

# Land at 63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland, Somerset

## Heritage Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## Avon Archaeology Limited

Planning Reference: 53/20/00022/DT





## SUMMARY

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## Abbreviations

AAL	Avon Archaeology Limited
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



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## **Abstract**

*This report sets out the findings of both a Heritage Impact Assessment and an Archaeological Evaluation of land at 63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland, Somerset. The Heritage Impact Assessment examined the site and surrounding landscape and included a detailed desk-based study of the historical setting of the site. It concluded that although the site lies within the wider landscape of the Battle of Sedgemoor it does not present visually as a continuation of the battlefield. Neither was there significant evidence to suggest it played a role in the battle.*

*The evaluation opened two trenches within the proposed development site. A single stratified feature, a possible ditch, was identified but no dating evidence for it was found. It is possible, therefore that it may be contemporary with the Battle of Sedgemoor but there is equally no evidence to recommend such an assumption. As part of the evaluation a metal detector survey of the site was undertaken, it too found no obvious evidence that the site had formed part of a battlefield.*

*In conclusion the report finds that there is no compelling heritage case against development for domestic purposes, provided it is congruous with the vernacular character of the area. However, further investigation of the ditch feature recorded in the evaluation may be beneficial.*



Figure 1

Location of Study Area. Grid lines at 1km



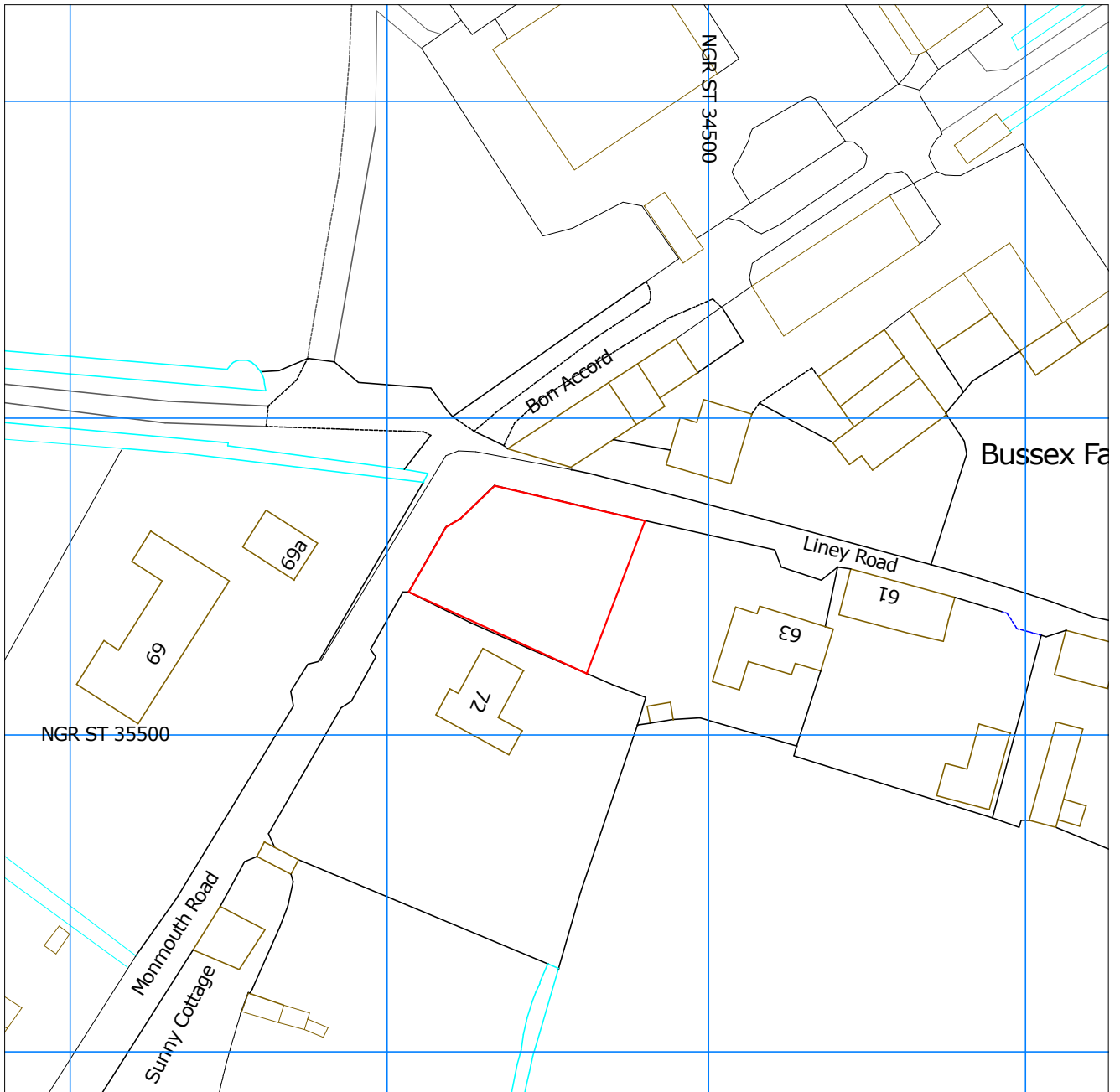
Site location



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Figure 2

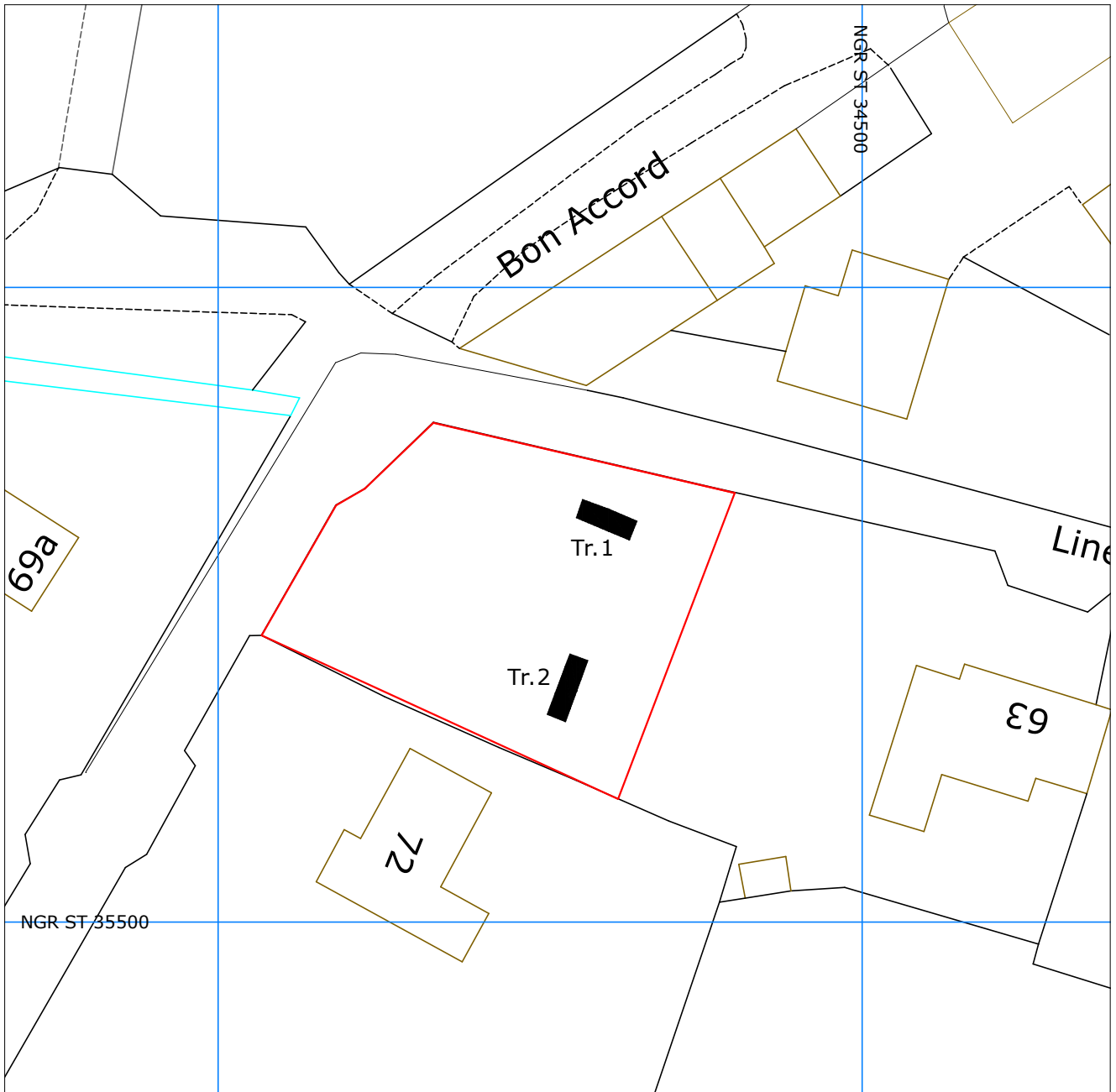
Site Boundary Plan  
Grid at 50m intervals



— Site boundary

Figure 3

Evaluation Trench Location Plan  
Grid at 50m intervals



0 25m

- Site boundary
- Evaluation Trench



## **Introduction**

**1.1** A Heritage Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation were requested by Historic England (HE ref. P01264630) on land at 63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland, Somerset, to inform an Outline Planning Application (Sedgemoor District Council ref: 53/20/00022/DT) for the erection of one new dwelling at the above site. The aim of this combined project is to enable an understanding of the impact of the proposed development upon known and unknown designated and undesignated heritage assets and their settings.

**1.2** The current land owner would like to sell part of the land included within the curtilage of 63 Liney Road with outline planning permission attached for the construction of a single storey dwelling (bungalow). The site lies within an area of high archaeological importance as it sits within the Historic England Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Sedgemoor (NHLE 1000032).

**1.3** The Historic Impact Assessment element of the project will review and compile all documentary, cartographic and archaeological data relating to the site and assess the proposed development's impact on the site's setting and any potential below ground archaeology thereupon. The Archaeological Evaluation element will establish the presence or absence of significant buried archaeological deposits on the site and, if present, their date, quality, and importance. The results of the fieldwork will be used to characterise and define the nature of the heritage assets within the development area and the potential impact that the development will have on those heritage assets.

**1.4** This combined project will be archived with the South West Heritage Trust under the museum accession number TTNCM 90/2020 and under OASIS entry 410203.

## **2 National Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy**

**2.1** Between March 2010 and March 2012, national planning guidelines as they related specifically to the historic environment were outlined in the document known as PPS5 (Planning and Policy Statement), Planning for the Historic Environment. However, in March 2012, PPS5, and indeed all the other planning policy guidance and statements which underpinned the operation of the national planning process, was replaced by a single, greatly simplified, overarching and integrated document known as the National Planning

Policy Framework (Dept for Communities and Local Government, reissued and revised 2019).

**2.2** Within this document, matters relating to archaeology and the historic environment generally are dealt with in Section 16, *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*, pages 54-57. Section 16 of the NPPF is a development and reframing of its predecessor, PPS5, although it is at least, in principle, underpinned by many of the same basic tenets. By far the majority of the document consists of guidance to local authorities on how they should handle matters relating to the historic environment in their own areas, and the essence of the narrative is that, in most cases, decisions relating to the historic environment are devolved down to local authorities in the form of their own Local Plans, Core Strategies, Development Frameworks, Supplementary Planning Documents, etc.

**2.3** Specifically for Sedgemoor, the local authority's policies on heritage and the historic environment are laid out in its Local Plan 2011-2032, which was formally adopted in February 2019. Paras. 7.215 to 7.228 refer to, and Policy D26 outlines, the formal basis which underpins the local authority's guidance in this area, under the main headings of General, Designated Heritage Assets, Non-Designated Heritage Assets, and Local Archaeological Remains.

**2.4** The site lies within the south eastern corner of the Designated Heritage Asset and Registered Battlefield of The Battle of Sedgemoor and also bounds on its western side an area identified by Historic England and the local authority as being of High Archaeological Potential (**Figures 15** and **16**). Policy D26, as regards Designated Heritage Assets and Areas of High Archaeological Potential, states

*Great weight will be given to the conservation of Sedgemoor's designated heritage assets. Where applicable development will be supported where it proposes:*

- The repair and conservation of designated heritage assets, including the regeneration of heritage at risk or any designated heritage assets that are vacant;*
- Appropriate design, form, scale and materials including contemporary solutions which positively enhance the character, appearance and significance of the designated heritage asset;*
- A viable use for designated heritage assets, consistent with their historic character, with a clear presumption against their demolition;*



- *An emphasis on the importance of the setting of designated heritage assets, as well as important views to or from the assets themselves; and*
- *Appropriate energy efficiency measures where the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility are adopted and that do not harm the significance of the asset.*

*Any harm to the significance of a designated heritage assets must be clearly justified. Harm that is less than substantial will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal; whether it has been demonstrated that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset; and whether the works proposed are the minimum required to secure the long-term use of the asset. Where development resulting in the loss of a designated heritage asset is exceptionally permitted, the Council will require the recording of features of interest that would be destroyed in the course of any proposed works. The recording shall be carried out in accordance with appropriate building recording and analysis standards. The results shall form part of the Somerset Historic Environment Record for that site and made publicly available...*

*Where development proposals will affect Areas of Archaeological Potential (as defined on the Policies Map) and elsewhere where there is reason to believe that there may be archaeological remains, a sufficiently detailed assessment of the nature, character and importance of the site will be sought prior to the determination of any application. A proportionate response will be taken to the detail of the assessment required. Where an initial assessment suggests a site includes or has the potential to include archaeological remains applicants will be required to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment. Where necessary and proportionate this should be followed by a more detailed assessment (e.g. including field evaluation).*

*Development proposals which would damage or destroy locally important archaeological remains will not be supported, unless the benefits of the development outweigh the local significance of the remains and a suitable mitigation strategy of recording, analysis and publication is designed. Where physical preservation in situ is not possible, mitigation strategies will be required for the protection and/or recording of the site.*

### 3 Site Location, Geology and Topography

**3.1** The site lies at the northernmost point of the village of Westonzoyland, located approximately 3 miles south east of Bridgewater in the district of Sedgemoor, Somerset, on a corner formed by the junction of Monmouth Road and Liney Road (See **Figures 1** and **2**). It is centred on NGR ST 35473 35427 and comprises a total area of just under 652msq. The site is relatively flat, lying at a height of between 7 and 8m aOD, although its lowest levels are concentrated along its north eastern edge. The site is bounded along its northern and eastern sides by Liney Road and Monmouth Road respectively, and to its south and west by the houses and gardens of 72 Monmouth Road and 63 Liney Road respectively.

**3.2** Geologically, the site occupies an area dominated by Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone and Halite-stone. Here sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period, when the local environment was influenced by hot deserts. Its characteristics are described by the BGS as

*Dominantly red, less commonly green-grey, mudstones and subordinate siltstones with thick halite-bearing units in some basinal areas. Thin beds of gypsum/anhydrite widespread; sandstones are also present.*

The BGS also records some superficial deposits of Burtle Formation in the area, described as

*Sands and gravels. The sands are fine-grained and quartzose, with beds of comminuted shell. The gravels, which are composed of Chalk flint, quartz, sandstone, cherts, rounded lumps of red, green and grey Triassic mudstones and Liassic fossils, are marine in origin with a few interbedded palaeosols and freshwater sands. They contain fossilised marine, fresh water and terrestrial shells and remains of elephant, rhinoceros, horse, auroch, red, fallow and roe deer, hyena and wolf. The marine shells indicate both cold and warm water climates and sandy, muddy and rocky habitat, and the freshwater shell *Corbicula fluminalis* indicates a climate warmer than now. The deposits form low mounds protruding through the surface of the Holocene silts and clays of the Somerset Levels Formation.*

Unfortunately, there are no available borehole records on or close to the proposed development site. However, a 1969 excavation centred on 3 Southview Road, approximately 500m south-south-west of the study site, provides a good description of alluvial and geological deposits encountered (Mills and Miles 1969). The authors recorded

'natural sand' of around 0.45m thickness, into which Late Iron Age and Romano-British features were cut, at a depth of between 0.75m and 1m below the then ground level, and noted that this was 'concreted into slabs' in places. Below this sand layer lay 'sandy, light brown clay' of between 50mm and 130mm; it was underneath this layer than Murcia Mudstone was present. They also noted alluvial deposits of 'pinkish-brown, silty clay' overlying the 'natural sand' layer in a trench sited to the rear of 1 Oakley Close, which they interpreted as vestiges of post-medieval flooding (Mills and Miles 1969, 17). It may be that the study site lies on similar stratigraphy, and that any archaeological features will be most likely to truncate 'natural sand' rather than Murcia Mudstone deposits.

## **4 Heritage Impact Assessment**

### **4.1 Methodology**

Searches were made of the indices of the archival collections of the South West Heritage Trust (based at the Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton). A variety of online bibliographic resources, most notably COPAC, BIAB, The Archaeology Data Service and Google Scholar, were used to identify potentially useful sources of information, whether published or otherwise. In addition, information was utilised from a trawl of the Somerset Historic Environment Record. A visit to the site was made by the author on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and a digital photographic record was made, a selection from which is presented in **Plates**.

Unfortunately, as research was carried out during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries were closed to the public and the Somerset Heritage Centre was not permitting in-person visits to view their collections. Therefore, online resources were heavily relied on.

### **4.2 Historical Background**

#### **Westonzoyland**

Modern academic theory argues in favour of continuity of settlement between the end of the Romano-British period during the first half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the dates of the earliest surviving Anglo-Saxon documents during the 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, despite a dearth, in most areas of England, of historical or archaeological evidence to support this. In the case of Westonzoyland, I would argue that the place name evidence below, in addition to





late Romano-British occupation within the modern village and a comparatively large collection of isolated medieval finds within the parish (discussed below), supports the above theory, and continuation of occupation and activity within the modern parish bounds between the Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods, in at least some capacity, is fairly likely.

The place name 'Westonzoyland' derives from the Anglo-Saxon *Sowi*, or the name of an unidentified watercourse + OE *ieg* 'island' (Costen 2011, 114). At the time of Domesday Book, 1086, the estate of Sowi likely encompassed Westonzoyland, Middlezoy and Othery, was located within the Whitley Hundred, and was owned by Glastonbury Abbey; the prefix Weston does not appear in documentary sources until A.D 1245, when Westonzoyland was known as *Westonsowi*, 'the westerly manor of the estate called Sowi' (Mills 2011, 491). From place name evidence alone, therefore, we can surmise that occupation of the modern Westonzoyland parish was established during the Anglo-Saxon period (cf. Dunning 2004, 190).

However, documentary sources do not permit an exact date for the establishment of Anglo-Saxon settlement in the parish, as the date of the earliest document that is considered by the majority of Anglo-Saxon scholars to be at least based in fact, charter S.251, is contested (Abrams 1996, 218-220; esawyer.co.uk). S.251 is included within the 14<sup>th</sup> century cartularies of Glastonbury Abbey and purports to be a copy of a charter produced in A.D 725 which recorded the granting of twelve hides at Sowy from King Ine to Glastonbury Abbey. It is generally agreed that in this document 'Sowy' refers to Middlezoy, Westonzoyland and Othery; however, it has been highlighted that the bounds described correspond to the 14<sup>th</sup> century boundaries of those estates and therefore may not truthfully reflect their 8<sup>th</sup> century bounds (ibid.). Furthermore, the hideages and place names given mirror those in other contemporary documents and so, again, they may not represent the situation in the 8<sup>th</sup> century (ibid.). Therefore, although S.251 is likely to be rooted in actual 8<sup>th</sup> century events, the details of the document are likely to be 14<sup>th</sup> century updates designed to cement the Abbey's claim to the land. Such retrospective and updated charters were commonly employed by the Church in the post-Anglo-Saxon period for this purpose. Unfortunately, no other reliable documents elucidating ownership of the Westonzoyland estate exist between the late 8<sup>th</sup> and late 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the words of Abrams (1996, 220) 'this silence may represent an unchallenged possession by Glastonbury of a stable land-unit, but the questions raised about the bounds, and the inconsistent hideage totals, should remind us that change could take place without documentation'.

The later medieval, post-medieval and modern history of Westonzoyland is discussed in depth in the Victoria County History of Somerset, volume 8 (Dunning 2004, 190-210), and therefore only a summary of the most salient points is presented here. Unfortunately, the physical copy of the volume could not be viewed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and so the publication was accessed online British History Online (<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol8>). Although the online version is a word-for-word transcription of the text, it does not distinguish pages and therefore no specific page numbers can be given in the proceeding summary. All information presented derives from this VCH volume unless otherwise specified.

As noted above, Glastonbury Abbey held the estate of Sowy from at least the early 11<sup>th</sup> century, although it is highly likely that they held it from the 8<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The settlement of Westonzoyland had been distinguished from others within the estate lands by the prefix of 'Weston' by the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, and by the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the estate of Sowy was regarded as three separate manors of which Westonzoyland was the chief. At the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 Westonzoyland manor passed to the Crown, which retained it until 1547 when the manor was among estates granted to Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset.

After Edward was found guilty of treason in 1552 and was ordered to forfeit all of his lands to the Crown, the manor was leased to Sir Henry Sidney and then to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, in 1566; Robert Dudley sold the leasehold to Sir Edward Dyer in 1570. Dyer mortgaged and forfeited the manor to the Crown in or after 1600 and at his death in 1607 it passed to Sir Thomas Egerton, Baron Ellesmere (later Vct. Brackley), Lord Chancellor. In the following year it was acquired by Peter Vanlore. Sir Edward Powell, Peter Vanlore's son-in-law, seems to have taken possession on Vanlore's death in 1627, but in 1638 the manor, heavily mortgaged, was assigned to Peter's son, Sir Peter Vanlore, Bt. The latter before his death in 1645 appears to have sold it to Dr. Arthur Duck.

In 1672 Martha, one of Arthur Duck's two daughters and coheirs, placed one half of the manor in trust for her daughters, and in 1687, after her death, her son Richard Duck conveyed the other half to the same trustee, George Crane, under the terms of a Chancery decree. Both Duck and Crane sold some of the land to pay Duck's debts, creating freeholds held by the Bridge, Chapman, Strangways, and Prankard (later Dickinson) families. The rest of the Duck estate was offered for sale in 1696 and by 1703 had been acquired by Benjamin Hawkins, an Exeter merchant, who was succeeded by his daughters Elizabeth,

Jane, and Mary. Jane died without issue and her third was shared between her sisters. In 1709 Elizabeth married Simon Welman of Poundisford in Pitminster, and in 1731 Mary married Simon's brother Thomas. Elizabeth was followed by her son Isaac Welman (d. 1782) and by Isaac's son Thomas (d. 1829), who in turn left a son, Charles Welman. Mary left a daughter who married William Hawker in 1755. In his will, dated 1804, Hawker left his estate to his three daughters, from whose many children and heirs Charles Welman acquired it piecemeal between 1839 and 1841. Ultimately Charles Welman and his mother Charlotte held jointly nearly 1,000 a. of the estate, but subsequently much land was sold and lordship was not recorded after 1865.

The Sowy estate, and therefore Westonzoyland, appears to have been a fairly wealthy one during the latter half of the Medieval period. In 1086, the estate of Sowy paid tax on 12 hides of land including 30 acres of meadow, 12 acres of underwood and 20 ploughlands, with livestock recorded as 17 cattle, 18 pigs, and 50 sheep. The value of the estate was £24 per annum, a very large sum in that period, and over the next 60 years the Sowy estate doubled in size. By around 1260, it encompassed about 1,050 acres and was valued at nearly £76 per annum. Expansion of the estate lands into the surrounding regularly-flooded moors and marshlands had been made possible both by the construction of new drainage systems by tenants and by sharing agreements between adjacent lordships, beginning in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Continuing encroachments were evidently not all with the abbot's approval: freeholders agreed in the 1260s, 1281, and 1292 to surrender their recently recovered fields, and in 1281 agreed to allow the abbot to make encroachments himself anywhere in the moors; by 1302 the abbot was said to have appropriated 160 acres in the moor between Greylake and Othery. The acquisition of this new land allowed the estate to maintain a thriving agricultural industry.

Likely due to the rapid scale of encroachment into previously unfarmable land, the erection of a second mill in 1330, and the granting of a weekly market and annual fair in 1332, the number of estate tenants increased exponentially during the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, records indicate that Westonzoyland was badly affected by the Black Death, whose toll on the population meant that many failed to fulfil their obligations to the manor, including upkeep of drainage, tilling and ploughing. Unfortunately, no accounts of the manor survive from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to illuminate exactly what long term effects were felt, but the noticeably smaller number of tenants recorded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century suggest that the estate never fully recovered the level of prosperity evident of its 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> century heyday.

Beginning in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, manorial land within the Westonzoyland estate was gradually subdivided, inclosed and let or sold, and by 1516 the whole demesne was let except for the 12 acre site of the manor house at Westonzoyland and two closes there.

Westonzoyland is probably most famous for being the location, in 1685, of the last pitched battle fought on English soil, the Battle of Sedgemoor. The focus of activity during the battle was probably located in the moorland of Sedgemoor immediately to the west and north-west of the proposed development site, but the study site sits within the south eastern corner of the legally designated Registered Battlefield site (NLHE number 1000032; see **Figure 16**) and corresponding Area of High Archaeological Potential. Historic England, in their List entry, summarise the events of the battle thus:

*The Monmouth Rebellion of June-July 1685 was an attempt to usurp the crown of England by James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, from the Catholic King James II.*

*Having spent a year in voluntary exile in the Netherlands, Monmouth landed in Dorset in June 1685. Despite a number of setbacks, he had gathered around him an army of 7,000 men by the time he was faced by the royal army near Westonzoyland. Monmouth decided to chance all upon a night attack.*

*On the night of 5/6 July, Monmouth's rebels advanced. However, they hesitated at the Bussex Rhyne watercourse and instead of rushing the royal army, took it in at a distance in a firefight. All night the forces exchanged musket and cannon fire, but at daybreak the King's army advanced, crossed the Rhyne and forced the rebels to flee. Many were caught and killed in what is now Moor Drove Rhyne.*

Additional discussion of the battle, in particular in relation to its contemporary setting and landscape characteristics, can be found under **Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Site Setting and Above Ground Heritage Assets** below.

As indicated in the preceding paragraphs, large tracts of land within the Westonzoyland estate were ever at risk of perennial flooding. During the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the burgeoning population and focus on drainage works appeared to have largely kept the problem manageable. However, several accounts of heavy flooding within reclaimed moorland during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the moors were said to be under water for several months a year in 1780, which may indicate either that maintenance of reliable drainage systems was less frequent than earlier periods or that contemporary climatic events, such



as the so-called 'Little Ice Age', were exacerbating the flooding problem. Therefore, it is probably not surprising given the increase in regular flooding and subsequent decreasing availability of common land that population levels dropped dramatically during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In 1795, after many failed attempts, it was agreed that the area known as Sedgemoor, consisting entirely of common land recovered through an extensive drainage system that included the newly constructed King's Sedgemoor Drain, was to be inclosed; Westonzoyland received 128 allotments. In 1801, Langmoor and part of Sedgemoor north of the village and Place Common, a large strip of land to the south-east of the estate, were also inclosed and the remaining 144 acres were finally allotted. Unfortunately, flooding remained a substantial risk to tenants and it was not until the building of pumping engines from 1830 could the newly inclosed lands be drained. Even during the 19<sup>th</sup> century flooding was not unheard of, as in 1877, when a severe flood led to several fatalities and destroyed or severely damaged 22 houses, crops, and grassland, including in Bussex.

Throughout its history the local economy of Westonzoyland has been largely based in agriculture, but during the 17<sup>th</sup> century there were also a small but notable industry in textile production. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries a brickyard was also maintained, and census records record a fairly wide range of trades and crafts being practised within the village, such as carpentry, watchmaking, tailoring and surgery. Interestingly, there are no records of quarrying taking place within the population in any notable way, despite the plethora of sand pits recorded on the Somerset HER. Population levels experienced a significant spike and subsequent collapse during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but remained fairly stable from 1881 to 1961, from which date the population has more than doubled due to the village became a popular commuter town for Bridgewater.

### **The Study Site and its Environs**

Historically, the study site sat on the eastern edges of the hamlet of Bussex (HER 36450) and around 250m to the north-west of the hamlet of Liney (HER 36449), centred on Liney Farm. Cartographic evidence suggests that it formed part of farmed land subject to enclosure during or prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and does not appear to have been occupied by dwellings until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (see **Historic Map Regression**).

According to archival evidence, Liney had been established by the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century (Somerset Record Society vol. 5, 171). At this date, it was known merely as 'Lim'. This may indicate that the origin of the place name was OE *līn* 'flax', possibly later combined

with OE *hæg* 'enclosure' (Mills 2011, 522 and 523). That would serve well as a realistic origin for a possible enclosure formed by Liney Road, Cheer Lane and Monmouth Road, discussed under **Historic Map Regression**, and the location of Liney Farm along its eastern side. An alternative is that the modern place name of Liney derives from 'Lin Hay', an agricultural building type defined by Historic England (2014, 16) as a 'two-storeyed building with open-fronted cattle shelter and hay loft'. Historic England also notes that this form of cow shed was common in western and southern Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, but unfortunately does not give a date range for its use.

The hamlet of Bussex, whose centre is highly likely to have lain to the west of the modern Monmouth Road, had been established by 1600 (SHC A/AHW/37). The origin of the name is unknown, but it may have referred to a specific individual, as a map of 1795 marks a 'Bussick's foot path' (SHC Q.RDE.116). Although the place name was spelt as such in 1795, by 1801 the spelling 'Bussex' was used – although of course this was likely down to non-standardised spelling in this era – and has remained so to this day (SHC Q.RDE.171; **Figure 6**).

### 4.3 Archaeological Background

An HER trawl of a 400m radius of the site was requested and, along with additional relevant HER records outside of this radius and found in the Somerset HER website, forms the bulk of the discussion below. The results of this trawl can be found on **Figures 14 – 17**. The Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) database were also reviewed, although it is very unfortunate that the results of a recent slew of fieldwork in the vicinity of the site have, for most part, not yet been published, and therefore cannot be assessed in detail. However, what is known of these fieldwork projects is included in the discussion below. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database and the Historic England List were also searched, and relevant results added to the following assessment of the archaeological background of the site.

A number of finds of prehistoric flint tools, pottery, burials and cut features have been found throughout Westonzoyland parish. These date from the Mesolithic period through to the Iron Age, and each temporal collection appears to be focussed on a different area. For example, Mesolithic microliths were recovered during excavations in 1969 centred on 3 Southview Road, around 600m south of the study site, but have not been found anywhere



else in the parish (Mills and Miles 1969, 41). Neolithic flint tools, meanwhile, are recorded only to the east of Liney Farm, around 500m – 700m east-south-east of the study site (HER 12112). During the Bronze Age, the foci of human activity seemed to shift southwards, with a number of Bronze Age ditches and two Bronze Age burials being found during an evaluation to the east of Liney Road, around 1km south-east of the study site (HER 37339; HER 40063; see also HER 41458). During the Iron Age, activity including the digging of successive boundary ditches, pits and a probable clay hearth, seemed to once again centre on the present-day settlement nucleus of Westonzoyland, with a number of Late Iron Age features and finds being recorded from fieldwork centred on 3 Southview Road (HER 10928; HER 28548; HER 30218). The PAS also records the finding of an Iron Age coin in the Westonzoyland area. In addition, a possible prehistoric square enclosure has been identified on aerial photographs to the north of Bussex Farm, around 200m to its west of the study site (HER 2891). As discussed below in the **Aerial Photography and LIDAR** section, a south-west to north-east orientated trackway seen on aerial photographs and located immediately to the south-east of the study site may be prehistoric in date, although this is not certain (HER 18910).

Romano-British activity in the form of field systems, pottery, cut features and burials is also seen archaeologically throughout Westonzoyland parish. For the most part, it is seen alongside the late Iron Age activity centred on 3 and 23 Southview Road, suggesting continuity of settlement for at least several centuries (HER 10928; HER 28548; HER 30218). However, as noted below in the **Aerial Photography and LIDAR** section, cropmarks show a probable prehistoric or Romano-British square enclosure in the fields immediately to the south-east of the study site (HER 42833), and ancient field systems and other square enclosures have been identified through aerial photographs 500m to the north-west and south-west of the study site (HER 12105 and HER 12797 respectively), suggesting that Romano-British were agriculturally active in the hinterlands of their probable settlement centred on Southview Road. Isolated finds of Romano-British pottery and coins throughout the Westonzoyland area have also been recorded by the PAS.

Medieval settlement in Westonzoyland is less well attested archaeologically, although there is substantial documentary evidence for it (see **Historical Background**). Due to this documentary evidence, the medieval hamlet of Liney has been entered on the Historic Environment Record under the number HER 36449, despite there being little archaeological evidence for its establishment. Medieval activity in the area is suggested archaeologically solely in field boundaries on Lang Moor, to the north-west of the study site, and a large number of pits related to sand quarrying to the north of Bussex Farm and

the hamlet of Liney (HER 18908, HER 18911 and HER 18912 respectively). This includes one sand pit in tithe plot 167, immediately to the south-east of the study site (18911). However, these have all been identified solely on aerial photographs and not through excavation, and therefore their exact date is uncertain. The HER puts forward the likely medieval date on the basis of their alignments being at odds with those of modern plot divisions, but notes that they could also have been quarried in the post-medieval period. A recent watching brief at Bussex Farm, during which a thick layer of cultivated soil which may be late medieval or post-medieval in date was seen underneath modern topsoil, supports the suggestion that the population of Westonzoyland farmed land within a fairly wide radius of the village's nucleus during the medieval period (HER 41491). Indisputable archaeological evidence of medieval activity in the Westonzoyland area comes from isolated finds recorded on the PAS, including eleven coins, a seal matrix, a strap fitting, and a jetton.

Greater archaeological evidence exists for settlement in Westonzoyland during the post-medieval period. It was early in this period that the hamlet of Bussex was established (HER 36450), and quarrying of Burtle sands continued between 200m and 400m to the north and north-east of the study site (HER 11317, HER 18909). These sand pits were again all identified from aerial photographs. Unsurprisingly, artefacts such as weaponry used during the Battle of Sedgemoor, as well as skeletal remains, have been found within approximately 200m – 400m to the north-west of the study site (HER 15580; SHC A.CFH.4.3.175: Photo 1418; SHC DD/BLM/25/1/12). However, a recent metal detector survey at 53 Liney Road (HER 42834), around 200m to the east of the study site, yielded nothing; moreover, recent watching briefs at Bussex Farm (HER 11316) and at 53 Liney Road (HER 39194) have found only 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material. This may suggest that the bulk of archaeological evidence for the battle lies to the west of rather than on the study site. Substantial fieldwork 250m – 300m to the south-west and west of the study site which may elucidate the truth of this theory, in the form of a metal detecting survey, geophysical surveys and trial trenching, was undertaken in 2002 by the University of Glasgow, but unfortunately the results of this fieldwork have not yet been published (HER 30255; HER 30256; HER 30257). Isolated finds of a strap fitting, buckle, jetton and locket recorded on the PAS are also thought to date to the post-medieval period.

A number of buildings in Westonzoyland are recorded on the Historic England List, but these are situated exclusively in the centre or the south of the village, and therefore are not discussed here.



#### 4.4 Historic Map Regression

Historic maps held in the archives of the South West Heritage Trust (referred to below as the Somerset Heritage Centre, or SHC) and digitised on Know Your Place (Somerset), National Library of Scotland, and old-maps.co.uk, along with their corresponding survey books where available, were studied and compared in order to expand upon the narrative of the study site and its surrounding area. The results are discussed below and presented in **Figures 4 – 10**.

The earliest map examined dates to 1660 and has been reproduced in **Figure 5** with the kind permission of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. This is an illustrative map of the main centres of population in 17<sup>th</sup> century Somerset, and as such does not offer any detail about the study site itself, nor the layout of either Liney or Bussex at that date. However, it does clearly show that the study site was located within a large area of open fields (marked as 'Fields'), highly likely to have been common land (Mills 2011, 521). Therefore, although it is certain that at least some of this area was occupied by dwellings and their attached gardens (given the proven existence of both Liney and Bussex at this date), it strongly suggests that enclosure on a large scale was not introduced until after 1660. This may increase the potential for surviving medieval ridge and furrow (a common feature in the landscape of open fields) within the study site itself. The map also shows the settlements of Othery and Middlezoy, providing a visual context for the Anglo-Saxon estate detailed in the previously discussed S.251 charter.

Four maps from the turn of the 19th century, dating to 1795 (SHC Q/RDE/116), 1801 (SHC Q/RDE/171), 1809 (SHC D/P/W.zoy/20/1/1), and 1833 (SHC Q/RDE/98) were also examined. These maps show very similar plot shapes, sizes and numbers, but the 1795 map extends only as far as the northern and western sides of Liney Road and Monmouth Road, whereas the three later maps expand slightly further south and east, encompassing parts of modern 55 - 63 Liney Road. Therefore, only the 1801 and 1833 maps are presented in this report (**Figure 4b; Figure 6**).

All of these maps depict, at the very least, the characteristic curve of Monmouth Road and Liney Road, although only the map of 1833 shows the roads themselves (**Figure 4b**). However, given these similarities, it is thought reasonable to assume that the modern layout of Liney Road, Monmouth Road and Cheer Lane, to the south, had been established by the date of earliest of this group of maps, 1795. Together, they form what appears to be an enclosed island of land, which according to modern OS data lies at around 2 – 3m

above the surrounding fields on all sides (**Figure 4a** and **4b**). This is not thought sufficient to have caused this area to have been a major topographical feature, and therefore is an unlikely reason for its encirclement by the roads. Within this 'enclosure' falls the cropmarks of a possible Roman building (see **Aerial Photographic and LIDAR Evidence**) and the field names of Old Croft and New Croft. These field names indicate late medieval or post-medieval enclosure, a theory supported by the suggested etymology of Liney, discussed above. The hedge line between the two fields cuts through the cropmarks, raising the question of whether Liney Road, Monmouth Road and Cheer Lane encircle the cropmark or the fields. If the roads mirror the boundaries of a pre-medieval farmstead represented by the cropmark rather than medieval or post-medieval enclosure, then we must ask ourselves how long this area of land has been enclosed. Unfortunately, none of the available evidence investigated in this report is yet able to give us an answer to this question.

In keeping with earlier map evidence, the name 'Field's Way' shown on the 1801 map (**Figure 6**), now Monmouth Road, strongly indicates that prior to inclosure there had been a medieval open field system very close to if not encompassing the Bussex area, and therefore the study site. On this map, the plot of modern Bussex Farm is not depicted as being occupied. However, the map's accompanying survey book records a tenement named 'Cole's' on that plot; a tenement called 'Oldway's or Bussex' was actually assigned to plots 30-32, to the south-west of the study site.

Occupation on modern plots 59, 61, 63, 65 and 69 Monmouth Road by 1801 is shown by the demarcation of an area labelled 'cottages', with the study site and the area to its south and east, with the exception of 41 Fields Way, merely labelled 'Old Inclosures' (**Figure 6**). The later map of 1833, depicting the study site and the plots to its south and east, also does not depict any occupation, although the plot divisions shown are similar to those of today (**Figure 4b**). Therefore, it is not known for certain whether the buildings on the eastern side of Monmouth Road and southern side of Liney Road were in place by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, although it is thought very likely that they would be. It is probable, given that these hypothetical houses would have been built on already-enclosed land, that the maps and survey books created between 1795 and 1833 had no need to record these plots, as the maps' foci were new enclosures rather than existing ones.

Overall land divisions were similar to modern ones in all of the aforementioned maps, although the modern, large open field to the immediate south-east of the study site was divided into two separate plots, Old Croft and New Croft, by at least 1833. Plot divisions

between modern numbers 55 – 63 Liney Road and 57 – 72 Monmouth Road were the same as today with the exception of modern 66 Monmouth Road, which contained two separate plots in 1833. The study site also had slightly different boundaries in 1833, if not earlier, extending southwards into modern 72 Monmouth Road and not extending as far eastwards as today. Liney Farm and a small number of outlying buildings, which together probably made up the majority of the hamlet of Liney at that time, are shown to the south-east of the study site. Again, none of the buildings depicted along Liney Road and Monmouth Road on later maps are shown on the 1833 map, although this is likely to be due to the reasons given above.

The Westonzoyland tithe map and its corresponding apportionment were published in 1836, and an extract from that tithe map is shown on **Figure 7**. An extract of the apportionment, showing plots in the vicinity of study site, is presented below in **Table 1**. As can be seen from **Table 1**, the wider area in which the study site sat consisted mainly of arable land, houses and gardens, and orchard and its plots are recorded as such. The majority of the area examined was leased from the owner rather than worked by them at this date. This is so with the study site, which falls within tithe plot number 164 and was in use as House and Garden, being owned by John Bird and occupied by John Luckes. The only field names of interest are Bussex Hill (plots 162, 248 and 250) and Old and New Croft (plots 167 and 153 respectively). Unfortunately, the etymology of Bussex could not be identified; however, 'croft' almost certainly derives from OE croft, 'enclosure, small enclosed field' (Mills 2011, 521). This suggests that these two fields were enclosed early in the history of Westonzoyland enclosure, perhaps between the 13th and 16th centuries.

**Table 1**

A = acres, R = roods, P = perches<sup>1</sup>

Owner	Occupier	Plot No.	Plot name	Land use	A	R	P
William Hewett	William Hewett	153	New Croft	Arable	6	2	29
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margareta Thompson	James Elworthy	156	Orchard	Orchard	0	1	3
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margareta Thompson	James Elworthy	157	House and Garden		0	1	15
William Hook	William Hook	158	House and Garden		0	1	8

<sup>1</sup> There were traditionally 4 roods to the acre, and 40 perches to the rood. An acre is the equivalent of 0.405ha (or just over 4,000m<sup>2</sup>), and this therefore makes a rood about 1012m<sup>2</sup>, and a perch just over 25m<sup>2</sup>.



William Hook	William Hook	159	Orchard	Orchard	0	1	3
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Elworthy and Cox	160	Yard, Buildings &c.		0	0	21
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Elworthy and Cox	161	Orchard	Orchard	0	1	7
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Elworthy and Cox	162	At Bussex Hill	Arable	3	3	17
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Elworthy and Cox	163	House, Garden &c.		0	0	35
John Bird	John Luckes	164	House and Garden		0	3	1
Mary Field	John Pitman	165	House and Garden		0	2	12
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Henry Field	165a	Garden	Garden	0	1	5
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Charles Bulpin	166	Orchard	Orchard	0	2	21
William Hewett	William Hewett	167	Old Croft	Arable	6	1	15
William Hewett	William Hewett	168	Orchard	Orchard	1	2	37
Mary Hunt	William Gillett	169	Orchard	Orchard	0	2	26
Mary Hunt	William Gillett	170	House and Garden		0	2	26
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Susan Jennings	171	House and Garden		0	1	15
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Susan Jennings	172	Orchard	Orchard	0	1	7
Bridge William	Charles Tice	173	Orchard	Orchard	1	0	19
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Charles Richard	174	Orchard	Orchard	0	1	28
Charles Noel Welman and Charlotte Margaretta Thompson	Charles Richards	175	House and Garden		0	2	10
John Richards	John Richards	176	House and Garden		0	2	19
Ann Coleman, Gregory Hold, Reverend Wiliam Fowler and Catherine his wife	George Lovibond	248	Bussex Hill	Meadow	8	1	3
William Chapman	William Chapman	250	Bussex Hill	Meadow	6	3	20

In general, the layout of land divisions and property boundaries on the tithe map is similar to that of present-day Westonzoyland. One clear difference is the boundary of the study site itself, tithe plot 164, which incorporates the plots of both present-day numbers 63 Liney Road and 72 Monmouth Road. In addition, tithe plot 164 does not extend as far east along Liney Road as the modern number 63 Liney Road; comparing the modern and tithe

maps, it appears that the present-day dwelling of 63 Liney Road sits on what was the western edge of tithe plot 161. It is possible that remains of the buildings shown on tithe plot 164 will be disturbed by the new development, whose proposed location looks to lie just to the north of those buildings. Another clear difference between the 1836 tithe map and modern day maps is the division, in 1836, of what is now one large green space to the south of Liney Road into two plots, New Croft and Old Croft, discussed above. Along Monmouth Road, particularly on its western side, there are several plots shown which have since been amalgamated into one, such as tithe plots 165 and 166 (now 66 Monmouth Road), 171 and 172 (now 65 Monmouth Road, and 174 and 175 (now 63 Monmouth Road). This is not reflected along Liney Road, where property boundaries mirrored those of today with the exception of the study site, discussed above, and tithe plot 160, which now falls within the bounds of number 59 Liney Road. Dwellings depicted on the tithe map and still in existence today are modern numbers 57 and 59 Liney Road and 'Bon Accord' at Bussex Farm; it is highly likely that elements of buildings shown on tithe plots 156, 157, 170, 175 and 176 have been incorporated into the buildings which now stand in those plots. Now demolished buildings which were standing in 1836 include those located within tithe plot 160 (now part of number 59 Liney Road), tithe plot 164 (the study site, 63 Liney Road, and 72 Liney Road), 165 (modern number 66 Monmouth Road,) and 171 (now 65 Monmouth Road). It is clear that Liney Farm, to the south-east of the study site, had been greatly expanded by 1836, and that the hamlet of Liney to its immediate south had almost tripled in size.

Some changes are evident on the 1st edition OS map (**Figure 8**), which was surveyed in 1885 and published in 1886. The building on tithe plot 164, the study site, had been demolished by then, but its boundaries stayed the same. The dividing line between tithe plots 153 and 167 had been removed, and tithe plots 160 and 161 were amalgamated, with a new building erected in the north-west corner of tithe plot 161. It is almost certain that this new building is modern number 61 Liney Road. Sunny Cottage and number 66 Monmouth Road had also been erected by this date, and Bussex Farm (named as such) had expanded north-east along the eastern side of Straight Drove. Additional development is shown to the west of Monmouth Road in tithe plots 169, 170 and 176.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 9**) shows that minimal changes had happened by 1902, when the area was surveyed. There was just one minor but important difference within vicinity of our site – a new building named 'Oxford House' had been constructed to the immediate east of modern 'Bon Accord'. This building is still shown on modern maps and is part of Bussex Farm, but it is not clear whether that was the case in

1902. It is also apparent that the building standing on tithe plot 171 had been demolished by this date.

The next map to have been produced of the area is the 1962 1:10,560 OS Plan, but there are so few changes that this has not been reproduced in this report. The 1969 OS Plan (**Figure 10**), however, has been reproduced, as it contains all of the differences seen in the earlier 1962 map and also marks the latest date of any noticeable change in the Bussex and Liney areas of Westonzoyland. In this map, the dividing line between tithe plots 153 and 167 are shown as reinstated (there is no cartographic evidence of when it was once again removed), and there had been some expansion of Bussex Farm. Most importantly, however, this is the earliest date at which the modern boundaries between numbers 72 Monmouth Road and 59 – 63 Liney Road and their modern-day buildings are seen. Likewise, the modern layout of the area along the western side of Monmouth Road and its attendant buildings, tithe plot numbers 169 – 176, was entirely in place by 1969; tithe plot 173, however, remained undeveloped. There is also far less tree cover shown in the areas to the south-west and north-west of the study site than on previous maps. Aside from these differences, however, the 1969 OS Plan shows the Westonzoyland area and the study site in particular as it is today.

#### **4.5 Aerial Photography and LIDAR**

Aerial photographs available or identified on the Somerset HER website, as well as Google Earth images, formed the core of the aerial photographic research for this study site. Unfortunately, a visit to the NMR in Swindon was not possible due to coronavirus restrictions; however, informative NMR images identified on the Somerset HER website were requested and studied. Informative images are reproduced in **Figures 11** and **12**.

The earliest aerial photograph studied dates to 1946 and is available to view on the Somerset HER website (**Figure 11**). It clearly shows that, at this date, the study site was under arable cultivation, as were tithe plots 153 and 167 to its south-east and tithe plot 162 to its north-east. The remainder of the fields and plots surrounding the study site appear to be pasture or developed land. Unlike the present day, no trees were growing on the study site in 1946, and there was far less tree cover to the south-west and north-west of the study site in general. Furthermore, modern dwellings 69 and 69a Monmouth Road had not yet been constructed in 1946; in combination, these factors allowed for a much more open view from the study site across the registered battlefield of the Battle of Sedgemoor than exists today.

Two aerial photographs taken in 1976, available from the NMR and listed under HER entry 18910, show two roughly north-east to south-west linears running in parallel along the western side of tithe plot 167. Together, they are thought to form a trackway of at least medieval date. One of the two photographs is reproduced in **Figures 12a** and **12b**. The HER entry for these photographs reads

*A probable trackway, possibly of Prehistoric or Medieval date, is visible on aerial photographs as a cropmark to the north of Bussex.*

*The trackway is defined by two parallel, curving, ditches, 82m in length, extending from ST 3547 3528 to ST 3549 3535. The ditches are oriented southwest-northeast and are situated up to 9m apart.*

*The trackway may be the remains of a route between Westonzoyland and Bussex, possibly relating to settlement in the medieval period. No earthwork remains of the trackway are visible on aerial photographs suggesting that the trackway may also relate to earlier settlement on the island of Wedmore that may predate the Medieval and later settlement pattern.*

*The trackway may also be associated with an extensive system of fields and drove ways situated to the north and west of Westonzoyland (11861). This system predates the modern pattern and may be Post-Medieval or earlier in date.*

The orientation of this trackway makes it unlikely to run through the study site itself. However, it clearly indicates human movement throughout the area, presumably regular in nature if a trackway was established, and therefore the trackway's presence may increase the likelihood of residual finds being encountered on or near the study site.

The Somerset HER also records a Google Earth image taken on the 27/6/2018 (HER 49864), which is reproduced in **Figures 13a** and **13b**. This image clearly shows a square enclosure, thought to be of prehistoric or Romano-British date, located in tithe plots 153 and 167, as well as the historic hedge line previously separated these two plots. It is thought that the hedge line most likely truncates this square enclosure. Moreover, vestiges of the trackway discussed above may be visible to the east of 66 Monmouth Road. This image also clearly shows the substantial number of trees located on or near the study site, which together severely restrict views over the battlefield.



Interestingly, LIDAR images of the site do not show the enclosure, trackway, or historic hedge line. It is not known why this should be, when these features are visible on aerial photographs. However, it is thought to show medieval ridge and furrow agriculture in the tithe plots 153 and 167, orientated north to south. Unfortunately, the resolution of the image is not sufficient to show any detail of features on the study site itself, and therefore has not been reproduced here.

#### **4.6 Site Visit**

The site and surrounding area was inspected and photographically recorded (**Plates 1 - 8**). The garden within which the site is located has a full perimeter of hedge and fencing and is not visible from street level. No suggestions of buried archaeological features present themselves on the site in the form of lush marks, ridges or hollows in the property's lawn. The site of the Battle of Sedgemoor is open fields, whereas 63 Liney Road is rural urban in character and does not therefore currently present as part of the same continuous landscape.

The visual setting of the site is defined by the property boundary, which is a south-east to north-west orientated rectangle with its north and western sides defined by Monmouth and Liney Roads respectively. It is overlooked by Bussex Farm to the north.

On the basis of the site setting observed from the visit it is not the writer's opinion that development of the site will have an adverse in terms of appreciation of the site as an extension of the Sedgemoor Battlefield, as it does not present as such anyway. Further, the results of the evaluation did not reveal clear evidence that the site formed a significant part of the battle.

#### **4.7 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Site Setting and Above Ground Heritage Assets**

##### **Historic Setting**

The historic setting of Sedgemoor Battlefield, viewed from Chedzoy to the north-west of the study site, has been amply described by English Heritage's battlefield report (English Heritage 1995). Relevant passages from this description have been reproduced below.



*We are fortunate in possessing a clear impression of the nature of the Battlefield of Sedgemoor in 1685 from a number of plans that were drawn of it soon afterwards. These confirm that the Battlefield has changed little over the past 300 years...*

*Features such as the Langmoor Stone or Langmoor stepping stones, mentioned in the different narratives of the Battle of Sedgemoor, at one time marked crossing points over watercourses, but with the improvement in drainage they have disappeared...*

*Despite these changes to the appearance of the landscape, its character has been unchanging. The low-lying nature of the moors has meant that permanent pasture has been the land-use to the present day. Where the ground rises above the prehistoric peat moors, the land has been continuously under the plough.*

*Recent Ordnance Survey maps reveal that within the past thirty years the village of Westonzoyland has expanded at an increased pace. Housebuilding has been particularly marked by Broadstone Farm, between Monmouth House and the Westonzoyland to Bridgwater road. Although development has not impinged on the Battlefield as yet, it is getting nearer.*

*English Heritage 1995, 2*

This general, modern description of the 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century battlefield and its environs can be supplemented with several contemporary archives held by the South West Heritage Trust. One of these, SHC A/DAS/1/440/6, dates to 1845 and is reproduced in **Figure 18a** with the permission of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. It clearly shows the open and highly rural landscape of the battlefield, which is again indicated by a later photograph taken in around 1900 and not reproduced here (SHC A/AQO/30/2008). However, a continuous line of trees, thought to represent the east-west orientated Sog Drove (cf. **Figures 18a** and **18b**), are shown to obscure the view from the battlefield to the church and vice versa. Although it is likely that the study site lay just outside of the left side of the frame, it is thought reasonable to assume that this tree-lined drain also obscured its views to and from the battlefield during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A contemporaneous written account of a visit to the battlefield, whose route passed through the hamlets of Bussex and Liney, is given by a journal entry of 1844 written by the Reverend S. Alford (SHC DD/BLM/25/1/12). The route taken by Alford and his guide started from the church, moving westwards along the village's main road and then turning

right towards the north to tithe plot 204, then known as Verney House and latterly as Monmouth House; from there northwards along tithe plot 200 and onto Sog Drove; and then an immediate left onto a 'middle drove-way', finally arriving at the purported site of the battlefield. This field is described as the only ploughed field along that drove way, all the others being meadow. Although the details of the tithe apportionment given on the Somerset HER website identify all of the fields along that drove way as meadow, given the distances that Alford describes it is thought that the field referred to is tithe plot 222, 223 or 225 (situated between 300m and 350m to the north-east of the study site). It would appear that the uninspiring topography encountered was a slight disappointment to Alford:

*This arable (?) field seemed but little, if anything, above the level of the surrounding moor, but my guide assured me there used to be a mound there covering the grave of those who fell in the battle, though probably it had been levelled for convenience of culture when (about 20 years ago) it was turned into a ploughed field.*

The route taken on their return ran eastwards along Sog Drove and onto the modern Liney Road, passing by the front of the study site, along the entire length of modern Liney Road and passing Liney (then known as 'Lang-Haye, or Line-Haye') Farm, until entering modern Cheer Lane and returning westwards to the centre of the village.

Although Alford does not describe the dwellings or fields of Bussex and Liney he passed, the general impression of these hamlets and their surroundings in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century is that of quiet, rural settlements of very low population density and characterised by fairly flat farmed land close to areas of occupation and open meadows in the surrounding moorlands.

### **Historic Landscape Characterisation**

The study site itself sits within an area attributed with Historic Landscape Characterisation 7247, defined by the Somerset HER as 'Settlement, post Tithe Map (c1840)' (**Figure 14**). However, it is bounded by much earlier historic landscapes. These are defined as follows:

- HLC 95 (immediately to the study site's east): recently enclosed land 18th to 21st century. General field size, 6-12ha. Less than 25% boundary loss since 1905'.
- HLC 2571 (to its north-west): recently enclosed land 18th to 21st century. General field size, 3-6ha. Less than 25% boundary loss since 1905. Previously wetland. *NB: The suggested date of this has been superseded by information from historical sources'.*



## 4.8 Discussion and Conclusions

The proximity of the site to the Battle of Sedgemoor site does mark it as part of the same landscape and it remains possible that it was passed through or played a small part on the periphery of the battle. However, in its present state, surrounded by fence and hedgerow there is no visual impression of the site as a continuation of the battlefield site. Indeed this is not a modern situation as a 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph shows the battlefield as obscured by a line of trees along the Sog Drove.

The site is distinct in character from the battlefield site, the latter being arable land while the site is a domestic garden. The evaluation did not add clear evidence that the site was used during the battle, although an un-dated ditch feature below the sub-soil has origins and a function that remain unknown and may therefore be contemporaneous.

A large garage structure already occupies the eastern part of the proposed development site, so the proposal does not reflect development where there is no precedent.

Consideration should be given to the height of any proposed new building which, in order to retain the character of the landscape and to reduce visual impact from the battlefield itself, should be comparable to existing buildings in the area, the largest nearby being the single storey farmhouse of Bussex Farm.

## 5 Archaeological Evaluation

### 5.1 Aims and Objectives

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists defines an evaluation as follows.

*...a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts and their research potential, within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present, field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, reports on them and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.*  
CIfA Standards and guidance for Archaeological Evaluation 2014 (rev 2020).

The site specific purpose of the evaluation was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site in regards to below ground features and deposits and to scan the site for

possible artefacts deriving that may indicate activity on site during the Battle of Sedgemoor.

The evaluation sought to identify features or deposits within the confines of the trenches and to obtain sufficient stratigraphic and dating evidence to characterise them.

The evaluation was designed to inform the decision making process in relation to planning proposals for the site alongside the Heritage Impact Assessment

## **5.2 Methodology**

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared prior to fieldwork and approved by South West Heritage Trust (AAL 2021). It comprised two 5 x 2m trenches.

The trenches were opened by machine onto the first significant archaeological deposit or natural ground. Geospatial data was recorded using a Topcon Hyper SR GPS survey unit. All stratigraphic units were recorded using the Avon Archaeology Limited single context recording system.

Features were investigated to characterise but not fully excavated.

Additionally a metal detector survey was conducted during the evaluation, covering the entire development site. This work was undertaken by archaeologist Sam Wilson who is on the board of the Battlefields Trust and followed their guidelines for metal detector survey of Historic Battlefields.

## **5.3 Results**

### **Trench 1 (Figure 19, Plates 9-11)**

Trench 1 was located towards the northern site boundary and was orientated roughly east to west. Undisturbed natural was found at 5.43m aOD roughly 0.74m below current ground level. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified, the only find being a metal object within subsoil deposit (102).

The depositional sequence excavated was as follows: Roughly 0.2m of mid brown sandy silt top soil (100) with a turf surface sealed the trench, this was underlain by approximately 0.4m of orange brown silty sand subsoil (101). Below the subsoil was a second buried soil (102), very similar in characteristics to deposit (101) but slightly lighter in colour, which

was approximately 0.35m thick. Deposit (102) overlay the natural substrate (103) which was a yellow brown sand.

No features or significant archaeological deposits were recorded and the only find, beyond modern ceramics found within the topsoil, was a small buckle (SF 1, see Finds below).

## **Trench 2 (Figures 19 & 20, Plates 12-14)**

Trench 2 was located on the southern side of the site and was orientated roughly north to south. The natural substrate (204) was found at 5.70m aOD.

A single cut feature was recorded comprising the southern edge of a roughly east to west orientated cut which encompassed the northern half of the trench. The cut [203] was cut into the natural substrate and had a roughly 45° slope. The base of the cut was not reached. It was filled (202) with orange-brown silty sand, similar to the subsoil. No dating evidence was found.

The depositional sequence within the trench was as follows: Roughly 0.2m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil (200) with a turf surface sealing up to 0.5m of orange-brown silty sand subsoil (201). Deposit (201) sealed cut [203] and its fill.

A sherd of transfer printed pearlware pottery was found within the subsoil along with a piece of cut metal pipe (SF 2).

## **5.4 Finds**

### **Small Finds Assessment – Sarah Newns**

#### *Discussion*

The evaluation produced a very small assemblage, consisting of two metallic small finds of probable post medieval date, weighing 25.72g, both retrieved from the subsoil, one from Trench 1 (context 101), and one from Trench 2 (Context 202). The assemblage was studied following the standards and guidance recorded by the CIfA under the toolkit for specialist reporting (<https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit/standards>). The objects were weighed, characterised, dated and identified by comparison with data sets sourced from the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database and, in the case of the buckle, from Whitehead 1996. The resulting information was recorded in the table produced at the end of this report.

Small Find 1 (SF1), a probable 18<sup>th</sup> century buckle, was retrieved from the subsoil layer in Trench 1 (Context 101), and consists of a sub-square boot/garter buckle, measuring 15mm by 19mm. The buckle is of copper alloy, probably originally of two pieces, with iron spindle and tongue(s), which are now obscured by corrosion products. Parallels exist on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database.

Small Find 2 consists of a short length of probable narrow gauge lead water pipe, again of probable post-medieval date, retrieved from the subsoil of Trench 2 (Context 201). The pipe measures 39mm long, and has an internal diameter of 6mm, and external diameter of 10mm. The pipe has a wrapped joint, formed from a strip of lead. The pipe itself has probably been cast, as no seams are visible. Contemporary parallels exist on the PAS database.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Wt (g.)</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>(101)</b>	1	3.49	Small, plain buckle, 15mm by 19mm, probable cast copper alloy, spindle and tongue(s) probably of iron, as not visible, and overlain by corrosion products; probable boot or garter buckle of 18 <sup>th</sup> century date (Whitehead 1996, 114, No. 735; cf. PAS database SWYOR_5A198B).
<b>(201)</b>	1	22.17	Section of probable cast narrow gauge lead water pipe, with wrapped lead joint, probable post medieval date, 39mm long, internal diameter 6mm, external diameter 10mm (cf. PAS database NLM CBA 70C).

### *Recommendations*

No further work is recommended. The finds should be retained as a part of the site archive.

## **5.5 Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Below Ground Heritage Assets**

The only archaeologically significant feature identified was the possible ditch [203] in Trench 2 (**Figures 19 & 20, Plate 13**). The full extents and age of the feature could not be determined within the confines of the evaluation. However, it is clearly a large feature that is likely to intersect with foundations of a putative development. If an opportunity to expose and record more of the feature presented itself it would be of archaeological value, it is therefore recommended that as a minimum, archaeological monitoring during any groundworks in the area is undertaken.

## **5.6 Mitigation Advice**

The evaluation produced no compelling evidence for significant activity on the site during the Battle of Sedgemoor. Metal detector survey found only two items, described above, a buckle which post-dates the battle, and an undated piece of lead water pipe, which is almost certainly a domestic item.

A possible ditch feature [203] was recorded towards the base of Trench 2. Unfortunately no accompanying dating evidence was found. Given the depth of the feature, buried below the subsoil, it certainly pre-dates the modern period, but its origins and full form remain undetermined. It is therefore possible that it reflects a feature contemporary with the battle, but without further evidence this cannot be asserted.

## **5.7 Conclusions**

The potential of the site in terms of below ground archaeology would seem to be low, with few finds indicating intensive human activity. However, the presence of ditch feature [203] demonstrates at least some human activity prior to the modern period and likely earlier post-medieval or before. It would be beneficial to get a better understanding of this feature if the opportunity arises, but nothing was found of such significance that it can be argued that development of the site would cause harm to a valuable archaeological resource.



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A/DAS/1/440/5	Illustrations of Westonzoyland: Page 5. c. 1660. Engraved map of Sedgemoor by Richard Newcourt
Q/RDE/116	'A Map or Plan of a certain Moor or Tract of Waste Land called King's Sedgemoor in the County of Somerset and the Allotments and



- Divisions set out to the several Parishes and Hamlets entitled thereto  
- by William White. 1795
- DD/AH/47/11/1 Sedgemoor map. Map of King's Sedgemoor before inclosure showing existing and proposed waterways, clyces and gates, Burrow and Crandon Bridges, Compton Dundon and Westonzoyland churches, Burrow chapel, Chedzoy, Moorlinch, Walton and Othery mills, Greylake Fosse and Beer, Burrow and Westonzoyland walls. Late 18th cent.
- Q/RDE/171 Weston Zoyland (King's Sedgemoor Allotment). 1801
- D/P/w.zoy/20/1/1 Map of Westonzoyland. 1809. Westonzoyland Inclosure Award. Surveyor, William White.
- Q/RDE/98 The Westonzoyland and Middlezoy Inclosure and Exchange Plan, 1833
- DD/BLM/25/1/12 Transcript of 'Journal of a visit to Sedgemoor by the Reverend S. Alford'. 1844
- A/DAS/1/440/6 Illustrations of Westonzoyland: Page 6. 1845. Polychrome watercolour drawing inscribed 'King's Sedgemoor 1845 - The Battle Field'.
- A/CFH/4/3/175 Page 175: Battle of Sedgemoor. 1680-1900. Photo 1418: Photograph of weapons found at the Battle of Sedgemoor site, c. 1900.
- A/AQO/30/2008 Photograph of the Site of the Battle of Sedgemoor. Westonzoyland. c.1900

### **Aerial Photographs**

NMR ST 3535/2/293-4 (975) 02-AUG-1976

### Figure 4a

Extract from modern OS map data showing 'enclosure' created by Liney Road, Monmouth Road and Cheer Lane

Source: KY (Somerset)



### Figure 4b

Extract from The Westonzoyland and Middlezoy Inclosure and Exchange Plan of 1833 (SHC Q/RDE/98), showing same apparent enclosure

Source: KYP (Somerset)

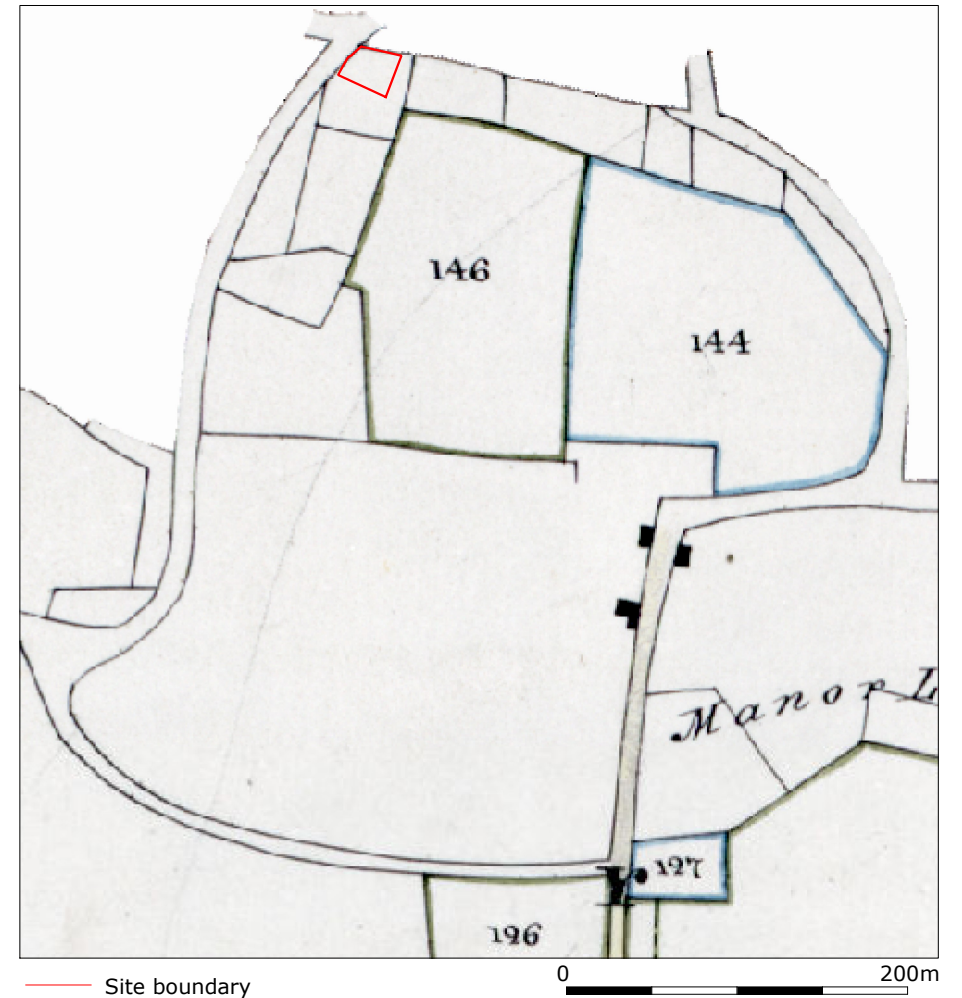




Figure 5

Extract from the engraved 'Mapp of Sedgemoor' by Richard Newcourt, 1660 (SHC A.DAS.1.440.5), showing approximate area surveyed in Anglo-Saxon charter S.251. Reproduced with permission from the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. Unscaled

Source: South West Heritage Trust





Figure 6

Detailed extract from 'A Plan of Westonzoyland Inclosure in the County of Somerset' 1801 (SHC Q.RDE.171), showing the study site sitting within 'Old Inclosures', cottages on later tithe plots 170 - 176, the triangular plot of modern-day Bussex Farm, and references to gravel pits

Source: South West Heritage Trust



— Site boundary

0

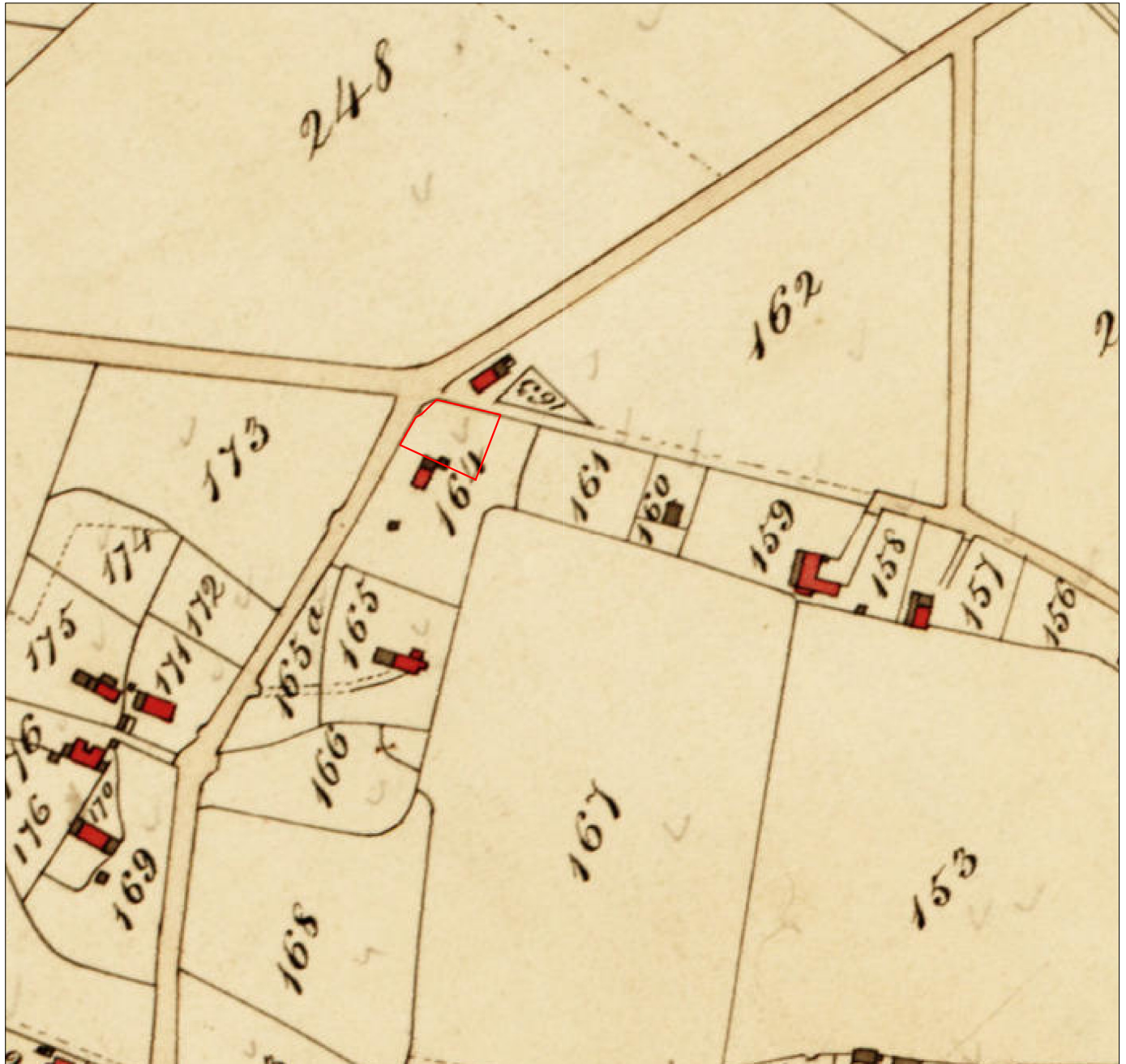
500m



Figure 7

### Detailed extract from the 1836 Westonzoyland Tithe Map

Source: KYP (Somerset)



— Site boundary

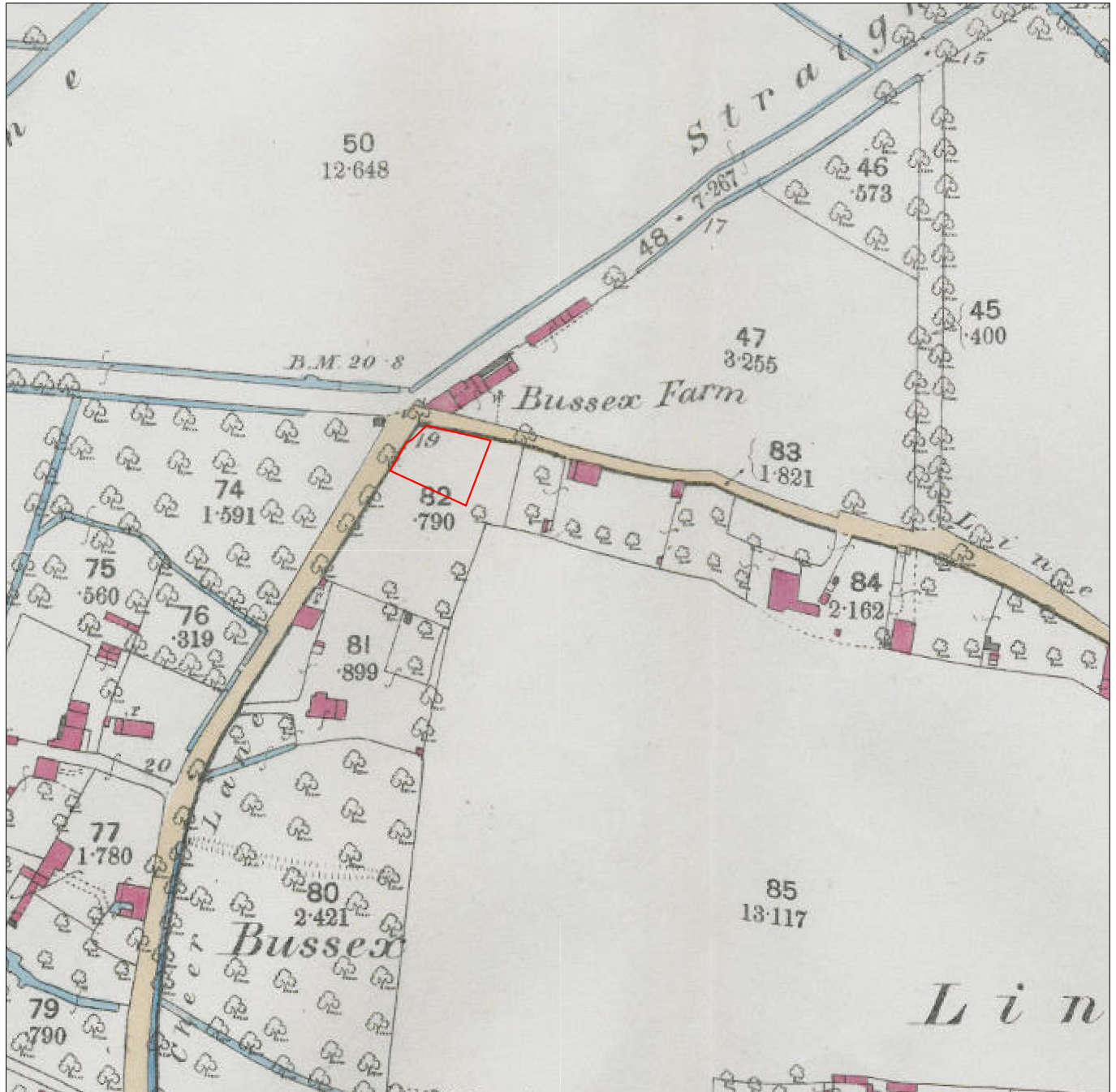
0 200m

Figure 8



Detailed extract from the 1st edition 25" OS map, surveyed 1885, published 1886 (sheet Somerset LI.13)

Source: KYP (Somerset)



— Site boundary

0 200m



Figure 9

Detailed extract from the 2nd edition 25" OS map, surveyed 1902, published 1904 (sheet Somerset LI.13)

Source: National Library of Scotland

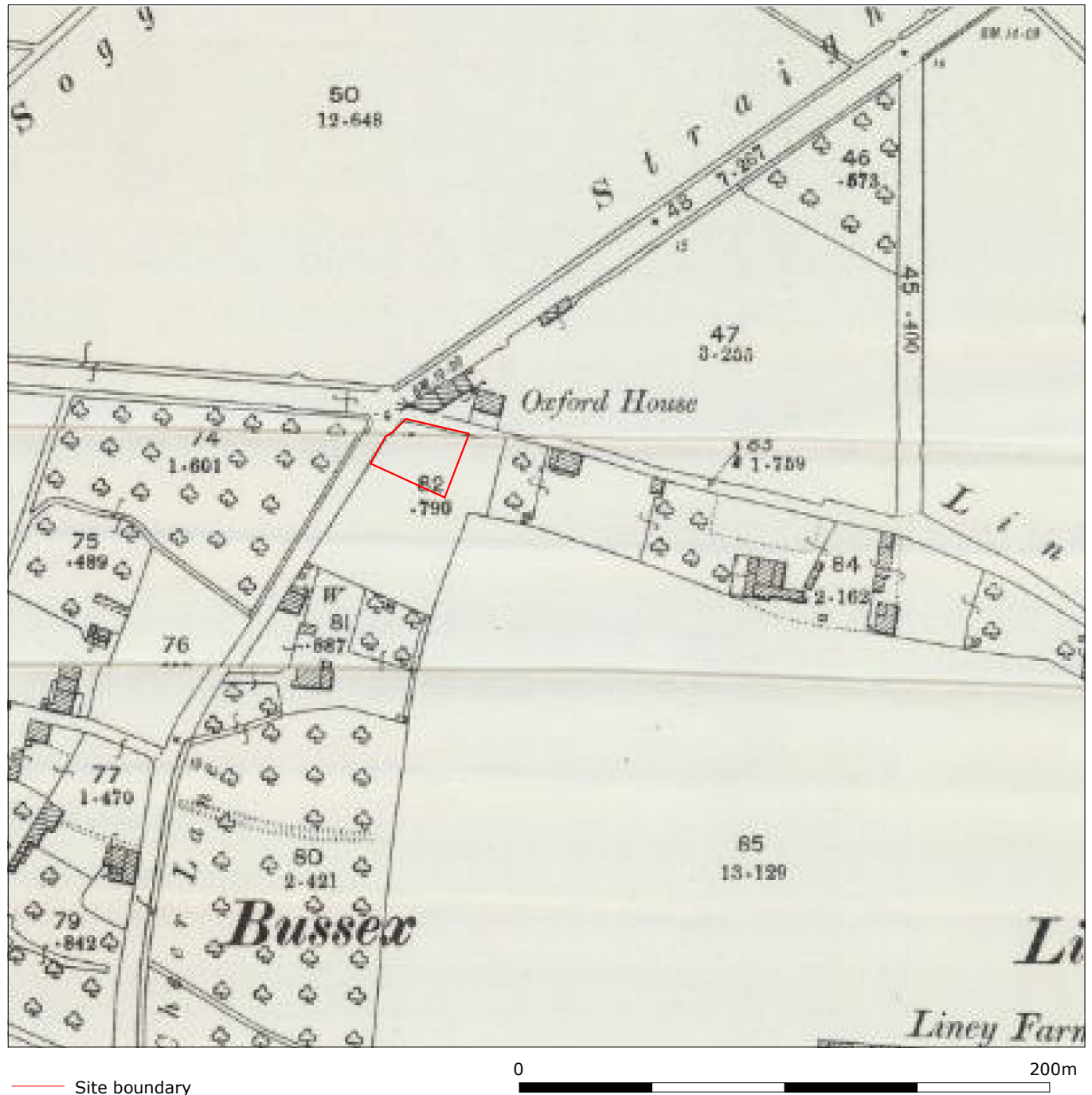


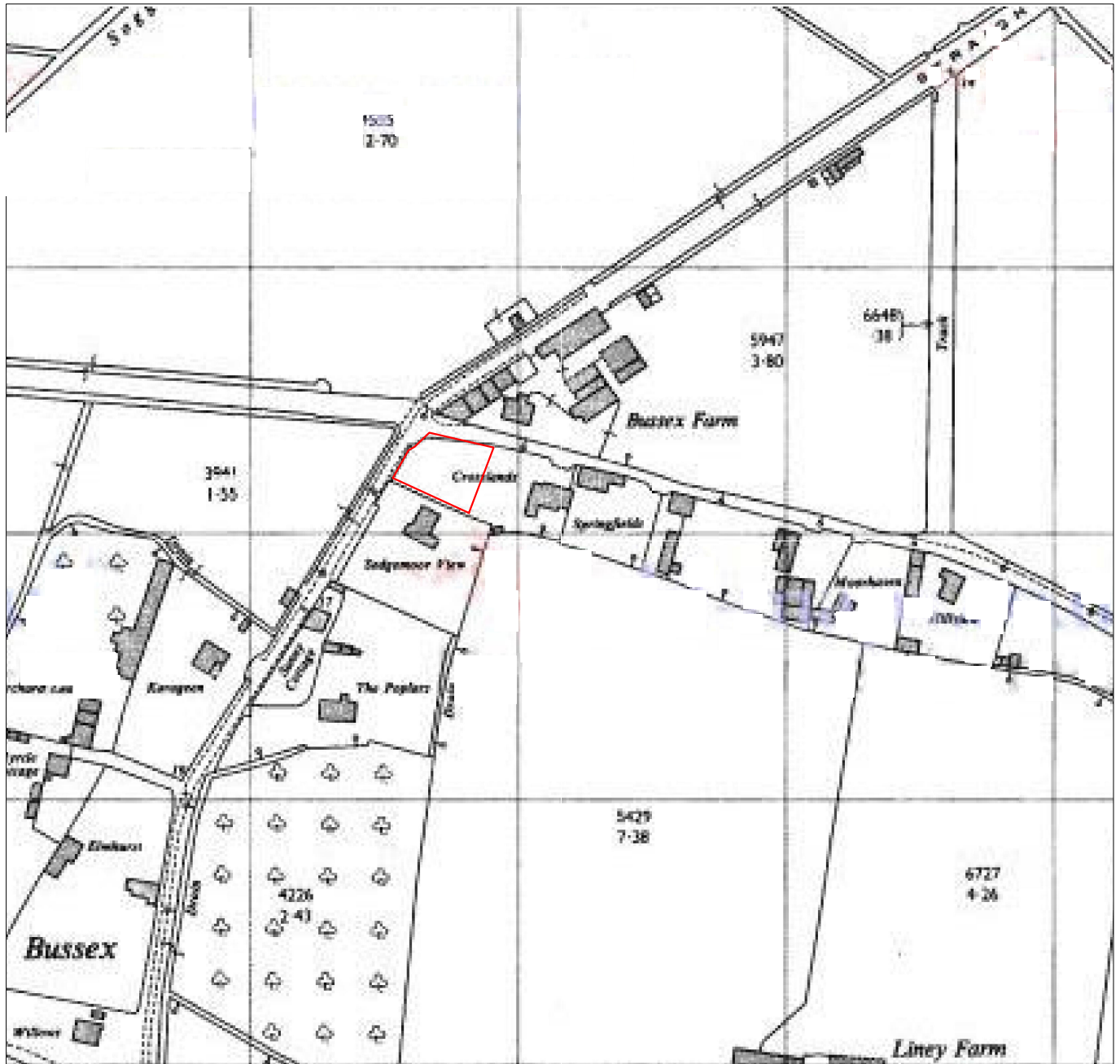




Figure 10

Detailed extract from the 1969 1:2500 OS Plan

Source: [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)



— Site boundary

0 200m



## Figure 11

### Detailed extract from an RAF aerial photograph of 1946

Source: Somerset Historic Environment Record



— Site boundary

0 200m



Figure 12a

Detailed extract from aerial photograph NMR ST 3535/2/293-4 (975), showing possible trackway (HER 18910)\*

\*scales approximate due to slightly oblique angle of the camera

Source: NMR

— Site boundary



0 50m

Figure 12b



Image as left with line of trackway highlighted in blue\*

\*scales approximate due to slightly oblique angle of the camera

Source: NMR

— Site boundary



0 50m



Figure 13a

Detailed extract from Google Earth aerial photograph, dated 27/6/2018 (HER digital source 49864), showing cropmark of possible enclosure\*

Source: Somerset HER

\*scales approximate due to slightly oblique angle of the camera

0 100m



Figure 13b

Image as above, with cropmark highlighted in blue

Source: Somerset HER

\*scales approximate due to slightly oblique angle of the camera

0 100m

— Site boundary



Figure 14

Results of HER Trawl: Historic Landscape Characterisation

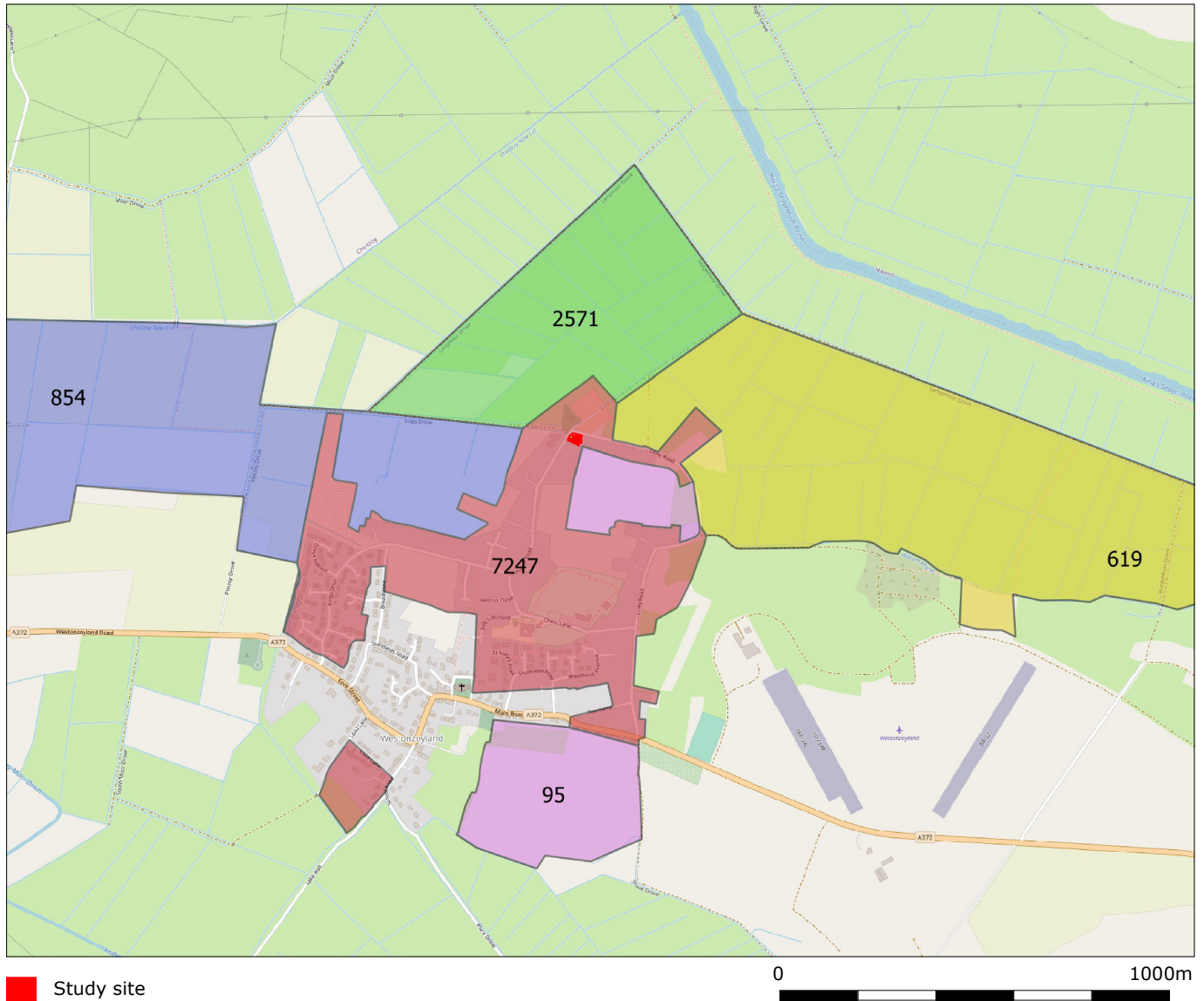




Figure 15

Results of HER trawl: Areas of High Archaeological Potential

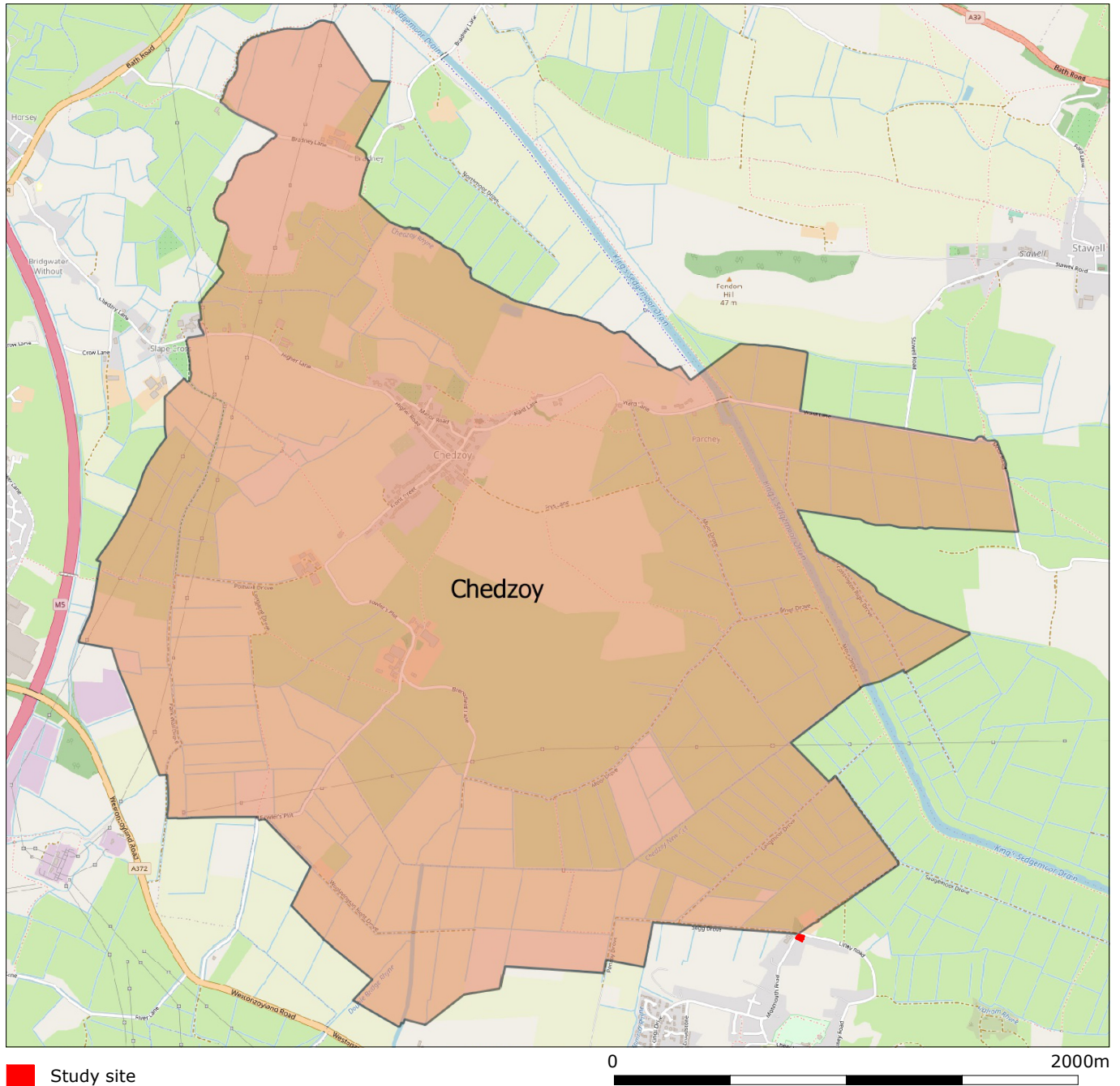




Figure 16

Results of HER Trawl: Battle of Sedgemoor Registered Battlefield

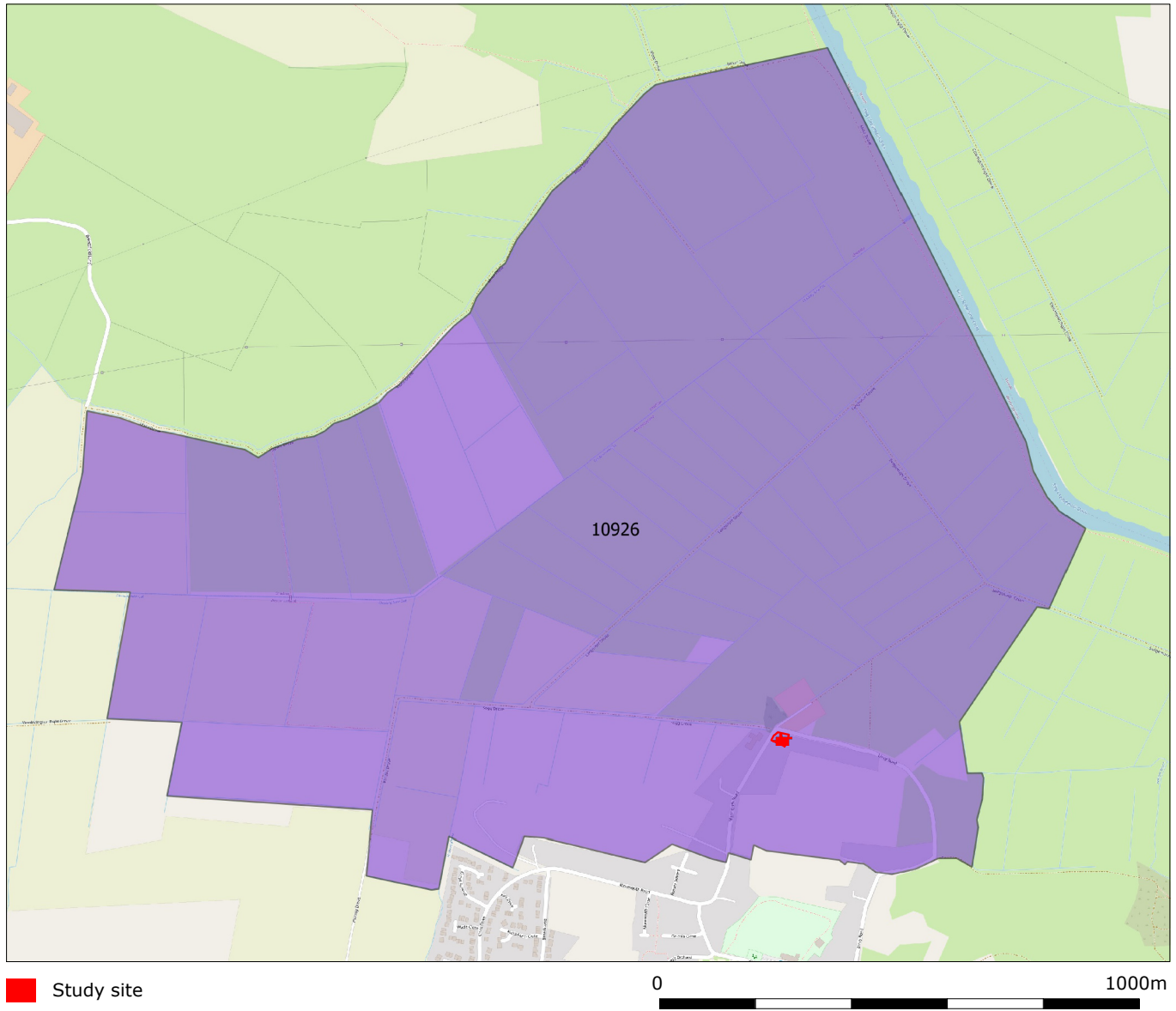
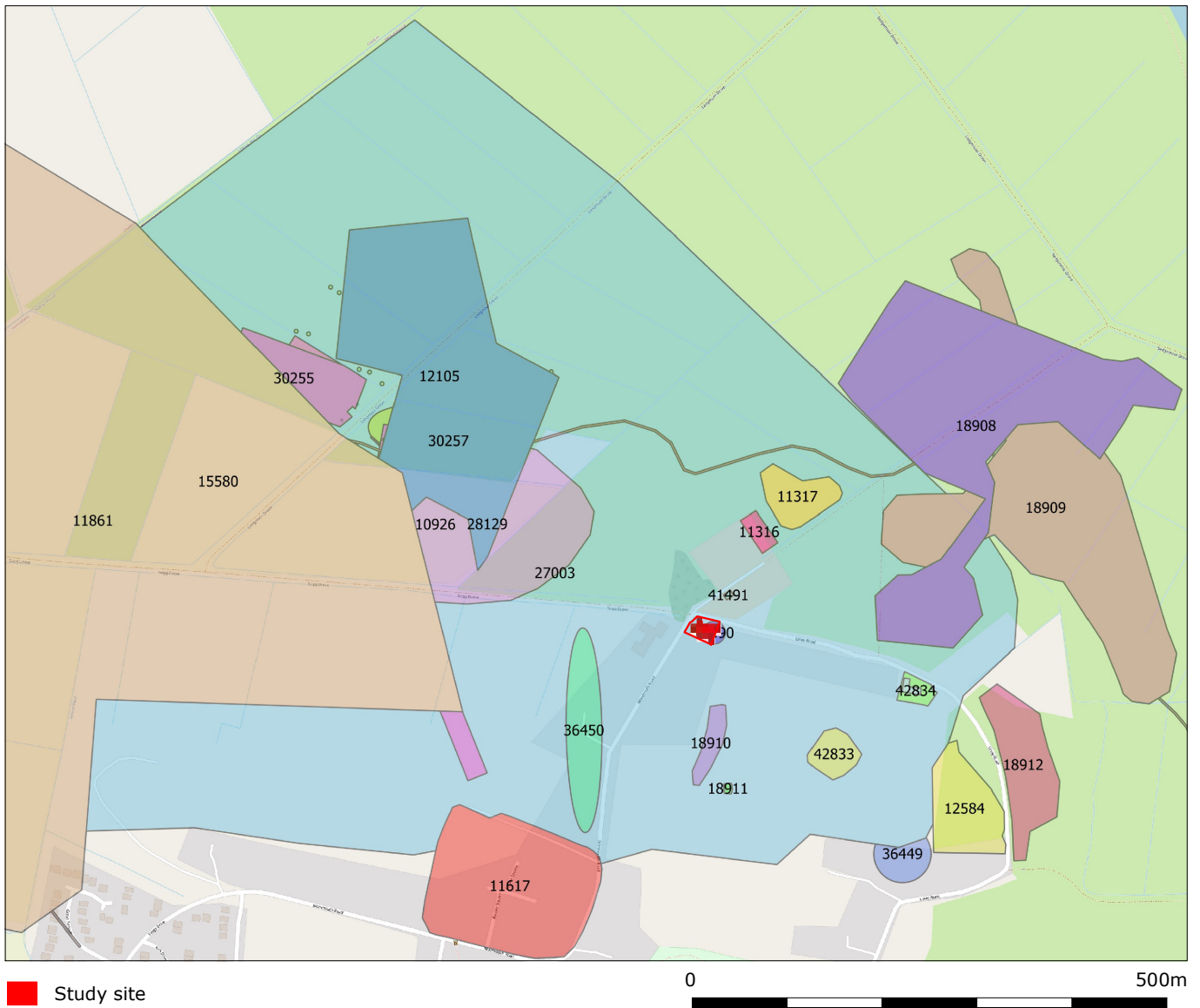




Figure 17

### Results of HER Trawl: Monuments

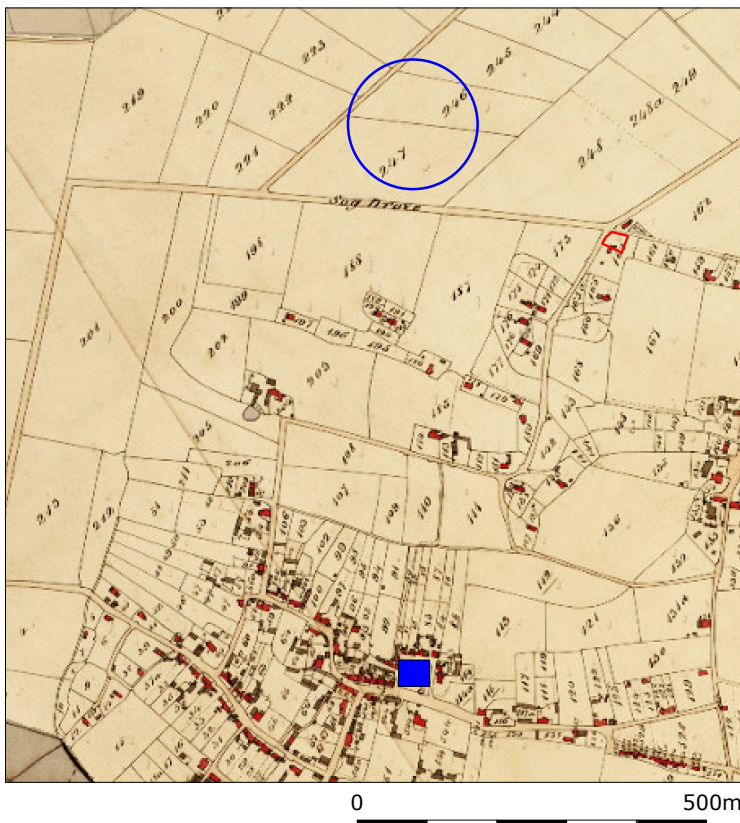




## Figure 18a

Polychrome watercolour drawing inscribed 'King's Sedgemoor 1845 - The Battle Field' from Illustrations of Westonzoyland, page 6 (SHC A/DAS/1/440/6), looking south towards the church. Reproduced with permission from the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society


Source: Somerset Heritage Centre



## Figure 18b

Probable line of view represented in the above image, superimposed onto the near-contemporary 1836 Westonzoyland tithe map

Source: KYP (Somerset)

 Probable and approximate location of the artist

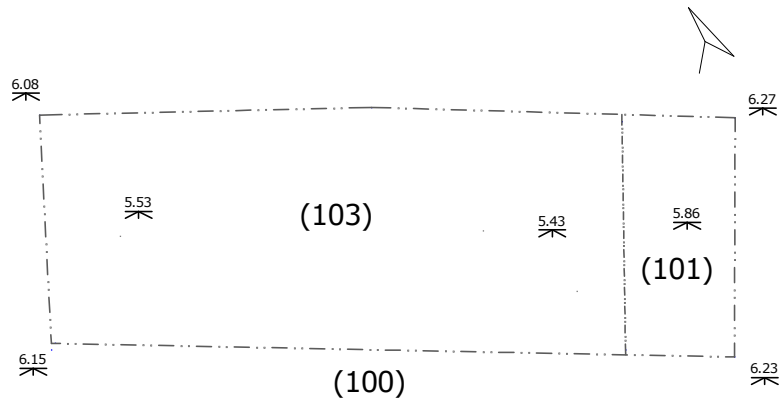
 Church

 Site boundary

Figure 19

## Trench Plans

Trench 1



Trench 2

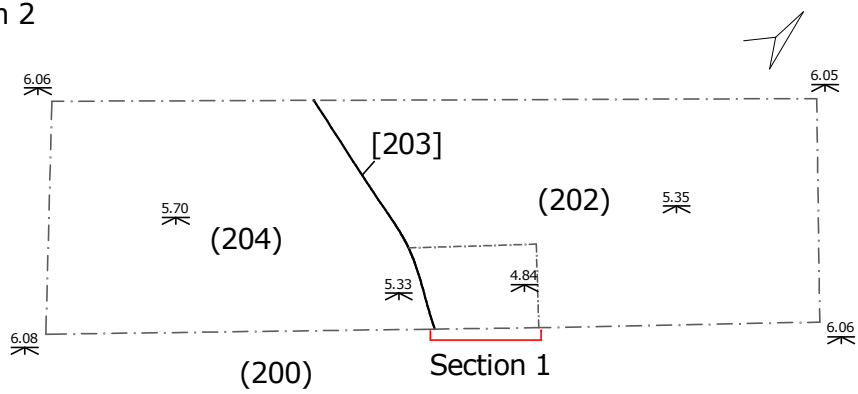
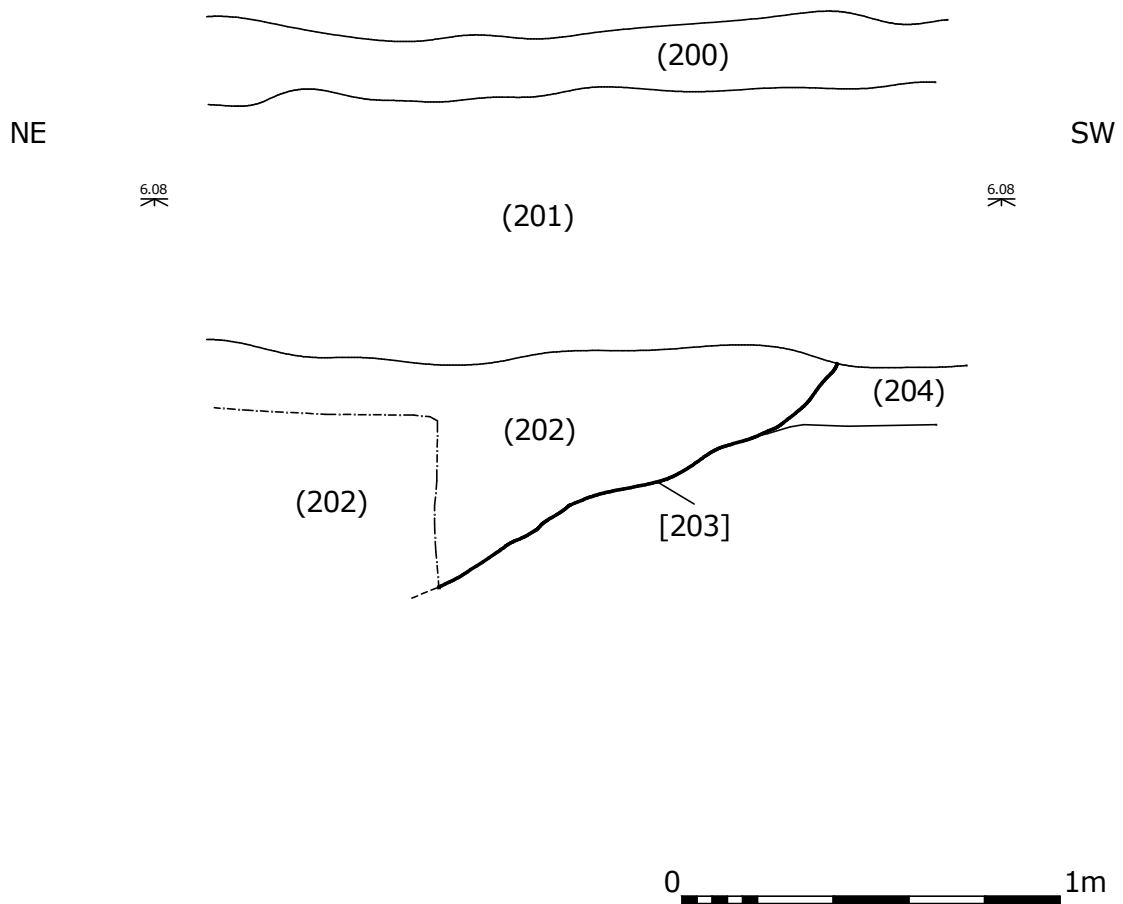


Figure 20

## Section of Cut [203]

Section 1. Cut [203] in section



## Plates



Plate 1. Looking west along Liney Road with property boundary on left



Plate 1. Looking west along Liney Road with property boundary on left



Plate 3. Looking south-west along Monmouth Road with property boundary to the



Plate 4. Looking north-west from the north-west site corner toward Battle of Sedgemoor site



Plate 5. Looking east along Liney Road with Bussex Farm to the left



Plate 6. Looking north west at the site from 63 Liney Road



Plate 7. Looking east onto the site from Monmouth Road



Plate 8. Looking west at the site during the evaluation



Plate 9. Looking east along  
Trench 1



Plate 10. Looking west along  
Trench 1



Plate 11. Detail of the south facing section of Trench 1



Plate 12. Looking North along Trench 2



Plate 13. Detail of box section into Cut [203]. Looking north



Plate 14. West facing section of Trench 2





## Small Finds Report Bibliography

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## APPENDIX 3

### Table of Contexts

#### Trench 1

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
100	Topsoil	0.2m thick
101	Orange-brown silty sand subsoil	0.45m thick
102	Soil deposit below (101) also orange-brown silty sand	0.35m thick
103	Yellow-brown sand. Natural	

#### Trench 2

Context Number	Description	Dimensions
200	Topsoil	0.2m thick
201	Orange-brown silty sand subsoil	0.45m thick
202	Fill of cut [203]. Orange-brown silty sand	0.35m thick
203	Roughly east-west orientated ditch cut	Full dimensions unknown
204	Yellow-brown sand. Natural	



## APPENDIX 4

### OASIS FORM

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

**OASIS ID: avonarch2-410203**

#### Project details

Project name	63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland
Short description of the project	A Heritage Impact Assessment plus archaeological evaluation at 63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland, Somerset TA7 0EU.
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2020 End: 15-02-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	53/20/00022 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling", "Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET SEDGEMOOR WESTONZOYLAND 63 Liney Road, Westonzoyland, Bridgwater
Postcode	TA7 0EU
Study area	1400 Square metres
Site coordinates	ST 35486 35422 51.113924857441 -2.921756760914 51 06 50 N 002 55 18 W Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Avon Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	South-West Heritage Trust
Project design originator	South-West Heritage Trust
Project director/manager	Kevin Potter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Entered by	Nick Corcos (mail@avonarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	9 December 2020

