

# WOODLANDS BARN CORNWORTHY DEVON

Results of a Desk Based Appraisal



The Old Dairy  
Hacche Lane Business Park  
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**Woodlands Barn,  
Cornworthy,  
Devon**

**Results of a Desk Based Assessment**

*For*

Claire Hoyte

*Of*

Luscombe Maye

*By*



**SWARCH project reference:** CWB14  
**National Grid Reference:** SX8382055799  
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## *Summary*

*South West Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake a desk-based appraisal of Woodlands Barn, Cornworthy. The cartographic record indicates that there has been a building on the plot where Woodlands Barn stands prior to 1844. The building has remained relatively unchanged in plan since the 1889 First Edition OS Map, when it was recorded as a more rectangular structure than that depicted on the Tithe Map. The building may therefore have been altered and extended or rebuilt between 1844 and 1889.*

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Graham Tait of Devon County Historic Environment Team

The staff of the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC)

## 1.0 Introduction

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**Location:** Woodlands Barn  
**Parish:** Cornworthy  
**County:** Devon  
**NGR:** SX8382055799

### 1.1 Project Background

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Claire Hoyte of Luscombe Maye (the Agent) to conduct a Desk Based Assessment of Woodlands Barn, Cornworthy, Devon (Figure 1).

The work was undertaken in order to understand the date, form, function and development of the building from its origins, with the aim of understanding the impact of development on the historic elements of the building.

### 1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The site is located at the end of Woodlands Lane less than one kilometre east from the Village and conservation area of Cornworthy. It is situated at a height of approximately 100m AOD on the north face of a hill near the gently sloping banks of the River Dart, which lies a short distance to the east.

The underlying geology is of the sedimentary bedrock of the Norden Formation (BGS 2013); these are overlain by the fine loamy or fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983).

### 1.3 Methodology

The desk-based assessment was compiled by Victoria Hosegood in accordance with IfA (2008) guidelines. The assessment was based on the cartographic material held at the Devon Heritage Centre and online databases and sources.

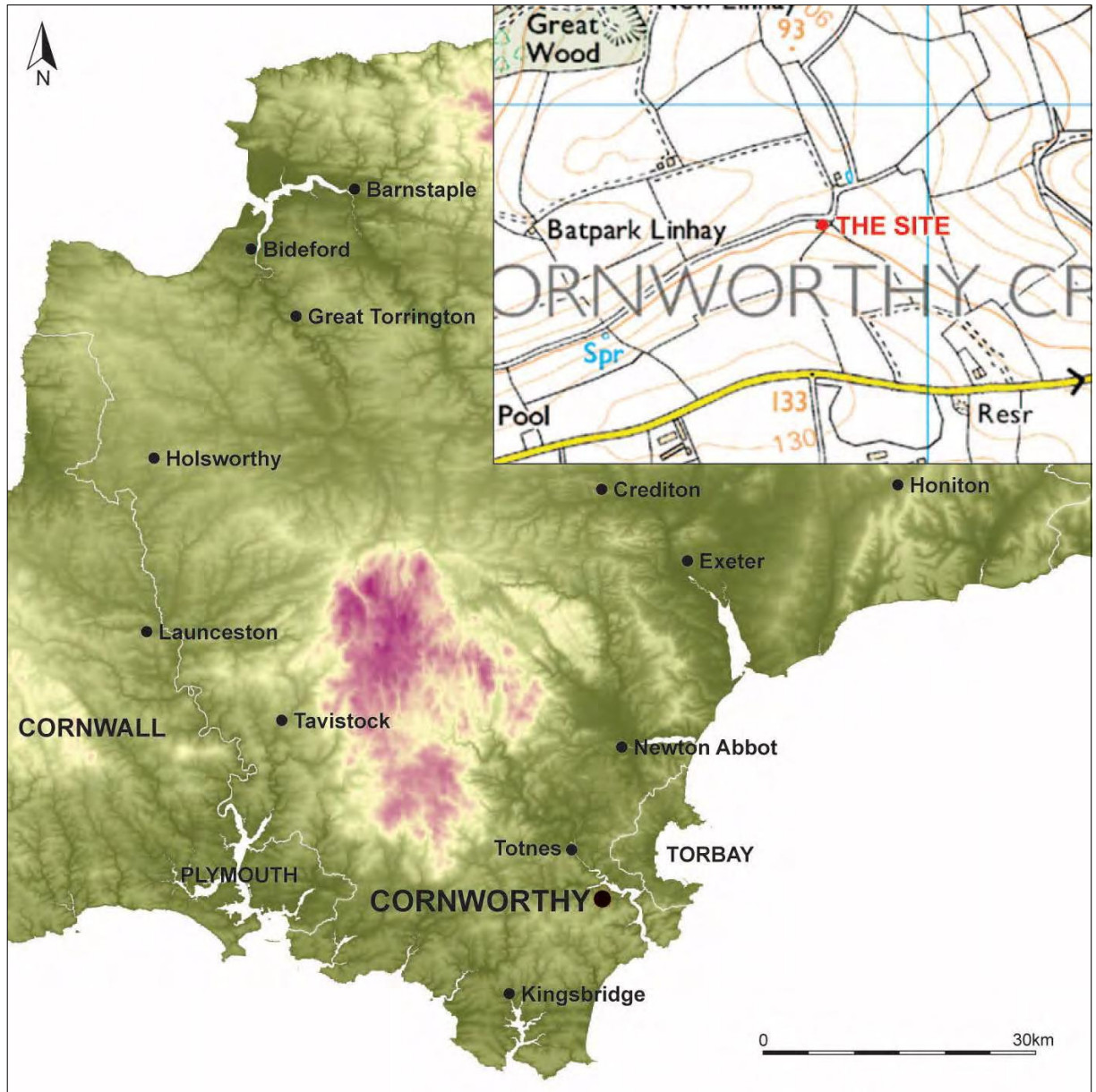


Figure 1: Location map, the site is indicated.

## 2.0 Results of a Desk-based Appraisal

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### 2.1 Historical Summary

The site is situated within the parish of Cornworthy, in the hundred of Coleridge and in the deanery of Totnes. The village has a long documented history and is listed in the Domesday Book, as Corneorde and was held by Iudihael, who held vast quantities of land throughout Devon, including Totnes.

The place name points to an early medieval origin of the settlement. Both elements within the name are Old English; *Corn* which has a variety of differing meanings including the obvious 'grain' or the less obvious 'crane' or 'heron' while *Worthy* is 'enclosure' in Old English (Gover *et al* 1992). Cornworthy's history, predominantly as an agricultural village, is well exemplified by the medieval field systems which surround it. The area to the south of the village was likely first enclosed with hedgebanks during the later Middle Ages while some of the narrower fields as well as the larger ones with curving hedgebanks in this area may suggest earlier farming in the form of strip fields. In the fifteenth century, as well as agriculture, the residents of Cornworthy were shipping large quantities of stone; some of which was used for the building of the castles either side of the river mouth in Dartmouth.

Woodlands Barn lies within an area characterised on the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as Barton fields. These are large relatively regular fields likely to have been enclosed between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with some curving boundaries; remnants of earlier strip field farming in the medieval period. Many factors are involved in the shaping of the farmland surrounding the site; the larger more regular fields may be attributed to the industrial revolution, and the increase in the population which came with it. The type of buildings constructed within this farmland is also often linked to the agricultural improvements of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### 2.2 Cartographic History

#### 2.2.1 Early Cartographic Sources

The first cartographic source available for this study is the First Series OS map of 1809 (Figure 2). As is the case with many maps of this age, there are inaccuracies in the scale and much of the detail is missing. It is unclear whether there is a building at the site of Woodlands Barn at this time or not, but there are a number of buildings (largely farmhouses) scattered across the surrounding landscape.





Figure 2: First Series OS map of 1809, the approximate location of the site is indicated.

### 2.2.2 Cornworthy Tithe Map 1844

The first accurate and detailed cartographic source is the Cornworthy tithe map of 1844 (Figures 3 and 4). On this map a building is shown in the location of Woodlands Barn. The accompanying tithe apportionment records the building (815) as 'Barn and Yard' and owned and occupied by William Widdicombe, as is the land surrounding and to the south of the site (Table 1). The tithe apportionment lists the barn as part of a holding known as 'Diamonds and Tozers', this point may be instructive in the location of an associated farmhouse as today there is a Grade II Listed building situated in Cornworthy village named 'Diamonds'. However, William Widdicombe also leased a holding known as *Parrots*, which included a farmhouse and land to the south-east of the barn in East Cornworthy. Also the 1841 census lists William Widdicombe as a farmer residing in East Cornworthy, which suggests that the holding of 'Diamonds and Tozers' had nothing to do with the building known as Diamonds at this date, although it may have previously.

William Widdicombe apparently married Elizabeth Cockrem at Harberton around 1813, before moving to the farm at Cornworthy. In White's Directory of 1850, in the section for Cornworthy, *William Widdecombe (sic)* is listed as one of the farmers in Cornworthy. His death is recorded in 1853 and his will is in the Devon Heritage Centre.

The additional buildings visible on the tithe map to the north of the barn are also named 'Barn and Yard' and these are owned and occupied by Rev. Charles Barter, who is a noted figure in the history of the parish having been incumbent of Cornworthy for 71 years. The large empty area to the north-west of the barn may represent un-enclosed land, but is more likely indicative of tithe exempt lands, especially given that the apportionment suggests that part of the 'Diamonds and Tozers' holding was amongst the tithe exempt lands.





Figure 2: Extract from the 1844 Tithe map. The site location is indicated.



Figure 3: Detailed extract from the tithe map showing detail of the building.

No.	Landowner	Occupier	Field name	Cultivation
Glebe				
796	Rev. Charles Barter	Himself	Path Field	Arable
797			Long Field	Pasture
798			Barn and Yard	-
Diamonds and Tozers				
812	William Widdicombe	Himself	Great Woodland	Arable
813			Little Woodland	Arable
814			Woodland Hill	Arable
815			Barn and Yard	-
816			Long Field	Arable
817			Well Field	Arable
818			Homer Longland	Arable
819			Yonder Longland	Arable
820			Hole Slade	Arable
Cornworthy Farm				
821	Edward Holditch	Himself	Higher Hole Slade	Arable
822			Lower Hole Slade	Arable

Table 1: Extracts from the Cornworthy tithe apportionment of 1843.

### 2.2.3 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

The first edition OS map of 1889 (Figures 5 and 6) gives much the same information as the tithe map, the barn is still apparent as are many of the field boundaries. The form of the building on the first edition OS map is more regular in plan, no longer having a projecting northern 'porch', but appearing square fronted to the lane. This is perhaps an indication that there was some alteration to the structure between 1843 and 1889. There is also a difference in the barn to the north, which, unlike the southern building, has not been blackened, perhaps indication that it is an enclosure rather than a structure by this date.

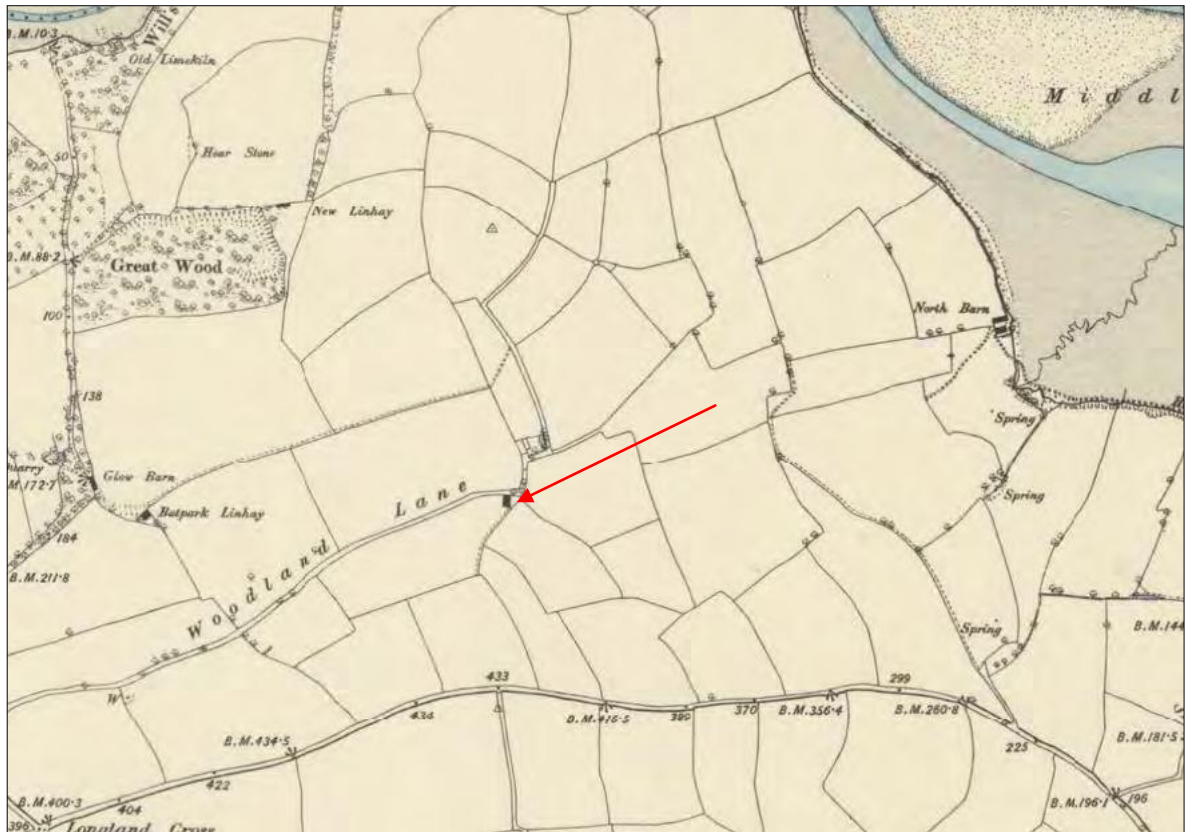


Figure 4: Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1889.



Figure 6: Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1889 showing detail of building.

#### 2.2.4 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1904

There is little change between the second edition OS map (Figure 7) and the above. Again the building here assessed is present and there appear to have been no adjustments to its form in plan

between 1889 and 1904. There are alterations to the form of the northern building, it is clearly a building rather than an enclosure at this point, but it is small and square rather than large and rectangular as the building or enclosure displayed on the tithe and 1<sup>st</sup> edition maps. Other than this there are no major changes between the first and the second edition OS Maps.



Figure 7: Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map of 1904. The site is indicated.

### 3.0 Conclusions

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The cartographic record indicates that there has been a building on the plot where Woodlands Barn stands since prior to 1844. The building has remained relatively unchanged since the 1889 First Edition OS Map, when it was recorded as a more rectangular structure than that depicted on the Tithe Map. The original building may therefore have been altered and extended or (less likely) rebuilt between 1844 and 1889.

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