

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Land at Bolebroke Castle, Hartfield, East Sussex

Site Code BOLE/WB/16



Report for BHD Architects
Date of report 22/04/2016

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Site Code BOLE/WB/16
NGR 54750 37760

Date of report: 22/04/2016



Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site prior to development.

(Google Earth 06/06/2013: Eye altitude 246m).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 11th-16th March 2016 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of existing brickwork and the ground works involved in the build of a new Plant Room at Bolebroke Castle, Hartfield in East Sussex (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-6).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of BHD Architects and comprised cleaning the baulk/sections and exposed brickwork to the south-west of the site of the proposed Plant Room, recording the exposed brickwork and retaining a sample of brick for specialist dating and in addition watching the ground reduction on the footprint of the proposed Plant Room and the scarping of the existing bank to the rear of the development.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of the bank and excavation of the footprint of the proposed building (Plates 2-6).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1. Cleaning and recording of brickwork (Plates 2-3)

Phase 2: Reduction and scarping of the bank and reduction of the ground on the footprint of the proposed building to clarify if any archaeological features or remains would be at risk from the proposed building works (Plates 4-6)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the adjacent castle.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is WD/2015/2066/F.

1.6. The archaeological potential has been highlighted by the SWAT Archaeology WSI (11/01/2016) and the Archaeological Monitoring revealed buried walls, but no archaeological features or archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application WD/2015/2066/F was submitted to Wealden District Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation on behalf of the LPA requested that an Archaeological Recording and Monitoring Brief be undertaken in order to record the existing exposed brickwork and any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (3) was attached to the planning consent:

[3] No development concerning the Plant Room shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority, A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within three months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 141.

3.0 Schedule of Visits

Archaeologists suitably experienced attended the site (Peter and Bartek Cichy and Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and cleaned and recorded the exposed brickwork and monitored the excavation works on the 11th to 16th March 2016.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording are:

The site is located to the north of Bolebroke Castle, 1.3 miles NNW of Hartfield village and church and sits in a shallow valley at a height of about 60mAOD. The site is one of only nine Aristocratic and Courtier houses in East Sussex built during the Tudor and Stuart period possibly on an earlier medieval foundation. Bolebroke Castle (formally listed as Bolebroke) was listed Grade II+ on 26th November 1953, its listing reference being TQ 43 NE 5/90. Early mapping indicates a rectangular building adjacent to the proposed site of the pump house. An important part of this brief is to record any structural remains that may be exposed as part of the build of the proposed Plant Room. For further details on the history and interpretation of Bolebroke Castle see the David and Barbara Martin 2014 report 'An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of Bolebroke Castle, Hartfield, East Sussex'. Archive Ref. ESRO HBR/1/1767. Site Ref P75/02.

4.2. The ground works were to excavate and scarp an area of an existing bank to the west of the proposed Plant Room, to reduce the ground level of the footprint of the proposed building to clarify if any archaeological features were at risk from the proposed development and to clean and record the existing walls located to the south-west of the proposed development (Plates 2-10).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring and recording took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Wadhurst Clay Formation which comprises soft, dark grey thinly-bedded mudstones ("shales") and mudstones with subordinate beds of pale grey siltstone, fine-grained sandstone (locally calcareous where it is known as Tilgate Stone or colloquially "Hastings Granite"), shelly limestone, clay ironstone and rare pebble beds. The top metre or so of the Wadhurst Clay often comprises stiff clay stained red by penecontemporaneous weathering. Thin beds of shelly limestone, rich in *Neomiodon* and *Viviparus*, are present throughout. Nodular clay-ironstone occurs particularly in the lower part of the formation, but also near the top. Thicker beds of siltstone and lenticular calcareous sandstone units are also present. The geology revealed on site was yellow brown sandy silty clay.

5.2. The application site consisted of a small area situated to the north of the castle. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 62m OD (Figure 2).

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with important Late and Post-medieval activity and with the potential of garden remains from the adjacent castle.

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA: Dec 2014) and the East Sussex Archaeological Standards (2015).

6.2. It was agreed with Greg Chuter ESCC Archaeology in a site meeting that the current exposed site baulk/section would be cleaned up and the exposed features, in particular the areas of exposed brickwork would be recorded and samples of the brickwork retained for specialist analysis. The archaeological contractor would monitor the excavations for all groundworks. Excavation should be undertaken using a flat bladed bucket and preferably in a single direction to enable archaeological remains to be recorded prior to disturbance from being driven over. If possible archaeological remains are encountered; machine excavation would cease to allow the remains to be investigated further.

6.3. The archaeologist would inspect the surfaces revealed. Any archaeological structures or features revealed would be recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to the

WSI. The main contractor would allow the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.

6.4. Further limited excavation may be necessary to clarify the extent and nature of some archaeological deposits. In this case, the archaeological contractor would undertake the excavation by hand.

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of experienced archaeologists Peter, Bartek Cichy and Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If significant remains are unexpectedly encountered the archaeological contractor will inform the ESCC Archaeological Officer and the developer immediately and further mitigation measures will be agreed.

6.8. The archaeological recording and monitoring was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer ESCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 The first phase of work was to clean and record walls [107, 108] located just to the south-west of the development (Figure 2 & Plates 4, 5, 6). This wall was built as a retaining wall to the east of the flight of stone steps leading into the garden (101) and is likely to be of 19th century build (Plate 5). The nine courses of English Bond are set in a white/cream lime mortar and capped with a single course of bricks laid on edge [107]. The wall has been badly rebuilt at some stage with courses losing their integrity and sub-rectangular blocks of sandstone added to the build (Figure 4 & Plate 5). The wall continues to the north but has been truncated down to one of the English Bond courses (Plan 1.1).

A vertical section was cleaned off at right angles to the wall [107] and shows quite clearly the dump layers of soil deposited after the retaining wall [108] had been built (Figure 5. Section 1). No cultural material was retrieved from any of the deposits (102, 106, 103, 101). Of some interest is the land drain cut [105] through (106 and 107) and infilled with flint shingle (104) but again without any dating material (Plate 7, Figure 4-Section 1).

7.2 The next stage of works was to continue the reduction of the slope under strict archaeological control with a 360' tracked machine equipped with a bladed ditching bucket (Plate 8 and Trench 1 Figure 2). No archaeological features, artifacts or garden wall were exposed in this phase of work. Work continued to the north and a wall was revealed close to the fence line (Figure 2, Trench 2 & Section 2. Plates 9-11).

This wall is built of red brick in a English Bond and set in a lime mortar [203] and is a corner of a building- probably the building shown on the William Figgs plan of 1799- but is much truncated (Plate 10) with no surviving floors (Plate 11 & Figure 5 Section 2 & Plan 1.2). This structure is outside the development area and the recommendation is re-burial and preservation in situ.

8.0 Finds

No finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion


The development site is in an area of archaeological potential and archaeological remains were revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Recording and Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the SWAT Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank BHD Architects for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter and Bartek Cichy and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, BA (Hons), PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

References

HER data (ESCC 2015)

CIfA (2014) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

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Barber, L. 2013. *South East Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for Post-medieval/Modern and Industrial periods*. Consultation Draft February 2013.

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English Heritage, 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (second ed.). English Heritage.

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The Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001: *Standards and Guidance for Historic Building Recording*.

Concordance Table

No.	CONTEXT TYPE	INTERPRETATION	FUNCTION	Provisional DATE	DRAWINGS	PLATES	DESCRIPTION & Dimensions
101	Deposit	Top-soil		MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Moderately compacted, dark grey, clay sandy silt with moderate peat/ organic content and occasional small angular stones. FINDS: modern inclusions Average thickness: 0,26m
102	Deposit	Natural	Weald Clay formation	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Yellow-grey silty clay with infrequent manganese-ironstone Natural Superficial deposit
103	Deposit	Refuse dump	Enforcing footpath against damp	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Firmly compacted, dark grey and yellow silty-clay with infrequent modern inclusions Deliberated re-deposit .
104	Deposit	Back-fill	Agriculture , field drain	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Dark clayey loam and silt – modern back-fill
105	Cut	Drainage, part of	Field drain, land drain etc.	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		DRAIN Trench
106	Deposit	Trample	Agriculture planting, gardenig	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Dark grey brown clay-silt with moderate coal flecks and infrequent domestic waste.

No.	CONTEXT TYPE	INTERPRETATION	FUNCTION	Provisional DATE	DRAWINGS	PLATES	DESCRIPTION & Dimensions
107	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-	Early Modern	Fig 4 section 1		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern

			down				
108	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 4 section 1		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern
109	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 4 section 1		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern

No.	CONTEXT TYPE	INTERPRETATION	FUNCTION	Provisional DATE	DRAWINGS	PLATES	DESCRIPTION & Dimensions
201	Deposit	Top-soil	recent	MODERN	Fig 5 section 2		Moderately compacted, dark grey, clay sandy silt with moderate peat/ organic content and occasional small angular stones. FINDS: modern inclusions Average thickness: 0,26m
202	Deposit	Natural	Weald Clay formation	MODERN	Fig 5 section 2		Firmly compacted, orange yellow brickearth with infrequent manganese flecks. Superficial alluvial deposit. FINDS: modern inclusions Thickness: 0,14-0,22m
203	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 5 section 2		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern
204	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 5 section 2		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern
205	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 5 section 2		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern
206	Deposit	Trample	Agriculture planting, gardenig	MODERN	Fig 4 section 1		Dark grey brown clay-silt with moderate coal flecks and infrequent domestic waste. Deposit is partially concealing retaining wall to the north of the castle
207	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 5 section 2		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern
208	Wall	Retaining	Prevent soil wash-down	Early Modern	Fig 5 section 2		One brick thick, plausibly English-bond brickwork pattern

Sussex HER summary sheet

HER enquiry number						
Site code	BOLE/WB/16					
Project code						
Planning reference	WD/2015/2066/F					
Site address	Bolebroke Castle, Hartfield, East Sussex					
District/Borough	Wealden District Council					
NGR (12 figures)	547502 377601					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay Formation					
Fieldwork type			WB		HBR	
Date of fieldwork	11 th -16 th March 2016					
Sponsor/client	BHD Architects					
Project manager	Dr Paul Wilkinson					
Project supervisor	Peter Cichy					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	A programme of recording of exposed brickwork and an archaeological watching brief on a new development for a Plant Room north of the main house					

Museum/Accession No.	

*WB – Watching brief; HBR – historic building recording

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
n/a			



Plate 2: Looking north at site entrance with Bolebroke castle visible on the left and granary on the right.



Plate 3: Looking North West at development site prior trench excavation.



Plate 4: Looking North West at retaining wall [108].



Plate 5: Looking west at wall [108]



Plate 6: Looking South West at wall [107] and overlaying wall [108], visible in section next to shed.



Plate 7: Looking South at Section 1 of Trench 1.



Plate 8: Looking North West at Trench 1.



Plate 9: Looking west at brickwork exposed in Trench 2



Plate 10: Looking West at cross section of the wall [203]



Plate 11: Looking North West at wall [203] exposed in Trench 2.

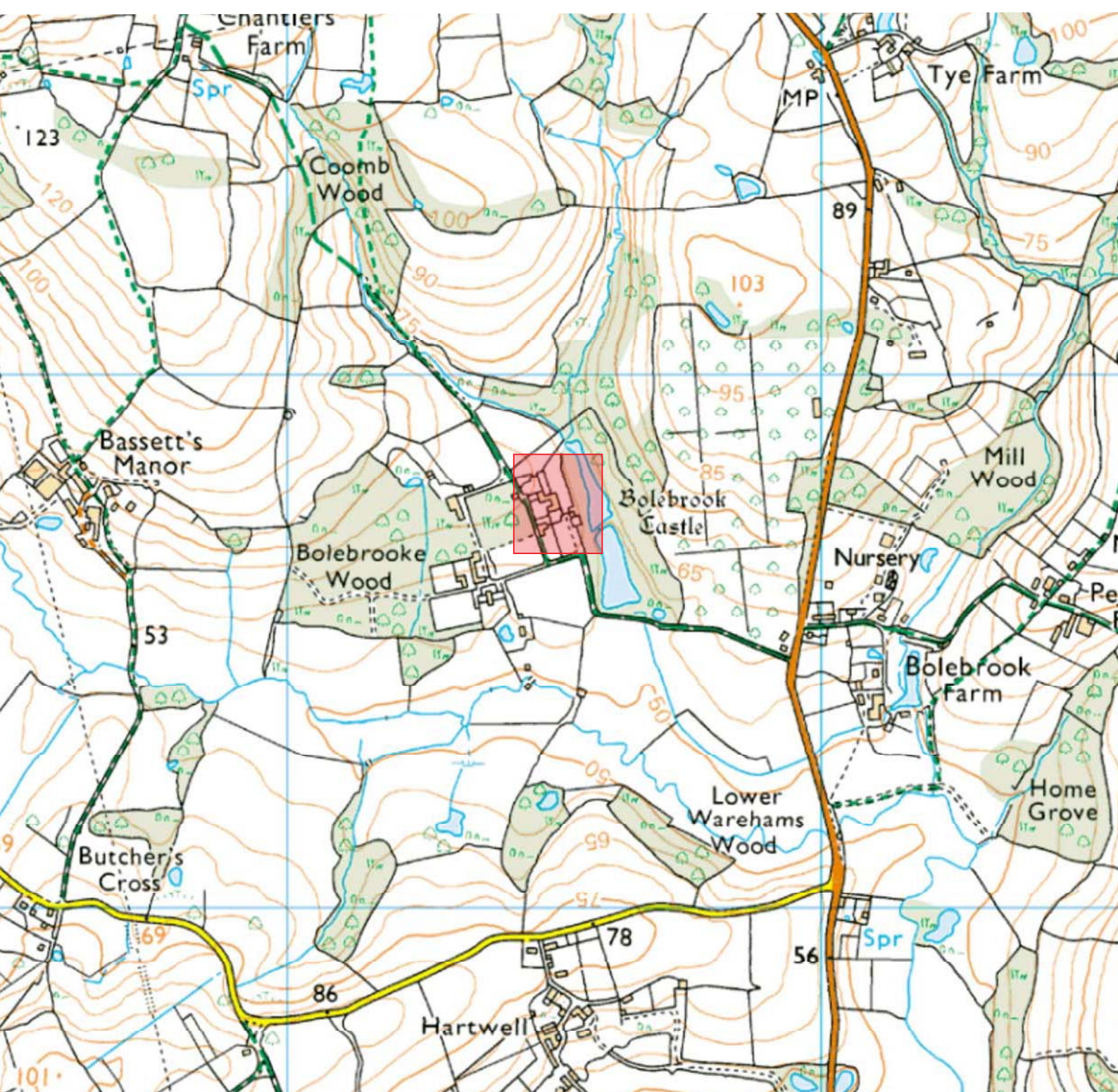


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

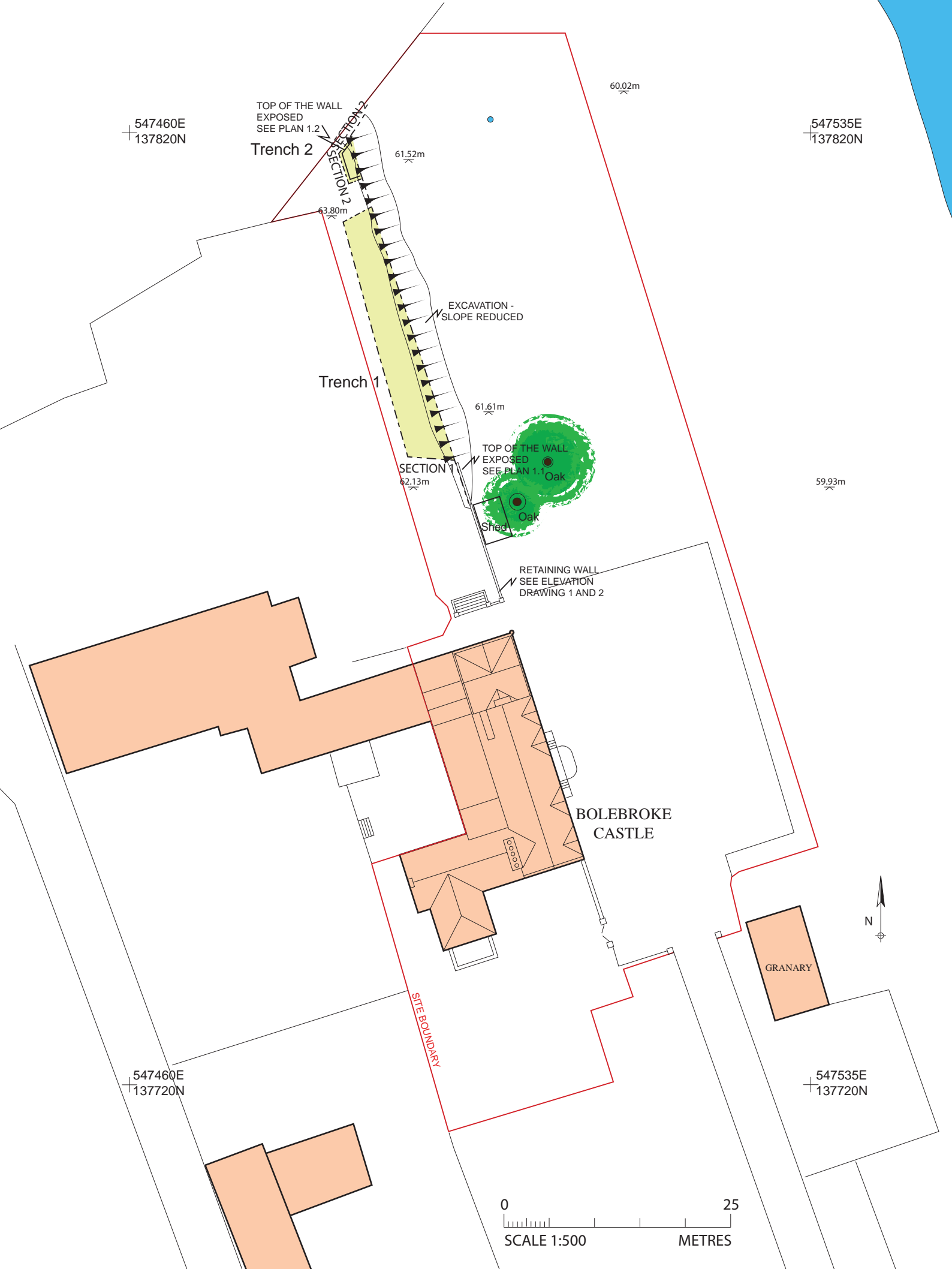


Figure 2: Site plan, scale 1:500

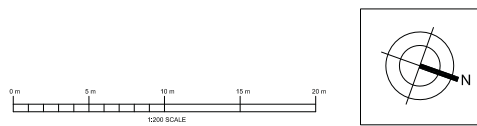
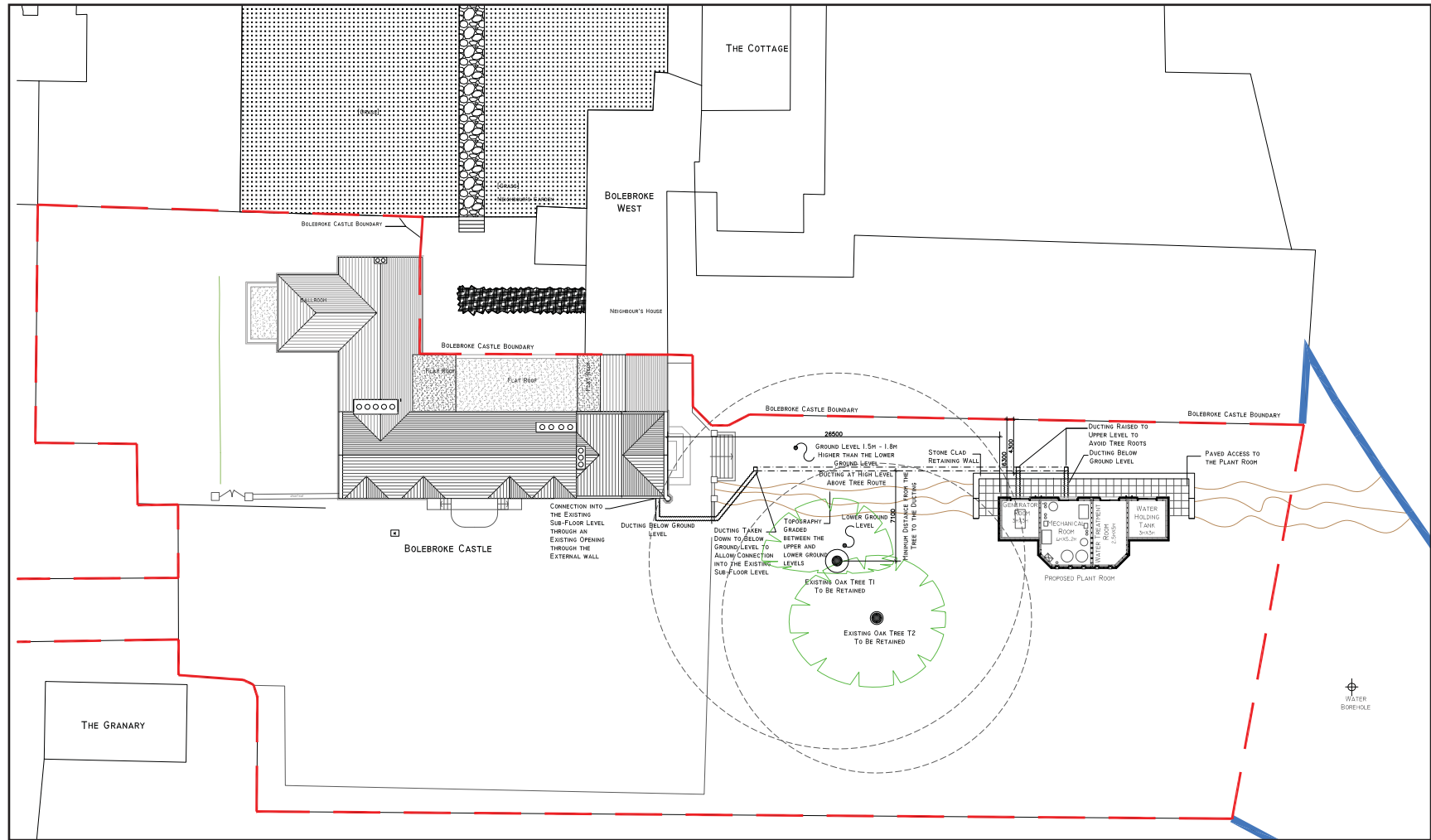


Figure 3: Proposed site plan - plant room layout, scale 1:500

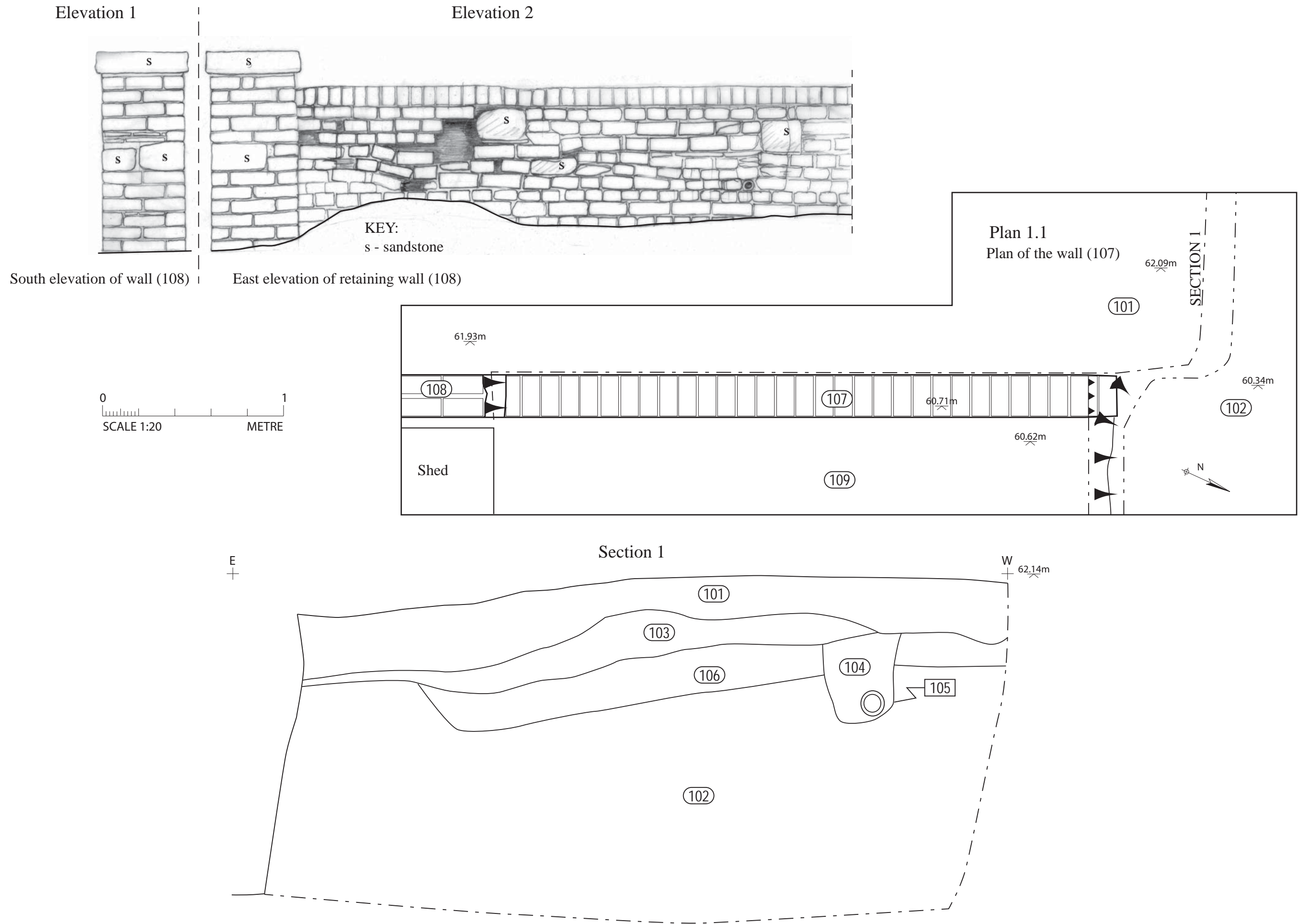
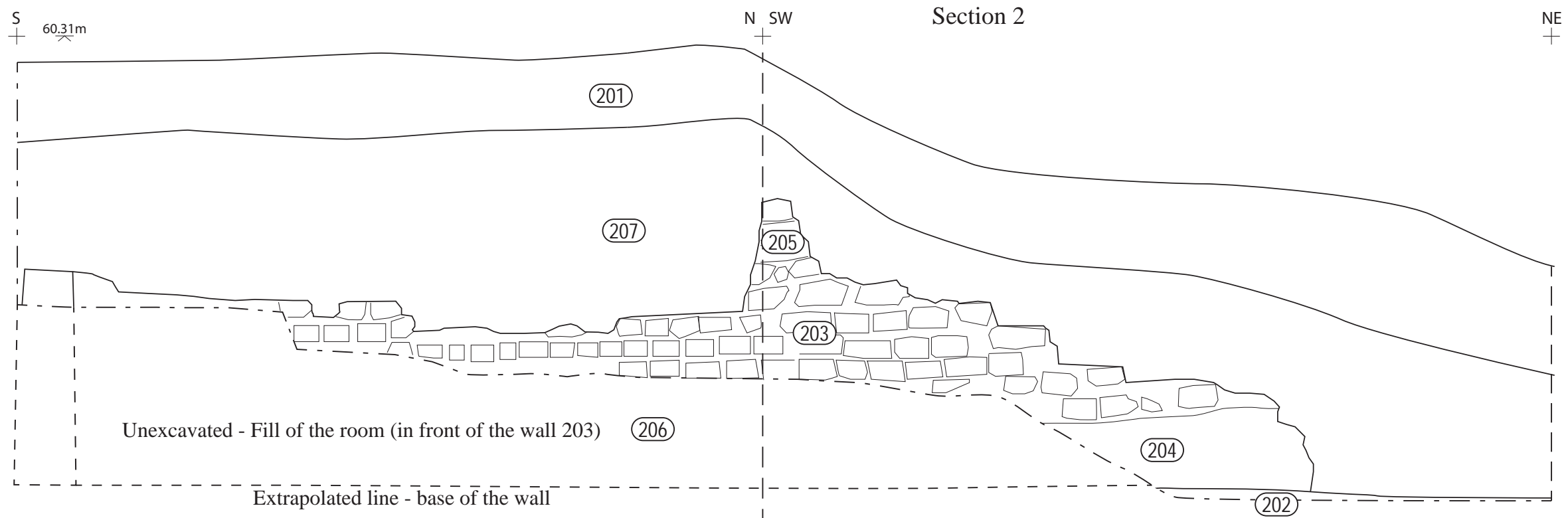


Figure 4: Site drawings, scale 1:20



Plan 1.2
Plan of Trench 2

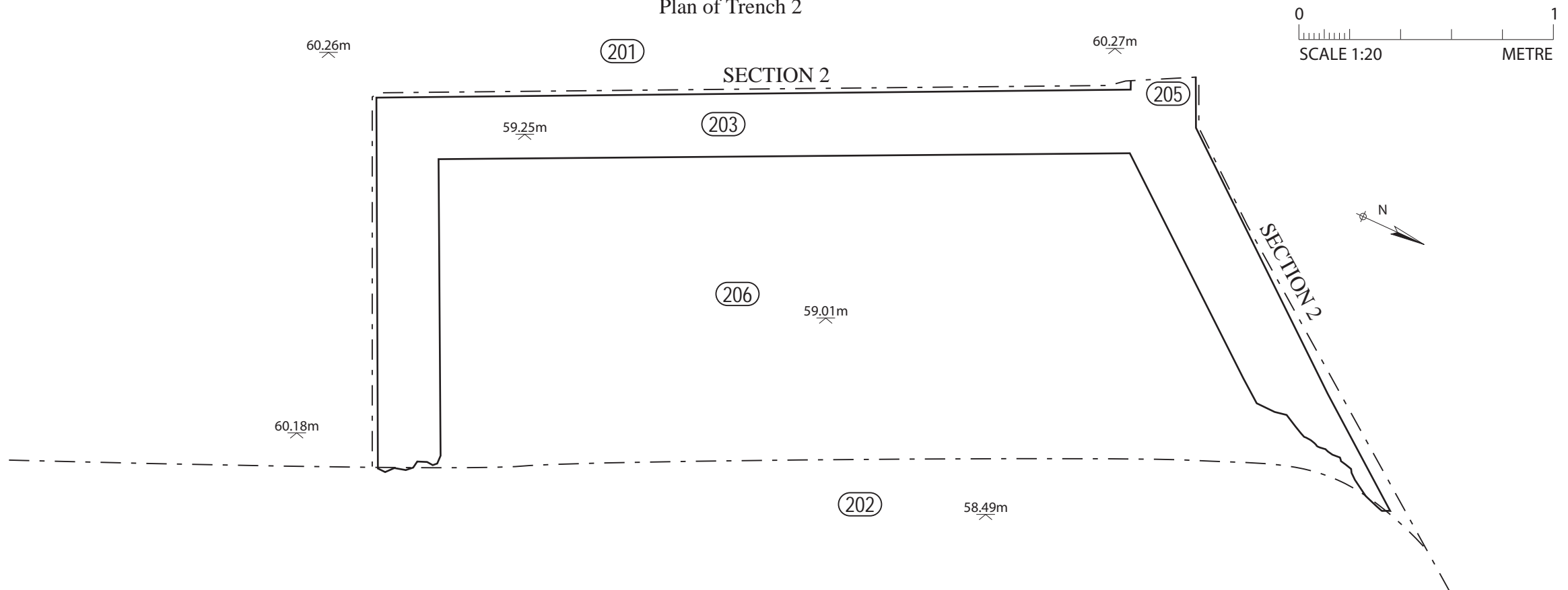


Figure 5: Site drawings, scale 1:20

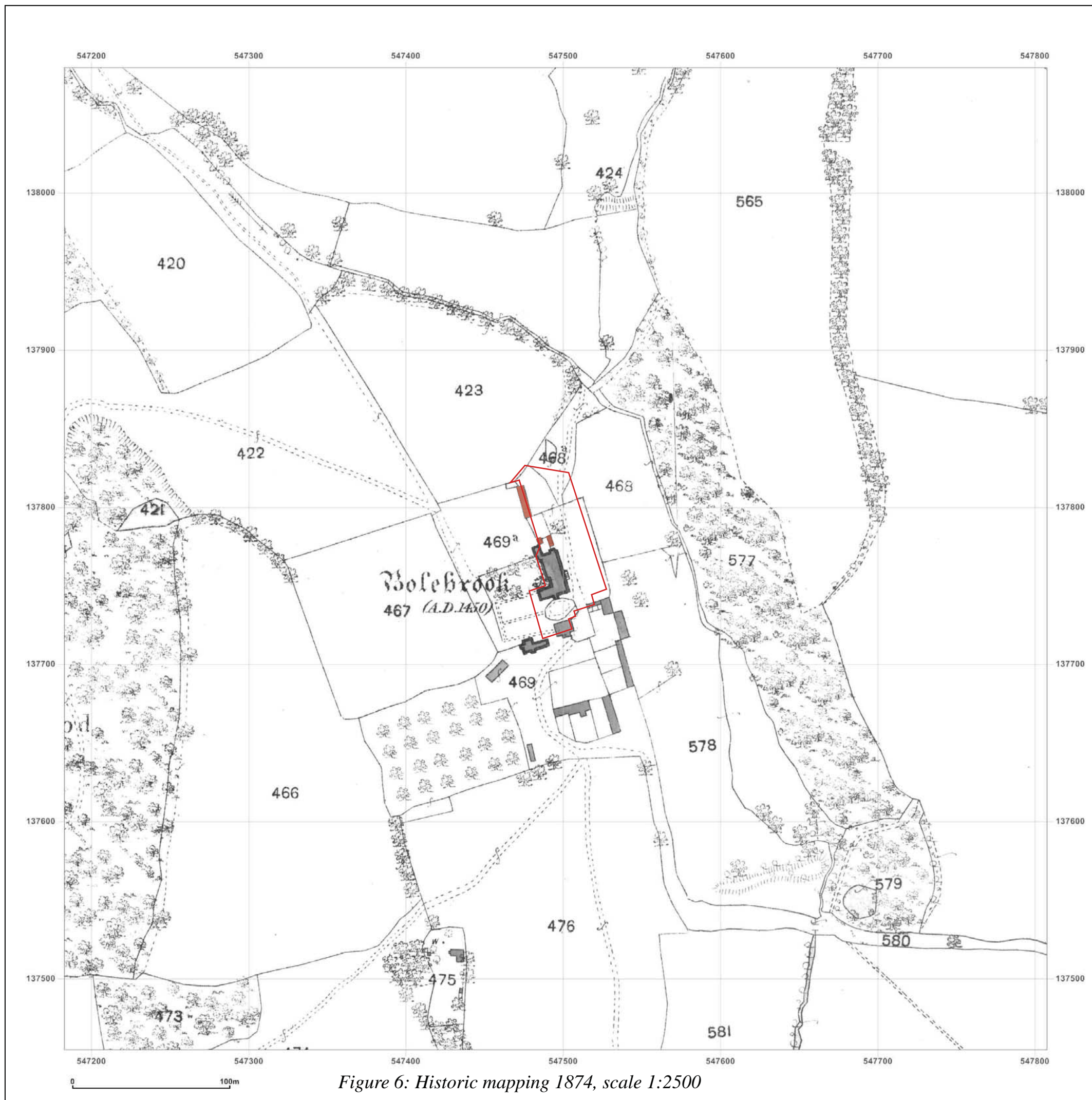


Figure 6: Historic mapping 1874, scale 1:2500

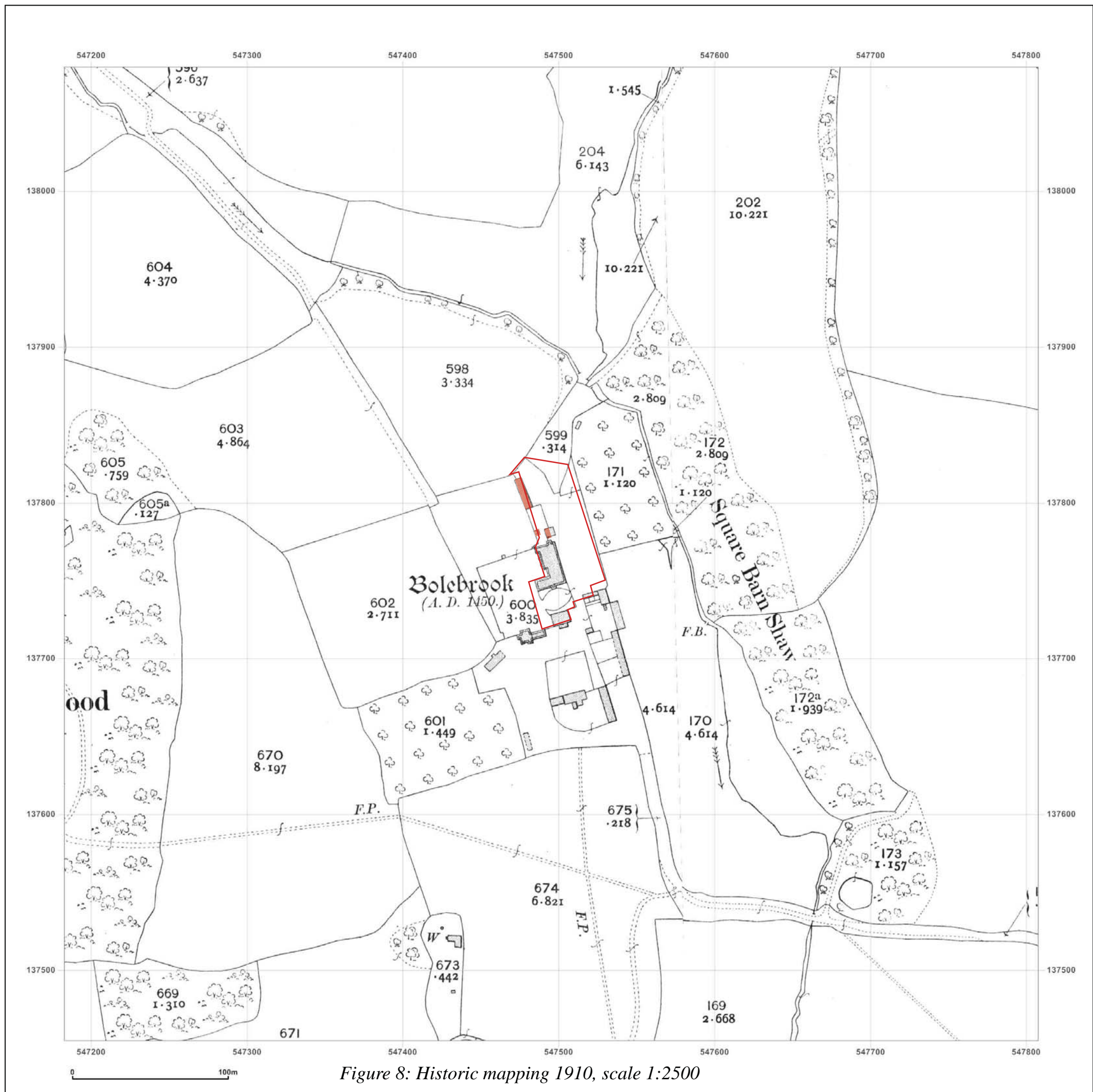


Figure 8: Historic mapping 1910, scale 1:2500

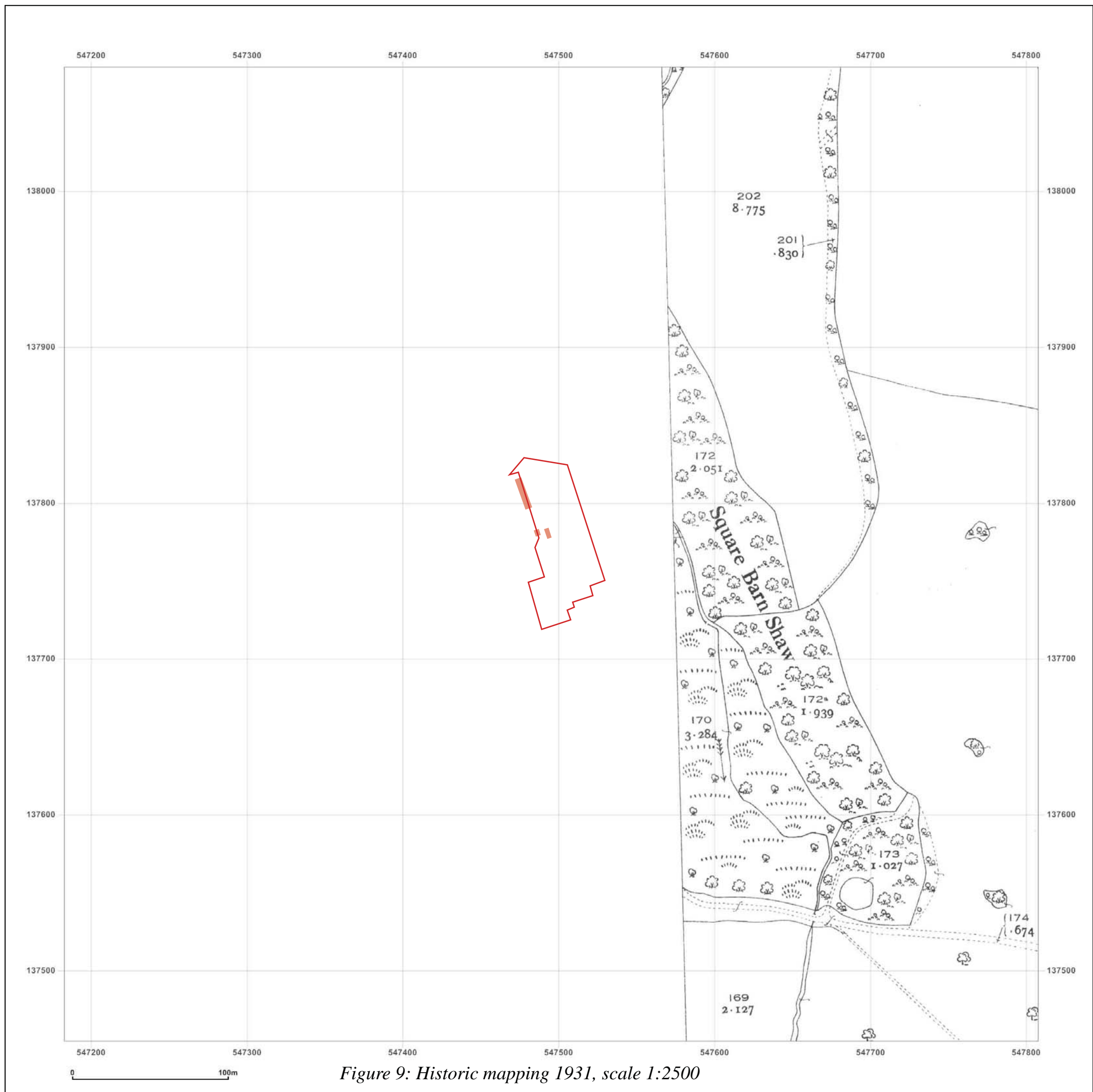


Figure 9: Historic mapping 1931, scale 1:2500

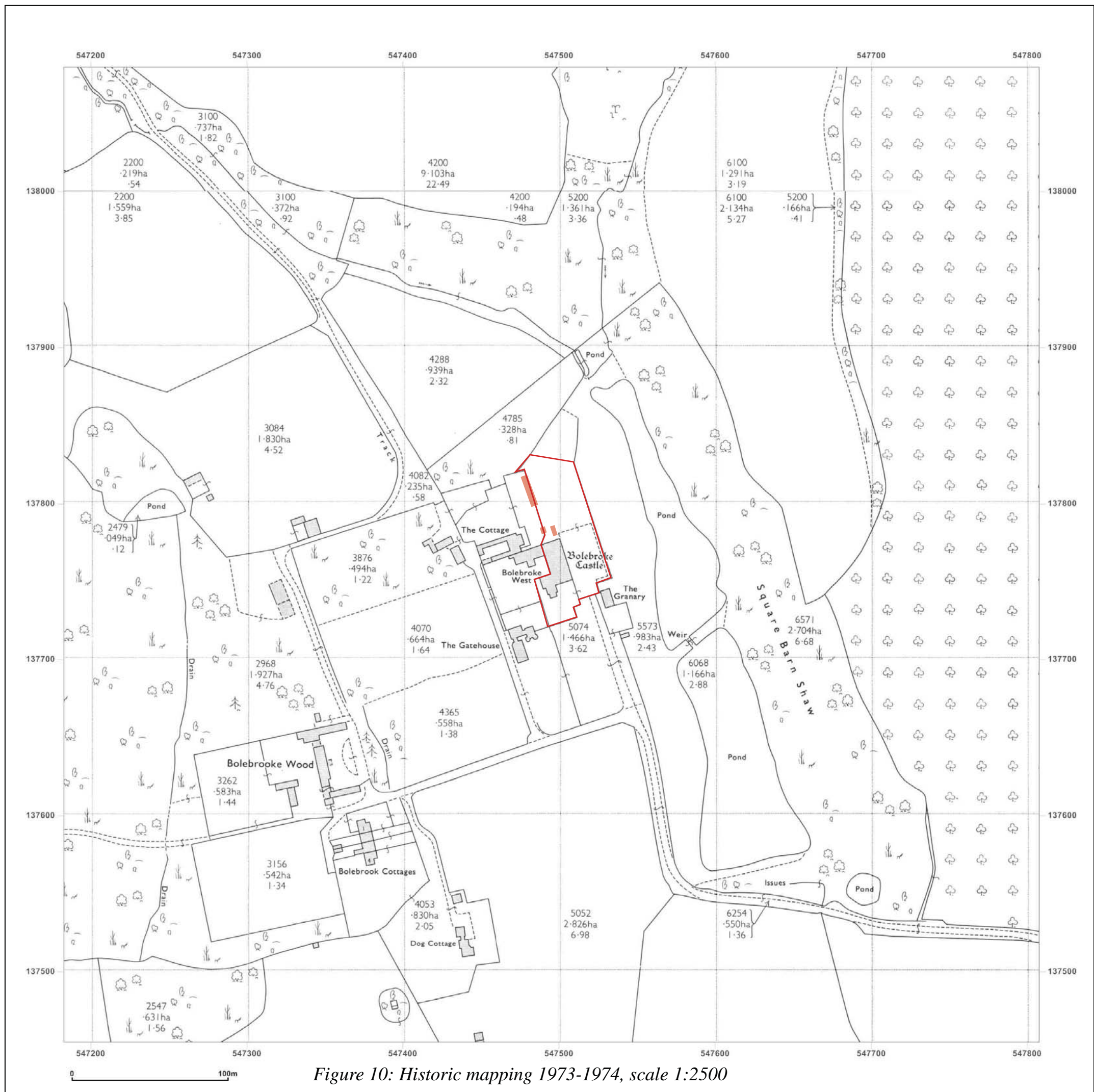
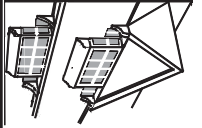


Figure 10: Historic mapping 1973-1974, scale 1:2500

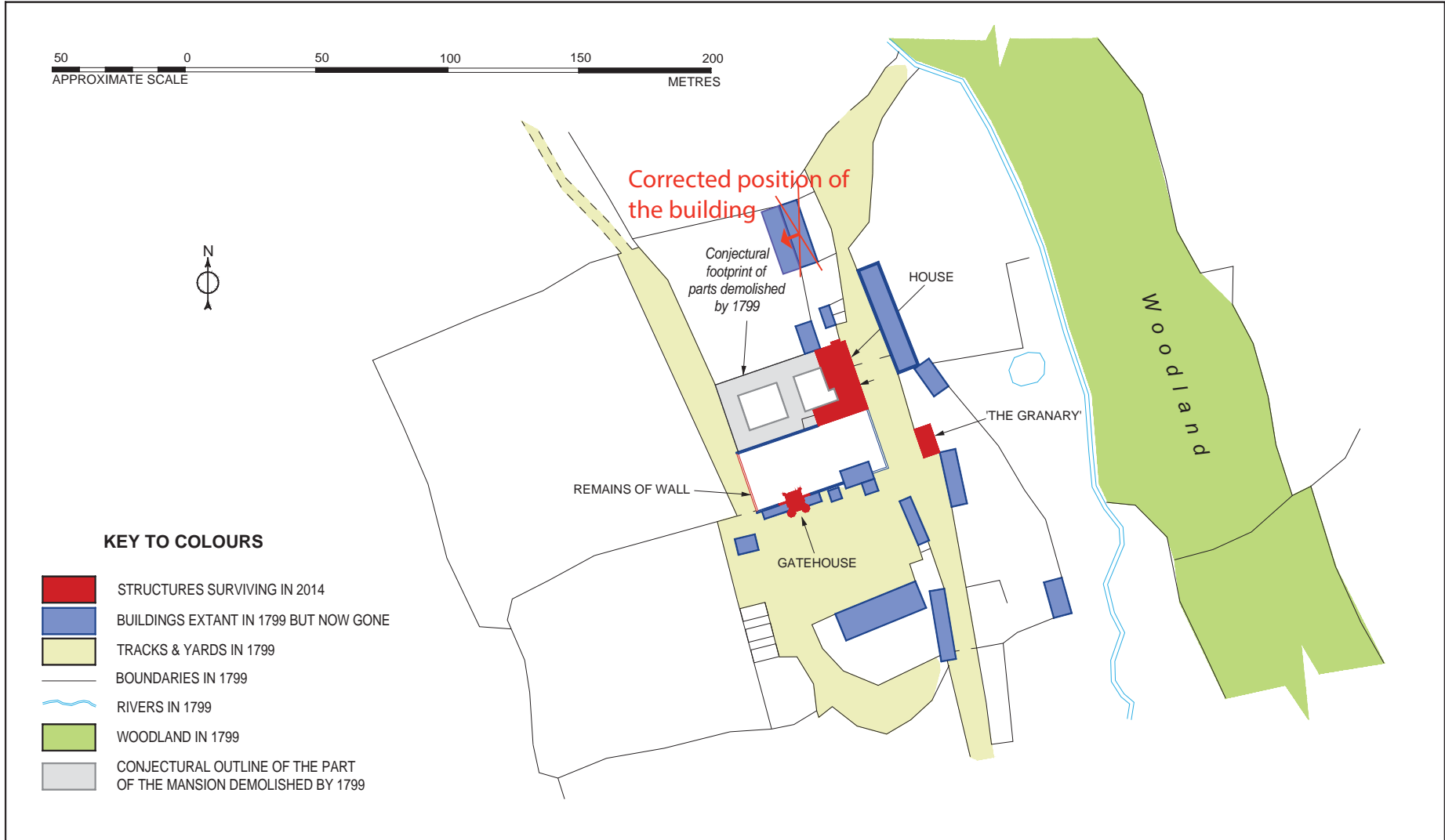


Figure 11: Historic mapping 1993, scale 1:2500



EAST SUSSEX HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD
(Research and Dissemination)

Bolebroke Castle, Hartfield, East Sussex
Archive Ref. ESRO HBR/1/1767. Site Ref P75/02
Interpretative Historic Building Survey Rev 00 / January 2014



BOLEBROKE, HARTFIELD, EAST SUSSEX				Site Ref	P75/02
THE SITE AS IN 1799 AS DRAWN BY THE CARTOGRAPHER W. FIGG [ESRO DLW/562/20]				Drawing No.	1767/2
Drawn By	D Martin	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2014
				Date of this revision	2014

Figure 12: East Sussex Historic historic building record.