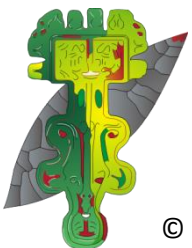


2012

Desk-Based Assessment

Castel Sedement (Les Catieaux), La Rue de la Falaise, Trinity, Jersey



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Dr P Driscoll, BA (Hons), MA, PhD
On behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cabot

Client/Agent Name: Mr & Mrs Alan Cabot/Godel Architects
 Project Site: Castel Sedement (Les Catieaux), La Rue de la Falaise, Trinity, Jersey
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Prepared By	Checked By	Signed
Dr Paul Driscoll BA (Hons), MA, PhD, MIFA Partner	Mrs Sam Driscoll BA (Hons), MA, MIFA, Partner	Paul Driscoll 

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Absolute Archaeology

51 St Mary's Gardens, Hilpertons Marsh, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7PH

Sam Driscoll (m) 07825550271 (e) sam.driscoll@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

Paul Martin (m) 07796333021 (e) paul.martin@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In October 2012, Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Godel Architects (the agent) on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cabot (the clients) to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) on Castel Sedement (Les Catieaux), La Rue de la Falaise, Trinity, Jersey (Figure 1).

The document has been prepared in response to the recommendation by the States of Jersey Planning and Building Services for an DBA on the above site, following proposals for the construction of a boundary wall, trenching associated with establishing utilities and removal of topsoil from field 915.

The objective of the DBA was to identify the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment/cultural heritage resource within the Project Site and its environs (the Study Area) and to understand how these heritage assets may be affected by the development.

This DBA has shown that the Project Site exists with a mainly Medieval landscape, with limited evidence for Roman or Prehistoric exploitation (although this cannot be entirely ruled out). It is situated opposite a significant surviving earthwork (Le Chastel-Sedement), which may have been the keep of a defensive enclave, whose western boundary forms one of the boundaries of the Project Site (i.e. the Project Site is located within said defensive enclosure). By the post-medieval period, the earthwork had fallen out of use and the Project Site remained rural until the late 20th century when the current dwelling was constructed.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the excavation of foundation trenching to establish the wall and potentially the service trenching to the south. If groundwork could commence at the northern end of the Project Site (the area of highest potential) then provision may be made to cease monitoring, if during the course of the watching brief the level of ground disturbance / level of made up ground can be proven to be sufficient to conclude that there is no further threat to any extant archaeological resource to the south. However this would have to be agreed in consultation with the monitors of the project.

No other mitigation is proposed.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

In October 2012, Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Godel Architects (the agent) on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Cabot (the clients) to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) on Castel Sedement (Les Catieaux), La Rue de la Falaise, Trinity, Jersey (Figure 1).

The document has been prepared in response to the recommendation by the States of Jersey Planning and Building Services for an DBA on the above site, following proposals for the construction of a boundary wall, trenching associated with establishing utilities and removal of topsoil from field 915.

The objective of the DBA was to identify the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment/cultural heritage resource upon the Project Site and within the Study Area (defined as 1km radius from the Project Site) and to assess the impact the proposed development might have upon the known or unknown archaeological resource (see Figure 3).

This DBA has been undertaken by Paul Driscoll (BA, MA, PhD) and managed by Sam Driscoll (BA, MA, MIFA). The Absolute Archaeology project reference is AArc86/12/DBA.

1.2. The Project Site and Study Area

The Project Site is located in the NE of Jersey within the parish of Trinity and historically within the Vingtaine de Rondin (Figure 1). The Project Site is set within a rural landscape, with neighbouring dwellings situated to the east and south. The Project Site is north of the historic building known as Les Catieaux, probably named so due to the proximity of a substantial earthwork (Le Chastel-Sedement) directly east of the Project Site and separated only by the Rue de Falaise (see Figure 3).

Le Chastel-Sedement is a substantial surviving earthwork, probably of defensive origin. The precise nature of the monument is unclear and has been disturbed greatly since its creation, so that only the northern portion of what may have been a circular earthwork, analogous to a keep, survives. The earthwork forms the eastern boundary on La Rue de Falaise, and is directly opposite the Project Site.

The Project Site and the buildings surrounding it has been designated as an Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP), whilst the fields to the east, where the main earthwork of

Chastel-Sedement survives have been designated as a potential Listed Place (formerly proposed SSI), whilst the fields to the north and south of the Project Site have also been designated a potential Listed Place (formerly Archaeological Site).

The Project Site is centred on UTM 566830, 5453190, at c.103m aJD and is situated upon Boulay Rhyolite. Importantly, the area all around the Project Site slopes from NW to SE ranging in heights from c.108m aJD to c.97m aJD, over distance of c.180m. Around the Project Site however, there are drops of c.5m, from c.108m aJD to c.103m aJD over 90m.

2. Aims of the Desk-Based Assessment

The aim of this Desk-Based Assessment is to:

- Identify the presence of designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets within the Study Area;
- Identify the potential of the Project Site to include archaeological deposits and to determine, where possible, their condition and likely level of survival;
- Provide an assessment of the known or predicted heritage assets considering their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests;
- Identify, where possible, any health and safety concerns, such as soil contamination;
- Define the potential development impact to the archaeological resource.

3. Methodology

This DBA has been undertaken in accordance with the IFA Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (revised Nov 2011), which states that a DBA *'will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area'* and that in *'development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact'* (IFA 2011: 4).

3.1. Walk-Over Survey

A walk-over survey of the Project Site was undertaken on Friday 26th October 2012, in order to:

- Confirm the presence/absence/condition of any previously identified archaeological features, deposits or sites within or close to the Project Site;
- Detect any surface evidence for previously unknown archaeological features, deposits or sites within or close to the Project Site;
- Assess the topography, ground conditions, land-use, areas of made ground and any previous or continuing impacts to the Project Site;
- Gain familiarity with the landscape context of the Project Site and zones of vision to or from the Project Site, as appropriate. This is especially important where changes in settings to protected sites may occur;
- Inspect and report on recent groundwork and associated impact.

3.2. Data Collation

The DBA involved consultation of available archaeological and historical information from documentary, cartographic, photographic and historic environment record sources within a 1000m radius of the Project Site, in order to identify the known and potential archaeological resource. This is the Study Area.

The aim was to produce a document that not only considered the potential for archaeological remains on the Project Site, but to also put these into their historical and archaeological context.

The primary repositories for information consulted comprised:

Société Jersiaise Coutanche Library

- Historic maps and documents;
- Register Sites of Special Interest and Buildings of Local Interest;
- Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise;
- Books and articles on the archaeology and history of Jersey

Absolute Archaeology

- Database of archaeological sites in the Channel Islands (derived from Paul Driscoll's PhD thesis);

Jersey Archive

- Aerial photographs;

States of Jersey

Department of the Environment Register of Buildings and Sites of Architectural, Archaeological and Historical Importance, and the Schedule of Areas of Archaeological Potential.

4. Archaeological and Historical Baseline Survey

4.1. Introduction

The information presented here is derived from a range of different sources. The archaeological sites included in the discussion below can be found in the Project Gazetteer (Appendix 1) and graphically in the Cultural Heritage Resource (**Figure 3**).

4.2. Results of the Walkover Survey

The walk-over survey revealed that significant ground disturbance is likely to have occurred in the region of the dwelling known as Castel Sedement and neighbouring buildings, in conjunction with their construction in the 1980s-1990s. It was noted at the time of the visit that land c. 40m to the north of the Project Site (forming the boundary to agricultural buildings) had been terraced into the natural topography to a depth of c. 2m, creating a drop from 108m aOD to c. 106m aOD (Photo 5). From here the land can be seen to slope gently away to the south, towards the location of the Project Site. A survey of the gardens to the north of Castel Sedement revealed a noticeable drop to the current drive level of between 500mm -1m and contemporary architectural drawings support an overall reduction in the level of ground of c. 1m across the proposed area of development. However, it should be noted that the client informed the author of this document that the observed level of the Project Site represents the result of the raising of the ground level following a more significant truncation of the natural topography at the time that their property was constructed. Unfortunately this could not be verified from the site visit alone.

4.3. Previous Archaeological activity

Although no previous archaeological activity has occurred on the Project Site, excavations have taken place on adjacent land and in relation to the earthwork, Les Catieaux.

In 1899, a Mr Harris opened trenches in field T915 (and it appears directly next to the earthwork), resulting in what he described as negative results (Aubin 2007). Further excavations began in 1934 with two trenches (marked A & B, Figure 8), one paralleling the alignment of the large surviving earthwork and the other oblique to this (NNW-SSE). Trenches A & B produced Medieval pottery, identified in association with disturbed rubble layers, suggested to represent a surface. The archaeological layer was recorded at 300mm-400mm below the contemporary ground surface, although no height above Jersey Datum was recorded in the report. The layer ranged from 150mm-400mm in depth and

was seen to overlay decomposed Rhyolite (perhaps a truncated subsoil) in Trench A and a mixed layer containing residual ceramics in Trench B.

The above investigation also extended to the excavation of a bank and ditch feature, referred to as the fosse, which was identified to the NE and SE of the above earthwork and projected to continue to form a rectangular enclosure which would, if confirmed, incorporate the Project Site (Figure 11). A section excavated through the northern rampart revealed an external ditch measuring c. 3.3m (d) x 6.4m (w) (Rybot 1935: 516-518).

4.4. Palaeoenvironmental

No Palaeoenvironmental analyses have taken place on the Project Site or within the Study Area.

4.5. Prehistory (250,000 BC – 56 BC)

There is no confirmed prehistoric activity on the Project Site or within the Study Area, although this is likely to be absence of evidence rather than evidence for absence, particularly as prehistoric activity is recorded outside of the Study Area (e.g. at Les Platons, La Blanche Pierre).

It is possible that the earthwork of Les Catieaux is Iron Age in origin, but this is doubtful considering the historical associations of the site to Medieval events and the lack of analogous form for the earthwork.

4.6. Gallo-Roman (56 BC – AD 400)

Gallo-Roman activity within the Study Area is equally limited and none has been recognised, except for two Roman coins from the area near the earthwork (Aubin 2007). Any suggestion that this monument and the surrounding earthwork are Roman is dubious and the depiction by Rybot (1935) of a playing card shaped enclosure is presumptuous, based solely on the survival of the earthworks to the NE.

However, the absence of Gallo-Roman activity within the Study Area should also be treated with caution and is probably a lack of specific research rather than true absence and future research programmes or archaeological interventions may show otherwise.

4.7. Early Medieval (AD 400 – AD 973)

No evidence for Early Medieval activity is recognised on the Project Site or within the Study Area. However, the site of Les Catieaux has tentatively been suggested as being of Viking date and associated with Viking military activity (Aubin 2007). Again there is no supporting evidence for this.

4.8. Medieval (AD 973 – AD 1600)

The Project Site exists within an important Medieval landscape, defined not only by the prominent neighbouring earthwork, but also the historical associations of the site to the raid by Pero Niño in 1405.

Within the Study Area, Diélament Manor and Les Augrès Manor testify to the Medieval heritage of this area of Jersey, but it appears much of the region was rural and used for agricultural purposes. Map regression and aerial photo analysis (see Figure 4 and Figure 5) shows angular field boundaries, within which are smaller subdivisions and it is likely that the larger divisions represent Medieval field systems.

The earthwork of Chastel-Sedement is first recorded in AD 1367 in a *Partage d'héritages* of Philippe de Barentin (Société Jersiaise 1905), a descendant of the infamous Drogo de Barentin, but is more famously related to the “villa/city” described in Pero Nino’s assault on the island in 1405. Niño, a Spanish corsair and Knight, after joining forces with some Breton leaders mounted a plundering mission against Jersey, which is described as “a very rich English island called Jersey the Great” (Evans 1928: 168). During the attack, some of the local population flee to a great city, one of five “castles” on the island. The concept of multiple castles is difficult to resolve in the island. Certainly Grosnez and Mont Orgueil were extant, but the description of a distance of two leagues from what we believe to be L’Islet in Boulay Bay would place the aforementioned defensive enclave somewhere in the region of the Project Site (although some of the Medieval manors are possible contenders).

The excavations and landscape assessment by Rybot suggested that the site comprised a central circular keep surrounded by a sub-square earthwork enclosure, the western boundary of which is supposed to be the western boundary of the Project Site. The general site description defined by Rybot is fairly concise with that of Poingdestre who described its shape in 1682 (Aubin 2007). It is notable however, that whilst Poingdestre described the site in 1682, it is not depicted on any of the historic maps, until the 1934 OS. Even the Richmond map of 1795 does not record it.

Place names of supposed military activity are found all around the Project Site and are all derived from Castel or Catieaux, but despite this it seems as though the monument of Chastel-Sedement had gone out of use by AD 1500 (Steven 1980: 129).

4.9. Post-Medieval (AD 1600 – AD 1900)

During the Post-Medieval period, the Project Site and its surrounding hinterland remained rural. Industrial activity in the island was picking up and this is seen at Moulin de Bas (Project Gazetteer: 4), where a watermill of probable 17th century date was constructed.

The house of Les Catieaux may extend back to the mid 17th century judging by the various date stones found (Stevens 1980: 130), but the map regression shows that there were no other structures until the 20th century. In 1795, the Project Site is depicted with trees, suggesting an orchard and probably part of Jersey's substantial cider production (although no physical evidence for this survives).

No further record of Chastel-Sedement is recorded in the cartographic accounts, emphasising that it must have been an ancient monument by that point.

4.10. Modern (AD 1900 – Present)

The house of Les Catieaux remained the only significant structure directly around the Project Site until the 20th century.

In 1976, Clos Pallion, the bungalow next to La Rue de Falaise Clos was constructed, followed in 1978 by Petit Sedement at which time the boundary hedge was planted.

Between 1989 and 1990 extensive ground disturbance occurred around the site. The construction of the agricultural shed and staff accommodation, to the north of the Project Site, resulted in ground reduction of c.3.65m from the existing field level. It is the spoil from this ground disturbance that was deposited in Field 915. This was followed in 1990-1991 with the construction of Castel Sedement itself (the Project Site), which resulted in further ground reduction in this area of between 1-1.5m. Sewerage work was undertaken in 2003 with pipes established beneath the parking area and shed yard.

Whilst some of this can be accounted for by natural topography and slope, part of this surely relates to the ground disturbance caused by the construction of Castel Sedement and the agricultural shed and accommodation. This is particularly emphasised by the much gentler slope that occurs SE of the Project Site (from c.103m aJD to 99m aJD over

a much greater distance) compared to the rapid drop in levels directly around the Project Site.

5. Significance and Mitigation

The development plans propose the erection of a boundary wall running roughly north to south and separating the properties of Castel Sedement from the neighbouring property of Le Petit Sedement (see Figure 12). The foundations for the wall will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. In addition, the plans propose the insertion of utilities in the southern part of the Project Site, along with the removal of spoil from the construction of the house in the 1990s that had been deposited in the SW of field 915.

This DBA has shown that the Project Site exists with a mainly Medieval landscape, with limited evidence for Roman or Prehistoric activity (although this cannot be entirely ruled out).

It is situated opposite a significant surviving earthwork (Le Chastel-Sedement), which may have been the keep of a defensive enclave, whose western boundary forms the western boundary of the Project Site property (i.e. the Project Site would be located within said defensive enclosure). By the post-medieval period, the earthwork had fallen out of use and the Project remained rural until the late 20th century, when the current dwelling was constructed.

A consideration of the evidence regarding the archaeological potential of the site must take into account the potential location of the Project Site and what is known of the nature of the contemporary development area. It is clear that there is a possibility for the Project Site to be located within a defensive enclosure, which raises the potential to encounter truncated features associated with occupation and subsistence. There is therefore the potential to encounter the remnants of dug features, such as pits, ditches and post holes along with occupation layers and landscaping associated with the proposed historic use of the Project Site.

However, evidence acquired by way of the site visit has confirmed a reduction in ground level of between 2m and 500mm from north to south, across the Project Site. This coupled with the potential for made up ground to be concealing an even greater depth of disturbance would significantly reduce the survival of upper occupation layers and ephemeral features, which were recorded at between 300-400mm below ground level in the neighbouring excavations (See Figure 9 for Areas of Archaeological Potential). However, it should be noted here that the ditch recorded to the exterior of the proposed rectangular earthwork was recorded to a depth of 3.3m, which would still result in the preservation of a significant feature, even if truncated to between 500mm -2m. Although there is a *low* potential to encounter a further boundary ditch of this nature, due to the

location of the Project Site within the rampart, it does serve to illustrate that associated cut features, such as storage pits and latrines may survive, even if significantly truncated.

Taking into consideration the level of disturbance necessitated by the construction of the property known as Castel Sedement, it is suggested that the area of disturbance furthest from the property and adjacent to the main access route, Rue de Falaise possess the highest potential to preserve archaeology. However the potential for truncated features to be encountered along the length of the wall and service trenches cannot be ruled out, unless evidence can be provided to ascertain the level of made up ground currently said to be defining the Project Site.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the excavation of foundation trenching to establish the wall and potentially the service trenching to the south. If groundwork could commence at the northern end of the Project Site (the area of highest potential) then provision may be made to cease monitoring, if during the course of the watching brief the level of ground disturbance / level of made up ground can be proven to be sufficient to conclude that there is no further threat to any extant archaeological resource. However this would have to be agreed in consultation with the monitors of the project.

Furthermore, if assurances are given that the removal of the deposited soil from field 915 will cease at the sealed topsoil level, there is deemed to be no practical reason to insist upon archaeological monitoring of the removal of this deposit. Whilst the spoil may contain artefact data from the excavation of the house (Castel Sedement) in the 1990s, the finds would be residual, without provenance and would not contribute to a better understanding of the important site of Castel Sedement, for which stratified deposits are the only reliable way to determine anything further about the nature and date of the earthwork and associated landscape.

6. Bibliography

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7. Figures

Figure 1: Project Site Location

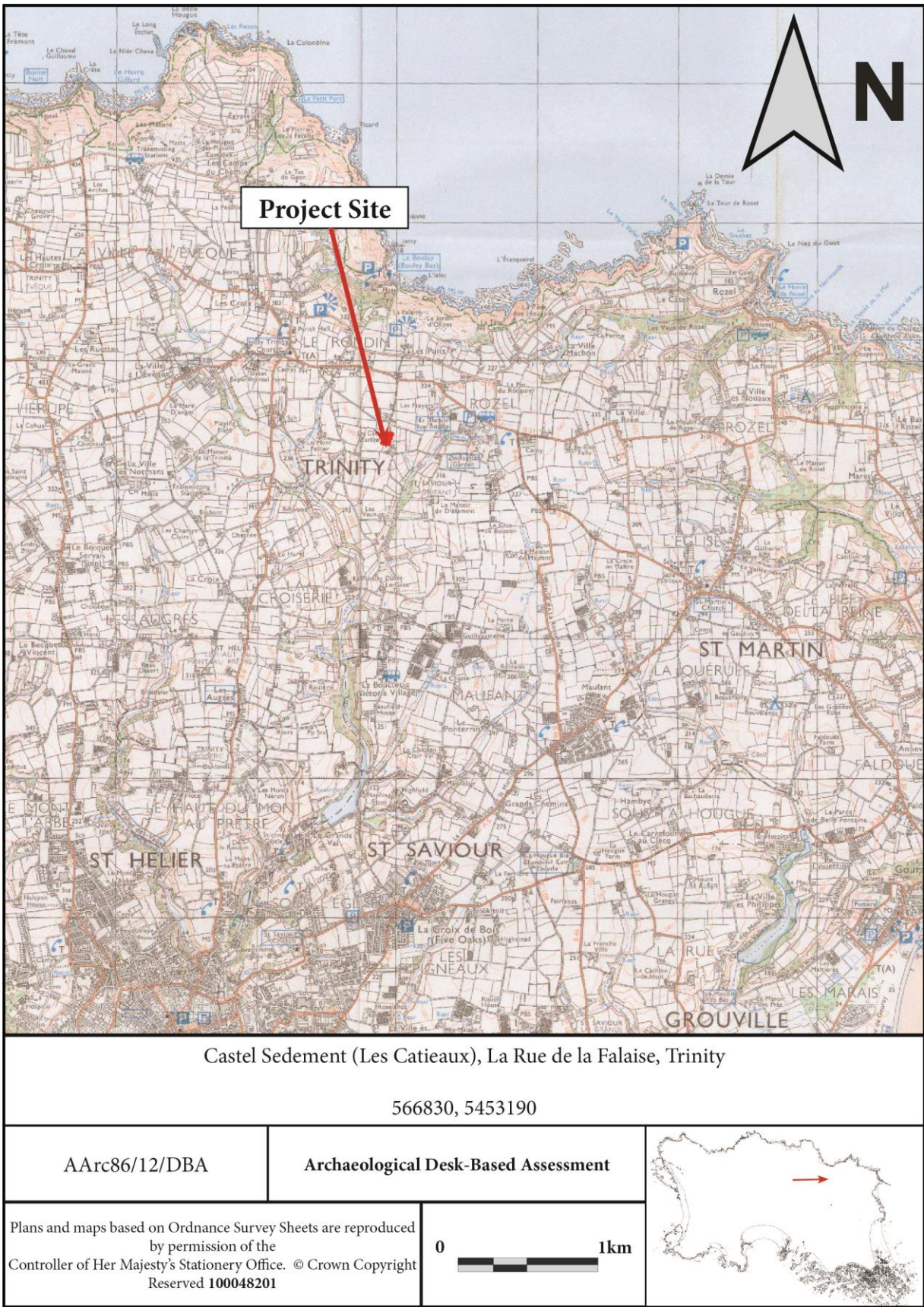


Figure 2: Site Plan

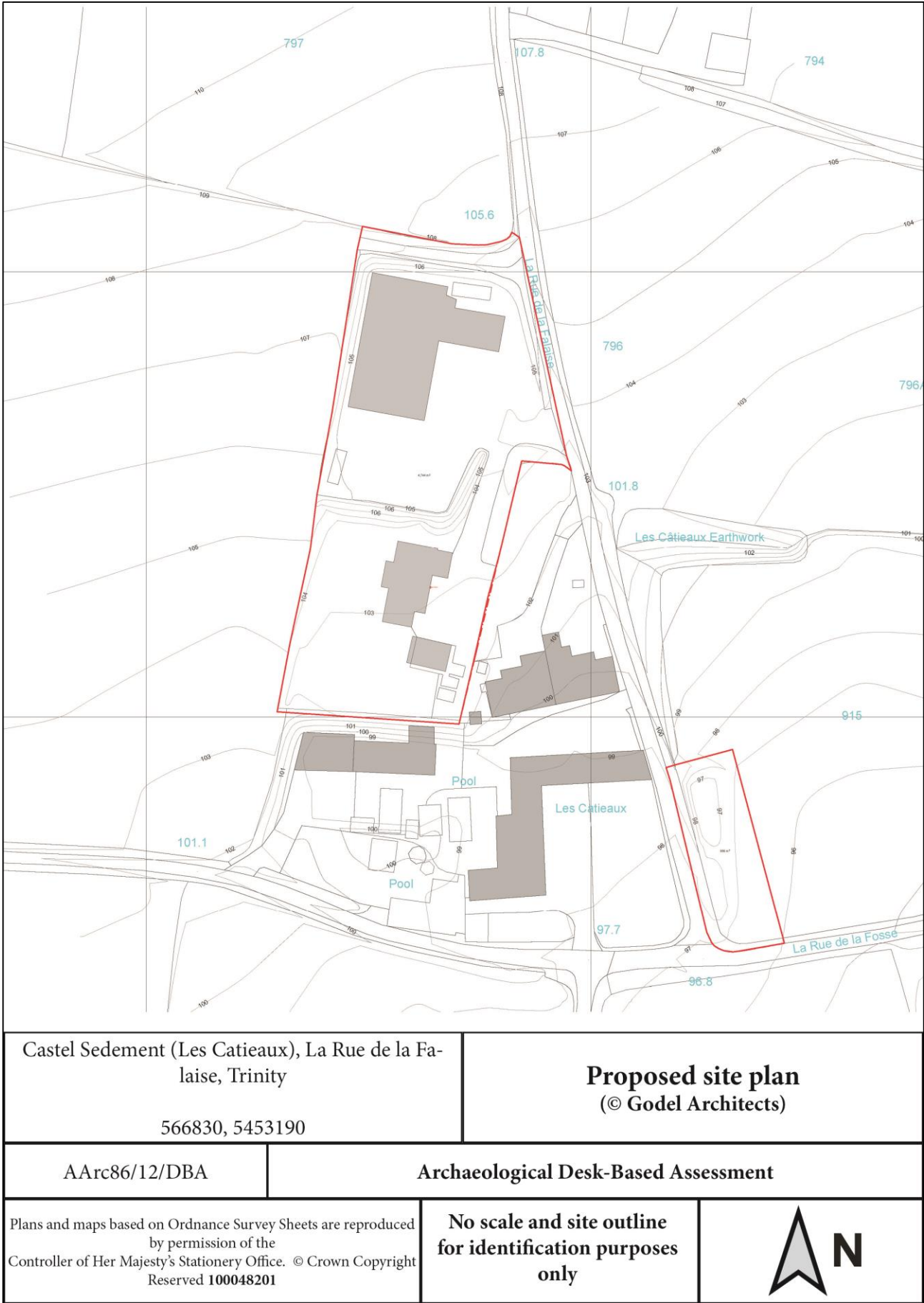


Figure 3: Cultural Heritage Resource within the Study Area

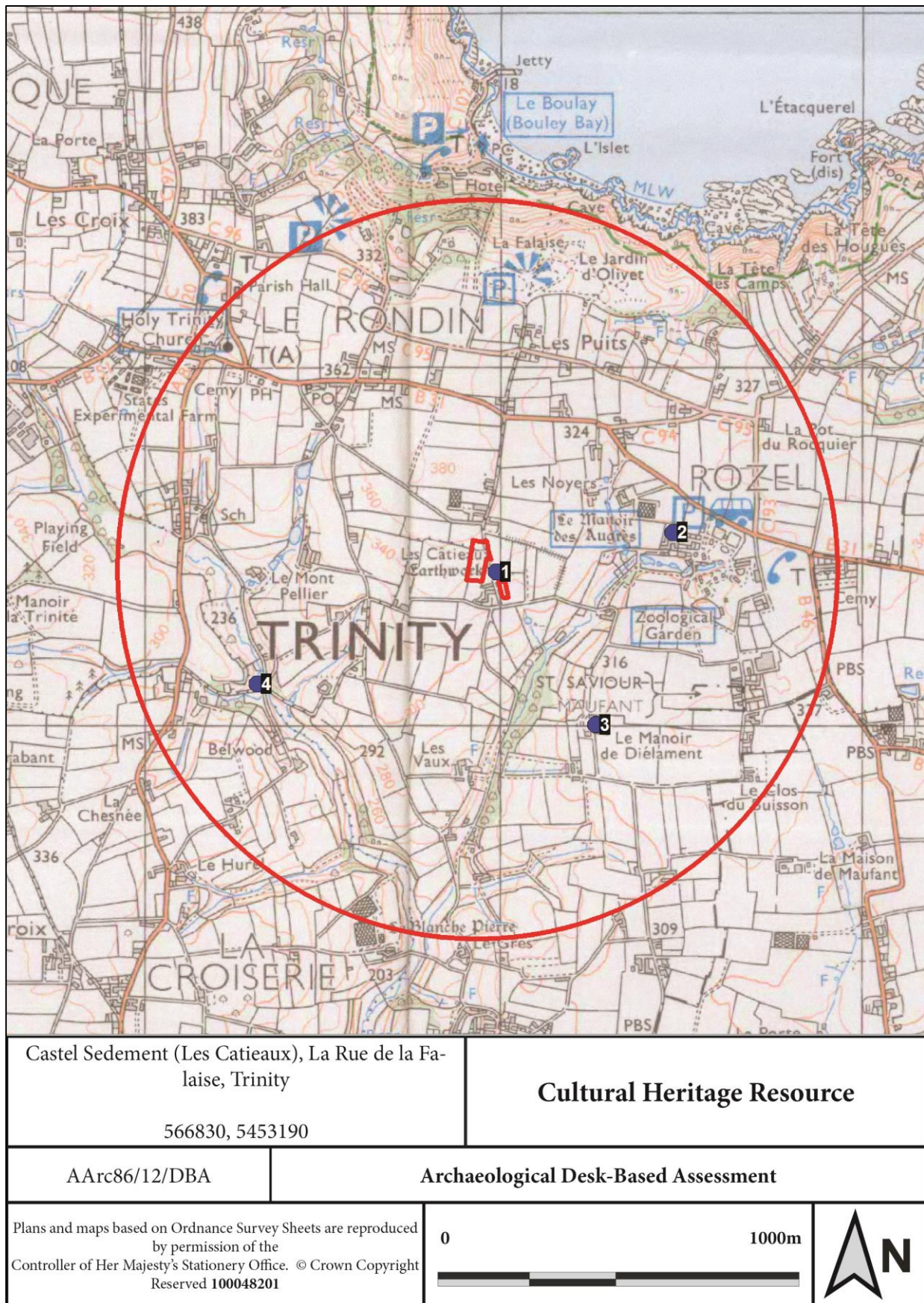


Figure 4: Richmond (1795)

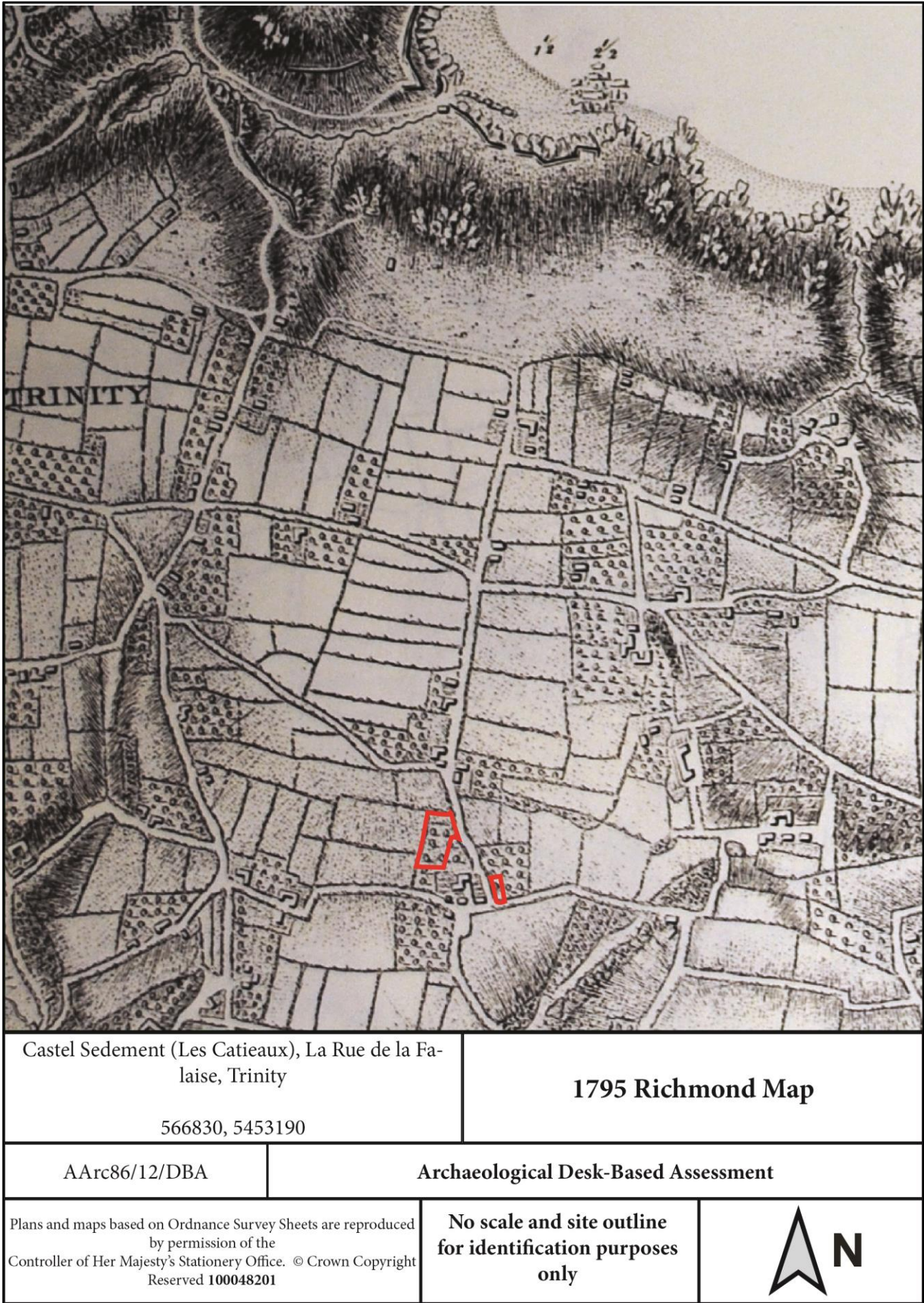


Figure 5: Aerial Photo (1943)



Figure 6: 1971 Aerial photo showing approximate location of where Castel Sedement would be constructed in the 1990s and emphasising the amount of ground disturbance that occurred on and around the Project Site

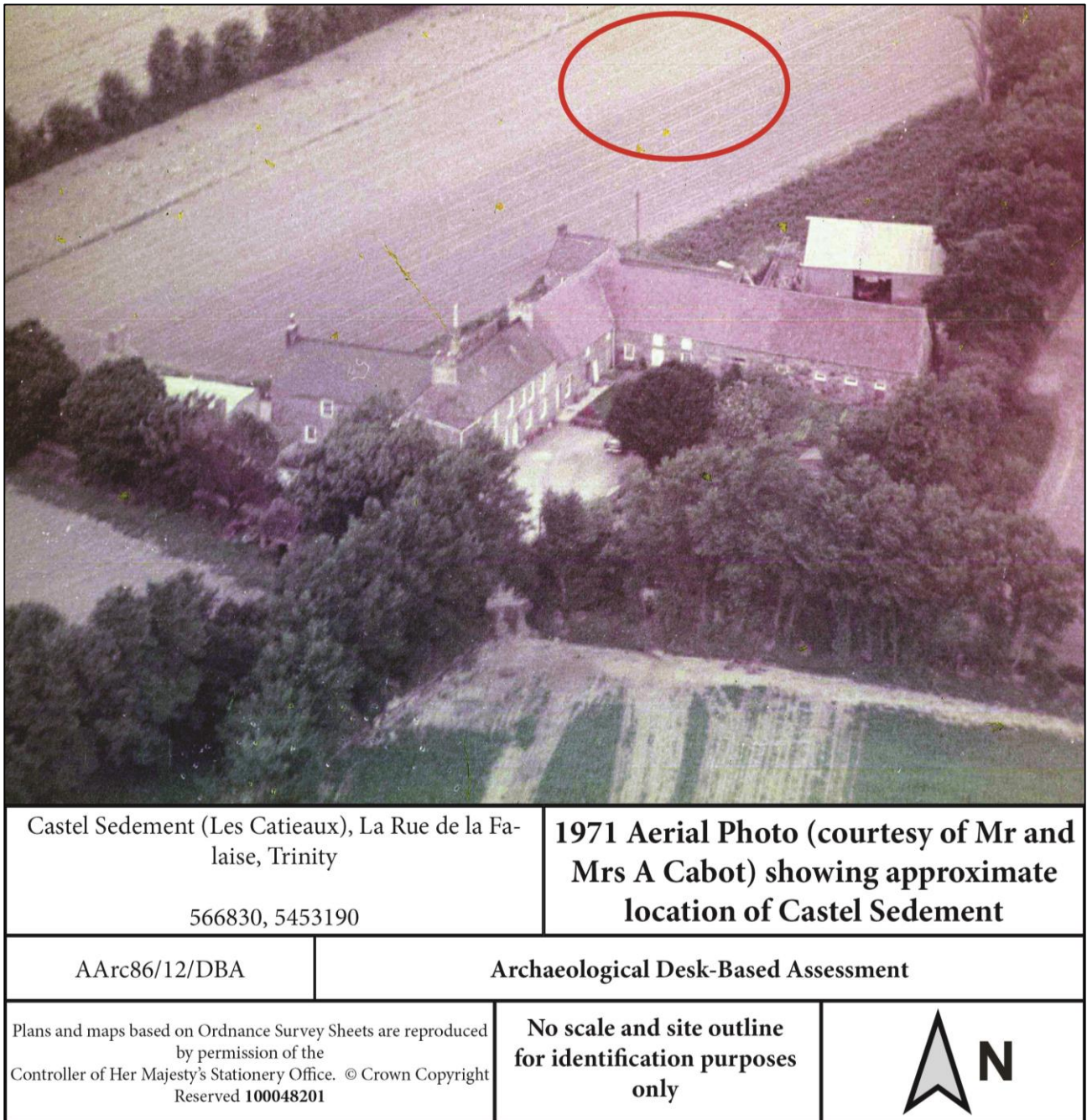


Figure 7: Extent of known and conjectural archaeology around the Project Site. The western boundary (dashed line) is from Rybot and is conjectural

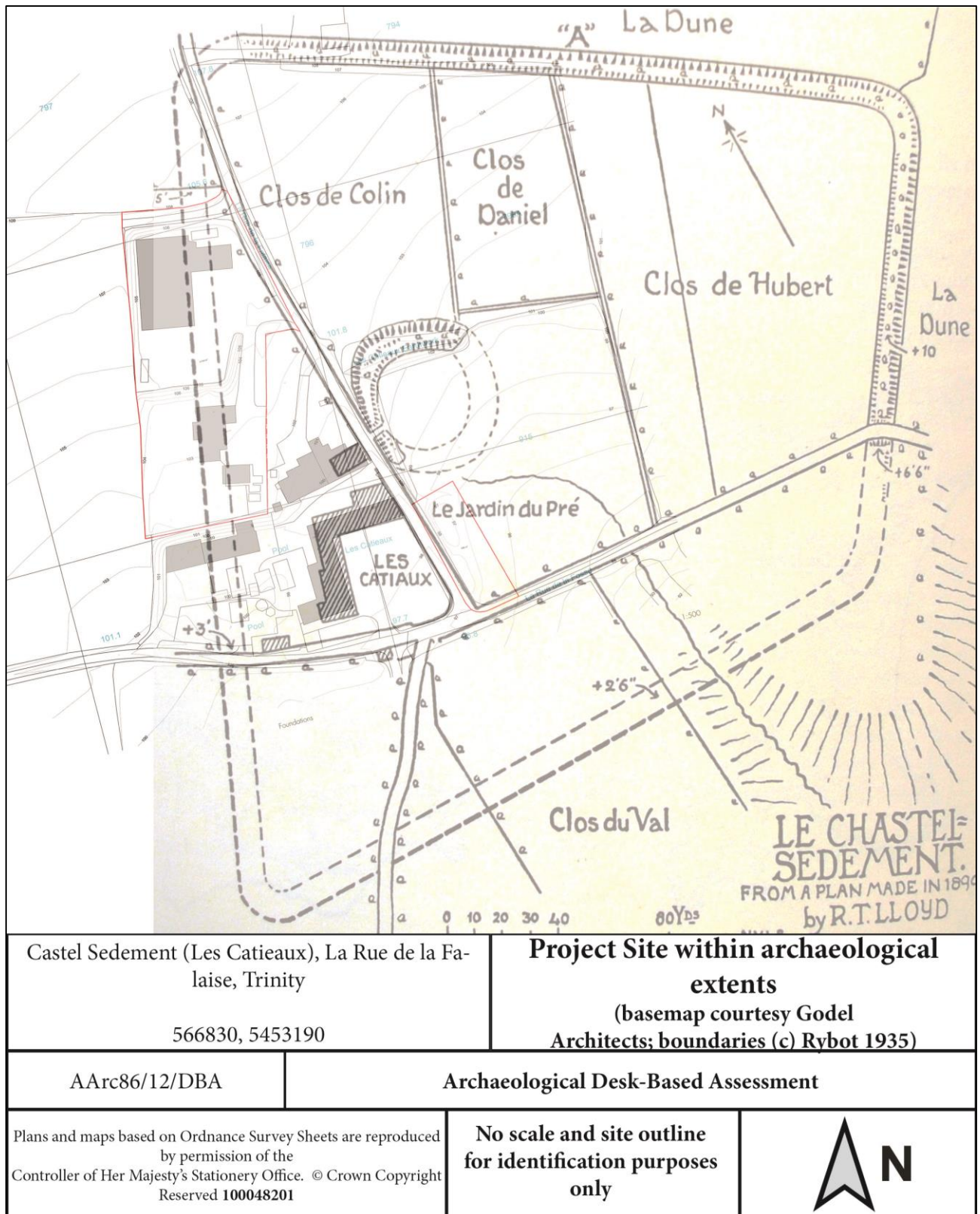


Figure 8: Area of excavation adjacent to main earthwork of Chastel-Sedement

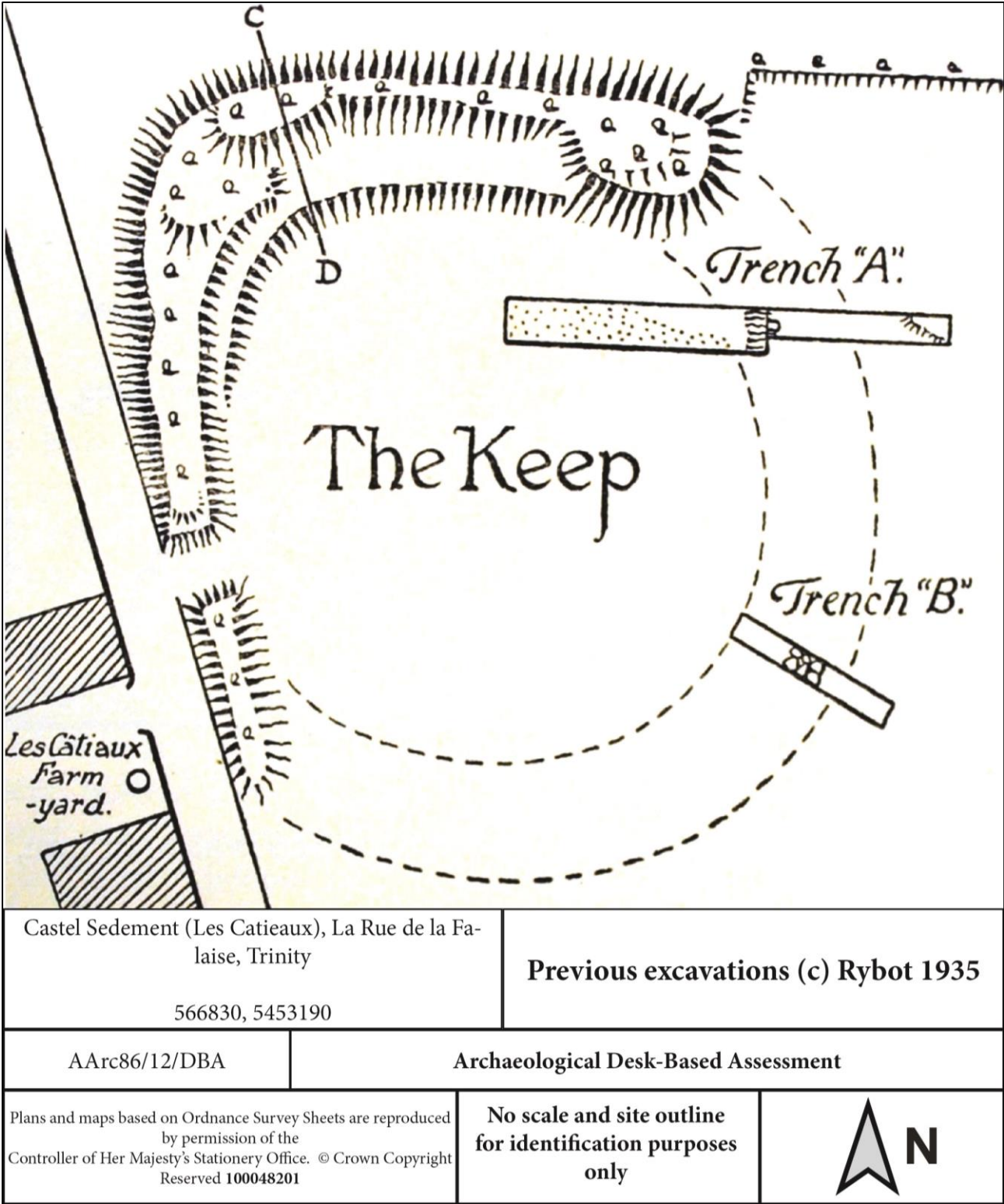


Figure 9: Areas of Archaeological potential. The distinctions are based upon previously research which defined a potential sub-square enclosure surrounding the main monument of Chastel-Sedement. The western boundary of this is conjectural and is based on Rybot's (1935) plan

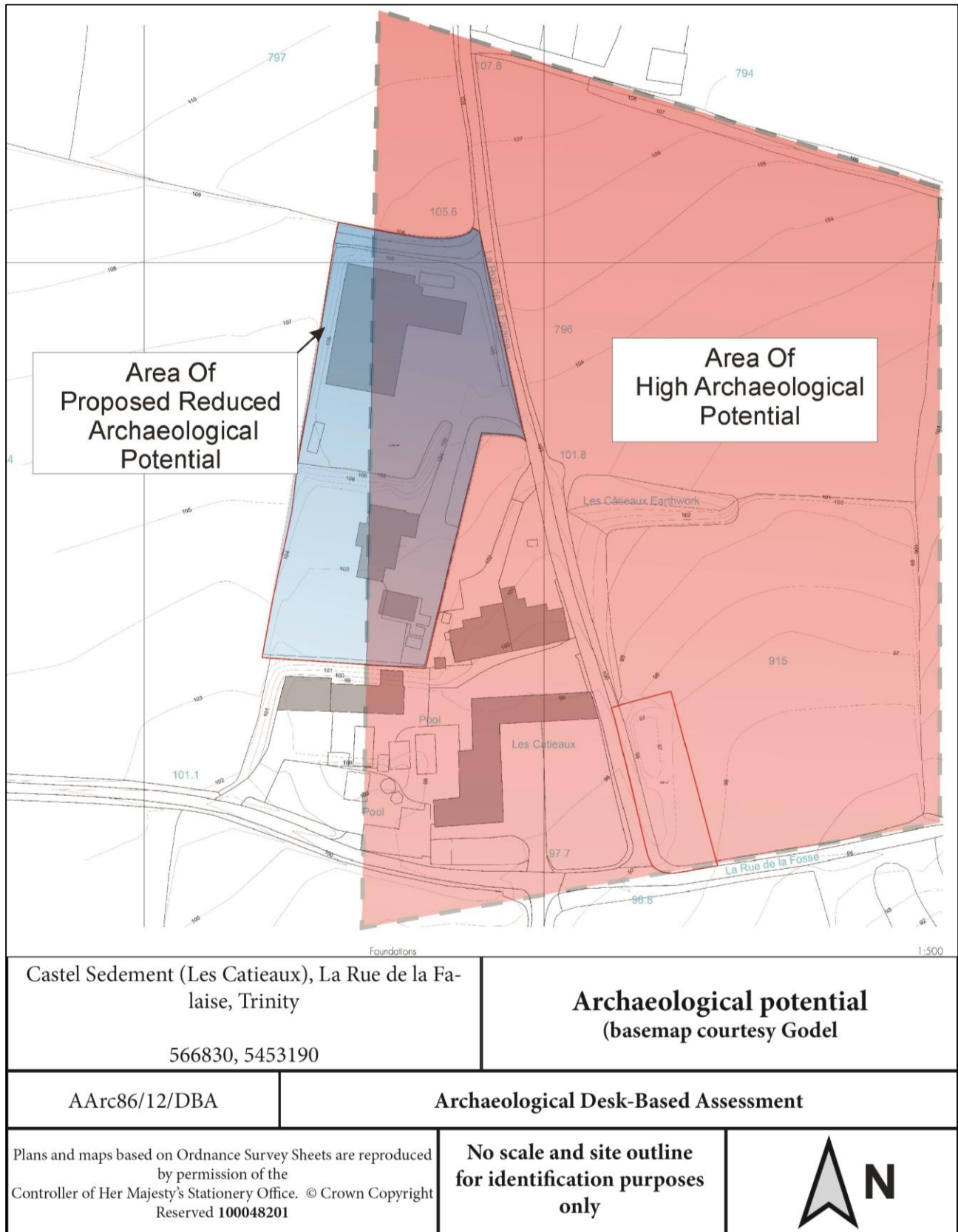


Figure 10: Contour plan showing the significant ground reduction from c.108m in the NW to less than 100m in the SE

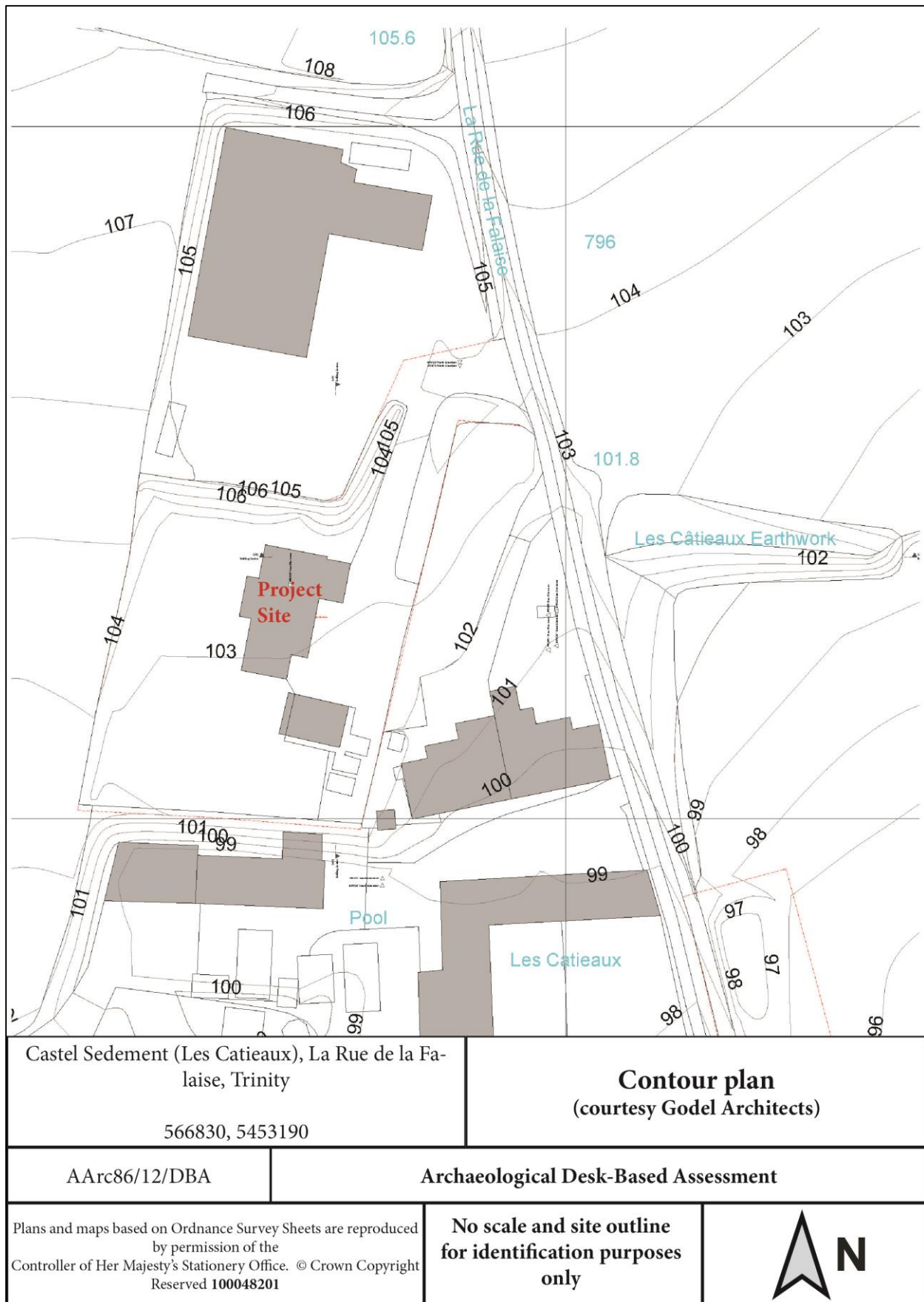


Figure 11: Levels Survey showing height of spoil in field 915 in relation to establish ground levels

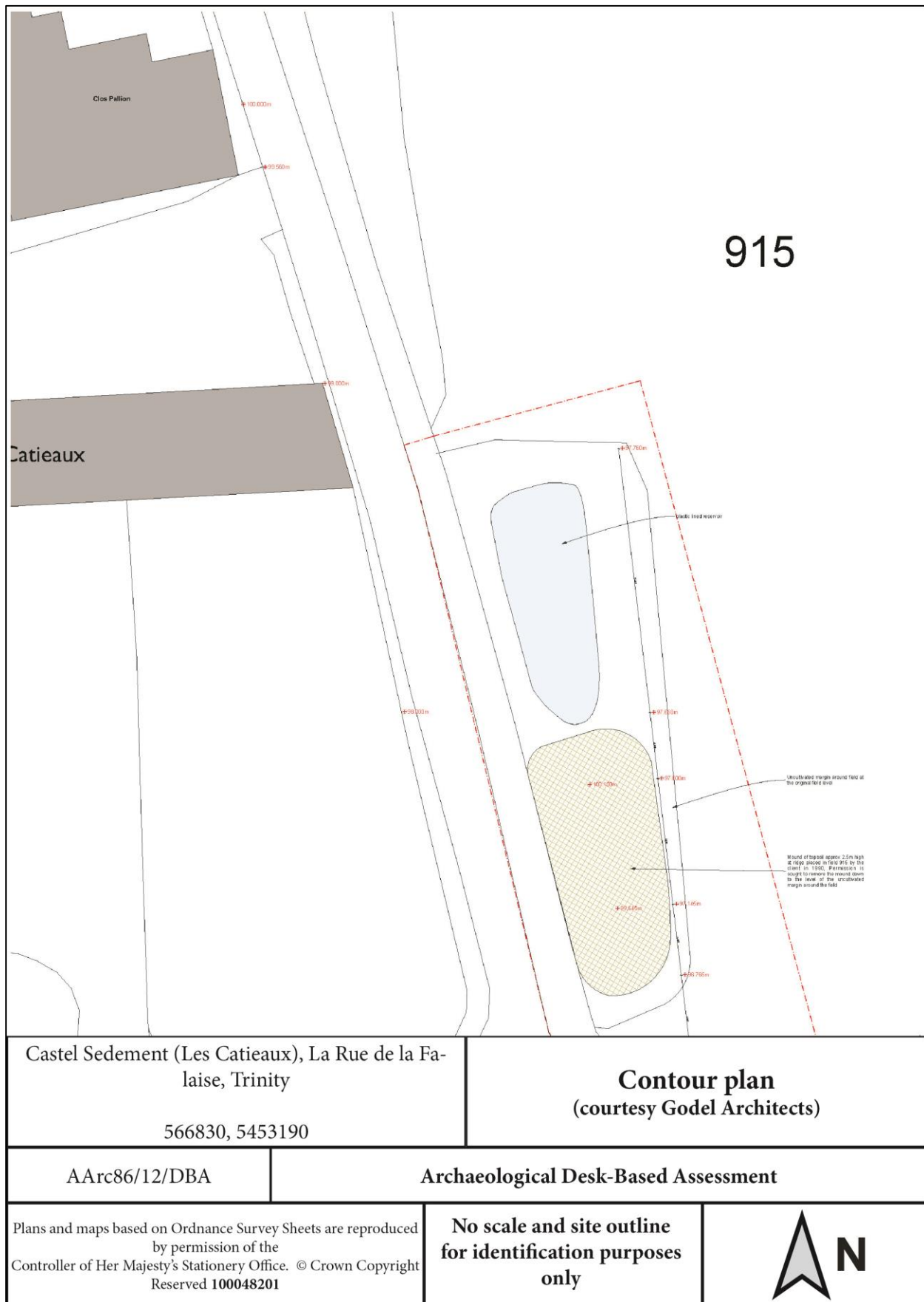
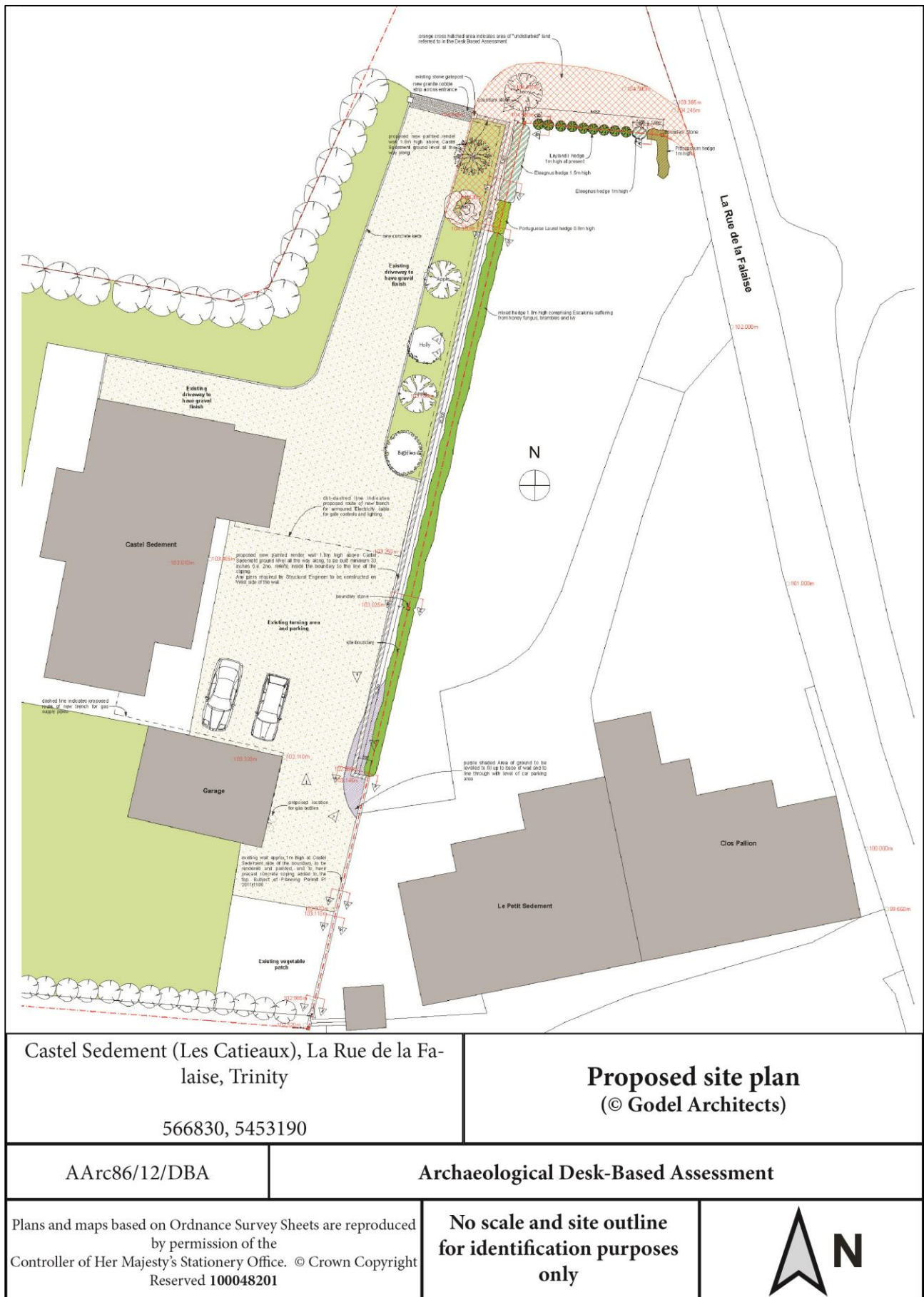


Figure 12: Proposed areas of disturbance and development



8. Photographs

Photo 1: Area of Archaeological potential (left of image) where the original land surface exists



Photo 2: Surviving earthwork of Chastel-Sedement



Photo 3: Area of dumped spoil in Field 915 from the construction of the property in the 1990s



Photo 4: Area of Archaeological potential to be monitored during digging of foundation trench for boundary wall (looking north)



Photo 5: Agricultural building to the north of the Project Site, showing extent of ground reduction



9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Project Gazetteer

This gazetteer has been compiled from a range of sources including the Department of the Environment Register of Buildings and Sites of Architectural, Archaeological and Historical Importance, and the Schedule of Areas of Archaeological Potential, articles from the Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise and a database of archaeological sites in the Channel Islands (held by Absolute Archaeology).

No	Source	Site/Find Name	Period	Description
1	AS 112	Chastel-Sedement	Medieval	Earthwork interpreted as defensive site. Suggestions that site may be Roman by the trapezoidal shape is more indicative of a Viking period camp or early medieval site. Long assumed to be the fortified area or 'villa' referred to by Niño in 1406.
2	SJ TR0066	Les Augrès Manor	Medieval – Post-Medieval	The house takes its name from the nearby fief which in turn is called after a 13th century owner, Guillaume des Augreys. This is the best known example in Jersey of a house originally unconnected with the fief whose manor it later became. The fief of Les Augrès is in the south-west corner of the parish of Trinity. For a time in the Middle Ages the fief was held by the Brasdefer family, whose house on the fief was thus the Manoir des Augrès, but by the end of the 15th century the house and fief had apparently been separated. In the 17th century the fief was acquired by Elie Dumaesq, and the house where he lived on the other side of the parish became the Les Augrès Manor that we know today
3	SJ TR0151	Diélament Manor Colombier	Medieval	'Diélament' is said to be a corruption of 'Guille Hamon', which was perhaps the name of an early seigneur: the Hamon family founded the Abbey of St Héliier in 1125. The fief of Diélament, though not among the highest in dignity, is thought to be the largest in Jersey and was held successively by two of Jersey's most powerful families, the de Barentins and the Lemprières. Its original manor house was in Les Grands Vaux, where the parishes of St Helier, St Saviour and Trinity meet, but by 1524 this was only a memory and the manor had been established on its present site. The Lemprières lived here for generations, but after they moved to Rozel Manor in the late 18th century Diélament was evidently neglected and in 1809 Stead recorded the manor house as being in a dilapidated condition. It was later demolished after the estate was sold away from the fief, and its location is not known for certain: it may have been behind the present house, adjacent to the outbuildings. The round colombier contains nesting boxes for the 1,000 birds, making it the largest colombier in Jersey. Colombiers occur only on Manor grounds and were a privilege accorded only to the Seigneur of a fief. The principal reason for keeping pigeons was to ensure a source of meat during winter months. The colombier at Diélament Manor is recorded to have been rebuilt in 1573 by Thomas Lemprière, who obtained a special dispensation from the manorial court of Rozel in order to do so.
4	SJ TR0006	Moulin de Bas	C17	Jersey water mill possibly of C17 origin, retains a wheel and much of its historic character. Water mill with integral house and attached cottage. Mill house: 2 ranges in L-plan, main mill building now house facing east, shorter modern wing facing north, water wheel (taken from Gargate Mill) on north elevation of main building where it meets north wing; pitched pantile roofs to both, dressed granite chimney to main house, thatch stones, stone copings and corbels. Front (east) elevation: 2 storey, 5 bay, 2 bay wing to south; granite rubble, dressed granite quoins and openings, small timber sash windows, 12 pane (6/6); wing 2 bay, modern tall windows to 1st floor, brick openings. North elevation: large iron and timber undershot water wheel to gabled elevation of house, north wing: 2 storey, 4 bay, of similar construction to house, also residential. Cottage attached to east elevation of house: single storey, 4 bay with 2 bay wing in similar style to east, hipped and pitched pantile roof, similar construction to main building.

Appendix 2: Abbreviations and Terminology

ARCHAEOLOGY

Taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. It is also used in this report as a means of describing physical remains (e.g. there is likely to be preservation of archaeology).

DBA

Desk Based Assessment.

aJD

Above Jersey Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

PROJECT SITE

The area of the proposed development site. This may include heritage assets and boundaries that will not be directly affected by development, but which by virtue of their proximity to the actual ground disturbance are important elements of the historic environment and which must be included in any assessment.

SEA LEVEL

Heights are to the nearest metre above sea level.

STUDY AREA

Area around the Project Site whose Historic Environment is assessed to understand the nature of the site. The Study Area for this DBA is 1000m from the centre of the Project Site.

Appendix 3: Confidence Ratings

Low

Archaeological activity is considered unlikely based on available information, but cannot be entirely discounted.

Medium

Likely survival of archaeological remains based on proximity to archaeological sites, associated finds and or literary and cartographic evidence.

High

Confirmed presence of archaeological features, preserved to a high level from which vital and important evidence could be obtained.

Appendix 4: General chronological table (for the purposes of this DBA)

Period	Date	Information
Prehistoric	250000 – 100/56 BC	Generalised period from the earliest human activity in the island to the official conquest of Gaul by the Romans.
Palaeolithic	250000 - 10000 BC	Defined by a number of key sites showing Neanderthal and Early Human activity, for example La Cote de St Brelade. Mobile groups, ephemeral habitation evidence, stone tool technology.
Mesolithic	10000 – 5000 BC	Period of major transformation in the European environment and landscape after the end of the last Ice Age and the beginning of the Holocene. Mobile hunter-gatherer communities, sophisticated tool technology and some semi-permanent settlement with evidence for the exploitation of the coastal zones of the islands. Example at Lihou Priory on Guernsey.
Neolithic	5000 – 2400 BC	The Channel Islands saw an earlier transition to the Neolithic than in Britain. Emergence of monumental architecture, first (potentially) with menhirs later by chambered tombs and subsequently gallery graves. Development of complex society, more sedentary lifestyles and more clearly defined symbolic behaviour.
Chalcolithic/Beaker phase	2400 – 1800 BC	Earliest introduction of copper to western Europe. Expansion of the pan-European Beaker phenomenon, including prestigious material culture and individual burials. Bell Beakers found throughout the archipelago including local emulations called Jersey Bowls. Cist-in-Circle monuments.
Bronze Age	1800 – 800 BC	The Introduction of Bronze as a material, used by the elite at first and later available to the populace more widely. Barrows/tumuli for the dead in the early stages replaced by a lack of monuments and the preponderance toward hoard deposition. Large quantities of bronze metalwork found throughout the islands and in Jersey in particular.
Iron Age	800 – 100/56 BC	Little change to domestic life in the islands. Return of monumental architecture in the form of promontory forts (at C��tel Rozel, Fremont etc) in the earlier periods, followed by warrior and horse burials in the Middle to Later stages (Guernsey only).
Gallo-Roman	100/56 BC – 400 AD	Used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions in France and the Channel Islands with Roman culture. Represented by the identification of Gallo-Roman ceramics and roofing material recently excavated at Grouville Parish Church, confirming the first evidence of Gallo-Roman occupation in Jersey.
Early Medieval	400 – 973 AD	Represents the time from the end of the Roman period c.400 AD to the annexation of the Channel Islands as a region of Normandy under William Longsword in 973.
Medieval	973 – 1600 AD	Norman and post-Norman phases of Channel Island life. The islands remained loyal to the English crown despite the loss of territories in NW France under King John. Period of fortification building throughout the archipelago and in Jersey at Mont Orgueil and later at Elizabeth Castle. 1600 AD is an arbitrary date, but enables the separation of periods with more intensive industries.
Post-Medieval	1600 – 1900 AD	Period of rapid change in Jersey including the growing urbanisation of St Helier, the involvement of the island in the English Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars. Industrial activity did not impact the island as it did Britain and the rest of Europe.
Modern	1900 – 1950 AD	Radical alterations to the landscape during WWI and particularly WWII. Extensive defensive fortifications across the Channel Islands and forming part of Hitler's Atlantic wall.