Thank you sir for the opportunity to speak. I am the owner of Hogben Farm, which neighbours the southern side of the site. I want to echo my support for the points made by Jonathan Tennant and the Church Lane group. I don't intend to repeat them. I want to make three further, specific points to Hogben Farm.

1. On SETTING: his proposal will have a serious adverse impact on the setting of three Grade II listed buildings: Hogben Farm House, Hogben barn, and the old dairy. Hobgen Farm is situated in an isolated rural setting — not an industrial moonscape. That's important not only for me but for the walkers, the public, who enjoy the footpaths running around the property and see the house in its context. EDF's solar panels will dominate the skyline — the panels are on a hill and Hogben sits in a trough in the landscape. I would liken the setting to a theatre: Hogben is the stage, looking up and out onto row on row of panels - liked tiered seats in a theatre. The applicant's flawed and inadequate LVIA ignores this basic fact of geography.

2. The proposed SCREENING, particularly when viewing the site from the south, fails to mitigate the visual impact adequately. You can't hide something on the top of a hill. The applicant is relying on trees on my land and part of Backhouse wood to provide much of the screening when viewing the site from the south. But: 1. The trees are deciduous - so for half the year don't block the view. 2. And the finger of woodland extending east from Backhouse wood is made of up of black poplar and ash - almost all diseased, and dying rapidly. The applicant cannot rely on either to provide screening.
So paragraph 15 of counsel for the Applicant's opening statement, which asserts "longer distance views would be framed by mature woodland blocks" is wrong in fact.

3. The effect on FOOTPATHS: Footpath AE457 runs from Hogben around Backhouse wood — it has a wonderful view of the downs and the sweeping landscape south of church lane. There would be significant visual impact for users of this footpath. I strongly support the councils view that here the application fails to meet the requirements of the NPPF.

All the above points could be addressed if, as has been suggested, the applicant were to relocate the panels from south side of Backhouse Hill, and provide large amounts of scrub/tree planting on the southern part of the site.

We are not NIMBYs seeking to block any form of proposal - but want a proposal that, as policy requires, reflects the best design practice and will be liveable with for 40 years.

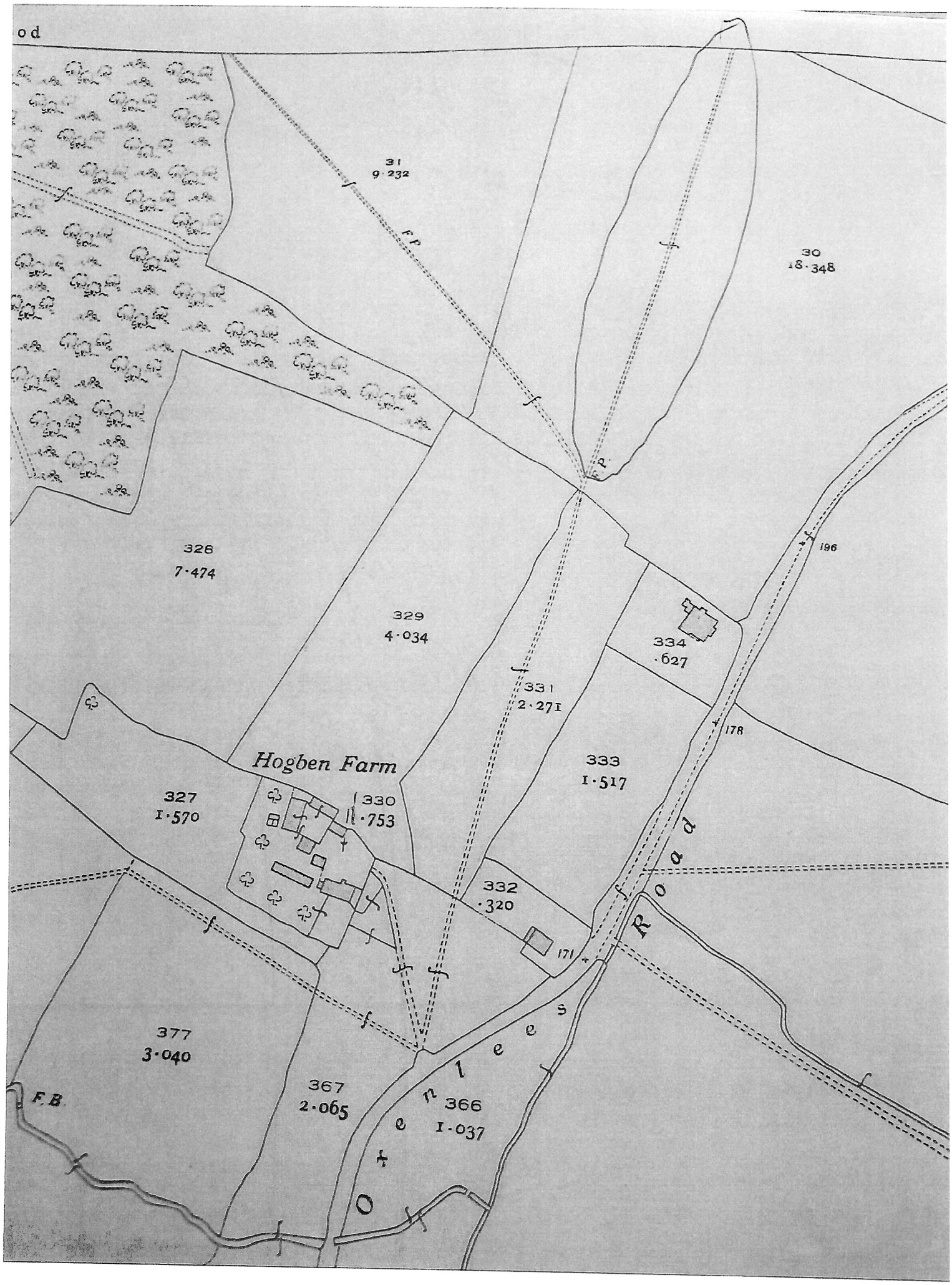
One final point: EdF has also included in their application the details of another footpath running north-south across the part of Bested Hill they propose to

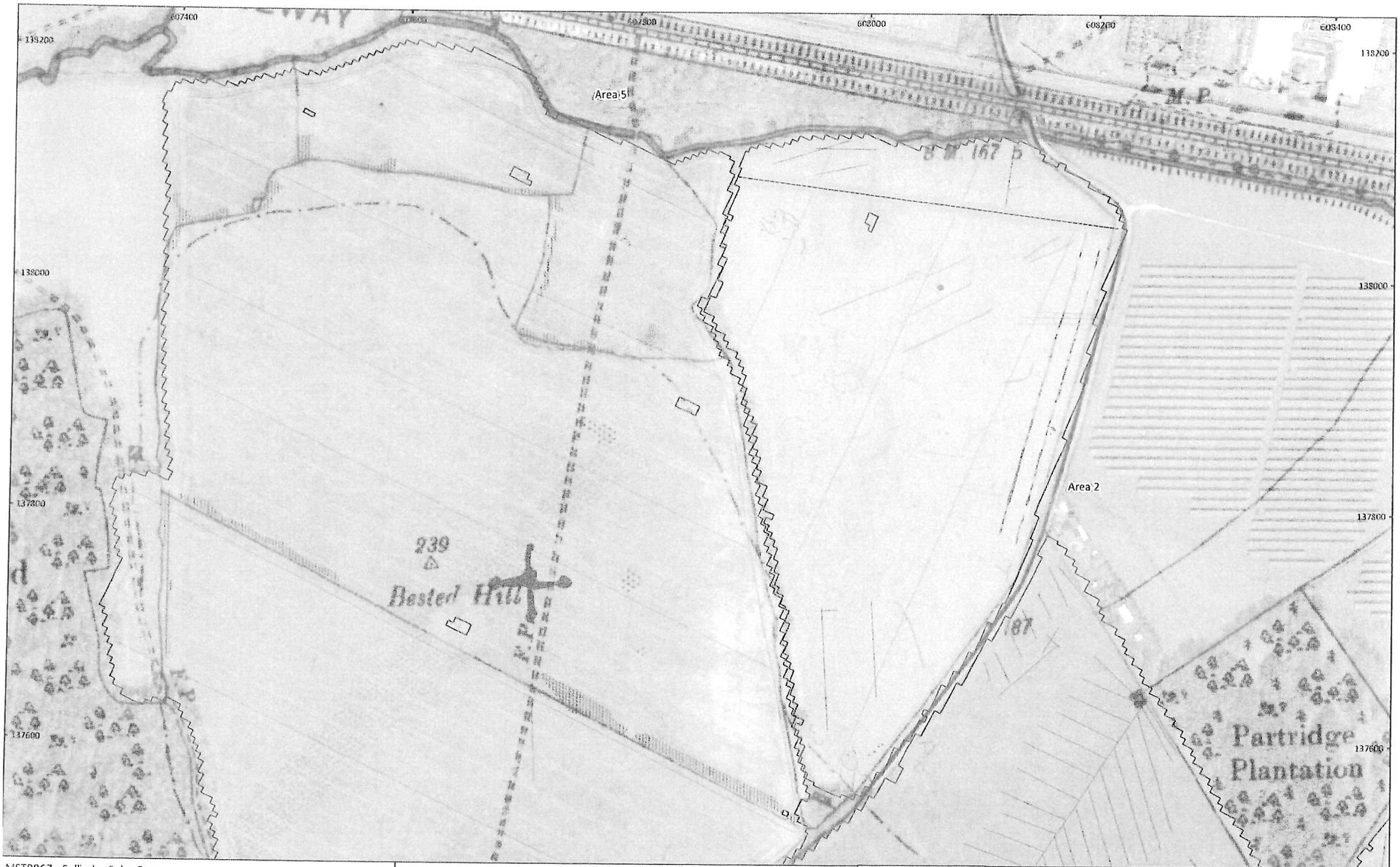
fence off and cover in panels. This path runs north from where AE457 leaves Hogben Farm and runs parallel with church lane. EDF included in their original application, where they have the map of the plot when sold — it is also presented in their geophysical reports — figures 6 and 8. Also appears on OS maps post 1945.

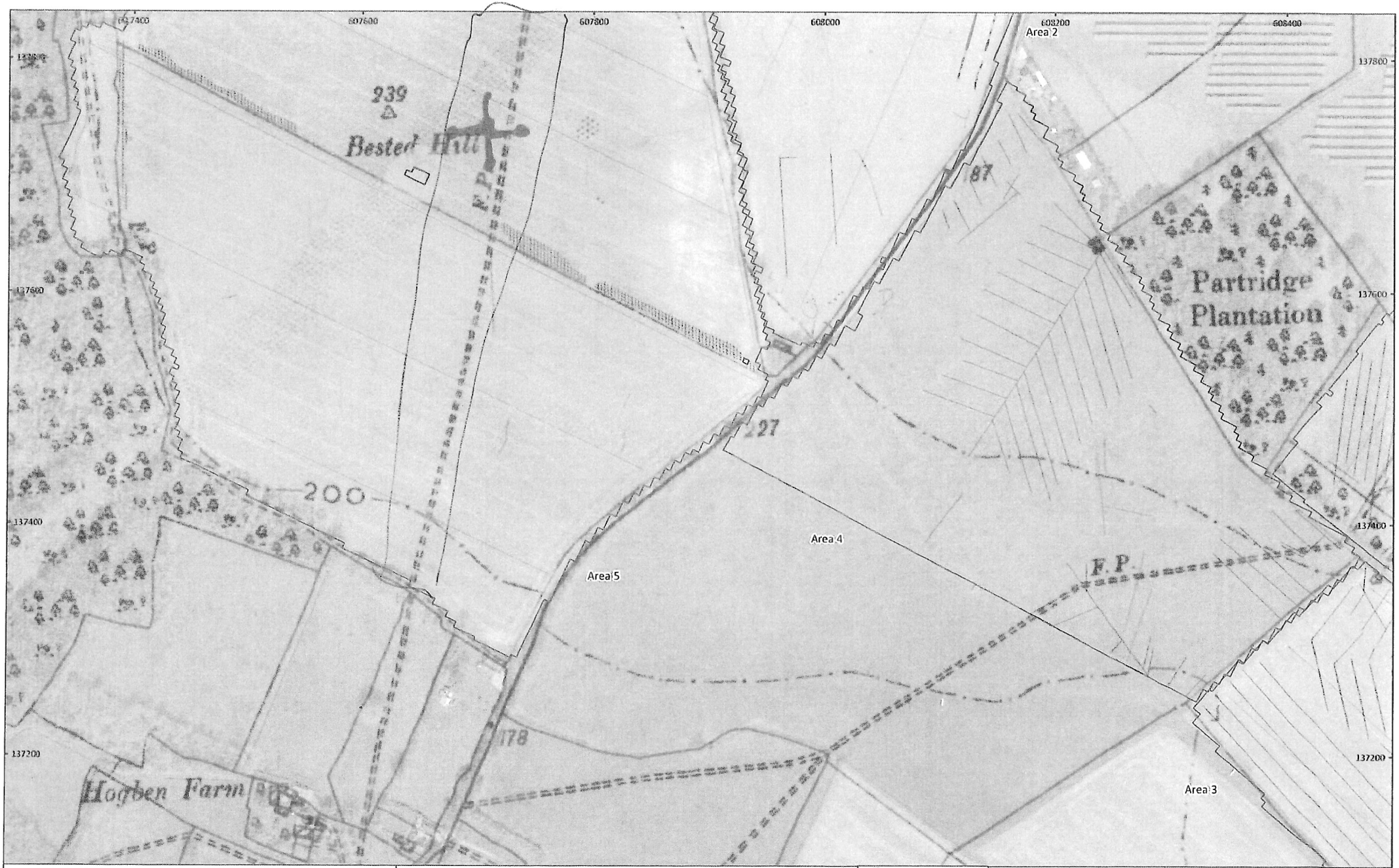
The applicant has successfully shown this footpath to be extant - but they haven't shown that it's been stopped up nor have they made any effort to do so in this appeal. Why not? The onus is on them to do so.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the appeal be dismissed.
Thank you.

Edward Evans
Hogben Farm, Aldington.
February 2025.

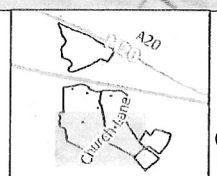

od
31
9·232
FP
30
18·348
326
7·474
329
4·034
331
2·271
334
·627
196
178
Hogben Farm
327
1·570
330
·753
333
1·517
332
·320
171
377
3·040
367
2·065
366
1·037
F.B.
Road


607400
607800
608000
608200
608400
139200
138200
Area 5
M.P
138000
138000
137800
137800
Area 2
239
Basted Hill
137600
137600
Partridge
Plantation
MSTR967 - Sellindge Solar Farm
Figure 6 - Magnetic Interpretation Over Historical Maps and Satellite Imagery (Centre)
1:3,000 @ A3
Copyright Magnitude Surveys Ltd 2021
Contains historical maps: Ordnance Survey, 6" 2nd edition c. 1882-1913.
Contains satellite imagery © 2021 Google Satellite
Archaeology Possible (Strong)
Archaeology Possible (Weak)
Agricultural (Spread)
Possible Extraction
Industrial/Modern
Natural (Strong)
Natural (Weak)
Natural (Zone)
Magnetic Disturbance
Ferrous/Debris (Spread)
Undetermined (Strong)
Undetermined (Weak)
Overhead Cables
Agricultural (Trend)
Data Artefact
Service
Drainage Feature
Ferrous (Spike)
A20
Church Lane
N
0
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100
150 m
magnitude
surveys



MSTR967 - Sellindge Solar Farm
Figure 8 - Magnetic Interpretation Over Historical Maps and Satellite Imagery (South)
1:3,000 @ A3
Copyright Magnitude Surveys Ltd 2021
Contains historical maps: Ordnance Survey, 6" 2nd edition c. 1882-1913.
Contains satellite imagery © 2021 Google Satellite

- Archaeology Possible (Strong)
- Archaeology Possible (Weak)
- Agricultural (Strong)
- Agricultural (Weak)
- Agricultural (Spread)
- Possible Extraction
- Industrial/Modern
- Natural (Strong)
- Natural (Weak)
- Natural (Zone)
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Undetermined (Strong)
- Undetermined (Weak)
- Overhead Cables
- Agricultural (Trend)
- Data Artefact
- Drainage Feature
- Ferrous (Spike)



N

0 50 100 150 m

magnitude surveys