

**Potash Exploration
Dove's Nest
Sneaton
North York Moors**
Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

NYMNPA
24 AUG 2012

for

York Potash Ltd

CA Project: 3415
CA Report: 12108

May 2012

Potash Exploration
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 Sneaton
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Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Potash Exploration
Location: Dove's Nest, Sneaton, North York Moors
NGR: NZ 8930 0532
Type: Heritage Desk-based Assessment

In May 2012 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by York Potash Ltd to carry out a heritage desk-based assessment of land at Dove's Nest, Sneaton, North York Moors. The objective of the assessment was to identify the nature and extent of the heritage assets within the proposed development site and its immediate environs.

The proposed development will entail the creation of a compound measuring up to 50m x 80m, which will include all of the required facilities to maintain and operate a deep drilling rig. The drill rig will stand at approximately 32m in height. The compound will be a temporary construction and will be in place for an estimated six months. Following the dismantling of the rig and the removal of the compound the proposed development site will be returned to its previous land use.

There are no known heritage assets, and no evidence of currently unrecorded buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site. The site is situated close to Ugglebarnby Moor. Extensive remains of Bronze Age funerary features are recorded elsewhere in the landscape on similar moorland. However, no evidence of any such features is recorded on Ugglebarnby Moor, or elsewhere within the study area.

As such, it is considered highly unlikely that archaeological remains of such significance survive that warrant preservation in situ. It is proposed that a professional archaeologist be present during the stripping of the topsoil and ploughsoil to excavate and record any archaeological discoveries.

Although the rig would be visible from heritage assets across a wide area, the key significances of these assets would not be affected.

It is the conclusion of this assessment that the proposed development would not conflict with national or local policy regarding the safeguarding of heritage assets. Furthermore, based on current evidence, there are no constraints pertaining to heritage assets that would preclude the proposed development.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Outline

- 1.1 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned in May 2012 by York Potash Ltd to undertake a heritage desk-based assessment of land at Dove's Nest, Sneaton, North York Moors National Park (centred on NZ 8930 0532; Figure 1).

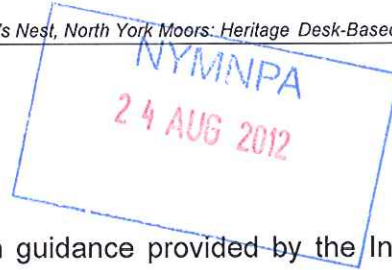
Location and landscape context

- 1.2 The proposed development site is approximately 0.5 ha in size and comprises an area of land in the north-west corner of a single enclosure. A screening belt of trees lies to the west.

Scope

- 1.3 The aims of this assessment have been to:
- identify known heritage assets present on the proposed development site and in its surroundings using existing information from publicly available sources;
 - determine the potential for as-yet unrecorded buried archaeological remains on the proposed development site, using professional expertise to assess the evidence base;
 - provide an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on the significances of any affected heritage assets, again using professional expertise and industry guidance.

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2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The assessment methodology is based on guidance provided by the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Desk-based Assessment* (IfA 2011).
- 2.2 The defined study area has the proposed development site at its centre (NZ 8930 0532) and encompasses an area of 1km from this centre point. Any heritage assets close to the outer boundaries of the defined study area have also been taken into consideration. The size of the study area ensured that historic mapping and data sources provide sufficient information about the proposed development site and its surrounding landscape from which to assess known and potential impacts on the heritage resource. This in turn provided a clearer indication of the proposed development site's history, context and archaeological potential, as well as views to and from it in relation to both designated and non-designated assets.
- 2.3 Historic environment data was requested from English Heritage's National Monuments Record and North York Moors National Park Historic Environment Record. This comprised data on designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments and Listed buildings, non-designated assets comprising archaeological find-spots, sites, investigations, historic buildings, cartographic and other documentary records and information on historic landscape character.
- 2.4 In addition the following resources were consulted and documents studied:
- Historic 25 inch Ordnance Survey Mapping from 1895 to the present day to assess former land uses and to identify areas of historic ground disturbance;
 - The National Heritage List website for designated heritage assets comprising Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and World Heritage Sites;
 - Historic Environment Characterisation supplied by North York Moors National Park HER and the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Landscape Characterisation which describes the character and nature of the historic landscape in the wider study area and surrounding region;
 - North York Moors National Park Authority Environment and Planning web pages (accessed May 2012) for information of regional and local planning policy documentation;
 - Historic aerial photographs, studied at the National Monument Record office in Swindon, to identify known and potential archaeological sites and evidence

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of historic land disturbance within the proposed development site boundary;
and

- British Geological Survey (2012) Geology of Britain Viewer.

2.5 Known heritage assets within the study area and those designated assets outside it considered of sufficient significance for inclusion are reported in Section 4.

2.6 A gazetteer has been prepared detailing known heritage assets within the study area and those designated assets close to its outer boundary (Appendix A). All assets in the gazetteer are referred to numerically in the main report text and are located on Figure 2.

2.7 A study of the relevant baseline information has indicated that the following types of heritage assets will not be affected by the proposed development:

- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Conservation Areas;
- World Heritage Sites;
- Registered Battlefields;
- Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

2.8 This assessment is therefore focused on addressing the likely impacts of the proposed development on the significance of non-designated heritage assets and their settings, including any impacts that may be evident in relation to the wider historic landscape.

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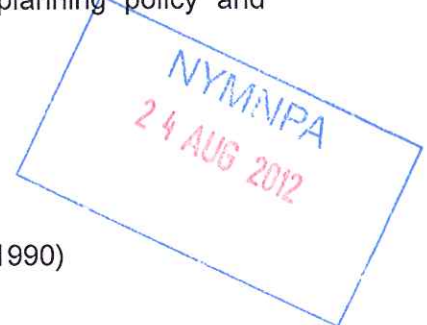
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3 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

Planning policy and guidance context

3.1 The assessment is written within the following legislative, planning policy and guidance context:

- National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002)
- Town and Country Planning Act (1990)
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)
- National Planning Policy Framework
- English Heritage Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment (2008)



National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out planning policies relating to 'conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. It defines the historic environment as 'all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.' It further classifies a 'heritage asset' as 'a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.

3.3 Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). Policies in the NPPF relate to both the treatment of the assets themselves and their settings, both of which are a material consideration in development management decision making.

3.4 The NPPF states that "The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development" and that there are "three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental". The role the environment will play is described as "contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use of natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy".

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- 3.5 Within the over-arching roles that the planning system will play, a set of 12 “core land-use planning principles” have been developed to underpin place-shaping and decision making. The 10th principle is:
- “conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations”
- 3.6 When determining planning applications local planning authorities should take account of:
- “the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
 - the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
 - the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.”
- 3.7 Further to this, local planning authorities can request that the applicant should describe “the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting”. The level of detail required in the assessment should be “proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance”. “Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”
- 3.8 Local planning authorities should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposed development, “to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal”.
- 3.9 A key policy within the NPPF is that “when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.”
- 3.10 “Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial

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harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.”

- 3.11 However, where a proposed development will lead to “less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset”, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.
- 3.12 With regard to non-designated heritage assets specific policy is provided in that a balanced judgement will be required having due regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset affected.

Local planning policy

- 3.13 The North York Moors National Park Authority Local Development Framework (LDF): Core Strategy and Development Policies was adopted in November 2008 and provides the overall strategic planning context for the North York Moors National Park. The Strategic Approach for the National Park is set out in Core Policies A and B.

Core Policy A seeks to, ‘further the National Park purposes and duty by encouraging a more sustainable future for the Park and its communities whilst conserving and enhancing the Park’s special qualities.

Core Policy B strategy is to meet the needs of the people in the National Park, by ‘improving the sustainability of local communities by supporting, improving and consolidating existing services and facilities, providing additional housing and employment opportunities within settlements and enabling alternative modes of travel.’

- 3.14 The LDF provides a broad development strategy for the whole of the National Park. Policy relating to cultural and historic assets and archaeology is provided in ‘Core Policy G – Landscape, Design and Historic Assets’ and ‘Development Policy 7: Archaeological Assets’.

Development Policy 7: Archaeological Assets

Proposals for development that would have an unacceptable impact on the integrity or setting of a Scheduled Monument, or other sites or remains considered to be of national archaeological importance will not be permitted.



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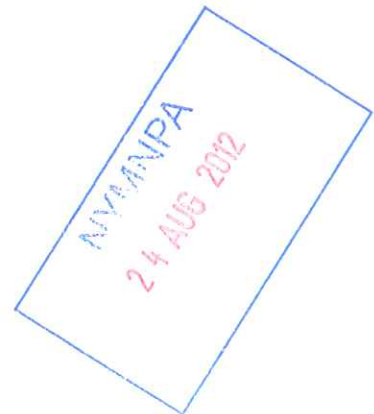
In the case of sites or remains of regional or local importance, development proposals will only be permitted where the archaeological interest is capable of being preserved in situ. Where this is not justifiable or feasible, permission will only be granted where provision is made for appropriate preservation by record. In all cases, an appropriate assessment and evaluation will be required to be submitted as part of the planning application in areas of known or potential archaeological interest.

Core Policy G – Landscape, Design and Historic Assets'

The landscape, historic assets and cultural heritage of the North York Moors will be conserved and enhanced. High quality sustainable design will be sought which conserves or enhances the landscape setting, settlement layout and building characteristics of the landscape character areas identified in the North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment. Particular protection will be given to those elements which contribute to the character and setting of:

- 1 Conservation Areas
- 2 Listed Buildings
- 3 Historic Parks and Gardens
- 4 Scheduled Monuments and other sites of archaeological importance

The re-use of buildings of architectural and historic importance which make a positive contribution to the landscape and character of the National Park will be encouraged.



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4 OVERVIEW OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCE AND A SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT HISTORY OF THE SITE AND ITS WIDER ENVIRONS

Introduction

- 4.1 This section provides an overview of the historical and archaeological background of the study area and the region surrounding it in order to provide a better understanding of the context and significance of the heritage resource that may be affected by the proposed development. This assessment then determines the significance of any affected heritage assets (Section 5 of this report) and the potential for encountering buried archaeological remains within the proposed site boundary and to predict their likely nature, extent and condition (hence, significance).

Summary of statutory and non-statutory designated heritage assets

- 4.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Registered Battlefields or Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development site or study area. Two Grade II Listed buildings lie within the study area, comprising a drinking fountain (Fig. 2, 8) and a boundary stone (Fig. 2, 9). Both lie over 500m from the proposed development site.

Summary of non-designated or potential heritage assets

- 4.3 There are no known heritage assets recorded within the proposed development site. However, there are several recorded assets and potential assets recorded in the wider study area. These are discussed in further detail below.

Geology, topography and the palaeoenvironment

- 4.4 The solid geology of the site comprises Sandstone of the Moor Grit Member (BGS Viewer, consulted May 2012). No drift deposits are recorded within the site or its vicinity. No deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential have been recorded within the site or the study area.

Prehistoric and Roman (pre-AD 410)

- 4.5 No features of prehistoric date are recorded within the proposed development site or its immediate vicinity. Ugglebarnby Moor lies to to the west of the site, and although no remains are recorded on the element of the moor within the study area, moorland elsewhere in the National Park includes well-preserved evidence of

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funerary monuments and settlement remains, with a large number of cairns, barrows, earthworks and other features indicative of Bronze Age and Iron Age (800BC- AD43) activity. However, there is no evidence for any occupation or burial mounds within the proposed development site. The only confirmed prehistoric evidence in the area comprises an assemblage of Bronze Age material, recorded 700m to the south of the site (Fig. 2, 1). The assemblage comprised arrowheads, scrapers and knives, but further detail, including the number of pieces, is held by the HER.

- 4.6 Roman (AD43-AD410) period activity in the study area is extremely limited, with no finds or features recorded. The proposed development site lies 63km to the north-east of the *civitas* capital at York (*Eboracum*).
- 4.7 In summary, although the proposed development site lies near to the upland moorland landscapes characterised by surviving Bronze Age funerary remains, there is very limited evidence of such features in the vicinity. No evidence of either the funerary features recorded elsewhere, or the settlements associated with the burials, is recorded within the environs of the proposed development site. Given the scarcity of remains recorded within the study area, there is considered to be very limited potential for remains of prehistoric or Roman date to lie within the proposed development site.

Early medieval (5th century AD) to modern

- 4.8 There are no recorded heritage assets of medieval date within the proposed development site. The boundaries of the surrounding fields are all straight and regular, suggesting a post-medieval pattern of organised enclosure. There is no evidence for medieval settlement or occupation within the proposed development site.
- 4.9 A bank and ditch, forming the boundary of Haxby Plantation, lies 900m to the south of the site (Fig. 2, 2). This feature is of post-medieval date. A coal and ironstone mine previously lay approximately 800m to the west of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, 3).
- 4.10 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1893, depicts the proposed development site as part of a small group of enclosures (Fig. 3). The notation within the proposed development site is indicative of rough pasture or moorland. The

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boundaries of the field are as they are at present, and no features indicative of heritage assets are depicted. No changes are recorded on later historic maps, or on post-war aerial photographs.

- 4.11 No finds or features of archaeological interest are recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development site, and no features of any kind have been recorded from the aerial photographs or historic maps of the area. As such, there is considered to be very limited potential for finds or features of medieval or later date to lie within the proposed development site.

Undated

- 4.12 Several undated features are recorded within the study area. A small rectangular enclosure was recorded from aerial photographs, approximately 400m north of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, 5). However, a re-examination of the photograph by the HER concluded that was *'more likely to be agricultural than archaeological in origin'*. A linear feature, probably a modern service, has been recorded to the north-west of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, 6). A second enclosure has also been identified on Ugglebarnby Moor, 600m to the west of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, 7).
- 4.13 A pond, of uncertain origin, lay approximately 600m to the east of the proposed development site (Fig. 2, 4).

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5 SIGNIFICANCE OF HERITAGE ASSETS

- 5.1 There is no evidence of previous settlement or occupation within the proposed development site from the sources consulted during this assessment, and no evidence for the funerary features frequently found on the nearby moorland. The proposed development site appears to have comprised land parcels on the edge of the moor during the 19th-century.
- 5.2 The lack of evidence to the contrary suggests that it is highly unlikely that there are any surviving buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site, and extremely unlikely that any would be of such significance to warrant statutory designation (i.e. of schedulable quality due to their archaeological interest).

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6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Potential development impacts

- 6.1 The proposed development will entail the creation of a compound up to 50m x 80m that will include all of the required facilities to maintain and operate a deep drilling rig. The drill rig will stand at approximately 32m in height and will be accompanied by supporting single storey structures, surrounded by an earth bank and fence.
- 6.2 The compound will be a temporary construction and will be in place for an estimated six months. The rig itself will be operational (and erect) for much of this six month period.
- 6.3 The creation of the compound will require the removal of topsoil and subsoil which would disturb or remove any buried archaeological remains should they survive within the proposed development site.
- 6.4 Following the dismantling of the rig and the removal of the compound, the proposed development site will be returned to agricultural use.

Impacts on heritage assets

- 6.5 No known heritage assets would be physically affected by the proposed works.
- 6.6 Although the rig would be visible from heritage assets across a wide area, the key significances of these assets would not be affected.
- 6.7 There is no evidence of known surviving buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site. As such, it is considered to be highly unlikely that remains of such significance survive that warrant preservation in situ. However, it is proposed that a professional archaeologist be present during the stripping of the topsoil and ploughsoil, in advance of the construction of the compound. Any surviving archaeological remains revealed during this exercise would be excavated and recorded to a level commensurate with the importance of discoveries as identified within the regional and national archaeological research agendas.

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7 REFERENCES

Relevant Policy Documents

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979);

English Heritage 2008, Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment.

Heritage Coast, North Yorkshire and Cleveland, Management Plan 2008-2013 (3rd Review)

National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002);

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

North York Moors National Park Authority Local Development Framework: Core Strategies and Development Policies, 2008, North York Moors National Park Authority;

Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

Textual sources

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Online resource at http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html viewed September 2011;

Institute for Archaeologists 2011, *Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment*;

Margary, I.D., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain: Third Edition*, London, John Baker

White, Young Green, 2003, North York Moors National Park, Landscape Character Assessment.

Maps

1893 Ordnance Survey 25" First Edition Map of Yorkshire

Historic Maps consulted via www.old-maps.co.uk in April 2012

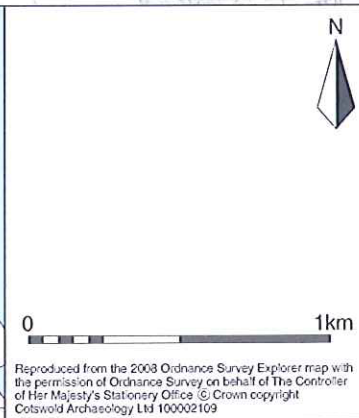
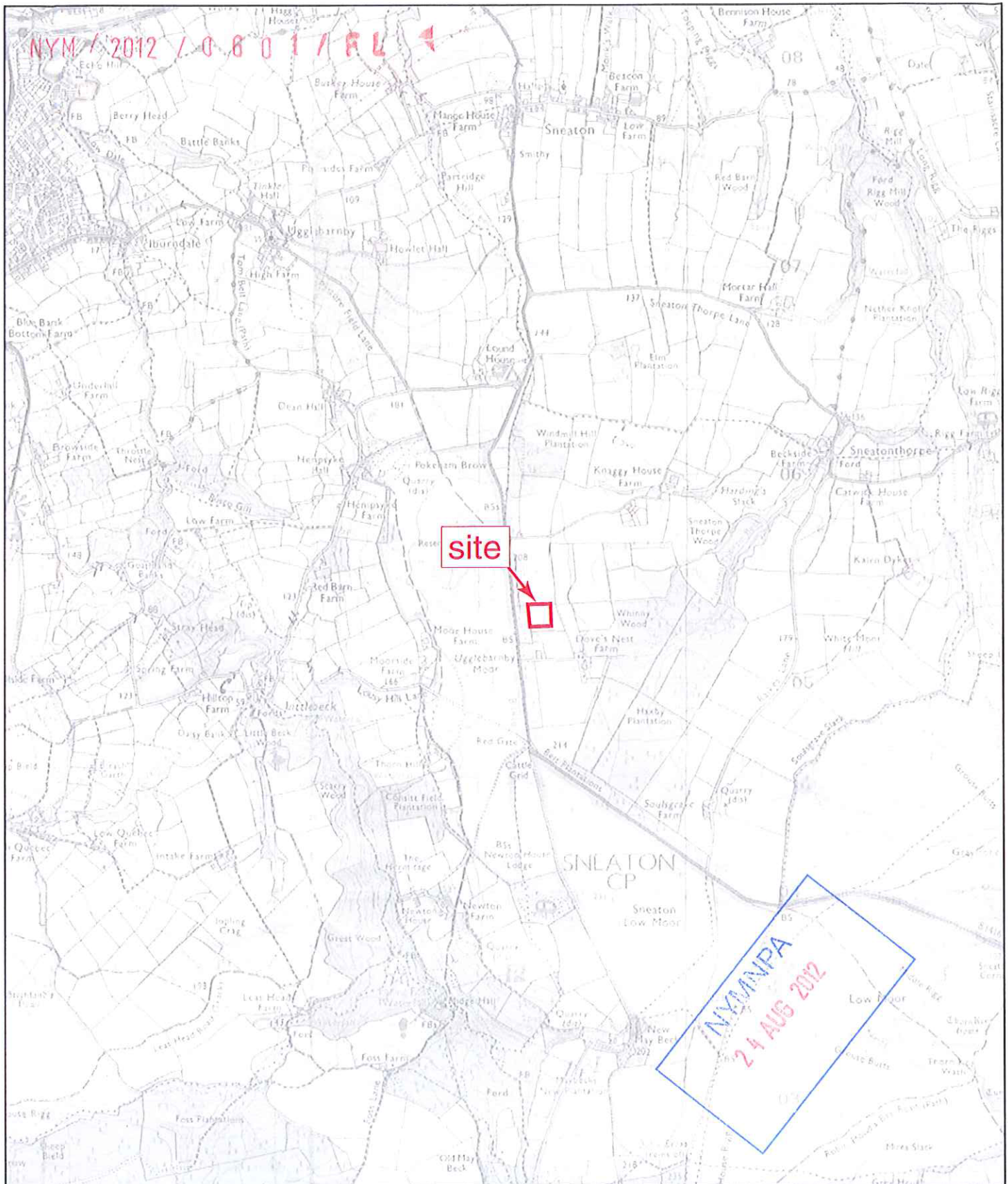


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APPENDIX A - GAZETTEER OF RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

No.	Description	Period	Status	NGR (all NZ)	HER ref. NMR ref. EH ref.	Major Source
1	Bronze Age arrowhead and assemblage	Prehistoric	-	8930 0460	12245 12245.00001	HER
2	Bank and ditch forming field boundary along belt plantation	Post-medieval	-	8962 0451	06/97	HER
3	Coal and ironstone mine	Modern	-	8861 0454	14176	HER
4	Pond	Undated	-	8981 0518	06/96	HER
5	Enclosure	Undated	-	8930 0568	7593	HER
6	Linear feature identified from APs – HER suggests it may be a modern service	Undated	-	8891 0552	7591	HER
7	Possible ditched enclosure	Undated	-	8866 0540	7592	HER
8	Public drinking fountain	Modern	Grade Listed building	8830 0568	327542	EH
9	Boundary stone at Red Gate	Modern	Grade Listed building	8924 0469	327514	EH

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Potash Exploration, Doves Nest
North Yorkshire Moors

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

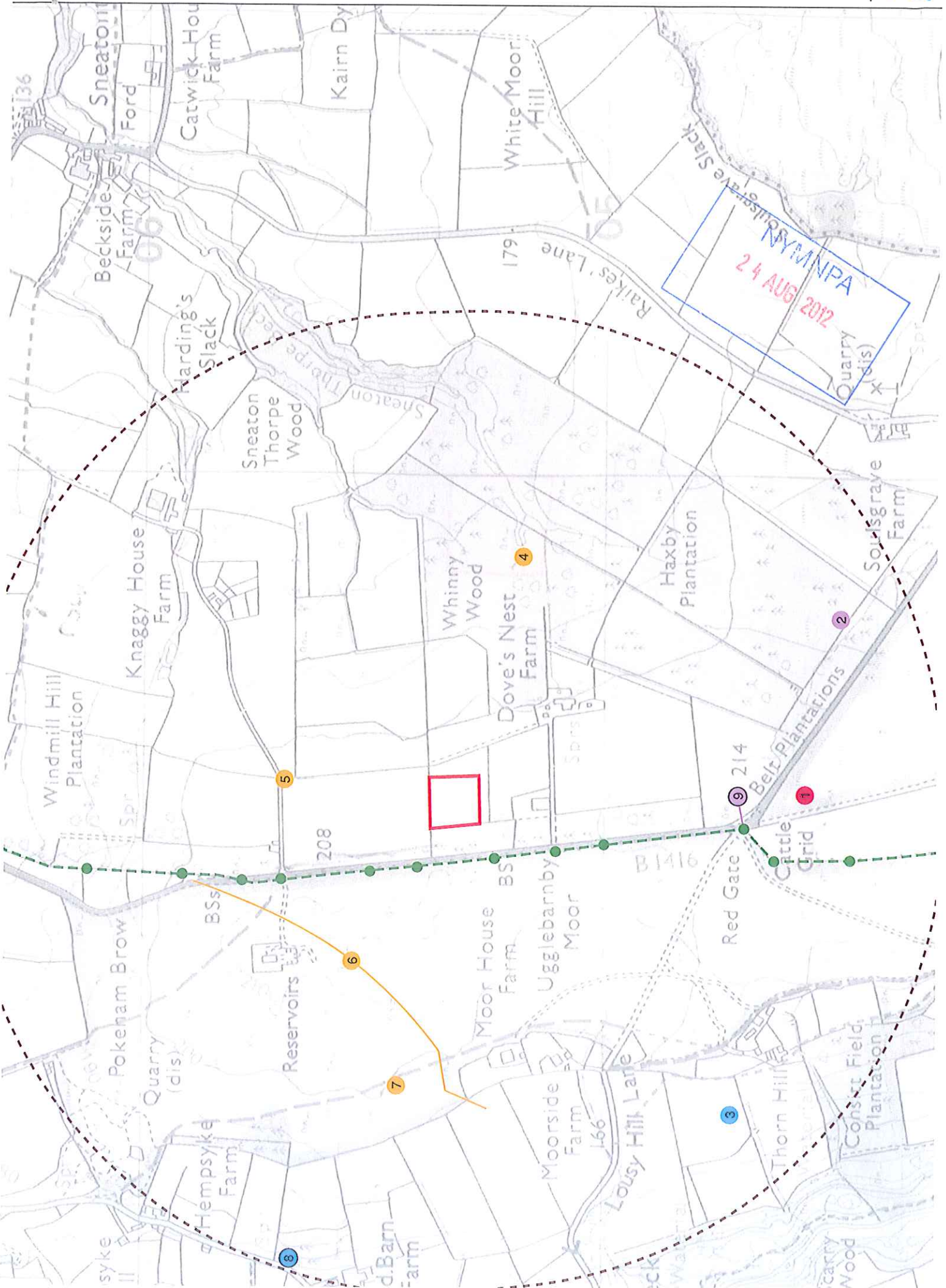
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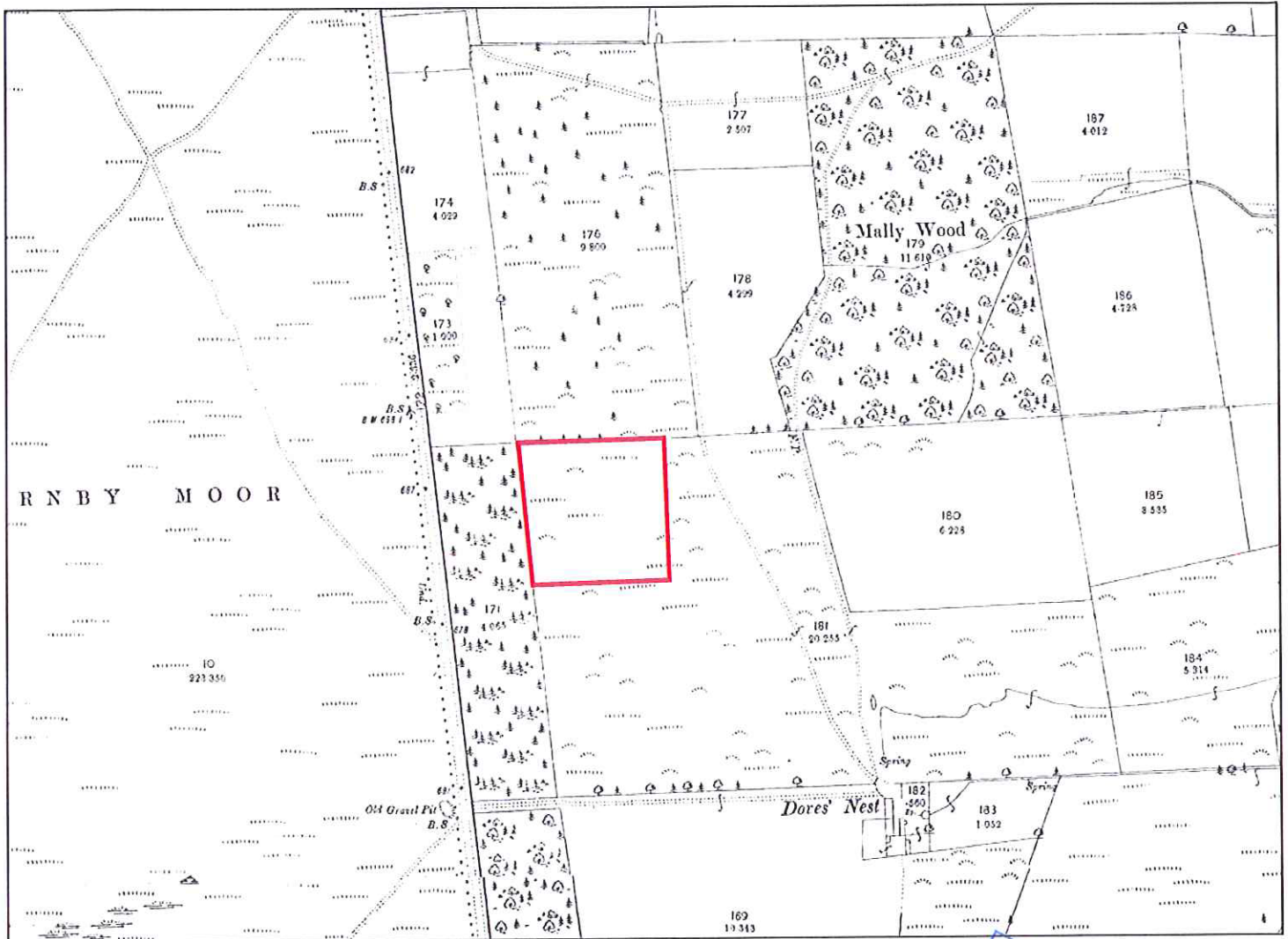
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893

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