

WYNYARD PARK, BILLINGHAM, CLEVELAND



WALKOVER SURVEY REPORT CP10507 10/04/2013

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire to undertake a walkover survey on land at Wynyard Park, near Billingham, Cleveland (centred on NZ 4215 2786) prior to a proposed residential development at the site.

This was undertaken in order to establish if a programme of archaeological works would need to be maintained during any groundworks associated with the development.

A Rapid Desk Based Assessment was undertaken in order to achieve an understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site. This showed that land use had changed little since the earliest maps consulted, the woodlands and clearings remaining constant for at least the last 200 years. Some buildings and earthworks noted on early maps and aerial photographs have since been destroyed by modern agricultural practices and the construction of the modern A689.

The site walkover of Area Y has shown that the drive or track shown on all historical mapping and in modern satellite photographs is visible on the ground, as is another modern road or trackway. The area was seen to be under coniferous plantation with only occasional deciduous trees which in one area appear to have been coppiced. No new archaeological features were noted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Dave Adams of Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire for commissioning the project. WA Archaeology would also like to thank Peter Rowe at Tees Archaeology for his assistance.

The walkover survey was undertaken by Ben Moore and Angus Clark. The report was written by Ben Moore and the figures produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire to undertake a walkover survey on land at Wynyard Park, near Billingham, Cleveland (centred on NZ 4215 2786) prior to a proposed residential development at the site
- 1.2 This was undertaken in order to establish if a programme of archaeological works would need to be maintained during any groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.3 A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken which involved the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Tees Archaeology in Hartlepool, historical mapping at the Durham Record Office and the Palace Green Library at the University of Durham, which may have provided information on the character of any potential archaeological remains in the vicinity.
- 1.4 A walkover of Area Y of the proposed development was undertaken in order to assess if any remains of archaeological interest survive in this area and to characterise any historical woodland management strategies that were visible on the ground.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 In order to assess the potential for archaeological remains to survive above and below ground in Area Y of the proposed development area, a very rapid desk based assessment was undertaken, followed by a walkover survey to assess if any archaeological remains could be noted.

2.2 RAPID DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment involved the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Tees Archaeology in order to achieve a full understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site.
- 2.2.2 Following this the Records Office in Durham and Palace Green Library at the University of Durham were also consulted in order to study maps and documents relevant to the study area. This included the collection of historic maps, including Tithe or Enclosure maps, early Ordnance Survey maps and Estate maps. Several secondary sources and journals, and previous excavation reports will also be consulted.
- 2.2.3 The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments (IfA 2012).

2.3 SITE WALKOVER

- 2.3.1 A walkover of the proposed development in Area Y was undertaken in order to assess if it was possible to note any standing remains or archaeological features, and to inform any potential future archaeological work of restrictions such as Tree Preservation Orders, Public Footpaths, and the locations of services where noted. This included looking at any evidence of past woodland management associated with the Wynyard Estate.

2.4 REPORTING

- 2.4.1 A copy of the report will be deposited with Tees Archaeology, where viewing will be made available upon request.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd, and Tees Archaeology, support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of

developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The development area lies within the Tees Lowlands, a broad undulating plain of predominantly arable farmland, parkland and managed estates. The plain is surrounded by the Cleveland Hills to the south-east, the Pennines Fringes to the west and the Durham Limestone Plateau to the north. (Countryside Commission 1998)
- 3.1.2 The area of the proposed development is located to the north of the village of Wynyard, 5km west of the town of Billingham, County Durham (Figure 1). Area Y is a 290m x 60m strip of woodland just to the north of Hartlepool Road and it is in this area that the walkover survey was undertaken (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The underlying geology across the Tees Lowlands is for the most part red mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age. However, due to its position, surrounded by higher ground, this is for the most part masked by thick deposits of glacial drift and till.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled from the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Tees Archaeology and historical mapping at Durham County Record Office and Palace Green Library, University of Durham.
- 3.2.2 The development area is situated within the Parish of Elwick Hall. In 1794 Hutchison described the parish as follows:
- 'It is said that in this parish there is neither town nor village, cottage house for the poor, surgeon or apothecary, midwife, blacksmith, joiner, house-carpenter, mason, bricklayer, cart or wheelwright, weaver, butcher, shoemaker, taylor, or barber, school-master or school-mistress, alehouse, public bakehouse, grocer or chandler's shop, or a cornmill.'*
- 3.2.3 This description helps to understand the nature of the landscape around the area of the development. Consulting the historical maps it can be seen that land use has changed very little since the tithe map was drawn in 1839 (Figure 3). The Victoria County History of 1928 describes the parish as containing 4,438 acres, of which 1,375 acres are arable land, 2,046 acres permanent grass, and 442 acres plantation (Page 1928).

- 3.2.4 In 1839, Area Y was, as now, covered by a tree plantation and crossed north-east to south-west by a raised trackway. This trackway was not named on the tithe map but by the time the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1859) was produced, it is marked as North Hanzard Short Drive (Figure 4). It begins, at its south-western end at houses named as Newton Hanzard Cottages (HER#6643) (Figure 3). These buildings are visible on an aerial photograph from 1946 but the buildings were cleared in the 1980s or 1990s and now lie beneath the A689 carriageway. A small parcel of land adjacent to the houses was farmed in 1839 by the same tenant who farmed "The Pentagon". It can therefore be assumed that this person lived at Newton Hanzard Cottages and used North Hanzard Short Drive to access the fields in "The Pentagon".
- 3.2.5 No evidence of structures or archaeological features other than the track mentioned above were noted in the aerial photographs or historical maps consulted within Area Y.
- 3.2.6 The area known as "The Pentagon" has been a clearing within the Newton Hanzard Plantation since the production of the 1839 tithe map. Information derived from this tithe map and accompanying schedule indicates that the fields within "The Pentagon" were under arable cultivation at the time and show the area divided into four fields, farmed by the same tenant and owned by the same landowner as the surrounding woodlands. A trackway can be seen leading from the southern end of "The Pentagon" to the north-eastern end of the track that becomes North Hanzard Short Drive.
- 3.2.7 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1859 shows a path running north-south across the clearing, leading towards a small building at its northern end. By the time the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1898 was produced, the field boundaries are no longer visible and the building has disappeared (Figure 6). The path is now marked as a bridleway. The 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1923/1924 shows the track circumventing 'The Pentagon' entirely, on its north and eastern sides (Figure 7). No obvious reason for this can be gleaned from cartographic sources but it is possible that the clearing had been sold to another landowner and was now out of bounds.
- 3.2.8 Although the field boundaries within "The Pentagon" are not recorded on the Ordnance Survey Maps after 1859, they are still visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1946. Ridge and furrow earthworks can be seen in this photograph but are no longer visible in an aerial photograph taken in 2005 and have probably been ploughed out in the intervening years of cultivation (HER#6664).

- 3.2.9 An area of woodland directly to the south of “The Pentagon” between it and Area Y has been identified by the Nature Conservancy Council as Ancient Woodland (HER#1635). This means that it is semi-natural woodland which has had continuous tree cover since at least 1600AD. Aerial photographs show this area to be more sparsely wooded than the plantation in Area Y and this perhaps suggests that earlier features are more likely to survive. None are recorded in the historic mapping or aerial photographs however, except a narrow pathway joining “The Pentagon” to North Hanzard Short Drive, crossing Newton Hanzard Beck.
- 3.2.10 It seems likely that the building of the modern A689 Hartlepool Road damaged or resulted in the demolition of historical features that existed at the southern extent of the development area on historical maps. The proposed new roadway that has already been cleared of woodland, crosses the path of North Hazard Short Drive.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 The area known as “The Pentagon” was subject to an archaeological evaluation by Headland Archaeology in 2008 (Murray 2008). Seventeen trenches were excavated,, ten of which contained furrows and one, a curvilinear ditch dated to the Iron Age. The curvilinear ditch has been interpreted as evidence of settlement during this period and the furrows as proof of agriculture in the medieval period.
- 3.3.2 Area Y and “The Pentagon” are also covered by a Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (ARS Ltd 2012) but neither area are specifically mentioned.

4 WALKOVER SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The site of the proposed development in Area Y was visited in order to assess if there were any apparent remains of archaeological interest within the development area, and to assess any restrictions to potential future archaeological work.
- 4.1.2 The area was systematically walked, where possible, in 10m transects. No new archaeological features were discovered but New Hanzard Short Drive was identified and seen to be in good condition (Plate 1). It is approximately 8 metres wide and around 0.3 metres high along its entire length. A drainage ditch was noted running along its eastern side (Plate 2). It remains clear of vegetation and seems to be built up using fairly modern bricks and other debris so was possibly maintained until fairly recently.



Plate 1: New Hanzard Short Drive, facing south-west from proposed road



Plate 2: New Hanzard Short Drive showing drainage ditch facing north

- 4.1.3 At its south-western end, New Hanzard Short Drive is met, or cut across by, a raised modern tarmac covered road running north-south from a gate at the A689 towards the proposed new road (Plate 3). This is in poor condition and modern and must only have been in use for a very short time. It does not appear on any maps and cannot be seen on modern satellite photographs.
- 4.1.4 Area Y is, for the most part covered in a fairly young coniferous plantation. The rows of trees are closely spaced and regular. The furrows the trees were planted in and modern drainage ditches are visible across the area and have probably obscured any earlier land management. In one area close to the proposed road, 100 metres from the western end of Area Y, two alder trees appear to have been coppiced quite recently. It is impossible to say whether the result is due to deliberate husbandry or the trees being cut down and subsequently growing back in this form by chance (Plate 4).



Plate 3: Modern track with A689 in background, facing south



Plate 4: Possible coppiced alder, facing south.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The rapid desk based assessment has highlighted the fact that the landscape around the development area has changed little over the last 200 years and possibly a lot longer. The characterization of some of the woodlands surrounding the area as Ancient Woodland suggests that these plantations have been in existence since at least the 17th century, although possibly not in their current form. The area known as “The Pentagon” in particular can be seen to have been affected by human activity for many years. The fact that the landscape has changed so little would perhaps indicate that the preservation of buried archaeological remains may be quite good.
- 5.1.2 The walkover survey of Area Y revealed no new archaeological features or finds but the investigation revealed that the character of the land affected by the proposed development has changed very little over the last two hundred years. The tracks and pathways that cross and connect this area have been in use since at least the mid 19th century.
- 5.1.3 The areas that are covered by woodland do not contain many old or substantial trees but have been under tree cover since the production of the tithe map of 1839. The area known as “The Pentagon” has remained clear of trees during this time and the results of the previous archaeological evaluation there point to a long history of human occupation.
- 5.1.4 Although no substantial archaeological features were revealed by the walkover survey, the proposed development would impact upon a historic landscape that has changed little over considerable period of time and which, according to the Countryside Commission, is increasingly rare in the Tees Lowlands. As a result, archaeological recording and monitoring may be required during any intrusive ground works at the site, in consultation with Tees Archaeology.

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Aerial Photographs

R.A.F. 13.11.1946. Sortie: C.P.E./UK 1835 Frame No: 3021

R.A.F. 16.05.1948 541 /23

Hartlepool Borough Council NZ 4227

Cartographic Sources

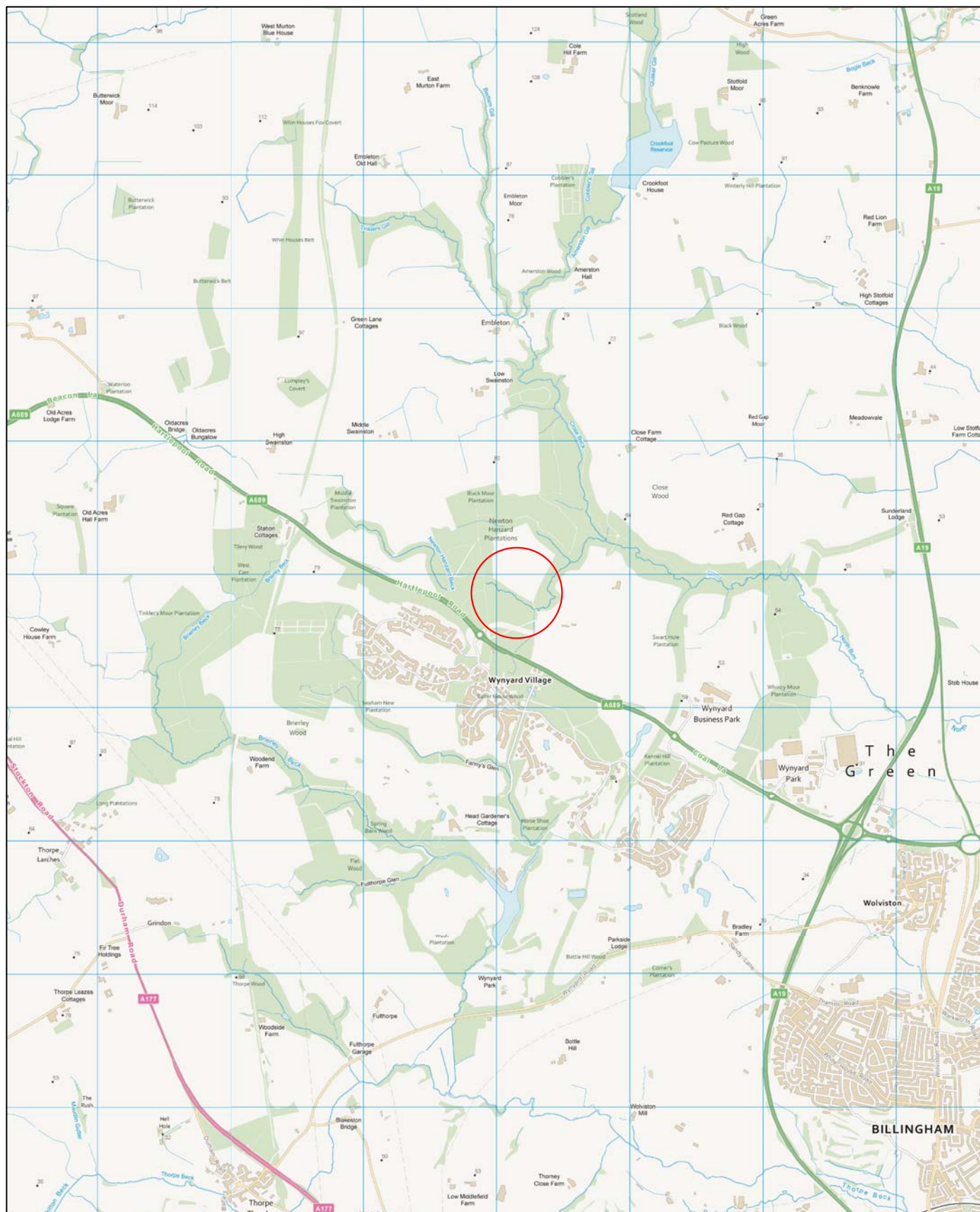
Plan of the Parish of Elswick Hall in the County of Durham (1839)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1859) 1:2500 XLIV 7

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1898) 1:2500 XLIV 7

Ordnance Survey Map 1918 1:2500 (1923/1924) XLIV 7

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Wynyard Park, Billingham, Cleveland</p> <p>SCALE: 1:40,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10507</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <div data-bbox="932 1890 1123 1957">  Site location </div>	<div data-bbox="1299 1912 1362 2002">  </div> <div data-bbox="1197 2047 1471 2114"> <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p> </div>
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Figure 1: Site location.

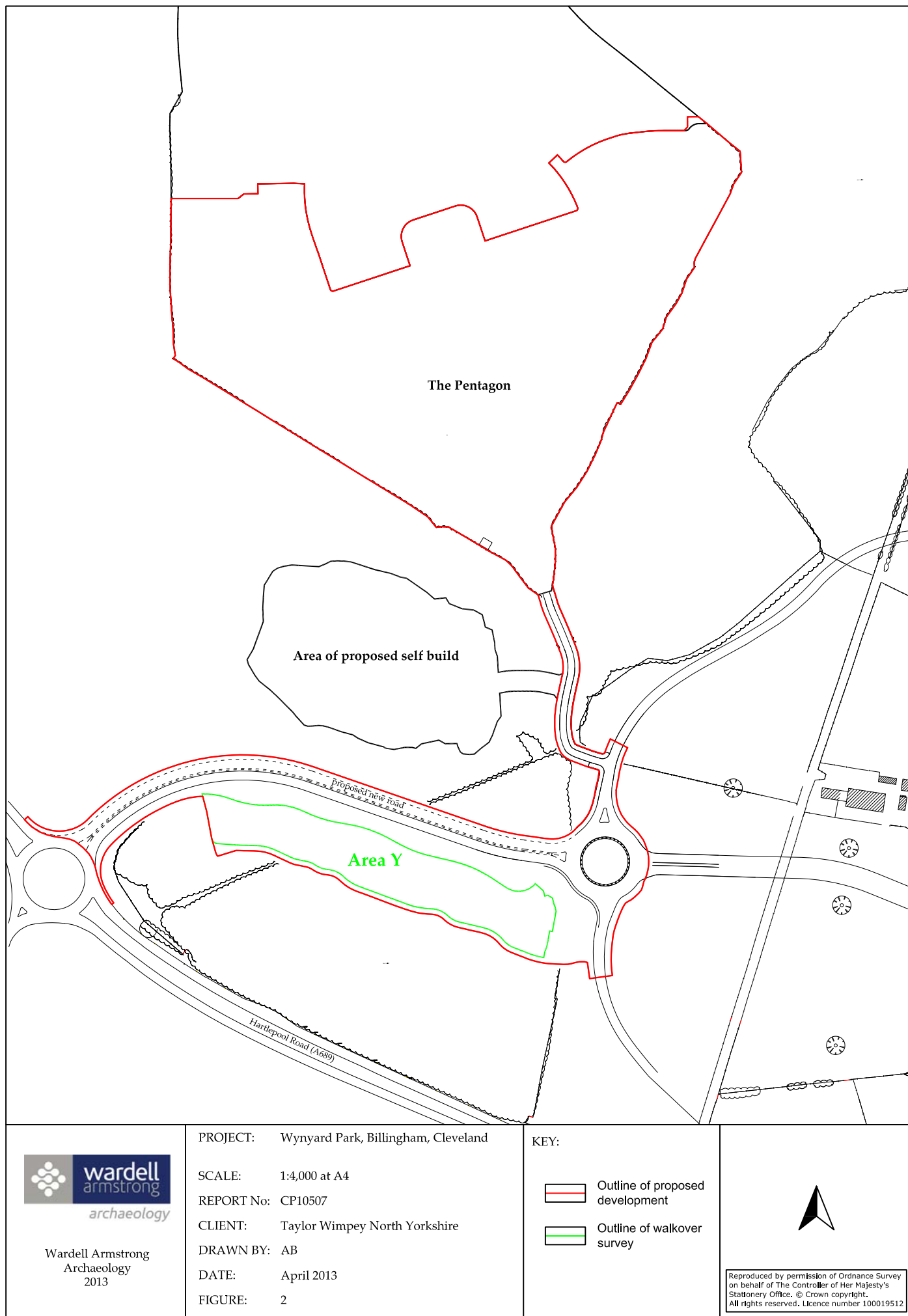


Figure 2: Detailed site location.

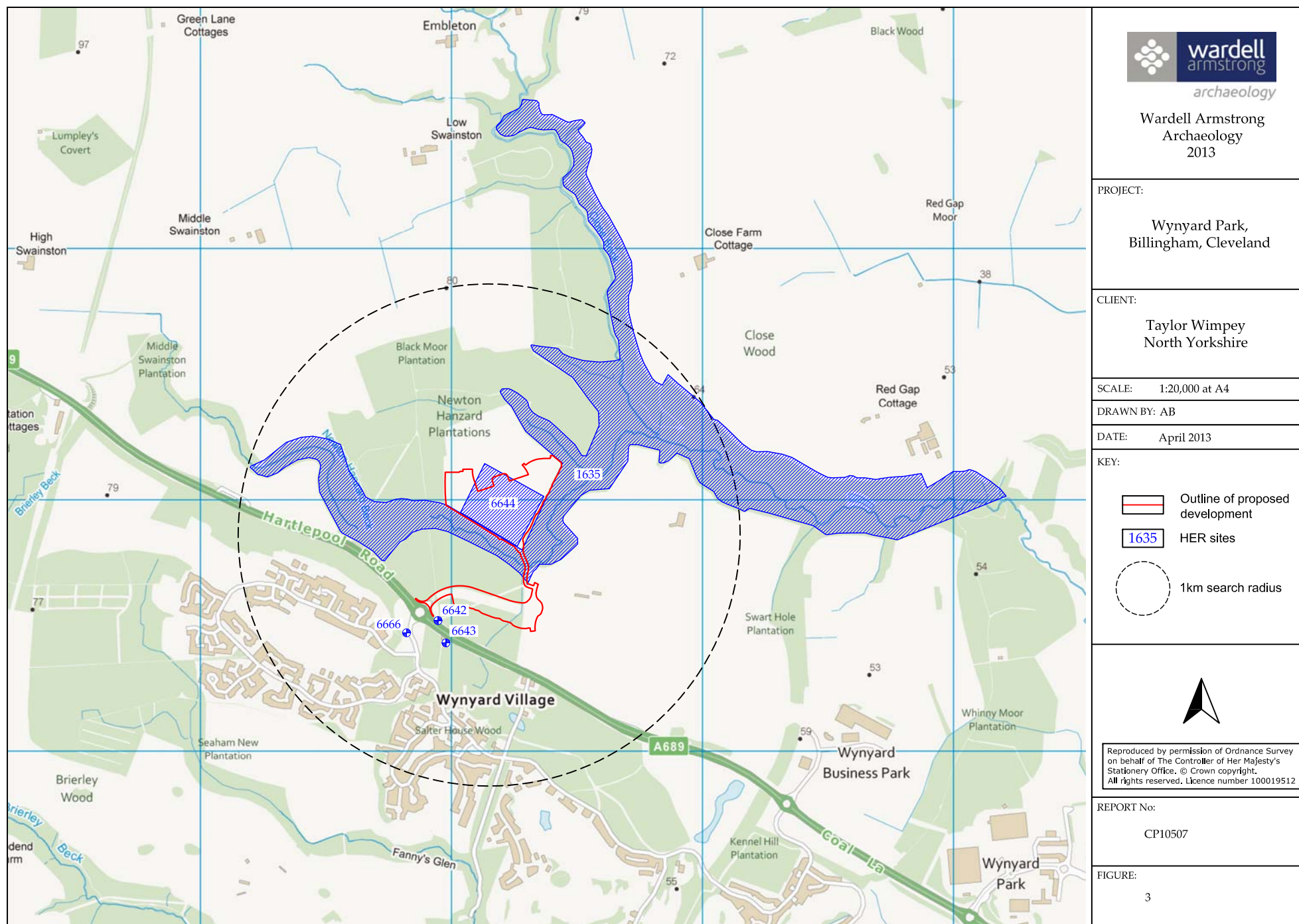


Figure 3: HER events.

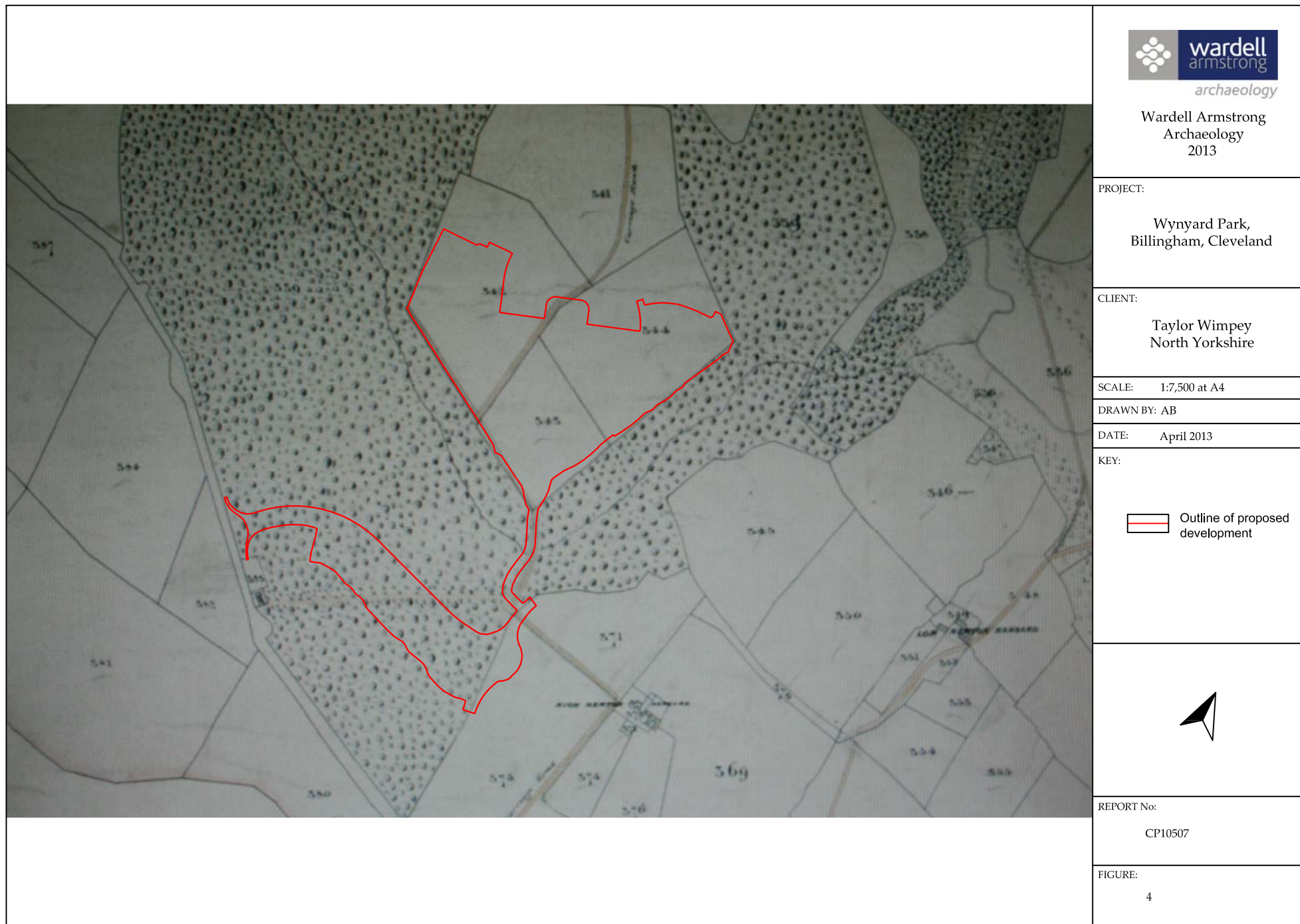
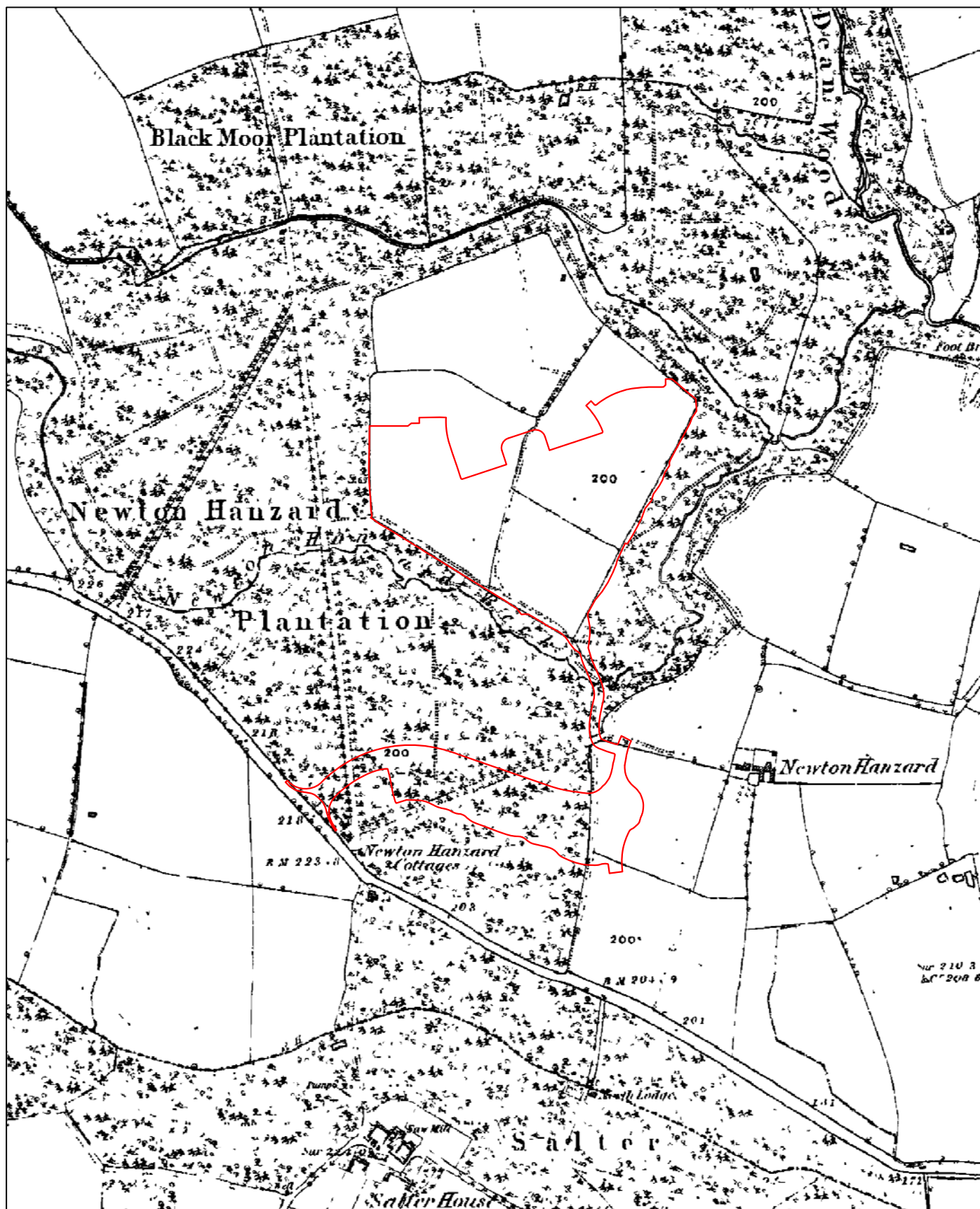


Figure 4: Plan of the Parish of Elswick Hall, County Durham (Tithe Map, 1839).






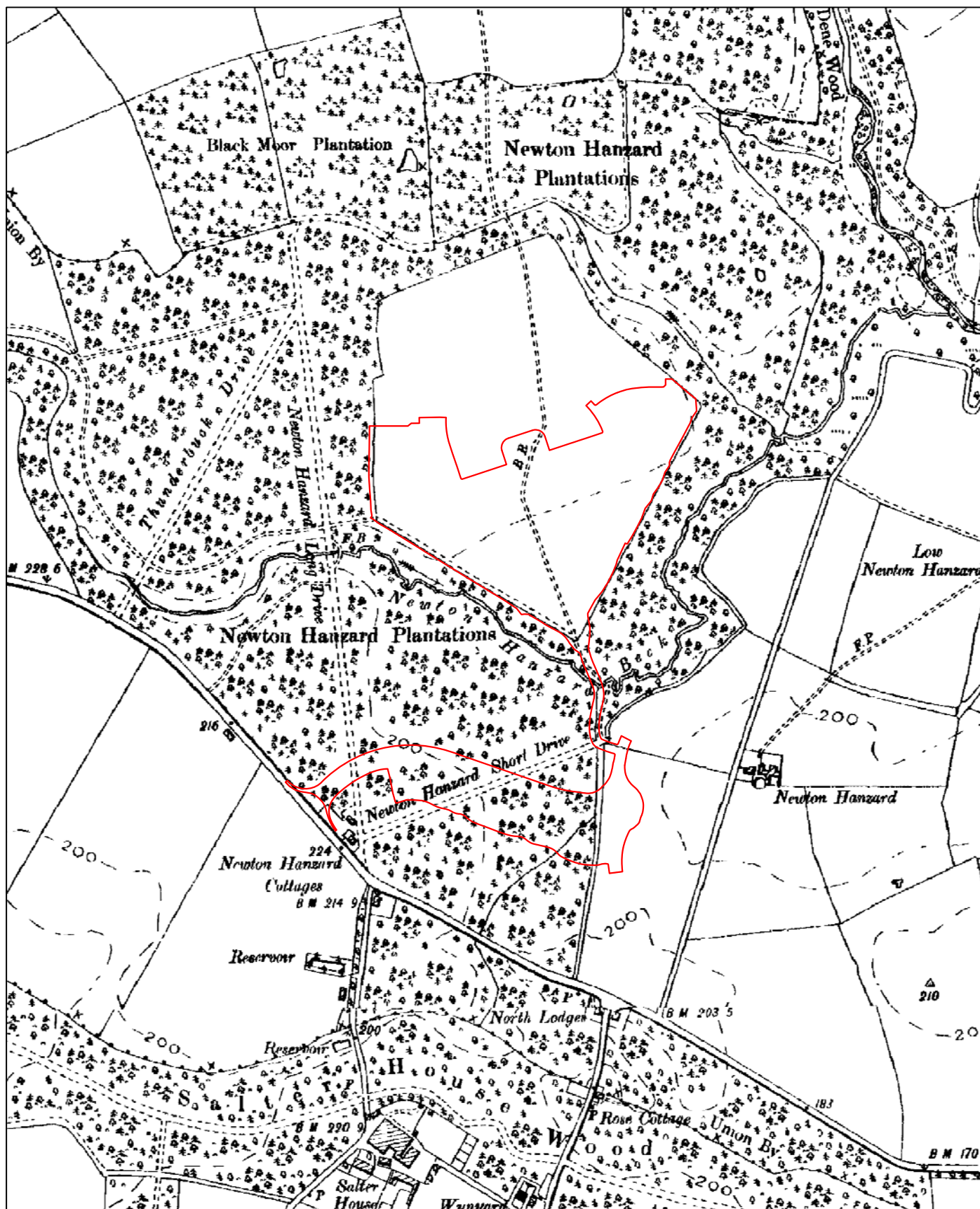
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Wynyard Park, Billingham, Cleveland</p> <p>SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10507</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 5</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <div data-bbox="917 1921 1173 1971">  Outline of proposed development </div>	
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Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1859.





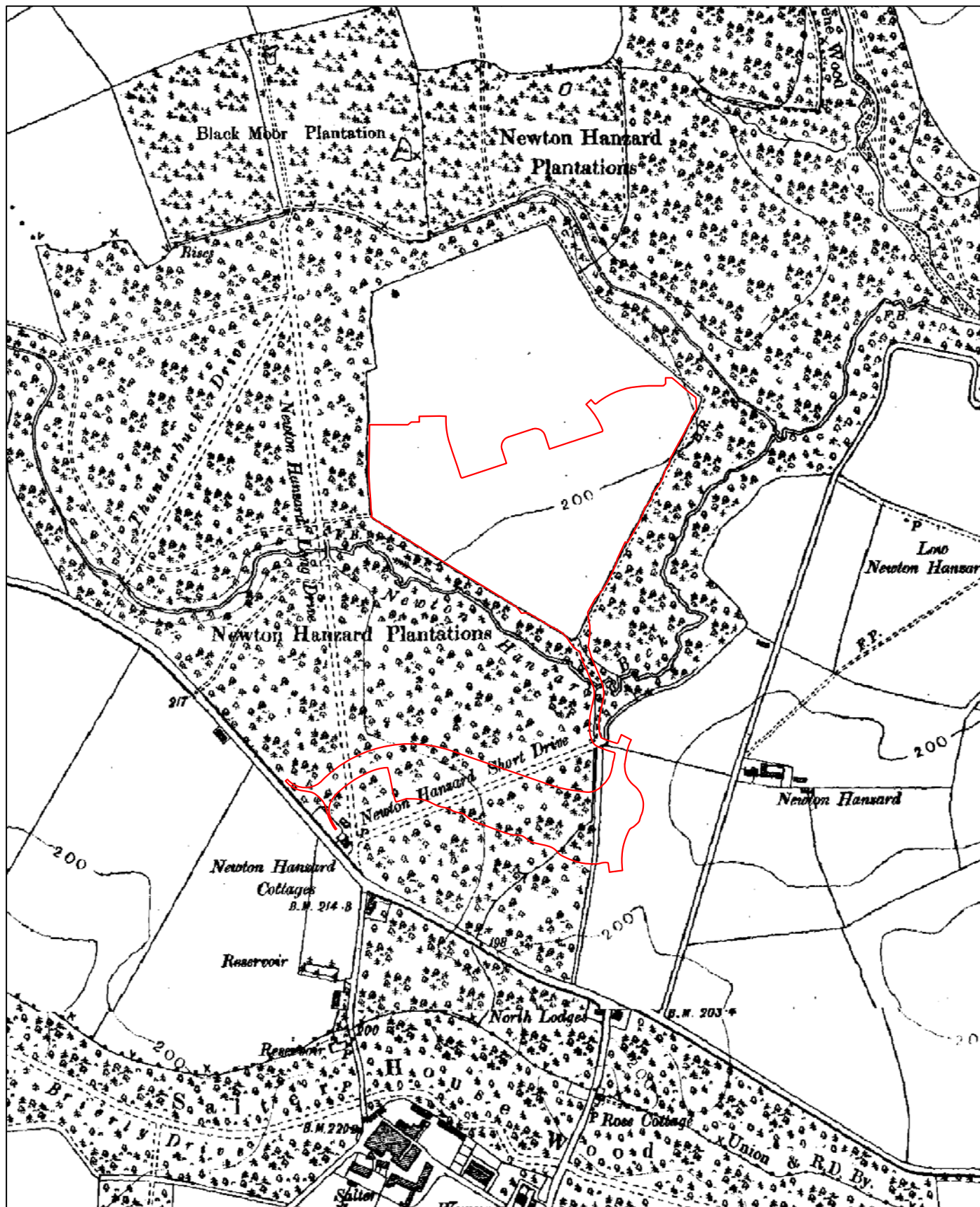
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Wynyard Park, Billingham, Cleveland</p> <p>SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10507</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 6</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid red; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> <p>Outline of proposed development</p> </div>	
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Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898.



PROJECT: Wynyard Park, Billingham, Cleveland

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A4

REPORT No: CP10507

CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire

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DATE: April 2013

FIGURE: 7

KEY:

 Outline of proposed development



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Figure 7: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1924.