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**A435 Studley Bypass
Archaeological Assessment**

Proposal for Stage 3 Fieldwork

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on behalf of

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September 1994

A435 Studley Bypass Archaeological Assessment

Proposal for Stage 3 Fieldwork

1. Introduction

1.1 The proposed Studley Bypass scheme will run for c.11km from the northern end of the existing A435 Alcester Bypass to the existing A435 at Gorcott Hill and for a further 2km from a roundabout at Studley Common to the A441 Alcester highway at Oakenshaw, forming the A448 Alcester Highway Link. As part of the preparatory work the Field Archaeology Section of the Warwickshire Museum is carrying out an assessment of the impact of the road proposals on archaeological sites along the route on behalf of Babbie, Shaw and Morton, Project Engineers for the Highways Agency. Although the Bypass route is already fixed the assessment is following the framework provided by Chapter 3, *Archaeology*, of Section 3, Part 2 of the Department of Transport's *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11 Environmental Assessment*.

1.2 Following the desktop and walkover survey stages of the assessment nineteen archaeological sites have been identified as affected by the Bypass proposals. These are as follows:

SMR No	Site	Grid Ref
(WA 445 (HW 886	Ryknild Street Roman Road	SP 08355840- SP 07106507 SP 07106507- SP 07006550
WA 557	Coughton Deer Park	SP 065 608
WA 3777	Griffin Inn/Green Lane Needleworks	SP 06656459
WA 4786	Alcester-Feckenham Turnpike Road	SP 08305842- SP 06775960
WA 4807	Alcester-Birmingham Turnpike Road	SP 08355840- SP 08926825
WA 6376	Cropmark enclosure NE of Sambourne Hall	SP 06706180
WA 6481	Shrunken settlement at Green Lane, Studley	SP 06606455
WA 7293	Site of medieval rabbit warren	SP 076 587
(WA 7295 (HW 20639	Former Redditch and Evesham Railway	SP 08205827- SP 06006422 SP 04106700- SP 06006420
WA 7296	Brick Kiln Piece	SP 075 592
WA 7300	Farmstead SW of Four Elms Farm	SP 06056345
WA 7303	Brickworks Studley Common	SP 06016392
WA 7307	Clay pit at Studley Common	SP 063 638
HW 94	Site of Woodrow Farm	SP 05156488
HW 736	Subrectangular cropmark enclosure	SP 04956491
HW 738	Cropmark enclosure	SP 05656475
HW 9757	Undated Saucer earthwork	SP 05106490
HW 21667	Farmstead N of Homestead, Mappleborough Green	SP 081664
HW 21668	Buildings E of Washford Mill	SP 07306505

1.3 Eight of these sites require further (Stage 3) evaluation which would involve trial trenching and in some cases geophysical or earthwork survey. These are sites which are likely to require subsequent rescue excavation in advance of construction, but sufficient evidence is not available for their proper assessment.

1.4 The eight sites recommended for Stage 3 fieldwork are as follows:

- A. Coughton Deer Park (WA 557)
- B. Cropmark enclosure NE of Sambourne Hall (WA 6376)

- C. Site of farmstead SW of Four Elms Farm (WA 7300)
- D. Site of medieval/post medieval settlement at Green Lane, Studley (WA 6481)
- E. Site of Griffin Inn Needleworks, Green Lane Studley (WA 3777)
- F. Site of 18th/19th century buildings east of Washford Mill (HW 21668)
- G. Site of post medieval farmstead north of The Homestead, Mappleborough Green (HW 21667)
- H. Site of Woodrow Farm (HW 94)

1.5 These proposals have been prepared in consultation with Dr Andrew Brown of English Heritage, Helen Maclagan, the Warwickshire County Field Archaeologist and Duncan Brown of Hereford and Worcester County Archaeological Service.

2. Detailed Proposals for Stage 3 Fieldwork

A. Coughton Deer Park (WA 557, SP 068609, Chainage 3470) Fig. 1

2.1 The earliest documentary reference to Coughton Deer Park dates to 1486-7 when Robert Throckmorton is recorded as enclosing 20.5 acres of arable and other land with pales. In 1526-7 Sir George Throckmorton is said to have enclosed Spine's Leys and Sambourne Heath in Sambourne and in 1530-1 he enclosed 18 acres in Alcester. The original 'old park' of 1486-7 seems to have been to the south east of Butler's Coppice and Trench Hill (Danes Bank), but the enclosure of 1526-7 probably included the area to the north up to Sambourne Lane, the current Coughton Park. This area is still surrounded on three sides by an earthwork pale. Before emparkment some of this area was arable, some pasture and some woodland (it included Wike Wood, mentioned in 1440 [WRO CR 1998/box 35, L7/1]).

2.2 To the north the surviving park pale earthwork runs along the south side of Sambourne Lane and includes a triangular enclosure, possibly a pound or enclosure, or possibly a deer leap (an entrance allowing deer into the park but not out again). There is also a ditch and bank along the north side of the Lane which can be identified with 'a ditch by Sambourne Lane' mentioned as a boundary in 13th century Coughton deeds (WRO CR 1998/box 36, M5/1, M6/1).

2.3 The construction of the Sambourne Lane Overbridge will involve the destruction of a c.565m length of the park pale, as well as the enclosure. A c.620m length of the boundary ditch lies within the landtake, but only a c.45m length will be destroyed.

2.4 Because of its documentation and state of preservation the deer park is a site of regional importance and the road will have a severe impact on its surviving remains. Further (Stage 3) fieldwork in the form of trial trenching and earthwork survey is necessary to assess the character of the enclosure and to discover whether the earthworks are accompanied by other remains. Four trial trenches would be excavated: one 10m x 1.5m across the park pale, one 10m x 1.5m across the boundary ditch and bank, both on the line of the bypass, and two across the enclosure, one 30m x 1.5m and one 20m x 1.5m. A detailed survey at a scale of 1:500, with appropriate profiles at a larger scale, would also be made of the earthworks within the bypass landtake. Geophysical survey is not possible because of the overgrown state of the site. If the trial trenching revealed features other than the visible earthworks, such as settings for timberwork along the top of the park pale or structures connected with the enclosure then a more extensive rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction. If no trace of features other than the visible earthworks were detected no further excavation would take place.

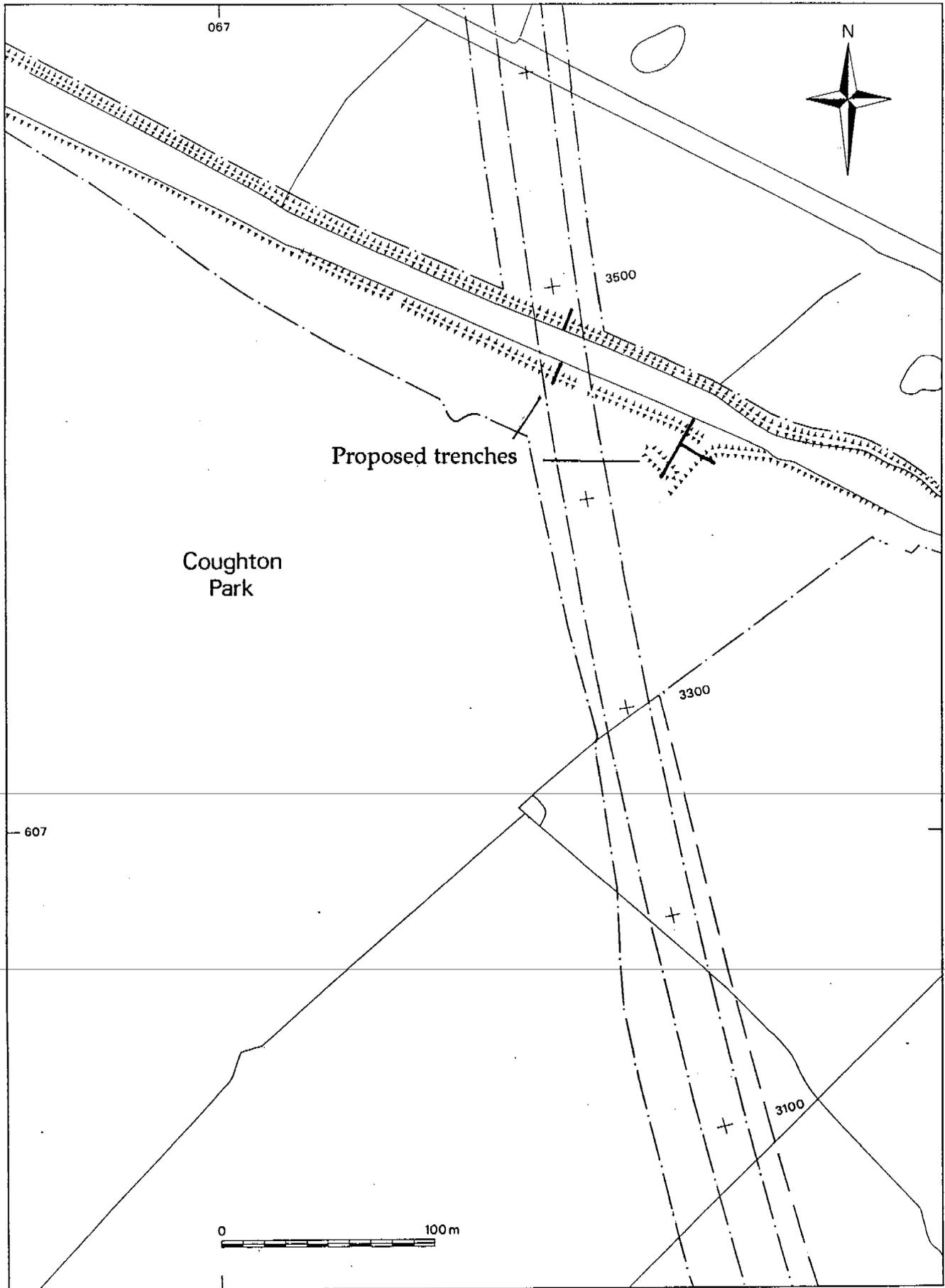


Fig. 1: Site A - Coughton Deer Park (WA 557)

B. Cropmark enclosure NE of Sambourne Hall (WA 6376, SP 067618, Chainage 4370) Fig. 2

2.5 About 200m north east of Sambourne Hall an enclosure shows as a cropmark. The enclosure is subrectangular, measuring c.75m x 60m, with two opposing entrances in the centre of the north west and south east sides. It is likely to be a settlement of later prehistoric or Romano-British date although no dating evidence has come from it. Isolated enclosed settlements are thought to be typical of the more wooded parts of the area in this period and this site is one of regional significance.

2.6 A strip about 10m-20m across the west side of the enclosure will be destroyed by the new carriageway and the remainder to the east appears to be affected by proposed landscaping, a severe impact.

2.7 The site, which is currently arable land, requires further (Stage 3) evaluation in the form of geophysical survey and trial trenching. Nine 30m squares of magnetometry covering the whole enclosure would be accompanied by three 30m squares of selective resistivity. Four trial trenches 25m x 1.5m would be excavated over the whole enclosure but with some bias to the west. The work would be designed to establish the date of the enclosure and to reveal the extent and state of preservation of surviving remains within it. Unless the evaluation showed the site to be very poorly preserved a rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction.

C. Medieval/post medieval farmstead SW of Four Elms Farm (WA 7300, SP 060634, Chainage 6100) Fig. 3

2.8 A map of 1746 (WRO CR 1998/M29) shows a farmstead consisting of a group of three buildings c.200m SW of Four Elms Farm. The farmstead appears to be attached to a block of fields suggesting that it belonged to an established settlement and was not a recent encroachment onto waste. It may therefore be of early post-medieval or late medieval origin. The farmstead is not shown on the 1849 Tithe Map and had presumably been abandoned by this date.

2.9 The site is partly cut by the carriageway with the rest to the west affected by landscaping, a severe impact. This site requires further (Stage 3) evaluation to confirm its character, date and state of preservation. Part of the site is currently obscured by a stack of hay bales but sufficient is clear for a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching. A magnetometer survey would be carried out covering 5 30m squares with selective resistivity covering 2 30m squares. Three trial trenches 20m x 1.5m would be dug across the buildings and adjacent areas.

2.10 The site is potentially a representative example of medieval/post medieval settlement in the area and because it was abandoned at an early date its remains would be undisturbed by later 19th or 20th century activity. It is possibly therefore of regional significance. If the evaluation demonstrated that its preservation were such that complete building plans and a good finds assemblage might be obtained a larger scale rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction.

D. Medieval/post medieval settlement at Green Lane, Studley (WA 6481, SP 087845, Chainage 7350 and 7530) Fig. 4

2.11 The settlement at Green Lane is first recorded in a court roll of 1707 which mentions encroachments onto the manorial waste known as Green Lane in the

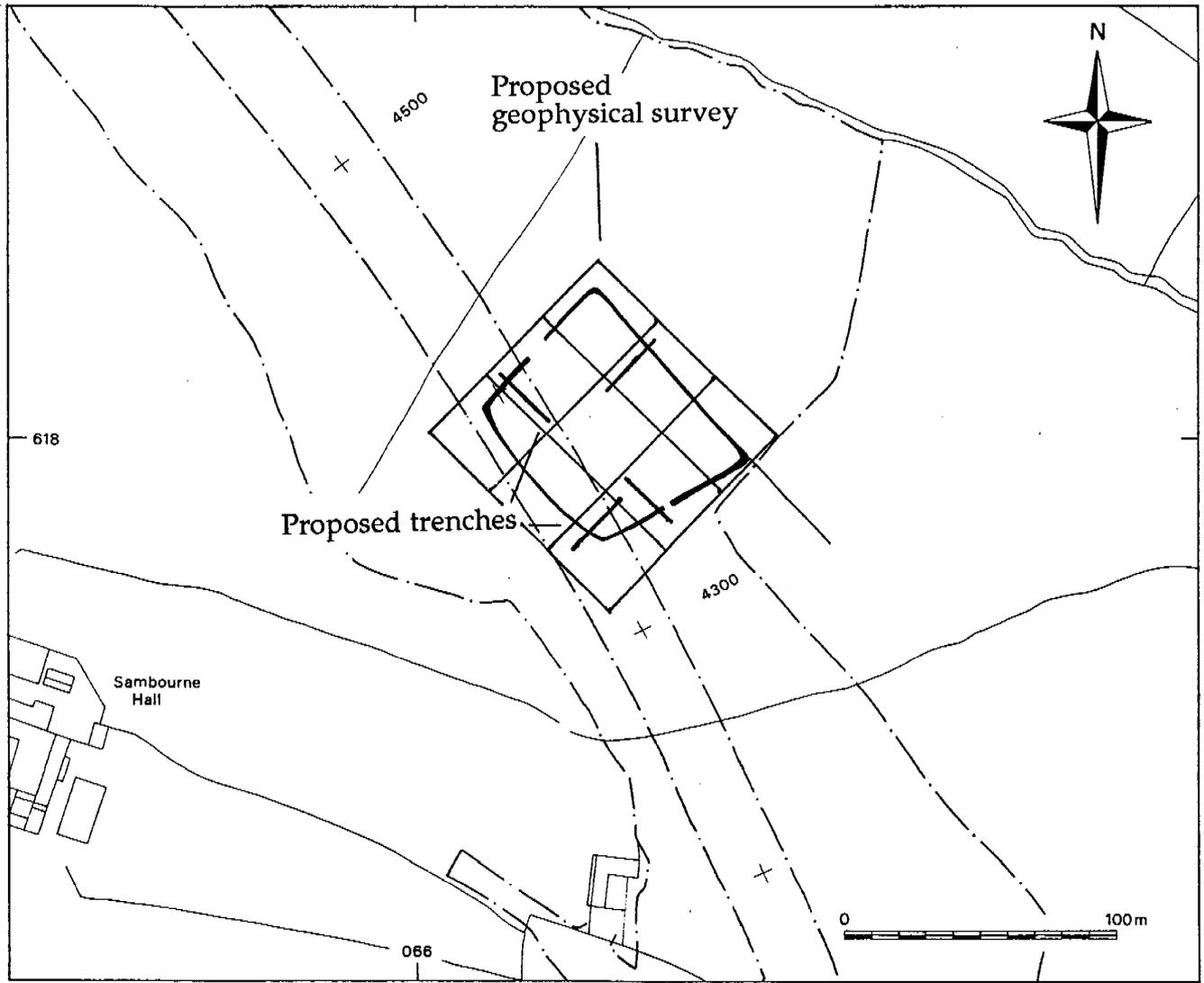


Fig. 2: Site B - Cropmark Enclosure NE of Sambourne Hall (WA 6376)

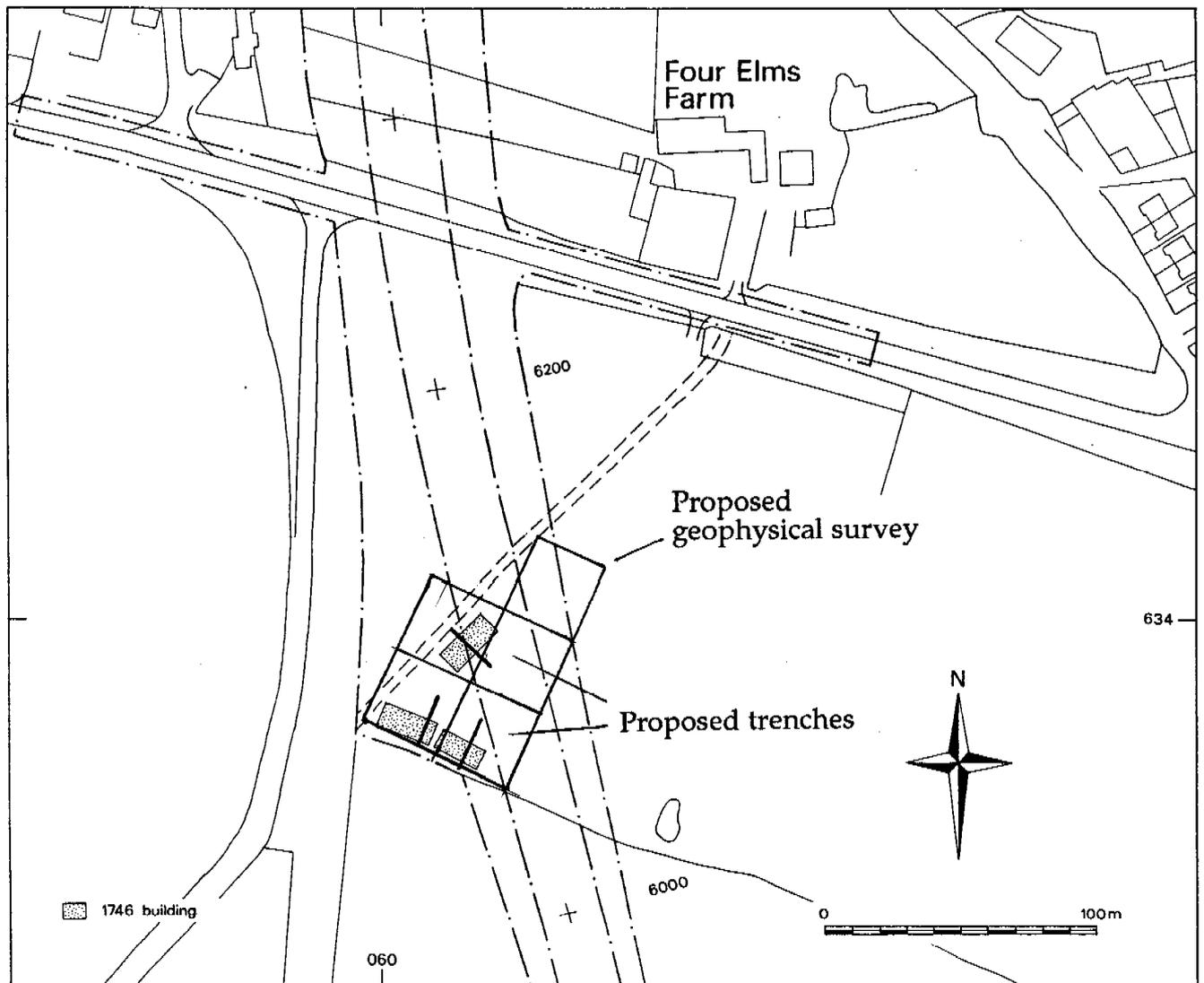


Fig. 3: Site C - Site of Farmstead SW of Four Elms Farm (WA 7300)

vicinity of three houses (WRO DR 36/1). Both Tanhouse Farm (HW 10240) and Green Lane Farm (Hooke 1980, 76) contain 17th century buildings. The settlement therefore dates at least to the post medieval period and may have first grown up in the late medieval period.

2.12 Two farmsteads shown on late 18th and early 19th century maps lie within the landtake on the west side of the settlement, one consisting of one large and one small building, the other an extensive group of buildings of different phases. The former may be unaffected (except perhaps by a drainage ditch), but the latter will be largely destroyed by the carriageway and cutting, a severe impact.

2.13 Further (Stage 3) evaluation of the latter farmstead is required to establish its date and state of preservation. This would involve trial trenching alone as the area is too overgrown for geophysical survey. Two trenches 20m x 1.5m would be excavated across the buildings and adjacent areas. If the farmstead proved to be of late medieval or early post medieval in date, and to be sufficiently well preserved to produce building plans and good finds assemblages, it would be of regional significance as an example of a settlement in a hamlet rather than isolated. In this case a larger scale rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction.

E. Griffin Inn Needleworks, Green Lane, Studley (WA 3777, SP 06656460, Chainage 7590) Fig. 4

2.14 Within the Green Lane settlement there is also the Griffin Inn/Green Lane Needleworks which consisted of a group of five or six buildings including the existing public house, but mostly now demolished. There were no buildings on the 1824 Enclosure Map, but they had appeared by 1849.

2.15 The site seems to have been operated by the Morrall family partly as a public house, the Griffin Inn, and partly for needlemaking from some time before 1840. Up to 1849 the business was carried on by Abel Morrall who then handed it over to his son Abel Andrew Morrall. Abel Andrew died in 1870 and the business passed to Frances Morrall who is listed as a needlemaker in Green Lane as late as 1896. Subsequently the premises were leased to a firm of fish hook makers, Albert Danks, who worked there up to at least 1904.

2.16 It is not clear whether the site used water power and can be classed as a needle mill proper. Early maps do seem to show a stream across the site (Hooke 1980) but an account in court proceedings of 1881 implies that the main business was the pub with only needle finishing and packing being undertaken (Collins 1994). A view of 1874 shows chimneys perhaps for forge hearths and a small steam engine.

2.17 The construction of the Redditch Road Overpass will involve the demolition of the standing building and the destruction of the area of the previously demolished buildings, a severe impact. This is a site of more than regional importance as the local needle industry was of national significance.

2.18 Further (Stage 3) evaluation is necessary to determine whether significant remains survive of the demolished part of the needleworks. This could at least establish the existence or otherwise of the possible water course. Two trial trenches 15m x 1.5m would be dug across the car park south west of the standing building. Should the evaluation reveal significant surviving remains further rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction. In any case a detailed survey of the standing public house would be carried out before demolition. This would need to be done once it was unoccupied as removal of plaster would be necessary.

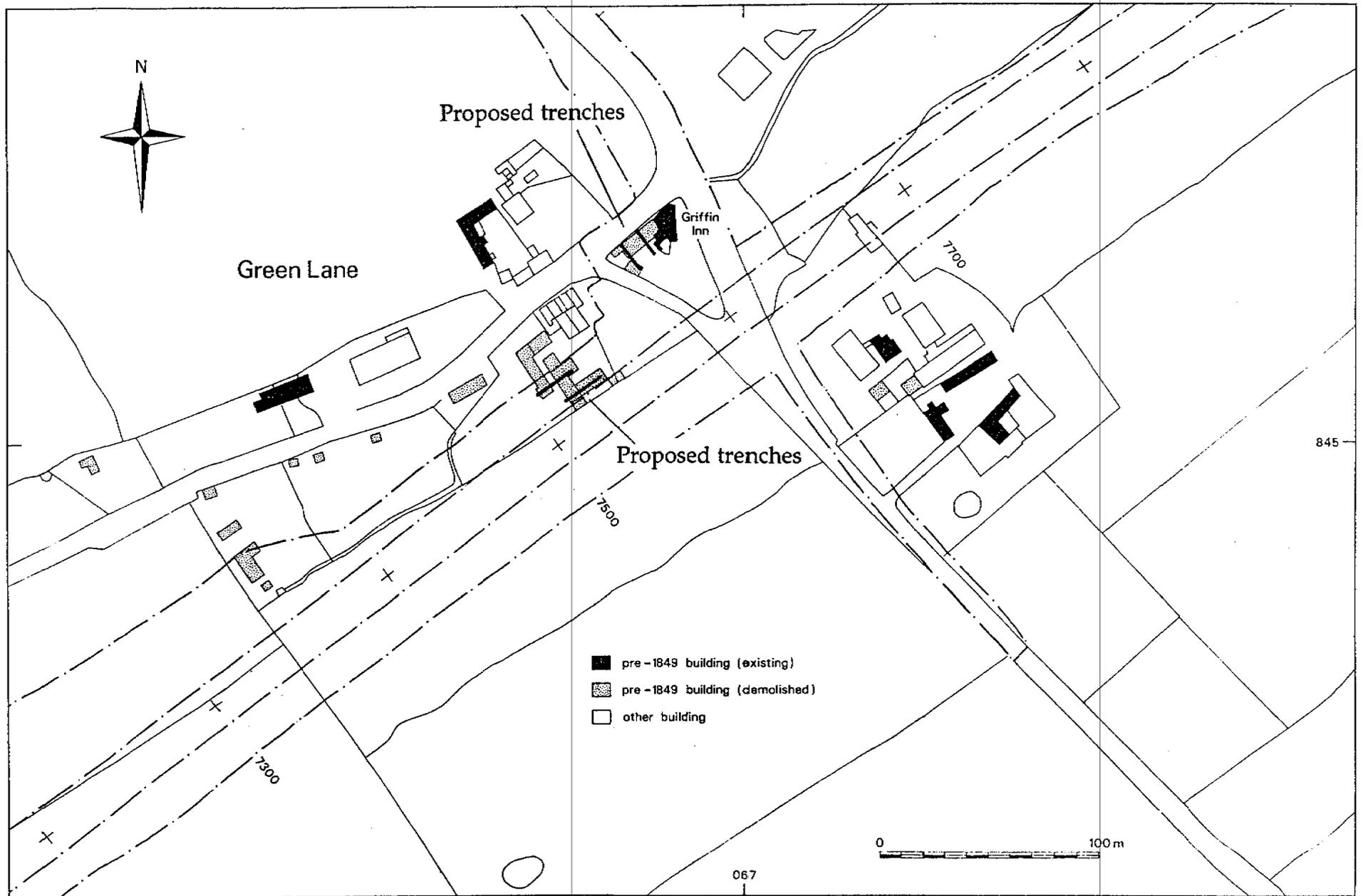


Fig. 4: Site D - Shrunk settlement at Green Lane Studley (WA 6481) and Site E - Griffin Inn Needleworks (WA 3777)

F. Site of buildings 200m east of Washford Mill (HW 21668, SP 072650, Chainage 8400) Fig. 5

2.19 About 200m east of Washford Mill there is an L-shaped building or buildings shown on the 1849 Tithe Map, the earliest surviving map of this area. They are also shown on the 1886 1st edition Ordnance survey 1:10560. The east part of the site is currently occupied by a timber framed, weatherboarded stable with a corrugated iron roof. It is possible that this represents one of the original buildings.

2.20 The buildings lie in the east corner of a field called Workhouse Meadow in 1849. It is therefore possible that they were the Studley parish workhouse which was founded in 1740. Other possibilities are that the buildings might be 19th century field barns or conceivably a small post medieval farmstead. Further (Stage 3) evaluation is necessary to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any remains. This would take the form of the excavation of a single trench 15m x 1.5m; the site is too overgrown for geophysical survey.

2.21 The building will be destroyed by landscaping of the proposed Washford Interchange, a severe impact. The remains of a small rural 18th century workhouse would be of regional significance, as would the remains of a small post medieval farmstead so long as it was sufficiently well preserved to produce complete building plans and a good finds assemblage. If the evaluation work revealed the site to be either of these then the standing structure would be surveyed and a larger scale rescue excavation carried out in advance of construction.

G. Post medieval farmstead north of The Homestead, Mappleborough Green (HW 21667, SP 081664, Chainage 9930) Fig. 6

2.22 A map of 1824 shows a farmstead consisting of a group of four buildings by a pond c.100m north of The Homestead. The farmstead was gone by the time of the Tithe Map of 1849. Along with others in the vicinity it has the appearance of a post medieval settlement encroaching on waste. The site now lies mainly within woodland but the pond shown on the 1824 map adjacent to the farmstead is still visible.

2.23 The farmstead lies directly in the line of the new road and will be destroyed by the carriageway and cutting, a severe impact. It is potentially a site of regional significance, both as an example of post medieval encroachment settlement and because it was abandoned at an early date so its remains would be undisturbed by later 19th or 20th century activity. Further (Stage 3) evaluation is required to establish the date range of occupation and state of preservation of any remains. The site is too overgrown for geophysical survey, so evaluation would involve the excavation of two trial trenches 15m x 1.5m across the buildings and adjacent areas. Should the trial trenching reveal the potential for obtaining complete building plans and a substantial finds assemblage a rescue excavation in advance of road construction would be carried out.

H. Medieval Moat/Site of Woodrow Farm (HW 94, SP 05156488, Chainage AHL 1345) Fig. 7

2.24 The site of Woodrow Farm is recorded as a medieval moated site. No traces of a moat are now visible although the site is heavily overgrown; nor are there any traces

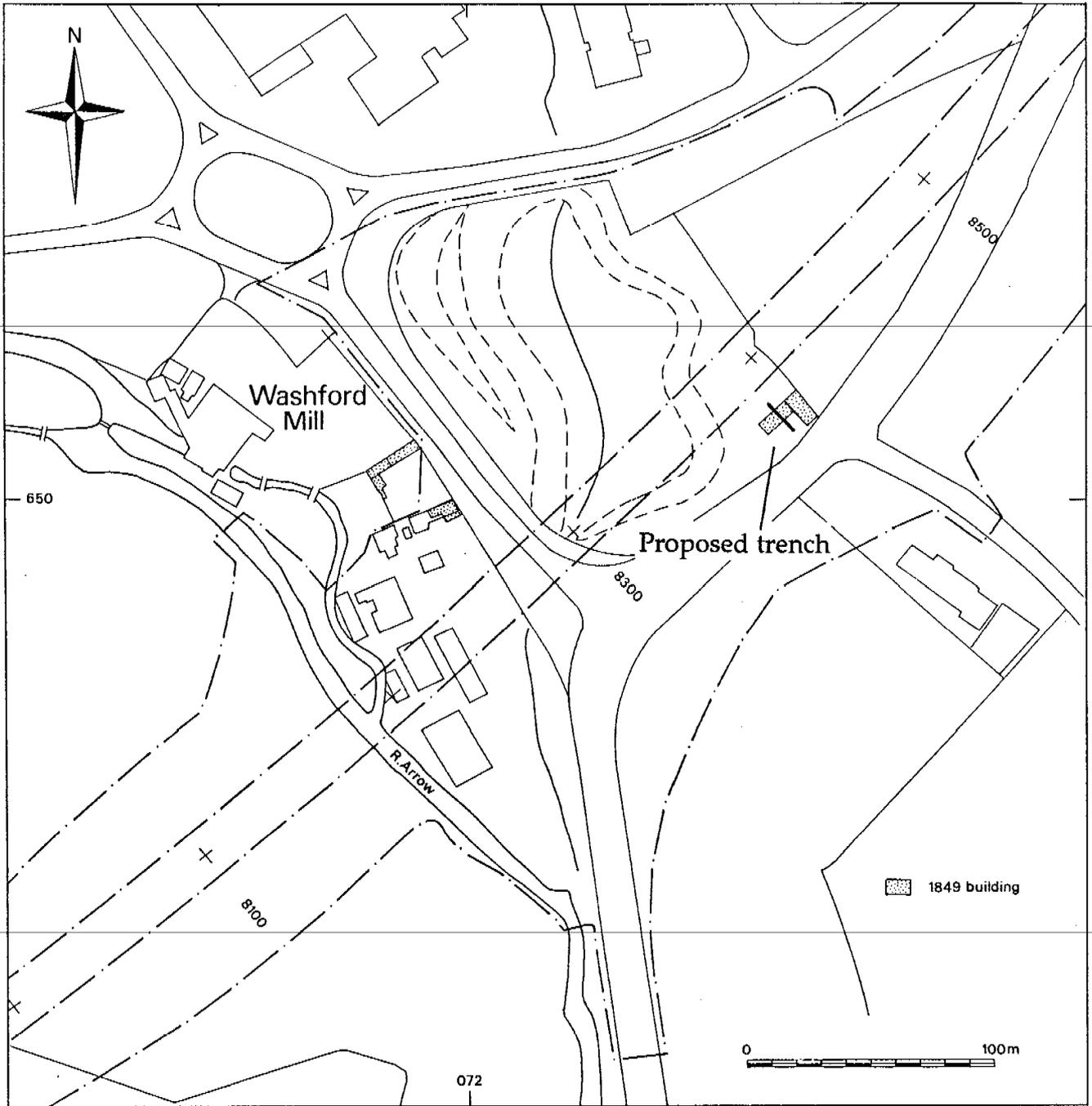


Fig. 5: Site F - Buildings 200m E of Washford Mill (HW 21668)

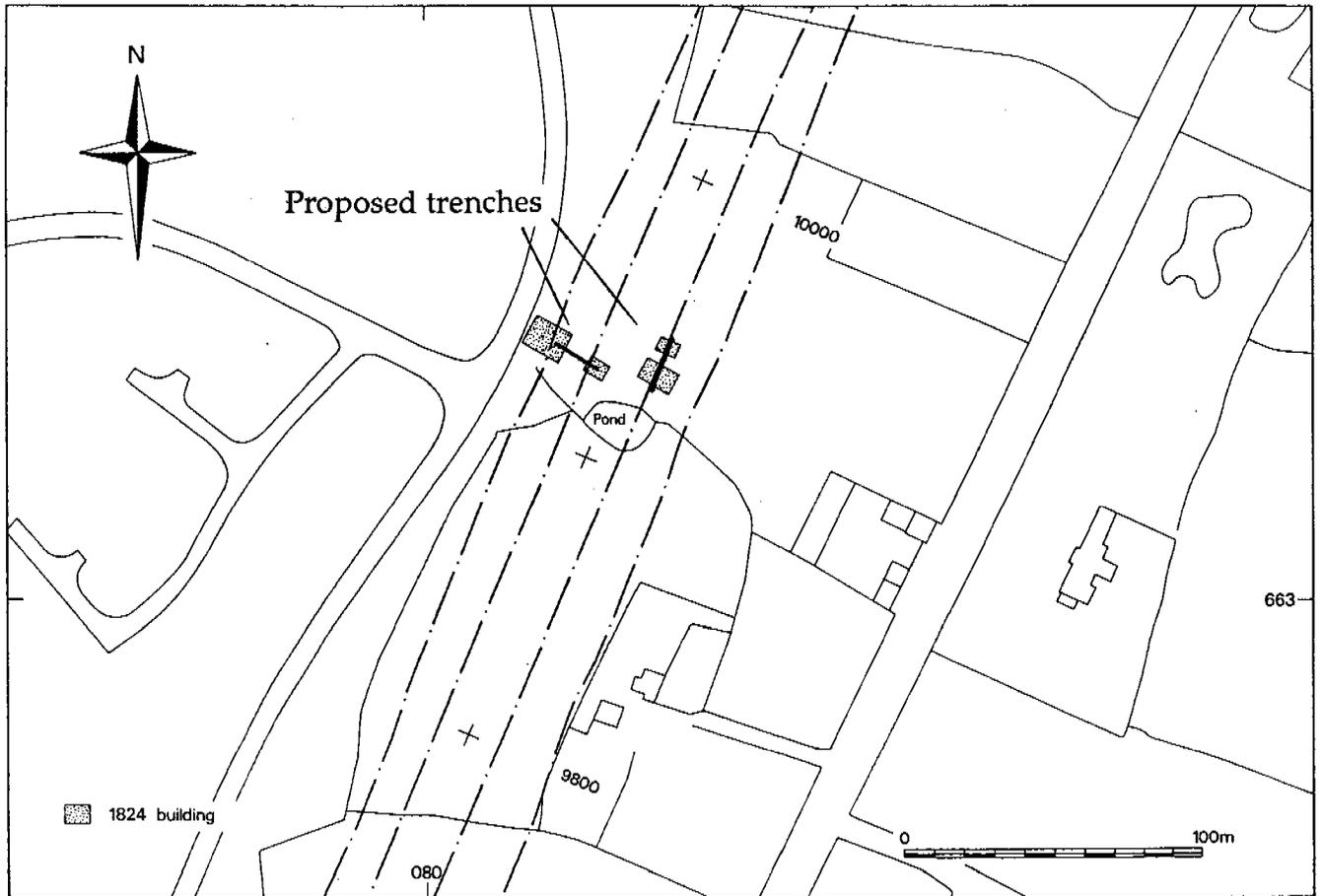


Fig. 6: Site G - Farmstead N of the Homestead, Mappleborough Green (HW 21667)

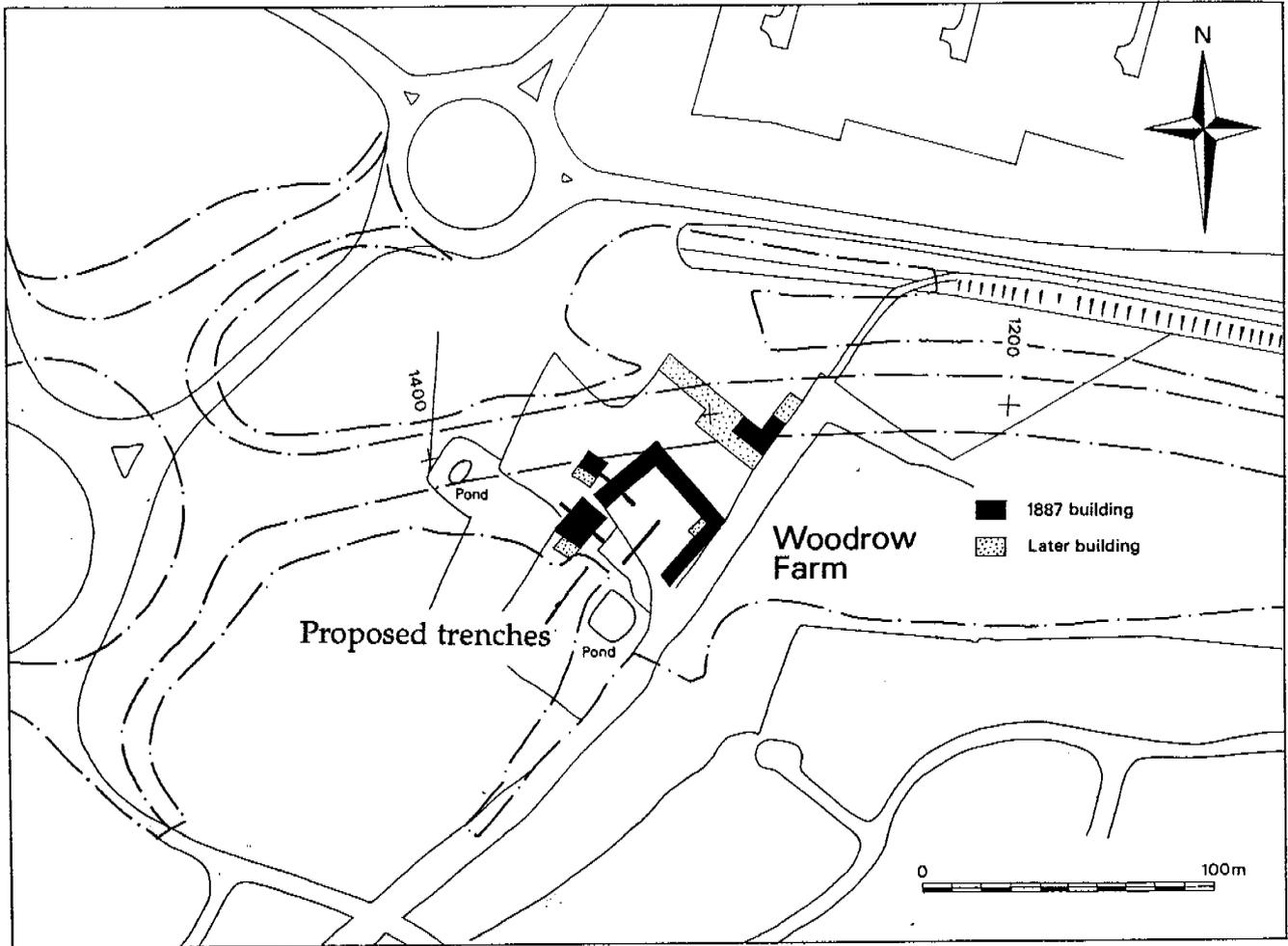


Fig. 7: Site H - Woodrow Farm, Redditch (HW 94)

shown on the 1887 1st edition OS 1:10560 map although there are two ponds adjacent to the farm. The farm which survived until the 1970s does however represent an established settlement which is potentially of early date. There are fields which formerly contained ridge and furrow surrounding it and it is possible that it represents a settlement cleared from the woodland in the later medieval or early post medieval period.

2.25 Only slight traces of buildings are visible in the undergrowth but the ponds are discernable and the trees of the former orchard south west of the farm buildings survive. It is possible that the area of the farm buildings has been landscaped with imported material. The new carriageway cuts across the northern farm buildings which mostly postdated 1887, but the earlier southern buildings will also disappear under the embankments, a severe impact. Further evaluation to establish the date of origin and state of preservation of the site is necessary. This would involve the excavation of three trial trenches 20m x 1.5m over the farmhouse and adjacent areas; geophysical survey is impractical given the overgrown state of the site. The site is potentially a representative example of medieval/post medieval settlement in the area. It is possibly therefore of regional significance. If the evaluation demonstrated that its preservation were such that complete building plans and a good finds assemblage might be obtained a larger scale rescue excavation would be carried out in advance of construction.

3. Proposed Methodology

Earthwork Survey

3.1 The earthwork survey on Site A would be carried out using a Topcon total station instrument supplemented by measuring tapes where necessary. The survey would be drawn up at a scale of 1:500. A series of profiles would also be drawn across the earthworks as appropriate.

Geophysical Survey

3.2 The geophysical surveys on Sites B and C would be undertaken using magnetometry techniques, supplemented by resistivity in selected areas. Magnetic measurements would be recorded at 0.5m intervals along 1m traverses using using a Geoscan FM18 Fluxgate Gradiometer. Resistivity would be carried out using a Geoscan RM15 resistance meter. Measurements would be taken at 1m intervals using a 0.5m Twin Electrode Array. The results from both instruments would be processed and presented using the program GEOPLOT 2.01.

Trial Trenching

3.3 Topsoil would be removed using a JCB type mechanical excavator down to undisturbed archaeological deposits and excavation would then proceed by hand. A representative sample of archaeological features located would be excavated. All contexts would be recorded using the Warwickshire Museum's standard archaeological recording system. Trenches and features would be photographed in monochrome and colour, and plans and cross sections would be drawn at appropriate scales. Finds would be collected by context with sieved samples taken as appropriate.

3.4 Appropriate sampling would be also carried out to assess the survival and potential of environmental material or industrial residues. Particular attention would be paid to any waterlogged contexts found.

3.5 On completion the trenches would be backfilled, but no allowance has been made for reinstatement or consolidation of the ground.

4. Estimate of Costs

Preparation

Total	£600
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Earthwork Survey

Site A	£708
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Geophysical Survey

Site B (Mag 0.81ha, Res 0.27ha)	£761
Site C (Mag 0.45ha, Res 0.18ha)	£545

Total	£1306
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Trial Trenching

Site A (4 Trenches, total 70m x 1.5m)	£1906
Site B (4 Trenches, total 100m x 1.5m)	£2342
Site C (3 Trenches, total 60m x 1.5m)	£1525
Sites D/E (4 Trenches, total 70m x 1.5m)	£1888
Site F (1 Trench, 15m x 1.5m)	£604
Site G (2 Trenches, total 30m x 1.5m)	£871
Site H (3 Trenches, total 60m x 1.5m)	£1525

Total	£10661
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Post Excavation and Preparation of Reports

Site A	£955
Site B	£1208
Site C	£932
Sites D/E	£1104
Site F	£470
Site G	£642
Site H	£1029

Total	£6340
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TOTAL	£19615
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These prices are exclusive of VAT