

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Burfa Camp, Burfa Farm, Evenjobb, Powys**

Setting Impact Assessment

RD013



By  
Dan Barrett

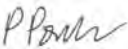
Report No. 1739


# Archaeology Wales

## Burfa Camp, Burfa Farm, Evenjobb Powys

Setting Impact Assessment  
RD013

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Report No. 1739

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## Abstract

*In November 2018, Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Harriet Jones to carry out an assessment of the impact of a proposed development on the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Burfa Camp, RD013), which lies between 50m and 250m from the proposed development on land forming part of Burfa Farm, Evenjobb, Presteigne, centred on SO28130 61300. This assessment has been prepared as part of the submission of a planning application (2018/0501/FUL). In addition a 750m radius Study Area around the site was examined.*

*The methodology used followed the four stage approach recommended in Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017).*

*The fort is very visible in the local landscape, but does not dominate it completely; other hills are as prominent and the tree-cover disguises the nature of the monument. **Burfa Camp is one of a series of hills above the Radnor Valley/Wilton Basin and Offa's Dyke runs by the west side. Views are significant in most directions, as might be expected. The positional relationship to Offa's Dyke is also considered significant.***

*The proposed development, of three permanent wooden platforms upon which tents would be erected seasonally, are not thought to have a significant impact on the setting of the SAM. The effect is thought to be neutral or at worst very slightly negative. There is some limited inter-visibility and the prospect of slightly increased light and noise levels. It has the potential for a positive impact, such a development may well increase knowledge and enjoyment of the monument.*

*Other designated monuments are not inter-visible with the proposals and are not considered to be impacted by it.*

*No mitigation is considered necessary, though the exact positioning of particular platforms could be modified if any were considered problematic.*

## Crynodeb

*Ym mis Tachwedd 2018, comisiynwyd Archaeology Cymru gan Harriet Jones i gynnal asesiad o effaith datblygiad arfaethedig ar leoliad Heneb Gofrestredig (Gwersyll Burfa, RD013), sy'n gorwedd rhwng 50m a 250m i ffwrdd o'r datblygiad arfaethedig ar dir sy'n llunio rhan o Fferm Burfa, Einsjobb, **Llanandras, y mae ei ganol wedi'i leoli yn SO28130 61300. Paratowyd yr asesiad hwn fel rhan o gyflwyniad cais cynllunio (2018/0501/FUL). Yn ogystal, archwiliwyd ardal astudiaeth mewn cylch o 750m o gwmpas y safle.***

***Roedd y fethodoleg a ddefnyddiwyd yn defnyddio'r dull pedwar cam a argymhellir yn 'Lleoliad Asedau Hanesyddol yng Nghymru' (Cadw 2017).***

***Mae'r gaer yn weledol iawn yn y dirwedd leol, ond nid yw yn goruchafu arni'n llwyr; mae'r bryniau eraill yr un mor amlwg ac mae'r coed yn cuddio natur yr heneb. Mae Gwersyll Burfa yn un o gyfres o fryniau uwchlaw Dyffryn Maesyfed / Basn Wilton ac mae Clawdd Offa yn rhedeg ar hyd yr ochr orllewinol. Mae'r golygfeydd yn rhai***

*sylweddol bron ym mhob cyfeiriad, fel y byddai disgwyl. Mae'r berthynas leoliadol â Chlawdd Offa hefyd yn cael ei hystyried yn arwyddocaol.*

*Ni chredir y bydd y datblygiad arfaethedig, i osod tri llwyfan pren parhaol y gellir gosod pabelli arnynt yn dymhorol, yn cael effaith arwyddocaol ar leoliad yr heneb. Credir y bydd yr effaith yn niwtral neu, ar ei waethaf, ychydig yn negyddol. Mae ychydig o ryng-weleddedd a'r posibilrwydd o gynnydd bach mewn lefelau golau a sŵn. Mae posibilrwydd iddo gael effaith gadarnhaol, sef y gallai'r datblygiad gynyddu'r wybodaeth ynghylch yr heneb a'r mwynhad ohono.*

*Nid yw'r henebion eraill yn rhyng-weledol a'r cynigion ac nid ystyrir y byddant yn cael eu heffeithio ganddynt.*

*Nid ystyrir bod angen unrhyw waith lliniaru, er y gellid addasu union leoliad y llwyfannau penodol pe ystyrid bod unrhyw rai ohonynt yn peri problem.*

## 1 Introduction

In November 2018 Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Harriet Jones to carry out an assessment of the impact of a proposed development on the setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD013), which lies between 50m and 250m from the proposed development on land forming part of Burfa Farm, Evenjobb, Presteigne (henceforth "the site"), centred on NGR SO28130 61300 (Figures 1 and 2, AW Project Number 2677). A 750m radius Study Area was also examined.

This assessment has been prepared as part of the submission of a planning application. The local planning authority is Powys County Council (henceforth PCC), the planning application number is 2018/0501/FUL.

The purpose of the Assessment, which is detailed in the following report, is to provide PCC with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is also designed to inform Cadw about the potential impacts on nearby designated archaeological sites.

Cadw responded to the planning application in a letter to PCC dated 30/10/18, requesting further information in respect of the proposed development. Within the letter Cadw state:

*The potential adverse impact on the setting of scheduled monument RD013 will be a material consideration in the determination of this application (see Planning Policy Wales 2016 section 6.5.5): However, as no information on this issue has been submitted with the application we are currently not in a position to provide the your Authority with advice. Consequently we advise that more details of the effect of the proposed development on the setting of the scheduled monument should be requested. This will require an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the scheduled monument to prepared in accordance with the methodology outlined in the **Welsh Government's best-practice guidance Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017).***

The proposed development comprises plans for the construction of a three safari tents and the subsequent change of use of the current agricultural field to use for tourism.

## 2 Methodology

The methodology for this assessment follows the guidance and methodology offered in *Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017). This assessment also conforms to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

This methodology sets out a four stage approach:

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development and their significance.



Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the ways in which the historic assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on those settings.

Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on those settings.

Stage 1 has been established through consultation with Cadw, and an examination of sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record and historical research. As a result this assessment focusses mainly on the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Burfa Camp Hillfort (RD013).

As a Scheduled Ancient Monument this site, and its setting, is considered to be of High archaeological value. Following the evaluation of the potential impact, this impact will be assessed as positive, neutral or negative. Positive or negative impacts will be **described as severe, moderate, slight and very slight. Severe equates to a 'significant impact' in environmental impact assessment terminology.**

### 3 Stage 1: Identifying the Historic Asset

This assessment is primarily concerned with Scheduled Ancient Monument RD013 (Burfa Camp). This has been identified through consultation with Cadw and research into historic assets in the vicinity. This site is further described below. Other designated **monuments considered briefly in this assessment include Offa's Dyke (RD024) and Listed Buildings Burfa (farmstead) and agricultural buildings (9145 and 9146).**

#### 3.1 *Site Description*

Burfa Camp comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (*circa* 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). It is one of the largest of the great border camps (RCAHMW, 1913). Hawse (1949) suggests a date of the second century BCE but offers no supporting evidence for this claim. Romano-British material of the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE has been found within the enclosure.

The monument is a large elongated contour fort measuring *circa* 600m east-west by a maximum of *circa* 180m, being widest at the east. It encloses around 13ha on the summit of a prominent hill at a height of *circa* 290m OD overlooking the valley of the Hindwell brook and is situated at the eastern end of the Walton basin (previous studies mention *circa* 5.9ha, this has been recalculated with GIS). It has turf and scrub-covered banks and some trees in the interior. The defences primarily consist of a single bank between *circa* 0.75 and *circa* 1.5m high with an external ditch up to *circa* 0.9m deep that shows only as a terrace in some places on the south, although there is an external counterscarp bank on the north. For a length of *circa* 150m from the western corner, however, the defences on the north consist of two banks, rising to *circa* 3.5m internally and *circa* 6m above the median ditch, with an external counterscarp beyond the outer ditch. An oblique barbican entrance is recorded as being present at the eastern end of this double stretch, but this may be an error and the entrance is also recorded at the northwest where additional ramparts appear to be present.

The hillfort is situated on the summit of Burfa Bank (the fort is also sometimes referred to as such, and occasionally as 'Burfa Castle', not to be confused with the nearby motte and bailey of that name), overlooking the Hindwell Brook to the south and Knobley Brook to the west. It lies in the east of the Walton Basin, part of the Radnor Valley and is close to the **English border. Offa's Dyke runs along the western slopes** of the hill below the summit. The enclosure follows the axis of the hill. It is densely wooded today, although records show that at least the top was open and flat at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The B4362 runs along the southern base of Burfa Bank and a track runs near the base of the hill to the west. To the northwest is Burfa House and Burfa Farm, which lie close to the valley floor.

To the north below the summit is a col or saddle between Burfa Bank and another slightly lower hill called Middler Wood. This is currently open pasture, surrounded by woodland and is the location of the proposed development. This is outside the Scheduled Area, between 50m and 250m to the north of the western end of Burfa Camp.

The wider landscape is mainly woodland and pasture with dispersed settlement in a high valley with steep hills. To the south above Hindwell Brook is Little Brampton Scar, a ridge of high ground with Herrock Hill at its west end. There are views to the northeast along the valley of the Hindwell brook to where it joins the River Lugg below Presteigne and towards Wapley Hill, Shobden Hill and other high ground. To the west is the Walton Basin, with views towards The Whimble and Bache Hill. Other hillforts are present in the landscape, the nearest are *circa* 3km to the north at Castlering Wood and *circa* 5km to the east on Wapely Hill.

Records from the 18<sup>th</sup> century have shown that Burfa Farm was originally called Burwarr or Burvarr Farm (Powys Record Office R/D/BRA/1996/1 1760 conveyance/annuity and R/D/BRA/1996/2 1796, marriage agreement between Hon. Harford Jones of the East India Company and Sarah Whitcombe). Given its proximity to the English border, it is likely that the name comes originally from Burh, fortified enclosure or fort. The farmstead comprises a Grade II\* farmhouse on its southern side (Ref.9145), This is a timber-framed house with much of the lower walls rebuilt in stone, originally a 15<sup>th</sup> century cruck-framed hall house, but with alterations from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and extensive renovations carried out in the 1970s. To the northwest stand the Grade II listed farm buildings, an L-shaped range built in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and including stables, granary, cowsheds and implement sheds.

**The Scheduled section of Offa's Dyke (RD024) that runs around the western base of** Burfa Bank is a linear earthwork, comprising a substantial bank and ditch, with stretches consisting of a 2m to 3m wide shelf cut into the hill contours. Traditionally thought to be 8<sup>th</sup> century in date, excavations have shown some sections to be at least two centuries earlier.

The underlying geology of the area comprises Wenlock Rocks (undifferentiated) Argillaceous Rock (sedimentary). No superficial geology is recorded (BGS 2018).

### 3.2 *Previous archaeological studies*

There have been four archaeological investigations within the immediate area.

- Within the SAM area of Burfa Camp there is one recorded intervention. This is PRN 87408, Scheduled Monument Consent granted prior to tree planting within Burfa Bank Hillfort (CPAT 1998).
- Some 600m south of the site runs the suggested line of Offa's Dyke. An Assessment (PRN 58718) was carried out here due to the realignment of the Knobley Brook and construction of a new road bridge. No evidence of the dyke was found at this point (Jones, N W 1993).
- Transcription of aerial photographs recorded Ditchyeld ring ditch (PRN 328254 and 331143), which lies *circa* 700m to the southwest of the site.
- Bogs Mount Castle topographical survey of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, took place in 1997 some 600m west of the proposed development. This is a roughly oval motte, 42m by 38m across the base, with a d-shaped top 20m by 15m. There are remains of an embanked ditch at the south and traces of ditches at the north and east. Footings of two rectangular buildings are visible which are probably not contemporary with the motte (Gibson 1997).

### 3.3 *Historical and archaeological background*

The site is located within a rich archaeological landscape. Burfa Camp is discussed in detail elsewhere, other features of note are:

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic (c.450,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE), Mesolithic (c.10,000 – 4,400 BCE), Neolithic (4,400 BCE – 2,300 BCE), Bronze Age (2,300 BCE – 700 BCE) & Iron Age (700 BCE – 43 CE)

Iron Age: Burfa Camp includes a find of unworked flint nodules (PRN 19191) found in the northeast corner in the 1930s (Thomas & Earwood, 1996).

Some 700m to the north of the site lies Barland Enclosure (PRN 33117), an Iron Age defended enclosure. The aerial photograph shows three sides of a single-ditched rectangular enclosure, with dimensions of about 45.2m from south-west to north-east. It occupies relatively flat ground to the north of the Walton Basin (Silvester & Hankinson, 2005).

Other Prehistoric discoveries within the 750m study area include flint finds from fieldwalking, including Mesolithic and Neolithic debitage and tools. There are also Bronze Age flints from Ditchyeld ring ditch (PRN 33118). In addition, *circa* 550m east of the proposed development is the site of the putative Burfa Stone (PRN 4226), this was a large boulder observed in a field bank but it is no longer extant.

*Roman:* (43 CE – 410 CE)

This period is represented by two find spots of pottery fragments at 500m southwest and 750m northwest of the site. There are marching camps in the wider area, and 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE pottery has been retrieved from Burfa Camp.

*Early Medieval:* (410 CE – 1086 CE)

Apart from the Iron Age hillfort, the most significant monument in the area is **Offa's Dyke**, which runs north-south in a reverse S-curve through the western part of the study area and at its closest is 150m from one of the proposed platforms, at which

point it is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD024). It is traditionally thought to have been built by the Mercian King Offa in the later 8<sup>th</sup> century, but recent excavations on a section near Chirk suggest that work may have begun at least two centuries earlier than this. The remains in this stretch consist of a shelf *circa* 2-3m wide running along the west-facing contour of the hill. There are eleven HER records along this stretch of the Dyke, these include the SAM and other areas where the monument is visible only as a crop mark.

*Medieval:* (1086 CE – 1536 CE)

There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments from this period within the study area. These are:

Barland Castle, a motte and bailey 500m to the north of the site (RD143, PRN 304). This is a well-preserved oval mound set in the southeast corner of a roughly rectangular bailey above a steep valley to the southeast. The mound is *circa* 3m in height with a flattish summit *circa* 12m by 6m. The bailey is *circa* 50m east-west by 60m and is defined by a low earthwork on the northwest.

Bogs Mound Castle (RD057, PRN 311), 550m to the west, a roughly oval motte 42m by 38m across the base with a d-shaped top, 20m by 15m. There are remains of an embanked ditch at the south and traces of ditches at the north and east. Footings of two rectangular buildings are visible, which are probably not contemporary with the motte.

Nearby to the latter are some ridge and furrow and a holloway. The only other Medieval evidence is finds spots. Burfa Castle and Womaston Castle are also nearby (see Remfry, 1996).

*Post Medieval* (1536 CE – 1899 CE) & *Modern:*

Records from this period are mostly findspots and buildings. There is a group of buildings centred on Barland Farm, on the northern edge of the study area and also Burfa Farm Range 200m to the northwest. 500m to the southwest is the Grade II Listed Ditchyeld Bridge (PRN 30478). At the very southern end of the Scheduled part **of Offa's Dyke is Burfa Bank Quarry; there is a second quarry south of the hillfort. Two** of the buildings at Bogs Mound Castle are also thought to be Post Medieval.

Burfa (the farmstead) is Listed Grade II\* (LB 9145), located below the prehistoric earthworks with Offa's Dyke running in front of the house. This dwelling has associated Grade II Listed farm buildings (LB 9146) immediately to the northwest. It lies 150m from the nearest proposed tent location.

Portable Antiquities Scheme:

The PAS was consulted and returned nineteen records from within the study area. Apart from some sherds of probable Roman pottery found 750m to the northwest, all these findspots are clustered together in an area 300-600m to the west; it is assumed that they were recovered as a result of systematic fieldwalking. The finds cover most periods from the Mesolithic to the Post Medieval but none are Iron Age.

### 3.4 *Map Regression*

The tithe map of the parish of old Radnor in counties of Radnor and Hereford, 1841, includes the hill Burfa Bank and the open interior of the hillfort is shown. The interior, parcel 421 is occupied by Lawrence Robert and used for pasture. The slopes are recorded as woodland (420) and owned and occupied by the landowner of all the parcels associated with the monument and proposed development area, Sir Harford Jones Bridges. Lawrence Robert is also the tenant of the fields to the north in the proposed development area: 422 Middle Bank is arable, 419 Lower Bank and 423 Middle Bank are both pasture. Burfa (farmstead) is present.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 clearly shows the hillfort, labelled as '**Camp**', including the ramparts of the monument. Most of the slopes appear to be scrub at this time and the camp interior is open rough ground. Within the centre of the hillfort a circular feature is indicated as an earthwork.

There are two quarries present at the base of Burfa Bank which are shown on the map, one to the south, the other to the southwest. **Offa's Dyke is also indicated.**

At this time the motte and bailey castle to the west is called a tumulus, which remains the case until 1930 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition map when it is labelled a '**Mound**' and not until the fourth Edition in 1953 is it called a castle mound. Also in this edition the hillfort is mostly scrub and rough grazing. The circular feature is still present.

By 1976 a tumulus is indicated to the west of the motte and Burfa Farm and Burfa House are built by this date. The hillfort is more wooded in the interior, it is possible that the use of this area as pasture in the past prevented the development of woodland within the camp.

Overall there is very little change in the area throughout the time recorded on historic mapping, though it does show that the dense woodland which dominates the hill is a fairly recent development.

### 3.5 *Aerial Photographs & LiDAR (Figures 8 and 9)*

Aerial photographic evidence of the area, held by the Aerial Photographic Unit in Cardiff, has been examined, including photographs from 1945 to the present day.

Two images from 1945 (4542 106GUK\_836\_4232 & 4233) show the interior is mostly open or at least clear of trees at this date. There appear to be a number of features on the summit, it is not certain what has created them, it is possible they are vegetation, however given their location it is possibly they are not natural. They are clearest on image 4232, several sub circular forms are visible, some appear to be overlapping. A small clear circular feature may be the earthwork indicated on the OS mapping.

On image 4233 the fields of the proposed development are clearly visible and a possible rectangular parchmark or cropmark is visible to the east of the proposed area. The field boundaries are still present at this date.

In a photograph from 1962 (6223 F22 120) the interior is still open. Linear features, which respect the field boundary, are present within the proposed development area, it is possible these are eroded lynchets. Possible ridge and furrow is present to the west outside of the proposed area and maybe in the north of the proposed area.

Later photographs from 1976 and 1990 (7601 f8490 & 9034 RC8\_Kn\_CO 244) show the interior of the fort is mostly wooded. Whilst an image from 1997 shows the east end had been partially cleared of trees (9741 1995 H202\_NRSC 088).

LiDAR was available at only 2m resolution for the site; both the digital surface model and the digital terrain model were examined. Unfortunately it was not of sufficient resolution to provide much detail of the interior of the monument although the ramparts are clearly shown. Two linear features run north-south across the interior and onto the southern slopes. It is assumed these are modern tracks or similar. Ridge and furrow appears to be present on the upper slopes of Middler Wood.

### 3.6 *Extent of Scheduled Ancient Monument RD013*

As stated in the Scheduling description:

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*

The site encloses *circa* 13ha on the summit of Burfa Bank hill overlooking the valley of the Hindwell brook, and is much larger than many Welsh hillforts, which tend to be less than 2ha. It is part of a wider group of hillforts located on strategic high ground in the Welsh Marches. There is no known record for evidence of remains connected to the hillfort extending beyond the Scheduled Area, but it is possible. A rectangular feature has been seen in aerial photographs as part of this assessment to the north of the fort and east of the proposed development area and could be related to the monument. Traces of later ridge and furrow have also been seen in the area. Other remains from the Iron Age in the Study Area are limited; there is an enclosure to the north and further enclosures are found on the English side of the border.

## 4 Stage 2: Define and Analyse the Setting

### 4.1 *Identifying the extent of monument settings*

The setting of a monument such as Burfa Camp hillfort includes ***‘the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve’*** (Cadw 2017). As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings, such as boundaries and other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, and historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.

#### 4.2 *Present setting (Photos 1-25)*

A site visit to RD013 and its surrounds was made on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Conditions were dry and bright and leaf cover was at a minimum, rendering views more open than at other times of the year. However the features of the site are not readily visible or appreciated from any distance except from within the hillfort, and even within the immediate environs it is not apparent that this is an ancient monument (photo 5 and 17). Even so, the hill is prominent above the valley. There are tracks around the hill and up to the fort and so it is accessible to the public even though it is located on private land; it currently receives few visitors.

**Offa's Dyke is located beyond the western edge of the site though it hugs the lower slopes of the hill, and can be seen snaking away along the valley to the northwest, visible in the line of trees that follow its course.** The Scheduled area of the Dyke, at its closest point to the proposed development, is down slope from it (at around 209m OD whilst the tent platforms are situated between 238m and 260m OD) and does not have a view towards it. The remainder of the Dyke to the south is situated in dense tree cover (photos 19, 20 and 6).

The hillfort comprises an elongated enclosed area with defences formed of banks and ditches around the summit of Burfa Bank and is covered in dense woodland over the entire area, including the summit and slopes (photos 4-7). An entrance appears to be located to the northwest though another source suggests an entrance in the east.

Immediately to the north of the fort is an undulating area of pasture on the saddle or col, before the land rises again to another wooded summit, restricting views in this direction (photo 3 and 8). The ground falls off to the east and west with views towards distant hills and valleys in-between (photos 1, 2, 4, 6). Burfa Farm and Burfa (farmstead) are located close to the bottom of the westerly slopes and both are just visible from the track that leads into the field, to the west of the proposed area (photo 18) though they are shielded to a great degree by the topography (photos 1 and 2). The view from the front of these buildings up to the proposed development area does not provide a view of more than the slope up to the saddle or col. They are intervisible **with Offa's Dyke.**

To the south the fort looks across to another ridge above the Hindwell Brook at only 1km distant. The general views from around the edge of monument are fields of pasture and areas of woodland with dispersed settlement. From within the monument these views are curtailed even from within a few metres of the boundary. The lower ground adjoining the site at the north where the closest development area is located is not easily visible from within the site, particularly from higher up the slopes. The more distant ground beneath the hill to the north is more easily seen from the upper slopes, although none are really visible with the density of trees, even with the leaf cover gone. (Photos 9-14.)

### 4.3 *Original setting*

Hillforts were designed to be prominent and dominate the surrounding landscape, identifying a local tribe or marking a territory or area of control, as well as providing a defensible retreat or permanent settlement. Whether Burfa performed all or some of these functions is not known.

The visibility of the monument was an important part of its design and chosen location. Views to and from are often considered an important part of the setting. An important part of the defences would be to have good views of the surrounding landscape that could provide early warning of possible threats. Nearby communication routes are also likely to have been important part of the views and locating of the hillfort. Also important for any protracted occupation of the site would have been to have a source of water and there are two streams which run close to the bottom of the hill.

There are visual and physical connections of the hillfort to the surrounding landscape, which would have contained farmsteads, enclosures and fields. Although there is evidence of prehistoric enclosures and findspots of flint, there is little if any evidence from the Iron Age except the presence of hillforts. Castlerring lies to the north but is unlikely to be intervisible; Wapley Hillfort is located to the east. The main views from the site would probably be to the east and west, and to some degree, the south.

A number of Roman marching camps are present in the wider landscape to the southwest, and Romano-British pottery was recovered from the interior of the hillfort (RCAHMW NPRN 300469, Thomas & Earwood 1996), suggesting that occupation continued or that it was reoccupied in the Roman period. Roman and prehistoric material was found (possibly during fieldwalking) in the field to the west of the fort, but none is from the Iron Age. The ground where the proposed development is located has been visited by heritage professionals and by metal detectorists, although it is not known whether any material was recovered (Harriet Jones, pers comm.).

### 4.4 *Changes to the setting*

**When Offa's Dyke was built in the early medieval period its physical relationship to Burfa Camp** is likely to have been an important one, and the fact that Burfa Camp lies to its east reinforces the notion that this was a construction of the Mercian kingdom which lay to the east. Burfa Camp would have provided a readily defensible location along the Dyke, as well as forming an important viewpoint into lands to the west, and it is possible that the Dyke was deliberately positioned to take advantage of Burfa Camp, which may in turn have dictated the location and route of large sections of the Dyke in this area.

There is less of a tangible relationship to the establishment of Burfa farmstead, which was more located in the shelter of the natural topography rather than having any other link to the Camp.

Views from the monument have not changed in terms of aspect and can be appreciated to some degree from just outside of the monument, and less so from within the monument. The hill is still dominant above the valley. Original settlements and farmsteads have gone and the arrangement of fields and woodland has changed but



the nature of the area as a rural setting with dispersed settlements or farmsteads is not dissimilar from today.

The woodland means that the monument itself cannot be seen or appreciated from the wider area, and from within the monument views of the wider landscape are not currently possible from the slopes although it opens up a little on the top. When leaf cover is at a minimum, the views around are obscured by trees, even when viewed from within a few metres of the boundary. It is also difficult to appreciate the monument as a whole although some features can be seen as one moves through it. Woodland is most dense at the western end near the proposed development.

Views of the immediate area are particularly obscured, partly as a result of topography, such as the proposed nearest tent location at the base, though views of the opposite field to the north are possible to some extent in winter, when the tents would not be standing.

#### 4.5 *Other factors*

The hillfort is one of a number of forts in the wider area; their relationship with one another may have competitive, though not necessarily. They may be inter-visible but this is not always the case; their presence is still part of the setting.

The fort has provided evidence of Romano-British occupation and may have had relationships to the camps in the west.

No further historic, artistic, literary or scenic associations, intellectual relationships or non-visual factors forming part of the setting have been identified.

#### 4.6 *Summary*

The elements of the setting of Burfa Camp (RD013), outlined above, can be summarised as follows:

- Present setting – located on a hill, bounded by water courses and woodland and farmland
- Present setting – views west and east from the monument and to some extent to the south
- Present setting – views toward the monument from all directions except north (aside from the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area)
- Original setting – views of the monument from the west, east and south, only from the north in the vicinity of the monument
- Original setting – views from the monument west, east and south
- Original setting – one of a number of other hills forts, possibly also related to the Roman camps in the west as Romano-British evidence of occupation

- Changes in setting – **positional relationship with Offa's Dyke**
- Changes in setting – woodland obscures the fort and restricts views from within the monument

## 5 Stage 3: Evaluation of the Potential Impact of Change/Development

The proposed development comprises of three permanent timber platforms, low to the ground surface (up to 1m high), and semi-permanent tent structures up to three metres high for part of the year. They are to be located in a large open pasture field (formerly at least three fields) to the north of the Scheduled area; the southernmost platform is closest to the Scheduled area. Access is from the gate at the northwest of the field, off the track. Close to Burfa (farmstead), paths run up the western edge of the field and turn east. The field is bordered with trees.

The tents are widely spaced. They are not large enough to overshadow the monument or reduce its scale or the impact of the monument. They will not greatly affect the present setting, and will not affect the woodland. By bringing visitors to the area they may indirectly increase awareness of monument, which will result in greater appreciation of the site and numbers of visitors, making it more accessible and increasing its significance.

The proposal will not affect the woodland setting or main views to the west, east or south. The proposal will affect the setting of the open field, but minimally as the field is large and only three structures are planned, widely spaced. These changes, which are small, low, and seasonal can be easily reversed. Generally the proposed development will not be easily visible from the wider landscape being on an elevated position between the summits of two hills.

Agricultural buildings are present in a neighbouring farm, as are residences and a shepherd's hut. These are at some distance and downhill from the monument and do not impinge much on the views. They are not currently visible from the northern slopes or from the interior of the monument. The Listed Buildings which are part of this collection of buildings are not inter-visible with the proposed development, only from further west in the field. These are not considered to be impacted by the proposals. **Nor is Offa's Dyke Scheduled Monument which runs along the lower slopes on the west side of the hill and is also not inter-visible with the proposed development.**

From within the monument the nearest tent is unlikely to impact except it may be visible very close to the boundary of the site, being hidden by planting once viewed from within the scheduled area by only a few metres within the site. The most distant tent will be more visible from within the site, but very limited by tree cover, which reduces views from within the monument even in late November.

There is a possible rise in noise levels from visitors staying in the field. There would be some light increase too, but this would not be great.

The proposed development has no cumulative effects as there are no other developments in the vicinity.

The Hillfort is very visible within the landscape but not recognisable or understood due to tree cover, the development would not change this. Nor will it alter its prominence in the landscape and there will not be any change to the distant views, from or to the monument.

The non visual aspects of the setting are unaffected. As is the rural setting and remoteness of the location.

The small change to the setting of the monument is considered to have no, or only a negligible impact on its significance and has the potential to increase its significance by improving the appreciation of the monument.

## 6 Stage 4: Mitigation Options

As the scale and design of the proposed development is already considered to be in keeping with the area and not considered to have a significant visual impact upon the setting of RD013, no related mitigation measures are suggested.

The area around RD013 has been assessed for archaeological potential in the past, there is one feature seen in aerial photographs within this assessment but it is located further east of the intended tent location, therefore no archaeological mitigation measures are suggested for the proposed development site. The exact positioning of particular platforms could be altered if any were considered greatly problematic.

The site is currently under appreciated; it is not easily identified or understood as a hillfort. The proposed development will bring visitors to the site and increase the appreciation of the monument and therefore its significance.

## 7 Conclusions

This report assesses the impact of the proposed development upon the site and setting of Scheduled Ancient Monument RD013, which lies in proximity to the proposed development site. This impact has been assessed using the guidance and methodology outlined in the '**Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales**' (Cadw 2017), which outlines a four stage approach.

Stage 1 identifies the historic assets. Through consultation with Cadw and research into historic assets in the vicinity this study is primarily concerned with Scheduled Ancient Monument RD013, Burfa Bank Hillfort. Burfa Camp comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (*circa* 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). It is one of the largest of the great border camps (RCAHMW, 1913). The site encloses *circa* 13ha on the summit of Burfa Bank hill overlooking the valley of the Hindwell brook, and is much larger than many Welsh hillforts, which tend to be less than 2ha. **Offa's** Dyke runs north-south in a reverse S-curve through the western part of the study area and at its closest is 150m from one of the proposed platforms, at which point it is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD024). Burfa farm to the northwest also includes a Grade II\* listed farmhouse, with a Grade II listed farm range to the northwest.

Stage 2 defines and analyses the setting of the archaeological site. The fort is very visible in the local landscape, but does not dominate it completely; other hills are as prominent and the tree-cover disguises the nature of the monument. Burfa Camp is one of a series of hills above the Radnor Valley/Wilton Basin and **Offa's Dyke runs by the west side. Views are significant in most directions, as might be expected. Its positional relationship with Offa's Dyke is also of significance.**

Stage 3 evaluates the potential impact of the proposed development. The proposed development, of three permanent wooden platforms upon which tents would be erected seasonally, are not thought to have a significant impact on the setting of the SAM. The effect is thought to be neutral or very slightly negative. It will result in a small change to the setting on the north side of the hill, though for the most part, the proposals will not be visible from within the monument which is heavily wooded, nor will they be visible from the other designated heritage assets. The wooden platforms are also potentially a reversible feature. There is localised inter-visibility with Burfa Camp given the proximity of the proposed development and the prospect of slightly increased light and noise levels (albeit seasonal). There are also positive impacts, such as a development may well increase knowledge and enjoyment of the monument. **The proposed development is also not considered to have an impact on Offa's Dyke (SAM RD024) or Burfa Farmstead (LB 9145 & 9146).**

Stage 4 suggests mitigation options associated with the proposed development. No mitigation is considered necessary, though the exact positioning of particular platforms could be modified if any were considered problematic.

In summary, it is concluded that the proposal would have a neutral or very slight negative impact on the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and has the potential for a small positive impact.

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1976 7601 f8490

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1997 9741 1995 H202\_NRSC 088

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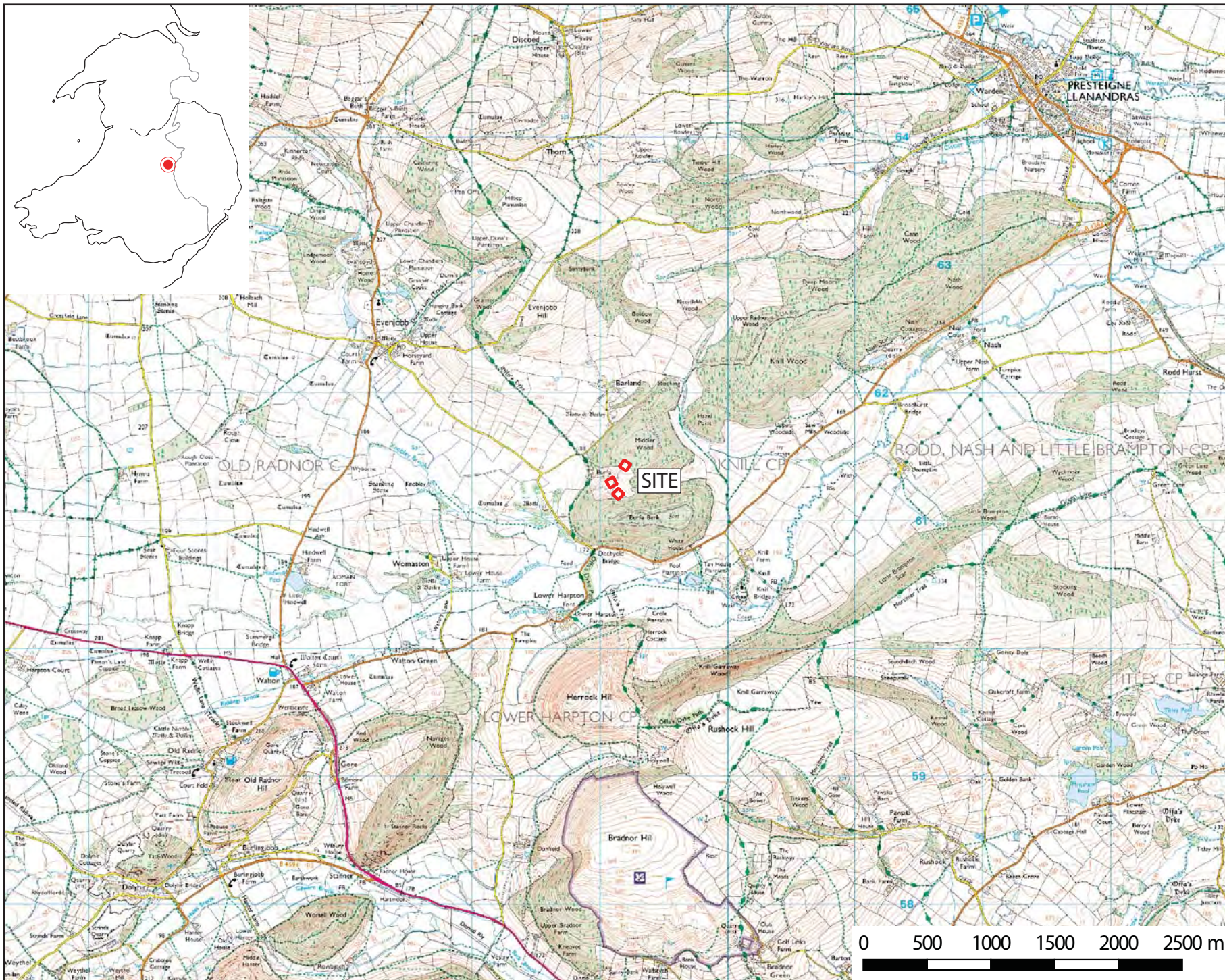
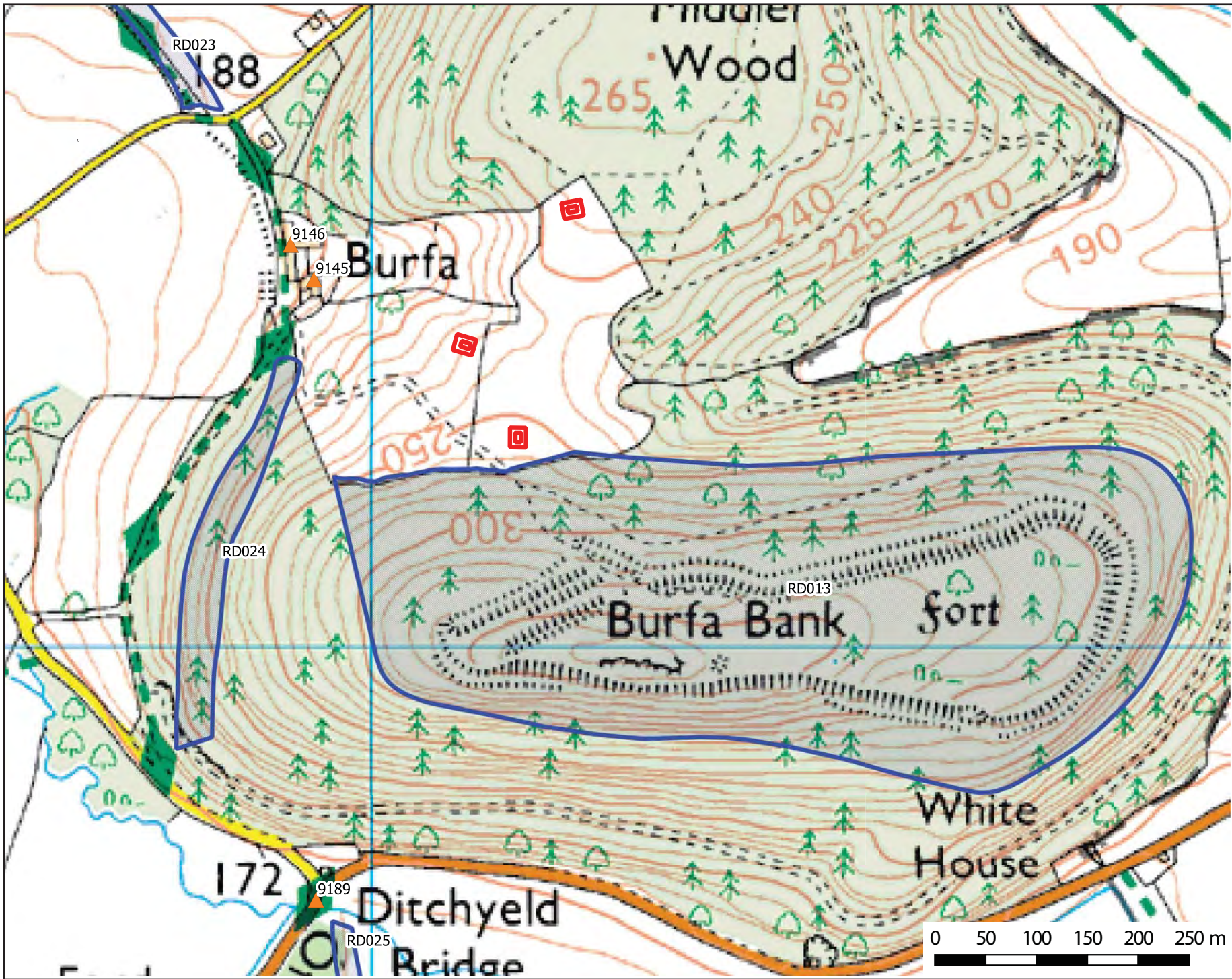


Figure 1: Location map, 1:40,000 @ A4

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- Tent locations
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- ▲ Listed Building

Figure 2: Proposed location of tents and relationship to adjacent designated assets. 1:5000 @ A4

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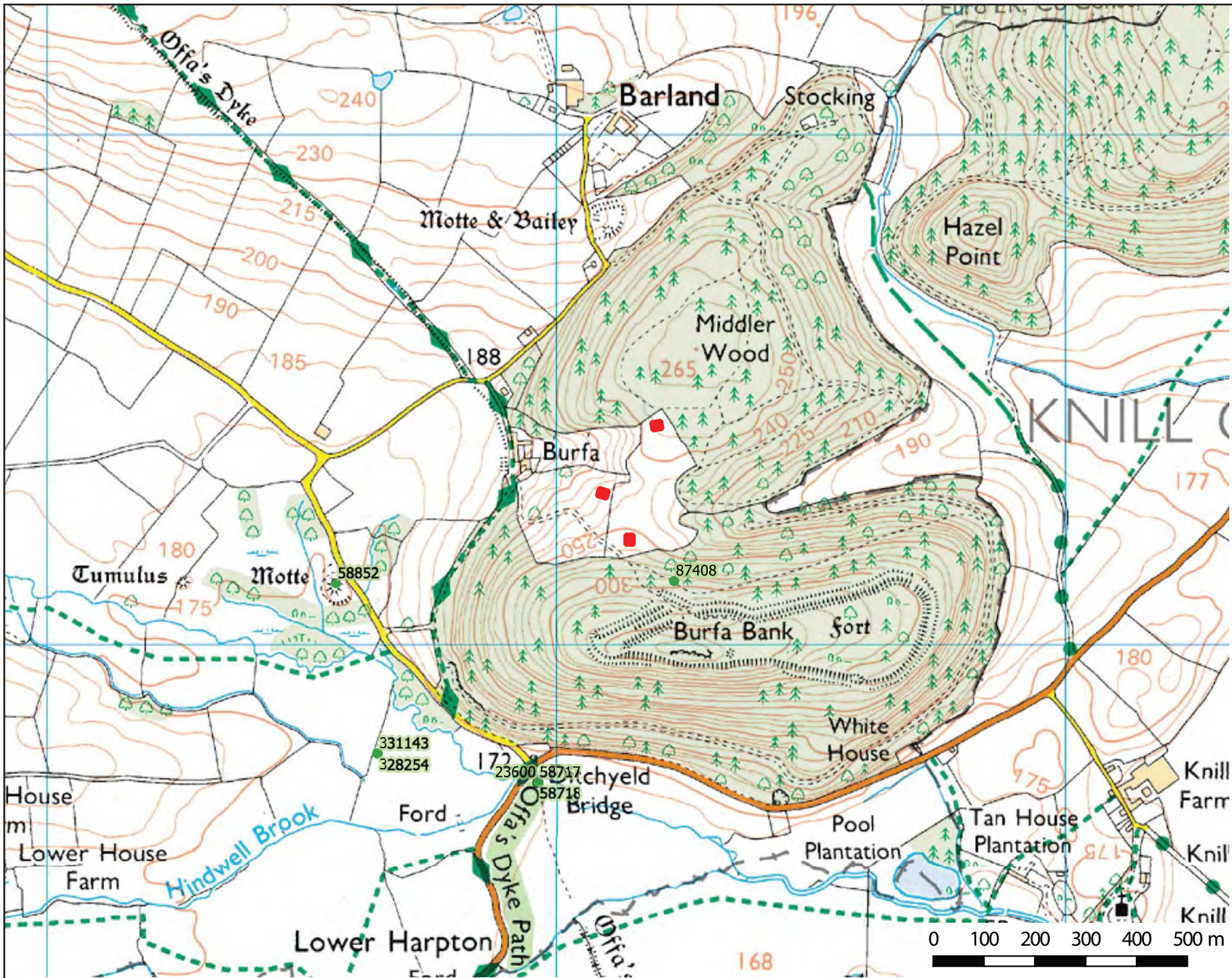


Figure 3: Archaeological investigations. within 750m  
1:10,000 @ A4

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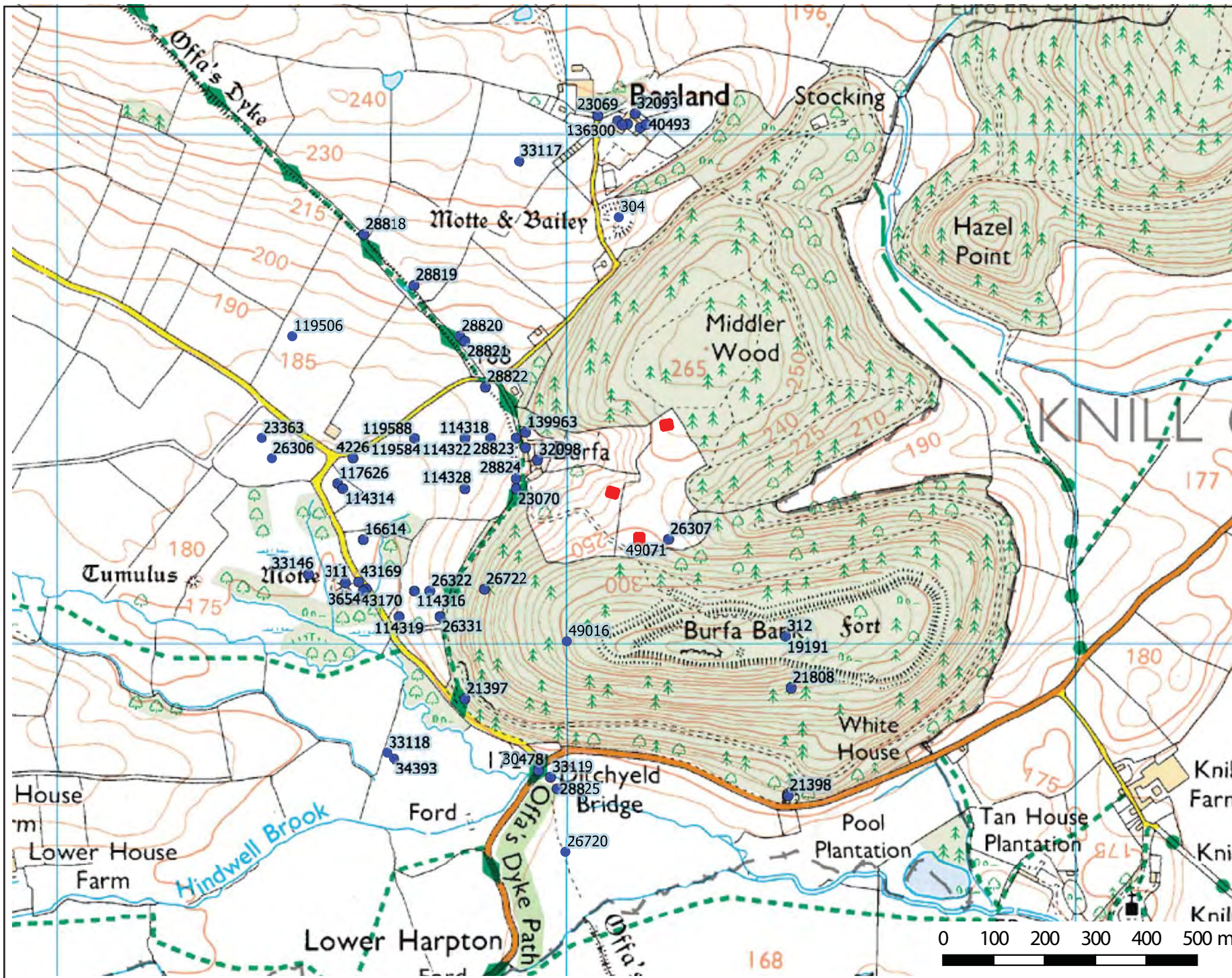


Figure 4: Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record within 750m. 1:10,000 @ A4

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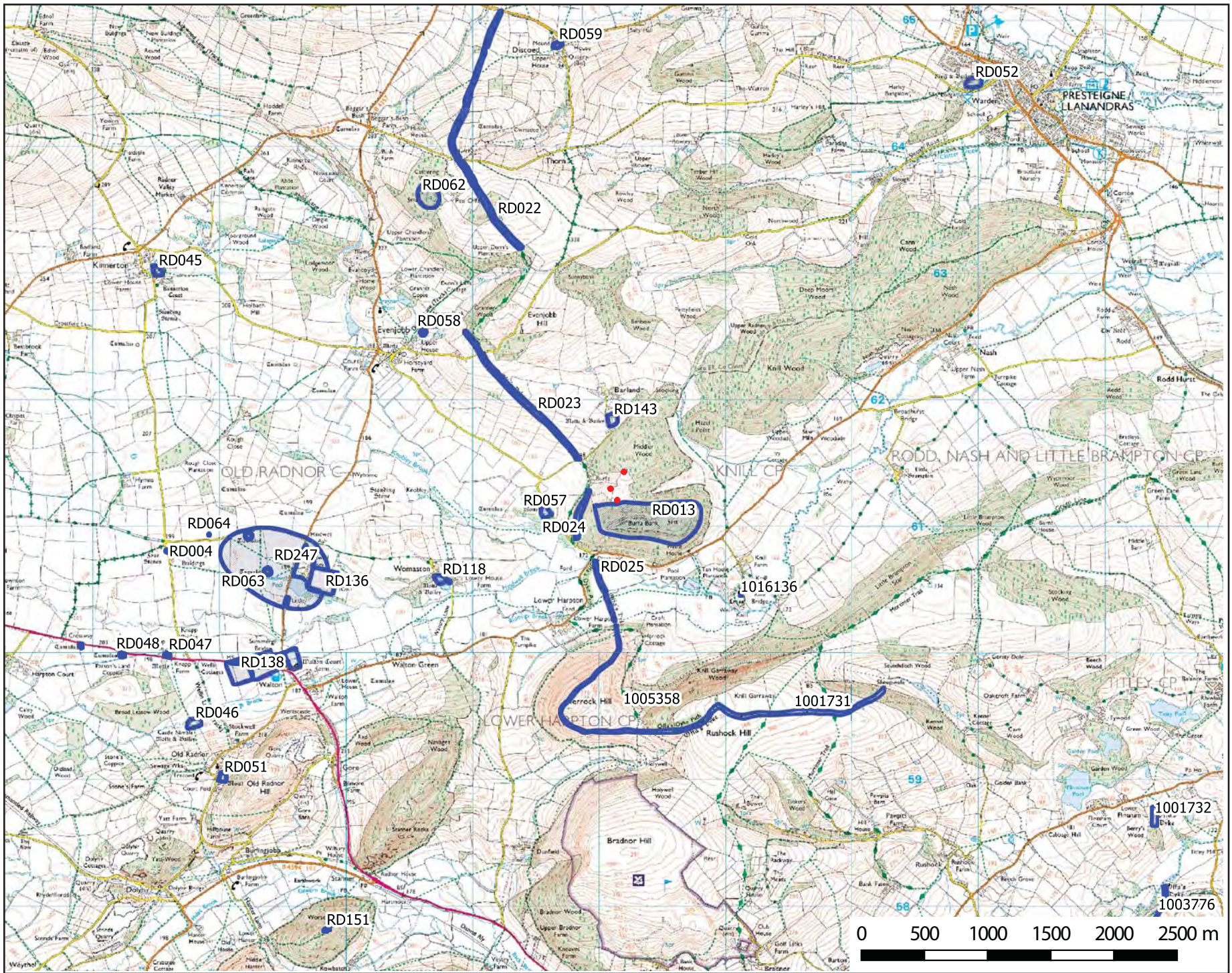


Figure 5: Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the surrounding landscape  
1:40,000 @ A4

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Figure 6: Extract from the parish tithe map of 1841

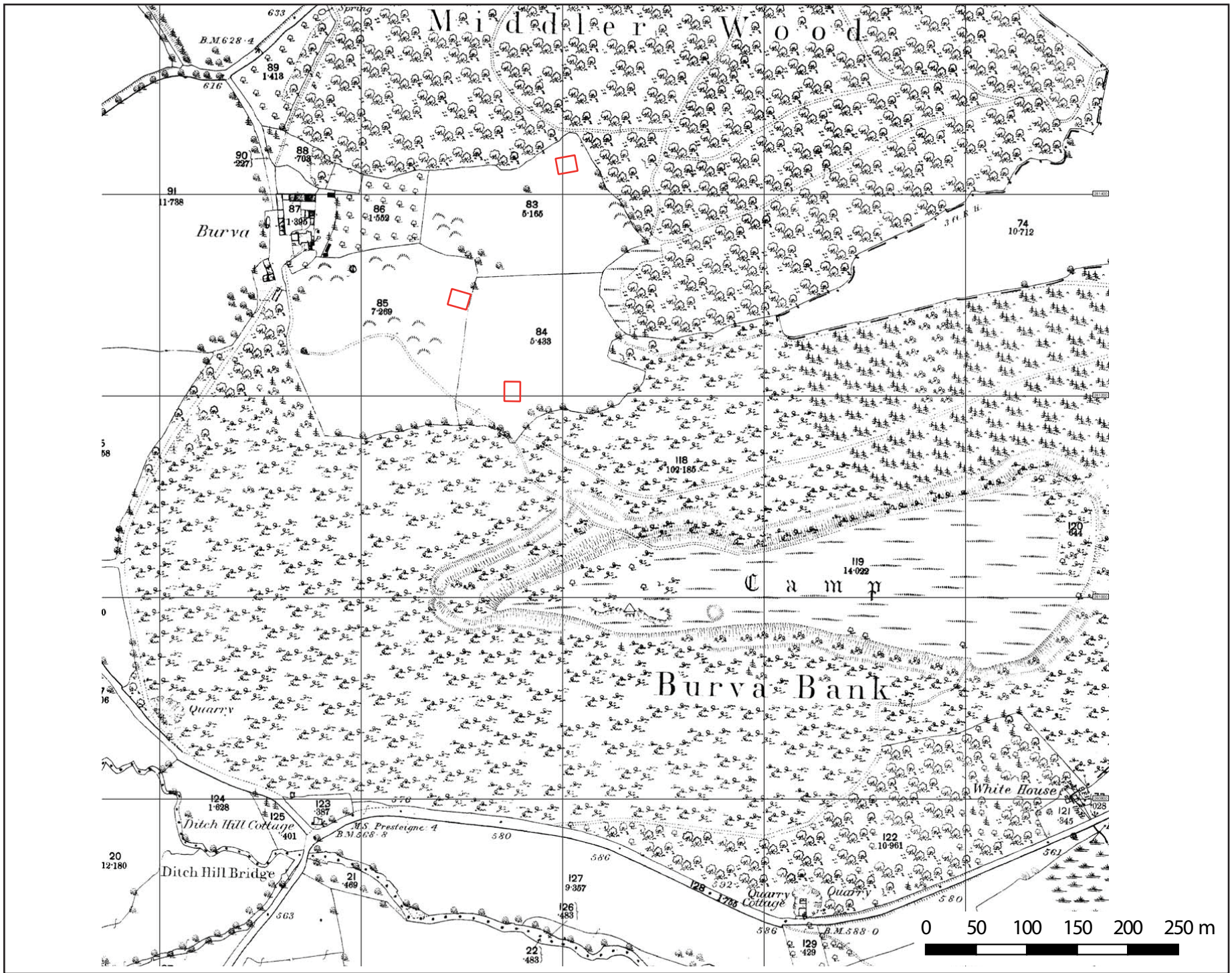


Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1889.

Development site marked in red.

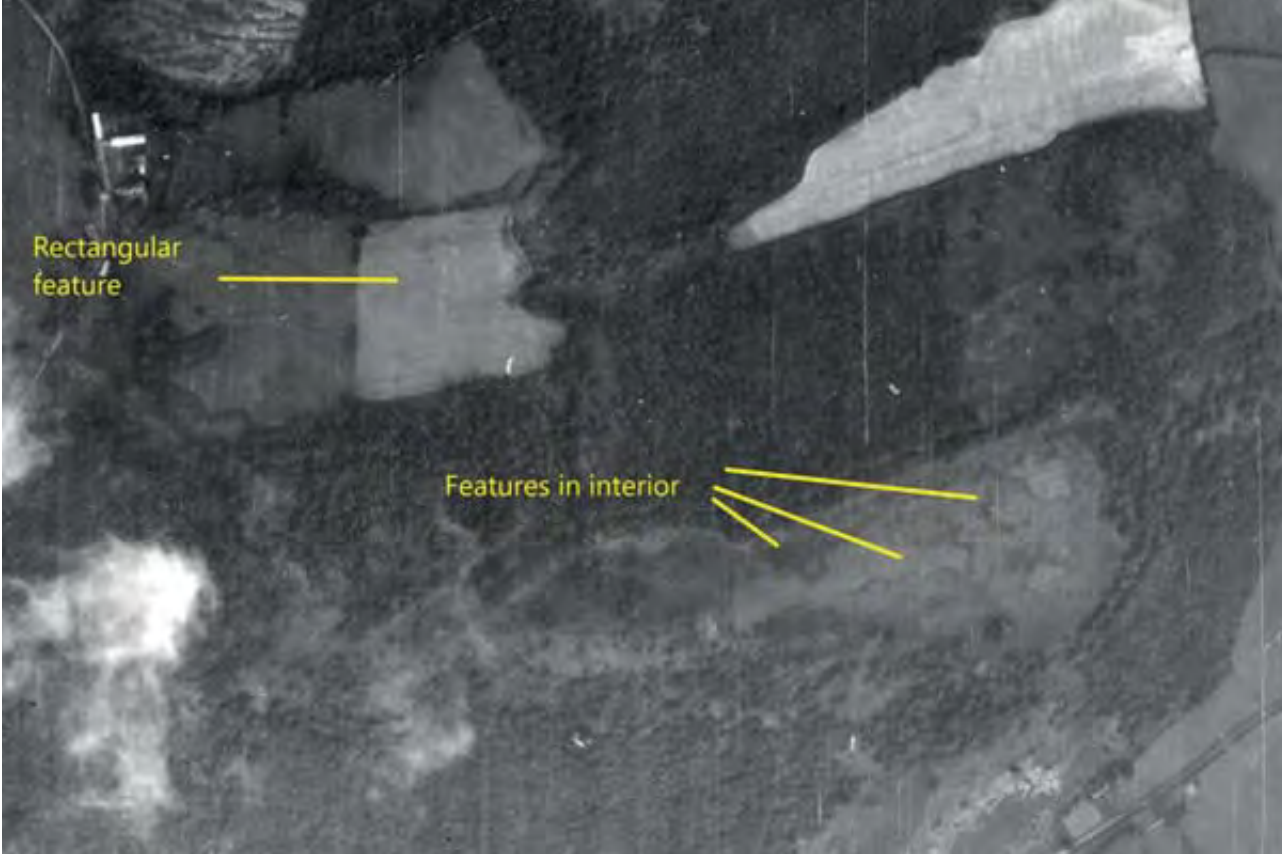


Figure 8: Extract from aerial photograph AP 4542 106GUK\_836\_4233 with annotation.

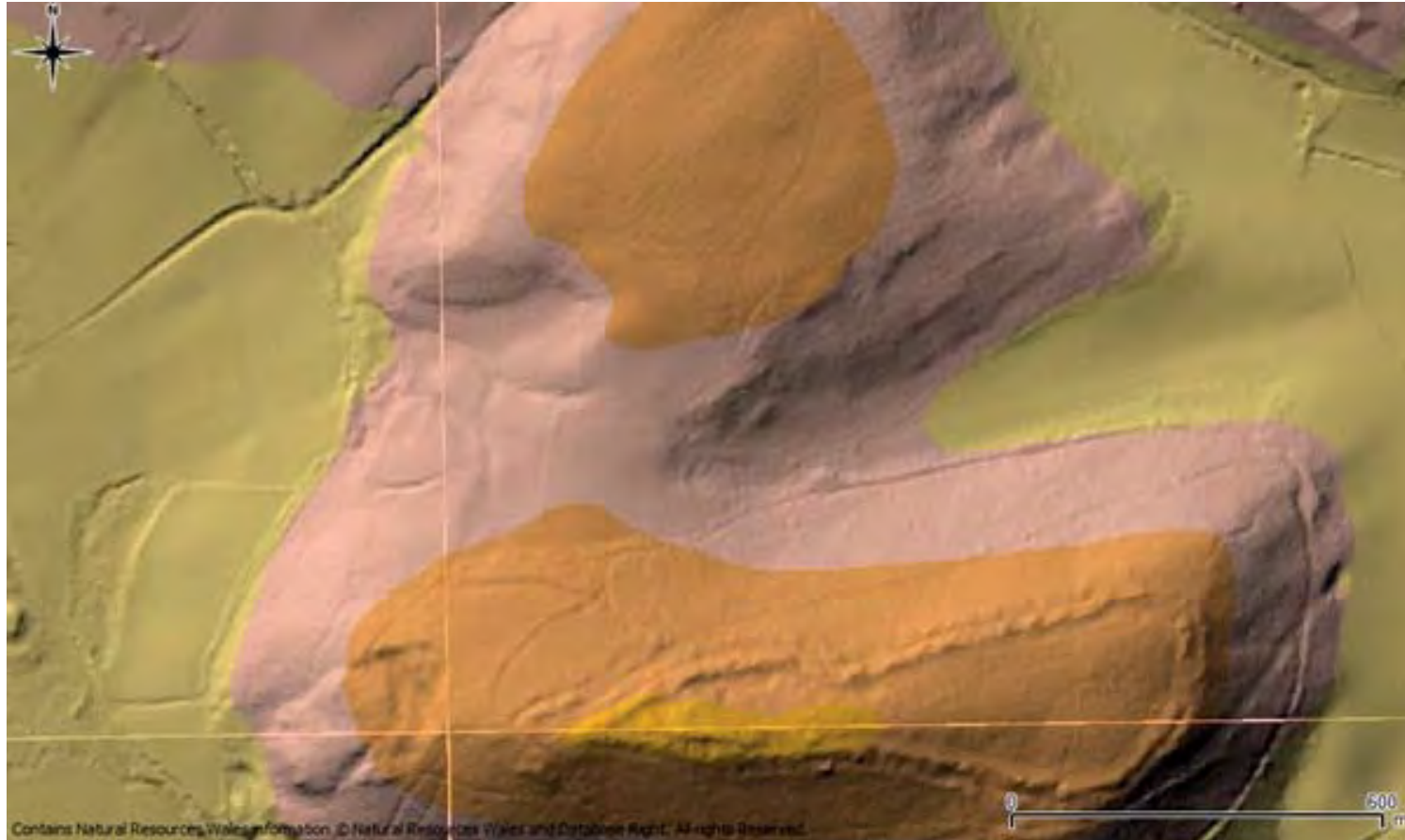


Figure 9: Lidar DTM data at 2m resolution.

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Photo 1: View to northwest from the proposed development area.



Photo 2: View to west from the proposed development area





Photo 3: View to the north from the edge of the Scheduled boundary across the proposed development area



Photo 4: View to the east from the proposed development area, Burfa Camp is the dark area of trees on the right



Photo 5: Northern edge of the Scheduled Area, looking south



Photo 6: Foreground is edge of Scheduled area to left, line of trees in distance on right follows the route of Offa's Dyke, looking northwest



Photo 7: View from edge of Scheduled area, looking east along Burfa Camp



Photo 8: Proposed development area, Middler Wood behind and Hazel Point/Knill Wood beyond, looking northeast from edge of Scheduled area



Photo 9: A short distance within the boundary of the Scheduled area, looking north including the proposed development area



Photo 10: Within Burfa Camp at the west end, looking east



Photo 11: Within Burfa Camp, view of opposite hill is limited by scrub and trees, looking north northwest



Photo 12: View from within Burfa Camp looking west



Photo 13: View from interior, looking east



Photo 14: View from interior, looking west



Photo 14: View from interior of Burfa Camp looking southeast towards Little Brampton Scar



Photo 15: View of east end of Burfa from proposed development area, looking east



Photo 16: View of Burfa Camp from proposed development area, looking west



Photo 17: View of Burfa Camp and proposed development area from Burfa Farm, looking southeast





Photo 18: View to northwest from western part of field, listed buildings are just visible below the ridge



Photo 19: Offa's Dyke to right of path and extending into woodland, at closest point to proposed development. Looking south.



Photo 20: View towards the proposed development area from the edge of the Scheduled area of Offa's Dyke.  
Looking east.

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