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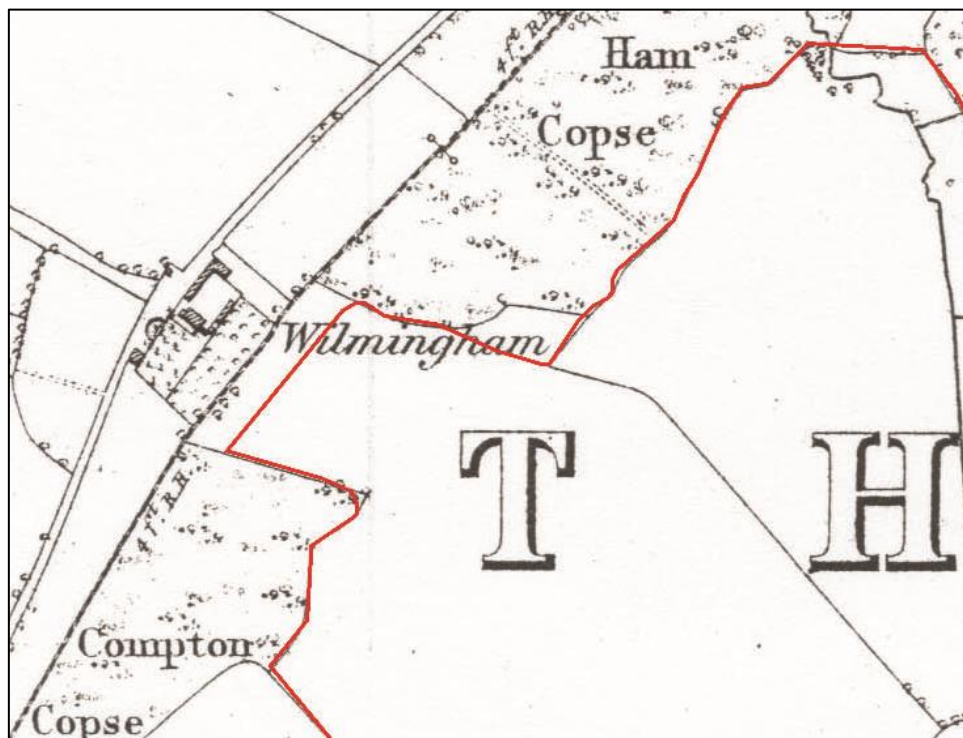
Heritage Statement for:

# Wilmington Plantation

Wilmington Road, Wilmington, Isle of Wight PO40 9UQ

Commissioned by Low Carbon Solar

February 2011



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## **Summary**

The study area at Wilmington Plantation is comprised of approximately 29 hectares of land. It lies in the Thorley and Wellow Plains area, as classified by the Isle of Wight Council Historic Action Plan (HEAP). Based on the results of a desk based study and site inspection, one feature has been identified as being a potential heritage asset of local significance. This is a linear bank and ditch boundary feature that separates the southern part of the study area from the rest. It would appear to be a field boundary of Post Mediaeval date and, because of its good condition, could be considered to be an asset of local significance. No recommendations for further archaeological investigation have been made, except where the development may impact upon the feature, though it is advised that the Client should take steps to incorporate the feature into the proposed plans for the site and leave it intact as far as possible.

# **1 Introduction**

Dr Mason has been commissioned by Low Carbon Solar produce a Heritage Statement for the proposed development site at Wilmington Plantation, Wilmington, Isle of Wight, PO40 9UQ. It has been produced, at the Client's request, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Government's Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5 para 16) and the Isle of Wight Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP 6 section B9). The aim of the study, therefore, is to identify, as far as reasonably possible, the nature and significance of any potential heritage assets present on the site and the possible impact of the development upon them, in order that informed recommendations can be made about the conditions under which the development can proceed.

## **2 Methodology Statement**

The present assessment is based on a desk-based study and site inspection and has been conducted in such a fashion as to satisfy the requirements of the Governmental PPS5 and associated Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide issued by English Heritage

The desk-based study made use of the following sources:

- 1) The Isle of Wight Council Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Isle of Wight Council Archaeology and Historic Environment Service (IWCAHES).
- 2) Published and unpublished cartographic, documentary and photographic sources.

The aim of the site inspection was to relate the findings of the desk-top study to the existing topography and land-use and to recover evidence not available from the desk-top sources. The following actions were taken on site:

- 1) An assessment of the general topography and land use.
- 2) The site's stratigraphy was examined and recorded.
- 3) Known features were located, examined and recorded.
- 4) A general survey of the site was made, looking for evidence of any potential archaeological assets of significance.

## **3 The Setting**

### **3.1 Location, Topography and Land-use**

3.1.1 Location. The study area is in the modern Civil Parish of Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, and lies along its western boundary with the Parish of Freshwater (Grid Ref SZ364876). It covers approximately 29 hectares and is located on low lying ground about 1.75km south of the Solent coast, 900m east of the western River Yar and 1km north of the Downs. The study area is an open field of polygonal shape, measuring c.750m at the longest point along its NE-SW axis and c.500m at its widest point along its NW-SE axis (see Maps 1 & 9).

Access to the area is via a dirt track that enters the site in the centre of its western boundary. This track leads from Wilmington Road and cuts across the site on a roughly NW-SE axis. The southern and western borders of the area are enclosed by a ditch, beyond which are plantations of woodland. The only exception to this is the enclave of land in the centre of the western boundary, which measures approximately 150 x 150m (see Map 1). There is no ditch along the western edge of this enclave, which is bordered by trees, while the northern part of the enclave is bound by the dirt track. At this point, the track is raised on a bank and has a ditch on the south side (see Photo 1). The track is about 2m wide and runs on a SW-NE axis along the edge of the enclave and then turns to follow a NW-SE line across the rest of the field to the eastern boundary. It is slightly raised on a bank at first but over the last 150m or so (towards the eastern end) it is slightly different in nature, as the track appears to have sunk into the bank, leaving only ridges of the latter feature on either side (see Photos 2 & 3).

The northern and eastern borders of the site are bound by Barnfields Stream, the source of which is a spring fed lake that lies just beyond the SE corner of the study area and from where it runs to join the River Yar about 1.5km to the north-west. The course of the stream is fairly straight along the eastern boundary, though it heads towards the north-east at first and then turns north half way along the site, and it drops over a succession of three small falls, each about a meter high, gradually getting wider and deeper as it runs northward (see Photo 4). At the northern end, the river makes a sharp turn to the east and then snakes off in a more meandering fashion towards the north-west. The course of the stream is wooded and overgrown in places and is separated from the main field in the study area by a 5m wide grass track (see Photo 5). This grass track runs around the entire circuit of the site boundary and in many places is raised about 20cm above the field. This slight embankment is most notably lost towards the south-eastern end of the site. The study area also includes a small strip of land, approximately 50m wide and 100m long, lying on a NW-SE axis, just above where the river makes its sharp turn eastward. Access to this part of the site is by means of a grass track, laid over a concrete based bridge, at the point where the river turns east. Despite having some new trees planted in it, most of this area was



heavily overgrown and difficult to survey. However, as the proposed development does not extend into this area it has not been included in the following study.

3.1.2 Topography. The study area lies in a fairly level area of the island, classified as the Thorley and Wellow Plains by the HEAP. There is a slight incline in the land, the highest point being in the SW part of the site on roughly the 20m contour line. From here it slopes down to about the 4m contour line in the north (a gradient of about 1:50) and the 15m contour line to the east (a gradient of about 1:70). This is very approximate, as the slope down to the south-eastern part of the site is more exaggerated, dropping more noticeably over a distance of 150m with a gradient of about 1:30. It was evident on the site inspection that the low lying areas along the river were quite waterlogged, particularly in the SE and NE parts of the site (see Photo 6). The Thorley Tithe Map of AD1844 (JER/T/325) shows that the land parcel (Plot 194) that then existed along the southern and central parts of the eastern boundary was called Long Mead, the name indicating an area of damp, wet pasture (see Map 5). Also, both that plot and the NE part of the site are shown as stippled areas on the Mudge Survey of c.AD1793, which suggests that both areas were considered as mead at that time (Map 4). There are two more indicators of the natural dampness in those parts of the site. First, there is a boggy patch, roughly 100m square and overgrown with tall plants, in the north-eastern part of the site. Second, there is a similarly boggy area, perhaps 400m square, just south of the central part of the eastern boundary. There is a ditch like channel in the midst of this latter feature and it would seem to be the remains of the old withy bed (plot 200) shown on the 1844 Tithe map (see Photos 7 & 8).

In the IWCAHES Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC 2351), the study area is defined as 'amalgamated fields' (see Map 2). This would appear to be true according to the OS1978 map and is largely true today (see Map 9). It is notable, however, that a rectilinear enclosure (measuring roughly 120m NW-SE x 40m SW-NE) is marked on the 2008 OS Explorer map, bordering the north edge of the track and the grass track on the western boundary. This feature is actually a strip of rough ground with quite deep cover and there is a corresponding feature, of similar dimension, on the southern side of a bank and ditch feature running across the site to the south. This second area of rough ground also butts up to the grass track on the western boundary (see Photo 9). These areas of rough ground have been deliberately cultivated and are no doubt connected to the practice of pheasant shooting, for which the site has been tailored (see next section). The bank and ditch feature to the south (which runs across the site from east to west) and the dirt track, it should be noted, are older field boundaries.

The study area was divided into more distinct parcels prior to 1978 and certainly up to 1939. The OS 1939 6" Map shows that the current track and southern bank and ditch features were primarily field boundaries that divided the study area into three parts, north, central and south (see Map 8). From north to south, these three parcels are named in the 1844 Tithe as Foul Mead, Great Ham and Copse Ground (see Map 5). In addition, a strip of land,

approximately 125m wide and extending from the south-eastern corner to the midway point of the eastern boundary, was enclosed as a separate field. This field is depicted as rough ground with boggy patches and is the same area called Long Mead in the 1844 Tithe apportionment. The old withy bed lay enclosed at the northern end of this long meadow. It is shown as a separate enclosure, bound by the Barnfield Stream on the east and a drainage channel that arced around the bed and connected to the stream at either end. The ditch seen within the area of the old withy bed during the field inspection is most likely a remnant of this feature. These land parcels, namely the Withy Bed, Long Meadow and three main field divisions occur on all map evidence prior to AD1939 and as far back as AD1793 (see Maps 4-8). With minor variations, this is the basic field pattern during that 146 year period.

There are two other notable features on the 1939 OS Map. First, the field south of the bank and ditch feature is divided into two parts, east and west, by a dotted line. The eastern portion, which is the largest, is shown as rough ground dotted with bushes, while the western half is clear, presumably used for pasture or arable purposes. This division is also shown on the 1907 OS map, though this may indicate an edit as it was revised between 1939 and 1942 (see Map 7). It is worth noting that this area south of the bank and ditch is still quite rough in appearance, particularly along the southern boundary, though it is not as rough as the rectilinear area of managed rough mentioned previously. This division does not appear on earlier maps but it is notable that this area was called the Copse Ground in the 1844 Tithe (plot 204), which may account for the rough nature of the ground here. Although there is no sign of a copse marked on the Tithe Map (in which it is listed as arable land), there is a small enclosure of copse located in the south eastern corner of this field on the 1794 Mudge Survey (see Map 4). The second notable feature on the 1939 OS map is that a ditch feature runs parallel to the river along the north eastern side of the site. It connects to the river on the northern boundary and runs south towards the withy bed, though it does not quite join up with it. This feature is evident on maps dating as far back as AD1866 and is presumably a drainage ditch (see Maps 6-8). Although there is no evidence of this feature now, the area of boggy ground observed north of the track during the site inspection, lay near the line of that old channel.

Other than the above mentioned features, the only others not yet discussed are that the central field was divided into two halves, east and west, in the 1907 OS and 1793 Map Survey (Maps 4 & 7). These were presumably temporary arrangements, as this division is not recorded on maps dating from AD1844 – 1866. No sign of this division was apparent during the site inspection either. Finally, there appears to be a boundary or ditch feature enclosing the enclave on the western boundary on the 1793 Survey (Map 4). This ran south-west from the line of the present track and turned westward at its southern end without fully enclosing the enclave to the west. Again, no sign of this was noted during the field inspection.

3.13. Land Use: The most recent activity on the site appears to have been game shooting, pheasants in particular. As previously mentioned, the managed areas of rough ground to the north of the track and south of the

bank and ditch feature appear to relate to this activity, offering cover in the field for the pheasants, who were evident on the site during the inspection and for whom there are feeding stations located in the surrounding woodland. A set of numbered posts along the southern edge of the track and the south eastern boundary also appear to be related to game shooting (see photos 10 & 11). Several shotgun shells were also seen on the site. Previous use in the modern and early modern periods (c.AD1700 – present) would appear to be for arable use and pasturing. The farm at Wilmington, which lies just to the west of the study area, is called Wilmington Dairy Farm on the 1978 OS Map and this may link to the use of the land in the study area for pasturing at that point, though there is no recorded link between the farm and the study area prior to this time. On the other hand, aerial photos dating from 1971-1993 (BKS (11.5.71)152957; CUCAP (7.10.86) RC8-IT 105; Aerofilms (6.7.93) 0905) all indicate times when the whole site was used for arable purposes. Prior to 1940, some parts of the site had more specific roles.

The 1844 Tithe apportionment (JER/T/325) lists the use for the plots that made up the study area as follows (see Map 5): Plot 200, on the eastern boundary of the site, was a withy bed. Plot 194, known as Long Mead and running along the south eastern boundary, was used for pasture. As already mentioned, the name mead indicates that this was specifically rough, wet pasture. The northern field, Foul Ham (plot 202), was also used for pasture, though the fact that this area is stippled on the 1793 survey in the same fashion as Long Mead may indicate that rough, wet pasture was meant in particular. Only the central and southern fields (Great Ham and Copse Ground, plots 203 and 204) were listed as being used for arable purposes in the tithe apportionment and this may hold true for the late 18<sup>th</sup> century also. Earlier use can only be surmised. According to the HLC, the area was ancient woodland until the Post-Mediaeval Period (c.AD1540-1700) and it was only then that the area was opened up for agricultural purposes.

The evidence certainly supports this suggestion. First of all, many of the wooded areas surrounding the site are classified as ancient woodland or replanted ancient woodland in the HLC. These areas are (see Map 2 for plots): Withybed Copse (HLC 57) on the NE boundary, Tapnell Furze (HLC 59) on the eastern boundary, two copses (North Park Copse) on the river to the SE of the site (HLC 55 & 56), Wilmington Plantation/North Park to the south, Tapnell Plantation (HLC 52) and Compton Copse (HLC 51) on the SW boundary and Ham Copse (HLC 49) to the NW. The area directly to the west of the site (HLC 493) is also thought to be ancient woodland. Basford (1989: 13, 17) suggests that the name North Park, with its association to three of the areas identified as ancient woodland in the area, is indicative that there was a Mediaeval Deer park in this location. Basford notes that Deer Parks were introduced by the Normans, who also introduced Fallow Deer to England.

That the study area may have been part of a royal forest, indeed, one dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, is backed up by two further pieces of evidence. According to the Domesday Book, Wilmington Manor, which lay just to the west of the study area and consisted of 1 hide of land, belonged to huntsman named Ulviet prior to the invasion of AD1066 (Page 1912: 240-6). Although

there is no direct link between Wilmington Manor and the current study area prior to c.AD1978, (in the 1844 tithe apportionment for Freshwater (JER/T/110), the lands associated with Wilmington lie between the study area and the River Yar to the west), its proximity on the borders of the site and the fact that the Anglo-Saxon owner was a huntsman add strength to the argument that the study area was forested at this time. Furthermore, Wilmington was taken over by the King in AD1086 and his ownership of land in the local vicinity may have extended to the woodland in and around the study area, which he may have considered to be an ideal location for a game park. This probability is further enhanced by the fact that John Speed's map of AD1611 shows the area around Wilmington as being wooded and, more particularly, gives it the name of Kingswood (see Map 3). Although Speed's map is not entirely reliable in detail, it may provide a terminus post quem for the transition of the study area from woodland to agricultural assarts as some time later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **3.2 Geology**

Wilmington Plantation is in a geological area where the underlying natural strata are classified as Headon and Osborne Beds. The stratigraphy of the site was observed by looking at the river bank running along the site (See Photo 12). The top soil varies in depth between 20 and 30cm deep and has natural flint inclusions. . Below the top soil were loam deposits, again with flint inclusions. The subsoil extended at least 1m down to the river bed. It should be noted that the field in the study area has not been cleared in some time and the top soil over the whole site is covered with these natural flint inclusions, some quite substantial in size.

## **4 Archaeological and Historical Background**

(See Map.1 for location of finds, monuments and historic buildings in area)

### **4.1 Prehistoric Period (Palaeolithic to Iron Age c.500,000-44BC)**

While there is evidence of human activity in the surrounding area for this period, the dating and context of much of it is largely speculative and none of it is located within the study area itself.

There are a couple of find spots of flint flakes and a scraper located about 200-300m west of the site (HER170, 172). These were found while field walking, though there is no confirmation of what period they belonged to. They are likely to be of Mesolithic to Bronze Age origin (10,000 – 801BC), though this is not certain and it is possible they are from an earlier or later period. There are also a few crop mark features, mainly identified through aerial photography, though most of these are of unknown date and could be prehistoric or modern. Several of these are linear features, which could date anywhere from the Neolithic to the modern period (4000BC –present). One set comprises three, possibly four, sides of a rectilinear feature (HER 1611) and lies about 400m to the SW of the site. Another set, located about 250m to the west of the site, is composed of two linear features, which may represent possible field boundaries (HER 1613). A rectilinear enclosure, measuring about 130 x 75m, is located about 400m north-east of the site (HER1624) and a series of linear ditches covering an area of roughly 338 x 385m, together with the possible remnants of an enclosure is located about half a kilometre to the south west (HER7311). The latter features have been interpreted as Bronze Age in origin (2430 -701BC), though they may date from a much later period. There is also a wide bank and ditch like feature, lying about 400m to the south-east, which appears to be the southern side of a large, 400m wide enclosure (HER 7283). This could also be of any date from the Neolithic to the present but there is a suspicion that this is actually a natural, geological phenomenon.

There are also several circular crop marks features, described as ring ditches, in the surrounding areas. Four of these lie along a NW-SE axis between 400 and 600m east of the site. Three of these (HER 2082, 2192 and 2193) have not been dated, though the fourth (HER 1626), which is actually comprised of two rings abutting each other, is thought to be Bronze Age in origin (2430 - 701BC). The most northern ring is about half the diameter of the other, the outer ring ditch being c.25m in diameter and the ring ditch itself about 1m wide. It may be that these features represent a Bronze Age cemetery though that is purely conjectural. Another possible Bronze Age ring ditch is located about 400m to the NE of the site (HER3969). It is worth noting that there is a large Bronze Age cemetery on Afton Downs to the south, near the head of the Western Yar, as well as a large number of burial sites in the south west of the Island generally (Basford 1980: 19-20. 26), so a Bronze Age presence in the area should be expected. In what way or to what extent they exploited the study area is unknown, though, as the study area is thought to be the site of

an ancient wood, hunting would seem the most likely activity. The archaeological record for the rest of the prehistoric period is blank, though some of the undated features mentioned previously may pertain to this time frame.

## **4.2 Historic Period (43BC- Present)**

4.2.1 Roman – Mediaeval Period (AD43 – AD1539). There is little evidence from this period and none present on the site itself. For the Roman period (43BC-AD448), a shard of Samian ware (HER1974) was found somewhere to the north-east of the site, though its exact location and any context is unknown. There have been several finds of Roman coins and a coin hoard found along the course of the western River Yar (Basford 1980: 30), so some local presence during the Roman period is likely, though to what extent and to what effect is unknown. For the Saxon period (AD449 – 1065) there is no evidence until the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, when Wilmington is mentioned in the Domesday Book (HER 5225). As mentioned above, Wilmington was a small manor consisting of 1 hide prior to the invasion and was the holding of a huntsman (see p.11). It was given to William Fitz Osbern after the invasion but was forfeited to the king and in his possession by AD1086. In the 13th century the manor belonged to the Priory of Christchurch, Twynham, and remained in its possession until the dissolution in AD1539, whereupon it reverted to the King (Page 1912: 240-6; Webster (1ASURV) Parish of Freshwater). As noted previously, the holdings associated with Wilmingham Manor were located to the west of the site in the 1844 Tithing of Freshwater and probably were so in earlier times. As such, there is no direct connection between the Manor and the study area, which is thought to have still been wooded at this time. More likely, the site was part of a forest belonging to the King and was perhaps used as a Deer Park (see p.11).

### **4.2.2 Post-Mediaeval Period to Present (AD1540 – Present)**

It is during this period that a clearer picture of land use in the study area emerges. According to the HLC, it was during the Post-Mediaeval period (AD1540-1699) that the area was most likely cleared for agricultural purposes. If Speed's Map of 1611 is correct, then the area was still wooded at that time, meaning it was cleared between then and the Mudge Survey of AD1796. Although there is no HER record of any finds dating to this period on the site, the large bank and ditch feature separating the southern end of the study area from the rest may well be a field boundary from this time. The bank itself is about 2m wide, 30-40 cm high and has ditches on both sides, each measuring about 40cm in width and 20-25cm in depth (see Photo 13). This feature runs across the site on a SE-NW axis, along the lines given as field boundaries in maps dating from AD1797 to AD1939 (Maps 4,6-8). It stops short of the field boundaries east and west however, only running up to the grass perimeter track. The ditches have filled in over time and the feature stands out in the landscape as it is covered in tall grasses and thistle (see Photo 14). This feature probably dates from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, though it could be from an earlier or later period. It may be that the appearance of bank and ditch like features along the line of the dirt track are also the remnants of a field boundary from a similar date. The line of the track and the features on it

evidently formed the boundary dividing the northern part of the study into a separate field, as seen in maps from the same period (see p.8). For more recent times, the evidence for the parceling and use of land in the study area has already been discussed in section 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 and there is very little to add. In terms of land ownership, the Thorley Tithing shows that the study area was part of the estate held by the Honourable William Holmes and that it was used by two different tenants (JER/T/325. See Map 5). The two main fields in the centre and north of the site (Foul Ham, plot 202 and Great Ham, plot 203) were used by an R. Gibbs while Long Mead (plot 194), the Withy Bed (plot 200) and the Copse Ground (plot 20) were occupied by James Duke, who rented Tapnell Farm. Currently, the land in the study area is a single holding in private ownership.

## **5 Significance of the Remains**

### **5.1 Criteria**

In the following section, the known historical assets and potential archaeological remains in the study area have been assessed and evaluated using established industry standard criteria.

#### **5.1.1 Period**

The archaeological and documentary evidence suggest that the study area has, potentially, seen human activity for 500,000 years. The degree to which this can be ascertained depends on the period in question and the amount of information relating to it.

There is some potential evidence for early prehistoric hunter-gatherer activity in the area (dating from 500,000 to 4001BC), although none has been found on the site itself. It is therefore possible that archaeological remains from this period may be present in the study area, flint scatters and tools in particular. Damper parts of the site along the southern, eastern and northern parts of the site may potentially preserve the remains of hunter camps.

There is also potential evidence for Neolithic and (more likely) Bronze Age activity in the area (c.4000-701BC) but any finds, if they are present on the site, are more likely to relate to hunting rather than settlement. This holds true for subsequent periods up to and including the Mediaeval period and small, stray finds are more likely to be found than evidence of anything more substantial. It is likely that the area was first developed for agricultural purposes in the Post-Mediaeval period and the bank and ditch feature and the possible remnants of one along the line of the dirt track running across the site may relate to this period. Given the marginal nature of the land, any other structures are unlikely to be present, though small, stray finds may well turn up. From AD1796, the overall pattern of enclosure in the study area is well understood and traces of the 19<sup>th</sup> century pattern are present in the topography of the modern site. It can be said with a high degree of confidence that there are no structures on this site from this time on, though small finds may be present.

#### **5.1.2 Rarity**

##### **5.1.2.1 : Known site feature:**

The bank and ditch feature and possibly the bank and ditch features along the line of the dirt track are potentially of Post-Mediaeval origin. While these are not that uncommon on the Isle of Wight, the reasonably good condition of the southern bank and ditch feature means it has the may possibly be considered to be a heritage asset of local importance



#### 5.1.2.2: Potential site features:

There is little to suggest that there are any features on the site other than possible stray objects. Any finds of stray objects lacking archaeological context could be regarded as uncommon if of prehistoric through to Anglo-Saxon date and perhaps only of local significance, while stray finds from more modern periods would have less significance. The degree of rarity of any object found would, of course, adjust the potential significance of such finds.

#### 5.1.3 Documentation

The modern land use and building development in the area of the site can be traced well from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards through cartographic, photographic and documentary sources. There is also fairly good documentation relating to local settlement, land holding and land use in the area from the mediaeval period onwards, though in less detail. From these sources, it seems probable that the study area has only been used agricultural purposes from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and that it was previously an area of ancient woodland.

#### 5.1.4 Group Value

There has been little archaeological investigation in the immediate area of the site and the group value of any archaeological remains from the prehistoric through to the Anglo-Saxon periods that were indicative of a human occupation or land use would be high. However, apart from stray objects, such evidence is unlikely to be found on the present site. Remains indicative of human occupation or land use from the mediaeval through to Post-Mediaeval periods could be considered to be of low to moderate value depending on the nature of the finds. The bank and ditch boundary in the south of the study area and the bank and ditch features along the line of the track are potentially of Post-Mediaeval date and could, therefore, have some degree of value in terms of local group significance.

#### 5.1.5 Survival Condition

5.1.5.1 Known Features and Remains. The bank and ditch boundary feature in the south of the study area is in good condition. The ditches have gradually filled in over time but are still very discernable. The bank itself is still prominent and the feature as a whole appears to have been untouched by ploughing and is reasonably extant. This completeness adds to its potential value as a heritage asset of local significance. The bank and ditch features along the line of the track appear to be far more worn though use and have no doubt been subject to some modification over the years as it is the primary route across the site. As such it is of far less value as a potential heritage asset than the boundary feature in the south.

5.1.5.2 Unknown Features and Remains. The full extent and survival of any archaeological remains in the study area is not known. Nevertheless, the

potential survival condition of below ground remains would appear to be good in general. In the damper parts of the site, particularly along the boundary with the river, the conditions may even favour the survival of some organic materials.

### **5.1.6 Fragility**

The most significant impact on any potential remains in the area will be caused by the development. However, there is little expectation that anything other than small finds may be present on the site, so any disruption caused will be minimal. The only feature of any potential significance that may be at risk is the boundary bank and ditch in the southern part of the site. However, as the development proposes to put a 5m beetle run across that part of the site, any major impact can be avoided. The other impacts affecting the boundary bank and ditch feature are the root action of plants and possibly some animal burrowing, as a group of mole hills was observed slightly to the north of it at its eastern end.

### **5.1.7 Diversity**

The only known features present on the site are the boundary bank and ditch feature to the south and possibly the remains of another bank and ditch boundary along the line of the dirt track. These are potentially of Post-Mediaeval origin. There is a possibility that there are undiscovered archaeological remains from this and other periods present on the site but these would most likely consist of small finds of limited value.

### **5.1.8 Potential**

The potential for there being archaeological remains that could be considered to be heritage assets of regional or national importance is extremely low. The only area of concern is the boundary bank and ditch feature to the south which, being in a good, extant condition and of a potentially Post-Mediaeval date, might be considered to be a heritage asset of local significance. The possible boundary bank and ditch features along the line of the dirt track have already deteriorated to such a degree in most places, that it probably lacks any real significance as a heritage asset.

## **5.2 Significance**

- 5.2.1 Known features: The boundary bank and ditch feature, being in a good, extant condition and of possibly Post-Mediaeval date could be regarded as a heritage asset with some degree of local significance. The potential bank and ditch boundary features along the line of the dirt track, however, are largely deteriorated and can probably be regarded as not significant.
- 5.2.4 Unknown features: Possible stray objects and finds that may be present on the site might, at best, be considered to be of local significance, depending on their date and type. It is not anticipated that any features of any greater significance are present.

## **6 Impact of the Development**

### **6.1 Criteria for assessing impact**

The archaeological impact of development on a site can be assessed as follows:

Direct - Involving damage to the remains. This can be further refined by assessing what proportion of the remains is likely to be destroyed.

Indirect - Involving changes to the condition or setting of the remains as a consequence of the development.

### **6.2 Assessment of impact**

Information supplied by Low Carbon Solar indicates that the development will be composed of several different elements. Each element would require some groundworking and have a direct impact on the study area, though in slightly different ways (see Fig. 1).

#### **6.2.1 Solar Panel Modules**

Solar panel arrays will cover much of the ground area of the site. The solar panel modules will be set in rows on an east-west axis and mounted on posts that will be driven or screwed c.2.2m into the ground. From plans provided by Low Carbon Solar it would appear that a perimeter around 5-10m wide will be left between the boundaries of the site and the panel rows and that they will not be placed across a 5m corridor running NW-SE across the site, approximately in the location of the bank and ditch boundary feature. Details on the spacing of the posts are not specified but a distance of approximately 3m should probably be anticipated along the rows and 7m between rows. These posts will have the potential to go right through any possible archaeological remains up to c2.2m below ground and it would be preferable if the development plans avoided them being placed through the boundary bank and ditch feature. In general, however, the posts should be well spaced out and, as only small finds are anticipated as being potentially present on the rest of site, the overall impact they have should be minimal

#### **6.2.2 Inverter Stations, Cabling and Track**

The exact location and plans for the inverter stations and other buildings have not been finalised but the inverter sheds are approximately 3 x 5m and will be placed in the centre of the site on a concrete platform, avoiding the need for deep foundations. The exact dimensions of the concrete platform are not yet determined but from the plans supplied, it would appear to be something in the region of 15 x 25m. Presumably this would require some cut and fill, though if placed in the centre of the site, this should not be a problem. Two other small buildings will be placed on the perimeter of the site, though the exact locations have not yet been determined. If these are also on concrete

platforms and of similar dimension, they should not cause a problem as long as they are not built on any known features of significance.

Perhaps the greatest overall ground impact in terms of surface area affected will be caused by the cabling which will connect the rows of solar modules and connect them to the inverter stations. The rows will be wired together in strings and, from the plans, connected to the central inverter platform by means of a conduit running across the centre of the site on a N-S axis. The cables will be buried in trenches no more than a metre deep, perhaps less. This could affect any potential archaeology less than a meter deep but, as noted previously, there is a low expectation for there to be anything of archaeological significance in the general area. The main concern is where the central trench will cut across the bank and ditch boundary feature.

The last consideration is the track that will give access to the site for maintenance purposes. It is proposed that only a gravel track is required to give access to the inverter buildings. This should have minimal impact in terms of depth and should not cause any problems as long as it is kept clear of the bank and ditch boundary feature.

### **6.2.3 Beetle Run**

Low Carbon Solar are looking to put a 5 metre wide beetle run across the site, approximately on the line and location of the southern bank and ditch boundary feature. This area will not have solar array panels built on it, so if the beetle run was able to incorporate the bank and ditch boundary, it would be an ideal way to preserve it.

## **7 Recommendations for Mitigation**

### **7.1 General Guidelines for Archaeology and Planning**

Generally a distinction is drawn between historic assets of national importance and others of regional or local importance. In the case of the former, the presumption should be in favour of preservation in situ: in the case of the latter, where this is warranted by their significance, remains may undergo preservation by record, that is the making of an appropriate record by the use of survey, photography, excavation or other methods.

### **7.2 Known and potential historical assets**

The only known asset of any potential significance is the bank and ditch boundary feature that partitions the southern part of the site from the rest. This is in fairly good, extant condition and could be regarded as a historical asset of local significance. There may be potential historical assets from other periods present but it is anticipated that these will be limited to small finds of stray objects, perhaps of local significance at best.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

At present there is one area of concern on the site. This is the bank and ditch boundary feature that separates the southern part of the site. It is first recommended that the beetle run proposed by the Client incorporates this feature, thus helping to protect it from being completely obliterated by the development. It is also recommended that some kind of mitigation strategy be implemented where the cabling for the solar arrays may cut across the feature. There are a couple of options that could be considered in this regard. 1) Any cut across the feature be limited in impact as far as possible through careful planning and design and a watching brief be put on that part of the site during the work to see if any dating evidence for the feature is revealed. 2) The cabling connecting the strings of solar arrays south of the feature to the inverter stations north of it could be designed to run along the western boundary rather than the centre, thus bypassing the feature and leaving it intact. The only other recommendations concerning the feature are that any buildings and tracks are kept clear of it and that heavy plant used during the construction is driven around it rather than over it, thus preventing any unnecessary damage.

## **Sources**

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### **Maps**

1611 John Speed's map

1793 Mudge Survey Map

1844 Freshwater Tithe Map (CRO JER/T/110)

1844 Thorley Tithe Map (CRO JER/T/325)

1866 OS map

1907 Provisional OS Map

1939 OS Map

1978 OS Map

2008 OS Maps

### **Aerial Photographs**

Aeroflms 1993 (6.7.93) 0905

BKS Survey 1971 (11.5.71) 152957

CUCAP 1986 (7.10.86) RC8-IT 105

## **Maps and Figures**

### **Maps**

Map 1: IWCAHES HER Map (2011)

Map 2: IWCAHES HLC Map (2011)

Map 3: John Speed's Map (1611)

Map 4: Mudge Survey (c.1793)

Map 5: Thorley Tithe Map (c.1840)

Map 6: Ordnance Survey (1866)

Map 7: Ordnance Survey (1907 Provisional, Amended 139 & 1942)

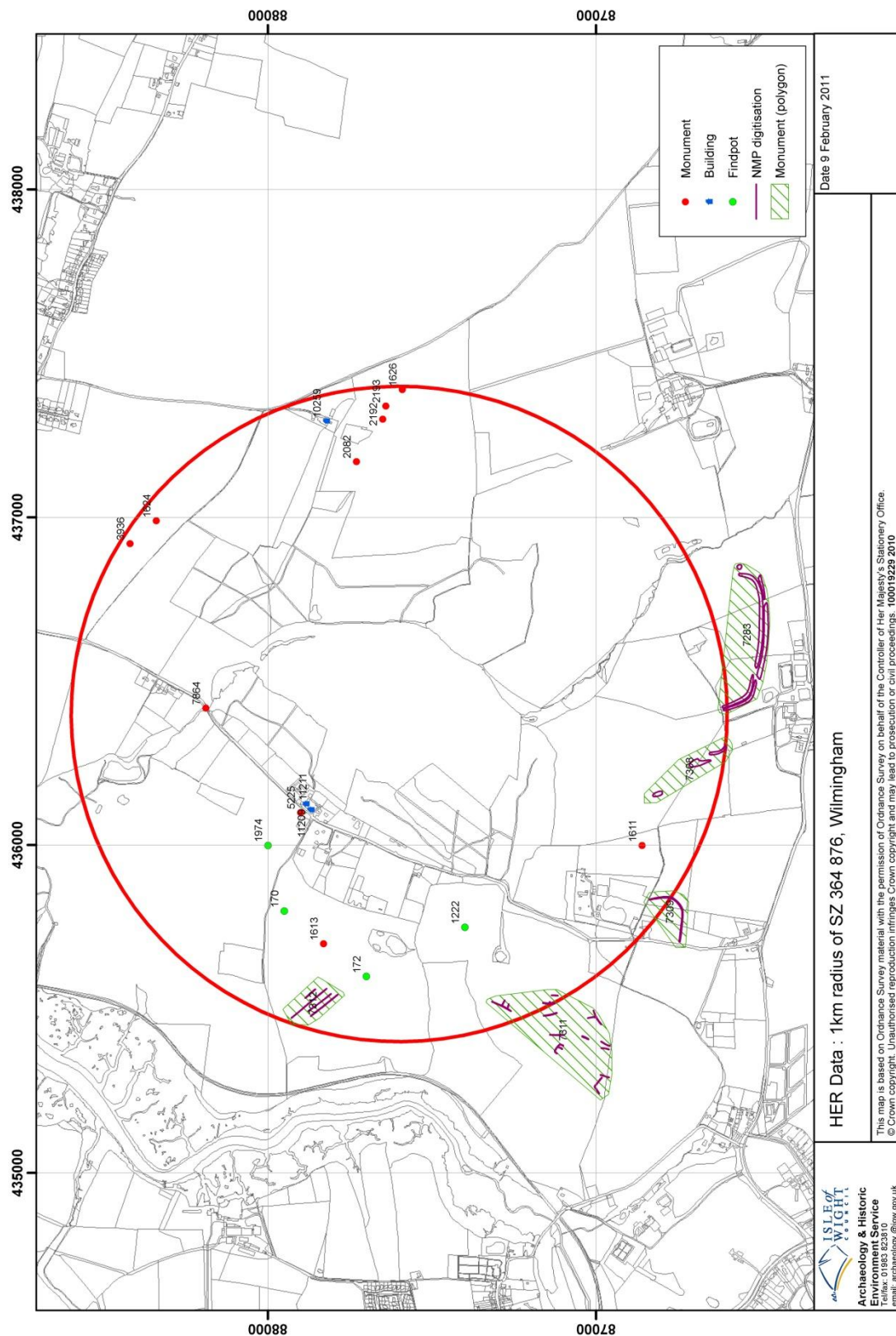
Map 8: Ordnance Survey (1939)

Map 9: Ordnance Survey (1978)

### **Figures**

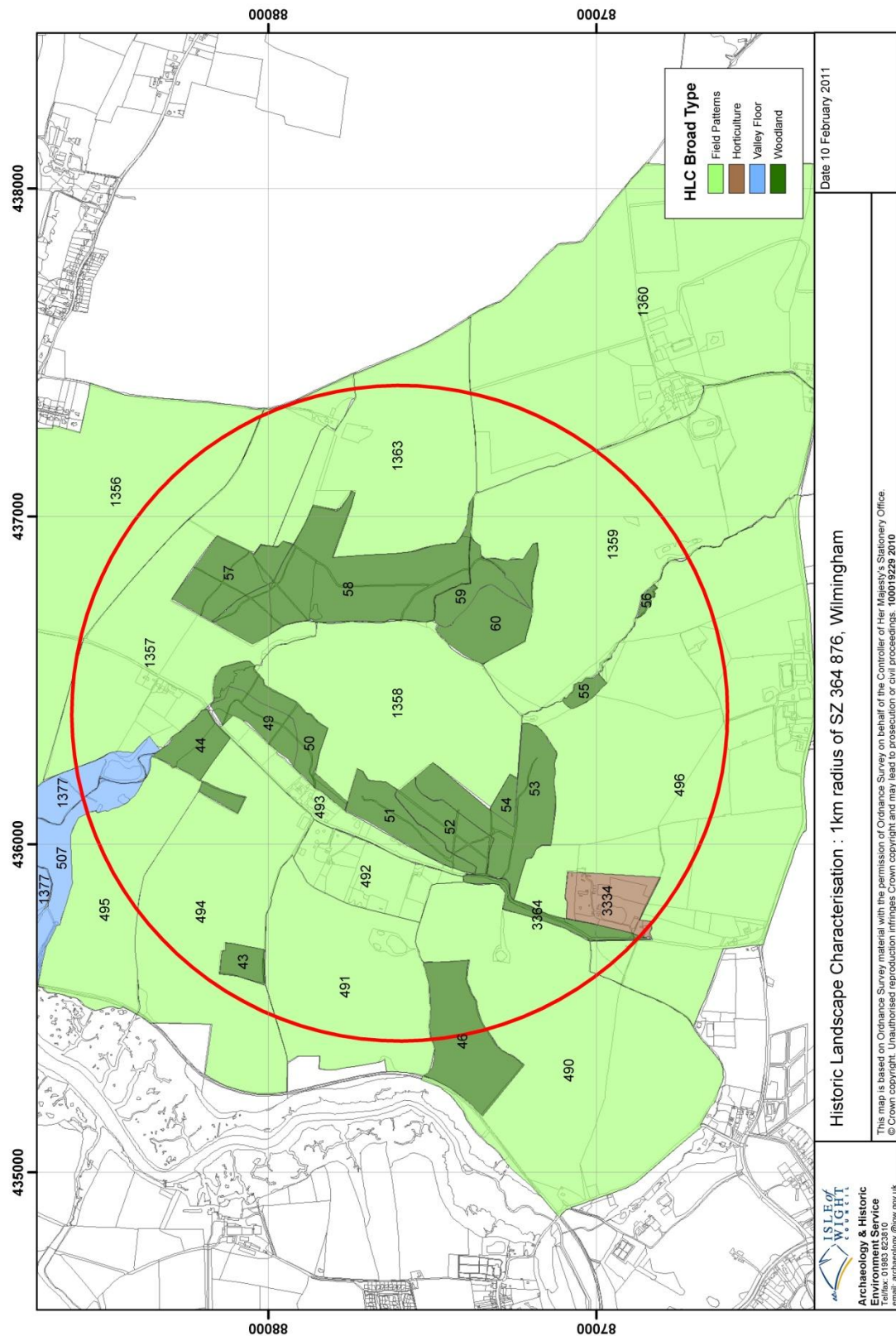
Figure 1: LCS Proposed Development Plan.

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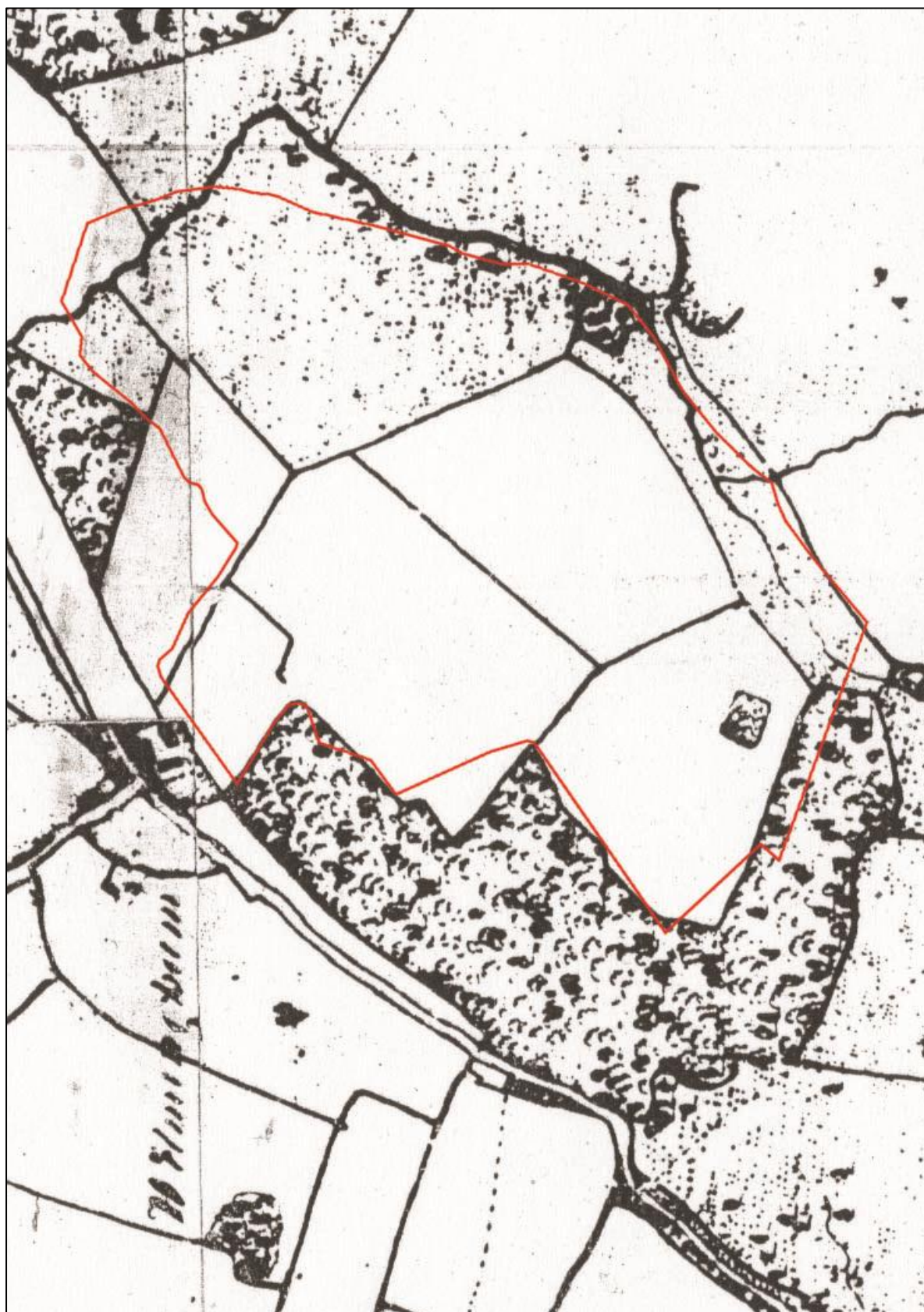
### Map 2: IWCAHES 1km Radius HLC Map



### Map 3: John Speed's Map 1611

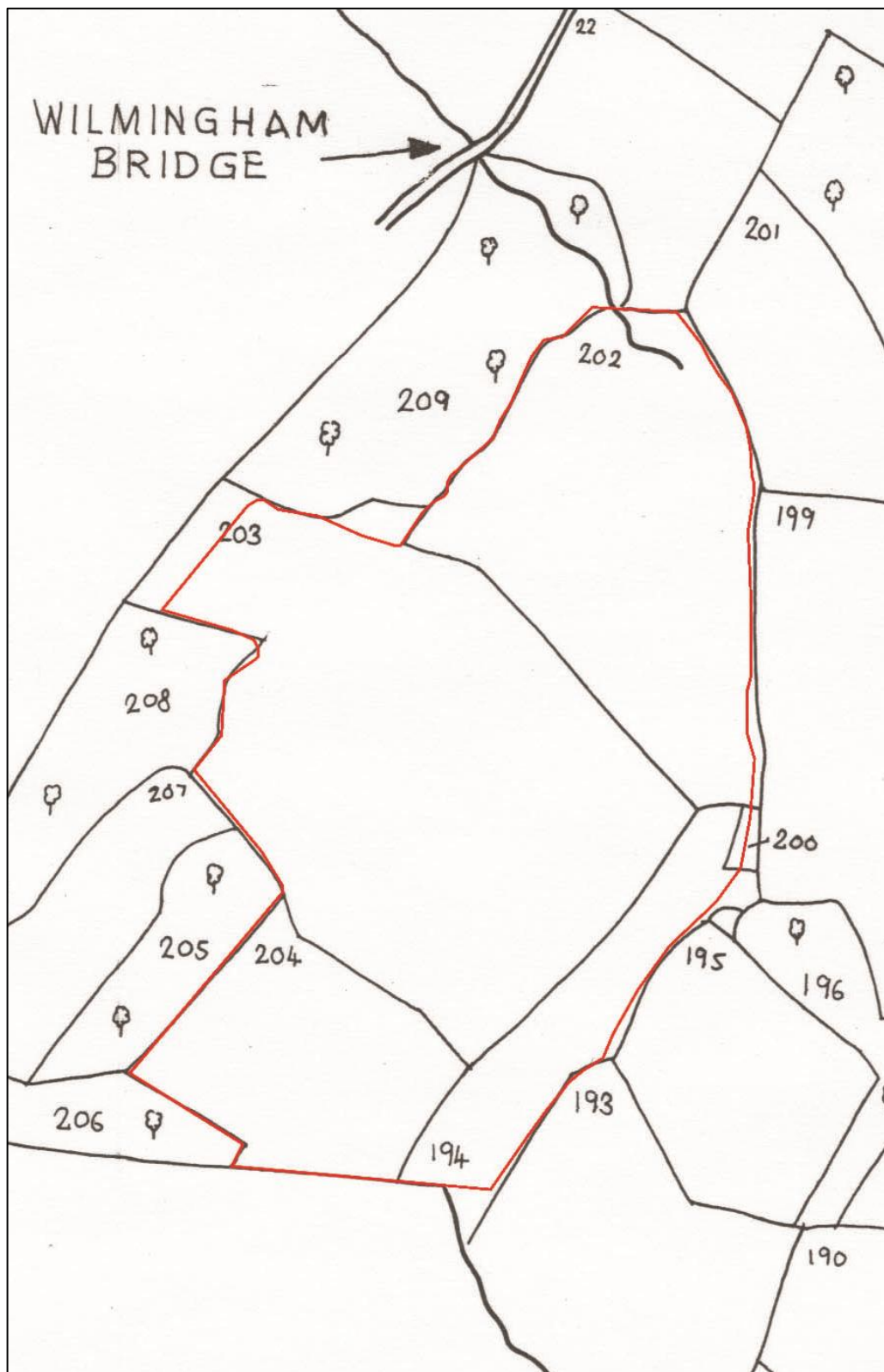


## Map 4: Mudge Survey (1793)

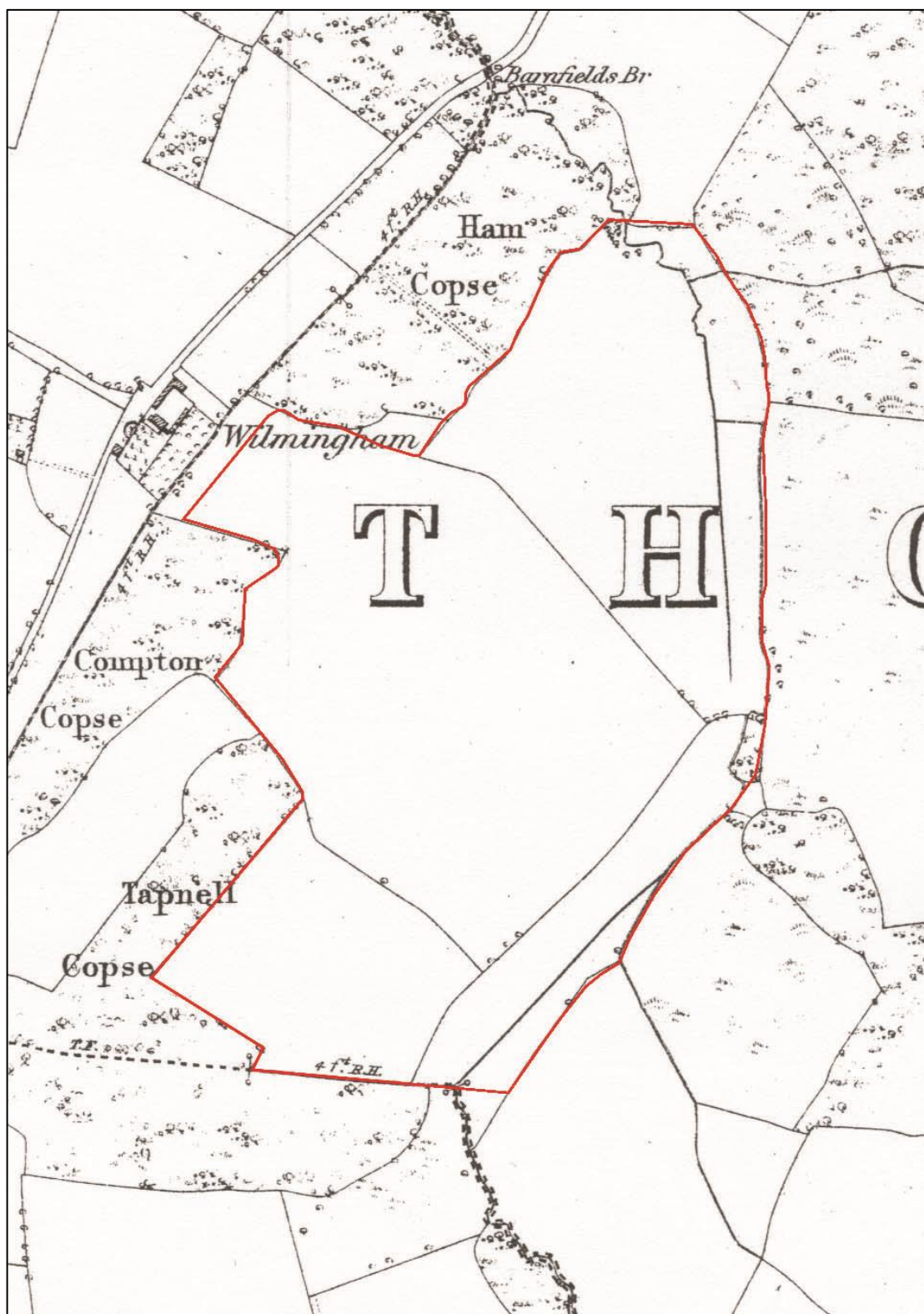




## Map 5: Tithing of Thorley c.1844

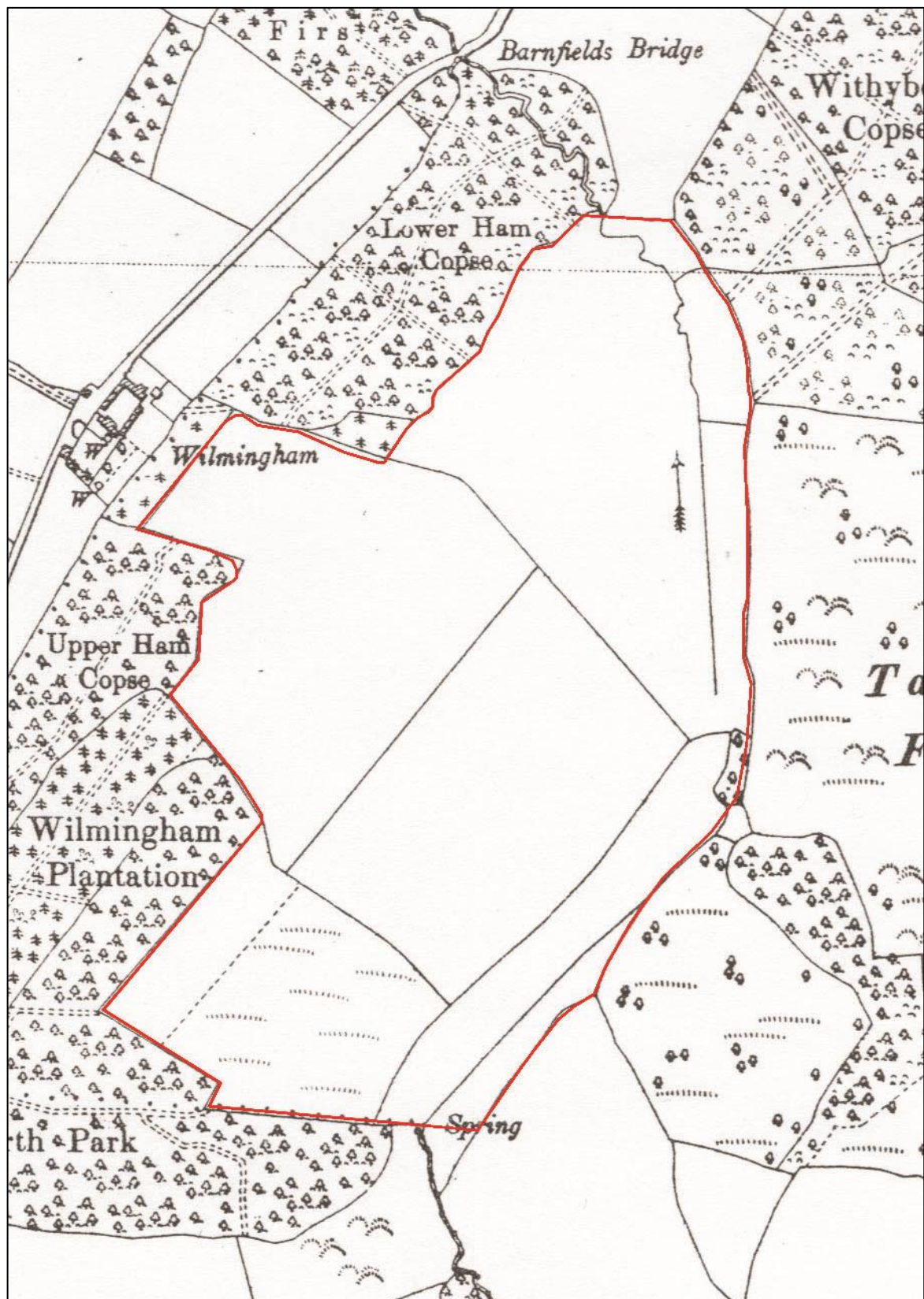


## Map 6: Ordinance Survey (1866)

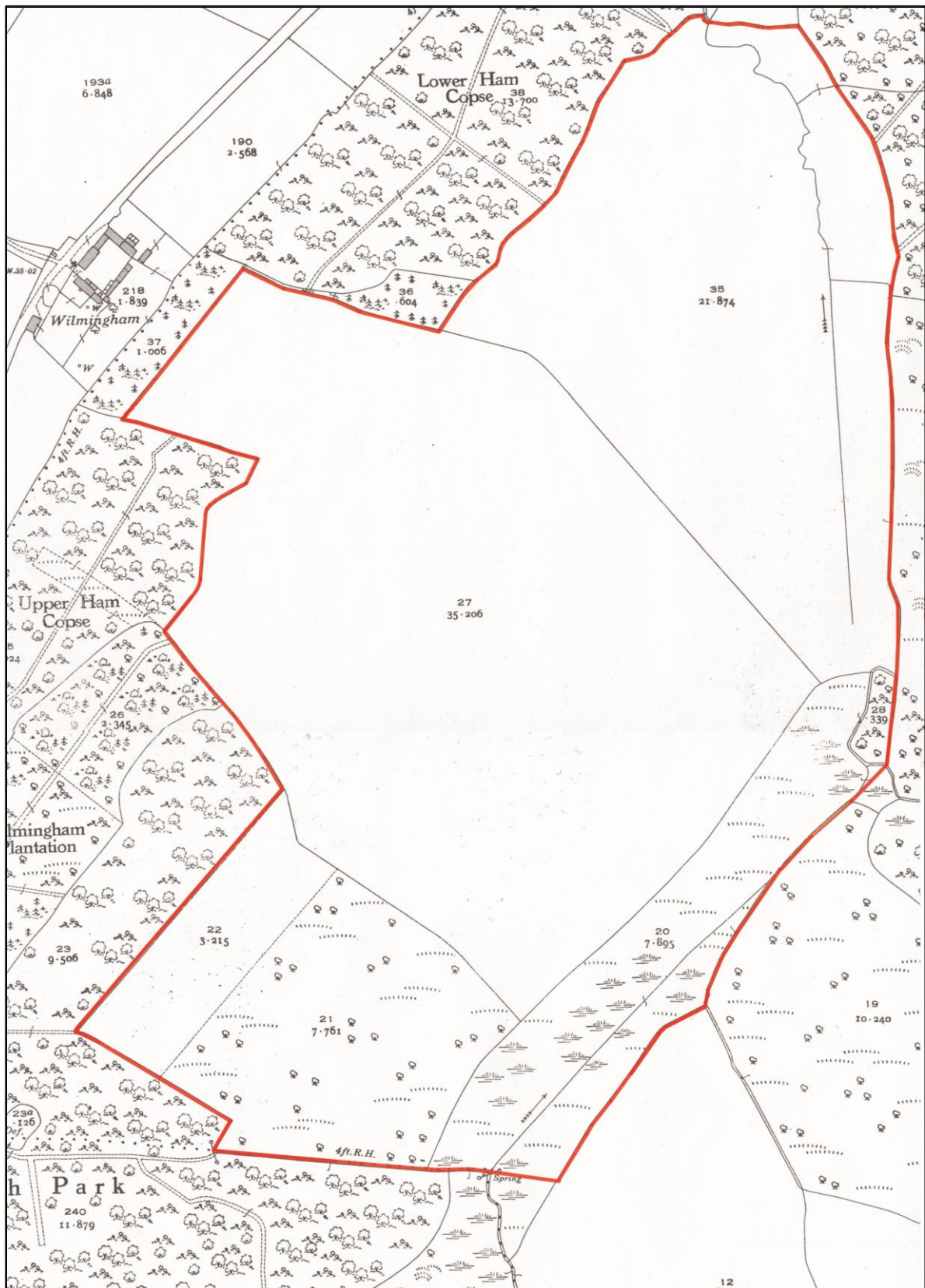




**Map 7:     Ordinance Survey (1907 Provisional, amended 1939 & 1942)**

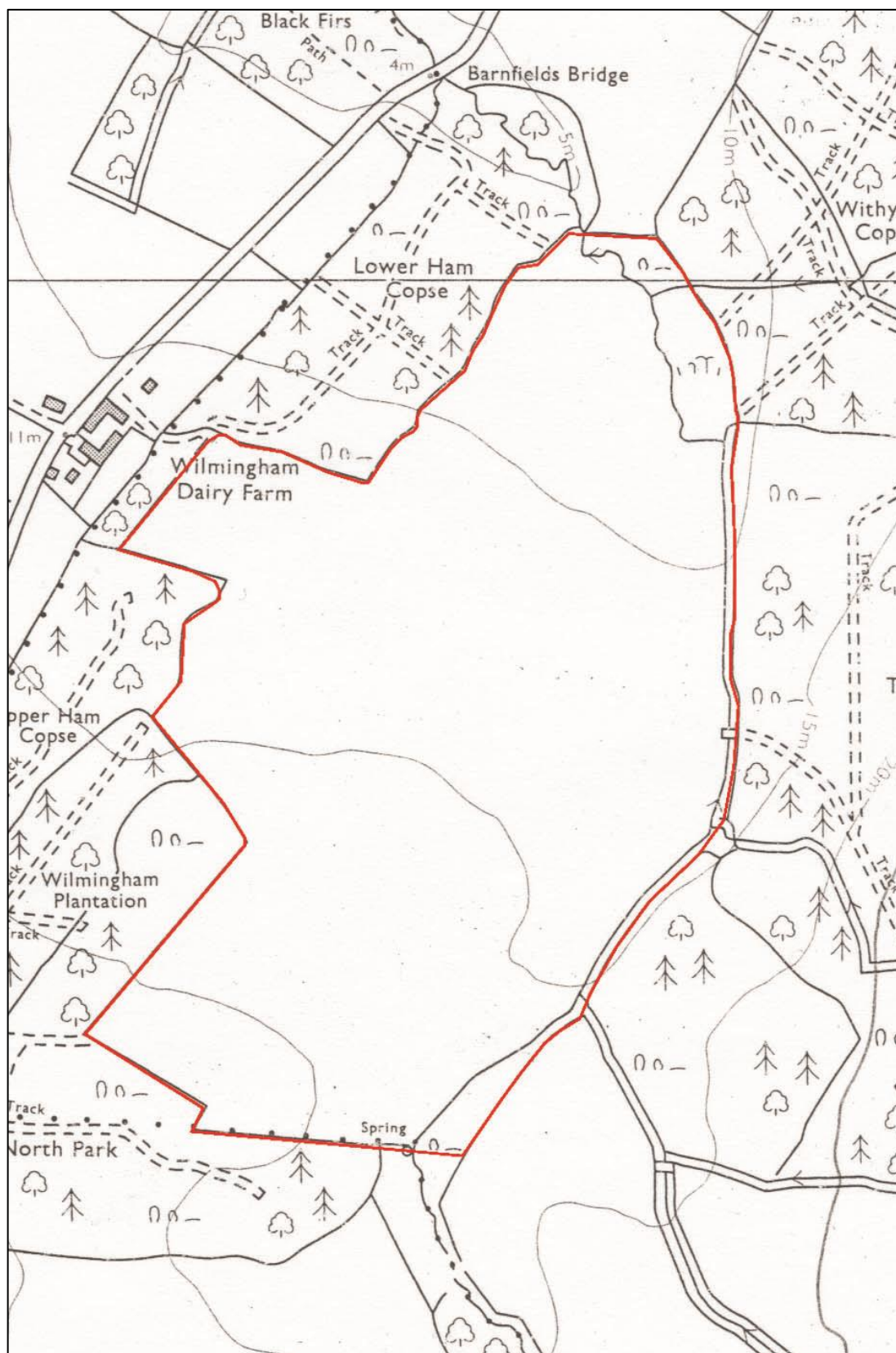


## Map 8: Ordinance Survey (1939)





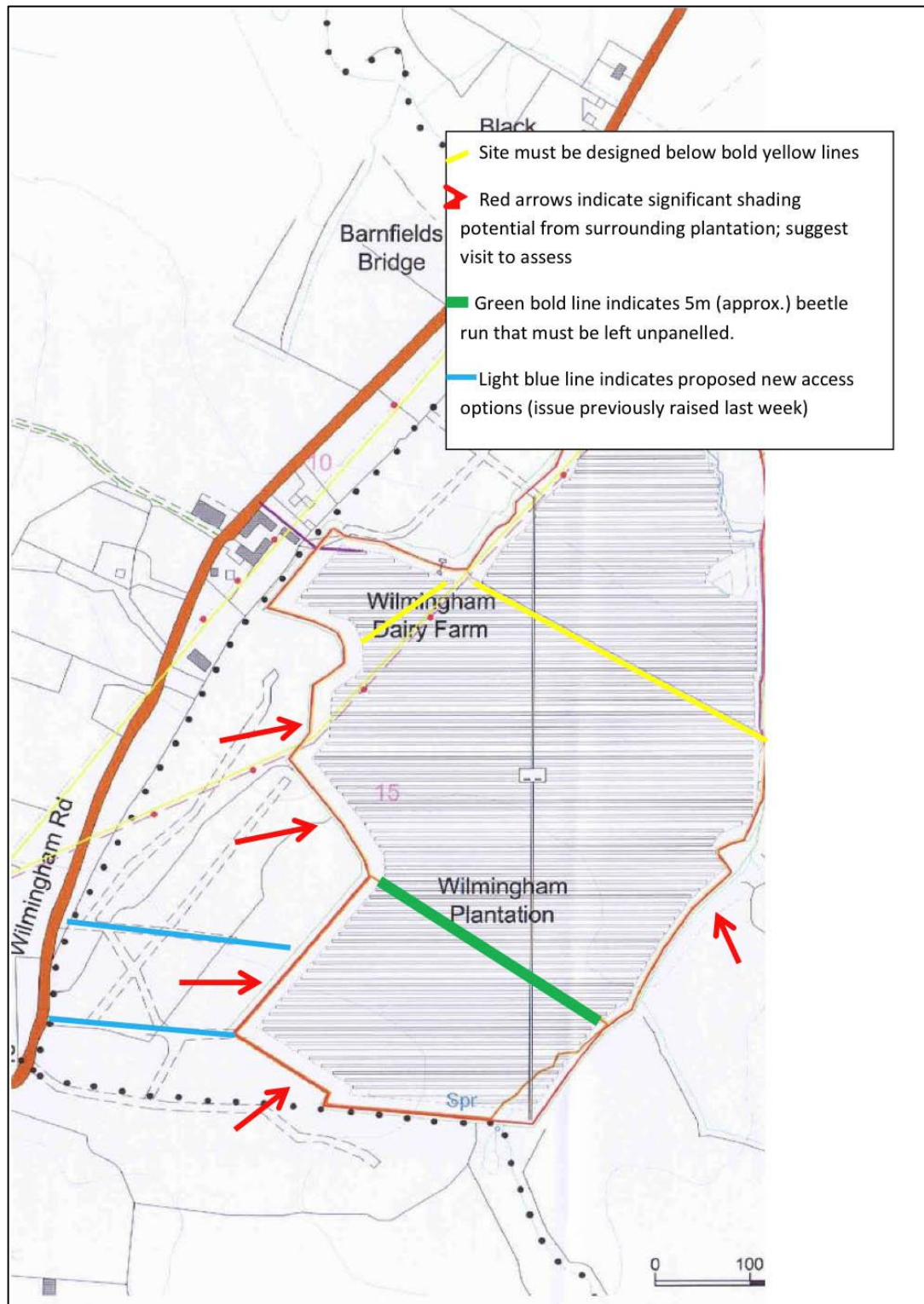
## Map 9: Ordinance Survey (1978)





## Figure 1: Proposed Development Plan

(LCS 2011)



**Photo 1: View north east along track from site entrance.**



**Photo 2: View south-east along track (western end)**





**Photo 3: View south east along track (eastern end).**



**Photo 4: River on eastern boundary. View SW across one of the falls**





**Photo 5: Grass perimeter track along eastern boundary. View S.**



**Photo 6: Damp ground in NE. View S along eastern boundary**





**Photo 7: Remains of Withy Bed on eastern boundary**



**Photo 8: Boggy area in N part of site.**





**Photo 9: Rough enclosure in S. View SW**



**Photo 10: One of a set of numbered posts along the SE boundary**



**Photo 11: One of a set of numbered posts south of the track**



**Photo 12: View of stratigraphy on eastern boundary.**





**Photo 13: Cross section of bank and ditch feature. View W.**



**Photo 14: General view of the bank and ditch feature looking NW**

