

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
J R Power Ltd

Land at Trentworthy
Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment

report 2532
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	5
8.	Recommendations	5
9.	Sources	5
Appendix: Historic Environment Record		6

Figures

Figure 1:	Site location and Historic Environment Record
Figure 2:	Extract from Saxton's map of 1576
Figure 3:	Extract from Bill's map of 1626
Figure 4:	Extract from Donne's map of 1765
Figure 5:	Extract from Carey's map of 1814
Figure 6:	Extract from the tithe map of 1843
Figure 7:	Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885
Figure 8:	Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906
Figure 9:	Historic Landscape Characterisation (Cornwall)
Figure 10:	Eastern field looking north
Figure 11:	Northern field looking west
Figure 12:	Southern field looking southeast
Figure 13:	Western field looking southwest

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 Trentworthy, 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 J R Power Ltd, and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

The archaeological resource

- 1.3 There is no direct evidence for activity prior to the medieval period within the proposed development area, but the presence of a barrow 550m to the south indicates that an as yet unidentified resource of prehistoric date has the potential to exist.
- 1.4 Archaeological deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval period may survive over the southern part of the site. This evidence is likely to relate to field systems, such as have been identified by the Historic Landscape Characterisation project, with the surviving hedge banks of potential archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance.
- 1.5 There is no evidence for post-medieval or modern development of the proposed development area, with the land being used for farmland. Therefore any archaeological resource from earlier periods may potentially survive.

Impact assessment

- 1.6 The construction of access roads, compounds, service trenches, foundation trenches and associated groundworks has the potential to impact upon any potential surviving archaeological resource. The removal or breaching of the existing hedge banks has the potential to remove archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.

Recommendations

- 1.7 It is recommended that the impact of the proposed development scheme on the potential archaeological resource is mitigated by a scheme of archaeological works. A Written Scheme of Investigation for this work would be agreed with the Local Authority.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Trentworthy, in the parish of Bradworthy, Devon (NGR centre: SS 2873 1524). It is irregular in plan, and covers an area of approximately 17.58 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 statement.

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 the appendix.

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 3rd November 2010. This report was prepared for November 2010.

Personnel

- 2.7 Research was conducted and this report prepared by Andy Platell and Jamie Armstrong, with illustrations by 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 **archaeol3-85679**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.9 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of personnel of Devon County Council HER and Devon County Record Office 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 4 enclosed fields of pasture.

Topography

- 3.2 The proposed development area was on a west-facing slope with a minimum elevation of approximately 175m OD and a maximum elevation of 208m OD.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Bude 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 proposed development area consists of four fields across undulating landscape. All of the fields were being used for pasture at the time of the walk-over survey (Figures 10-13). Sheep were being kept in central and eastern fields, with cattle in the western field. The field boundaries primarily comprised hedge banks. No earthworks or other archaeologically significant features were visible in the proposed development area.

5. Historical and archaeological development

Previous archaeological works

- 5.1 The English Heritage National Mapping Programme has established the presence of field boundaries and field systems within the surrounding area. Two previous archaeological works have been conducted in the study area. The Stratton Hundred Rapid Identification Survey (ECO2788) was conducted in 1993 to assess and identify further archaeological sites: the survey covered part of the area to the west of the proposed development area and found nothing new in that area. The Morasses, Marshes and Moors survey (ECO1698) was conducted in 2002: the survey covered part of the area to the southwest of the site and also found nothing new in that area.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 43)

- 5.2 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity prior to the Neolithic in the proposed development area or the wider study area. However, a resource relating to this exploitation has the potential to survive within the proposed development area.
- 5.3 The earliest direct evidence of activity in the study area dates to the later prehistoric period. A barrow (HER 7129) is located 550m to the southeast of the proposed development area. This monument has not been excavated and so no firm date has

been established for it. It is probable that the wider landscape was exploited in the later prehistoric period from a series of primarily isolated settlements and farmsteads. However, there is no direct evidence for this extending into the proposed development area, but there is the potential for an as yet unidentified archaeological resource of this type to be present.

The Roman period (AD 43 to 5th century)

- 5.4 There is no evidence of Roman activity in the proposed development area or the wider study area. 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)

- 5.5 During the medieval period the proposed development area lay within the hundred of Hartland (Page 1906, 402-3). Evidence for medieval activity in the study area is present in the form of a field system 1km southwest of the proposed development area (HER MCO40139). Areas of ridge and furrow ploughing (HER 19355) around Hardworthy, dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods, are located between 250m and 1.1km to the north of the site. This evidence for medieval agricultural practices has the potential to be encountered elsewhere in the study area, including within the proposed development area.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 5.6 Early maps of Devon by Saxton (1576; Figure 2) and Bill (1626; Figure 3) do not depict the proposed development area in any detail. Donne's map of 1765 (Figure 4) and Cary's map of 1814 (Figure 5) is a slightly more accurate and detailed map of the county but still lacks enough detail to show how the proposed development area was being exploited in the early 19th century, although none of these maps indicate any form of settlement in the proposed development area. By the time of the 1843 tithe map (Figure 6) the site had been enclosed in its present layout, and shows no other evidence of development: the tithe apportionment indicates that the central and eastern fields were all a mixture of coarse pasture, arable and bog. Evidence of post-medieval activity in the study area is limited to a quarry (HER 35113) 550m to the east, and a boundary stone (HER MCO46425) and bridge (HER MCO46425), both 650m to the southwest. The main activity in the study area is agriculture, with a probable farm shown to the south-west. The site appears unchanged by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Figure 7).

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 5.7 The 2nd and later editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 8) show no significant alterations to the proposed development area. The Historic Landscape Characterisation map covering Cornwall (Figure 9) shows the area west of the proposed development area as mainly medieval farmland, with occasional areas of modern enclosed land, plantation and scrub, and upland rough ground.

The buildings

- 5.8 There are no statutorily protected buildings within the proposed development area. Two Grade II Listed Buildings are within the study area. South Blatchborough Farmhouse (HER 9199) is located 900m to the south of the proposed development area, and Youlstone Ham Bridge boundary stone (MCO46425) is 700m to the west: neither building will be affected by the proposed development.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.9 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other Designated Heritage Assets within the proposed development area, or the near vicinity.

6. The potential archaeological resource

- 6.1 There is no direct evidence for activity prior to the medieval period within the proposed development area, but the presence of a barrow 550m to the south indicates that an as yet unidentified resource of prehistoric date has the potential to exist.
- 6.2 Archaeological deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval period may survive over the southern part of the site. This evidence is likely to relate to field systems, such as have been identified by the Historic Landscape Characterisation project, with the surviving hedge banks of potential archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance.
- 6.3 There is no evidence for post-medieval or modern development of the proposed development area, with the land being used as farmland. Therefore any archaeological resource from earlier periods may potentially survive.

7. Impact assessment

Direct impact

- 7.1 The construction of access roads, compounds, service trenches, foundation trenches and associated groundworks has the potential to impact upon any potential surviving archaeological resource. The removal or breaching of the existing hedge banks has the potential to remove archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 It is recommended that the impact of the proposed development scheme on the potential archaeological resource is mitigated by a scheme of archaeological works. A Written Scheme of Investigation for this work would be agreed with the Local Authority.

9. Sources

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 25"
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition,

Other sources

Page, W (ed.)1906 *The Victoria History of the County of Devon* 1. London

Geotechnical works

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

Appendix: Historic Environment Record

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

Historic Environment Record: Cornwall

(PRN = Public Record Number)

PRN	Description	Date
MCO40139	Field system, field system?	medieval
MCO46424	Bridge	post-medieval
MCO46425	Boundary stone	post-medieval

Historic Environment Record: Devon

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

PRN	Description	Date
7129	Barrow	prehistoric
19355	Ridge and furrow	unknown
35113	Quarry	unknown

Listed buildings: Cornwall

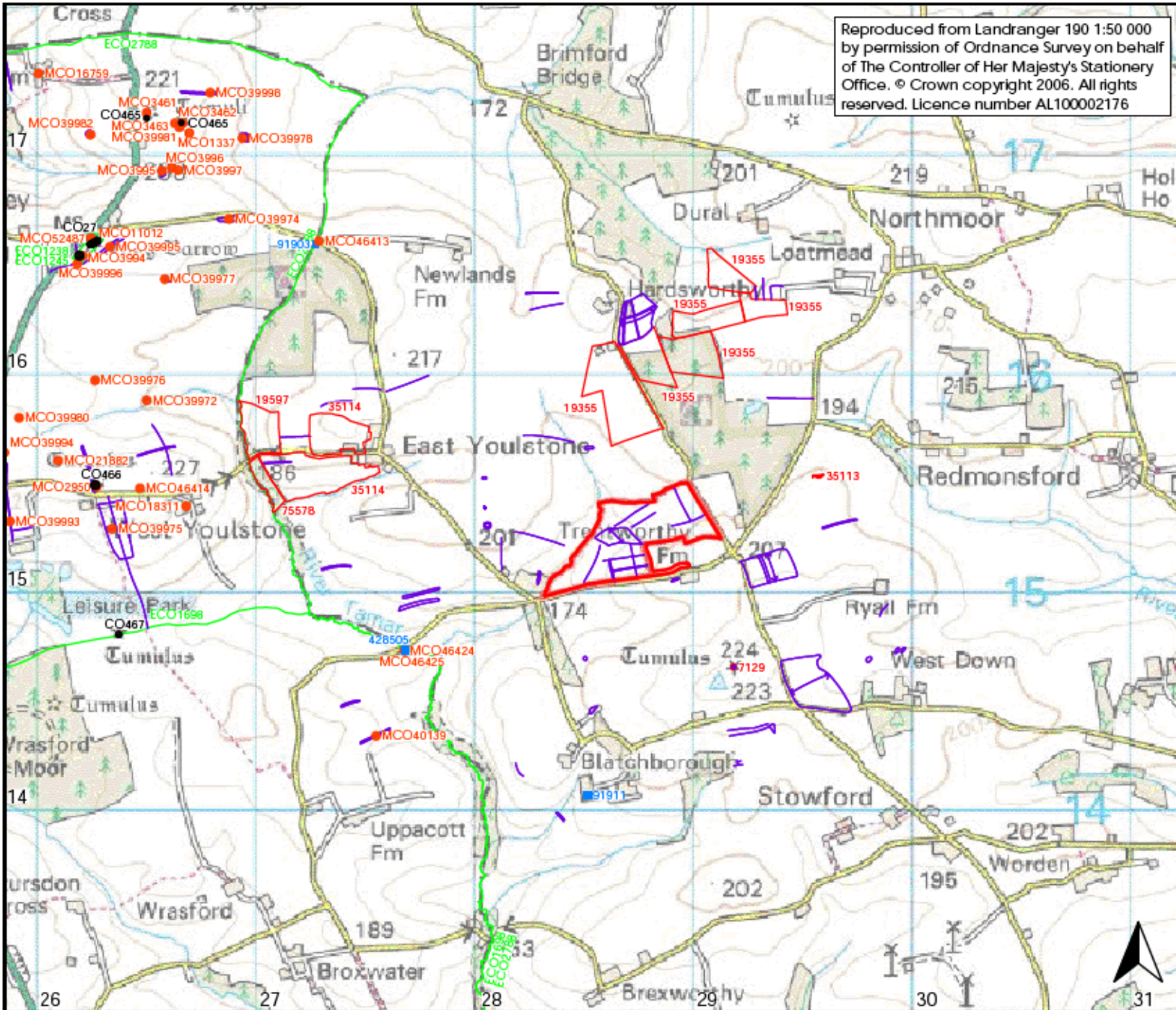
PRN	Description	Grade
MCO46425	Youlstone Ham Bridge boundary stone	II

Listed buildings: Devon

PRN	Description	Grade
9199	South Blatchborough Farmhouse	II

Previous archaeological interventions: Cornwall

PRN	Description
ECO1698	Morasses, Moors and Marshes: interpretation
ECO2788	Stratton Hundred Rapid Identification Survey (RIS): interpretation



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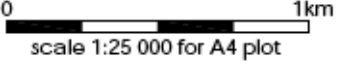
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report 2532

Figure 1: Site location and
Historic Environment Record



-  site location
-  HER site
-  Listed Building
-  archaeological event
-  English Heritage National Mapping Programme
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument



approximate location of the proposed development area

not to scale



approximate location of the proposed development area

not to scale



approximate location of the proposed development area

not to scale



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Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment
report 2532

Figure 5: Extract from Carey's map of 1814



approximate location of the proposed
development area

not to scale



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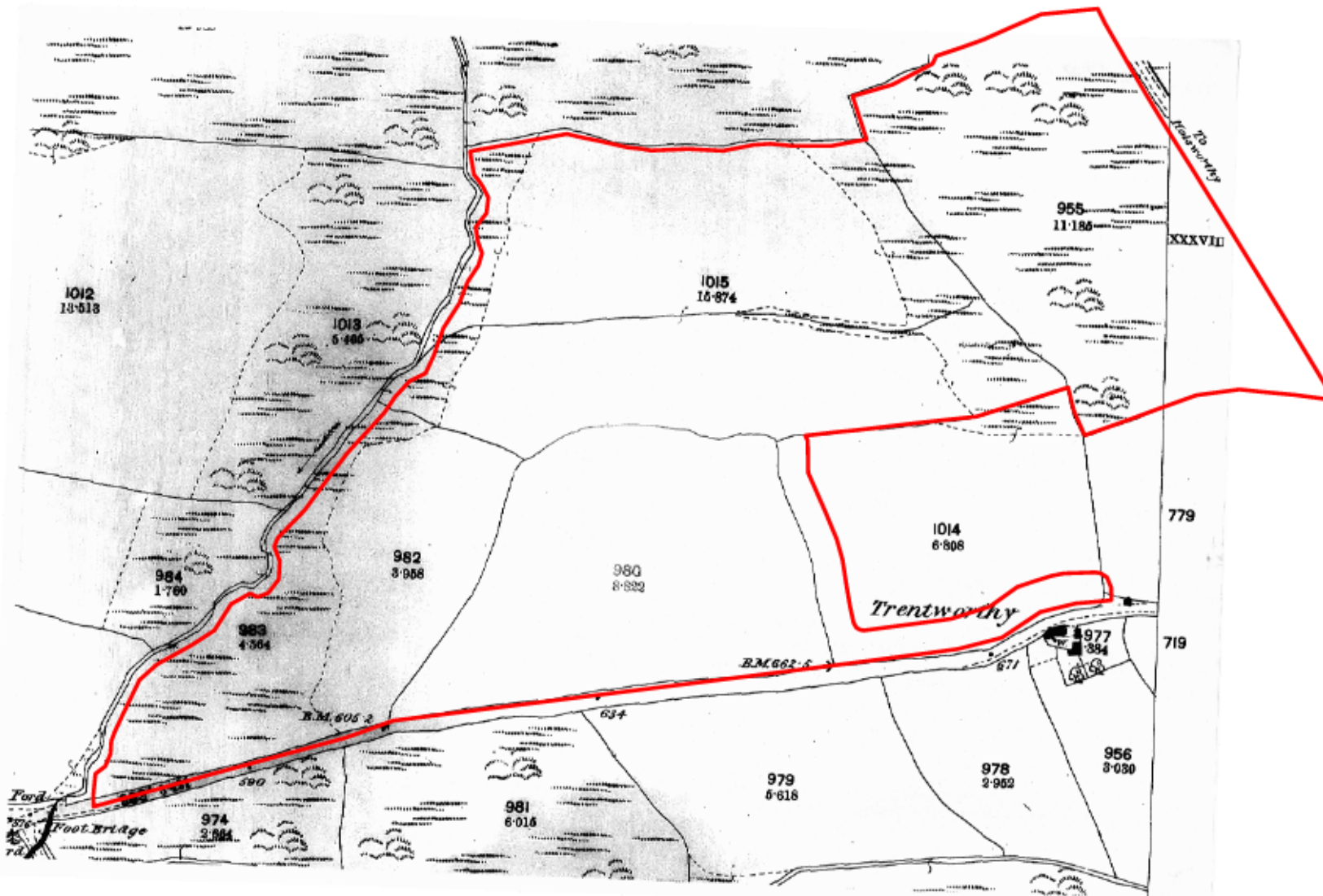
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report 2532

Figure 6: Extract from the tithe map of 1843



proposed development area

0 200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot




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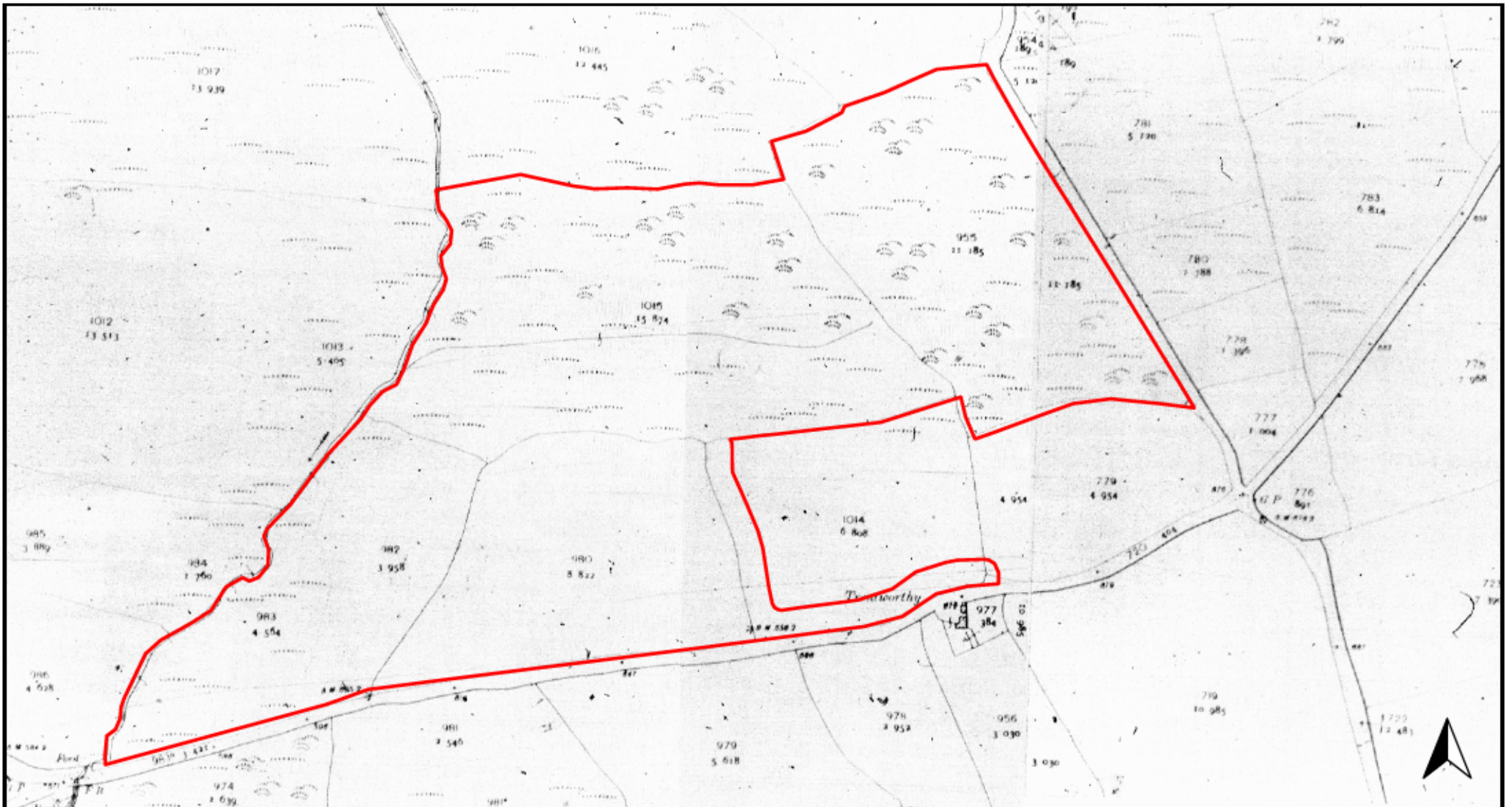
Land at Trentworthy
Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment
report 2532

Figure 7: Extract from the 1st edition
Ordnance Survey map of 1885

 proposed development area

0  200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot




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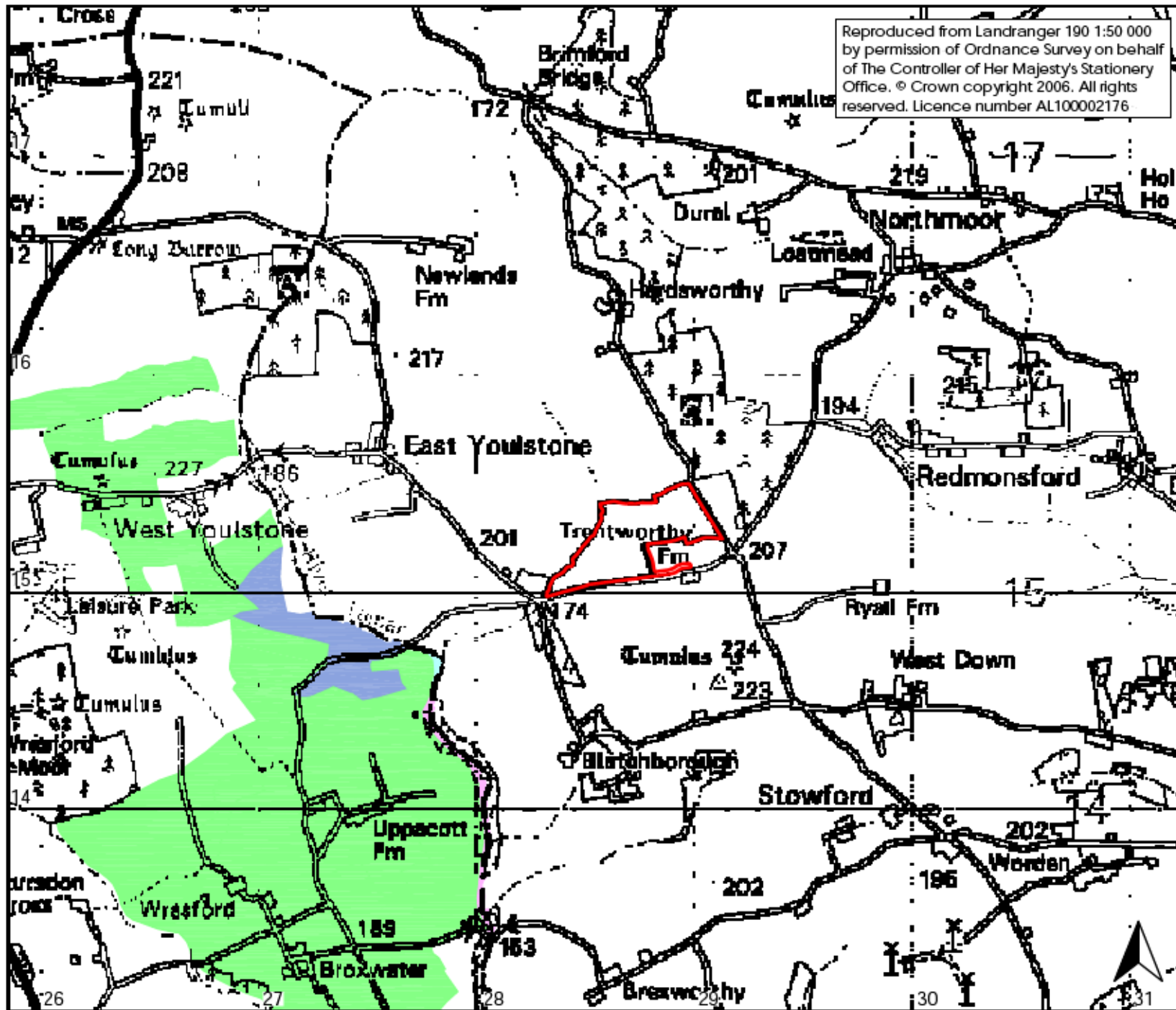
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Devon

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report 2532

Figure 8: Extract from the 2nd edition
Ordnance Survey map of 1906

 proposed development area

0  200m
scale 1:4000 for A4 plot



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report 2532

Figure 9: Historic Landscape
Characterisation (Cornwall)

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot

-  site location
-  modern enclosed land
-  farmland: medieval
-  upland rough ground
-  plantations and scrub



Figure 10: Eastern field looking north



Figure 11: Northern field looking west



Figure 12: Southern field looking southeast



Figure 13: Western field
looking southwest