



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT**

**BAYFIELDS PHASE II
CHEPSTOW
MONMOUTHSHIRE**

FEBRUARY 2018

**Local Planning Authority:
MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Site centred at:
ST 52135, 94030**

**Author:
PHILIP BETHELL BA (Hons)
MCI fA**

**Approved by:
NICK COOKE BA (Hons) PhD FSA
MCI fA**

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Executive Summary

This archaeological assessment considers a proposed development site at Bayfields, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (the study site) which is being considered for residential development.

This desk-based assessment has established that there are no designated archaeological assets present within the study site. Non-designated archaeological heritage assets are known within the study site, in the form of two Post-Medieval boundary stones.

There is no evidence for any activity other than agriculture within the study site and consequently overall there is a low potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains dating from any period from the Prehistoric to the Modern period. The exception to this is a high potential for finds and features related to the Iron Age defended enclosure which lies in woodland 60m west of the study site.

While there are designated archaeological heritage assets within 1km of the study site, it is considered that while a minor impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp could arise from the proposed development, this would have a negligible effect on the significance of the monument. 

Given that the archaeological potential of the site is focussed on possible Iron Age remains, the local authority archaeological advisors may look to secure the archaeological interest of the study site via a programme of archaeological ks.

1.0 **INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY**

1.1 **Introduction**

1.1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been researched and prepared by Philip Bethell and Jason White of CgMs Limited on behalf of Barratt Homes.

1.1.2 The assessment is made on agricultural land known as Bayfields, to the north-west of Chepstow, and referred to in this report as the study site. The study site is the subject of a planning application to Monmouthshire County Council. The study site is proposed for development as housing.

1.1.3 This desk-based assessment is designed to provide the baseline information to enable informed decisions about managing any impact on the archaeology of the site. This report focuses on the potential for encountering below-ground archaeology during the course of the development. The potential impacts on the above-ground built heritage are the subject of a separate report by CgMs (CgMs 2018).

1.1.4 The assessment considers the full extent of the study site as shown in Figure 1. The total area is approximately 11.8 ha in extent. The study site is centred at grid reference ST 52135, 94030.


1.2 **Scope**

1.2.1 In accordance with government policy (Planning Policy Wales and TAN24), this assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of the study site.

1.2.2 Additionally, in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessments (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2017) and 'Notes for archaeologists undertaking desk-based studies in South-East Wales' issued by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), the assessment includes the results of a site inspection, an examination of published and unpublished records and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise.

1.2.3 As a result, the assessment enables relevant parties to assess the significance of archaeological ~~heritage~~ assets on and close to the study site and assesses the

potential for hitherto undiscovered archaeological assets, thus enabling potential impacts on assets to be identified along with the need for design, civil engineering or archaeological solutions.

- 1.2.4 This report identifies the presence of designated assets in or close to the study site, but does not assess the potential impact on the settings of any designated heritage assets. This is included in a separate report (CgMs 2018 )

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

2.1 Statutory Framework

i) Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979

2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) protects the fabric of Scheduled Monuments, but does not afford statutory protection to their settings. Relevant policies relating to the protection of the setting of scheduled monuments are contained within national and local development plan policy.

ii) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

2.1.2 This Act places duties on public bodies requiring them to act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle'. The Act also establishes well-being goals which include achieving 'a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language', described as 'a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language'. The Act lays down the principle that a properly protected, conserved and enhanced historic environment can improve the quality of life and well-being for everyone.

iii) Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2.1.3 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act was given Royal Assent in March 2016. This Act provides the legislative framework for managing the historic environment in Wales. Accompanying the Act is new policy and guidance in the form of a Technical Advice Note (TAN) specific to the Historic Environment (TAN24, see below), and changes to Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Chapter 6 – Conserving the Historic Environment. This legislation and guidance supersedes the previous Welsh Office Circulars which formed the basis of historic environment policy in Wales.

2.2 Planning Policy Wales

2.2.1 The Welsh Government has published Planning Policy Wales (PPW), currently updated to Version 9 from November 2016 (PPW9). This sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Procedural advice is given in circulars and policy clarification letters.

2.2.2 Chapter 6 of PPW9, entitled 'Conserving the Historic Environment', provides policy for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Chapter 6 in relation to archaeology can be summarised as seeking to:

- conserve and enhance the historic environment, which is a finite and non-renewable resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales ;
- recognise its contribution to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life, and its importance as a resource to be maintained for future generations ;
- base decisions on an understanding of the significance of Wales' historic assets;
- contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the past by making an appropriate record when parts of a historic asset are affected by a proposed change, and ensuring that this record or the results of any investigation are securely archived and made publicly available; and specifically to
- conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy.

2.2.3 Chapter 6 of PPW9 describes the historic environment as being made up of individual historic features, archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as historic assets.

2.2.4 Welsh planning legislation and policy guidance outlines that the conservation of archaeological remains and their setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application (Planning Policy Wales 9, Chapter 6, Para. 6.5.5). In order to take account of archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process, Local Planning Authorities in Wales need to be fully informed about the nature and importance of archaeological remains, and their setting, and the likely impact of any proposed development upon them.

2.2.5 Paragraphs 6.5.6 to 6.5.8 of PPW9 Chapter 6 set out the staged process of investigations which may be required to provide the relevant information to inform decisions. This means that Local Planning Authorities can request an applicant to provide further information on archaeological matters in the form of desk-based

assessment, field evaluation, and detailed Written Schemes of Investigation to outline mitigation proposals as appropriate.

- 2.2.6 Paragraph 6.5.7 makes provision for archaeological work on a site to be carried out as part of a condition, as long as the work is carried out before development commences, and it is carried out to a project design agreed with the planning authority.

2.3 **Local Planning Policy**

- 2.3.1 The local plan framework is provided by Monmouthshire County Council, and the Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in February 2014, to cover the period 2011-2021.

- 2.3.2 The LDP contains the following strategic objective relating to the historic environment:

LDP OBJECTIVE 15 – Within overall objective ‘Respecting Distinctiveness’

To protect and enhance the built environment and heritage, for their own sake and to maximise benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being.

- 2.3.3 Chapter 5 of the LDP, ‘Strategic Policies’, contains the following policies relating to the historic environment within the county, which are relevant to this assessment:

Policy S17 – Place Making and Design

Development shall contribute to creating high quality, attractive and sustainable places. All development proposals must include and promote high quality, sustainable inclusive design which respects local distinctiveness, respects the character of the site and its surrounding in order to protect and enhance the natural, historic and built environments and to create attractive, safe and accessible places.

Policy S13 – Landscape, Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment.

Development proposals must:

- 1. Maintain the character and quality of the landscape by:**

(i) identifying, protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the distinctive landscape and historical, cultural, ecological and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;

(ii) protecting areas subject to international and national landscape designations;

(iii) preserving local distinctiveness, sense of place and setting;

(iv) respecting and conserving specific landscape features, such as hedges, trees and ponds;

(v) protecting existing key landscape views and vistas.

2. Maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of Monmouthshire's green infrastructure network.

3. Protect, positively manage and enhance biodiversity and geological interests, including designated and non-designated sites, and habitats and species of importance and the ecological connectivity between them.

4. Seek to integrate landscape elements, green infrastructure, biodiversity features and ecological connectivity features, to create multifunctional, interconnected spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and healthy activities such as walking and cycling.

2.3.4 The Local Development Plan has no separate policies relating to development control and the historic environment, but cites Planning Policy Wales Chapter 6, and Welsh Office Circular 61/96 'Planning and the Historic Environment' as the policy basis for Monmouthshire in this regard.

2.3.5 There are other policies within the LDP which refer to the historic environment, and the effects of any developments on landscape character:

Policy LC5 – Protection and Enhancement of Landscape Character

Development proposals that would impact upon landscape character, as defined by LANDMAP Landscape Character Assessment, must demonstrate through a landscape assessment how landscape character has influenced their design, scale, nature and site selection. Development will be permitted provided it would not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the special character or quality of

Monmouthshire's landscape in terms of its visual, historic, geological, ecological or cultural aspects by:

- a) Causing significant visual intrusion;**
- b) Causing significant adverse change in the character of the built or natural landscape;**
- c) Being insensitively and unsympathetically sited within the landscape;**
- d) Introducing or intensifying a use which is incompatible with its location;**
- e) Failing to harmonise with, or enhance the landform and landscape; and /or**
- f) Losing or failing to incorporate important traditional features, patterns, structures and layout of settlements and landscapes of both the built and natural environment.**

Particular emphasis will be given to those landscapes identified through the LANDMAP Landscape Character Assessment as being of high and outstanding quality because of a certain landscape quality or combination of qualities.

- 2.3.6 This assessment therefore seeks to establish whether the proposed development will have a significant effect on the historic environment, either through direct impacts on below-ground archaeological remains, or indirect effects on designated heritage assets, within the scope of policies contained within PPW, the adopted 'Monmouthshire Local Development Plan (2014)'.

2.4 **Definitions and Guidance**

Definition of the historic environment

- 2.4.1 Heritage assets are defined by Cadw (March 2011) and TAN 24 (2017) as:

"An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, an historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated."

- 2.4.2 A Designated Heritage Asset is considered to be a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area. In Wales areas of landscape have been

designated and included in the non-statutory Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales.

Significance

2.4.3 Significance in relation to heritage policy considerations is defined as:

- The sum of the cultural heritage values (Cadw 2011).

2.4.4 The '*Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process, (Revised Edition 2007)*' (Cadw/CCW 2007) outlines Categories A – U which are used to place historic environment assets in order of relative importance.

Setting

2.4.5 Guidance on the assessments of impact on the settings of heritage assets is provided by Cadw in '*Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*' (May 2017). This provides a 4-stage process for determining if any impact on the settings of historic assets would arise from a proposed development, and how it could be mitigated if impacts are identified.

3.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The solid geology of the study site is composed of a series of Carboniferous rocks: along the western fringe there is ooidal Limestone of the Hunts Bay Oolite Subgroup; in the centre of the study site lies Dolostone of the Black Rock Limestone Subgroup; and in the north-east part of the study site there is interbedded mudstone and limestone of the Avon Group. There are no superficial deposits recorded in the study site (British Geological Survey on-line viewer).

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 The study site is situated approximately 1.0km north-west of the centre of Chepstow, on what is now the fringe of the urban area. The River Wye lies c. 870m east of the site at its nearest. The study site lies on the western side of a broad north-south aligned spur of land.

3.2.2 The study site slopes downwards from north to south, with a height of c. 88m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the northern end, reducing to c. 73m AOD at the southern end. The study site is also higher along its eastern fringe, sloping from c. 90m AOD to c. 85m AOD westwards across its centre.

3.2.3 From the eastern boundary the land generally slopes downwards towards the river Wye and the urban area of Chepstow. The land also slopes down towards the south-west.

4.0 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Timescales used in this report.

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	c. 800,000 - 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c. 10,000 - 4,400 BC
Neolithic	c. 4,400 - 2,300 BC
Bronze Age	c. 2,300 - 700 BC
Iron Age	c. 700 - AD 43

Historic

Roman (Romano-British) Period	AD 43 - AD 410
Post-Roman/Early Medieval Period	AD 410 - AD 1066
Medieval Period	AD 1066 - AD 1536
Post Medieval Period	AD 1536 - AD 1750
Industrial	AD 1750 - AD 1899
Modern	20 th century onwards

4.1 **Introduction**

4.1.1 This assessment is based on a consideration of evidence in the Monmouthshire Historic Environment Record (HER) held by GGAT for the study site and for a 1km zone around the study site (the study area). Data held by The National Monuments Record (NMR), part of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) was also consulted.

4.1.2 Historic maps in the Gwent Archives were examined, as well as historic Ordnance Survey maps from open/commercial sources.

4.1.3 Aerial Photographs from the Central Register of Aerial Photographs in Wales were also reviewed.

4.1.4 Within a 1km radius, there are two scheduled monuments:

- Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp (MM139), 60m west of the study site;
- The Alcove, Piercefield (MM285), 900m north-east of the study site.

- 4.1.5 The Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest Lower Wye Valley (HLW Gw 3) lies c. 800m east of the study site at its nearest.
- 4.1.6 There are a number of undesignated archaeological heritage assets beyond the study site but within the search area, which are discussed in the relevant sections below.
- 4.1.7 This chapter reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with Planning Policy Wales and TAN24, considers the potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.1.8 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the study site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

4.2 **Previous Archaeological Investigations**

- 4.2.1 The following relevant archaeological interventions are recorded in the HER from within the 1km search area:

E005406: 1995 archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of a larger area, of which the study site forms the north-eastern third. The DBA revealed 15 new sites, although apart from four isolated Prehistoric flint finds and a possible Medieval earthwork, all the new sites were 19th or 20th century. One new site was identified within the study site – a 19th-century boundary marker in the centre of the study site.

E000348, E000365, E000364, E000347: Desk-based assessment and surveys of Bayfield Cottage and barn, immediately to the south-west of the study site. Building recording was carried out, but no trenching.

E000363, E002637: Evaluation and excavation to investigate a possible Medieval earthwork identified on aerial photographs, 150m east of the central part of the study site. Large quantities of finds and some structural remains indicated an extensive Medieval site, including part of a cemetery.

E004557: A watching brief on part of a sewer extension to the east of the study site found a roadway apparently using Roman brick and tile in its base.

4.3 **Prehistoric (Palaeolithic - Iron Age)**

- 4.3.1 No heritage assets from the Prehistoric period(s) have been recorded within the study site.

- 4.3.2 The earliest HER records within the wider 1km search area comprise several flint artefacts of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date between 50m and 200m south of the study site (HER 05067g, 050608g, 05609g, 05610g).
- 4.3.3 There is an Iron Age defended enclosure in the woods 60m to the west of the study site, Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp (Scheduled Monument MM139, HER 01161g).
- 4.3.4 While the available evidence does not indicate that the study site itself has been the focus for any activity during any of the Prehistoric periods, the presence of the defended enclosure in such close proximity to the study site makes it likely that other Iron Age finds and features associated with this site might be present within the northern part of the study site.
- 4.3.5 It is therefore considered that there is a high potential for finding any hitherto unknown evidence from the Iron Age within the study site, and a low potential for remains from any other Prehistoric period.

4.4 **Roman**

- 4.4.1 No heritage assets dating to the Roman period are recorded within the study site or the immediate vicinity.
- 4.4.2 Chepstow was located at a crossing point of the Wye during the Roman period, but there is little evidence of settlement. A Roman road (HER 02460g) is mapped approximately 600m east of the study site, although its precise route is not certain. Roman bricks were reported in a (later) road bed encountered during the construction of a new sewer (HER E004557). The precise location of these is unclear, but they are not close to the study site.
- 4.4.3 There is no evidence to suggest the study site was the focus for any activity during the Roman period, and as a result, based on current evidence, it is considered there is a low potential for the presence of any hitherto unknown significant archaeological finds or features from the Roman period within the study site.

4.5 **Early-Medieval/Medieval**

- 4.5.1 No known archaeological heritage assets are recorded in the HER or NMR relating specifically to the Early Medieval or Medieval periods within the study site.

- 4.5.2 Early-Medieval evidence in Chepstow is not copious. A church/chapel mentioned in the 7th-century Llandaff Charters (HER 08289g, 08316g) is mapped 400m north-east of the study site, associated with the later priory of St Kinemark (HER 01163g).
- 4.5.3 Medieval settlement at Chepstow is well-attested, with the castle built soon after the Norman conquest, controlling traffic crossing the Wye. The town developed into a walled trading centre of considerable local importance. The focus of the Medieval settlement lies c. 1km to the east of the study site.
- 4.5.4 Extensive Medieval remains were investigated 100m to the east of the study site (HER 05613g, 05614g). These include evidence of a high-status Medieval building based on finds of structural features, glazed pottery, and roof tiles. The site was identified as forming part of a grange, centred around a courtyard (HER 10973g). The complex also contained a chapel to St Lawrence and associated burial ground (HER 01165g, 11266g).
- 4.5.5 This ecclesiastical farming complex lay on the eastern slope of the ridge, the study site lies on the western side. The Medieval buildings of this complex are well located and tightly clustered around the grange courtyard. While the study site may have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the grange, but there is no indication that the complex continued into the study site.
- 4.5.6 A holy well is also recorded close to the northern boundary of the study site (HER 01162g), consisting of a spring emerging in a small hollow, with no visible signs of masonry.
- 4.5.7 While there was clearly Medieval development in the vicinity of the study site, this all lay to the east of the study site, and there is no evidence to suggest that the study site was a focus for any settlement activity during the Early-Medieval and Medieval periods. It is likely that it was associated with the priory and grange lying just to the east, but the topography suggests that the study site was likely to form part of the agricultural hinterland of this ecclesiastical farming complex.
- 4.5.8 As a result, it is considered that there is a low potential for the presence of hitherto unknown significant archaeological heritage assets from the Early-Medieval or Medieval periods within the study site. Any such remains present are likely to be solely related to the agricultural use of the land.

4.6 **Post-Medieval to Modern**

- 4.6.1 There are three Post-Medieval assets mapped within or on the boundaries of the study site. These include a boundary stone (HER 05603g), centrally placed within the study site, and another stone on the north-western boundary (HER 07114g). These are indicative of markers showing the limits/divisions of agricultural land.
- 4.6.2 A windmill is mapped within the study site (HER 10871g, 10872g), although this occurs because the south-west corner of the larger map grid square in which the windmill is thought to lie is located in the study site. The HER makes it clear that the location of this mill is not known, but documentary evidence places it in Piercefield township.
- 4.6.3 The Bayfield farm was located immediately to the south of the study site, with a cottage (HER 05605g), a barn (HER 05604g) and another building (HER 05606) were identified from mapping and other evidence.
- 4.6.4 Chepstow continued to develop as a town throughout this period, but the fringe of the urban/suburban area did not extend as far north as the study site until the mid to late 20th /early 21st centuries.
- 4.6.5 The earliest map seen for this study is from a 1773 estate map (Figure 2), which shows the study site as agricultural land. On the 1843 Tithe map of St Arvan's parish (Figure 3), the study site is shown as divided into relatively large fields, with six agricultural fields present in whole or in part. There was no development in the vicinity of the study site shown on this map.
- 4.6.6 The Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the 1880s (Figures 4 and 5) continue to show the study site as agricultural fields. The Bayfield farmstead is mapped immediately to the south, and the site of St Lawrence's Chapel to the east. Bishops Barnets Wood was established along the western boundary of the study site.
- 4.6.7 This pattern remained unchanged until the late 20th century. The OS map of 1955 (Figure 6) shows a large military hospital complex to the south of the study site, which had been constructed during World War II. The OS map of 1971 (Figure 7) shows a small structure within the central part of the study site, presumably an agricultural shed. Bayfields farmstead has expanded slightly to the north as a result of nursery development, but the new plots/structures all lay outside the study site. Springs are mapped in the north-west corner of the study site.

4.6.8 By the late 1980s (Figure 8), there was development at the northern end of the study site. A large laboratory building was constructed immediately to the north-east of the study site, and a covered reservoir was built adjacent to this – the study site boundary still is drawn around this reservoir at its northern end. By this time, the urban fringe of Chepstow had spread to the eastern side of the A466 which runs north-south 100m to the east of the study site.

4.6.9 By 2006 (Figure 9), the western part of St Lawrence's Hospital had been demolished, and housing development had taken place across the fields to the south of the study site, including the site of Bayfields farmstead. To the east, further housing development had occupied the site of St Lawrence's Chapel (and its associated Medieval grange). Since then, the laboratory site to the adjacent to the north-east of the study site has been developed for housing.

4.6.10 The map evidence clearly that the study site has been agricultural land from at least the late 18th century. It is most likely that it was also agricultural land throughout the Post-Medieval period. As a result, it is considered that there is a low potential for the presence of significant archaeological heritage assets from the Post-Medieval to Modern periods within the study site. Any such remains would relate solely to the agricultural use of the land.

4.7 **Designated Heritage Assets**

4.7.1 There are no designated archaeological heritage assets within the study site.

4.7.2 There are three designated archaeological heritage assets within the 1km study area:

- Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp (MM139), 60m west of the study site;
- The Alcove, Piercefield (MM285), 900m north-east of the study site;
- Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest Lower Wye Valley (HLW Gw 3) lies c. 800m east of the study site at its nearest.

4.7.3 Potential impacts from the proposed development on designated built heritage assets are the subject of a separate report.

4.8 **Assessment of Significance**

4.8.1 The three designated archaeological heritage assets within 1km of the study site are of national importance.

- 4.8.2 There is no evidence for any activity other than agriculture within the study site before the Post-Medieval period, when boundary stones are recorded, and consequently overall there is a low potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains dating from any period from the Prehistoric to the Modern period. The exception to this is a high potential for finds and features related to the Iron Age defended enclosure which lies in woodland 60m west of the study site.
- 4.8.3 Any remains that may be present within the site are, based on available evidence, likely to be of no more than local significance, and solely related to the use of the study site as agricultural land.

5.0 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACTS ON HERITAGE ASSETS

5.1 Site Conditions

5.1.1 A site visit was carried out on 7th February 2018 to inform the desk-based assessment.

5.1.2 The study site consists of agricultural fields given over to grass pasture. There is housing lying to the east and south of the study site, and extensive woodland to the west. The north is bounded by a road.

5.1.3 No earthworks or vestigial structures were noted during the site visit that would indicate the presence of archaeological features.

5.2 The Proposed Development

5.2.1 The proposal as understood would comprise the construction of c. 200 housing units. All of the development would be given over to residential use.

5.3 Effects on Archaeological Heritage Assets

5.3.1 The proposed new build could potentially have a below-ground impact on any buried archaeological remains if any are present, although the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains from any period to be present (apart from the Iron Age) is considered to be low. Any such impact could be destructive of any buried remains, but it is considered that any archaeological remains present in the study site are unlikely to be of more than local significance. The proposed development is therefore not considered likely to have any significant effect on the buried archaeological element of the historic environment.

5.3.2 The proposed development has the potential for effects on the settings of designated archaeological heritage assets in the wider area.

Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp (MM139), 60m west of the study site

5.3.3 This is a small hillslope enclosure on a north-facing slope in dense woodland. It is dated (on typological grounds) to the Iron Age. The monument consists of low earthworks, completely surrounded by dense woodland. This woodland forms the

entire setting of the monument, and prevents any visual interaction with the surrounding landscape. The monument has no known historical association with the study site, having been contained within the woodland for several centuries.

- 5.3.4 The study site is likely, however, to have formed part of the contemporary hinterland of the enclosure, and in that sense could be considered to contribute to its setting. The significance of the monument is vested in its surviving earthworks and any archaeology which survives within its area, and therefore the setting of the monument makes a limited contribution to its significance. As a component of the wider setting, the proposed development within the study site can be considered to have a potential impact on the setting of the monument. It is considered, however, that this impact will be minor, and the effect on the overall significance of the monument will be negligible.


The Alcove, Piercefield (MM285), 900m north-east of the study site.

- 5.3.5 This monument consists of a 19th-century folly in the form of a semi-octagonal platform supporting a semi-circular stone seat looking eastwards over the Wye gorge. The setting is largely in woodland, with the alcove designed to provide views eastwards across the river valley. The monument has no visual interaction with the study site. The study site does not therefore form part of the setting of the monument. As a result, it is considered that the proposed development within the study site would have no impact on the setting of the monument.

Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest Lower Wye Valley (HLW Gw 3) lies c. 800m east of the study site at its nearest.


- 5.3.6 The part of the historic landscape which lies nearest to the study site is a Historic Landscape Character Area defined by the gorge of the River Wye, and consequently with a setting focussed very much inwards along the river. While it does have access to wider setting in the surrounding countryside, there is no intervisibility with the study site and consequently the study site is not considered to form a part of the setting of the historic landscape. As a result, it is considered that the proposed development within the study site would have no impact on the setting of the monument.

6.0 **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 This desk-based assessment has established that there are no designated archaeological assets present within the study site. Non-designated archaeological heritage assets are known within the study site, in the form of two Post-Medieval boundary stones. 

6.2 There is no evidence for any activity other than agriculture within the study site and consequently overall there is a low potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains dating from any period from the Prehistoric to the Modern period. The exception to this is a high potential for finds and features related to the Iron Age defended enclosure which lies in woodland 60m west of the study site.

6.3 While there are designated archaeological heritage assets within 1km of the study site, it is considered that while a minor impact on the setting of the Bishop Barnet's Wood Camp could arise from the proposed development, this would have a negligible effect on the significance of the monument.

6.4 Given that the archaeological potential of the site is focussed on possible Iron Age remains, the local authority archaeological advisors may look to secure the archaeological interest of the study site via a programme of archaeological works. 

SOURCES CONSULTED

General

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust HER
National Monuments Record for Wales
Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales

Bibliographic

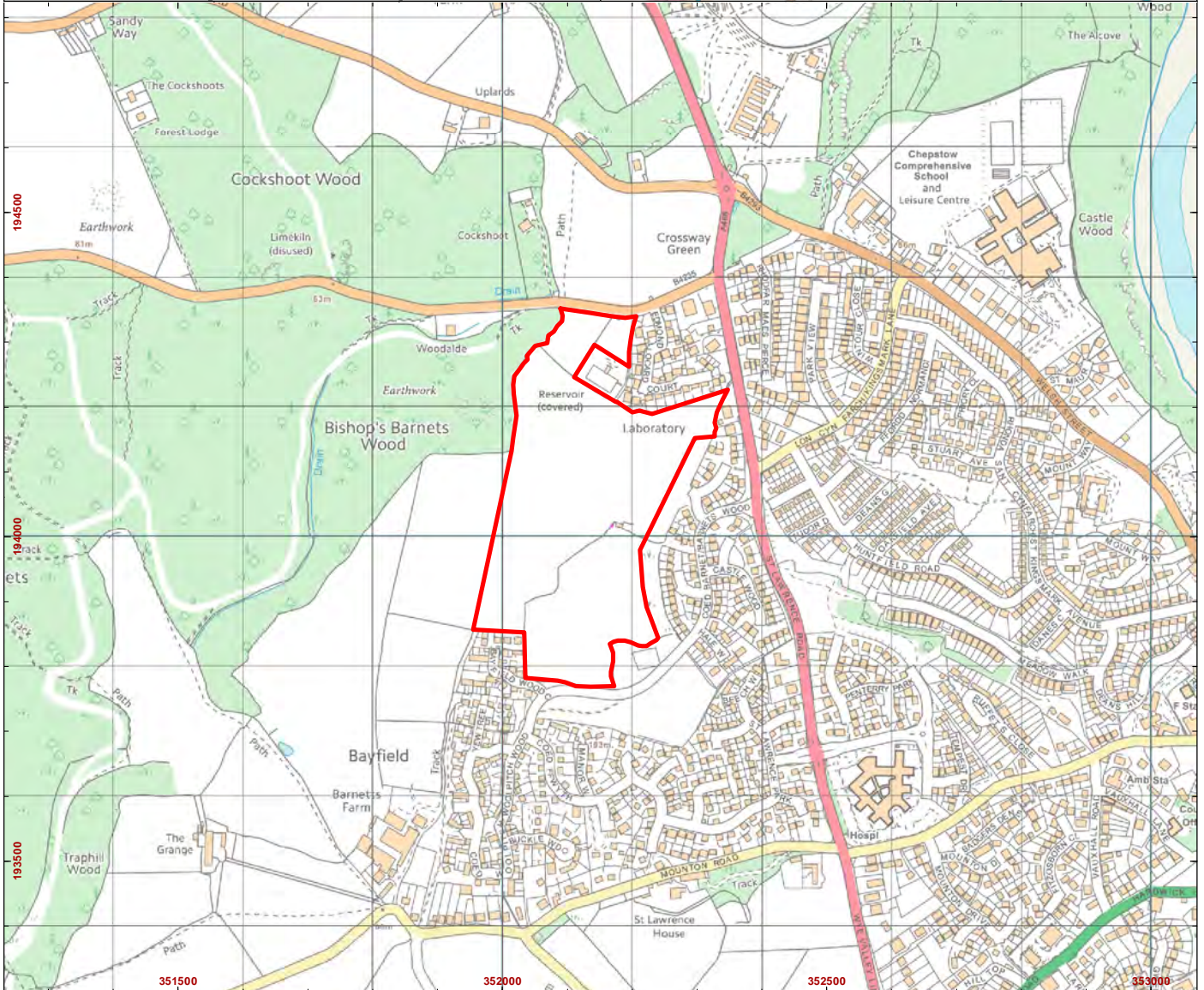
Bradney, J. *A History of Monmouthshire: Volume 4 Part 1, The Hundred of Caldicote*. 1994 facsimile of 1933 original, Merton Priory Press.

Cartographic and illustrative

1733 estate survey map
1843 St Arvan's parish tithe map

Ordnance Survey 1:2,500: 1882, 1902, 1921, 1966, 1979-85, 1995

Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 & 1:10,000: 1887-88, 1903, 1922, 1924, 1938-54, 1955, 1971, 1992, 2000, 2006, 2017.



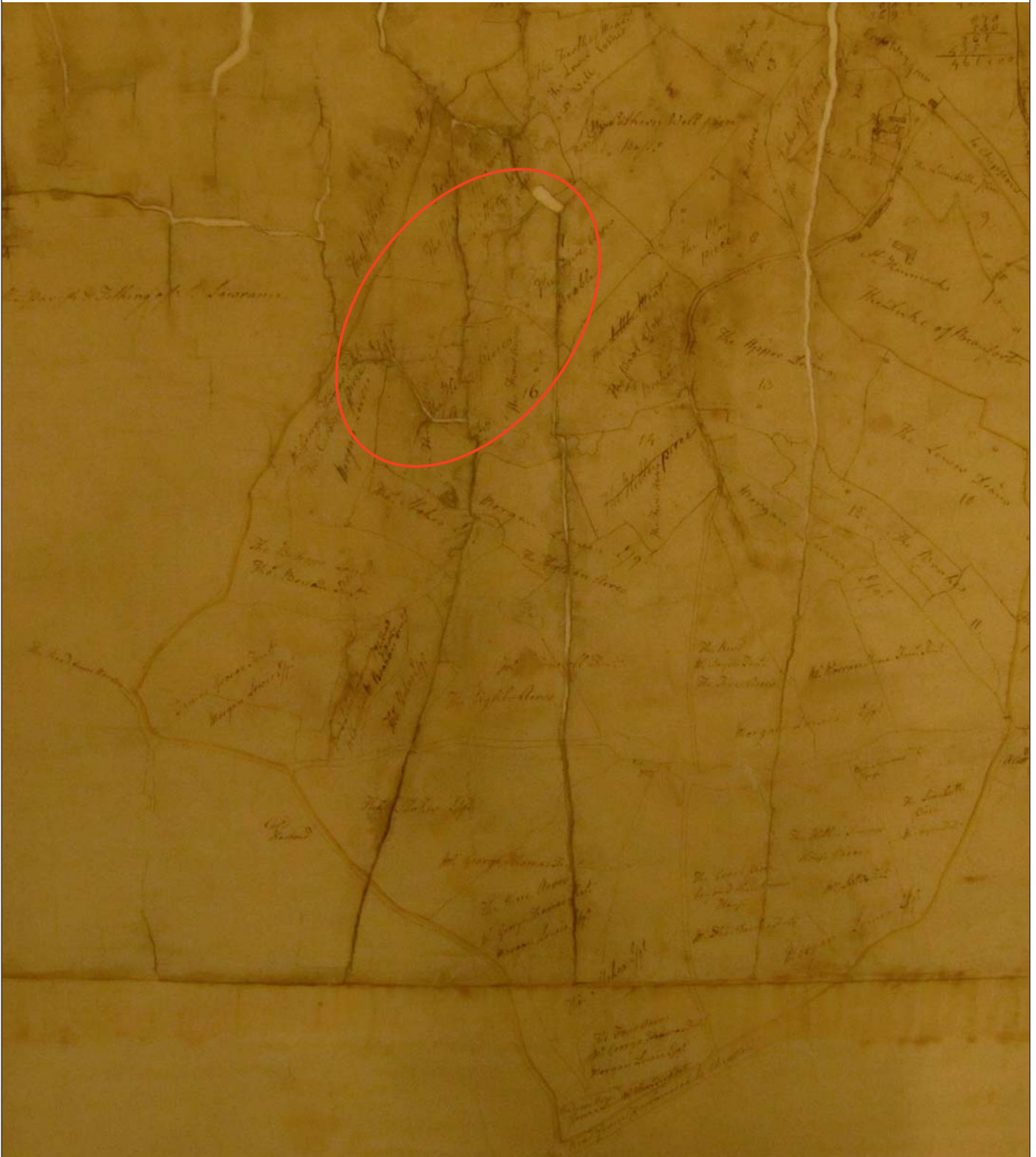
Site Boundary




Scale at A4: 1:10,000

0 250m

Figure 1:
Site Location



Legend

 Approximate Site Location



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 2:
1773 Estate Map



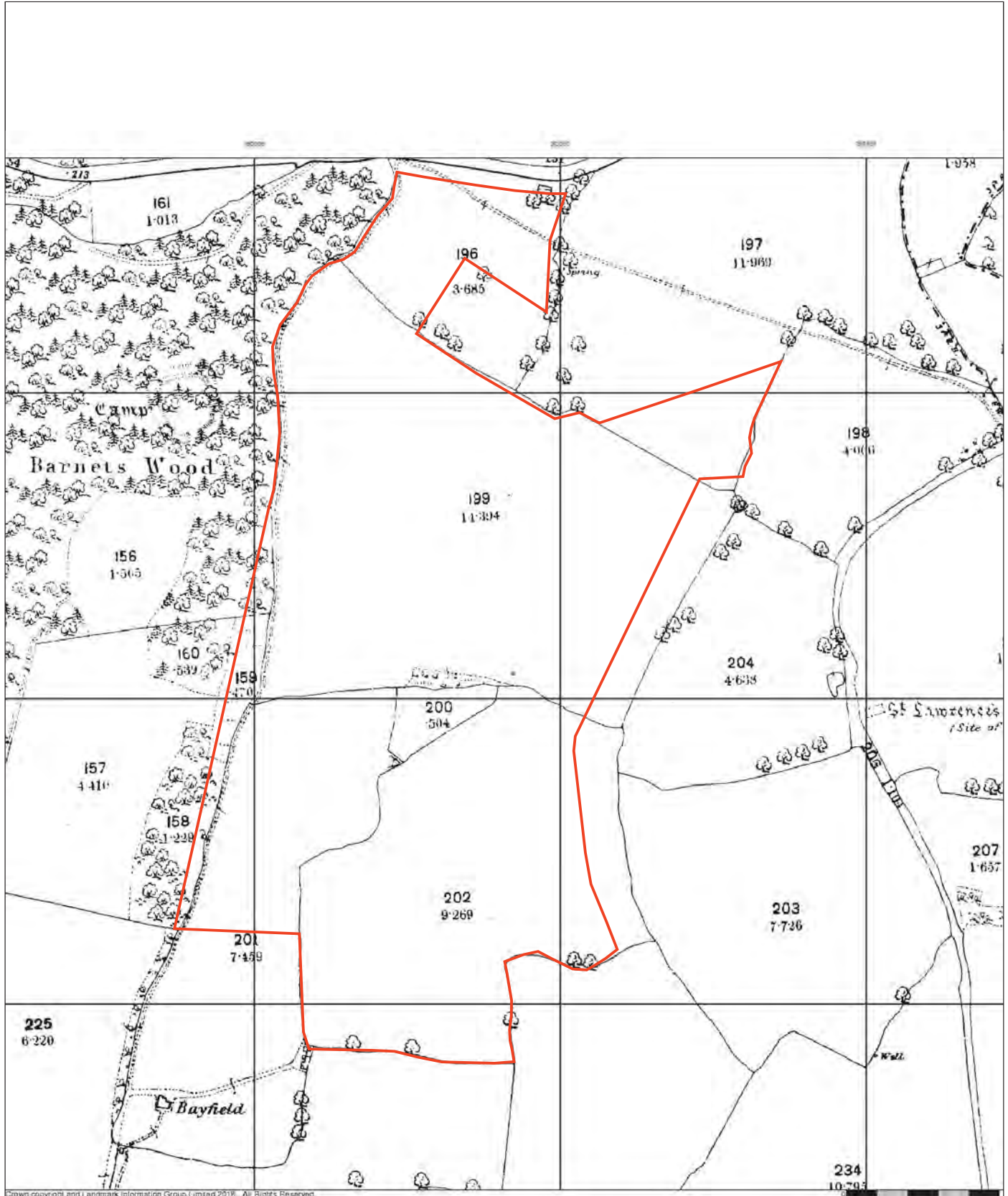
Legend

— Approximate Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 3:
1847 St Arvan's Parish
Tithe Map



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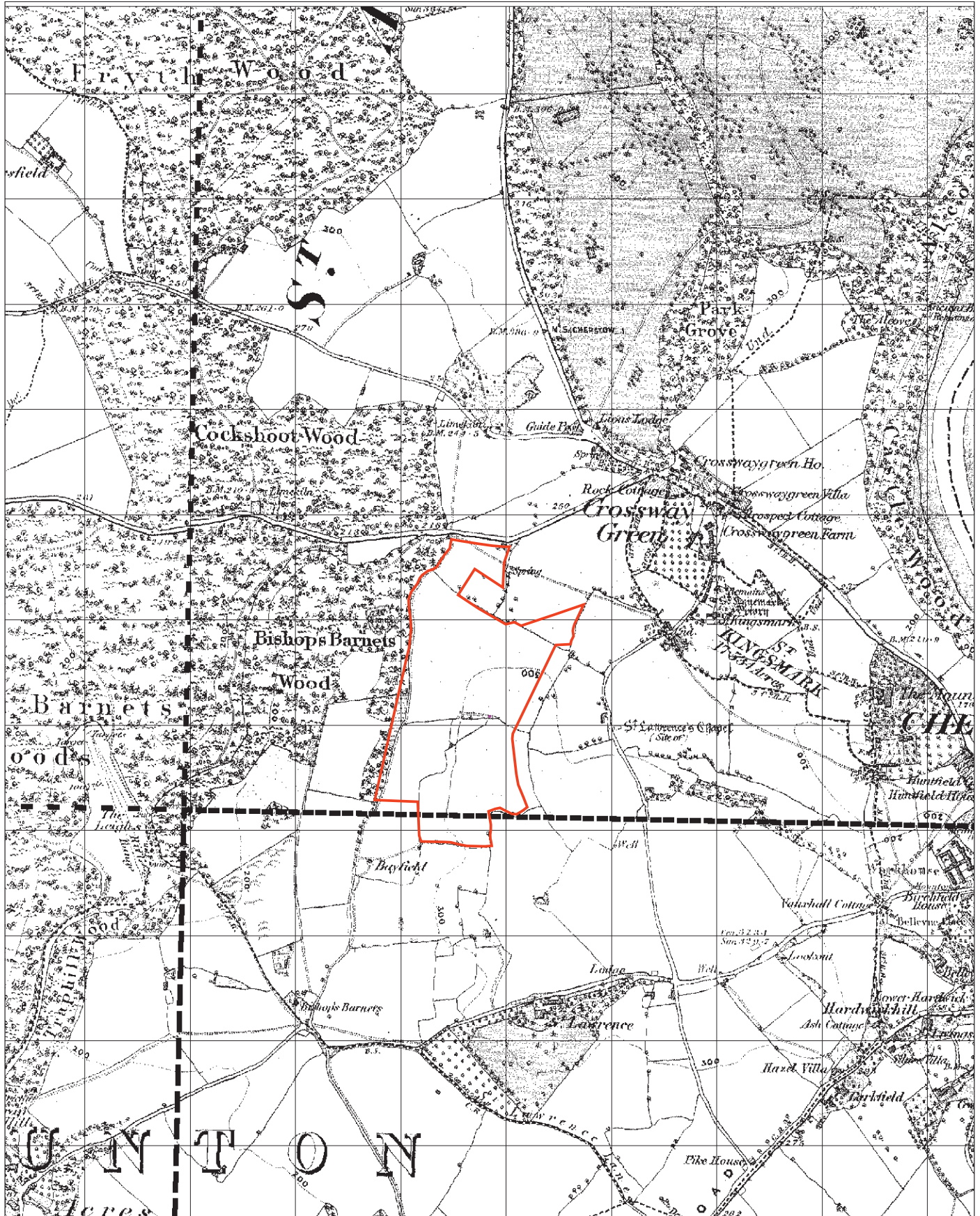
Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 4:
1882 Ordnance
Survey Map



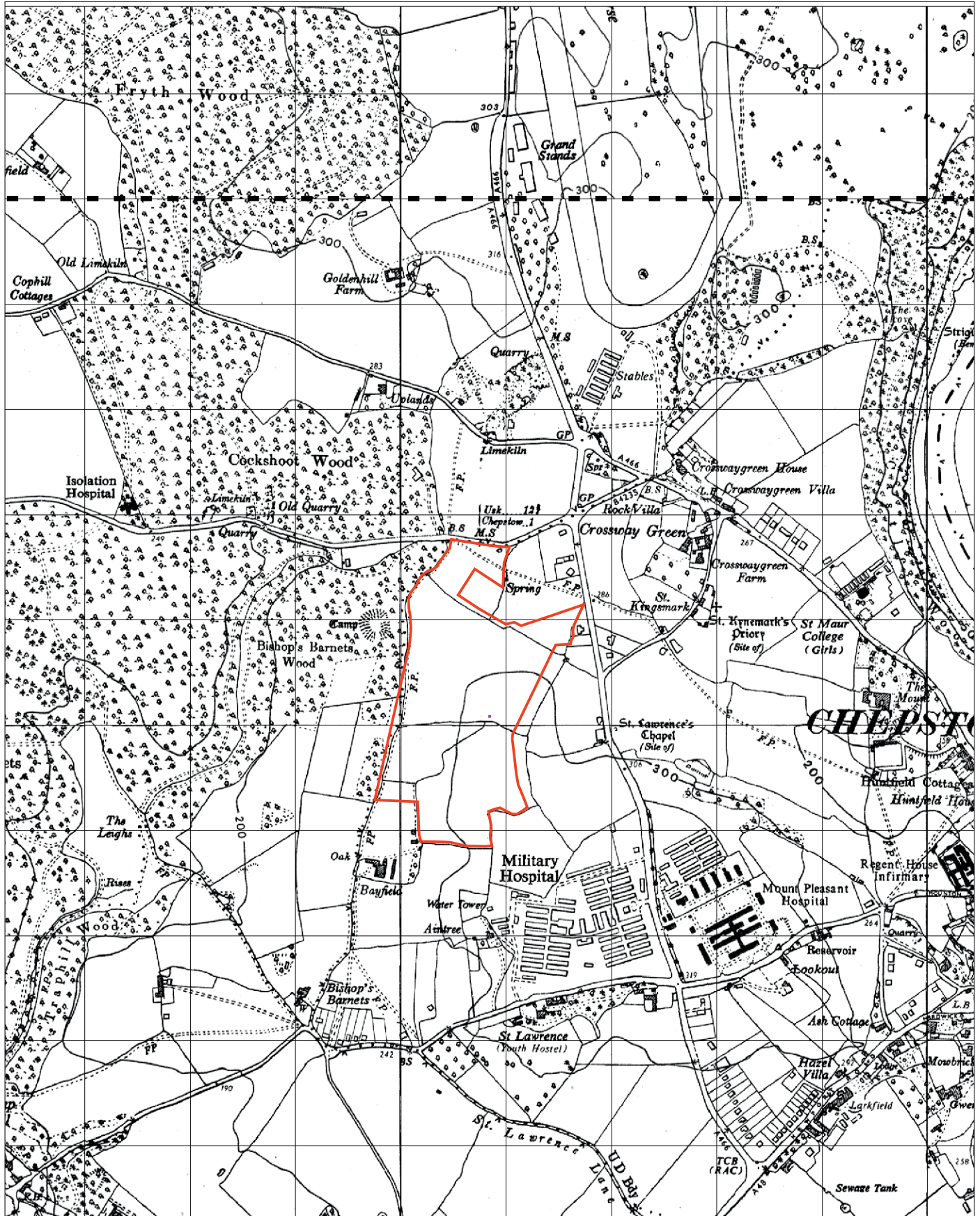
Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 5:
1886-1887 Ordnance
Survey Map



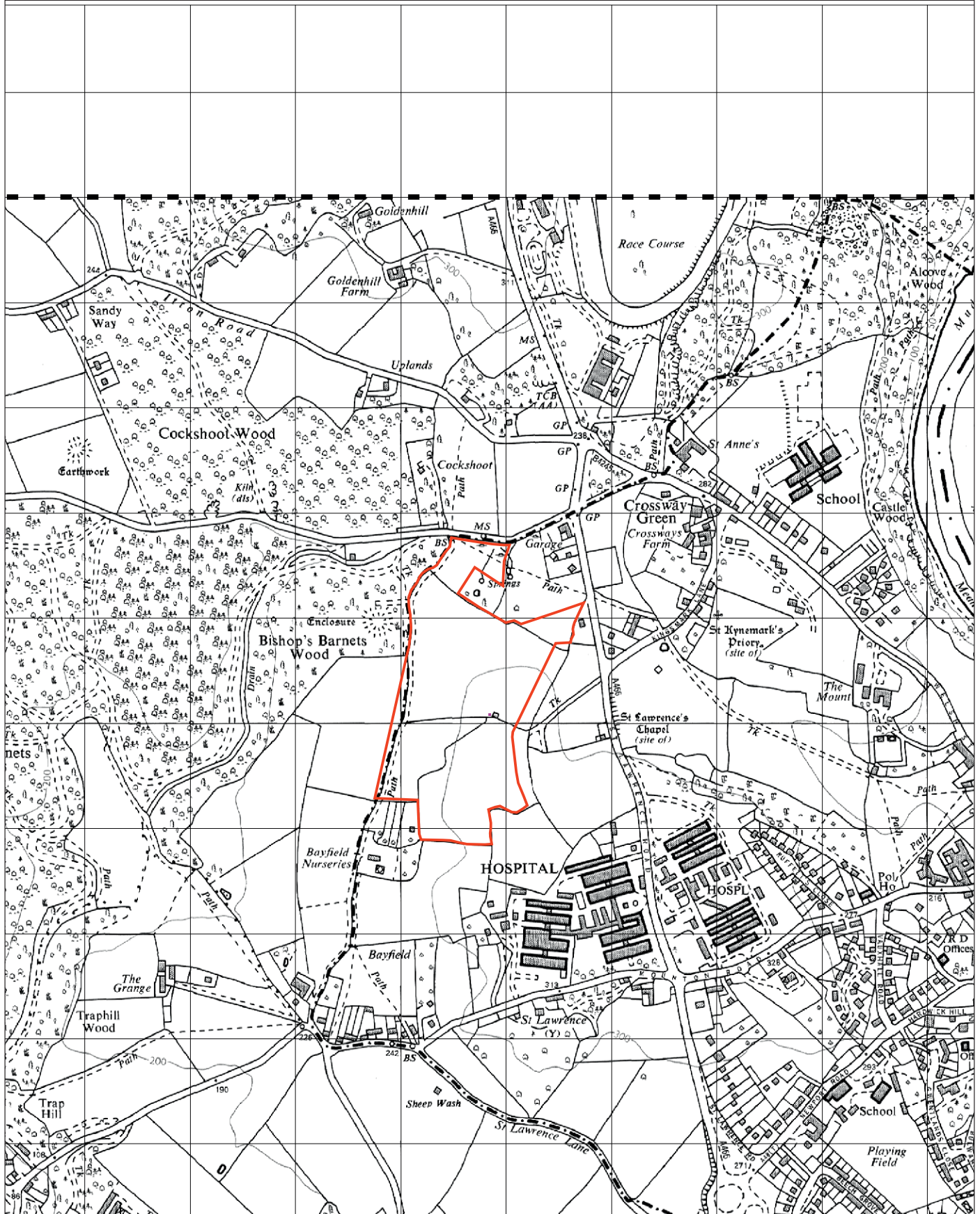
Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 6:
1955 Ordnance
Survey Map



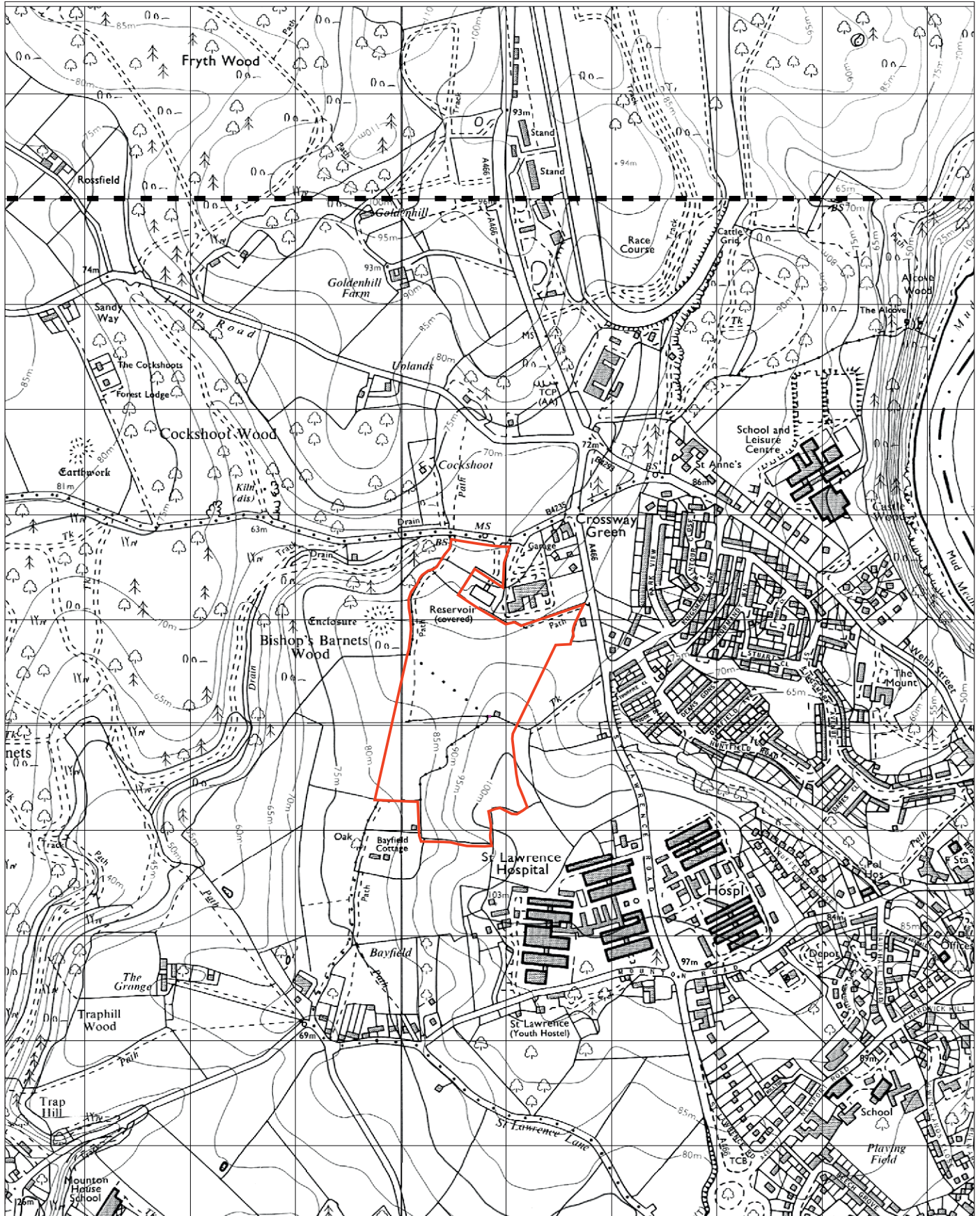
Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 7:
1971 Ordnance
Survey Map



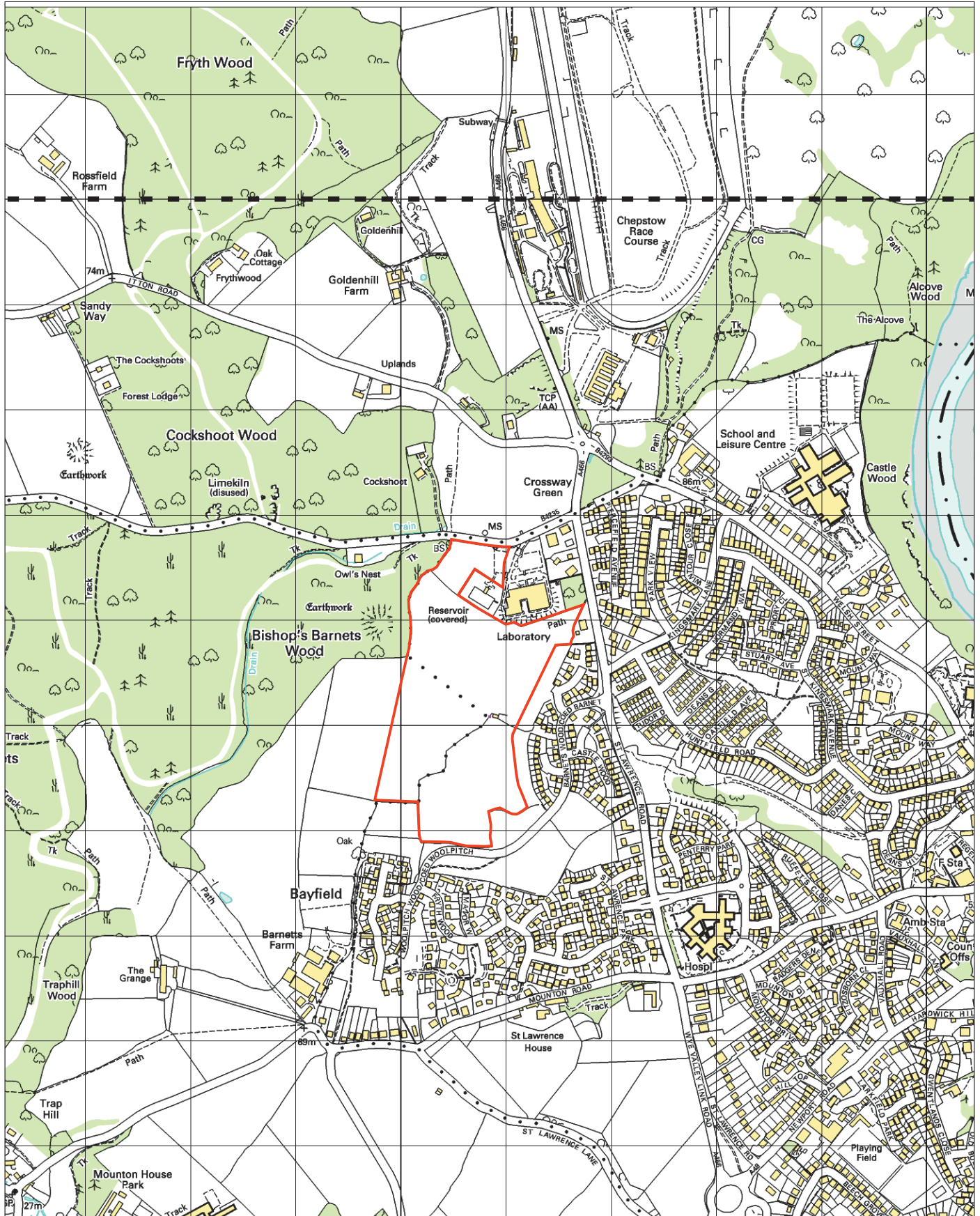
Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 8:
1881-1887 Ordnance
Survey Map



Legend

— Site Boundary



Not to Scale:
Illustrative Only

Figure 9:
2006 Ordnance
Survey Map



Plate 1: Looking north across the study site from the southern end



Plate 2: Looking north across the northern part of the study site from the central area

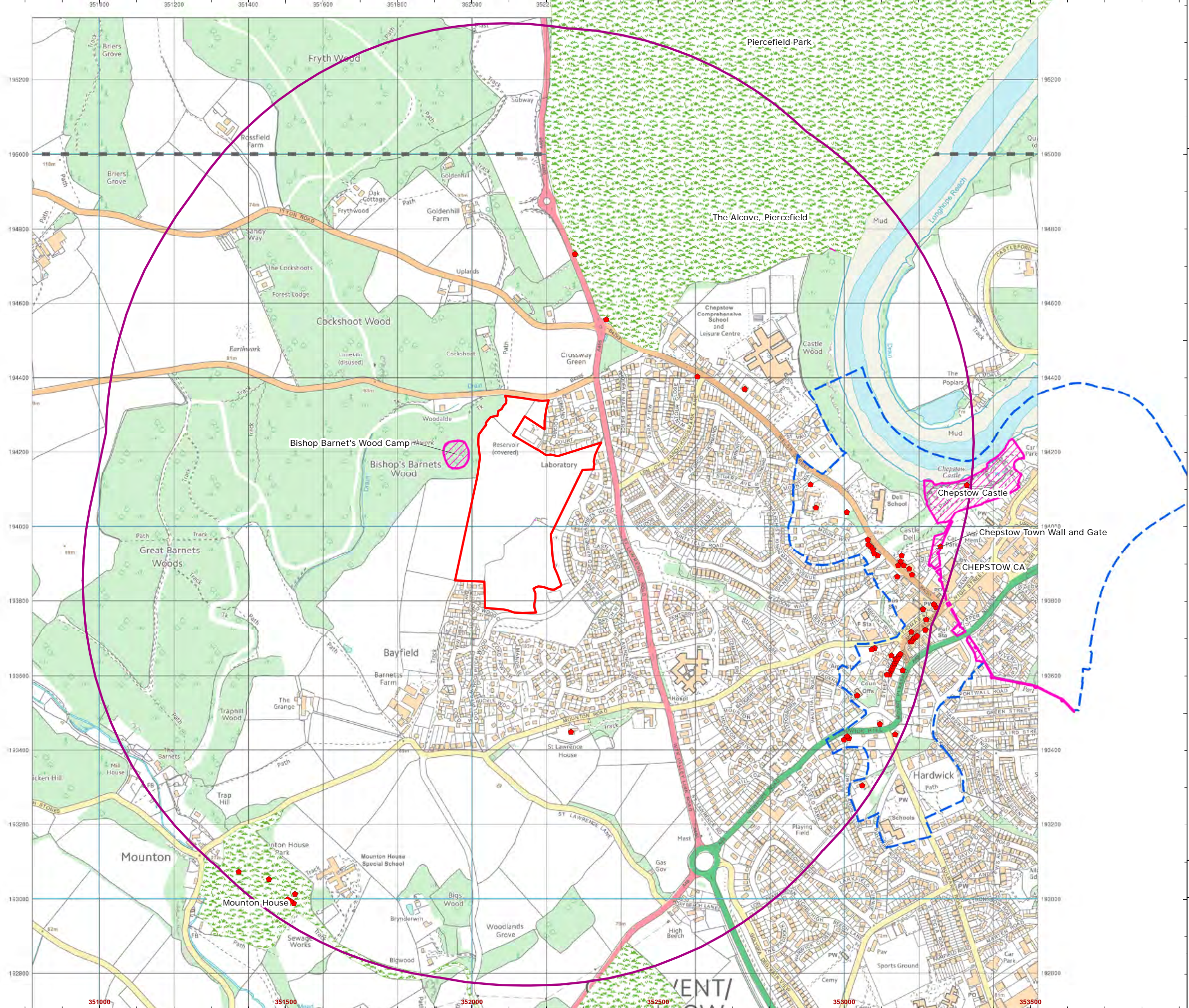


Plate 3: Looking west towards Bishop's Barnet Woods

Appendix 1: NMR and HER data



- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius
- ◆ Listed Buildings
- RPG
- SAM
- Conservation Area

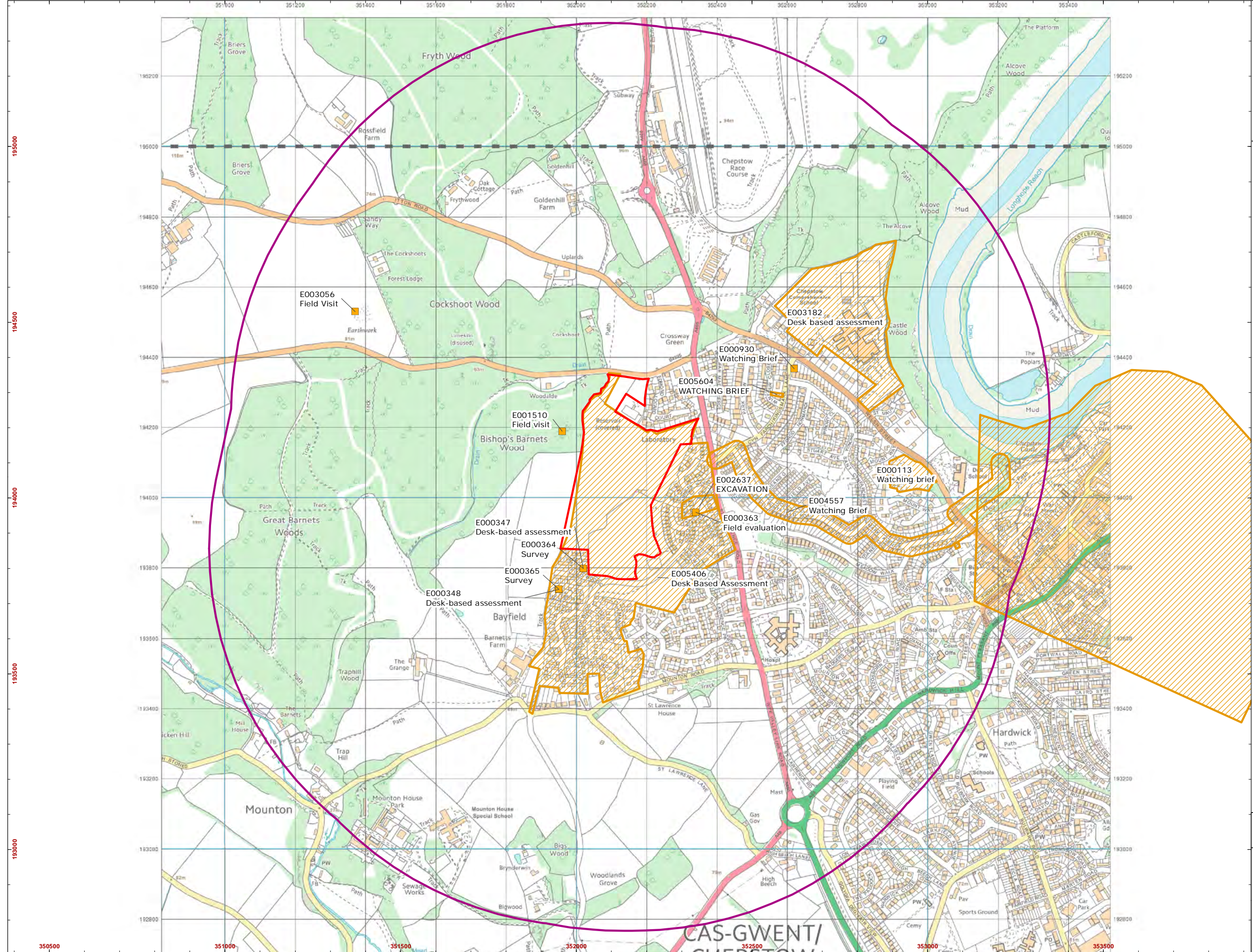


Scale at A3: 1:10,000
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Appendix 1:
 Designated Heritage Assets



- Site Boundary
- 1km search radius
- HER Events Point
- HER Events Polygon

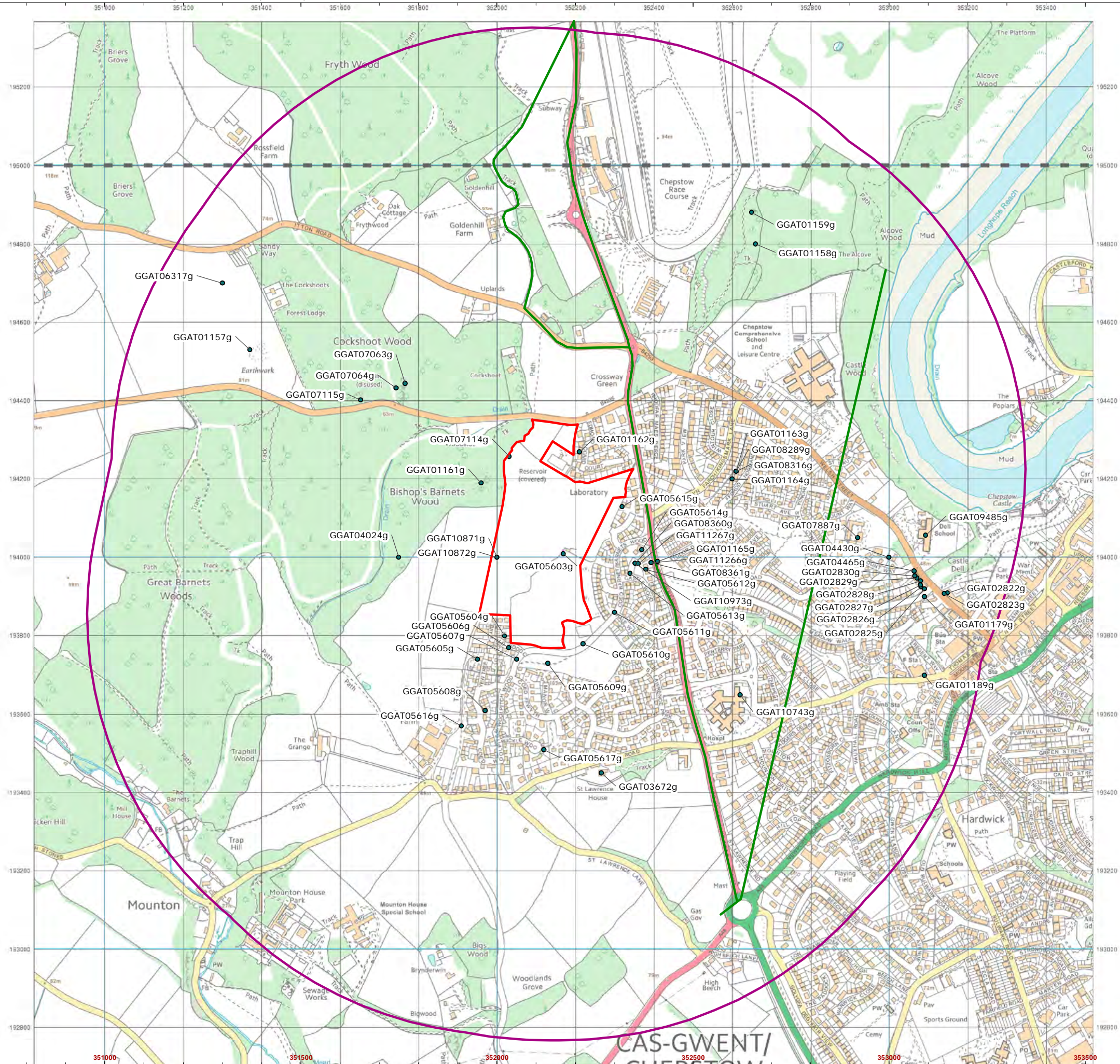


Scale at A3: 1:10,000
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Appendix 1:
HER Events



- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ 1km search radius
- HER Monuments
- Roman Road

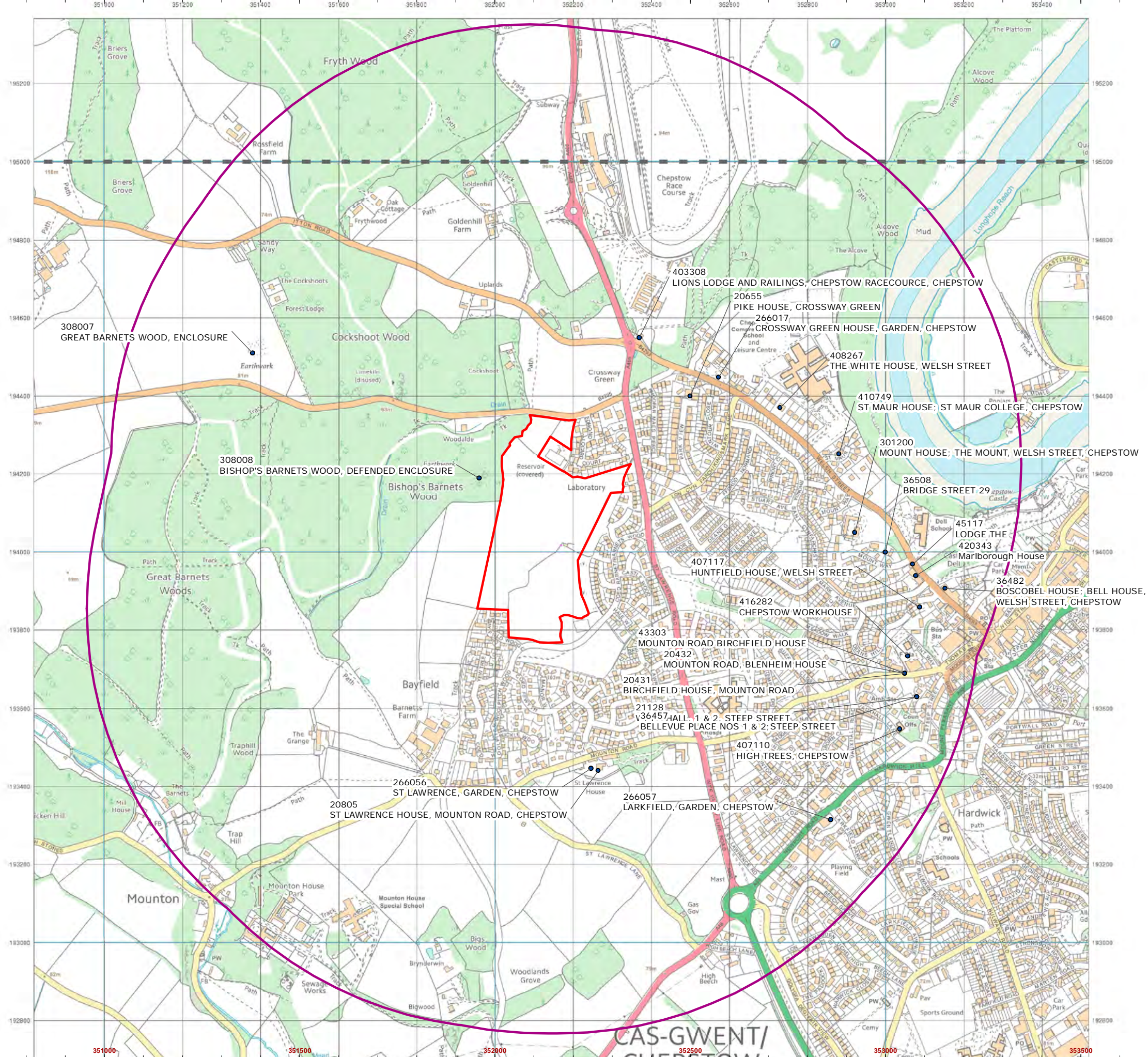


Scale at A3: 1:10,000
0 300m

Appendix 1:
HER Monuments



- ▭ Site Boundary
- ▭ 1km search radius
- NMR



Scale at A3: 1:10,000
 0 300m

Appendix 1:
 NMR Data

Cgms

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