea, and the deep coombe with a waterfall at its mouth above a wide beach ridged with rocks. The long-distance coast path used by many visitors is a marker of the wider popularisation of this scenery in the 20th century, its route connecting and absorbing parts of others made earlier to link farming settlements to the resources of the coast. The 2015 assessment of the property shows that although modified in the last century by extensive ploughing on the ridge and by scrub cloaking of the steeper slopes, this is also a legible and coherent historic landscape, showing its use and change by people from prehistoric times onwards.

Embury Beacon on the north is a landmark of the Hartland coast, its earthworks standing on the brink of the area's highest and sheerest cliff. Recent studies made in response to its continuing erosion indicate that this is a part, potentially only a third or so, of a Late Iron Age fort, with two widely spaced ramparts possibly used in corralling livestock between them, the outer one possibly wholly enclosing the inner though not fully concentric, and outworks remodelled several times. There are indications of several contemporary enclosures in the area, including a probable well-preserved round at Mead, part overlapped by the south east edge of the property. Routes still partly extant today may have linked these settlements and longer ridgeways; that south of Embury, crossing the coombe at Strawberry Water, has particular interest for the Trust, running through its former coastal commons, linking Embury and the round at Mead.

Embury may also be significant as a focus of many phases of activity over three millennia. Features under the outer rampart, interpreted by the excavators as ditches intersected by it, could indicate the fort stood in Bronze Age fields part overlain by the medieval strips of South Hole. Concentrated trampling by animals pre-dating the outer rampart may suggest that the fort inherited a function connected with mustering livestock. A nearby mound, if a Bronze Age barrow, might mark some territorial and spiritual significance of this ground high above the sea, inherited by the fort (the origin of the mound is not certain). Medieval re-use of the fort's outworks indicates renewed significance, related to the beacon implied by the place-name; other names point to the site of the next beacon, 3 km inland. Embury has potential to display these past changes, with a scarp between the ramparts attributable to the pre-existing fields, and with views to the medieval pirates' nest of Lundy Island and to the beacon hill inland.

The study area in general is shaped by medieval settlement, farming and communications. Strip-derived fields, with common land on the clifftops and steeper valley sides, are linked by lanes and tracks to their associated adjoining hamlets - South Hole, a Domesday manor; Mead, possibly developed from the round there; and Knap by the coastal ridge, probably a later settlement. Strips survive well as lynchets on the steep eastern slopes, and the pattern of the South Hole field system as a whole has time depth, showing expansion in lobes laid out on the common.

The early coastal common, with cropmark traces of outfield strips, is largely improved, or abandoned to scrub. However it can be sensed, particularly near Embury where the shared boundary of the core fields forms a strong line against it, and where the mouth of the access from South Hole is funnel-shaped for driving and penning stock. It remains largely open, and some heath lingers near the beach due to exposure and scrub fires. Earthworks of former boundaries in the improved area mark phases in its enclosure. Part of the common on the eastern slopes has traces of coppicing and quarrying, which though more recent, indicate how these areas were used from medieval times as sources of fuel and building materials as well as rough pasture.

Other post-medieval sites showing traditional land management include an orchard and a dewpond. The track to Welcombe Mouth is a sanding way, used to haul sand to improve farmland, apparently replacing a route eroded by the sea. A few enclosures and a potential building platform nearby may represent further adaptation for activities on the shore, perhaps seasonal only; by the 19th century the beach was exploited from the farmsteads inland, the remote character that distinguishes it today prevailing.

6 Management Recommendations

Note that details of current and proposed management are given for the individual archaeological or landscape features and areas in the gazetteer of NT sites, Appendix A.

6.1 Summary of current management

The undulating elevated ground in the centre and north of the study area, on the top and upper east side of the Embury ridge - formerly rough common ground on the west, and fields cultivated in a ley system on the east – is grass pasture, improved in the 20th century. The fields on the south just inland from Welcombe Mouth are rough grazing. The remaining parts of the property are mostly overgrown with scrub or trees. Some limited cutting of scrub and scattered planting of trees has taken place recently on the overgrown steep east-facing slopes south of South Hole, where there are also some large oaks and other mature trees.

The scrub and woodland areas are effectively inaccessible in many places due to dense thorn trees or brambles, though there are extensive spreads of bluebell and other woodland floor plants on the slopes below South Hole. At Welcombe Mouth, exposure, wear, and cutting by the Trust restricts the invasion of scrub, so that the ancient river terraces above the beach remain grassy. Accidental fires occasionally burn off scrub nearby, leading to re-colonisation by low heath and flowers (Figs 5, 29, 33, 34, 41).

Fig 41 Violets in burnt area at the seaward end of the south facing side of Welcombe

Restoration of low heath through grazing rather than accidental fires would be ideal.

In addition to the long-distance coastal path, there are rights of way for walkers from the Mouth to a modern footbridge at Strawberry Water (Fig 46), and from Knap to the clifftops via Knap Shippen. A permissive track, near old routes now part disused, joins the clifftops by Embury to the hamlet of South Hole. Another track runs north from the footpath at Knap on part of a longer early route across the former open commons. Vehicle access to the coast is provided within the property by a stony lane down the lower Welcombe Valley to the parking area at the Mouth, from which the beach is reached on foot by the base of the lane, a historic sanding way (Figs 27, 28, 33, 42).

6.2 Management principles

The main, general management issues and opportunities identified through the assessment, and the principles applied in developing proposals to address them, are outlined below.

6.2.1 Coastal erosion

Archaeological recording carried out to date has focussed on the prehistoric fort of Embury Beacon, a Scheduled Monument of National Importance (**Site 104050**), at high risk from active, rapid coastal erosion. A continuing programme of archaeological investigation and recording is desirable to respond to the damage at this site.

In addition to this, the present assessment shows potential for further analysis and presentation of the setting and context of the Embury fort and its past uses and change through deep time. This could contribute to public appreciation and enjoyment of the site, and help to mitigate, as far as possible, the effects of the erosion damage which will render its earthworks and immediate setting progressively less legible.

The assessment also shows that other significant sites, beyond the Embury earthworks, are at high risk from on-going coastal erosion. The medieval or post-medieval sanding ways at Welcombe Mouth, one of which still provides access to the beach, would similarly benefit from recording and interpretation to visitors (Figs 28, 42).

Fig 42 Vulnerable incline of sanding way to Welcombe Mouth near its end on the beach

The several repairs show how the track is undermined by the sea, while the exposed surface and profile of the periglacial head above indicates that this is also vulnerable to erosion. A worked flint was found on the upper side of the head of this track (A9).

6.2.2 Long-term vegetation change

Like other land in exposed, coastal or very steep areas elsewhere in the region, the property is undergoing profound change to its historic environment as a result of the withdrawal in the 20th century of traditional grazing and fuel gathering. At Welcombe a succession of bramble and bracken, woody scrub, and willow and sycamore woodland is invading former rough grassland and heath, generally progressing seaward and upward along the precipitous valley sides; while the steep and broken coastal slopes are increasingly obscured by dense low thorn trees (Figs 43, 44).

Fig 43 Welcombe from Knap Shippen, showing invasive scrub on valley sides and floor

Fig 44 Welcombe Mouth from the north, with self-sown trees succeeding thorny scrub

Besides the grassy area surviving by the beach at Welcombe Mouth, noted above (Section 6.1), there is other significant variation in this pattern of vegetation change, in the tributary stream valley below South Hole, east of the Embury ridge. The steep slopes here had some coppice and orchard in the 19th century, and may have long supported hazel as well as furze (gorse) forming part of the commons (Figs 23, 48).

The principle proposed in managing the long-term vegetation change is that grazing, at appropriate stocking rates to protect earthworks and any fragile ecological resource, is generally desirable. Grazing is a sustainable way to maintain or restore the traditional open (as opposed to wooded) aspect of most of the area, a distinctive element of its past Historic Landscape Character (HLC), and to protect sites from woody roots or bracken rhizomes and keep them legible. The suggested application of this principle is varied to take account of the known variation in historic land-use, and also practical considerations such as compatibility with intense visitor activity or cliff accessibility.

6.2.3 Visitor levels

Welcombe Mouth is particularly well-visited, as indicated by overflow of the parking area at the time of fieldwork in April. This brings great opportunities to present the historic environment to visitors. It also results in considerable wear to the turfy low clifftops, waterfall, and river pool areas around the car park and the coastal footpath with its stepping stones, and a risk of more immediate damage, notably camp fires which may burn through turf or even spread out of control (Fig 45).

Fig 45 Eroded coast path by the Mouth, running in front of the possible enclosure A14

A pale patch of ash, just visible in the middle ground, left of the centre of the photo, marks one of several picnic fire sites here on the grassy river terraces by the waterfall.

At the same time, inland areas of the property, with their own historic interest, are less visited than the coastline (Fig 46). Some parts are accessible via public footpaths or permissive paths established by the Trust, while others are overgrown by scrub.

The assessment indicates potential to extend both access to, and appreciation of, the historic landscape and features of the place, and its development from prehistoric times, in order to promote exploration and care of it - as well as showing the need to continue and develop monitoring and ground management.

Fig 46 Path following the north west side of the floor of Welcombe, by The Hermitage

Here the path passes historic pastures characteristic of the coombe floor, with old river bends or water-meadow channels now grassed over; to seaward, meadows like these are obscured by the 20th century retreat of farming and scrub growth on the coast.

6.3 Overview of management proposals

6.3.1 Control scrub growth

- **Maintain existing permanent pasture** The existing use of the coastal plateau for pasture is highly beneficial, maintaining its long-established open character, and preserving low earthworks of strip fields, outfields and later enclosures. The ploughing of this area in the 20th century, when the common was heathy and may well have featured earthworks varying from little pits for stone to prehistoric barrows, cannot be reversed, but the plough-smoothed remains will be well preserved under carefully managed permanent pasture. The historic boundary between commons and fields could be marked by a path, and both could be presented in a guide to the development of the area (Section 6.3.4). Any surviving traditional gateway features within the field system should be carefully preserved, in use if possible, to contribute to a sense of the age of the fields - none were found on the walkover but some might survive, such as blocked gateways with local stone posts still *in situ*, or displaced wrought-iron gates. (*Sites A22, 104071 [part], A32 [part], A33, 104051, A35, A36, 104052*).
- **Re-introduce grazing or increase stocking levels** Renewed or increased grazing is desirable for sustainable management of areas with significant earthworks or other features, and for areas where grazing is feasible to represent the variety of rough pasture traditionally exploited (Fig 47). The needs of the historic environment must of course be balanced with other management needs; where apparent these have been taken into account in developing the recommendations, but other considerations such as localised ecology may be relevant. (*Sites A1-A3, A6, A7, A17-A19, A21, A23, A29 following cutting to determine extent, 104071 [part], A32 [part], A42, A43 [part]*).
- **Cut scrub or trees** On overgrown sites with particular or potential sensitivity, unknown extent, or unsuitability for grazing, cutting of scrub is recommended, to counter root damage, and uncover features which may reveal the time depth and past use of the landscape, and may be suitable for appropriate re-use. (*Sites A7, A12, A17 [parts], A29, 104050, 100392*).

Fig 47 Strip lynchets, King's Hill, a site where grazing might be carefully re-introduced

The area, readily accessible from the road, is vulnerable to increasing scrub growth.

6.3.2 Restore other traditional aspects of land-management or HLC

- **Coppice selected area/s** on the steep eastern commons and enclosure/s south of South Hole (Figs 23, 48) where there is evidence, from historic maps, field-names, and trees re-grown from cut stools, for the presence of coppice and hazel brakes in the past. This would restore aspects of the historic customary use and semi-natural diversity of these slopes, and could perhaps be used to produce materials for traditional fencing or similar use on or around the property (*Sites A26a, A26b [outside extent, to be determined, of strip fields A29], A43*).
- **Re-establish orchard** also on the slope below South Hole, with potential for similar benefits. If this is planned, the area should be examined by a specialist for any surviving fruit trees; and the existing earth and stone banks should be preserved in use as boundaries, with any necessary repair being carried out by careful patching, using the materials on site or similar, and in the existing style, rather than by re-building. The feasibility of community participation in the planting, maintenance and harvesting of an orchard might be explored (*Site A44*).
- **Protect roadside well** near Watergap (*Site B18*). This feature, relatively recent but interesting as a focus of traditional use of the area, is outside the NT property, so is not included in these management recommendations as such. However, it adjoins the Trust's land, and care should be taken to avoid inadvertent damage to it should works such as woodland management be undertaken nearby, particularly as it is overgrown and part collapsed and so may not be clearly visible (Fig 49).

Fig 48 Coppiced trees on steep slopes, south of Knap (visible in the centre of the photo) The linear 'step' in the foreground is thought to be an old track, overgrown elsewhere

Fig 49 Well by the roadside near Watergap, with collapsed top (foreground, left)

6.3.3 Provide for further archaeological investigation and recording

- **Monitor coastal erosion**, both to Embury, already visited for this purpose, and also to the southern sanding way used to access the beach at Welcombe Mouth, and (in the longer term) the remnant of the northern sanding way there, apparently more stable at present. (*Sites A8, A15, 104050*).
- **Consider 'Structure from Motion' (SfM) drone survey** for Embury, to contribute to the recording, monitoring and presentation of the earthworks. Structure from Motion (SfM) enables inaccessible and dangerous places and earthworks to be recorded, providing a framework onto which other material (land use, aerial photo plots, etc) can be laid. It involves three-dimensional topographical modelling derived from millions of points of data recorded by laser via a machine mounted on a drone, usually alongside high-resolution photography that can be plotted as a drape to create highly realistic models, through expert interpretation of the patterns obtained. (*Sites 104050, 104051*).
- **Combine study of archaeology, geomorphology and ecology** at Welcombe Mouth, to show how people, and natural forces, have shaped its distinctive features. Enhanced understanding will contribute to protection and presentation. (*Sites at the Mouth, in particular, A5, A8, A10, A12, A13-A16*).
- **Extend geophysical survey and analysis of results** on the coastal commons and strip-derived fields, smoothed by ploughing; to further understanding of the origin, setting, use and change of the prehistoric earthworks at Embury and of the medieval farmland and outfields. In particular, investigate potential for co-axial or other fields pre-dating the fort; and for an ancient routeway leading south (*Sites A35, A36*).
- **Seek archaeological guidance** for any ground disturbing works at sensitive sites, to allow for recording if appropriate. (*Sites A9, 100393, A37, A46, A49*).
- **Review potential for future walkover** to record features revealed by scrub control. In 2015 most steeper and/or coastal slopes, apart from some areas under mature trees below South Hole, were obscured by scrub, concealing features, or preventing them being recorded and interpreted satisfactorily (Figs 36, 39, 48, 50). (*Sites A1, A7, A17-A19, A21, A29, A40*).

Fig 50 Low scarp obscured by gorse scrub in Lana Park east of Welcombe Mouth

6.3.4 Enhance community and visitor experiences of the historic landscape

- **Consider commissioning guide/s to the property**, showing how it was used in the past, and how Embury forms part of the wider historic landscape. This could draw on the results of the present survey, and also develop new material to enhance presentation, such as phase mapping. (*Selection of all sites*).
- **Review the provision of pedestrian routes through the area**. These form the framework by which many people experience the area today, and being historic features in their own right, have potential to contribute to perceptions of landscape development and change. Existing routeways can be interpreted, and cleared of vegetation or re-established in places, to show how prehistoric Embury and medieval South Hole were linked to their surroundings, and how the beach at Welcombe Mouth was exploited in post-medieval times. The north part of the early route from Embury to Knap, surviving as a public footpath north of Knap, and as public road through Strawberry Water to Mead, could be re-established. The historic boundary between the coastal commons and the seaward side of the medieval strip-derived field system could be marked by a track, as it was in the past. The feasibility of replacing the parking area by the Mouth with one nearer the public road should also be considered, to counter erosion at the Mouth, and enhance experience of the lane as a historic route to the sea. (*Sites A5, A6, A15, A16, A26, A27, A28, A47, 100392*).
- **Seek opportunities to research the stories of past people of the area** through documentary sources and living memories, such as records of apprentices including Sarah Braund, apprentice of John Aishton of Knap in 1770 (NDRO 1201A/PO 37).
- **Consider celebratory beacon lighting at Embury** and at Firebeacon should this be possible, perhaps as an annual event (dependant of course on any necessary permissions, including SMC, and support from interested parties). This would involve a feasibility study of considerations such as appropriate siting, and infrastructure involving minimum ground disturbance, such as a brazier. (*Sites 104050, 104051*).

Fig 51 One of many quite accessible but neglected archaeological sites, old quarry A41

A large mature tree standing in its cut gives some indication of the age of the quarry, and the boundary of South Hole Common kinks around it (on the left in this view)

7 References

7.1 Primary sources

(***Manorial and other documents, listed in chronological order***)

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Lease, Hartland Manor, *c*1541 (CRO AR/4/2045)

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Apprentice papers, Knap, 1770 (NDRO 1201A/PO 37)

Claims to wreck, Manor of Hartland and South-hole, 1856-1860 (TNA BT 297/92)

Letter concerning land for bridge, Strawberry Water, 1875 (NDRO 2414 A-2/Z 126)

Plans and elevations, The Hermitage, by Joseph Yeardye, 1891 (NDRO B-6/35/1-4)

(***Maps, listed in chronological order***)

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7.3Websites

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Genuki, for transcriptions of tithe apportionment schedules, census returns, Hartland church seating plan, and trades directories.

Google Maps, displaying recent aerial photography.

Heritage Gateway, and Pastscape, Historic England's databases of sites.

8 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146475**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, Fal Building, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY.

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-215458

Appendix A; Inventory of sites within, or partly in, NT property

Notes Sites are tabled in sequence, progressing from the south west corner of the property to the east and north, as far as possible. The NT and Project numbers can be used to cross-refer to the main text and site location map (Fig 55). NT numbers indicate sites previously included in the NT HBSMR (eg 104050); Project numbers (A1-A49) represent those recorded by this project. The prefix A is used to denote sites in, or partly in, NT ownership. Sites outside the NT property, numbered in a similar way using the prefix B, are tabled in Appendix B.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A1	–	–	21360 17900	Pasture	Medieval or Post-medieval	***South of Welcombe Mouth*** This steep coastal slope is depicted on the 1884 OS map as rough ground. It was grazed, having a boundary against the lane on its north west (A5) for this reason. A transcription of the 1842 tithe schedule used for this project lists the fields here as arable - but the field above them (not NT land) was named Down, as recorded in 1842 survey, so the area may have been rough pasture long before it was shown as such on the 1884 map. A possible medieval sub-dividing boundary is visible slanting down the top of the slope, below Down, but is obscured by scrub.	Mostly covered by blackthorn and gorse scrub. Some heath with low thorn/ bramble by coastal foot path.	Management here is focussed on maintaining the long-distance coastal footpath through the area. Growth and spread of scrub is increasing away from the coast path and from some of the more exposed clifftops.	Ideally, re-introduce grazing at an appropriate level to maintain low heath and rough grass. If grazed, monitor to allow recording of any fields or other remains revealed by scrub reduction.
A2	MDV 68897 ACVP no. 227	–	21340 17830	Quarry	Probably 19th century	***South of Welcombe Mouth*** The 1884 OS map records a quarry near the cliff edge. The HER gives its dimensions as *c*36m north-south by 14m (the HER plot shows it only 4m wide). At the time of the walkover in 2015, the quarry cut was visible but inaccessible due to scrub cover.	Obscured by dense scrub with gorse, blackthorn, bramble.	Not actively managed.	As for wider area, Site A1. Safety considerations do not form part of this survey.
A3	–	–	21410 17880	Trackways	Probably 19th century	***South of Welcombe Mouth*** The 1884 OS map shows a track running along the contour from the fields of West Mead to the coast, passing through the point represented by the NGR given where several other tracks (possibly relating to different phases) branch off it. These routes may have been used to carry stone from the quarry (A2) and/or to access clifftop grazing.	Obscured by dense scrub with gorse, blackthorn, bramble.	Not actively managed.	As for wider area, Site A1.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A4	MDV 103437 ACVP no. 227	–	21320 17906	Footpath; Hollow way, possible site	Probably 20th century	***South of Welcombe Mouth*** The NMP records a linear feature here as a hollow way. As plotted in the HER this appears to respect quarry A2, yet it is not among the tracks to that site mapped in 1884. As noted in the ACVP the feature recorded seems to be the modern coast path, post-dating the 1904 map.	Coastal foot-path, well-worn; wider area scrubby with gorse, blackthorn, bramble.	Coastal footpath maintained with occasional repair.	Thought to have low archaeological sensitivity; no recommendations.
A5	–	–	21400 18030	Road, Sanding way	Possibly Post-medieval	***Welcombe Mouth*** The lane running along the valley cuts boundaries probably medieval in origin (see A17, and A18), so it may be post-medieval. The NT part has a stony surface *c*3m wide between hedge banks. Names recorded in 1842 for adjoining fields indicate the route was used to carry sand (A19, B5, B6, Section 4.5).	Eroded by traffic and surface water with some deep ruts.	Vehicular access to parking at Mouth, busy in season. Surface repaired with stone in places.	Repair *ad hoc* with local or similar stone if possible. Consider providing parking in valley rather than at the Mouth.
A6	MDV 75356	–	21970 17905 (centre of NT part of buried ditch) 22030 17885 (centre of round, outside NT land)	Round, possible site	Iron Age or Romano-British	***West of Mead*** The 1842 tithe survey records a roughly oval field, likely to be a 'round' or enclosed settlement of the Iron Age or Romano-British periods, with one of the medieval farmsteads of Mead taken out of its east side. It is included in this inventory because the edge of the NT property takes in some of the western part of the potential site of the enclosing earthworks. A substantial hedge bank at the edge of the NT property (thorny and inaccessible but estimated to be around 2m high and possibly greater in width) may be a modified rampart. The margin of the NT field adjoining may incorporate a part, infilled by later ploughing, of an external ditch (the curve in the road north of the site, B6, may be attributed to its following the line of the ditch there). Rushy vegetation in the field margin here may reflect the presence of a buried ditch, though as it does not form a well-defined belt, this is not clear.	Part in good condition in grassy side of field; part in scrubby area (see A7); part in gateway by road on the north. A water trough set in the field on the possible line of the ditch could perhaps lead to some disturbance of it for pipes, etc.	Field containing site appears to be rough pasture but has invasive woody scrub.	Geophysical survey desirable to investigate the potential for the ditch of a round. Consider provision of public access by footpath (informed by the survey). As part of A7, continue grazing here to control scrub while avoiding erosion. Avoid disturbing the ground, for example during maintenance of the water trough and gateway.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A7	–	–	21940 17950	Field system, possible site	Iron Age or Roman	***West of Mead*** This field, possibly incorporating part of the earthworks on the west of a round at Mead (A6), and largely overgrown, may contain remains of fields or other settlement-related features. In the upper, less scrubby part, some 50m from the round, a break in slope *c*0.3m high can be seen on the ground, indicating potential for low earthworks of early boundaries.	Potential for earthworks deteriorating in condition with gorse, blackthorn, and willow encroaching from the south and west slopes.	Field containing site appears to be rough pasture but has invasive woody scrub.	Cut scrub and maintain as rough pasture, avoiding disturbing ground. Monitor to allow future recording, if appropriate, of any fields or other remains revealed by scrub control.
A8	–	–	21260 17970	Trackway, Sanding way	Post-medieval	***Welcombe Mouth*** Below the seaward end of the main track to the Mouth from Welcombe (Site A5), south of the river, an incline cut in the 'head' deposits and into the bedrock runs down the steep cliff to the beach. This appears on the 1842 tithe map, and may be part of a planned improvement of the beach access along with the main track, providing a sanding way. It has a regular gradient and width, *c*1.7m. Towards the beach its lower side has revetments and repairs of several phases, in stone and concrete.	Potential for instability. Precipitous scarp cut in 'head' along east side is weathered and part overhanging though still grassy in places. Base is scoured by the sea.	Used as the sole footpath to the beach.	Research origin and include in plan and guide to Welcombe Mouth. Photograph to show cutting and any wear or other signs of past use. (*NB* safety issues are not included in this assessment.)
A9	–	–	21263 17980	Findspot	Prehistoric	***Welcombe Mouth*** A worked flint was found a short way down the incline to the beach (A8) on the walkover in 2015. It lay beside the inner, east side of the track, in material eroded by weathering or salt spray from the very steep coastal slope down which the track is cut. The flint is a core of indeterminate date (Anna Lawson-Jones, *pers comm*).	See A8 above for condition of findspot.	See A8.	Shows potential at the Mouth for buried prehistoric remains. Ground disturbance should be avoided and any substantial works should be monitored by an archaeologist.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A10	–	–	21279 17963	Earthwork, possible site	Possibly medieval or earlier	***Welcombe Mouth*** The south side of the curving end of the lane to the Mouth, and a hedge bank beside this route (see A1, A5), cut across a hollow, measuring *c*9m along the lane by 5m and up to 1.5m deep. This could be an earthwork, or perhaps a truncated corner of the deep ancient river-bed edge respected by the lane (below which scarp is the NT parking area).	Stable, grassy.	Not managed as such.	Avoid disturbance.
100390	MDV 39780 ACVP no. 223	–	21294 18026	Boundstone/s	19th century or earlier	***Welcombe Mouth*** The 1884 OS map records boundstone/s on the north side of the river just above the waterfall at Welcombe Mouth. No remains were found at the time of the ACVP visit in 2006 or on the walkover in 2015. The stone/s may perhaps have been displaced, broken or removed; remains could perhaps survive in scrub in the area.	This area is grassy with bare patches caused by visitor wear, exposure to spray and cliff erosion.	Management of this area includes maintenance of the coastal path, clearance of litter and repairs to damage from visitors' fires.	Look for, record and retain *in situ* any large slabs or cut posts of stone, if carrying out scrub control or other ground works in the area.
A11	–	–	21311 18010	Stepping stones	Later 20th century	***Welcombe Mouth*** A chain of seven platforms of concrete and slate slabs provides a crossing over the Welcombe river on the coastal footpath above Welcombe Mouth.	River banks affected by gradual erosion.	Part of coastal footpath running through the area.	Ideally, if under-taking works disturbing the ground, examine for flints etc.
A12	–	–	21308 18028	Building platform, possible site	18th century or earlier	***Welcombe Mouth*** A roughly rectangular platform east of the coast path above the head of the waterfall at the Mouth may be the site of a building, not marked on the 19th century maps seen. The platform is *c*12m long NE-SW (the NE end is overgrown and not clear) and 4m wide internally. It is defined by a low bank, some 2m wide and 0.5m high, on its outer side, and on the NW long side by a boundary (part of A17). The boundary may incorporate walling of a building here, as it alters course at the ends of the platform.	Part in hedge bank, part brambly ground by river. Some risk of fires etc. if kept clear; risk from erosion in the longer term, with the cliff lying across the coastal path.	Site recently part cleared during scrub cutting by the in the area.	Control scrub across site; avoid disturbing ground. Monitor condition. Research origin, and include in plan and guide to Welcombe Mouth. Consider providing parking in valley rather than at the Mouth.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A13	MDV 103438 ACVP 224	–	21312 18057	Enclosure	Post-medieval	***Welcombe Mouth*** A small enclosure, squarish with rounded corners, was plotted as part of the NMP and visited during ACVP fieldwork. The earthwork measures up to *c*12m across overall. It is built against a large natural mound on the west and is open on the north to a hollow, probably also natural in origin but incorporated in a routeway (A16). The enclosing earthwork on the other sides is *c*1.8m wide and up to *c*1m high and has traces of a slight external ditch 2m wide on the east. Inside is a ditch 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep, around a central platform *c*7.5m square. As noted in the ACVP report this may be a post-medieval site for storing material from, or equipment used on, the beach (sand, nets etc).	Grassy and shielded from coastal erosion by the natural bank behind it, but at risk from visitor damage including fires.	With the rest of the grassy area around the beach, monitored for damage caused by some of the many visitors attracted to its smooth turf, shelter and proximity to sea and waterfall.	Continue repairing damage to turf. Research origin, and include in plan and guide to Welcombe Mouth. Consider providing parking in valley rather than at Mouth.
A14	MDV 103440	–	21325 18045	Enclosure, possible site	18th century or earlier	***Welcombe Mouth*** This is a possible enclosure, *c*25m across, poorly defined by slight, curving banks running between a more certain enclosure on its north west (A13) and a field boundary which may incorporate remains of a building on the south east (A12, A17). The south west side is clearer, at c4m across, but is only *c*0.1m high. A large natural bank, on the north west, part defines and shelters both this site and the more distinct neighbouring enclosure. If an enclosure this site may have had an origin related to those of the nearby enclosure and/or possible building.	As for Site A13, above	As for Site A13, above	As for Site A13, above
A15	–	–	21282 18033	Trackway, Sanding way	Possibly Medieval or earlier in origin	***Welcombe Mouth*** The 1884 OS map records a trackway running down the cliff on the Hartland side of the Mouth. This survives as a narrow rock-cut platform curving around the steep coastal slope north of the waterfall, cut off from the shore below by erosion so that it ends at a drop above the shore rather than slanting down to the sand as it no doubt did originally.	On steep and eroding cliffs by a waterfall, so subject to erosion and collapse.	Not actively managed. Little visited, as not obvious, and no longer connected to beach.	Research origin and past use. Record remains as part of proposed plan and guide to Welcombe Mouth.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A16	–	–	21370 18120	Trackway, Sanding way	Possibly Post-Medieval or earlier	***Welcombe Mouth*** The track running along the north west side of the valley bottom from the Mouth to Strawberry Water appears on the 1884 map. It may be a post-medieval or earlier way from the shore to South Hole via Knap (A15), later used to serve The Hermitage (B7).	Good overall with gradual erosion and visitor wear near the Mouth.	Well-maintained with a modern footbridge at its inland end, and boardwalks by the Hermitage.	Research origin and past use. Include in guide to Welcombe Mouth.
A17	–	–	21500 18035 (centre)	Field system	Medieval in origin	***East of Welcombe Mouth*** The 1842 tithe map records 3 fields here, Black Pit below the track A5, and Lana Park and Sand Park above it (see entries for A5 and A20 for comments on field names). The straight boundary dividing the upper fields, and the style of Black Pit's northern hedge bank with projecting coping slabs and possibly incorporates part of a building (A12), appear post-medieval. However, the 1842 and 1884 maps show sinuous lines to the boundaries typical of medieval origin. The west boundary continues down the scarp below the lane, a kink in its line possibly marking where it met the river course of medieval times. There is possible evidence for other medieval field boundaries also north of the lane (A18). A low scarp 1m wide and 0.3m high running along the lower slopes of Lana Park, visible for a length of *c*7m, may be part of the field system, but this is not clear. ***Note*** Dense scrub meant that most of the area beyond the north west corner by the coast path was inaccessible for the walkover.	Below lane, by stepping stones and waterfall, grassy with erosion from visitor wear /weathering. East of this is dense blackthorn, gorse, willow and bramble with a few rough paths. Above lane, some grass, bracken and thorny scrub with trees and bluebell to east.	Management is focussed on the grassy area on the clifftop, and includes repair to footpath erosion and to damage from visitors' fires. Above the lane, the field system is fenced around and used as extensive rough pasture.	Grazing of the area below the lane is desirable, if compatible with the visitor use of the seaward part. In the fields above the lane, cut scrub on earthworks, and maintain grazing with stocking rates appropriate to control and reduce scrub in the long term. Monitor to allow recording of any fields or other remains revealed by scrub control.
A18	MDV 103440	–	21400 18097	Field boundaries, possible site	Possibly Medieval	***East of Welcombe Mouth*** The NMP records probable earthworks and cropmarks of medieval boundaries visible on air photos (HER). These features may mark the lower edge of strip-derived fields cut by a lane to the Mouth (A17), and/or old courses of the river which has bends aligned with some of the elements plotted.	Obscured by thorny scrub and bracken with willow spreading by the river.	Not managed as such.	As noted above, grazing desirable if compatible with visitor use of the area to seaward. Assess any remains revealed.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A19	–	–	21530 18110 (approx.)	Enclosure, possible site (Sand yard)	Post-medieval	***East of Welcombe Mouth*** The name recorded in the 1842 survey for this field, Sand Park, may suggest use related to the adjoining sanding way A5, such as temporary storage of sea sand.	As for this part of Site A17.	As for this part of Site A17.	As for this part of Site A17.
A20	MDV 75352	–	21390 18060 (centre of field in question)	Pit, possible site	Unknown (name recorded 1842)	***Welcombe Mouth*** The field name Black Pit, recorded here in 1842, could refer to a pit made by people (HER). Alternatively it could refer to a striking natural pool in the river nearby, perhaps seen as black by virtue of its depth and steep sides and consequent danger to people or stock.	N/A	N/A	Include the major geological features of the area in a guide to the past development of Welcombe Mouth.
A21	–	–	21430 18300	Pasture	Medieval	***South west of Knap*** The steep coastal ground above Welcombe Mouth is named Great Knap Hill (as recorded by the 1844 tithe survey). This was rough pasture until covered with scrub in the 20th century; it may have been part of a greater South Hole Common before being attached to Knap in later medieval times and then partly enclosed (see Sections 4.3, 4.4). A low, narrow bank within this area, running up the base of the valley side from the coastal path some 22m along the path from the cliffs, resembles those developed through differential wear by stock trampling, vegetation etc (rather than built) along former fence lines of relatively recent origin.	Rough grass, with some erosion, by the cliffs where burnt; blackthorn, gorse and bramble scrub from half way to Hermitage; trees beyond this.	Management includes maintaining the coast path and valley path, and controlling litter, fire or other damage by visitors to the Mouth.	Ideally, re-introduce grazing at appropriate level to maintain low heath and rough grass, with fencing on the line of the track west of The Hermitage as in 1844. If grazed, monitor to allow recording of any tracks, etc. revealed by scrub reduction.
A22	–	–	21420 18624	Field system	Medieval in origin; re-organised	***West and north of Knap*** Breaks in slope visible on the ground and on aerial photographs (Google Maps), and boundaries mapped in 1844 with reverse-J lines, indicate medieval strips associated with farmsteads at Knap (see also A29, B15), largely amalgamated by 1844. Later maps record several further phases of reorganisation into larger fields, and areas of reversion to rough pasture and renewal of cultivation.	Grassy and stable apart from coastal strip subject to gradual coastal erosion.	Grass pasture, with a strip of rough ground on the clifftops through which the coastal footpath runs.	Maintain present management.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A23	MDV 103446	–	21170 18570	Earthworks, possible site	Possibly Iron Age (thought to be natural)	***Knap Head (South)*** Parallel large linear banks and intervening hollows, crossing a small projection from a larger headland, are depicted on the 1884 OS map. They are recorded by the NMP as possible quarrying or other earthworks (HER). The site does not seem to have been shaped by quarrying. One would expect quarry spoil to be dumped on or over the sides of the little point, rather than across its top. The features are more similar to cliff castle ramparts in form, and in location on the neck of a point of land. However this land appears to have slumped when compared to the coastal plateau adjoining, so they may be the result of the local geology and natural processes associated with the erosion of the cliffs below.	Covered in rough grass, brambly and thorny scrub with some rocky areas. Subject to gradual coastal erosion.	Not actively managed.	Consider feasibility of grazing at appropriate level to maintain low heath and rough grass. Assess any features revealed by scrub control.
A24	–	–	21180 18570	Field	Post-medieval	***Knap Head (South)*** The 1844 survey records a rough pasture field on the clifftop here. A hedge bank is visible on the south; other sides may have had banks or fences. The cliff seems to have slumped by the time of the 1884 map.	Not visited; on unstable cliffs, scrubby.	Disused, may be very hazardous.	No management recommendations.
A25	–	–	21260 18387	Trackways		***Knap Head (South)*** The 1884 OS map records tracks on shelves on the cliffs, possibly used to access rough grazing or sources of stone there.	As for Site A24, above	As for Site A24, above	As for Site A24, above
A26a, A26b	–		21670 18610 (centre coppice, A26a)	Coppice, Trackway	Coppice possibly Late 19th /Early 20th century Trackway potentially earlier	***West of Knap*** In 1844 this area lay in the arable ground of Knap, possibly enclosed from commons (A32). The 1884 map shows a belt of brushwood, A26a, perhaps growing in a coppicing cycle (not shown on the 1904 map, so presumably harvested before then). Old coppice with a track *c*2m wide slanting through it was noted here in 2015 (very steep and overgrown, so not plotted). The trees in the wider area A26b appear to be self-sown in the 20th century.	Maturing sycamores, bluebell, and much dense brambly and thorny scrub obscuring some very steep ground.	Not actively managed.	Maintain A26a as wood or coppice. In A26b consider coppicing, but first establish extent here of fields A29, where grazing is desirable. Re-open historic track/s if possible.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A27	–	–	21647 18718	Trackway	Post-medieval	***Knap Shippen*** A route joining Knap Shippen to an early way from Knap to South Hole (A28) appears on the 1884 OS map and survives on the ground as an open track, *c*2m wide and cut or worn up to 2m into the slope. It bisects medieval-type boundaries and is probably post-medieval like the farmstead it serves.	Good, stable.	Maintained in use as part of a public footpath.	Continue present management.
A28	–	–	21683 18850	Trackway, hollow way	Possibly Prehistoric in origin	***Knap*** A track *c*2m wide, hollowed into the slope, runs roughly north-south past Knap to Welcombe. It is possible that it originally ran from the entrance to Embury (geophysical survey here recording linear feature A35, possibly its north end), and was later part bent east to serve South Hole, and then part shifted west to run via Knap Shippen and the cliffs so as to respect fields enclosed 1844-1884 (104071).	Good, stable (a small part by the road west of Knap was shifted in the 20C and is now less clear.)	By Knap, part of a public footpath. North of there, continues as a permissive path. Further north, the site lies in stable grass pasture.	Maintain current use as footpath by Knap. Consider an extension over the former common to the north, to re-establish the whole probable early route.
A29	–	–	21680 18720	Field system, strip fields	Medieval	***Knap*** Several low stony banks running down the slope between Knap and Knap Shippen resemble medieval strip field boundaries. They are around 2m wide and 0.3m high with rounded profiles and the distance between them is estimated (the area being very overgrown) at *c*35m.	On steeply sloping dis-used land in brambly sycamore wood.	Not actively managed.	Avoid damage to banks by fencing/ other groundwork. Consider grazing to control scrub; if scrub is cleared, record banks.
A30	–	–	21270 18733	Footpath	20th century	***Knap Head*** Much of the coast path in the study area north of Chisel Ridge is not shown on the historic maps consulted, so was purpose-made in the mid-20th century, with ground works such as causeways over slumps on the clifftops.	Good with moderate wear.	Well-maintained, forming part of the long-distance coastal route.	Ideally, if under-taking works disturbing the ground, examine for flints etc.
104071	–	–	21750 19030	Field system	Mid-later 19th century	***North of Knap*** Two large fields, lying one to either side of a stream, were taken out of the common after the tithe survey (1844) and before the first edition OS 25 inch map (1884).	Mostly stable in grass; woody scrub by stream.	Grazed in summer.	Continue present use as pasture; ideally, graze the scrubby area also.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A31	–	–	21665 19075	Pond	19th or 20th century (after 1844)	***North of Knap*** A small pond above the head of a stream, irregular in plan, measures *c*15m north-south by 7m, and is over 0.5m deep (the base is silted up). It may have been made after 1904, when a narrow strip of rough ground between these fields, in which the site formerly lay, was incorporated in the eastern field.	Fair, with some stock trampling to sides, as is inevitable at a drinking place.	Possibly dug out periodically by machine.	Thought to have low sensitivity; no recommendations.
A32a, A32b, A32c	MDV 106033	–	21770 19370	Common land	Early Medieval	***South Hole Common*** The coastal plateau and cliffs by Embury (A32a), and the valley side west of Watergap (A32b, A32c), are parts of a vast common which probably reached north to to Sandhole and south to Welcombe Mouth prior to medieval and later intakes. The 1844 survey records 'Southole Common', then part arable and part coarse pasture. South Hole was a manor at Domesday and its common is likely to have been established before that time. The common on the ridge in A32a was improved in several phases; the south part by 1884, the east side by 1904, and the rest in the 20th century, possibly during World War II (OS maps).	Stable grass cover on top of ridge, ploughed in the past. Rough grass and dense thorny scrub on cliffs, subject to rapid erosion by the sea.	Ridge top in A32a grazed in summer. Open to walkers; used by the public for driving by quad and car at the time of the walkover. Cliffs in A32a outside coast path, and steep valley sides A32b and A32c, are disused.	On ridge, maintain grass pasture; check recreational driving to preserve the old common's tranquil character. Consider coppicing in A32c (see A39). Re-introduction of traditional grazing would be ideal for the coastal slopes above the Mouth (see A21).
A33	–	–	21740 19210	Field system, Outfields	Medieval	***South Hole Common*** Traces of long narrow fields with parallel boundaries, resembling outfields on the common, are visible on aerial photographs (Google Maps) and form very low scarps on the ground. The area had probably been ploughed over before the mid-19th century and certainly was by 1884 when it was shown as improved on the 25 inch OS map.	As for A32, above	As for A32, above	Maintain current management as grass pasture.
A34	–	–	21910 19290	Trackway	Medieval	***South Hole Common*** A route along the east side of the ridge to seaward of South Hole's strip-derived field system was probably made in medieval times, to access and link the strips and the coastal commons lying either side of it.	Stable, lies in pasture improved in the past (Site A32).	Area grazed in summer (see Site A32)	No site-specific recommendations (see A32).

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
104050 (mound 100389 lost to erosion north of inner earth-works is now seen as part of those earth-works)	MDV 48		21670 19490	Fort	Iron Age	***Embury Beacon*** A fort with an inner enclosure lost to coastal erosion, and an outer enclosure named Embury Parlour also part eroded away, is recorded as Hembury Beacon on the 1804 drawing and as Embury Beacon on subsequent OS maps. It stands on the highest cliff in the area, extending *c*100m along it, and commands views along the coast and to Lundy Island. The earthworks benefit from a large-scale plan by the RCHME, and geophysical survey. Limited pottery and other evidence from excavations in the 1970s and 2012 indicates construction in the Iron Age following use of the outer part of the site for keeping livestock, and activity in medieval times possibly related to a beacon function. A fragment of the inner rampart stands on the cliff edge. The remaining length of the outer one kinks near either end, and has an entrance with outwork on the north east. The original plan of the whole is unknown. The area between the ramparts, *c*50m wide, seems to lack Iron Age features (see further Sections 4.1, 4.2).	On edge of high, sheer cliffs subject to erosion and periodic collapse. Mostly rough grass with low gorse. Inner earth-works part exposed and crumbling. Outer works eroding at cliffs; poor turf recovery in excavated area around outwork on north. Some active rabbit disturbance.	Open to the coastal footpath, adjoining the pasture on the old commons. Open also on the seaward side, where there are a few low signs warning of the sheer cliff edge. Monitoring of the ongoing coastal erosion has led to several phases of archaeological investigation of the site (see further Sections 4.1, 4.2).	***Note***; this is a Scheduled site, so constraints apply. Continue to monitor erosion. Carefully cut scrub as necessary to prevent its spread. Consider survey of cliffs, erosion and earthworks by drone using 'SfM' 3-D topographical modelling and photography. The site and its setting could be presented in a guide to the historic landscape of South Hole.
104051	MDVs 49, 16464		21767 19560	Barrow, Beacon mound, possible site	Possibly Bronze Age and/or Medieval or Post-medieval	***Embury Beacon*** The OS recorded a tumulus here in 1884. This has also been interpreted as a fire beacon mound, and as part of the Embury outworks. In 2012 it was part excavated and considered to be a barrow (Section 4.1). The mound measures *c*25m NE-SW by 20m, and is *c*0.5m high. A hollow is visible on the ground to its south; it is not clear whether this relates to the mound or to a linear feature shown on the geophysical survey (the 2012 trench plan shows it, as Feature 103, but the section drawing does not extend to it).	Grassy with stonier turf on backfilled trench of 2012. Appears stable.	Managed as part of wider area of former commons, grazed in summer (A32).	NB Scheduled site; constraints apply. Maintain grazing. Consider further excavation. Include in any 'SfM' survey. Include also in guide to the historic landscape of South Hole.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A35	–	–	21760 19470 (approx)	Hollow way, possible site	Possibly Iron Age	***Embury Beacon*** Geophysical survey shows a linear feature running NNE-SSW by Embury. Trench 9 of the 2012 excavations extended across it, but no results are reported. It could be an early hollow way, buried by later ploughing, potentially part of a longer north-south route serving Embury, part shifted after the fort was abandoned (see A28). ***Note***; on Fig 55, the line of the feature is extended SSW beyond the geophysical survey area, to show this possibility.	Grassy and stable.	Managed as part of wider area of former commons, grazed in summer (A32).	Maintain in grass pasture. Investigate extent to the SSW if possible. Include in the suggested guide to the historic landscape of South Hole.
A36	–	–	21950 19580	Field system, possible site	Possibly Bronze Age	***East of Embury Beacon*** Buried features at Embury were interpreted by the excavator as ditches, probably field boundaries pre-dating the fort (Sims *et al* 2015, 77) (see Section 4.1). Linear crop-marks east of Embury are visible on aerial photography of 2010 (as seen on Google Maps). They resemble geological features but could perhaps indicate a Bronze Age field system overlain by medieval strips (104052).	As for Sites A32, above, and 104052, below.	Part in large area of pasture on former commons on the coastal ridge; part perhaps in strip-derived pasture fields below on the east side of the ridge	Maintain in grass pasture. Consider further analysis or investigation and, if appropriate, include in a guide to the historic landscape of South Hole.
100393	–	–	21750 19428	Dew pond	Medieval or later	***East of Embury Beacon*** In the centre of the span of the coastal common is a round hollow with a bank around its south east, downhill side. It is included in the RCHME survey of the earthworks of the nearby fort. The form of the earthwork, together with its siting high above the spring line (compare A37), indicate that this is a dewpond made to retain water for livestock, rather than a spring. It is sub-circular in plan, measuring 12m-15m across, and is *c*0.5m deep (to its present, silted base). The bank, up to 3m across and 0.7m high, is made of clayey earth and small stone. The pond is not closely dated (see discussion of the setting of the Embury fort, in Section 4.2).	Grassy and rushy with some areas on bank worn by live-stock.	Water now seems to be supplied via a bowser at the site. Bank on downhill side possibly built up periodically with silt cleaned out of the pond, but not very recently.	Maintain use for watering stock. Archaeological guidance advised for any ground disturbing works, to allow recording of lining, dating evidence, etc. This could be one of the sites presented in a guide to the historic landscape of South Hole.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A37	–	–	22024 19473	Spring; well, possible site	Possibly Prehistoric or Medieval (but note no early structural elements known)	***Hawkwell, east of Embury Beacon*** A modified spring in the south east corner of an early part of the South Hole field system may be the Hawkwell referred to in names of nearby fields recorded in the 1844 tithe survey. The 1884 OS map shows a spring or well (not labelled) in a slip of rough ground. An irregular platform *c*4m across is levelled *c*1.4m into the slope. On this is a concrete drinking trough. Downslope of it is a roughly sub-rectangular pond up to *c*12m across with low banking apparently made by machine and incorporating some brick, probably modern.	Grassy with some rush and bramble and a muddy base.	A pipe part exposed at the pond indicates recent use to supply water to the fields above (perhaps via the bowser at the dewpond, Site 100393).	Surface features here are not obviously early or sensitive, but there could be buried traces of medieval or even prehistoric use. Archaeological guidance in advance of any ground works is recommended.
104052	–	–	22000 19460 (centre, approx.)	Field system	Medieval	***South Hole*** Long narrow fields south and west of South Hole show derivation from medieval strips. Strip boundaries are recorded on the 1844 and 1884 maps, and/or visible as hedge banks forming the present enclosures, as low earthworks within these, or as crop-marks on aerial photographs shown on Google Maps. The strip-derived fields are typically narrow and resemble a reversed J in plan, running east-west down the slope. Earthworks marking lost boundaries are up to c10m wide and over 1m high where they form lynchets along the contour. Larger fields or cropping units, containing the strips, can be distinguished, and show expansion of the system over time (Section 4.4). Strip lynchets, and probable post-medieval extensions to the fields, lie on steep slopes to the south east (A42). ***Note***; Fig 55 shows the extent of South Hole's medieval farmland *within* the NT property only.	Mostly grass covered with some rushy areas and hollows, smoothed by ploughing in the 20C. Some of the old east margins of these fields he eastern shoulder of the ridge has scrub covered. Hedge banks generally in good stable condition.	Grass pasture, fenced, and grazed in summer. Gate-ways have been widened and the heads rebuilt with similar stone blocks in a regular style.	Maintain in use as pasture. Retain any old gates or fittings found. As in other areas of Medieval Farmland HLC Type, avoid disturbance to the ground with its high potential for buried remains. Detailed mapping of the site, its phases of change and continuity, relationships to the hamlet, etc, could contribute greatly to any new presentation of South Hole's historic landscape.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A38	–	–	22160 19583	Findspot		***South of South Hole*** On the walkover in 2015 a glazed potsherd was found embedded in the foot of a lynchet below strip fields. The pot was probably spread on the fields above with manure. It has been identified by Carl Thorpe of CAU as North Devon gravel-tempered Barnstaple ware, dating from around the 1700s.	Lynchet essentially stable with some rabbit digging, root disturbance.	Lynchet below fields extends into edge of secondary wood-land (see A43).	Shows potential for archaeological recording or field walking if ground in the field system is disturbed.
A39	MDV 106035	–	22215 19240 (approx. centre NT part)	Coppice, possible site	Early Medieval	***South Hole Common*** Unenclosed steep slopes on the east side of the coastal ridge are part of South Hole Common, recorded on the 1844 tithe survey, which also extended to the south and west (see also A21, A32). With the area to the south, this was listed as furze ground in 1844. It has areas of hazel which may have been coppiced though no large hazel stools were found.	Spreads of bluebell and other flowers with hazel, some oak, and thorn and bramble scrub dense on top edge.	Some trees planted relatively recently towards the north side.	Maintain as woodland; assess trees and consider coppicing areas to restore aspects of traditional land-use and character.
A40	–	–	22135 19200 (approx)	Quarry, possible site		***South Hole Common*** An irregular curve in the boundary of the field system shown here on the 1884 OS map, less clear on the 1844 survey, might indicate a quarry in the common beyond,. No earthworks are visible on aerial photographs seen (on Google Maps), or from the field above, and it may be that the fields are simply fitted to a natural fold in the shoulder of a steep valley side; but as the ground at the site is overgrown this is not certain at present.	Area difficult to access, overgrown with dense bramble, woody scrub and trees.	Part of wooded area, not actively managed.	Examine site if the opportunity arises. If a quarry, probably has low sensitivity but may be of interest as a feature of the former common.
A41	–	–	22207 19375	Quarry	Possibly Post-medieval	***South Hole Common*** The 1844 survey shows a tight curve in the boundary between fields and common, with a fence line closing it. This is the site of a quarry, with a cut roughly oval in plan, measuring up to an estimated 20m across and 3m or 4m deep, and supporting a mature oak. Below the quarry cut is a dump, on the common side of the boundary, and a probable zig-zag of access track some 2m wide north of the dump.	Good, ground covered with woodland plants (a few trees have fallen here, not affecting the site).	Part of wooded area; site not managed as such.	Do not plant on or disturb quarry or dump. Maintain as part of woodland. Include this site if a guide to the historic landscape of South Hole is developed.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
A42	–	–	22204 19426	Field system, strip lynchets	Medieval	***King's Hill*** The 1844 tithe map shows a series of four strip-like fields, each running along the contour, *c*15m-30m wide, with lynchets between them reaching 2m or even more in height. The tithe schedule gives the names of the fields, variants of 'King's Hill'. King's is the name of the tenement of which they formed part in 1844, Kings South Hole. (King's Cottage at the south end of South Hole hamlet dates from the period between the surveys of 1844 and 1884, but the farmstead may be earlier in origin, as indicated by a building standing nearby with its long axis running down the slope at the time of the 1844 survey, gone before that of 1884).	Overgrown but mostly good and stable with woodland ground cover and some large sycamore established. Banks mostly in good stable condition.	Part of wooded area; site not managed as such.	Consider grazing on strips under trees, fencing and laying trees on old boundaries. Do not plant more trees on or disturb strips, or coppice the trees on them. Include this site if a guide to the historic landscape of South Hole is developed.
A43	–	–	22200 19580	Field system	Post-medieval	***South of South Hole*** Enclosures on steep ground here may be post-medieval. They are roughly rectangular in plan with hedge banks attached to the curving edges of strip fields and strip lynchets. A lynchet some 1.5m high at the base of the northern field indicates former cultivation. Names such as 'Brake' recorded on the tithe schedule of 1844 indicate these enclosures then had hazel or similar trees (the usual entries showing land use do not appear on the transcript seen; their use at the time was probably meant to be conveyed by their names).	As for A42 above, with some scrubby areas by edges.	Part of wooded area; most of site not managed as such, but scrub has been cut recently near the road on the east.	Consider mixed management with areas reflecting the varied historic uses of the area; some fields grazed at levels suited to preserving wood-land flora and larger trees; some coppiced; some orchard (A44).
A44	–	–	22194 19552	Orchard	Post-medieval	***South of South Hole*** The 1844 tithe survey records the field name Brake Orchard here, and the 1884 and 1904 maps show orchard tree symbols. It is possible that fruit trees survive.	As for A42 above.	Part of wooded area; site not managed as such.	Establish whether fruit trees survive and if so manage them. Consider re-planting orchard.

NT or Project no.	HER no.	SM/LB no.	NGR (SS prefix)	Site type	Period	Description	Condition	Present Management	Recommended Management
A45	–	–	22215 19615	Quarry	Possibly early 20th century	***South of South Hole*** An irregular rounded hollow with a sloping base cut into the foot of the slope here appears to be a quarry. It measures *c*8m across and up to *c*2m in depth. The dumping and spreading of spoil from this site on a plot beneath it may account for the apparent raising of the ground level there, otherwise difficult to explain. The feature is not recorded on the historic maps seen, so would seem to post-date 1904, but vegetation cover including a coppiced sycamore near the centre indicates that it is not very recent.	Overgrown but essentially stable, in self-sown woodland (see A42, A43).	Part of wooded area. Scrub has recently been cut on the possible spread dump.	Thought to have low sensitivity; no recommendations.
A46	–	–	21955 19764 (approx.)	Spring	Possibly modified early 20th century; spring perhaps used earlier	***West of South Hole*** An earthwork here lies on a known spring line (*cf* A37) and, from its simple form, location in a field corner, and rushy vegetation, seems likely to be spring dug out to water livestock. It has a rounded hollow some 4m across and up to 1m deep, with an upcast mound of proportionate size on its downhill side. The good definition of the mound may suggest it is 20th century in origin, while sizeable gorse stems growing on this indicates it is not very recent.	Grassy with rush and some gorse, stable.	Site not managed as such; part of pasture field.	Some potential for prehistoric activity downslope beyond NT area (see B20), so should works disturbing the ground be proposed here archaeological recording may be appropriate.
A47	–	–	21920 19849	Trackway	Possibly Prehistoric in origin	***South of South Hole Farm*** The west part of a route running WSW-ENE from the clifftops by Embury to the core of South Hole lies in the NT property (see discussion of the landscape of Embury, Section 4.2). This part, a lane *c*6m wide, may have been hedged in (before the time of the OS drawing, 1804) from what was previously the north side of a funnel of common, the rest of which would then have been enclosed to form the field south of the lane, Higher Dean Head. The route may be part of a long ridgeway, potentially prehistoric in origin.	Blackthorn and bramble scrub to sides.	Scrub appears to have been cut recently.	Of interest as early part of long developed system of ways from farms to common. Ideally, maintain as grassy track, but route does not seem to be maintained as such east of NT land.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no.**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Condition**	**Present Management**	**Recommended Management**
100392	–	–	21960 19913	Hollow way	Medieval or Post-medieval	***South of South Hole Farm*** A lane runs north-south from the farm at the upper end of South Hole to the coastal common. It is c2-4m wide and has a hedge bank to either side. It appears secondary, attached to a lane on its south, though that lane could have been enclosed from the side of a broader funnel-like opening to the commons.	Beyond the south end the lane appears overgrown with thorny scrub.	Not in use.	Ideally, cut scrub and use as route linking hamlet and former common, but property map indicates north half lies beyond NT land.
A48	–	–	21890 19924	Trackway	Later 19th century	***South west of South Hole Farm*** The 1884 OS map records an open track here. It followed a field boundary, with the slightly curving 'reverse J' line typical of medieval strips, which had itself been removed since the time of the tithe survey, 1844. The route seems to have been altered in recent times, the modern map showing it with a straighter course.	Part of field under grass at the time of the visit in 2015.	Used for farm purposes and as public access to cliffs and coastal footpath.	Not thought to be sensitive, but has some interest as a later link from farm to common, and as a marker of a lost strip derived field boundary.
A49	–	–	21916 20038	Enclosure; Building, possible site	Possibly Post-medieval	***South of South Hole Farm*** The tithe survey of 1844 depicts a small enclosure here, not distinguished with a reference number of its own. It is possible that the plot was an outer yard or similar part of South Hole Farm across the road. Alternatively, it may perhaps have been the former site of a cottage; abandonment of dwellings in South Hole is known to have occurred (see discussion of the hamlet in Section 4.4). The enclosure could perhaps date from the post-medieval period, if the tithe map is accurate in showing a field boundary on its south as being attached to it, and if that boundary was built in that period as part of the re-organisation of the medieval strips. By the time of the OS survey of 1884 the feature was taken into the fields on its east.	Site stable under grass at the time of the visit in 2015.	Used as part of pasture field.	Should works disturbing the ground be proposed here, provision for archaeological recording may be appropriate.

Appendix B; Inventory of associated sites adjoining NT property

Note The historic landscape around the NT property is complex, with many known or possible features of significance. Sites recorded here are closely associated with others in the property (Appendix A), or relevant to their management. Where NT HBSMR numbers exist, these are given; other sites have Project numbers, with the prefix B used to distinguish them from those within the property (in Appendix A).

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no. (if any)**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Relationship to the archaeological resource in NT ownership**
B1	MDV 103434	–	21834 17859 (centre)	Farmstead	Possibly Post-medieval	***West Mead*** The 1804 OS drawing marks a farmstead here, possibly post-medieval in origin (Section 4.5). The 1842 tithe map gives its name, and shows some detail of its layout, either side of a lane (B3), with farmhouse and garden on the north and farm buildings and yard on the south. By the time of the 1884 OS map, it was abandoned and dismantled, leaving its enclosures as plots of rough ground; these survive as earthworks.	As shown by the 1842 tithe survey, all the NT land south of the Welcombe river and of the stream below Mead was farmed from this place, along with other fields to the south bounded by a long early field or pasture boundary and/or track. The site is visible from the NT property across the stream valley.
B2	Includes MDV 103434	–	21600 17930 (approx. centre)	Field system, Strip fields	Medieval in origin	***West Mead*** The tithe survey of 1842 records the farmland of West Mead. It may have been developed as part of the medieval strip field system of Mead, extended onto coastal rough ground, and then re-organised in late- or post-medieval times to form a consolidated holding.	The NT fields east of Welcombe Mouth may represent both extension of cultivation from the core strips worked co-operatively from the hamlet of Mead, and also later adaptation to this associated with the single farm of West Mead (B1).
B3	MDV 75351	–	21900 17808	Trackway	Post-medieval	***West Mead*** A disused trackway here served the abandoned farmstead of West Mead (B1). The track is recorded on the 1804, 1842 and 1904 maps. It was attached to an earlier lane to the south and so contributes to the evidence for the post-medieval origin of the farmstead.	Like the abandoned farmstead it served, the lane is visible as an earthwork from the NT land across the valley. Extending from the farmstead towards the western fields also in NT ownership, it shows the past association between these sites.
B4	–	–	22140 17790	Settlement	Medieval	***Mead*** The hamlet of Mead appears on the 1804 OS drawing, 1842 tithe survey, and subsequent maps. With its several farmsteads and cottages around a townplace, associated with strip-derived fields, it is clearly medieval in origin and may be referred to in the local surname *de la Mede* recorded in the 14th century (Section 4.4).	As recorded in the 1842 tithe survey, the NT's field Garden Gate was part of one of the Mead farms. As it name implies it was one of the nearest fields to the farmstead, the fairly scattered distribution of others being consistent with derivation from medieval strips.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no. (if any)**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Relationship to the archaeological resource in NT ownership**
B5	MDV 75357	–	22110 17925	Enclosure (Sand yard)	Possibly Post medieval	***Mead*** A small enclosure on the edge of Mead is listed in the 1844 tithe survey as Sand Wharf. This was probably used to store sea-sand ready for spreading on the fields.	This site points to use of Welcombe Mouth with its access ways for pack animals (A5, A8, A15) to obtain sand for farms inland.
B6	MDV 75351	–	21820 18055	Road, Sanding way	Possibly Prehistoric in origin	***West of Mead*** The steep road running north west from Mead to the lower Welcombe valley may be prehistoric in origin, linking a round (A6) and the Embury fort to the north (104050, A35). The road curves around the north side of the round and may originally have passed into or through this; it does not appear to cut medieval strip derived fields. It was later used as a sanding way.	The road incorporates part of a potential 'round' ditch, part of which lies in the NT land (A6); is likely to have formed part of a longer route to the north also part in NT ownership (A28); and was used to carry sea-sand from the Trust's land at Welcombe Mouth (A5, A8).
B7	–	–	21600 18264	Villa	*c*1891	***The Hermitage*** A villa here was designed in 1891 for a clergyman (possibly retired, to judge from its name!). It appears on the OS map of 1904 with garden and approach. Other features including a footbridge over the river behind, made after 1904, are visible on the ground.	The house is designed to exploit the open views of the valley and Welcombe Mouth.
B8			21602 18639	Farmstead	Post medieval or 19th century	***Knap Shippen*** An isolated small farmstead or cottage west of Knap, now known as Knap Shippen, is recorded on the 1844 survey. It is not shown on the smaller-scale early 19th century maps, but the 1844 survey shows a rather irregular plan to its little enclosure, possibly indicating an earlier origin. The standing building appears adapted from a single storey dwelling.	The small, single homestead shows the marginal nature of this site on the shoulder of the high coastal plateau, surrounded by NT land.
B9	NRHE 766924	–	20808 18777	Shipwreck	1944	***West of Knaps Longpeak*** Wreckage on rocks off Knap Head of the Norwegian freighter *Sjofna*, run ashore in fog in 1944, is recorded in the NRHE (this source gives the county in which the site lies as Cornwall rather than Devon). Remains including two boilers are noted, at or below low water mark. All lives on the ship were saved in a dramatic rescue (see further Section 4.6). Salvaged wreckage was broken for scrap on Welcombe beach.	The beach at Welcombe Mouth as well as the inaccessible tidal rocks under the cliffs to the north may have remains of shipwrecks.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no. (if any)**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Relationship to the archaeological resource in NT ownership**
B10	MDV 57609	–	21100 19500 (approx)	Shipwreck	1879	***Embury Beacon*** The wreck of the French lugger *Reine Francois[e?] Leonie* off Embury Beacon in 1879 is recorded in the NMR and Devon HER. The crew of 4 rowed ashore. It is not known whether any wreckage remains in the area.	As above.
B11	–	–	21735 18375	Farmstead	Post-medieval	***Strawberry Water*** The settlement here is recorded on the 1804 OS drawing as Strawberry Water, and on the 1842 tithe survey as Strawberry Hill. It comprised a single homestead with gardens and pasture on the valley floor, of post-medieval or 18th century type.	The holding shows the relatively late, small and specialized character of settlement on the valley floor, contrasting with the higher medieval hamlets, Mead and South Hole, with their mixed farms.
B12	–	–	22045 18525 (approx)	Round, possible site	Iron Age or Roman	***Strawberry Hill*** The place-names Strawberry Hill and Strawberry Water, recorded on the 1804 and later surveys, may perhaps refer to a prehistoric enclosed settlement on the west end of the Welcombe ridge above (see further Section 4.2). The name Strawberry Water is used locally for the river running to Welcombe Mouth.	A round here, with the probable round on the next ridge at Mead (A6), might indicate a pattern of prehistoric settlement similar to that of the medieval hamlets; and might have given its name to the stream running through the NT property.
B13	–	–	21715 18517	Ford, Bridge	*Ford* Prehistoric *Bridge c*1875	***Strawberry Water*** A ford here is marked on the 1804 OS drawing. A bridge was built at some time after 1842-1844 when the tithe surveys for the parishes it joins were made, and before the 1884 OS mapping; probably shortly after 1875 when land was offered for the purpose (NDRO 2414 A-2/Z 126). The bridge is built of local stone, with three rounded arches, flat back, and no parapet.	The ford will have served the early route linking South Hole to Mead via the coastal commons and Knap, which runs through the Trust's property (A28). The bridge was one of several later 19th century improvements to local communications, with the straightening of the road by Knap (see B17) and similar bridges at Watergap.
B14	MDV 106032	–	21760 18575	Water meadow, possible site	Possibly Post-medieval	***Float Meadow, Knap*** The name of a field here in the valley bottom indicates it was watery. This may have been due to natural flooding, or because a flow from the river was deliberately directed to boost grass growth, a system known to have been practiced in the region from the 17th to the 19th centuries.	Through this fieldname and others with similar implications nearby (such as Catch Meadow, MDV 80464, by Cranham Mill), the floor of the coombe can be seen to have been a valuable source of grazing and hay crops, and perhaps more varied and changing with channels of water.

NT or Project no.	**HER no.**	**SM/LB no. (if any)**	**NGR** (SS prefix)	**Site type**	**Period**	**Description**	**Relationship to the archaeological resource in NT ownership**
B15	–	–	21750 18690 (approx)	Hamlet, possible site	Medieval	***Knap*** A local man with the surname 'ate Knappe' is recorded in a document of 1330 (Section 4.4). Strip-like fields nearby (A29) indicate that Knap was a hamlet in medieval times.	The strip fields indicating a possible hamlet, and the early route by which any abandoned farmstead sites would lie, are partly in NT land (A28, A29).
B16	–	–	21776 18651	House	Post-medieval or 18th century	***Knap Farm*** A house is marked here on the 1804 OS drawing and later maps. The east gable can be seen from the road in front (diverted here between 1844 and 1884 – see Section 4.5) to have been built up from a lower one with a steeper roofline, indicating an earlier core to the house. Its positioning along the contour may suggest this core was built after rather than in the medieval period.	The holding of Knap as recorded in the 1844 tithe survey took in the coastal land north of the Welcombe river, from here to the cliffs at Knap Head and the Mouth, now in the Trust's ownership.
B17	–	–	21765 18705	Road	Medieval	***Knap*** Map regression shows that the road from Knap to South Hole via the inland side of South Hole Common was shifted here, between 1844 and 1884 (possibly *c*1875 when the river at nearby Strawberry Water was bridged). It formerly branched off, north west of Knap Farm, from the early route passing over the coastal commons. A terrace was made to divert the road in front (south) of Knap Farm where the narrow but deep side-valley of Knap drops into the vale below. On the walkover in 2015 the former road line could be seen north of Knap Farm as an open track some 3m wide, levelled into the slope above by some 0.3m and with a scarp beneath it.	The former road on the north side of the side valley lies adjacent to the NT property and fencing has recently been put up here. The road arrangements are of interest in showing how the valley route linking Welcombe and South Hole, in use today, was prioritised over an early route to the south from South Hole via the open coastal common and Knap, most of which lies in the NT property.
B18	–	–	22259 19088	Well	1884-1904	***North of Cranham Mill*** A well is marked here on the 1904 OS map. It is dug into a scarp *c*3m high at the base of the steep slope and is *c*1.1m from the tarmac roadway. The top is open with derelict remains of a cover of timber and galvanised sheeting. The interior is roughly oval in plan, a metre or so across and deep (it may be silted up). It is lined with small to medium sized local rubble slabs with some water-worn stones, 7 or so rough courses being visible. The north side is quite vertical, so although the other sides curve inwards as they rise, it seems unlikely that the roof was originally corbelled. The front is made from, or rebuilt with, concrete blocks.	The well seems to lie just outside the NT property (no boundary is evident on the ground). It may reflect provision for some new land use following sub-division of the former common.

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B19	MDV 106039	–	22255 19635 (centre of field with Holloway name, rather than site as such)	Hollow way, possible site	Possibly Medieval	***South of South Hole*** The 1844 survey records a post-medieval field here as Holloway Park. The name could perhaps refer to the adjoining road in use today. However the profile of this road does not resemble that of a hollow way (as defined by archaeologists!) Rather, it forms a shelf, with a lynchet *c*2m high running along its west side and a scarp above low wet ground on the east. An alternative explanation of the name is that it relates to an abandoned hollow way in the vicinity, but at present no supporting evidence for such a feature is known.	If the existing road passing this field *was* known as the Hollow Way, this could be significant in terms of past perceptions of landscape now in NT ownership. It may have been seen as such because of its depth in the valley below late- or post-medieval fields on its west (A42, A43), as opposed to the high open route to South Hole through coastal commons, part of which is now in use as a footpath (A28).
B20	–	–	22000 19760 (approx)	Earthwork, possible site	Possibly Prehistoric	***West of South Hole*** A moderately steep field on the inland side of the coastal ridge above South Hole has breaks in slope, possibly representing early settlement or other earthwork/s, in the vicinity of this NGR. From the NT land above, included in the 2015 walkover, a rounded feature with some resemblance to a prehistoric house platform was visible, but could not be positively identified.	A prehistoric settlement here would be of great interest, contributing to understanding of the setting and context of Embury, and potential for buried settlement-related remains within the adjoining NT land. However this is only a possible site, not confirmed.
B21	–	–	22190 19940	Settlement	Early medieval	***South Hole*** The manor of South Hole is recorded in Domesday Book (1086), and the plan and relationships of the farmsteads and other elements show its early origin and change over time. A notable feature, recorded on the detailed surveys of 1844 and 1884, greatly altered since then, is the open communal central space of the settlement, or 'townplace', centred at the NGR given.	The townplace probably addressed a primary east-west route, later closed here, part surviving in NT land (A47). The development and change of the hamlet could be included in a guide to its fields, common and routes in the NT property.
100387	MDV 7126	–	22208 19945	Chapel	Medieval (15th century or earlier)	***South Hole*** A chapel at South Hole was licensed in 1400 (Section 4.4). The 1844 survey records 'Chapel' names for neighbouring fields, pointing to a site in the vicinity (though a non-conformist chapel is also recorded for South Hole in the 19th century). The 1884 OS map marks the chapel site, below these fields, in the townplace now apparently largely enclosed (see B21). The small size and east-west orientation of the plot are consistent with this interpretation, as is the description of it by OS surveyors in the 20th century as a platform partly cut into the rock (the surveyors found no remains of walling, however).	The chapel is one of five recorded in hamlets of Hartland in medieval times, indicative of aspects of the distinctive development of this vast parish with its minster church north of the study area at Stoke (Section 4.4).

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B22	MDV 41896	–	Possibly 22208 19945	Enclosed cemetery, possible site	Medieval	***South Hole*** The HER notes a suggestion by Susan Pearce that an oval enclosure at St Heligan's Chapel, said to be 'encroached on' but clearer on the 1844 tithe map, is an early Christian cemetery. It is not clear from the sources seen exactly where the oval feature in question is; the HER map places this at the NGR given here, the possible chapel site.	The location of this site and its significance are uncertain at present. (The 1844 survey records an ovoid feature west of this point, noted in a separate HER entry as an 'enclosure', but this does not seem to be a cemetery; see B23.)
B23	MDV 106061	–	22135 19925 (centre)	Enclosure; Barn, dovecote, possible sites	Possibly Post-medieval	***South Hole*** The 1844 tithe survey records an enclosure, named Culvery and used as meadow, near the centre of the hamlet. This was roughly oval in plan, with a straight side on the west, and with a straight boundary also on the north east where a long building or range of buildings stood within it against the road. The straight line on the west may indicate that the enclosure was attached to an earlier boundary, possibly part of a strip field bisected by the road on its north, in which case it may be post-medieval. The name Culvery may indicate a culverhouse (or dove-cote) with inbuilt nest-holes for rearing pigeons for food. If so this could potentially have been the structure mapped here in 1844 (or part of it), since some post-medieval culverhouses were rectangular in plan, rather than circular as in medieval times (Robertson and Gilbert 1979, 9). The whole site was taken into a larger field by the time of the OS mapping of 1884.	If there was a culverhouse here, this is of interest in several ways. It would indicate that there was an associated house of high status in the vicinity, perhaps a medieval manor house, in which case it adds to the evidence for this being at the heart of the hamlet rather than at its north end (see note on B27). Its siting in the centre of the hamlet, unusual for culverhouses typically placed at a distance to limit damage to crops by the birds, could reflect the unusual remove of much of the core arable of South Hole from the heart of the settlement, due to the topography.
B24	–	–	22130 20030	Road	Early medieval	***South Hole*** This road through the centre of South Hole is marked as such as on the 1804 OS drawing, and on the tithe survey of 1844 which also shows detail of its relationships with fields of medieval origin and other features indicating it is an early route.	The development and change of the road system of South Hole, like that of the hamlet itself, could be included in a guide to its fields, common and routes in the NT property.
B25	–	–	22050 20150	Road	Later- or Post-medieval	***South Hole*** As can be seen from the 1844 tithe map, part of the present road at the upper (north) end of the hamlet cuts through strip field boundaries there, so may be post-medieval. It is marked on the 1804 OS drawing.	As above.

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B26	MDV 102245	–	22060 20080	Field system, Strip field	Early medieval	***South Hole*** Remains of strip fields lie north of the hamlet in a triangle formed by an early road respected by these and other strips on the east, and by an elbow of road on the west which appears later, cutting through the strips.	The low banks derived from medieval strip boundaries can be seen from the NT property on the coastal ridge, so help to show the origin of the fields there.
100386	MDV 12746	–	21934 20063	Manor house, possible site	Medieval	***South Hole Farm*** The 1884 OS map marks remains of a manor house here. South Hole is a Domesday manor but if there was a mansion in this part of the hamlet it would seem to have been later in origin (see note on B27).	The farmstead is closely associated with the NT property, its fields and lanes lying within this; if it was the site of a mansion it would seem to be later medieval.
B27	–	–	21934 20063	Farmstead	Medieval	***South Hole Farm*** The farmstead is shown schematically on the 1804 OS drawing, and in detail on the surveys of 1844 and 1884. The house and garden and yard areas appear inserted into medieval strip-derived fields, and the elbow of road serving it also seems secondary, so may be later medieval in origin.	See above.
B28	MDV 102229	–	21899 20314	Enclosure, clay pit, possible site		***North of South Hole*** A crescentic cropmark up to *c*35m across, in a marginal field on the edge of a coastal common, has been recorded from an aerial photograph of 1956 as a potential trace of a prehistoric enclosure (HER). The name given in the 1844 tithe survey for the field adjoining on the east, Clay Park, together with the shape of the feature, may suggest instead that it was a clay pit.	If a prehistoric settlement, the site would contribute to understanding of the setting and context of nearby fort at Embury, in the NT property. If a clay pit, it has some interest as a marker of one of the uses of the coastal margins; extraction pits obscured by ploughing may lie in NT land.
B29	MDV 61801	–	21900 20490 (approx)	Artefact scatter		***North of South Hole*** A flint scatter found in the corner of a ploughed field by the coastal path included at least 2 possible blade fragments and a possible scraper (HER).	The flint, with another found at Welcombe Mouth on the walkover in 2105, shows potential for others along the NT clifftops.

Fig 52 Tithe surveys of 1842 and 1844, with the study area outlined in red

Note the very large open commons of South Hole, long enclosed around Knap and South Hole itself, still extended along the coast from Knaps Longpeak as far north as Sandhole (top right), as well as running across the very steep slopes west of Cranham (centre right).

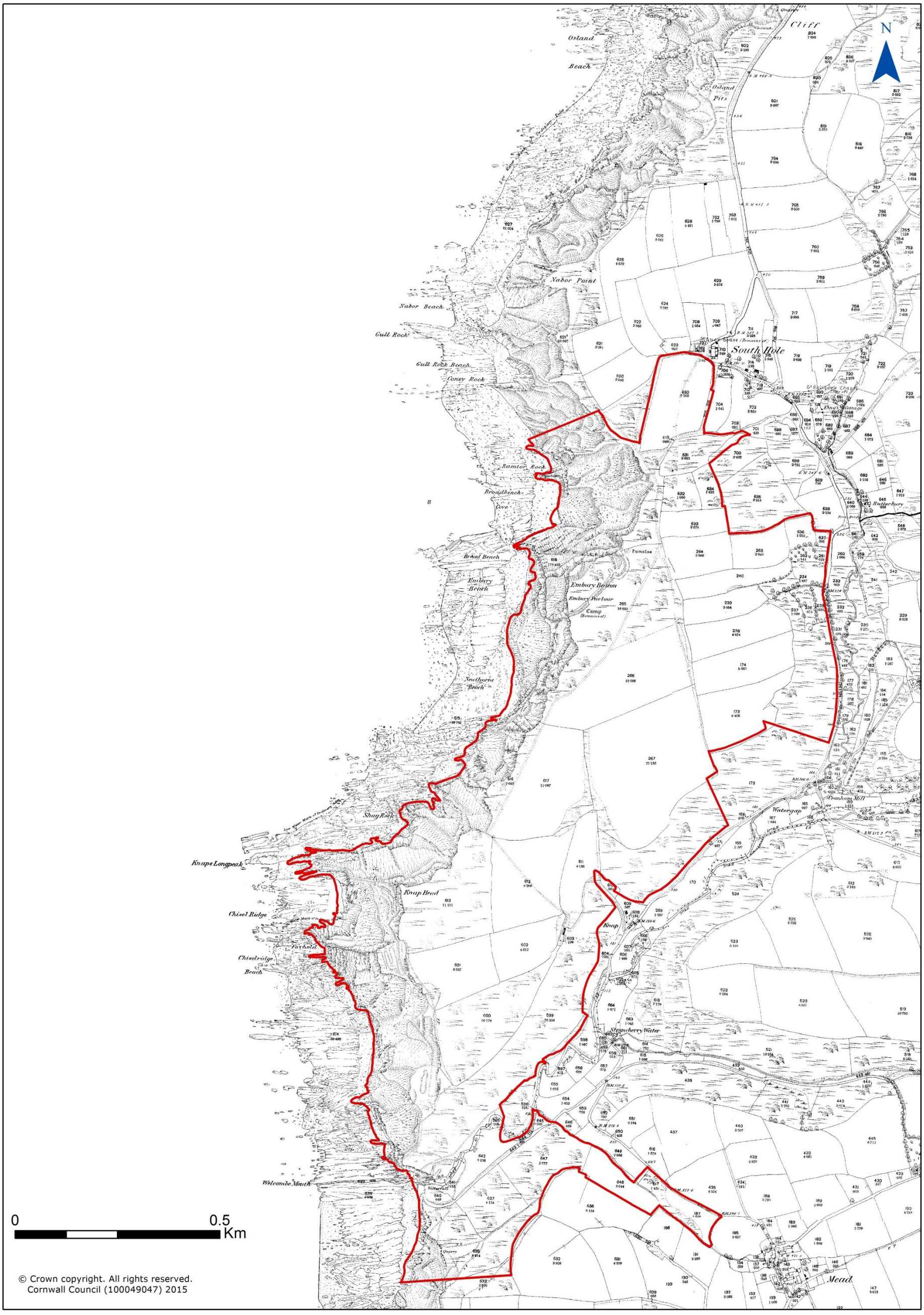

Fig 53 OS first edition 25 inch map, 1884, with the study area outlined in red

The earthworks of Embury Beacon (north of centre) lay in an area of coastal rough ground greatly reduced by enclosures to its south; a substantial part of the the interior of the inner enclosure at Embury still survived on the eroding clifftop. The area was very open, with no woods other than a small area of coppice east of Knap Shippen, and only a few hedgerows with large trees (south of South Hole).

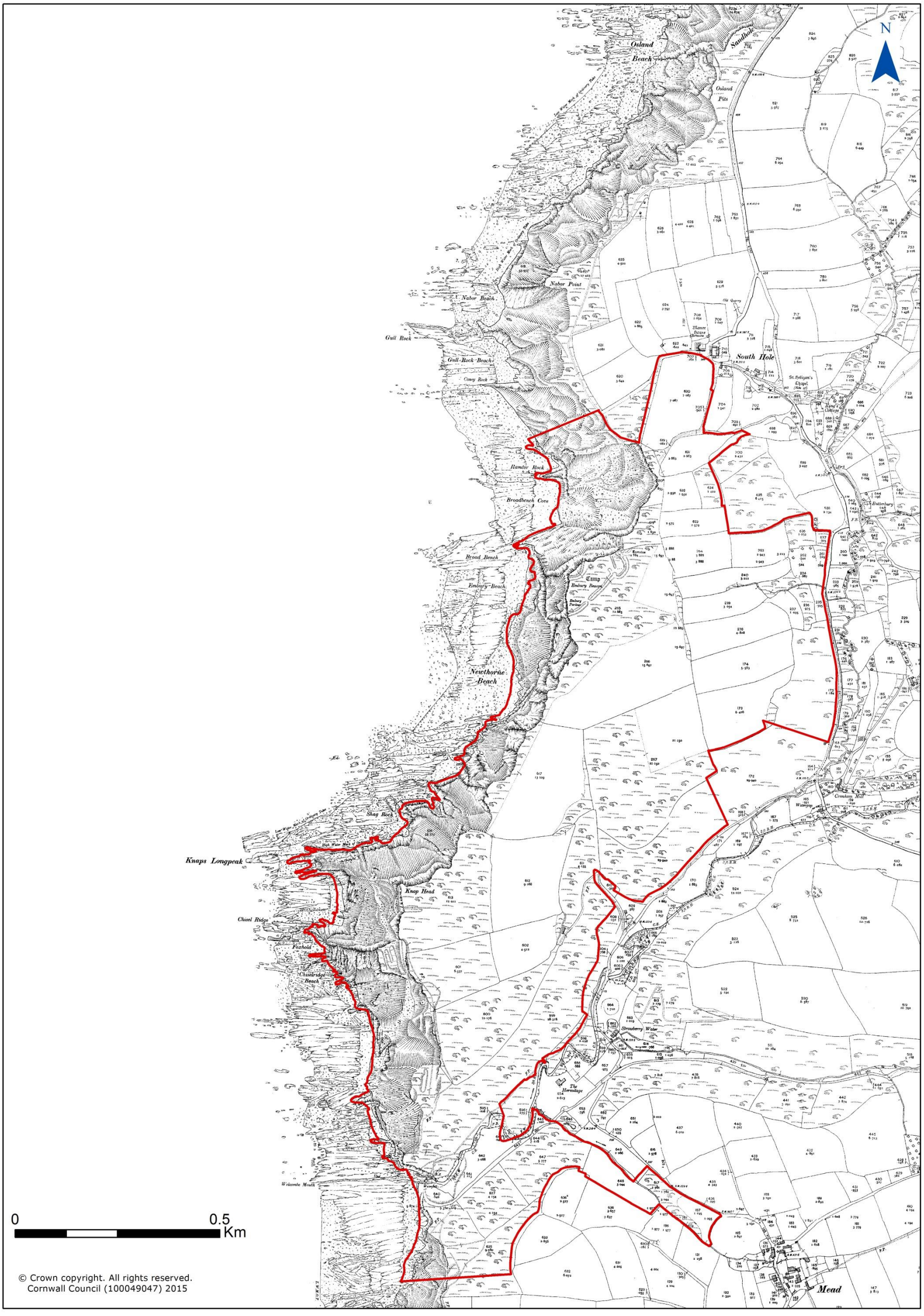

Fig 54 OS second edition 25 inch map, 1904, with the study area outlined in red

In general the landscape had changed little since the 19th century; on the rough commons at Embury, however, a further area of ground east of the fort was fenced and improved, even though land enclosed previously to its south had reverted to scrub since 1884. A small feature of interest is a well north of Cranham Mill by the eastern edge of the study area (right, below centre).

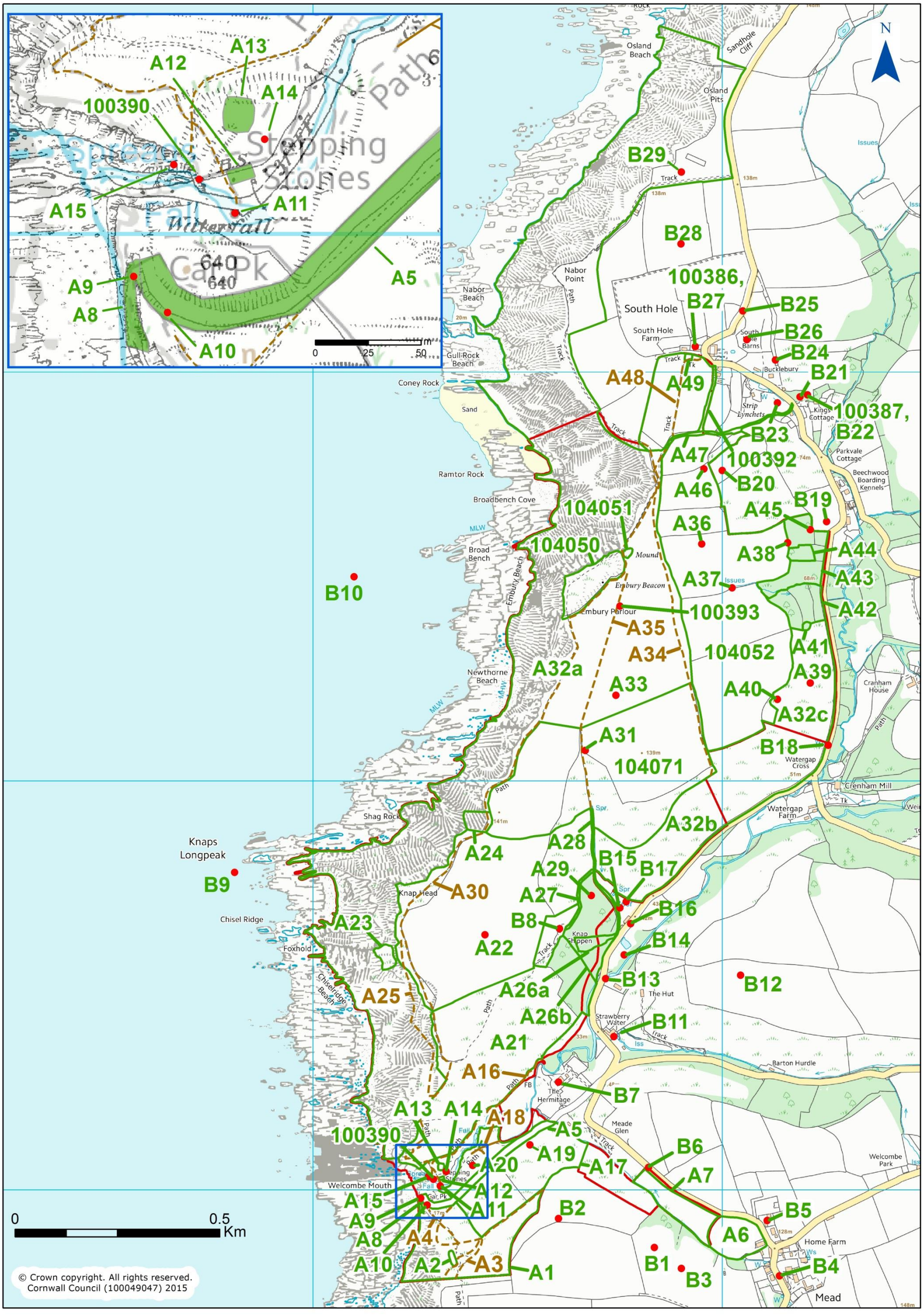

Fig 55 Site location map, with the study area outlined in red, and inset showing Welcombe Mouth combining the 1884 and modern maps

Where site extents are known, these are shown in green, or in brown for linear features (with dashed brown lines for tracks). The prefix A is used for sites within the NT property, and B for those beyond. Six figure numbers are those of NT sites recorded previously. The base used for the inset displays the 1884 map behind the modern one, since the 1884 survey records the river terraces (hachured).