

LAND at GREAT COTTON FARM STOKE FLEMING DEVON

Results of a Desk-Based Appraisal
Walkover Survey & Visual Impact Assessment



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Land at Great Cotton Farm Stoke Fleming, Devon

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For

Mike Smith

of

Millwood Homes

By



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Summary

This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and limited visual impact assessment carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) for a proposed housing development at Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth, Devon, with respect to a nearby hillfort.

*West-north-west of the proposed development is Woodbury Camp, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This is a substantial defended enclosure located in a locally-prominent position. The hillfort lies within several fields south-west of Woodbury Farm, and parts of the rampart survive relatively well; however, most of the monument has been ploughed down and the site is on the Monuments at Risk Register. This assessment determined that there would be intervisibility between Woodbury Camp and the houses on the edge of the proposed development, and views to the monument from along the valley from the south-east would include the development; those houses would not, however, be substantial skyline features. Bearing in mind the current situation and condition of the monument, and the visual effect of the proposed housing scheme, the overall impact of the proposed development can be assessed as **negative/minor** to **negative/moderate**.*

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Acknowledgements

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Mr & Mrs Pritchard for access to Woodbury Camp
The Staff of the Devon Historic Environment Team

1.0 Introduction

Location:	Land at Great Cotton Farm
Parish:	Stoke Fleming
County:	Devon
NGR:	SX85761.50835

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based appraisal and limited visual impact assessment carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd (SWARCH) for Woodbury Camp, a Scheduled hillfort, with respect to a proposed housing development at Great Cotton Farm, Stoke Fleming, Devon (Figure 1). This work was commissioned by Mike Smith of Millwood Homes (the Client) in order to quantify the potential visual impact of the proposed development.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The hillfort is located to the west of Dartmouth, south of the A3122, east of Bugford and south-west of Woodbury Farm. The hillfort is perched above a steep-sided valley that runs down to the sea to the west of Stoke Fleming at Blackpool, at an altitude of 140m AOD. The proposed housing development is located c.0.95-1.75km to the south-east, to the north-west, north and north-east of Great Cotton Farm. Both the hillfort and the proposed development are located on the same level interfluvial area.

The soils of this area are the well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils of the Denbigh 1 Association (SSEW 1983). These overlie the mudstones, siltstones, limestones and sandstones of the Bovisand Formation (BGS 2014)

1.3 Historical Background

Both sites lie within the ancient parish of Stoke Fleming (*Stoch*) in the Hundred of Coleridge. This was a Domesday Book manor held by Walter de Douai; it paid tax for 5 hides but had land for 24 ploughs – a very favourable assessment. It is recorded as *Stokes* in the 1218 Feet of fines for Devon, *Stoke Flandrensis* in 1261, *Stokefleming* in 1270, and *Stoke-flemyngg juxta Dertemuwe* in 1299. The family of *le Flemeng* is first mentioned in context with the place in the 1218 Feet of Fines. The name 'Cotton' is first recorded in the Subsidy Rolls of 1333 in the form *atte Cotene*, i.e. 'at the cottages' (Gover *et al.* 1931, 331), suggestive of a minor settlement. Woodbury (*Wodebury*, presumably the farm) is also first recorded in 1333 (*Ibid*).

The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Devon has characterised most of the fields in this area as *barton fields*, large semi-regular sub-rectangular enclosures laid out between 1400-1800. The fields immediately adjacent to the farmsteads are listed as *post-medieval enclosures*.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The hillfort is itself a Scheduled Ancient Monument (MDV8504), but there are no other SAMs in the immediate area. A number of cropmark enclosures are noted on the HER along the valley to the south-south-east (MDV36970 and MDV42999). At Great Cotton itself, a number of

archaeological investigations have taken place, including a 25ha geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation (see Substrata 2010, SWARCH 2010, 2013).

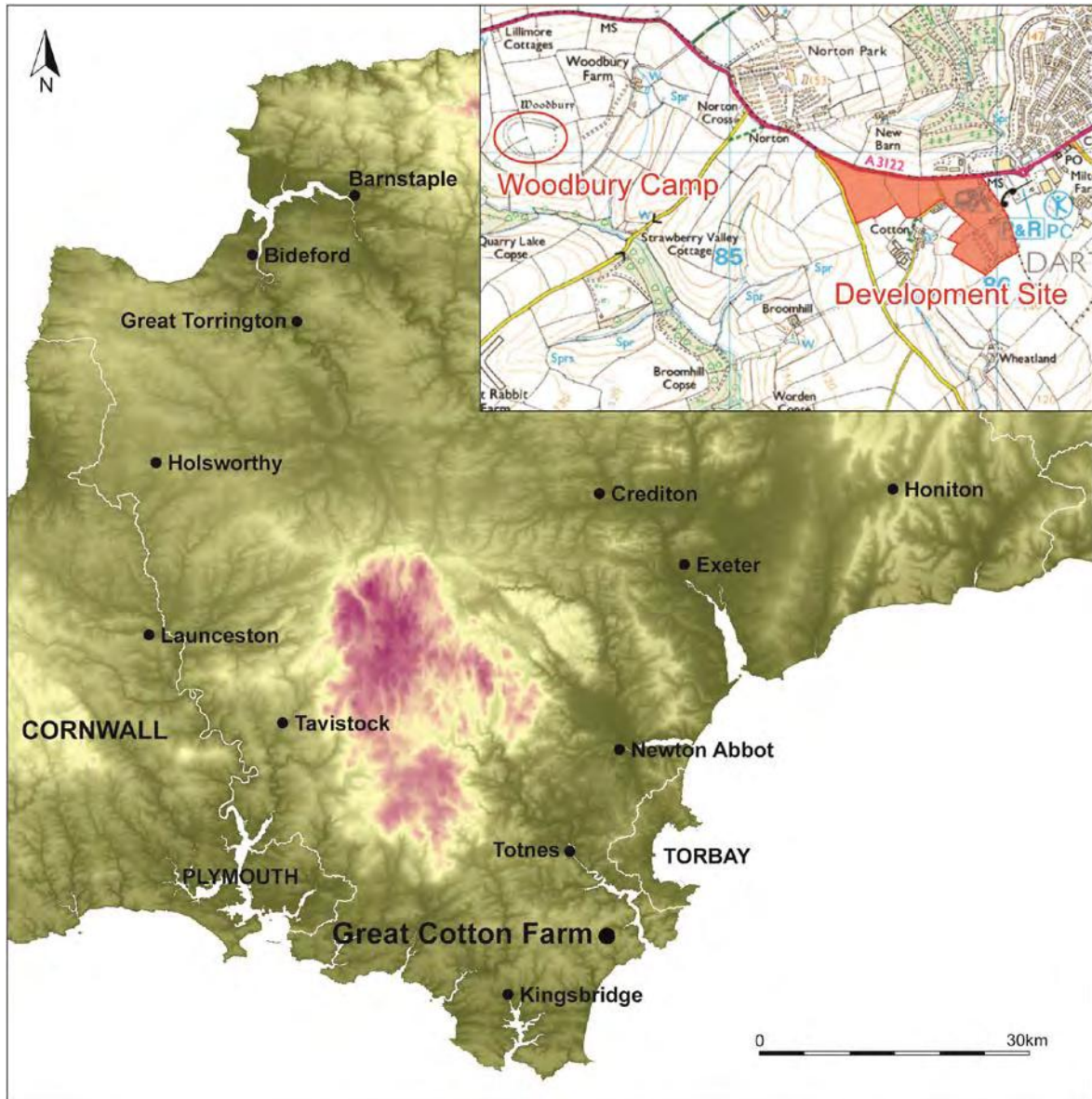


Figure 1: Site location (the location of the proposed development area is indicated).

1.5 Methodology

This report follows the recommendations set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments and utilises existing information in order to establish, as far as possible, the archaeological potential of the site. This information can then be used in an attempt to make informed decisions regarding the potential impact of any proposed development on the archaeological resource. Mitigation strategies can then begin to be formulated which will reduce this impact.

It should be noted that this form of non-intrusive appraisal cannot be seen as a definitive statement on the presence or absence of archaeological remains within any area, but rather as an indicator of the potential of an area based on existing information. Further investigations such as

geophysical survey and or machine-excavated trial trenching are usually needed to conclusively define the presence/absence, character and quality of any archaeological remains in a given area.

In drawing up this assessment, cartographic and documentary sources held by the Devon Historic Environment Record. Relevant online sources were also utilised, and appropriate Internet databases investigated. These included: The English Heritage Listed Buildings online database, The Defence of Britain Project, and The English Heritage NMR Excavation Index and National Inventory.

The development site was visited and a walkover survey and impact assessment was undertaken by E. Wapshott on 15th September 2014. The hillfort was viewed from adjacent fields and outward views were assessed from the surrounding fields and gateways; access was kindly provided by the landowners, Mr. And Mrs. Pritchard. The weather was sunny with patchy cloud and visibility was good. The development was assessed from the public roads around the perimeter: Venn Lane, the A3122, the driveway to Woodbury Farm, and the public lane which runs along the holiday park in order to assess intervisibility between the development and the asset.

This report follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 1994, revised 2012), *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (English Heritage 2011a), *Seeing History in the View* (English Heritage 2011b), *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (Historic Scotland 2010).

2.0 Results of the Desk-Based Appraisal

2.1 Documentary History

The earliest reference to Stoke Fleming is in the Domesday Book of 1086, where we are told that *Stoch* is in the possession of Walter de Douai and had land for 24 ploughs, with 30 acres of scrubland and four of meadow (Williams and Martin 2002). However, it is believed that prior to the Norman conquest, *Stoch* was a Saxon manor. Following this, the settlement name alters, and in the 1218 Feet of Fines for Devon it is recorded as *Stokes*, at which time it is mentioned in association with the *le Flemeng* family. The church of St. Peter built by the Carews of Haccombe in 1236, from which the original Norman font survives, though with major restoration in 1871 (Hoskins 1992).

In 1261 the settlement was part of the inheritance of the Fleming family, and had adopted their name, being called *Stoke Flandrensis*. This further developed, to *Stokefleming* in 1270, and *Stokeflemynnig juxta Dertemuwe* in 1299 (Gover *et al* 1931). After passing through the family for several generations, Stoke Fleming was conveyed by Sir William Fleming to Reginald, Lord Mohun, of Dunster during the 13th century. It was subsequently passed through marriage to the Carew family, from which Sir Peter Carew gave it to Thomas Southcote, Esq. By the 19th century the land had been bought by John Henry Seale, Esq., of Mount Boone (Lysons 1882). The town has developed little since, and it was not until the 18th century that it grew substantially from an agricultural and fishing settlement to a town with large houses situated in substantial grounds (SHDC 2009). The earliest reference to Woodbury Farm (*Wodebury*) itself does not appear until the 1333 Lay Subsidy. The place-name contains two elements: *wode* (a wood) + *burh* (meaning a fortified place). Both elements are indicative of a medieval origin (Gover *et al.* 1931). The name undoubtedly refers to the adjacent hillfort.

2.2 Cartographic Sources



Figure 2: Extract from the 1803 OS Surveyor's Draft map (BL).

The earliest detailed map of the area available to this study was the Ordnance Survey surveyor's draft map of 1803 (Figure 2). The layout of the fields as depicted is rarely particularly reliable, but the hillfort is shown as a stippled earthwork ('camp').



Figure 3: Extract from the Stoke Fleming tithe map of 1841 (DHC).

The 1841 tithe map of Stoke Fleming (Figure 3). A comparison of this map with modern maps indicated the fieldscape has survived relatively well, with limited boundary loss or rationalisation. The field-names are fairly prosaic, and only *Castle Park* is wholly unequivocal. *Higher Gratton*, *Higher* and *Lower Mount* belonged to Woodbury Farm, owned and occupied by Edward Dingle. The state of cultivation as listed in the apportionment is arable for all three fields, although *Higher Mount* also includes some waste (presumably on the rampart of the hillfort). *Castle Park*, *Mount Field* and *Three Corners* belonged to Sire John Henry Seale and were leased to John Ford. The state of cultivation as listed in the apportionment is arable for all three fields, although *Mount Field* again includes some waste.

The tithe data would suggest the hillfort was a visible, but not a significant, earthwork. Only part of the rampart had been adopted as a field boundary, and a manorial boundary ran straight through the middle of the enclosure.

The later 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps (Figures 4-5) depict a very similar fieldscape, and the hillfort is shown in a little more detail. The ditch and rampart are shown, as is a quarry dug into the site. The south-eastern quadrant of the hillfort is shown only as a dotted line (i.e. trace).

The LiDAR data from the site (Figures 6-7), derived from the recent TELLUS Project, shows a very distinct earthwork, implying the rampart at least survives in relatively good condition, despite its 'at risk' status.

Land at Great Cotton Farm, Stoke Fleming, Devon



Figure 4: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.



Figure 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition of 1906.



Figure 6: LiDAR-derived image showing the location of Woodbury Camp in relation to the proposed development (image contains freely available LIDAR data supplied by Natural Environment Research Council (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; British Antarctic Survey; British Geological Survey); ©NERC (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; British Antarctic Survey; British Geological Survey)).

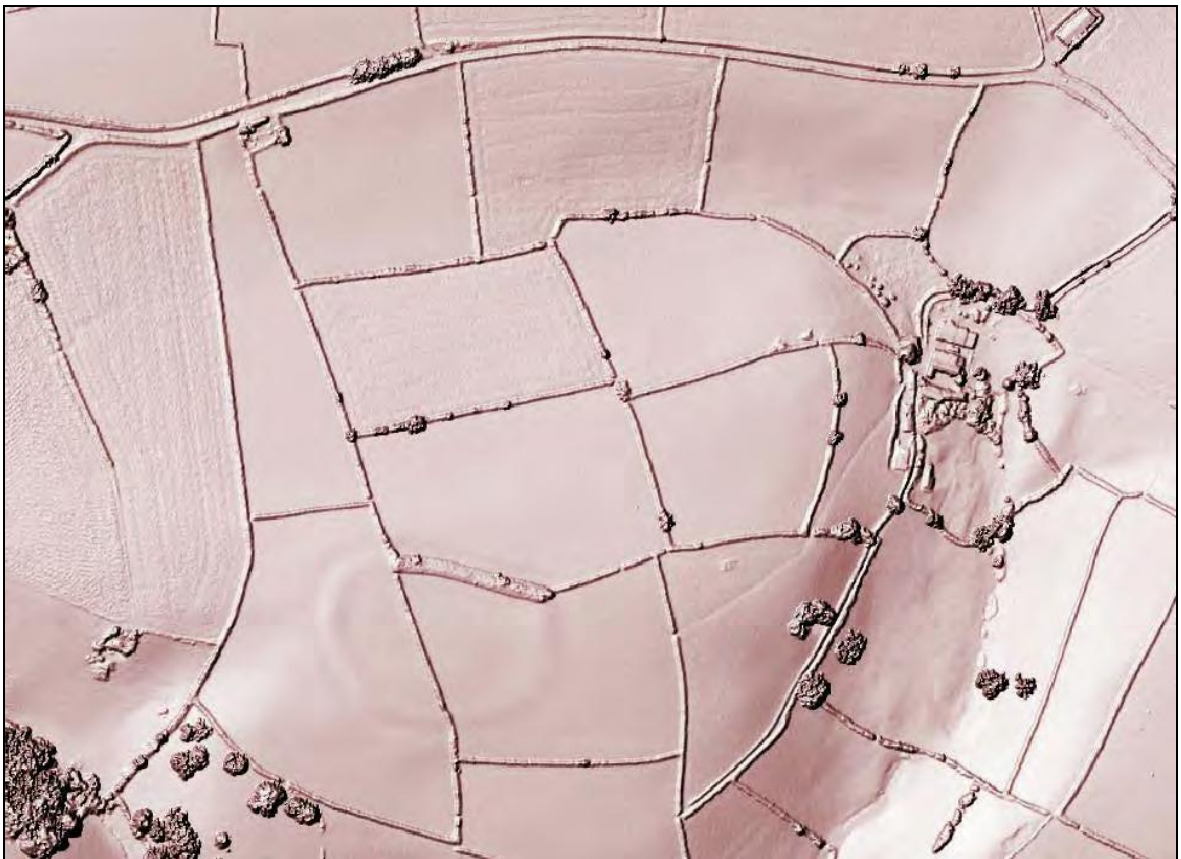


Figure 7: As above, detail of the hillfort (image contains freely available LIDAR data supplied by Natural Environment Research Council (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; British Antarctic Survey; British Geological Survey); ©NERC (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; British Antarctic Survey; British Geological Survey)).

3.0 Impact Assessment

3.1 International and National Policy

National guidance on protecting the Historic Environment are now contained within *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The relevant guidance is reproduced below:

Paragraph 128

*In determining applications, local planning authorities should require the applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, **including the contribution made by their setting**. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should be consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which a development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

Paragraph 129

*Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (**including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset**) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.*

3.2 Likely Impacts of the Proposed Development

3.2.1 Types and Scale of Impact

Two general types of archaeological impact associated with all developments have been identified as follows:

- Construction phase – The construction will have direct, physical impacts on the buried archaeology of the site through the excavation of the foundations, services and roads. Such impacts would be permanent and irreversible.
- Occupational phase – A housing development will have a permanent visual impact on the settings of some heritage assets within its viewshed. Such factors also make it likely that the development would have an impact on Historic Landscape Character. The occupation also brings with it increased traffic, etc, which can also be considered to have detrimental impacts upon heritage assets.

3.2.2 Scale and Duration of Impact

The impacts of a development on the historic environment may include positive as well as adverse effects. However, any housing development is – at first – an inescapably modern intrusive visual and physical actor in the historic landscape. The impact of a any mass-housing development will almost always be **neutral** (i.e. no impact) or **negative** i.e. it will have a **detrimental impact** on the setting of heritage assets in the local area.

For the purposes of this assessment, these impacts are evaluated on a five-point scale:

Impact Assessment

<i>Neutral</i>	No impact on the heritage asset.
<i>Negligible</i>	Where the turbine may be visible but will not impact upon the setting of the heritage asset, due to the nature of the asset, distance, topography, or local blocking.
<i>Negative/unknown</i>	Where an adverse impact is anticipated, but where access cannot be gained or the degree of impact is otherwise impossible to assess.
<i>Negative/minor</i>	Where the development would impact upon the setting of a heritage asset, but the impact is restricted due to the nature of the asset, distance, or local blocking.
<i>Negative/moderate</i>	Where the development would have a pronounced impact on the setting of a heritage asset, due to the sensitivity of the asset and proximity; it may be ameliorated by local blocking or mitigation.
<i>Negative/substantial</i>	Where the development would have a severe impact on the setting of a heritage asset, due to the particular sensitivity of the asset and/or close physical proximity; it is unlikely local blocking or mitigation could ameliorate the impact in these instances.
<i>Group Value</i>	Where a series of similar or complementary monuments or structures occur in close proximity their overall significance is greater than the sum of the individual parts. This can influence the overall assessment. In addition, the significance of a monument or structure is often predicated on the condition of its upstanding remains, so a rapid subjective appraisal was also undertaken.

Condition Assessment

Excellent	The monument or structure survives intact with minimal modern damage or interference.
Good	The monument or structure survives substantially intact, or with restricted damage/interference; a ruinous but stable structure.
Fair	The monument or structure survives in a reasonable state, or a structure that has seen unsympathetic restoration/improvement
Poor	The monument survives in a poor condition, ploughed down or otherwise slighted, or a structure that has lost most of its historic features
Trace	The monument survives only where it has influenced other surviving elements within the landscape e.g. curving hedge banks around a cropmark enclosure.
Not applicable	There is no visible surface trace of the monument.

Note: this assessment covers the survival of upstanding remains; it is not a risk assessment and does not factor in potential threats posed by vegetation – e.g. bracken or scrub – or current farming practices.

3.2.3 Statements of Significance of Heritage Assets

The majority of the heritage assets considered as part of the Impact Assessment have already had their significance assessed by their statutory designations; which are outlined below:

Scheduled Monuments

In the United Kingdom, a Scheduled Monument, is considered, a historic building, structure (ruin) or archaeological site of '**national importance**'. Various pieces of legislation, under planning, conservation etc. are used for legally protecting heritage assets given this title from damage and destruction; such legislation is grouped together under the term 'designation', that is, having statutory protection under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. A heritage asset is a part of the historic environment that is valued because of its historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest; those of national importance have extra legal protection through designation.

Important sites have been recognised as requiring protection since the late 19th century, when the first 'schedule' or list of monuments was compiled in 1882. The conservation and preservation of these monuments was given statutory priority over other land uses under this first schedule. County Lists of the monuments are kept and updated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. In the later 20th century sites are identified by English Heritage (one of the Government's advisory bodies) of being of national importance and included in the schedule. Under the current statutory protection any works required on or to a designated monument can only be undertaken with a successful application for Scheduled Monument Consent. There are 19,000-20,000 Scheduled Monuments in England.

3.3 Methodology

The methodology adopted in this document is based on that outlined in *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (English Heritage 2011), with reference to other guidance, particularly the *Visual Assessment of Windfarms: Best Practice* (University of Newcastle 2002). The assessment of visual impact at this stage of the development is an essentially subjective one, and is based on the experience and professional judgement of the authors.

Visibility alone is not a clear guide to impact: "the magnitude or size" of a development, and the "distance between them and the viewer, are the physical measures that affect visibility, but the key issue is human perception of visual effects, and that is not simply a function of size and distance" (University of Newcastle 2002, 2). People perceive size, shape and distance using many cues, so context is critically important. For instance, research on electricity pylons (Hull & Bishop 1988) has indicated scenic impact is influenced by landscape complexity: the visual impact of pylons is less pronounced within complex scenes, especially at longer distances, presumably because they are less of a focal point and the attention of the observer is diverted. There are many qualifiers that serve to increase or decrease the visual impact of a proposed development (see Table 3), some of which are seasonal or weather-related.

The principal consideration of this assessment is not visual impact *per se*. It is an assessment of the importance of setting to the significance of heritage assets, and the sensitivity of that setting to the visual intrusion of the proposed development. In particular the settings of World Heritage Sites are recognised as making a fundamental contribution to their OUV and therefore any development inside these areas or within their 'buffer zone' clearly impacts upon the OUV. The schema used to guide this assessment is shown in Table 2 (below).

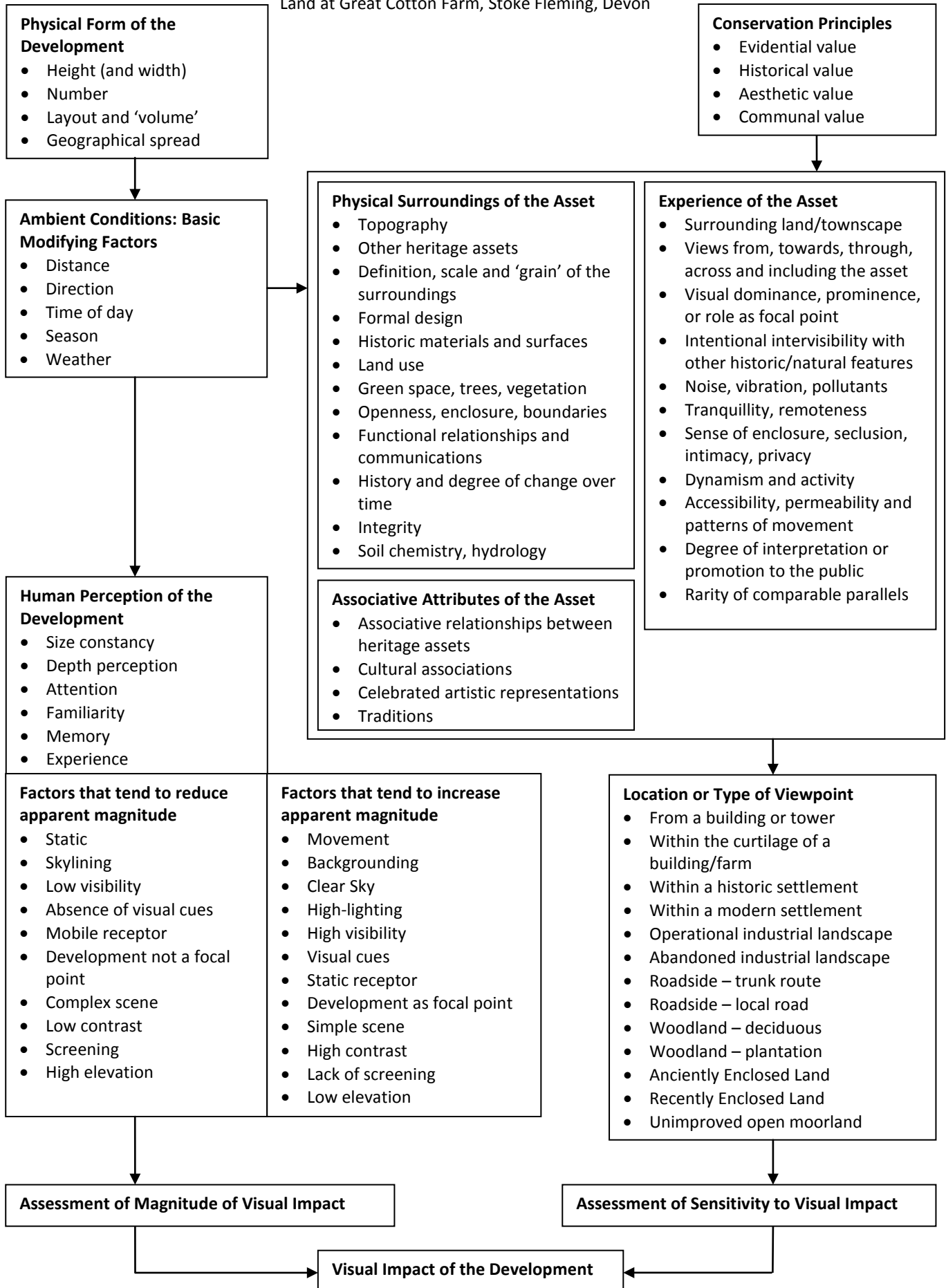


Table 1: The conceptual model for visual impact assessment proposed by the University of Newcastle (2002, 63), modified to include elements of *Assessment Step 2* from the Setting of Heritage Assets (English Heritage 2011, 19).

3.3.1 Assessment and Landscape Context

The determination of *landscape context* is an important part of the assessment process. This is the physical space within which any given heritage asset is perceived and experienced. The experience of this physical space is related to the scale of the landform, and modified by cultural and biological factors like field boundaries, settlements, trees and woodland.

Landscape context is based on topography, and can vary in scale from the very small – e.g. a narrow valley where views and vistas are restricted – to the very large – e.g. wide valleys or extensive upland moors with 360° views. Where very large landforms are concerned, a distinction can be drawn between the immediate context of an asset (this can be limited to a few hundred metres or less, where cultural and biological factors impede visibility and/or experience), and the wider context (i.e. the wider landscape within which the asset sits).

When new developments are introduced into a landscape, proximity alone is not a guide to magnitude of effect. Dependant on the nature and sensitivity of the heritage asset, the magnitude of effect is potentially much greater where the proposed development is to be located within the landscape context of a given heritage asset. Likewise, where the proposed development would be located outside the landscape context of a given heritage asset, the magnitude of effect would usually be lower. Each case is judged on its individual merits, and in some instances the significance of an asset is actually greater outside of its immediate landscape context, for example, where church towers function as landmarks in the wider landscape.

3.3.2 Hillforts and Earthworks

Hillforts, tor enclosures, cross dykes, promontory forts, earthworks

Hillforts are large embanked enclosures, most often interpreted as fortifications, and usually occupy defensible and/or visually prominent positions in the landscape. They are typically visible from all or most of the surrounding lower and higher ground, with the corollary that they enjoyed extensive views of the surrounding countryside. As such, they are as much a visible statement of power as they are designed to dissuade or repel assault. The location of these sites in the landscape must reflect earlier patterns of social organisation, but these are essentially visual monuments. They are designed to see and be seen, and thus the impact of wind turbines is often disproportionately high compared to their height or proximity.

What is important and why

Large Prehistoric earthwork monuments contain a vast amount of structural and artefactual data, and represent a considerable time and resource investment with implications of social organisation; they were also subject to repeated reoccupation in subsequent periods (evidential). The more monumental examples may be named and can be iconic (e.g. Maiden Castle, South Cadbury), and may be associated with particular tribal groups, early medieval heroes and the work of antiquarians (historical). The range in scale and location make generalisations on aesthetics difficult; all originally had a design value, modified through use-life but then subject to hundreds if not thousands of years of decrepitude, re-use and modification. The best examples retain a sense of awe and sometimes wildness that approaches the spiritual. At the other end of the scale, the cropmarks of lost fortifications leave no appreciable trace.

- Woodbury Camp; high significance; Scheduled Monument; condition: fair to poor, *Monuments at Risk Register 2013* [extensive significant problems, arable ploughing, stable]. Distance to development: c.0.9-1.75km. Woodbury Camp is a univallate hillfort with an interior 160×110m across. The north-eastern rampart is 11m wide and survives to a height of 1.8m above the

interior and 3.5m above the ditch, which is 14m wide. While it is univallate in form, it clearly was not (as the listing implies) 'slight': with ramparts 8-10m wide and 2m+ high and ditches 15m+ wide it was clearly a substantial defended settlement. Only in its current state can its defences be described as 'slight'.

The monument falls within three fields and the other sections of the rampart and ditch have been ploughed down and are much less substantial; other slight earthworks are also present. The hillfort is located on the upper south-facing slopes of the hill, overlooking a steep valley to the south-south-west. The fields containing most of the Scheduled Monument have recently been sold from Woodbury Farm.

The monument is now contained within a number of field enclosures, crossed by hedgebanks. Uninterrupted views across the interior of the enclosure are not therefore possible. Much of the eastern part of the monument is in *trace* condition and has been almost ploughed down. To the north, the rampart is in good condition, though adopted as a field boundary. This northern rampart retains some landscape presence. To the south, the ramparts are in *poor* condition, forming a slight ridge within the field; to the west the ramparts are in *fair* condition, with a pronounced earthwork 0.3-0.4m in places. The hedgebank that crosses the site on a north-south axis would block views from the western part of the site to the proposed development. Views from the eastern field would be clear and uninterrupted.

These agricultural fields now provide the landscape context in which we physically experience the monument. While the proposed housing development would be located within the wider landscape context of the monument, the immediate setting of the monument within these fields would not be affected. When viewed in close proximity it is still possible to understand and appreciate the ramparts for their intended defensive function. However, this setting is inwardly-focused and limited to each field enclosure. The monument can only be experienced as a whole from a distance, emphasising the importance of the wider landscape views.

There are views to the monument from the north-western corner of the proposed development site, at the junction of Venn Lane and the A3122 (Townstal Lane). If you know where to look, the northern rampart is visible above the other hedgebanks, and there are some limited views across the southern ramparts. Further along Venn Lane to the south there are views into the fields that contain the eastern and southern ramparts of the monument and along the northern ramparts. If the houses are built they would have direct intervisibility with the monument from this western edge of the site. Restricted views to the northern rampart would be possible over the hedgebanks of the surrounding fields from the higher ground to the north-east, currently occupied by the caravan park.

This monument was clearly designed to be visible and easily identifiable when moving through and up the valley. The poor condition of the monument means that its landscape presence is much reduced. Views from the valley, from the south-east, towards the monument would include the proposed development. The houses would not, however, be substantial skyline features. Views down the valley would include the southern part of the development site. Views towards the monument from the north, south and west would not be affected. Views along the undulating high ridge of ground to the east would include the development site, although these views already include the caravan park, Norton Holiday Park, Sainsburys and other modern impacts.

The contemporary setting of the monument was lost long ago, and it survives in a degraded state within a post-medieval enclosed agricultural landscape. The landscape presence of the hillfort has been diminished and it is not readily recognisable in views to the site. The proposed development would, however, move the suburban boundary of Dartmouth closer to the site,

and encroach on the modern rural aesthetic of the valley. The monument does still command the valley to the south-south-east, along which we may assume its meaningful or principal views would have been directed. The proposed development would appear in those views, if on the periphery. On balance, considering the state of the monument – whose principal value would now be evidential – and the probable importance of views along the valley to the south-south-east, an impact assessment of **negative/minor** to **negative/moderate** would be appropriate.

4.0 Conclusions

Woodbury Camp SAM is located on the south-facing upper slopes of a steep-sided valley west of Dartmouth. The proposed housing development would be located c.0.9-1.7km to the south-east, around Great Cotton Farm and just south of the A3122 (Townsal Road). The univallate hillfort survives within post-medieval enclosed agricultural farmland, and only part of the northern rampart survives to something like its former height; the other parts of the monument have been ploughed down and now survive as modest earthworks, if at all. The value of this degraded monument – on the English Heritage *Monuments at Risk Register* – is now principally evidential. However, the views it commands to the south-south-east along the valley are probably deliberate and meaningful, and even if nothing of its contemporary landscape survives, this rural view remains of some aesthetic value. The proposed housing development would appear within this wider view from the site, and on that basis the overall impact of the proposed development can be assessed as **negative/minor** to **negative/moderate**. A mitigation measure of sympathetic tree planting along the north-western boundary of the housing development would serve to lessen inter-visibility and reduce the impact to **negative/minor**.

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Stoke Fleming tithe map

Stoke Fleming tithe apportionment

Appendix 1 Key Heritage Assets

Woodbury Camp, UID: 33769

Slight univallate hillforts are defined as enclosures of various shapes, generally between 1ha and 10ha in size, situated on or close to hilltops and defined by a single line of earthworks, the scale of which is relatively small. They date to between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (eighth - fifth centuries BC), the majority being used for 150 to 200 years prior to their abandonment or reconstruction. Slight univallate hillforts have generally been interpreted as stock enclosures, redistribution centres, places of refuge and permanent settlements. The earthworks generally include a rampart, narrow level berm, external ditch and counterscarp bank, while access to the interior is usually provided by two entrances comprising either simple gaps in the earthwork or an inturned rampart. Postholes revealed by excavation indicate the occasional presence of portal gateways while more elaborate features like overlapping ramparts and outworks are limited to only a few examples. Internal features included timber or stone round houses; large storage pits and hearths; scattered postholes, stakeholes and gullies; and square or rectangular buildings supported by four to six posts, often represented by postholes, and interpreted as raised granaries. Slight univallate hillforts are rare with around 150 examples recorded nationally. Although on a national scale the number is low, in Devon they comprise one of the major classes of hillfort. In other areas where the distribution is relatively dense, for example, Wessex, Sussex, the Cotswolds and the Chilterns, hillforts belonging to a number of different classes occur within the same region. Examples are also recorded in eastern England, the Welsh Marches, central and southern England. In view of the rarity of slight univallate hillforts and their importance in understanding the transition between Bronze Age and Iron Age communities, all examples which survive comparatively well and have potential for the recovery of further archaeological remains are believed to be of national importance.

Despite damage to its ramparts, the Iron Age hillfort known as Woodbury Camp survives well. Its ramparts, hornwork, surrounding ditch and interior contain archaeological and environmental information relating to the hillfort and the landscape in which it was built. The intermittent spring within the ramparts may preserve waterlogged remains.

This monument includes a slight univallate hillfort, located on the south face of a hilltop overlooking a deep valley west of Dartmouth. It commands a high and prominent location with extensive local views. The monument survives as an oval enclosure defined by a rampart. It is aligned from east to west, its interior measuring 160m long by 110m wide, cut into two unequal parts by a hedgebank which passes from north west to south east. Two faint earthwork terraces 3m wide and up to 0.3m high are visible on the west side of the interior. On the eastern side of the interior, a natural hollow 40m wide contains an intermittent spring. The ramparts are best preserved on the north side, where the bank is 11m wide, rising up to 1.8m from the interior and falling 3.5m to an outer ditch 14m wide with a slight counterscarp bank 4m wide by 0.2m high. The other ramparts have been ploughed regularly since at least 1945, that on the west end surviving between 15m and 22m wide, rising up to 0.7m from the interior and falling 1.6m to the ditch. This ditch is 7m wide by 0.8m deep, with a counterscarp bank 13m wide by up to 0.3m high. The southern and eastern ramparts are less well preserved, with the bank visible as a change in the slope from 8m to 13m wide and up to 1.5m high. The position of the outer ditch is marked by a terrace 8m wide. Its outer edge slopes away, for a further 11m, falling 0.6m to the natural slope. Two entrances are visible. On the south side, a reduction in rampart height to 0.4m coincides with a faint hornwork projecting from the rampart to the east. This is 10m wide by up to 0.3m high and projects 30m from the rampart. A reduction in rampart height on the south west side of the hillfort suggests a later entrance, cut through the earthworks. All fence posts and a concrete water cistern which is built into the western end of the north rampart are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.

Appendix 2
Supporting Jpegs



View across the earthworks; from the north, looking south.



As above, showing views down the valley; from the north-west, looking south-east.



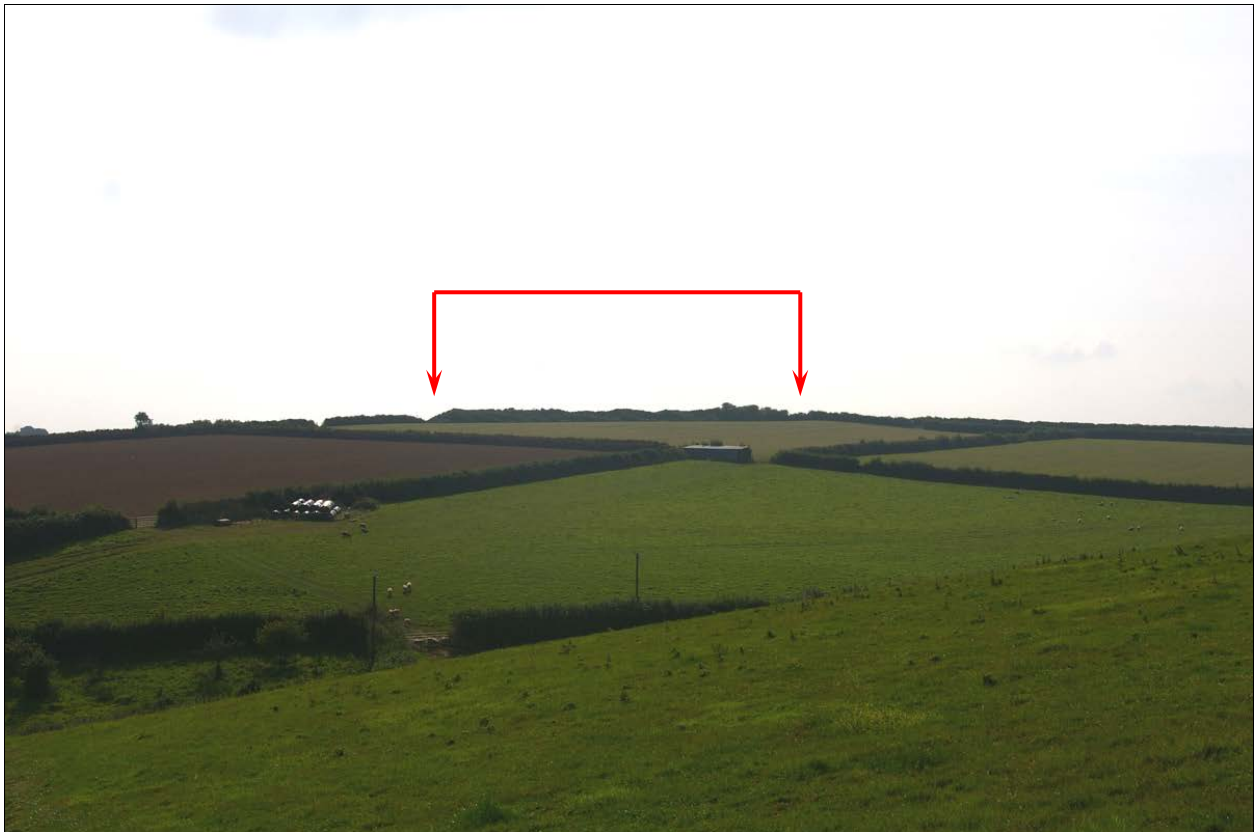
View across the earthworks towards the proposed development site; from the west-north-west, looking east-south-east. The proposed development would appear on the crest of the hill, as indicated.



As above, from the west-south-west. This includes Norton Park, an all-year round holiday centre on the next hill, between the monument and potential development site.



View towards the proposed development site from the field north of the rampart (rampart on the right of the photo), showing the local blocking from hedges around the monument; from the west-north-west.



View across to the monument from the A3122 (indicated); from the north-east.



As above, detail.



View of the northern rampart (on the skyline) at Woodbury; from the north-east.

Land at Great Cotton Farm, Stoke Fleming, Devon



View back towards the hillfort from the north-western corner of the proposed development site; from the east.



As above.

Land at Great Cotton Farm, Stoke Fleming, Devon



View from the western side of the proposed development area, back to the monument; from the east.



View from Venn Lane on the edge of the development site; from the east-south-east.



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