

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
DURING CONSTRUCTION OF A
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT
NEAR HOLLOCOMBE BARTON,
WINKLEIGH, DEVON**

Prepared on behalf of South West Water

**by
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**with a contribution from
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1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

This report has been prepared by Exeter Archaeology and presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Exeter Archaeology (EA) in October 2010 during construction of a new sewage treatment works, with associated power, telemetry and staff parking at Barton Close, Hollocombe Barton, Winkleigh, Devon (SS 6298 1134; Fig. 1). The new treatment works will replace an existing septic tank. The monitoring and recording is required by the local planning authority as a condition of the grant of planning permission (DCC/2992/2010). Guidance on the required monitoring was provided in the form of a brief by the Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES Ref.Arch DC.CM 15902: Dick 2010).

2. AIM

The aim of the watching brief, as set out in the brief provided by DCHES, was to observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological deposits and artefacts across the area affected by the proposed development.

3. METHOD (Fig. 2)

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by EA (Passmore 2010).

Prior to fieldwork commencing a desk-based appraisal of the site, to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context, was carried out. This consisted of map regression based on Ordnance Survey maps, the tithe map, as well as an examination of records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER). The report also draws on recent historical information provided by the local farmer during visits to the site.

All excavations likely to expose archaeological deposits were monitored; these were the excavations for the chamber, the pipe trench to the chamber, the outflow trench from the chamber, and creation of a lay-by and access track (Fig. 2). Features exposed in the service trenches were recorded in section following excavation. In the chamber and lay-by excavations archaeological deposits were cleaned and recorded by hand prior to the completion of groundworks in these areas. All observations were recorded using the standard EA system, comprising:

- watching brief record sheets and standardised single context record sheets;
- survey drawings at scales of 1:10, 1:20, and 1:50 as appropriate, with records prepared at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation;
- black-and-white print and colour digital photography;
- labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels. Post-1800 unstratified finds were discarded on site. Spoil was also examined for the recovery of artefacts.

In addition to the preparation of this report, an on-line OASIS entry has been completed, under the identification number exeterar1-90363.

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (figs 5-8)

The site lies 150m to the northeast of Hollocombe Barton, a grade II listed building (no. 12048), which is a former farmhouse of late 16th- or 17th-century date (HER 12048). This HER entry, quoting Reichel, states that the estate was a Domesday manor; the name Hollocombe is first documented as Holecumb(e) in 1235 (Gover *et. al.* 1932, 374). Hollocombe Barton also included a chapel, although from historic mapping (outlined below) this seems to have been demolished in the 19th century and replaced with agricultural buildings. The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation project records the agricultural development of the area as deriving from ‘medieval enclosures based on strip fields’ (<http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=hlc>).

The site lies adjacent to a lane between Hollocombe and Hollocombe Moor. During the 19th century the alignment of this lane appears to have altered. The Ordnance Survey’s 2” drawing of 1806-7 (Fig. 5) and the 1” drawing of 1809 (Fig. 6) show the road as curving to the south of the present alignment, a position first depicted on the 1843 tithe map (Fig. 7). If correctly mapped this must indicate that road passed through the site and that the buildings either side of the road (such as Gosses to the east) were rebuilt.

The 1843 tithe map (Fig. 7) depicts a fairly substantial house, a building in front on the roadside, and a small structure to rear of the house in the garden. The plot, 720, is described as ‘House, court, garden and outhouses’ in the accompany apportionment, with ‘Heywood Orchard’ to the rear (plot 719) and ‘Heywood Meadow to the west (721). The tenement is named as ‘Newgate and Heywoods’. In 1887 two buildings are marked as ‘Bowdens’ on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map within a broad settlement of ‘Hollocombe Town’ (Fig. 8). This map and the 1905 Ordnance Survey map also depict a well to the east of the house. The house was two-storied, constructed of cob laid onto stone walls and with a chimney stack in the west gable. Latterly the roof had been of slate and thatch, and the building used to store hay. The building adjacent to the road – a barn – was single-storied and constructed of cob (Mr Franks, *pers. comm.*).

By 1955 both buildings were depicted as ruined on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map – Bowdens burnt down in the 1950s (Mr Franks, *pers. comm.*) – and in 1964 the building nearest the road had been removed, whilst the other building was shown as having a glass roof and was presumably being used as a greenhouse.

Immediately southeast of Hollocombe Barton was a pond. Ordnance Survey maps show this pond as being connected via a stream to another pond located to the southwest of Bowdens. The stream still survives as a landscape feature.

5. RESULTS (Figs 3-4)

5.1 Excavation for the chamber (Fig. 3; Photos 1-2)

An area of 9m by 9m was excavated for the insertion of the new chamber. Removal of the topsoil exposed three ditches (Photo. 1). Ditch 1013 was aligned northeast to southwest and had a V-shaped profile (Fig 3, Section 1 and Photo. 2). The ditch contained two fills (1014 and 1015), the lowest of which contained 10 sherds of 13th-14th-century pottery. To the south of, and at a right angle to, this feature was ditch 1011 (Fig. 3, Section 3). This was very shallow and its fill (1012) contained no finds. The northern terminus of this ditch had been truncated by the excavation of feature 1009 – a ditch aligned east to west, which may have

terminated, and thus drained into the well depicted on historic mapping to the east of the site (Fig. 3, Section 2). Sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and a single clay pipe stem were recovered from its fill (1010).

5.2 Outflow trench (Fig. 2 and Fig. 4, Section 5)

This trench was excavated between the chamber and a stream to the south, and measured 125m long by 0.30m wide by between 0.90m and 1.30m deep. Topsoil (1000) measuring up to 0.80m deep overlaid a patchy layer of subsoil (1001), which in turn overlaid natural clays and bedrock. Towards the north end of the trench the line of a former hedgebank (1006), which had been grubbed out in the 1950s, was crossed (Fig. 4, Section 5). The hedgebank was formed from reddish-brown silty clay with abundant local stone, and was flanked by a ditch on each side (1004 and 1007). Fragments of modern glass were noted within the hedgebank, and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill (1008) of ditch 1007.

5.3 Trench to the chamber

This trench was excavated between the chamber and the existing septic tank close to the adjacent property to the west. Topsoil, measuring between 0.40m and 0.60m deep, was recorded directly over natural stony clay. No archaeological features were exposed.

5.4 Excavation for the lay-by and access track (Figs 3-4; Photos 3-4)

In the south part of this area the remains of a metalled surface was exposed cut into the natural bedrock (1016; Photo. 3). Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and two fragments of 18th-/19th-century tile were recovered from this surface. During excavation of the access track, hedgebank 1028/1029 was breached (Photo. 4). The bank was constructed from light yellow-brown stoney clay (1028) faced on the north side by 8 courses of unbonded local stone from which 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered (Fig.4, Section 4). To the north of the hedgebank remains of soil layers (1022 and 1023) were exposed (Fig. 4, Section 6). Deposit 1023 was truncated by a v-shaped feature possibly a small ditch or more probably a posthole (1025). Above these deposits dumps of modern material were present, these having been dumped on the site during the demolition of Bowdens. These were sealed by a patchy layer of topsoil (1017) that was also present overlying hedgebank 1028/1029.

6. FINDS, *by C. Coles*

A small quantity finds was recovered from the watching brief. These are listed in the table below.

Context	Medieval Pottery C13th/C14th	Post-Medieval Pottery	C18th-19th Tile	Slag	Clay pipe Stem
1008		1			
1010	1	3			1
1014	10			3	
1016		2	2		
1028		2			

This assemblage includes 10 sherds of medieval 13th-14th-century North Devon coarsewares including four cooking pot rims and a piece of medieval jug. The discovery of medieval pottery is not particularly common in and around Hollocombe, due to the nature of the rural location. The post-medieval material is all North Devon gravel-tempered, including a sherd

of a type 1A bowl. The three fragments of iron slag are undiagnostic, although two display some characteristics of tag slag.

7. DISCUSSION

The site lies close to a possible late medieval farm complex and within an area of medieval strip fields. Ditch 1013 is medieval – 13th/14th century – in date, and may represent a boundary ditch along the side of the lane from the village of Hollocombe up onto Hollocombe Moor.

The development was designed to avoid impacting on the former settlement of Bowdens. The alignment of hedgebank 1028/1029 corresponds with the entrance splay into Bowdens as depicted on historic mapping (see Figs 7-8). Surface 1016 represents the remains of the courtyard to the north and east of the house forming part of the access to the property. The function of ditches 1009 and 1011 exposed in the chamber excavation are unclear. Ditch 1009 is post-medieval in date and may have functioned as a drain or channel leading to the well. Ditch 1011 is stratigraphically earlier, and could be associated with medieval or early post-medieval agriculture, perhaps a remnant of a boundary feature. A former post-medieval field boundary – 1006 – was also recorded.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SOURCES CONSULTED

Unprinted Sources

Devon County Historic Environment Record

Entries for area around Hollocombe Barton

Historic Landscape Characterisation, accessed through their website:

<http://gis.devon.gov.uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=hlc>

Devon Record Office

Winkleigh tithe map (1843) and apportionment 1846

Printed Sources

Dick, A.M. 2010 *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Barton Close, Hollocombe Barton, Winkleigh* (DCHES ref. ARCH.DC.CM.15902)

Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 1932 *The Place-Names of Devon* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Ordnance Survey maps

2" drawing number 36w, 1806-7

1" map, 1809

1:2500 map sheet 42.10, surveyed 1887, published 1889.

1:2500 map sheet 42.10, 2nd edition published 1905

1:2500 plans SS6211 and SS6311, revised 1954, published 1955

1:10560 map SS61SW, published 1964

Passmore, A.J. 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Barton Close, Hollocombe Barron, Winkleigh, Devon* (EA pro. No. 7213).

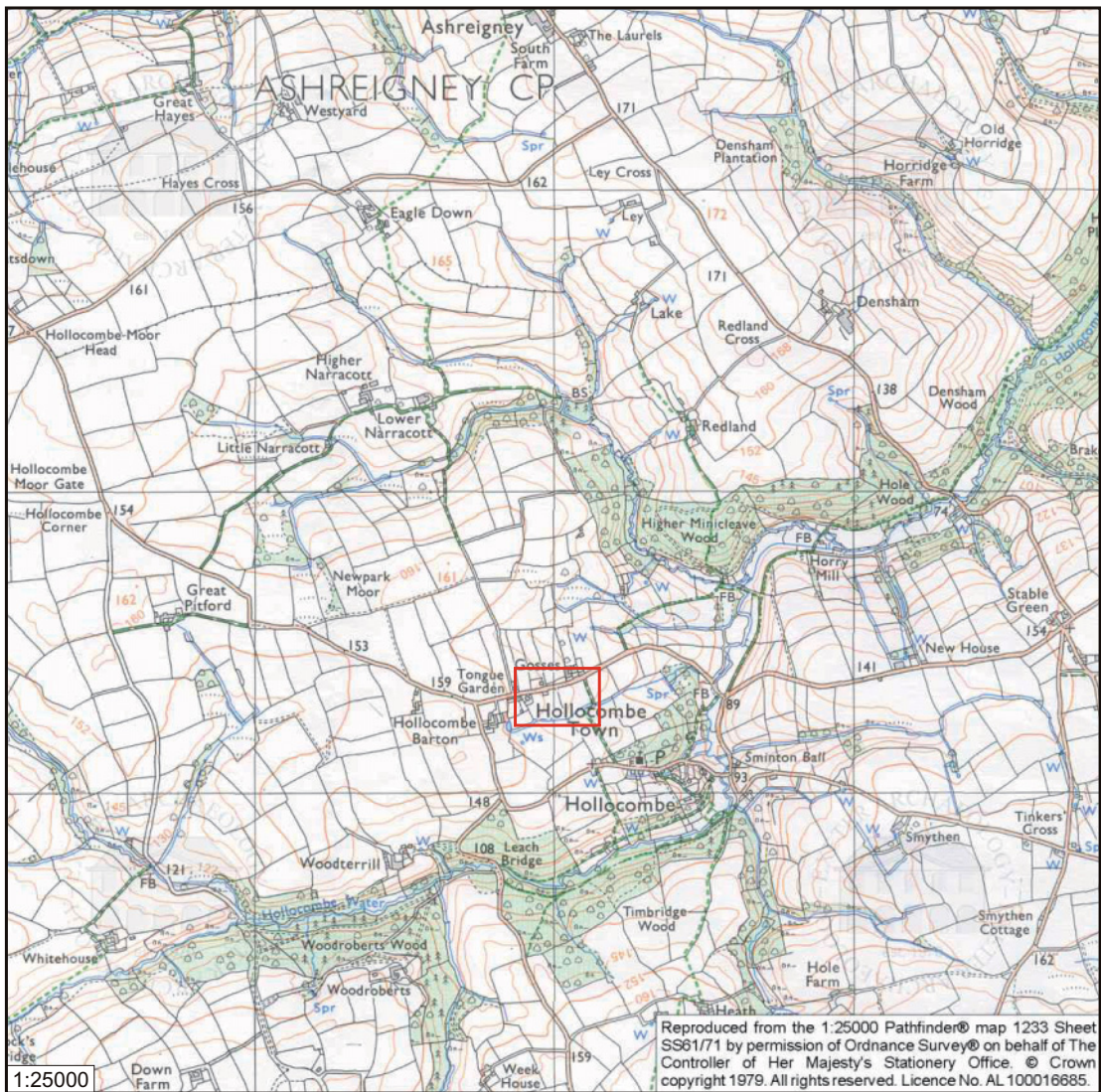
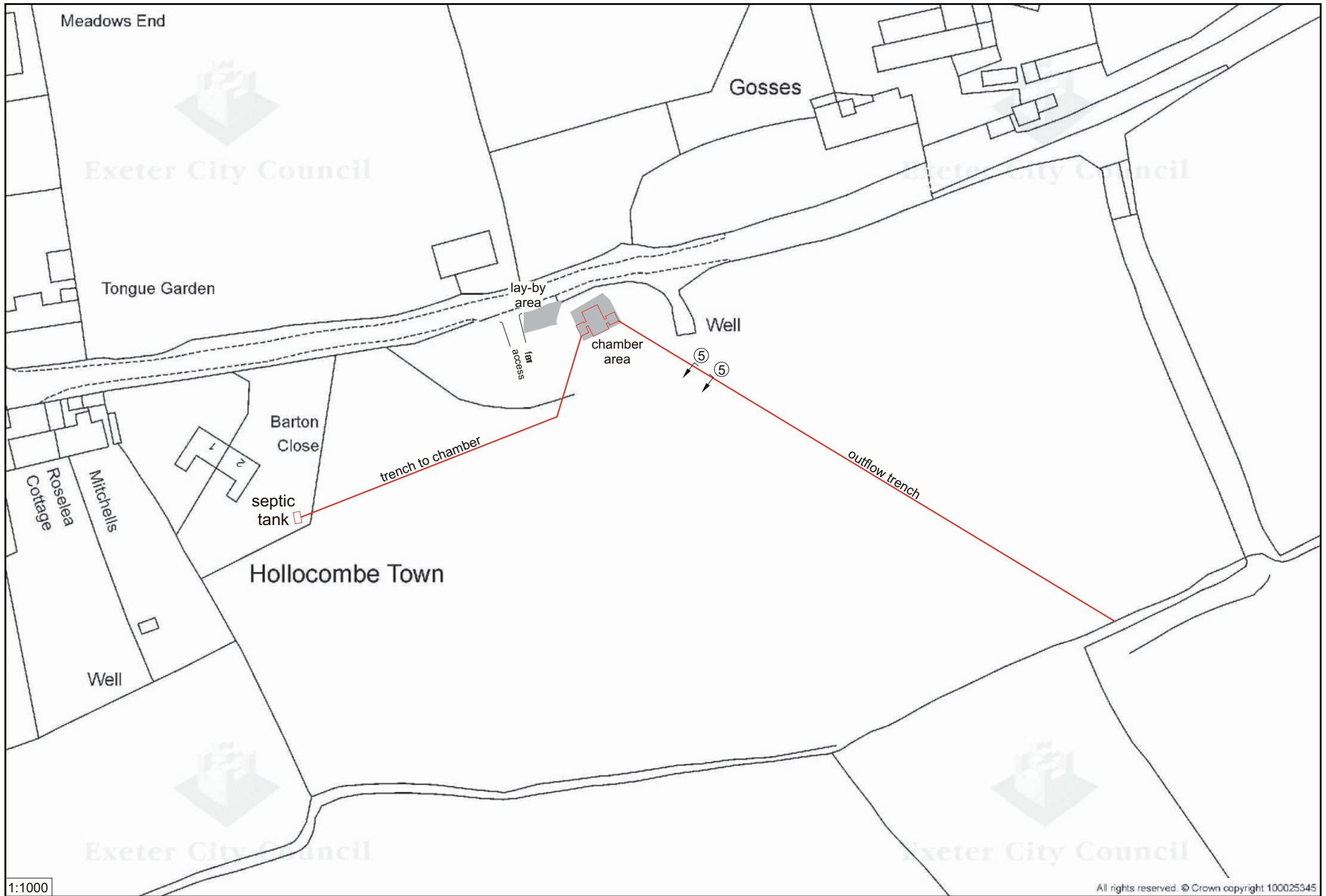


Fig. 1 Location of site.



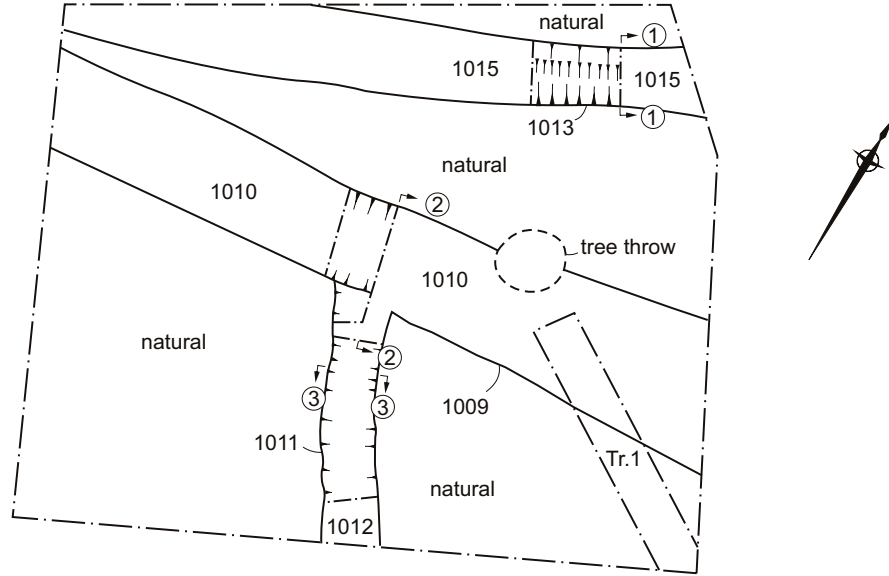
1:1000

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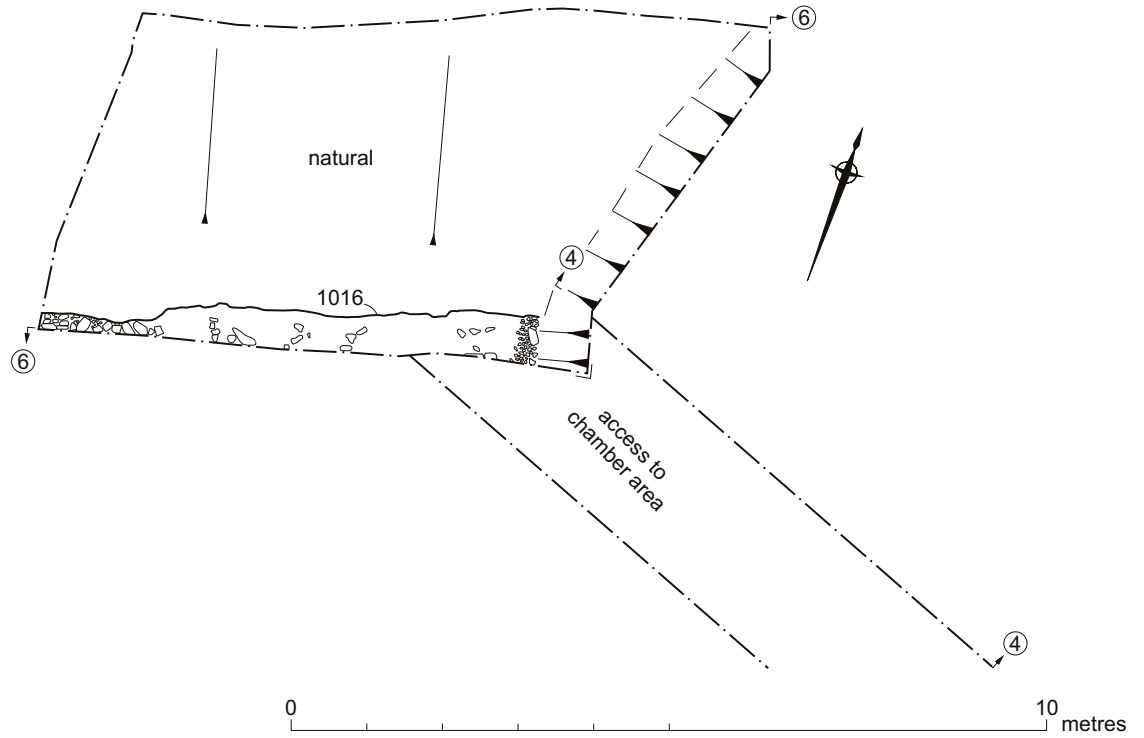
Fig. 2 Site plan.

Plans

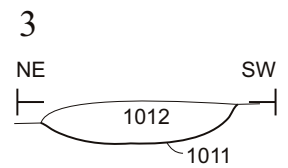
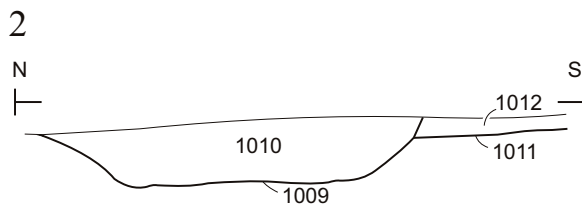
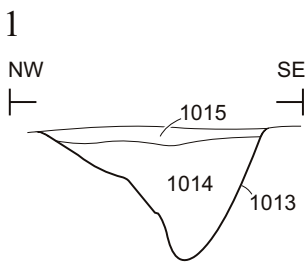
Chamber area



Lay by area



Sections:



arbitrary datum height

Fig. 3 Plans and sections.

Sections:

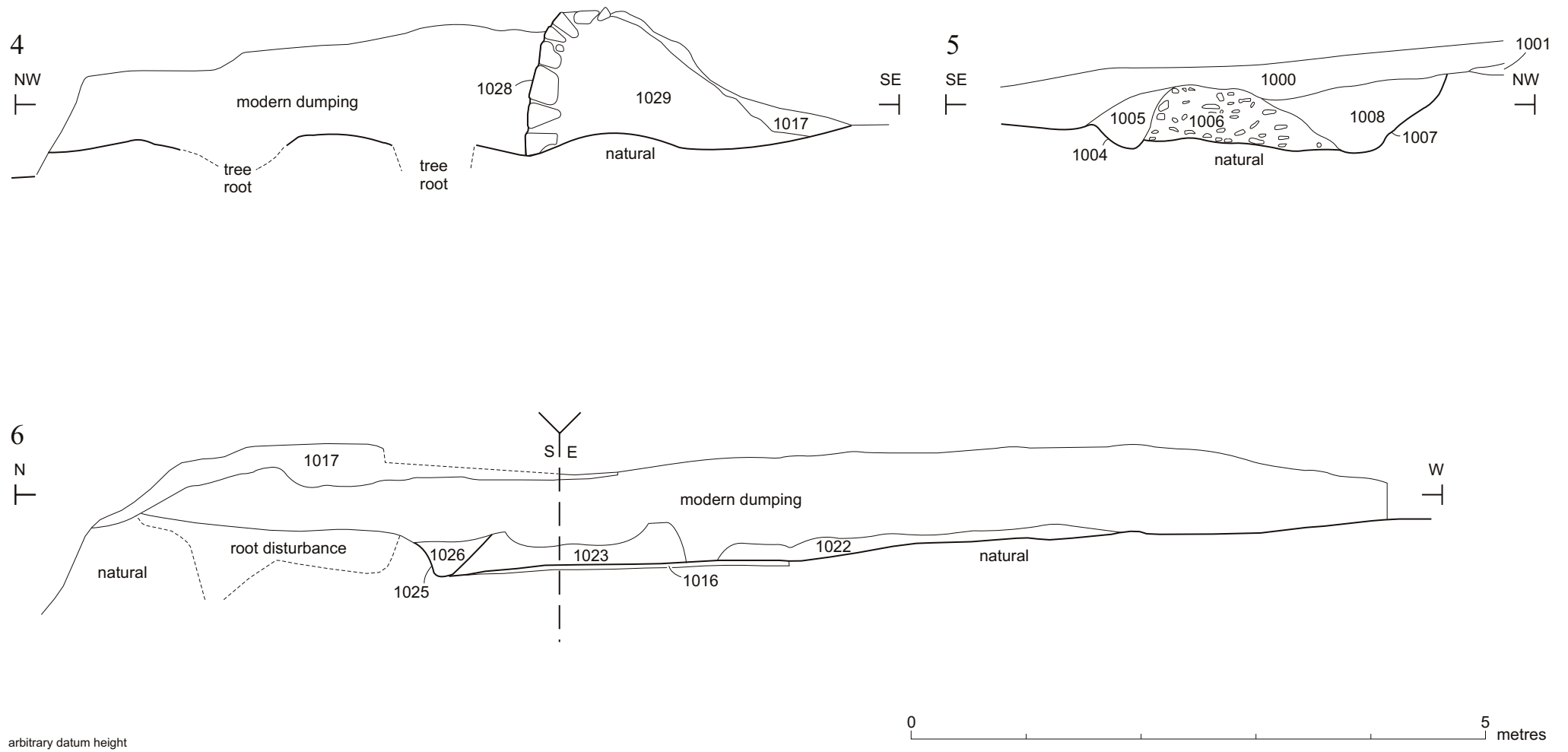


Fig. 4 Sections.



Fig. 5 The site in 1866-7 (OS Surveyors two inch drawing No. 35W).

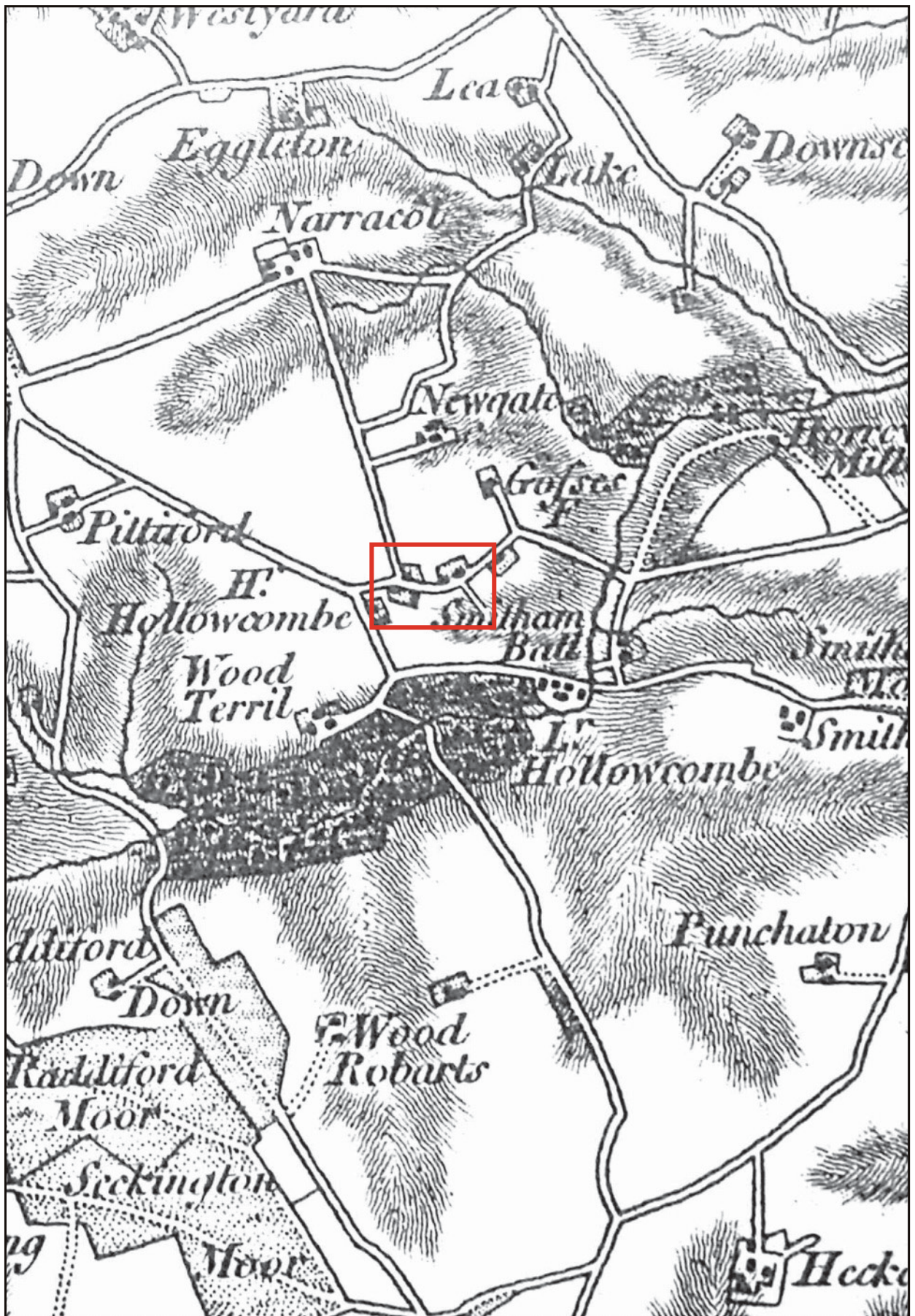


Fig. 6 The site in 1890 (OS 1 inch map).



Fig. 7 The site in 1843 (Winkleigh tithe map).

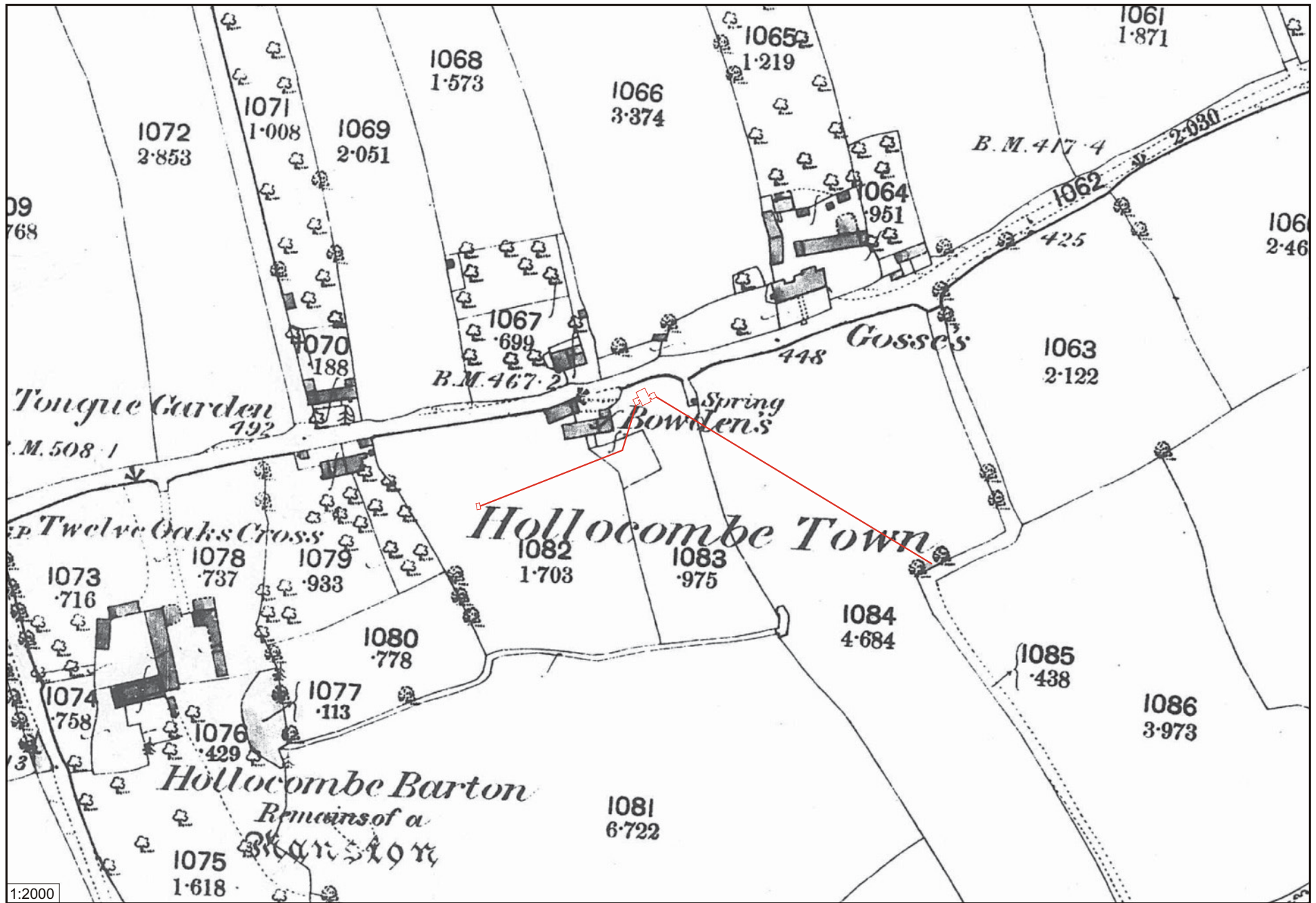


Fig. 8 The site in 1887 (OS 1:2500 map sheet 42.10).



Photo. 1 Chamber area, looking southwest, showing ditches 1013 and 1009 to right and left of scale respectively. 1m scale.



Photo. 2 Chamber area, section through ditch 1013, looking northeast. 0.25m scale.



Photo. 3 Lay-by area, showing metallated surface 1016, looking west. 1m scale.



Photo. 4 hedgebank 1028/1029, looking northeast. 1m scale.