

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Cowleaze Farm, Eysey Manor Quarry Phase 7,
Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire**

Building Recording

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: EMC14/184

(SU 1079 9505)

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For Tarmac Ltd

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Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EMC 14/184

July 2017

Summary

Site name: Cowleaze Farm, Eysey Manor Quarry Phase 7, Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1079 9505

Site activity: Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 24th April 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site code: EMC 14/184

Summary of results: Part of a building and the farmyard wall were recorded as being the only remaining upstanding walls of Cowleaze Farm. These were identified as belonging to the south-east end of the farmyard.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.07.17 Steve Preston ✓ 31.07.17

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Report 14/184

Introduction

This report documents the results of a building recording at Cowleaze Farm, Eysey Manor, Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire (SU 1079 9505) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Josephs on behalf of Tarmac Ltd.

Planning permission has been gained from Wiltshire County Council to extract minerals from a parcel of land to the east of the A419, known as Eysey Manor. The consent is subject to a condition which required a programme of archaeological works to excavate and record archaeological deposits prior to extraction or other damage, and to record the remains of a derelict building that was to be demolished. This was in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990), which has since been succeeded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on the historic environment. This phase of work (phase 7) includes a level 2 building recording on the derelict remains of Cowleaze Farm; this report documents the results of the building survey.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 24th April 2015 and the site code is EMC 14/184.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museum and a copy sent to the National Monuments Record in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Eysey Manor is located to the east of Cricklade, on the north eastern side of the A419 and immediately south-east of the road to Kempford. Cowleaze Farm is located within phase 7 of the gravel extraction works (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 80m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as alluvium above river terrace deposits (mainly gravel) numbered 1B (BGS 1974).

Historical Background

Cowleaze Farm first appears on Andrew and Drury's 1773 map of Wiltshire (Fig. 3). Little detail is shown but it is possible to see the indication of two buildings perpendicular to each other. The Latton enclosure map of 1805 references the 'Cowleaze Inclosures' but does not show the farm buildings (Fig. 4). No tithe map was available

for Latton and the parish boundary with Eysey falls at the field boundary of Cowleaze Farm; no buildings are therefore shown on the Eysey tithe map.

The first map on which the farm buildings are clearly shown is the 1875 First Edition Ordnance Survey, which shows approximately nine buildings, some with separate yards in a loose cluster. It is not immediately clear what the functions of the individual buildings are, though one is likely to be a barn and there may be stables and other buildings for animals. The map of 1899 is clearer due to the buildings being shaded. A well is shown to the east of the buildings and a pump is shown to the west of the buildings. The buildings themselves, however, do not appear to have changed. The map from 1921 (Fig. 5) is similar, but with one building no longer present. The smaller scale plans suggest there are no further changes up to the 1960s. However by the next large scale map of 1973, the farm has been demolished.

Methodology

The building survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines set out by Historic England for a level 2 record (RCHME 1996). The survey comprised a photographic survey, paying attention to the methods of construction, chronological development and alterations, and features of special interest. The building has been photographically recorded digitally and catalogued (Appendix 1).

Description (Fig. 6)

Little of the building remains, and not in any recognisable form. A total of three walls were present; east, west and south walls with the north wall missing. The east wall contained a small dog-leg to the east before continuing to the north. What remained consisted of a maximum height of 1.48m on the west wall, with other walls being considerably lower. There was no evidence remaining of the roof.

The walls themselves were stone built using oolitic limestone rubble, roughly faced and typically measuring approximately 300mm x 200mm x 80mm. These were roughly coursed and laid as a drystone wall. The width of the wall varied, with sections measuring 0.45m, 0.50m, 0.60m and 0.70m wide.

Some consolidation and preservation had been undertaken on the walls including the addition of a concrete cap on top of the walls, though this had also deteriorated and was no longer present on the southern wall. Within the southern wall were a few bricks, measuring 260mm x 130mm x 52mm and stamped *Stonehouse Brick and Tile Co. Ltd.* These were bonded in a hard, white, pebbly mortar. Three wooden posts also appeared to be a part of the building; these were located, two at the centre of the west wall and one at the eastern end of the north wall.

The posts had a square profile and were probably of pine. The posts in the southern wall measured 120mm square by 0.98m and 1.25m high; the westernmost one also had two hinges in it. The post in the western wall measured 95mm square by 1.25m high and had a single hinge in it.

Interpretation

Subsequent excavation of the site revealed the complete farm and it was possible to identify that the building surveyed here was at the south-eastern end of the farmyard and consisted of two sides of a building and part of the farmyard wall, including a gate (Fig. 7)

Conclusion

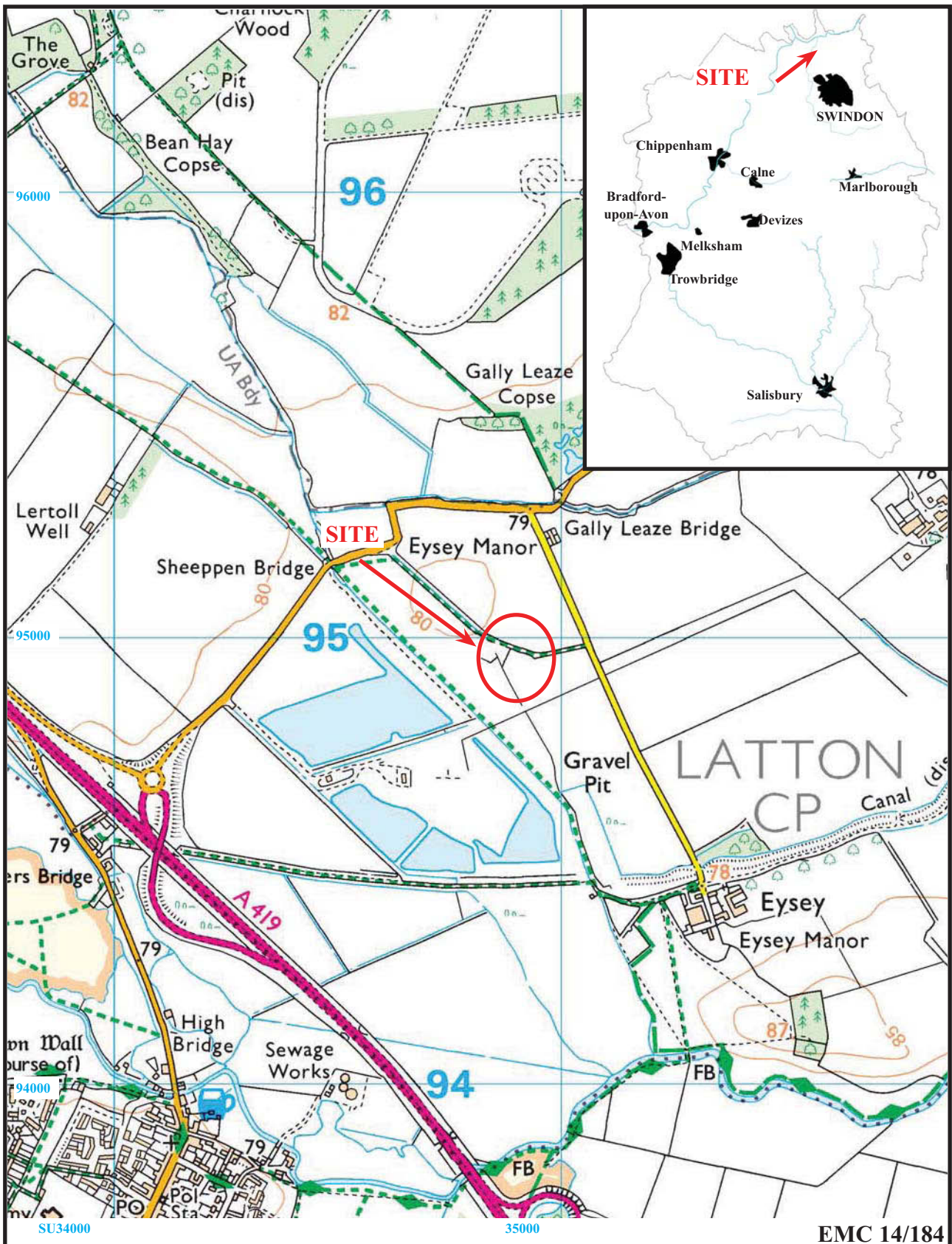
Parts of three walls and a small section of dog-legged wall were all that remained above ground of Cowleaze Farm. What remained could not be identified as any specific building and was in considerable disrepair. Excavation of the rest of the farmyard revealed enough information to identify the walls as belonging to the south-eastern end of the farmyard, consisting of part of a building and the farmyard wall.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 252, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
RCHME, 1996, *Recording Historic Buildings: a descriptive specification*, 3rd edn, Roy Comm Hist Monuments (England), London (Now Historic England)

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Catalogue

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Scales</i>	<i>Direction</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	1x2m, 1x1m	SW	View to east wall
2	1x2m, 1x1m	W	Oblique of east wall
3	1x2m, 1x1m	SW	Detail of east wall
4	1x2m, 1x1m	W	East wall dog-leg
5	1x2m, 1x1m	E	Internal face of east wall showing dog-leg
6	1x2m, 1x1m	NE	Internal face of east wall
7	1x2m, 1x1m	E	Internal corner of east and south wall
8	1x2m, 1x1m	S	Along the length of the south wall
9	1x2m, 1x1m	SW	Internal face of west wall
10	1x2m, 1x1m	NW	External face of south wall
11	1x2m, 1x1m	NE	External face of west wall
12	1x2m, 1x1m	NE	Detail of west wall
13	1x1m	E	Post in west wall
14	1x1m	E	Detail of slab



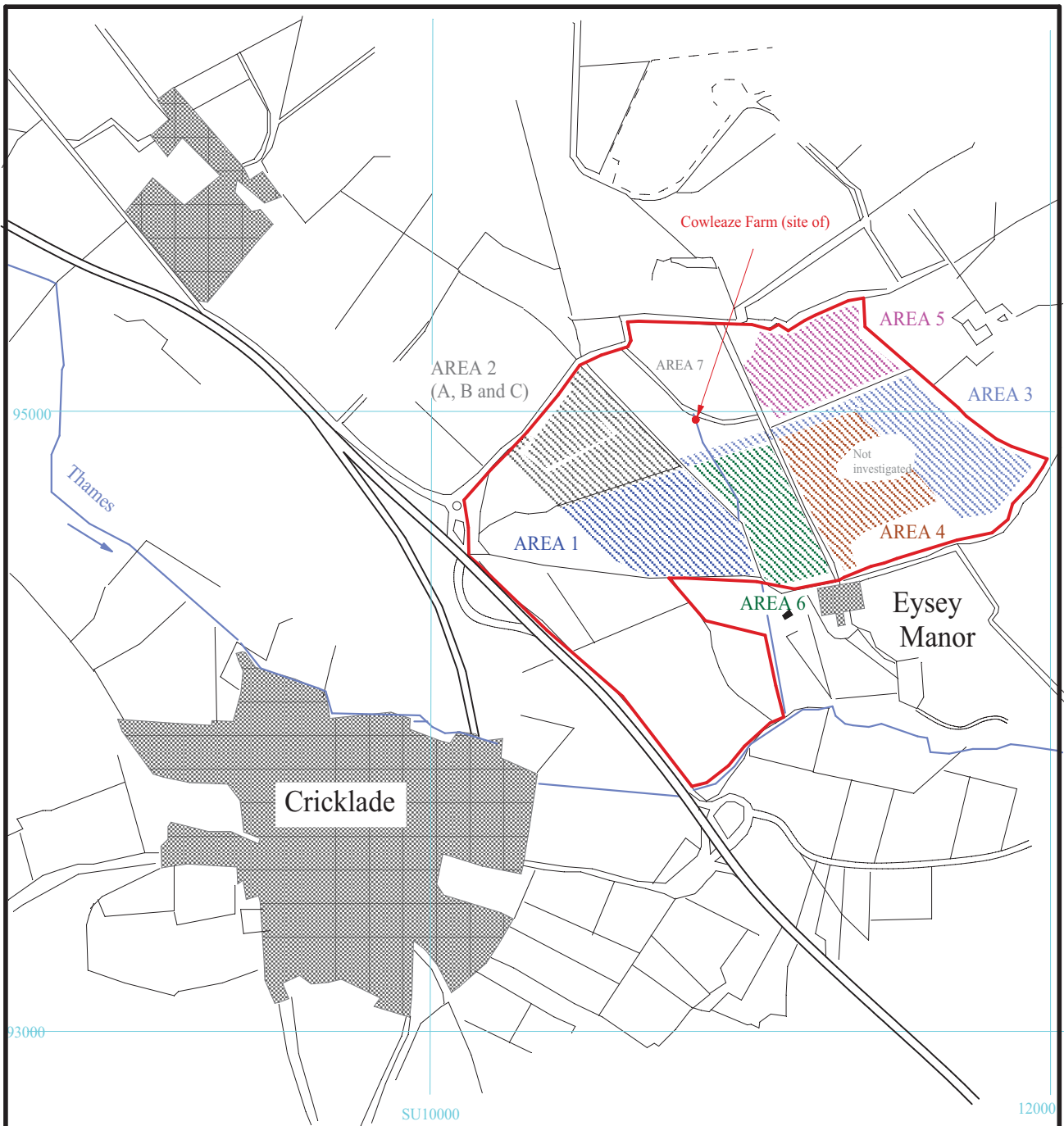
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Figure 1. Location of site within Eysey and Wiltshire.

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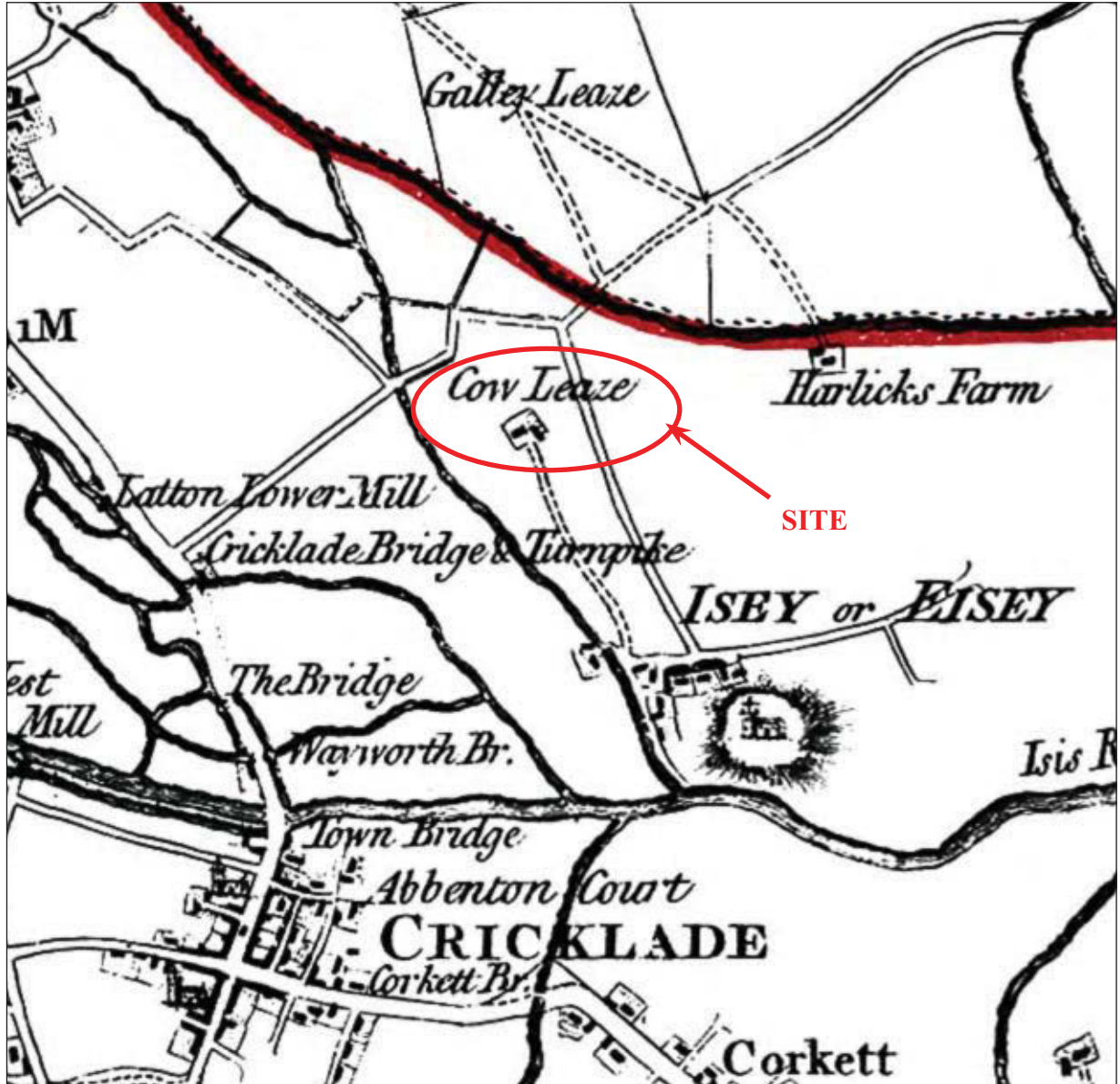
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Figure 2. Location of the site within Eysey and in relation to previous phases of archaeological investigation.



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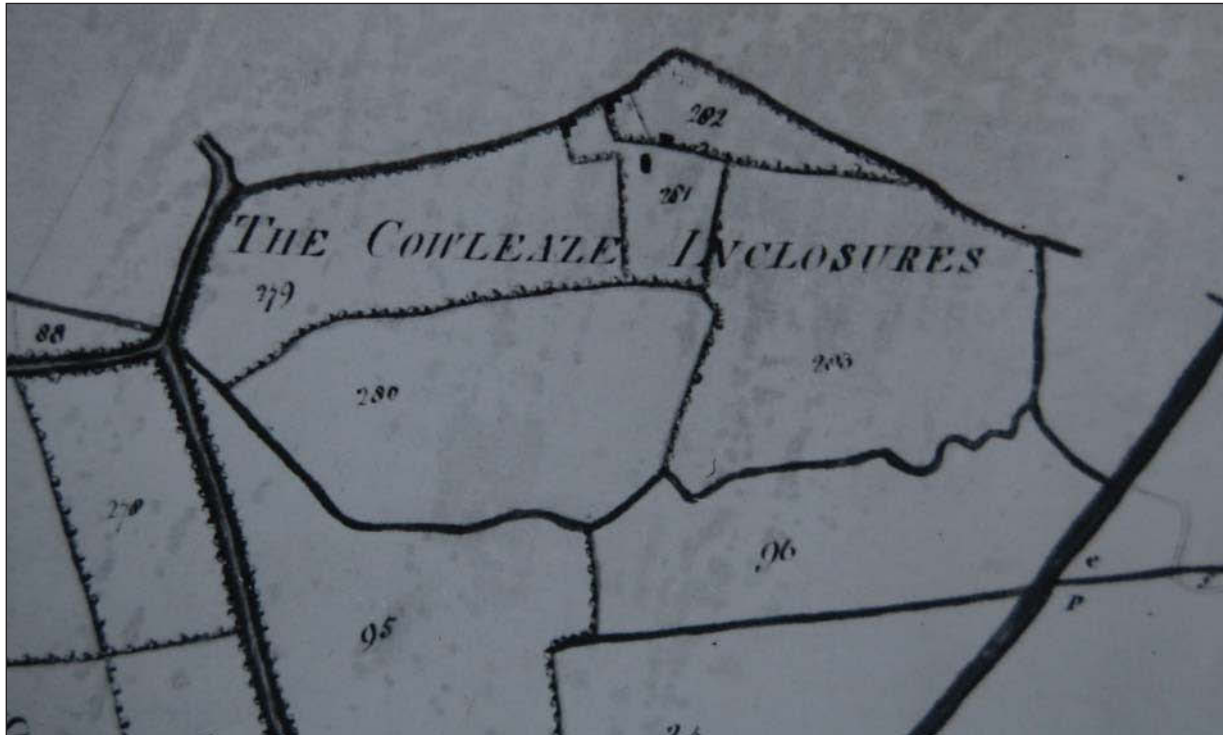


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 Figure 3. Andrews and Drury's Map of Wiltshire, 1773.

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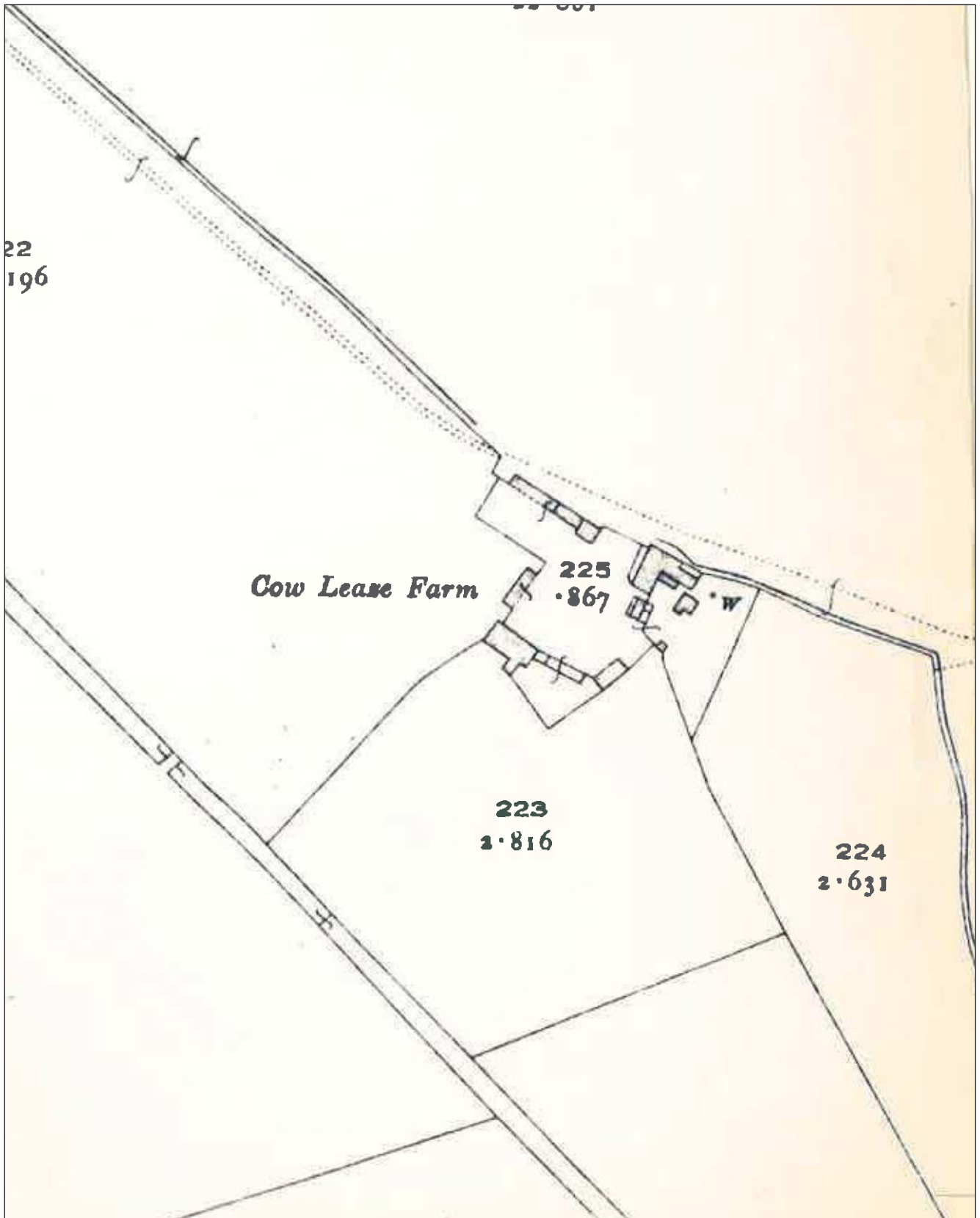
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Figure 4. The Latton Enclosure Map, 1805.

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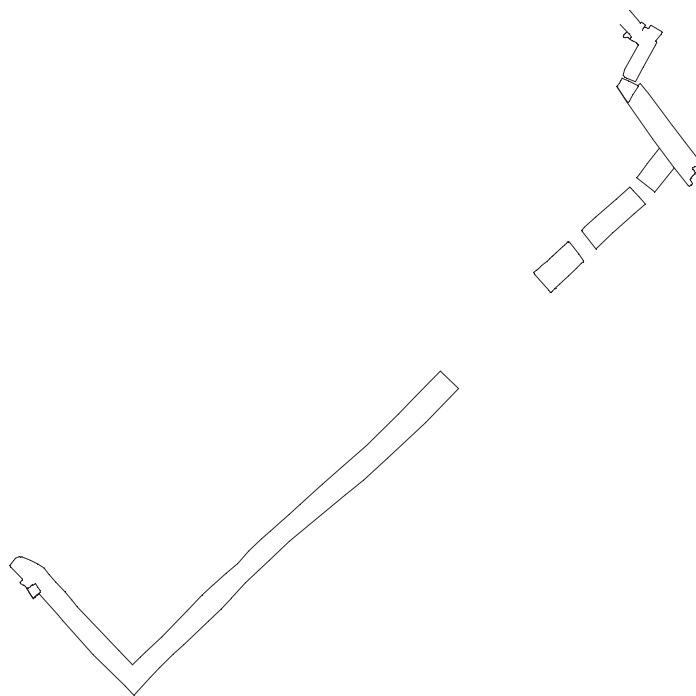


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Figure 5. Ordnance Survey, 1921

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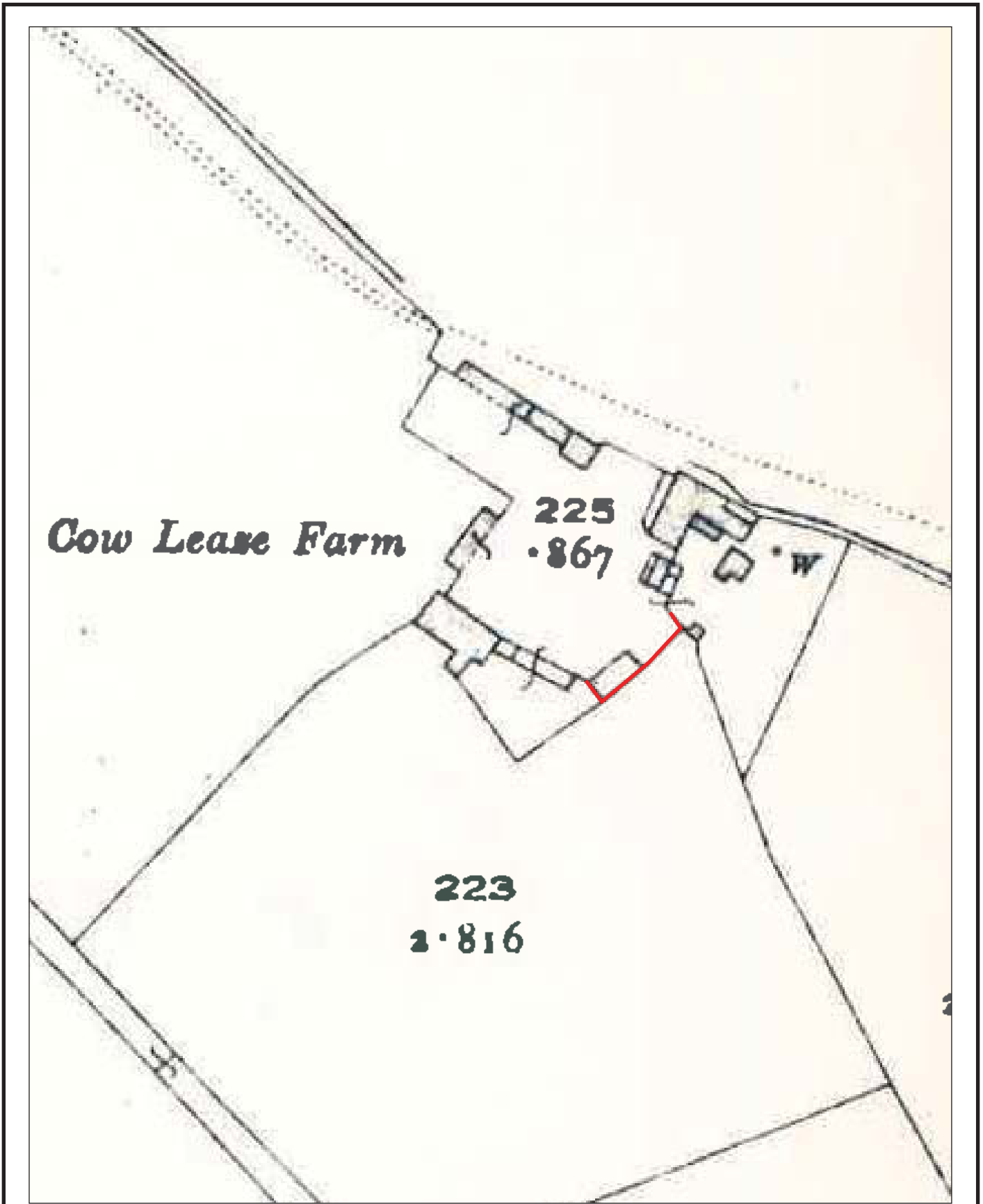


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Figure 6. The Standing Walls



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Figure 7. Ordnance Survey, 1921,
showing the upstanding walls surveyed

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Plate 1. View to east wall, looking south west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Internal face of east wall showing dog-leg,
looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. External face of south wall, looking north west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. External face of west wall, looking north east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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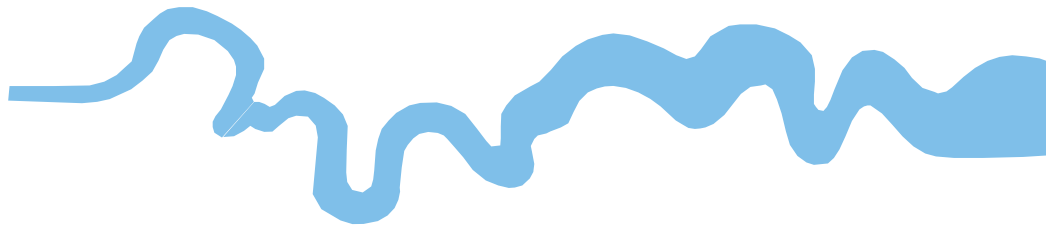
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Plates 1 to 4.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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