

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
J R Power Ltd

Land at Derriton
near Holsworthy
Devon

archaeological desk-based assessment

report 2537
November 2010

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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 Derriton, near Holsworthy, 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 No archaeological resource has been identified which requires preservation *in situ*. There are no historic or statutorily protected buildings on or in the near vicinity of the site. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or in the near vicinity of the site.
- 1.4 There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area before the medieval period. However, there is the potential that an as yet unidentified resource may survive.
- 1.5 The site has been identified as being an area of medieval enclosures based on strip fields. The existing hedge banks therefore have the potential to contain archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 1.6 During the post-medieval period the site was used for farming, and this has remained the case through to the present day. Field boundaries removed during these periods of activity have the potential to survive as buried features. Modern farming techniques such as ploughing are likely to have impacted upon any surviving potential archaeological remains, but are not likely to have totally truncated all archaeological deposits.

Impact assessment

- 1.7 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

- 1.8 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 Derriton, near Holsworthy, in the parish of Pyworthy, Devon (NGR centre: SS 3314 0294). It is irregular in shape, following existing field boundaries, and covers an area of approximately 17.7 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 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 8th November 2010. This report was prepared for the 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 **archaeol3-85768**.

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 enclosed arable fields and two smaller ones of pasture.

Topography

- 3.2 The proposed development area lies on a south-facing slope with a minimum elevation of approximately 105m OD and a maximum elevation of approximately 155m OD.

Geology and soils

- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Bude Formation mudstone, sandstone and siltstone 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 At the southern end of the proposed development area were two rectangular fields of grass (Figures 9 and 10). No livestock were present in either field. North of these were two large L-shaped arable fields, both of which contained a recently-sown cereal crop (Figures 11 and 12). Map evidence shows that these L-shaped fields have been formed by the amalgamation of a number of smaller ones. The east-west boundary between these two fields (although not the north-south one) had a number of mature trees along its length. The remainder of the field boundaries were hedges without any trees in them. There was also a small corner of woodland at the eastern end of the southern field (Figure 12). At the northern end of the proposed development area was a third arable field, again containing a recently-sown cereal crop (Figures 13 and 14). This field was square in plan and smaller than the other two arable fields, but again had been formed by the amalgamation of several earlier fields.
- 4.3 No features of archaeological significance were observed during the walk-over survey.

5. Historical and archaeological development

Previous archaeological works

- 5.1 No previous archaeological works have been identified.

The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century AD)

- 5.2 There is no direct evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area prior to the Roman period. It is probable that the wider landscape was exploited in the later prehistoric and Roman period from a series of primarily isolated settlements and farmsteads. An as yet unidentified resource relating to this exploitation may survive.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 5.3 There are no known indications that a medieval settlement was on the site. A medieval field system (HER 36244) has been identified 400m to the east of the site, but does not extend as far as the proposed development area. The Historic Landscape Characterisation project has identified the site as a series of medieval enclosures based on strip fields. The existing hedge banks are therefore of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 5.4 Early maps of Devon by Saxton (1576; Figure 2) and Bill (1626; Figure 3) 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 4) and Cary's map of 1817 (Figure 5) 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.
- 5.5 The 1840 Tithe Map (Figure 6) is the earliest to show the site in detail. The surrounding area is characterised by large enclosed fields of arable and pasture, with occasional farms and hamlets. Derriton is the main settlement in the area, and lies to the east of the site. The proposed development area itself is shown as being a patchwork of enclosed fields, with three small areas of woodland in the eastern half of the site. The current site boundaries had been laid out by this time, with minor differences in the division of the fields. A '*bound*' is marked on one of the fields in the western part of the site: this is presumed to be an informal boundary in that area. The Tithe Apportionment indicates that the fields belonged to Thomas Cole. The use of the proposed development area for agricultural practices is likely to have had a minor impact upon any potential surviving archaeological deposits. The presence of woodland areas in the eastern parts of the site is likely to have had an adverse impact upon any potential surviving archaeological deposits due to root action.
- 5.6 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1889; Figure 7) shows some small alterations to the area surrounding the proposed development area. It remains mainly characterised by farming, with three quarries 150m to the east (HER 35778), 400m to the east (HER 36244), and 550m to the northeast (HER 43129). Derriton Mill (HER 43127), which produced corn, and the associated mill leat (HER 43128) are depicted 450m east of the site. Within the proposed development area two of the woodland areas had been removed, and a footpath is marked at the southwest corner of the site. The '*bound*' marked on the Tithe Map is now shown as being a hedgerow, suggesting a more formal division had taken place.
- 5.7 In the late 19th century the Holsworthy and Bude branch line of the London and Southwestern Railway (HER 22543) was constructed, passing 250m to the north of the site. It was originally constructed as far as Holsworthy, and was opened in 1879.

It was extended to Bude in 1898, during which work the Derriton viaduct (HER 43122) was constructed 600m northeast of the site: this is a listed building (see below).

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 5.8 The 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8) and later editions (not illustrated) show no significant alterations to the proposed development area until the 1970s, after which time a number of field boundaries were removed to produce the current field pattern. The Catholic chapel of St Cuthbert Mayne (HER 74434) was established on a former garage 250m to the east of the site, but planning permission was granted to demolish the building in 2008.

The buildings

- 5.9 There are no statutorily protected buildings within the site. Derriton viaduct to the northeast is a Grade II* listed building. There are also nine Grade II listed buildings situated around 1km to the northeast, within Holsworthy (Appendix 1). None of these buildings are likely to be affected by the proposed development.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.10 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the proposed development area, or the near vicinity.

6. The potential archaeological resource

- 6.1 There is no evidence of activity in the proposed development area or in the study area before the medieval period. An as yet unidentified resource may survive.
- 6.2 The site has been identified as being an area of medieval enclosures based on strip fields. The existing hedge banks therefore have the potential to contain archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 6.3 During the post-medieval period the site was used for farming, and this has remained the case through to the present day. Field boundaries removed during these periods of activity have the potential to survive as buried features. Modern farming techniques such as ploughing are likely to have impacted upon any surviving potential archaeological remains, but are not likely to have totally truncated all archaeological 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 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 Planning Authority.

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, 1840 Tithe apportionment for the parish of Pyworthy

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 25"

Geotechnical works

No records of geotechnical works within the proposed development area were identified 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)

PRN	Description	Date
22543	The Holsworthy Branch of the London and South Western Railway	post-medieval
35778	Quarry	post-medieval
36243	Field system	medieval
36244	Quarry	post-medieval
43122	Viaduct	post-medieval
43127	Mill	post-medieval
43128	Mill race	post-medieval
43129	Quarry	post-medieval
74434	Chapel	modern

Listed buildings

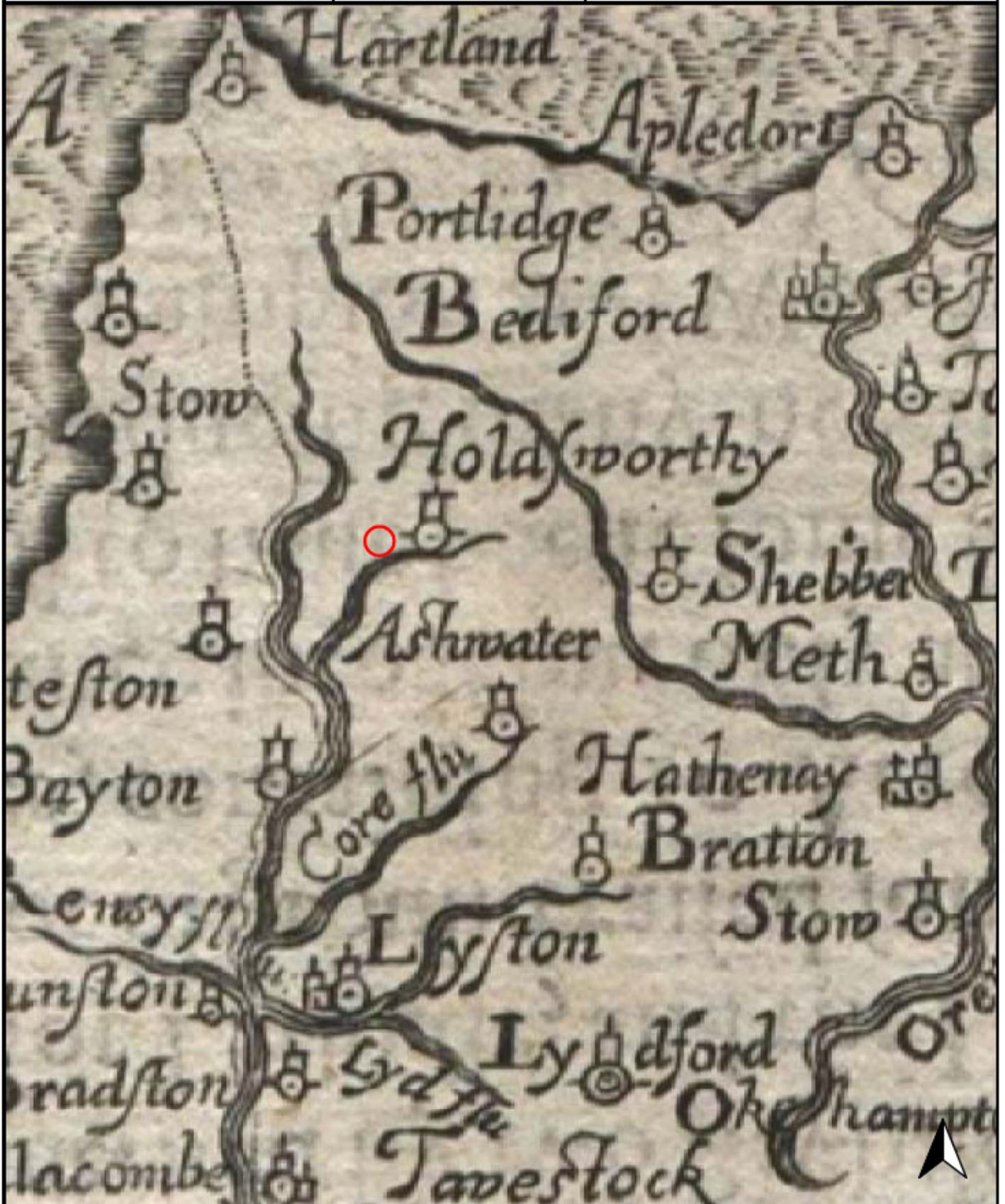
PRN	Description	Grade
91928	Derriton Viaduct	II*
91930	1 and 2 Bodmin Street	II
91931	15 Bodmin Street	II
91932	19 Bodmin Street	II
91933	United Methodist Church and church hall adjoining to east	II
91934	Elm Tree House, Bodmin Street	II
91935	Penroses, Bodmin Street	II
91936	1 Chapel Street	II
91944	Market Cross, The Square	II
91945	12, 13 & 14 Stanhope Chambers, The Square	II

Figure 2: Extract from Saxton's of 1576



approximate site location

not to scale



approximate site location

not to scale



approximate site location

not to scale



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Figure 5: Extract from Carey's map of 1814

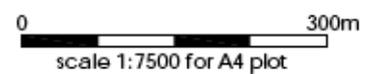
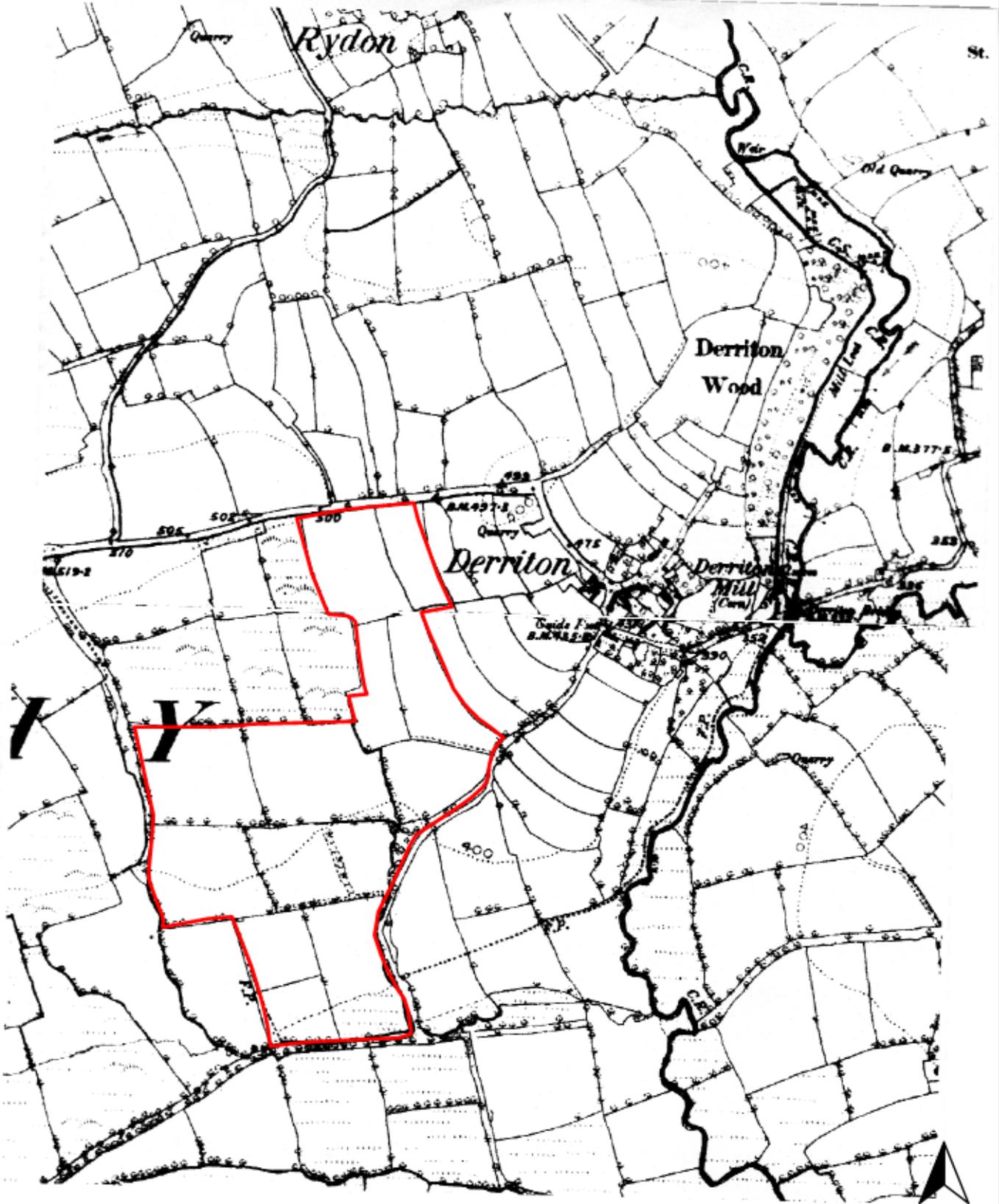


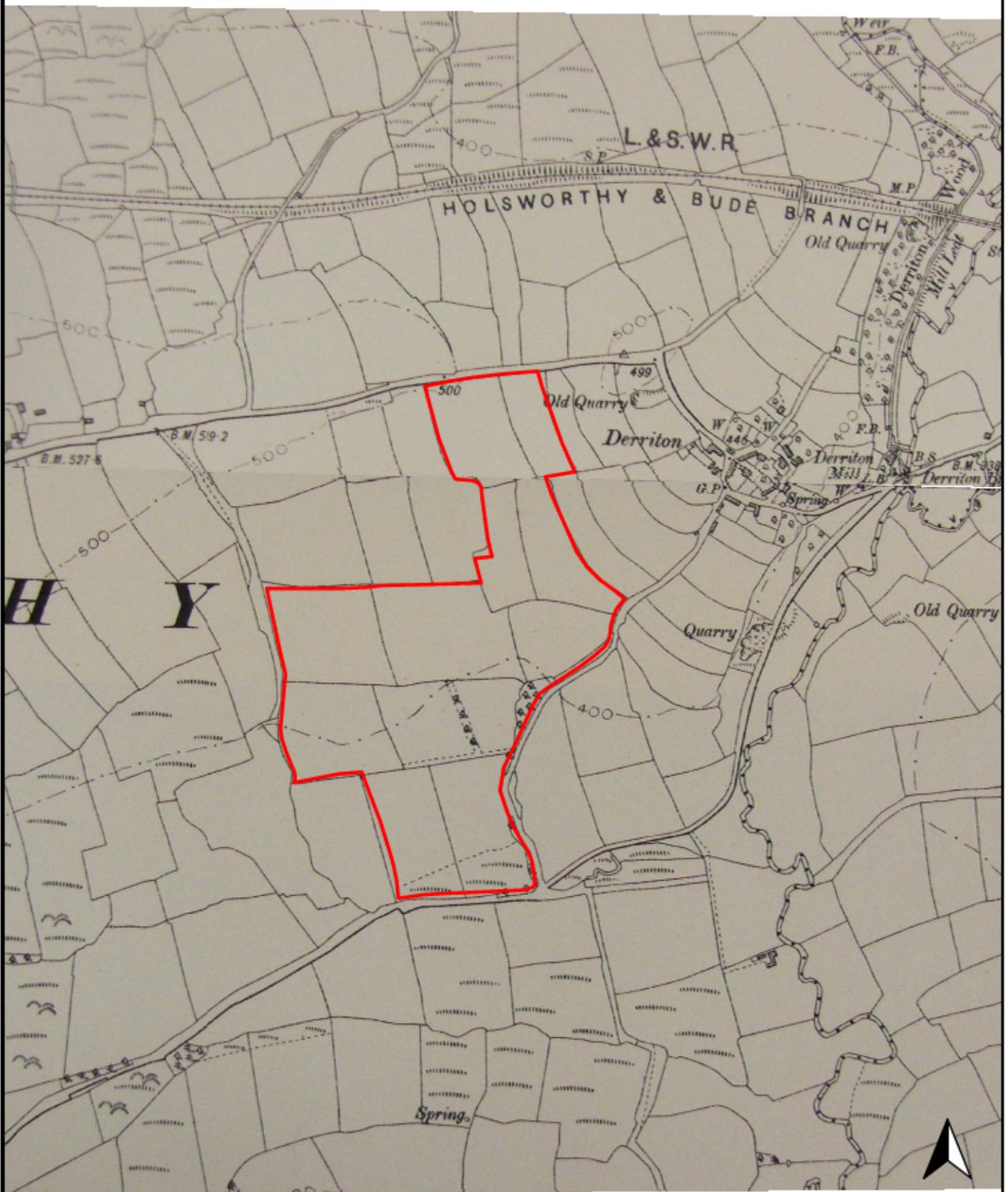
approximate site location

not to scale



0 250m
scale 1:5000 for A4 plot





 site location

0 300m
scale 1:7500 for A4 plot



Figure 9: Eastern pasture field, looking southwest



Figure 10: Western pasture field, looking northwest



Figure 11: Central arable field, looking northeast



Figure 12: Southern arable field, with copse at eastern end



Figure 13: Northern arable field, looking southwest



Figure 14: Northern arable field, looking southeast