

Marches Archaeology

Well House Myddle Shropshire

**A report on a programme
of archaeological works**

February 2006

Marches Archaeology Series 407

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**Well House
Myddle
Shropshire**

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

NGR: SJ 4665 2360

**Report by
Jo Wainwright**

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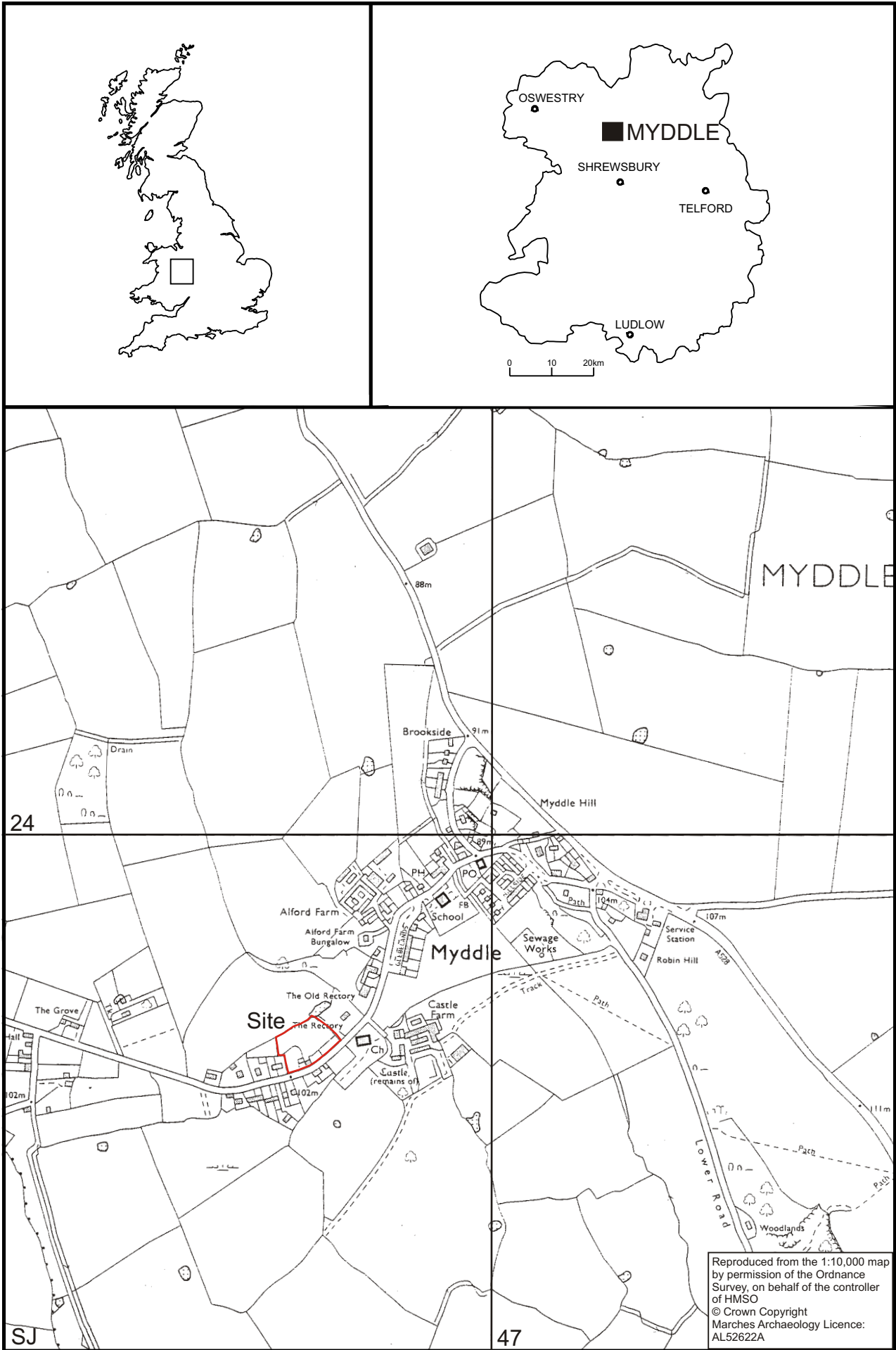


Fig. 1 Location of the site

**Well House
Myddle
Shropshire**

NGR: SJ 4665 2360

**A report on a
programme of archaeological works**

Summary

A programme of archaeological works at Well House, Myddle, Shropshire was carried out in 2005. Excavations revealed that the site was under cultivation from the 14th century or earlier. A sandstone foundation dating from the 12th-13th century could be part of a wall, perhaps forming a division between land units in the medieval period. However, it is possible that this feature is of a post-medieval date and was part of a garden wall.

In the 17th or early 18th century Well House was constructed. Three pits excavated are probably associated with domestic activity in the yard area around Well House in the 17th or 18th century. A Ditch situated to west of the house was probably a drainage channel taking water from the higher ground in the north-west away from the house.

In the 18th or 19th century Well House was extended northwards and outbuildings were constructed to the east of the building. At a later date the buildings to the east were demolished as were several more that formed the Well House complex.

1 Introduction

A planning application has been approved by the local planning authority for permission to erect dwellings on land at Well House, Myddle, Shropshire (ref: N/03/776/MY/396). The site is situated at NGR: SJ 4665 2360 (Fig. 1).

The site lies within the medieval core of the village and as such is a site of potential archaeological interest. The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor advised that in order that the archaeological resource was adequately recorded an archaeological watching brief was to be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development forming Condition 16 of the planning consent. There was no written brief for the works.

Andrew Josephs (the archaeological consultant), on behalf of the client, commissioned Marches Archaeology to carry out the archaeological services required to satisfy the planning condition.

2 Aims and objectives

The scope of the project was defined as:

- ◆ observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- ◆ the recording of the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features
- ◆ The collection, identification and cataloguing of all artefacts
- ◆ if significant archaeology had been identified the archaeologist on site should have informed the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and Andrew Josephs immediately in order that appropriate action may have been taken to minimise the damage to such deposits (if feasible) and to record them appropriately.

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘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 a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

3 Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources were consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. The Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record was consulted and a visit was made to The Shropshire Record Office. The following sources were considered:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;
Borehole and other engineering data.

Fieldwork

Initially observations and appropriate recording were undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with the proposed development. However, it was noted by Marches Archaeology that the archaeological contingency only applied to Plots 3-7 of a much larger development of Plots 1-14. Some of these plots fronted onto the road (Fig. 2). The plots which were not covered by the contingency, especially the ones fronting onto the road, were likely to have a higher archaeological potential than the ones covered by the contingency. Therefore it was agreed between Andy Josephs, the client, and Marches Archaeology that a watching brief be carried out on plots closer to the road frontage and a scaled down watching brief be carried out on Plots 3-7.

It was understood that planning permission had been granted for the demolition of Well House and it was agreed between Andy Josephs, the client, and Marches Archaeology that a limited amount of building recording would be carried out on Well House itself before its demolition. This took place when an archaeologist was on site and had some time to spare whilst waiting for groundworks associated with the watching brief to be carried out. A photographic record was made with a digital camera, supported by a sketch plan (without dimensions). An archaeologist was not on site when Well House was demolished.

The recording system for the watching brief included written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record was by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers were allocated and trench record sheets were completed. A plan of the areas of excavation was completed. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual data was processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced.

Assessment was based on the site archive. The pottery which required specialist assessment was submitted for such work.

4 Site description

The site lies to the west of the Church of St Peter, Myddle, Shropshire (Fig. 1). The irregular area of the site is about 0.8 ha and the land is about 100m O. D. sloping gently down from west to east. Several depressions were visible in the central part of the study area. To the south the site is bounded by a low sandstone wall and hedge which fronts onto a road. In the east a fence with a copse of trees behind it delineates the boundary. The northern and western boundaries have both a hedge and a fence along them.

Before the development the area was split into four separate areas. Fronting onto the road in the south was a three storey house and outbuildings enclosed by a wall (Plates 1 and 2). One of these outbuildings housed a well. To the east of the house a sandstone wall ran west to east enclosing a garden area close to the house and a small overgrown orchard next to the garden. Adjacent to the road and within the garden was an overgrown walled enclosure which housed a well (Plate 3). The stepped entrance to this enclosure was from the roadway. The area to the west and south of the house, garden and orchard was an overgrown field which had isolated trees situated in it.

The underlying drift geology comprises of superficial Glacial Boulder Clay Deposits. Pockets of Glacial sand and gravel are also recorded in the area. The underlying solid geology is recorded as Triassic Upper Mottled Sandstone which is described as soft, red sandstone (Crossfield Consulting Limited, 2004).

5 Archaeological and historical background

There is a reference to a Roman coin being found in Myddle but there is no documentation in the Sites and Monument Record to verify this find (Local Studies Library, undated).

The OE place-name of *Mutla* means ‘a junction where land was cleared and a settlement founded’ (Hey, 1974). By the time of Domesday the settlement of Myddle was held by Rainald the Sheriff and must have been quite a sizeable entity as the entry in the Domesday Book lists, amongst others, 8 smallholders. The full entry reads as follows:

*Siward held it before 1066. 8 hides. In lordship 1 plough;
8 smallholders, a priest and 2 Frenchmen.
Woodland for fattening 40 pigs.
Land for 20 ploughs.
Value before 1066 £6; later £4; now 70s (Thorn and Thorn, 1986).*

Although the present church was built in the early post-medieval period it stands on an earlier site (SMR: 836, Fig. 3). Indeed there must have been an earlier church as Myddle Church had been given by Warin the Sheriff to Earl Roger’s Abbey at Shrewsbury sometime before 1066 and a priest was recorded in Myddle in the Domesday book. (Local Studies Library, undated).

By 1165 the manor of Myddle was acquired by the Lords le Strange of Knockin and in c.1307 they built the castle (SMR:1127, SAM:32318, Fig. 3). A royal licence to crenellate was granted in 1308. In the late 15th century the manor of Myddle passed from the le Stranges to the Stanley family and by the end of the 16th century the Castle was sold to the Egerton family (SMR:1127). By c.1500 the Castle probably ceased to be occupied and in the following centuries became ruinous.

There are records of open fields in Myddle in the medieval period and it is likely that the area of the site was within an open field (Hey, 1974). There are several dwellings that exist in Myddle that can be dated to the 17th century (SMR: 12309, 12310, 12311, 15047 and 18937, Fig. 3). It is likely that Well House was constructed in the late 17th century or early 18th century. Gough, in his *Antiquities and Memoirs of the Parish of Myddle*, mentions ‘two faire wells in the common streets beside pumps and draw-wells and also there are several springs and pumps in the town’ (Gough, 1700). It seems likely that the well enclosure situated alongside the road at the site is one of the wells talked about by Gough (Plate 3).

A map of 1650 of the Demesnes of the Manor of Middle shows the site in an area outside the demesnes of the Manor (Fig. 4). The only buildings that are shown are ones which are part of the manor itself though other buildings existed in Myddle at that time.

The next cartographic evidence for Myddle is the Tithe Map dating from 1839 (Fig. 5). The site is split into three units with Well House and two outbuildings within one unit. The following is the entry from the Tithe apportionment:

Landowner	Occupier	Number	Name and description of land and premises
Edward Birch	Samuel Hignett	409	House, building and garden
Edward Birch	Samuel Hignett	410	Garden
Edward Birch	Samuel Hignett	412	Little Meadow

In 1891 a Knowlson Hignett, a cowkeeper, was living at Well House (Kelly’s, 1891). He was presumably a son or grandson of Samuel Hignett.

An 1862 Plan of the Land Throughout Parish by Samuel Cartwright shows the site still split into three units (Fig. 6). Well House and the outbuildings are shown as is the well adjacent to the road which was marked as a public well. All of the buildings shown were in existence on the site before work started on the development in 2005 but the outbuilding situated to the west of Well House is shown on the Plan as being larger.

The 1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan shows the division of the field Little Meadow into two parcels of land (Fig. 7). The 1902 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Plan is similar to the 1881 Plan but the boundary between Little Meadow and the field to the west has disappeared and the garden of Well House has been enlarged (Fig. 8). The 1926 Ordnance Survey Plan shows an extension to the outbuilding to the north-west of Well House (Fig. 9). Since 1926 and 2005 there was little change to the site apart from the demolition of parts of two of the outbuildings.

6 The watching brief (Fig. 2)

The site was reduced down by about 300mm in a piecemeal fashion and an archaeologist was present for a good part of this operation. The ground reduction in the north-eastern corner of the site was not observed. In the immediate vicinity of Well House, after the demolition of the house and outbuildings, the ground was reduced but hardcore and rubble was laid back down on top of the reduced level obscuring any features or deposits.

Further groundbreaking excavations on the site which were observed included the excavation of a new roadway and the excavation of foundations for houses and garages. The excavations for the services for the development were not seen when excavations took place.

The general stratigraphy in the areas outside of the house complex was of a topsoil [101], [102], [107] and [120] overlying an earlier cultivation soil [103], [113] of a probable 18th century date. Below this, in places, a late medieval cultivation soil survived [114], [116] and [117]. One post-medieval sherd of pottery recovered from layer [114] is probably intrusive due to machining. Underneath the medieval cultivation soil was the natural [104] and [105].

Two spreads of demolition material [108] and [119] in the garden area are of a probable 19th century date. These layers are probably the remains of demolished outbuildings.

In the footing trench of House Plot 11 a rough hewn sandstone foundation [121] and construction cut [122] was excavated (Fig. 10). This was only seen in section but was probably a footing for a wall. The top of this feature had been removed either by cultivation or modern machine damage. The bonding of [121] was a sticky grey clay [123]. One sherd of 12th-13th century pottery was recovered from [123].

In the footing trench of House Plot 13 two intercutting features, both of a probable early post-medieval date were excavated (Fig. 11). The earliest of these [134], was probably a pit cutting natural [105]. This was backfilled with five fills [141-145] and was possibly a rubbish pit. Cutting pit [134] was a probable sub-square pit with stepped sides [133]. This was filled with three backfills [138-140]. One sherd of pottery from [138] dates from the 17th century. Slumped into the top of cuts [133] and [134] was the possible bedding [137] for a cobbled yard surface [136]. Above [136] was a mixed deposit [135] which was probably a demolition/make-up layer underneath the yard surfaces surrounding Well House.

In House Plot 14, to the west of House Plot 13 two features were excavated (Fig. 12). In the south-west of the plot a linear feature [124] cut the natural [104]. This was interpreted as a ditch but the northern and southern extents of this feature were not discernible. The ditch cut was filled with three fills [127-129]. The lower fill probably represents the silting up of the ditch. To the north of [124] was a pit cut [125]. A possible clay lining [132] was seen around the edge of the pit. There were two backfills [130] and [131].

Sealing features [124] and [125] was a mixed layer [126] which probably represents a layer underneath the yard surfaces around Well House. It is probable that this layer equates to [135] seen in the foundations of House Plot 13.

A sandstone and brick footing [106] adjoining the housing of the well is part of a building shown on the 19th century plans. Several buildings not shown on the 19th century plans were identified in the excavation. It is likely these date from the 19th century. Sandstone walls [109], [110], [111], [112] and [115] are probably part of two outbuildings one within the garden area and one in the paddock. The function of a post-medieval coursed sandstone wall [118] identified in the garden is not discernible.

7 The building recording *by Richard Stone*

The plan form of the building was that of a single pile two bay two storey cottage with two attic rooms and a rear extension (Plates 1 and 2). The roof of the main house was quite steep and the building was not very wide.

The general aspect of the building in terms of detailing, both on the exterior and interior, was largely that of a nineteenth century dwelling, due to the many alterations of that period. Fireplaces, windows, doors plasterwork and render all date from this period or later. However, the plan form, section and some internal details clearly show that behind the uninspiring surface finishes lay the core of a seventeenth or early eighteenth century dwelling. This was particularly apparent internally in the form of ceiling beams to the four principal rooms, which had chamfers stops (Plates 4-8). This is a decorative form used from the late sixteenth century into the early eighteenth century, and was most common in the second half of the seventeenth century. The form of the stops is not a common one but is similar to the 'lamb's tongue' run out which is generally of the second half of the seventeenth century.

A small amount of the external render was removed before demolition, revealing bricks of a size commensurate with a construction date in the later seventeenth or eighteenth century (Plate 9). Internally the surface finishes, windows and doors were all altered from the original.

If the origins of Well House had been appreciated prior to planning permission being granted, a programme of recording may well have been required prior to redevelopment of the site. A much better understanding of the original form of the building would have been possible if further recording had taken place when surface finishes were removed. This would have exposed positions of former openings, stairs and perhaps details of the roof construction, if this had not been altered in the past.

7 The pottery by Stephanie Rátkai

Table 1: Pottery quantification

Fabric	102	103	107	108	113	114	116	117	123	138
Roman?		x								
Aa1 early medieval glazed ware							x			
Ab3 late medieval iron-poor ware					x		x			
Ca1 late medieval oxidised ware		x			x	x	x			
Cb1 late medieval oxidised ware		x	x		x		x	x		
Cb2 medieval glazed sandy ware							x	x		
Cb2.1 medieval glazed sandy ware						x				
Cb3 medieval glazed ware						x				
Cb8.1 medieval cooking pot							x			
Cc2 medieval cooking pot						x	x		x	
Malvernian cooking pot							x	x		
later medieval Malvernian ware					x					
Midlands Purple	x		x							
Blackware	x	x	x		x					
Yellow ware		x		x						x
Coarseware		x	x		x					x
Slipware		x	x	x	x	?				
Slip-coated ware	x	x			x					
Mottled ware	x				x					
Brown salt-glazed stoneware		x		x	x					
Tin-glazed earthenware		x								
White salt-glazed stoneware		x	x							
Mocha ware			x							
Blue transfer-printed ware			x	x						

Table 2: Spot dates

Context	Date
102	later 17th-mid 18th c
103	first half of 18th c
107	mixed 15th-19th c
108	19th c
113	later 17th-early/mid 18th c
114	One intrusive post-medieval sherd, otherwise 15th-16th c
116	15th-16th c but some earlier residual material
117	15th-16th c but some earlier residual material
123	12th-13th c
138	17th c

The post-medieval pottery was separated from the earlier pottery, quickly scanned and a note made of the wares present. The medieval pottery was matched to the Shrewsbury type series used for several recently excavated sites eg St Julian's Friars (Rátkai forthcoming). All the medieval sherds could be matched to pottery recovered from Shrewsbury. The medieval pottery generally comprised very small abraded sherds. Most of this pottery dated to the later medieval period eg the later 14th-16th centuries although the presence of Malvernian cooking pot sherds and local sandy cooking pot sherds indicates some activity in the 13th or possibly

12th centuries. Other evidence for late 12th or early 13th century activity was provided by one or two pitcher sherds. One tiny powdery orange sherd with no visible inclusions may have been a fragment of Roman Severn Valley ware.

A variety of post-medieval wares were noted and although the sherds were larger and less abraded than the medieval material it was difficult to assign sherds to vessel form. A greater proportion of the pottery appeared to be from utilitarian wares such as coarseware. A variety of slipwares were present including light-on-dark slip trailed flange-rim bowls, three colour slipware, feathered slipware and dark-on-light slipware, all typical of the later 17th-early/mid 18th centuries. There were two examples of jewelled slipware, both were from hollow wares. One sherd appeared to have jewelled slipware lettering. All the slipwares were unlike those produced in Staffordshire and presumably represent far more local production.

9 Discussion

The area of the site was under cultivation from at least the 14th century. The presence of 12th and 13th century pottery in the early soil layers could indicate that cultivation was taking place at an earlier date. It is likely that the site was part of the open field system of Myddle in the medieval period (Hey, 1974).

A sherd of pottery dating from the 12th-13th century uncovered in the bonding of a sandstone foundation [121] seen in House Plot 11 dates from the 12th or 13th century. This footing could possibly be part of a wall, perhaps forming a division between land units in the medieval period. However, due to the damp conditions on site the relationship between the foundation and the medieval cultivation layer was lost and it is possible that this foundation is the remnants of the garden wall demolished in 2005 (Fig. 2). Although on plan the demolished wall appears 1 metre to the north of this footing it cannot be discounted that there was an error in the survey and the foundation is in fact part of the demolished garden wall. Therefore it could be that the sherd of medieval pottery uncovered in the bonding of the foundation is residual and the footing dates from the post-medieval period.

In the 17th or early 18th century Well House was constructed. Several other properties in Myddle date from the 17th century and it is likely that the settlement was expanding during this period. It seems probable that both Wells on the site were in use when Well House was built. It may be the case that the wells had older origins and were sunk in the medieval period. It is likely that one, if not both, of the wells mentioned by Gough in his *Antiquities and Memoirs of the Parish of Myddle* in 1700 were situated on the site (Gough, 1700). The land around Well House continued to be under cultivation during this period.

In the vicinity of Well House several features were excavated. The three pits excavated [125], [133] and [135] are probably associated with domestic activity in the yard area around Well House in the 17th or 18th century. The ditch [124] was probably a drainage channel taking water from the higher ground in the north-west away from the house.

In the 18th or 19th century Well House was extended northwards and outbuildings were constructed to the east of the building. At a later date the buildings to the east were demolished as were several more that formed the Well House complex.

10 Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to John Bowers and John Tobin of David Mclean Homes Ltd and the groundworkers of GTB Construction Ltd for there co-operation on site.

11 References

Abbreviations

RO Shropshire Record Office
SAM Scheduled Ancient Monument
SMR Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record

Maps

1650 Map of the Demesnes of the Manor of Middle by W. Follower, RO 212/ Box 466.17
1839 Tithe Plan of the Parish of Middle, RO PF201/1 [216]
1862 Plan of Land Throughout Parish by Samuel Cartwright for George Owen, RO 380/ 65
1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan, Sheet Shropshire XXI. 13
1902 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan, Sheet Shropshire XXI. 13
1926 Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan, Sheet Shropshire XXI. 13
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12 Archive

The site code is WHM05A. The archive consists of:

8 trench sheets
1 drawing index sheets
5 field drawings on 3 sheets
7 sheets of site diary and notes
1 sheet of notes on building recording
10 finds sheets
14 photo record sheets
6 films of black and white photographic negatives
6 films of colour photographic transparencies

- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 box of finds:

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire County Museum.

Appendix I: List of contexts

Context number	Description of context	Interpretation
101	Dark humic clay loam with frequent brick fragments and cobbles. Maximum 150mm thick.	Topsoil.
102	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate brick fragments and coal. Maximum 300mm thick.	Topsoil.
103	Mid brown clay with moderate brick fragments, gravel and coal. About 200mm thick.	Layer, interface between topsoil and natural.
104	Varies from orangey yellow clays with sandstone fragments to cobbles and pebbles in a sandy matrix.	Natural.
105	Gravels, sands and cobbles in bands.	Natural.
106	Sandstone and brick wall. Identified from maps as northern external wall of building adjoining building encasing well.	Wall.
107	Dark humic clay loam with very frequent brick fragments. Varies from 200-400mm thick.	Topsoil in garden area.
108	Mixed layer of redeposited pink clay, dark sandy clay, light beige sands and gravels and brick rubble. About 600mm thick.	19 th century demolition material.
109	Pink sandstone blocks mortared with soft beige mortar and faced on the south. Width 500mm. Part of [110] and [111].	South wall of demolished outbuilding.
110	As [109] with possible chimney base. Part of [109] and [111].	East wall of demolished outbuilding.
111	As [109] with brick also. Part of [109] and [110].	North wall of demolished outbuilding.
112	Pink sandstone blocks with a slate damp course. Part of [115].	East wall of demolished outbuilding.
113	Dark beige to mid brown sandy silty clay with frequent pebbles and charcoal. Possibly equates to [103]. Varied in thickness from 100-200mm.	Layer.
114	Light beige brown silty clay but in places greyer. Contained frequent pebbles, occasional charcoal, mortar and sandstone fragments. About 200mm thick. Equates to [116] and [117].	Late medieval cultivation soil.
115	As [112].	North wall of demolished outbuilding.
116	Mid beige brown sandy silty clay but in places greyer with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal. About 200-250mm thick. Equates to [114] and [117].	Late medieval cultivation soil.
117	As [116]. Equates to [114] and [116].	Late medieval cultivation soil.

118	Coursed rubblestone.	Wall.
119	Crushed red sandstone/quarry waste in a greyish silty clay matrix.	Layer.
120	As [101] except contained very frequent coal.	Layer.
121	Two courses of rough hewn sandstone running east to west. Seen in edge of trench. No mortar apparent and footing trench built.	Foundation of wall.
122	Linear cut with a flat base.	Construction cut for [121].
123	Sticky grey re-deposited natural clay.	Bonding of foundation [121]
124	Cut for linear feature. Runs approximately SE-NW. Concave sides with a dish shaped base. About 700mm deep.	Ditch cut.
125	Cut with concave sides and a dish shaped base. About 700mm deep.	Pit cut.
126	Mid grey brown very gritty sandy loam with frequent gravel and brick fragments. Maximum 400mm thick.	Layer underneath yard surfaces in the vicinity of Well House.
127	Orange sand and pebbles with occasional charcoal.	Fill of [124].
128	Dark greyish brown loamy sand with very frequent pebbles, charcoal and occasional sandstone fragments and brick and tile fragments.	Fill of [124].
129	Mid orange brown gritty sandy loam with frequent pebbles, and charcoal. Becomes siltier at base.	Fill of [124].
130	Pinkish sands and gravels with occasional charcoal.	Fill of [125].
131	Reddish brown sands and gravels in a clay loam with frequent charcoal and very occasional brick and tile fragments. Towards base silt in matrix is present and contains larger gravels.	Fill of [125].
132	Greyish brown clay with large pebbles and frequent charcoal flecks and fragments.	Fill of [125] ?clay lining.
133	Cut only really seen in section. Concave stepped sides and not bottomed. Cuts [134] or re-cut in [134].	17th century pit cut.
134	Cut only really seen in section. Slightly concave stepped sides with a flattish base.	Pit cut, probably early post-medieval
135	Very mixed deposit with cobbles and tile.	Layer, possibly equates to [126].
136	Greyish gritty silt with cobbles and tile	Possible remains of surface which has slumped into pit [133] and [134].
137	Re-deposited natural gravels and sands with occasional charcoal.	Layer, possibly bedding for [136].
138	Mixture of yellowish re-deposited natural with patches of grey clay silt with pebbles and charcoal	Fill of [133]
139	Dark grey silty clay with pebbles and charcoal.	Fill of [133].
140	Dark grey silty clay with pebbles and charcoal.	Fill of [133].

141	Re-deposited natural gravels and sands.	Fill of [134].
142	Dark grey silty clay with pebbles and charcoal. Becomes more gravelly in south.	Fill of [134].
143	Dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal.	Fill of [134].
144	Mid grey silty clay with pebbles and charcoal and occasional brick fragments.	Fill of [134].
145	Pinkish clay with pebbles.	Fill of [134].

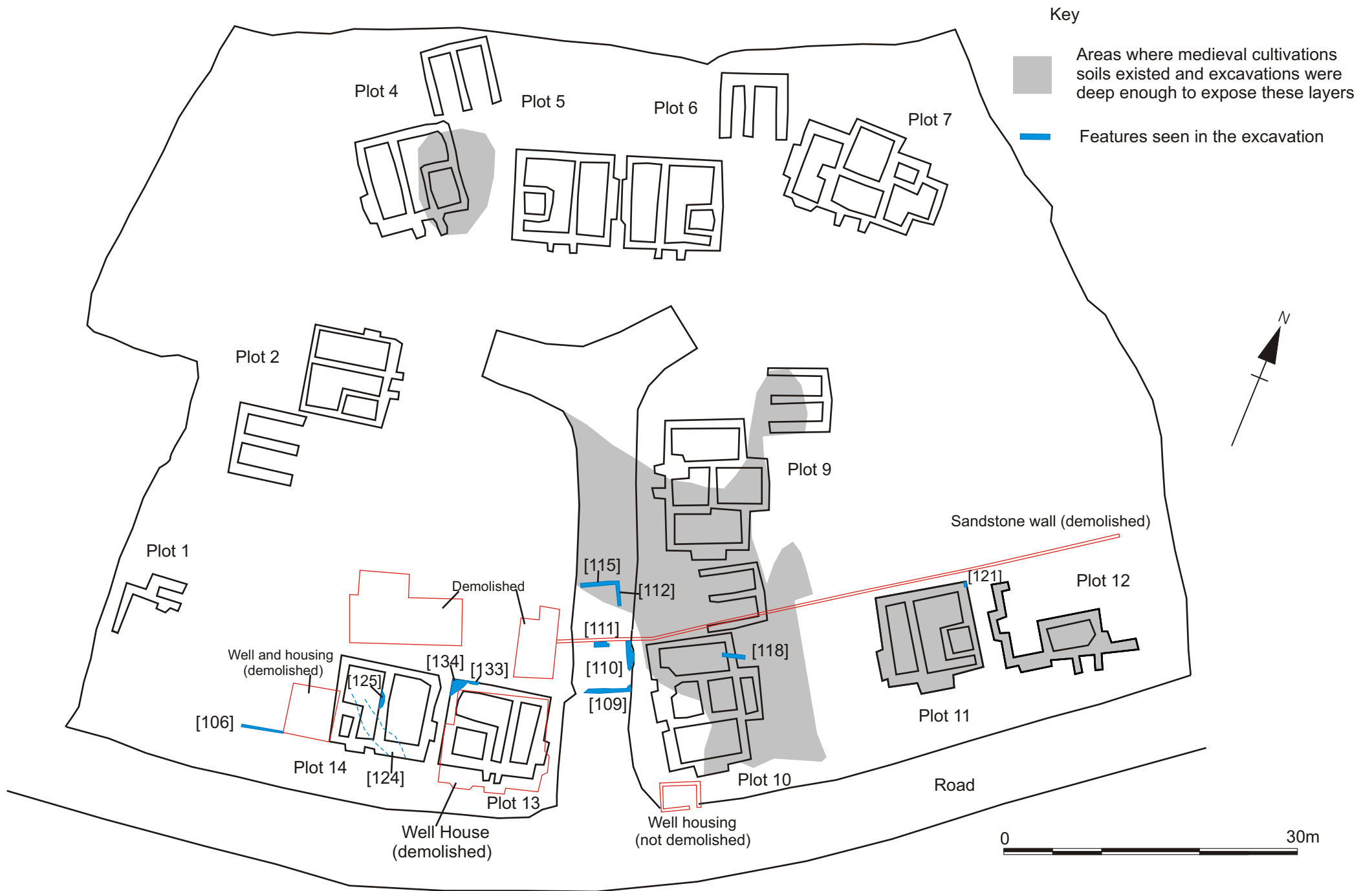
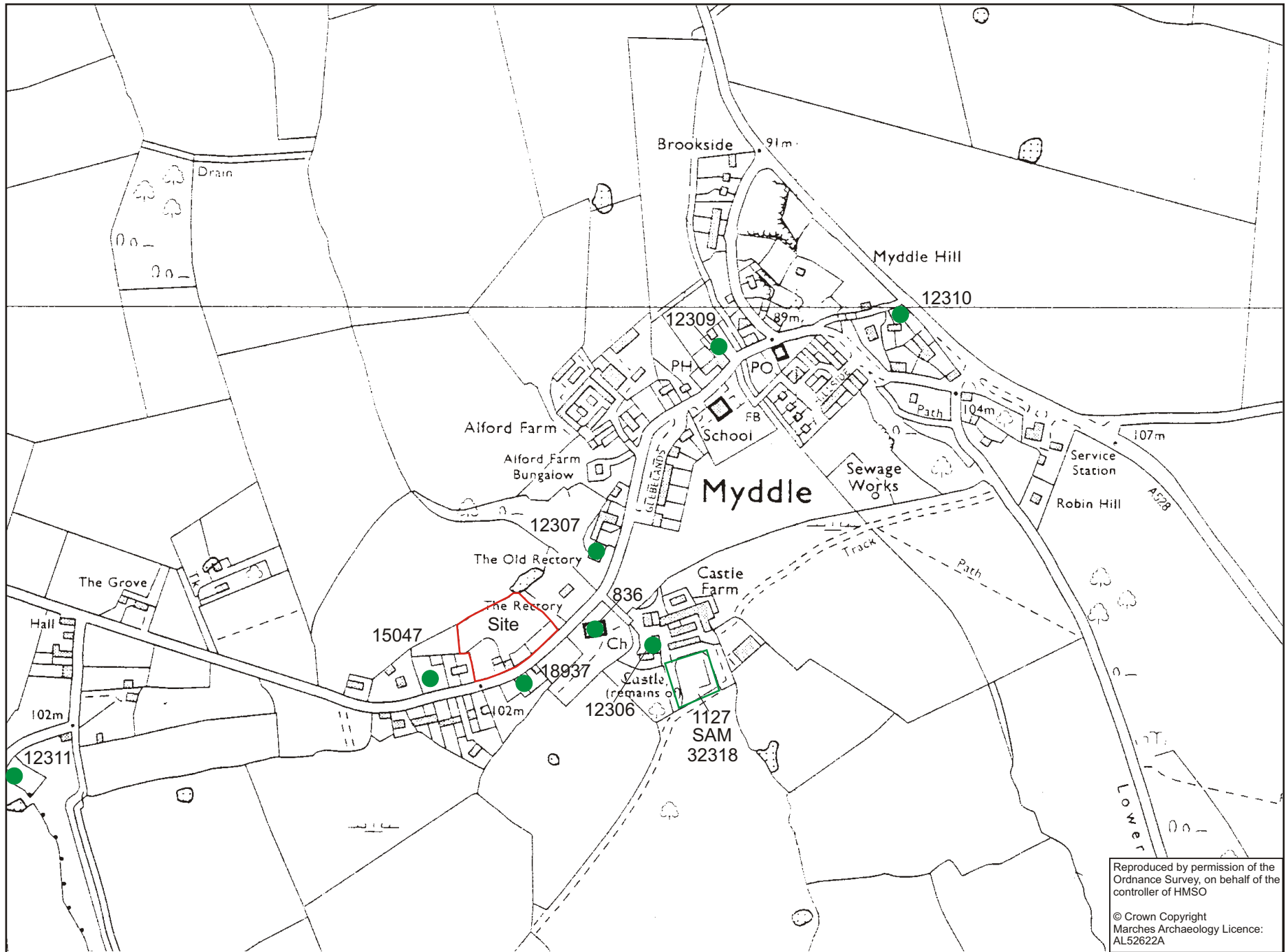


Fig. 2 Location of the areas of excavation showing all features and medieval deposits



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Fig. 3 Location of relevant surrounding SMR sites

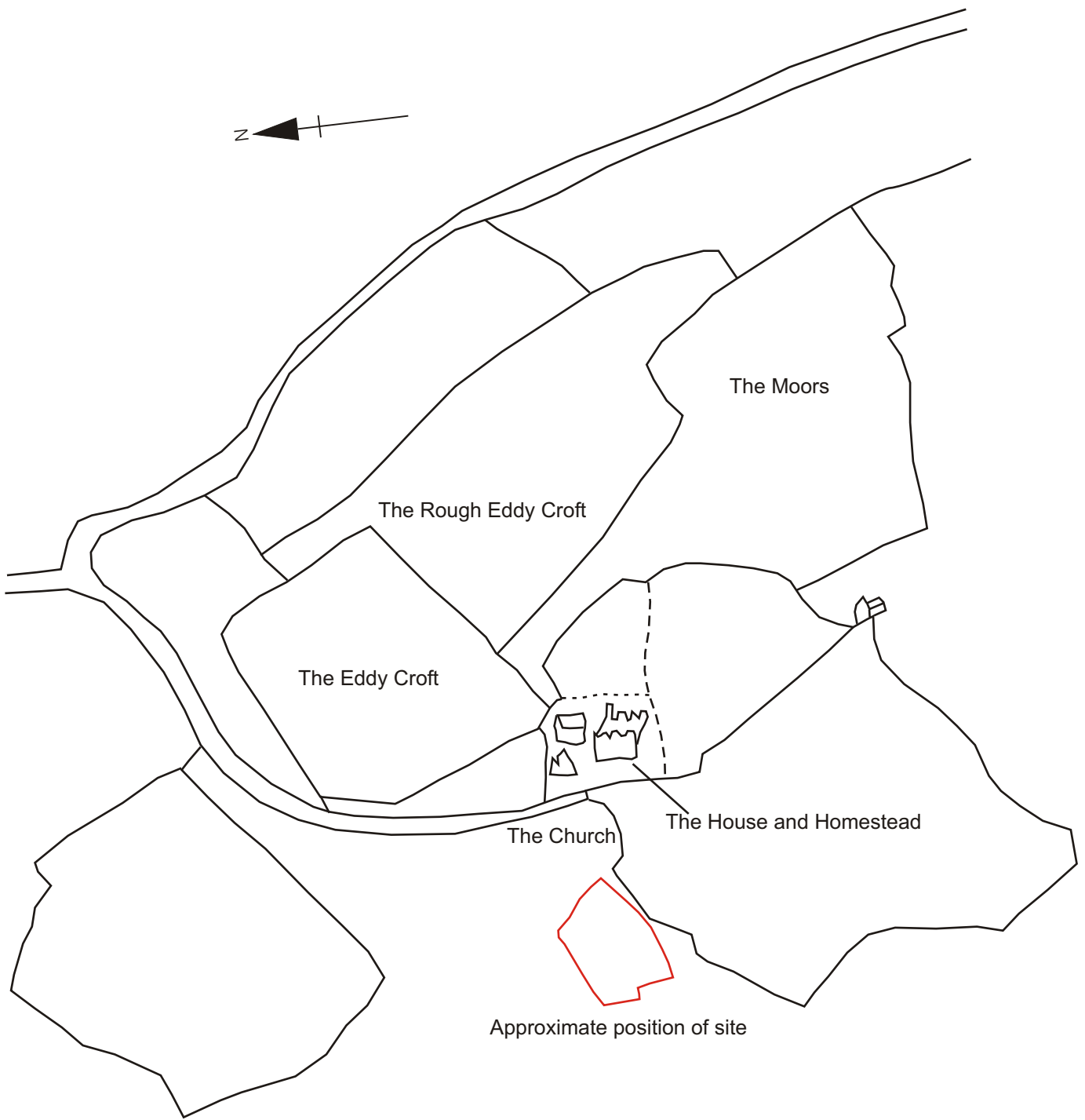


Fig. 4 Tracing of a 1650 Map of the Demesnes of the Manor of Middle by W Folower

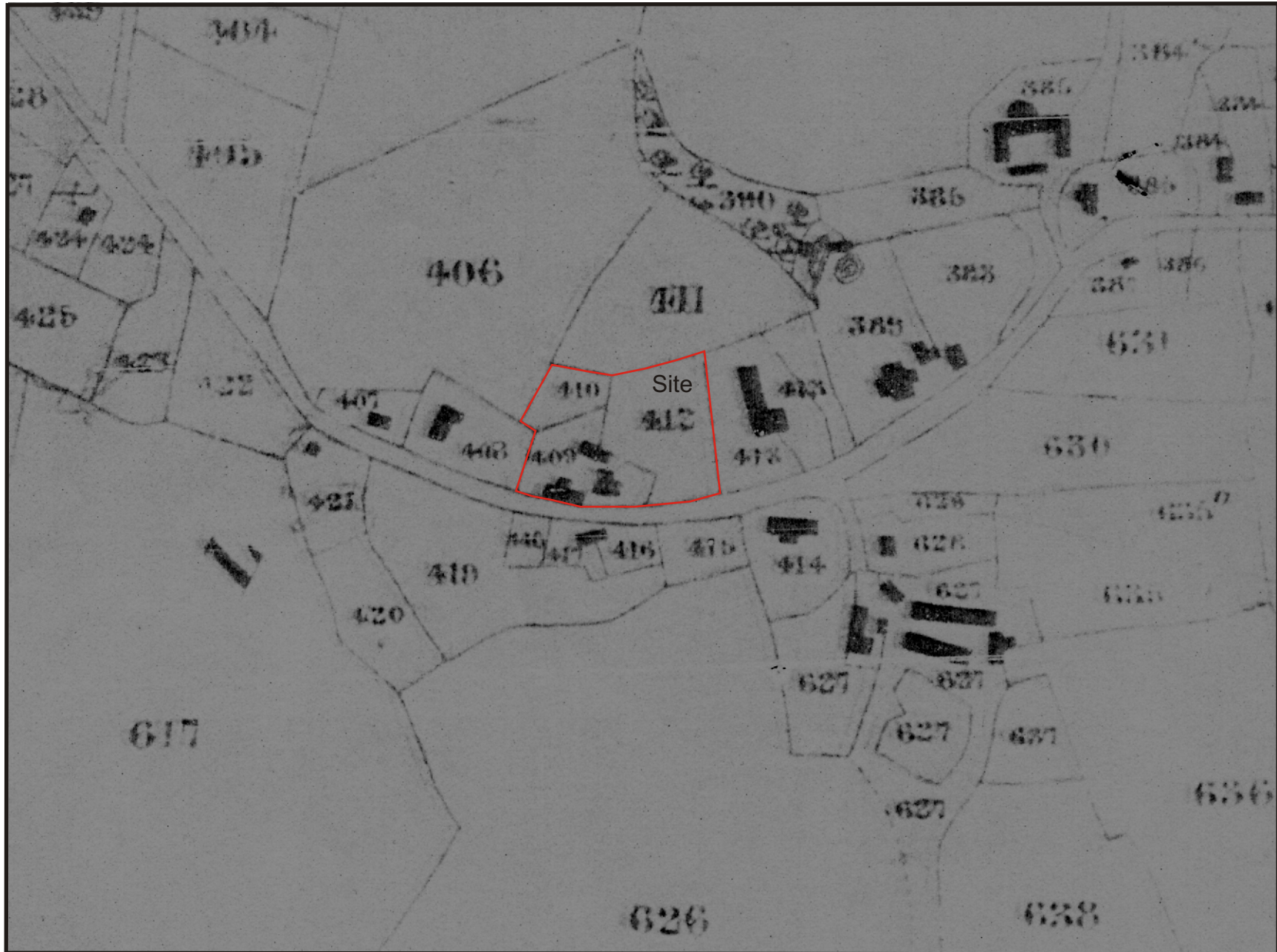


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1839 Tithe Plan of the Parish of Middle

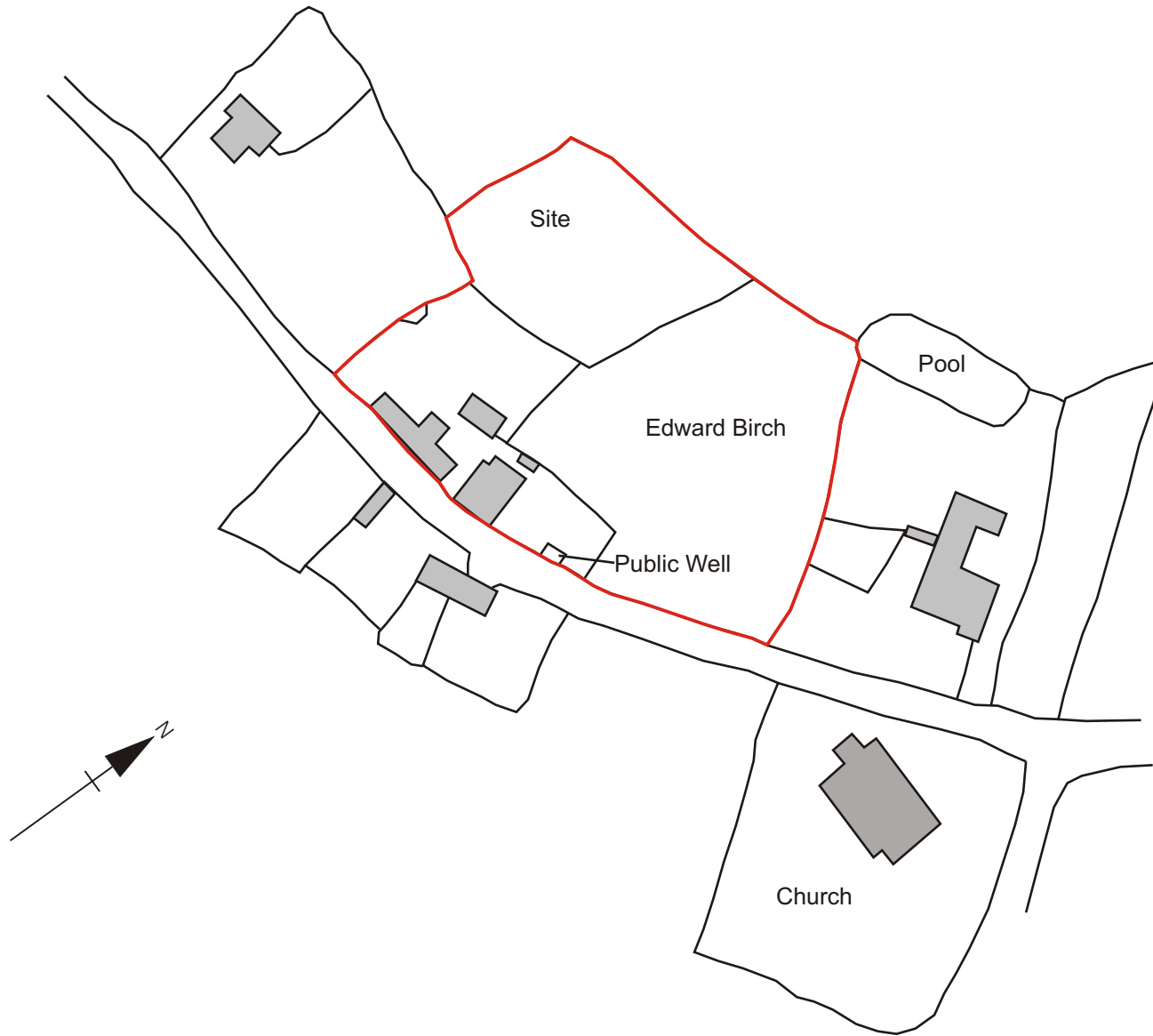


Fig. 6 Tracing from part of a 1862 Plan of the Land Throughout Parish by Samuel Cartwright for George Owen

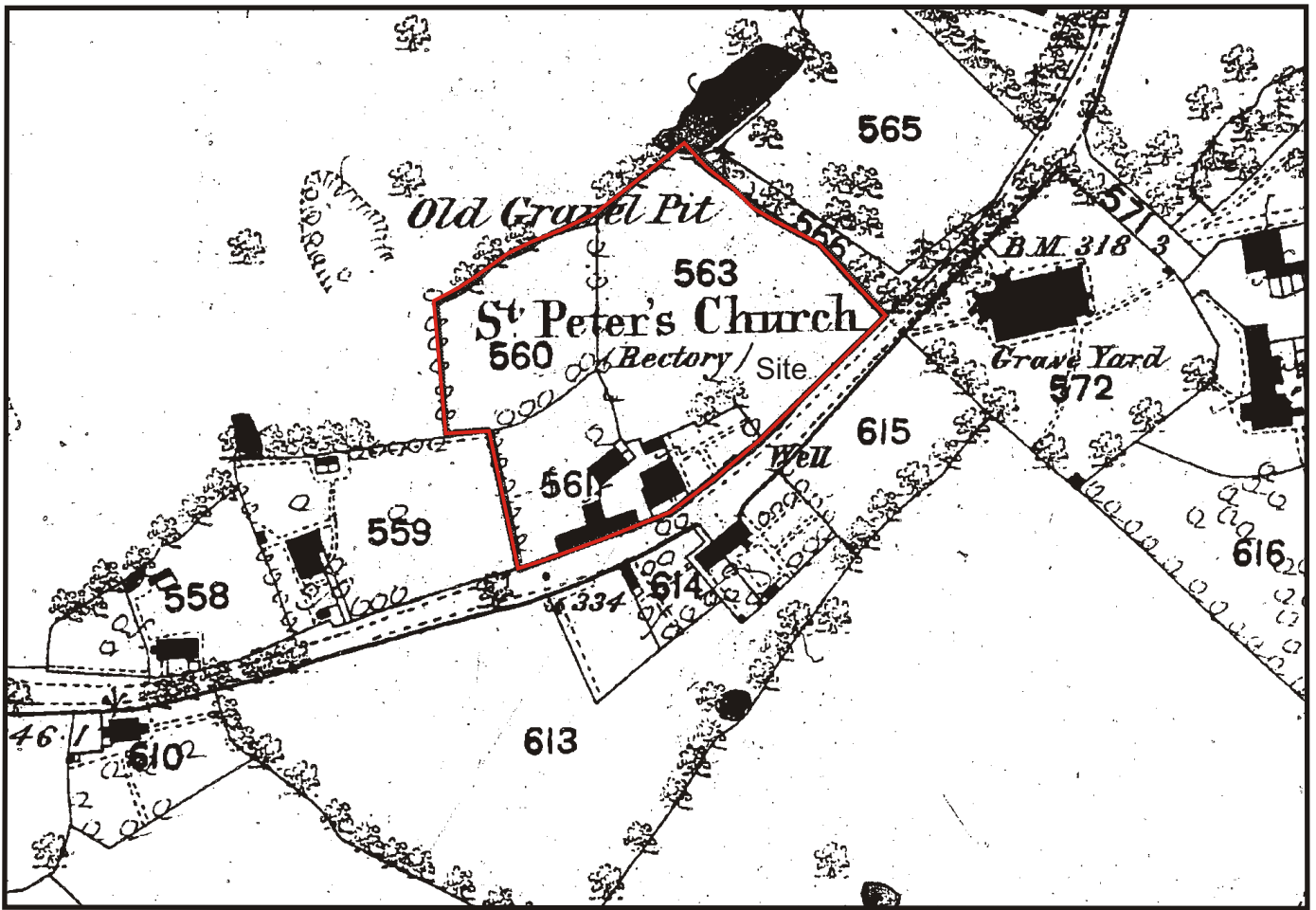


Fig. 7 1881 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan (enlarged)

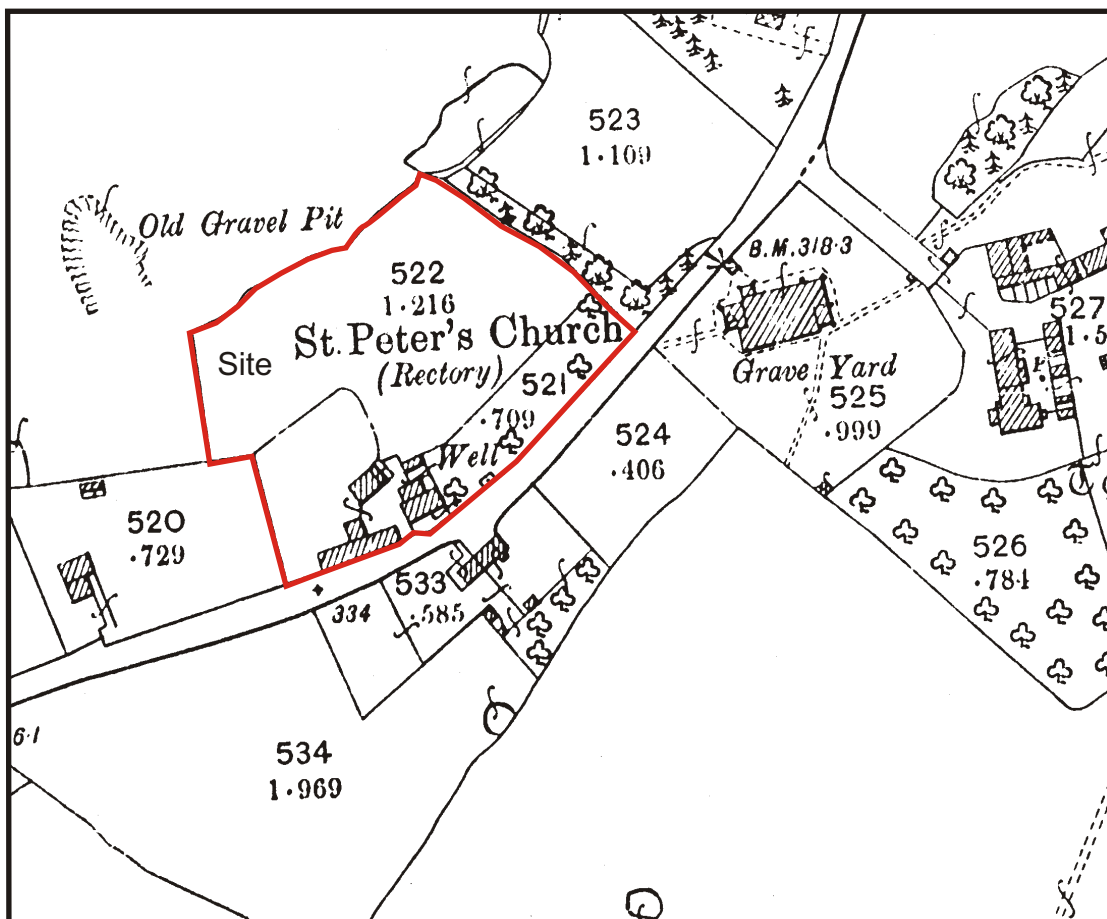


Fig. 8 1902 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan (enlarged)

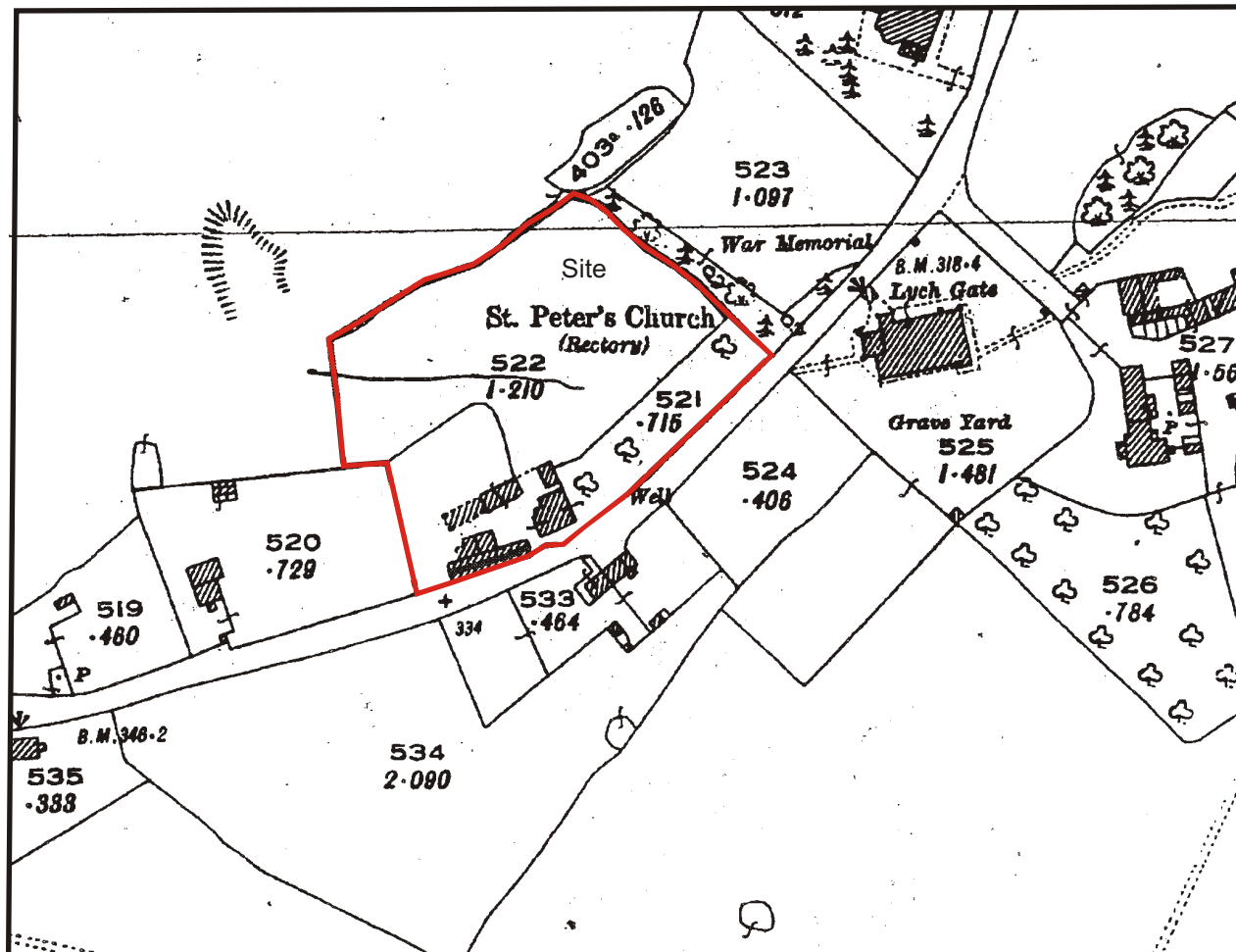
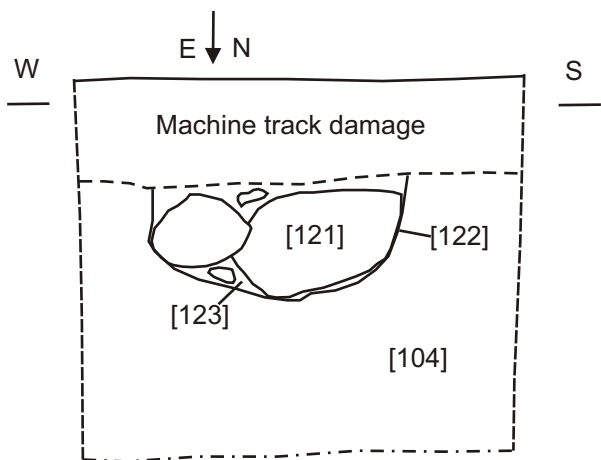
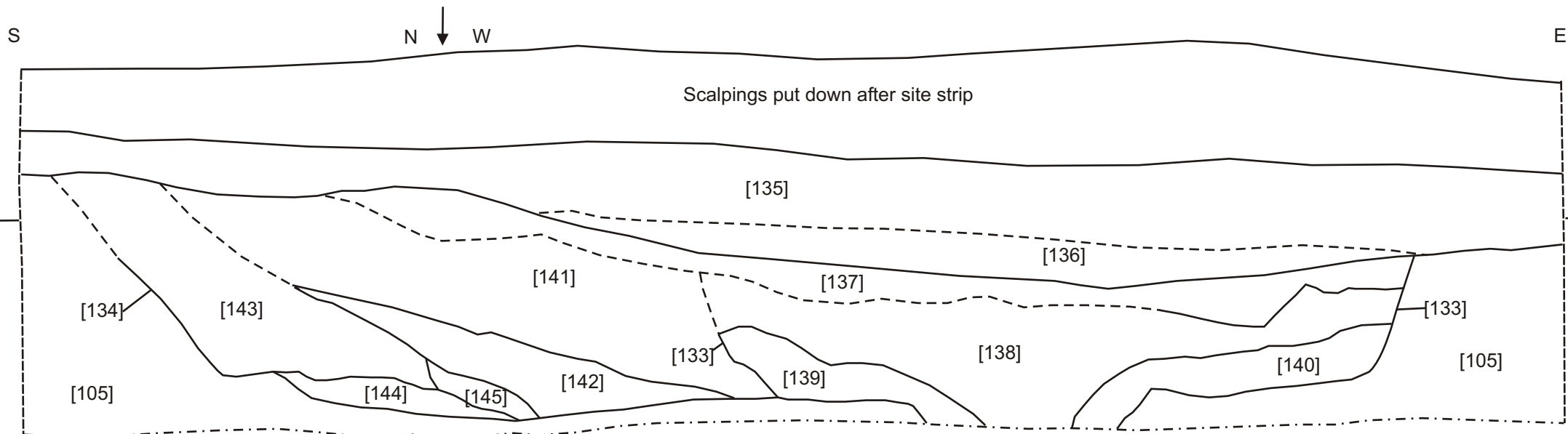


Fig. 9 1926 Ordnance Survey 25 Inch Plan (enlarged)

Fig. 10 Section of House Plot 11 showing foundation [121]



↑
North-east corner of House Plot 11 foundation trench



↑
North-west corner of House Plot 13 foundation trench

Fig. 11 Section House Plot 13

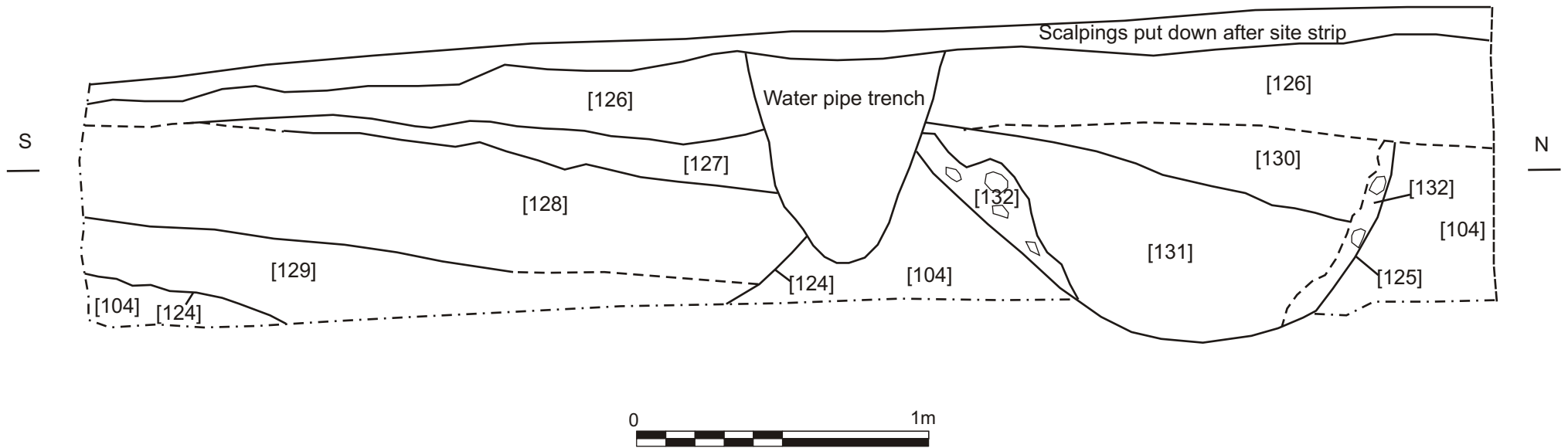


Fig. 12 East facing section House Plot 14



Plate 1 Well House, south elevation



Plate 2 Well House, east elevation showing 19th century extension to north



Plate 3 Well enclosure to east of Well House, looking west

Plate 4 Interior of Well House. South-eastern ground floor room looking south



Plate 5 Interior of Well House. South-western first floor room looking north



Plate 6 Interior of Well House. Internal roof space looking south-west

Plate 7 Interior of Well House. Ground floor, detail of chamfered beam stops

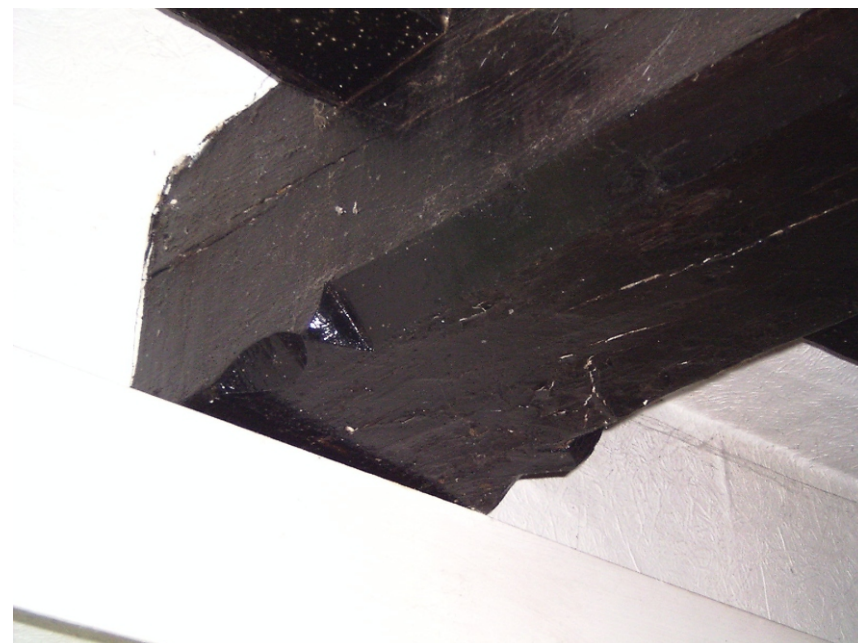


Plate 8 Interior of Well House. Ground floor, detail of chamfered beam stops



Plate 9 Well House, south-western corner after removal of render

Marches Archaeology

Well House
Myddle
Shropshire

Project Proposal for a programme of archaeological works

Introduction

A planning application has been approved by the local planning authority for permission to erect dwellings on land at Well House, Myddle (ref: N/03/776/MY/396). The site is situated at NGR: SJ 467 236.

The site lies within the medieval core of the village and as such is a site of potential archaeological interest. The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor has advised that in order that the archaeological resource is adequately recorded an archaeological watching brief be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development and this forms Condition 16 of the planning consent.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor has requested that a Project Proposal for an archaeological watching brief should be submitted for approval in advance of works commencing. Andrew Joseph, on behalf of the client, has instructed Marches Archaeology to carry out the archaeological services required to satisfy the .

This project proposal is based on Standard Practice and will follow normal stipulations, unless specified below. This proposal forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works. Any subsequent alterations to the project will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor.

Archaeological and historical background

Myddle is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but the castle was built before 1307, when it gained a licence to crenelate its walls.

Further study will be undertaken as part of a documentary study as required by the Brief.

Scope and aims of the project

The scope of the project is defined as:

- ◆ observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil is reached

- ◆ the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features shall be recorded
- ◆ all artefacts shall be collected, identified and catalogued
- ◆ if significant archaeology is identified the archaeologist on site shall inform the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and Andrew Josephs immediately in order that appropriate action may be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits (if feasible) and to record them appropriately.

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘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 a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

Methodology

Documentary research

Primary and secondary sources will be consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. The Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record will be consulted. The following sources will also be considered, as appropriate and subject to availability:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;
 Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;
 Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;
 Borehole and other engineering data.

Fieldwork

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any building(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information that is held by the client.

Observations and appropriate recording will be undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with this proposed development will be made, unless otherwise prior agreement is made between Marches Archaeology, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and Andrew Josephs.

The archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work on the excavation of material for short periods of time, normally less than fifteen minutes, for the purpose of investigating areas of potential archaeological interest. If an area is deemed to require more detailed recording the archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work in that area for the purpose of small scale excavation and recording of archaeological data.

The recording system will include written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record will be by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers will be allocated and context record sheets completed as appropriate. A running matrix will be maintained as appropriate. Plans (normally 1:20), sections (normally 1:10) and other appropriate drawings of significant data will be made. Plans will normally be multi-context, but certain features may require single context planning. The photographic record will be made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. Samples will be taken of deposits considered to have environmental, technological or scientific dating potential.

If deposits or features are encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard the client, the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor and any other relevant parties will be informed in order to discuss, agree and implement an appropriate response, either within a previously agreed contingency arrangement or supplemental thereto.

This project proposal does not cover the eventuality that there are human remains within the area to be investigated as additional legal requirements then come into force.

Office work

On completion of fieldwork a site archive will be prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data will be catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual and ecofactual data will be processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced. After an initial assessment any unstratified non-diagnostic artefacts and ecofacts and non-diagnostic samples will be discarded. Further dispersal of artefacts and ecofacts will be in line with the collection policy of the recipient repository and will be documented in the archive. The checked site matrix will be produced if appropriate.

The freeholder(s) of the land to which this document relates has title to all objects (unless within the jurisdiction of the Treasure Act 1996) recovered from the land. The freeholder(s) shall agree to donate in perpetuity the archive, together with any artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork, to an appropriate repository. Marches Archaeology will arrange for such deposition.

Assessment will be based on the site archive. Any artefacts and ecofacts which require specialist assessment will be submitted for such work.

An illustrated client report will be produced which will detail the aims, methods, and results of the project. A non-technical summary and details of the location and size of the archive will be included. Copyright of any reports is vested in Marches Archaeology.

The client will be provided with two copies of the report. Further copies will be deposited with the local Sites and Monuments Record, the Local Authority's archaeological service and the National Archaeological Record (one copy each).

If the project reveals that the quality and potential of the information resulting from the fieldwork is such that further analysis and/or formal publication is required the level of such work will be determined in discussions between the client, Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor. Such works would be subject to a further Project Proposal which would be separately costed.

Management of the project

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The Safety Policy and General Risk Assessment operated by Marches Archaeology will be implemented. Copies of these documents are available on request. A risk assessment specific to this project will be carried out before commencement of fieldwork to identify any risks not noted in the General Risk Assessment. If another body is responsible for Health and Safety on the site Marches Archaeology will conform to any policy which may be in force. If costs accrue due to Health and Safety issues not made apparent to Marches Archaeology by the time of submission of this Project Proposal these costs will be additional to any costs identified in the estimate. The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are deemed to take precedence over archaeological requirements.

Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

The Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor shall at any reasonable time be granted access to the site, with prior notice, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

Timetable

The work is scheduled to start in the week commencing 14th March with the consent of the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and is expected to take 1-2 weeks. The report will be presented to the client within one month of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed. The results will be reported to the Local Planning Authority's Archaeology Advisor and the local Sites and Monuments Record within one month of presentation, unless otherwise agreed. A summary report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate medium within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

Resources

The project will be managed by either Richard Stone or Nic Appleton-Fox, both of whom are Members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with a registered Area of Competence in Archaeological Field Practice. Other field and post-excavation staff will be appropriately experienced. Where trainees are used they will be closely supervised by senior members of the project team. Normal working hours are Mon-Thurs 8.30-4.30 and Fri 8.30-4.00. Additional hours constitute overtime.

The Project Director will undertake the documentary study, which will be completed before commencement of fieldwork.

Specialist sub-contractors will be used as appropriate. Specialists will normally be people approved by English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory. Those who might be expected to be called upon (dependent upon availability) include:

Jeremy Evans (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners) Roman ceramics

Stephanie Rátkai (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners) medieval ceramics

David Barker (Stoke on Trent Museum) post-medieval ceramics

Liz Pearson (Worcestershire Archaeological Service) environmental remains

Ian Baxter (Freelance) animal bone

Megan Brickley (Birmingham Univ Field Archaeology Unit) human bone

9th March 2005