

FORDINGTON IRON REMOVAL SCHEME
Archaeological Evaluation

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
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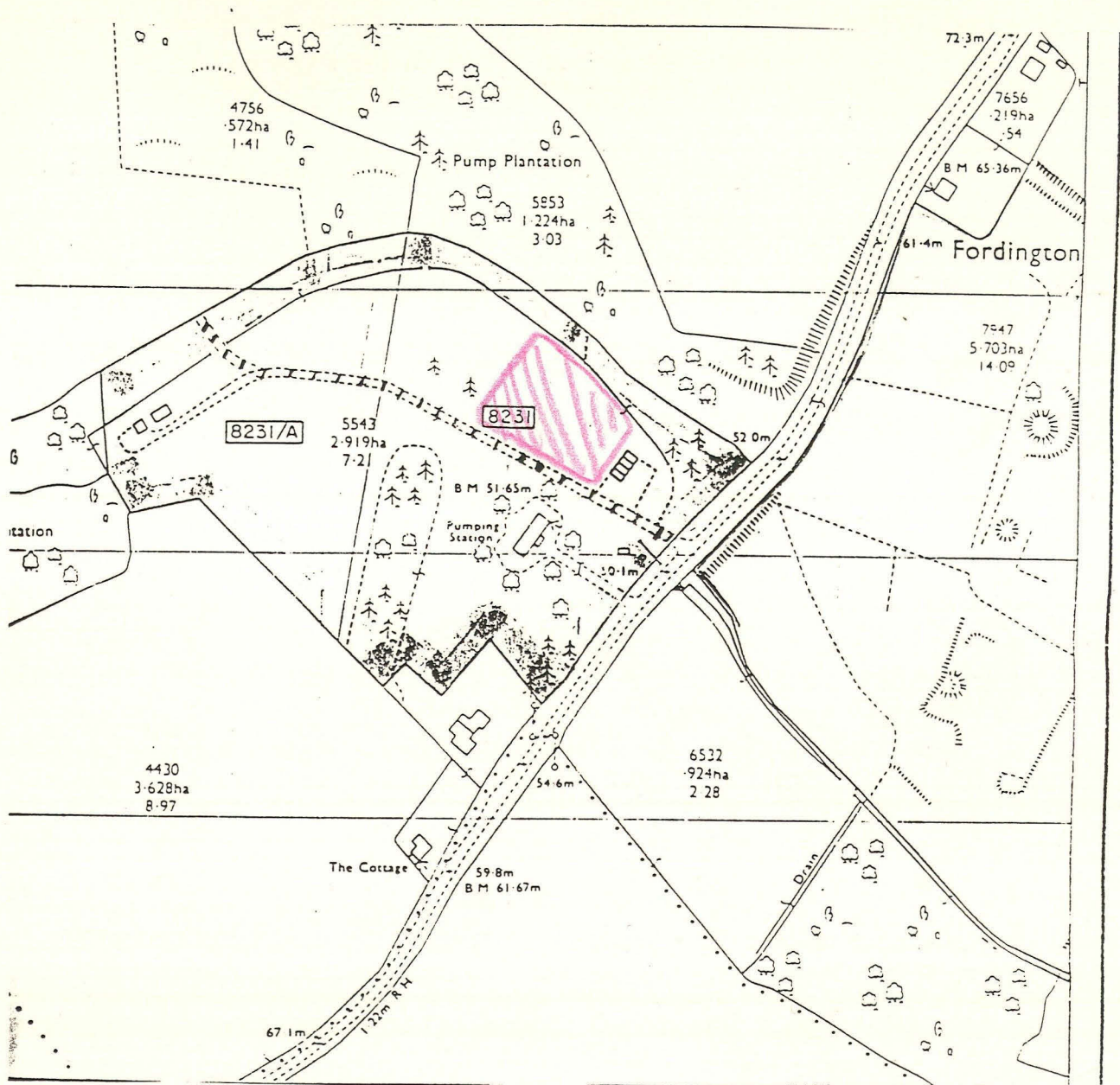


Fig. 1 Location of evaluation area.

FORDINGTON IRON REMOVAL SCHEME

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Fordington Pumping Station, Ulceby with Fordington, on behalf of Anglian Water Engineering and Business Systems Ltd.

The pumping station is opposite the earthwork remains of Fordington medieval village, (Scheduled Ancient Monument no.284) (P1). It lies in the bottom of a steep glacial valley with a deep accumulation of silts overlying the chalk. A stream still runs across the site, defining its northern boundary (P2,3).

The close proximity of the village earthworks and the presence of prehistoric burial sites in the vicinity meant that the site was of potential archaeological interest.

The area under investigation is situated north-east of the present pumping station. It lies west of a concrete platform, the remains of a demolished building and its western limit is roughly in line with the gated entrance to the pumping station (Fig.1).

Four machine-dug test pits were dug in an area north of the present pumping station in advance of building work for an iron removal scheme (Fig. 2).

The area available for trenching was restricted by ground conditions. The area beyond trench 2 was too boggy for safe machine access so no trial trenching was undertaken in this small area of the site.

Trenching was designed to investigate the below ground conditions in all parts of the site, within the constraints described above.

Results

Trench 1 lay close to the concrete base. It revealed previously disturbed ground incorporating a small patch of modern brick rubble and was abandoned (P4).

Trench 2 was dug parallel to the stream and it comprised silts and other flood deposits (P5).

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Thin layer of topsoil | 0-5cm |
| 2. Light brown silt (oxidised) merging into | 5-23cm |
| 3. grey silt (reduced) | 23-51cm |
| 4. lens of silt, high organic content | 51-53cm |
| 5. river bed, coarser silts, red-brown | 53cm-> |

The water table was at 65cm below ground level (P6)

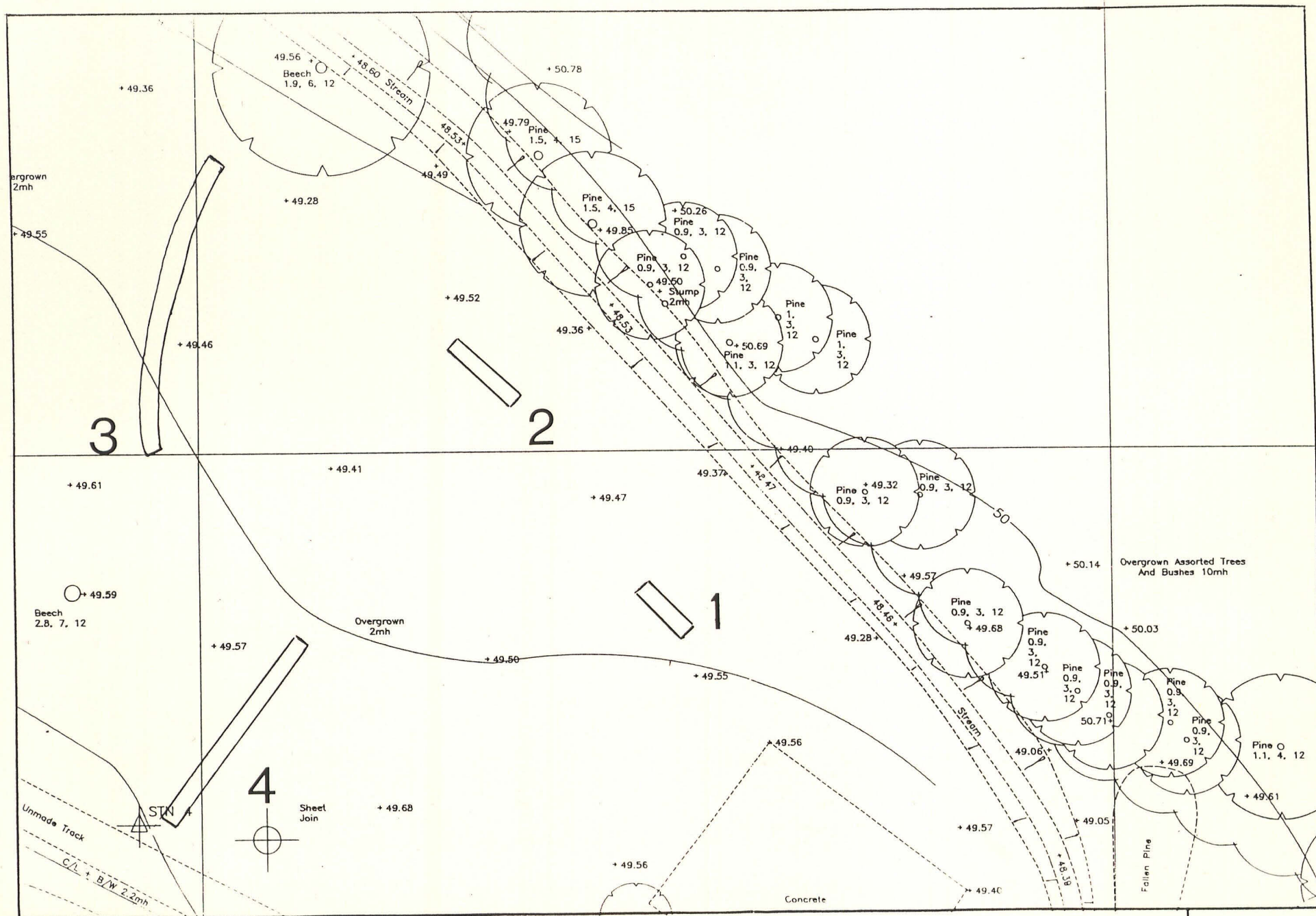


Fig. 2 Location of machine trenches.

Trench 3 was dug perpendicular to the stream at the furthest safe limit of the site. It was hoped that the flood material would decrease towards the track. However, the whole trench contained these deposits (P7).

north-east end of Trench 3

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Topsoil | 0-10cm |
| 2. Subsoil, silty, crumbly,
red-brown, mottled merges into | 10-30cm |
| 3. dark grey, silty crumbly (reduced) | 30-55cm |
| 4. whitish (chalky) grey silt, mottled | 55cm-> |

The water table was at 70 cm below ground level

The chalky silt thinned out to the west of the trench and at 10m was 12cm thick, overlying
5. red-brown mottled silts

At the south-west end of the trench the white silt was not present at all and the zone between Layers 3 and 5 was defined by a thin band of iron panning (P8).

Trench 4 was dug perpendicular to the track at the southern limit of the site (P9). Even here there were still silts and other flood deposits.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Topsoil | 0-5cm |
| 2a blue-grey sand merging into | |
| 2b orange sand | |
| 2c iron panning at base of sand | 5-45cm |
| 3 brown mottled crumbly silt | 45-67cm |
| 4 whitish (chalky) silt | 67cm-> |

Layer 4 was present only in the eastern 5m of the trench. To the west of this point Layer 3 overlay
5. Lighter orange-brown silt.

The water table was at 0.85m below ground level (P10,11).

Conclusion

The whole of the development area lies within the flood plain of the stream to the north. The present water table lies only 0.65-85m below the surface. It is highly unlikely that there was any habitation in this area, although it might have been suitable for seasonal grazing. No artefacts of any date were recovered from the site.

Although nothing archaeological was found during the investigations the evaluation has helped to define the limits of the medieval settlement of Fordington.

Naomi Field
May 12th 1992



P1 Aerial view of Fordington deserted medieval village, earthworks to right; pumping station to left of road, evaluation area marked in pink. (May 1980)



P2 Stream at north side of evaluation area (looking west)



P3 Stream at north side of evaluation area (looking east)



P4 Trench 1, looking west, brick rubble at top.
Scale 1 metre.



P5 Trench 2, looking west. Scales 1m and 50cm.



P6 Trench 2. Silt deposits. Scale 50cm



P7 Trench 3,
looking north.



P8 Trench 3 south end , Vertical scale 50cm.



P9 Trench 4

P10 Trench 4 looking north.
Scales 1m and 50cm



P11 Trench 4 south end. Scale 50cm