

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Land adjoining Wrentham Churchyard (WRE 011)

TM4885 8308

Contents:Background

Method

Results

Conclusion

Figure:1. Trench&Test Pit Location Plan

2. Survival of Archaeological Deposits

3. Trench Plans&Sections

W15963: Land adjoining Wrentham Church (WRE 011)

Background

Following a planning application (W15963) to use an area of land to the north of St Nicholas' Church, Wrentham as a new burial ground an archaeological evaluation of the application area was commissioned by Waveney District Council. The evaluation was designed to assess the application area for archaeological deposits, to examine their character and state of preservation, if present, and to assist in formulating a programme of archaeological works for the site. This evaluation was carried out by the Field Projects Division of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Section in November 1993.

The application area is just over 0.5 hectare in size and lies adjacent to the northern side of the parish churchyard (see Fig. 1). Topographically the site has a gentle slope and it overlooks a small stream which flows in a west-east direction some 100 metres to the north of the area in question. The highest point of the site is in its south-western corner, overall it has a north/north-east facing aspect. The underlying drift geology on the site is made up of free draining sands and gravels.

Archaeological interest in the site is largely generated by its close proximity to the parish church, an area where Saxon and Medieval settlement evidence might be expected. In addition a Roman pottery scatter is known of some 300 metres to the west of the application area (WRE 006) and the site of Wrentham Hall (WRE 008) and an area of settlement (WRE 007), indicated by earthworks in a pasture field, is recorded 100 to 200 metres to the north-east. It was also noted from Ordnance Survey maps that a small complex of buildings existed in the south-eastern corner of the application area (zone 2 on Fig. 2). However inspection of the site revealed that these buildings, which were apparently stable blocks for the nearby Victorian Rectory, had been demolished.

Method

As the application area was under a cover of crop stubble at the time of the evaluation the investigation had to be carried out by means of mechanically excavated trial trenches. Initially five small test pits (2 to 6 on Fig. 1) were mechanically excavated by Waveney D.C. in order to test the geology of the site. These were observed and the upcast spoil was examined for archaeological finds. Following this work the evaluation proper was started using a wheeled excavator equipped with a 1.5 metre wide, toothless ditching bucket. In all seven trial trenches were opened up under constant archaeological supervision (see Fig. 1 for trench locations). Each trial trench was mechanically excavated to the base of the subsoil and then hand cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. Trench plans were drawn at 1:100 of those trenches which revealed archaeological features (trenches A, B, D & E, see Fig. 3). Sections, at 1:50, were drawn of any features that were hand-sectioned (see Fig. 3). In total the area of the seven trial trenches came to 1,455 square metres or 2.7% of the application area. One trial trench, A on Fig. 1, was excavated along the road frontage on the eastern edge of the application area as this was the most likely part of the site to contain evidence for Medieval settlement. The other six trial trenches were excavated along the southern edge of the application area, C, D and E on Fig. 1, and in the northern half of the site, B, F and G on Fig. 1.

Results (see Fig. 3 for trench plans)

Context	
0001	Unstratified finds-none.
0002	Test-pit,0-3m topsoil over 0-2m subsoil. Finds-1 bs Medieval cware.
0003	Test-pit,0-3m topsoil over 0-2m subsoil. Finds-1 base s Roman.probably mid 2nd century.
0004	Test-pit,0-25m topsoil.
0005	Test-pit,0-3m topsoil over 0-1m subsoil.
0006	Test-pit,0-3m topsoil over 0-1m subsoil.
Trench A	At it's northern end trench A had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-4m of subsoil.this latter layer disapeared to almost nothing at the southern end of the trench.
0007	Ditch section. Finds- 1 bs Medieval cware.
0008	Ditch section,part of 0007.
0009	Small pit.
0010	?Posthole Finds- 1 burnt flint flake 1 bs handmade,flint gritted,Iron Age.
0011	?Disturbed posthole. Finds-2 bs (joining) Medieval cware.
0012	Base to brick wall.
0013	Southern end of trench heavily disturbed by Post Medieval Building foundations.
0014	Possible pit on eastern edge of trench.
Trench B	This trench had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-4m of subsoil.
0015	Unstratified finds-1 bs Medieval cware.
0016	Posthole. Finds-1 bs handmade,mixed sand inclusions,some very large ?Iron Age.
Trench C	This trench had 0-3m of topsoil onto sand/gravel,only features noted were one modern pit and part of a modern wall foundation.
Trench D	This trench had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-7m(east end) and 0-5m (west end) of subsoil.Latter layer an uniform mid brown sandy loam.
0017	Unstratified finds from subsoil. Finds-1 flint flake 1 bs.small,handmade,flint gritted,Iron Age. 1 base s,8 bs Roman (3 rather ?Roman). 1 bs ?medieval cware.
0018	?Ditch remnant in base of trench D.
Trench E	This trench had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-75m of subsoil, latter an uniform mid brown sandy loam.
0019	Unstratified finds from subsoil. Finds-1 brick/tile frag.,one surface only,>28mm thick. 1 bs Roman.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 0020 | ?Pit, probably heavily truncated, with burnt sand around edge and base. |
| Trench F | Finds-1 bs handmade, flint gritted, red fabric(?burnt), Iron Age.
This trench had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-5m of subsoil. Only feature a ceramic field drain 3m from it's western end. |
| 0021 | Unstratified find, 1 bs ?Roman. |
| Trench G | This trench had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-5m of subsoil, no features noted. |
| 0022 | Unstratified find, 1 bs Roman. |

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation carried out on this site indicates that it has had a complex history of landuse. This complex of past landuses affecting the archaeological deposits on the site in a variety of ways. An attempt to illustrate how these different activities have affected the survival of archaeological deposits has been tried on Fig. 2.

In the south-eastern corner of the application area the building and demolition of the Post Medieval stable blocks has largely destroyed the archaeological potential of zone 2 on Fig. 2. However to the north of zone 2 an area of intact archaeological deposits appears to survive in zone 1, as demonstrated in the northern end of trench A. In the northern half of trench A two small, undated pits (0009&0014), a posthole of probable Iron Age date (0010) and a Medieval ditch (0007) were located under some 0-5m/0-8m of top and subsoil.

Along the southern edge of the application area the three trenches excavated indicated an area of recent disturbance (trench C) and a larger area with evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity (zone 3 on Fig. 2) which appears to have been severely truncated. While trench D produced 1 Iron Age and 9 Roman pottery sherds, these all came from a deep subsoil layer which covers much of the western half of the site. The only archaeological features recorded in the western half of the site being a ditch remnant in trench D (0018) and a pit base in trench E (0020), both of which appear to have been truncated. It is suggested that this truncation of archaeological deposits in the western half of the application may have been caused by extensive gravel quarrying carried out in the Medieval or Post Medieval period. The deep layer of subsoil across much of the site being the sieved residue from such extraction work. Trenches F and G also had deep subsoil layers although there was little evidence for the destruction of archaeological deposits in the north-western quarter of the application area.

Trench B was excavated in order to test the extent of the archaeological deposits noted in trench A above. This trench revealed a similar low density of archaeological features with one possible posthole of probable Iron Age date.

Therefore it would appear that the only part of the application area with the potential to reveal good evidence for past settlement is zone 1 on Fig. 2. While there is a moderately deep layer of subsoil over zone 1 this layer is protecting an area of Iron Age (c2/2,500 year old) settlement evidence and some later Medieval features. Over the remainder of the application area the evaluation results indicate a poor survival of Iron Age and Roman archaeological deposits.

J. Newman, November, 1993,
Field Projects Division,
Archaeological Section,
Planning Dept.,

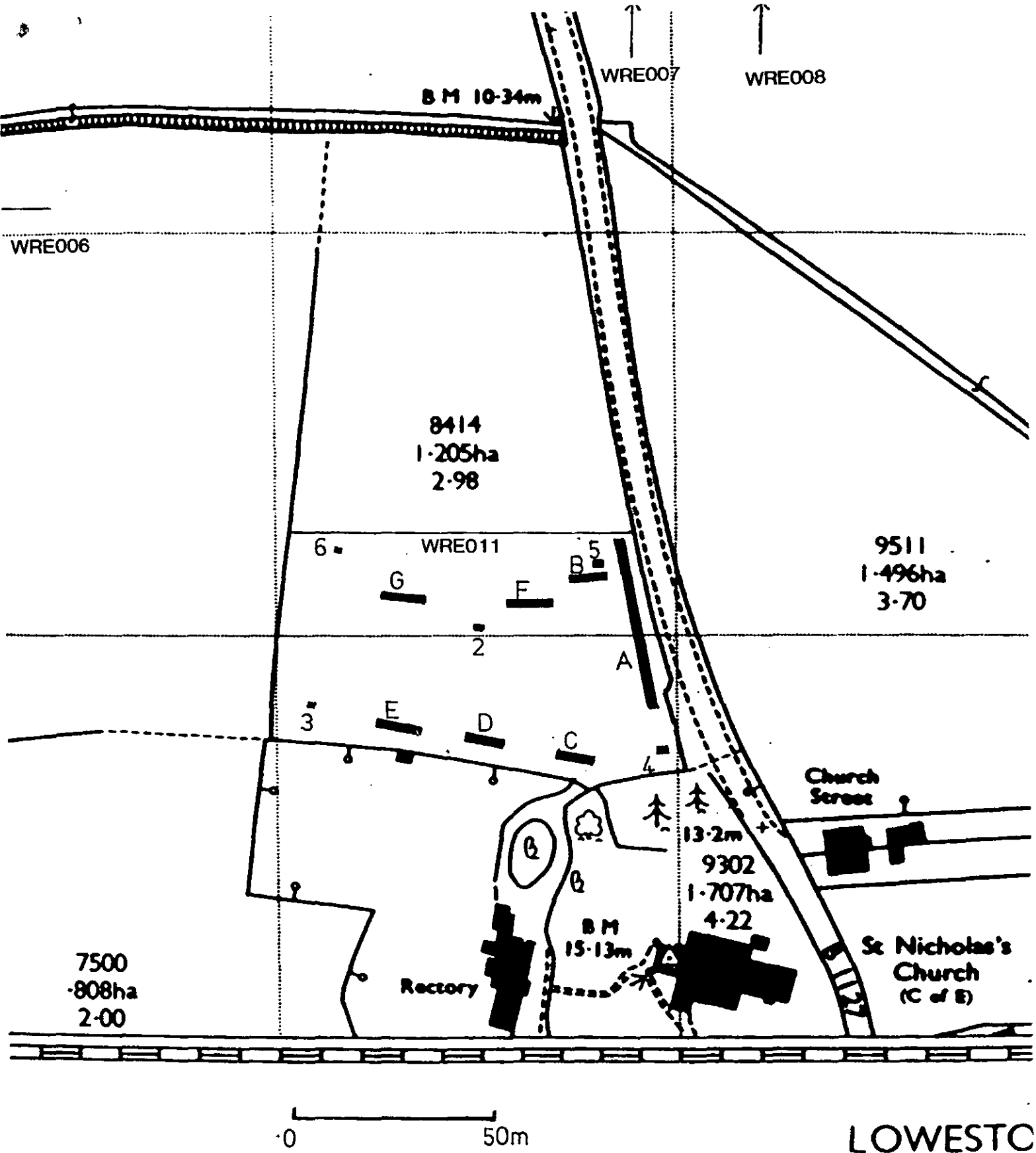


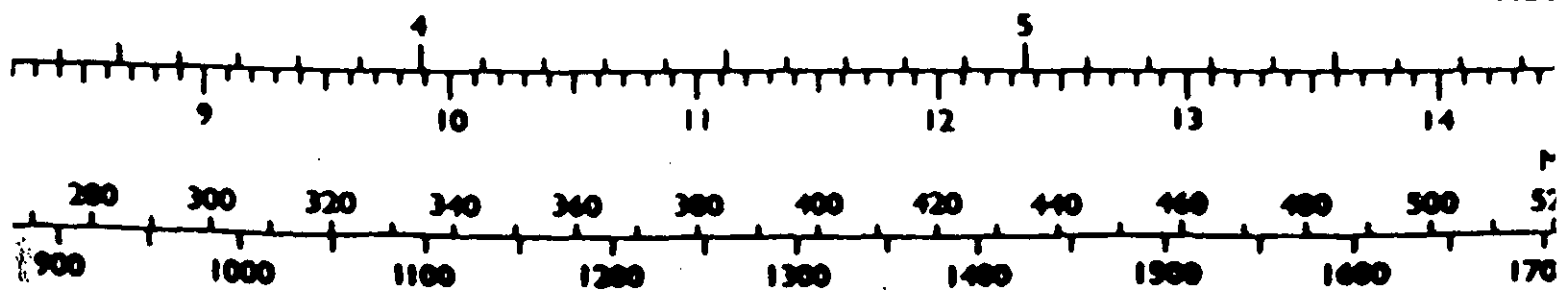
Fig.1:Trench & Test Pit Location Plan

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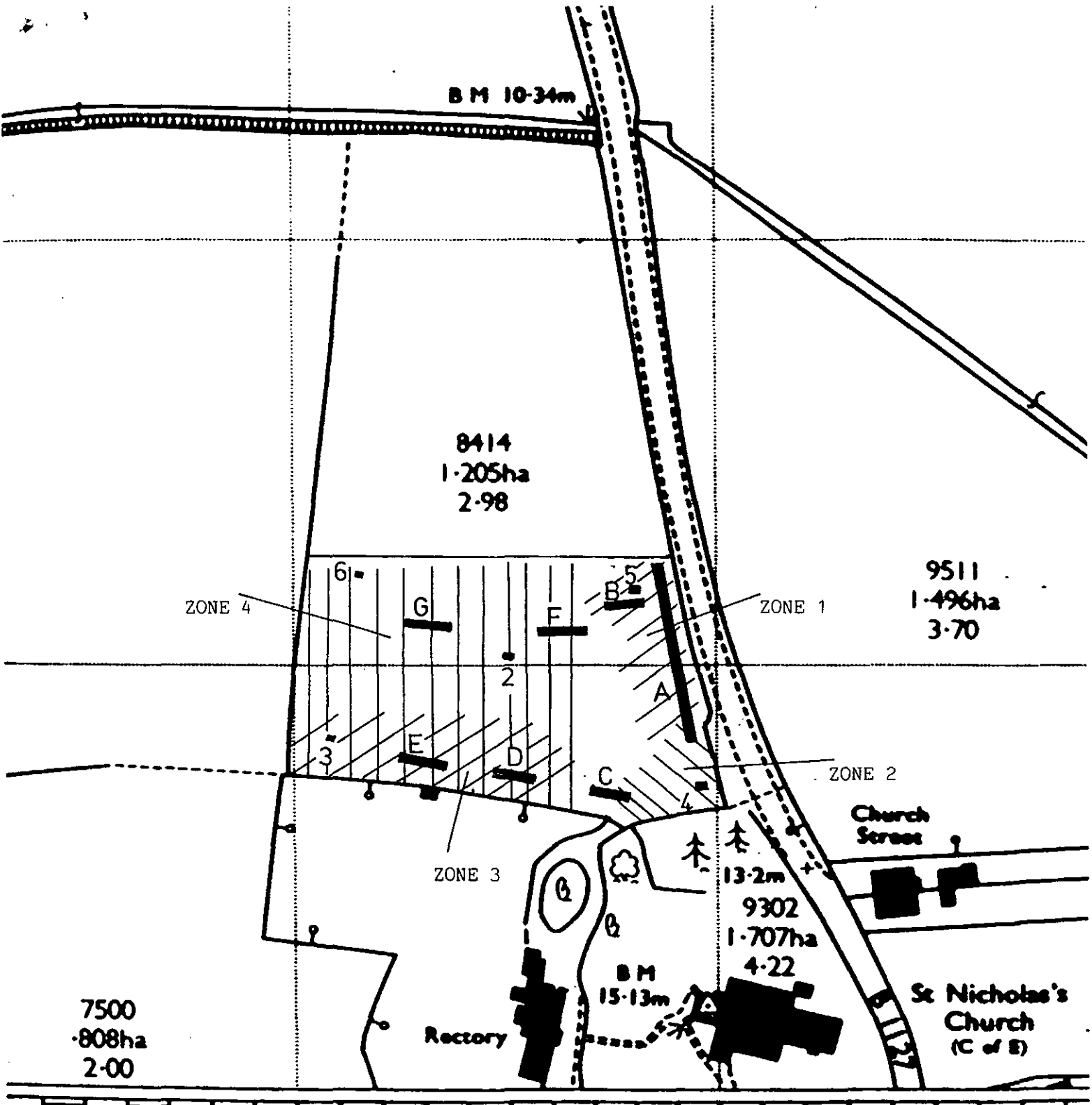
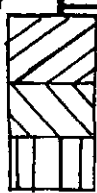
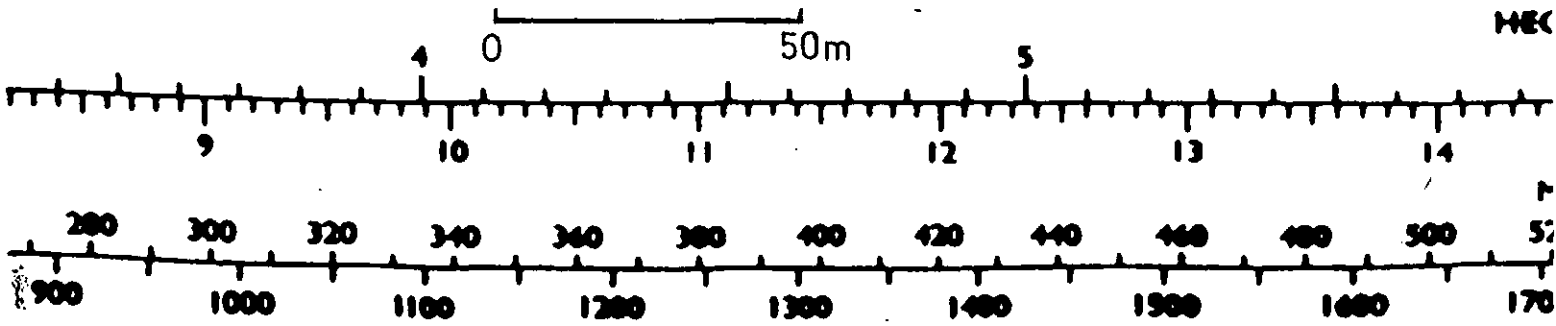


Fig.2: Survival of archaeological deposits



Area of good survival of archaeological deposits
 Area of extensive disturbance by Post Medieval foundations
 Area of extensive ground disturbance due to Medieval/Post Medieval quarrying

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MESSAGE PAD

To: Bob

Date: Time:

Caller:

Phone No:

☐ Telephoned

☐ Please Call

☐ Called to see you

☐ Will call again

☐ Wants to see you

☐ URGENT

MESSAGE

Looks like this is one
for you - please could let
Mr Mills at Waverley know
the outcome of your site
meeting at Brentham (will
copy to me) - I can then
cost anything that needs

Received by:

to be done (though I gather
that you're not recommending
anything drastic,

Thanks

John

MALCOLM BERRIDGE LLB SOLICITOR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Town High Street
Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 1HS
Telephone (0502) 562111
Fax (0502) 589327 DX 41220

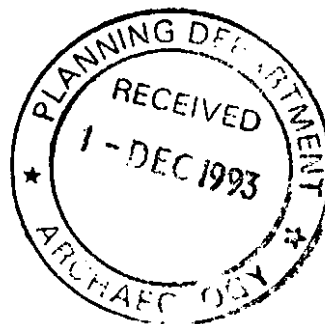


Chief Executive and Clerk of the Council

Your Ref JN/NJP 30.21
Our Ref ICPM/TC C21.8
Date 25 November 1993

When calling please ask for Mr. Miller
Dial Direct (0502) 523251

Suffolk County Council,
Planning Department,
St. Edmund House,
County Hall,
IPSWICH,
Suffolk,
IP4 1LZ.



Dear Mr. Newman,

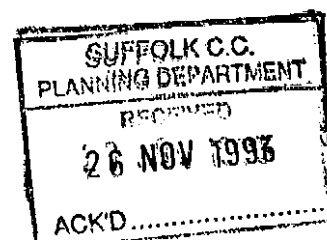
W/5963: LAND ADJOINING WRENTHAM CHURCH - ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of the 18th inst.

Please let me have your account as soon as possible, and also any guidance you can give me on the likely cost that the District Council will be involved in, in future archaeological works. I will ask the Technical Department to arrange the internal layout of the site, having regard to your report, but if you have any further comments on this you might like to let me have them.

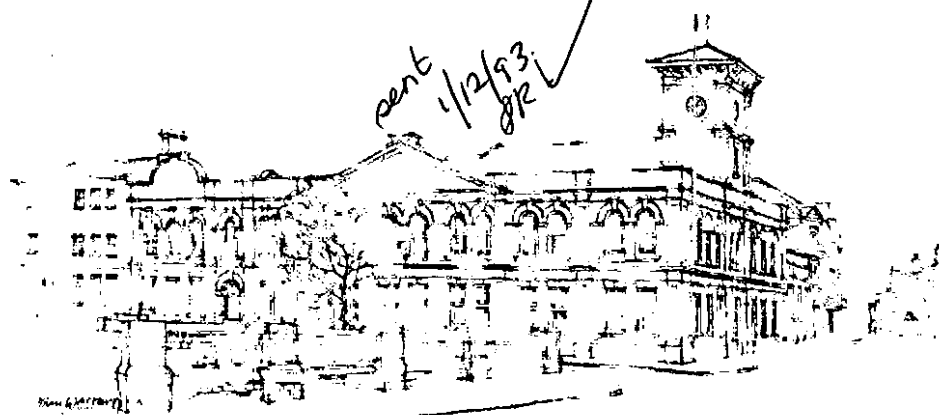
Yours sincerely,

Chief Valuer and Estates Officer,
for Chief Executive.



*Sandy. Can you copy
my letter of 23.11 to
Mr Miller & John N.*

*sent 1/12/93
JTB*



Received
Acknowledged *WJA*
Replied
Days Taken

Mr L J Monkhouse
District Planning Officer
Waveney District Council
Rectory Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk NR33 0BX

30.10
R Carr
722021
23 November 1993

For the Attention of Mr Wooley

Dear Mr Monkhouse

W15963, Land Adjoining Wrentham Church

An archaeological evaluation has been carried out, I believe Mr Miller, the Chief Valuer, has a copy. The results show that there is archaeological evidence for Medieval settlement and also some use of the area in the Iron Age and Roman periods. For the bulk of the proposed area this archaeological deposit is quite badly damaged by later disturbances and I am of the opinion that neither its preservation nor systematic recording can reasonably be required.

There is, however, quite good preservation of remains along the northern half of the site adjacent to the road line. In this area the archaeological deposit is over 60cm below present topsoil and I believe it can be adequately preserved by a suitably designed access road which I understand will cross it. Equally the deposit would not be affected by the use of the area for shallow interments of cremated remains.

I recommend that the design of the cemetery takes these points into consideration, and with this in mind, I advise that there need be no further archaeological work.

Yours sincerely

for County Planning Officer

0502 523339
#2.94 Mr Thornton / WDC.
will be proposing that the
road side strip will be met for
confirmation. The SE corner will
be access road and carpark.
Seems ok by me.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MESSAGE PAD/FILE NOTE

(For use only within the Department)

FROM:

Date:

19.11.93

TO:

File No:

SUBJECT:

Cemetery

File note of Wrontham Church

Attended site meeting

Explained archae units

Asked for areas to be conserved

ACTION

NOTE: The normal memorandum system should be used for communications with other departments.



265204

Mr I Miller
Chief Valuer
Waveney District Council
Town Hall
High Street
LOWESTOFT
Suffolk
NR32 1HS

JN/NJP 30.21
Mr J Newman
18 November 1993

Dear Mr Miller

W/5963: Land adjoining Wrentham Church - Archaeological Evaluation

The report covering the archaeological evaluation of the above application area has now been completed and I enclose two copies. A copy will also be sent to our Conservation Division in Bury St Edmunds who will use the findings of the report to advise on a suitable programme of archaeological works for the site. A copy will also be sent to the landowners. In practice I would expect that the north eastern quarter of the application area will be seen as the main archaeological interest on the site (zone 1 on figure 2 of the report) as this appears to be the part of the site where the archaeological deposits are best preserved. However, any recommendation for further archaeological work on the site from our Conservation Division would depend on the extent of ground disturbance that is likely to occur in zone 1.

To cover the cost of this evaluation work, an invoice will be sent in the near future.

Should you have any queries over the report then please do not hesitate to contact John Newman on the telephone number above.

Yours sincerely

for
County Planning Officer

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LAND ADJOINING WRENTHAM CHURCHYARD

Archaeological Section
Field Projects Team



Suffolk County Council

Edwin Barritt,
County Planning Officer, St. Edmund House,
County Hall, Ipswich IP4 1LZ. Tel: Ips. 230000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Land adjoining Wrentham Churchyard (WRE 011)

TM4885 8308

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Method

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Trench A	At it's northern end trench A had 0-3m of topsoil over 0-4m of subsoil,this latter layer disapeared to almost nothing at the southern end of the trench.
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Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation carried out on this site indicates that it has had a complex history of landuse. This complex of past landuses affecting the archaeological deposits on the site in a variety of ways. An attempt to illustrate how these different activities have affected the survival of archaeological deposits has been tried on Fig.2.

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Trench B was excavated in order to test the extent of the archaeological deposits noted in trench A above. This trench revealed a similar low density of archaeological features with one possible posthole of probable Iron Age date.

Therefore it would appear that the only part of the application area with the potential to reveal good evidence for past settlement is zone 1 on Fig.2. While there is a moderately deep layer of subsoil over zone 1 this layer is protecting an area of Iron Age (c2/2,500 year old) settlement evidence and some later Medieval features. Over the remainder of the application area the evaluation results indicate a poor survival of Iron Age and Roman archaeological deposits.

J.Newman, November, 1993,
 Field Projects Division,
 Archaeological Section,
 Planning Dept.,

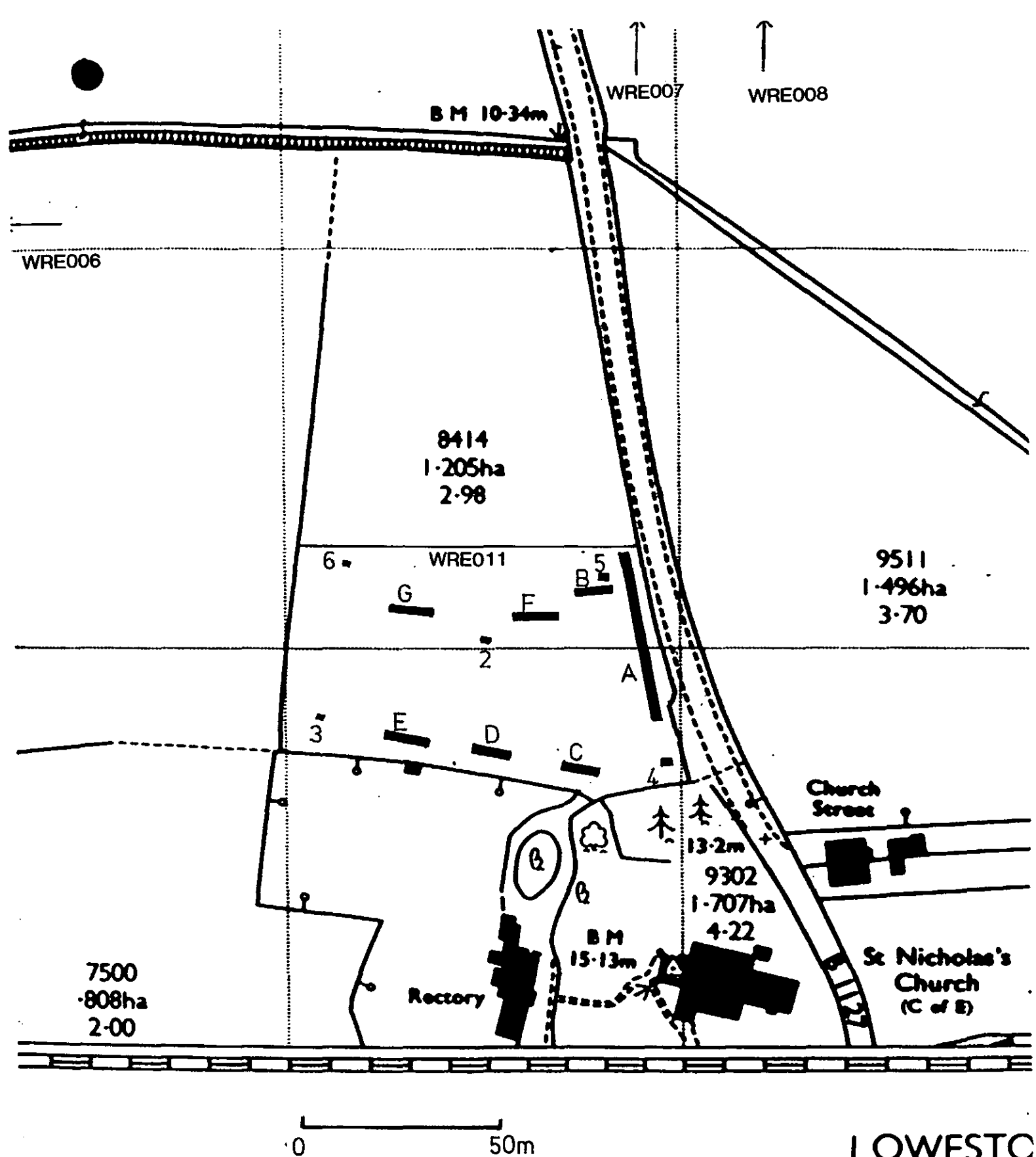


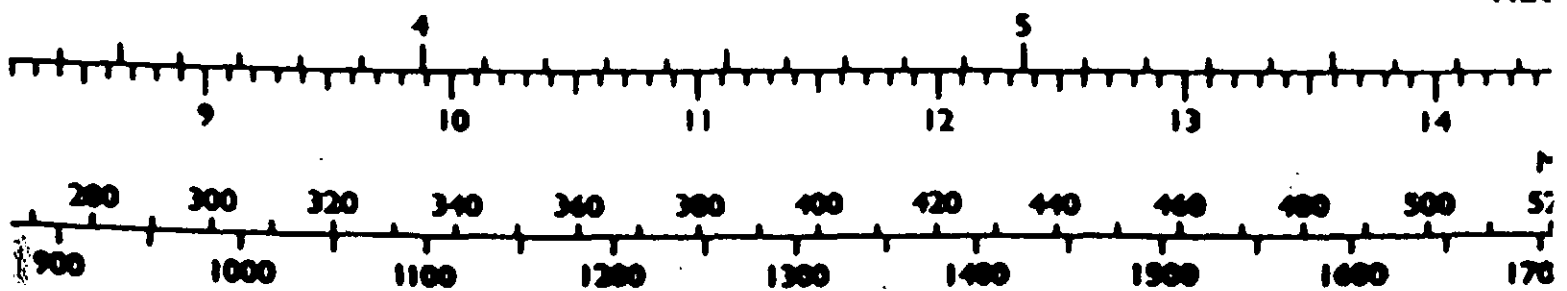
Fig.1:Trench & Test Pit Location Plan

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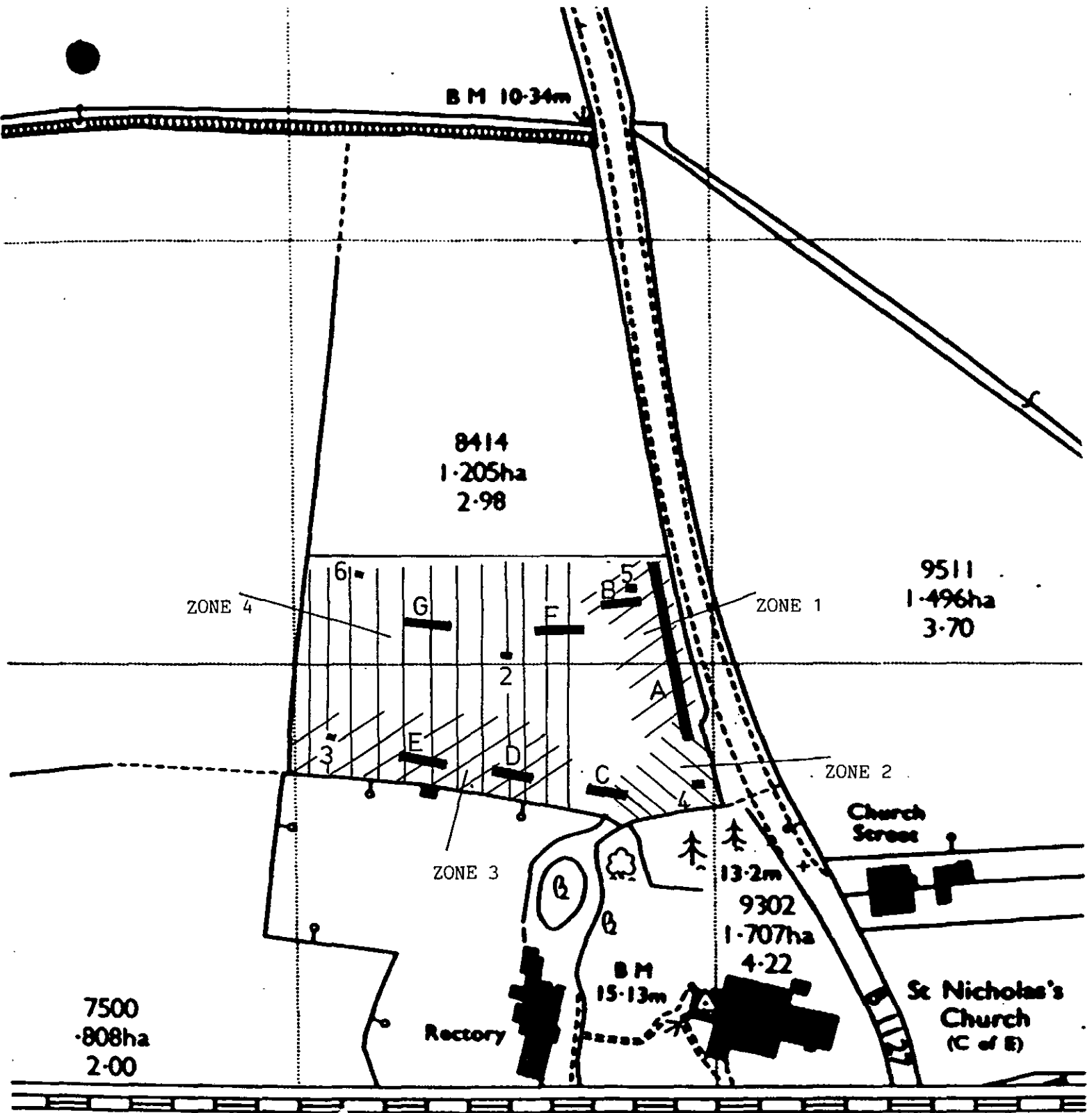
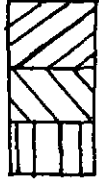
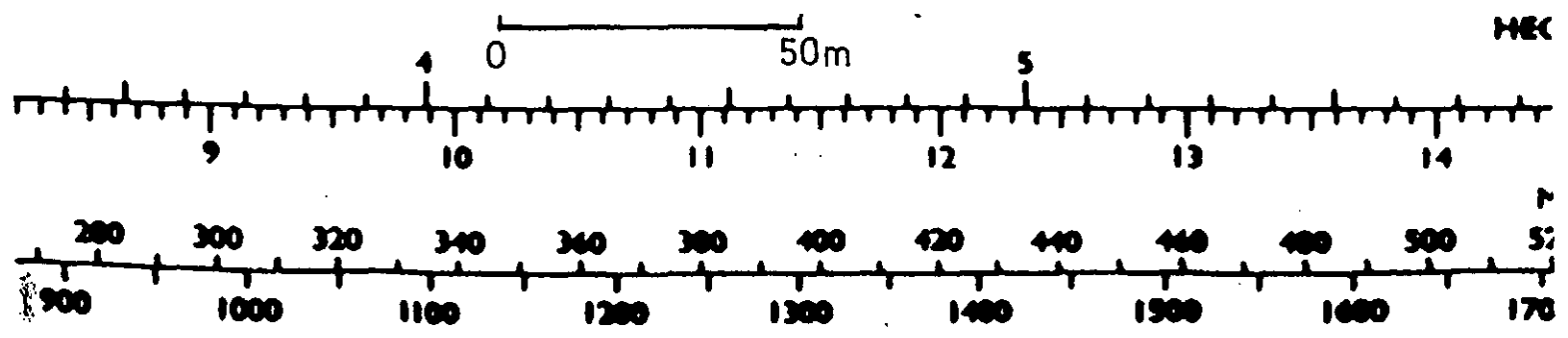


Fig.2: Survival of archaeological deposits



Area of good survival of archaeological deposits
 Area of extensive disturbance by Post Medieval foundations
 Area of extensive ground disturbance due to Medieval/Post Medieval quarrying

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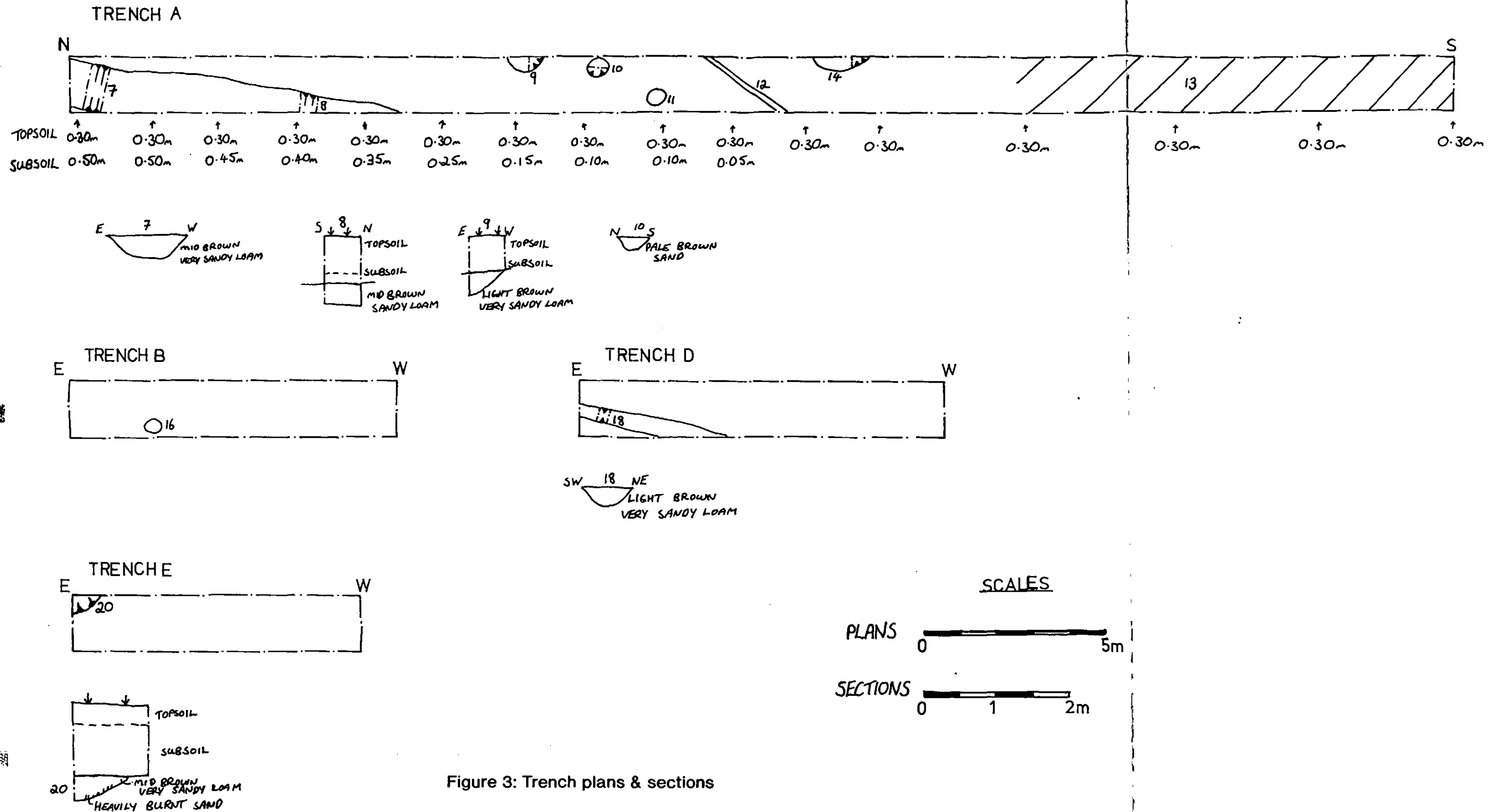


Figure 3: Trench plans & sections

Rob

County Planning Department

File No:

Wrentham - new churchyard

Wrentham 011

Zone 1 Area of apparently intact archaeology,
? Med ditch, ? RB postholes - features
not particularly dense, under 0-80/0-50m
top & subsoil,

Zone 2 P/Med farm bldgs demolished, area
quite heavily disturbed

Zone 3 RB pottery shards from trenches P+E
& test hole 3, all from subsoil, some
evidence for truncated features under
1-0 m (+) of top & subsoil,

Zone 4 No features, few finds, also with
0-80/1-0 m of top & subsoil,

Zone 1 only area that appears
to merit excavation - dependant on
future ground disturbance, old entrance
to churchyard road is likely to be
in this area,

(Report to follow, hopefully I'll
finish most of it though on Thursday),

John

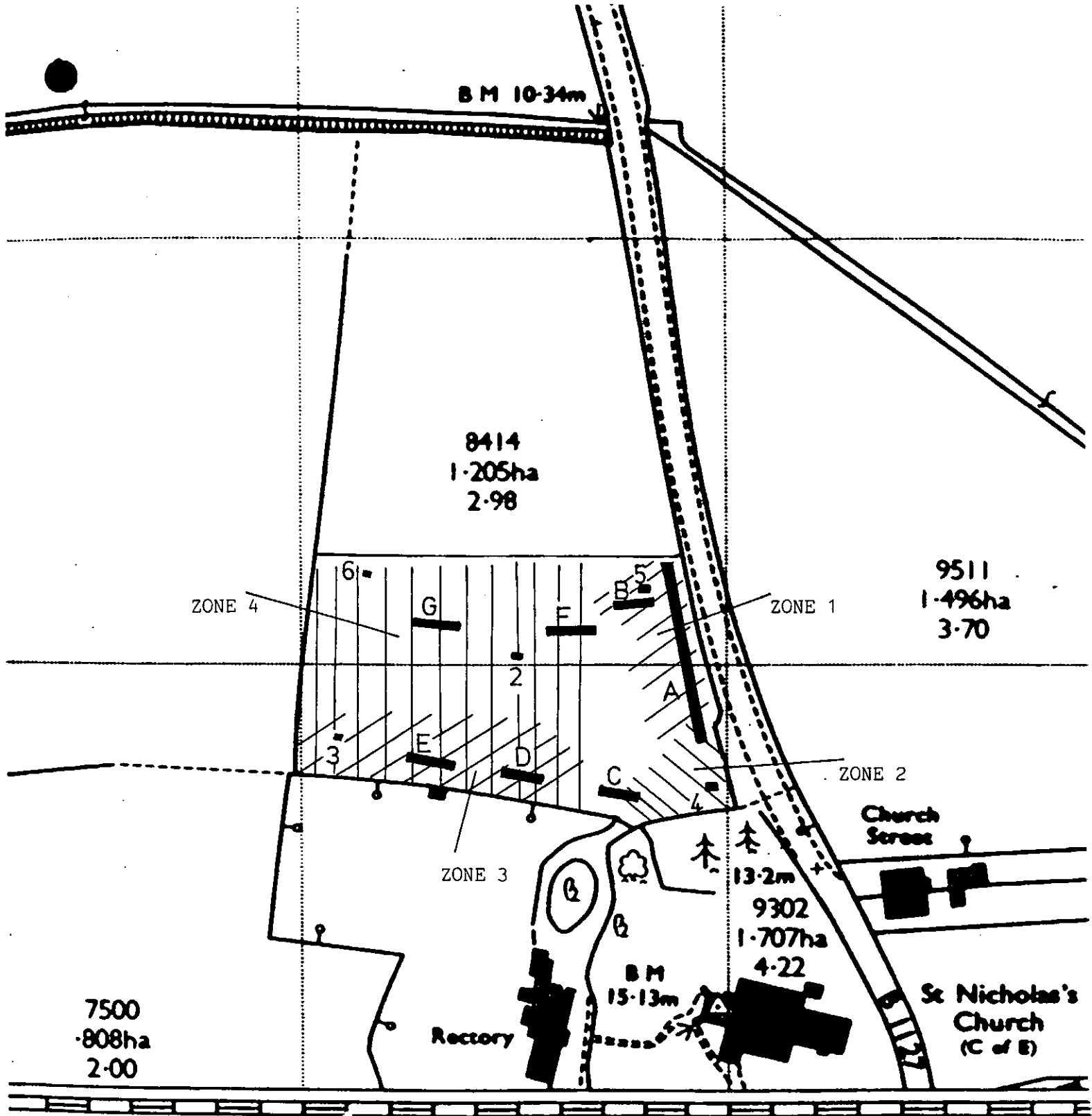
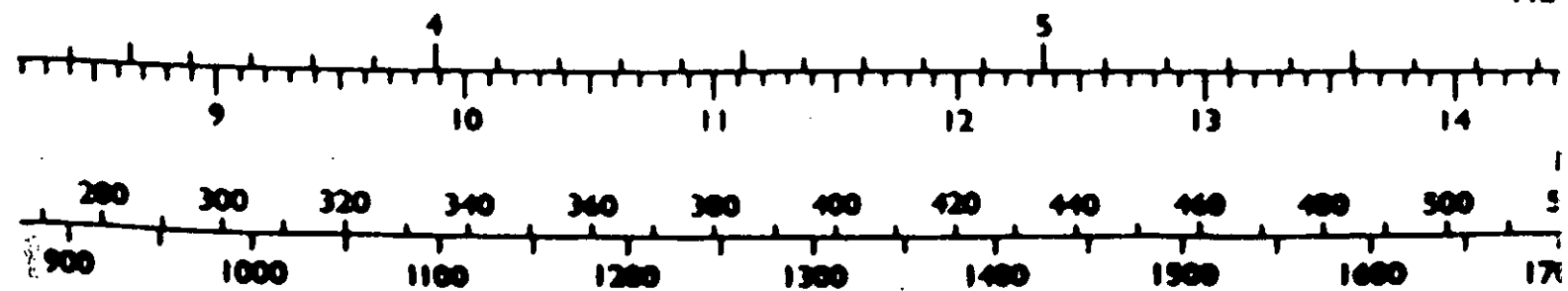


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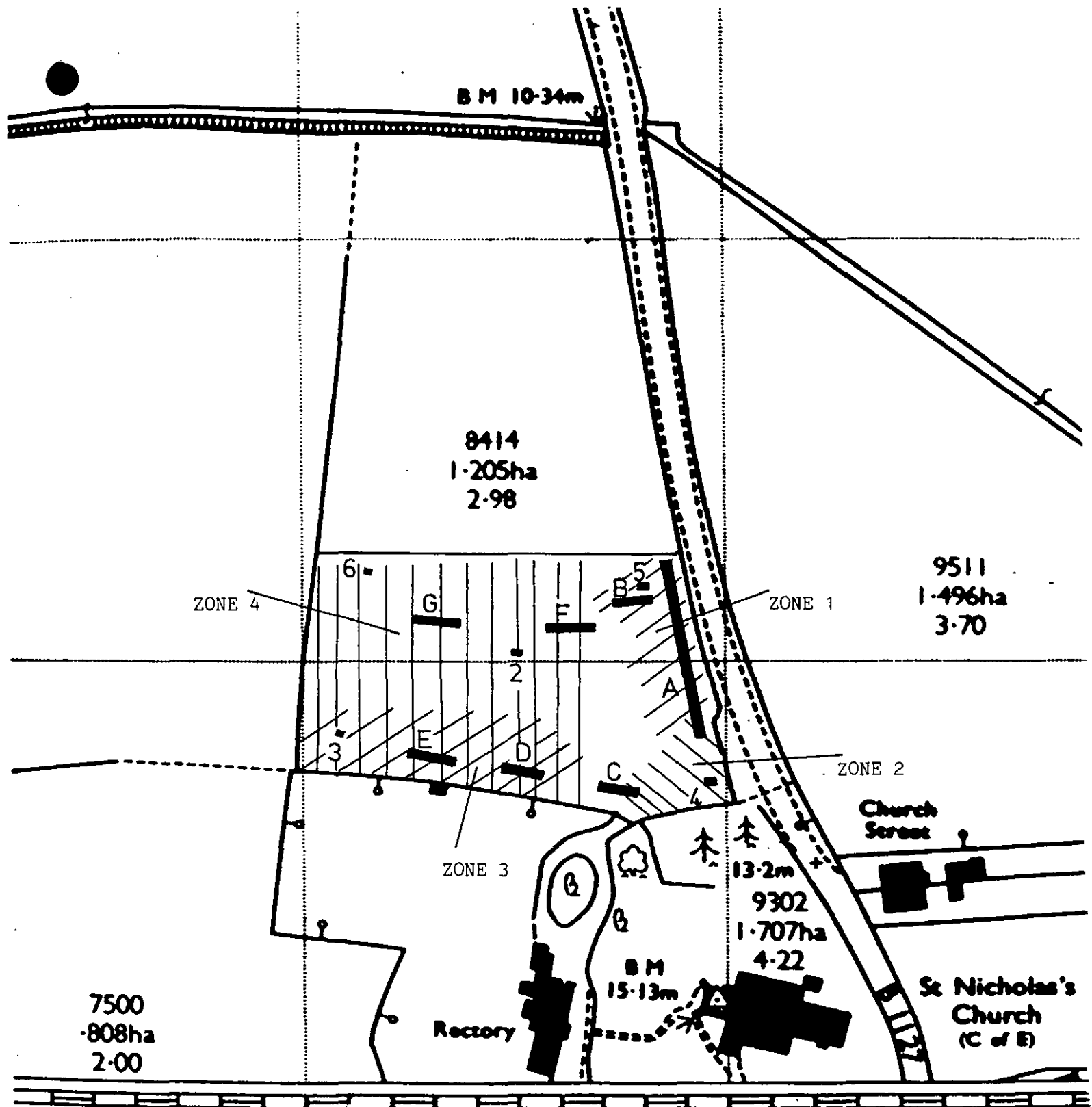


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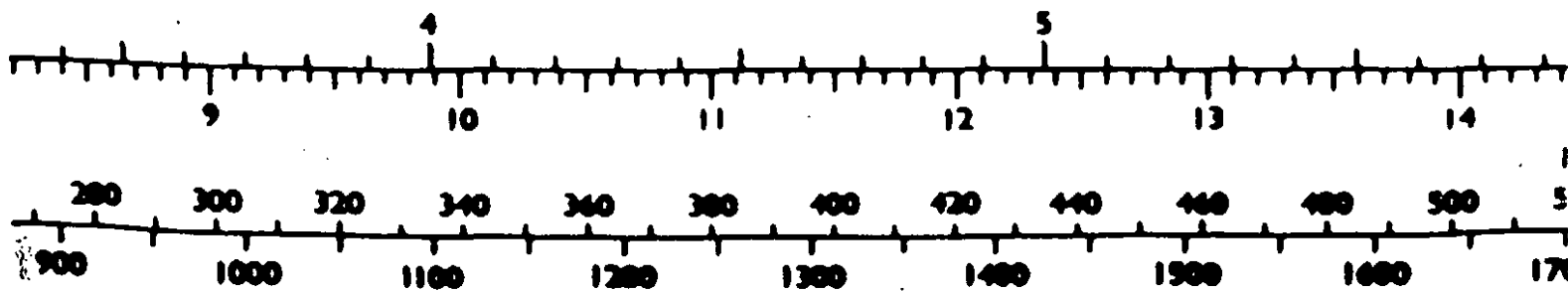
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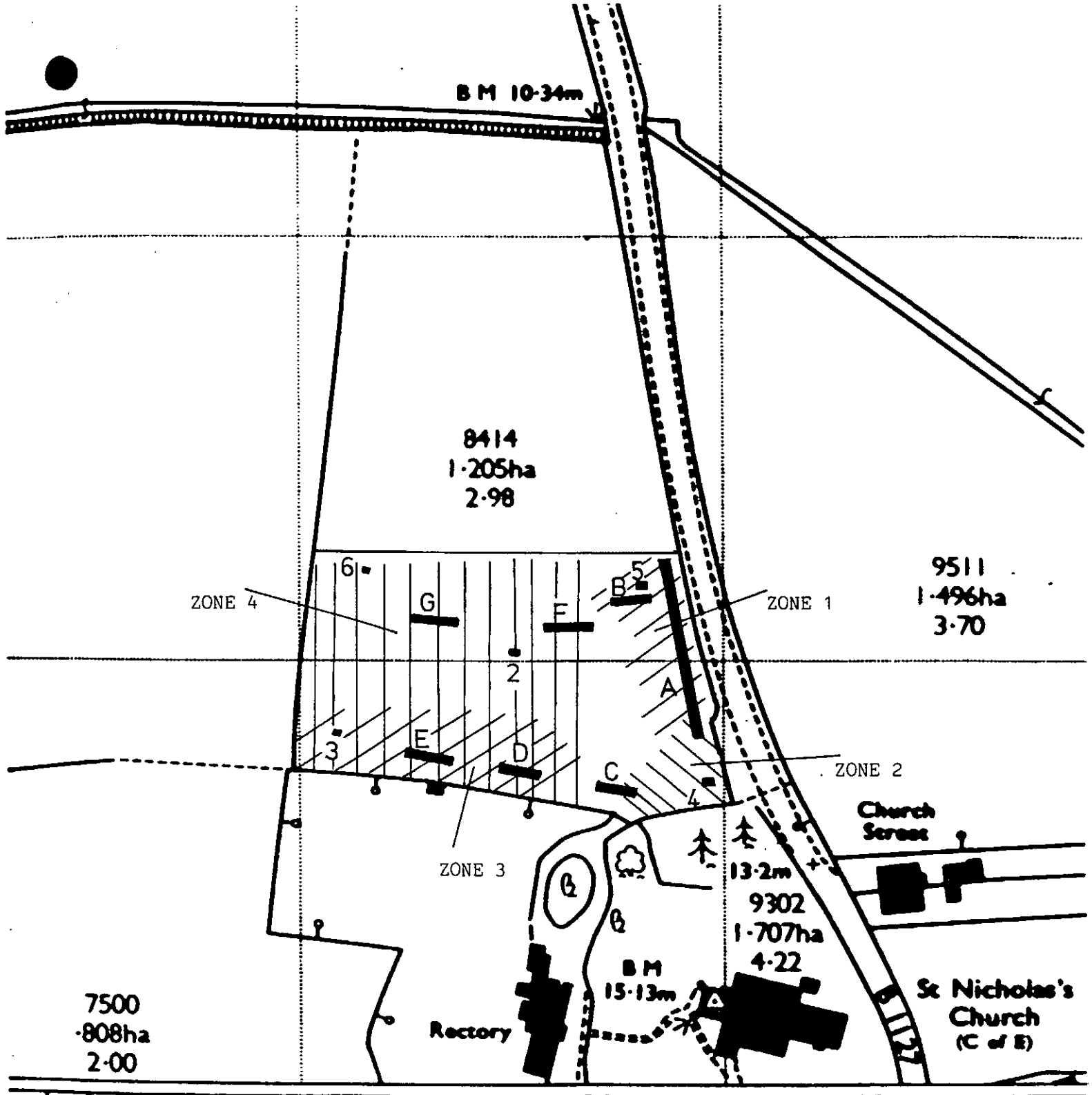
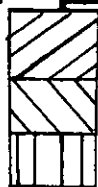


Fig.2: Survival of archaeological deposits



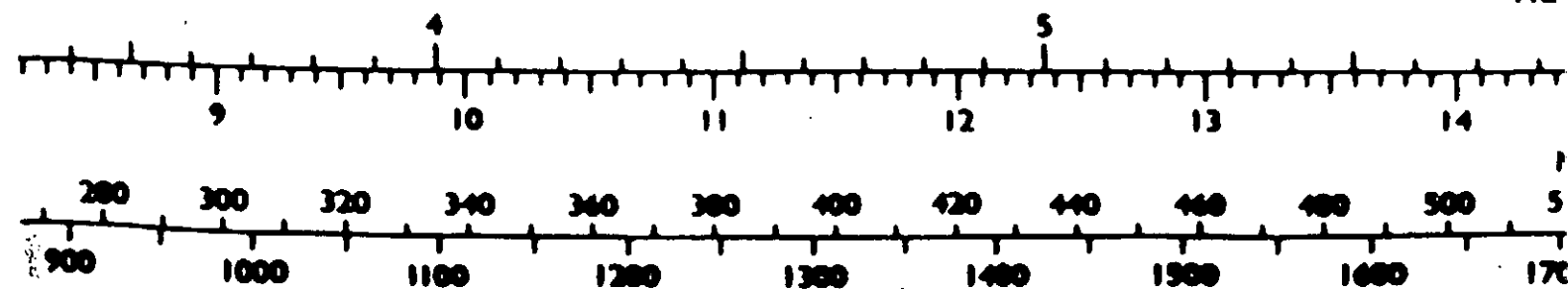
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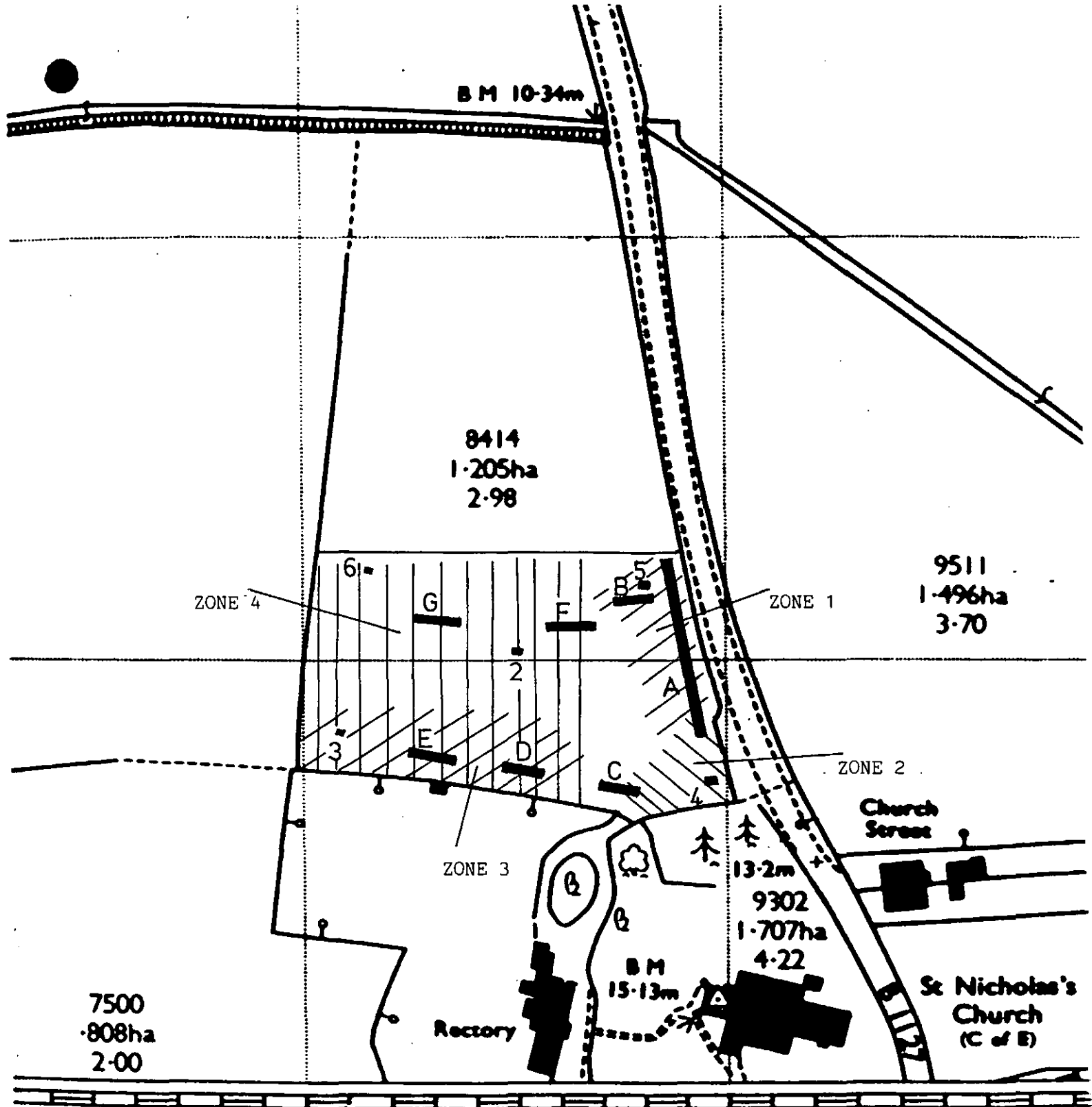


Fig.2: Survival of archaeological deposits



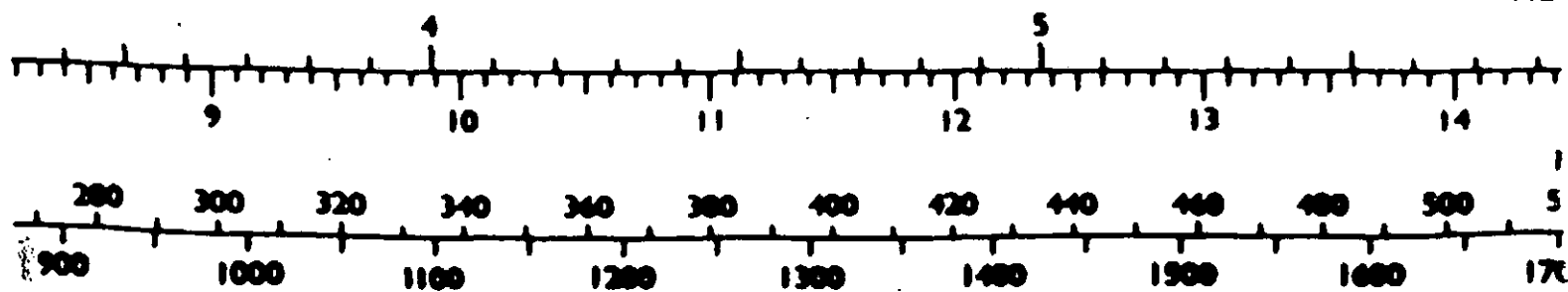
Area of good survival of archaeological deposits
Area of extensive disturbance by Post Medieval foundations
Area of extensive ground disturbance due to ?Medieval/Post Medieval quarrying

LOWESTC

TI

CONV

HE



Wrentham

15-11

Mabel John: W.D.C. commissioned an evaluation by him

Remarks:

Stables, ^{in SE corner} demo'd much messed up.frontage . 50-60 cm subsoil . down to natural
? med / no structures pk? ditchS. edge / vicinage wall.: natural 1m deep.
but truncated features below.
Rw & med pit in subsoil

NW corner lot of subsoil odd med. spread

sand gravel soil

? looked as gravel pit & backfilled.

Conclusion:

- Preservation on frontage looks good
say 15m back of it left or dug
- Remainder - probably once had occupation
in 1 or 2 central areas, but only severely
truncated features left. Archae. ground
level or \therefore structures removed in the past
finds distributed through mainly ~~at~~ 'subsoil'
which may rep. back-filled waste from surface
gravel extraction.

LAURENCE MONKHOUSE, DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICER

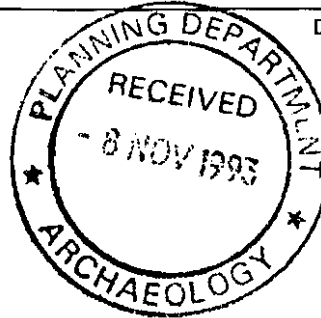
Rectory Road
Lowestoft Suffolk NR33 0BX
Telephone (0502) 562111
Fax (0502) 564962 OX 41220

WAVENEY
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Department of Planning and Building Control

Your Ref TW/TJC/W15963
Our Ref 5th November 1993
Date
When calling please ask for MR. WOOLLEY
Dial Direct (0502) 523018



Dear Sir

**W15963 - PROPOSED CEMETERY, LAND ADJOINING
WRENTHAM CHURCH, WRENTHAM**

The Area 3 Planning Sub-Committee deferred the decision on the above application to enable a site meeting to take place.

This has been arranged for Friday 19th November 1993 and you are invited to attend. It is proposed to meet at Wrentham Church at ... 2.15pm. A site plan is enclosed.

The site visits are fact finding exercises only and the application will be considered in detail at the next scheduled meeting of the Planning Committee.

Yours faithfully

District Planning Officer

F.A.O. Bob Carr

Suffolk County Archaeology Unit
Archaeological Section
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR





M5963 Wyentham Cemetery

20.10.93

Phone from Tom Wroley (Planning officer) ← land not in PDC ownership
will I attend site meeting to explain archae. consult
asking for pre-determination? Yes
application deferred

Verbal: approved

Provisions

1. Site of potential (adjacent church, church mentioned in DB. pics (13 detail))
2. burials will be very damaging must expect ^{close} cover of site with no appreciable areas of preservation & no opportunity to apply mitigation techniques
• How many w'd have gardens, provisions & paths preserved?
3. Evaluation needed to establish whether any settlement & of what quality & of what state of preservation
4. Options of excavation in advance
 - b) how site
 - c) speculate that there might be an option for a variation in burial plan
 - eg. if of occupation found ^{only} near road this may allow preservation by noting area for cremated remains
5. 4(c) there could be a counter argument that although preservation was achieved it has ^{no} purpose as it w'd ~~be~~ impossible to mitigate any opportunity to 'realise' the data because of cultural objections so might as well dig it now!

Probable meet 17/19th on site

Received	6 Oct 93
Acknowledged	
Replied	19 Oct 93
Days Taken	10

Mr L J Monkhouse
District Planning Officer
Waveney District Council
Rectory Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk NR33 0BX

30.10
Judith Plouviez
722024
19 October 1993

Dear Mr Monkhouse

Planning Application: W15963, Land adjoining Wrentham Church

This application affects an area next to the medieval church with 65m of road frontage. There is a high probability of medieval and possibly earlier archaeological deposits within the area.

I recommend that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required, prior to determination of the application, to provide at his expense an archaeological evaluation of the site as suggested in DoE. Planning Policy Guidance 16 (November 1990), para 21. The evaluation is likely to include archaeologically excavated trial trenches on the site.

If I can provide further information I would be pleased to do so. I am prepared to offer guidance to the applicant on the archaeological work required. Mr J Newman of our Field Projects division (Planning Department, St. Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich IP4 1LZ, telephone (0473) 265204) would be pleased to supply an estimate of costs for the archaeological work.

Yours sincerely

28.10.93

for County Planning Officer

phone from Tom Wooley (Planning Officer WDC) asking me to sit meeting to explain archaeology.

WDC

(I am Miller / their estates man may be in touch)

PTO.

1. development potentially very damaging - more so than
housing - i.e. no roads, no gardens or floor areas
2. if evaluation finds good preserved settlement
3. options
 - a). total excavation
 - b). new site
 - c). variation in burial plan

eg. roadside for cremated remains
damage limited to plough depth
or.
though arguable that might
still need to be dug?

**NOTICE TO WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AN
APPLICATION FORM DEEMED PLANNING PERMISSION**

WP. 101

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING GENERAL REGULATIONS
1976**

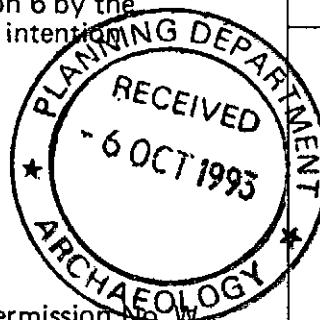
Notice is hereby given for the purpose of Regulation 6 by the
District Technical Officer/Chief Executive of the intention
to seek permission for the following development;

APPLICATION

Pursuant to Regulation 4 (Council development)

~~Regulation 5 (Private development)~~
in Outline
or Fully Detailed
or Submission of details under deemed permission No. W.
No. W.

(delete whichever inappropriate)



For Office Use Only



Signature of Authorised Officer
making application

Name of Project Officer
to contact

I. C. P. Miller

Date 22 September 1993

PART 1 – GENERAL (In this part the word "land" includes any building thereon)

A Describe the proposed development including the purpose for which the land and/or buildings are to be used. If they are to be used for more than one purpose, give details.	Cemetery
B Address or location of the land to be developed, in sufficient detail to enable it to be readily identified. (Give O.S. Parcel No(s). where appropriate).	Land adjoining Wrentham Church fronting B1127, edged red on plan
C Dimensions of plot	Frontage 210 feet Area 1.5 acres approx Depth 310 feet
D If permission is required for a limited period only, state period.	-
E State the existing means of access to the land or buildings. Indicate clearly on plans.	-
F If the proposed development involves the construction of a new or the alteration of an existing vehicular or pedestrian access to a highway, give details and show on plans.	New access to be 40m from Southern Boundary, to be agreed with Suffolk County Council
G How will surface water be disposed of ? How will foul sewage be dealt with ?	Soak away N/A
H State the purposes for which the land and/or buildings are now used; if used for more than one purpose, give details. In the case of vacant, derelict or unused land please state the last use.	Agriculture

J	Particulars of the applicants interest in the land (e.g. owner, lessee, prospective purchaser, etc.)	Prospective Purchaser	Has the vendor or lessor consented to the development ?	Yes
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PART II – Information required if the application relates to dwellings (including Flats)

K	Details of Car Parking	No. of Residential Units	No. of Car Spaces	No. of Garages

PART III – Information required if the application is for the construction of a building

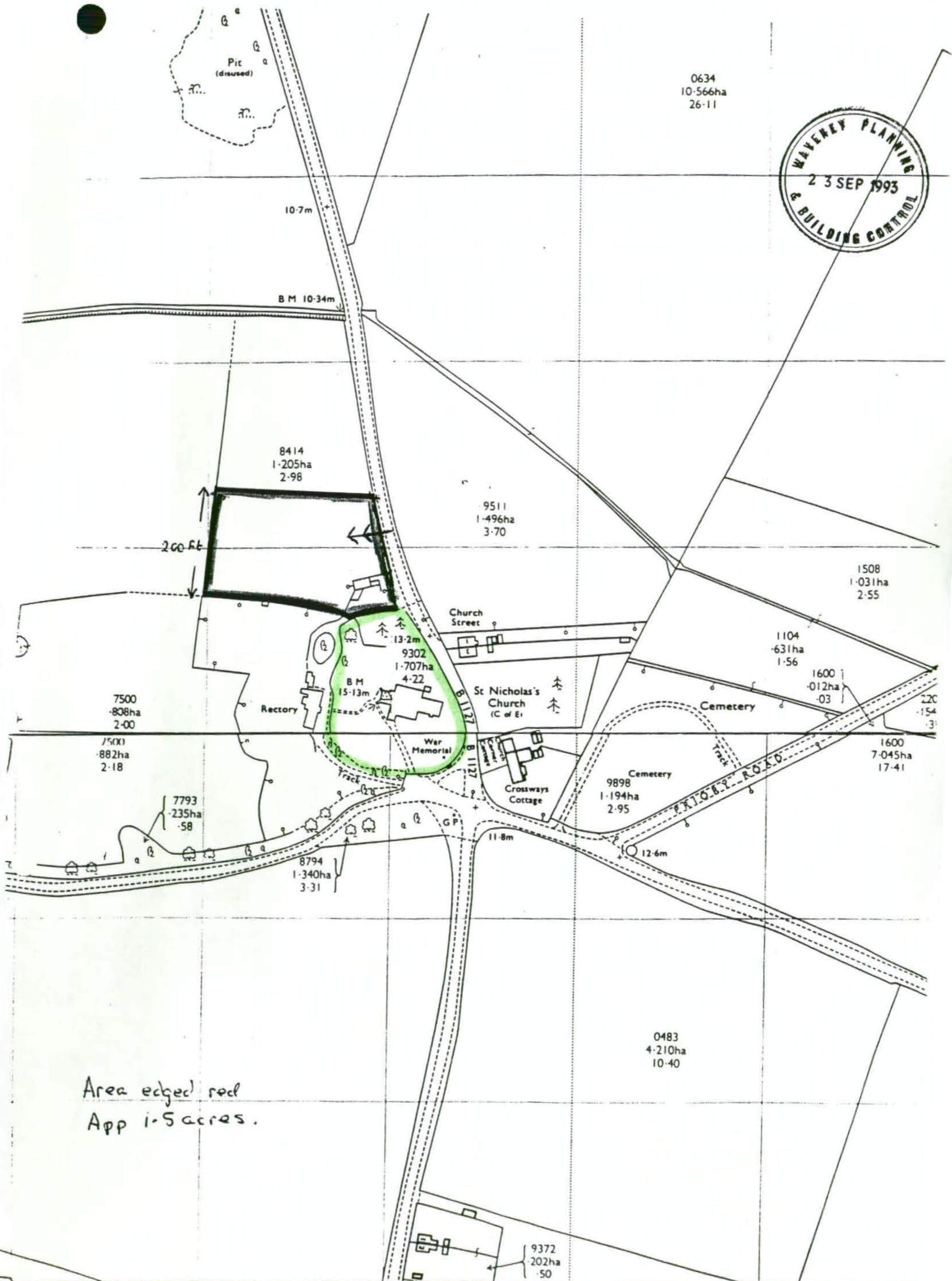
L	Details of materials of proposed building(s)	Materials	Colour and Texture or Profile
	Walls		
	Roof Covering		
M	If extension or part rebuilding give details of materials of existing building	Materials	Colour and Texture or Profile
	Walls		
	Roof Covering		

PART IV – Information required if the land or buildings are to be used wholly or partly for industrial, commercial or other non-residential uses

N	The nature of the proposal including, if for industrial use, a brief description of the type of processes to be carried on			
O	The total floor area of:— (a) new building or extension (b) existing buildings within same curtilage	Industry & Associated Uses	Other Uses (give details)	
		(a)		
		(b)		
P	The No. of persons employed and to be employed	At Present Employed	To be Employed in New Building or Extension	Total on Completion of New Building/Extension
Q	No. of Car Parking Spaces available within curtilage	Existing	Additional proposed	Total on completion
	Staff			
	Visitors			
R	The intended provisions for loading and unloading of vehicles			
S	If for industrial use, the means of disposal of any trade refuse or trade effluents			

NOTE : Four copies of this form and four sets of plans to be completed and deposited with the District Planning Officer.

A circular ink stamp from Waverley Planning & Building Control. The text "WAVERLEY PLANNING" is curved along the top inner edge, and "& BUILDING CONTROL" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "23 SEP 1993" is stamped. A diagonal line crosses the stamp from the top right to the bottom left.



Area edged red
App 1.5 acres.