

## SITE

**Name:** Barley Grove

**Parish:** Great Torrington

**Local Authority:** Torridge

**National Grid Ref:** SS 496 189

**OS Sheets:** 1:50k 180 1:10k SS41 NE, **GS Sheet 1:50k** 309

**Locality Description:** Barley Grove, Castle Hill, Great Torrington.

**Nature and Status of Site:** Public common and viewpoint with some rock exposure. A County Geological Site.

**Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest:** This site combines instructive views of geomorphological features associated with the River Torridge, outcrops of the Bude Formation and sedimentological and structural features. Features visible include the River Torridge, various river terraces, and a V-shaped valley. The rock types that crop out are sandstones, shale and siltstones of the Bude formation.

**Safety Considerations:** No specific points of note.

**Educational Age Groups:** Primary, Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

**Parking and Access:** Parking available at Barley Grove carpark (pay and display, toilets), Castle Hill, Torrington. From here, there is direct access to the adjacent viewpoint and to public footpaths across the Common.

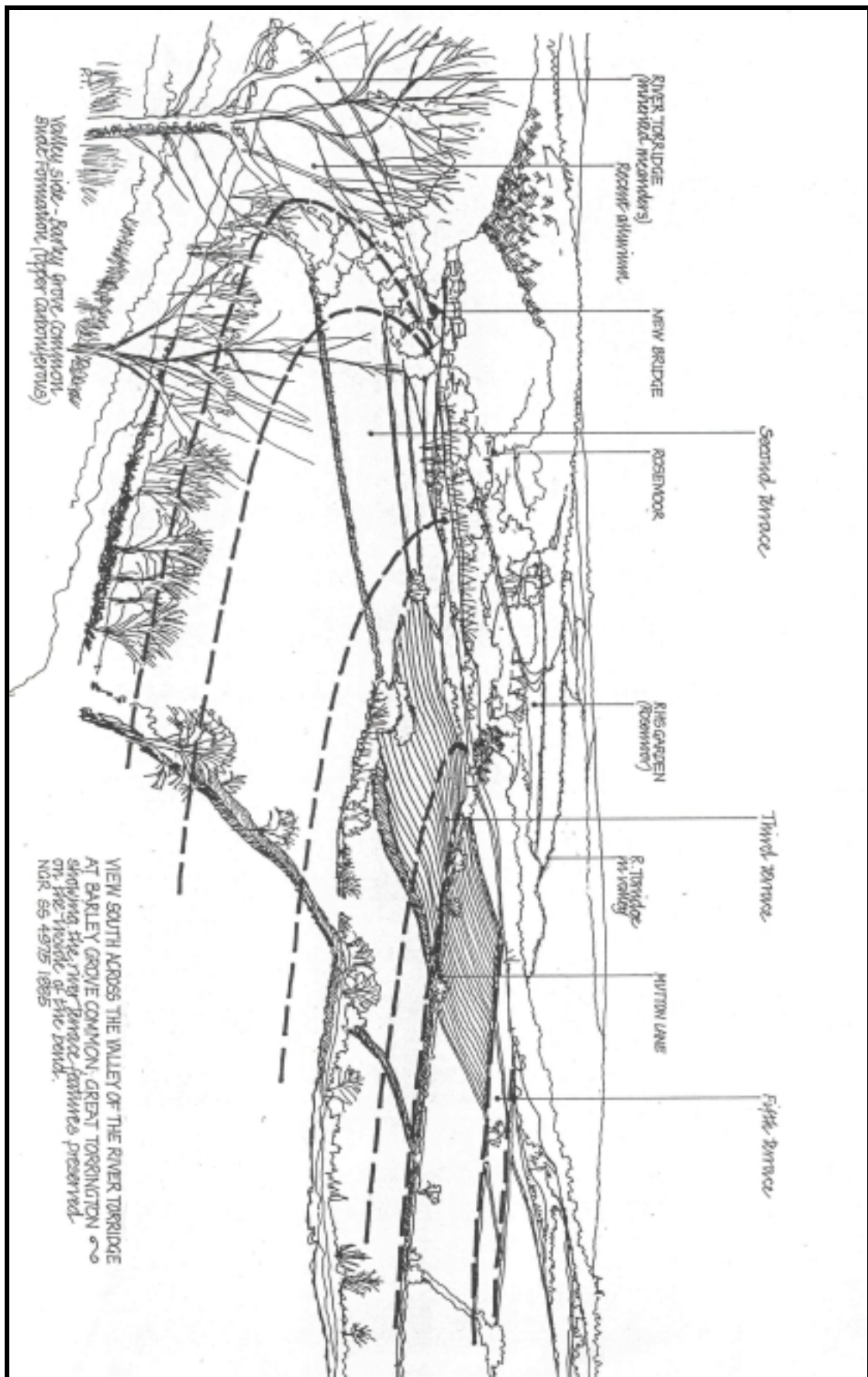
**Site Owner:** Torrington Common Conservators. Torridge District Council.

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### References:

Freshney, E. C. *et al.*, 1979. **Geology of the Country around Chulmleigh**. Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. London: HMSO.

**Detailed Geology:** Looking south from the viewpoint below the carpark the River Torridge bends from NNE to an EW direction. Within the bend, the alluvial flat rises to the second, third and degraded fifth terrace of the river. Torrington lies above the steep bluff which forms the north bank of the Torridge and which created part of the town's old defensive position. To the east a small tributary stream falls steeply to the Torridge cutting a V-shaped valley. Upper Carboniferous, Bude Formation sandstone interbedded with shale and siltstone crop out beside the footpath west of the Waterloo obelisk and on the path below. Beds of thin to medium and some thickly bedded composite sandstones crop out with load prod and groove casts on their bases in places. Some small scale cross-bedding can also be seen. The bedding dips south, with cleavage/bedding intersections, slickensides on bedding, jointing and quartz veining also occurring.

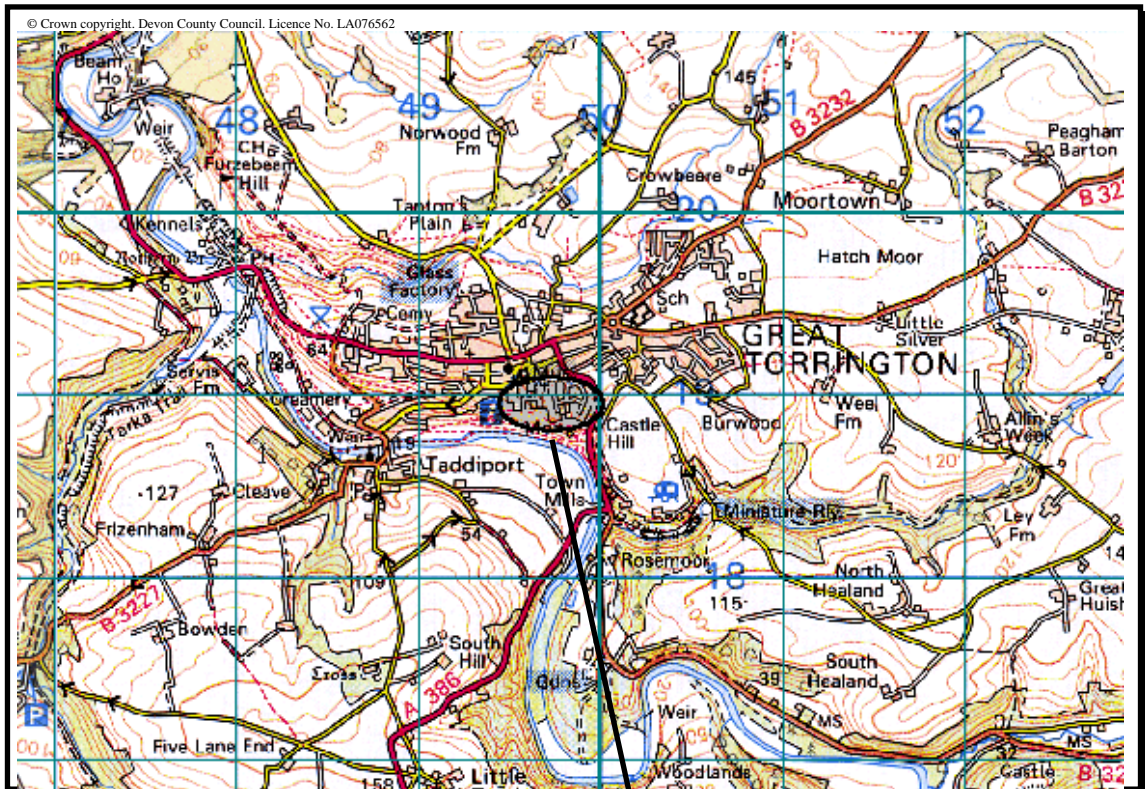


Sketch by P. Thorman

## LOCATION PLAN

### **BARLEY GROVE GREAT TORRINGTON, TORRIDGE**

National Grid Ref: SS 496 189



Scale 1: 40,000



Site Locality

Barley Grove  
Viewpoint

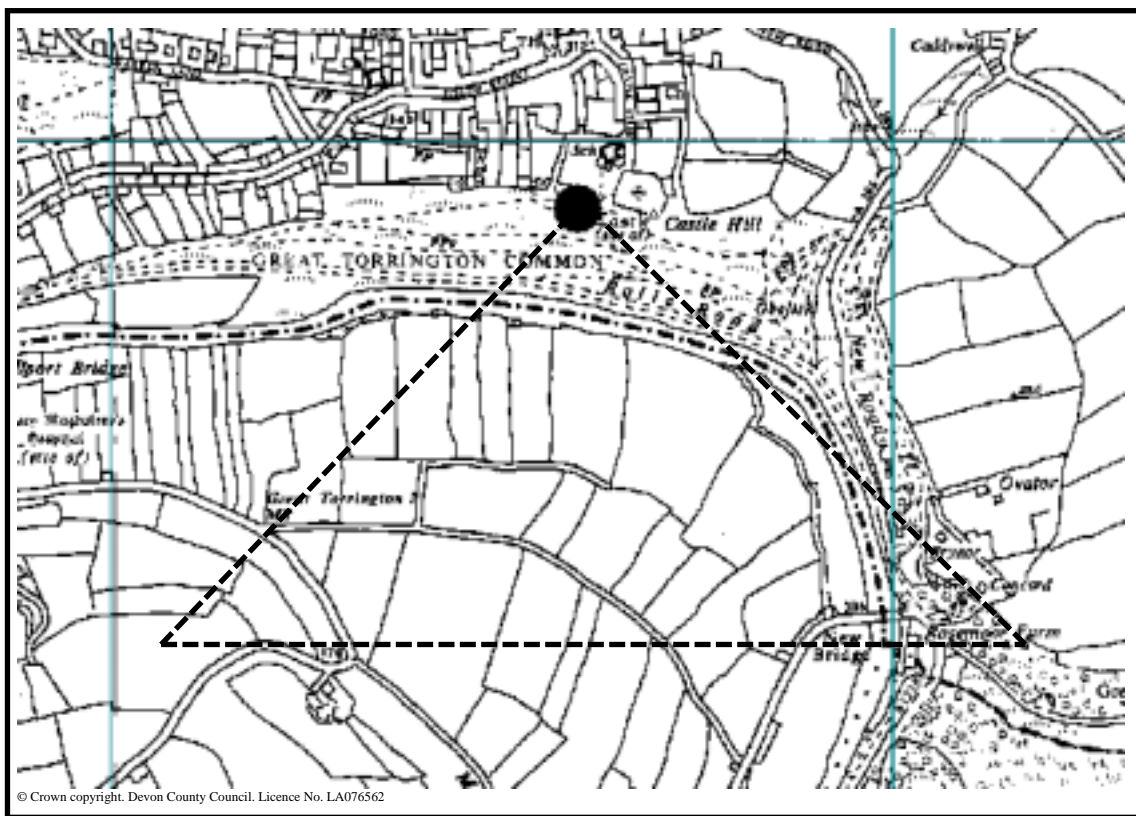
### Parking and Access

**Parking at Barley Grove Car Park (pay and display, toilets) at Castle Hill, Torrington. Direct access to the adjacent viewpoint and to public footpaths across the Common.**

## SITE PLAN

### **BARLEY GROVE GREAT TORRINGTON, TORRIDGE**

National Grid Ref: SS 496 189



●  
Viewing point

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General direction of view

Scale 1 : 8,000

#### Main Points of Interest:

- Fine views southwards across the Torridge Valley including a series of old river terraces.
- Small tributary stream to the east falling steeply to the Torridge cutting a V-shaped valley.
- Outcrops of Carboniferous sandstones, shales and siltstones.