

4016

**Brompton Hall School, Brompton, North Yorkshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

N	CHER
SNY	19175
ENY	6405
CNY	
Parish	4016
Date	23/06/1997

**Introduction**

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. was commissioned by NYCC to undertake a Watching Brief during the construction of a fence at the south-west corner of the grounds of Brompton Hall School, Brompton Parish, North Yorkshire (SE 9413 8214: fig. 1). The fence was installed along the eastern face of the c.3m high, north-south aligned stone wall that is shown on the O.S. Co. Series map (1912, re-surveyed 1889, revised 1910) as enclosing a walled area crossed by paths and with greenhouses on its northern side. This area was the kitchen garden of High Hall, now Brompton Hall School, situated c.200m to the north-east, and is now grassed over as football pitches for the school.

**Methods**

The Watching Brief took the form of archaeologically supervising the excavation of seventeen postholes, c.2.5m apart, over a length of c.36m, each one being c.0.4m square and 0.65m deep. The postholes butted up to the eastern (inner) face of the wall. Basic written records were kept and representative photographs taken.

**Results**

Excavation showed that below ground, the wall consisted of at least five courses of mortared, squared oolitic limestone blocks, each c.10 x 20 x 10 cms in size. The lowest two courses observed were stepped out to form a plinth. Above the courses of limestone, the wall was faced in brick for a further two courses (c.18 cm) below the present ground surface. A 0.6m deep deposit of dark loamy silt topsoil butted up to the wall's eastern face. The topsoil thinned out in the northern-most two post holes, where a gravelly silty sand at the base of the excavations showed the level of the natural deposits. There were no finds.

**Conclusions**

To summarise, the Watching Brief failed to reveal any strictly archaeological deposits, but showed constructional details of the 19th century wall that formed the western boundary of the former kitchen garden of High Hall. The eastern face of this boundary wall had been refaced in brick in relatively recent times. A deep topsoil butting up to the wall reflected the former horticultural use of the area.

23.6.1997

W. K.

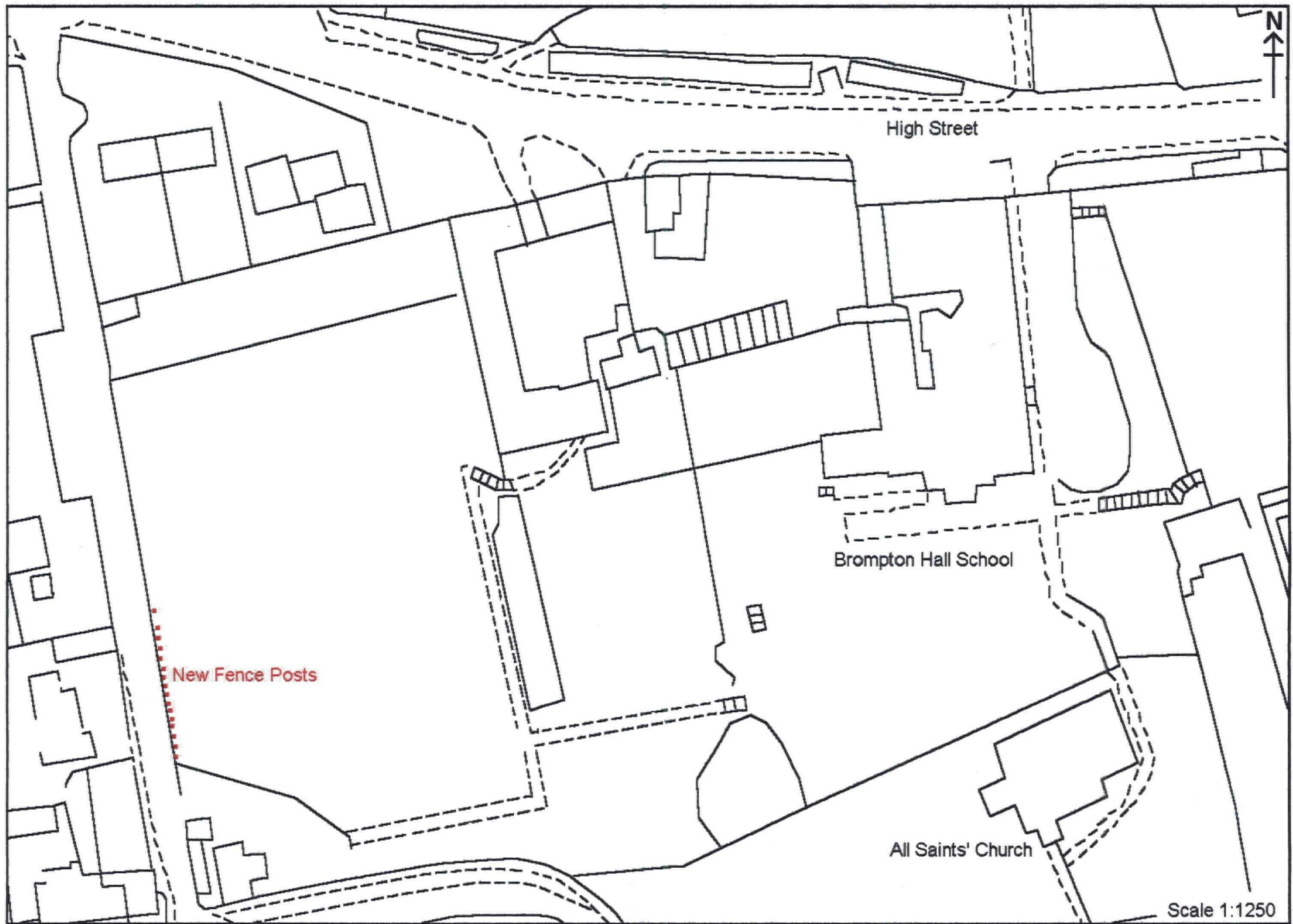
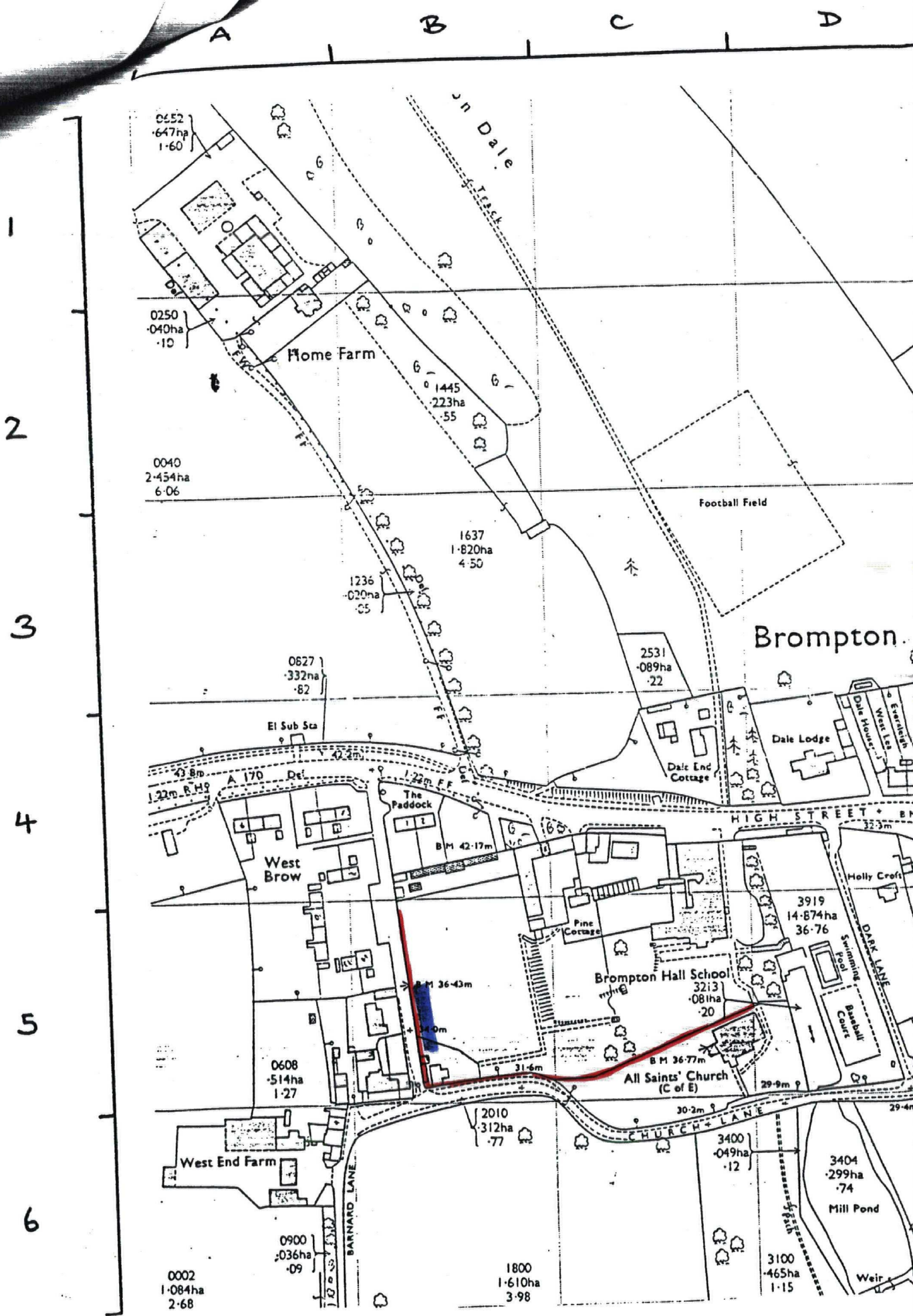


Figure 1. Site Location.

Scale 1:1250



School Boundary



Position of Proposed Fence