

Proposed Holiday Lodges, Hall Wood, Pelynt, Looe,  
Cornwall; Heritage Impact Assessment

Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Report No: 2017R060



# **Proposed Holiday Lodges, Hall Wood, Pelynt, Looe, Cornwall**

## **Heritage Impact Assessment**

<b>Client</b>	<b>Mr Alex King</b> on behalf of Tower Property Developments Ltd
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This study by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, was commissioned by Mr Alex King on behalf of Tower Property Developments Ltd.

The Project Manager within CAU was Andy Jones.

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.

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Cover illustration

*Large tree bole in native woodland Site 13, east of the stream confluence on the south west in Hall Wood; view looking north west over the wet valley floor below (1m scale).*

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## **Abbreviations**

ADS	Archaeology Data Service (University of York)
BHO	British History Online
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CC	Cornwall Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HE	Historic England
HER	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
HLC	Historic Landscape Character
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCO	Monument number in Cornwall HER
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of archaeological investigations (collaborative scheme co-ordinated by ADS)
OD	Ordnance Datum – height above mean sea level at Newlyn
OS	Ordnance Survey
SMC	Scheduled Monument Consent



# **1 Summary**

This report presents the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, for proposed holiday lodges at Hall Wood. The site is a wooded valley east of the village of Pelynt, near Looe, Cornwall. The study was commissioned by Mr Alex King for Tower Property Developments Ltd. An HIA was required by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Historic England (HE). The wood takes in part of the edge of a prehistoric fort, Hall Rings, a Scheduled Monument (SM).

The HIA, in accordance with planning requirements, identifies the heritage resource of Hall Wood, and assesses potential impacts of the scheme on the resource, including those affecting the setting of the Hall Rings SM, and the setting of other Designated sites in the surrounding area. It also proposes measures including further archaeological work (subject to LPA approval) to avoid or reduce where possible adverse impacts upon the heritage resource, should the scheme proceed.

The principal study area covers the Hall Wood property, as defined by a blue line in plans submitted to the LPA, and, running south from this, the outer part of a proposed new access way included in the 'planning application area' defined by a red line in the same documentation. The assessment also extended to important nearby sites in the surroundings.

Fieldwork was necessarily targeted, since the property is large, mostly woodland, typically overgrown, and partially waterlogged. Features identified through desk-top study were visited, and wood compartments of different character or origin indicated by the map work were traversed. The sites identified may be said with a high level of confidence to be representative of the heritage resource of the main study area as a whole. Hall Rings itself was not available to walk over. However, its western margin, falling partly within the main study area, was accessed, though overgrown; allowing satisfactory assessment for the purposes of this study.

Methodology included initial rapid desk-based assessment of readily available sources, particularly Cornwall's Historic Environment Record (HER), and historic maps. This was followed by a brief 'walkover' to record archaeological sites and potential for buried remains, using annotation of a base map generated by the desktop work, and selective digital colour photography for report illustration purposes. Potential visual impacts were considered, as far as the tree cover of the valley allowed. Following the fieldwork results were further analysed to generate this HIA report.

Hall Wood is a relatively remote valley with distinctive topography and historic or semi-natural landscape, featuring a potential early linear boundary, remains of ancient woodland including a possibly pre-Norman woodland boundary, and a post-medieval or earlier warren site. Its heritage resource contributes significantly to the value of the settings of several sites of National Importance. It contains part of, and adjoins, one such site; the large Scheduled prehistoric fort of Hall Rings. The linear boundary, if confirmed as such, may be part of the district 'frontier' known as the Giant's Hedge, part Scheduled.

Plans for forest lodges and associated works in the wood and on the approach to it include elements with potential adverse impacts on earthworks and buried remains, considered to be significant elements of the settings of Hall Rings and of other heritage assets beyond the main study area.

Measures to avoid or reduce such potential direct (physical) impact are identified and are considered to mitigate for it satisfactorily (whilst being subject to approval by the Local Planning Authority, as noted above). These include archaeological watching brief, and section recording for the potential linear boundary should this be partially disturbed or truncated. Potential visual and traffic impacts from the scheme are also identified for consideration, together with suggested further archaeological mitigation (not related to any particular direct impact).

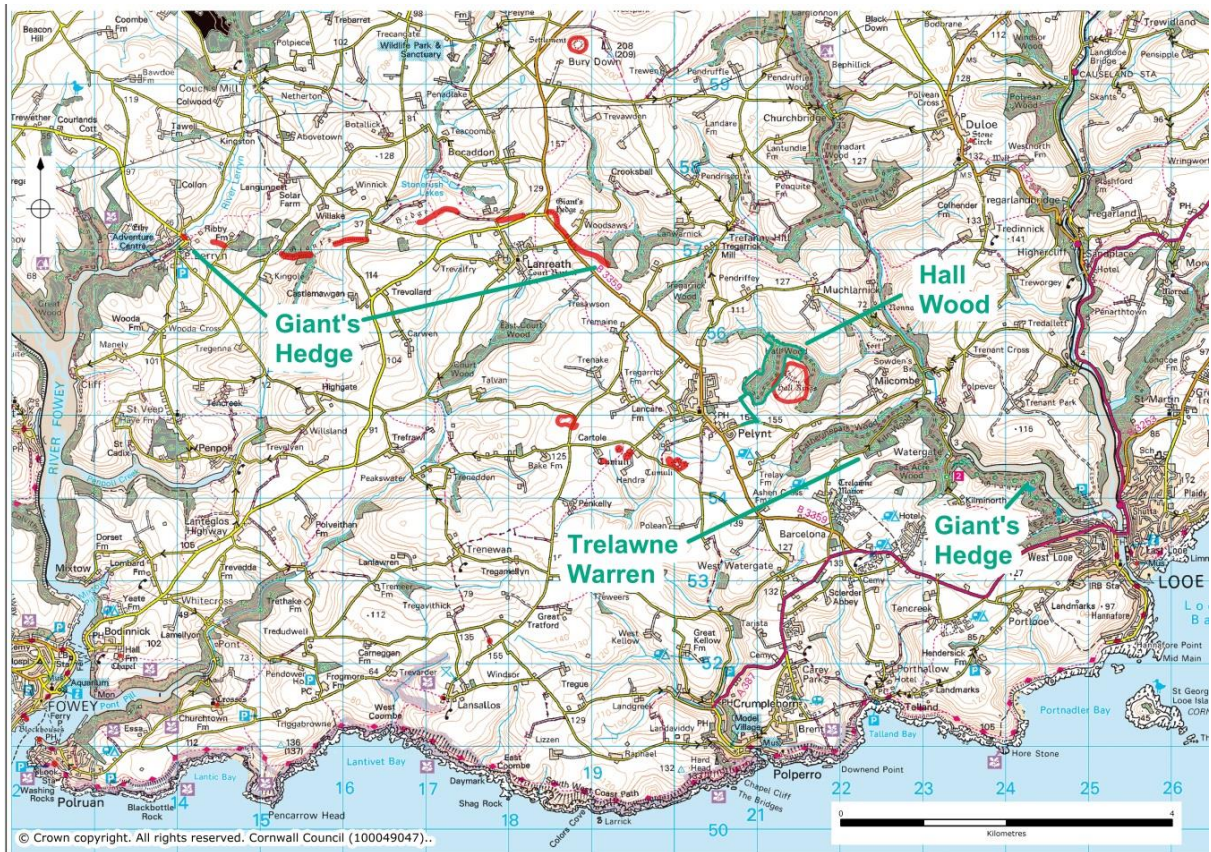


Fig 1 Location map with landscape features noted in green, SMs being outlined in red.

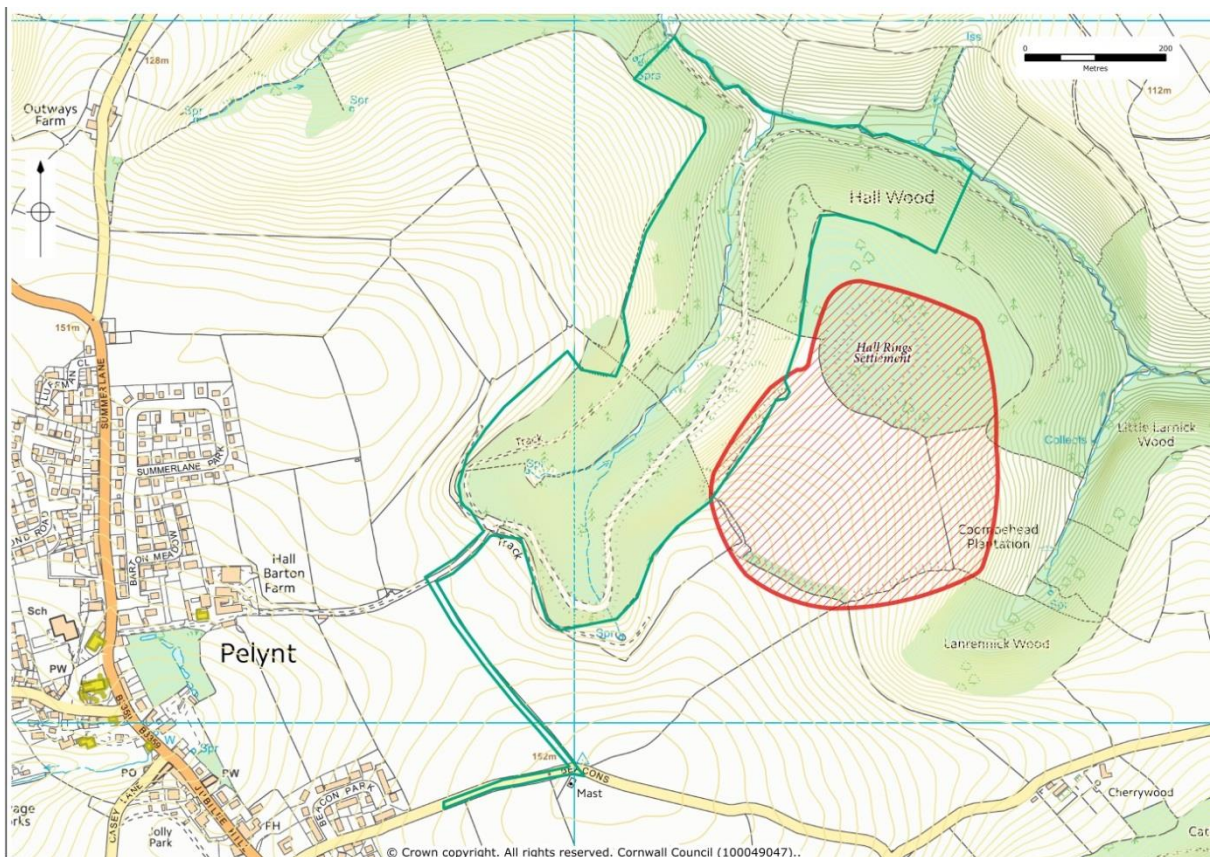


Fig 2 Map showing scheme extent outlined in green, SM shaded red, and LBs in yellow.

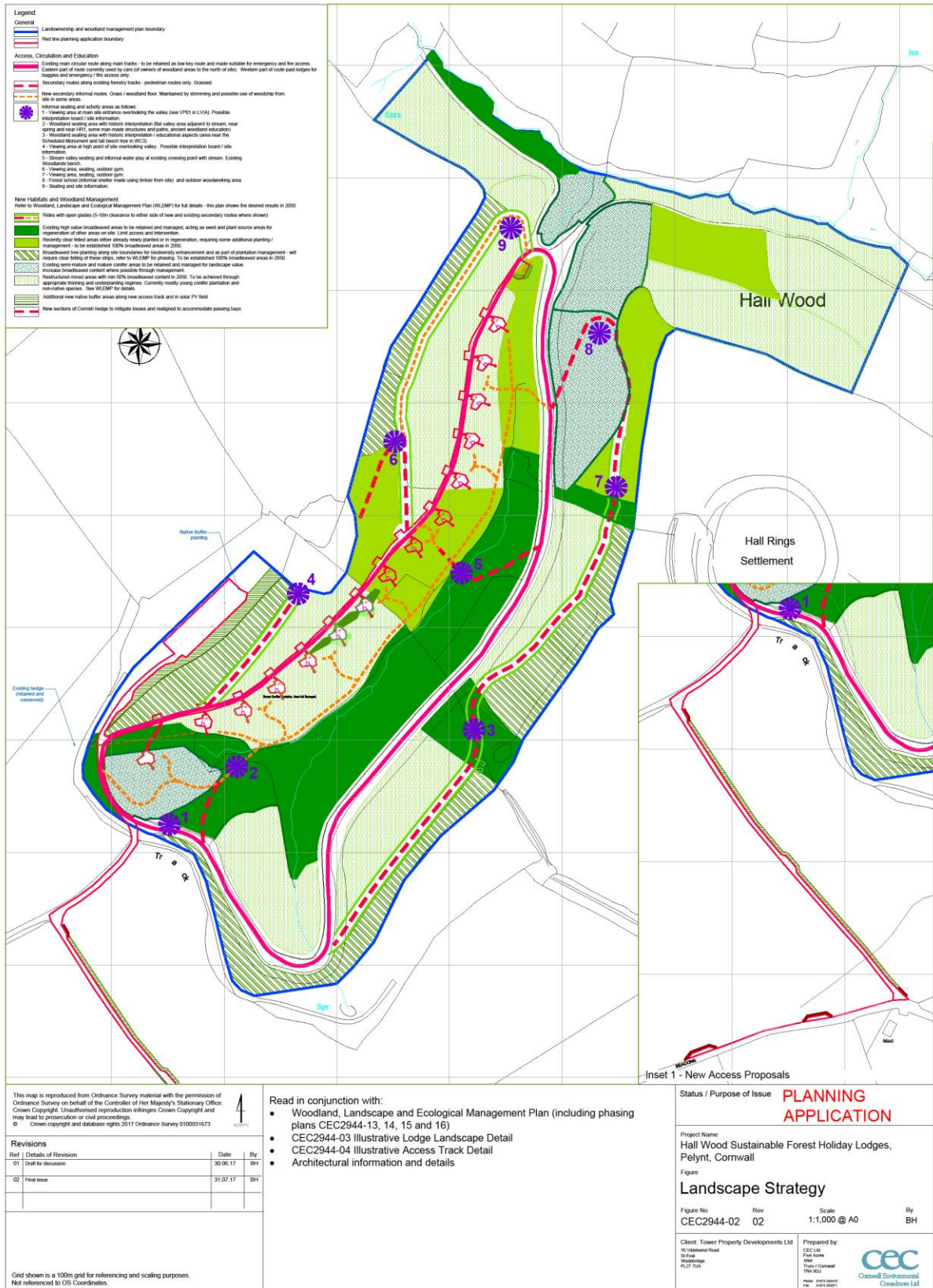


Fig 3 General plan of scheme including woodland management (CC planning portal).

## **2 Introduction**

### **2.1 Project background**

This report presents the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU), Cornwall Council), for proposed holiday lodges at Hall Wood, Pelynt, near Looe, Cornwall (NGR SX 20924 55289) (Fig 1). The study was commissioned by Mr Alex King for Tower Property Developments Ltd. As noted in comments on the relevant Planning Application (PA17/07467) by the Historic Environment Planning (Archaeology) Officer, and by Historic England (HE), an HIA was required to identify and address the potential archaeological and historic landscape impact of the proposed works. The district was previously known to have various designated sites, and the study area incorporates part of the edge of a large, elevated, later prehistoric enclosure, Hall Rings, a Scheduled Monument with statutory protection (see further Section 3.2 below).

### **2.2 Aims**

The HIA was aimed at providing the following, to accord with planning requirements:

- Identification, location and recording of archaeological sites or landscape features within the study area, and of potential for buried remains.
- Assessment of potential direct impacts of the scheme on archaeological remains or historic landscape features.
- Assessment of the scheme's potential visual and other impacts on the importance and integrity of the setting of the Hall Rings SM, and of the setting of other Designated sites in the surrounding area.
- Recommendations to avoid or reduce where possible adverse impacts upon the archaeological resource, should the scheme proceed; including further archaeological recording during the development and construction of the scheme.

### **2.3 Methodology**

#### **2.3.1 Study area**

The principal study area covers the Hall Wood property, as defined by a blue line in plans submitted to the LPA (Figs 2 and 3), and, running south from this, the outer part a proposed new access way included in the 'planning application area' defined by a red line in the same documentation. The majority of the red line area – that is, the rest of the access road, and the footprint of the proposed solar array – are taken in by the blue line. The study also extended to important nearby sites in the surroundings.

The fieldwork within the study area (Section 2.3.3) was necessarily targeted, since the property is large, mostly woodland, typically overgrown, and partially waterlogged. Using the results of the analysis of maps and other documents (Section 2.3.2), features of particular interest were visited, and wood compartments of different character or origin indicated by the map work were traversed, so that the sites identified may be said with a high level of confidence to be representative of the heritage resource of the main study area as a whole. The lower, north-east end of Hall Wood, in a different valley, facing away from the rest and from the proposed works and Hall Rings, was not visited.

Hall Rings itself was not available to walk over, but its western margin, falling within the main study area, was accessed, though overgrown, allowing satisfactory assessment for the purposes of this study. Visits to other heritage assets in the wider landscape, envisaged in the Project Design to allow assessment of visual impact, were found to be unnecessary as they were not discerned from the lodge sites (Fig 4) or solar array location (Fig 21).

### **2.3.2 Desk-based assessment**

A rapid desk-based assessment was carried out to inform the fieldwork stage. This comprised searching and interpreting the following (see Section 10 for more details).

- Historic Environment Record (HER) including sources in CAU library (Section 10.2).
- Historic maps (Section 10.1), including:
  - OS first edition 1 inch map (1813) and preliminary drawing (1803);
  - Pelynt parish tithe apportionment map and schedule (c1840);
  - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Editions of the OS 25 inch maps (c1880 and c1907).

### **2.3.3 Fieldwork**

Fieldwork consisted of a brief 'walkover' of the study area, covering the footprint of the proposed development, and targeted parts of the wider property (see note in Section 2.3.1). Preparation for the fieldwork involved preparation of base maps showing known sites or features of interest. Recording in the field was by annotation of the base map, and by selective digital colour photography for report illustration purposes.

The project officer recorded information about the following, within the study area:

- Existing or previous land use likely to affect the survival or condition of sites.
- Location of archaeological sites, or areas likely to contain buried archaeological remains, and their needs in terms of protection or recording.
- Definition of any areas where archaeological mitigation may be appropriate (for example geophysical survey or archaeological watching brief, etc).
- Inter-visibility between proposed sites of structures and heritage assets.

### **2.3.4 Post-fieldwork**

The results from the above stages were then assimilated and further analysed to produce this HIA report. Photographs were labelled and archived, and an entry was made for the HIA in the Historic England/ADS OASIS online archive index.

## **3 Site Location and Designations**

### **3.1 Location and Topography**

Hall Wood lies in a rural location east of Pelynt, a village in the hinterland of Looe, a port and resort town on the south coast of east Cornwall (Figs 1 and 2). The Hall Wood site – historically lying in several woods, and in farmland, as noted in Sections 4 and 5 – occupies the steep-sided valley of one of the head-streams of a tributary to one of the main rivers of the district, the West Looe. This is a small, discreet and deep side-valley, less than 1km long, running roughly SSW-NNE (Fig 2).

The landscape spreading east from here over several kilometres across the West Looe is strongly shaped by that river system. Sudden valleys, interlocking interfluvial promontories and the West Looe itself, tidal to a point little more than 1km east of Hall Wood, mean that this place is relatively remote from through traffic as well as centres of population. The Hall Rings monument extending from the study area to the west (see Section 3.2.1.1) is noted for its 'fine peninsula situation' (Grigson 1954, 147) with valleys falling away around it and a panorama of woods (Figs 4 and 5).

Bedrocks are the mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Lower Devonian, and soils are 'Manod' typical brown podzols (Soil Survey of England and Wales). Ground on the site falls from c140m on the west to c50m on the east (Fig 2). The proposed lodge sites are on the WSW-facing side of the valley, extending almost all along it, at intervals (see Fig 3, and Section 6).

## **3.2 Designations; Sites of National Importance**

### **3.2.1 Scheduled Monuments (SMs)**

#### **3.2.1.1 Scheduled Monument partly within study area**

**Slight univallate hillfort with outworks called Hall Rings** (List Entry 1006682).

Hall Rings extends over much of the spur east of the Hall Wood valley, the round enclosure at the core of the fort lying on top of the river end of the spur, lower than the fort's southern outwork (Figs 2, 4, 22, 23 and 33). This is a hillfort or river promontory fort of prehistoric type, with an unusual complex of outworks, partly upstanding (see extract from Scheduling documentation, Appendix IA, for fuller description).

The earthworks are best preserved to the south west side, towards Hall Wood (Scheduling description), and a substantial margin of the SM, on the west side of the outer part of the monument, lies within the study area. This Scheduled belt of ground in the top of the wood extends for some 200m and is up to around 20m wide (Fig 18).

Also of note here is an anomaly indicating a buried large rectangular feature in the core enclosure of Hall Rings, found by recent geophysical survey (Lewis and Frieman 2016). The shape and size of the feature (it measures c30m by 15m), together with evidence for other remains inside it, may indicate it was an enclosure representing reuse of the site in the historic era, perhaps giving rise to the place-name Hall or La Halle; though this is only a possibility suggested by this assessment (the rectangular feature is not interpreted in the online geophysical survey report).

#### **3.2.1.2 Scheduled Monuments in the surrounding area**

Other SMs lie in the wider surrounding area. Observations made as part of the walkover indicate that these would have no significant intervisibility with the structural elements of the scheme, due to topography as well as tree cover (Figs 4, 21 and 28).

However, present understanding indicates that an earthwork partly within the study area (Site 5; see Section 4.1.1) is potentially an undesignated part of an extensive landscape feature protected elsewhere in the locality by the SM noted below.

**Linear boundary called the Giant's Hedge** (List Entry 006681).

Scheduling comprising several parts protects much of the course of the Giant's Hedge, a linear earthwork with related folklore reflected in its name (Fig 1). The Hedge runs across the coastal country between the tidal reaches of the Lerryn and Looe rivers, and is considered to be a rare pre-Norman territorial boundary (Scheduling documentation, Appendix IB). The SM lies north west of the study area, approximately 2.15km away at its nearest point.

### **3.2.2 Listed Buildings (LBs)**

The study area contains no Listed Buildings (LBs). The following Listing protects the farmhouse on the east of Pelynt, some 380m away, developed at the historical centre of the estate containing Hall Wood.

**Hall Barton Farmhouse, Pelynt** Grade II (List Entry 1140697)

The barton house, east of Pelynt village (Fig 2), is possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century with mid-19<sup>th</sup> century alterations. It has a double depth plan with a principal room on either side of the central entrance hall; two storeys; and a symmetrical 3-window front. Its fabric includes some reused earlier dressed granite, and there is much dressed granite in the surrounding outbuildings and in the yard (NGR: SX 20471 55152).

### **3.2.3 Hedgerow Regulations**

'Cornish hedges' or boundary banks within the scheme are considered important under the historic criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations of 1997 (the criteria including whether a hedge marks a pre-1850 boundary, and whether it incorporates an archaeological feature). Owners wishing to remove such hedgerows are required to notify the LPA.

## 4 The Heritage Resource

This Section presents a brief outline based on present knowledge. Modern forestry tracks are not included (Site numbers can be used to cross-refer to Figs 33-35).

### 4.1 Sites within the Study Area

Sites are noted in order progressing from south west to north east across the scheme.

#### 4.1.1 Known sites and Historic Landscape Character (HLC) in the study area

- **1 Road** (medieval or earlier in origin). The minor road Beacons, south of the historic core of Pelynt, forms part of a route running south west from the core of Hall Rings, visible as road, footpath, hedgerow or cropmark lines (Fig 34).
- **2 Observation Post** (Second World War). A national survey of wartime archaeology, the Defence of Britain Project, records a roadside observation post at Beacons. The remains are said to be in very poor condition, with all the vents missing from the turrets and water in the underground chamber (MCO 42693). The site appeared overgrown at the time of the walkover but was not inspected.
- **3 Field system** (probably pre-Norman in origin). The pattern of the farmland south and east of the woods shows this has developed from a medieval strip-derived field system re-organised to form larger 'Barton' (estate home farm) enclosures. A medieval-type hedge lies beside the proposed access (Fig 6).
- **4 Road** (possibly medieval). The lane from Hall Barton to the upper end of the woods appears secondary to the boundary there at Site 5 (Fig 7). It may have served a higher-status medieval farm at the Barton site, held by the Achyms by lease from the monks of Newenham in east Devon who had owned Pelynt Manor from 1247 (Grigson 1954, 30-32). It retains its hedgerows, some old metalling, and a displaced traditional granite post at its west end.
- **5 Linear boundary**, possible site (potentially pre-Norman); Warren boundary (pre-19<sup>th</sup> century). The sinuous boundary bank south west of the woods – and extensions of it in either direction – is picked out on the OS scaled drawing of the area, dated 1803, with an ink wash used for ramparts and similar earthwork antiquities; the feature also appears on the smaller-scale map of 1813 based on this (Fig 30). On the detailed map of c1880 the boundary here has hachures towards the south end of this part, indicating an earthwork, and can be seen to extend away south east as a primary line (Fig 34). The bank is at least c2m wide and 2m high, possibly considerably larger in places but difficult to measure due to fencing and lack of gateways along the length in the study area (Figs 7-11). It follows the brink of the Hall Woods valley, so facing north east. It may be a linear earthwork associated with that known as the Giant's Hedge (Section 3.2.1.2). The boundary here was (re-) used to enclose a warren (Site 8). Some of the stone facing on the wood side of the bank may be from this phase which is undated at present but had ended before c1840 (Figs 10 and 11).
- **6 Road** (potentially pre-Norman in origin). The track above Hall Wood running along inside (east of) the possible linear boundary Site 5 is indicated on the map of 1813 (Fig 30). It could follow an external ditch line associated with the linear bank, and/or be an early route. An earthwork in part of the field proposed for the solar array may be part of the same route (Figs 7, 8 and 9).
- **7 Building**, site of (early 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier). The tithe map of c1840 depicts a rectangular structure in front of boundary Site 5, in the side of the lane there (Site 6). No traces are visible but some may survive in the verge (Fig 7).

- **8 Warren** (possibly medieval or Tudor). The field-name Warren listed in the c1840 survey indicates a warren lying in the west end of the Hall Wood valley (now part of plantation Site 11). This was arable by the time of the c1840 survey so is earlier, perhaps for the Bullers who settled at Tregarrick in the reign of Elizabeth I, and acquired Hall after the dissolution of the monasteries (Lysons and Lysons 1814). (Tregarrick can be seen in Fig 30, west of Hall.) Buller lands in the area passed to a younger branch of the family in Morval in 1710 (*ibid*).
- **9 Orchard** (early 19<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier). The c1840 and c1880 maps record an orchard on the west in the study area, now under conifers (Figs 13 and 32).
- **10 Quarry** (post-medieval). The c1880 map depicts an earthwork oval in plan and up to c25m across (Fig 33). It is not clearly marked as either a mound or a hollow. The location in a former warren might suggest a possible 'pillow mound' or rabbit bury. However on the ground this appears to be an old quarry levelled into the slope, smoothed over by later ploughing and planting (Fig 14).
- **11 Plantation** (early 21<sup>st</sup> or late 20<sup>th</sup> century). The conifer plantations (Fig 29) now covering much of the study area are modern (compare Figs 33 and 35).
- **12 Boundary** (19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier: potentially medieval in origin). A worn boundary bank lies west of early bank Site 14 (Fig 15). The maps of c1840, c1880 and c1908 mark a dashed boundary against a strip of trees here (Site 13). Dashing usually marks a fence line. Possibly the bank was built post-1908, or is a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century field boundary reused to fence a plantation at Site 13.
- **13 Ancient woodland or Plantation** (early 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, possibly several phases). The drawing of 1803 shows a 'tail' of trees in the valley south west of ancient woods Sites 15 and 17. The c1840 and c1880 maps record the extent of woodland here apparently established in the former warren, including a strip between boundaries Sites 12 and 14 possibly dating from between 1803 and c1840. Large broadleaf trees survive in places (cover photo, and Fig 16).
- **14 Boundary** (probably medieval, potentially pre-Norman in origin.) The OS drawing of 1803 hints at a boundary running north west from the southern outwork of Hall Rings. The c1840 and c1880 maps show this as a sinuous boundary on the same line as, and with a curve similar to, the outwork (Figs 32 and 33). In the study area it is a substantial bank, with old trees (Figs 16 and 17), which formed the west boundary of ancient woods Sites 15 and 17.
- **15 Ancient Woodland** (medieval or earlier). The wood on the north west in the study area appears on the 1803 OS drawing. As the c1840 survey records, this was Holy Well Wood. By the time of the c1880 map the name Hall Wood was used for it together with Hall Wood proper adjoining it on the east, Site 17. The area appears mostly replanted with old trees remaining in places (Fig 35).
- **16 Orchard** (early 19<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier). The maps of c1840 and c1880 record a small orchard near the centre of the study area (Figs 32 and 33).
- **17 Plantation** The c1840 map records a plantation on the south in Hall Wood (Fig 32). Trees of this era may include a large beech below quarry Site 19.
- **18 Ancient Woodland** (medieval or earlier). Hall Wood is recorded on the historic maps consulted, in a similar way to Holy Well Wood (Site **15**). Like the latter it is partly replanted, but many native trees remain here on the west above the stream dividing the two woods, and to the south (Fig 27).



- **19 Quarry** (pre-1880: post-medieval or earlier). The c1880 map records earthworks c30m across in the south corner of old Hall Wood, including a roughly oval hollow with bank below (Fig 33). The site appears shaped mainly by abandoned early quarrying, though other features are present (Fig 18).
- **20 Quarry** (pre-c1840: post-medieval or earlier). The maps of c1840 and c1880 show a kink in the field/wood boundary here. This is an old quarry.
- **21 Boundary** A hedge bank mapped c1840 north of plantation Site 17 may have been built to bound that re-planting of part of Hall Wood (although if so, it is perhaps surprising that its line runs on to Hall Rings above the wood).
- **22 Quarry** (pre-c1880: probably post-c1840). The c1880 map depicts a patch of rough ground at the field/wood boundary, an old quarry, probably made after c1840 as the map of that date does not show it (Figs 32 and 33).
- **23 Road, Ford** (probably medieval or earlier). A track mapped c1880 runs along the larger valley on the north, fording the Hall Wood stream (Fig 33). It may be medieval or earlier, particularly since it climbs to approach Hall Rings from the north east side. The ford site was visited on the walkover; the road here has been built up relatively recently to carry forestry vehicles.

#### 4.1.2 Further specific archaeological potential in the study area

The base of the side valley at Hall Wood, running through the centre of most of the study area, features several natural springs, visible on the maps of c1840 and 1880 and/or on the ground, and has areas of waterlogging (Fig 19). Such wet ground may contain buried deposits with potential for palaeoenvironmental indicators (evidence of past environmental conditions and change), and may preserve organic artefacts.

## 4.2 Surrounding sites

Sites in the surroundings include the following (in addition to Designated sites noted in Section 3.2). (These sites are labelled on the project mapping shown in Figs 33-35.)

- **A Beacon**, site of (medieval or later). The site of a beacon, possibly leaving buried remains such as a fire pit, is indicated by the names of several fields and of Beacons road, south of the study area. One such name is noted in the HER as MCO 4056. The presumed site is not precisely located but would lie around 200m south of the wood on the summit there, rounded but significantly higher than the surroundings at c155m (Fig 2). It would *not* be expected to be at the site plotted for MCO 4056 in the HER – only c40m from the wood- which simply marks the centre of one of the adjoining fields named after it.
- **B Tree pits**, possible site (probably post-medieval). The NMP plots numerous buried hollows south of the Hall Rings SM, noted in the HER as undated hollows MCO 39668 (Fig 35). Historic maps show the field in which they lie was coppice in 1840 and wooded also in 1803 and 1813 (Fig 31). The features may perhaps mark sites of trees, most likely planted in the last few centuries as the field appears derived from medieval ones, and if so buried remains could extend (as the old coppice did) to the planned south end of the new access road.
- **C Quarry**, disused (post-medieval). A quarry west of the woods appears in part on the survey of c1840, and, in developed form, but partly or wholly disused, on the c1880 map. A track to it crosses the study area and spoil may lie here too.
- **D Holy well**, possible site. One of two neighbouring springs on the valley side north west of the study area, associated with the place-name Holy Well, could be a holy well of medieval date, though no well house or other remains indicating an early structure are recorded (HER MCO 6986).

## **5 Brief Overview and Statement of Significance**

This overview focusses on the significance of the main features, or aspects, of the identified heritage resource potentially affected by the scheme.

Hall Wood, though enlarged and extensively re-planted with conifers, clearly derives from ancient woodland. Its northern woods (Sites 15 and 17) are considered to have been among the thirty acres of woodland in Plument (Pelynt) recorded in Domesday Book of 1086 (Henderson 1935, 137). Trees in the base of the upper valley were also established before 1803 (Site 13), as was coppice to the east now lost (Site B, Section 4.2). Woods and their traditional management were important for Pelynt, where an inn displayed the woodman's symbol, The Axe, in post-medieval times (Douch 1966, 185).

As noted in Section 3.2 part of the east edge of Hall Wood lies in the margin of the designated area of the prehistoric fort of Hall Rings, a Scheduled Monument, on the river promontory rising above the valley to the east, and as such is of National Importance. The historic landscape within the study area as a whole is considered an important part of the setting of this SM, and also of that of another Nationally Important site - Hall Barton, Listed at Grade II, west of the valley. It can contribute in several significant ways to understanding and experiences of these heritage assets.

- Hall Wood's small but sudden valley forms part of the unusual topography which Hall Rings with its quite complex outworks is evidently designed to exploit. Any undisturbed early waterlogged deposits from the valley floor (Section 4.1.2) could contribute rare palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- The cross-valley woodland boundary, Site 14, continuing or extending the sinuous line of the upstanding ridge-top outwork of Hall Rings, is potentially pre-Norman in origin. The woodland north of this being ancient in origin is potentially coeval with possible medieval re-occupation of the fort (Sites 15 and 17). The boundary itself may help us understand the fort's relationships with, or legacy to, past organisation of the wider landscape.
- The early routes to Hall Rings from the north east and south west (Sites 1 and 23) may provide evidence of how the fort was approached in the past, and of relationships between it and the 'Giant's Hedge' country (see further below).
- Strip-derived fields south west of the wood (Site 3) formed part of the arable land of Hall, held by the Achyms by lease from the monks of Newenham in east Devon who had owned Pelynt Manor from 1247 (Grigson 1954, 30-32). Fields have been altered through early 'improvement' to a Barton-type system, but a long sinuous boundary reflects their earlier origins.
- The former warren remains tangible through the lack of medieval strip-derived fields there, as well as through its west boundary (thought to reuse a linear boundary), and the lane to this from Hall Barton, with its 'lost' building (Sites 4 and 7). Its origin and character are uncertain, but it may have been made for the Bullers of Tregarrick in Pelynt, who acquired Hall after the dissolution of the monasteries (Lysons and Lysons 1814, xcvi – cxviii). As such it would be part of the high-status landscape of Hall, and meaningful also in terms of a warren at the neighbouring estate of Trelawne, with Grade II Listed walls (Fig 1).
- Orchards within Warren at Sites 9 and 16 have local interest as elements of the economy and traditions of Hall Barton, though no fruit trees are known to survive (the eastern orchard site was not walked over for the HIA due to dense vegetation combined with steepness).

Also, the potential linear boundary with external route, south of Hall Wood (Sites 5 and 6), is important for the setting of the Giant's Hedge SM (Section 3.2). It may be part of the Hedge and may preserve evidence for its date and character and, in this position, for any functional or chronological relationships between the Hedge and Hall Rings.

The observation post on the south of the scheme (Site 2) is apparently deteriorated, but still significant as a local marker of responses to wartime threat to the district, close to a beacon site which however is poorly understood at present (at A, in Section 4.2).

## **6 General summary of proposed works**

The scheme involves construction of 15 holiday lodges in Hall Wood, set at intervals in a linear arrangement along the south-east facing side of the stream valley (Fig 3). Access proposals include a length of new road on the south west, reuse and extension of forestry tracks, and provision of paths. Notable ancillary works are a solar array on the west, and parking places.

## **7 Potential impact of proposed works**

In this Section potential heritage impacts are identified for the various main elements or types of work involved in the scheme; progressing south to north and west to east.

### ***Main access and principal structures***

#### **7.1 Modification to Beacons road**

Addition of passing places is expected to involve breaching the road/field boundary likely to be medieval in origin (part of Sites 1 and 3) which may preserve signs of its origin and development, such as an early core to its bank.

#### **7.2 New access from Beacons to Hall Barton lane**

Groundworks for new road here (as in anciently enclosed land elsewhere in Cornwall) could disturb buried remains of the medieval or earlier eras (Site 3: Fig 6). A passing place is proposed and the comment on the passing places planned for Beacons (above) also apply here. There may be some risk of damage to the observation post at the far end of the route (Site 2). The access would introduce traffic flow between Hall Barton and the wood with its warren site, probably a high-status element of the estate.

The new road, however, would run along the south west side of an existing historic hedge bank, so would not disrupt the pattern of the field system; would pass through existing gateways at either end, so minimising physical impact; and would have some screening from the Hall Wood direction due to the presence of the hedge bank.

#### **7.3 Reuse of Hall Wood end of Hall Barton lane**

Modification of the lane could disturb the potential linear boundary and routeway (Sites 5 and 6) at the wood end, and any buried associated remains there or at the junction with the forestry track beyond intended for the next stretch of the access (see Section 7.4). Also, a traditional granite gatepost here is displaced, so may be vulnerable.

#### **7.4 Modification to forestry track on south west in Hall Wood**

Proposed incorporation of part of the forestry track in the main access way would involve groundworks to upgrade its damp earthy bed (Fig 12). The access would effectively introduce new traffic flow to the Warren, a designed part of the setting of Hall Barton, but currently poorly understood, and under recent conifers. The track is modern, not archaeologically sensitive in its own right, and not known to intersect archaeological features other than the Warren (see above for comment on works to its junction with Hall Barton lane).

Use of this route as part of the main access would be preferable to use of the early route beside the possible linear boundary to the west (Sites 5 and 6; Fig 7).

#### **7.5 Solar array in field outside south west corner of Hall Wood**

Installation of the solar array with its access spur, parking, etc would impact anciently enclosed land beside and near the 'front' side of the potential linear boundary Site 5 which forms the hedge bank to the west (Figs 8 and 20). Associated buried remains could be encountered during the construction phase. Any evidence for the origin and date of Site 5 could be of great value. The more general potential for disturbance to buried medieval or earlier remains in anciently enclosed land also applies here.

In the operational phase visual impact would be expected on Site 5 if it is indeed a linear boundary (Fig 20), and this would be considered to constitute an adverse impact on the setting of the Scheduled parts of the district's linear boundary, the Giant's Hedge (not themselves intervisible with this area; see Fig 1).

## **7.6 Construction of forest lodges at intervals off forestry track**

The planned 2-storey holiday lodges would project from the natural slope but would entail some ground-disturbing works for each – excavations for foundations, and provision of services beneath the lodge and storage/transport compounds on the opposite side of the forestry track proposed as their access way. In the Warren area (Site 8), as in other anciently enclosed land, these groundworks could encounter medieval or earlier buried remains. Further north east, in the ancient woodland area (Site 15), this is perhaps unlikely as woods and traditional woodland management here have probably left fewer traces below ground (other than less complex and important features such as old tree-pits silted up over time).

Lodge sites have theoretical intervisibility with western parts of the extensive SM lying on and adjoining the east side of the study area, Hall Rings; in that these locations face each other across the valley. This is demonstrable west of the core of Hall Rings (Figs 25 and 26). Trees largely block the valley from the 'topographical' view-shed of Hall Rings at present (Fig 24). Lodge construction, and also some of the proposed forestry management (see below), would be expected to open some lines of sight, between western parts of the SM and the development, whether temporary (during growth of new trees to maturity) or longer-term.

In general the proposals for woodland management do refer to potential for screening visual impact from the lodges and solar array; but they may be considered to lack specific measures to protect or screen the Hall Rings SM and the potential linear boundary at Site 5 (which site was not identified as such prior to this assessment).

### ***Internal access, landscaping works and woodland management***

## **7.7 Reuse of existing forestry track circuit**

No significant direct (physical) impacts are expected here. New types and volumes of traffic and noise are likely to be introduced to a generally tranquil area with adverse impact on the setting of the Hall Rings SM.

## **7.8 New secondary routes**

The proposed new route along the upper slopes of the south east side of the valley would intersect the central early cross-valley boundary bank (Site 14) considered a significant component of the setting of the Hall Rings SM. However, it is understood that the route would be carried across rather than through the bank (Birgit Hontzsch email September 4<sup>th</sup> 2017), so direct adverse impact is expected to be limited to construction of a stile or similar arrangement for this.

## **7.9 Installation of 9 recreational areas**

The extent, forms and materials of the 9 proposed recreational areas can be expected to have impacts on the setting of the Hall Rings SM.

In particular, 3 of the proposed sites are considered archaeologically sensitive.

- No. 1 lies close to the possible linear boundary and external track on the south (Sites 5 and 6), and to the entrance through these to the woods representing the historic link between the valley and Hall Barton (the mouth of Site 4). Any ground disturbing works could encounter associated buried remains, and there would be a visual impact in the operational phase.
- No. 3 would be near and visible from the early cross-valley boundary (Site 14).
- No. 7 is close to the core of the Hall Rings SM and depending on tree cover and height of structures, etc, could potentially be intervisible with part of the SM.

In addition, recreational area No. 2 is beside the western orchard Site 9, and close to springs (Fig 19), which though not apparently modified by people may be considered features of the Warren (Site 8) and of wider interest in connection with the possible adaptation of a spring in the lower valley as a holy well.

## **7.10 Broadleaf tree planting in 4 main areas**

### ***Below (south east of) solar array***

The proposed screening would reach close to the possible linear earthwork and external routeway. Any associated buried remains could be disturbed by planting, as by the groundworks noted in Section 7.3.

### ***Around southernmost corner of site***

Broadwood planting here would not be considered to be restoring historic landscape character, since this part of Hall Wood (apart from smaller patches on its south and east) was not wooded prior to the late-20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century conifer phase. However, broadleaf may be considered preferable to the present conifers (if, as mentioned in the plans, seedlings from the existing broadleaf wood can be planted out, local sub-species may benefit, though this assessment does not extend to such environmental impacts).

### ***In north west part of wood***

Tree planting here would not be predicted to disturb important archaeological remains (though due to conifer cover and time constraints the walkover focussed on the opposite, Hal Rings side of the valley). Replacement of conifers with broadwood would enhance the woods here at Site 15, predominantly derived from ancient woodland (apart from a wedge shaped modern extension to the wood on the west). (See separate comment on cross-valley bank bounding this woodland on the south, Site 14.)

### ***In centre of east side of wood***

Any ground disturbance in this area risks truncating or removing buried important upstanding or buried remains of the Hall Rings Scheduled Monument.

Felling, planting, informal or other heavy vehicular access, or any other groundworks here would be subject to statutory control, and would require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) in advance from Historic England, separate from the planning process.

## **7.11 Additional native planting beside access and solar array**

Additional screening planting south of the array would seem beneficial, though it is not apparent how it would be compatible with the operational needs of the solar units.

## **7.12 Management of existing broadleaf woodland**

The planned retention of mature broadleaf woodland is clearly beneficial in all areas where it is proposed, these including ancient woodland in the lower, north east half of the valley at Sites 15, 17 and 18, and self-sown or planted woodland established before 1803 in the south west half at Site 13.

## **7.13 Retention of existing conifer areas and increase of broadleaf**

The proposed retention of conifer and succession of broadleaf would be beneficial for the ground in the north west part of the study area, part of the ancient woodland. A change to broadleaf would enhance the setting of the Hall Rings fort SM on the ridge above, though it might not be visible from much of the fort due to dead ground.

An exception is at Site 9 on the south west. This site has conifers in particularly poor condition due to a combination of steep slopes, wet soil conditions and relative height in the valley with greater wind exposure, resulting in many tree-throws. However this ground was historically orchard rather than woodland, and has boundary banks, partly derelict, which may be vulnerable to unintended damage by forestry vehicles etc.

## **8 Recommendations addressing specific impacts**

The following measures are identified to avoid, limit or mitigate for specific adverse impact on the heritage resource, in the event that the scheme proceeds. All recommendations are subject to approval by the planning authority. To facilitate cross-reference, this Section follows the structure of the assessment of potential impacts in Section 7, based on the various elements of the scheme (See also Section 9.)

Attention is drawn to the statutory requirement to seek SMC from HE in advance of any ground-disturbing works in the SM, Hall Rings, shaded red in Figures 2 and 35.

### ***Main access and principal structures***

#### **8.1 Modification to Beacons road**

- Guidance by an archaeologist to ensure that the roadside wartime observation post is not disturbed; this might be easily achieved as part of the watching brief proposed below. Improvements to the condition of the observation post, for example vegetation or rubbish clearance might be considered.
- Archaeological watching brief and drawing of hedge sections as appropriate to allow recording of any significant remains disturbed for passing places.
- Consider Hedgerow Regulations (Section 3.2.3) concerning passing places.

#### **8.2 New access from Beacons to Hall Barton lane**

- Archaeological watching brief and hedge sections for ground-disturbing works for the new road and passing places.
- Again, consider Hedgerow Regulations (Section 3.2.3) concerning passing place.

#### **8.3 Reuse of Hall Wood end of Hall Barton lane**

- Archaeological watching brief for ground-disturbing works including any route widening, grading or re-surfacing.
- Archaeological control and recording of any trimming, cutting, re-surfacing or regrading of the potential linear boundary with ditch or route alongside, Sites 5 and 6. Watching brief, drawing of any exposed section, and potentially trial excavation, may be required.
- Reuse of granite gatepost in an appropriate position if possible.

#### **8.4 Modification to forestry track on south west in Hall Wood**

No recommendations.

#### **8.5 Solar array in field outside south west corner of Hall Wood**

- Archaeological watching brief for ground-disturbing works including any route widening, grading or re-surfacing. For any disturbance of the potential linear boundary ditch/associated route Site 6, a watching brief, drawing of any exposed section, and potentially trial excavation, may be required.

#### **8.6 Construction of forest lodges at intervals off forestry track**

- Archaeological watching brief for associated ground-disturbing works, for the south western area historically part of the Warren.

### ***Internal access, landscaping works and woodland management***

#### **8.7 Reuse of existing forestry track circuit**

- No recommendations other than those applying specifically to the south corner of the circuit (Section 8.3).

#### **8.8 New secondary routes**

- Ensure routes do not breach the early cross-valley hedge bank (Site 14).

- If installing stile/s at Site 14, respect the integrity and historic character of the bank, potentially deriving from a pre-Norman boundary.

## **8.9 Installation of 9 recreational areas**

- Avoid locating these areas near the potential linear boundary Site 5, the Hall Rings SM, and the cross-valley boundary Site 14. Seek archaeological advice for any new locations, to take into account the heritage resource.
- Consider providing, through the recreational installations, information and activities relating to the historic sites and landscape of the valley; heritage trails might be devised with archaeological guidance or input, for example.
- Installations could also promote awareness that Cornish woodland, as here, is a semi-natural environment managed for over 1,000 years, rather than purely natural forest, and is enriched by its history and archaeology.

## **8.10 Broadleaf tree planting in 4 main areas**

### ***Below (south east of) solar array***

No site-specific recommendations.

### ***Around southernmost corner of site***

No site-specific recommendations.

### ***In north west part of wood***

No site-specific recommendations.

### ***In centre of east side of wood***

- A management plan for this part of the SM, which might involve careful progression from conifer plantation to more open ground retaining any mature broadleaf trees, may be desirable, subject to HE guidance and to SMC.

## **8.11 Additional native planting beside access and solar array**

- Consider restoring orchard Site 9 with local type/s of fruit tree. For any hedge bank repairs use existing style, and fabric tumbled from banks, or similar material, and retain old hedgerow trees, to retain or enhance character.

## **8.12 Management of existing broadleaf woodland**

No recommendations.

## **8.13 Retention of existing conifer areas and increase of broadleaf**

- In general, consider both short and long term visual impact on Hall Rings in planning works; agree approach, or ideally management plans, with HE.
- North of boundary Site 14, respect mature trees; avoiding disturbing Site 14.
- South of the cross-boundary Site 14, restore aspects of the historic character of the Warren, Site 9, distinguishing it from the ancient woodland north of the boundary, by replacing conifers with grassland and scattered broadleaf - trees being positioned to screen lodges from the direction of the Hall Rings SM.

## **9 Recommendation for further mitigating work**

Specialist assessment of any water-logged deposits near the Hall Wood stream, to allow palaeoenvironmental study, could also be considered. This could reveal aspects of the past vegetation, exploitation and change of the landscape, and so contribute to understanding of the settings of the Hall Rings SM and (particularly if the linear boundary Site 5 is confirmed) of the nearby Giant's Hedge SM. As such it could provide some mitigation for the potential visual/traffic/sound impacts on these settings.

## 10 References and Project Archive

### 10.1 Primary sources

*Note: These sources are listed in chronological order.*

Joel Gascoyne, c1699. Map of Cornwall

Thomas Martyn, 1748. Map of Cornwall

Ordnance Survey, 1803. 3 inch scaled drawing (British Library website)

Ordnance Survey, c1810. 1 inch map, first edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Tithe map and apportionment schedule, c1840. Parish of Pelynt (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Ordnance Survey, c1880. 25 inch map, first edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Ordnance Survey, c1908. 25 inch map, second edition (licensed digital copy at CAU)

Ordnance Survey, MasterMap Topography

### 10.2 Publications

Douch, HL, 1966. *Old Cornish Inns* D Bradford Barton Ltd: Truro

Grigson, G, 1954. *Freedom of the Parish* Phoenix House Ltd: London

Henderson, C, 1935. *Essays in Cornish History* Clarendon Press: Oxford

Lewis, J, and Frieman, C, 2016. *A Geophysical Survey of Hall Rings Enclosure Pelynt Cornwall Southeast Kernow Archaeological Society Report 5* (online)

Lysons, D, and Lysons, S, 1814. *Magna Britannia* **3**, xcvi – cxviii (accessed via BHO website)

### 10.3 Websites

British History Online

Heritage Gateway; Historic England Online database of Sites and Monuments Records, and Listed Buildings

### 10.4 Project archive

The CAU project number is **146721**

The project's documentary, digital, photographic and drawn archive is maintained by Cornwall Archaeological Unit

Electronic data is stored in the following locations:

Project admin, and this report: G:\TWE\Waste & Env\Strat Waste & Land\Historic Environment\Projects\Sites\Sites H\Hall Wood, Pelynt, HIA 146721

Digital photographs and report maps: R:\Historic Environment (Images)\SITES.E-H\Sites H\Hall Wood HIA 146721

GIS drawings: L:\Historic Environment (Data)\HE\_Projects\Sites\_H\Hall Wood HIA 146721

Historic England/ADS OASIS online reference: cornwall2-298091





*Fig 4 Looking north east across Hall Rings SM from west end of outwork, to Looe valley. Distant monuments include Yearle's Wood fort, not intervisible with lodge or array sites.*



*Fig 5 View north east over field proposed for solar array. Two little woods marking Hall Rings' outwork and core appear above the Hall Woods forestry, right and centre.*

The site planned for the array is just above the conifers, which block this view from it.



Fig 6 Proposed new access route beside sinuous medieval type hedge bank forming part of barton-type fields (Site 3), looking south east from Hall Barton lane (1m scale).



*Fig 7 Route Site 6 with position of lost building Site 7 (at 1m scale), beside linear bank Site 5; looking SSE towards junction with this of lane from Hall Barton, Site 4.*



*Fig 8 Route Site 6 (with 1m scale marking scarp below it) beside linear bank Site 5, running south to Hall Wood through the field proposed for the solar array.*



*Fig 9 Oblique gate-head in bank potentially an early linear boundary (with 1m scale), at top of proposed solar array field, looking south west towards Hall Wood.*



*Fig 10 Stone facing to potential linear boundary Site 5 reused to bound former warren Site 8, south of mouth of Hall Barton lane, looking south west (1m scale).*



*Fig 11 Possible earlier stone facing to potential linear boundary Site 5 reused to bound former warren Site 8, in field proposed for solar array, looking west (1m scale).*



*Fig 12 Looking south along forestry track in west side of orchard Site 9, proposed as part of the main vehicular access way for forest lodges and solar array (1m scale).*



Fig 13 South side of north boundary of orchard Site 9 with large old pollard (1m scale)



Fig 14 Abandoned quarry Site 10 from the approach to it from the WSW (1m scale).



*Fig 15 Bank Site 12 on the former edge of woods Site 17, from north east (1m scale).*



*Fig 16 Outside of early boundary of Hall Wood, Site 12, below forestry track (1m scale).*



*Fig 17 Outside of early cross-valley boundary Site 12 on the line of Hall Rings' outwork, with large beech (1m scale). The Hall Rings SM overlaps the top of the wood here.*



*Fig 18 Old quarry face at Site 19 within the Hall Rings SM, from north west (1m scale).*





*Fig 19 Wet ground by springs in former warren Site 8, east of orchard Site 9 (1m scale). Waterlogged deposits may survive here and in the valley floor below.*



*Fig 20 Field west of Hall Wood, looking north east, with potential linear boundary and scarp below route along this (left); and proposed solar site above conifers (right).*



*Fig 21 Looking ENE towards Hall Rings from the upper (north west) side of the planned solar array site. Trees may block the view but may impede the operational phase.*



*Fig 22 Outwork on the south west of the Hall Rings SM, as seen from Hall Wood.*



*Fig 23 West side of the core enclosure of the Hall Rings SM, seen from Hall Wood.*



*Fig 24 Typical view towards scheme from that part of the edge of Hall Wood lying within the Hall Wood SM, blocked or restricted by conifers in the historic woodland.*



*Fig 25 Line of sight through trees to building at proposed site (centre), from just west of core enclosure of Hall Rings, indicating potential visual impact of scheme on SM.*



*Fig 26 Building seen in Figure 25, facing track across which lodges are planned (1m scale).*



*Fig 27 Forestry circuit track near centre of west side of valley, proposed as axis for lodges, with view towards outwork of Hall Rings SM above taller trees (1m scale).*



*Fig 28 View NNE down the valley from near centre of proposed sequence of lodges, showing how topography limits views from the wider landscape of the Looe river.*



*Fig 29 Site planned for the highest (south western) forest lodge, in former orchard Site 9 under modern conifer plantation in poor condition (looking towards Hall Rings).*



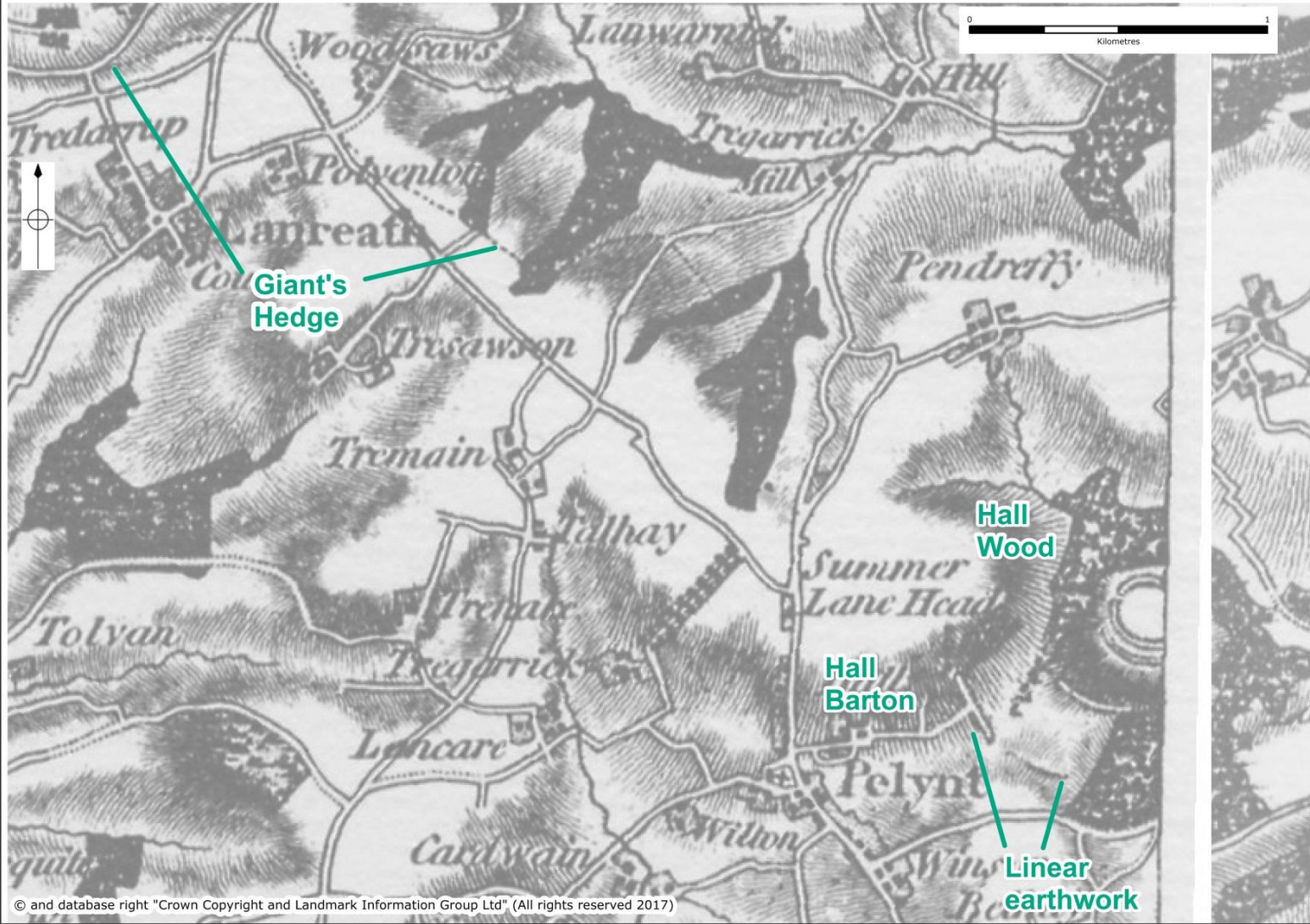


Fig 30 OS map of 1813 (based on the 1803 drawing, not reproduced for copyright reasons), with notable sites marked in green.



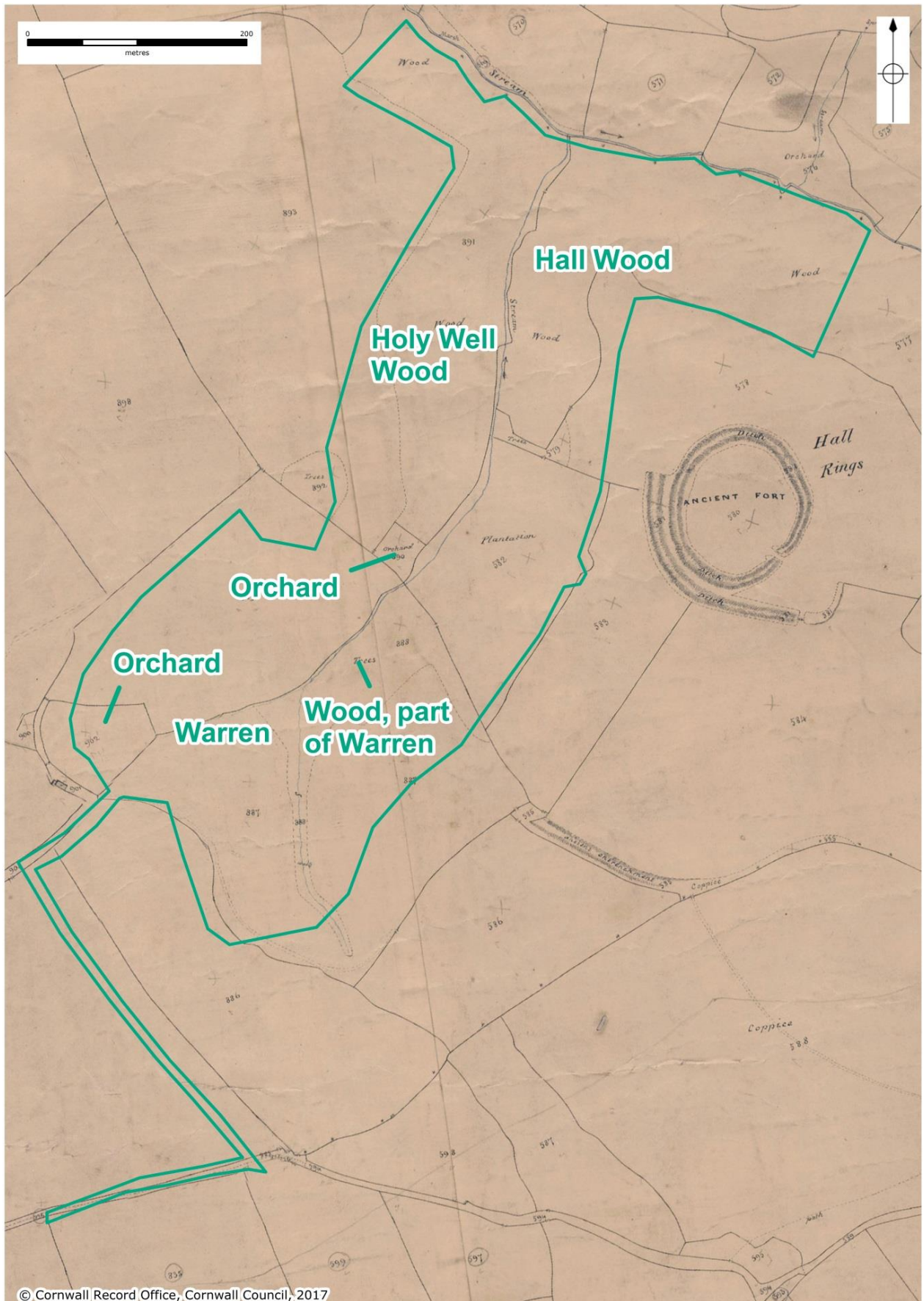


Fig 31 Tithe map of c1840, with study area and selected tithe schedule names in green. (Mis-matches of study area and boundaries are due to discrepancies in this map base.)

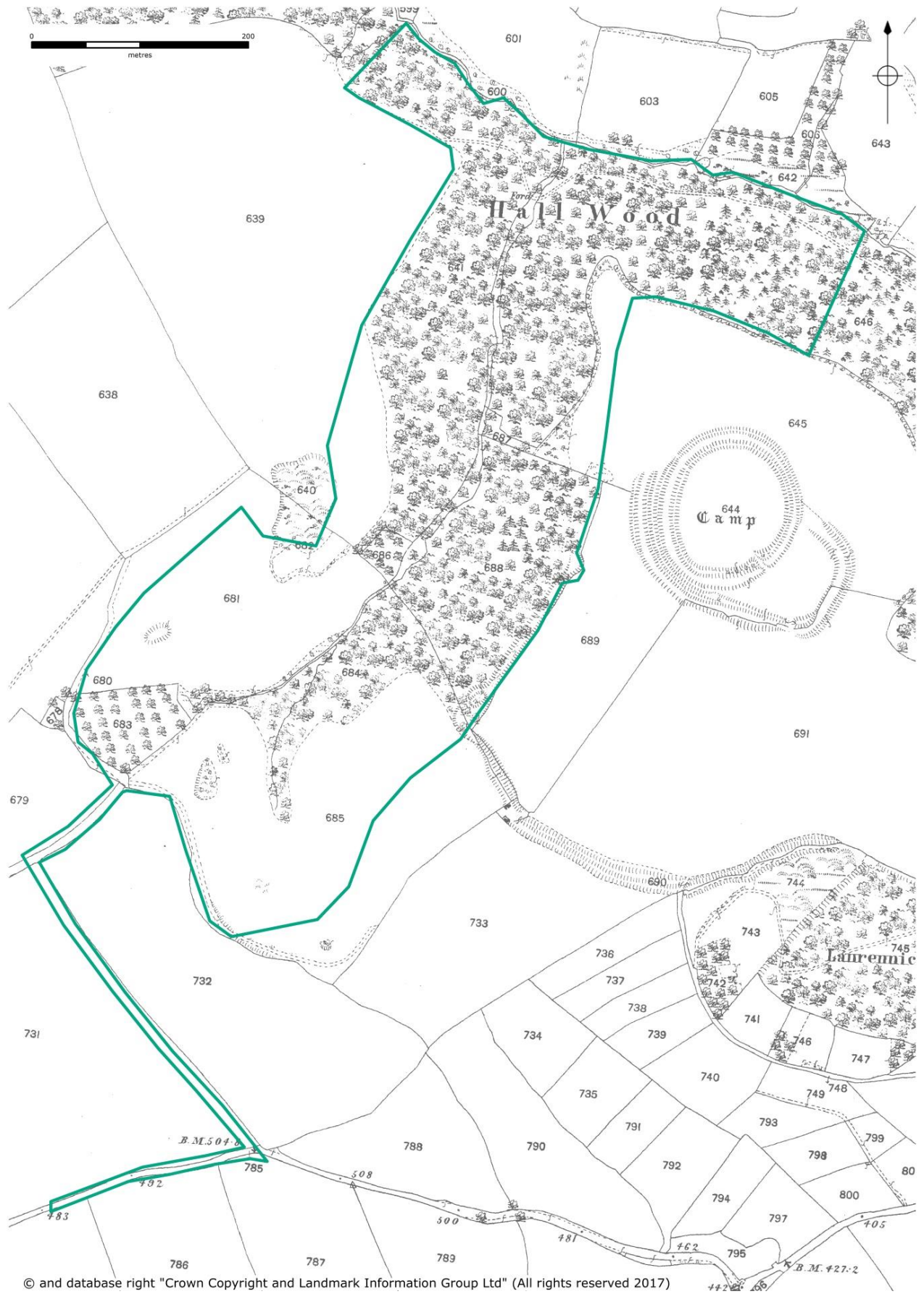
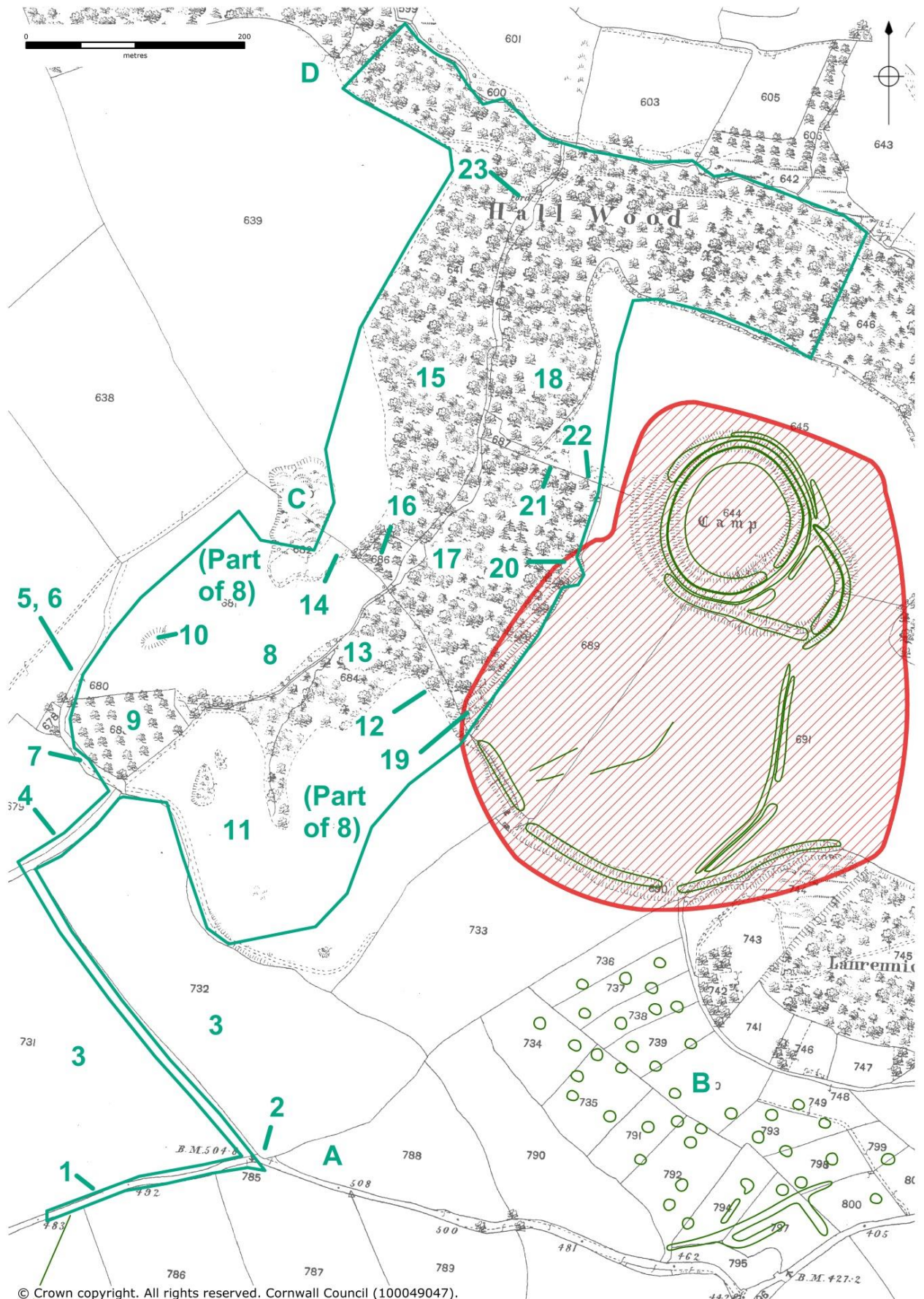


Fig 32 Detailed, 25-inch scale OS map of c1880 with study area in green.  
(See also Fig 33 showing this survey with site locations superimposed.)



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Fig 33 Map of c1880 with study area, numbered sites, and nearby features A-D (green). Also shown are the Hall Rings SM (red) and NMP plot from air photos (paler green).

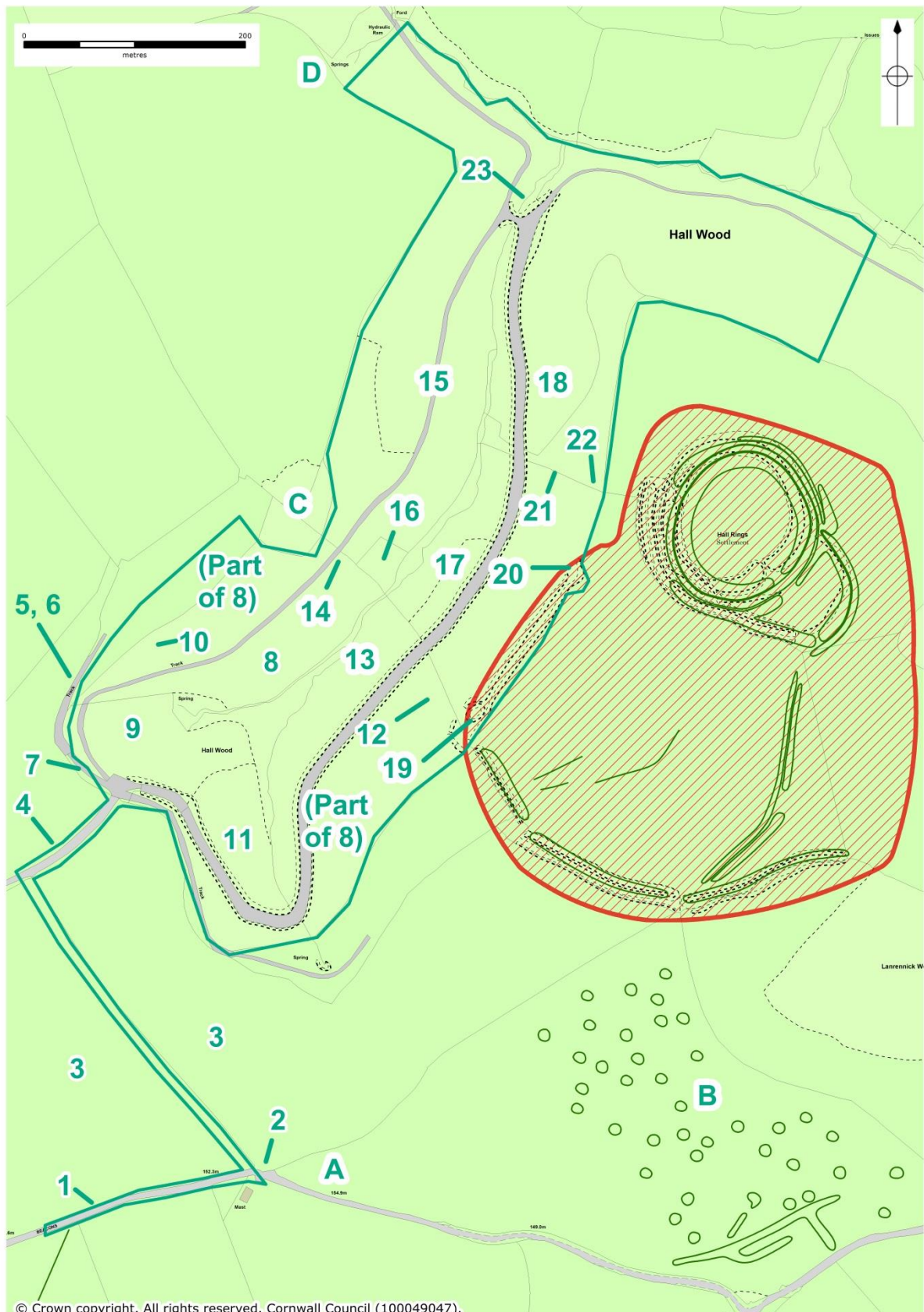


Fig 34 Modern map with study area and sites added in green (as in Fig 33).

Also as in Fig 33, the Hall Rings SM is added in red, and the NMP plot in paler green.

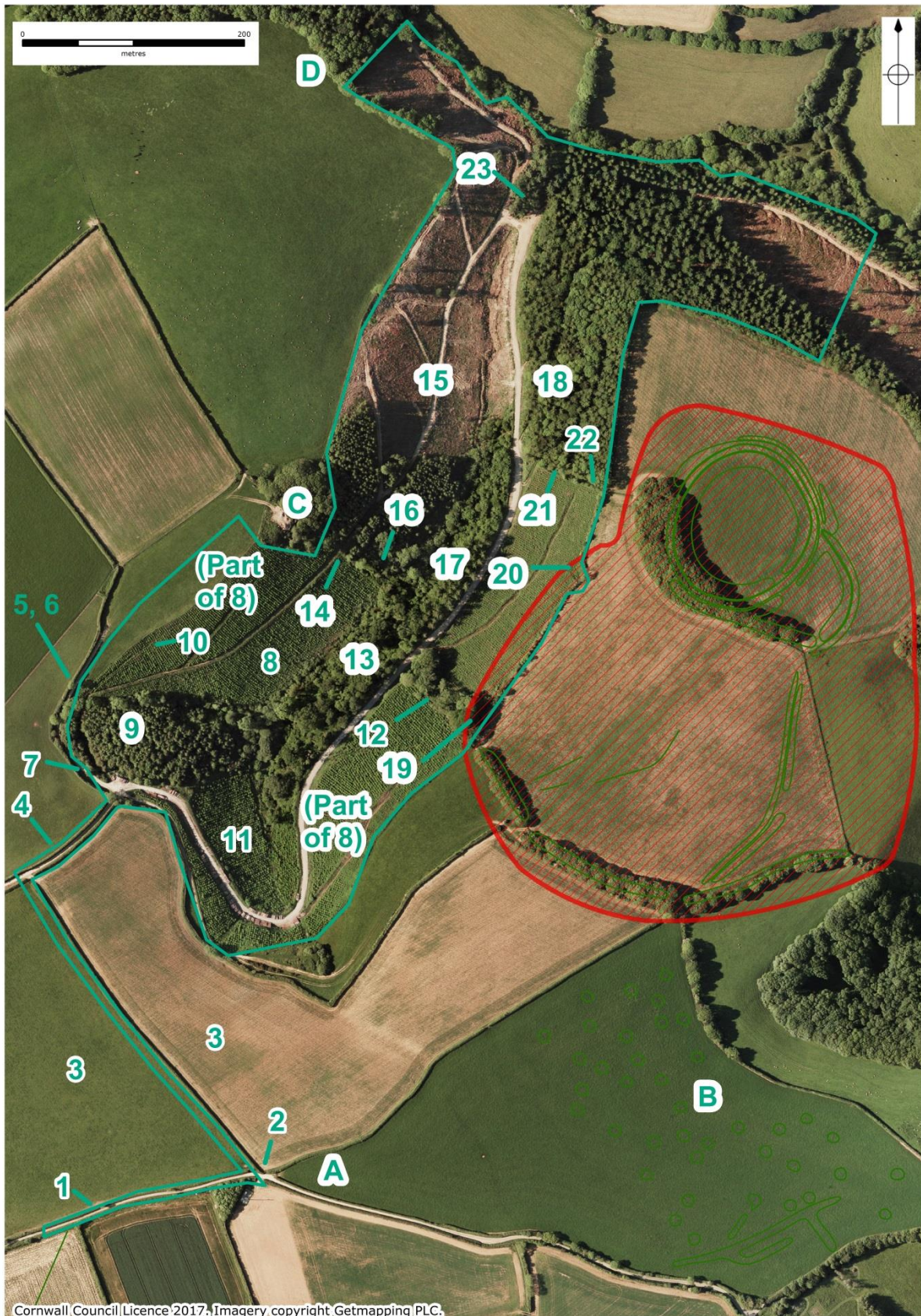


Fig 35 Aerial photo, 2005 (CC), with study area and sites added in green (as in Fig 33). Also as in Fig 33, the Hall Rings SM is added in red, and the NMP plot in paler green.

## **Appendix I: Hall Rings and Giant's Hedge; Extracts from Scheduling Documentation**

### **Appendix IA Hall Rings Scheduling Description**

#### **Slight univallate hillfort with outworks called Hall Rings**

List Entry Number: 1006682. First scheduled: 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 1928 (as CO 105).

#### **Reasons for Designation**

Slight univallate hillforts are defined as enclosures of various shapes, generally between 1ha and 10ha in size, situated on or close to hilltops and defined by a single line of earthworks, the scale of which is relatively small. They date to between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (eighth - fifth centuries BC), the majority being used for 150 to 200 years prior to their abandonment or reconstruction.

Slight univallate hillforts have generally been interpreted as stock enclosures, redistribution centres, places of refuge and permanent settlements. The earthworks generally include a rampart, narrow level berm, external ditch and counterscarp bank, while access to the interior is usually provided by two entrances comprising either simple gaps in the earthwork or an inturned rampart. Postholes revealed by excavation indicate the occasional presence of portal gateways while more elaborate features like overlapping ramparts and outworks are limited to only a few examples.

Internal features included timber or stone round houses; large storage pits and hearths; scattered postholes, stakeholes and gullies; and square or rectangular buildings supported by four to six posts, often represented by postholes, and interpreted as raised granaries. Slight univallate hillforts are rare with around 150 examples recorded nationally. They are important for understanding the transition between Bronze Age and Iron Age communities.

Despite reduction in the heights of its ramparts and disturbance to the interior through cultivation, the slight univallate hillfort with outworks called Hall Rings, survives comparatively well and is unusual because it does have a series of outworks and these are mainly concentrated on one side. It will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction, use, development, abandonment, defensive and territorial significance, agricultural practices, trade, domestic arrangements and overall landscape context.

#### **Details**

The monument includes a slight univallate hillfort with outworks, situated on the summit of a hill overlooking the valley of a tributary to the West Looe River. The hillfort survives as an oval enclosure measuring approximately 120m long by 100m wide internally. It is defined by a rampart and largely buried ditch with an entrance to the south east into a small secondary enclosure measuring approximately 90m long by 60m wide and defined by a bank. To the south west lies an outer rampart and ditch with a third outwork approximately 250m to the south west defined by a 400m long bank and partially buried outer ditch. The earthworks are best preserved to the south west; elsewhere they are preserved largely as buried features. At its highest the inner rampart is 4.3m above the ditch, whilst the second rampart is 1.3m high.

First recorded on the Ordnance survey map of 1813, it was described Bond in 1823 and Maclauchlan in 1846.

## **Appendix IB Giant's Hedge Scheduling Description**

**Linear boundary called the Giant's Hedge;** List Entry Number: 1006681.

Date first scheduled: 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1928 (as CO 104)

### **Reasons for Designation**

Linear boundaries are substantial earthwork features comprising single or multiple ditches and banks which may extend over varying distances of less than 1km to over 10km. They survive as earthworks or as linear features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs or as a combination of both. The earliest examples date to the Middle Bronze Age and many apparently later boundaries may reuse these early examples, some date to the Roman period, others are Anglo Saxon and still more of medieval origin.

The scale of many linear boundaries has been taken to indicate that they were constructed by large social groups and were used to mark important boundaries in the landscape; their impressive scale displaying the corporate prestige of their builders. They would have been powerful symbols, often with religious associations, used to define and order the territorial holdings of those groups who constructed them. Linear earthworks are of considerable importance for the analysis of settlement and land use and social organisation.

The linear boundary called the Giant's Hedge survives comparatively well and will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction, date, function, social organisation, ritual, economic, political and defensive significance and overall landscape context. Its immortalisation in a popular local poem reflects its continuity as a feature in the landscape and adds to its interest.

### **Details**

The monument, which falls into seven areas, includes parts of a linear boundary extending between the settlements of Looe to the south east and Lerryn to the west. The linear boundary originally would have measured approximately 15km in length, of which 3km does not survive and 2.8km is protected in differing-sized sections. The survival of the linear boundary is variable, being visible as a ditch cut into the hillside with a bank to the south; as a scarp where the ditch has been silted and the bank rather flattened; or as a bank with a backfilled ditch. At its best preserved, the bank is approximately 3.5m wide and up to 2m high whilst the ditch measures 3m wide and up to 0.8m deep.

The whole follows a sinuous course hugging, wherever possible, the position just below the crest of the hillside. It passes through four different parishes and appears to have been constructed to defend the area between the Rivers Looe and Fowey. Although Borlase in the mid-18th century considered it to be a Roman road, it is now believed to be a pre-Norman boundary. Traditionally it is recorded in a local poem 'One day, the Devil, having nothing to do, built a great hedge from Lerryn to Looe'.

## **Appendix II: Hall Barton; Extract from Listed Building Documentation**

**PELYNT Hall Barton Farmhouse** Grade II List Entry Number: 1140697  
NGR: SX2047155152

Farmhouse. Possibly with C18 origins extended and remodelled in mid C19. Stone rubble with some reused dressed granite from earlier house. Stone rubble plinth on front elevation. Front elevation slate-hung above base. Cement-washed scantle slate roof with gable ends. At least 2 early crested ridge tiles. Projecting stone rubble chimney stacks on gable ends with further projecting stone rubble kitchen chimney stack on rear slope of lower left-hand gable end. Double depth plan with principal room on either side of central entrance hall. 2 storeys, symmetrical 3-window front. Ground floor with 2 tripartite sash windows flanking C20 central glazed porch on brick base and with hipped slate roof. C19 panelled inner door with panelled reveals within. First floor with 2 tripartite sashes flanking central 16-pane sash. Rear elevation asymmetrical with C19 2-light casements beneath brick segmental arches. Rear entrance in outshut projecting from lower kitchen end. Much dressed granite from earlier manor house, known as La Halle, in surrounding outbuildings and in yard. Manor and advowson of Pelynt given to the monastic house of Newenham in 1247. As Dissolution threatened, La Halle was granted by the monks to William Achym. Grigson, G Freedom of the Parish 1954 rp 1982.





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