

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Wessex Solar Energy

Land at Cowflop Cross
Beaford
Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment

report 2521
November 2010



Contents

1.	Summary	1
2.	Project background	2
3.	Landuse, topography and geology	3
4.	Site walk-over survey	3
5.	Historical and archaeological development	3
6.	The potential archaeological resource	5
7.	Impact assessment	6
8.	Recommendations	6
9.	Sources	6
Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record		8

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location and Historic Environment Record
Figure 2:	Extract from 1948 RAF aerial photograph
Figure 3:	Extract from Saxton's map of 1576
Figure 4:	Extract from Bill's map of 1626
Figure 5:	Extract from Donne's map of 1765
Figure 6:	Extract from Carey's map of 1814
Figure 7:	Extract from the Tithe Map of 1838
Figure 8:	Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886
Figure 9:	Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906
Figure 10:	Southern field looking northwest
Figure 11:	Northeast field looking south
Figure 12:	Northwest field looking south

1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was conducted in advance of a proposed development on land at Cowflop Cross, Beaford, Devon. The assessment comprised a search of pertinent documentary and cartographic records, records of archaeological interventions, the Historic Environment Record, and a site walk-over survey.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Wessex Solar Energy, and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The archaeological resource

- 1.3 There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area prior to the Neolithic period. However, there is the potential that an as yet unidentified resource relating to this exploitation may survive within the proposed development area.
- 1.4 Several prehistoric barrows have been identified from 300m to the south of the proposed development area: some of the monuments are Scheduled. There is the potential for similar monuments to exist in the surrounding area, and evidence for as yet unidentified barrows or associated activity may exist within the proposed development area.
- 1.5 Two soilmarks interpreted as later prehistoric enclosures have been identified within the northern and western parts of the proposed development area. These may be settlement sites comprising a significant archaeological resource.
- 1.6 The northwest corner of the site has been identified by the Historic Landscape Characterisation project as being potentially part of a medieval field system. Archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence may survive within or beneath the existing boundaries.
- 1.7 Evidence of activity in the post-medieval and modern periods is likely to be limited to agricultural practices, mainly ploughing. This is likely to have caused some damage to any surviving archaeological remains, but is unlikely to have completely truncated all deposits.

Impact assessment

- 1.8 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through the construction of foundations, cable trenches and associated groundworks.

Recommendations

- 1.9 It is recommended that geophysical survey is carried out to determine the nature of any sub-surface features present on the site. Depending on the results of the survey, supplementary evaluation trenching may subsequently be required.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Cowflop Cross in the parish of Beaford, Devon (NGR centre: SS 5843 1505). It is partly angular and partly rounded in plan, and covers an area of approximately 20.07 ha.

Development proposal (Figure 1)

- 2.2 The development proposal is for a solar farm. The details of the proposed construction techniques, including any associated works that will have a below-ground impact, are detailed in the environmental report.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the proposed development.

Methods statement

- 2.4 The works have been conducted in accordance with standard Archaeological Services' procedures for desk-based assessments. The works comprised the study of pertinent cartographic and other historical sources, records of previous archaeological interventions, sites listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within 1km of the proposed development area, and a site walk-over survey. HER references are referred to in brackets throughout the text of this report, and are listed in Appendix 1.

Planning guidance

- 2.5 This assessment and its recommendations are a considered response to the proposed development in relation to Government policy, as it is set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, and the *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*.

Dates

- 2.6 The field visit took place on 2nd November 2010. This report was prepared for December 2010.

Personnel

- 2.7 Research was conducted and this report prepared by Andy Platell and Jamie Armstrong, with illustrations by David Graham and Janine Watson. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

OASIS

- 2.8 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-85673**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.9 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of Marrina Neophytou of Devon County Council Historic Environment Service and personnel of

Devon County Record Office and the Devonshire Studies Library, Exeter in facilitating this scheme of works.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

Landuse

- 3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised 3 large arable fields, all of which had been recently ploughed and harrowed.

Topography

- 3.2 The proposed development area was located on the west-facing slope of a small hill, with a minimum elevation of approximately 175m OD and a maximum elevation of approximately 193m OD.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Crackington Formation sandstone of the Carboniferous.

4. Site walk-over survey

- 4.1 A walk-over survey was conducted, to help ascertain the potential of the proposed development area to contain any archaeological resource. The visit noted site topography, earthworks and areas of modern overburden, modern services, boundaries, buildings and other upstanding remains. A *pro forma* recording sheet was completed.
- 4.2 The site consisted of three large fields that had all been recently ploughed and harrowed (Figures 10 to 12). The northern boundary to the proposed development area is an undefined line cutting across the two northern fields. Other boundaries are hedge lines of no apparent great antiquity. No earthworks or other features of archaeological interest were observed.

5. Historical and archaeological development

Previous archaeological works

- 5.1 No previous archaeological works have been identified within the proposed development area.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 43)

- 5.2 There is no direct evidence of activity in the study area prior to the late prehistoric period. However, there is the potential that an as yet unidentified resource may survive.
- 5.3 A number of bowl barrows (funerary monuments) dating to between the late Neolithic and Iron Age are present to the south of the proposed development area. The nearest barrow (HER 310) is 300m from the site, and survives to a height of 0.6m. It is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (see below). A barrow cemetery (HER 311) is located 400m to the south, and is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (see below). It comprises three barrows (HER 11694-6) which survive to a height of 0.6-0.9m. A fourth barrow (HER 60177) is also located within this group, but has not

been included in the Schedule. This is dated broadly to the prehistoric period. Further unidentified barrows or associated structures may exist, which may extend into the proposed development area.

- 5.4 Evidence for later prehistoric settlement has been found in the proposed development area. A 1948 RAF aerial photograph (Figure 2) has been used to identify enclosures in the northern and southwestern parts of the site. The northern enclosure (HER 293) is recorded as being a single round ditch 100m in diameter, but examination of the aerial photograph suggests it may be a multivallate enclosure: a potential sub-square feature can possibly be made out in the centre of the monument. The southwestern enclosure (HER 309) is a small sub-rectangular ditch with a potential opening in the southeast side. It is probable that the wider landscape was exploited in the later prehistoric period from a series of primarily isolated settlements and farmsteads, which may be represented by these enclosures.

The Roman period (AD 43 to 5th century)

- 5.5 There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area during the Roman period. However, it is likely that the pattern of settlement and landscape exploitation of the later prehistoric period continued, and a resource relating to this has the potential to survive within the proposed development area.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 5.6 Two sites dating to the medieval period have been identified within the study area. The medieval manor of Fadevan (HER 17123) is believed to have been located southeast of Robourgh, over 600m north of the proposed development area, although the precise location is unknown. The manor predates the Conquest, when according to the Domesday Book it was held by Edloueif and Eddeva. By 1086 the manor was in the hands of Goscelm. It may be that the manor was located at Villavin. Dolton Beacon (HER 312), which dates to the late medieval period, was located 750m to the south of the proposed development area. There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area during the medieval period, although it is possible that the land was farmed by Fadevan Manor given its close proximity. The Historic Landscape Characterisation project has identified the northern part of the proposed development area as Barton Fields, and existing hedge banks may follow medieval field boundaries. There is therefore the potential that a resource relating to medieval exploitation may survive within the proposed development area.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 5.7 Early maps of Devon by Saxton (1576; Figure 3) and Bill (1626; Figure 4) do not depict the proposed development area in any detail and it is not possible to establish what sort of activity may have been taking place on the site at that time. Donne's map of 1765 (Figure 5) and Cary's map of 1817 (Figure 6) are slightly more accurate and detailed maps of the county but still lack enough detail to show how the proposed development area was being exploited in the early 19th century. A cottage was constructed 700m to the north at Middle Villavin (HER 37681), probably in the 17th century; this is a Grade II listed building.
- 5.8 The 1838 Tithe Map (Figure 7) characterises the landscape of the study area as a mixture of farmland and moorland, with occasional farms. The map is the first to show the proposed development area in more detail. The southern and eastern parts of the site were part of Beaford Moor, and their ownership is not detailed in

the apportionment as a result. The northwestern part of the site formed part of Down Farm which was occupied by Michael Squire and owned by John Ward. Only some of the boundaries of the site are defined at this time. The eastern and southern boundaries of the site actually form the parish boundary between Beaford and Robourgh. The map does not give any indication that there was any activity aside from farming taking place within the proposed development area. During the second half of the 19th century the Beaford Moor road (HER 62129) was constructed 1-1.35km to the northwest.

- 5.9 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Figure 8) shows little alteration to the character of the study area. A gravel pit (HER 34969) is marked 100m to the north of the site. The map does show that some alterations had been made to the proposed development area since the Tithe Map. Most of the existing site boundaries had been laid out. Two footpaths are marked crossing the site, one across the western part of the site leading from the road to Down Farm, and the other crossing the northeast corner of the site before terminating at a field boundary. The southern part of the site is still marked as part of Beaford Moor. A small building is marked along the northern boundary of the site: it is not clear what the function of this structure was, but it is presumed to relate to agricultural practices.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 5.10 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 (Figure 9) shows only one minor alteration to the site, with the removal of the footpath across the western side. Later Ordnance Survey maps show no further alterations were made to the proposed development area aside from the alteration of field boundaries.

The buildings

- 5.11 There are no statutorily protected buildings within the site. Middle Villavin cottage, garden walls and railings lies 700m to the north and is a Grade II listed building. A number of other listed buildings lie just beyond the study area (Appendix 1). None of these are will be directly affected by the proposed development.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.12 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the proposed development area, but two lie to the south of the site. A bowl barrow (SAM 28616; HER 310) lies 300m to the south, and a group of three barrows (SAM 28605; HER 311) lie 400m to the south. These will not be directly affected by the proposed development.
- 5.13 The northern enclosure within the study area (HER 293) may be subject to a DEFRA Entry Level Scheme agreement.

6. The potential archaeological resource

- 6.1 There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area prior to the Neolithic period. However, there is the potential that an as yet unidentified resource relating to this exploitation may survive within the proposed development area.
- 6.2 Several prehistoric barrows have been identified from 300m to the south of the proposed development area: some of the monuments are Scheduled. There is the potential for similar monuments to exist in the surrounding area, and evidence for

as yet unidentified barrows or associated activity may exist within the proposed development area.

- 6.3 Two soilmarks interpreted as later prehistoric enclosures have been identified within the northern and western parts of the proposed development area. These may be settlement sites comprising a significant archaeological resource.
- 6.4 The northwest corner of the site has been identified by the Historic Landscape Characterisation project as being potentially part of a medieval field system. Archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence may survive within or beneath the existing boundaries.
- 6.5 Evidence of activity in the post-medieval and modern periods is likely to be limited to agricultural practices, mainly ploughing. This is likely to have caused some damage to any surviving archaeological remains, but is unlikely to have completely truncated all deposits.

7. Impact assessment

Visual impact

- 7.1 The visual impact of the development is considered within the environmental statement.

Direct impact

- 7.2 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through the construction of foundations, cable trenches and associated groundworks.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that geophysical survey is carried out to determine the nature of any sub-surface features present on the site. Depending on the results of the survey, supplementary evaluation trenching may subsequently be required.

9. Sources

Cartographic sources

Saxton's map of 1576

Bill's map of 1626

Donne's map of 1765

Carey's map of 1814

Devon Record Office (Exeter), 1838 Tithe apportionment for the parish of Beaford

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 25"

Aerial photographs

Devon HER: raf/cpe/uk 1989(12/4/1947)

Geotechnical works

No records of geotechnical works within the proposed development area were available for this assessment.

Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area (within an approximate radius of 1km from the site).

Historic Environment Record

(PRN = Public Record Number, SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument)

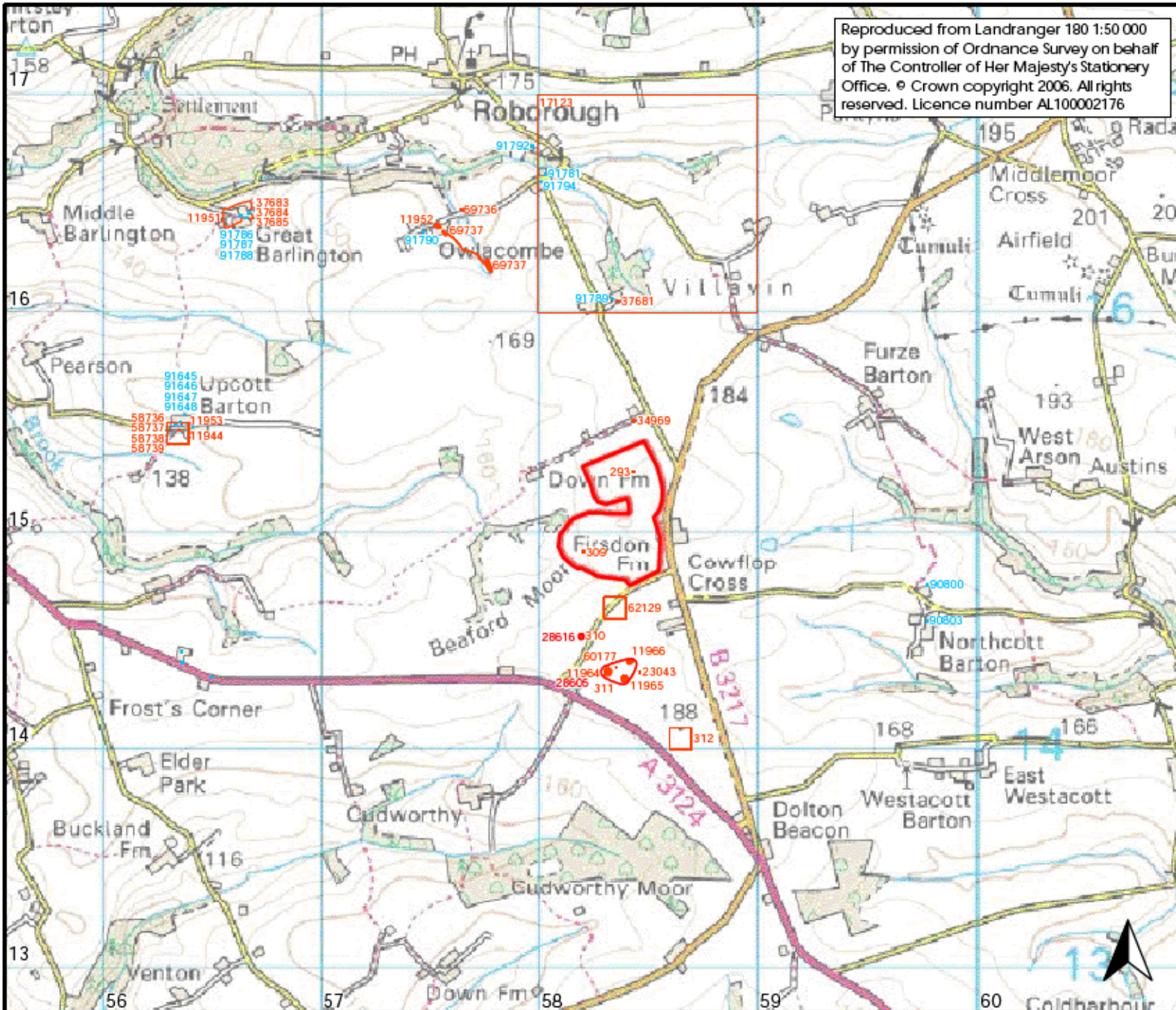
PRN	SAM	Description	Date
293		Enclosure	Iron Age
309		Enclosure	Iron Age
310	*	Bowl barrow	Neolithic – Bronze Age
311	*	Barrow cemetery	Neolithic – Bronze Age
312		Beacon	medieval
11964	*	Bowl barrow	Neolithic – Iron Age
11965	*	Bowl barrow	Neolithic – Iron Age
11966	*	Bowl barrow	Neolithic – Iron Age
17123		Manor	medieval
23043		Well	modern
34969		Gravel pit	post-medieval
37681		Cottage	post-medieval
60177		Barrow	Prehistoric
62129		Road	post-medieval

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

SAM	Description
28605	Three bowl barrows 545m east of Cupper's Piece
28616	Bowl barrow on Beaford Moor, 400m north east of Cupper's Piece

Listed buildings

PRN	Description	Grade
90800	Higher Northcott including barn adjoining to south	II
90803	Northcott Barton	II
91645	Upcott Barton and outbuildings adjoining to rear	II
91646	Kitchen garden walls adjoining Upcott Barton to northeast	II
91647	Front garden walls approximately 4 metres to south of Upcott Barton	II
91648	Coach house and stables approximately 10 metres to west of Upcott Barton	II
91649	Barn and adjoining horse engine house and lincay approximately 20 metres to south east of Upcott Barton	II
91781	Day cottage	II
91786	Great Barlington farmhouse and adjoining front garden walls	II*
91787	Range of Shippons approximately 10 metres to south west of Great Barlington farmhouse	II
91788	Barn and horse engine house, covered entrance and former stables approximately 20 metres to west of Great Barlington farmhouse	II
91789	Middle Villavin and adjoining front garden walls and railings	II
91790	Owlacombe farmhouse and short section of adjoining front garden wall	II
91792	Roborough Grange	II
91794	Tracey Hill cottage	II

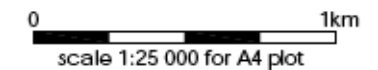


on behalf of
Wessex Solar Energy

Land at Cowflap Cross
Beaford
Devon

archaeological desk-based
assessment
report 2521

Figure 1: Site location and
Historic Environment Record



-  site location
-  HER site
-  Listed Building



 site location

 34969 HER site

0 250m
scale 1:5000 for A4 plot

Figure 3: Extract Saxton's map of 1576



approximate site location

not to scale



approximate site location

not to scale

Figure 5: Extract from Donne's map of 1765



approximate site location

not to scale



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES**
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
**Wessex Solar
Energy**

Land at Cowflop Cross
Beaford
Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment
report 2521

Figure 6: Extract from Carey's map of 1814



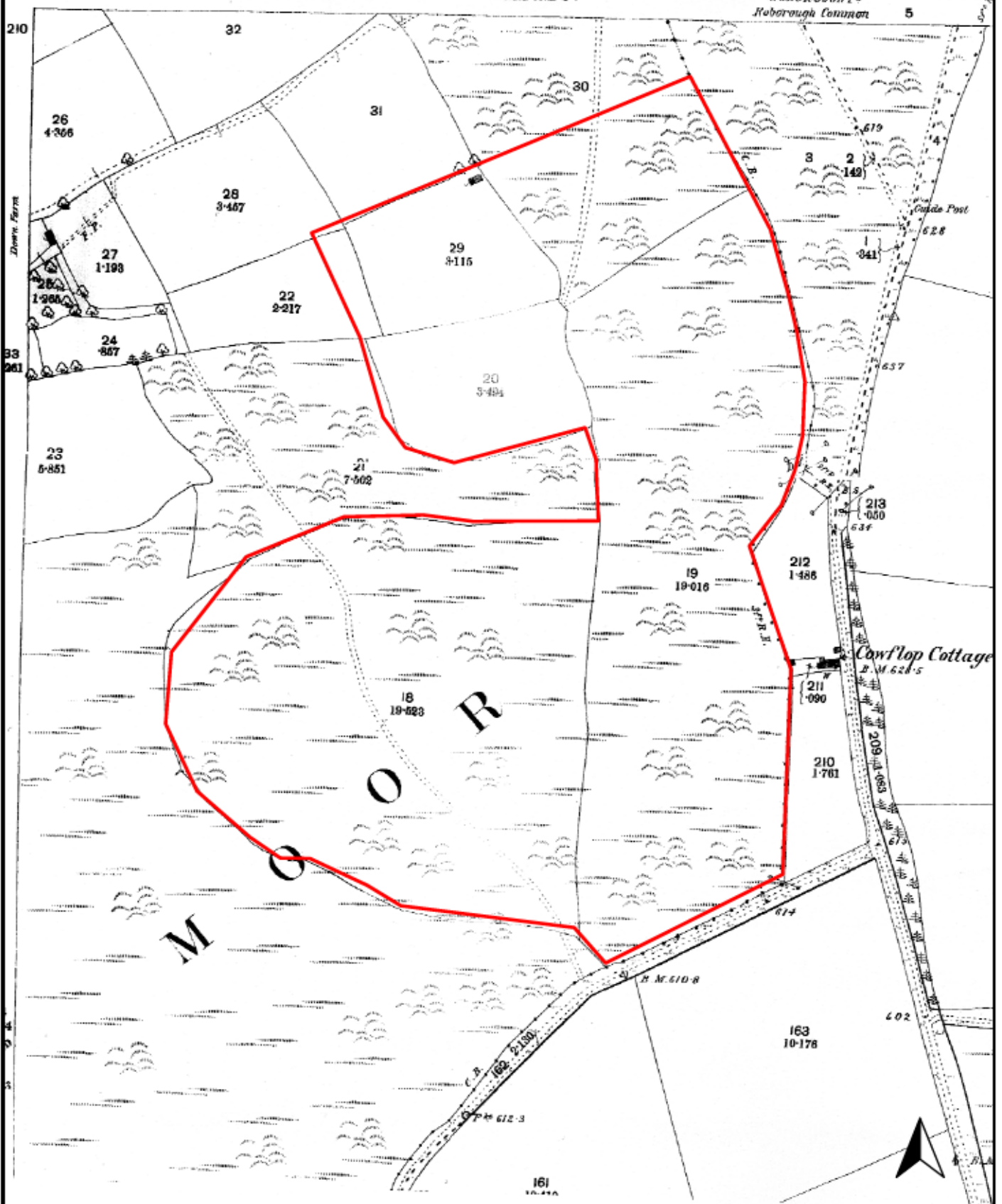
approximate site location

not to scale




 site location

0 250m
scale 1:5000 for A4 plot



 site location

0  200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot



 site location

0 300m
scale 1:6000 for A4 plot



Figure 10: Southern field looking northwest



Figure 11: Northeast field looking south



Figure 12: Northwest field looking south