

Seamer windfarm, North Yorkshire

archaeological desk-based assessment

on behalf of

Broadview Energy Developments Ltd

Report 1802
January 2008

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, conducted in advance of a proposed development on land that crosses the Stockton-on-Tees and North Yorkshire County boundary between the villages of Hilton and Seamer, North Yorkshire. The assessment comprised a search of pertinent documentary and cartographic records, and a field visit.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Broadview Energy Developments Limited, and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 Evidence of Mesolithic activity has been found at Seamer Carrs, south of the proposed development area. This activity does not encroach upon the proposed development area.
- 1.4 Directly to the west of the proposed development area, at the Boffins, a possible prehistoric enclosure has been identified as a cropmark from aerial photographs.
- 1.5 Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing has been identified in and around the proposed development area.
- 1.6 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon the archaeological resource through the construction of foundations, access routes, and changes to ground level and associated services.
- 1.7 There are four listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument within a kilometre of the site. These will be overlooked by the proposed development but will not be directly impacted upon.
- 1.8 No borehole logs were available at the time of the desk-based assessment.

Recommendations

- 1.9 There is no known significant archaeological resource within the proposed development area; however, the presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity and possible Iron Age occupation close by suggests that the landscape was exploited during these periods. It is therefore recommended that, as part of a mitigation strategy, the footprint of the proposed development area, including micro-siting locations, is subject to geophysical survey in accordance with the forthcoming English Heritage, *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluations*, 2nd edition, Research and Professional Services Guidelines 1 (David forthcoming).

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located between Seamer and Hilton on agricultural land that crosses the Stockton-on-Tees and North Yorkshire County boundary and is centered on grid reference NZ 4840 1100. The site measures 102.69 hectares and is bounded to the north, south, east and west by agricultural land.

Development proposal

- 2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment is required at the above site in connection with the preparation of an EIA for the proposed development.

Objective

- 2.3 The purpose of the assessment is to determine the potential direct impact of the proposed development upon the known cultural heritage resource within the site. The potential for unknown buried archaeological remains to be subject to direct impact has also been assessed.

Specification summary

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Desk Based assessments* (2001) and a project design prepared by Archaeological Services (reference PC07.363).

Dates

- 2.5 The field visit took place on 17th January 2007. This report was prepared between 7th and 18th January 2008.

Personnel

- 2.6 Research was conducted and this report was prepared by Janice Adams with illustrations by Janine Wilson. The Project Manager was Richard Annis.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services and will be transferred to Tees Archaeology and North Yorkshire County Council in due course. Archaeological Services is registered with the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-36490**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.8 Archaeological Services is grateful for the assistance of personnel at Teesside Archive Service and Jenny Parker of Middlesbrough Central Reference Library.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

- 3.1 At the time of the desk-based survey, the site was in use as agricultural land and planted with crops. The northernmost part of the site was scrubland and a small area of planting was present in the south.

Site situation

- 3.2 The proposed development area lies within the parishes of Hilton and Seamer in a rural setting. The land gently undulates in the north of the site and is steeper in the south. The mean elevation of the land is around 73m OD.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The solid geology comprises Permian and Triassic sandstones overlain by a subsoil of Keuper marls, boulder clays and morainic drift deposits.

4. Historical and archaeological development

- 4.1 The study area comprises the proposed development area and a further 1km radius around the site; all Site and Monument Records within the study area are shown on Figure 2.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

- 4.2 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity in the proposed development area. However, there is evidence that the surrounding area was exploited in prehistory. Archaeological resources related to this exploitation may therefore survive within the proposed development area.
- 4.3 During the Mesolithic and Neolithic period people led a largely non-sedentary hunter-gatherer lifestyle and would have exploited the natural resources of the area, especially from the rich Tees Estuary. The discovery of Mesolithic finds at Seamer Carrs (SMR MNY594-5) south-east of the proposed development indicates early activity in the area. The prehistoric landscape of the Carrs comprised a former lake site. The remains of a peat-filled hollow in a drumlin field produced evidence of a late-glacial and post-glacial vegetational sequence along with animal remains and Mesolithic flint tools. To the north-west of this site a flint microlith and an antler pick were also found. The land was reclaimed in around 1815. It is possible that the name Carrs derives from the Old Norse word '*kjarr*' or Danish word '*kær*', for marsh (Watts 2002, 157; Bulmer 1890). This site does not encroach upon the proposed development area.
- 4.4 A Neolithic stone polished axe head (SMR 233) was found at Oxhill Farm in Hilton in 1973, 1km west of the study area.
- 4.5 By the Iron Age farmsteads had been established in the area continuing from the clearance practices in the Bronze Age. An Iron Age settlement (SMR 5468) was discovered during an archaeological watching brief in 2002 south of Castle Hill (Scheduled Ancient Monument, SAM 21145). An excavation

followed which revealed eight roundhouses, a series of postholes, pits and a ditch. The pottery from site dated from the 2nd century BC to the 1st century AD (Fraser 1992).

- 4.6 A cropmark (SMR 2884) of possible prehistoric date has been identified from aerial photographs at the Boffins, close to the south-west tip of the study area. The cropmark consists of three sides of a sub-rectangular enclosure with a possible further complex of linear features and possible drove-way to the south. A circular feature at the south-east corner may represent a hut circle. These types of cropmark are interpreted as farmstead enclosures dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British period.

The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

- 4.7 A large sherd of Huntcliffe ware Roman pottery (SMR 455, MNY 652) was found in Maltby Beck in 1930 in the north-east part of the study area.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.8 The village of Hilton (SMR 931) has early medieval origins; the name is old English and means ‘farmstead on the hill’ (Robinson 1998). A pre-Conquest stone fragment is built into the south wall of the later village church and may indicate the possibility of an earlier stone structure on the site (Marchant and Marchant 2000).
- 4.9 Hilton is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, which states... ‘*there were six carucates of Manors land in Hilton soke of the manor of the Count of Mortain in Seamer. The lands later formed part of the fee of the Archbishops of Canterbury, held by the Meynell family of Whorlton*’ (Mackay 1968, 238). The earliest recorded owners of Hilton were the ‘Meynills’ family, to which Roger de Hilton belonged in 1166. The manor of Hilton was held by the descendants of the Hilton and Meynell family until it was sold in 1857 to John Hay of Sunderland. A manor of three carucates is also mentioned as the king’s lands in 1086 held by the De Brus family at Hilton, and by 1272 part was held by Robert de Potto until its sale in 1318 to Adam de Skelton. Part of the land then passed to Drax Priory and the Lambert family in the 16th century. There is also a reference to lands held at Hilton by the Prior to St. John of Jerusalem, of the Knights Hospitaller, in 1365; no further mention however exists. The last mention of the King’s manor is in 1541 (*ibid*).
- 4.10 Hilton is part of a group of villages centred on Hutton Rudby. It was formerly a chapel of ease to Rudby but was augmented in the late 1700s and in 1842 was considered a separate parish (Mackay 1968, 239). The settlement is laid out as a two-row planned settlement without a green, centred on St. Peters church, which dates from around the 12th century.
- 4.11 The village of Seamer to the east of the study area is small and irregular in plan, and lies at a bend of the road from Stokesley to Yarm. Before the Norman Conquest ‘*a manor and 13 carucates in Tanton and Seamer were held by Gospatric, and afterwards passed to the Count of Mortain*’. Seamer also later formed part of the Canterbury fee and was later held by the Meynell family (Mackay 1968, 293). According to Bulmer (1890) the place name of

Seamer may derive from ‘*Sea-mere, indicating the presence of a mere or lake at some former time*’, a theory possibly confirmed by the presence of a Mesolithic lake at Seamer Carrs.

- 4.12 The ringwork of Castle Hill (SMR 554: SAM 21145) stands to the west of the study area. It is sited on a steep slope with level ground to the west and the earthen breastwork around the top encloses about 0.2 hectares of land. Fieldwalking in October 1983 recovered earlier Romano-British pottery sherds close by (SMR 554).
- 4.13 Prior to 1975 Moorberries Farm, on the north edge of Hilton, (SMR 582) consisted of enclosures, tofts and house platforms relating to a linear shrunken medieval village. Surrounding this was a well defined field system with remains of ridge and furrow ploughing. The majority of this area is now covered by a recent housing development. Archaeological investigations were conducted in 1994 (Copp & Garner-Lahire 1994) at Moorberries Farm included geophysical survey, topographical survey and trial trenching. The evaluation revealed evidence relating to the field systems to the rear of the property and structural remains close to the farm buildings to the front; a small assemblage of medieval pottery was also recovered (no SMR number was available at the time of the desk-based assessment; the evaluation is marked as A on Figure 2).
- 4.14 Areas of medieval ridge and furrow (SMR 1424, 1425, 1428-30, 3468-71: Figure 2) have been recorded within the study area and in the surrounding area.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.15 A water-mill in Hilton is mentioned in 1618 (Mackay 1968) and Oxhill Farm at Hilton has elements that may date to the 16th century but the majority of the buildings at the centre and date from the 18th and 19th centuries (SMR 931).
- 4.16 Jeffrey’s map of 1771 (Figure 3) shows the main east-west road and a track leading down towards Middleton in the south. The settlements of Hilton and Seamer to the east and west of the study area are depicted with churches and Middleton to the south with a chapel. There is a sprinkling of farmsteads north and south of the road and Castle Hill ringwork is shown to the west of the river.
- 4.17 In 1820 Hilton is described as part of the wapentake and liberty of Langbaugh (Mackay 1968, 238). Baines’ directory of 1823 states that Hilton parish has six farmers, a blacksmith, tailor, draper, corn miller, shoe maker and a victualler at the Fox & Hounds Inn. By 1868 Hilton is described as wholly agricultural, and the tithes have been exchanged for rents of £12 12s.
- 4.18 An extract from Ord’s map of 1843 (Figure 4) shows no change to the study area but in the wider area buildings are shown close to the road and two farms are named to the south and south-east.

- 4.19 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 (Figure 5) shows the study area as fields. To the west is Greenfield farm with a pond, orchard and a well. To the south two farms are shown laid out around courtyards with areas of planting close by; a pond and a pump are present at the most southerly farm. To the east are Boy Hill and Seamer Grange farm; Seamer Grange has a horse-gin on its northern face. Some field boundaries define narrow sinuous plots that may follow the old unenclosed ridge and furrow field systems; several footpaths are also shown.
- 4.20 By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1895 (Figure 6) plantations have been added and some field boundaries have been removed. In the wider area other plantations have been added and the farms to the south have been named. The buildings at Middleton Lodge and Seamer Grange have increased in size but Greenfield and Hill House have decreased.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.21 Hilton Manor (SMR 5414) was built in the second half of the 19th century. It was a large house set within its own grounds at the western end of Hilton village with access down a sweeping drive off Yarm Road. The house and grounds were demolished in the 1960s during redevelopment. The gateposts of the Manor were surmounted with two Roman ballista stones (SMR 4775) originally found at Sandhill, Newcastle. These were given to Mr Hay, the owner, and one was engraved 'BALISTAE ROMANAE LAPIDES PONTE AELLII EFFOSSI' (Roman stone ballista balls excavated at Newcastle); these have since been lost.
- 4.22 The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) shows little change to the proposed development area. The surrounding farm buildings have changed and the area to the north of High Plantation is shown as heath or rough grassland. Seamer Carrs is shown south-east of the study area.

Previous archaeological works

- 4.23 An archaeological desk-based assessment (SMR ENY3558) was conducted for the Lackenby to Picton Overhead Transmission Line (Fraser 1992).
- 4.24 A number of archaeological investigations have been conducted at Oxhill Farm, Hilton (SMR 124-126). In 2003 an archaeological assessment, evaluation and photographic survey were carried out and after the demolition of the farm in 2004 an evaluation was conducted (Archaeological Services 2003 & 2004). Oxhill Farm (SMR 5146) dates to the 18th century with additions from the early 19th century onwards. The earliest buildings were a farmhouse and range of stables along Seamer Road with an L-shaped building to the rear; all buildings except the farmhouse have since been demolished. No significant archaeological remains were found during excavations at the site.

The buildings

- 4.25 St Peter's is a simple two-cell Norman church (SMR 553) at Hilton and is a grade I listed building (L.B. no. 14/510). Original features exist on the chancel of the north wall with later restorations of 18th-century date.
- 4.26 Fir Tree Farm farmhouse and outbuildings date to the 18th century and are grade II listed buildings (L.B. no. 14/511-2). High Thornton Moor Farmhouse to the north of the study area also dates to the 18th century and is grade II listed (L.B. no. 14/542).

5. Site reconnaissance

- 5.1 A field visit was conducted, to help ascertain the potential of the proposed development area to contain any archaeological resource. The visit noted site topography, earthworks and areas of modern overburden, modern services, boundaries, buildings and other upstanding remains. A *pro forma* recording sheet was utilised for this purpose.
- 5.2 The topography of the land was gently undulating north of the main road; in the south part the slopes were slightly steeper forming panoramic views towards Hilton and Seamer and the Cleveland Hills (Figures 8-10).
- 5.3 The majority of the site was arable and planted with crops. In the most northern field, close to the boundary of the site, an area of scrubland was present (Figure 11). A small area of recently planted woodland was found close to the beck and the county boundary in the south-east part of the site. No evidence of ridge and furrow was noted.
- 5.4 At the time of the visit the ground was soft due to recent rain. The boundaries of the site comprised mature hedgerows with occasional mature trees.
- 5.5 High voltage pylons crossed the site on an east west alignment. The construction of these will have damaged or removed any archaeological resource within the footprint of each pylon leg.

6. Ground investigations

- 6.1 There are no records of geotechnical investigations within the study area (BGS 2008).

7. The potential archaeological resource

- 7.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area, but the presence of activity in the surrounding vicinity, indicates that an as yet unidentified resource has the potential to exist.
- 7.2 Archaeological deposits relating to the medieval ridge and furrow may survive across the site.

8. Impact assessment

Visual impact

- 8.1 There are four listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument at some distance from the proposed development area, within a kilometre of the site; these will be overlooked by the proposed development but will not be directly impacted upon.

Direct impact

- 8.2 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon archaeological resources through the construction of foundations, access routes, changes to ground level and associated services.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 There is no known significant archaeological resource within the proposed development area; however, the presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity and possible Iron Age occupation close by suggests that the landscape was exploited during these periods. It is therefore recommended that, as part of a mitigation strategy, the footprint of the proposed development area, including micro-siting locations, is subject to geophysical survey in accordance with the forthcoming English Heritage, *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluations*, 2nd edition, Research and Professional Services Guidelines 1 (David forthcoming).

10. Sources

Cartographic sources

Jeffrey's 1771 map of Yorkshire

Extract from Henry Cross, 1843 map of Cleveland, *Ord's History of Cleveland*

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 6" sheet 28

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 6" sheet 28 NW

Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 6" sheet 28 NW

Other sources

Archaeological Services 2003 *Oxhill Farm, Hilton, Stockton-on-Tees; archaeological desk-based assessment, evaluation and photographic survey*, unpublished report **977**, for The Plan Shop, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2004 *Oxhill Farm, Hilton, Stockton-on-Tees; archaeological evaluation*, unpublished report **1084**, for Clarion Homes, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2007 *Green Lane, Castle Levington, near Yarm, Stockton-on-Tees; archaeological desk-based assessment*, unpublished

report **1658**, for Gaunt Golf Course Design Ltd, Archaeological Services Durham University

Baines, E, 1823 *The History, Directory, and Gazetteer of the County of York*. Vol **2**

Bulmer 1890 *History and Directory of North Yorkshire*

Copp, A & Garner-Lahire, J 1995 *Archaeological evaluation, Moorberries Farm, Hilton, Stockton, Cleveland*, Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd., University of York

David, A, (forthcoming) *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation*, 2nd edition, Research and Professional Services Guideline **1**, English Heritage

Fraser, R, 1992 *Lackenby – Picton Overhead Transmission Line*, an archaeological evaluation, NAA

Mackay, M L, 1968 *The Victoria County History of the Counties of England*, W Page (eds) *Yorkshire North Riding*, London, Vol **II**

Marchant, J, & Marchant A, 1997 *The lands and People of the Parish of Hilton*, The Christian Heritage Trust

Marchant, J, & Marchant A, 2000 *Hilton: The History of St. Peters Church*, The Christian Heritage Trust

Robinson, I S, 1998 *The Place-Names of County Durham*, Leighton House

The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland 1868

Watts, V 2002 *A Dictionary of County Durham Place-names*, English Place-name Society Vol **3**, Nottingham

Websites

Geotechnical information - <http://.bgs.ac.uk/data/boreholes.html>

General information Hilton and Seamer - <http://www.genuki.org.uk> by Hinson, C, 2007

Aerial photographs (located at Tees Archaeology)

1948 RAF 541/23/16May48f14//16,600, Run 3423-36

RAF CPE/UK.1835.13.Nov.46.F/20”//82.SQDN, Run 3288-3292

Aerofilms90/237 1990, Run 7821-7831 & 7848-7858

Appendix: Historic Environment Record

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the study area (within an approximate radius of 1.5 km from the site).

Historic Environment Record

(SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument)

Tees PRN	SAM	Description	Date
233		Stone Axe	Neolithic
455		Roman pottery	Roman
554	*	Ring work	Medieval
582		Hilton village	Medieval
931		Hilton village plan	Medieval
1424		Field system	Medieval
1425		Field system	Medieval
1428		Field system	Medieval
1429		Field system	Medieval
1430		Field system	Medieval
1502		Field system	Medieval
2884		Crop mark	Prehistoric
3468		Field system	Medieval
3469		Field system	Medieval
3470		Field system	Medieval
3471		Field system	Medieval
4775		Gate-ballista balls	Roman
5146		Oxhill Farm	C18th
5414		Hilton Manor house	C19th
5468		Castle Hill settlement	Iron-Age
North Yorkshire PRN	SAM	Description	Date
MNY594		Landscape	Prehistoric
MNY652		Find spot-pottery	Roman
MNY595		Find spot-artefact scatter	Mesolithic

Listed buildings

LB No	PRN	Description	Grade
14/510	553	St. Peter's church	I
14/511		Fir Tree farm farmhouse	II
14/512		Fir Tree farm outbuildings	II
14/542		High Thornton farmhouse	II

Previous archaeological work

Tees PRN	Description
TBA	Archaeological evaluation at Moorberries Farm
124	Archaeological desk-based assessment, evaluation & photographic

	survey at Oxhill Farm
125	Archaeological evaluation at Oxhill Farm
126	Archaeological monitoring at Oxhill Farm
North Yorks PRN	Description
ENY3254	Archaeological desk-based assessment
ENY3558	Archaeological desk-based assessment



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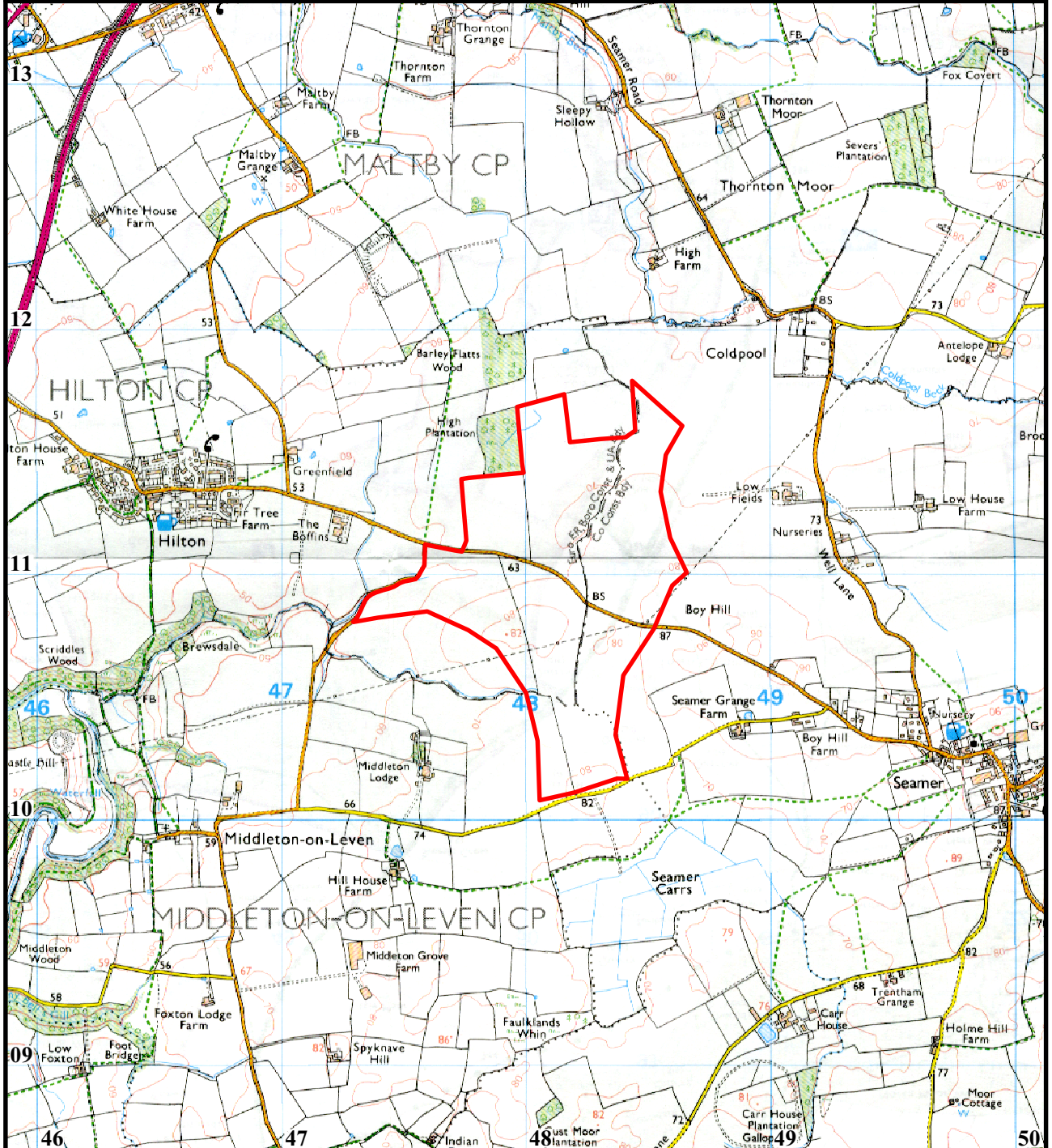
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Figure 1

Location of proposed development area

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proposed development area

0 1km



scale 1:25 000 - for A4 plot





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Figure 2

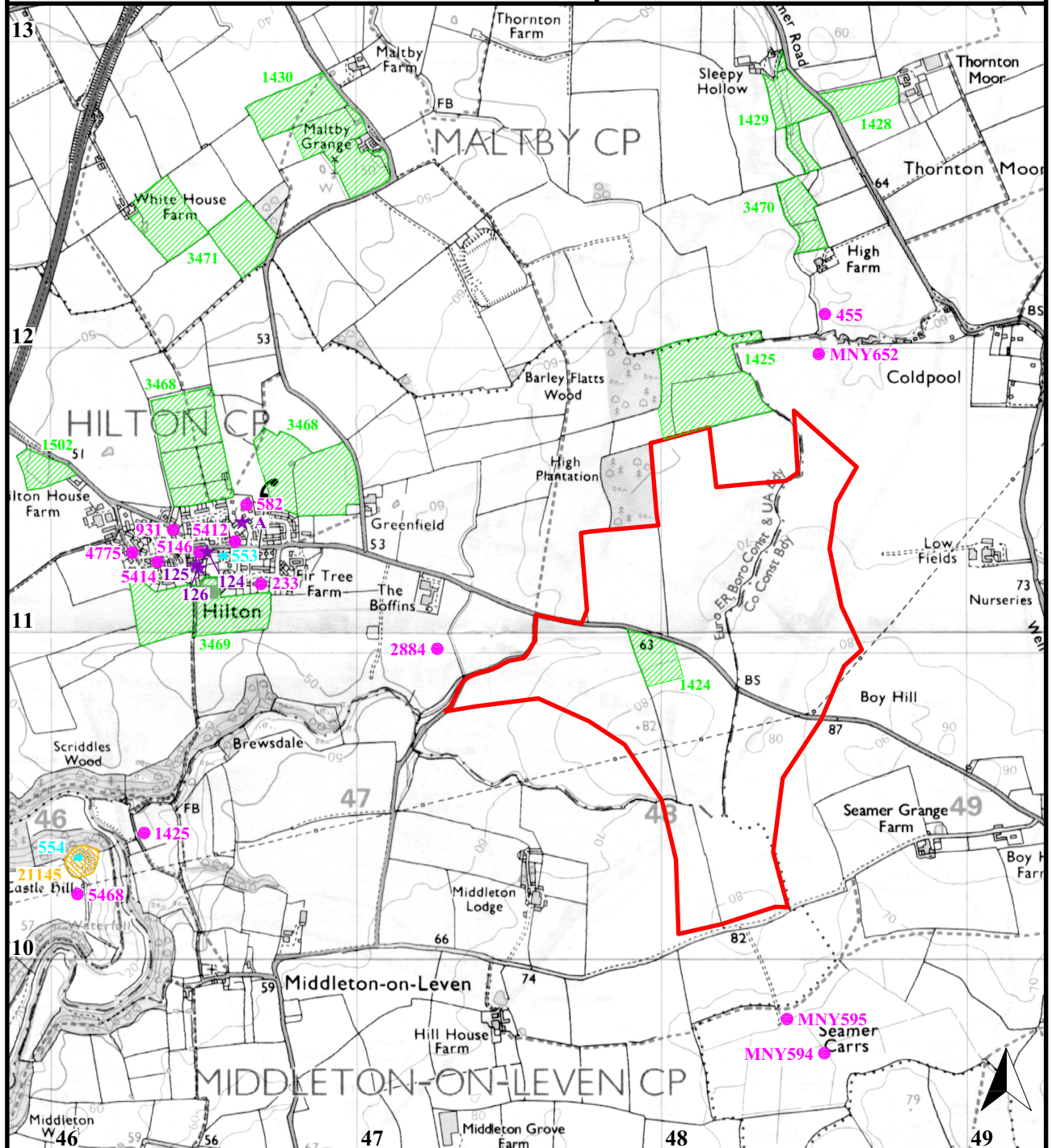
Location of proposed development area and HER sites

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scale 1:20 000 - for A4 plot



- proposed development area
- HER sites
- ridge and furrow
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- listed buildings
- archaeological events



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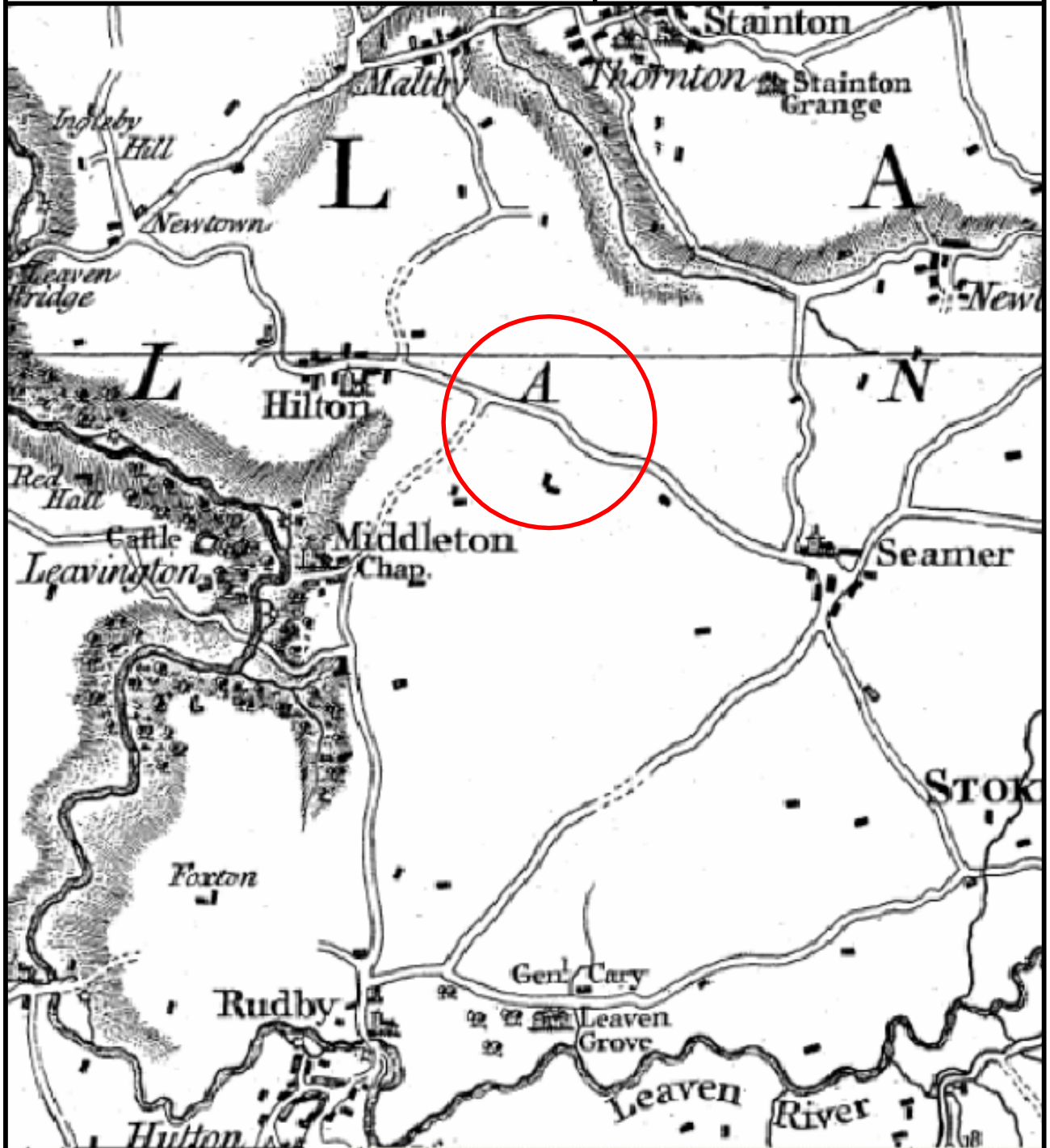
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Figure 3

Extract from Jeffery's map of 1771

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not to scale



approximate location of proposed development area





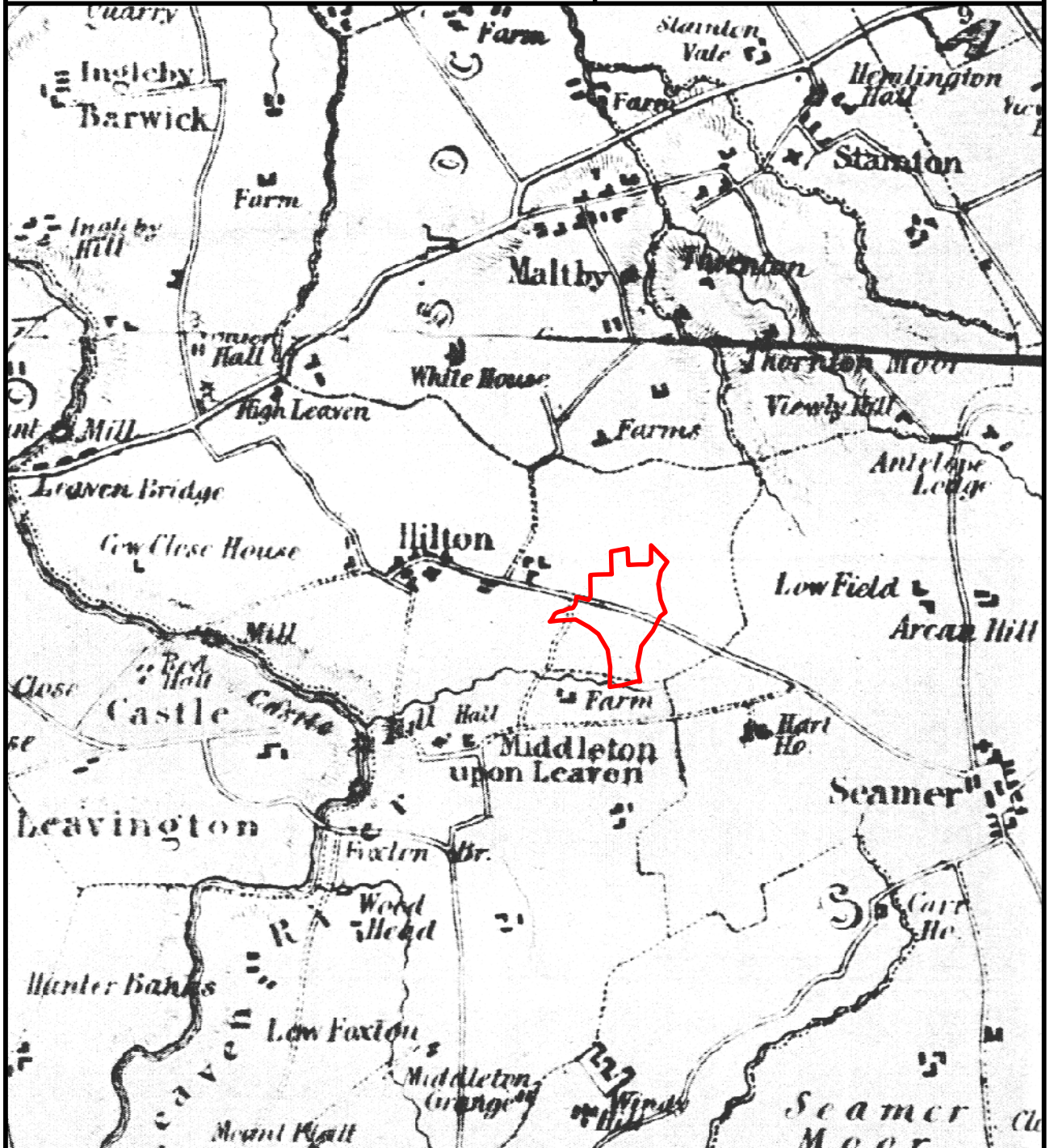
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Figure 4

Extract from Ord's History of Cleveland by Henry Crass,
dated 1843

not to scale



approximate location of proposed development area





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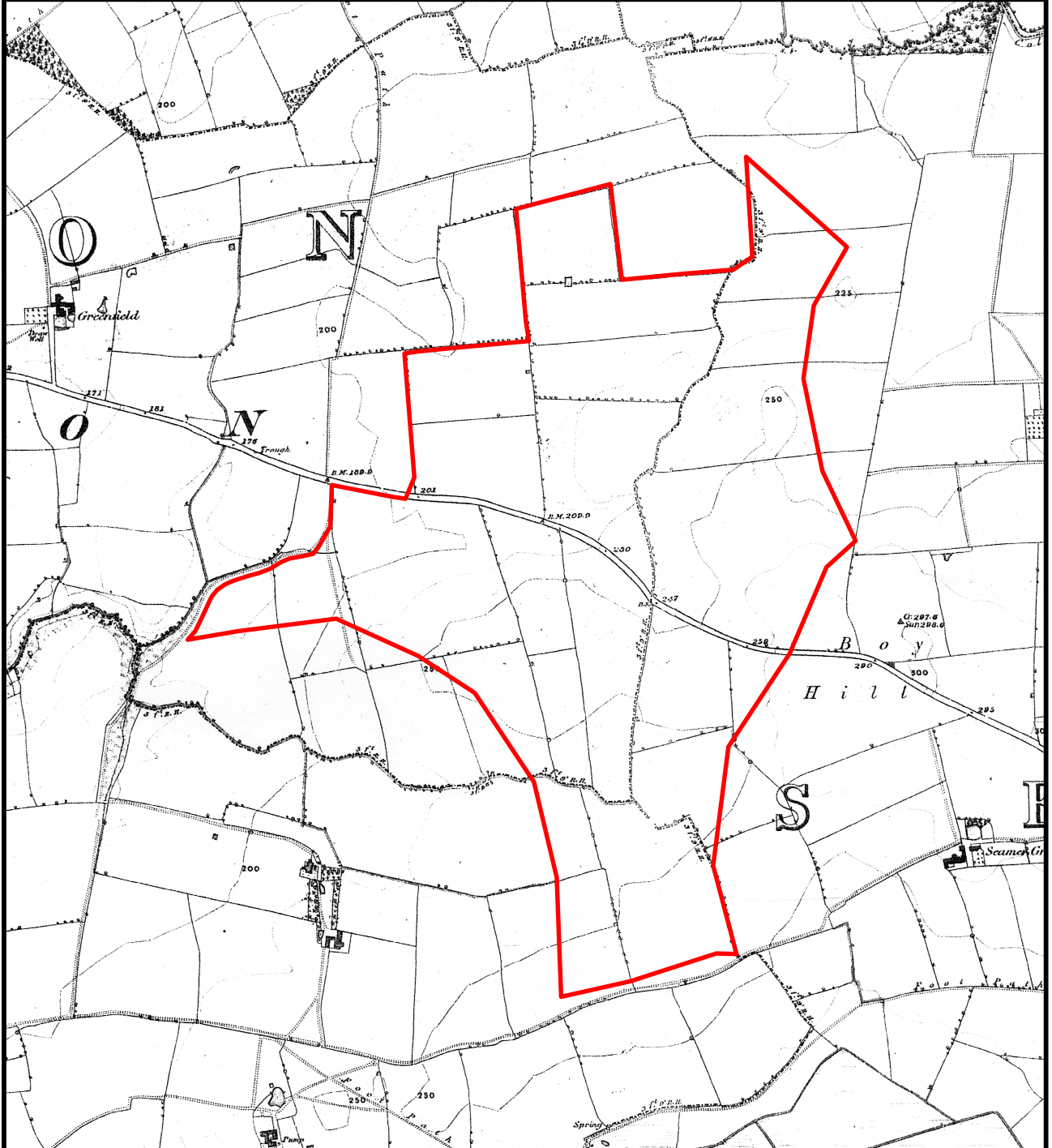
Figure 5

Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856

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0 500m

scale 1:12 500 - for A4 plot



proposed development area





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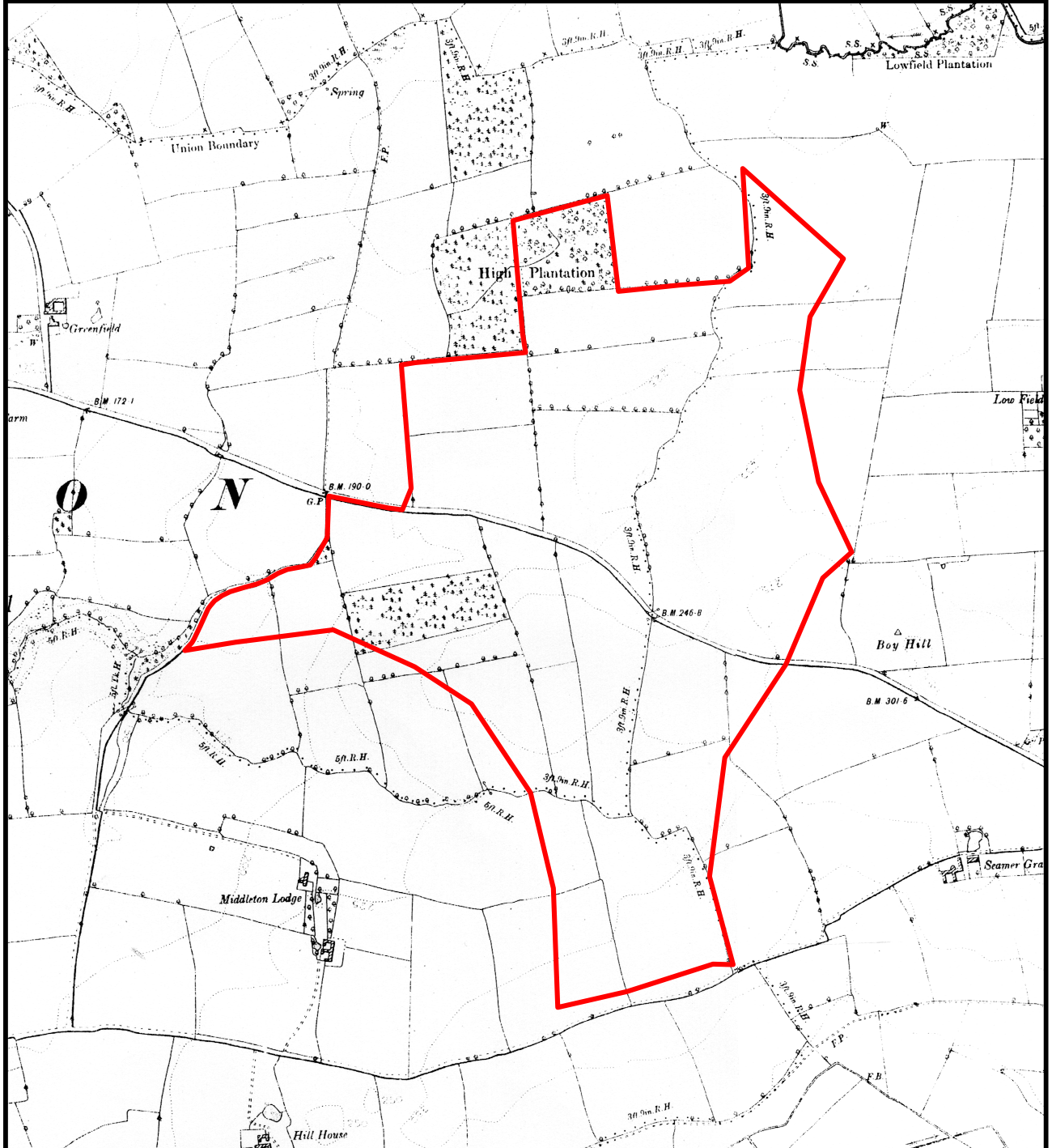
Figure 6

Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1895

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scale 1:12 500 - for A4 plot



proposed development area





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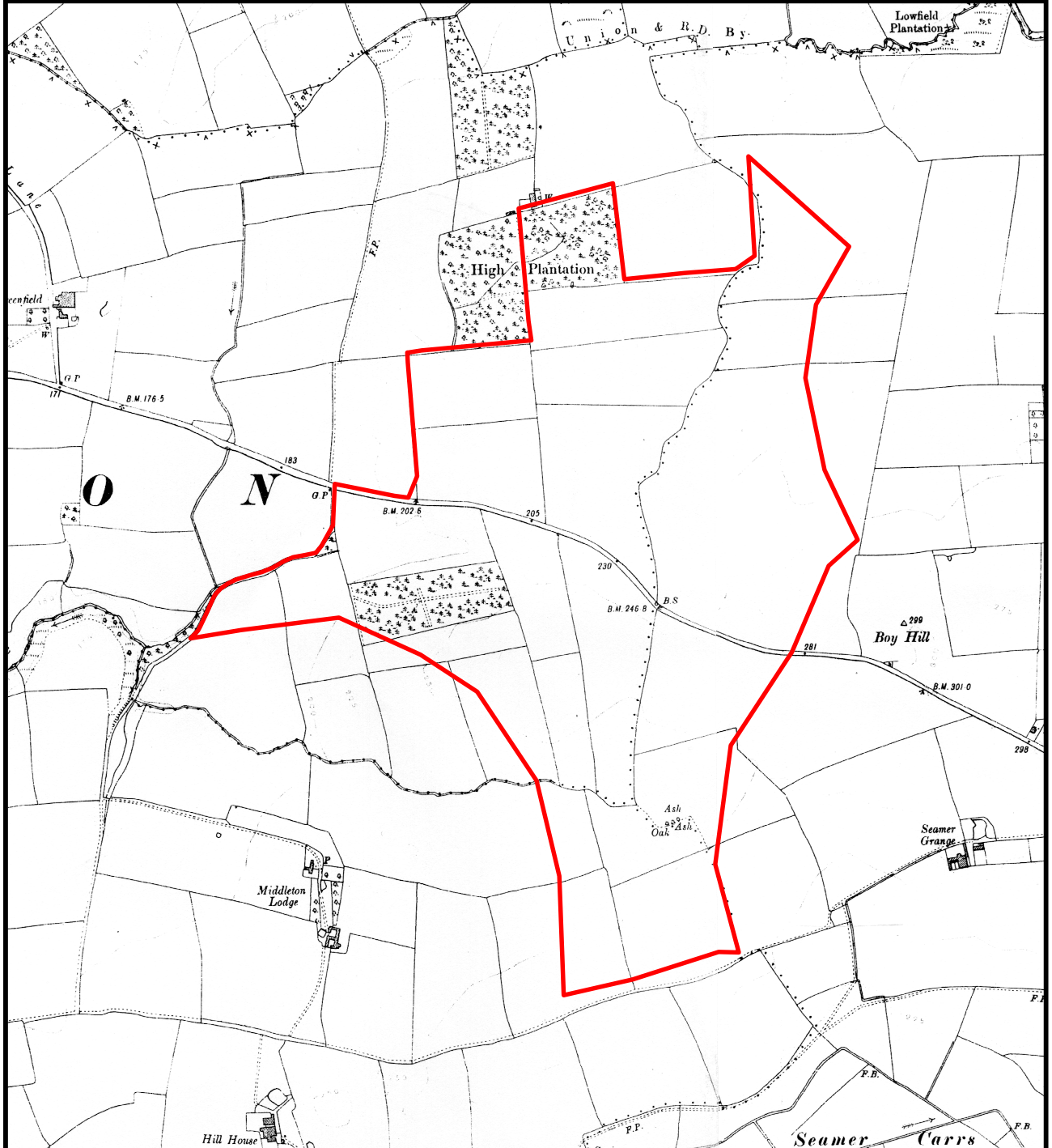
Figure 7

Extract from the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1919

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scale 1:12 500 - for A4 plot



proposed development area





Figure 8 View looking west from the highest point, in the south part of the site, showing Hilton village in the background



Figure 9 View showing land to the north and north east, from the highest point



Figure 10 View looking towards Seamer and the Cleveland Hills, looking approximately east from the highest point



Figure 11 View showing scrubland in the north part of site looking east towards Seamer