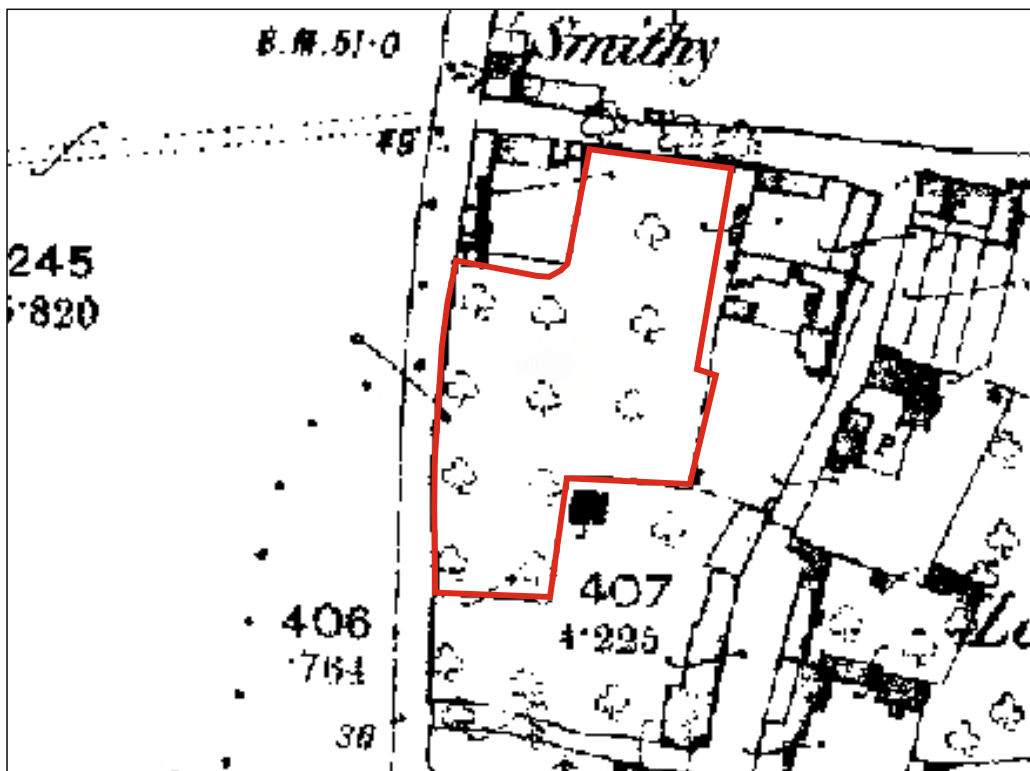




OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological evaluation on land at Rosario, Ebford, Devon



on behalf of
SLR Consulting Ltd

Report No. 15-14

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July 2015



OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology on land at Rosario, Ebford, Devon (SX 9810 8811), during July 2015. The work comprised the excavation of 3 trenches totalling 40m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide.

Excavation revealed deep colluvial subsoil within the western and northern half of the site. No evidence was found for archaeological activity within the site, and no pottery or other dating evidence was recovered. The earthwork mound identified prior to starting on site consisted of modern imported material.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of IKNG Investments and sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in July 2015 on land at Rosario, Ebford, Devon (SX 9810 8811). The work was commissioned by SLR Consulting on behalf of IKNG Investments on the advice of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET), to provide information in support of a forthcoming planning application for the construction of a detached dwelling and access works (East Devon District Council, Planning Application 15/0805/FUL).

1.1 The site

The proposed development (Fig. 1) is located within the parish of Clyst St George, close to parish boundary with Woodbury and covers an area of approximately 0.27ha. The site slopes gently towards the A376 and lies between c. 12.34m and 16.93m AOD. The underlying geology belongs to the Dawlish Sandstone Formation, fine grained sandstone and breccias formed approximately 255-291 million years ago in the Permian period, and gives rise to river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 1995).

1.2 Archaeological background

Although the site lies in an area where little previous evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity has been recorded, it is located 150m to the southeast of a large irregular to sub-rounded prehistoric or Romano-British enclosure (MDV9953) which has been identified from aerial photography.

Little is known of the early history of Ebford and the settlement is not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086¹ when it may have been part of the manor of Woodbury. This was held by King William and had previously belonged to Earl Harold's mother, Gytha. By 1086 the 'church' and its land had been granted to the Church of Mont St Michel, and in 1156 Pope Adrian IV confirmed to the abbot and brethren of Mont St Michel 'all that they possess ... in England' [including] 'the church of *Cudeb* (Woodbury)'. In 1205 this small estate was conveyed by Abbot Jordan and the Convent of Mont St Michel to Henry Marshall, Bishop of Exeter, and his successors, who bestowed it on the College of Vicars Choral of Exeter Cathedral.²

¹ Thorn and Thorn 1985.

² Reichel 1903, 300 and 1931, 167-8.

Henry I gave the manor of Woodbury to Roger de Mandevil, whose son gave it to William Carbunel. It passed by 1182 via his daughter Alice to her husband Reginald de Albemarle, whose family held it for centuries.³ William de Albemarle was granted a market and fair in 1286.⁴ Following the death of Geoffrey de Alba Marlia in 1320/21, the manor passed to William D'Aumarle, son of Geoffrey.⁵ He appears to have died around 1346, and was succeeded by his son, another William. Upon William's death, the property descended to his daughter Margaret. She was married to Lord William Bonville of Shute.⁶ The estate eventually passed to the Prideaux family and subsequently to Sir Thomas Clifford who sold it in 1650 to Sir John Rolle.

1.3 Historical background

The historic settlement of Ebford depicted on mapping appears to be focused on the old Exmouth Road. The Woodbury Tithe map of 1839 (Fig. 2) shows the site lying within 'Lower Ebford' and indicates that the site area formerly consisted of a single field (No. 705), described in the apportionment as the 'back orchard' owned by Mary Gibbons. On the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3) a small building is shown encroaching on the orchard in the northwest corner of the site. The building is shown on the 1905 2nd edition Ordnance survey map (Fig. 4) and the site remained relatively unchanged until the early 1930's. By 1936 (Fig. 5) a building is shown in the southwest corner which is sub-divided from the rest of the orchard, while the adjacent plot to the northwest has been extended east into the former orchard.

2. AIMS

The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, depth and date of archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation (this document) will inform the planning process and may be used to formulate a programme of further archaeological work either prior to and/or during groundworks.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd (2015), submitted to and approved by DCHET prior to commencement on site.

The work comprised the excavation of 3 trenches totalling 40m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide. The trench positions were agreed with DCHET prior to commencement on site. The positions of trenches as excavated are shown on Fig.6.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits (whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

³ Reichel 1905, 414; Thorn & Thorn 1985, 1.33 notes.

⁴ Beresford & Finberg 1973, 101.

⁵ Erskine (ed.) 1969, 103; Brighouse 1981, 46.

⁶ Brighouse 1981, 46.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. RESULTS

A relevant plan showing the location of the trenches is included as Fig. 6 and detailed context descriptions for each trench are set out in Appendix 1.

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of topsoil, clay-based subsoil, colluvial subsoil and weathered natural subsoil was encountered in all trenches. The combined thickness of these deposits averaged 1-1.2m.

4.1 The trenches

Trench 1 (Fig. 6, Plates 3-4)

This trench measured 10m x 1.8m, was orientated approximately NNE-SSW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. Natural subsoil (103) was exposed at a depth of 1m below ground level, overlain throughout the trench by a 0.25m thick clay colluvial subsoil (102). This was overlain by a 0.5m thick clay subsoil (101), which was in turn overlain by topsoil (100). No archaeological features or finds were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 1, Appendix 1.

Trench 2 (Fig. 6, Plates 5-6)

This trench measured 10m x 1.8m, was orientated approximately ESE-WNW and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. No archaeological features, pottery or other finds were present. Natural subsoil (203) was present at a depth of 1.2m below ground level, overlain throughout the trench by a 0.65m thick clay subsoil (202). This was in turn overlain by topsoil (201). At the centre and eastern end of the trench modern made ground material (200) had been deposited directly on top of the original ground surface, forming a prominent mound. No archaeological features, pottery or other finds were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 1.

Trench 3 (Fig. 6, Plates 7-8)

This trench measured 20m x 1.8m, was orientated approximately NW-SE and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.15m. Natural subsoil (303) was exposed at a depth of 0.8m at the southeastern end and 1.15m below ground level at the northwestern end of the trench. This was overlain throughout the central and southeastern part of the trench by a 0.75m thick clay subsoil (301), while at the northwest end it was overlain by a 0.3m thick clay colluvial subsoil (302). This was overlain by clay subsoil (301), which was in turn overlain by topsoil (300). No archaeological features or finds of note were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 3, Appendix 1.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological evaluation constituted a thorough examination of the site. Subsoil and colluvial deposits (up to 0.85m deep) have been confirmed, primarily across the lower

slope within the western and northern area, but the total removal of this material within each trench has failed to reveal any evidence for buried archaeological features or deposits.

In summary, the trench evaluation has produced consistent results and can be viewed as providing a representative and reliable sample of the deposit sequence across the site. Deep colluvial deposits have been demonstrated, but no evidence has been found within the site for archaeological activity of any period.

6. PROJECT ARCHIVE

Due to the limited nature of the findings a project archive will not be produced. A summary of the archaeological investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-217175).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was commissioned by SLR Consulting on behalf of IKNG Investments. It was administered for the client by Helen Smart (SLR Consulting) and for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Marc Steinmetzer; the illustrations for the report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer. Thanks are hereby recorded to the staff of the Devon Heritage Centre. Thanks also to Stephen Reed (DCHET) who provided advice for the project and to Marrina Neophytou who provided the HER information.

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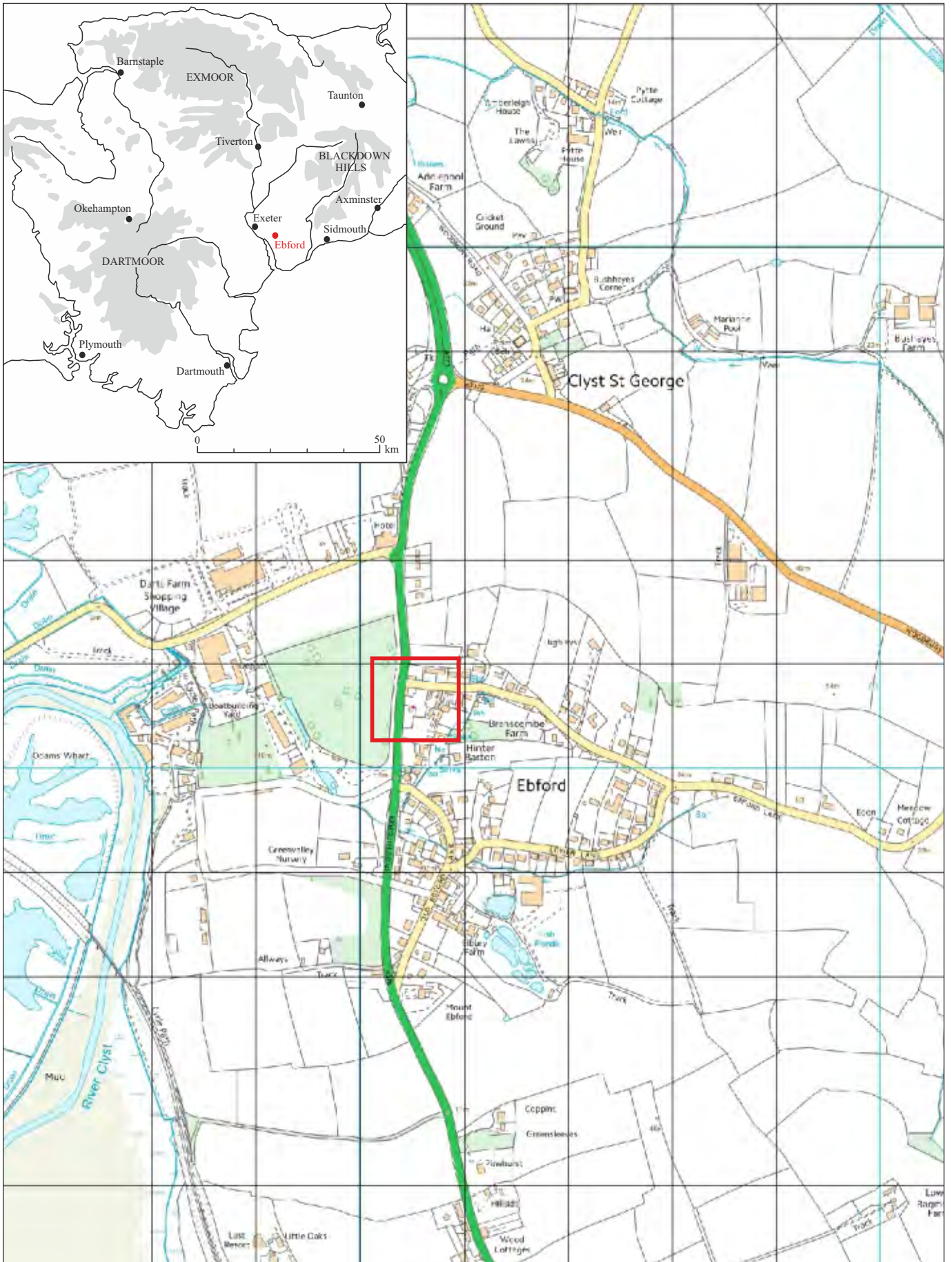
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Fig. 1 Location of site.

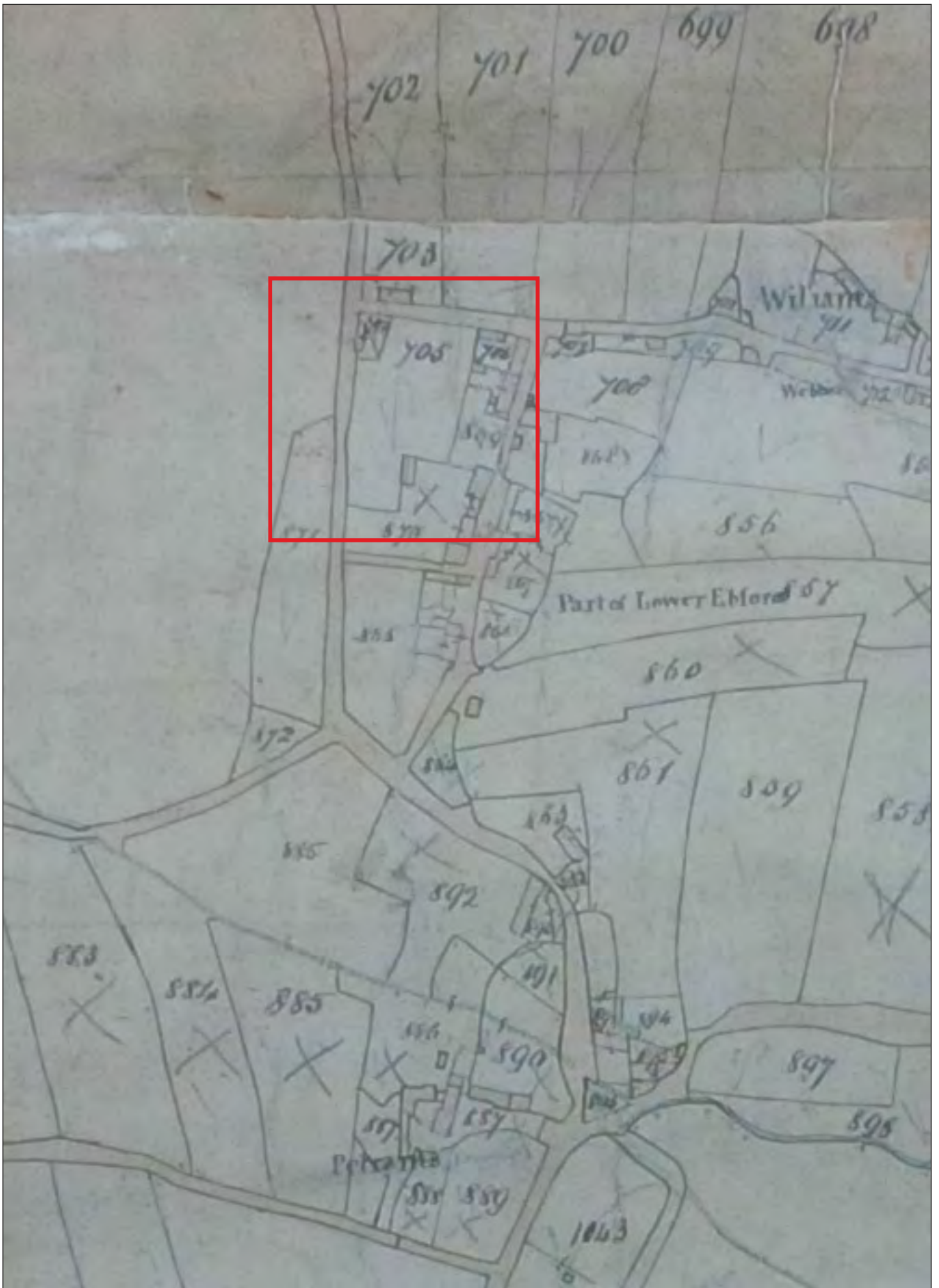


Fig. 2 Detail from the 1839 Woodbury Tithe map (Reproduced with permission of the DHC).

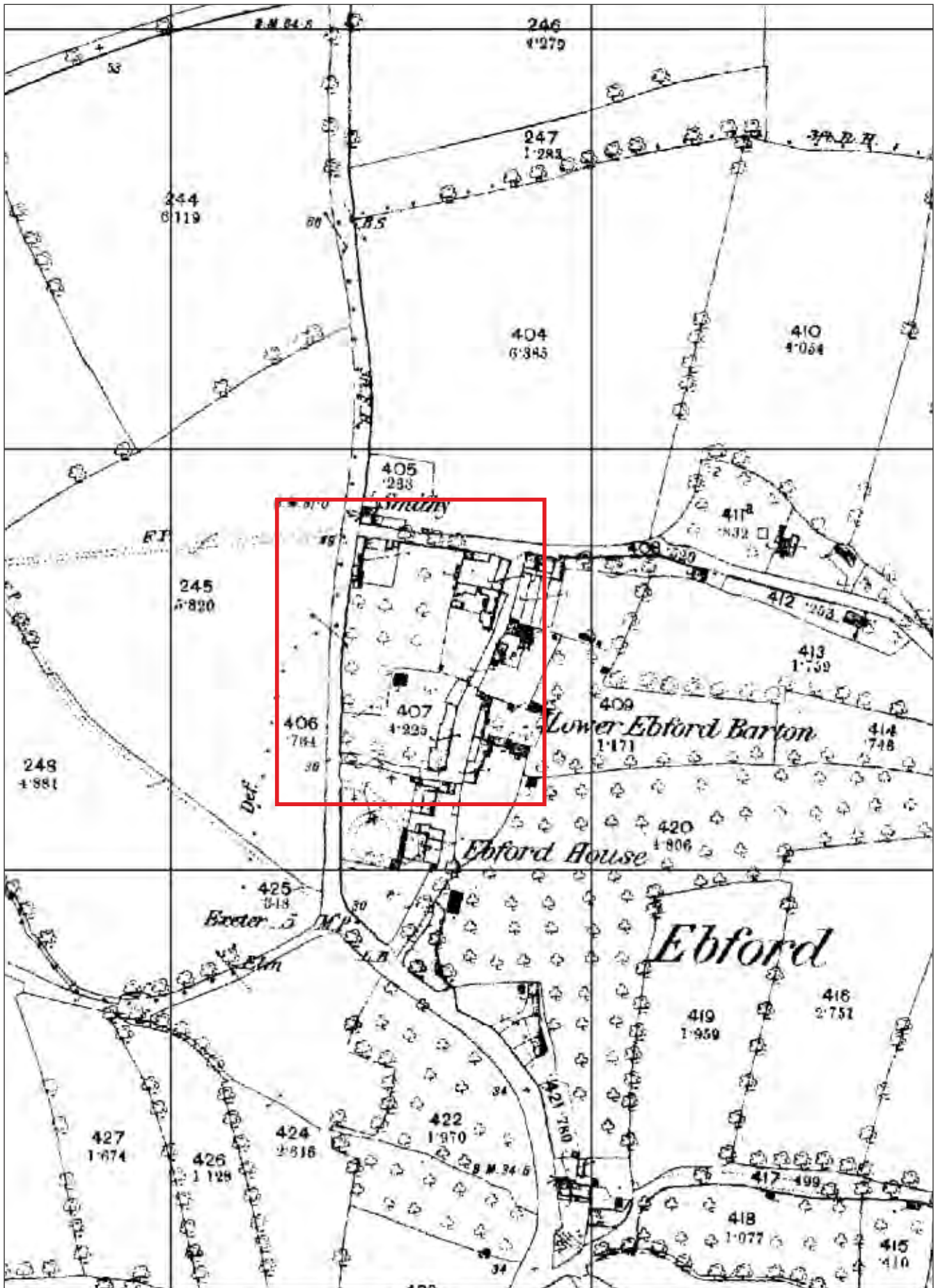


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet XCII.4. (Reproduced with permission of the DHC).

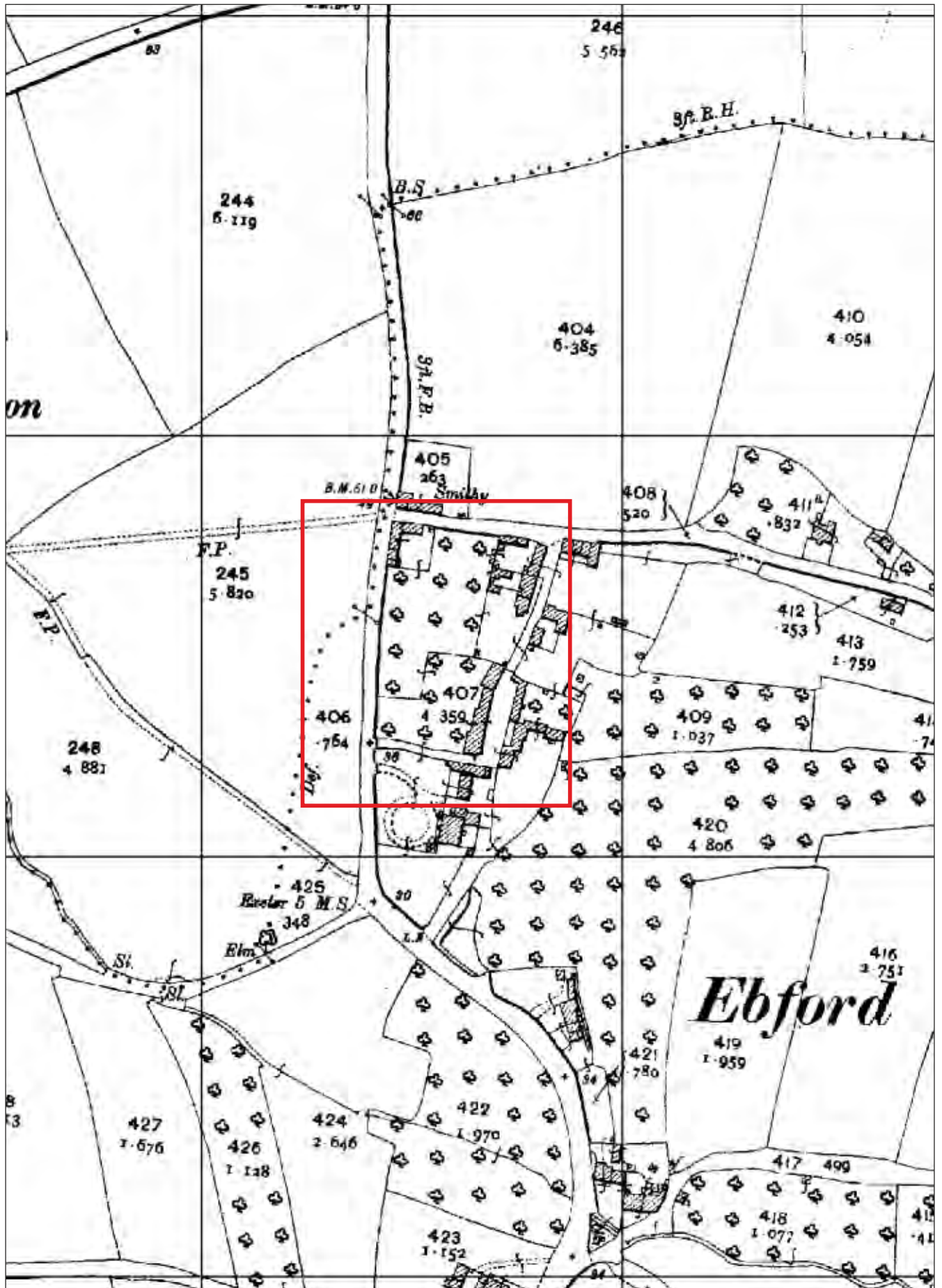


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1905 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet XCII.4. (Reproduced with permission of the DHC).

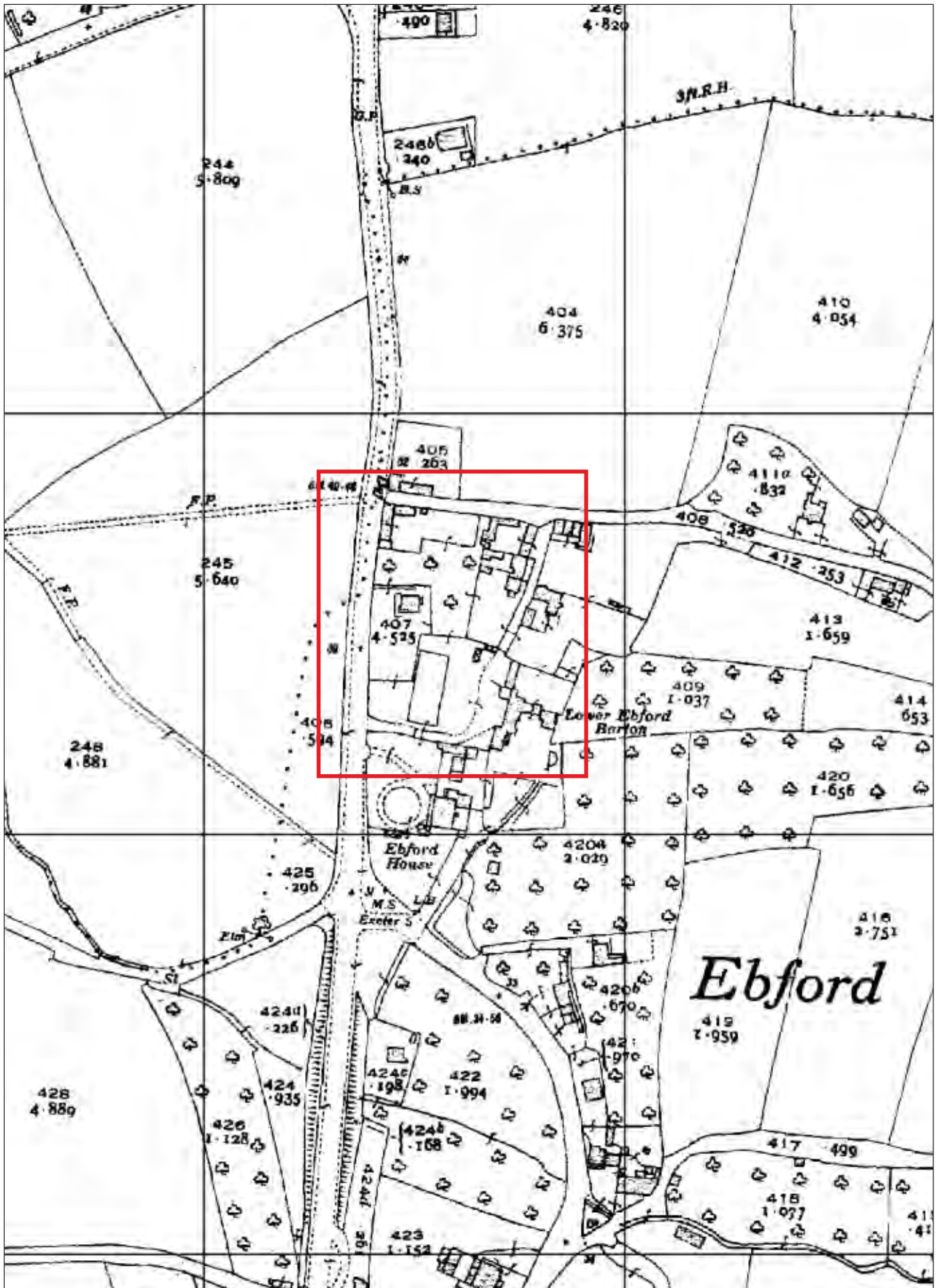


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1936 Ordnance Survey map (Reproduced with permission of the DHC).

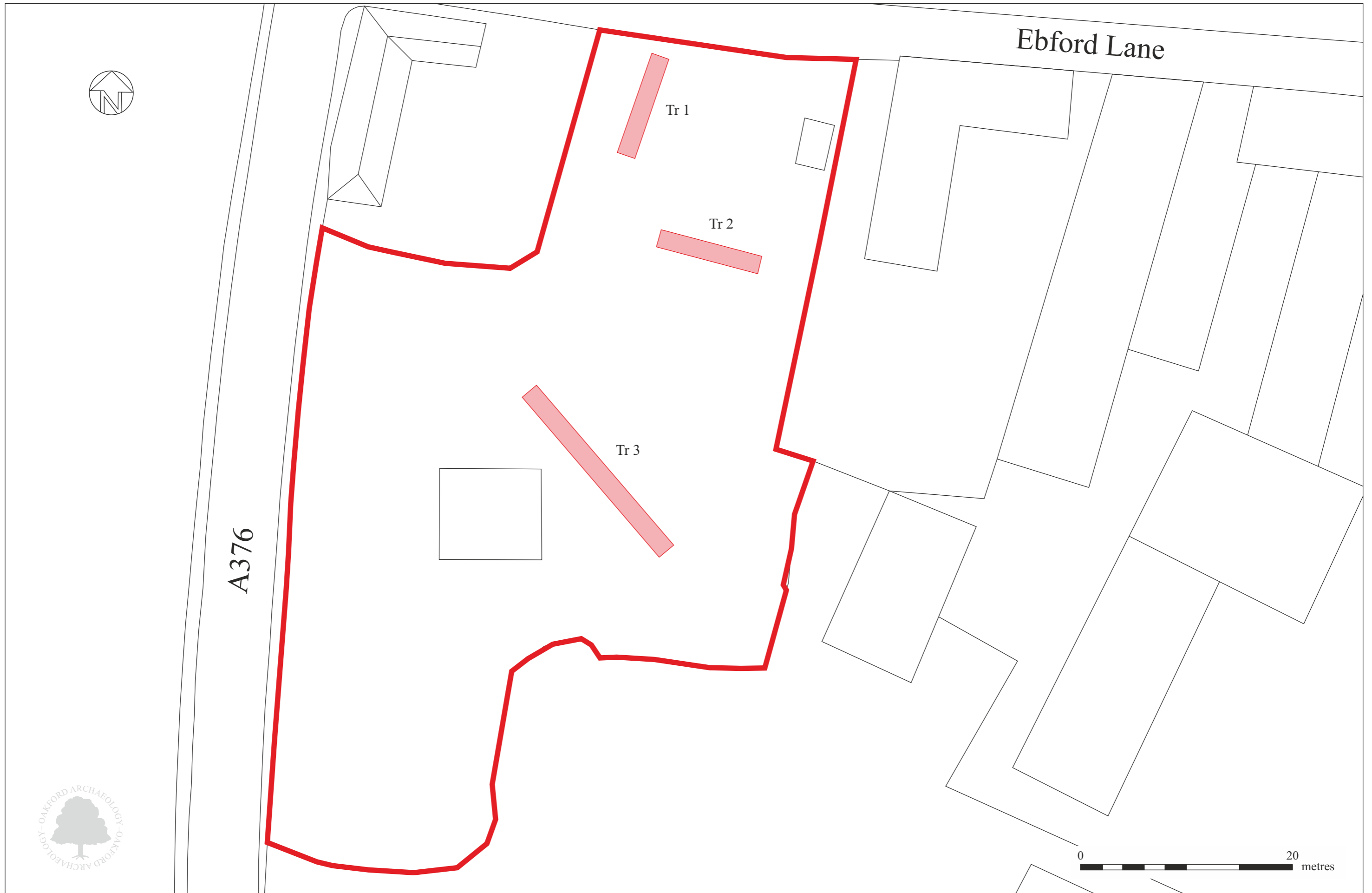


Fig. 6 Plan showing location of trenches.



Pl. 1 General view of Trenches 1-3. Looking northwest.



Pl. 2 General view of Trenches 1-2. Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 General view of Trench 1. 2m scale. Looking south-southwest.



Pl. 4 Sample Section Trench 1 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking west-northwest.



Pl. 5 General view of Trench 2. 2m scale. Looking west-northwest.



Pl. 6 Sample Section Trench 2 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking north-northeast.



Pl. 7 General view of Trench 3. 2m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 8 Sample Section Trench 3 showing depth of deposit sequence. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Appendix 1:

Context description by Trench

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.25m	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
101	0.25-0.75m	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Subsoil
102	0.75-1m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty clay	Colluvial subsoil
103	1m+	Mid red clay	Natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.45m	Mid to dark brown silty clay with frequent ash, Fe slag, charcoal, slate, C19-20 window glass, mortar	Modern made ground
201	0.45-0.55m	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
202	0.55-1.2m	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Subsoil
203	1.2m+	Mid red clay	Natural subsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	0-0.3m	Mid to dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
301	0.3-0.85m	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Subsoil
302	0.85-1.15m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty clay	Colluvial subsoil
303	1.15m+	Mid red clay	Natural subsoil