



**BIDEFORD
DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

WESTWARD HO!

DRAFT REVIEW OF PLANNING POLICIES

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Planning & Technical Services Department

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BIDEFORD

Devon

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the approval of the Bideford District Local Plan in January 1984 a number of issues have arisen which indicate the need for a review of the policies of the Local Plan as they relate to the holiday resort of Westward Ho! Provision for such a review is set out in the Local Plan; in particular, paragraph 9.2.2. sets out the main areas of change which may necessitate alterations to the Plan, and paragraph 9.3.1. indicates the process by which a review shall be carried out.
- 1.2 On the basis of these provisions it is considered that the subject of this review is of a relatively minor nature and any revisions will be treated as non-statutory amendments to the Plan on the completion of an appropriate public consultation programme.
- 1.3 The extent of the study area is indicated on Appraisal Maps 1 and 2; as can be seen, it relates to the holiday resort of Westward Ho!

2. ISSUES

- 2.1 It is considered that a number of issues have arisen which necessitate this review and require specific policies and action. In general the main areas of change include decisions relating to major items of infrastructure, such as the Bideford By-Pass, modifications to the County Structure Plan (First Alteration) which clearly identifies Westward Ho! as a holiday resort and physical changes within the study area. In this context it is felt that there is a general need to encourage the development of the resort, in terms of the range of facilities available, and to improve its appearance, thereby protecting and enhancing its role as the primary holiday resort of the area.
- 2.2 In order to achieve this overall objective, a number of specific issues have been identified. Such issues are considered to be the most pressing and thus require consideration at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.3 The issues are as follows:
- (1) The provision of additional pitches for touring caravans (such a need was considered by the document "Touring Caravans in Westward Ho!" - 1986);
 - (2) The provision of sites for all-weather tourist facilities;
 - (3) The need to up-grade the appearance and character of the resort centre and its edges;
 - (4) The effect of the sewage embargo on development;
 - (5) The need to encourage the development of vacant and under-used sites;
 - (6) The need to preserve and where possible to enhance the amenities of residents of the area;
 - (7) To encourage retail and other commercial development in the resort centre.

3. EXISTING POLICIES

- 3.1 The study area is the subject of a number of proposals set out in the Bideford District Local Plan. Such policies are both general and specific in their relevance to the area.

3.2 Such general policies include:

Policies 149 and 150

- Embargo on development and uses of septic and private treatment plants

Policy 50

- Development boundary (residential development)

Policies 151 and 152

- Concentrate major holiday developments in Westward Ho! and oppose use of holiday development sites for further caravan sites

Policies 174, 176 and 177

- Protect areas of woodland, others areas of nature conservation value and sites of special scientific interest

3.3 In addition specific proposals were made as follows:

Measure 27

- Allocation of land at Bay View Road for housing

Measure 153

- Allocation of land at Pebbleridge Road for holiday development (wet weather facilities for example)

Measure 155

- Allocation of land north of Commons Farms for holiday development

Measures 75, 79 and 79b

- Road improvements to Golf Links Road, Beach Road/Atlantic Way and Cornborough Road

4.0 APPRAISAL

4.1 In order to identify the issues involved in the study area, and to assess the potential for change and enhancement, an appraisal of the area has been carried out using the following elements:

- (1) Existing land uses;
- (2) Existing physical and policy constraints; eg: features such as cliffs, woodlands, areas of special nature conservation value;
- (3) Identification of sites and buildings which are considered to be in need of enhancement;
- (4) Identification of sites which are considered to have potential for development;
- (5) Significant planning application decisions.

4.2

The results of this appraisal are indicated on Appraisal Maps 1 and 2 attached to this document. As can be seen, the northern boundary of the study area is formed by the coastline and Northam Burrows, whilst the southern boundary is defined by well-wooded cliffs, all of which are areas of special nature conservation. The western boundary is formed by the junction of the cliffs and the coastline. To the east, the boundary of the study area is less well-defined. However, as the Appraisal Maps clearly indicate, there is a clear separation of tourist facilities and residential development (Richmond Park) south of Golf Links Road. To the north of Golf Links Road there does exist an outstanding planning permission for a holiday village on the site of the former Atlanta Hotel adjoining the Royal North Devon Golf Club.

4.3 Existing tourist facilities, largely holiday accommodation with, in some instances, on-site entertainment facilities, are predominantly located on the eastern and western edges of the central area of Westward Ho! Such facilities are also located on the ridge above the resort, off Cornborough Road, to the south of the resort centre.

4.4 Within the central area, the appraisal has identified a number of sites which are vacant or under used and which are in need of enhancement, as follows:

- Sites 1 and 2 - Junction of Bath Road and Nelson Road
- Site 3 - Bath Road (adj. Bath House)
- Site 4 - Youngaton Road
- Site 5 - Rear of Springfield Terrace, Golf Links Road
- Site 6 - Adj. Cricket Ground, Golf Links Road
- Site 7 - Pebble Ridge
- Site 13 - Land to rear of Golf Links Road

4.5 In addition, there are a number of properties which are in need of repair and/or repainting, which, if unattended to, will deteriorate further and worsen the existing rather run-down appearance of the central area of the resort.

4.6 Finally, there are a number of Council-owned facilities within the resort centre which are in need of enhancement. In particular, a childrens play area forms part of Site 5 and a car park forms part of Site 6. In addition, facilities such as the Cricket Ground and tennis courts, located off Golf Links Road, the recreation grounds located off Avon Lane and Youngaton Road, require enhancement, as does the car park located off Youngaton Road. The appearance of such sites would be greatly improved by landscaping, and, where appropriate, re-surfacing and general maintenance of boundary fences, etc.

4.7 Other sites, beyond the resort centre, which have been identified as in need of enhancement, are as follows:

- Site 8 - Golf Links Road (adj. Surf Bay Caravan Park)
- Site 9 - Stanwell Hill (range of stone buildings)
- Site 10 - Seafield House, Merley Road
- Site 11 & 12 - Former holiday centres off Cornborough Road

4.8 It is considered that such sites all represent potential for future development either by redevelopment or conversion, thereby bringing into use sites which otherwise are detrimental to the character of the resort.

5. POLICIES

5.1 This study has identified a number of issues which affect Westward Ho! These are set out in paragraph 2.3 of this document. The purpose of this review is to produce policies which will address such issues, and which will supplement the existing policies of the Bideford District Local Plan, as they affect the resort. Its purpose is not to replace the Local Plan but to up-date and supplement existing policies.

5.2 In this context, the Review of Planning Policies in Westward Ho! has six specific aims:

- (1) To promote development ... to encourage the development of potential sites and the re-use of obsolescent areas.
- (2) To guide the form of development ... to supplement existing policies with current, comprehensive policies which amplify and apply the County Structure Plan and provide a detailed basis for development control decisions in the determination of planning applications.

- (3) To encourage the environment ... to enhance the environment by way of setting out policies to improve or to conserve the appearance of land and buildings.
- (4) To encourage voluntary participation ... to encourage businesses, individuals and voluntary groups to become actively involved in enhancement schemes.
- (5) To find solutions to problems ... to put forward ways and means of improving the function and environment of Westward Ho! by solving problems identified in the appraisal of the study area.
- (6) To provide a forum for ideas ... to put forward new ideas which may improve the functioning or environment of Westward Ho! for comment by the public, societies, organisations and other authorities.

5.3 In pursuing such aims, regard must be had of the financial and other resources likely to be available for carrying out the policies contained in the Review and in the Bideford District Local Plan. Such resources fall into four broad groups of resources, as follows:

- (1) Legal Powers ... Chiefly Planning Act powers of the District Council and Highways Act powers of the County Council.
- (2) Public Spending ... Capital and revenue expenditure incurred by both District and County Councils on schemes and services which are their sole or dual responsibility.
- (3) Private Sector Investment ... Capital and Revenue expenditure on the development of sites and buildings and the operations of businesses.
- (4) Voluntary Participation ... Organisational and financial assistance from voluntary groups and the business community.

5.4 Policy WH1 - The existing policies of the Bideford District Local Plan, as they relate to the study area are endorsed and shall continue to be pursued.

5.5 Policy WH2 - Encouragement will be given to the development of Westward Ho! as a major holiday resort. In particular, holiday development will continue to be encouraged on those sites identified in the Bideford District Local Plan (Measures 153 and 155) and the following additional sites:

- (1) Land at the junction of Bath Road and Nelson Road
- (2) Land to rear of Springfield Terrace, Golf Links Road
- (3) Land adjacent to Cricket Ground, Golf Links Road
- (4) Land adjacent Pebbleridge Hotel
- (5) Former holiday centres off Cornborough Road
- (6) Land to rear of Golf Links Road

(It is envisaged that such sites be developed for all-weather holiday facilities or for holiday accommodation; as an alternative residential development of Site (1) would be acceptable and the partial residential development of Site (5) would be acceptable subject to proof by the Developer that the Site is not viable without it.

5.6 Policy WH3 - Encouragement will be given to the upgrading of existing properties within the resort centre, as defined on the proposals map, by means of a grant scheme to be operated by the Council.

- REVIEW OF POLICIES**
- 5.7 Policy WH4 - Such a grant scheme would be the subject of detailed consideration by the Council and would operate on a similar basis to the existing grants scheme operated by the Council.
- 5.8 Policy WH5 - Encouragement will be given, through the development control process and by negotiation with landowners, to secure the enhancement of untidy, derelict or vacant sites throughout the study area.
- 5.9 Policy WH6 - A site of 10.2 acres shall be allocated as a touring caravan site adjoining the Surf Bay Caravan Park, Golf Links Road (The development of this site shall be the subject of a detailed development brief).
- 5.10 Policy WH7 - Additional retailing and commercial developments shall be encouraged to locate within the resort centre as defined on the proposals map.
- 5.11 Policy WH8 - Encouragement will be given to the conversion of the range of stone buildings on Stanwell Hill and Seafield House to tourist/holiday facilities or residential accommodation. Similar encouragement will be given to the re-use of other vacant buildings within the study area. Such encouragement will be subject to the existing development control policies of the Council.
- A site of 4.1 acres be allocated for the provision of an extended putting course on land adjoining Seafield House, together with the provision of car parking facilities as appropriate.

DAP/LOCAL PLANS SECTION,
APRIL 1987

PROPOSALS MAP NOTATION

WH2
SITES

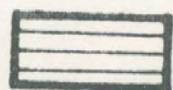
RESORT CENTRE BOUNDARY

MAP AT A SCALE OF 1:25000

MARSHALL & CO. LTD.

REVIEW OF PLANNING POLICIES FOR WESTWARD HO!

APPRAISAL MAP NOTATION

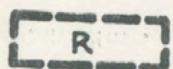


SITES.

- T • TOURIST FACILITIES
- CP • CAR PARK
- DF • SPORTS FACILITIES
- Rec • RECREATION



SITE WITH PLANNING PERMISSION.



SIGNIFICANT PLANNING REFUSAL.



MAIN SHOPPING FRONTAGES.



ENHANCEMENT AREA.

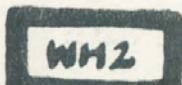


LANDSCAPE POLICY AREAS.



STUDY AREA.

PROPOSALS MAP NOTATION



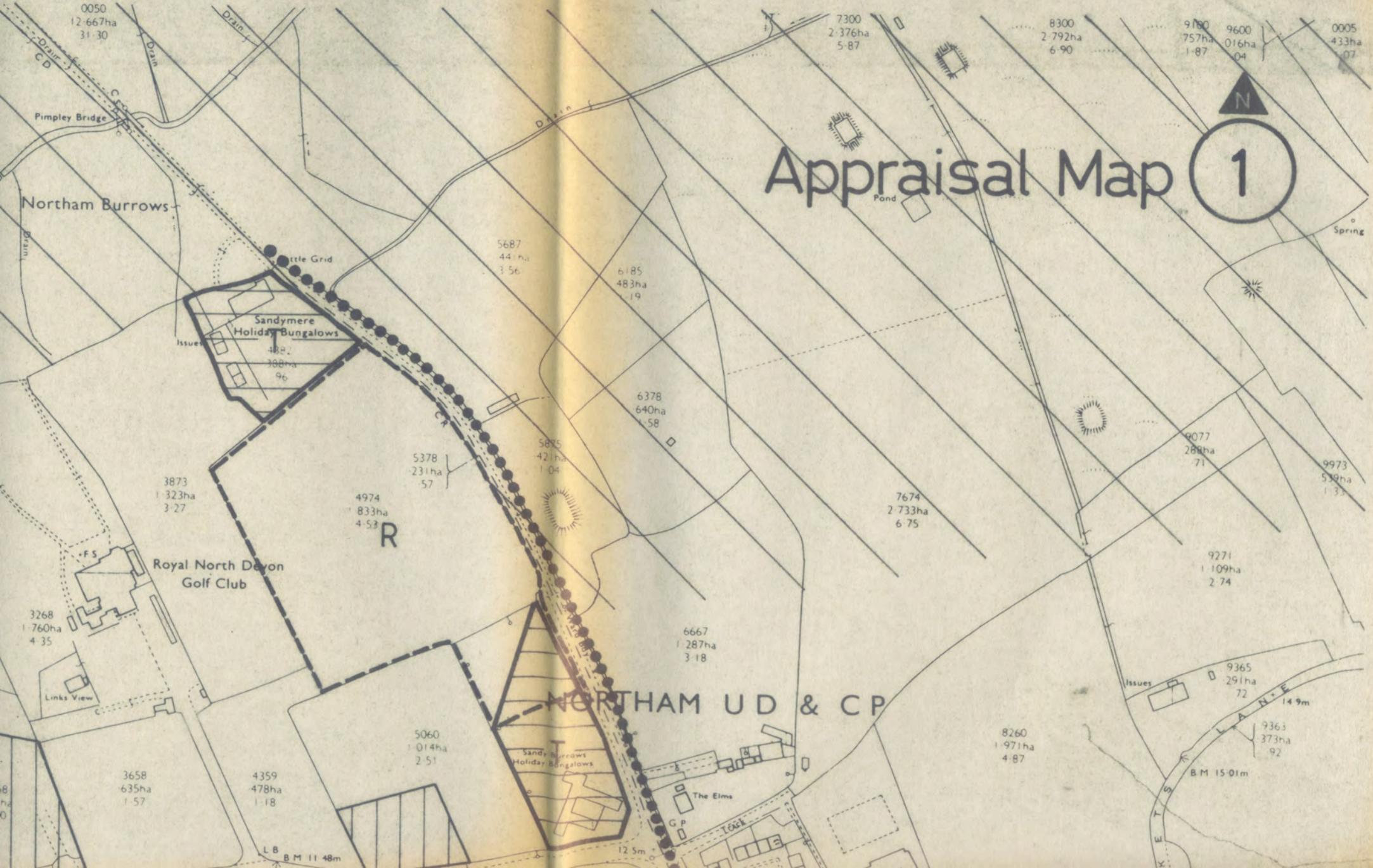
SITES.

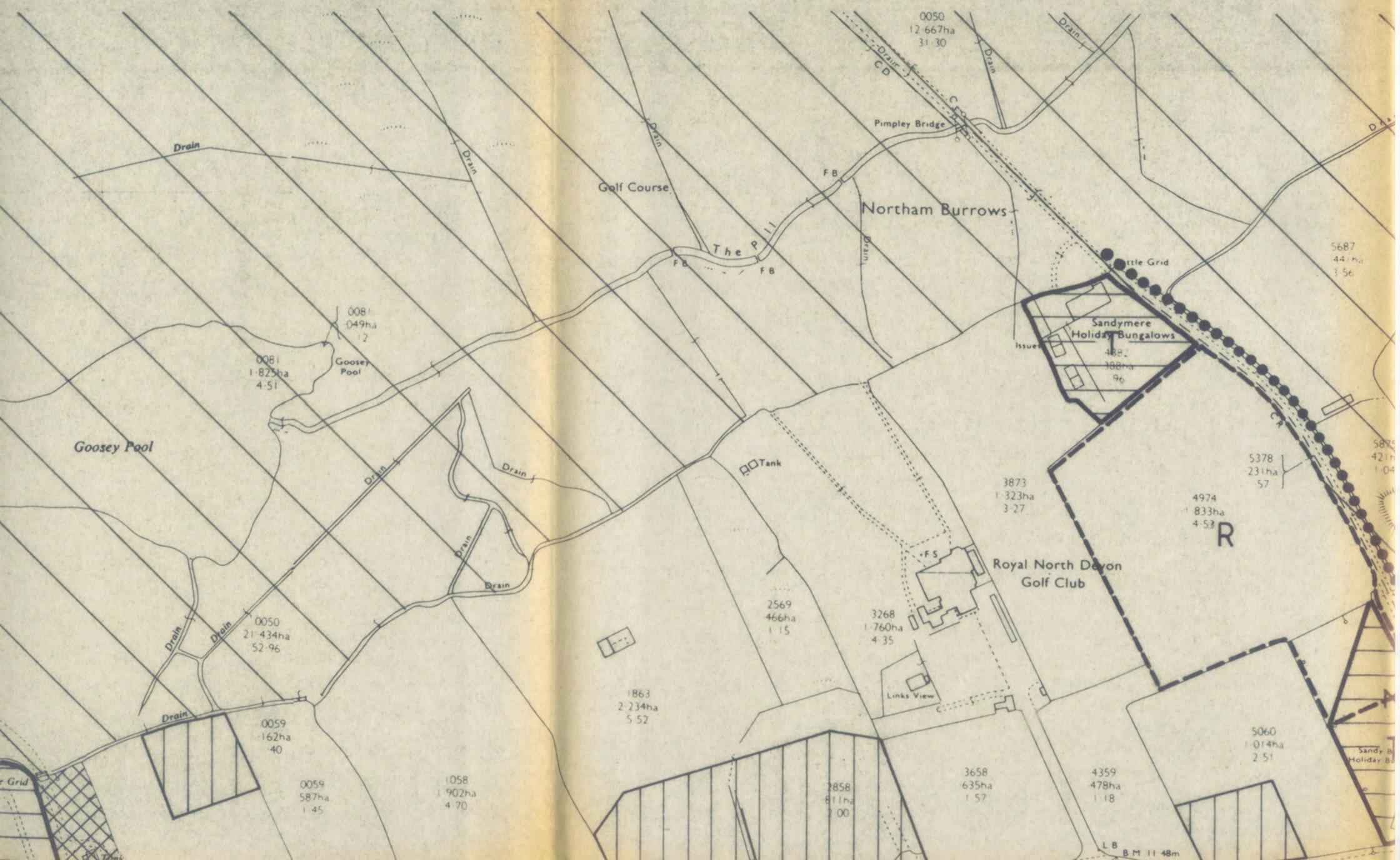


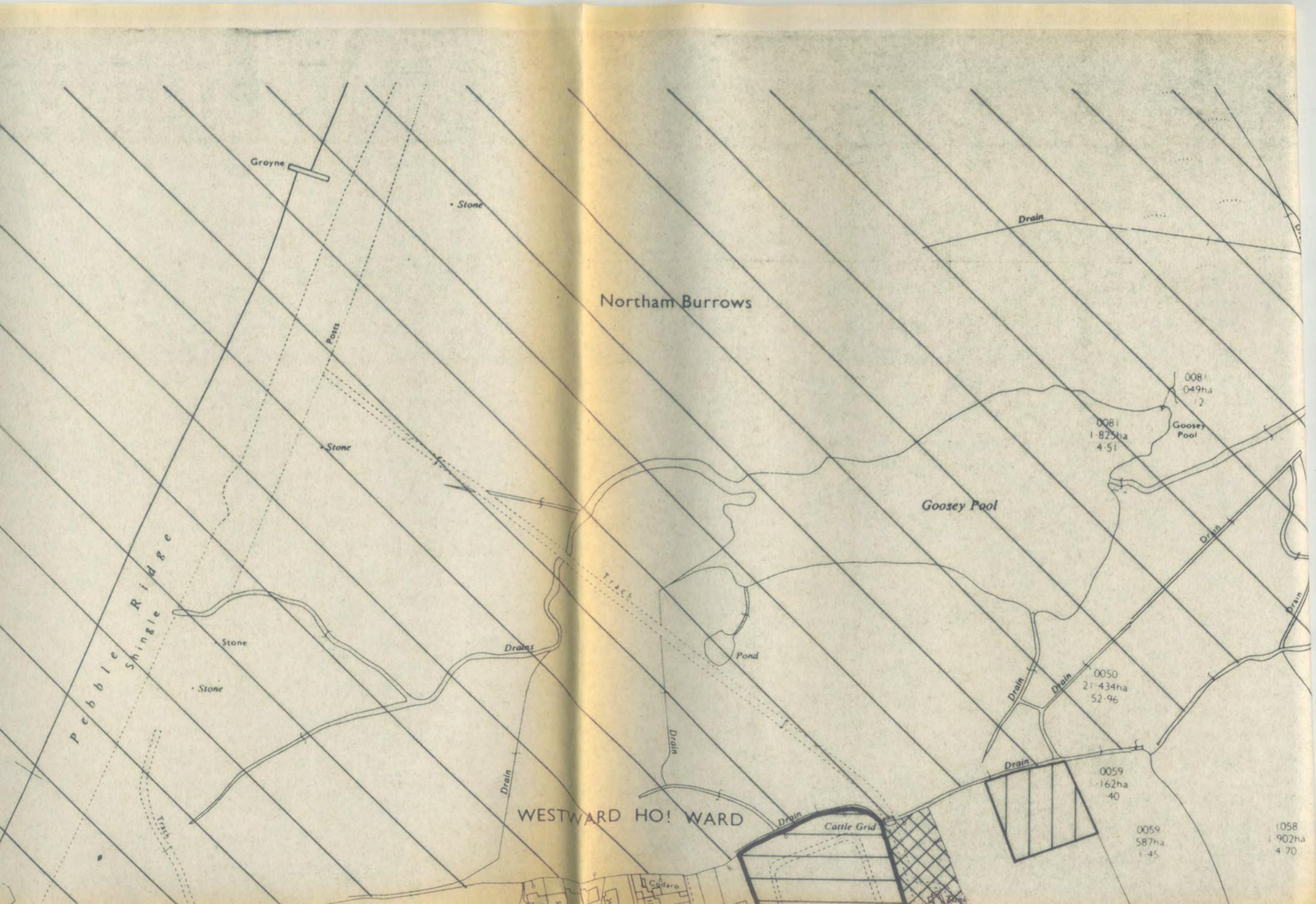
RESORT CENTRE BOUNDARY.

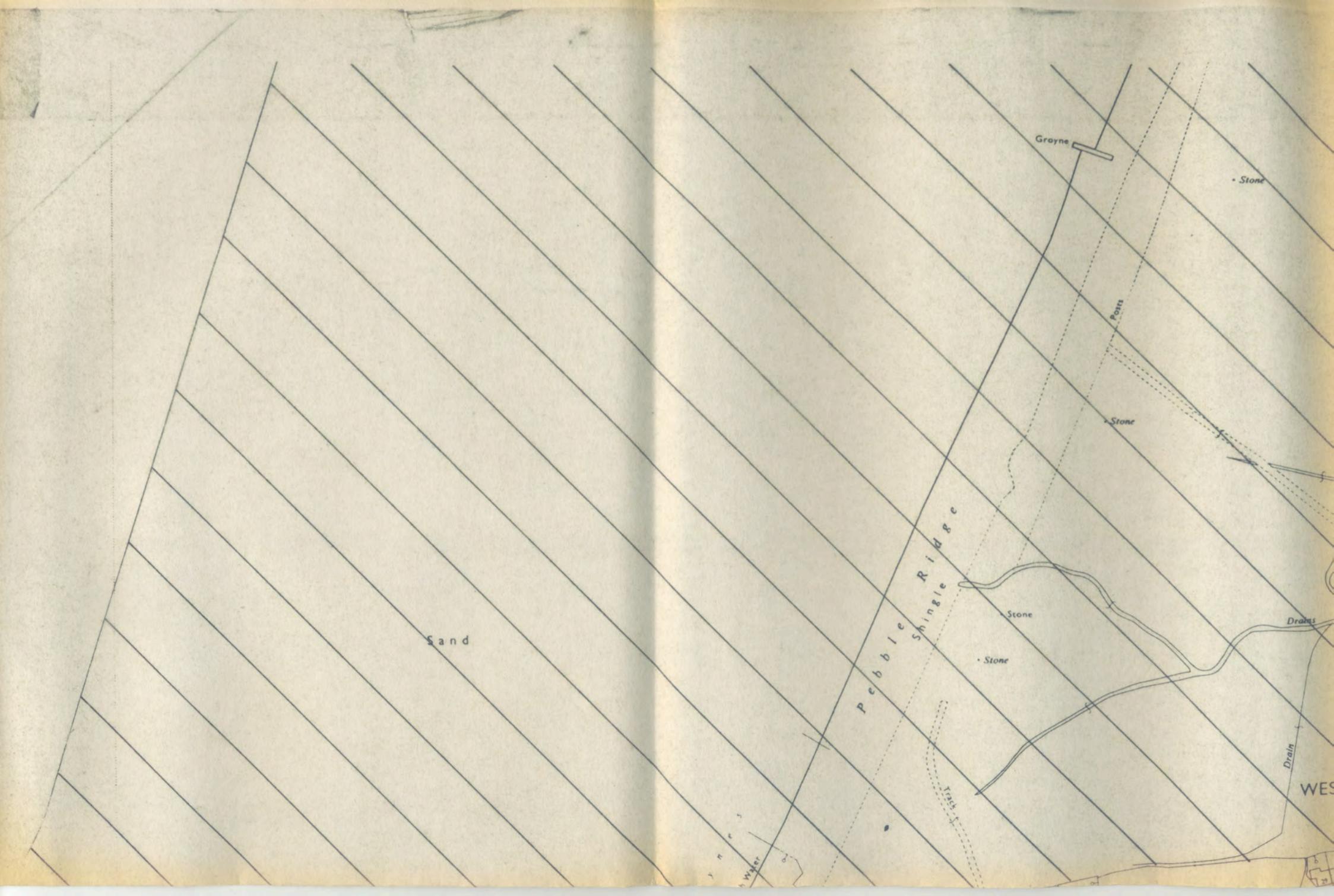
Appraisal Map

1





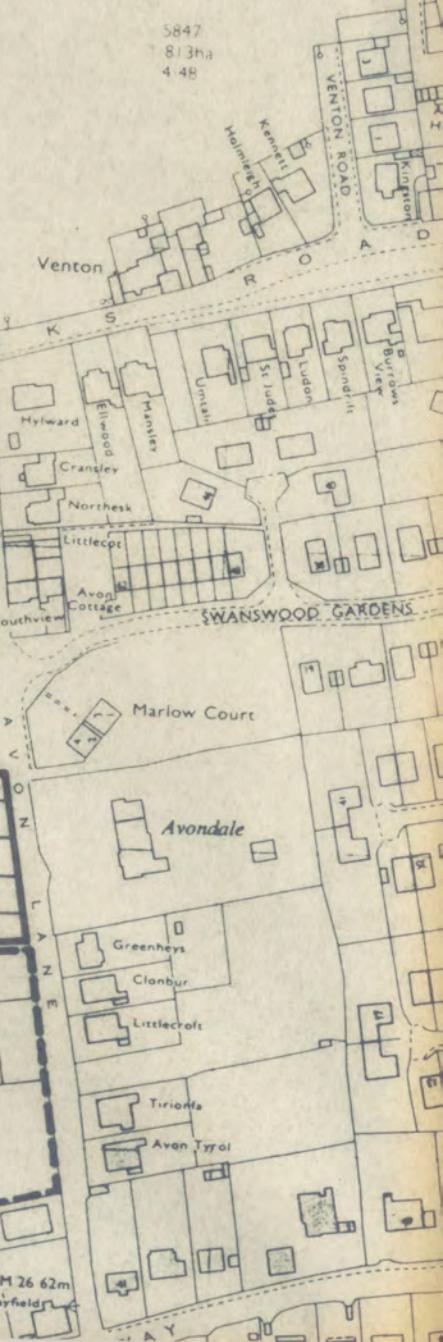


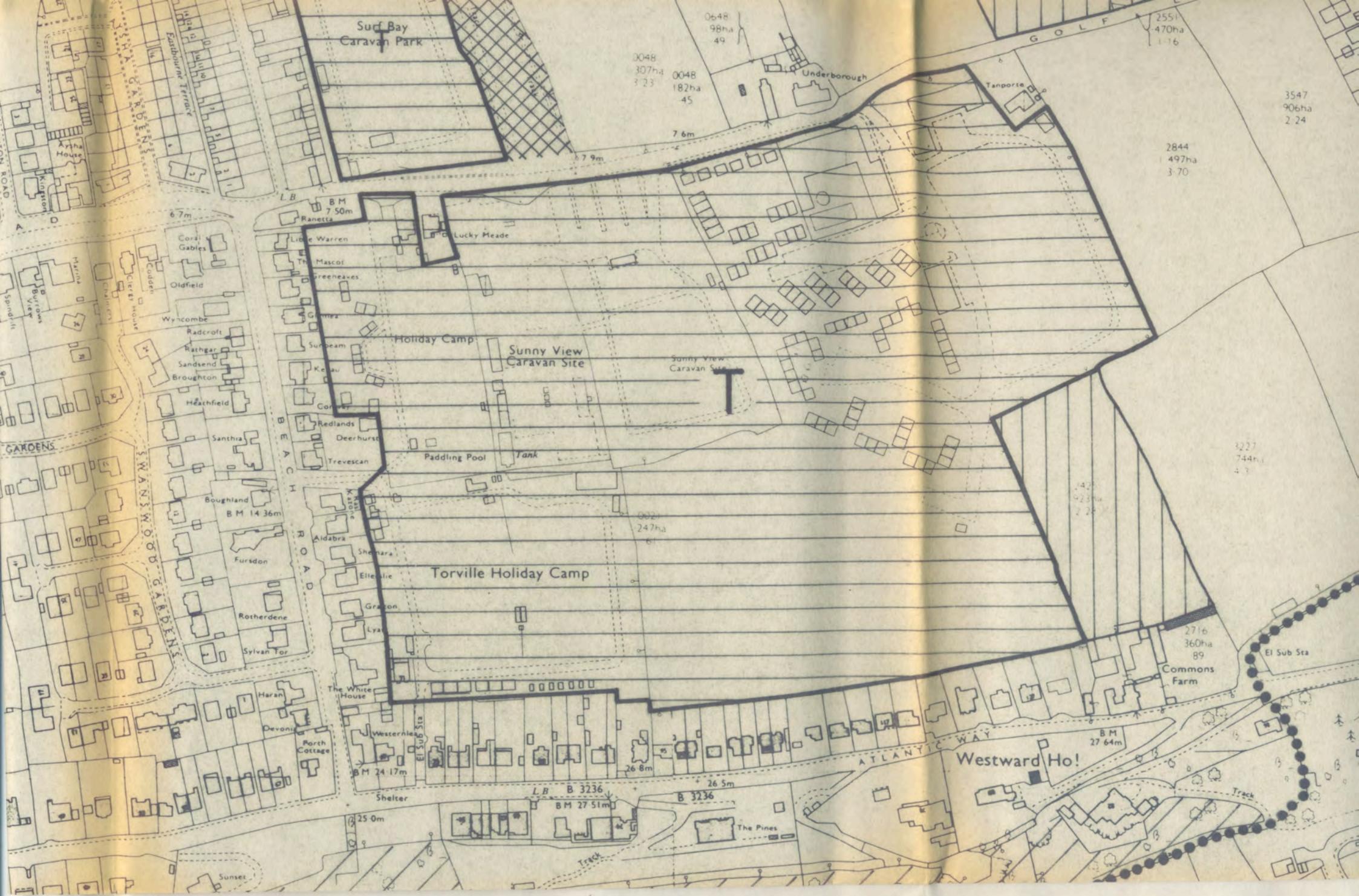


5748
43.309m
02

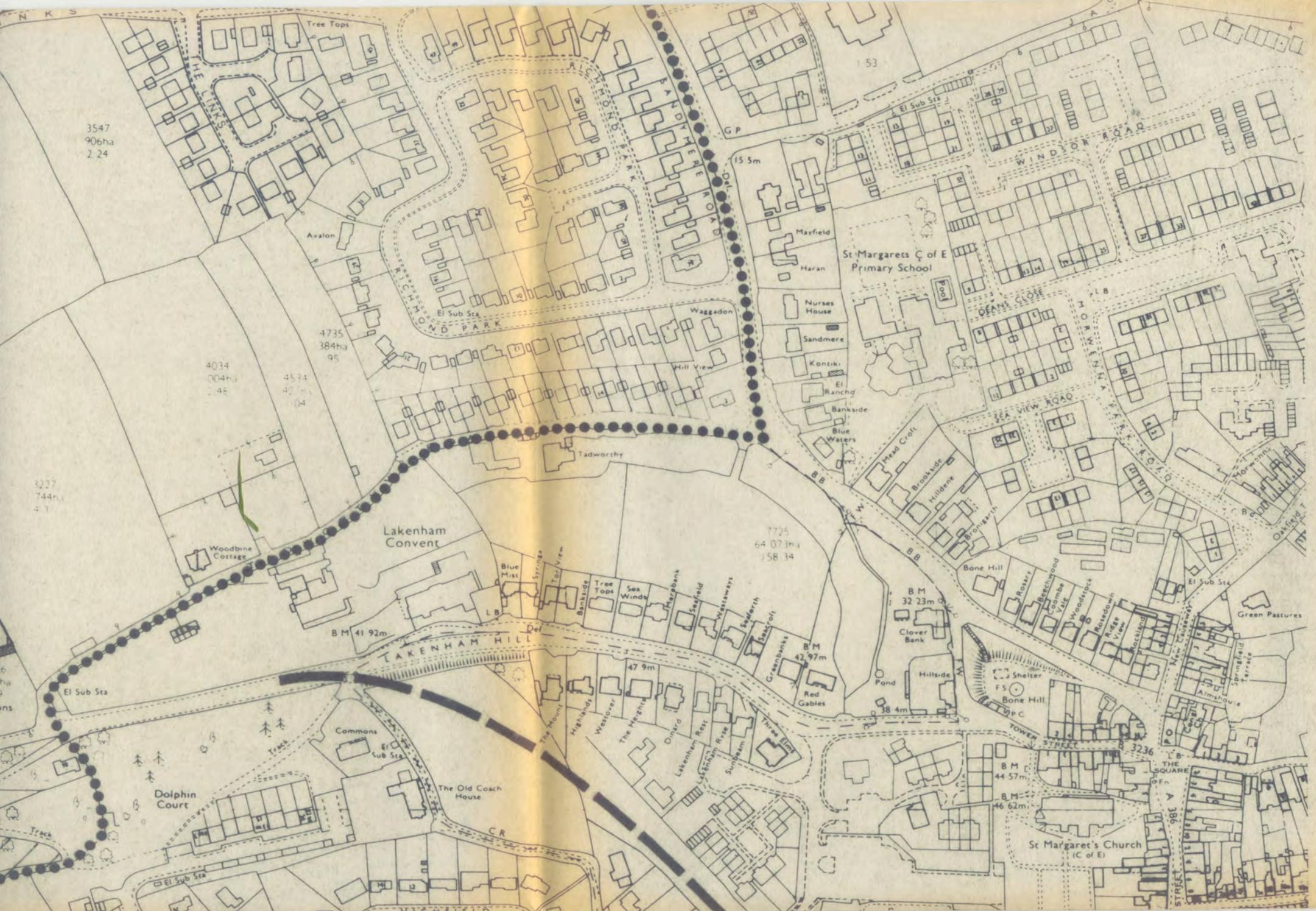


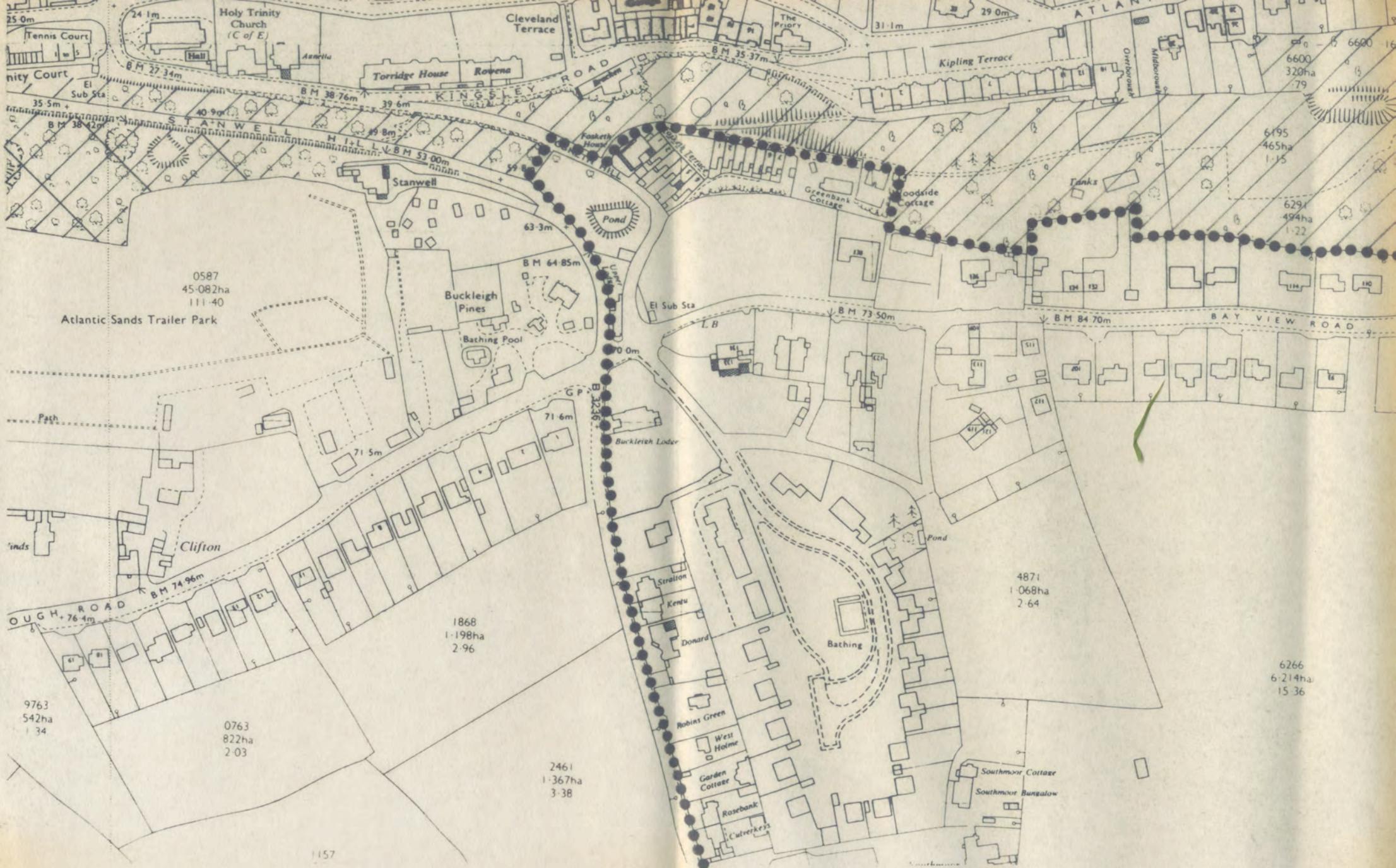
5847
81.3ha
4.48











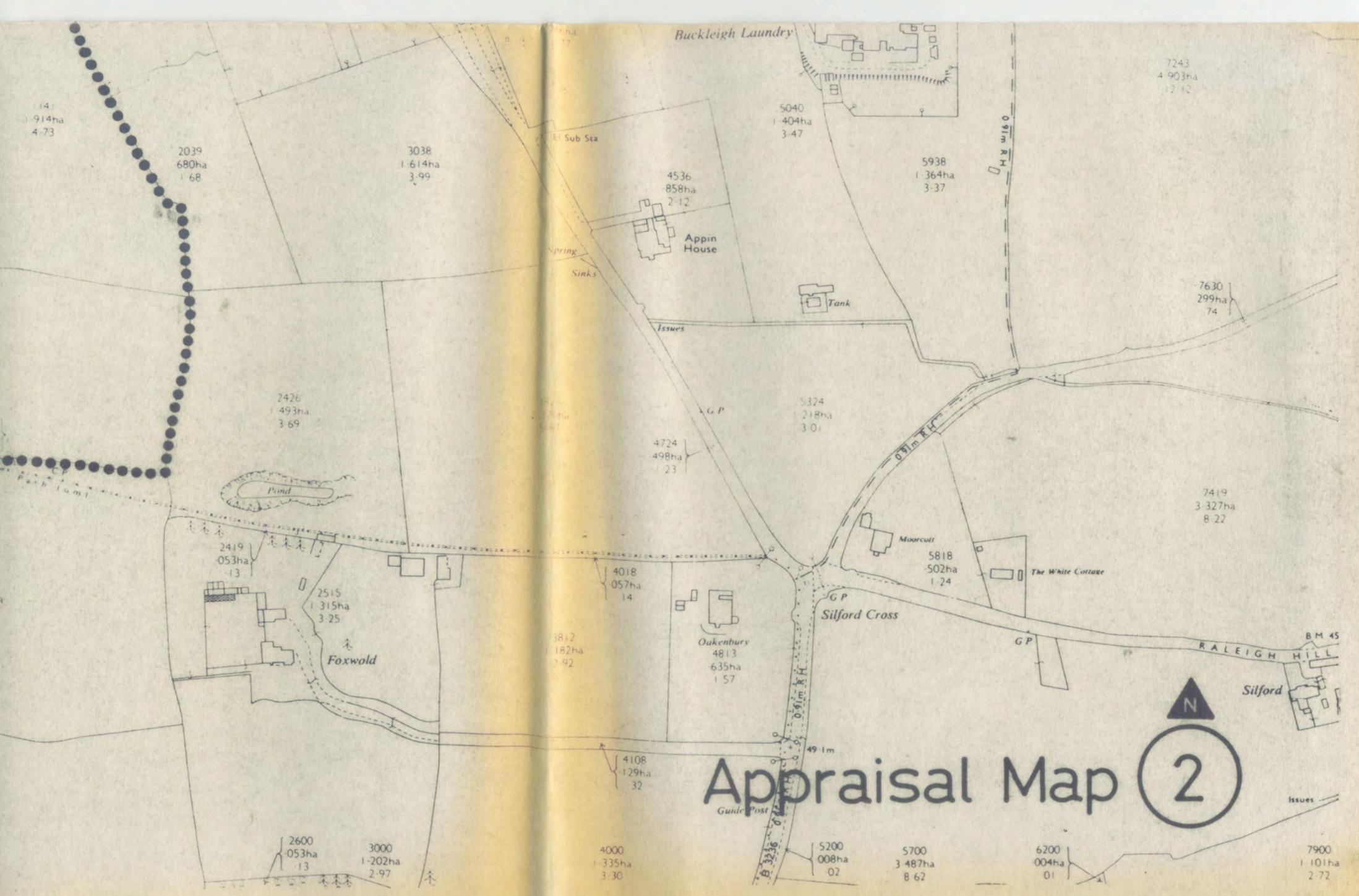


NORTHAM WESTERLY BY-PASS
COMPLETED SUMMER 1985

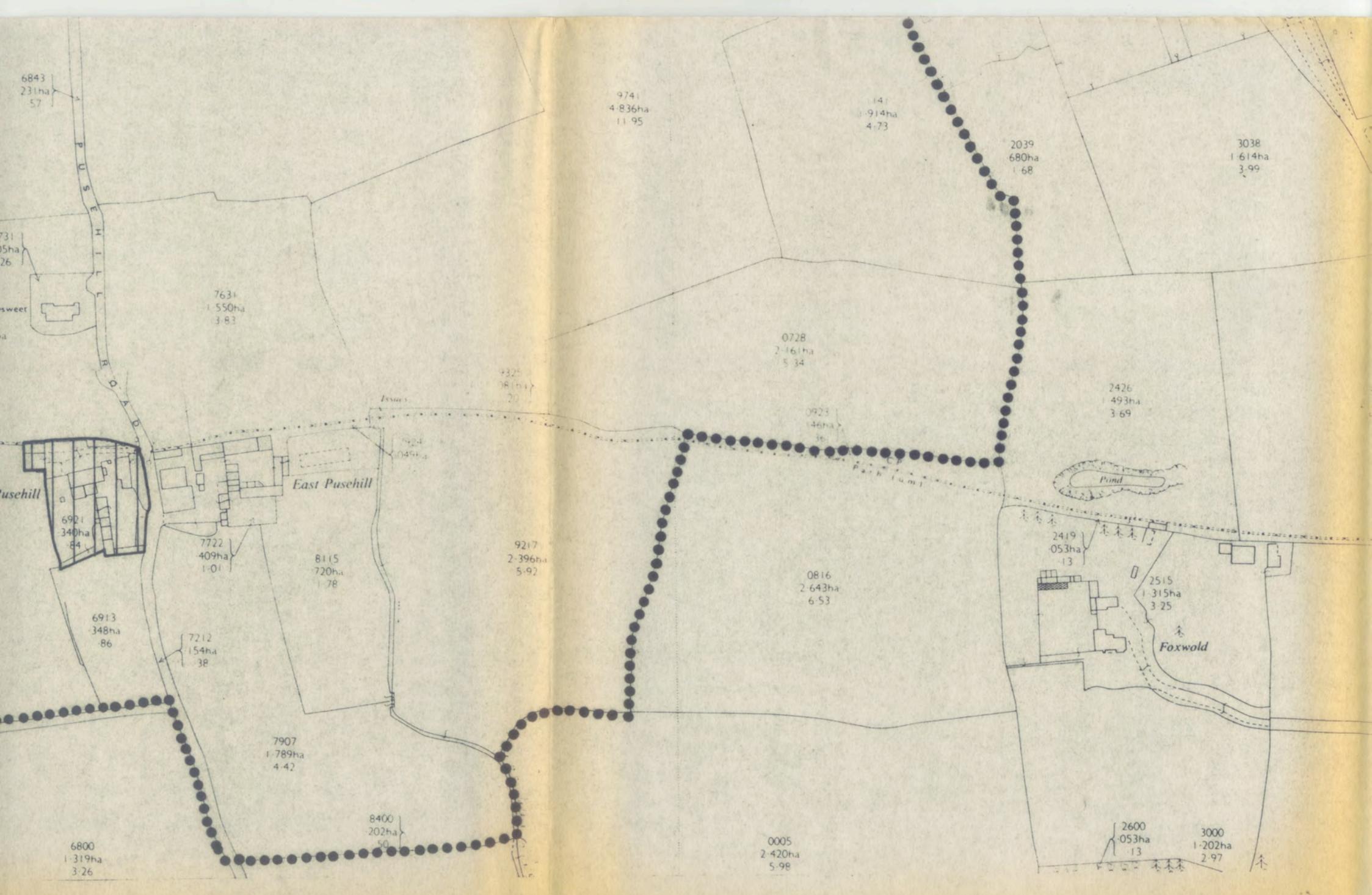
Northam

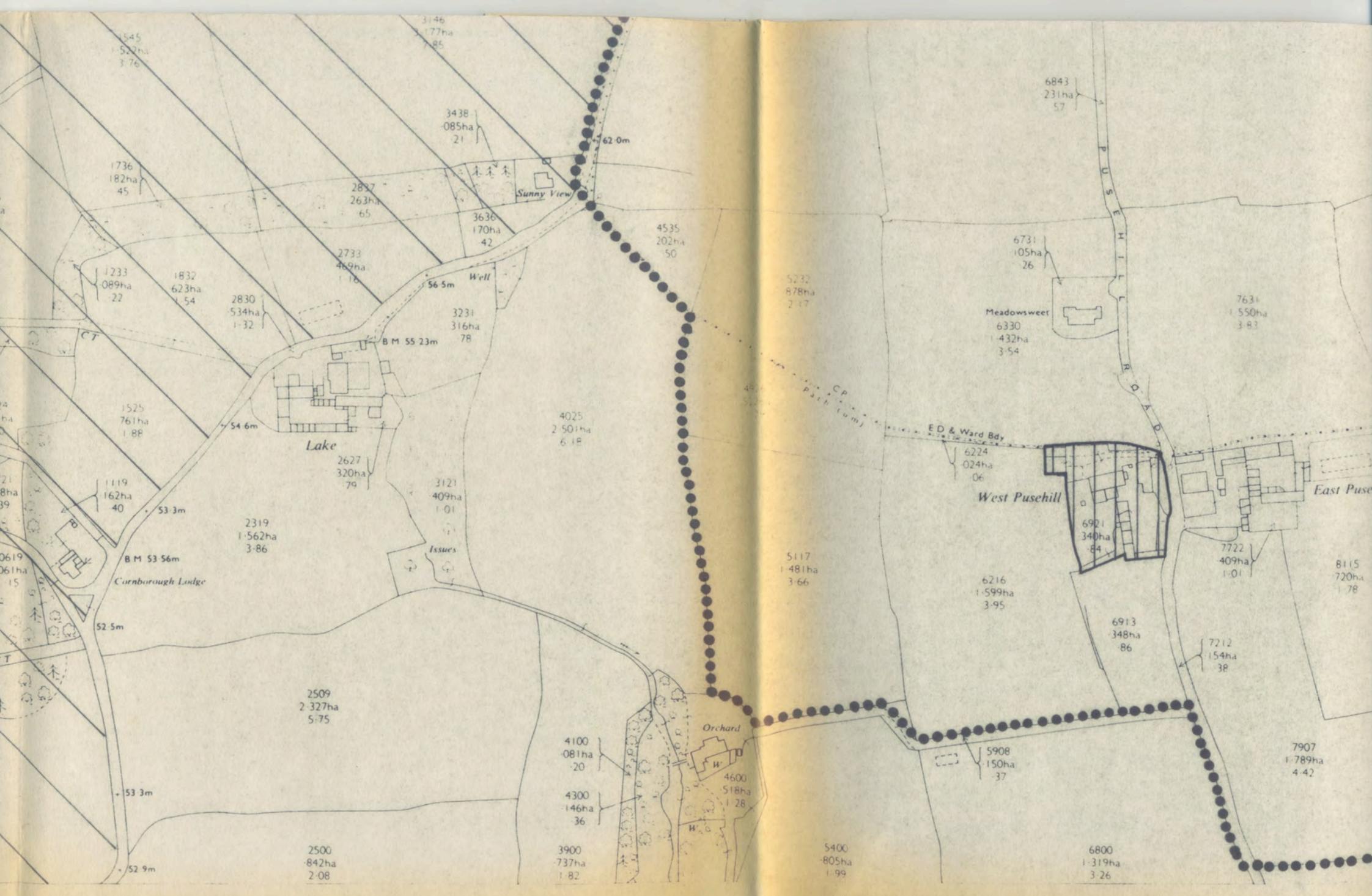
Public Library

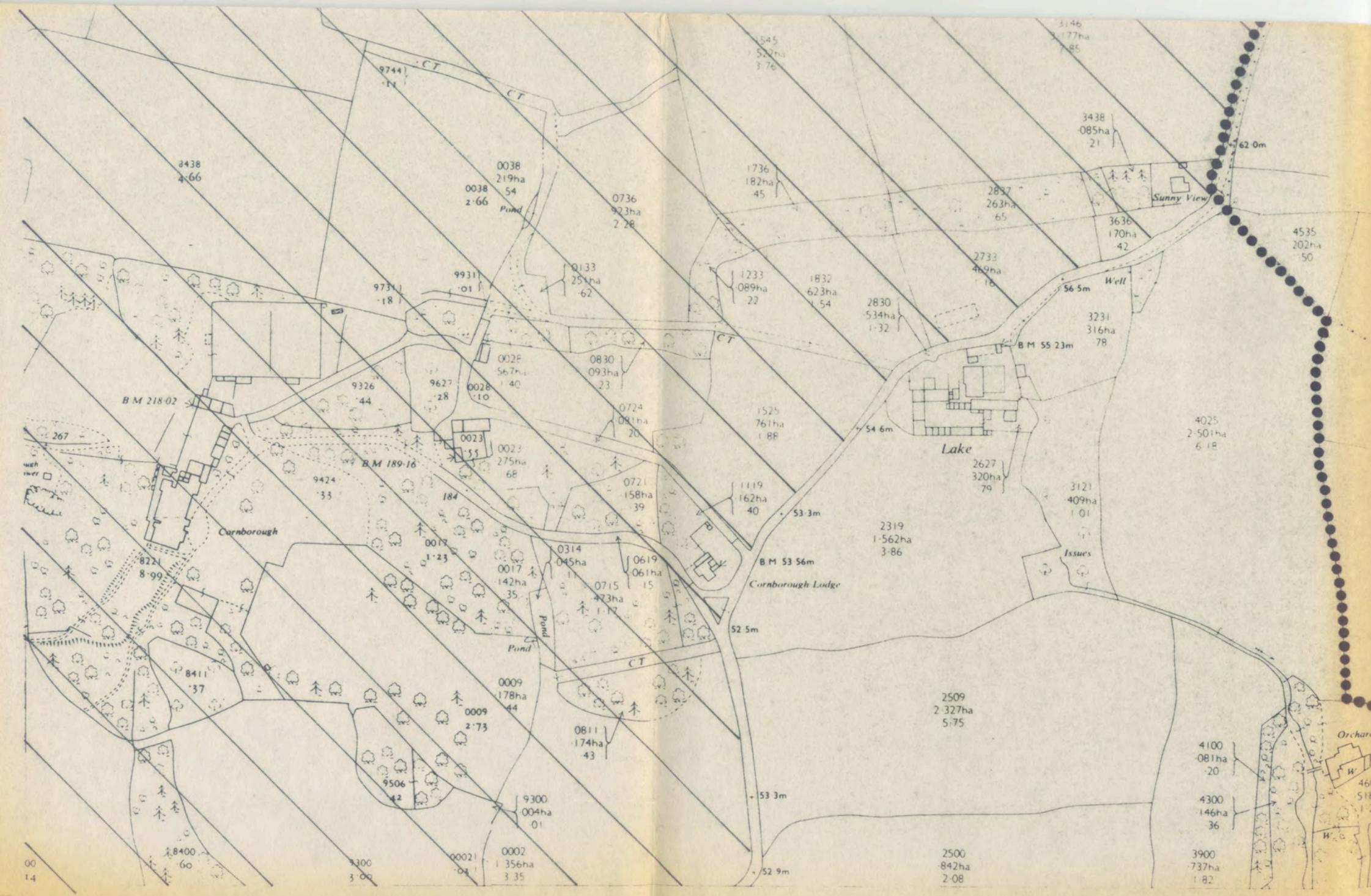


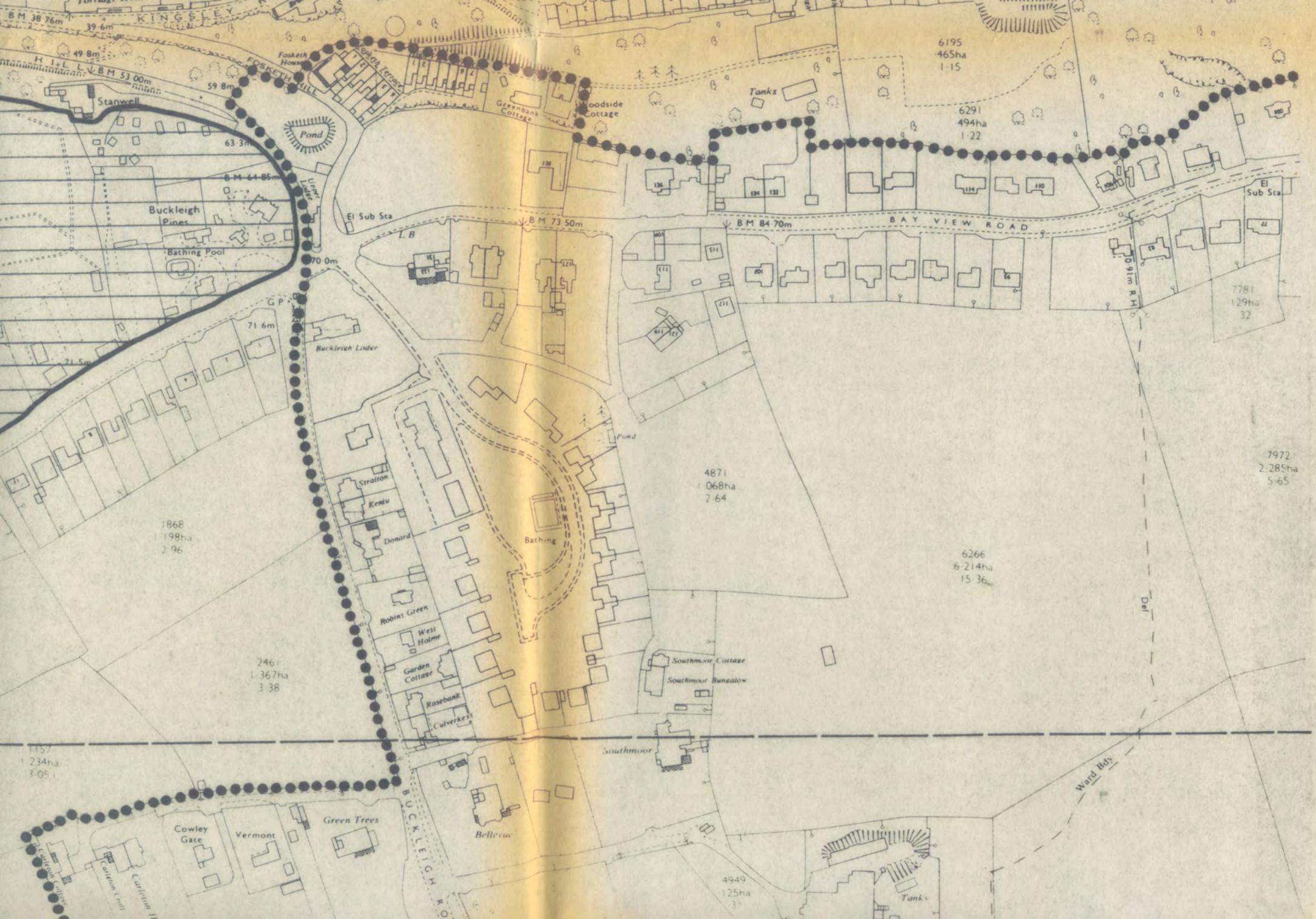


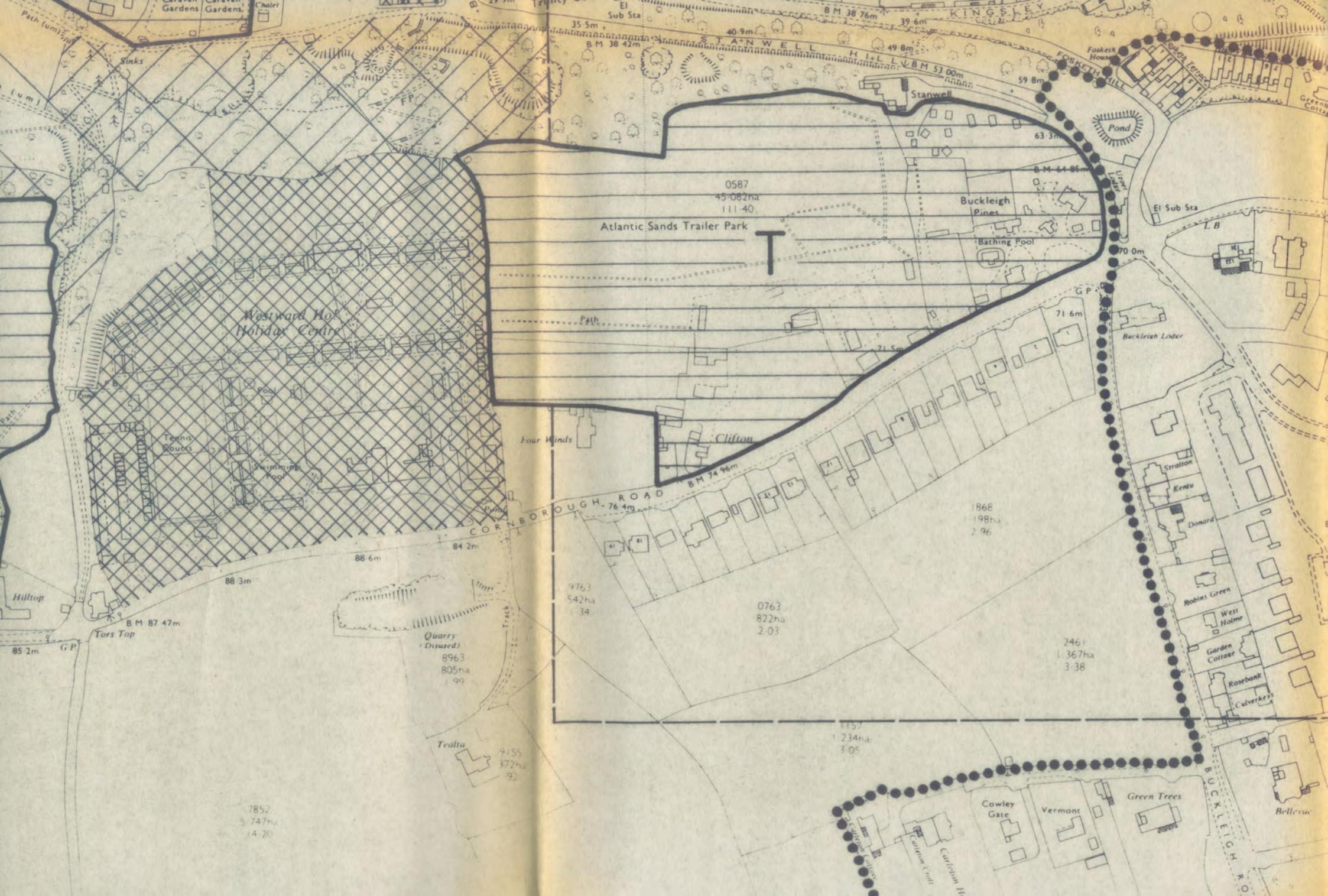
Appraisal Map 2

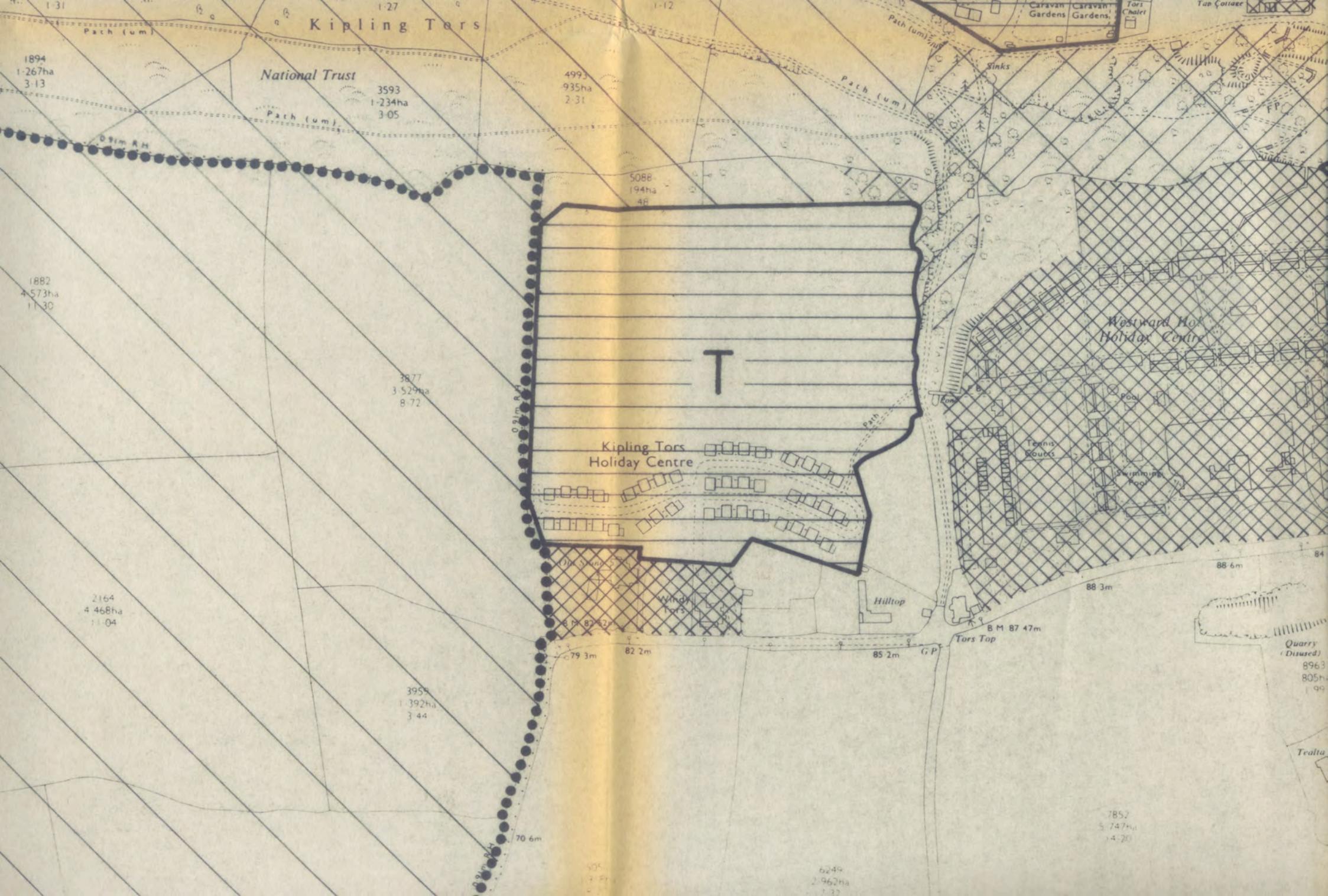












Kipling Tors

National Trust

3593
1.234ha
3.05

Path (um)

1894
1.267ha
3.13

1882
4.573ha
11.30

2164
4.468ha
11.04

3959
1.392ha
3.44

70.6m
0.91m
0.84m

0055
4.14 0055
1.390ha
4.42

0081
2.83 0081
1.049ha
2.57

8783
5.68

8654
5.73

0500
0500
1.37

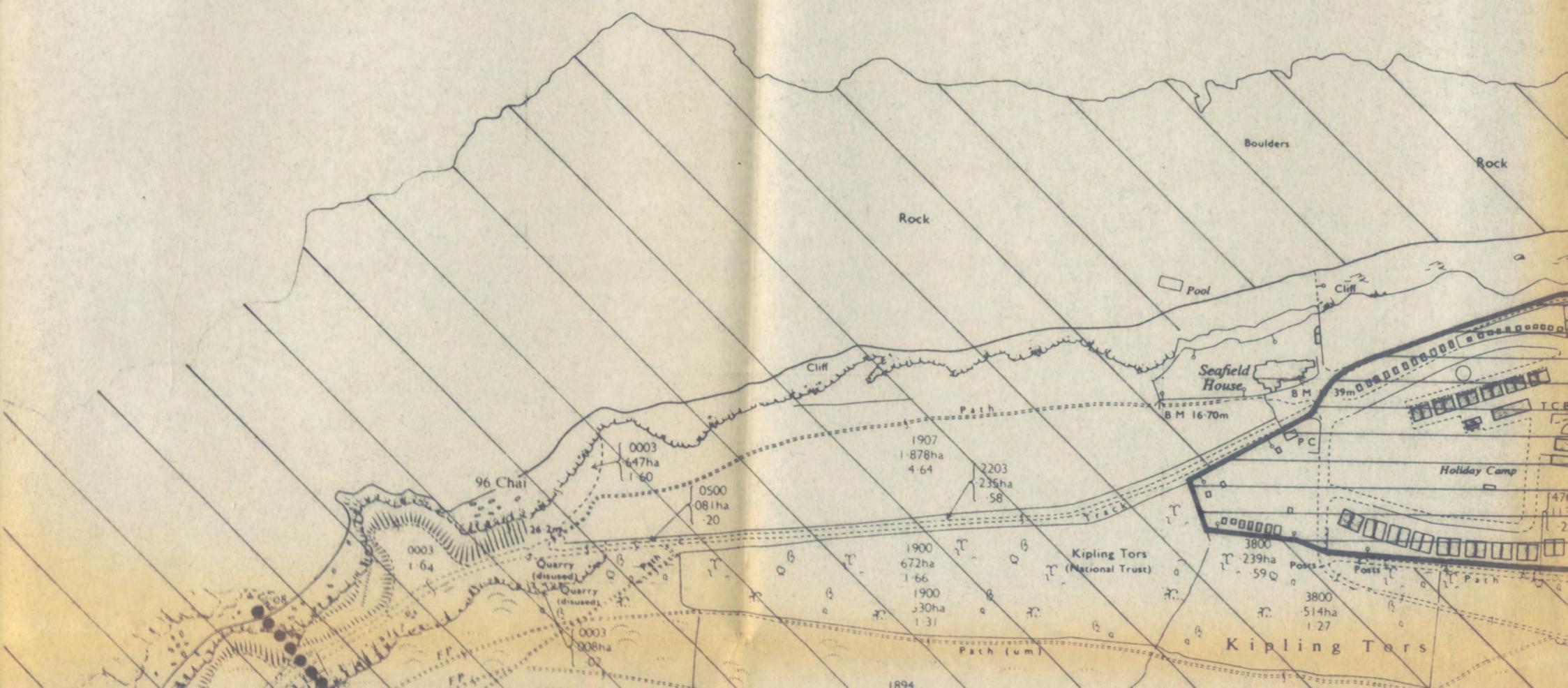
0003
008ha
02

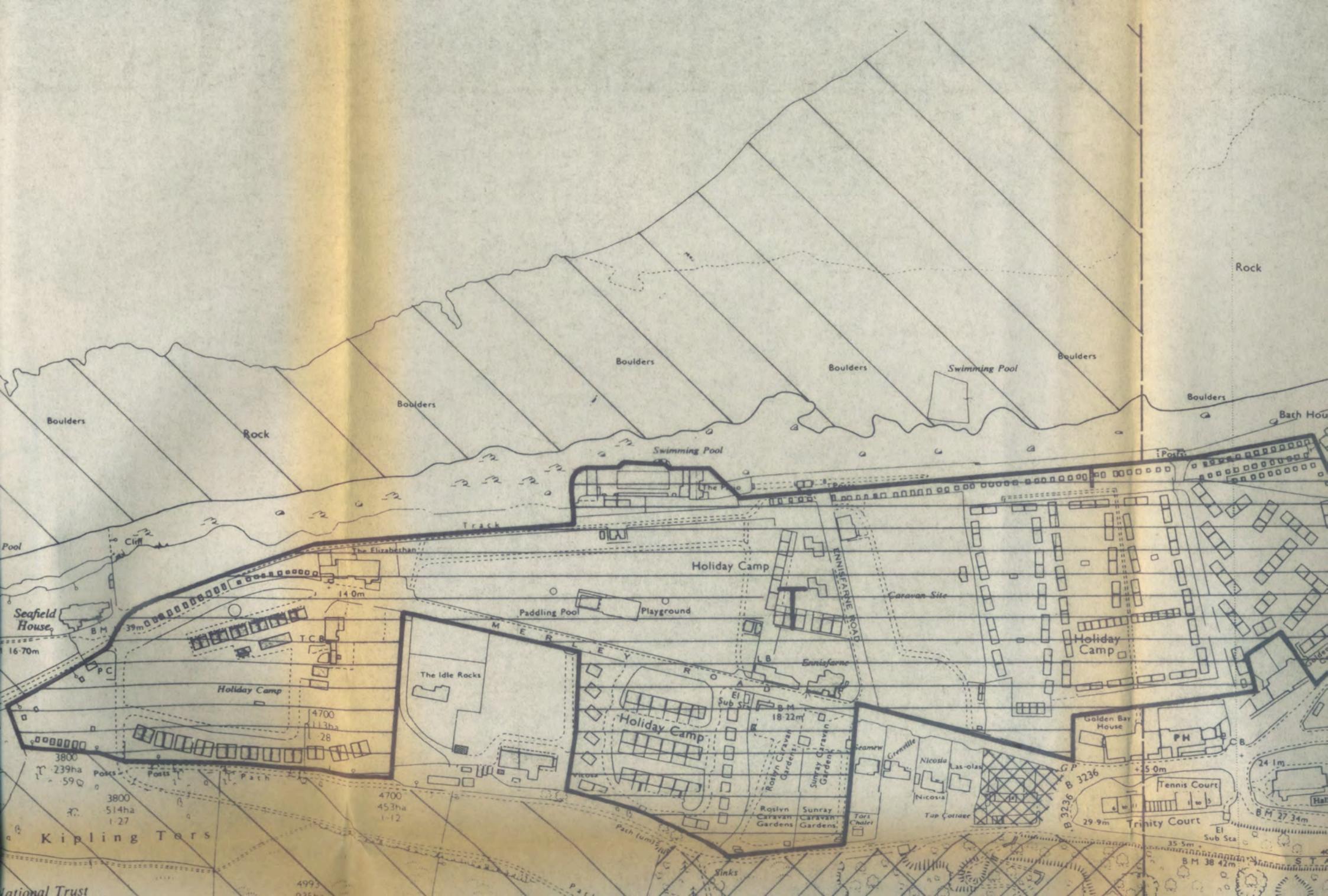
8291
2.58

BM 103.47

7771

12.22









PROPOSALS MAP

S a n d

748

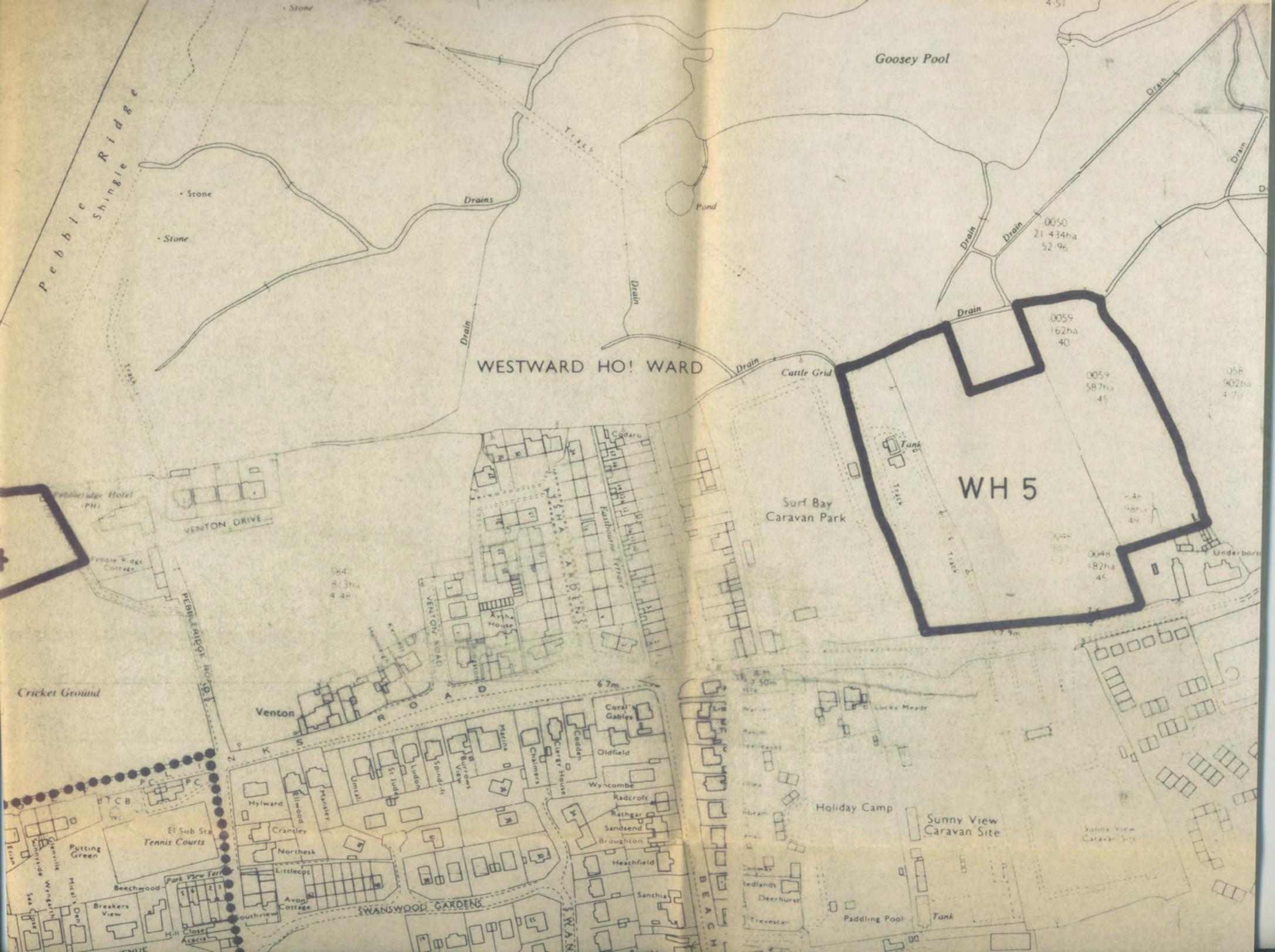
300

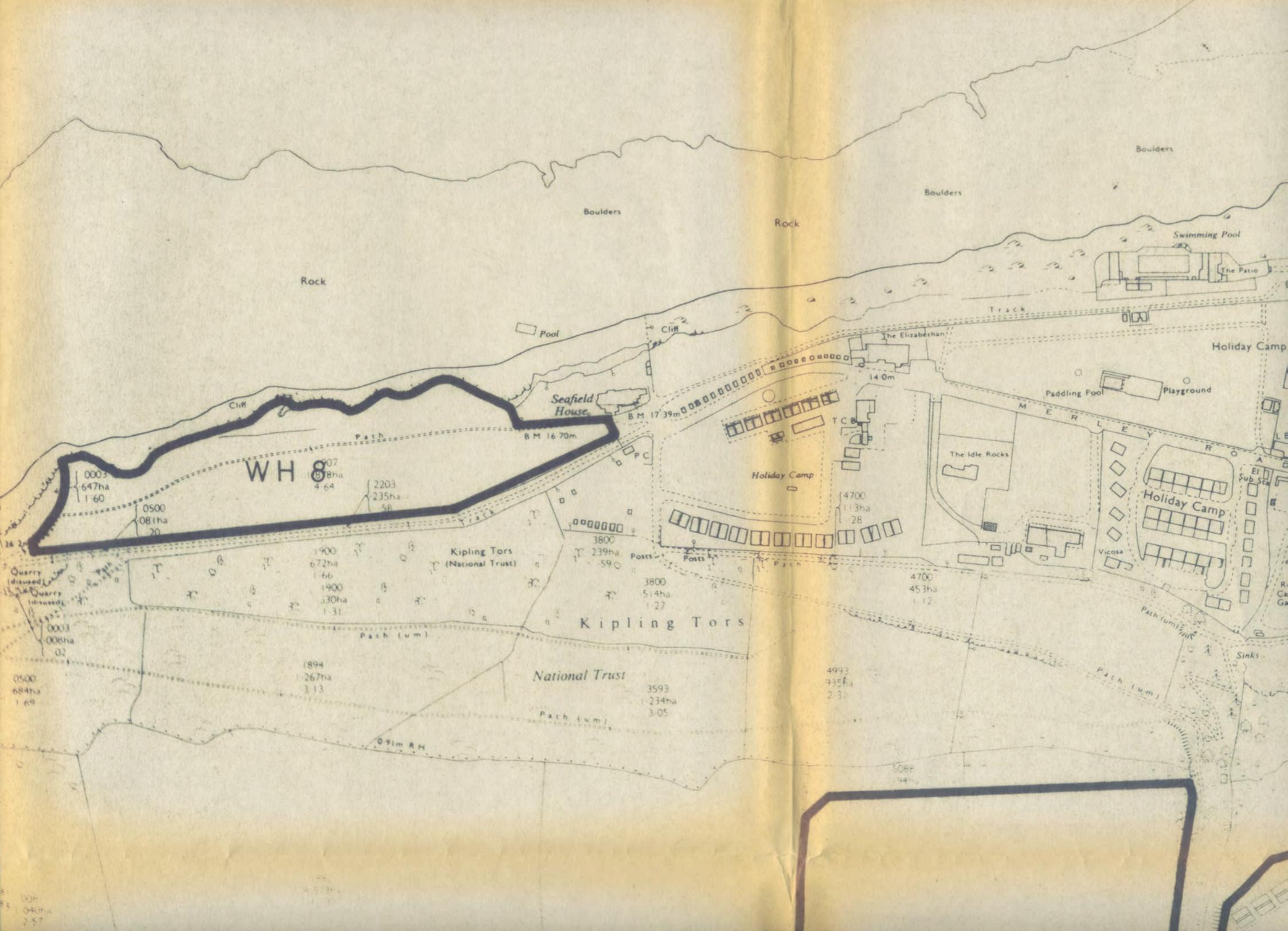
Boulders & Scattered Rock

Rock

Boulders

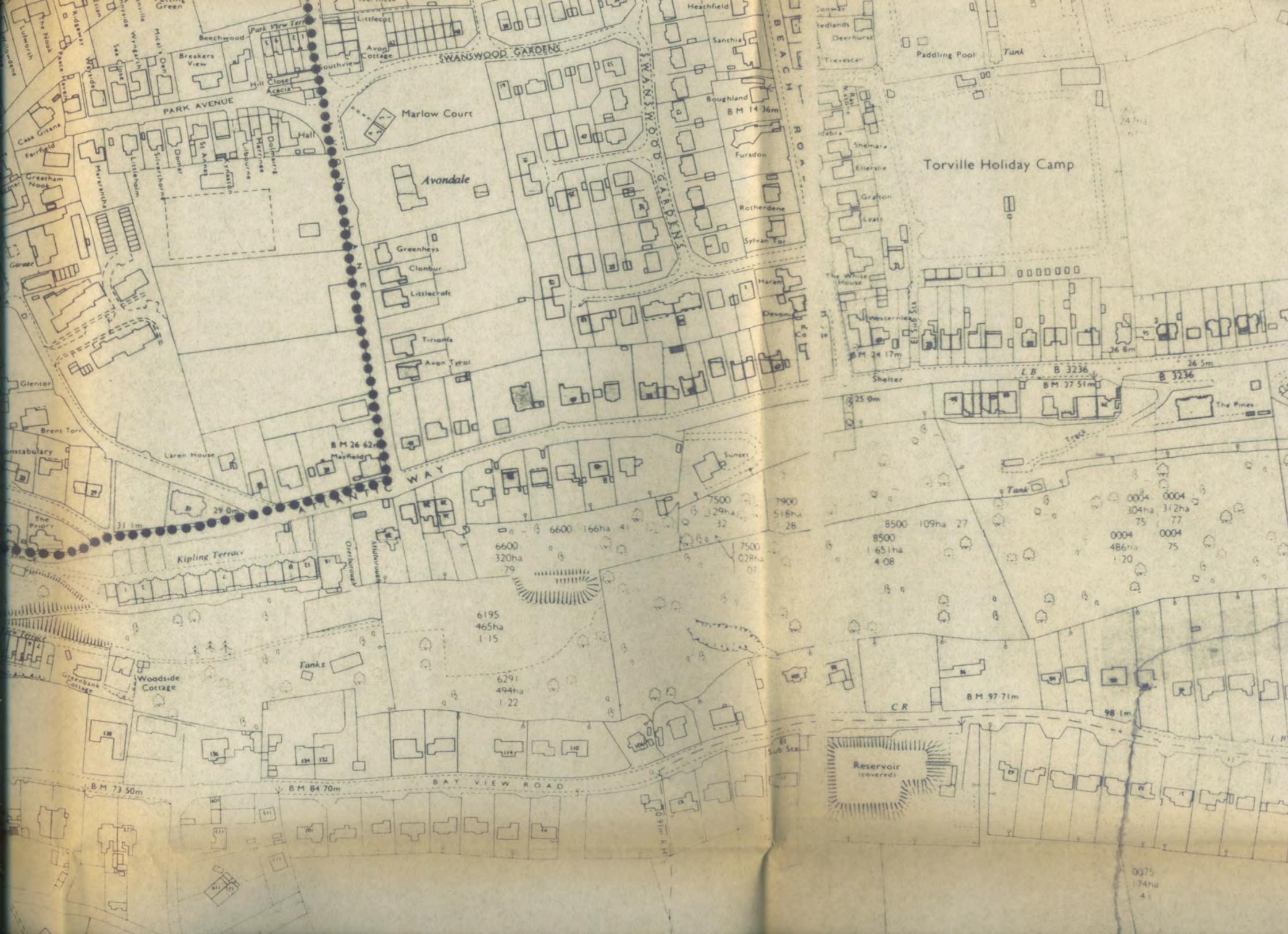


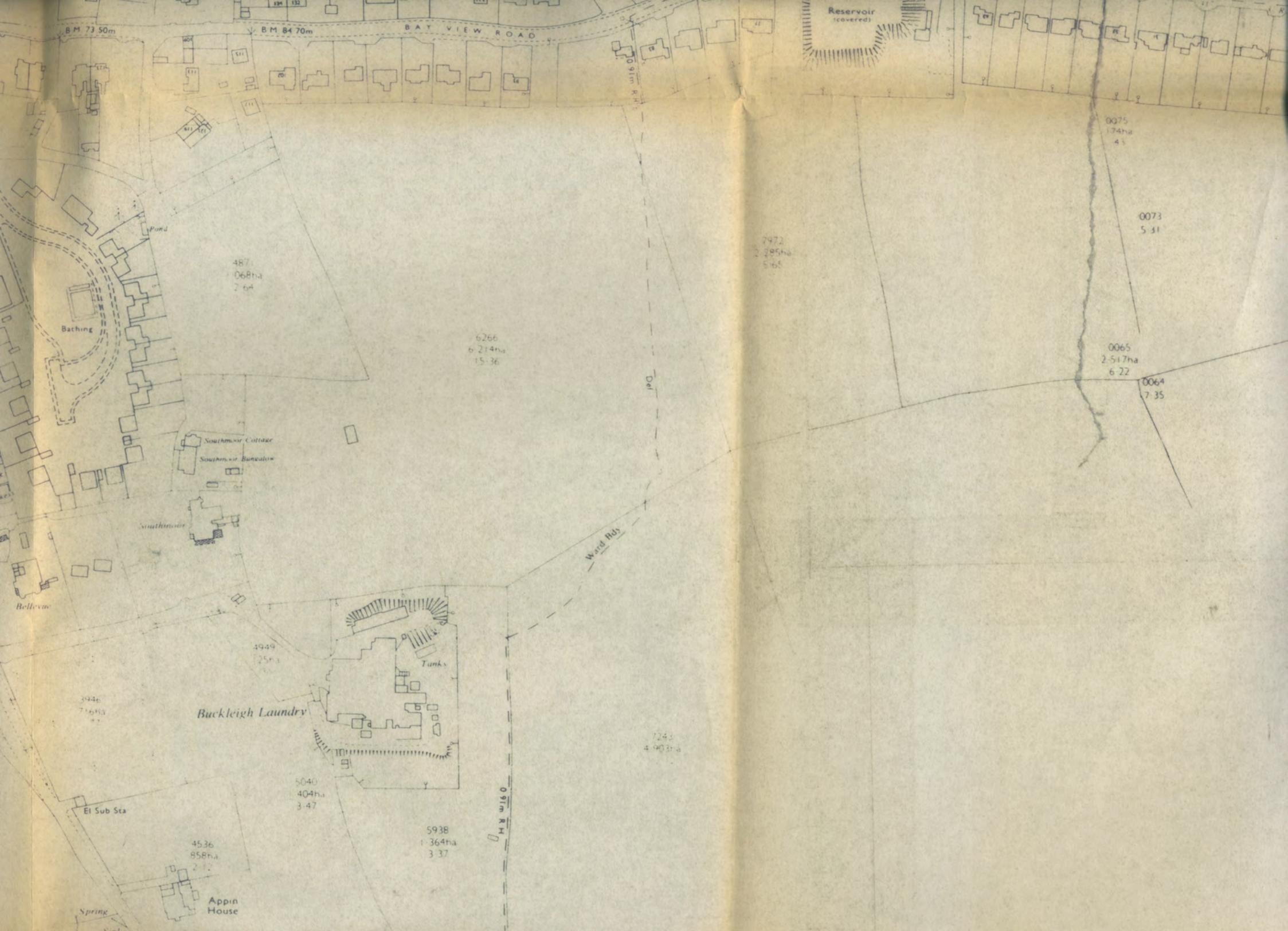














WH 2
5

Kipling Tors
Holiday Centre

Old Stone

Windy
Tors

Hilltop

B.M. RD 53

79.3m

82.2m

85.2m

G.P.

B.M. 87.47m

70.6m

0.9m RH

3438
085ha
21
2837
263ha
63
3636
170ha
42

Sunny View

62.0m

038
040ha
2.57

4.57ha
1.85

38.1
4.52ha
2.75

1.9m
0

2.1ha
4.46ha
04

3956
3921ha
2.44

0051
991ha
4.92

545
522ha
3.76

0038
219ha
66
Pond
0736
923ha
2.28

1736
182ha
45

6843
23ha
97

6731

C7

6843
23ha
97

C
S
m
I