



Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley, Dorset

Observation and Recording during formation of new parking area and new retaining wall



Report No. 53396/3/1

March 2014

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Project Report Summary Page

Project Details			
OASIS Reference	terraina1-177028		
Project Title	Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley		
Short Description of Project	Terrain Archaeology undertook archaeological observations and recording at Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley, Dorset, during groundworks associated with the creation of a new parking area and new retaining wall. No significant archaeology was observed. The concrete base for an oil or diesel tank was exposed against the wall of the former stable and layers of metalling in the former farmyard and ramp up to the barn were recorded.		
Project Dates	Start: 20-03-2014	End: 20-03-2014	
Previous/Future Work	No/No		
Project Code	53396		
Monument Type and Period	None		
Significant Finds	None		
Project Location			
County/District/Parish	Dorset/ West Dorset/Buckland Newton		
Site Address	Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley, Dorchester, DT2 7BL		
Site Coordinates	ST 6935 0434		
Site Area	c. 100 m ²		
Height OD			
Project Creators			
Organisation	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Brief Originator			
Project Design Originator	Terrain Archaeology		
Project Supervisor	Peter Bellamy		
Project Manager	Peter Bellamy		
Sponsor or Funding Body	Dr & Mrs Anscombe		
Project Archive			
Archive Type	Physical	Digital	Paper
Location/Accession No	No physical archive.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.	Terrain Archaeology offices, pending deposition with Dorset County Museum.
Contents		Digital photography	context sheets, diary, plan, report

Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley, Dorset

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and new retaining wall, March 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Project introduction

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Dr & Mrs Anscombe, through their architect Stephen Hebb, to undertake a programme of archaeological observations and recording at Old Henley Farmhouse, Hilling Lane, Henley, Dorset (Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the formation of a new gravelled parking area and a new retaining wall to the rear of the former farmyard.

The work was undertaken in fulfilment of Condition 3 of the granting of approval of Planning Application No. 1/D/13/001448 by West Dorset District Council, the Local Planning Authority, states *“No development shall be commenced until a scheme to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority. This scheme shall cover archaeological fieldwork together with post-excavation work and publication of the results. Thereafter the development shall proceed in accordance with the approved details. REASON: In the interests of safeguarding potential archaeological remains in accordance with the West Dorset District Local Plan (Adopted July 2006) Policy SA23.”*

‘Archaeological observations and recording’, also more colloquially known as an archaeological watching brief, is defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) as *“a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive”* (IfA 2008). Its purposes are: *“to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works “ and “to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.”*

The fieldwork was carried out on the 20th March 2014 by Peter Bellamy BSc (Hons) MIfA.

Terrain Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of Stephen Hebb, Mr and Mrs Anscombe, Wessex Carpentry and Builders Ltd, and Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist (Advice and Management).

1.2 Brief

No written brief for the scheme of works was issued.

1.3 Site Location and Topography

Old Henley Farm sits at the southern end of Hilling Lane in the hamlet of Henley to the south of Buckland Newton. It is centred at Ordnance Survey NGR ST 6935 0434 at the base of a coombe at the head of the Piddle valley at a height of about 153 m above OD (Figure 1).

1.4 Geology

The site lies close to the boundary between the Chalk of the Zig Zag Chalk Formation and the sandstone of the Cann Sand Member (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial geology is recorded.

1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Old Henley Farmhouse appears to have been built in the seventeenth century, but was very heavily remodelled, probably in the early twentieth century. Seventeenth century work survives in the ground floor left bay where it is of banded flint and stone with stone quoins and with a 3-light stone mullioned window with hollow chamfers and a returned label. The remainder of the house is brick with a slated gable-ended roof with brick stacks and casement windows with glazing bars (RCHME 1970, 53).

The attached farm is of a loose courtyard plan with detached farm buildings forming two sides of the courtyard and the farmhouse forming a third side. The farmyard probably dates to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, with a barn of flint with brick dressings and hipped slate roof on the north west side, a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century granary of flint with brick dressings and a hipped slate roof, supported on stone arcades in the south east corner (RCHME 1970, 53). The south east side of the yard was continued by a stone cart shed of stone with modern metal roof and a flint and stone stable, with some cob, also with a modern metal roof.

The farm lies within the hamlet of Henley to the south of Buckland Newton. The farm buildings were sold off in the late twentieth century and a new modern farmhouse built on a new site further south.

1.6 Previous Archaeological fieldwork

There has been no previous fieldwork in the immediate vicinity.

1.7 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological programme was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

Its objectives were:

- To observe and record the all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate archaeological standard.
- To present the results in a report to the appropriate standard.

1.8 Groundworks

The observed groundworks comprised the stripping of the topsoil off an area of grass at the entrance into the former farmyard to form a new gravelled parking area. The line of the new retaining wall to the rear of the courtyard was cleared of overburden down on to the natural clay along almost the whole length of the proposed new wall (Figure 2).

1.9 Methods

The methodology, scope, aims and objectives of the works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Terrain Archaeology in February 2014 (Terrain Archaeology document no. 3396/0/1).

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

A qualified, experienced archaeologist was present on-site after topsoil clearance of the new parking area and during the initial clearance of overburden from the line of the new retaining wall.

All features and deposits, regardless of their perceived date and archaeological significance, were recorded using components of Terrain Archaeology's system of complementary written, drawn and photographic records. These have been compiled in a stable, cross-referenced and fully indexed archive in accordance with current guidelines (AAF 2007) and the requirements of the receiving museum. A photographic record of the work was maintained in digital format, and includes aspects of its setting, conduct and technical detail.

1.10 Archive and Dissemination

The project archive, comprising artefacts, written, graphic and photographic records, and appropriate background documentation, is currently stored by Terrain Archaeology under the project code 53390. In due course it will be transferred to the National Trust archives.

A paper copy of this report will be lodged with Dorset County Council's Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is a publicly funded and accessible resource, and deposition of the report will place it, and the project results, in the public domain.

A digital summary of the archive will be placed with the OASIS project (www.oasis.ac.uk) under the reference code *terrains1-177028*. A digital copy of this report will be uploaded for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) online 'grey literature' library.

A brief report of the project will be published by Terrain Archaeology in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society*.

2. Results

2.1 New Parking Area (Trench 1)

The dark yellowish-brown clay loam topsoil (101) had been largely removed by machine across an area of about 7 m by 10 m in the new parking area (Figure 2; Plates 1-2). Natural mid-reddish-brown clay (102) was exposed at a depth of about 0.25 – 0.38 m below ground level, in the base of a small sondage against the north corner of the former stable and at the north east corner of the stripped area.

The remains of a concrete footing (103) were exposed within topsoil 101 against the north east wall of the stable (Figure 2). This comprised two linear poured concrete bases, measuring 1.3–1.4 m long and about 0.4 m wide, set about one metre apart. The upper surface of each linear concrete base retained the impression of a line of 2.5 concrete blocks, probably the remains of a built foundation for an oil or diesel tank (Plate 3).

2.2 New Retaining Wall (Trench 2)

The line of the new retaining wall cut across the ramp up to the doors of the former barn and across the south western part of the former farmyard (Figure 2; Plates 4-5). The present courtyard consists of a layer of angular flint metalling, up to 100 mm across, in a dark greyish-brown clay matrix, laid directly on the natural clay 204 and sealed by a 0.05 m thick layer of loose gravel in an orange sand matrix (201), which forms the current surface of the courtyard. In the area of the ramp up to the barn (at the north western end of the trench), the present gravel surface (201) sealed a 0.15 m thick layer of hard-packed reddish-brown clay and angular flint metalling up to 100 mm across (Plate 6). This metalling sealed a 0.2 m thick layer of dark brown silty clay (203) with frequent angular flint and occasional limestone rubble up to 120 mm across, which lay directly on top of the natural clay 204.

Natural reddish-brown clay with shattered flint (204) was exposed at a depth of between 0.2 m and 0.4 m along the length of the new retaining wall. No archaeological features were noted cut into the clay.

3. Finds

3.1 Finds Assemblage

No finds were retained from the archaeological works. A very small quantity of nineteenth and twentieth century pottery, including undecorated industrial whiteware and flowerpot, was noted in topsoil (101).

4. Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

The stripping of the new parking area did not remove the full depth of topsoil, so it is unsurprising that no significant archaeology was recorded. The only feature exposed (103) was clearly modern in date and represents the remains of a probable former oil or diesel tank. Although no archaeological features were recorded in the stripped area, it cannot be determined whether or not features do survive beneath the topsoil here, as the underlying deposits were not exposed.

Along the length of the new retaining wall, no archaeological features were visible cut into the underlying natural clay. The trench did expose the metalling of the farmyard and barn ramp. The farm courtyard had a layer of flint metalling (205) laid directly over the natural clay. The character of the flints suggests they are not local and may represent a new yard surface laid at some time during the twentieth century. The barn ramp had a lower deposit of clay flint and stone (203), which may be the remains of the original surface, which was subsequently covered by another layer of flint metalling (202).

4.2 Conclusions

No significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the watching brief on the new parking area or new retaining wall.

5. References

- | | | |
|-------|------|---|
| AAF, | 2007 | <i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> Archaeological Archives Forum. |
| IfA, | 2008 | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> (Revised Edition). Institute for Archaeologists. |
| IfA, | 2009 | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> Institute for Archaeologists. |
| RCHME | 1970 | <i>An Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset. Volume Three, Central.</i> HMSO; London. |

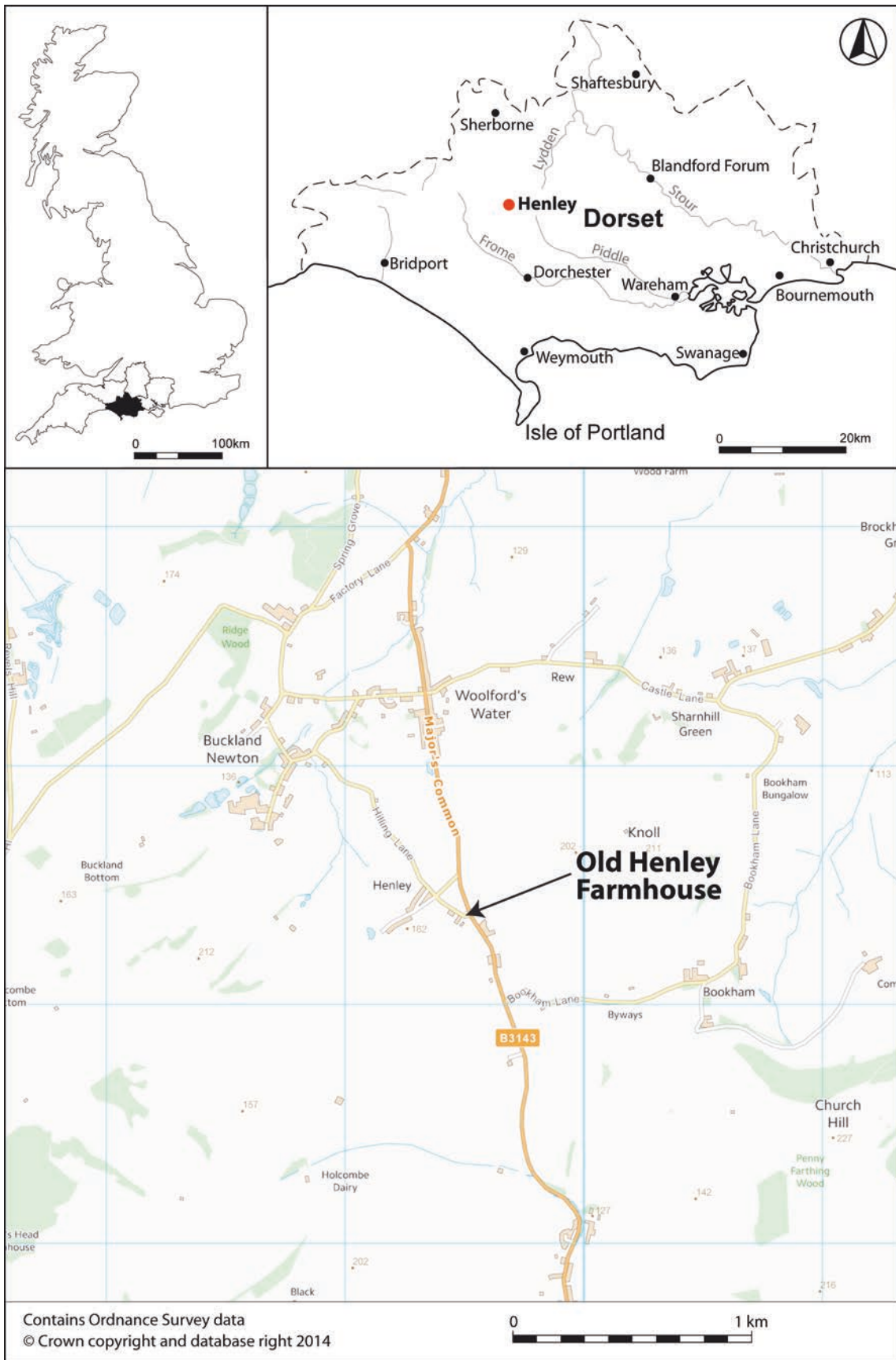


Figure 1 Location map.

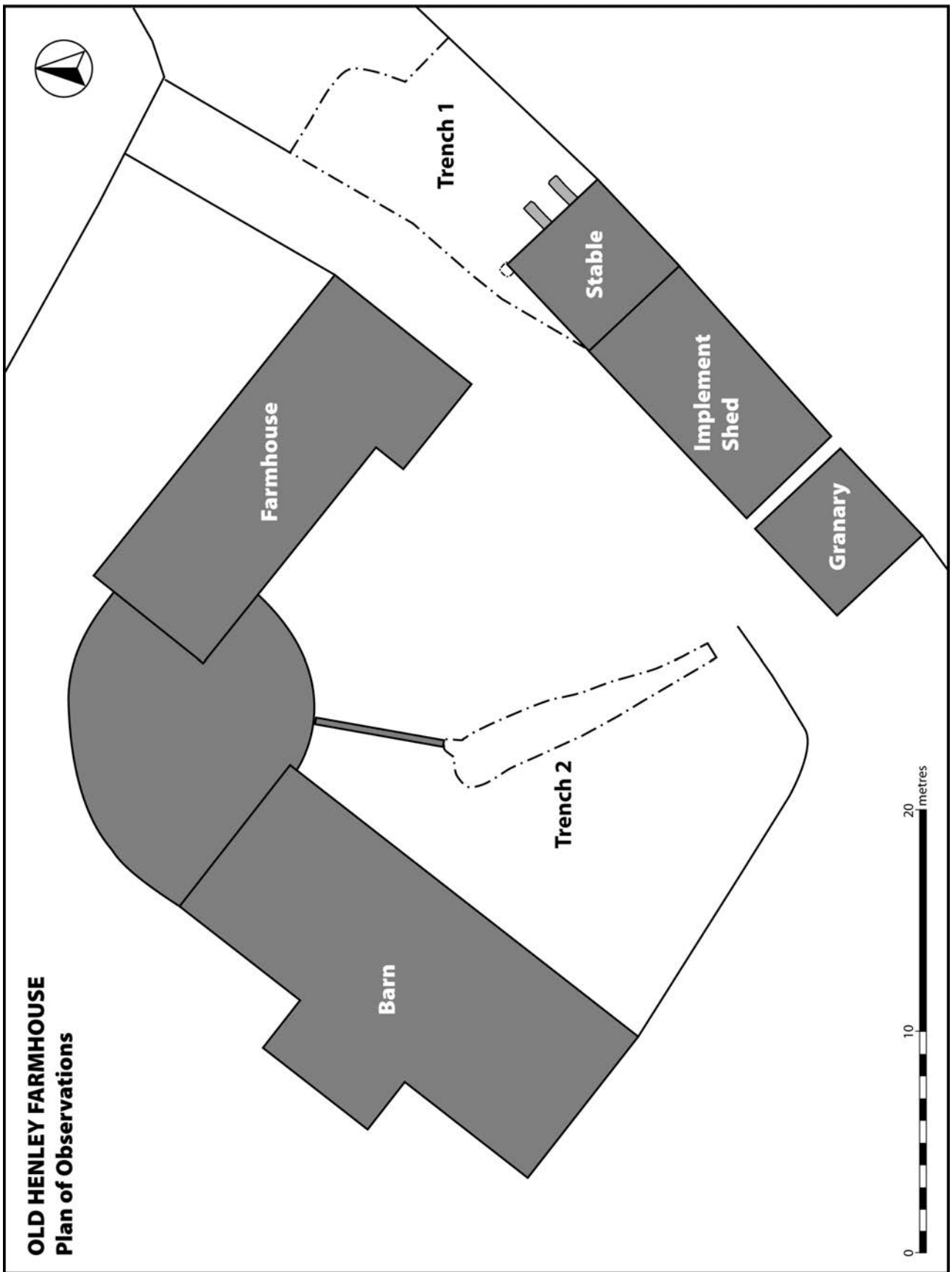


Figure 2: Plan of Observations.



Plate 1: View of new parking area after stripping, looking north east. 2m scales.



Plate 2: View of new parking area after stripping, looking south west, with concrete base 103 in background. 2m scales.



Plate 3: Concrete base 103. 2m scales.



Plate 4: View of new retaining wall trench, looking south west. 2m scales.



Plate 5: View along line of new retaining wall trench, looking south east. 2m scales.



Plate 6: Detail of deposits on former barn ramp, looking west. 1m and 2m scale.