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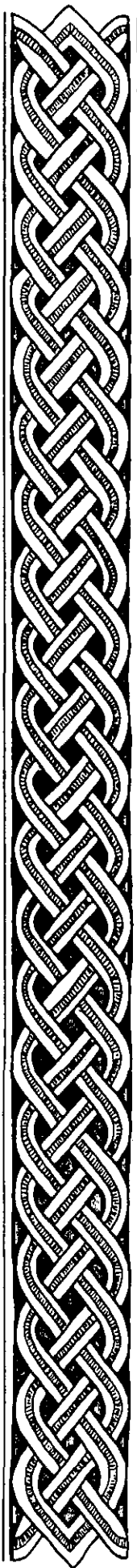
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**15-17 Hay Street,  
Steeple Morden,  
Cambridgeshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

*Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*



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**Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust**  
**Report No. 1121**

**15-17 HAY STREET, STEEPLE MORDEN,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
(TRIAL TRENCHING)**

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June 2002

Parish: *Steeple Morden*  
NGR: *TL 2860 4260*  
Site Code: HAT 636

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## 15-17 HAY STREET, STEEPLE MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In June 2002 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation at 15-17 Hay Street, Steeple Morden (TL 286 426). The site is located in the historic core of the village of Steeple Morden. Situated on Lower Chalk, the site lies to the north of the medieval parish church of St Peter and St Paul (SMR 2277). A cropmark complex to the immediate west of the site indicates activities of probable Roman date (SMR 9188). Recent investigation in the grounds of the adjacent primary school revealed features probably relating to this cropmark complex (SMR CB458). The village was recorded at Domesday, and is believed to have been some size at this time (Taylor 1997: 101). Archaeological finds and cropmarks are known from close to the site, confirming that the area had a moderately high archaeological potential, though no remains were known within the site itself.*

*Trial trenching of the site revealed the presence of a large number of archaeological features of Romano-British date. These predominantly comprise ditches and curvilinear features representing enclosures. A number of larger pits and smaller post holes were also present, indicative of occupation.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June, 2002 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at 15-17 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 286 426) (Figs.1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Farnfield in advance of proposals to construct two new dwellings and associated garages on the site. The project was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeology Office – CCC CAO) (Planning App. S/0334/02).

1.2 The desk-based assessment and evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by CCC CAO (dated 14/05/02) and a specification prepared by HAT (dated 20/05/02). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (both revised 1999).

1.3 The principal aims of the project were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the development of the site. Specific objectives of the desk-

based assessment included the collation, verification and assessment of any relevant archaeological, documentary, cartographic and geotechnical information.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The assessment site lies in south-western Cambridgeshire, close to the Hertfordshire border, 8km north-west of Royston (Fig.1). Steeple Morden is a large parish, of 1556 hectares, bypassed by the A505 to the south, which connects Royston to Baldock. The River Cam/Rhee runs to the north of the village. The village itself is of a linear strip form, along Hay Street which forms the main N/S village street, with further settlement extending eastwards from the junction with Litlington Road.

2.2 The assessment site contains two, 19<sup>th</sup> century, semi-detached properties fronting Hay Street, with a number of timber storage buildings to the rear of the site. The site is bounded by a school to the south, a telephone exchange to the west and a bridleway/track to the north.

## 3 METHOD OF WORK (Desk-Based Assessment)

3.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment was conducted in accordance with the brief and specification. Information was sought from a variety of available sources, and reference was made to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA, revised 1999).

3.2 The aims of the assessment were:

- to collate, verify and assess all information relevant to the presence, survival and character of archaeological remains/structures within the study area
- to provide a predictive model of the sub-surface deposits likely to be present on the site and assess their archaeological significance

The following sources were consulted:

### 3.3 Archaeological Databases

Establishing the extent and nature of known archaeological remains in the area can inform the potential for further discoveries during ground works on the assessment site. The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Cambridgeshire comes from the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In order to provide a representative sample, the SMR database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the study area. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1), and plotted below (fig.3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.

### **3.4 Historical and Cartographic Sources**

Documentary research and historic maps can help to provide a geographical, topographical and historical context for archaeological remains. This allows a comprehensive overview and mapping of land-use changes and permits a sequence of historical development to be compiled. In some cases, such research can be related directly to extant buildings and features. The principal source for these types of evidence was the County Record Office at Cambridge (CRO). Relevant documents are listed in *Appendix 2* and reproduced in Figs. 4 -7.

### **3.5 Secondary Sources**

Published and unpublished sources provide information on the general history and archaeology of the study area, as well as being a source of reference for further primary information. The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridgeshire County Records Office, Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record and HAT's own library. Relevant material is listed in the bibliography.

### **3.6 Geological/Geotechnical Information**

Geological conditions can be of significance in establishing the potential and likely survival of archaeological remains. The geology, hydrology and land-form of a site gives rise to particular and localised soil profiles or environmental conditions, which were historically utilised by humans according to technological ability and pressure on resources. A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Soil Survey of England and Wales.

### **3.7 Aerial Photographs**

Aerial photographs provide a unique overview of landscape history and changes in land-use (Cox 2001) but have limited applications in urban areas. The site is situated in an area that is built up since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century and therefore restricts the use of aerial reconnaissance. However one aerial photograph was found for a site to the SSE of Steeple Morden (TL 302 387), showing evidence of possible ditches and linear features. This is one of a few such locations around the village. Cropmark evidence from the west of the site has been plotted on the CCC Sites and Monuments Record and is reproduced in Fig. 3.

## 4 BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The solid geology of the site is chalk of the lower slopes of the Chiltern ridge, giving way to Jurassic and Cretaceous clays to the north of the village. Land rises sharply to the south of the village. Steeple Morden lies on a slight N/S ridge between the two watercourses of the Cheney Water to the east and a further watercourse to the west of the village (the latter separating the parish from Guilden Morden).

4.1.2 The village is divided between Wantage 2 and Swaffham Prior soil associations. The former (and northern part of the village) is described as a shallow, well-drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk, with complex soil patterns. This is flat and low-lying land. The latter (and southern portion) is a chalky drift and chalk covered by well-drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils, with striped and polygonal soil patterns. This southern area rises up to 55m above sea level along Ashwell Street and as much as 85m in the most southern part (Taylor 1997: 100).

4.1.3 To the north of the village, there is Evesham 3 soil, a slowly permeable soil derived from calcareous Jurassic and Cretaceous clay. This type of ground results includes some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils.

4.1.4 To the south of the village there is Upton 1 soil, a shallow, well drained calcareous silty soil over chalk. This is mainly on moderately steep, sometimes very steep land.

### 4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.2.1 The village is likely to have developed from an alignment of hamlets, a few of which were located along Hay Street (Taylor 1997: 101). Several undated features and linear cropmarks have been recorded locally, possibly related to the Romano-British finds scatter nearby. A previous evaluation in the school to the immediate south of the site uncovered a ditch in one trench, sealed by a post-medieval deposit, and a further ditch with an E/W alignment, neither of which contained any datable evidence (SMR CB 14636) (Kenney 2001: 6).

#### Prehistoric

4.2.2 Nineteenth century farming and ploughing has caused much truncation to what were numerous round barrows in this part of south Cambridgeshire, now visible only as a number of ring ditches and cropmarks of probable Bronze Age date (some 30 are known from the southern part of the parish). A number of local burials have been described, such as the numerous ring ditches seen on aerial surveys above Royston and Letchworth (McDonald 2000; Pearson 2000). Bronze Age ritual and occupation sites to the south of Steeple Morden appear numerous on the chalkland, occurring alongside the course of the Icknield Way, linking Wessex with East Anglia. Little in

the way of prehistoric activity is recorded on the Cambridgeshire SMR in the immediate vicinity of the village itself.

## Roman

4.2.3 Roman pottery sherds (SMR 2283) were discovered in the school playground, adjacent to the south of the assessment site, now held by Letchworth Museum. Native continuity is noticeable to the south where Iron Age roundhouses continued well into the Roman period. The nearest large Roman settlement was the town at Baldock to the south west, itself preceded by a substantial Iron Age settlement (Burleigh 1981), and further settlement is known from Royston and Guilden Morden (a villa and important cemetery is known from the latter), and a large Roman cemetery and villa also existed at Litlington to the east (with origins in the Iron Age).

4.2.4 Cropmark evidence of a small enclosure and other features close by to the west of the site (SMR 9188) possibly relates to the scatter of Roman finds from the school site, though its precise character is unknown.

## Saxon

4.2.5 The Saxon character of settlement at Steeple Morden is not well known, but this part of south Cambridgeshire has revealed significant early Saxon evidence of occupation and burial along the tributary streams and valley of the Ivel, Ouse and Cam. One of the few examples of Saxon activity locally is the possible re-use of a prehistoric barrow at Ashwell Station (Taylor 1997), in addition to middle-late Saxon buildings at Guilden Morden.

4.2.6 The village was recorded at Domesday, and may have been a substantial settlement at this time, though little is known of its late Saxon character and layout. Cheneys Manor in the village was given to Winchester Cathedral in 1015, but was later given back to the crown in 1136 (Taylor 1997: 100).

4.2.7 Further afield, Saxon occupation is known from Guilden Morden, associated with a Roman villa and cemetery (Taylor 2000).

## Medieval

4.2.8 Steeple Morden is referred to as *Alia Mordune* in Domesday, meaning 'the other Morden', and was possibly also known as South Morden (Reaney 1943). The name later included 'Steeple' from the 13th century onwards, to reflect the church's most recent addition. At this time, it had a population of 55 and perhaps as many as 475 people by 1279. However, this dropped to 249 in 1377 (Taylor 1997: 100).

4.2.9 The parish church of St Peter and St Paul (SMR 2277) was built from flint. The north arcade dates to c.1280 and the south arcade to c.1380. It is known that a church of sorts existed from at least AD 1185 (Kenney 2001: 3). The church has a well-preserved 14<sup>th</sup> century interior and some windows of the same date. The steeple, to which the village derived its name, later fell and was eventually restored.

4.2.10 Between 1325 and 1422, a manor house is mentioned as being owned by the *de Cheyney* family. In 1626 this house was demolished and replaced by a building at Lower Gatley Farm, still in existence today. The Peasants' Revolt (1381) caused much damage to the property of *Thomas Haselden* and resulted in at least two assaults. His manor house, *Morden House*, now exists as earthworks to the west of the church and can be seen in Figs.6 & 7 (SMR 2269) (Taylor 1997: 100). The site of the house contained medieval (non-Tudor) brick and slate. The cropmarks recorded to the west of the site (SMR 9188) could relate to this period of use.

4.2.11 The medieval hall that still stands at North Brook End, also exhibits a 17<sup>th</sup> century extension (Taylor 1997: 101). Slight earthworks are visible in the pasture and can be seen in Fig. 3 (SMR 9909 – TL 288 427), possibly related to a settlement and described as either ridge and furrow or as part of a shrunken village.

4.2.12 A number of surviving timber-framed dwellings of late mediaeval/early post-mediaeval date still front Hay Street in the village.

### Post-Medieval

4.2.13 The church steeple fell in 1633 according to one source and in 1703 according to another. It was however not replaced until the 1860's (Taylor 1997: 100).

4.2.14 In 1801, there were 430 people living in Steeple Morden and like most parts of the region, it experienced a sharp rise to 1018 by 1871. Sheep farming appears to have been largely the main means of employment and was important from the time of Domesday. Until the 20th century, straw plaiting (by women) was the only industry other than nearby coprolite mining during the 19th century (Taylor 1997: 101).

### 4.3 The Assessment Site

4.3.1 The oldest available map of Steeple Morden was the 1817 Inclosure Map (Fig.4), which shows that the village at this time mainly fronted the eastern side of Hay Street, with the western side labelled as 'Old Inclosures' and undeveloped. The site itself lay within one of these featureless land parcels, with the line of the present track/bridleway to the north of the site shown as a field boundary.

4.3.2 The next available cartographic evidence is the Tithe Map of 1839 (Fig.5), which shows little change in the vicinity of the study area. Hay Street was referred to as the 'High Street' at this time, and small-scale development is shown along the western side of the High Street well to the north of the study area.

4.3.3 By 1866, the Victorian semi-detached dwellings had been constructed on the site, the then rear boundary of which was subsequently extended (OS map of 1886 – Fig. 6). A small structure was also shown to the rear of No. 17. The earliest elements of the school to the immediate south had also been constructed by this time. The site of Morden House is now labelled in the field behind the site. The 1900 OS map



(Fig.7) shows similar detail, with little change. The school was redeveloped to the south of the site in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 2).

## **5 DISCUSSION (Desk Based Assessment)**

5.1 The site lies close to the core of mediaeval Steeple Morden, in an area where there are undated archaeological features and cropmarks close by, and also a scatter of Roman-British pottery that may be indicative of occupation of this date being present in this part of the village. An important element of the project was to characterise any evidence of shrunken mediaeval occupation along the western side of Hay Street, close to the mediaeval church, and to identify any further Roman evidence, as well as being alert to the presence of any Saxon or prehistoric occupation.

5.2 Research topics for the Roman period have been set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000: 19-22). These topics include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production. Further research into agricultural production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession / regression and issues of relict landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues.

5.3 Research topics for the rural landscape in the Saxon and medieval periods are suggested by Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000: 23-26). These include examination of population during this period (distribution and density, as well as physical structure), settlement (characterisation of form and function, creation and testing of settlement diversity models). Specialisation and surplus agricultural production, assessment of craft production, detailed study of changes in land use and the impact of colonists (such as Saxons, Danes and Normans) as well as the impact of the major institutions such as the church. The Saxon period is of especial importance within Cambridgeshire. It was particularly important to identify any evidence of street frontage structures or 'back-yard' deposits in the area of proposed development (such as property boundaries, refuse pits, evidence of industrial activity or other features).

## **6 PREVIOUS GROUND DISTURBANCE ON THE SITE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

6.1 Evidence of previous ground disturbance is only obvious from maps post dating 1839 (Fig.5). The first cartographic evidence for land use is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (Fig.6), which shows the construction of the semi-detached dwellings of 15 & 17 Hay Street were constructed in the Victorian period. Little other infrastructure has been constructed around the development site.

## 7 METHOD OF WORK (FIELD EVALUATION)

7.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the brief and specification It adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 1999). Two trial trenches were excavated on the site using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig.2). The trench locations differed slightly from those approved by CCC CAO, in order to avoid obstructions on the site. Trench 1 was L-shaped, and extended from its proposed 27m x 1.6m to 31m x 1.6m. Trench 2 was slightly shortened to 22m x 1.6m in order to maintain access. Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated, thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded by *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

## 8 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### 8.1 Trench 1 (Fig.8)

Sample section (0.00 = 49.01m AOD):

0.00 – 0.27m	L1000. Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, uncompact clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles and roots.
0.27 – 0.63m	L1001. Subsoil. Light greyish brown, uncompact clayey silt with occasional, well-rounded flint pebbles.
0.63m+	L1003. Natural Chalk. Off-white chalk with patches of finer chalky clay incorporated into the matrix.

*Description* The overburden deepened towards the eastern part of the trench with a deposit of made ground, L1002. The latter comprised a dark grey brown loam with frequent inclusions of bottle glass, brick and other recent debris.

A number of archaeological features were identified within the trench, sealed by subsoil L1001.

F1004 was a small, ovoid post hole, some 0.19m x 0.12m and 0.05m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey silty clay (L1005). Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery sherds (2g).

Two parallel shallow gullies, F1006 and F1008, lay close together in the northern part of the trench, aligned NW/SE. F1006 was some 0.25m wide and traced for a length of

2.4m+, and was 0.1m deep. It was steep-sided, with a flattish, slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (L1007), consisting of a mid grey silty clay. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery (<1g) and animal bone (83g).

F1008 was a similar feature, up to 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep, traced for a length of 3.1m+. It slightly widened and deepened towards its south eastern end, and exhibited steep sides breaking sharply to a flattish base. It was filled (L1009) with a similar deposit to the adjacent gully and yielded Roman pottery sherds (77g), daub (3g) and animal bone (24g).

An E/W aligned ditch (F1010) was present in the central part of the trench. It was some 0.6m wide and traced for a length of 1.8m+. It was 0.15m deep, with a gently-sloping, bowl-shaped profile. It contained a single fill (L1011), consisting of a mid grey silty clay. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery sherds (31g), and daub.

F1012 was a sub-rectangular pit. It was very regular in shape, with a different fill to the majority of the other features on the site. It was 0.41m x 0.12m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single deposit of mid to dark grey clay. Finds comprise Roman pottery (7g)

F1014 was a curvilinear gully. It was traced for a length of some 4m+, was 0.35m wide and up to 0.1m deep. It exhibited a slightly irregular profile, but was largely moderately steep-sided with a flattish, concave base. It was filled with a mid grey silty clay with occasional rounded flint pebbles (L1015). Finds from the deposit comprise pottery sherds (70g). The gully was truncated by Post Hole F1016. The latter was some 0.48m in diameter and 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (L1017), consisting of a mid grey silty clay with frequent large rounded flint pebbles at its base. Finds from the fill of the post hole comprise pottery sherds (102g).

F1026 was a shallow post hole, some 0.3m in diameter and 0.04m deep. It exhibited gently sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a loose, dark brownish grey clayey silt. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery sherds (15g).

F1018 was the edge of an E/W aligned linear feature (probably a ditch, though it could have been the edge of a large pit), partially revealed within the southern end of the trench. It was steep-sided, breaking sharply to a flattish base where seen, some 0.68m+ wide and 0.55m+ deep. It contained two fills; the upper fill (L1020) was a thin deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular pebbles. It contained no finds. The lower fill was a fine, mid grey chalky clay with occasional snail shell and sparse flint pebbles. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery (48g) and a fragmentary iron object.

F1021 was a large pit, partially revealed within the trench. It was sub semi-circular where seen, some 2.8m x 1.5m+ and 0.2m deep. The pit exhibited gently-sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1022), consisting of a mid to dark greyish brown, silty clay. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery sherds

(129g; date) and animal bone (124g).

F1023 was a wide, NE/SW aligned ditch or boundary feature. It was some 3.35m wide and 0.49m deep, traced for a length of some 1.8m+. It exhibited moderately steep sides and a flattish, concave base. The ditch contained two fills of similar type and character to F1018 suggesting that this may be part of the same, wide curvilinear ditch. The thin upper fill (L1025) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small angular flint pebbles. Finds from the deposit consist of Roman pottery (18g) and animal bone (139g). The basal fill of the ditch (L1024) was a mid grey fine chalky clay. It contained no finds

## 8.2 Trench 2 (Fig.8)

Sample section (0.00 = 49.00m AOD):

0.00 – 0.28m	L1000. Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.55m	L1001. Subsoil. As Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1002. Natural Chalk. As Trench 1.

*Description* A number of archaeological features were also recorded in this trench, sealed by subsoil L1001. Recent service pipes and manhole covers were also present, indicative of some modern disturbance of this part of the site.

F1028 was a pit, partially revealed in the southern end of the trench, close to a number of modern pipes and power cables. It was some 2.1m+ long x 1.5m+ wide, and 0.49m deep. It exhibited moderately steep, slightly irregular sides and flattish base (where seen). The pit contained a single fill, comprising a mid to light grey silty clay (L1029). Finds from the deposit comprise animal bone (44g) only.

F1030 was also a partially revealed pit, continuing beyond the eastern edge of the trench. It was some 1.9m long and 0.7m+ wide and 0.55m deep. The pit exhibited moderately steep sides, breaking sharply to a flattish base. It was filled with a single, homogeneous deposit (L1031), consisting of a mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt. Finds from the deposit comprise Roman pottery (41g; date) and animal bone (84g). The feature was truncated by at least two modern service pipes.

F1032 was a ditch, aligned NE/SW. It was traced for a length of 2.5m+ and was 1.2m wide and only 0.17m deep. It was a shallow, gently-sloping bowl-shaped feature, containing a single fill (L1033). The latter comprised a mid to light grey/brown clayey silt, which contained animal bone (106g).

Two intercutting ditches were also present in the central part of the trench, both aligned NE/SW. F1034 was truncated by F1036 to the north, the latter probably representing a re-cut or a re-definition of the boundary. F1034 was 1.7m+ wide and 1.8m+ long and some 0.54m deep. It exhibited moderate to steep sides, breaking sharply to a flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1035), consisting of a mid to light grey chalky clay. No finds were recovered from the deposit. The ditch was truncated on its northern side by Ditch F1036. F1036 was some 3.3m wide and traced for a

length of 1.8m+. It was 0.7m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave, slightly flattish base. It contained a single fill (L1037), similar to that of ditch F1034 to the south. It contained no finds.

F1038 was a large pit or ditch, partially revealed within the trench (its northern extent was obscured by modern disturbance, including a manhole and service pipes). The feature exhibited a steep southern edge, breaking gradually to a concave base. It was some 3m+ wide and traced for a length of 1.8m+ and was 0.45m deep. It contained a single fill (L1039), a light blue/grey fine silty clay. It contained no finds

## **9 CONFIDENCE RATING**

9.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition and characterisation of archaeological features on the site.

## **10 DEPOSIT MODEL**

10.1 The natural chalk lay below some 0.5-0.6m of topsoil and mature subsoil, except in the eastern end of Trench 1, where small-scale recent made ground was present in addition (the chalk lay at some 1m below existing in this part of the site).

10.2 Archaeological features of Romano-British date were present in both trenches. These predominantly comprise ditches and curvilinear features representing enclosures. A number of larger pits and smaller post holes were also present, indicative of occupation.

## **11 DISCUSSION**

11.1 Archaeological features of Romano-British date were present in both trenches. They likely relate to the scatter of Romano-British finds recorded at the school to the south.

11.2 The Romano-British occupation of the hinterland of the town at Baldock and Steeple Morden is significant, and adds to the known pattern of occupation of the river valleys close the Icknield Way. The villa site and cemetery close by at Guilden Morden also yielded Saxon occupational evidence, and an important Roman villa and cemetery is also known from Litlington parish, suggesting intensive use of the area at this time. Preceding Iron Age use of the Guilden Morden site is also known.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

HAT would like to thank Mr & Mrs Farnfield for funding the desk-based assessment and for their assistance. HAT would also like to thank staff at the Cambridge Record Office and Cambridgeshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

## Appendix 1 Archaeological Sites and Monuments

SMR No	NGR	Description
<i>Roman sites (AD 43 - AD 409)</i>		
2283	TL 2857 4255	Roman pottery sherds from school playground
<i>Medieval sites (AD 1066 - AD 1539)</i>		
2269	TL 285 425	Site of Morden House, contains a scatter brick and slate (non-Tudor). No local information on the house regarding age and importance, only authority for the name seems to be OS
2277	TL 2858 4246	Parish church of St Peter and St Paul built c.1280
9909	TL 288 427	Slight earthworks visible in pasture, possibly cultivation earthworks or settlement. May extend into scrub, possible ridge and furrow or shrunken village
<i>Undated Sites</i>		
9188	TL 283 425	Cropmark, linear features and small enclosure. Could be related to Medieval Morden House or to a Romano-British finds scatter nearby
CB 14636	TL 2856 4256	A ditch with a complex profile was revealed in one trench. Sealed by a post-medieval deposit. A further ditch on an east-west alignment was also revealed. Neither contained dating evidence

## Appendix 2 List of Maps

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1817	Inclosure Map	-	CRO
1839	Tithe Map	-	CRO
1886	First edition Ordnance Survey, Cambs. Sheet LVII.7	1:2500	CRO
1900	Second edition. Ordnance Survey, Cambs. Sheet LVII.7	1:2500	CRO
1989	Ordnance Survey, Pathfinder Sheet 1026 (TL 28/42)	1:25,000	HAT

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## ROMAN POTTERY

A total of 60 sherds weighing 541 g were recovered from the trial trenches at Steeple Morden. The majority of contexts contained few sherds (1 – 3). The sherds from all contexts are small and variously abraded.

Larger assemblages were obtained from Pit F1016 L1017 (9 sherds; 102g), Ditch F1008 L1009 (13 sherds; 77g) and Pit F1021 L1022 (25 sherds; 129g). All features in Trench 1.

The sherds are predominantly local undiagnostic greywares. Sherds of Hadham ware and Oxfordshire redware are also present

The sherds consistently date to the Roman period, principally 2<sup>nd</sup> – century.



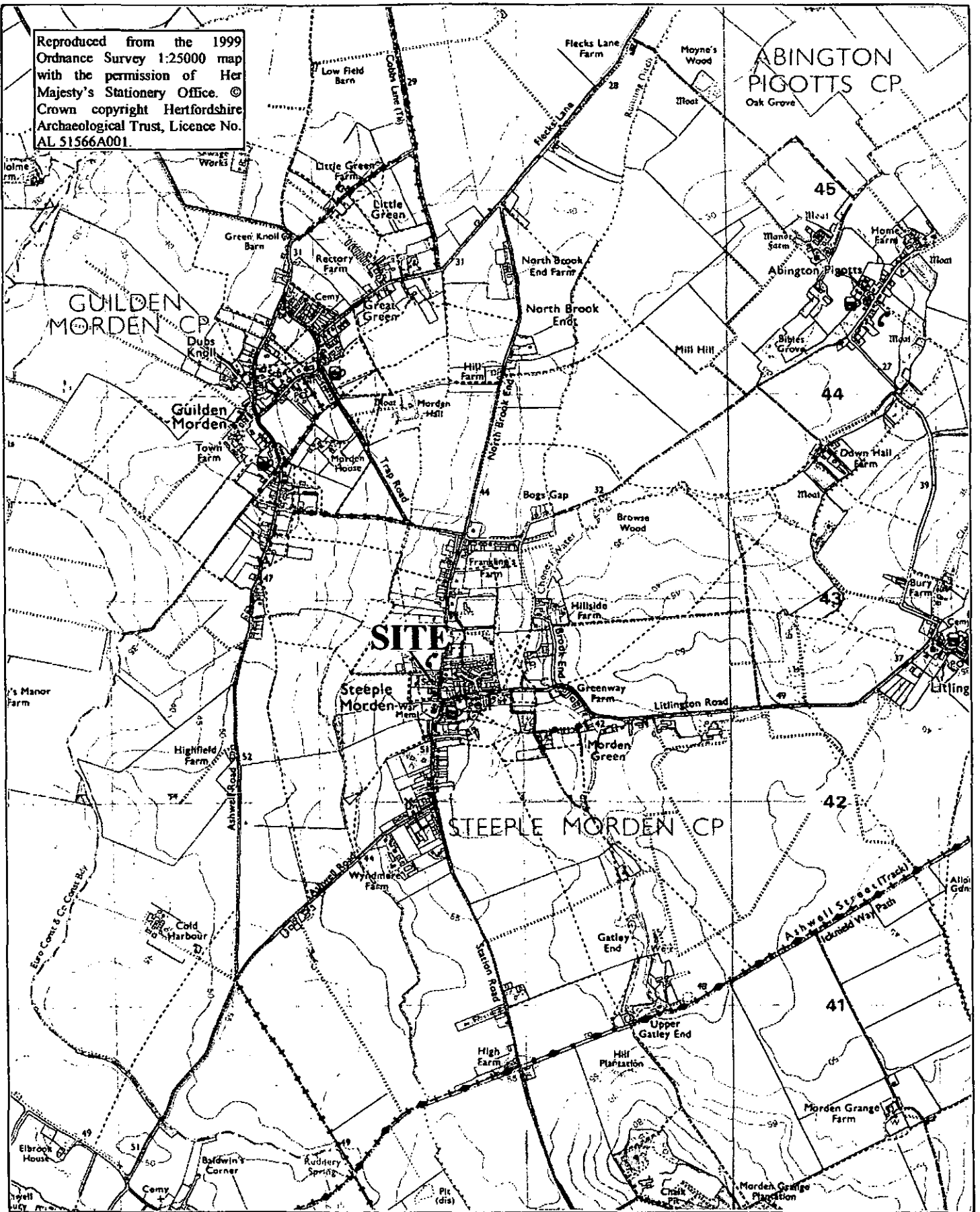
- 1005 1 small, unabraded sherd  
1009 13 sherds, small, variously abraded,  
predominantly coarsewares, but includes  
1011 2 sherds, both small, one fresh, one abraded  
Small  
1012 1 sherd, small, abraded  
1015 1 sherd, small, abraded  
1016  
1017 9 sherds, generally small,  
includes a large jar frag  
1019 3 sherds, small, abraded  
1022 25 sherds, small and abraded  
1025 4 sherds, small, abraded  
1027 1 sherd, small, unabraded

predominantly grey wares  
small, undiagnostic body sherds

## Concordance of finds by feature

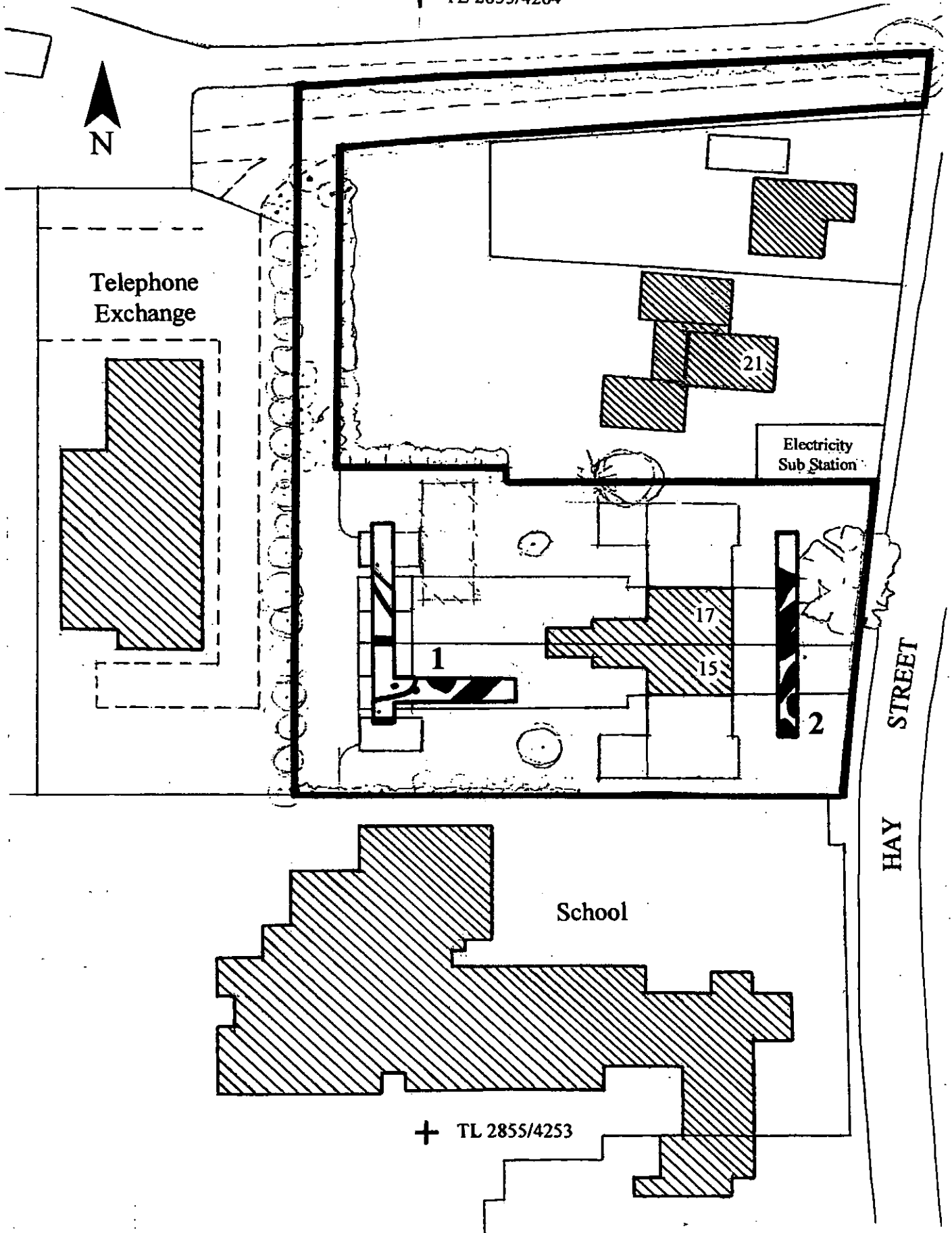
Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Building material	Animal Bone	Other
1004	1005	1		?Roman	2g			
1006	1007	1		?Roman	<1g		83g	
1008	1009	1		Roman	77g	Daub? 3g	24g	
1010	1011	1		Roman	31g	Daub? <1g		
1012	1013	1		Roman	7g			
1014	1015	1	Segment A	Roman	16g			
1014	1015	1	Segment B	Roman	54g			
1016	1017	1		Roman	102g			
1018	1019	1		Roman	48g			SF 1. Fe object 72g
1021	1022	1		Roman	129g		124g	
1023	1025	1		Roman	18g		139g	
1026	1027	1		Roman	15g			
1028	1029	2					44g	
1030	1031	2		Roman	41g		84g	
1032	1033	2					106g	

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**Fig.1 Site Location**  
 Scale: 1:25000

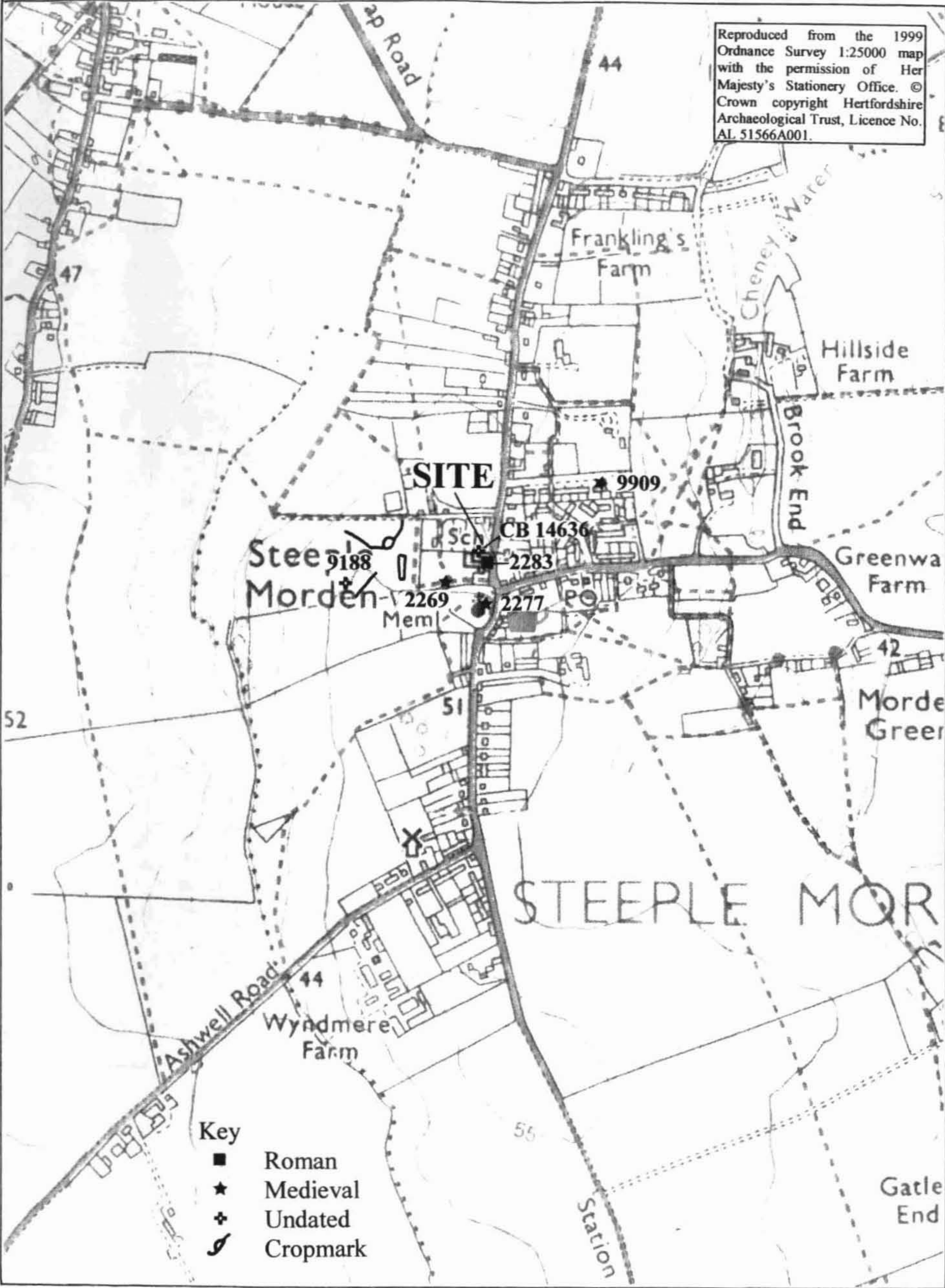
+ TL 2855/4264



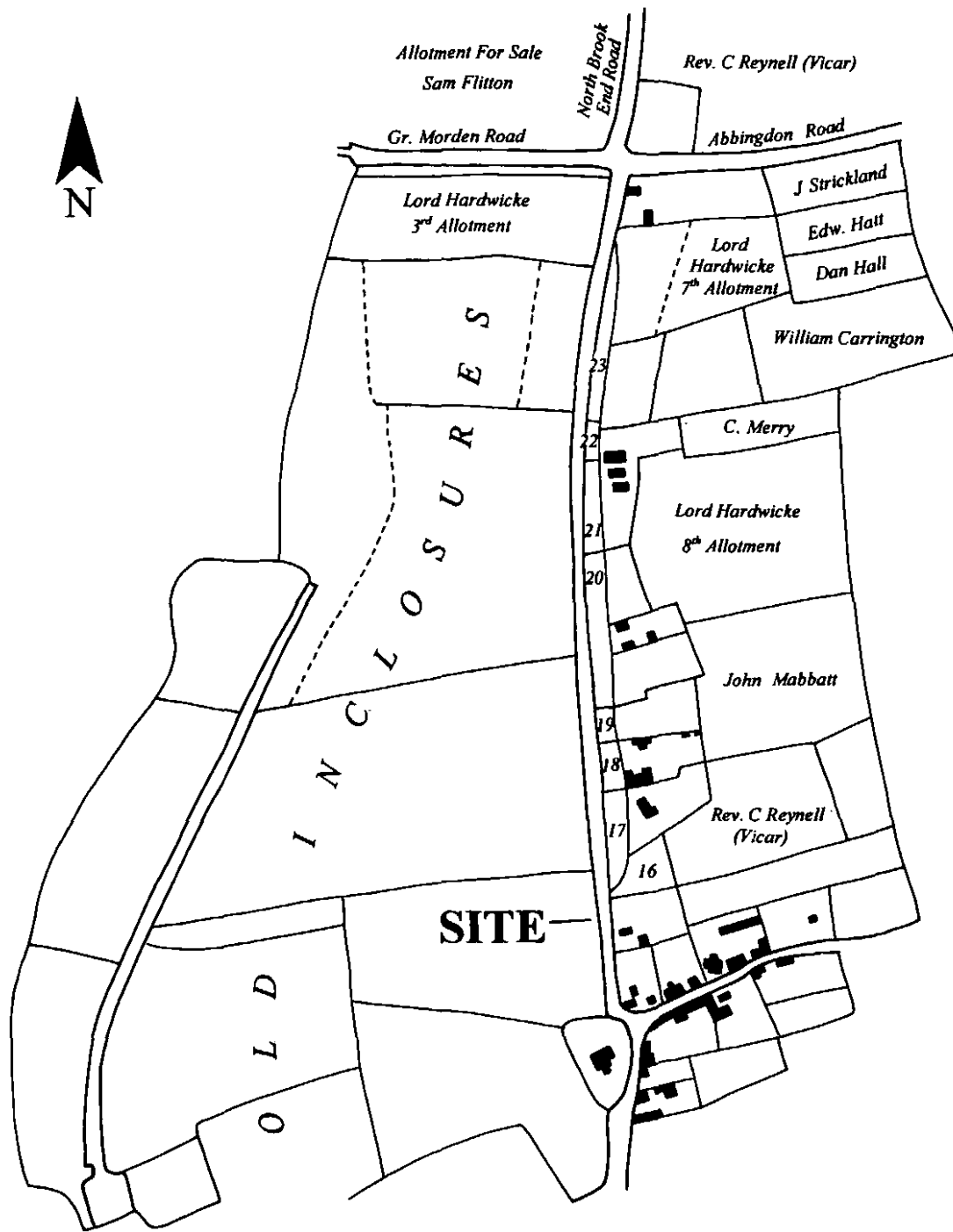
*Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*  
**Fig.2 Detailed Site Location**  
Scale: Approx. 1:500



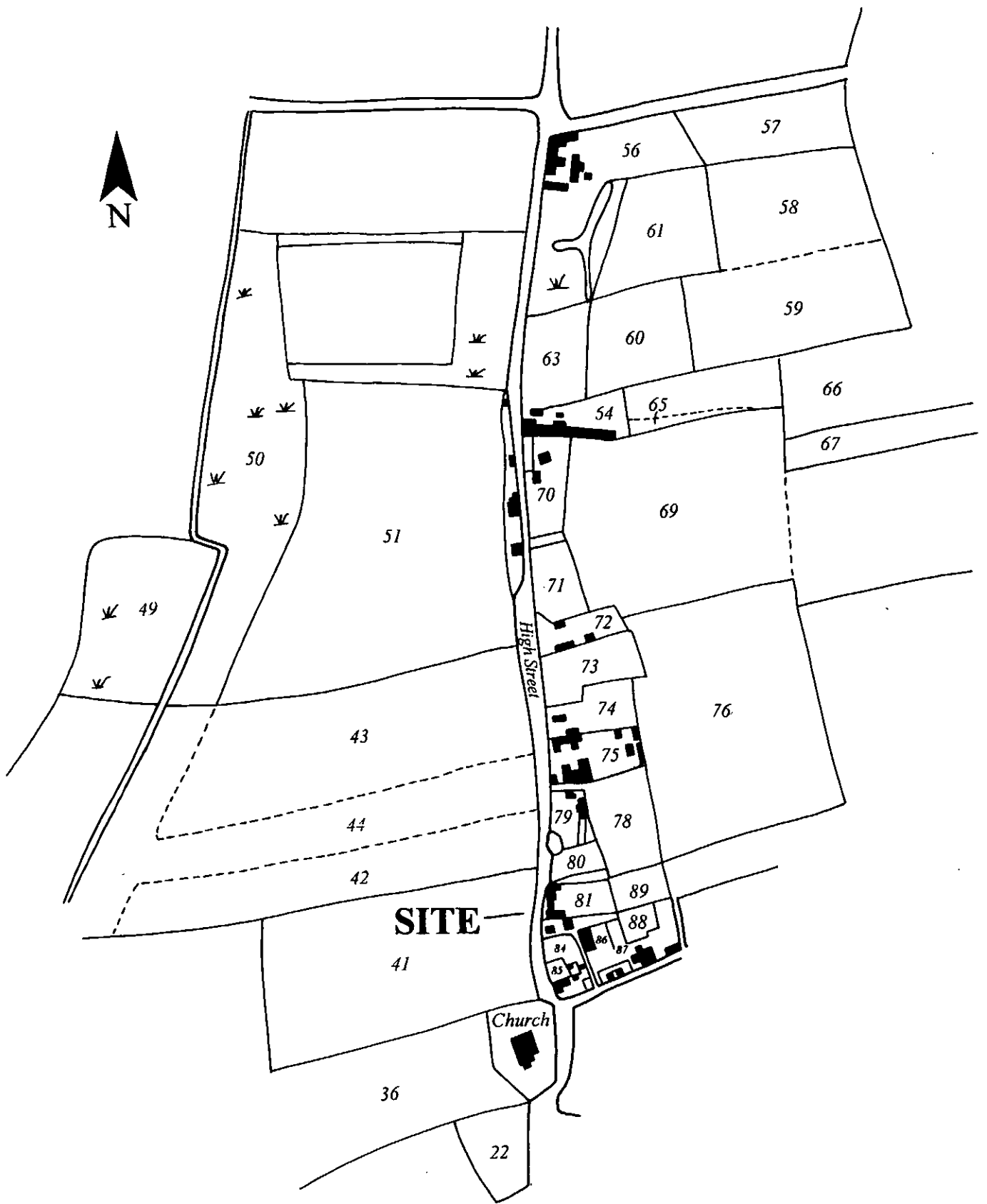
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**Fig.3 SMR Data**  
 Scale: 1:10000



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 Fig.4 Steeple Morden, 1817  
 (Redrawn)



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**Fig.5 Steeple Morden Tithe Map, 1839**  
 (Redrawn)



Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust  
Fig.6 OS Map, 1866

B.M. 137.7

Smithy

88  
1376

86  
337

87  
1779

139

98  
7584

# Steepl

F.P.

102  
18838

Post Office  
149

106  
9315

SITE

118  
8770

Worden House  
(Site of)

School

Chapel

105  
1534

104  
462

115  
405

114  
1488

113  
1685

St Peter & St Paul's Church  
(Vicarage)

Grave

123

149

B.M. 167.5  
Yard

122  
5815

124

2958

128

1024

127

477

125

600

126

508

Church Farm

148

147

147



3.N.136-3  
Smithy

92  
1-376

Steeple

99  
18-833

147  
P.O.

112  
9-315

SITE

113  
1-488

103  
8-770

Morden House  
(Site of)

104  
.791  
School

105  
2-948

114  
1-685

156

Grave  
Yard

Chapel

Bell  
(P.H.)

St. Peter &  
St. Paul's Church  
(Vicarage)

150  
5-515

B.M.166-1

149  
1-149

148  
1-898

145  
.571

143  
1-018

144  
.477

St. Peter &  
St. Paul's Church  
(Vicarage)

F.P.

154  
1-075

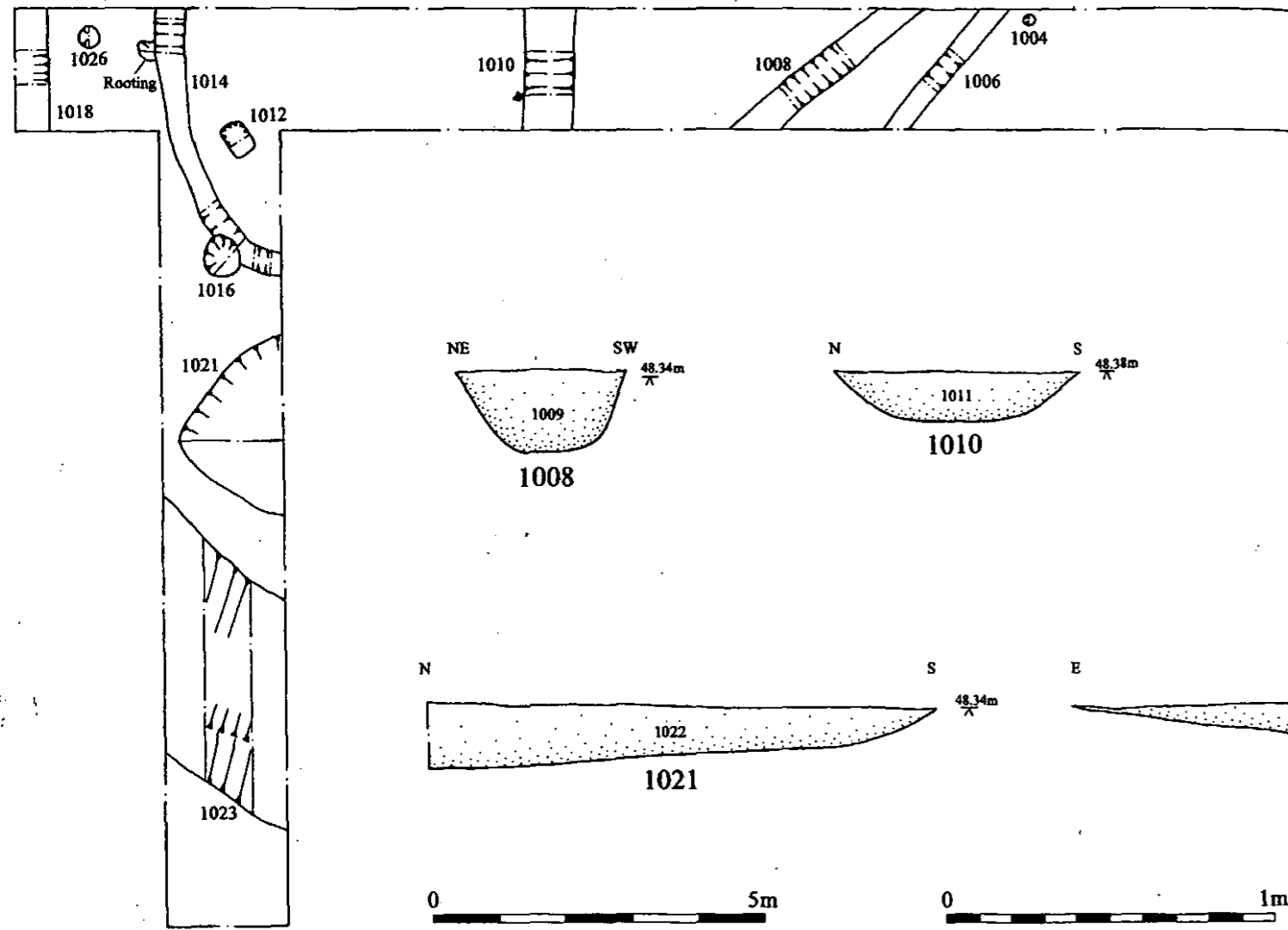
156  
.775

157  
1-751

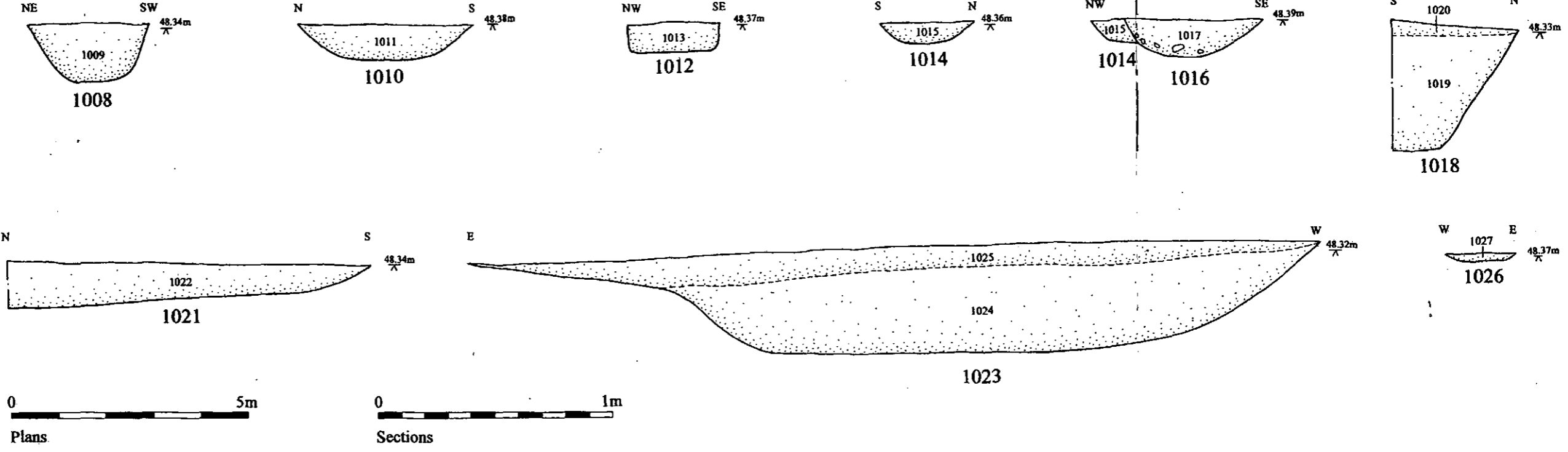
1-694

Church Farm

# Trench 1



*Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*  
**Fig.8 Trench Plans & Sections**  
 Scale: Plans 1:50 (1:100 at A3) Sections 1:10 (1:20 at A3)



# Trench 2

