



Stoneywell, Charnwood
Archaeological Landscape Survey Report
for the National Trust

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Stoneywell, Charnwood: Archaeological Landscape Survey

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological landscape survey and desk-based assessment were undertaken for land at Stoneywell Cottage and Rocky Field, in the ownership of the National Trust. The survey and assessment provided baseline data to contribute to the understanding of the archaeological resource at the site, and to facilitate future conservation management and research. ArcHeritage were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake the survey, assessment and conservation management recommendations.

Stoneywell Cottage, built in 1899, is an exceptional example of the Arts and Crafts architectural movement, and is in a very good state of preservation. It was designed by Ernest Gimson, a major figure in the Arts and Crafts movement, best known for his furniture designs. The cottage is set within grounds designed to complement the harmonious appearance of the house. Only one archaeological feature pre-dating the construction of the cottage was identified within this area, with the exception of possible early 19th-century Parliamentary Enclosure walls retained within the later cottage grounds. The earlier feature comprised a small standing stone which appears to be a parish or township boundary marker. Garden features include walled gardens, pathways, a pump house and pond, and a small tower created as a play-fort. The cottage grounds are divided from Stoneywell Wood by a bank and ditch, likely to be a medieval or early post-medieval boundary. The woodland may be within a medieval assart, possibly initially used for agriculture. Rocky Field was created in the early 19th century as part of the enclosure of the wastes and commons of Charnwood Forest, and its boundaries preserve the parliamentary enclosure landscape. A pond within the field may have been modified as a cart wash around the time of the enclosure.

The nature, condition and significance of identified archaeological features has been described, and documentary research was undertaken to understand the landscape and enclosure history of the survey area. The report also includes recommendations for conservation management and further research.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological landscape survey and desk-based assessment for National Trust property at Stoneywell Cottage, Charnwood, Leicestershire. The survey was undertaken to provide baseline data on the land-use history and development, to understand the nature of the archaeological resource and to facilitate future conservation, management and further research. ArcHeritage were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake the survey and assessment.

2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The survey area comprised two parcels of land at and near Stoneywell Cottage, Charnwood, Leicestershire (NGR SK 497 118). The largest parcel (13 hectares) comprises the grounds of Stoneywell Cottage and the attached part of Stoneywell Wood which is accessed from the cottage grounds (Figure 1). The smaller parcel (4.61 hectares) is a field known as Rocky Field, adjacent to Rocky Plantation and located at the junction of Priory Road, Whitcroft Lane and Polly Botts Lane. The visitor car park for Stoneywell Cottage is located within this field.

Stoneywell Cottage is an excellent example of an Arts and Crafts style house, designed by Ernest Gimson for his elder brother Sidney Gimson. It was built in 1899 under the supervision of Detmar Blow, and has an irregular plan designed around a rocky outcrop within the grounds. The outcrop is part of Chitterman Hill, a ridge which runs from Rocky Plantation to the Stoneywell Grounds. From this ridge, the ground slopes downwards to the east. The geology of the ridge comprises volcanoclastic rocks and breccia of the Blackbrook Reservoir and Benscliffe Breccia Members and the Beacon Hill Formation, all from the Ediacaran period, overlain on the lower slopes by Gunthorpe Member mudstone of the Triassic period.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the project is to provide information to inform and underpin the future conservation management of the archaeological and historic resource at the site. Specific aims are:

- to identify and record all visible sites, features and landscape elements of archaeological or historic interest;
- to assess the current condition of the archaeological and historic resource and make recommendations for its future conservation and management;
- to analyse all boundaries within the survey area using historic maps and GIS in order to develop a chronological framework for the development of the landscape;
- to collate historic maps, previous survey and investigations and other relevant documentary evidence that might assist in the understanding of the land-use history and formulate a historic narrative for the site;
- to present the results of the survey in a report that can be used as a future management tool by the National Trust;

- to enhance the National Trust Historic Buildings and Sites and Monuments Record (NT HBSMR).

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 Data collection

Existing archaeological and historic information relating to the survey area and its immediate environs was collated from the NT HBSMR and Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER), as well as from online sources and Leicester Record Office. The desk-based research was undertaken in line with the standards and guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The following sources were consulted:

- National Trust HBSMR;
- Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER);
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
- Heritage Gateway;
- PastScape;
- Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office;
- The National Archives search engine;
- Britain from Above website;
- Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC);
- Old Maps website;
- Google Earth;
- University of Sheffield library.

No Lidar data is currently available for the site.

3.1.2 GIS

A GIS was created using Ordnance Survey base mapping and geo-referenced historic mapping and recent aerial imagery. This was used to enable historic map regression and as a base for the survey plan.

3.1.3 Survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on the 12th April 2016. The whole of the survey area was walked, in transects where possible, and any archaeological features recorded. Each feature was assigned a unique identifier, and were recorded using Garmin GPS units with an accuracy of up to 5m. A survey grade Leica Zeno GPS with an accuracy of less than 1m was used in Rocky Field, but did not function in Stoneywell Wood due to interference from tree cover. The GPS readings within the wood were erratic, and the accuracy of the survey in this area is considered to be low. The features recorded within this area are in general relatively easy to see and locate, but it is recommended that a Total Station be used to record the accurate locations in future. Small or discrete features were recorded as points, with linear features recorded as lines.

Each feature or structure was also photographed with a graded photographic scale, and a monument type assigned, using categories in the HE Monument Thesaurus. Further details recorded included a brief description, a note of related features, the likely period of origin of the feature (using National Trust criteria), the condition of the feature and the nature of any

visible threats. Where relevant, woodland type in the immediate vicinity and topography were also recorded. This information will be used to create NT HBSMR entries, or to add to existing entries.

3.1.4 Significance assessment criteria

Assessment of significance is designed to help establish why a place or feature is considered to be important and why it is valued. The assessment of significance is fundamental to the management plan process but is a subjective exercise – reflecting the moment in history when it is written and the knowledge gained about the site at that time. This means that the assessment of significance has the potential to change, as further knowledge and understanding is gained, and should be regularly reviewed.

The term ‘heritage assets’ covers a wide variety of features including: buildings; standing, buried and submerged archaeological remains, sites and landscapes; and parks and gardens, whether designated or not. Heritage assets hold meaning for society over and above functional utility. The relative importance or value of a heritage asset relates to its archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic interest. It is possible to ascertain the heritage value of assets based on period, rarity, documentation, group value, vulnerability and diversity (see Table 1).

Table 1: Criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets

Value	Archaeological Assets	Built Heritage
International	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.	Structures inscribed as of international importance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings of recognised international importance.
National	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.	Scheduled Monuments with standing remains (including proposed). Grade I and II* Listed Buildings. Other Listed Buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national importance.
Regional	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.	Grade II Listed Buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character. Historic Townscape or built-up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures).

Value	Archaeological Assets	Built Heritage
Local	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.	'Locally Listed' buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association. Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures).
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.	Buildings of no architectural or historical note. Buildings of an intrusive character.
Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.	Buildings of some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance.

In addition to the relative heritage importance of a site, significance can be identified through a consideration of the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal heritage values of a heritage asset, as defined in *Conservation Principles* (English Heritage 2008). The setting of heritage assets is an important consideration in relation to future management. The setting of a heritage asset is defined as the surroundings in which it is experienced, and can contribute to, or detract from, heritage values of the asset (Historic England 2015, 2).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Recorded heritage assets

4.1.1 Recorded assets within the survey area

Only three heritage assets are currently recorded within the survey area. These comprise Stoneywell Cottage (feature 124), the coach house and stable block (feature 125), and a pump house (feature 103) that served both Stoneywell and the neighbouring Lea Cottage. All are listed buildings, with the cottage being designated grade II* and the outbuildings grade II. A geophysical survey was undertaken within Rocky Field in 2013, prior to the construction of the car park. The survey covered a strip at the eastern side of the field, and did not identify any clear archaeological features (Figure 3). Several possible cut features were noted, possibly pits, and an area of increased response in the centre of the survey area was interpreted as a geological feature (Malone 2013).

4.1.2 Recorded assets within the search area

Heritage assets within a 1km radius search area around the site were collated from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), the Leicestershire and Rutland HER and Historic England's PastScape database. These are listed in Appendix 2 and shown on Figure 2. There are only two prehistoric assets recorded within or just outside the search area, comprising an unfinished Bronze Age axe from the vicinity of Ulverscroft Priory (asset 7) and a flint scraper of uncertain prehistoric date from near Benscliffe House (asset 18). No Roman or early medieval sites are recorded within the area.

Many of the recorded heritage assets within the search area are of medieval origin. This includes Ulverscroft Priory (assets 5-6), which was founded in 1134 and was taken over by the Augustinians in 1174. The remains of the priory survive well and are designated as a Scheduled Monument and as grade I listed buildings. Most of the surviving structural remains are of 13th-

to 15th-century date. A watermill associated with the priory was located to the south of the search area near Brown's Hay (asset 16).

A further Scheduled Monument within the search area is a well-preserved medieval moated site in Lea Meadows (asset 9). These meadows are also significant (asset 10), having been recorded from the 13th century as an assart (land enclosed from commons or forest) in the ownership of the Groby estate. The assart was surrounded by a bank and ditch to prevent animals from the unenclosed Charnwood Forest grazing on the enclosed land, and this boundary is still visible in places. Earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation have been recorded on the western edge of the search area in the vicinity of Ulverscroft Grange (assets 12 and 15).

A house possibly of medieval date was recorded in 1863 on the site of the current Chitterman Hill Farm complex (asset 8), to the west of Stoneywell Cottage. This was recorded as a 'Gothic' building, built between 1460 and 1500, and was shown on the 1816 map of Charnwood Forest as 'Pilgrims', at the edge of an area of enclosed land including Pilgrim's Wood (see Figure 5). The footings of the building probably still survive within the farm complex. This building was not shown on the 1796 map of Ulverscroft manor, when the area was recorded as Bishop's Hill, Bishop's Field and Schittonmur Hill Wood, though as it fell outside the manor's ownership at that date, this area was recorded in less detail than the manor lands. Pilgrims Wood was named on the 1754 map of the Forest, though the house was not shown at that date. The name 'Pilgrim' relates to a local landowning family, with Elnathan Pilgrim being allotted land to the southwest of Lea Lane in the 1829 Parliamentary Enclosure Award.

There are five post-medieval to modern heritage assets within the search area. This includes three further houses designed by Ernest Gimson: the grade II listed Lea Cottage (asset 1) and Rockyfield (asset 2), built for Gimson's brother and sister, and the locally listed and much altered Chitterman House (asset 3), built for the local landowner James Bilson. There are also two grade II listed farmhouses, Poultney Farm (asset 4) and Copt Oak Farm (asset 17). A probable post-medieval field boundary has been recorded as a cropmark from aerial mapping at the west side of the search area (asset 15).

Heritage assets of unknown date comprise a former pond in Stinking Wood (asset 11) and a polygonal enclosure and two parallel ditches recorded as cropmarks (asset 14).

4.2 Documentary and cartographic history

4.2.1 Prehistoric to medieval

It has been suggested that the place name Chitterman Hill, recorded in the 1550s as *Chytermanhyll* or *Chatermenhylls* may derive from a Celtic word, 'cater' (Welsh 'cadeir'), meaning 'seat' or hill (Cox 2005, 24). This could indicate settlement in the area during the Iron Age to post-Roman periods.

Though there is currently no evidence for early medieval settlement in the area, it has been theorised that Charnwood was a royal hunting forest prior to the Norman Conquest. This is suggested by the persistence of swainmote courts into the 17th century, a form of local court associated with Anglo-Saxon forest law (Farnham 1928a, 10). After the Conquest in 1066, this area does not appear to have been a royal hunting ground any longer, and the area known as the Forest encompassed the extensive wastes and commons of four manors, including Groby

(Farnham 1928a, 4). The survey area falls within Ulverscroft, which was part of the manor of Groby in the medieval period.

In the Domesday Survey of 1086, it was recorded that Groby manor had been held at the time of the Conquest by Ulf, and by 1086 was held by Hugh de Grentemaisnil. It later passed to the ownership of Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester. Bossu founded Ulverscroft Priory in 1134 for three hermits, and by 1174 it was taken over by the Augustinian Canons. The survey area appears to have been part of the land owned by the priory, possibly part of its foundation grant from Bossu, and was recorded in the 1829 Enclosure Award as part of the 'precinct of Ulverscroft'. The priory was dissolved in 1539 and the lands were acquired by Andrew Judde, an alderman from London. In 1550, he sold the priory and its lands to Henry, marquis of Dorset, later the Duke of Suffolk. The licence for this alienation of the priory lands is recorded in the Patent Rolls of 1550, and mentions lands including Stanwelles, Nowelles and Great Chatermenhylles in Ulverscroft (recorded in Farnham 1928b, 223). The name *Stanwelles* or *Stanywel* derives from Old English, meaning 'the Stony Springs' (Cox 2005, 99).

Much of the land within the survey area was unenclosed commons in the 18th century, and is likely to have been so in the medieval period. Stoneywell Wood had been enclosed from the common prior to the mid-18th century, but the date of its enclosure is currently unclear; however, its recording in 1550 suggests that it may have been a medieval assart or enclosure. The wood formed the western end of a block of enclosed land called the Nowells or Noels in 1796, which was also mentioned in the 1550 Patent Rolls. The survey identified a bank and ditch boundary around Stoneywell Wood, similar to that around the medieval Lea Meadows assart (see section 5.1). It is unclear if 'Stanwelles' was originally woodland, or was initially enclosed for cultivation. It is not specifically mentioned as being woodland in the 1550 licence, and a 1623 inquisition post-mortem lists both 'Staniewayleys' and 'Stenieway Springe' (listed in Farnham 1928b, 229), with 'spring' possibly referring to a woodland managed for coppiced wood. The woodland may have been planted due to problems with improvement or cultivation of the land.

4.2.2 *Post-medieval*

The earliest map showing the survey area is a 1754 plan of Charnwood Forest by Samuel Wild (Figure 4). This is a large-scale plan showing few details, but it depicts Stoneywell Wood (unnamed) and indicates that the area to the west and northwest of the wood was unenclosed. Several groups of enclosed fields are shown on the map, including the Leas to the south of the wood, and a group of fields to the southwest.

The layout is shown in more detail on a 1796 plan of the manor of Ulverscroft by Leo Bell (Figure 5). This depicts the wood as 'Stanyweys or Stanywell Wood', with unenclosed common land to the west. The outcrop immediately south of the current Stoneywell Cottage was named 'Bishop's Hill', with one of the enclosed fields to the southwest named 'Bishop's Field'. The remainder of the ridge was labelled 'Stanywell Hill'. Neither of these names has survived to the present, when the whole is known as Chitterman Hill. This place name was shown on the 1796 map as 'Schittonmur Hill', relating to the enclosures to the southwest, part of a group associated with Bishop's Field and labelled as part of the estates of Messers Pilgrim and Lovell, apparently having been sold by the owners of Ulverscroft manor at some point after 1623 when these lands were listed in an inquisition post-mortem of the landowner, Robert Peshall

(Farnham 1928b, 229). A boundary, probably that between the parish of Newtown Linford and the extra-parochial area of Ulverscroft manor, is shown as a dotted line with 'mere-stones' or boundary markers. This runs along the south edge of Stoneywell Wood, then heading south across common land from the southwest corner of the wood. The place names shown on the 1796 map accord well with those given in the 1550 licence of alienation for Ulverscroft manor.

Thomas Wild's 1816 plan of the Charnwood Forest has a fair amount of detail (Figure 6), and depicts essentially the same layout as the 1796 map, though some of the names had changed by that date. Stoneywell Wood is shown but not labelled, whilst the area known as Schittonmur Hill Wood in 1796 was now called Pilgrims Wood. A house, also labelled Pilgrims, was shown at the edge of this enclosed area, close to the present day Chitterman Hill Farm. This is likely the home of Elnathan Pilgrim, a local landowner who was allotted lands in the 1829 Parliamentary Enclosure. The 1816 map suggests that the current road network had been firmly established by that date, whereas the 1796 map showed the roads as more ephemeral, and possibly changeable packhorse routes across the common. The boundary marked by mere-stones in 1796 is shown as a line on the same alignment, but boundary stones are not marked.

The map accompanying the 1829 Parliamentary Enclosure Award indicates that the formerly open commons were enclosed as a result of allotments granted under the Award (Figure 7). Stoneywell Wood and other previously enclosed lands are shown only in outline as 'ancient enclosures'. The plots within Rocky Field and Rocky Plantation were allotted to John Pares, with a roughly oval pond shown in Rocky Field. The plot within which Stoneywell Cottage was later built was allotted to the vicar of Ratby, the Reverend Robert Martin, possibly in lieu of tithes. The boundary of the parish of Newtown Linford was shown as a dotted line, again with no boundary stones depicted south of Stoneywell Wood.

Comparison of the Enclosure map with the 1884 OS map indicates that the plots allotted in the Award were not necessarily laid out to this exact plan (Figure 8). Rocky Field and Rocky Plantation are an example of this, with five plots depicted on the 1829 map, all allotted to John Pares, who clearly chose to enclose the land into two larger plots, with the dividing boundary running along the ridge of Chitterman Hill in a diagonal line. The western field was shown as Rocky Plantation, and is likely to have been too rocky and uneven to be used as a field. Both these fields were part of Hammercliffe Farm, and were shown on a sale plan of 1866 in the same layout as in 1884. Rocky Field, named The Rough on the sale catalogue, was under arable cultivation at that date, suggesting it had been improved following enclosure. The pond shown in Rocky Field on the enclosure map was shown in 1884 as having walls or banks on two sides, possibly to guide stock to the water, suggesting that it was also used for pasture. In contrast to Rocky Field, the single large plot allotted to Reverend Martin had by 1884 been divided into several small fields, with the site of the later cottage shown as a field of rough, heathy ground, and parts of six small fields covering the area of the current cottage gardens. A post is labelled along the southern boundary of the site; it is possible that this was a marker for the Newtown Linford parish boundary.

4.2.3 *Modern*

Part of the Ulverscroft estate was purchased in the 1880s by a local farmer, James Billson, who sold two building plots to Sydney and Josiah Mentor Gimson, in the late 1890s. The Gimson family were the owners of a large engineering firm in Leicester. Gimson and Co's 1878 works at

Vulcan Road was one of the earliest examples of the integration of iron foundry and engineering, and the earliest engineering factory in Leicester (DE 3034). The company founded by their father and uncle became a limited company in 1896, with Josiah Mentor Gimson, Arthur James Gimson and Sydney Ansell Gimson as the first directors. The family had spent much leisure time in the Charnwood Forest area, and the two brothers commissioned their younger brother Ernest to design summer cottages for each of them on adjacent plots of land. Ernest had been inspired at a young age by William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement, and trained in architecture for a short period with Isaac Barradale in Leicester. He soon moved to London to work in the offices of J.D. Sedding, with the aid of a letter of recommendation from Morris. He was passionate about architecture but received relatively few commissions, particularly after leaving London to settle 'close to nature' in the Cotswolds (Leicester Museums n.d.). From the 1890s he began to specialise in furniture design, and he is now perhaps best known as a designer rather than as an architect (Oakridge Community Archives n.d.).

Construction of Stoneywell and Lea Cottages began in 1898, with the building work supervised by Detmar Blow, a London architect and a friend of Ernest. Gimson and Blow were also commissioned by James Billson to design and build two cottages on a plot of his own land (now combined into Chitterman House and substantially altered). Rockyfield Cottage on Priory Lane, opposite Rocky Plantation, was designed by Ernest in 1908 for Margaret Gimson.

The 1903 OS map is the first to show Stoneywell Cottage and its grounds (Figure 9). The cottage was not shown on the 1899 map, which is likely to have been surveyed before the construction started. The pump house and its pond are depicted with the label 'well', and a footpath from Polly Botts Lane leads to the house, crossing over the ridge. A 'W' marked at the northeast corner of Stoneywell Cottage suggests there was another well close to the house. The drive curving around the south and east side of the grounds was shown, but no other garden features or buildings are depicted, including the stables which presumably had not been built at the time of the survey. Chitterman Cottages and Lea Cottage, also designed by Gimson, were shown to either side of Stoneywell. No changes were shown within Rocky Field from the time of the 1884 map.

The 1929 map (Figure 10) depicted three individual enclosed areas within the Stoneywell gardens, one shown on the 1955 map as a tennis court, and the others being a kitchen garden and an orchard. The stable block is also shown at this date, along with the pump house; the footpath from Polly Botts Lane is shown, but the main drive is not. To the south, Lea Cottage was shown to the south of the survey area, whilst the two cottages to the north had been combined into a single house, called Chitterman House. A further building, Robey House, had been built to the north. No significant changes to the layout of the survey area were shown on any of the later OS maps. Stoneywell Cottage remained in the ownership of the Gimson family until its recent sale to the National Trust.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

Survey features (numbered 101-126) are shown on Figures 11 (overview) and 12 (detail of Stoneywell property). Current property boundaries (numbered 201-213) are shown on Figure 13.

5.1 Boundaries

Only three features within the survey area relate to pre-Parliamentary Enclosure (1829) boundaries. These are two bank-and-ditch boundaries along the west and north sides of Stoneywell Wood (features 105-106), and a single marker stone at the southeast corner of the Stoneywell Cottage grounds (feature 102). The stone is likely to be one of the 'mere-stones' shown on the 1796 map and marking the boundary of the Newtown Linford parish (plate 1). The date of the bank and ditch boundaries marking the edge of the wood is currently unknown, but they are quite possibly medieval in origin (plate 2). Observation suggests that a further ditch continues south of the survey area along the boundary of the wood. Feature 106 to the north of the wood is mainly outside the fenced boundary of the woodland, in the roadside verge. Outside the immediate survey area, the western boundary of Rocky Plantation was also shown on the 1796 (and probably 1754) map, though it is not currently known if this is marked by a bank and ditch feature.

The 1816 map, though less detailed than the 1796 map, suggests that the road network had become more firmly established on their current routes. The road marked the route of boundaries 203 and 204 of Rocky Field and 206 along the west side of the Stoneywell grounds, but it is unclear if these would be marked by walls or fences at this date, as the land was still unenclosed common. The majority of the drystone wall boundaries within the survey area are likely to have first been built as a result of the Parliamentary Enclosure of the commons. As mentioned in section 4.2, these boundaries did not necessarily conform to the layout shown on the enclosure map of 1829, but were laid out to the requirements of the landowner. The 1884 OS map is the earliest record of the layout for the Stoneywell grounds, showing this area as divided into six separate fields. Only one feature probably relating to one of these divisions survives, feature 126, which seems to be the footings of a drystone wall reused as the edge of a garden bed. Otherwise, the boundaries along the western and southern side of the grounds were established by this date (boundaries 205 and 206); but there is no evidence for a stone wall having been built along the line of the boundary of Stoneywell Wood.

All the boundaries of Rocky Field (201-204) had been laid out on their current position by the time of an 1866 sale plan for Hammercliffe Farm. This indicated that the five narrow plots allotted to John Pares had been laid out as two larger, consolidated plots, one of which, on the higher, stony ground, was used as woodland. The diagonal boundary between the two fields appears to follow the ridge of Chitterman Hill. These boundaries have not been altered since this period, though it is likely that they have been repaired or rebuilt over time. The walls around Rocky Field are mainly in a poor to average condition, with some sections of collapse, at least one associated with a fallen tree from Rocky Plantation (plate 3).

Within the Stoneywell grounds, boundaries 207, 208 and 209 were laid out between 1884 and 1903, in association with the construction of Stoneywell Cottage and forming the north side of the grounds (plate 4). The three walled enclosures within the gardens (features 118-120) were

first depicted on the 1929 map, with the gardens appearing to have been largely laid out after the house had been constructed. The Stoneywell boundary walls are all in a good, well-maintained condition.

5.2 Features

5.2.1 *Stoneywell Cottage and outbuildings*

Stoneywell Cottage (feature 124) is a grade II* listed building. It is a fine example of an Arts and Crafts influenced cottage, with an irregular, curving plan designed to fit around the foot of the rocky outcrop at the edge of Chitterman Hill (plate 5). The natural outcropping rock was used as foundations where possible, and the changes in level accommodated by varying floor heights. The walls are of stone local to the site, including unworked boulders and stones from the former drystone field walls, in a rubble construction with mortar render. Slate has been used for the door lintels and window sills and lintels, including a large slab over the front door with the date 1899 and initial 'G' carved on it (plate 6). There are two substantial chimney stacks, the largest to the south end, at the highest point of the building, in a stepped style with slate string line and capping (plate 7). The roof is currently of local Swithland slate, which replaced the original thatched roof following a fire in 1939. The house is a mixture of 1½ and 2 storeys, with dormer windows in the roof, several of which are triangular in shape.

The pump house (feature 103) is an interesting circular building with a conical slate roof (plate 8). It is located on the line of the southern boundary of the grounds (205), and has openings into both the Stoneywell and Lea Cottage grounds, so that it could be used by both. The building is grade II listed for group value, and is of a similar granite and slate rubble construction to the cottage. There is a square skylight in the eastern side of the roof. The building contains a hand-operated water pump, and there is a small square pond to the immediate east, with stone surrounding walls and a concrete lining (feature 104; plate 9). The pond is likely to be directly associated with the pump house, though it was not possible to see any connecting pipework due to vegetation obscuring the southwest corner. A ceramic overflow pipe was visible in the southeast corner of the pond. Both the pond and pump house were shown on the 1903 map and are likely to have been built at the same time as the cottage.

The coach house and stable block (feature 125) on the western side of the grounds were built in 1902, and first shown on the 1929 map. These buildings are grade II listed on the grounds of group value. The walls are of granite and slate rubble construction, with rustic weatherboarding on the upper two thirds of the exterior walls. The building is in a L-shaped arrangement, with the longer northern range housing the stables and currently the toilets. This range has small triangular dormer windows in the roof on the side facing onto the yard, and larger triangular windows on the northern elevation. The stable still contains a loose box and stall, and a hand-pump, with a stone flagged floor. The shorter eastern range housed the coach house and possibly accommodation for a coachman. There is a taking-in door at first floor height, possibly for a hayloft, accessed via an external wooden staircase (plate 10). To the rear of this range is the current tea room, which houses a circular oven or copper.

All of the listed buildings are well maintained and in good condition, with no visible current threats.

5.2.2 *Gardens*

A number of survey features relate to the gardens of Stoneywell Cottage. The gardens include the natural rocky outcrop to the south and west of the house, which is crossed by a number of paths and has fairly 'natural' appearing heath vegetation. There are extensive views from the top of the outcrop across the landscape to the south and east, including the eye-catching Old John Tower and war memorial on a hill in Bradgate Park. A small, circular tower of drystone construction has been built at the top of the outcrop (feature 117), with a small, narrow entrance surmounted by a lintel stone, and two small window openings set low to the ground (plate 11). The tower is reported to have been built by teenagers for use as a play fort, though the construction suggests that experienced drystone wall builders were also involved. A small area of stone revetment on the northern edge of the outcrop may be associated with garden landscaping, but is of unclear function (feature 123). To the south of the outcrop the garden is a rough lawn with ornamental trees and plantings.

North of the house, the gardens are somewhat more formally arranged and planted, with a grassed bank immediately adjacent to the house, planted with extensive groups of daffodils. There are three walled gardens along the northern edge of the grounds; the largest (feature 118) being a levelled platform formerly functioning as a tennis court. To the west of this and higher up the slope is a smaller walled area enclosing a small orchard (feature 119; plate 12). The third garden is at the top of the slope and is a kitchen garden (feature 120). These enclosures are surrounded by neat drystone walls in good condition, though the wall around the tennis court is not continuous. Around the edges of these gardens and at the base of the slope to the east are planted beds. A low wall around the eastern edge of the northern garden may be the remains of an earlier field wall (feature 126). A stretch of flagstone path leads from a pedestrian gate on Polly Botts Lane eastwards into the garden (feature 122; plate 13); at the top of the slope, a short length of stone setts is on the same alignment (feature 121). Both of these features are on the line of a footpath shown on the 1903 OS map, though the setts may be a more recent addition, perhaps to prevent erosion near the corner of the kitchen garden.

5.2.3 *Stoneywell Wood*

The bank and ditch boundaries (105 and 106) mentioned in Section 5.1 are important features associated with the wood. They are likely to mark the edge of land enclosed in the medieval or early post-medieval period, and may have been constructed to prevent wild and stock animals on the commons entering the enclosure. These features are considered to be of regional significance (see plate 2). The bank and ditch are both in a reasonable condition, though potential threats include an active badger sett close to the bank within the wood and the roots of trees along the edge of the wood. Tree falls in this area would have the potential to damage the bank if roots pull material out of it.

Relatively few archaeological features were identified within the woodland, mainly comprising linear drainage ditches, of which four were identified (features 107 and 112-114). Of these, feature 114 may be quite recent, or recently re-cut, and does not contain vegetation. The others are at least partially obscured by brambles. The most extensive is feature 107 (plate 14), which runs on an east to west alignment from the western boundary of the wood and continues out of the survey area to the east. Feature 112 also continues out of the survey area, but is less extensive within the survey area (plate 15). Shorter drainage ditch 113 drains into

112. In general, despite the vegetation coverage, these features are quite easily visible, being close to or crossing the path around the perimeter of the woods.

The route of a former pathway through the wood is visible as a relatively clear area, with little bramble or bracken vegetation encroaching on the bluebells that carpet it, and no trees within the route (plate 16). The path (feature 111) is not visible for the full length of the wood, but the southern end curves round to the entrance from Stoneywell Cottage, suggesting it is a former woodland walk associated with the house. At its northern limit, the path is lost in a boggy area with many holly trees. A small 'bridge' feature in the boggy ground (feature 110), formed of a single row of granite slabs (plate 17), may be associated with the former continuation of the path, but no clear evidence of the path could be seen in this area. Two other features in the boggy area included a short row of stones (feature 108), possibly analogous to feature 110 but less even or clear. A pile of smaller stones with a shallow hollow to the north (feature 109) is of uncertain origin and purpose. Badger activity in the area has resulted in similar banks, but there is no clear evidence at feature 109 for a sett.

Other features within the woodland include a pair of small hollows (features 115 and 116). The larger of these is 116, which is a roughly circular depression, approximately 6m in diameter with slight banking around the edge. It is planted with daffodils, and it is not clear if this is a planting bed or a possible stone extraction hollow. Feature 115 is smaller, only 1.8m in length, with a bank on one side. It may be a tree-throw hollow rather than a stone extraction hollow, though there is currently no evidence for a tree in the area.

5.2.4 *Rocky Field*

Only one feature was recorded within Rocky Field. This field is recorded as having been in arable cultivation in the 19th century, and is likely to have been improved following its enclosure from the commons, and this activity may have removed or obscured any earthwork features. The sole surviving feature (101) is a deep pond with stone-built revetment/facing on three sides. The third side has a grassed ramp leading down to the pond, suggesting it was used to water livestock kept in the field (plate 18). A more irregular oval-shaped pond was shown in this location on the 1829 enclosure map, whilst the walled sides were shown on the 1884 map and may indicate that it was altered following the enclosure.

It has been suggested that the pond may have been a cart wash, where carts could be cleaned and the wheels allowed to swell in dry weather, preventing the iron tyres from falling off. The layout of the pond is of a similar design and size to a village cart wash pond at Chipping Campden (www.cotswoldnews.com) and similar to but smaller than a possible cart wash or ornamental pond recorded in Sutton on Derwent, East Yorkshire (Dennison 2012). It is likely that if it was a cart wash, the base and sides would be flagged or cobbled, and further archaeological investigations could confirm this. Purpose-built cart wash structures appear to have been uncommon, and are not well covered in contemporary agricultural manuals (e.g. Wilson 1848), or secondary publications dealing with farmsteads (Barnwell & Giles 1997; Brigden 1986) and carts (Viner 2008). The location close to a crossroads but away from a major farm complex suggests that if the Rocky Field pond was a cart wash, it may have served the wider community, in the absence of a suitable shallow watercourse, rather than one particular farm. If further investigation confirms the cart wash attribution, this feature could be considered to be of regional archaeological significance.

The pond is currently fenced off and the water low and fairly stagnant, but it is in generally reasonable condition. There is a substantial amount of vegetation growth both within the pond and on the walls, including brambles, and a tree stands near the southwest corner. The brambles obscure the walls and these and the tree roots could have the potential to damage the stonework.

6 SIGNIFICANCE

The heritage values of individual features have been assessed on the basis of criteria explained in section 3.1.4 (table 1). A summary statement of significance for the survey area is given in section 6.2.

6.1 Heritage values

Table 2: Features of national significance

Mon ID	NT SMR	Mon type	Designations	Period	Significance	Condition
103	68756	Pump house	Listed building (grade II)	Post-medieval	National (group value)	Good
124	68777	Stoneywell Cottage	Listed building (grade II*)	Modern	National	Good
125	68778	Coach house & stables	Listed building (grade II)	Modern	National (group value)	Good

Table 3: Features of regional significance

Mon ID	NT SMR	Mon type	Period	Significance	Condition
101	68754	Pond	Post-medieval	Potentially regional if a cart wash	Good
102	68755	Marker stone	Medieval to post-medieval	Regional	Good
104	68757	Pump house pond	Post-medieval	Regional (group value)	Good
105	68758	Boundary ditch	Medieval to post-medieval	Regional	Good
106	68759	Boundary ditch	Medieval to post-medieval	Regional	Good
117	68770	Tower	Modern	Regional (group value)	Good
118	68771	Tennis court	Modern	Regional (group value)	Good
119	68772	Orchard	Modern	Regional (group value)	Good
120	68773	Kitchen garden	Modern	Regional (group value)	Good

Table 4: Features of local significance

Mon ID	NT SMR	Mon type	Period	Significance	Condition
107	68760	Linear ditch	Post-medieval	Local	Fair
108	68761	Stone row	Unknown	Local	Fair
109	68762	Stone pile	Unknown	Local	Fair
110	68763	Bridge	Post-medieval	Local	Fair

Mon ID	NT SMR	Mon type	Period	Significance	Condition
111	68764	Pathway	Modern	Local	Fair
112	68765	Drainage ditch	Unknown	Local	Fair
113	68766	Drainage ditch	Unknown	Local	Fair
114	68767	Drainage ditch	Modern	Local	Good
115	68768	Hollow	Unknown	Local	Fair
116	68769	Hollow	Unknown	Local	Fair
121	68774	Cobbled path	Modern	Local	Good
122	68775	Flagged path	Modern	Local	Good
123	68776	Stone revetment	Unknown	Local	Fair
126	68779	Garden wall	Modern	Local	Fair

6.2 Statement of significance

Stoneywell Cottage

Stoneywell Cottage is as an exceptional example of the Arts and Crafts architectural movement. Its evidential value lies in its state of preservation and ability to demonstrate the design concept of its architect. It forms a significant example of the work of Ernest Gimson, a major figure in the Arts and Crafts movement who designed relatively few houses, and the lack of significant later alterations or additions adds to its aesthetic and historical illustrative and associative value. The cottage lies within grounds designed and managed to complement the 'natural' and harmonious appearance of the house, and the gardens and outbuildings form an important part of its aesthetic value. The surrounding landscape has also had little change over the last century, and the setting of the house, including views from the gardens, also add to its aesthetic value.

Stoneywell Wood

This area of woodland is likely to be within a medieval assart, and the survival of its boundary ditch and bank are the most important aspect of its evidential value. The historical associative value of the site relates to its ownership by Ulverscroft Priory before its dissolution in 1539, and the plot was recorded in a documentary reference of 1550. It appears to have been woodland by the early 17th century, though may have initially been enclosed for the purposes of agricultural cultivation. The woodland is illustrative of the historic landscape character of the area from the 17th century onwards.

Rocky Field

Rocky Field was created in the first half of the 19th century as part of the enclosure of the wastes and commons of the Charnwood Forest area. It has not been significantly altered since its depiction on a map of 1866, and its drystone wall field boundaries provide evidence for the dramatic alteration of the formerly open landscape as a result of Parliamentary Enclosure. Its main significance lies in its evidential and historical illustrative values. The significance of the pond within the field is currently unclear. If it is a cart wash pond rather than for watering livestock, it would be have important illustrative significance as a surviving example of a poorly-recorded form, and could be of regional heritage value.

7 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

7.1 Guiding principles

The following general principles should apply to the approach to, and all management activities within, the grounds associated with Stoneywell Cottage.

- Overall land management regimes will conserve, and where possible enhance, the significance of the site. Primarily, but not exclusively, the significances assigned with the 'Arts and Crafts' designed landscape will take precedence.
- A conservation-led and 'best-practice' approach will be taken to landscape management, and all obligations of statutory and non-statutory designations will be fulfilled.
- Effective communication between all stakeholders will be maintained.
- The significance of the site will be used to increase the understanding, enjoyment, use of and participation in the site.

7.2 Management policies

Theme	Policies
Landscape character	<p>Any alterations to the landscape will take into account the historic character of the landscape and will conserve and aim to improve this character.</p> <p>Ecological and archaeological sensitivities will be integral to the management of the landscape.</p> <p>Historical time depth will be acknowledged and the site considered within its wider landscape context, including the ancient enclosed woodland and the 'Arts and Crafts' cottage and garden.</p>
Conservation and repairs	<p>Repairs and alterations to features such as boundaries will follow sensitive and sustainable conservation practice. Appropriate materials and construction methods will be used to maintain local and site-specific styles.</p> <p>Any management works will be undertaken in line with the requirements associated with statutory and non-statutory designations.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the condition of drystone walls and pond linings should be undertaken, and a cyclical programme of wall maintenance established, which will protect historic fabric from further decay. Repairs to walls in National Trust ownership should be effected when possible. Those in poor condition are mainly around Rocky Field, and it was noted that some sections are currently under repair by volunteers. Boundary 212 at the edge of Stoneywell Wood also has collapsed or damaged sections.</p> <p>Wall maintenance and repairs should be undertaken using the predominant local style, materials and methods. In general, this appears to be the same for the Stoneywell Cottage boundaries and those of Rocky Field, though the Stoneywell walls are largely in a better condition.</p> <p>Regular maintenance should also be undertaken on boundary ditch 105, which ideally should be kept free of vegetation. Maintenance activities</p>

	<p>should take care not to disturb or damage the earthworks and any sub-surface deposits associated with the bank and ditch. The condition of ditch 106 in the roadside verge north of the site boundary should also be monitored, though it is likely to be outside the National Trust's area of ownership.</p>
Animal management	<p>Monitor the locations of badger setts and establish whether any burrowing activities are threatening significant archaeological features. This is particularly a potential issue with the boundary bank and ditch (feature 105) along the edge of Stoneywell Wood. Historic England's guidance on dealing with badger setts should be consulted where necessary (English Heritage 2014).</p> <p>An extensive rabbit warren was noted in the triangular area at the northwest corner of Stoneywell Wood, in a heavily vegetated area that is difficult to access. No features of archaeological interest were noted in this area, though vegetation may have obscured any earthworks.</p>
Forestry and vegetation management	<p>It would be desirable to control the extensive brambles and bracken within the woodland, to avoid obscuring and potentially damaging archaeological features.</p> <p>Any forestry works within Stoneywell Wood should aim to avoid damage to features identified in the survey.</p> <p>Wherever possible, the route of the historic pathway should be maintained free of shrubs and trees. It would be beneficial to incorporate this into the visitor experience. Some works may be needed in the 'lost' section to demarcate the path more clearly.</p>
Further research	<p>Further documentary research on the history of Stoneywell Wood could have the potential to clarify the period when it was enclosed from common land, and therefore the approximate date of the surviving boundary ditch.</p> <p>It was not possible to find any information relating to the laying out and design of the gardens at Stoneywell Cottage during the desk-based research. Further research may reveal more information on the design principles, as well as the extent of formal planning, as the grounds seem to have been modified over time.</p> <p>Due to the problems with utilising GPS recording within the wooded areas, it is recommended that future surveys utilise a Total Station to more accurately locate features.</p> <p>Archaeological evaluation of the nature of the base and ramp of the pond in Rocky Field would assist in determining whether it functioned as a cart wash.</p>

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1796 map of the manor of Ulverscroft, by Leo Bell (DE3/48)

1816 map of Charnwood Forest by Thomas Miles (DG20/Ma/66/1)

1829 Charnwood Forest Enclosure Award and Map (QS 47/2/4)

1884 Ordnance Survey 25 inch: 1 mile map sheets Leicestershire 24.7, 24.10 and 24.11.

1889 Ordnance Survey 6 inch: 1 mile map sheet Leicestershire 24.

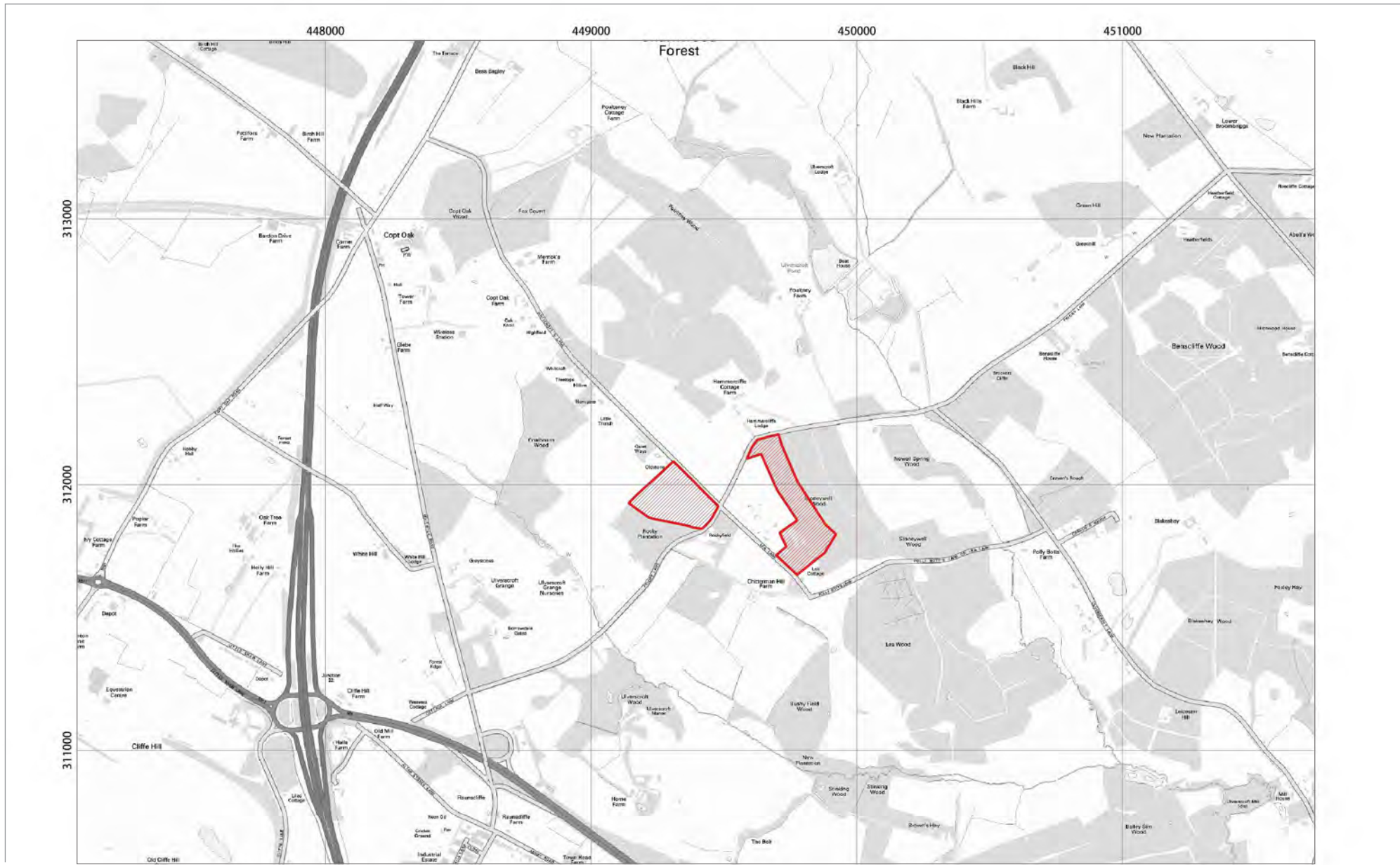
1903 Ordnance Survey 25 inch: 1 mile map sheets Leicestershire 24.7, 24.10 and 24.11.

1929 Ordnance Survey 25 inch: 1 mile map sheets Leicestershire 24.7, 24.10 and 24.11.

1931 Ordnance Survey 6 inch: 1 mile map sheet Leicestershire 24

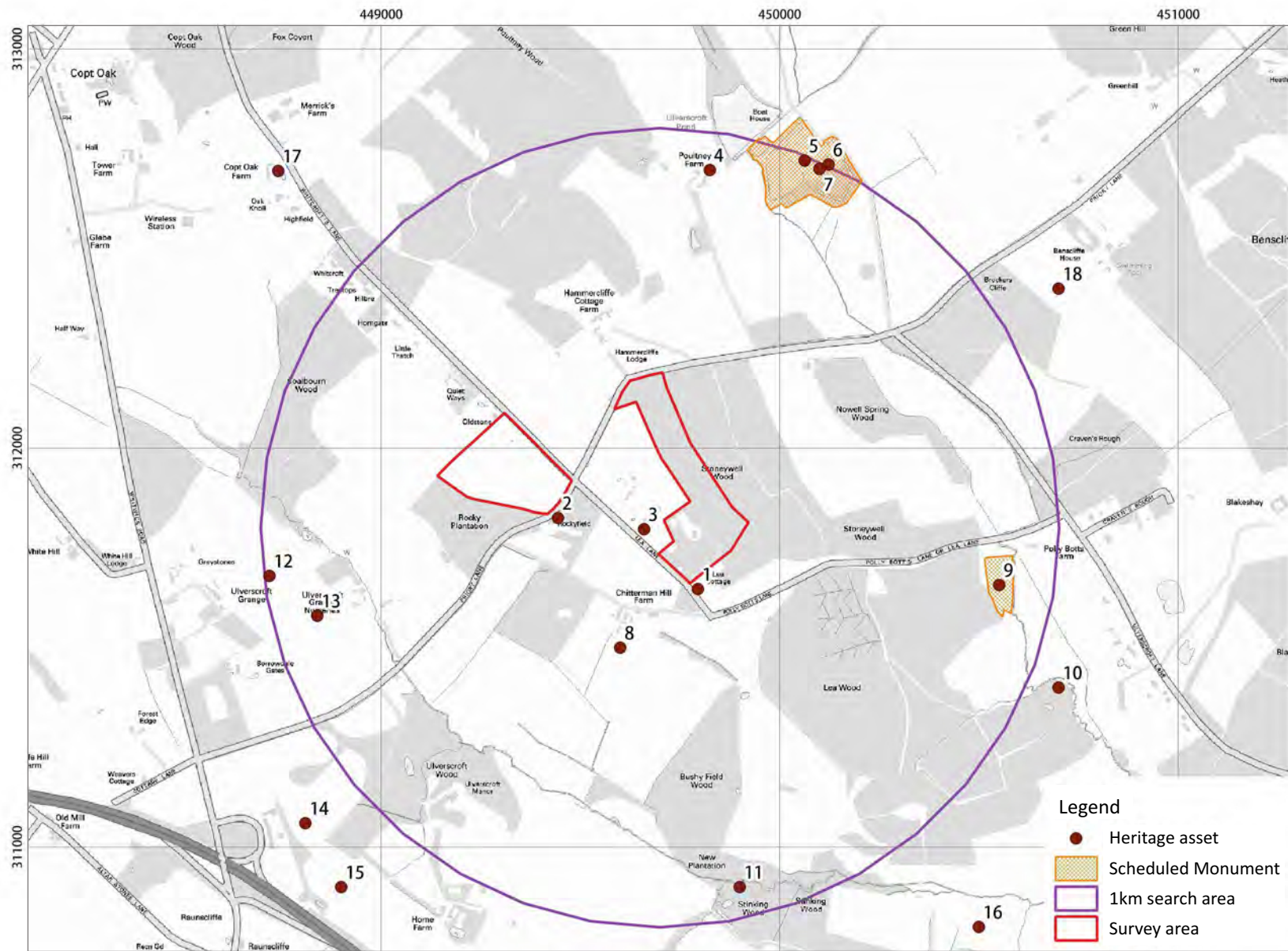
1960 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map sheet SK 51 SW

FIGURES



OS Streetview Map © Crown Copyright 2016. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100018343.

Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Recorded heritage assets within the search area

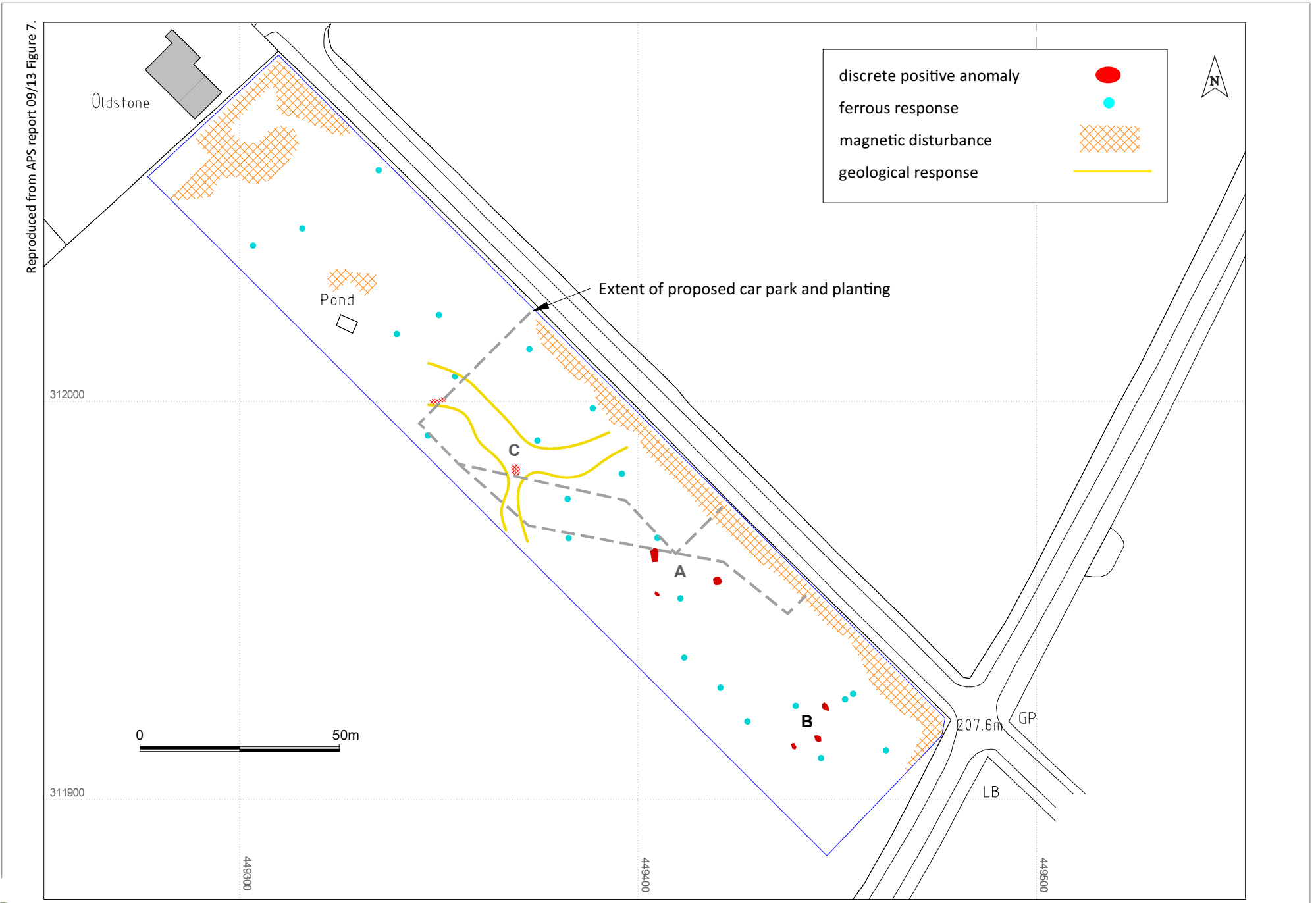
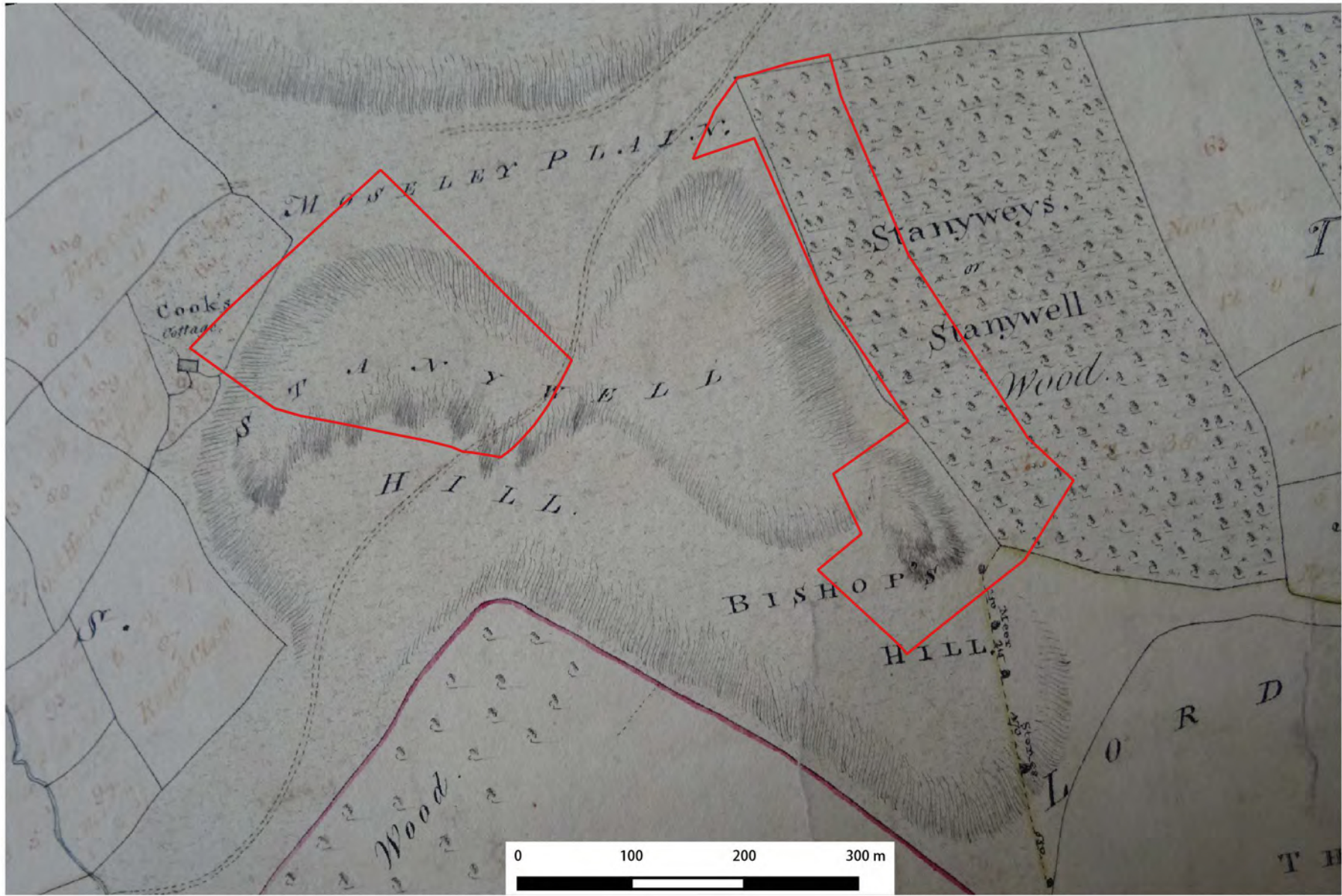


Figure 3: Rocky Field geophysical survey interpretative plot



Location of survey area is approximate





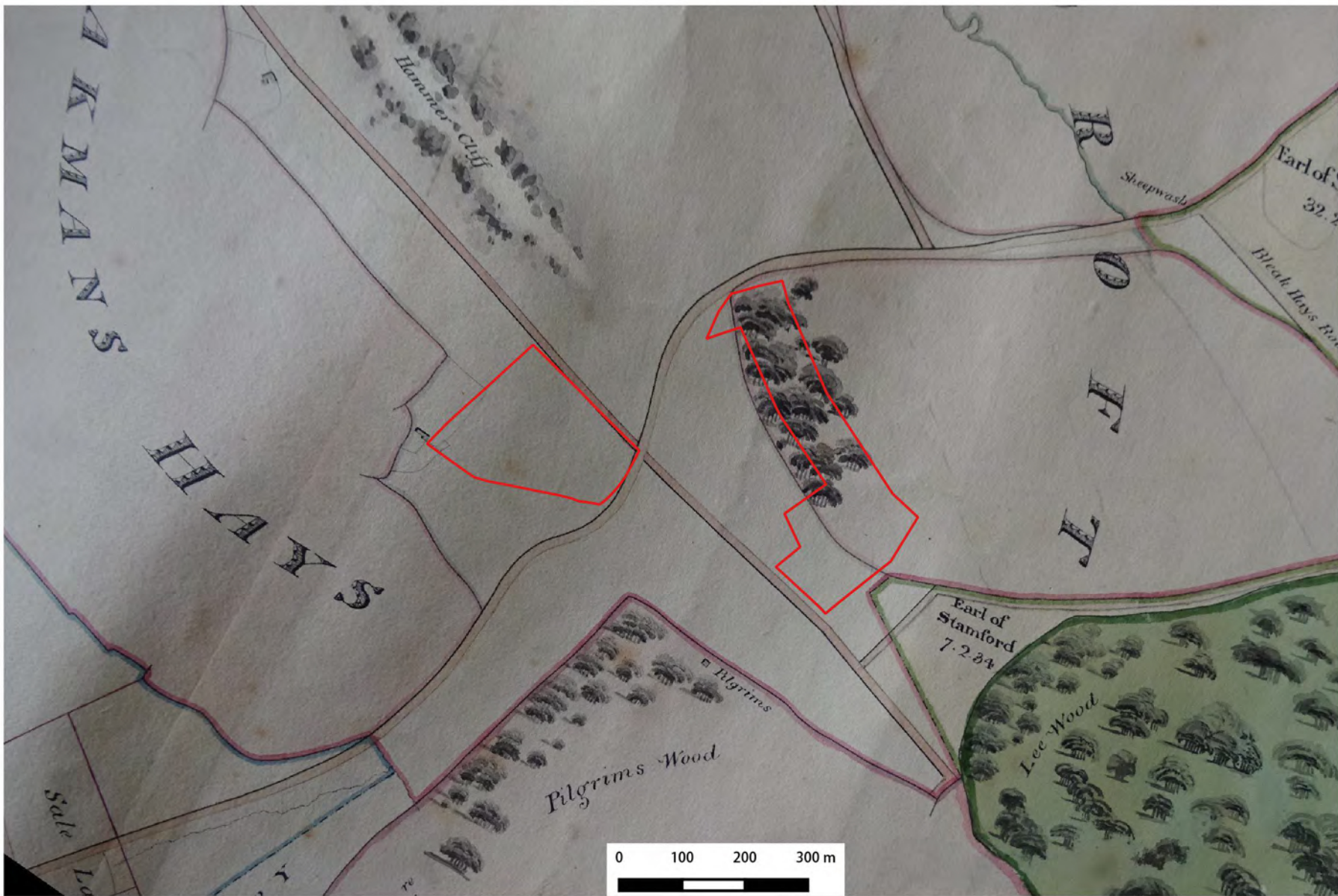
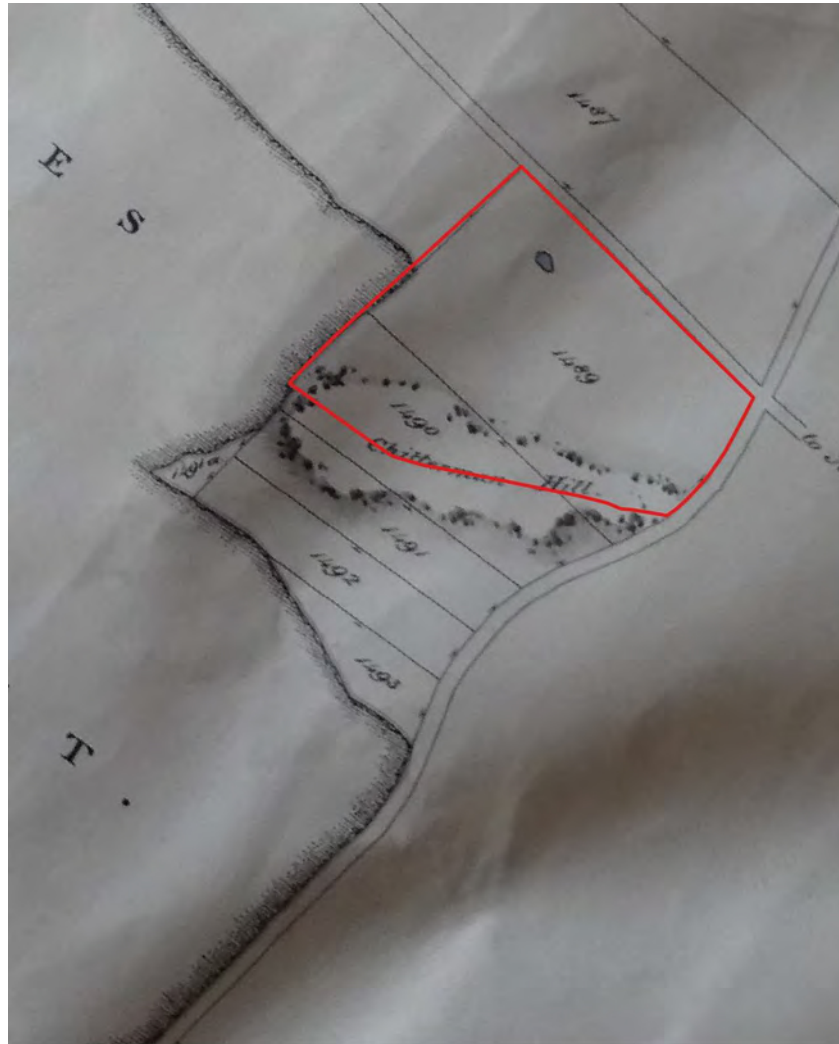
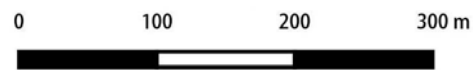


Figure 6: 1816 map of Charnwood Forest

Plan XVI



Plan XVII



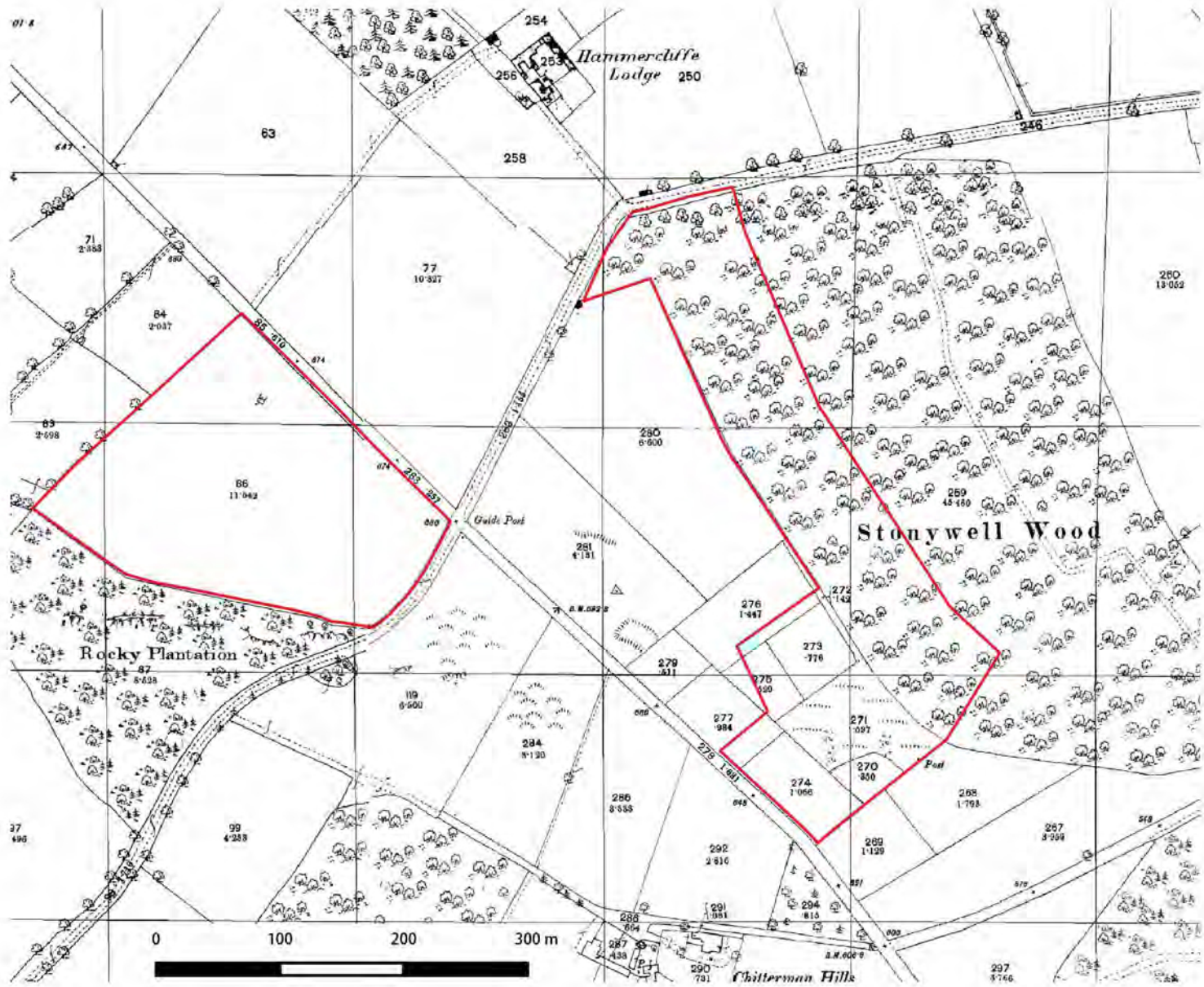


Figure 8: 1884 OS map

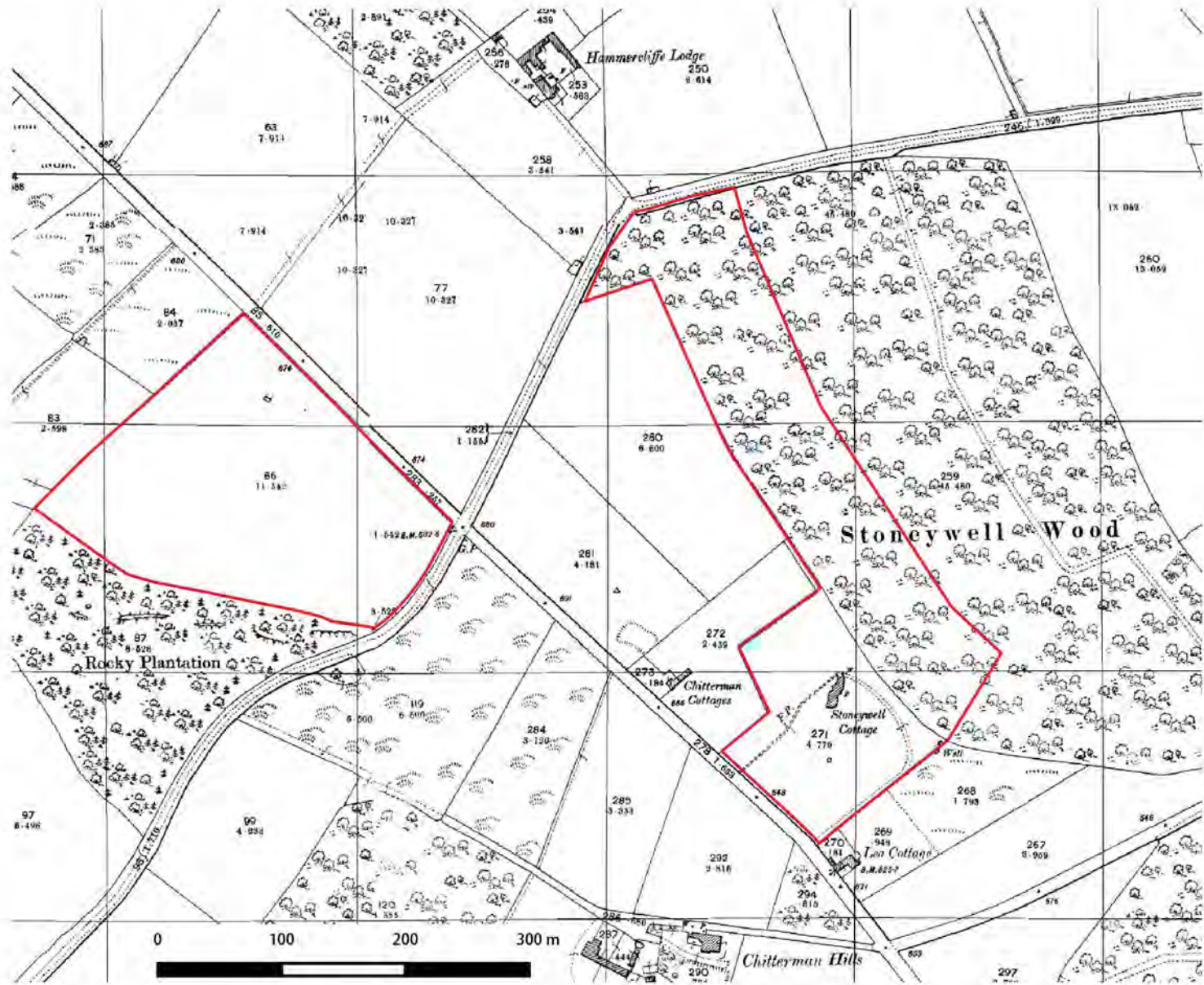
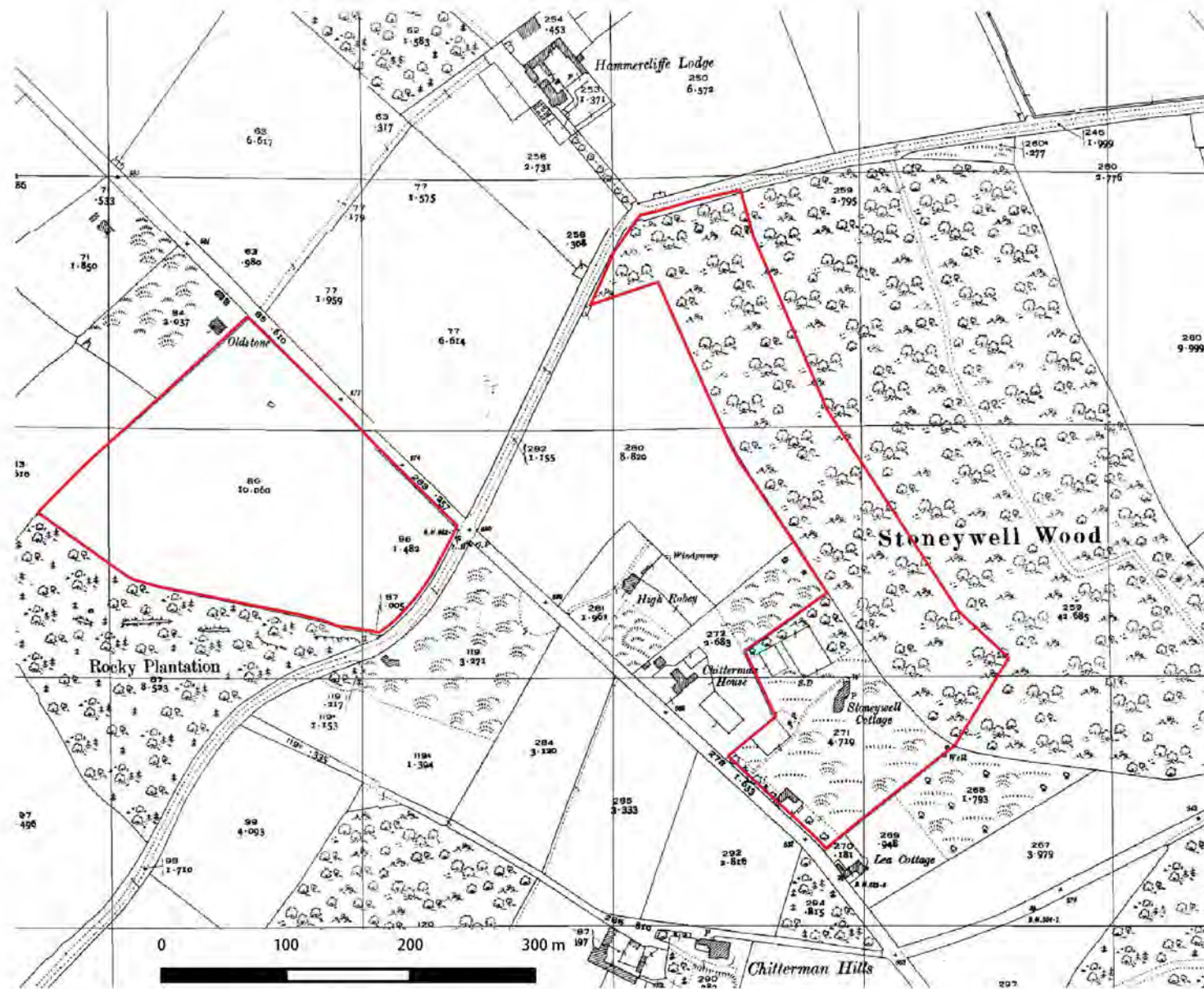
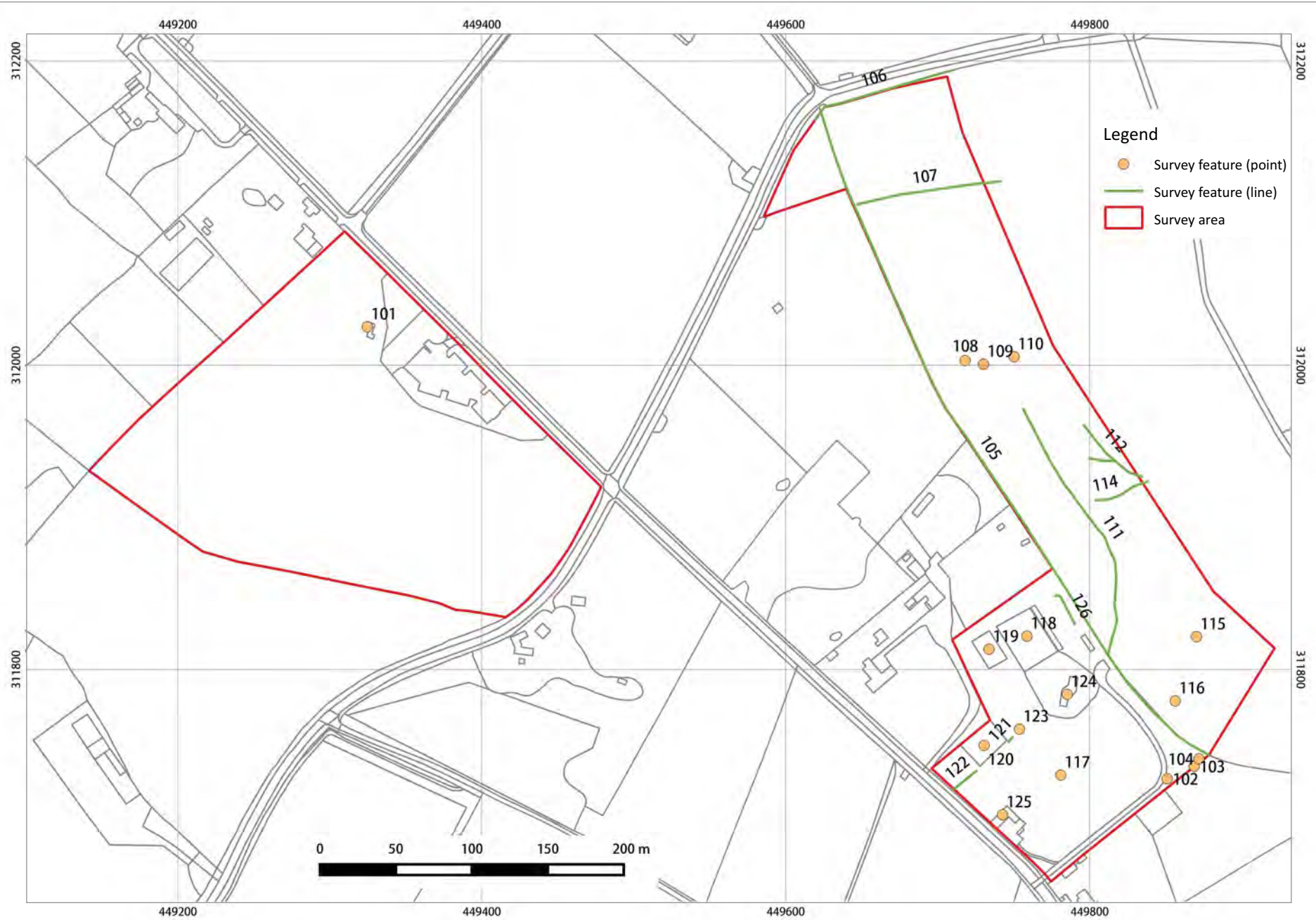


Figure 9: 1903 OS map





- Legend**
- Survey feature (point)
 - Survey feature (line)
 - Survey area

Figure 11: Survey plan

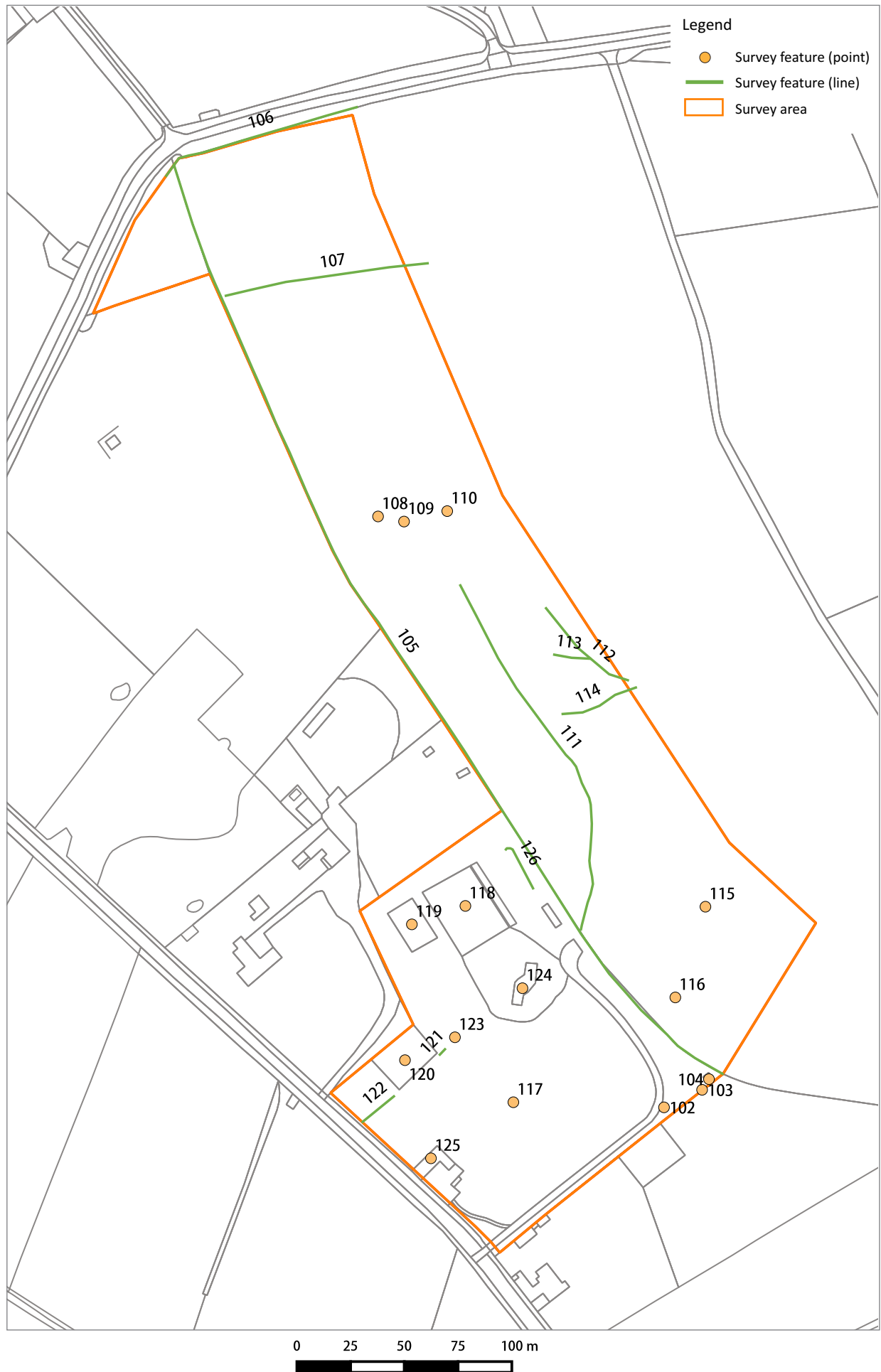


Figure 12: Detail of Stoneywell survey features

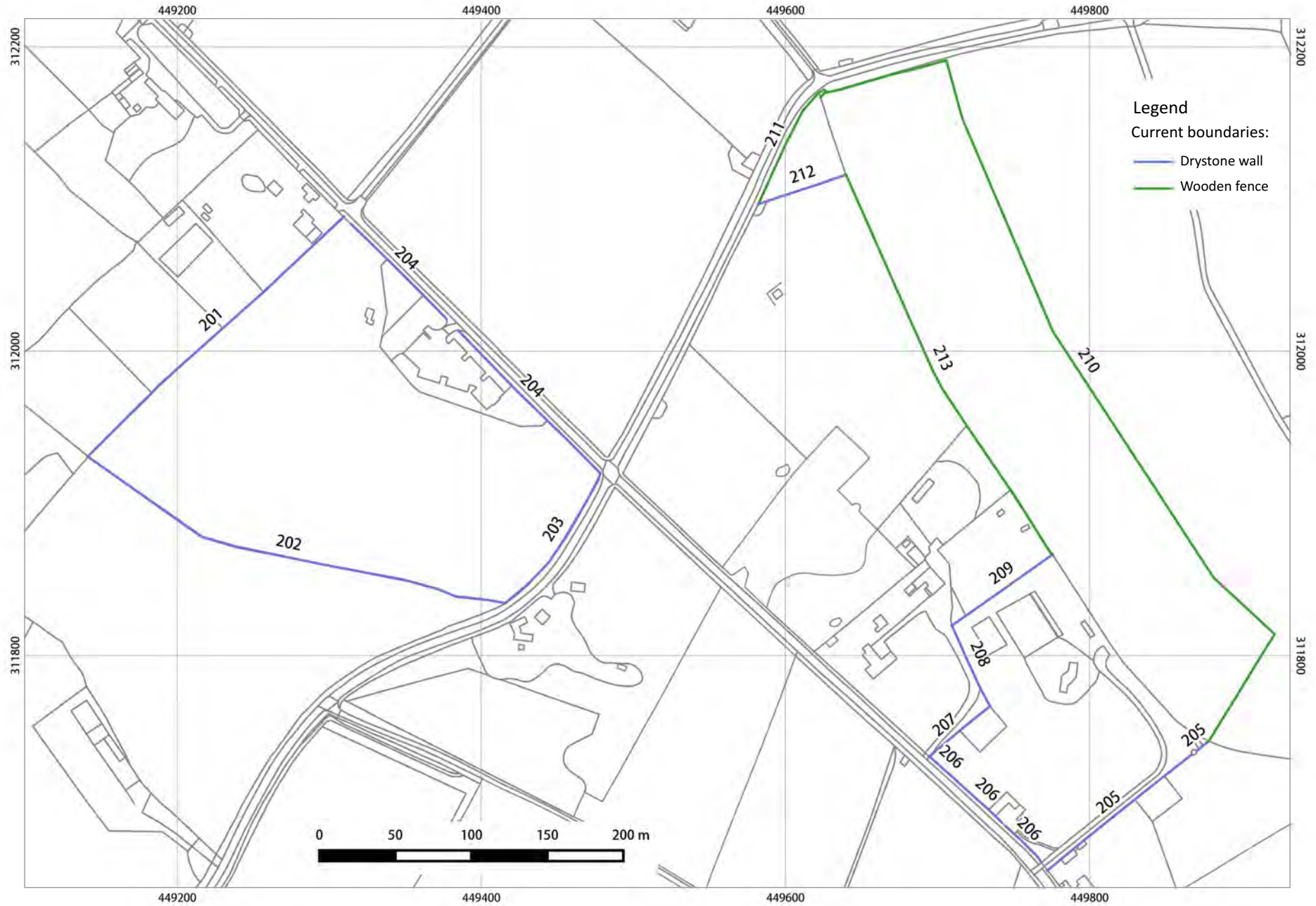


Figure 13: Current boundary features

PLATES

Plate 1: 'Mere stone', feature 102, viewed facing southeast



Plate 2: Woodland boundary bank and ditch, feature 105, viewed facing southeast



Plate 3: Boundary wall 202 in Rocky Field, damaged by falling tree



Plate 4: Boundary wall 209 at the northern side of Stoneywell Cottage grounds



Plate 5: Western elevation of Stoneywell Cottage, viewed facing east



Plate 6: Main doorway to Stoneywell Cottage, showing datestone, viewed facing west



Plate 7: Eastern elevation of Stoneywell Cottage, viewed facing northwest



Plate 8: Pump house (feature 103) and wall 205, viewed facing southwest



Plate 9: Pond 104 adjacent to pump house, viewed facing southeast



Plate 10: Northeast elevation of coach house (feature 125), viewed facing west



Plate 11: 'Tower' fort, feature 117, viewed facing east



Plate 12: Walled orchard (feature 119), viewed facing northwest



Plate 13: Flagged footpath, feature 122, viewed facing southwest



Plate 14: Linear ditch 107, viewed facing northeast



Plate 15: Drainage ditch 112, viewed facing southeast



Plate 16: Abandoned footpath 111, viewed facing northwest



Plate 17: 'Bridge' structure 110, viewed facing southeast



Plate 18: Possible cart pond 101, viewed facing east

APPENDIX 1: SURVEY GAZETTEER

Archaeological features

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/significance	Period	Condition	Threats
101	68754		Pond (field pond, possible cart wash)	SK 49324 12025	A rectangular, stone-lined pond within the Rough, approximately 10m x 5m in extent, and a visible depth of 1.2m. Three sides have drystone revetment, with the fourth, north-east side having a grassed ramp down to the pond, suggesting it was built to water livestock, or may have been a cart wash. It was not noted whether the grass obscures a cobbled or flagged ramp and base. The pond still holds water, but is fenced off. Vegetation growth inside obscures the wall in places, including brambles.	Regional/ Local depending on purpose	Post- medieval	Good	Vegetation could impact on stonework and increase the likelihood of the pond silting up.
102	68755		Marker stone	SK 49851 11728	A marker stone, set upright close to the bend of the drive leading to Stoneywell Cottage. It is 0.7m tall, 0.5m wide and 0.1m broad, with relatively straight faces. There are no obvious markings on the stone. It is likely to be a parish boundary marker, or 'mere stone', as shown on the 1796 map of the area. Possibly known as the 'Pilgrim Stone', according to local volunteers.	Regional	Medieval to post- medieval	Good	None
103	68756	MLE 13965; NHLE 1074638	Pump house	SK 49868 11736	A circular pump house with a conical slated roof. Built by E. Gimson in 1899. The building is single storey, of granite and slate rubble construction, set into the boundary wall with entrances into the gardens of Stoneywell and Lea Cottage. It contains a hand-operated pump. There is a square skylight in the roof, which is covered with Swithland slate. The external render/pointing appears to have been patched relatively recently close to the roof.	Listed building (grade II)/ regional	Post- medieval	Good	None

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
104	68757		Pond	SK 49872 11741	A square pond adjacent to the pump house and probably associated with it. It is c.3m square, with a low stone wall around the edge, and concrete rendering on the interior (unclear if this is over stone or a completely concrete lining). A ceramic overflow pipe is visible in the northeast corner, but the southeast corner, closest to the pump house, is obscured by vegetation so it is not clear if there is a pipe running to it. The surrounding stone wall protrudes only slightly above ground level. The pond is quite deep, c.1.5m.	Regional (group value)	Post-medieval	Good	Some vegetation growth which could affect the wall integrity.
105	68758		Boundary ditch	SK 49790 11844	A substantial boundary ditch aligned northwest to southeast and running along the southwest side of Stoneywell Wood. It varies in width and depth along its length, but is on average 1.8-2m wide at the top and 0.5m wide at the base, with a U-shaped profile and relatively flat base. The ditch is c.0.5-0.7m deep, with a stony bank on the northeast side. In the southern end there is some puddled water, suggesting it may function as a drainage ditch, but it is most likely a boundary, probably a pre-Parliamentary enclosure boundary of the woodland. It is on the line of the boundary shown on the 1796 map.	Regional	Medieval to post-medieval	Good	Vegetation, mainly along the bank, including trees which could impact on the bank; a recent badger sett is very close to the bank at SK 49718 11967.
106	68759		Boundary ditch	SK 49662 12179	A substantial boundary ditch mainly just outside the fence defining the edge of the survey area, but almost certainly a continuation of the boundary defining the wood, with 105. It is aligned roughly east to west, and is similar in form, with a linear ditch and a bank on the south (inner) side.	Regional	Medieval to post-medieval	Good	Vegetation, including trees, may impact on the earthworks; the ditch is close to a road and management of the verge could impact on the feature.

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
107	68760		Linear ditch	SK 49685 12113	A linear ditch aligned east to west within the wood, running from the boundary ditch 105 at the west downslope and out of the survey area to the east. It is up to 1.5m wide at the top and fairly shallow at the western end, c.0.3m deep, becoming more substantial as it runs downslope to the east, up to 0.5m deep. It appears to be for drainage, although may also form a compartment boundary within the wood. In places it is densely overgrown, particularly with brambles, and some trees are along the edge. In places a bank is visible to the north, 0.8m high and 0.3m wide.	Local	Post-medieval	Fair	Vegetation, including trees, may impact on the earthworks.
108	68761		Stone row	SK 49718 12003	A short stretch of linear stony bank near to a boggy, damp area with recent tree management activity. It is aligned northwest-southeast, and only visible for 2.5m in length. It is 0.5m wide and 0.2m high, slightly earth covered. It may be an old tree throw, but there is no associated hollow. One tree stump is set within the feature. Possibly the remains of a short length of walling, but with no clear function.	Local	Unknown	Fair	Vegetation could impact on the feature but no immediate threat is visible.
109	68762		Stone pile	SK 49730 12000	A low bank of small stones with some larger material, with a linear hollow to the west. Aligned roughly north-south. The feature is 1.5m long, the bank is 0.5m wide and 0.2-0.3m high, whilst the hollow is 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep. Damp, boggy ground is located to the south. Some badger activity is noted in the vicinity, but this does not seem to be part of it. Possibly a small extraction hollow.	Unknown	Unknown	Fair	Vegetation could impact on the feature but no immediate threat is visible.

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
110	68763		Bridge	SK 49750 12005	A possible small bridge or causeway in a damp, boggy area. It is c.3m long, 0.65m wide, aligned roughly northwest-southeast. It is mainly one stone wide. It is quite mossy, suggesting it is not a recent feature. It may be associated with a former pathway through the wood (feature 111).	Local	Post-medieval	Fair	Vegetation could impact on the feature but no immediate threat is visible. The boggy nature of the ground suggests the feature is at risk of being lost to mud.
111	68764		Pathway	SK 49794 11923	A former pathway, now mainly disused, visible as a clear, level area mainly aligned southeast to northwest through the southern and central part of the wood. The southern end curves round to the west, to the entrance to the wood from Stoneywell Cottage, indicating that it is likely to be a former woodland walk from the cottage. There is no visible evidence of construction, but it has remained clear up to the edge of the boggy ground to the north. The bridge feature 110 may be associated with it, but the feature could not be followed in denser bracken and bramble vegetation to the northwest.	Local	Modern	Fair	The pathway is currently clear at the southern end, but could be threatened by encroachment of bramble and bracken, as well as by sapling trees.
112	68765		Drainage ditch	SK 49831 11947	A linear drainage ditch aligned northwest to southeast, running into the area of wood outside the survey area. It is roughly 50m long within the survey area, 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep.	Local	Unknown	Fair	Vegetation within and adjacent to the ditch could impact on the earthworks, including brambles. No trees are currently threatening the ditch.

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
113	68766		Drainage ditch	SK 49818 11955	A short linear drainage ditch aligned roughly east to west, running down a slope and joining ditch 112.	Local	Unknown	Fair	Vegetation within and adjacent to the ditch could impact on the earthworks, including brambles and small trees along the side.
114	68767		Drainage ditch	SK 49835 11919	A linear drainage ditch aligned roughly east to west, running down a slope and out of the survey area to the east. It is roughly 40m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. It may have been recently cut or re-dug and is relatively clear at the base. Along the footpath at the eastern side of the wood it is covered by a wooden footbridge.	Local	Modern	Good	The ditch is clear, but at least one tree is located on the edge and vegetation growth could damage the earthworks.
115	68768		Hollow	SK 49870 11821	A small hollow, 1.8m by 1m, 0.2-0.3m deep, aligned roughly northwest to southeast and sub-oval in shape. It has a bank to the east 0.8m wide and 0.4m high. The feature may be an old tree throw, but could be a small stone extraction hollow.	Unknown	Unknown	Fair	There are no currently visible threats.
116	68769		Hollow	SK 49856 11779	A sub-rounded hollow approximately 6m in diameter, 0.3m deep. It has slightly irregular sides but is clearly a depression, with a possible slight bank on the northern edge. It is obscured by daffodils, but could be a small extraction hollow.	Unknown	Unknown	Fair	There are no currently visible threats.
117	68770		Tower	SK 49780 11730	A small circular tower at the top of the natural rock outcrop to the south of Stoneywell Cottage. It is c.1.5m in diameter and up to 2m tall externally, of drystone construction set directly onto outcropping rock. There is a narrow entrance with a stone lintel, and two small window openings set low down. Reputedly a children's play fort, though the quality of the drystone walling suggests the assistance of experienced wall builders.	Regional (group value)	Modern	Good	It is in good condition, with no currently visible threats; its exposed nature suggests that regular inspection and maintenance would be advisable.

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
118	68771		Tennis court	SK 49760 11820	A levelled, rectangular terrace within the gardens to the northwest of Stoneywell Cottage, partly surrounded by drystone walls and trellis fencing. It has a smooth lawn surface and was reputedly used as a tennis court, but could also function as a bowling green. It was first shown on the 1929 OS map.	Regional (group value)	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
119	68772		Orchard	SK 49734 11813	A rectangular walled garden containing five apple trees, within the gardens to the northwest of Stoneywell Cottage. It is west of and upslope of the tennis court. The ground within does not appear to have been levelled, and it slopes from west to east. The drystone wall is well maintained, up to 1.4m high. The orchard was first shown on the 1929 OS map.	Regional (group value)	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
120	68773		Walled garden	SK 49730 11750	Walled kitchen garden to the north of the stables at Stoneywell Cottage. The garden is surrounded by a drystone wall 1.2-1.4m high. On the interior there are raised beds recently maintained and re-planted. The kitchen garden is first shown on the 1929 OS map.	Regional (group value)	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
121	68774		Cobbled path	SK 49748 11754	A short stretch of pathway or hardstanding constructed of square stone cobbles or setts. The path is 0.9m wide, c.8m long. It runs on a southwest to northeast alignment from the corner of the kitchen garden and is partially grassed over.	Local	Modern	Good	The path is obscured by grass, but not significantly threatened.
122	68775		Flagged path	SK 49717 11727	A length of flagged pathway aligned southwest to northeast, leading from a pedestrian gate onto the road towards the kitchen garden. It is 0.6m wide and c.20m long.	Local	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
123	68776		Stone revetment	SK 49753 11760	A small area of drystone revetment at the edge of a grass-covered raised area, probably a natural rock outcrop and facing northwest. It may be associated with garden landscaping, but is of unclear function. Only a small area is visible, c. 1m long and 0.5m high.	Local	Unknown	Fair	There are no currently visible threats.

Mon ID	NT SMR	Related ref	Mon type	NGR	Description	Designation/ significance	Period	Condition	Threats
124	68777	NHLE: 1361102; MLE13967	Stoneywell Cottage	SK 49785 11783	Stoneywell Cottage, built 1899 to a design by Ernest Gimson for his brother Sydney Gimson. The building was supervised by Detmar Blow. The house is of granite and slate rubble stone, with an irregular plan designed to fit into the topography of the plot at the base of a rocky outcrop. The roof was originally thatch, but replaced in Swithland slate after a fire of 1939. It has two massive rubble stone chimney stacks to the front, and a slate lintel over the front door with 'G 1899' carved on it. Windows in the roof are mainly triangular.	Listed building (grade II*)/ National	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
125	68778	NHLE 1178370; MLE13966	Coach house & stables	SK 49742 11704	Coach house and stables for Stoneywell Cottage. Built in 1902 to a design by Ernest Gimson. Granite and slate rubble walls with timber-framed weatherboarding of the upper two thirds of the elevation. Swithland slate roof and stone ridge stack. L-plan, with the longer range containing the stables and (currently) toilets. The stable has a loose box and stall, with a hand pump in one corner. The shorter range held the coach house, with a taking in door at upper storey level on the southeast gable possibly to a hay loft, reached by an external wooden staircase. There is a decorative gilt weathercock on the roof, reportedly a birthday gift from Ernest Gimson to his brother. The complex is currently used as the site offices.	Listed building (grade II)/ Regional	Modern	Good	There are no currently visible threats.
126	68779		Garden wall	SK 49785 11839	A stretch of walling forming the eastern side of the gardens to the north of Stoneywell Cottage. The wall runs along the east side of a planting bed. The wall is low, up to 0.5m high, and varies in width from 0.4-0.6m. It is partially moss covered.	Local	Modern	Fair	There are no currently visible threats.

Current boundary features

ID	Boundary type	Location	Description	Condition	Period	NGR
201	Drystone wall	Rocky Field	The boundary at the northwest side of Rocky Field is a recent post and wire fence, separated from a drystone wall by a gap of c.2.5m. A ditch runs along the gap, probably for drainage. The wall is mainly in good condition, but is less well-maintained towards its southwest end. The ditch is obscured by overgrown vegetation for most of its length.	Fair	c.1829	SK 49220 12007
202	Drystone wall	Rocky Field	The boundary at the southwest side of Rocky Field and northeast of Rocky Plantation is a drystone wall, with a recent post and wire fence on the Rocky Field side in several places where the wall is in poor condition. The wall is mainly in good condition in its northwest half, standing to 1.2m in height. In the southeast half it is more tumbled or robbed, with areas breached by fallen trees from Rocky Plantation. One recent example is at SK 49215 11878. At the southeast end, the wall is only visible as footings.	Poor to fair	c.1829	SK 49263 11866
203	Drystone wall	Rocky Field	The boundary at the southeast side of Rocky Field survives up to 1.2m high and is in average condition. Some sections have coping stones, but in areas these have been lost. There is a wire fence on the interior of the field.	Fair	c.1829	SK 49454 11873
204	Drystone wall	Rocky Field	The boundary along the northeast side of Rocky Field is of drystone construction, with a wire fence along the interior in places. It is currently undergoing repairs, with missing coping stones in places.	Fair	c.1829	SK 49395 12002
205	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Cottage	The southeast boundary of the Stoneywell land is of drystone construction, up to 1.2m tall. It is well maintained and in good condition. The wall terminates at the pump house, and then continues on the other side of it. The section to the northeast of the pump house is lower and less neat.	Good	c.1829	SK 49816 11694
206	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Cottage	The southwest boundary of the Stoneywell land is of drystone construction, up to 1.2m tall. It is well maintained and in good condition. There are three gaps for gates, one for the main drive, one into the stable yard and one wooden pedestrian gate into the gardens, northwest of the stable.	Good	c.1829	SK 49732 11700
207	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Cottage	The boundary wall to the northwest of the kitchen garden is of drystone construction, up to 1m high. It is in an average condition, though partially ivy-covered.	Fair	c.1899	SK 49715 11751
208	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Cottage	The boundary wall to the west of the Stoneywell gardens is of drystone construction, up to 1.4m high. It is in good condition, well maintained.	Good	c.1899	SK 49720 11794

ID	Boundary type	Location	Description	Condition	Period	NGR
209	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Cottage	The boundary wall to the northwest of the Stoneywell gardens is of drystone construction, up to 1m high. It is in an average condition, with some poorer sections. The wall crosses the boundary ditch (106) at its northeast end, terminating at the associated bank.	Fair	c.1899	SK 49744 11844
210	Wooden fence	Stoneywell Wood	The boundary around Stoneywell Wood is a rough wooden post and rail fence, in good condition. At the northwest end of the wood, a substantial boundary ditch and bank (feature 107) is probably the more ancient boundary of the wood, just outside the fenced area.	Good	Recent	SK 49738 12100
211	Wooden fence	Stoneywell Wood	The boundary on the north side of a triangle of land west of the northwest corner of Stoneywell Wood is a wooden post and rail fence in a reasonable condition.	Good	Recent	SK 49601 12139
212	Drystone wall	Stoneywell Wood	The boundary on the south side of a triangle of land west of the northwest corner of Stoneywell Wood is of drystone construction. It stands up to 1.2m tall, mainly in a reasonable condition but with occasional areas of collapse or missing stones.	Fair	c.1829	SK 49612 12107
213	Wooden fence	Stoneywell Wood	The boundary between the west side of Stoneywell Wood and private properties to the west is a wooden post and rail fence in reasonable condition. The fence is to the west of the substantial ditch and bank (feature 106) that appears to have formed the ancient boundary of the wood.	Fair	Recent	SK 49711 11962

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS

Recorded heritage assets outside the survey area.

ID	Site name	Description	Source ID	NGR
1	Lea Cottage, Lea Lane	House of 1898 with additions of c1972. By Ernest Gimson for half-brother Mentor Gimson, with supervision of building by Detmar Blow. Whitewashed slate and granite rubble stone with stone dressings, and thatch roof with rubble stone ridge, side and end stacks. Grade II listed.	NHLE 1361101; MLE13964	SK 49795 11647
2	Rockyfield Cottage, Priory Lane	Cottage of 1908. By Ernest Gimson for Margaret Gimson. Granite and slate rubble stone and Swithland slate roof and lintels with left end and rear side stacks. Grade II listed.	NHLE 1295051; MLE13969	SK 49444 11825
3	Chitterman House, Lea Lane	Originally two cottages, now combined into a single dwelling. Built in 1897 for James Bilson and designed by Ernest Gimson in an Arts & Crafts/Domestic Revival styling, but since altered beyond recognition. Rough cast render. Multi gabled Swithland slate pitched roofs with pitched roof dormers. Locally listed building.	MLE 15176	SK 49660 11797
4	Poultney Farm House, Priory Lane	A farmhouse of mid-18th century date. Granite and slate rubble stone with Welsh slate roof and brick end stacks. Grade II listed.	NHLE 1074639; MLE13968	SK 49825 12697
5	Ulverscroft Priory, moat and three fishponds	The priory at Ulverscroft retains extensive ruined buildings which, together with a long water-filled moat and three large fishponds comprise the finest surviving monastic site in the county. The priory of St Mary was founded in 1134 by Robert Earl of Leicester and was taken over by the Augustinians in 1174. The visible ruins date from the 13th century with the greater part dating from the 14th-15th centuries. Scheduled Monument. The fishponds partly surrounded the priory buildings like a moat, but did not fully enclose them.	NHLE 1008554; MLE1074, MLE1069	SK 50063 12721
6	Ulverscroft Priory ruins and Priory Farmhouse and outbuildings, Priory Lane	Ruins of priory church of 13th-century date and later together with house and outbuildings of 13th century and later. Granite and slate rubble stone with some red brick walling and dressings and Swithland slate and corrugated roofs. Parts of the Priory buildings and the Prior's lodging are now the farmhouse and many of the medieval portions are incorporated in later farm buildings or are other Priory buildings used as farm buildings. Grade I listed.	NHLE 1295073; MLE13973	SK 50123 12711
7	Bronze Age axe, possibly from Ulverscroft Priory	A 'crescentine Battle Axe' with an unfinished perforation was found somewhere in the vicinity of Ulverscroft Priory.	MLE6303	SK 50 12
8	Medieval house (Pilgrims), Chitterman Hill	James Thompson in 1863 described a 'Gothic house' called Pilgrims built between 1460 and 1500 on the slopes of Chitterman Hill. A north-south bay was in nearly original condition, while that at right angles was much altered and repaired. The footings of a building survive in the vicinity of Chitterman Hill Farm. An 1816 map of Charnwood shows a house marked 'Pilgrims' on the edge of an area of old enclosure containing 'Pilgrims Wood'. The 1829 enclosure award lists Elnathan Pilgrim as one of the local landowners.	MLE1068	SK 496 115

ID	Site name	Description	Source ID	NGR
9	Moat at Lea Meadows	A moated site with associated drainage channels, an important example of a moat in a well-documented area of forest clearance. The rectangular moated area is divided into two parts by the former course of a stream. The western half is composed of a large rectangular island, whilst the eastern half is of similar dimensions but divided to form two smaller islands. The moat arms have been partly infilled. An external bank lies on the northwest side of the site. To the south of the moated area is a complex system of interconnecting water channels and enclosures which are an integral part of the site. Scheduled Monument.	NHLE 1009167; MLE1076	SK 50551 11657
10	Lea Meadows medieval assart	The Lea Meadows can be traced back over seven centuries and appear to be part of a medieval assart along with Lea Wood. To prevent depredations by grazing animals from the open forest, the formers made a substantial bank and ditch around their assart, the remnants of which can be seen just after entering the meadows along the eastern boundary. The Lea Assart is first mentioned in a document of 1287, when it formed part of the estate of the late William de Ferrers, lord of the manor of Groby.	MLE19920	SK 507 114
11	Undated ponds in Stinking Wood	Earthwork remains of ponds were noted in Stinking Wood in the 1980s.	MLE728	SK 499 109
12	Probable earthwork ridge and furrow	Probable earthwork ridge and furrow of medieval date, mapped from aerial photographs.	PastScape 925395	SK 4872 1168
13	Probable cropmark field boundary	A probable cropmark field boundary of post-medieval date, seen as a single linear feature defined by a ditch, up to 90m in length. Mapped from aerial photographs.	PastScape 925396	SK 4884 1158
14	Possible cropmark enclosure and linear features	A possible cropmark enclosure of unknown date, visible as an asymmetric polygon defined by a ditch on 4 sides, and two discontinuous parallel linear ditches, mapped from aerial photographs.	PastScape 925397	SK 4881 1106
15	Probable earthwork ridge and furrow	Two areas of probable earthwork ridge and furrow of medieval date, mapped from aerial photographs.	PastScape 925398	SK 4890 1090
16	Possible site of medieval watermill, Ulverscroft Mill	A watermill is mentioned in a grant to the Marquis of Dorset in 1550, within a close of 'La Dames', clearly related originally to the Priory. It is marked on a map of the Manor of Ulverscroft (1796) in a field called 'The Dams'.	MLE1071	SK 505 108
17	Copt Oak Farmhouse, Whitcroft Lane	A farmhouse of 17th- to early 18th-century date, with a rear extension of c.1800. It is built of granite and slate rubble stone with brick stacks on left end and centre right ridge. Grade II listed.	NHLE 1074640; MLE13970	SK 48742 12695
18	Prehistoric scraper, Benscliffe House	A large, almost rectangular, brown flint was found to the southwest of Benscliffe House, with some scraper-like retouch.	MLE7414	SK 507 124

NHLE: National Heritage List for England reference

MLE: Leicestershire and Rutland HER monument reference

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