

John Harris

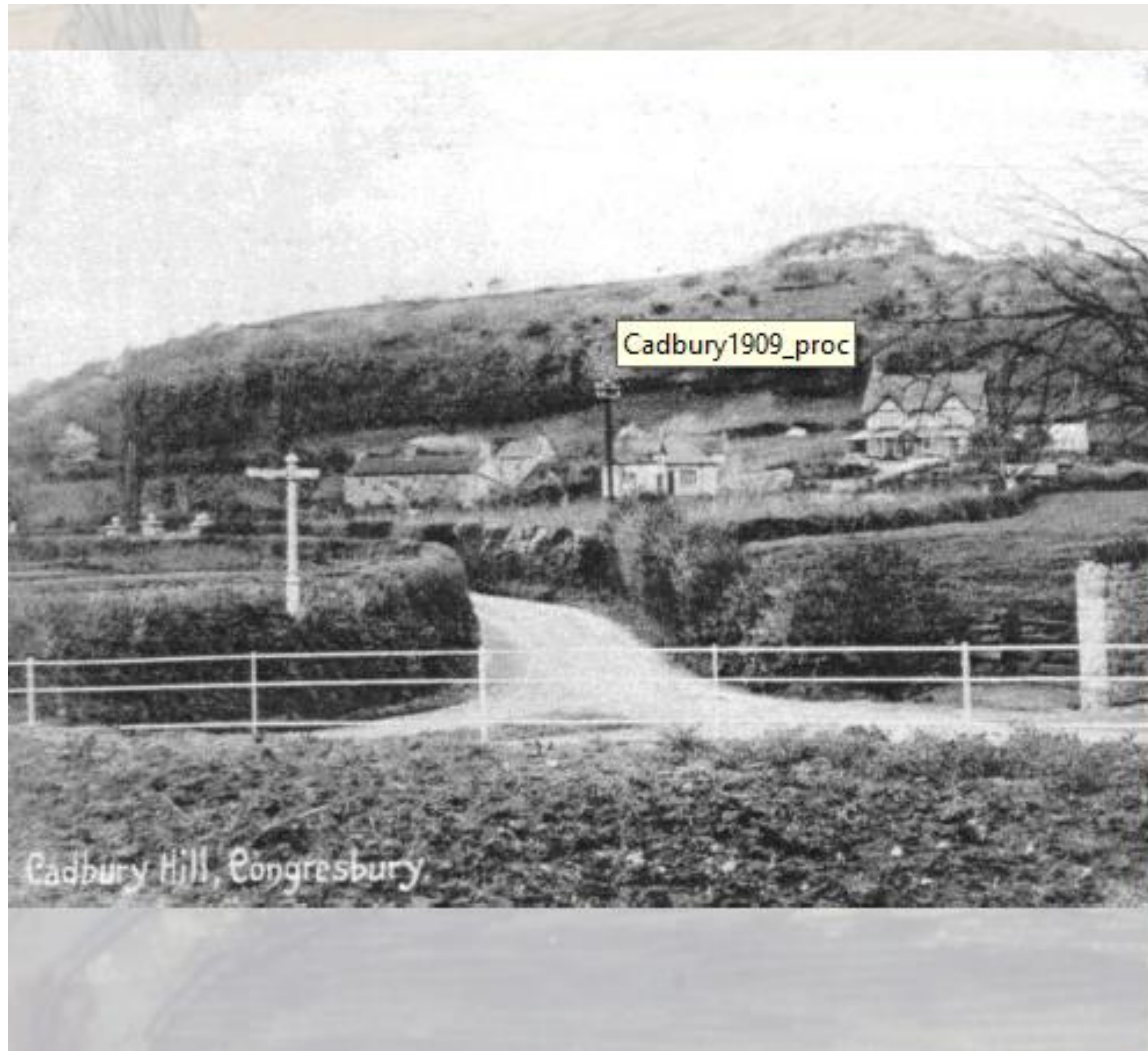
Cadbury Hill Estate Manager

Yatton/Congresbury PC's Report, 2017

CADBURY HILL

- What and where is the hill
- It's archaeology
- Its flora and fauna
- What's happening there now

... in a 1909 postcard



... and in 2011



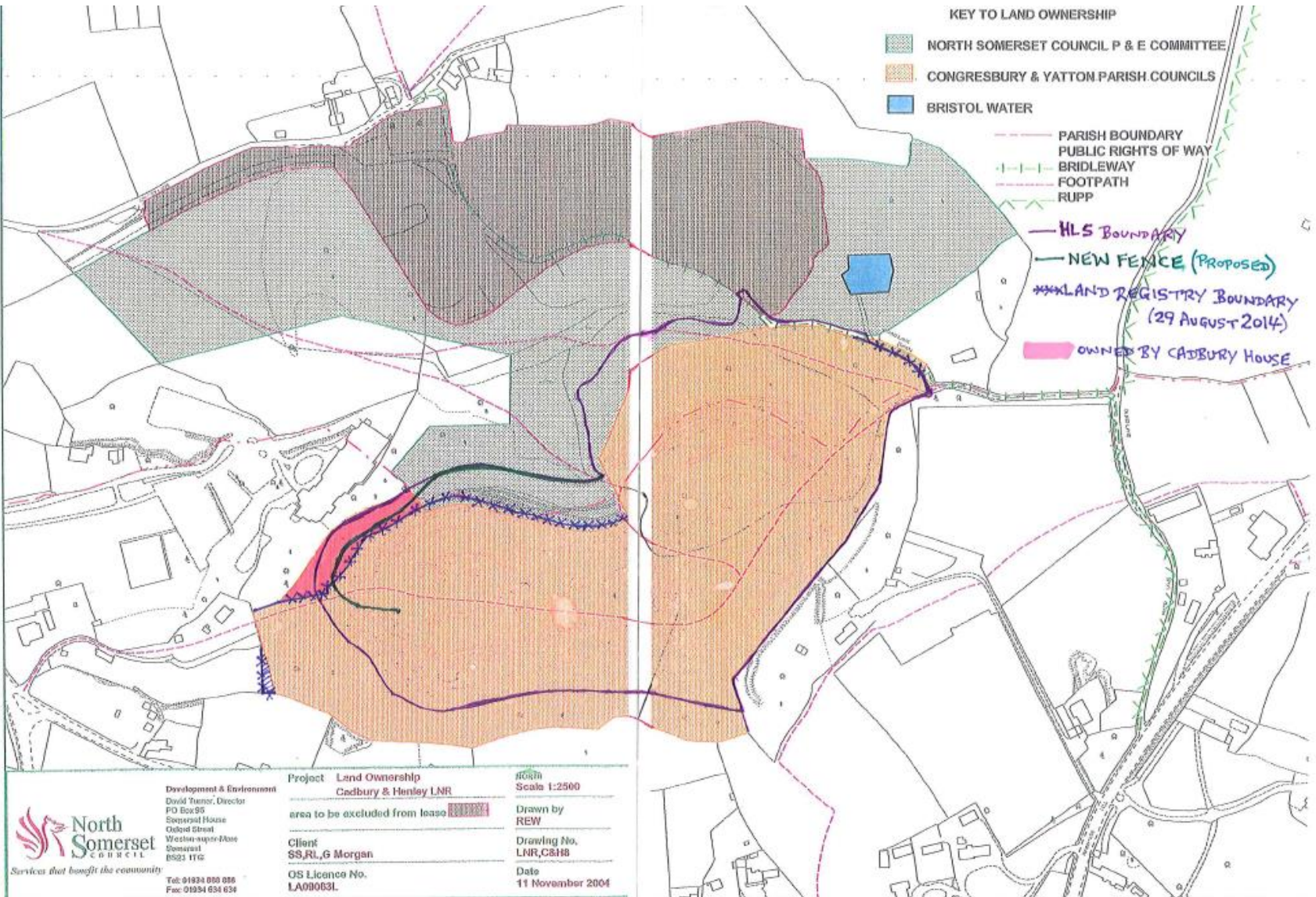
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KEY TO LAND OWNERSHIP

-  NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL P & E COMMITTEE
-  CONGRESBURY & YATTON PARISH COUNCILS
-  BRISTOL WATER

-  PARISH BOUNDARY
-  PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
-  BRIDLEWAY
-  FOOTPATH
-  RUPP

-  HLS BOUNDARY
-  NEW FENCE (PROPOSED)
-  LAND REGISTRY BOUNDARY (29 AUGUST 2014)
-  OWNED BY CADBURY HOUSE



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Project	Land Ownership	AS03m
	Cadbury & Henley LNR	Scale 1:2500
area to be excluded from lease		Drawn by
		REW
Client		Drawing No.
SS,RL,G Morgan		LNR,C&HB
OS Licence No.		Date
LA09063L		11 November 2004

Access from Cricket Club



from Woodhill



from Blind Lane



from Bridleway

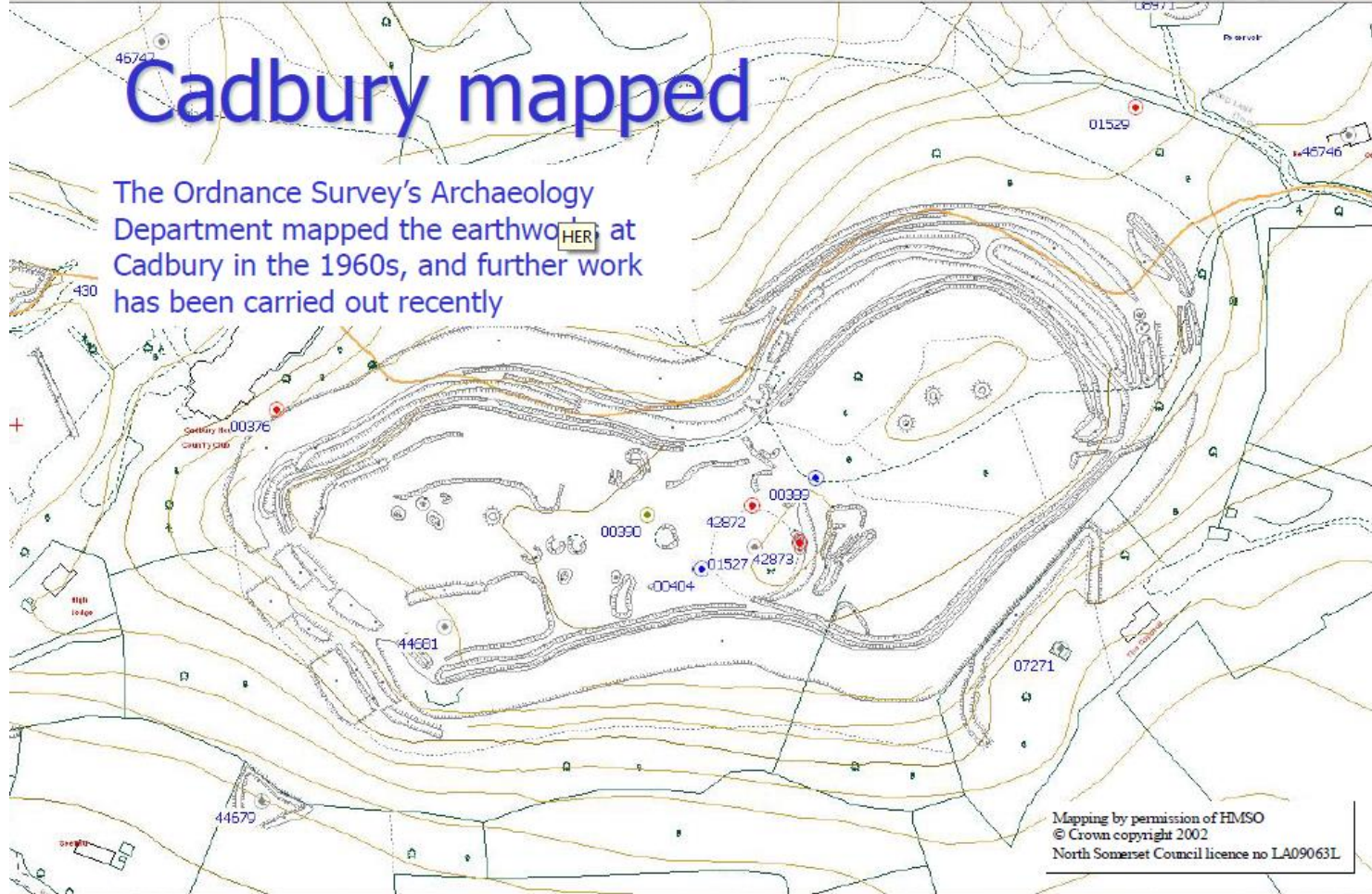


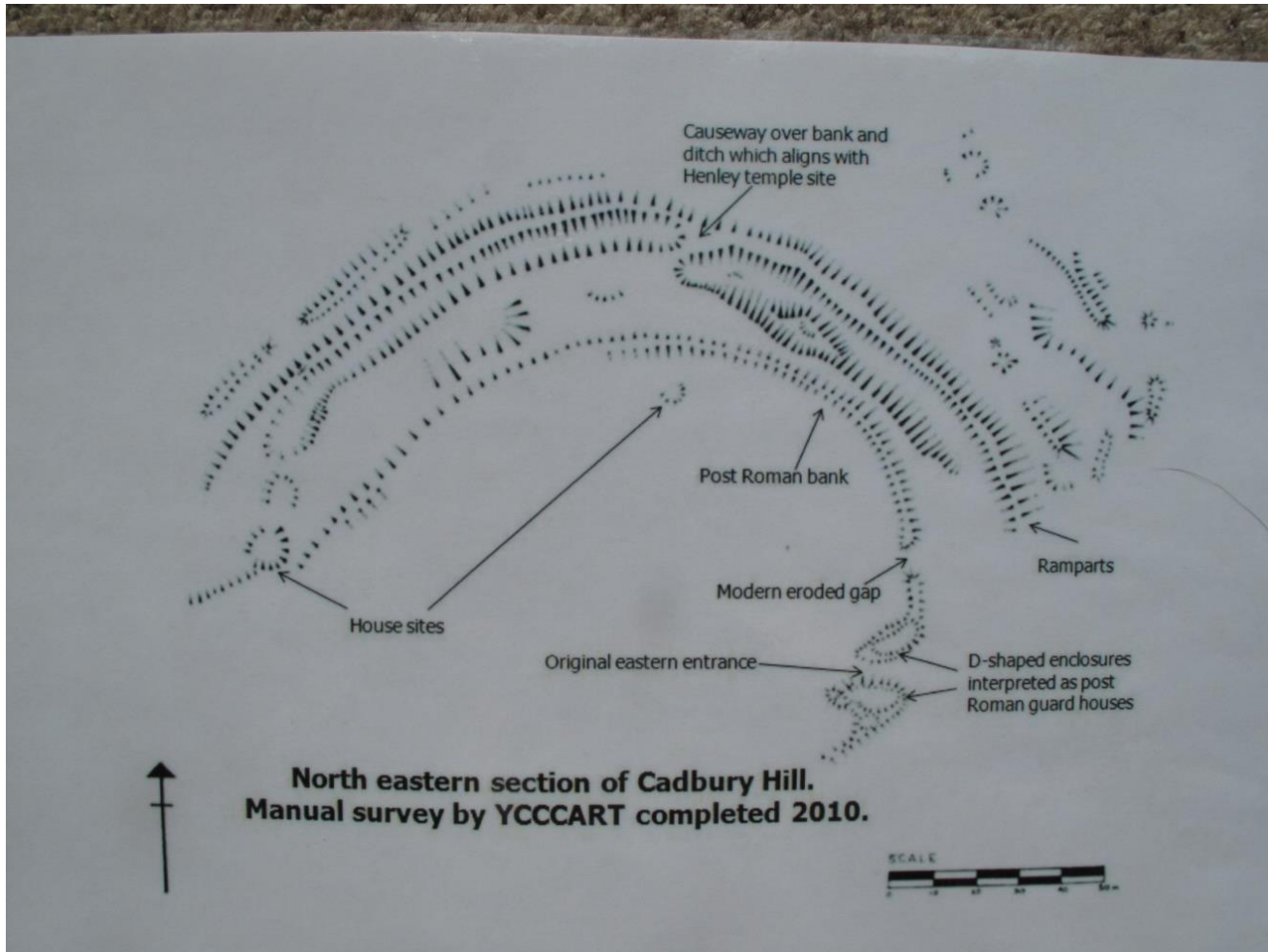
CADBURY HILL'S ARCHAEOLOGY

- Iron Age hill fort
- Roman period, 1st – 4th centuries
- Post Roman, 5th – 7th centuries
- Medieval and later
- 19th Century
- Present day.

Cadbury mapped

The Ordnance Survey's Archaeology Department mapped the earthwork **HER** at Cadbury in the 1960s, and further work has been carried out recently





YCCART Survey in 2010



From overgrown rampart ...



... to cleared rampart



... to grassing-up rampart

Cadbury excavated



Copyright Keith Gardner

In 1959, Keith Gardner excavated some well-targeted evaluation trenches at Cadbury, which identified for the first time the post-Roman imported pottery that showed this site was extraordinarily important. Note how thin the soil cover is: one single ploughing would have destroyed much of this site

4037 view from the Eastern side of
of Congersbury or Cadbury camp looking toward
Cleeve house



Finds from Cadbury Hill and
Henley Temple.



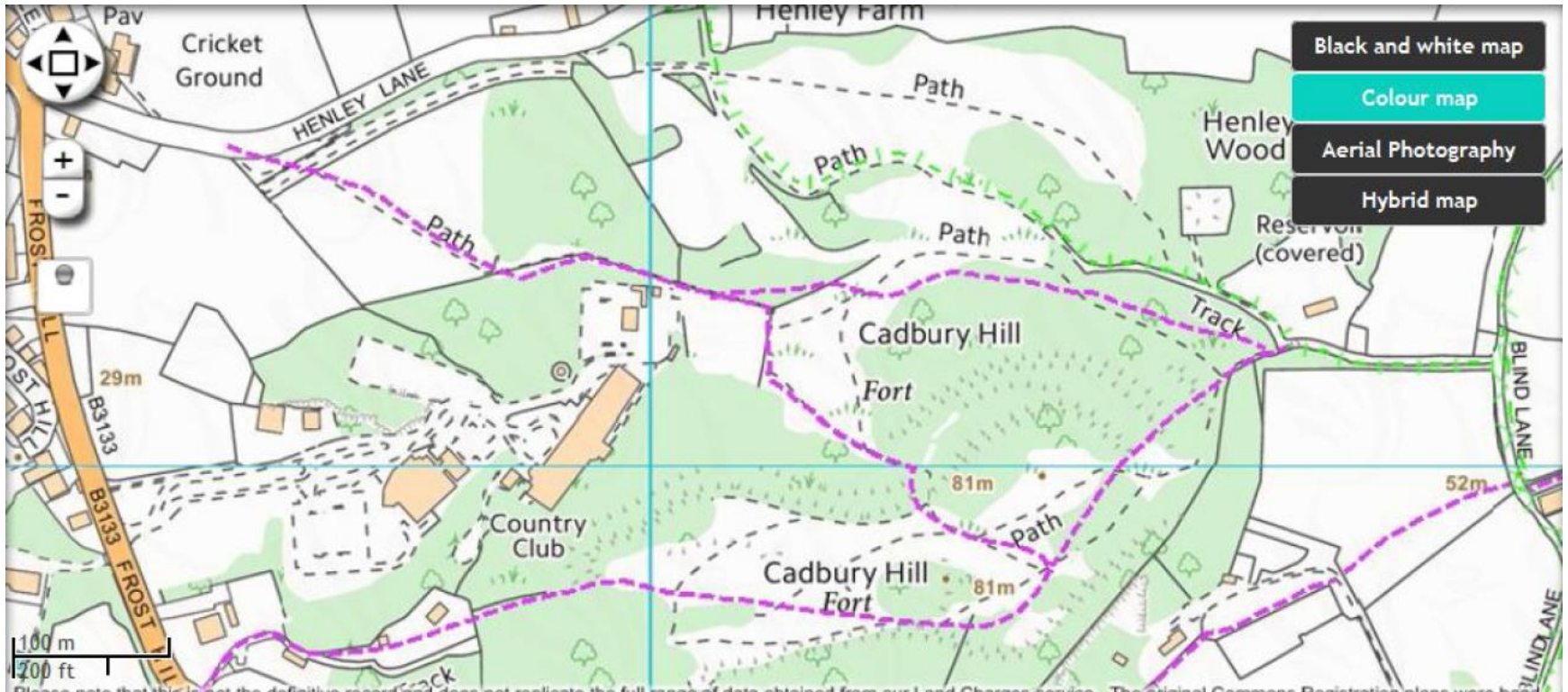


Stone quarry



The Victorian Citadel

Most of the tree circle now removed



Footpaths

Walking



Running



Mountain Biking



Camping





Scrambling in the 60's



29

The entrance to Beaulieu camp and
hills which rise from the East entrance to
Cadbury Camp August 18.

Cadbury threatened

All monuments need active conservation, to prevent their damage or destruction by human or natural agencies

As a site in public ownership, we have a general duty to protect this internationally important site, as well as specific one under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act

We have a duty, too, to promote the understanding and enjoyment of this site to the public, who are, after all, paying for it

And maybe we should all just think and wonder a little more that a great lord of men held court in a huge wooden hall on our hill top, in that mysterious period after the fall of Rome, but before the coming of the English. He lived in the midst of his warriors, clerics, potters, storytellers, jugglers, smiths, glassmakers and so on, and was on terms with the Emperor of the mightiest city of the time, far Byzantium in the eastern Mediterranean. He even drank his wine and ate his meat on platters from those far lands.

N087 view from the Eastern Esplanade
of Congersbury or Cadbury Camp looking toward
Cleeve House.

CADBURY HILL'S NATURAL HABITAT

- Limestone grassland
- Deciduous woodland





Limestone outcrop



Free ranging Dexters



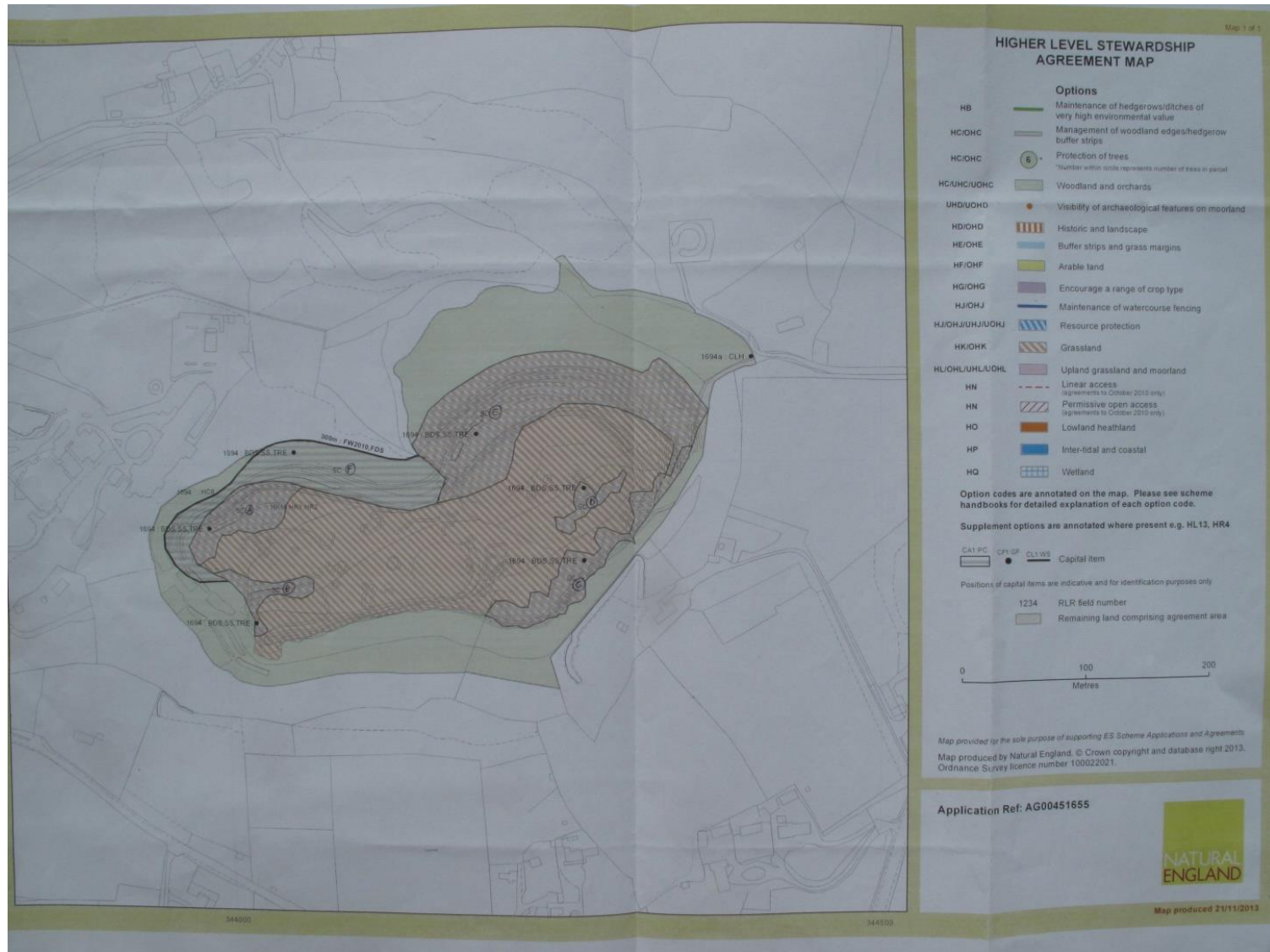




CADBURY HILL TODAY

- The Higher Level Stewardship Scheme
- **Capital works** including scrub clearing and tree felling on the ramparts and surrounds, and new interpretation boards.
- **Long term management** to restore woodland and grassland for target features.
- Vistas and Veterans

Higher Level Stewardship



Michelle the contractor's foreman













Bracken & Bramble clearance



Spring/Autumn grazing



Overwintering sheep





The Archaeology Interpretation Board

Welcome to Cadbury Hill Fort

Please report any damage or incidents to Council Connect on 01934 888 803

Exploring the Archaeology

There is much of interest to see. Firstly, of course, the ramparts, especially on the eastern side, consisting of massive banks and ditches. At the top of the bank, where once there was an entrance to the fort, it is still possible to see the lower banks of the small 'guardhouse'.

From the track, follow the ramparts through the woods and across the sloping platform across to Henley Hill and the site of the Roman temple. In the centre of the fort, it is not easy to see the cross bank which bisected the hill fort because of later disturbances. If the grass is short you might spot several circular depressions where the round houses of the Iron Age (and later) once stood.

Roman Period

The adjacent Henley Hill was excavated in advance of quarrying in the 1960s. This revealed that a series of temples, of increasing size, were built here during the 1st to 4th centuries. Finds from the site included bronze brooches, finger rings and a bronze figurine, indicating religious activity from the late Iron Age. 19 objects, dated to the post-Roman period, were also found adjacent to the temple. All evidence of the remains was destroyed by quarrying.

Probably a half Roman or post Roman penannular brooch found on Cadbury Hill in 1968. No exact parallels are known.

Bronze figurine found during the 1968 excavation on Henley Hill.

Iron Age multivallate hill fort

The hill top has produced signs of activity in Neolithic and Bronze Age times, but the first evidence of occupation comes from the pre-Roman Iron Age, when substantial defences turned the hill into a multivallate hill fort. It has often been said that the hill fort has only one rampart (univallate), but anyone who has climbed up or down the hill on the eastern side will know that there are a series of impressive ditches and banks defining the approach from that side.

Evidence of ditch

Evidence of ditch

Profile of defensive bank with evidence of a double ditch surveyed by YCCCAART, Tetton, Congresbury, Claverton and Cleve Archaeological Research Team using electronic hydrostatic level (DHCOMP) 2016.

Defensive bank and ditch being surveyed by YCCCAART to produce a section profile of the eastern rampart

Medieval and later

Later activity on the hill included ovens, lead and iron mining at Henley Wood. In the 19th century quarries were established around the site, including the Congresbury parish quarry (which destroyed 6% of the interior of the hill fort), hence the steep incline path from Smalbury, that was originally used to transport the stone down the hill.

YCCCAART resistivity survey results showing evidence of circular features - round houses

Post Roman Period

Excavations proved that the hill fort was reoccupied in the late 5th century, when new earthworks were built, including a bank dividing the hill top into two parts. Two small enclosures beside the eastern entrance, which have been interpreted as 'guard houses', reinforced the defences in the post-Roman period. The excavation revealed evidence of both circular and rectangular structures from the period. By the sixth century the occupiers had achieved the high status shown by the imports found, such as pottery from Syria, North Africa and Francia. There was also evidence for Germanic glass, and for smelting and glass-bowl making.

By the early 7th century the settlement appears to have declined, or been abandoned. During this period there are indications of a religious context. St Conger may have brought Christianity to the hill, before establishing a Christian settlement at Congresbury.

The northern areas of the Cadbury Hill nature reserve are managed by North Somerset Council. The hill fort and adjoining woodland are managed by Congresbury and Tetton Parish Councils with support from Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS) as part of the Rural Development Plan for England (RDPE). The aims of the management of the site are to protect Cadbury Hill as a Scheduled Monument and its extensive and diverse wildlife. Design by Arthur Langley. Photographs © YCCCAART & by kind permission of the National Museum of Wales.

Historic England North Somerset Congresbury Parish Council YCCCAART

The Natural Habitat Interpretation Board

Welcome to Cadbury Hill Local Nature Reserve

Please report any damage or incidents to Council Connect on 01934 888 801

Slender worm ▲

The Healey Quarry low-lying slope and glacial areas are managed through annual hay cutting to enhance their botanical diversity. The meadow and pasture habitats are important for insects and the bats and birds that feed on them. Healey and Lower Healey farms tend to use the woodland edges, while green woodpeckers can often be seen feeding on acorns. Common blue and marbled white butterflies can be seen during the summer. 1

Marbled white butterfly on Knopweed ▲

Proteus in Spring ▲

Wood mouse ▲

Woodland habitats

The site includes semi-natural deciduous woodland, some of which is ancient and is most closely described by the UK Priority Habitat Upland Mixed Ashwood. Characteristic species include oak, English oak, sycamore and field maple, with an understorey and woodland edge comprising hazel, hawthorn, holly and spindle. Of particular note is the presence of ancient established lime and native ash apple.

In the Spring some woodland areas provide lovely displays of native English bluebell, wood anemone, primrose, wood sorrel, sweet violets and dog violets. The ancient woodland indicators yellow campion and Galium aparine as well as early purple orchid may be found on the ancient ramparts.

Typical woodland birds and mammals include tawny owl, woodcock, greater spotted and green woodpeckers, wood mice and bank vole. 4

Grassland habitats

The sloping meadow above the stock pond is known as the Orchard Slope 1 due to the abundance of common spotted orchids in June. This area has considerable botanical interest, including cowslip, hays and violets in Spring, knopweed and fatness in the summer.

The pasture which is accessed through the cricket club car park supports wild flowers such as black knopweed, heathwort, birdfoot trefoil, tufted vetch, meadow switching and meadow cransbill and therefore has the potential to be restored to the UK Priority Habitat, lowland meadow. This is being achieved by Spring and Autumn grazing. 2

Grassland habitats on the hill fort

Grassland on the hill fort has the potential to be restored to the UK Priority Habitat limestone grassland. Key species include wild thyme, rock rose, lady's bedstraw, small scabious and common columbit. The site is grazed in Spring and Autumn to reduce the dominance of grasses and allow meadow flowers to develop and set seed over summer. 5

Common spotted orchids

Brimstone on knopweed ▲

Tawny owl in nest box ▲

▼ Dexter race bred cattle maintaining habitat on the hillfort

Bluebells in the woodland
Corkins in Spring ▲

Path to Woodshed & Woodpile

Historic England | North Somerset Council | Congresbury Parish Council | YARWAG

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A site of major development!







The finished product



Wrington Vale



The Yeo Valley



Claverham and The Channel



A true veteran







Ringbarking



Halo felling



WORK IN PROGRESS