

# Spinney Brook, Glebe Farm Road, Bourton and Draycote, Warwickshire

## Archaeological Evaluation



*understanding heritage matters*

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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Spinney Brook, Draycote

**Commissioned by:** Mr D M Smythe

**Project Report No.** 1202

**Site Code:** BD12

**NGR:** SP 4462 6978

**Planning Reference:** R10/1206

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## Summary

**An evaluation of a site at Spinney Brook, Draycote, revealed no evidence of medieval activity or occupation associated with the medieval settlement of Draycote. A single post-medieval pit containing 18th century pottery was revealed, but no other significant evidence of post-medieval activity. It is possible that the western part of the site had previously been subject to some truncation in order to level the site.**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Rugby Borough Council for a replacement dwelling with parking at Spinney Brook, Glebe Farm Road, Bourton and Draycote, Warwickshire (R10/1206). The site lies within the limits of the medieval settlement of Draycote and immediately to the east of a medieval moated site. A condition of the planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out ahead of the development.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, in accordance with a Brief prepared by the Planning Archaeologist (November 2011) on behalf of the Planning Authority and consisting of the excavation of three archaeological evaluation trenches, was commissioned from Archaeology (Projects) Warwickshire and carried out in January 2012. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the site code BD12.

### 2. Location

2.1 The development site is located in the eastern part of the parish of Bourton and Draycote and is situated in the village of Draycote to the west of Draycote Water (Fig 1). The site is centred on map reference SP 4462 6978. The site was formerly occupied by several barn or outbuildings which have been demolished.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Blue Lias Clay and the site lies close to alluvial deposits (British Geological Survey 1984).

### 3. Aims and Methods of the Evaluation

3.1 The evaluation was designed to determine, as far as possible, the nature of the archaeological resource on the site and to gather sufficient information as to the extent, character, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains within the site so a decision could be made on the requirement for any further mitigation strategy.

3.2 The work undertaken involved the examination of early map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications. This was followed by the excavation of three trenches designed to cover a representative sample of the area to be developed.

## 4. Archaeological and historical background

4.1 No prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon remains are known in the immediate vicinity of Draycote. However, the village lies to the south-east of a series of crop marks identified by aerial photography (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record Number MWA 6801, not shown in Fig 1). These appear to consist of circular and rectangular enclosures and although their date remains unknown their form suggests that they are likely to date from the prehistoric or Roman periods.

4.2 The settlement of Draycote forms part of the parish of Bourton and Draycote and lies some 500m south-east of the village of Bourton on Dunsmore. The site lies at the southern end of the likely extent of the medieval settlement of Draycote (WA 9511). The settlement is not separately recorded in the Domesday Book, but the manor of Draycote is recorded as being held by the Verdon family in 1326 (VCH 1951). There is also evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation to the north-east of the village.

Table 1 Previous archaeological work in Draycote

HER No	Location	Year	Fieldwork	Archaeological Remains
EWA 7243	Manor Farm, Draycote	2002	watching brief	Well
EWA 7246	Sultans Turret, Draycote	2002	watching brief	Ditch
EWA 3403	Willow Springs, Draycote	1995	watching brief	No archaeological remains

4.3 On the western side of the village, approximately 200m west of the site is a series of medieval fish ponds (WA 5400). These lie adjacent to the site of a medieval moat extending around Manor Farm (WA 3318). An archaeological watching brief undertaken at Manor Farm in 2002 did not reveal any medieval remains, but recorded a large brick-built well (WA 9740, EWA 7243, Warwickshire Museum 2002a). A further earthwork at the northern end of the village may be the remains of a moat (WA 9510).

4.4 Further archaeological work has been conducted in Draycote including a watching brief on the neighbouring property of Sultans Turret. A ditch was recorded during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the existing dwelling (WA 9739, Warwickshire Museum 2002b).

4.5 The present site lies at the southern end of the village opposite Glebe Farm, a late 16th or 17th century farmhouse (Listed Building number 308656). Both the site and Glebe Farm are shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition and Second Edition maps. Both maps show a similar arrangement of two buildings on the site around a central yard (Ordnance Survey 1887 and 1905; Figs 2 and 3)

## 5. Evaluation trenches

5.1 The buildings previously occupying the site were demolished, following planning approval, prior to the site being visited. The new proposed building footprint (Fig 2) was therefore clear and trenches were located in agreed positions within the proposed footprint. Concrete floor slabs associated with the previous buildings were *in situ* and the concrete was broken and partially removed in the trench locations.

5.2 Trenches were excavated by a mini-excavator using a toothless bucket to remove modern or extensive deposits prior to hand excavation or recording. Levels recorded during the evaluation were derived from the Ordnance Survey spot height of 74.0m OD as a former Ordnance Survey Bench Mark on the Glebe Farm barn no longer survives.

## Trench 1

5.3 Trench 1 was located in the eastern half of the site and was 5m long and 1.6m wide (Fig 4).

Table 2: Trench 1 Data Summary

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Level (Ordnance Datum)</b>	<b>Finds</b>
100	Topsoil	74.89m aOD	Pottery (1) 15th/16th century
101	Pit		
102	Fill of pit 101		Brick frag. (1), Pottery (1) 19th century
103	Post hole		
104	Fill of 103	74.41m aOD	Pottery (5) 18th century, animal bone (1)
105	Natural	74.6m to 74.4m aOD	

5.4 A layer of yellowish grey clay (105) containing fragments of limestone was revealed at the bottom of the trench. This layer, a variation of the natural geology was identified across the site in other evaluation trenches.

5.5 A single post hole (103) was revealed at the eastern end of the trench. This was 0.25m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It was filled by a very dark grey clay loam (104), which contained sherds of 18th-century pottery.

5.6 At the southern edge of the trench a 1.2m (minimum) wide pit (101) was partially revealed. This was filled by a mixed yellowish grey clay loam and dark grey clay loam (102) with stone and brick rubble. A single post-medieval brick fragment and 19th-century pottery sherd were recovered. This was however, the remains of a modern soakaway (*pers comm.* D Smythe).

5.7 The trench was located close to the potential alignment of the ditch recorded to the north on the adjacent property, Sultans Turret. However no evidence or continuation of the ditch was revealed in the trench.

## Trench 2

Trench 2 was located towards the north-western corner of the site and was 5m long and 1.6m wide.

Table 3: Trench 2 Data Summary

<b>Context No</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Level (Ordnance Datum)</b>	<b>Finds</b>
200	Concrete slab	75.07m aOD	
201	Modern		No finds retained
202	Brick rubble	74.96m aOD	
203	Brick wall		
204	Natural	74.68m to 74.6m aOD	

5.8 A layer of yellowish grey clay (204) containing some fragments of limestone was revealed at the bottom of the trench. This layer was similar to the natural geological layer recorded in Trench 1.

5.9 No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the trench. A brick wall (203) extended along the southern edge of the trench. The regular bricks were bonded with lime mortar and formed a foundation a minimum of 0.25m wide. This foundation was associated with the brick buildings previously on this part of the site.

### Trench 3

5.10 Trench 3 was located in the western half of the site and was 4m long and 1.6m wide. No archaeological features were revealed in the trench. Geological natural clay was revealed across the trench, but this was not cut by any significant features.

5.11 A concrete slab (300) and its make up layer (301) extended across the trench and this relates to previous floor slab and external hard standing.

Table 4: Trench 3 Data Summary

Context No	Context type	Level (Ordnance Datum)	Finds
300	Concrete slab	74.98m aOD	No finds recovered
301	Brick rubble		
302	Natural	74.58m to 75.2m aOD	

## 6. Conclusions

6.1 No significant archaeological remains were revealed during the evaluation. Whilst the site is located within the known medieval settlement of Draycote and opposite a 17th-century building there was no surviving evidence of medieval activity or early post-medieval occupation.

6.2 The surviving deposit sequence largely comprised of geological natural, topsoil or make-up deposits for concrete floor slabs, which may suggest the possibility of some truncation across areas of the site. The localised topography around the site may support this as higher ground recorded beyond the western limit of the site and a general west to east slope is not reflected over parts of the existing site. It is likely that at least some truncation or levelling of the western half of the site had previously taken place. This may have resulted in the disturbance of potential medieval remains. The evaluation trenches were located within the proposed building footprint and not at the frontage of the site which was to remain undisturbed. It is possible that potential medieval or post-medieval remains associated with the use of the site may survive towards the existing frontage.

6.3 The location of Trench 1 coincided with the alignment of a ditch recorded immediately to the north of the site (Warwickshire Museum 2002b). No evidence of the ditch was revealed, but this may reflect the fact that little is known of the date, function or alignment of the feature.

6.4 A single post hole or pit with 18th-century pottery was revealed, but there was no suggestion of its exact function or of any other associated structural features.

## Acknowledgements

Archaeology (Projects) Warwickshire would like to thank Mr D M Smythe for commissioning the work and for his help on site and the Planning Archaeologist for preparing the brief.

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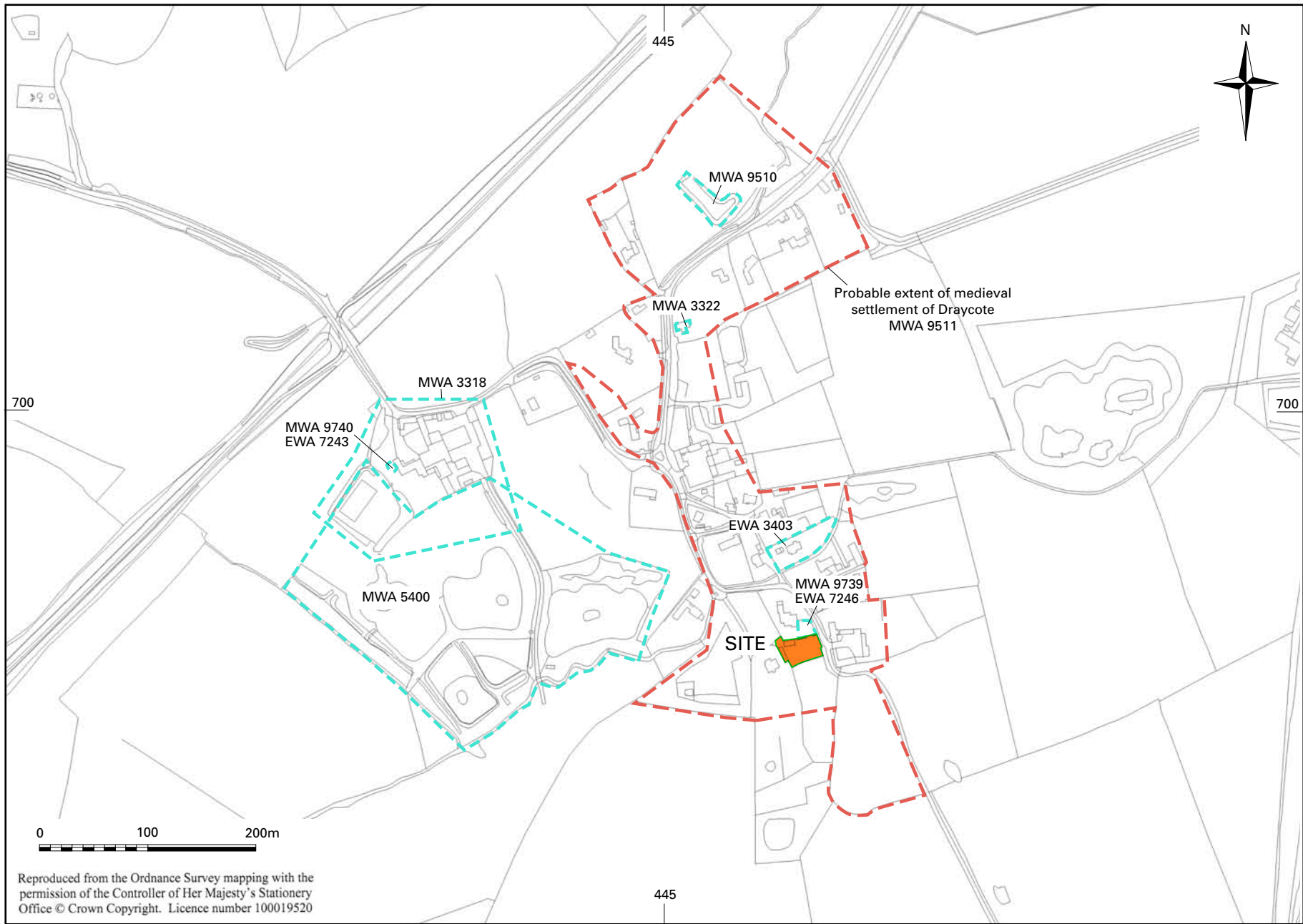


Fig 1: Site location

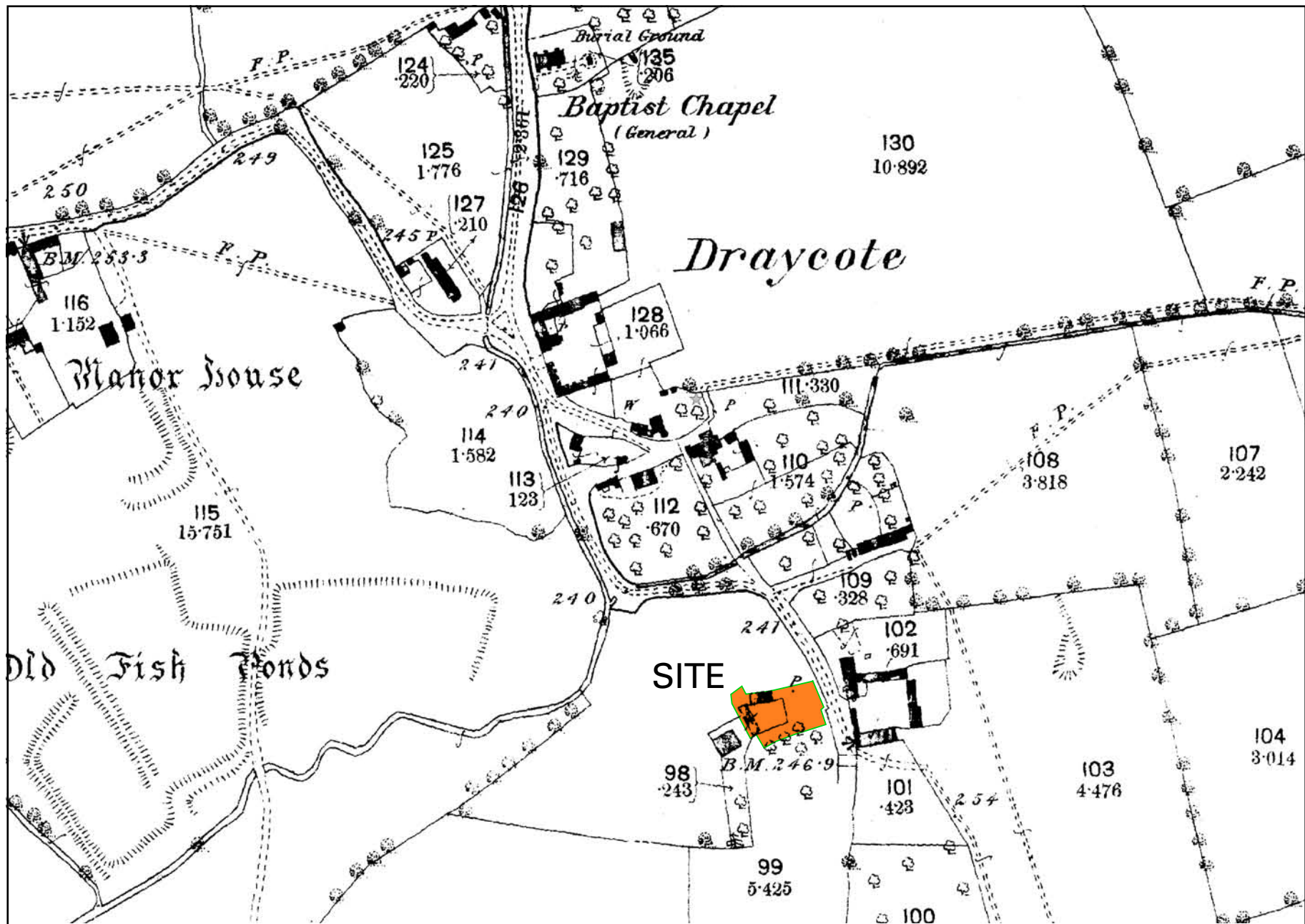


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1887 showing the site

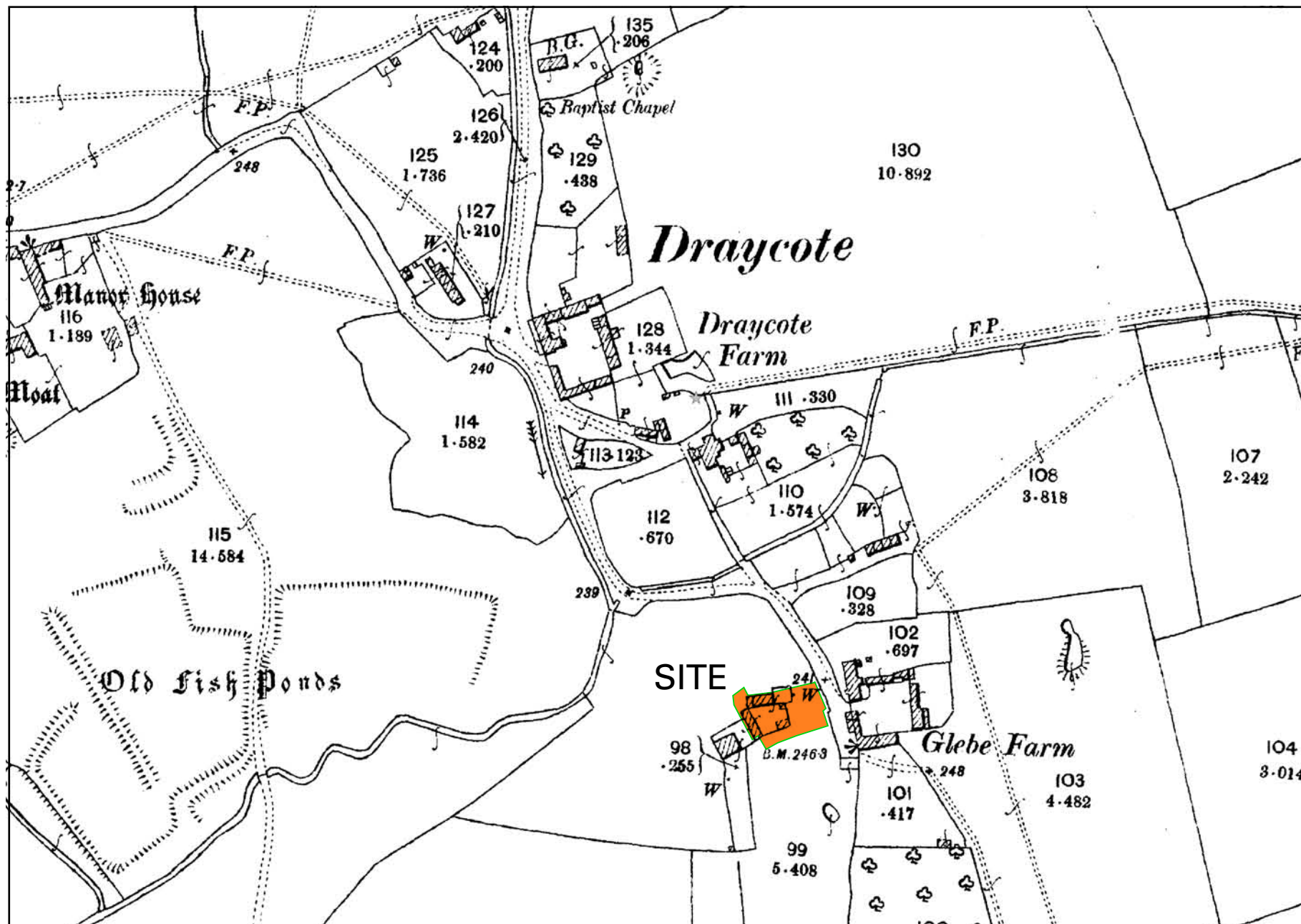


Fig 3: Detail from Second Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1905 showing the site



Fig 4: Evaluation trench locations

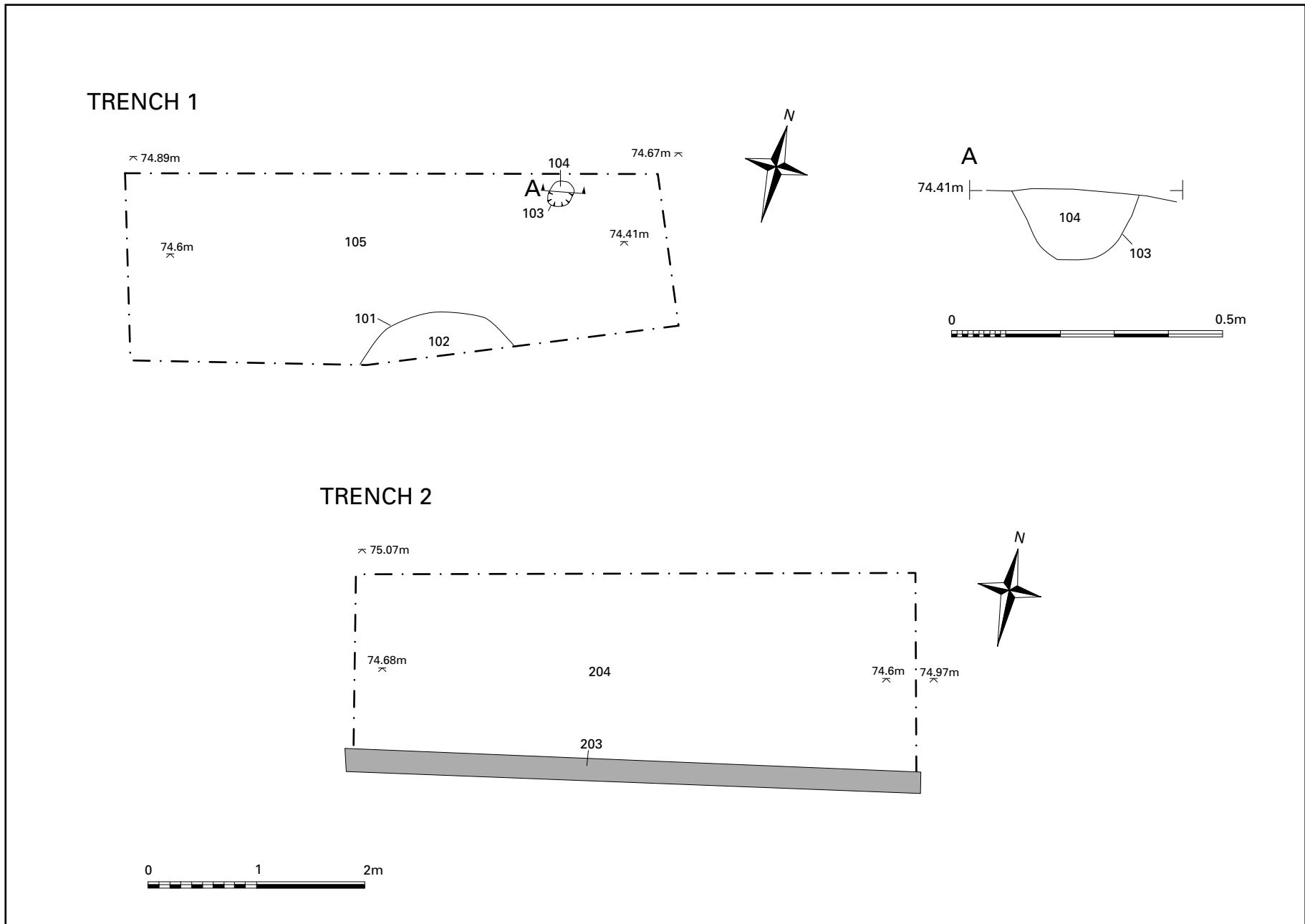


Fig 5: Trench plans (T1 and T2) and section A



Fig 6: View eastwards across site



Fig 7: Trench 1 looking east



Fig 8: Trench 2 looking west



Fig 9: Trench 3