

# Archaeological Investigation at Maltings Farmhouse Hanslope, Milton Keynes (SP 8053 4675)

Planning Application Ref. 11-02633-FUL



October 2012

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

*for*

Mr Alan Brown Esq.

## Souterrain

**Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Archaeological Investigation at  
Maltings Farmhouse,  
Hanslope, Milton Keynes  
(NGR SP 80530 46750)**

Application Reference 11-02633-FUL  
Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record Event No. 1317

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October 2012

Produced for:

Mr Alan Brown Esq.  
16 Keswick Road  
Hanslope, Milton Keynes  
MK19 7NX  
on behalf of Mr Derek Cox Esq.

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Registered Office: 50 Rectory Drive, Exhall, Coventry, Warwickshire CV7 9PD  
Registered in England and Wales No. 03394485  
e-mail: [gps@souterrain.biz](mailto:gps@souterrain.biz) [www.souterrain.biz](http://www.souterrain.biz)

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## **Preface**

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## **Fieldwork & Report:**

Martin Wilson BA Hons, MIfA, MIEEnvSc, MEAGE, FSASc

## **SUMMARY**

*Over a period of three days in July 2012, Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited undertook archaeological investigation and recording during ground preparation for a new building within the curtilage of a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse in the historic core of Hanslope village, Buckinghamshire.*

*The objective was to ensure that the archaeological interest of the site was safeguarded.*

*The development plot was surmised to be the site of a medieval tenement, one of a row that fronted the ancient village green at Church End. The investigation revealed a series of ditches and an occupation layer, all of which are broadly dated by pottery to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and support the theory of a tenement. Other archaeological features consisted of a possible medieval cobbled area and a remnant of undated wall foundation. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for 13<sup>th</sup> century settlement at Church End.*

## **1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and investigation carried out during ground preparation for a new building on land adjacent to Maltings Farmhouse, Newport Road, Hanslope, Milton Keynes (NGR SP 80509 46770) (Fig. 1) on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent.

## **2. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning permission (Application Ref. 11-02633-FUL) has been granted to Mr Derek Cox (the planning applicant) subject to conditions, by Milton Keynes Council, on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 for the erection of a two bedroom dwelling, the conversion of a barn to a garage, repairs to existing barn and new boundary treatments. It is proposed to sub-divide the land at Maltings Farmhouse and to build a new family dwelling adjacent to the farmhouse along Park Road. In line with pre-application advice, Maltings Farmhouse is to remain the dominant structure within the curtilage of the application site in terms of height<sup>1</sup>. A new access to the site is to be from Park Road. The area of the proposed development is defined on drawings associated with the planning application<sup>2</sup>: Block Plan for Refurbishment of Barns, part of Drawing No. H425B; Existing: Land Adjacent to Maltings Farmhouse, Drawing No.H427; Proposed Work on the Two Barns Drawing No. H426; Proposed Bungalow on Land Adjacent to Maltings Farmhouse Drawing No. H425/B.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, a Condition (No.11) has been attached to the grant of planning permission for the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The purpose of the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest encountered during groundwork are properly examined and recorded.
- 2.3 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>3</sup> approved prior to the commencement of work by Nick Crank, the Archaeological Officer for Milton Keynes Council (hereafter AOMKC).

## **3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT**

- 3.1 The development site is located within the Hanslope Conservation Area. It is also within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the historic core of the village. The site forms part of the curtilage of Maltings Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building<sup>4</sup> which originated in 1624 (Fig.2). The building is constructed of coursed rubble-stone with ironstone dressings and consists of two storeys and two bays with coped gable ends, and flanking stacks. The roofing thatch was replaced by plain concrete tiles in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and stone mullioned windows were replaced by modern three-light casements, retaining ironstone drip moulds.
- 3.2 The property borders the ancient village green to the west. Prior to the commencement of works, the site comprised part of the lawned garden on the southeast side of the farmhouse and

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<sup>1</sup> Blueprint Architectural Design, 'Design and Access Statement New Family Dwelling Land at Maltings Farm, Newport Road, Hanslope'. March 2010

<sup>2</sup><http://publicaccess2.milton-keynes.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=LVF7DFKW0BN00> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

<sup>3</sup> Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited. 2012. Scheme of Investigation, for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Maltings Farmhouse, Newport Road Hanslope (NGR SP 80509 46770), (Application Reference 11-02633-FUL), V. 1. 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012

<sup>4</sup> LBS 350992, listed 27<sup>th</sup> February 1984; <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-350992-malting-farmhouse-hanslope> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

a rear range of two-storey buildings (Fig.2). To the south, the property borders Field House, a late 20<sup>th</sup> century dwelling.

- 3.3 The underlying geology consists of glacio-fluvial till above Blisworth Clay mudstone.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

##### *Settlement origins*

- 4.1 Settlement at Hanslope was first documented in 1086, when it was a relatively large hamlet of about 47 households<sup>5</sup>. Prior to the conquest, Hanslope was held by Aldene, King Edward's housecarl<sup>6</sup>. As yet, there have been no archaeological discoveries to suggest there was a pre-conquest settlement, although this may be a reflection of the few archaeological investigations rather than a genuine absence of archaeology, particularly if the present village is situated above the Saxon settlement<sup>7</sup>. Alternatively, it has been suggested that prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> century the parish was composed of widely dispersed farmsteads and homesteads. The settlement is considered to have first grown up in proximity to the church and a moated manorial site<sup>8</sup> at Church End, which is located to the south of the present village centre. In the 1290s charters were granted to hold a weekly market and an annual fair<sup>9</sup>. It is speculated that these events took place somewhere next to the church<sup>10</sup>, probably on piece of common land, which over the centuries gradually took on a more permanent appearance as a market, flanked by buildings. Little is known about other aspects of Hanslope's medieval economy, other than what may be surmised from personal names listed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century Hundred Rolls<sup>11</sup>. In the post-medieval period, Hanslope occupations included weaving and fulling<sup>12</sup>, although the location of these activities is vague.

##### *The Development Area*

- 4.2 The development plot corresponds to the northern half of what is presumed to have been one a row of medieval tenements at Church End, fronting the village green<sup>13</sup> on the east side Gold Street, the easternmost of two ancient parallel north-south roads. The site is located about 75m east of the churchyard. The earliest known cartographic depiction of the site dates to 1779<sup>14</sup>, at which time it was part of the homestead, garden and orchard of Christopher Bishop (plot number 731), covering an area of 0a.2r.32p, (0.28 hectares)<sup>15</sup>. It is shown as a featureless parcel of land situated south of Bishop's homestead (Maltings Farmhouse), bounded by hedges. The west side of the site faces the main road and the village green. To the south there was a plot (No 732) containing a row of houses for the 'The Poor' of the parish, while beyond the east hedgerow was a pond in a field known as Gridiron Close. Whereas the southern part of Bishop's

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<sup>5</sup> The Domesday Book lists 36 villagers, 11 smallholders which represented the heads of households. In addition there were 8 slaves. See Open Domesday, <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SP8046/hanslope/> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

<sup>6</sup> 'Parishes: Hanslope with Castle Thorpe', A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4 (1927), pp. 348-362. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62597> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

<sup>7</sup> Hanslope Historic Town Assessment Draft Report, Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project, Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, p.21 4.2.

[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/archaeology/hl\\_rpt\\_hanslope\\_report.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/archaeology/hl_rpt_hanslope_report.pdf) [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

Hereafter in footnotes the project is referred to as BHTP

<sup>8</sup> HER No.83

<sup>9</sup> 'Parishes: Hanslope with Castle Thorpe', A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 4 (1927), pp. 348-362. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62597> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

<sup>10</sup> BHTP, p.25.

<sup>11</sup> Kim Taylor Moore BHTP, p.26 and Appendix 1, p.77

<sup>12</sup> BHTP, pp.27 and 55

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.,p.32 Fig.19

<sup>14</sup> 1779 map of Hanslope Parish index. No.731, Hanslope Historical Society, <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/hdhs/survey/1779MapVilCen.php> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/hdhs/survey/1779Index.php> [accessed 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012].

land parcel is now occupied by a modern house and garden (Field House, c. late 1960s/early 1970s), historic maps suggest that the proposed development site has remained fairly open ground since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was depicted with a few dispersed small trees, possibly an orchard<sup>16</sup> and a small outbuilding attached to the northwestern perimeter. By 1977 the outbuilding was gone and the plot appears to have been featureless.

### **Historic Zones**

- 4.3 An historic assessment survey undertaken of Hanslope by The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, defined five 'historic urban zones'<sup>17</sup>, the boundaries of which are based on areas of homogenous townscape<sup>18</sup>, denoting distinct phases the Hanslope's development<sup>19</sup>. The primary zone termed 'Church End', includes the parish church of St James the Great and buildings associated with The Old Manor House (also known as Rectory Farm), which is known to be the pre-16<sup>th</sup> century location for Hanslope's medieval manor house. The development site is located approximately 80m to the northeast of Zone 1.
- 4.4 The land parcel of the proposed development is included within the southeast part of 'Zone 2: High Street and Gold Street', although historically speaking it comprises part of Church End<sup>20</sup>. Zone 2 'covers the main historic core of Hanslope and is demarcated by the High Street to the west and Gold Street to the east. Its southern extent is marked by the market square, while the north boundary of the zone is the junction of Castlethorpe Road and Long Street Road. This zone lies entirely within Hanslope's conservation area and contains 16 listed buildings, all classified grade II'<sup>21</sup>.

### **Archaeological Investigations**

- 4.5 The report's Archaeological Assessment concludes that the potential for survival of archaeological remains pertaining to the medieval and post medieval periods is likely to be high within Zone 2. The few small scale investigations that have taken place within the historic settlement, however, did not find any significant archaeological features<sup>22</sup>.
- 4.6 The nearest archaeological investigation to the proposed development was a watching brief, with negative results, at The Green in 2002, which is about 50m to the northwest<sup>23</sup>. Trial trenching and watching brief took place at Rectory Farm in 2000, some 150m southwest of the site which confirmed that the present building is part of a larger structure<sup>24</sup>. This was followed by further evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development in 2005 at the Old Rectory garden, where 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century pottery<sup>25</sup> was found in two gullies along with ditches and a filled-in pond, although no evidence of occupation sites. There have been at least two metal detectorist rallies at Hanslope and several objects have been found in a field c.150m south east of the site. The objects of medieval and post-medieval date include coins, jettons, seal matrices, a seals buckle, a pewter cup and a pilgrim badge<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Ordnance Survey 1880, 1:2,500 scale, parcel 484.

<sup>17</sup> BHTP p.51, fig.35

<sup>18</sup> BHTP.p.47

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., pp.4-5

<sup>20</sup> E.g. 1779 survey; Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

<sup>21</sup> BHTP, p.52

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., p.15

<sup>23</sup> HER No.638, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd. 2002 D. Fell, "An archaeological watching brief, 2 The Green, Hanslope, Milton Keynes". note: South Midlands Archaeology 33 (2003)

<sup>24</sup> HER No.443, Woodfield Architectural and Archaeological Services, Woodfield P 2002 'Hanslope Manor House - Historic Building Report'

<sup>25</sup> HER No.960, B Pears 2005 "Trial trench evaluation off Park Road, Hanslope, Milton Keynes"Northamptonshire Archaeology

<sup>26</sup> HER Nos. 569400000, 569400001, 569400002, 569400003, 569400004, 569400005, 569400006

- 4.7 There has been scant evidence of prehistoric activity in Hanslope, except for of a few late Iron Age pottery sherds<sup>27</sup> and isolated objects. An unclassified artefact of Iron Age date was picked up some 580m northwest of the site in 1911<sup>28</sup> and a Bronze Age spearhead was found in the topsoil about 620m to the northwest, during an archaeological investigation at Stocking Green Farm in 1997-2000<sup>29</sup>. Similarly, there have been no finds of Romano-British date in the village centre, although artefacts have been found in fields just under a kilometre away<sup>30</sup> and the conjectured course of a Roman north-south road is located about 880m to the east.<sup>31</sup> Again, the paucity of discoveries is likely to reflect the limited number of archaeological investigations and reported finds.

#### **Research Objectives**

- 4.8 An immediate consideration of the investigation was to attempt to define the character of the medieval tenement (*ante*. 4.2) which is presumed to have formerly occupied the development plot. Other research questions taken into account during the investigation had been raised during the course of The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project<sup>32</sup>, namely:
- Is there evidence for proto settlement, either prehistoric or Romano-British occupation in the area of the historic village?
  - Is there evidence to indicate an earlier Saxon settlement in Hanslope?
  - Is there any archaeological evidence for medieval industries in Hanslope?
  - Is there any evidence in the archaeological record to shed light on the location of post medieval industries such as fulling and weaving?

### **5 FIELD PROCEDURE**

- 5.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2001). Ground reduction and trenching was monitored throughout by an archaeologist, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate. All recording was carried out in accordance with the written scheme. Archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum by RTK GPS.

### **6. INVESTIGATION RESULTS**

- 6.1 A total of c.185sq.m was investigated during the groundworks. The areas of investigation have been defined A to E for ease of description (Fig.2). In the descriptions which follow, context numbers in square brackets denote 'cuts' (i.e. dug features), whilst those in round brackets denote layers, deposits, fills or structures.

#### **Area A**

- 6.2 Ground preparation began with machine excavation of strip foundation trenches for the new building in Area A (Fig.4). Archaeological visibility was poor during excavation due to adverse weather conditions and the soil type, with archaeological layers and features only becoming clear after section cleaning and 'weathering out' during the course of the day. Three consecutive

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<sup>27</sup> HER No. 1685

<sup>28</sup> HER No. 238400000

<sup>29</sup> HER No. 521900000, Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2001 'Archaeological Investigations at Stocking Green Farm, Hanslope'

<sup>30</sup> HER No. 522300000, Roman pottery and other material found at Green End, Hanslope, E479570,N246889; HER No.515903000 Roman coin found in Bean Field, Hanslope, E480779, 245690

<sup>31</sup> *Viaiores*, route No. 172

<sup>32</sup> Hanslope Historic Towns Assessment, English Heritage, n.d., Section 8,p.58,

layers of topsoil were present to a depth of 0.38m to c.0.68m below the modern ground surface (Fig. 4; Fig 5 Sections 1 and 2; Fig. 9 Section 5). The uppermost layer (001), between 0.12m to 0.34m thick, was associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> century lawned garden. It overlay a narrow band (c.0.04m – 0.08m) of dirty yellow clay (002), also modern. Below (002), respectively, were soil layers (003) and (004). Layer (003), 0.1m to 0.15m thick, comprised dark grey brown clayey soil containing domestic waste dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Layer (004), similar in composition yet lighter in colour varied between c.0.12m to 0.3m in thickness and contained fragments of red roof tile and pottery indicating a 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 6.3 A series of medieval ditches were encountered in the strip trenches to the south and southeast. In the southwest corner, two of these ditches (i.e. [007] and [009]) were directly beneath layer (004) (Fig. 5, Section 1; Fig. 6), whilst elsewhere in the south-eastern half of the building footprint they were concealed by an intermediate medieval occupation deposit (020) (*post.* 6.8; Fig. 5 Section 2; Fig.7, Fig.9, Section 5).
- 6.4 The earliest **ditch [009]** was fairly substantial, c.2.5m wide x c.0.8m deep and aligned northeast/southwest (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 1; Fig. 6). Its fill comprised homogeneous greenish-grey stiff silty clay (008) from which a single sherd of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century cooking pot was recovered.
- 6.5 The east side of ditch [009] was cut by a shallower, irregular-sided **ditch [007]**, c.0.45m wide x 0.36m deep, on a north-south alignment (Fig.4; Fig. 5, Section 1; Fig. 6). This was filled with homogeneous grey-brown, stiff silty clay (006) which was indistinguishable from the overlying occupation layer (020) (Fig. 4; Fig. 5, Section 2; Fig.9 Section 5). The pottery sherds provide a broadly 13<sup>th</sup> century date for the ditch.
- 6.6 Approximately 1m east of ditch [007] was a **gully [011]** (Fig.4; Fig. 5, Section 2; Fig.9 Section 5), also aligned north-south. This had a v-shaped profile and sides inclined at c.40°. It was filled with grey-brown silty clay (010), not dissimilar to from the overlying layer (020), merging in places. There were no artefacts present, although it may be stratigraphically dated broadly to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.7 About one 1m further east along Section 2 was a **gully or small pit [014]** (Fig. 5) sealed by occupation layer (020) The feature had a width or diameter of 0.6m, with sides sloping c.30° to a flat base at a depth of 0.18m. Its fill (015) comprised grey-brown stiff silty clay which merged with layer (020). The feature was visible after weathering out and was not discernible in the south baulk.
- 6.8 Subsequent to concreting of the strip foundations, ground reduction took place over the remainder the building footprint. This exposed the northern extent of **medieval occupation deposit (020)** over an area of c.16.5sq.m. The development formation level coincided with the archaeological horizon, the latter of which was then cleaned with hand tools to enable better definition. Notably, pottery was laying flat and impressed into the surface of the deposit, denoting that it was in fact an undisturbed old ground surface. The deposit itself consisted of greyish-brown silty clay. Where previously recorded in section (Sections 1, 2 and 5) it was between c.0.10m and 0.18m in thickness, sealing a number of medieval linear features (i.e. [007], [009], [011] and [014]). A small section (Fig.4; Fig.9, Section 4; Fig.10) was hand-excavated through the northeast extent of the layer revealing a shallow hollow between 0.09m and 0.24m gradually sloping to the southeast. The layer evidently sealed the termini of linear features [007], [009], [011] and [014]. Pottery was recovered from the surface across the deposit, but since it was not to be impacted by the development it was otherwise left undisturbed.

- 6.9 Trenching in the north part of the building footprint revealed a **large pit [030]** in-filled with 20<sup>th</sup> century debris and farm waste (029), occupying an area of at least 20sq.m (Fig.4). The surface of the pit had been bricked over forming a yard surface. Ground reduction to the south west of the pit revealed part of an undated cobbled surface (028) at formation level (Fig.4; Fig.12), covering an area of about 15 sq.m; its northeast side was cut by the 20<sup>th</sup> century pit.

#### **Area B**

- 6.10 Two parallel shallow ditches ([017] and [019]) aligned north-east/southwest were partially revealed during ground reduction for a vehicle turning area in Area B (Fig. 2). An archaeological box section was hand-dug to clarify the form of these features (Fig.4; Fig. 8; Fig.9, Section 3). **Ditch [017]**, cut into the geological clay, was only partially exposed at the ground formation level in the soil-stripped area. Its east side was poorly defined, although its original width is thought to have been about 1m. Its base was irregular at depths between 0.2m and 0.3m, whilst its west side had slumped under pressure from adjacent ditch [019]. It was filled with homogeneous light greyish brown silty clay (016) containing 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Similarly, **ditch [019]** was only partially exposed at the formation level. It too had an irregular profile, its west side inclined at c.50°, while its east side stepped at c.35° at depths between c.0.20m – c.0.42m. It was filled with light greyish brown silty clay (018) similar to (016), from which sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> /13<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered. Since neither ditch was present in Area 1 or Area D they probably terminated approximately 1.5m north of the box section.

#### **Area C**

- 6.11 A remnant of a wall foundation (Fig.13) was exposed on the southwest side of the development plot (Fig.2) following the grubbing out of the hedge during the creation of a new access. The stone foundation (023), 0.5m in width and composed of irregular pieces of limestone arranged with a 'facing' edge on either side, is thought to have been part of or sill beam pad for a half-timber structure. The south-western extent (025) which lay under the hedge was degraded, while soil discolouration (024) to the northeast denoted a further extent of the feature. There was no accompanying structural evidence. Notably, the structure is close to the roadside facing The Green. There was no dating evidence for the wall, although a thin layer (up to c.0.02m) of orange-brown clayey soil (022) covering the stones contained a clay pipe stem, roof tile fragments and five sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery maybe indicative of a destruction date.

#### **Area D**

- 6.12 A service trench dug in the lawn along the southwest side of the 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse (Fig.2) revealed no discernible features, although two sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century Potterspury ware were recovered from the interface of topsoil and subsoil (027).

#### **Area E**

- 6.13 A soak-away pit machine was excavated in the northeast part of the development area (Fig.2). This revealed a great depth of modern ground disturbance, rubble including 'LBC' stamped bricks.

## **7. THE FINDS**

### **The Medieval Pottery** by Jackie Wells and Martin Wilson

- 7.1 The medieval pottery identification and dating was done by Jackie Wells MA. The sherds in the catalogue (Table 1) are arranged by Context Number. A total of 60 medieval pottery sherds (Table 1) were recovered during the investigations (585 grams) primarily from stratified contexts. The pottery falls broadly into two periods – the 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> century and the 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century. There is an overall minimum vessel count (MNV) of approximately 34 (Table 2).

- 7.2 The 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century assemblage consists of fragments of coarse ware cooking pots and dishes, a sandy medium grained ware which was probably produced locally at Olney Hyde<sup>33</sup>, Buckinghamshire. The 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century sherds are predominantly green glazed jugs or plates cooking from Potterspury (Northants) and jugs or balusters from Brill in Buckinghamshire. The vessels represent household waste deposits.

7.3 **Table 1. Pottery: Types and chronology**

(Note: Fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series Concordance with common name and the Milton Keynes Post-Roman Type Series is given where possible).

| Context No. | Area | Description   | Period   |
|-------------|------|---|----------|
| 004         | A    | 1 body sherd, red fine fabric, black lead glaze   | C18-19   |
| 006         | A    | 3 sherds Potterspury ware. Fabric C10 (MK Fabric MS6)   | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 1 sherd coarse sand-tempered ware. Fabric C59A (MK Fabric MS2)  | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 2 body sherds (joining) shell-tempered ware. Fabric B7<br>Provenance: probably Olney Hyde               | C12-C13  |
| 008         | A    | 1 body sherd, coarse sandy ware. Fabric C59A (MK Fabric MS 2)   | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 1 body sherd sandy and shell-tempered ware. Fabric ? C85<br>(MK Fabric MSC – non-specific medieval)     | medieval |
| 016         | B    | 2 sherds fine, sandy, micaceous. Fabric C75 (MK Fabric MSC non-specific)                                | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 2 body sherds coarse sandy ware. Fabric C59A (MK Fabric MS2)  | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 1 jug handle. Brill ware. Fabric C9 (MK Fabric: MS9, fine)  | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 10 sherds Potterspury ware. Fabric C10 (MK Fabric MS6), in. 1 rim sherd green glazed dish or bowl       | C13-C14  |
| 018         | B    | 3 body sherds, Shelly ware. Fabric B7 (MK Fabric MC1)   | C12 -C13 |
|             |      | 1 ? sherd provenance: Potterspury, Bucks. Fabric C10 (MK Fabric MS6)                                    | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 1 ? sherd, shell-tempered ware. Fabric B7 Provenance: probably Olney Hyde)                              | C12-C13  |
| 020         | A    | 1 sherd shell-tempered ware. Fabric B7 Provenance: probably Olney Hyde                                  | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 1 sherd, sand and calcareous inclusions. Fabric C61 (MK Fabric MSC1)                                    | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 4 sherds sand-tempered ware. Potterspury ware. Fabric C10 (MK Fabric MS6)                               | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 3 sherds, Brill ware. Green glaze. Fabric C9 (MK Fabric MS9)  | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 5 sherds Potterspury ware. Fabric C10. (MK Fabric MS6), inc 2 sherds with finger impression decoration. | C13-C14  |
|             |      | 5 sherds, sand-tempered. Fabric C59A. (MK Fabric MS2)   | C12-C13  |
|             |      | 1 sherd, sand and calcareous inclusions. Fabric C61 (MK Fabric MSC1)                                    | medieval |
|             |      | 1 sherd, Fabric C. non-specific medieval  | medieval |

<sup>33</sup> Mynard, D.C. 1984. 'A Medieval Pottery Industry at Olney Hyde', *Record of Buckinghamshire*, 26 pp.56 - 85

| Context No. | Area | Description   | Period  |
|-------------|------|---|---------|
|             |      | 5 body sherds; 1rimsherd (jug) Potterspury Fabric C10 (MK Fabric MS6)       | C13-C14 |
|             |      | 3 body sherds coarse sandy ware. Fabric C59A (MK Fabric MS2)                | C12-C13 |
|             |      | 1 body sherd sandy, micaceous. Fabric C75 (MK Fabric MSC non-specific)      | C12-C13 |
| 022         | C    | 5 body sherds, red fine sandyware, inc. Transparent green/brown lead glaze. | C17-C18 |
| 027         | D    | 1 body sherd; 1 rim sherd, Potterspury ware. Fabric C10. (MK Fabric MS6)    | C13-C14 |

7.4 **Table 2. Medieval Pottery Quantification** (MNV= minimum number of vessels)

| Context       | No. of sherds | Weight (grams) | MNV       |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| 006           | 6             | 75             | 4         |
| 008           | 2             | 20             | 3         |
| 016           | 15            | 125            | 7         |
| 018           | 5             | 50             | 4         |
| 020           | 30            | 290            | 14        |
| 027           | 2             | 25             | 2         |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>60</b>     | <b>585</b>     | <b>34</b> |

7.5 **Table 2. Other finds**

| Context | Area | Type   | Date                |
|---------|------|--|---------------------|
| 001     |      | Sample: tableware, glass   | C19-C20             |
| 003     | A    | Sample: 3 fragments of red roof tile, glass bottles                            | Prob. post medieval |
| 006     | A    | Oyster shell   | Medieval            |
| 018     | A    | 1 fragment red roof tile, 12mm -14mm thick, reduced core, round peg hole c.8mm | Medieval            |
| 022     | C    | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment  | c.C17-C18           |
| 022     | C    | 1 fragment red tile, 8mm -12mm thick   | c. C17-C18          |

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

- 8.1 Two samples were taken of potentially organically rich soils for environmental analysis. These comprised 20 litres of the medieval occupation deposit (020) from Section 4 and a further 20 litres from fill (006) of medieval ditch [007]. The samples were processed by Gavin Davis MA (JHMS) and examined by John Moore MIfA (JMHS). Samples were primarily processed for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal, though they were also examined for any evidence of mollusca. The samples were processed outside by a 'Siraf'-style flotation tank, utilising meshes of 0.5mm aperture for both retention of the flot and the residue. The flots were examined with a x 10 hand-lens. Sample (006) contained only fragments of charcoal. These were

not large enough for identification of species. Sample (020) contained only very small fragments along with two species of mollusca. No further analysis is required.

## 9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 The investigation revealed that the plot contains archaeological features and deposits broadly dated by pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The evidence pertains to medieval occupancy of the site during this period and is considered most likely to be the remains of a medieval tenement as formerly suspected in this part of the village (*ante*. 4.2).
- 9.2 The earliest feature [009] was a substantial ditch of 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> century date. This measured 2.5m in width by 0.8m in depth and was aligned northeast/southwest. At least other four linear features – ditches and gullies – of 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century date, broadly shared a north-northeast/south-southwest alignment, hinting to the former layout of apportioned ground within the tenement. Notably, all of the linear features appeared to terminate on a line approximately west-northwest / east-southeast between grid co-ordinates 480524/246748 and 480535/246748, again suggesting the limit of apportioned ground. The northern extent of the ditches on the east side of the site (i.e. [007] and [011]) was masked by an occupation layer broadly dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> century. There was no indication of function and soil samples produced no evidence of agrarian economy. Just over 2m north of the occupation layer a cobbled surface was revealed at the same level, which although undated, was possibly medieval.
- 9.3 Creation of a new access through the hedgerow of property boundary on the southeast side of the site, adjacent to the ancient village green, revealed a stone base for a timber building. Surface pottery suggested that the building was destroyed prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.4 To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence for 13<sup>th</sup> tenement settlement at Church End in Hanslope. With regard to other research questions raised during the course of The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project (*ante*.4.8.), however, there was no artefactual or physical evidence of occupation or activity at the site earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century, and no evidence for medieval industries or crafts.

- 9.5 There is no potential for further assessment and analysis.

## 10. ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The Buckinghamshire County Museum's Accessions Number for the project is **AYBCM 2012.37**. The paper archive comprises field drawing sheets, monochrome photographs and digital photographs with photographic index. All artefacts will remain the property of the landowner.
- 10.2 The English Heritage OASIS Data Collection Form ID for this project is **souterra1-136484**
- 10.3 The Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record Event Number is **1317**.

## 11. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1 Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the Owner in all matters

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- 11.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

**Figure.1.**

**Location of Site**

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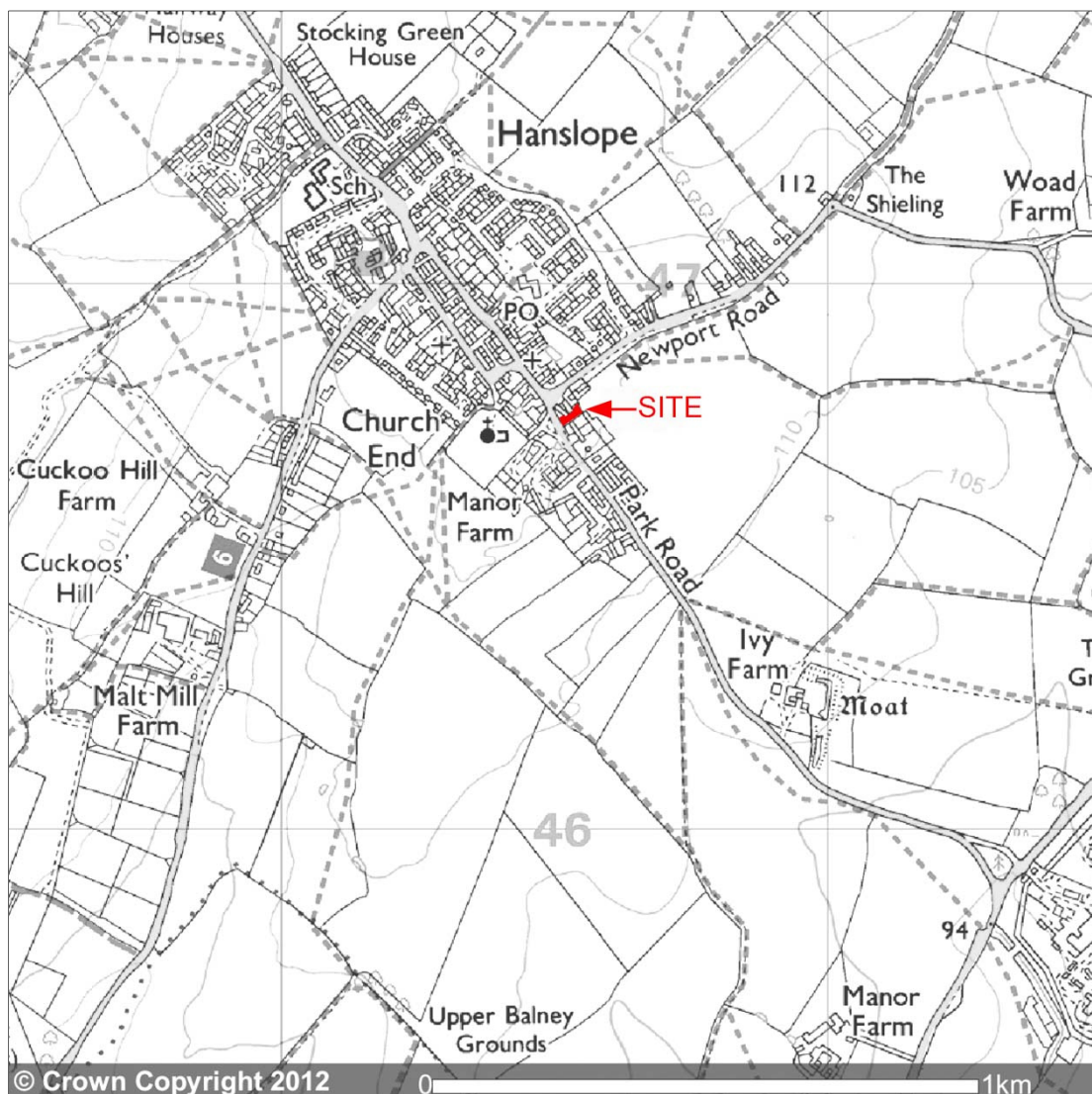




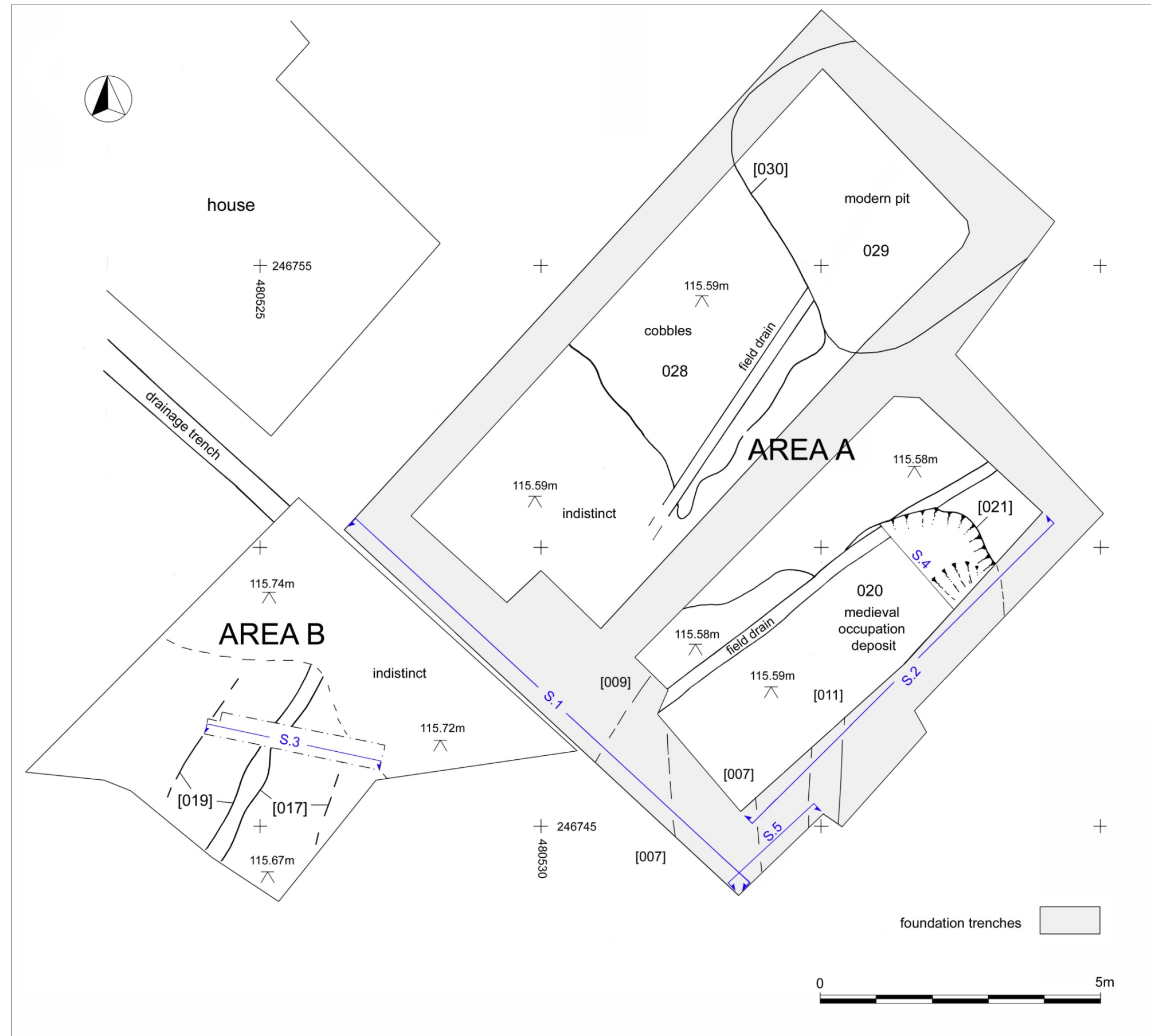
Figure 2. Areas of archaeological investigation



Figure 3. Maltings Farmhouse and the development plot, facing north.

Figure 4.

Plan of archaeological features in Areas A and B and section locations



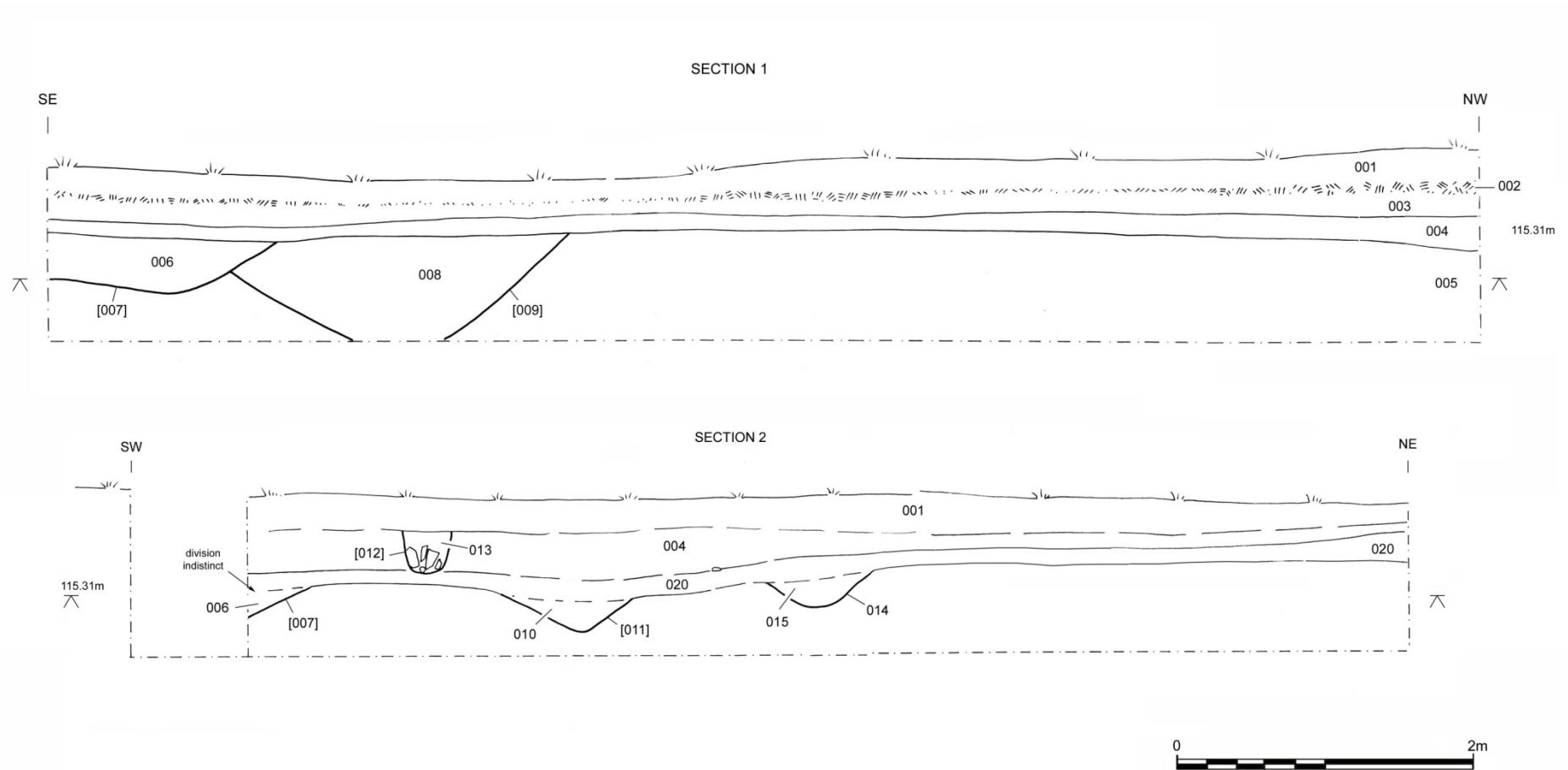


Figure 5. Sections 1 and 2

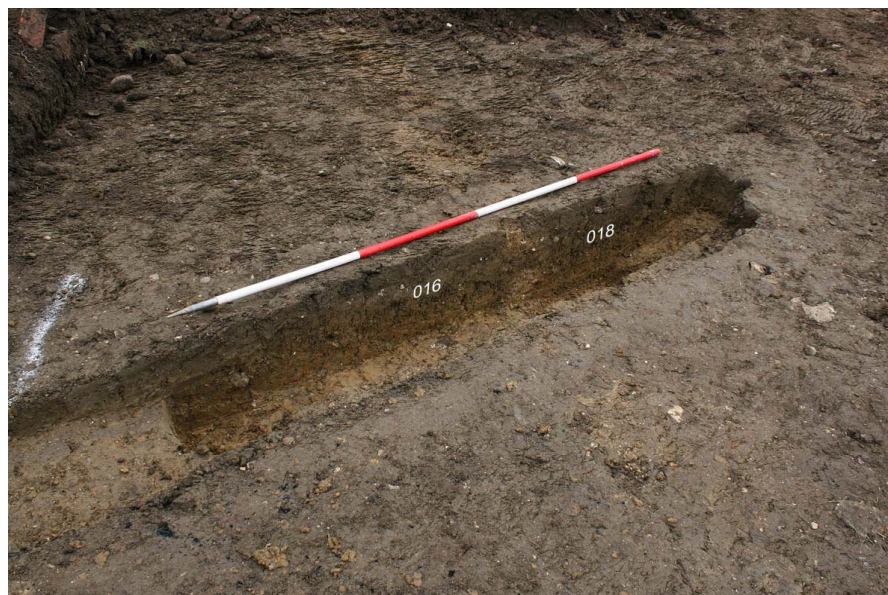
**Figure 6.**  
**Area A, Section 1:**  
**ditches [007] and**  
**[009], facing southwest**



**Figure 7.**  
**Area A, Section 2:**  
**ditches [011] and [014],**  
**facing west**



**Figure 8.**  
**Area B, Section 3: box**  
**section through ditches**  
**[017] and [019], facing**  
**southwest**



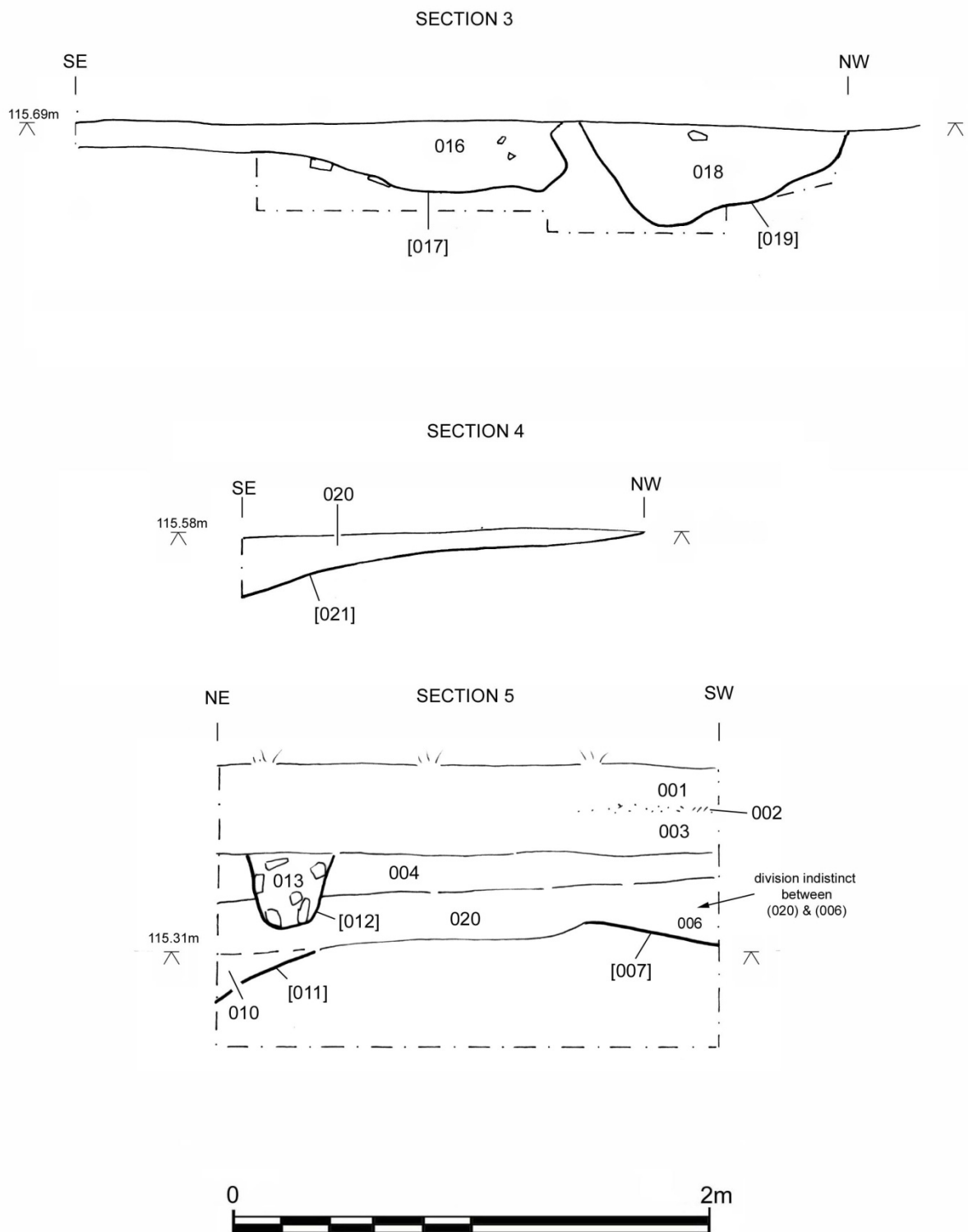


Figure 9. Sections 3 to 5

**Figure 10.**  
Overview of Area A  
and Section 4 through  
medieval occupation  
deposit

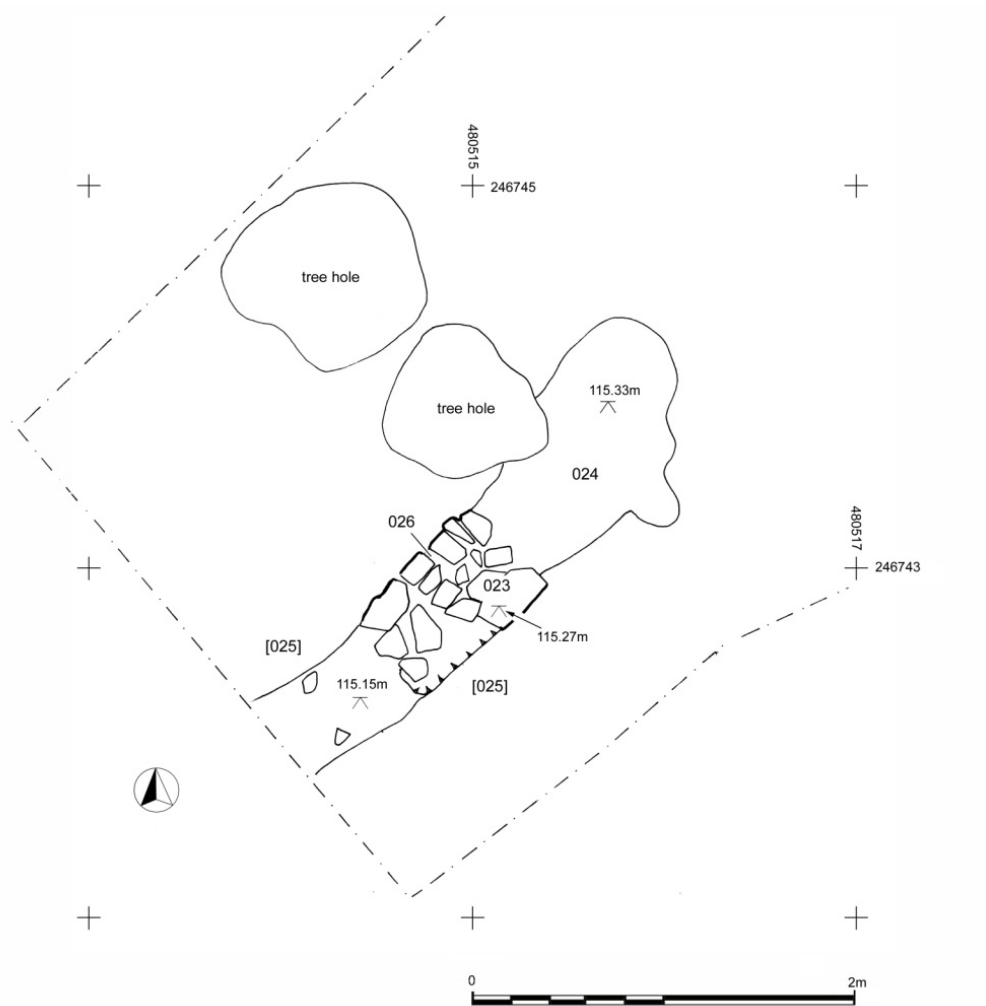


**Figure 11.**  
Area A, Section 5,  
facing south



**Figure 12.**  
Overview of Area A  
and cobbled surface  
(028)





**Figure 13.**  
**Area C. Top: plan of wall foundation (023-025). Bottom: wall foundation (023-025) facing northeast**

## APPENDIX 1 List of Contexts

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

| Context No. | Type    | Location | Description and Interpretation  | Relationships  | Dimensions  | Drawing   | Suggested Period | Date of investigation |
|-------------|---------|----------|---|--|---|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 001         | Layer   | Area A   | Topsoil   | a. (002)   | th. c.0.12m to 0.34m (generally 0.3m)                       | S. 1; S.2 | Modern           | 16:07:2012            |
| 002         | Layer   | Area A   | Clay, dirty.  | a. (003); b. (001)                                       | th. c.0.04 – 0.08m  | S.1; S.5  | Modern           | 16:07:2012            |
| 003         | Layer   | Area A   | Dark brown clayey soil.   | b. (002)   | th. c.0.10 -0.12m   | S.1; S.5  | C19-early C20    | 16:07:2012            |
| 004         | Layer   | Area A   | Light grey-brown silty clayey soil. Buried topsoil  | b. (003); a. (020); (005), [007], [009] (008); cub.[012] | th. c.0.12m to 0.3m   | S. 1; S.2 | C18-19           | 16:07:2012            |
| 005         | Geology | -        | Clay, stiff, yellowish brown  | b. (020); cub. [007], [009], [011], [014]                | -   | -         | -                | 16:07:2012            |
| 006         | Fill    | Area A   | Grey-brown, stiff silty clay. Fill of linear feature. Has appearance of water-logged clay. Merges with overlying layer (020)                                      | wi. [007]; b. (202)                                      | th. de.0.36   | S.1, S2   | C13-C14          | 16:07:2012            |
| 007         | Cut     | Area A   | Ditch, shallow. Aligned north-south. West side c.30°, east side c.10°.  | co. (006); b.(004), (020); c.[008]; (005)                | wid. c.0.45; de.0.36  | S.1       | C13-C14          | 16:07:2012            |
| 008         | Fill    | Area A   | Greenish-grey, stiff silty clay. Fill of linear feature. Has appearance of water-logged clay  | wi. [009]  | th. c.0.7m  | S.1       | C12-C13          | 16:07:2012            |
| 009         | Cut     | Area A   | Probable ditch. Aligned northeast/southwest. An open 'V'-shaped profile, c.45°. The feature was discernible only after weathering out.                            | co.(008); c.(005)  | wid. c.2.5m; de. visible to 0.7m (probably 0.8m; cub. (006) | S.1       | C12-C13          | 16:07:2012            |
| 010         | Fill    | Area A   | Grey-brown silty clay. Not dissimilar to (020) – division indeterminate in places. Fill of linear feature. The feature was discernible only after weathering out. | wi [011]   | th. c.0.2m  | S.2; S.5  | Medieval         | 17:07:2012            |
| 011         | Cut     | Area A   | Linear feature. Gully. ?drain. Aligned north-south. V-shaped profile, sides c.40°   | c.(005); co. (010); b. (010)                             | wid. c.0.5m; de.c.0.21m                                     | S.2; S.5  | Medieval         | 17:07:2012            |
| 012         | Cut     | Area A   | Stone-filled land drain.  | b. (001); co. (013);                                     | de. 0.29m; wid. c.  | S.2; S.5  | Post-medieval/   | 17:07:2012            |

| Context No. | Type  | Location | Description and Interpretation   | Relationships  | Dimensions   | Drawing  | Suggested Period         | Date of investigation |
|-------------|-------|----------|--|--|--|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|             |       |          |  | c. (004), (020)  | 0.3m   |          | modern                   |                       |
| 013         | Fill  | Area A   | Lime-stone fragments in grey-brown silty clay matrix   | wi [012]   | th. 0.29m  | S.2; S.5 | Post-medieval/<br>modern | 17:07:2012            |
| 014         | Cut   | Area A   | Linear feature or discrete feature (small pit). Not discernible in south baulk. Not dated but sealed by (020) – presumed medieval. Flat base, sides inclined c.30°. The feature was discernible only after weathering out.   | co. (015); b. (020)                                      | wid./dia.c.0.6 m;<br>de. 0.18m   | S.2      | Medieval                 | 17:07:2012            |
| 015         | Fill  | Area A   | Grey-brown stiff silty clay.   | wi [014]; c. (005);<br>b. (020)                          | th. 0.18m  | S.2      | Medieval                 | 17:07:2012            |
| 016         | Fill  | Area B   | Light greyish brown silty clay   | wi . [017]   | th. c.0.2 & 0.3m   | S.3      | C13-C14                  | 17:07:2012            |
| 017         | Cut   | Area B   | Aligned north-east/southwest. Cut into the geological clay. Irregular base Parallel to [019]. Only partially defined at the formation level of the new drive in the stripped area. Its east side was poorly defined/ degraded – may have originally been c. 1m wide. The west side of the ditch has slumped due to the pressure from feature 019].   | b. (001); co. (016); c. (005);                           | de. between 0.2 & 0.3m; wi. At least 2m (see description/interpretation) | S.3      | C13-C14                  | 17:07:2012            |
| 018         | Cut   | Area B   | Light greyish brown silty clay   | wi. [019]  | de. c.0.20 –c.0.42m;<br>wi.c.1.1m  | S.3      | C13-C14                  | 17:07:2012            |
| 019         | Fill  | Area B   | Aligned north-east/southwest. Parallel to [017]. As with [017], this was only partially defined in plan at the formation level. Irregular profile, west side c.50°, east side stepped at c.35°   | b. (001); co. (018); c. (005);                           | de. c.0.20 –c.0.42m  | S.3      | C13-C14                  | 17:07:2012            |
| 020         | Layer | Area A   | A layer of grey-brown silty clay sealing a number of medieval linear features (i.e. [007], [009], [011] and [[014]) seen in section. An occupation layer exposed on the southern half of the new building footprint. Notably, the pottery recovered was laying flat and impressed into the surface of the layer, denoting an undisturbed horizon/ old ground surface. This horizon coincided with the formation level. A small section was hand-dug through the northeast extent of the layer, by otherwise left undisturbed. Cut through by the southernmost foundation trench. | b.(004); a. (005);<br>[007], [009], [011]<br>and [[014]] | th. between 0.09m & 0.24m  | S.1; S.4 | C13-C14                  | 19:07:2012            |
| 021         | Cut   | Area A   | Shallow, 35° dip to the southeast, possibly the remains of a linear feature. Not seen during   | co. (020)  | de. up to c.0.24m  | S.4      | C13-C14                  | 19:07:2012            |

| Context No. | Type  | Location | Description and Interpretation  | Relationships                  | Dimensions            | Drawing   | Suggested Period       | Date of investigation |
|-------------|-------|----------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|             |       |          | trenching- indistinguishable from layer (020) in section 2; no lower fill discernible.  |                                |                       |           |                        |                       |
| 022         | Layer | Area C   | Thin layer of orange-brown clayey soil (022) from which a clay pipe stem, roof tile fragments and post-medieval pottery was recovered.  | b.(001); a.(023), (024), (025) | th. up to c.0.02m     | Site plan | Post-medieval          | 16:07:2012            |
| 023         | Layer | Area C   | A length of wall foundation with remnant of stone base (?sill beam pad) (023), composed of irregular pieces of limestone, arranged with a 'facing' edge. The south-western extent (025) has been degraded, some stones removed during the machine stripping and root removal. This area lay under the hedge. Notably the structure is close the roadside facing The Green. Soil discolouration to the north (024) denotes a further extent of this feature. Lying above this feature, on top of the stones (023) was a thin layer of orange-brown clayey soil (022) from which a clay pipe stem, roof tile fragments and post-medieval pottery was recovered. | b.(022); a.(005)               | th. c.0.12m, wid.0.5m | Site plan | unknown                | 19:07:2012            |
| 024         | Layer | Area C   | See (023)   | b.(022); a.(005)               | -                     | Site plan | unknown                | 19:07:2012            |
| 025         | Layer | Area C   | See (023)   | b.(022); a.(005)               | th. c.0.12m           | Site plan | unknown                | 19:07:2012            |
| 026         | Layer | Area D   | Topsoil (pottery found at interface between topsoil and subsoil).   | -                              | -                     | -         | Medieval               | 16:07:2012            |
| 028         | Layer | Area A   | Cobbled surface, composed of limestone pieces, worn. No artefacts present. Exposed at formation level.  | b.(004)                        | th.c.0.15m            | Site plan | Medieval/post-medieval | 19:07:2012            |
| 029         | Fill  | Area A   | Modern debris, fuel-contaminated soils. Fill of modern pit.   | wi.[030]                       | At least 20sq.m       | Site plan | Modern                 | 19:07:2012            |
| 030         | Cut   | Area A   | Rubbish pit, sub-rectangular, machine dug   | co.(029)                       | de. at least 1.5m     | Site plan | Modern                 | 19:07:2012            |