

Land Adjacent to Heddings Farm,
The Lane, Wyboston
Bedfordshire
(NGR 515807, 256902)

Archaeological Evaluation



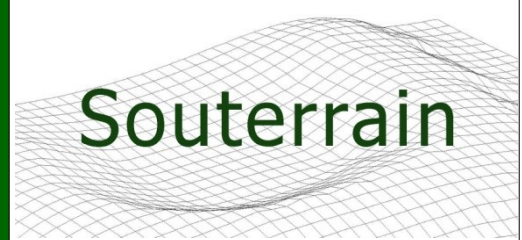
June 2019

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

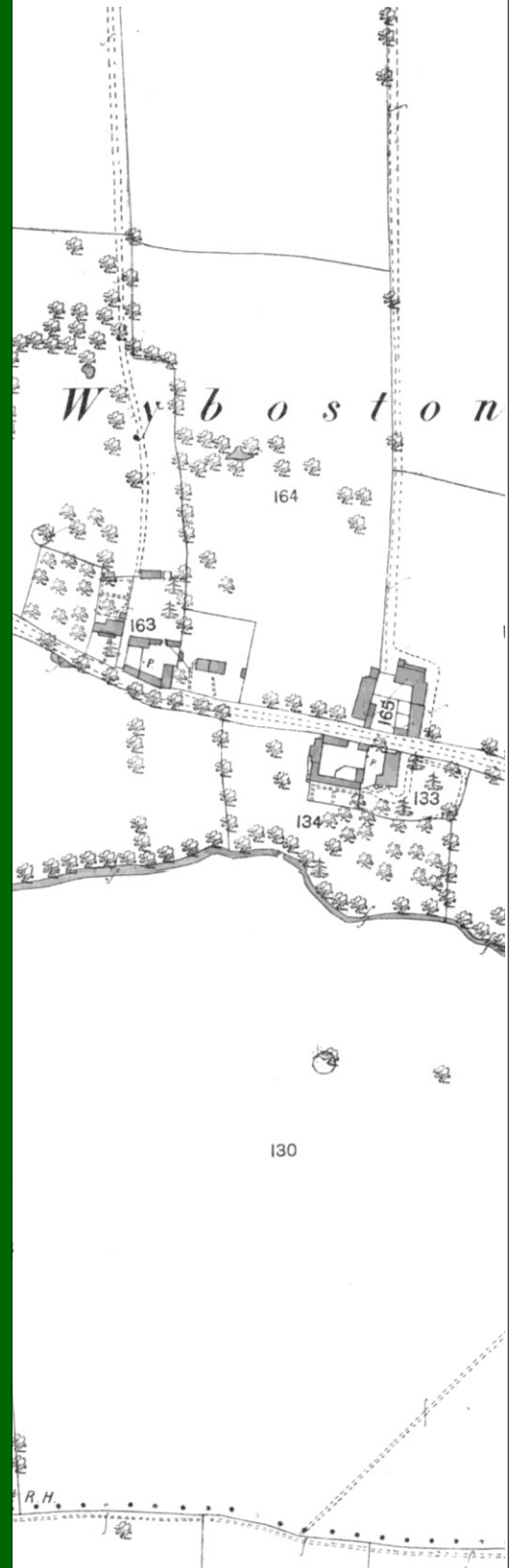
for



(Wyboston, Beds.)



Archaeological Services Ltd



**LAND ADJACENT TO HEDDINGS FARM,
THE LANE, WYBOSTON
BEDFORDSHIRE, MK44 3AS
(NGR 515807, 256902)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Souterrain Project: SOU19-649

June 2019

Produced for:



Wyboston, Beds.

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

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(Illustrations follow the main text)

Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Fieldwork:

[REDACTED]

Report:

[REDACTED]

Summary

In June 2019 a pre-determinative archaeological evaluation was undertaken of a plot of vacant land on the east side of Heddings Farm, The Lanes, Wyboston, in advance of a planning application for three new dwellings.

Situated within the historic core of the village, the plot had the potential to reveal buried remains of early medieval to post-medieval date. The plot has been disused for several decades, although is known to have previously been occupied by dwellings, from the 18th century until at least c.1920.

Three trenches were excavated, each trench positioned within an area that would be most affected by the proposed development, at the same time respecting prevailing site constraints.

Only one of the trenches located significant archaeology. This was Trench 1 located in the northern part of the proposed development area. The archaeology comprised an early medieval pit of broadly c. 10th – late 11th century date, a pit of probable medieval date, and two gully-like linear features of possible medieval date.

The southernmost trench (Trench 2) was devoid of archaeological features.

In the eastern part of the evaluated area (Trench 3), there was evidence of 18th - 19th century domestic occupation in the form of a brick-lined, below-ground hearth, that appears to have belonged to a cottage-outbuilding depicted on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1884 & 1901). An adjoining patch of compacted ground was presumed to have been a remnant of the buildings floor. Five 19th century post-holes found to the north of the hearth broadly follow the course of a property boundary shown on the late 19th and early 20th century maps.

Evidence for domestic occupation in the mid/late 18th century was reflected in a varied assemblage of pottery found in a shallow pit (Trench 1).

In all three trenches the geological stratum was reached c. 0.3 m – c. 0.38 m below existing ground level. There was evidence of deep ploughing throughout Trenches 1 and 2 (N-S), which, by extrapolation, is considered to be present across the greater part of the evaluated area. This is understood to have occurred in mid or late 20th century. Archaeological features in the western part of Trench 1 had been ploughed out.

1. SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation of a plot of land (the Proposed Development Area/PDA) adjacent to Heddings Farm, The Lane, Wyboston, Bedfordshire, MK44 3AS (Figs. 1 & 2), which took place on the 12th to 14th June 2019. The report has been prepared by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) on behalf of [REDACTED] (Landowners and prospective planning applicant) c/o Heddings Farm, Wyboston.
- 1.2 The objective of the evaluation is to assess the significance of any buried heritage assets, which will assist in the determination of planning application.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pre-application advice has been formally obtained by the landowner from Bedford Borough Council (17/00575/PREAPP, 1st November 2017). In view of the archaeological interest of the site location, a pre-determinative evaluation by trial trenching has been duly advised by [REDACTED], Archaeological Officer for BBC Planning Services (AOBBC).
- 2.2 In response to this advice a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Souterrain (Souterrain, 2019) on behalf of the landowner and submitted to the AOBBBC for approval. The WSI included an indicative layout of proposed trial trenches, focussing on the main areas to be affected by the proposed development. The indicative trench layout was subsequently modified following the architect's revision of the proposed site layout, and the trench layout was discussed with the AOBBBC with the understanding that it may again be subject to change. It was acknowledged that certain site constraints (ecological and health and safety) prevailed which, at the time of the evaluation, would deny access to a proposed house plot on the eastern part of the site (Fig. 2).

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated in the historic core of the village of Wyboston, c.10 km northeast of Bedford in the eastern part of the county. Since 1965 the village has been in the Civil Parish or Community of Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden, prior to which it was in parish of Eaton Socon. Wyboston is located 600 - 750 m north of village of Chawston (Beds.) and c.1.6 km southwest of the conurbation of St Neots (Camb.). The main village thoroughfare is The Lane which runs broadly south-eastwards towards the Great North Road.
- 3.2 The PDA fronts the north side of The Lane (Fig. 2). It comprises a broadly rectangular plot of vacant land of approximately 1900 sq.m, which is covered in grass and scrub (Fig. 3). It is centred at NGR 515807, 256902. The topography of the site rises from around 22 m AOD on the west side to around 23 m AOD on the east side¹.
- 3.3 The west side of the PDA is bounded by outbuildings which form the curtilage of Heddings Farm (Fig 3). These comprise a post-medieval timber-framed barn to the southwest, clad in late 20th century weather-boards, with a corrugated sheet asbestos roof. Adjoined to the barn is a row of 20th century outbuildings constructed in Fletton brick and roofed in concrete tiles. The north side of the PDA is bounded by a paddock, while to the northwest there is former mid-20th century horticultural 'works', dominated by a large and somewhat dilapidated weatherboard-clad shed with corrugated steel roof. The east side of the PDA is bounded by a residential property and garden, presently screened by mature deciduous trees. Along the southern periphery runs an unkempt hawthorn hedge over 2 m in height, through there is an entrance closed by two galvanised metal farm gates. On the opposite side of The Lane stand

¹ Google Earth [accessed 29th May 2019]

two houses and gardens built in the early 1990s. These properties occupy two thirds of the ground directly facing the PDA (i.e. the central and south-eastern third), the remainder to the southwest being open grassland.

- 3.4 The underlying superficial geology is understood to comprise River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel of the Holocene Epoch². The bedrock is the Oxford Clay Formation.

4. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & LAYOUT OF TRIAL TRENCHES

- 4.1 The proposal is for the construction of three new dwellings, each with a garage and a garden. Figure 2 shows the proposed layout of the development at the time of the archaeological evaluation.

- 4.2 It is understood that there will be minimal disturbance to the proposed garden areas surrounding each of the new dwellings and that the hedgerow fronting The Lane will be retained and enhanced. It is also understood that on the west side of the site the plan there is to be a 7 m - 9 m wide 'stand-off' from the curtilage outbuildings of Heddings Farm.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Medieval Settlement and Manors

- 5.1 The medieval village of Wyboston (**17149**) is interpreted to have been a roadside settlement situated on either side of The Lane and at the Great North Road. The earliest record is found in the Domesday Survey of 1086³, which shows that prior to the Norman Conquest (1066) *Wyboldestone* comprised six land holdings, or lordships, by implication a fairly sizable settlement. In all probability the village's medieval open field system was created in the late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 5.2 By 1086 two lordships dominated the settlement, each possibly with around 50 inhabitants. One estate was held by a Norman nobleman known as Eudo the Steward (aka Eudo Dapifer or Eudo Fitz Herbert). Prior to the Conquest it was held of King Edward by four thegns⁴. There were 19 households with arable land sufficient for 5 plough teams, and almost half as much meadowland. The other estate was held by Nigel d'Aubigny. Previously occupied by 12 Saxon freemen, it was inhabited in 1086 by 18 households, with arable for 9 plough teams and two ploughlands-worth of meadow. A lesser lordship was held by Azelina, wife of Ralph Tallebois, and occupied by 3 families working a single plough team. Of the three other estates we know very little. The Saxon abbeys of St Neots and Ramsey each retained their small estates after the Conquest; St Neots' land being half a ploughland and woodland for 100 pigs. Similarly there was a lordship of vague scale held by Hugh de Beachamp.
- 5.3 The descent of the Wyboston lordships has been traced as far as possible by Victoria History of the Counties⁵. The aforementioned large estate of Eudo the Steward became known as Wyboston Manor and was attached to the barony of Eaton. Its earliest tenants-in-chief were the Fitz Williams, who by early 14th century had assumed the name 'de Greystock'. The family retained Wyboston manor, albeit it much sub-divided, until the early 16th century, when Elizabeth, Baroness Greystock married Thomas Lord Dacre of Gillesland. Later that century

² British Geological Survey [accessed 29th May 2019]

³ Open Domesday <https://opendomesday.org/place/TL1656/wybston/>

⁴ Freemen holding farmland in return for military service

⁵ 'Parishes: Eaton Socon', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 189-202. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp189-202> [accessed 28th May 2019].

the manor passed through the female line of inheritance to Philip Howard Duke of Norfolk, and by the early 18th century it was acquired by the family of Whetham who were still in possession in 1796.

The Archaeological Evidence

- 5.4 In spite of the Domesday evidence attesting to some 40 households at Wyboston in 1086, the archaeological evidence to date is scant. Nothing is known of the layout of the six lordships, or of the tenements within them. Equally, nothing is known about the origin and development of the Anglo-Saxon settlement. The oldest buildings in the village are few in number and date from the late 17th and early 18th centuries. They include Heddings Farm which is understood to date from c. 1700.
- 5.5 There are two historic sites which denote the abodes of some of Wyboston's medieval elite. One is a sub-rectangular moated site (**474**) surviving as earthworks on the south side of The Lane (c. 190 m SE of the PDA⁶); undoubtedly the place of a manor house. Together with at least five associated buildings platforms, it is now a scheduled monument⁷. The other site (**3407**) is also situated on the south side of The Lane (c. 400 m SW of the PDA⁸). Interpreted as either a medieval moated site or fishponds, there is little left to see from ground level, since it has been steadily levelled by ploughing since the mid 20th century. A medieval village green (**8621**) near the south-eastern end of the village (c. 480 m SE of the PDA) partitioned and hedged during the parliamentary inclosure of Eaton Socon parish in 1799. Other visible remnants of the medieval landscape comprise relict fragments of furlong fields to the north and east of the village, which survive as ridge and furrow earthworks in low-relief (**MBB22421**). Elsewhere, traces of the open field system are known only from historic aerial photographs (**5209**).
- 5.6 The first and only tangible archaeological evidence of medieval tenements at Wyboston was discovered in 2017 at 20 and 48 The Lane, when an archaeological excavation took place in advance of a development of 11 new houses (**EBB 104**)⁹. The investigation of the building plot (100 m x 90 m) revealed medieval boundary ditches and pits. Pottery and paleo-environmental assemblages dated the site from the 11th century onwards. By the post-medieval period the site had become a close associated with a roadside farmstead; hence the archaeological interest in the present PDA.

The Proposed Development Area

- 5.7 Historic mapping reveals two discrete arrangements of buildings at the PDA, possibly reflecting distinct phases of occupation. The Inclosure Award Map of 1799 (Fig. 4) shows a C-shaped range located within, and just beyond the southwest corner of the site with one building fronting The Lane. There are two other detached rectangular structures, one fronting The Lane, the other, set back several metres. The first edition OS map of 1884 (Fig. 5) shows two adjoining cottages set back about 18 m from the roadside; probably the aforementioned set back structure depicted on the Inclosure Map. Each cottage appears to have been served by a privy, located respectively on the east and west sides of the plot. The buildings appear to have stood on the site until at least the 1930s¹⁰.

⁶ TL 1601 5675

⁷ Scheduled Monument - 1012076

⁸ TL 153 568

⁹ TL16222, 56722

¹⁰ Pers. Comm. J Wright

6. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

- 6.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to identify the potential for any buried archaeological remains that might be affected by the proposed development, and to assess their significance, condition and age, in order to help formulate an appropriate level of mitigation to ensure that archaeological interest of the site is safeguarded.
- 6.2 Based on both the documentary evidence (*ante*, 5.1 - 5.3) and recent discoveries at The Lane (*ante*, 5.6) it was considered that the PDA might have buried archaeological remains from the late Saxon through to the early 19th century, but moreover, the potential to contribute to our understanding of the origin and development of the medieval linear settlement of Wyboston¹¹.

7. METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 The fieldwork was carried out between the 12th and 14th June 2019. The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the approved Written Scheme of Investigation and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).
- 7.2 The trial trenches were positioned within the proposed area of ground disturbance (Fig. 2), and within the constraints of ecological considerations (potential nesting birds) on the east side of the site, and a live overhead electricity cable between proposed house plots 2 and 3. Trench locations were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and orthometric heights by means of RTK Differential GPS. The trench was excavated by mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, under direct guidance of experienced archaeologists.
- 7.3 Archaeological features were sample-excavated by hand, appropriate to each feature's significance. A numerical context recording system was used, a photographic record maintained (monochrome and digital) and hand-measured sections drawings were made of all investigated features. Palaeo-environmental samples were taken of all potentially-significant deposits, in order to meet the evaluation objectives (*ante*, 6).
- 7.4 Good weather prevailed during the machine-stripping of top soil from the trenches, providing good visibility. The hand-excavation of features was subsequently undertaken in heavy and continuous rainfall, despite which good-archaeological visibility prevailed.

8. EVALUATION RESULTS

- 8.1 Figure 2 shows the final (i.e. 'as dug') position of three trial trenches with respect to the proposed layout of the development at the time of the archaeological evaluation. The trenches were each between 1.8 and 2 m wide and approximately 12 m in length, covering a total sample area of c. 66 sq.m.

Trench 1

(Figures 2, 7 to 20)

Medieval pit [105] (Figs. 8, 10, 13)

- 8.2 The earliest archaeology present in Trench 1 was a partially-exposed negative feature, interpreted as a pit [105], located near to the south-eastern end of the trench. This was c.1.22

¹¹ c.f Edgeworth, M, 2007, in Oake et al, 98. Medlycott 2001, 70

m by 0.8 m and up to 0.18 m deep, with sides inclined at c. 35°. Two fills were discernible. The initial deposit/fill (115) consisted of dark greyish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2) sandy silty soil deposit (up to c.0.08 m thick) confined to the sides of the pit, only observable after weathering and drying out. The division of the fills may represent a re-cut of the feature, since the secondary fill (108), composed of a slightly darker greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2) extended to the base of the feature. A few sherds of early medieval pottery (10th - late 11th century) were recovered from the base of fill (108) broadly denoting the period in which the pit went out of use; pottery of this type was produced in the near environs of St Neots (*post*, 8.14), about 2.5 km to the northeast of the site.

- 8.3 Analysis of the environmental soil sample from (108) revealed a range of cereal grains consistent with the medieval arable economy (*post*, 8.23 – 8.29 Table 3). This included hulled barley, free-threshing type wheat and rye Pulses (i.e. peas / beans) were also present. A single grain of glume wheat is considered to be residual from an earlier period.

Pit [113] (Figs. 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, Section 5)

- 8.4 The aforementioned pit [105] was cut on its west side by another pit [113]. The latter measured c. 1.2m by 0.83m and was up to c. 0.36 m deep, with sides inclined between 25° and 35°. A single homogenous fill (114) was discernible, comprised of extremely compact greyish brown (Munsell 10YR 5/2) sandy soil. Although no artefacts were present, the environmental soil sample yielded a similar range of cereal grain (with the addition of oats) and pulses (*post*, 8.23 – 8.29, Table 3).

Gully [106] (Figs. 8, 10, 11 Section 1, 15)

- 8.5 Cutting across the pits [105] and [133] was a linear feature [106] c. 5.07m long and broadly aligned east-west, which terminated just short of the baulk at the extreme east end of the trench. The western end of the feature petered out, having been plough-truncated towards the southwest corner of the trench. Excavation revealed a gully-like feature c. 0.34 m wide x 0.08 - 0.1 m deep. This had a near-flat bottom and sides sloping between 30 and 50°. It contained a single homogeneous fill (107) of dark greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2), similar to that of pit [105].

- 8.6 Although there were no artefacts present to reflect the date of the feature, the environmental soil sample produced a grain of wheat, an indeterminate cereal grain and a pulse, all of which are deemed to be consistent with the medieval agrarian economy (*post*, 8.23 – 8.29, Table 3).

Gully [111] (Figs. 8, 10, 11 Section 2, 12)

- 8.7 At an approximate 90° angle to the terminus of gully [106], was a terminus of a second gully [111], which continued beyond the north baulk. Gully [111] was c. 0.4 m wide at the top and c. 0.14 m wide at its base, c. 0.13 m deep with sides sloping at 55° - 65°. There was a single homogeneous fill (112) of dark greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2). Despite the absence of dateable artefacts, the similarities shared by the two gullies in terms of their form and fills (i.e. colour, texture and constituents) suggest both contemporaneous use and disuse. Similarly, the environmental soil sample yielded a small quantity of cereal grain (including free-threshing wheat, wheat and oat) and pulses in-keeping with the medieval economy (*post*, 8.23 – 8.29 Table 3).

18th Century Pit [103] (Figs. 8, 17, 18 Section 6)

- 8.8 An isolated shallow pit [103] located in the central part of Trench 1 contained a range of early to mid 18th century pottery, denoting the date in which the pit was dug/in-filled. Near-circular, the pit measured c. 6 m in diameter and was just 0.08 – 0.1 m deep with a

homogeneous dark brown fill (104) (Munsell 10YR3/3). It was likely to have been a domestic rubbish pit, much truncated by ploughing. The assemblage of vessel types includes a large pancheon of which there was c. 55%, sprig-moulded creamware, Staffordshire decorated slipware, and earthenware storage jars (*post*, 8.16, Table 1). The date of the deposit would be compatible with the occupation of the site known from historic maps.

Historic Drainage (Figs. 8, 10, 15 Section 5)

- 8.9 Parallel to the aforementioned probable medieval gully [106] (aligned approximately E-W) was a sectional clay-ware land drain [110], the pottery within it back-filled trench indicating construction in the late 19th century (*post*, 8.17, Table 1). The east-west orientation of the drain, perpendicular to the ground slope, may suggest that it was associated with the building depicted on the map OS map of 1883.

Pit [101] (Figs. 8, 19 - 20)

- 8.10 Near to the west end of the trench, a large, vertical-sided pit of unknown depth against the north baulk. Excavated to a depth of c. 0.6 m (c. 1.1 m from ground level), it was abandoned following the appearance of a void below the baulk. Presumed to have been either a well or gravel pit [101], it appears to have been in-filled (102) in the late 19th or 20th century, containing a fairly friable dark brown soil (102) (Munsell 10YR3/1-3/2).

Ground Truncation

- 8.11 All of the aforementioned features in Trench 1 were disturbed by plough-scores aligned north-south. On Figure 9, these can be seen running across the central area of Trench 1. It has been suggested that the land was ploughed up in the 1930s and 40s (*pers. comm.* J Wright). In the western half of the trench, the plough had removed all trace of both the land drain [109] and gully [106].

Trench 2

(Figs. 21, 22)

- 8.12 The archaeology in Trench 2 comprised of irregular lenses of gravel and sand at the west end of the trench up to c.0.1 m thick, presumably dumped over many years to enable property/field access (201). Pottery sherds of late 19th and 20th century date were recovered. Towards the east end of the trench was a late 19th century land drain [202] with sectional clay-ware pipe. Deep plough scores, aligned north/south, prevailed throughout the trench. These reached below the depth of the land drain, revealing severe truncation of the geological strata, which had presumably occurred in the mid 20th century.

Trench 3

(Figs. 23 - 25)

- 8.13 There was no evidence of plough-damage in Trench 3. Five post holes were present in the northern half of the trench and were investigated by half-section (Figs. 26 - 27). All contained not-dissimilar fills of homogenous dark brown sandy silty soil. Four of the post-holes ([302], [303], [308], and [309]) contained late 19th century pottery or artefacts (*post*, 8.17, Table 1). A shallow feature [308] containing lime/lime mortar, charcoal and fragment of glass was probably also of the same period. The location of the post-holes broadly coincide a property boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey first and second edition maps (i.e. 1884 and 1900).

Hearth (Figs. 25, 28 – 29)

- 8.14 Towards the southern end of the trench was the remains of a rectangular brick-lined hearth [310] (0.61 m by c. 1.35 m) constructed of lime-mortared hand-made bricks, four courses below ground level (c. 0.36 m). The brick sizes¹² corresponded to 18th - 19th century forms.

¹² i.e. 210/225 mm x 100/105 mm x c. 75 mm

The back-fill (**311**) of the hearth contained late 19th century brick and tile and a sherd of yellow-ware pottery (c.1870s - 90s). Adjoining the hearth to the west was a patch of compacted gravel (315), which was considered to be a remnant of the floor of a building. A series of 20th century post-holes were also present. The location of the hearth closely coincides with the north end an outbuilding depicted on the Ordnance Survey first and second edition maps (i.e. 1884 and 1900).

Artefacts

Medieval Pottery *by Martin Wilson*

- 8.15 Six small body sherds of St Neots type pottery¹³ were recovered from pit [105] (fill 108). Pottery of this type is characterised by finely-crushed shell-temperer and was produced from the late Anglo-Saxon era through to the early Norman period (i.e. 10th to late 11th century AD). Five vessels are represented with a total weight of 25 g.

Post-medieval Pottery *by Martin Wilson*

- 8.16 The pottery assemblage falls into two periods: one of mid to late 17th century and the other broadly of mid to late 19th century.
- 8.17 The earlier period is represented by an assemblage from an isolated domestic rubbish pit **[103]** in Trench 1. The vessel-types represented comprise: of an earthenware pancheon (c. 55%), typically used for separating cream from milk, for bread-making; a sherd of Staffordshire-type press-moulded slipware pie-dish or platter, with trailed and combed decoration under a transparent lead glaze; a lead-glazed earthenware jug (c. 40%) / jar; a lead-glazed earthenware storage jar; and creamware table ware.
- 8.18 The 19th century assemblage was recovered predominantly from stratified contexts in Trench 3, namely a series of post-holes and the back-fill of a cottage hearth. The vessels largely comprise tablewares popular during the period, including yellow ware, salt-glazed stoneware, blue flow ware and underglaze transfer printed blue earthenware. A representative sample was also recovered from the back-fill of a sectional ceramic land drain in Trench 1 and a gravels/metalled area in Trench 2.

8.19 Table 1: Types and chronology

Context No.	Description	Period
104	1 rim sherd, North Midlands (Staffordshire-type), press-moulded dish or platter with glazed interior; trailed and combed brown slip on white slip ground. 15g.	Late C17–mid C18
	3 sherds. Pancheon. (c55%) Orange sandy fabric, transparent /light brown glazed interior. Dia. 390mm, int.depth 650-70mm , ht. 78mm. 1969 g.	C18
	1 sherd creamware, fine,off-white paste, body sherd. Tableware. 0.05g.	Mid-end C18
	2 sherds sprig moulded creamware, light yellow glazeand paste. Tableware (cup or tea pot). 12g.	c. 1760-end C18
	4 earthenware jug/jar, pink-buff fabric; base & body (c 40%), dark brown to black lead glaze (int. & ext.), 998g.	C18

¹³ Bedfordshire fabric B01

Context No.	Description	Period
	2 sherds earthenware storage jar with lid seated rim. Orange-brown sandy fabric Greenish-brown lead glaze (int. & ext.)	C18
109	2 sherds yellow-ware with 6 white cordons, mug, rim, 15g.	c.1870s-1890s
202	Sample only. 2 sherds black-glazed earthenware jar, buff sandy fabric, bodysherds, 87g. 1 rim sherd, moulded whiteware (earthenware) plate, floral design, X 1 sherd whiteware, tableware	C19 C19
304	X 2 sherds creamware (2 vessels), 13g. X 1 sherd underglaze printed transfer ware, plate, 6g. X 1 sherd stoneware jar, 21g.	C19 C19 C19
314	X 2 sherds creamware, teacup, 13g. X 1 sherd underglaze printed transfer ware, 0.05g X1 stoneware jar, 4g	C19 C19 C19
307	X 1 sherd underglaze printed transfer ware, plate, 40g.	C19
311	X 1 yellow-ware body sherd	c.1870s-1890s
313	X 1 sherd, earthenware ?storage jar, Orange-brown sandy fabric, greenish-brown lead glaze (int. & ext.), very abraded	C18

Other finds

8.20 Table 2

Context	Description	Suggested Period
313	Shotgun cartridge case, brass. The hull was likely to have been of paper	Late C19 - mid C20
307	X 1 sherd bottle moulded glass with letters '..CE..'	Early C20

Environmental Assessment of Bulk Sample Light Fractions *by John Summers PhD*

Introduction

8.21 Four bulk soil samples from the archaeological investigation at Heddings Farm, Wyboston, were submitted to Archaeological Solutions Ltd for processing and assessment. The aim of this investigation was to determine the nature of preservation and distribution of environmental archaeological macrofossil remains in deposits at the site, and provide a basic palaeo-economic interpretation of any remains recovered. The sampled deposits were all of likely medieval (10th - 12th century) date.

Methods

8.22 Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1 mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10 - x30 magnification). Botanical remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006)

and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

- 8.23 The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3. Preservation of plant remains was by carbonisation only. A significant number of modern rootlets dominated the light fractions and, although every effort was made to disaggregate the root masses, some items may have been obscured and overlooked.
- 8.24 The remains were dominated by cereal grains, which were present in all four samples. Richest were samples from (108) and (114). Identified cereals were hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*), oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). All of these were common elements of the medieval arable economy (e.g. Moffett 2006; Ballantyne 2005; Carruthers 2008), as were pulses (large Fabaceae), which were present in two samples. In addition to these was a single grain of glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*) in (108). Although uncharacteristic for a medieval assemblage, glume wheat remains have been recovered from other medieval sites, such as West Fen Road, Ely, where they were interpreted as probable weeds among other cereals rather than a crop in their own right (Ballantyne 2005). This specimen could equally represent residual remains from earlier activity on the site.
- 8.25 A small range of non-cereal taxa were also present, including vetch/ tare (medium Fabaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). These are likely to represent arable weeds, and stinking chamomile was a particularly common medieval weed of heavy loam and clay soils (e.g. Straker *et al.* 2007, 885; de Moulins 2007, 395). The predominance of cereal grains and limited concentrations of chaff (two culm nodes in (108)) indicates that the remains are likely to have been predominantly clean grain from domestic contexts.
- 8.26 Charcoal remains were present in only low concentrations and no identification was attempted. No archaeological mollusc shells were recorded.

Conclusions

- 8.27 The range of arable crop taxa recorded is typical for the medieval period and the nature of the assemblage is likely to represent carbonised remains of primarily clean grain from domestic activities and nearby occupation. It is likely that the crops were locally cultivated but little evidence of crop processing by-products were present in the four samples investigated.
- 8.28 No further work is recommended on the present assemblage but should further excavation be undertaken at the site it is likely that a larger assemblage of carbonised plant macrofossils for the investigation of the medieval economy and crop husbandry regimes could be obtained through additional sample recovery.

8.29 Table 3: Results from the bulk sample light fractions from Heddings Farm, Wyboston.

Context	Feature type	Spot date	Sample weight (kg)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa	Char - coal	Contaminants			Other rems	
				Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds		Notes	Roots	Molluscs		Modern seeds
107	Gully	-	13.6	X	-	Trit (1), NFI (1)	X	Medium Fabaceae (1)	-	X X X	-	-	-
108	Pit	C10-C12 AD	28.3	X X	X	Hord (3), FTW (4), E/S (1), Trit (4), Rye (1), NFI (17), Culm (2)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), Medium Fabaceae (3), <i>Rumex</i> sp. (2), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (1)	X	X X X	-	X	-
112	Gully	-	12.9	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (4), Oat (1), NFI (2)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), Medium Fabaceae (2)	-	X X X	-	X	Coal (X)
114	Pit	-	9.2	X X	-	HB (1), FTW (6), Trit (6), Oat (1), NFI (7)	X	Medium Fabaceae (1)	X	X X X	-	-	Coal (X)

Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

9. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 9.1 The trial trenching revealed archaeological features deemed to be of significance in only one of the three trenches. This was Trench 1 located in the northern part of the PDA.
- 9.2 The archaeology comprised a shallow pit which could be broadly dated by pottery to the c. 10th – 12th century (i.e. late Anglo-Saxon – early Norman), and a second pit probably of the same period; the assemblages of plant macrofossil remains cereal non-cereal taxa from each pit being not-dissimilar. The function of the pits is uncertain, although the disposal of domestic waste seems probable. Faunal remains were notably absent.
- 9.3 There were also two undated gully-like features, each with a flattish bases. One of these was stratigraphically later than the pits. The plant macro-fossil assemblages from each gully, although comparatively sparse, are nonetheless consistent with a medieval agrarian economy. The function of each gully is uncertain.
- 9.4 No archaeological features were found in Trench 2 which was placed in the southern part of the PDA, while Trench 3 revealed only evidence of 18th - 20th century occupation and land-use.
- 9.5 The Inclosure Map of 1799 depicts dwellings on the site, and indeed corroborative archaeological evidence for domestic occupation in the mid/late 18th century was reflected in

a varied assemblage of pottery found in a shallow pit in Trench 1. There was, however, no evidence of land-use or occupation between the c.10th / late 11th century and the 18th century. The topsoil was scanned for finds, although only contained late post-medieval pottery sherds.

- 9.6 In all three trenches the geological stratum (sandy gravel and gravel) was reached c. 0.3 m - c. 0.38 m below existing ground level. Subsoil was notably absent. There was, however, evidence of deep ploughing throughout Trenches 1 and 2, on a north-south trend, which is understood to have occurred in mid or late 20th century. This action had entirely removed the western extent of a 19th century land-drain in Trench 1, and had partially removed the aforementioned gully [106]. In Trench 2 the plough had reached the sectional clay pipe of a land drain. It is thus reasonable to infer that a similar level of plough-truncation exists between the two trenches. In contrast there were no sign of plough scores in Trench 3, on the east side of the evaluated area.
- 9.7 It is possible that the early medieval archaeology represents a localised occurrence in the evaluated area.

10. ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The Bedford Museum Archive Accessions Number for this project is **BEDFM 2019.57**. The paper archive comprises project documentation, monochrome photographs, digital photographs, and eco-facts. The artefacts remain the property of the landowner although he will be invited to transfer ownership to Bedford Museum. The landowner is to be responsible for costs pertaining to museum archiving and storage.
- 10.2 The English Heritage OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: www.oasis.ac.uk) identification number for this project is **souterra1-356872**

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Historic maps

Map MA20 (Wyboston) Eaton Socon Inclosure map 1799

Ordnance Survey First edition, 25" Bedfordshire 1884

13. Figures

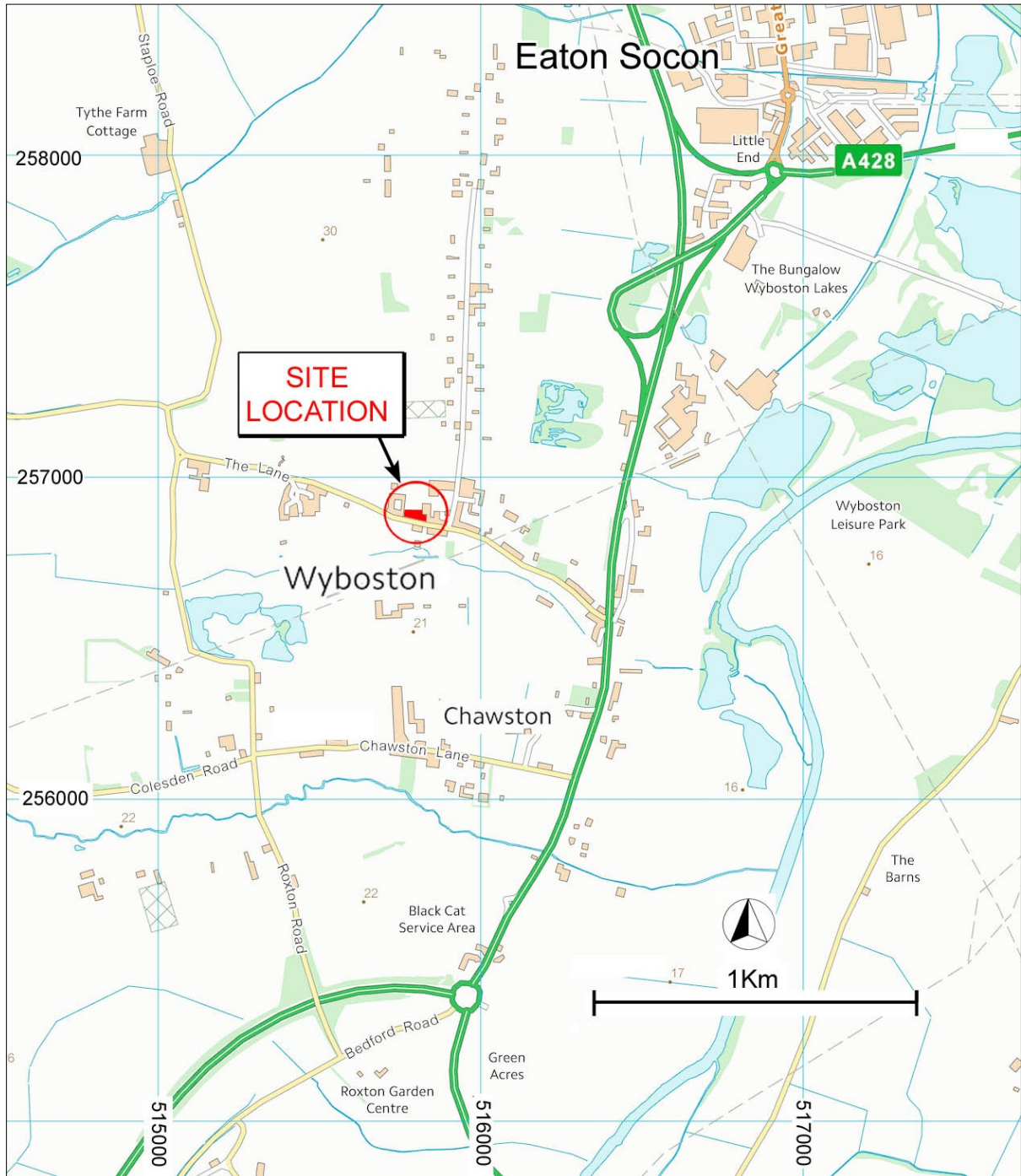


Figure 1. Location of Application Site

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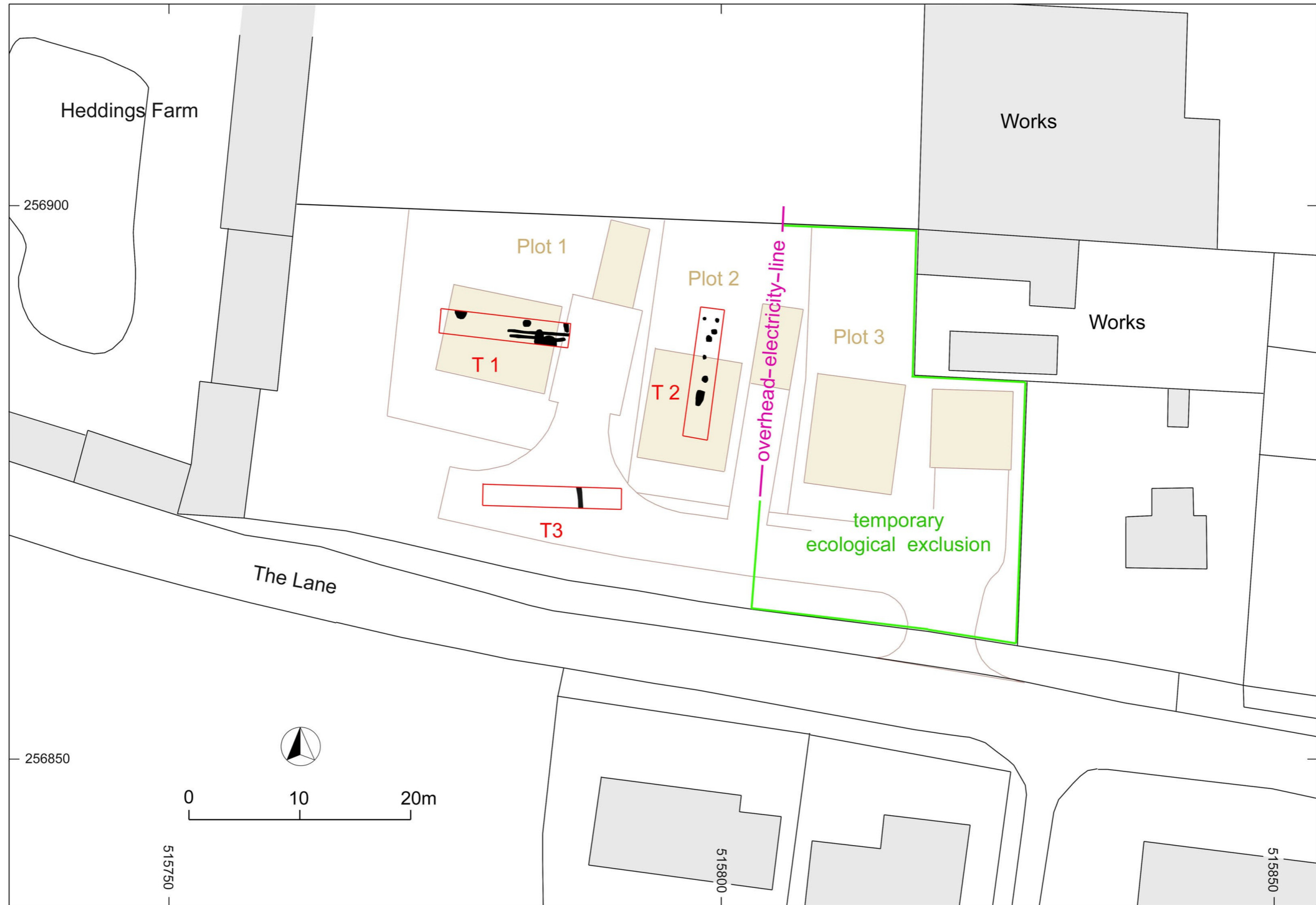


Figure 2. Proposed Site Layout (Plots 1 to 3; at 12th June 2019) & Location of Evaluation Trenches (T1 to T3)



Figure 3. Pre-excavation overview of the Proposed Development Area. Facing SW

Figure 4. Extract (redrawn) of 1799 Inclosure Award Map showing approximate location of the proposed development area



Figure 5. Extract of Ordnance Survey 1884 map showing approximate location of the proposed development area

(base map extract: Ordnance Survey 25" maps 1884 © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565)

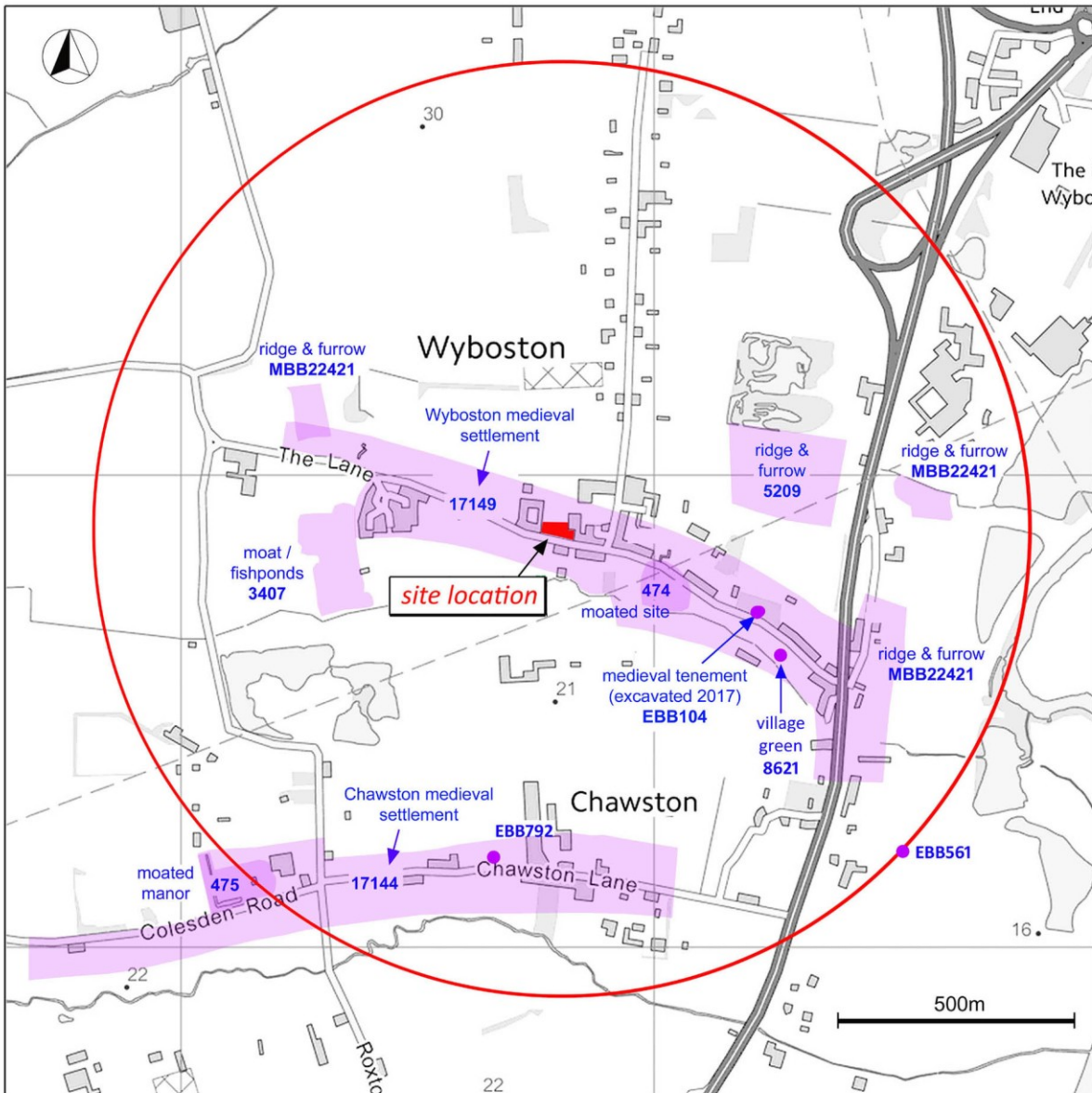


Figure 6. Location of site and Study Area showing distribution of Medieval sites cited in the text

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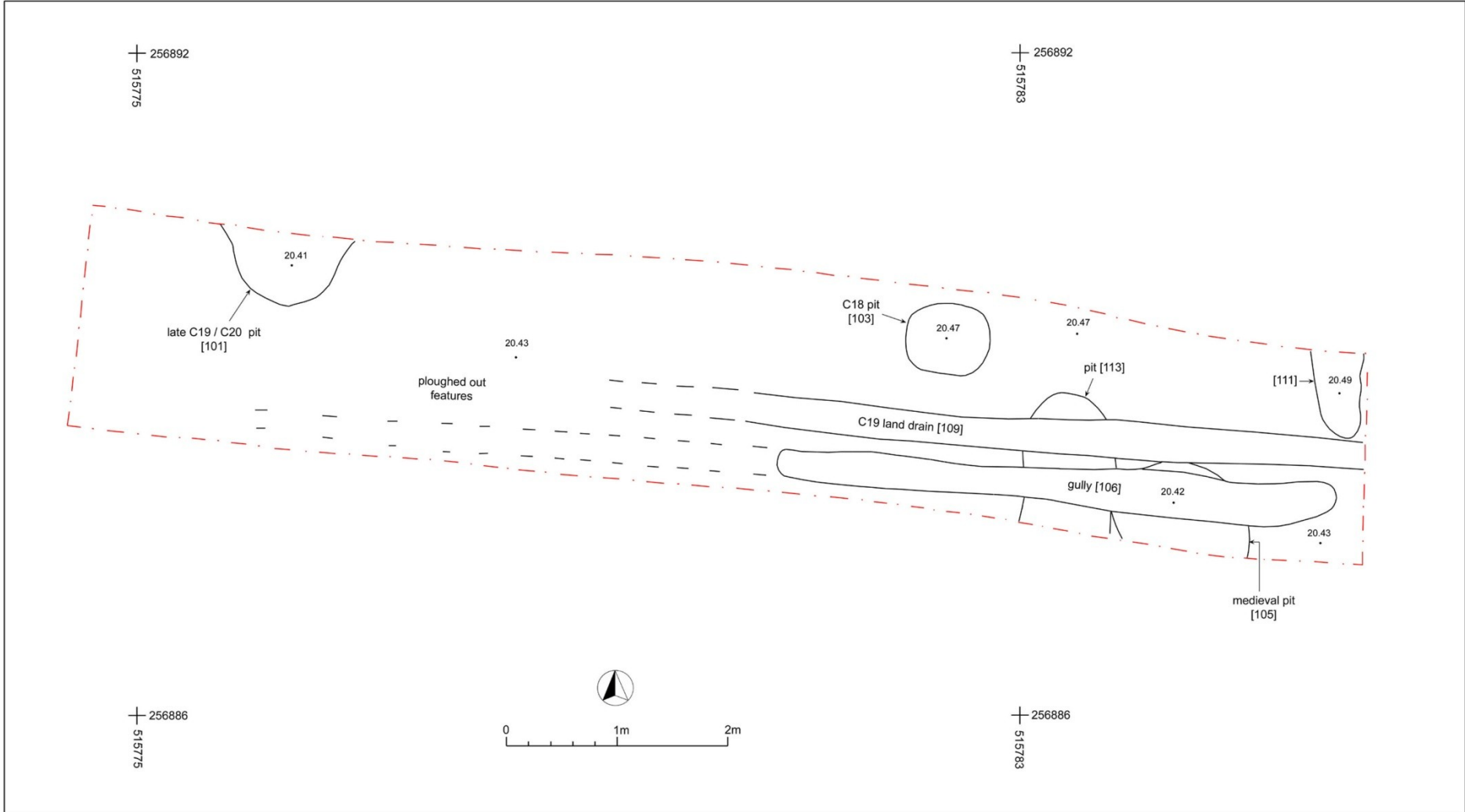


Figure 7. Trench 1. Pre-excitation Plan

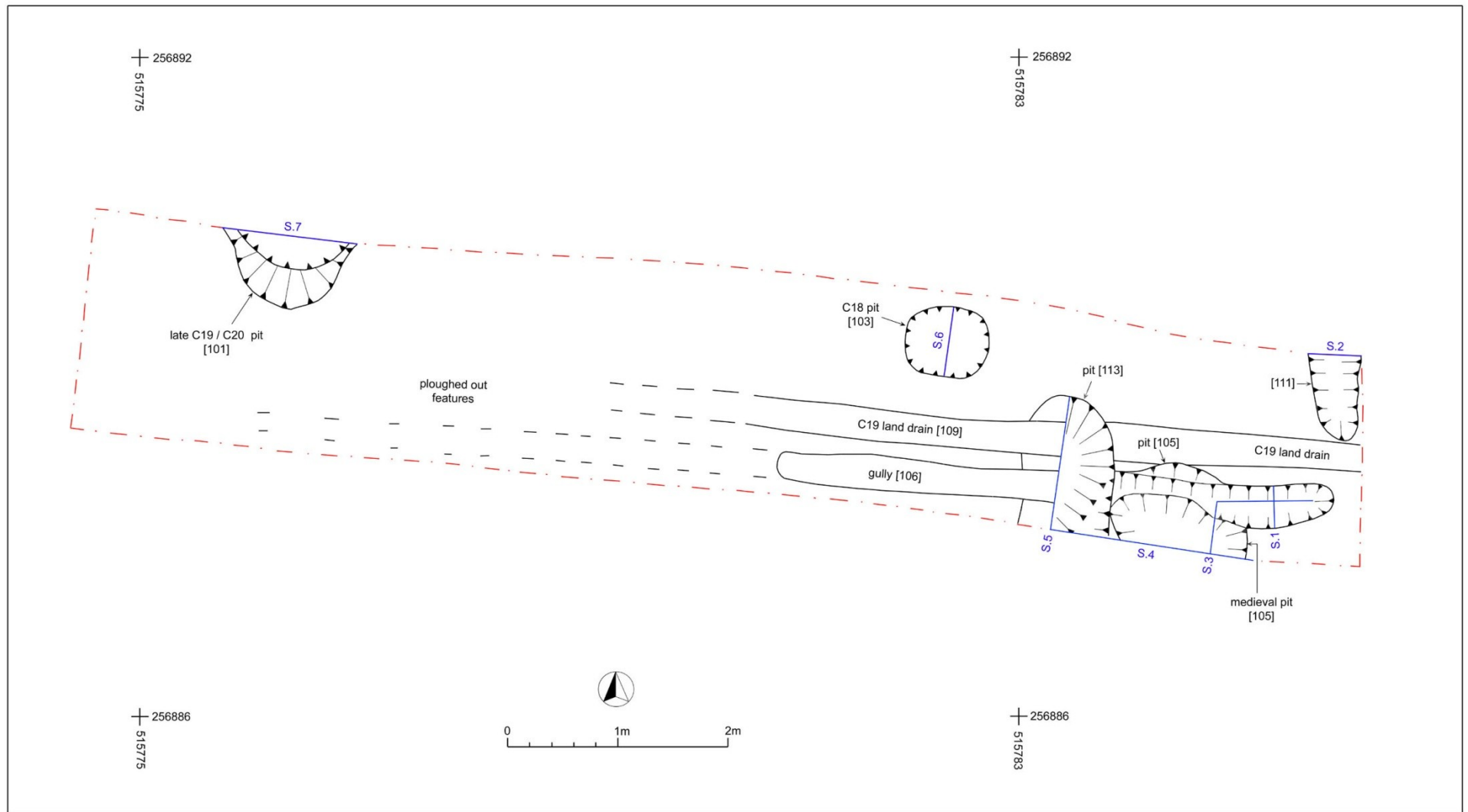


Figure 8. Trench 1. Excavated features & location of Sections 1 to 7



Figure 9. Trench 1. Pre-excavation. Facing WNW



Figure 10. Trench 1. Excavated features. Facing W

Figure 11.

Trench 1.
Sections 1 to 3

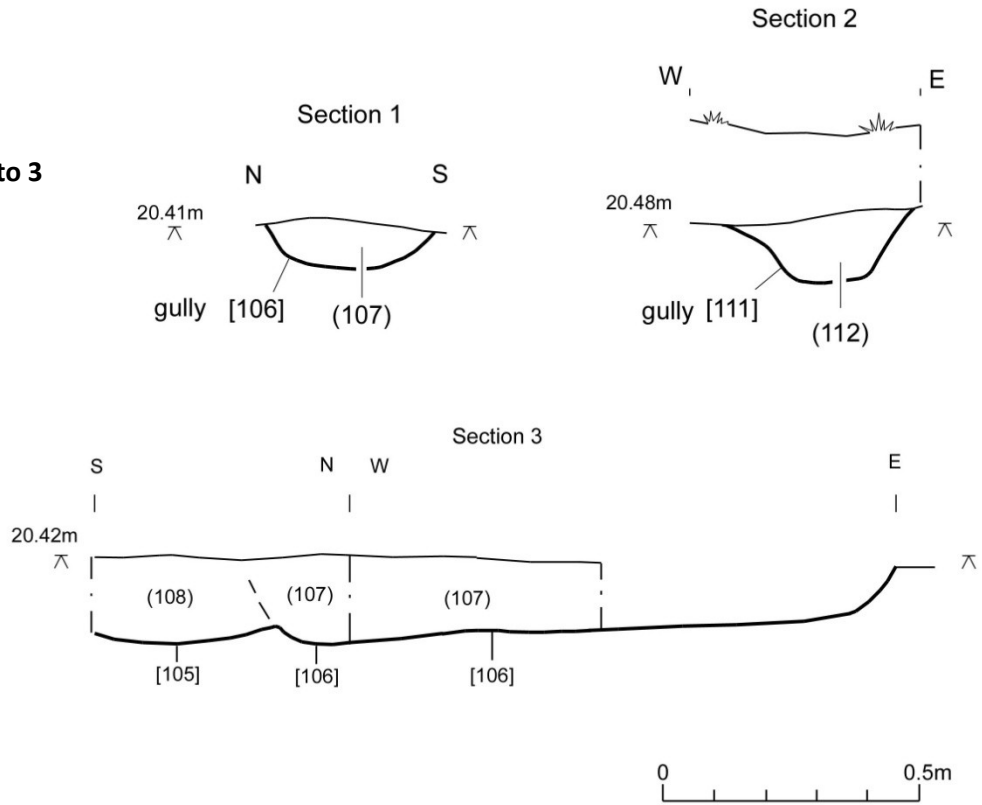


Figure 12. Trench 1. Excavated linear features [106] and [111]

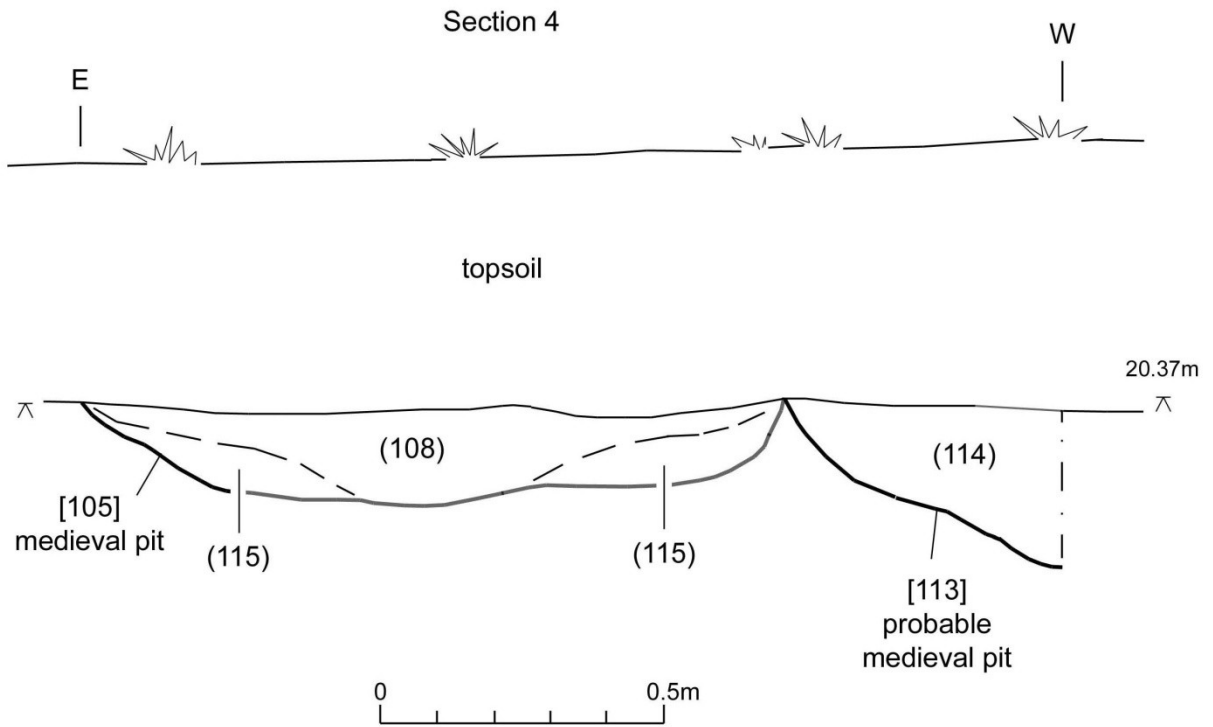


Figure 13. Trench 1. Section 4: Pits [105] and [113]



Figure 14. Trench 1. Section 4: Pits [105] and [113]. Facing SW

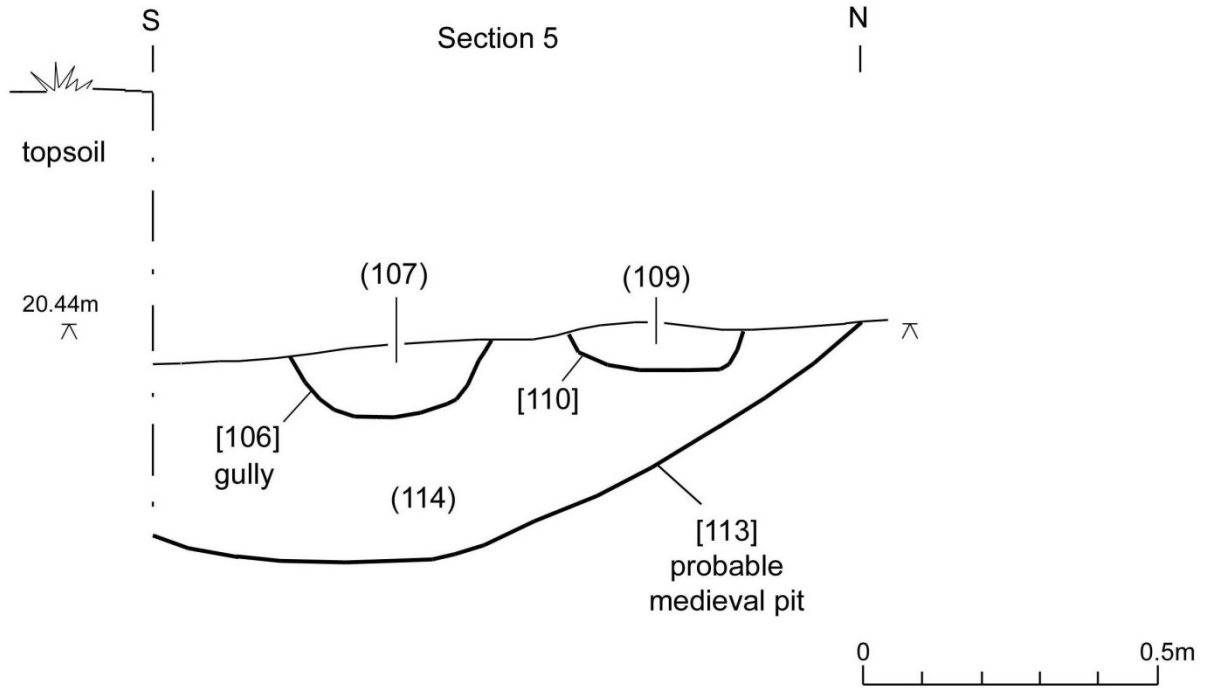


Figure 15. Trench 1. Section 5: Pit [113]



Figure 16. Trench 1. Section 5: Pit [113]. Facing WNW

Figure 17. Trench 1.
Section 6: 18th
century domestic
waste pit [103]

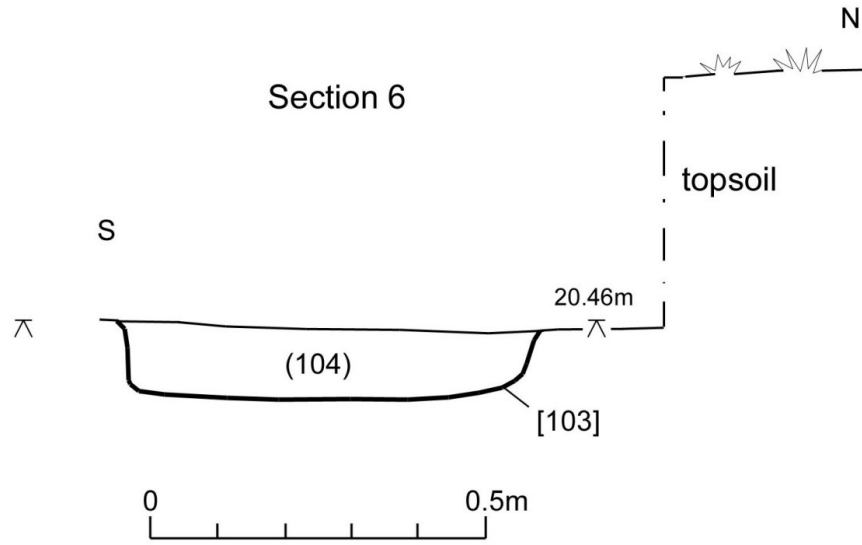


Figure 18. Trench 1. 18th century domestic waste pit [103]. Facing NW

Figure 19.

Trench 1. Section 7:
19th / 20th century
well or gravel pit
[101]

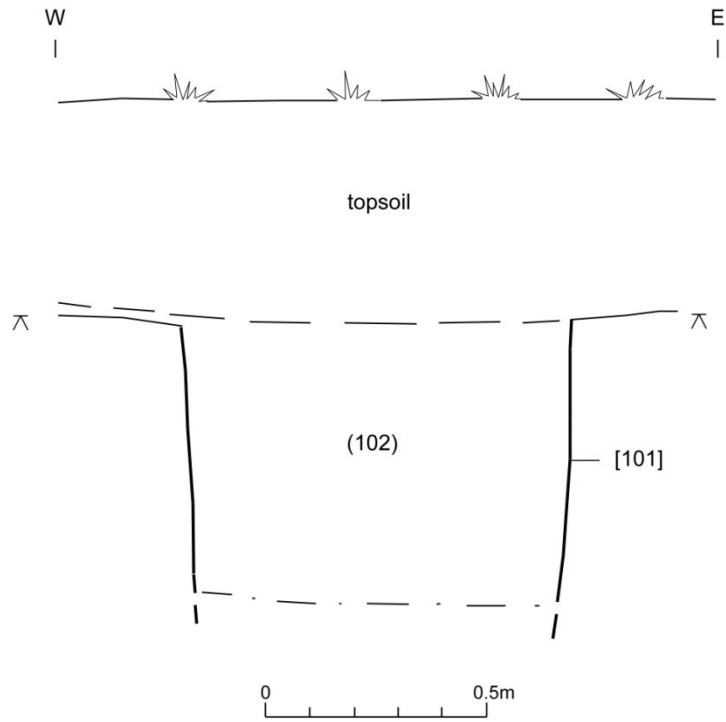


Figure 20

Trench 1. Section 7:
19th / 20th century
well or gravel pit
[101]. Facing N



Figure 21. Trench 2. Pre-excitation overview. Facing W



Figure 22. Trench 2. Pre-excitation overview. Facing E



Figure 23. Trench 3. Pre-excitation overview. Facing SSW



Figure 24. Trench 3. Pre-excitation overview. Facing NNE

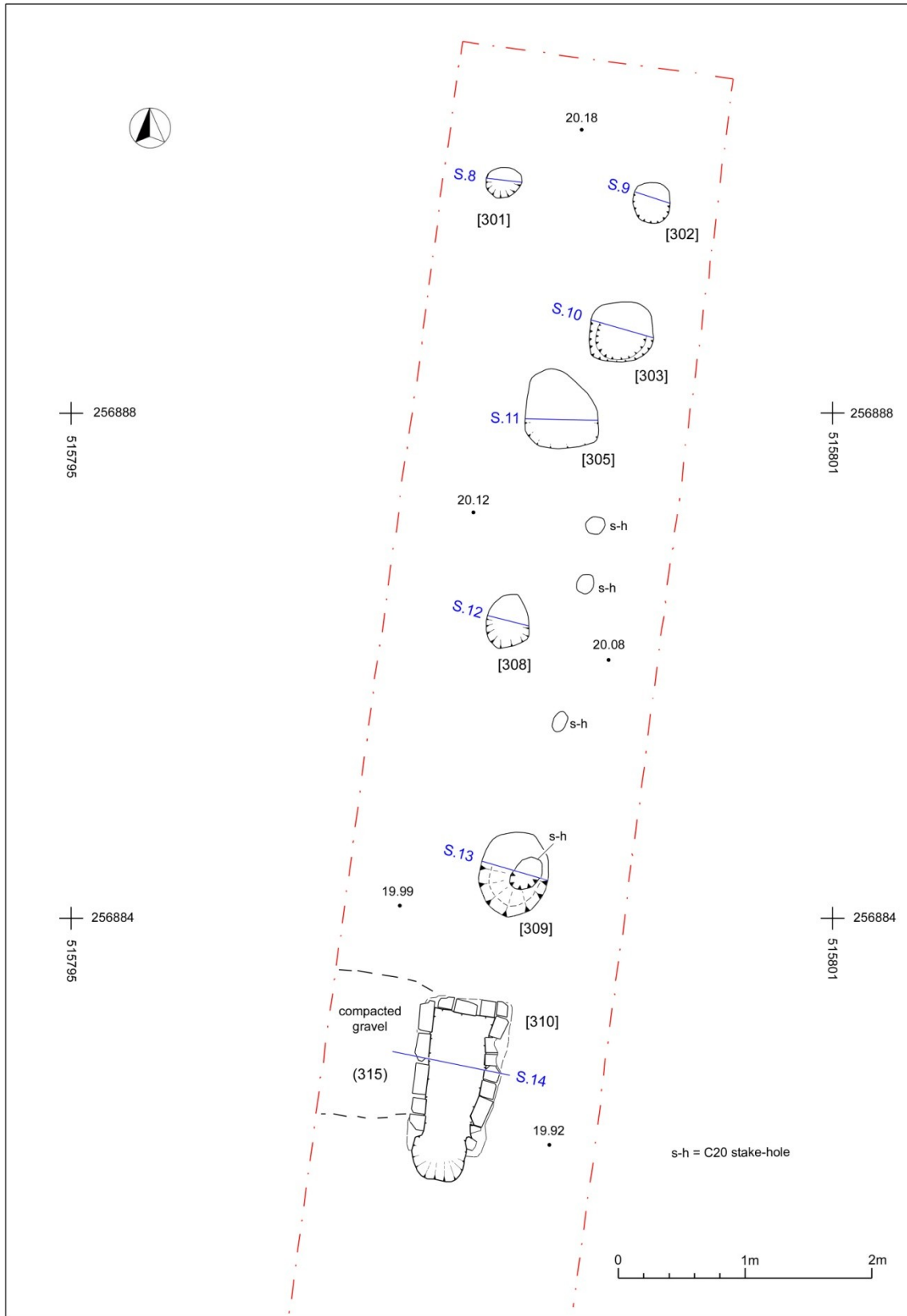
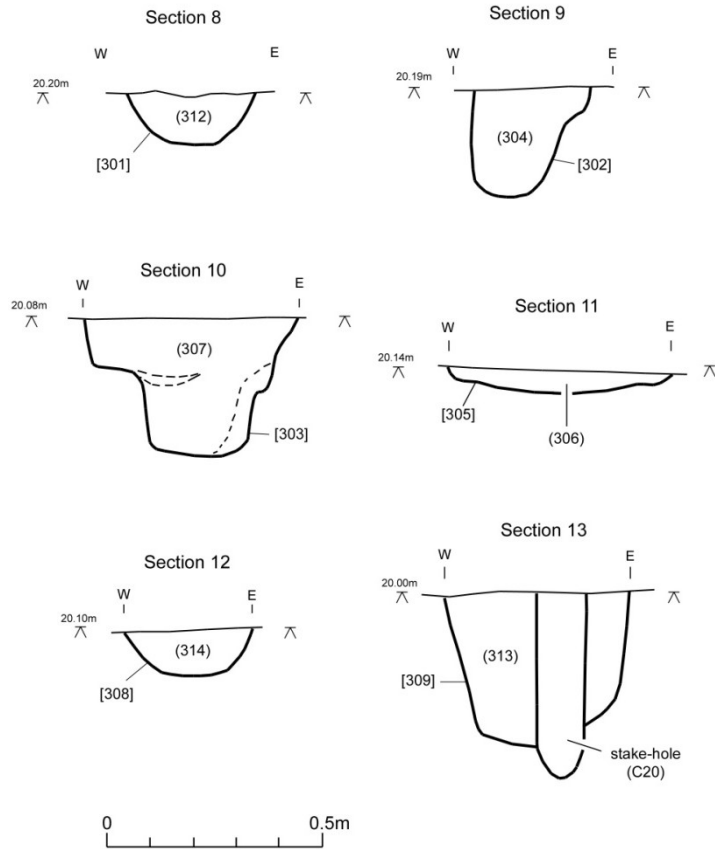


Figure 25. Trench 3. Plan of excavated features

**Figure 26. Trench 3.
Sections 8-13: 19th
century post-holes**



**Figure 27. Trench 3.
Overview of 19th
century post-holes**





Figure 28. Trench 3. Overview of post-medieval hearth [310], facing NE

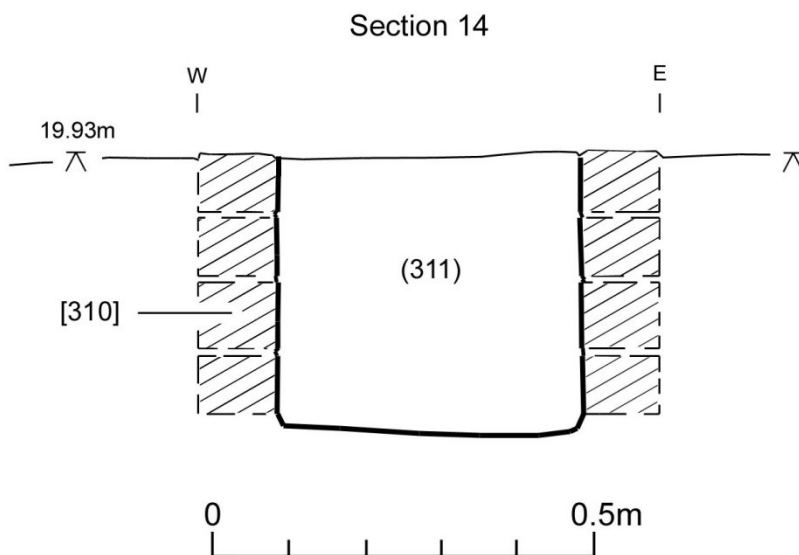


Figure 29. Trench 3. Section 14: post-medieval hearth [310]

APPENDIX 1: List of Contexts

KEY: Relationships: **a.** above; **abt.** abuts; **adj.** adjoins; **b.** below; **c.** cuts; **cub.** cut by; **co.** contains; **wi** within
 Dimensions: **le.** length; **wid.** width; **de.** depth; **th.** thickness

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	relationships	dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Enviro-sample	Date of record
001	layer	Topsoil. Very dark brown sandy soil	a.(002)	-		V. occ. C18/19 pot sherds	-	12.06.2019
002	layer	Geological stratum. Dark orange-brown sandy gravel and gravel, generally firm (loose interface with topsoil in TR 1 and 2 where plough damaged)	b.(001)	-		-	-	12.06.2019
TRENCH 1								
101	cut	Large, vt--sided pit of unknown depth against N baulk. Excavated to c. 0.6 m (c. 1.1 m from ground level), abandoned after void appeared below baulk. Possibly a well or gravel pit	b.(001); c.(002); co.(102)	De. U/K, at least 0.6 m; Dia.	S7	Occ. C19/ C20 pot sherds, tile & brick frags	-	12-14.06.2019
102	fill	Fairly loose, friable dark brown soil (Munsell 10YR3/1-3/2).	w.[101]				-	12-14.06.2019
103	cut	Shallow near-circular pit, for domestic waste. Sides c. vt. Probably plough-truncated	b.(001); c.(002)	Dia. 0.75m De. 0.80m – 0.1 m	S6	-	-	12-14.06.2019
104	fill	Homogeneous dark brown fill of pit [105] (Munsell 10YR3/3).		Th. 0.08m – 0.1m		Pottery C18	-	12-14.06.2019
105	cut	Pit, shallow, sides c. 35°. Possibly for domestic waste	b.(001); c.(002); Co.(108), (105);Cub.	Dia. c.1.22 m by 0.80 m; De.0.18 m	S1, S3			12-14.06.2019

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	relationships	dimensions	Drawing	Finds	Enviro-sample	Date of record
			[113]					
106	cut	Linear feature/gully, visible for c. 5.07m, broadly aligned E-W, terminates short of the E baulk. W end ploughed out. Flattish base, sides 30 - 50°	b.(001); c.(002); Co.(107)	Wid. c. 0.34 m; De. 0.08 - 0.1 m	S1, S3, S5			12-14.06.2019
107	fill	Homogeneous fill of gully [106], dark greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2), Similar to fill (108)	w.[106]	th. 0.08 - 0.1 m			√	12-14.06.2019
108	fill	Secondary fill of pit [105]. dark greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2)	a.(115); wi.[105]	th.0.18 m		Pottery C10 - late C11	√	12-14.06.2019
109	fill	Dark brown soil		Th. up to		Pottery C19		12-14.06.2019
110	cut	Land drain	b.. (001); c.(002)	le. c. 5.36m; de. 0.08m	S5	-		12-14.06.2019
111	cut	Short length of gully with terminus, visible for 0.80m. Continues beyond N baulk. Approx 90° to gully terminus [106]. Flattish base, sides @ 55° - 65°	b.(001); c.(002); Co.(112)	Wid. c.0.4 m (top), c.0.14 m (base); De.c.0.12m	S2			12-14.06.2019
112	fill	Fill of gully [111], homogeneous dark greyish brown sandy silty soil (Munsell 10YR 4/2). Very akin to gully fill (107)	w.[111]	th.c.0.13m			√	12-14.06.2019
113	cut	Pit. fairly shallow, sides 25° - 30°. Uncertain function	b.(001); c.(002); c.[105]; co..(114)	Dia. c. 1.2 m by 0.83m; De. < 0.36 m	S4, S5			12-14.06.2019
114	fill	Fill of pit [113]. Homogenous very compact greyish brown (Munsell 10YR 5/2) sandy soil	w.[113]; cub. [105]					12-14.06.2019
115	fill	Primary deposit of pit [105]. Dark greyish brown (Munsell 10YR 4/2) sandy silty soil deposit	Wi.[105];	Th. < c.0.08 m		-		12-14.06.2019

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	relationships	dimensions	Drawing	Findings	Enviro-sample	Date of record
			b.(108)					
TRENCH 2								
201	layer	Irregular lenses of gravel and sand at the west end of trench. Prob. laid over many years to enable property/field access	a.(002) b.(001)	De. up to c. 0.1 m	Survey plan only	C19 / C20 pottery, tile, brick frags.	-	12.06.2019
202	cut	Land drain. Contains C19 sectional clay drains	b. (001) c.(002)	-	Survey plan only		-	12.06.2019
TRENCH 3								
301	cut	Post-hole, sub-circular, flat base, sides c. 55°	b.(001); c.(002); co.(312)	De.c.0.11; Dia..c.0.29	S8	-		12.06.2019
302	cut	Post-hole, sub-circular	b.(001); c.(002); co.(302)	Dia.c.0.27m; De.c.0.25m	S9	-		12.06.2019
303	Cut	Post-hole, sub-oval, steeped down cut.	b.(001); c.(002); Co.[307]	Dia. c.0.49m (top); c.0.22m (base); De.c.0.32m	S10	-		12.06.2019
304	fill	Dark brown sandy and gravel silt (Munsell 10YR 3/2 - 10YR 3/3) and sandy gravel	w.[302]	th.c.0.25m		late C 19 pottery		12.06.2019
305	cut	Shallow feature sub-oval cut. Sides 70° to 10°. Prob. remains of shallow pit. uncertain function	b.(001); c.(002); co. (306)	De.up to 0.05m	S11	-		12.06.2019
306	fill	Dark brown sandy gritty soil (Munsell 10YR 3/3) with lime/lime mortar, frequent charcoal	Wi.[305]	Th. up to 0.05m		C 19 glass sherd		12.06.2019
307	fill	Dark brown sandy and gravel silt (Munsell 10YR 3/3) and sandy gravel	b.(001);	th.c.0.32m		late C 19 pottery;		12.06.2019

Context No.	type	Description and Interpretation	relationships	dimensions	Drawing	Findings	Enviro-sample	Date of record
			wi. [303]					
308	cut	Post-hole, sub-oval, flattish base, c. 55°	Co.(314)	de. c. 0.1m; dia.c.0.29m	S12	-		12.06.2019
309	cut	Post-hole, sub-circular. Modern stake hole within it	Co.(313)	Dia.c.0.42m; De.c. 0.35m	S13			12.06.2019
310	Structure	Brick-lined hearth, rectangular, built of lime-mortared hand-made bricks, four courses below ground level. brick sizes 210/225 mm x 100/105 mm x c. 75 mm Adjoining structure on W side is patch of compacted gravel (315)	c.(002) b.(001) Co.(311)	Wid. 0.61m Le. c. 1.35 m Ht./De. c. 0.36 m	Survey plan, S13	-		12.06.2019
311	fill	Back-fill of hearth structure [310]. Dark brown sandy and gravel silt (Munsell 10YR 3/3) and sandy gravel	w. (310)			late C 19 pottery, brick and tile frags		12.06.2019
312	fill	Fill of post-hole [301] Homogeneous dark brown sandy and gravel silt (Munsell 10YR 5/2 - 10YR 4/2)	w. [301]	th.c.0.11;				12.06.2019
313	fill	Fill of post-hole [309]	b.(001); c.(002); w.[309]	De.c. 0.35m		late C 19 pottery, C19 shotgun cartridge		12.06.2019
314	fill	Fill of post-hole [301] Homogeneous dark brown sandy and gravel silt (Munsell 10YR 5/2 - 10YR 4/2)	Wi.[308]	th. c. 0.1m;		late C 19 pottery		12.06.2019
315	layer	Patch of compacted gravel (315) adjoining hearth [114]. Possible floor remnant, or ground compacted from former wall of structure	a.(002) b.(001)	u/k				12.06.2019