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**Lead Hall Farm
Staxton
North Yorkshire
(SE 4629 3694)**

Archaeological Evaluation

**N.Y.C.C.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Recd. 14 MAY 2004

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**MAP
April 2004**

**Lead Hall Farm
Staxton
North Yorkshire
SAM 22815**

SE 4629 3694

Archaeological Evaluation

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Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation consisting of two trial trenches was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in early March 2004. Excavation located only deposits of a recent date resulting from landscaping associated with the construction of the current farmhouse.

A consideration of the cartographic and historical records for the site suggests occupation there from the 12th century, and that the earlier Lead Hall was demolished and replaced by Lead Hall Farm very early in the first decade of the 20th century.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Lead Hall Farm, Staxton (Fig. 1 : SE 4629 3694), in February/March 2004, in order to fulfil a condition attached to planning (Application Ref. No. 8/68/8/PA) for the erection of a triple garage within the garden to the south-west of the existing house, with a link extension to the utility room and a new sunroom at the rear of the house (Fig. 2).
- 1.2 All work has been funded by Mr & Mrs Ambler of Lead Hall Farm, Saxton.
- 1.3 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 Lead Hall Farm is situated to the west of the village of Saxton in the parish of Lead (Fig. 1). The farm stands to the north of a range of farm buildings, which are used for both agricultural and residential purposes (Pls. 1-3). These

buildings are accessed by a raised trackway from the B1217 road, which crosses Cock Beck by means of a stone-constructed bridge.

- 2.2 To the south-east of Lead Hall Farm stands Lead Church, a Grade II* Listed Building.

3. Geology

- 3.1 The site lies on soils of the Aberford Association (511a), shallow locally brashy well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over Permian, Jurassic and Eocene limestone (Mackney 1984, 256).

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Place-name evidence suggests that the name Lead comes from *laed* the old English for 'water channel' (Smith 1956, 73). There is no village at Lead but below Lead Mill Cock Beck divides into two water courses, the westerly one passing through a pool at Low Lead, and the other a stream running through the middle of the township which joins Cod Beck below Low Lead. Smith therefore suggested that the place-name referred to either of these water courses. Ekwall's interpretation that Lead was a contracted form of *hleodu* from the Old English meaning 'wood with a shelter' (Ekwall 1936, 291) was dismissed by Smith as phonologically improbable (Smith 1956, 73).
- 4.2 The Domesday account for Lead records that: "In Leid, Gunner had two carucates of land to be taxed, and there may be three ploughs there. William now has it of Ilbert. In the demesne two ploughs and three villanes and two bordars with one plough, and two acres of meadow value in King Edward's time, 20 shillings, now 30 shillings".
- 4.3 Lead is not listed as a separate unit in medieval tax lists and the apparent absence of these records has suggested that perhaps there never was an actual village at Lead (Beresford 1954, 232).

4.4 Archaeological evidence in the form of aerial photographs (DNR 1271/23: AJCO87/25, AJCO87/26 & AJC 185/15) and the upstanding earthworks illustrate the complexity of the manorial features that lie within the field to the east of Lead Hall Farm (descriptions taken from scheduling information). On the west side of the field containing the chapel is a large enclosure approximately 50m long which probably contained the manor house (NYM 10763); to its south are at least three smaller enclosures on the same alignment which could have contained ancillary manorial buildings (NYM 10773). On the west side, the enclosure complex is interrupted by the modern track to Lead Hall Farm and by landscaping works. A hollow way approximately 7m wide runs between the smaller enclosures and connects with a larger hollow way over 10m wide, aligned north-south, along the east side of the enclosures (NYM 10774). The latter hollow way appears to join a 9m wide trackway aligned east-west, which may be a carriageway to Lead Hall Farm, possibly also associated with the medieval earthworks. East of the manorial enclosures and the hollow way aligned north-south, are medieval ridge and furrow, aligned east-west (NYM 10775). These are discontinuous and lie to north of the carriageway and another south of the chapel. Between the two areas of ridge and furrow lies the chapel and a large, almost square enclosure with part of another enclosure appended to its south end; both enclosures and the ridge and furrow appear to follow the main hollow way aligned north-south. A further hollow way runs north-south on the east side of the chapel at which point it turns south-east towards a probable water course which may be associated with the water management features in the adjacent field to the west. The chapel itself is surrounded by a small enclosure. The hollow way on the east side of the chapel appears to form the eastern boundary to this distinctive group of earthworks. To the east of this group there are the remains of a dovecote mound and the earthworks of ponds and water courses.

4.5 On the west side of Lead Hall Farm are the earthworks of garden features including a possible prospect mound. To the south-west of the manorial complex are the earthworks of water management features comprising a number of irregular-shaped and interlinked enclosures of different sizes interpreted as fishponds (NYM 10786 & 10787). The ponds lie on either side

of a broad water channel running east to west, water probably being diverted into them at the north-western end of the field from the Cock Beck. A system of leats and sluices, the latter represented by in situ stonework, is well preserved and the morphology of the ponds and the system of leats running into the east-west channel suggests different phases of use. The entire complex of earthworks is extensive and a number of different phases of activity are represented.

- 4.6 Historical documentation provides evidence from the 13th century onwards. Several fines are documented (YRS lxvii) showing an interest in Lead for the Tyas family during the first half of the 13th century. In 1302 Sir William de Rither held at Ryther and Lead one knight's fee (SS xlix, 214), but in 1316 it is Ricardus Tyes who is returned under Lede. By the reigns of Richard II and Henry IV William and Thomas Scargill are documented as holding lands in Lead (Wheater 1882, 141-2). This source of information coupled with the history of the chapel aids in an understanding of the site as a whole.
- 4.7 The *Chapel of St Mary* situated to the south-west of Lead Hall Farm, is a Grade II* Listed Building (SE 43 NE 3/20 :SMR No. NYM 10777 : Pls. 4-6).
- 4.8 The exact foundation date for the chapel is unknown. During excavations in the east end of the Chapel in 1914 part of a limestone hogback was found by Kitson which had been used as a foundation or footing stone in the centre of the east wall of the chancel (YAJ 1915, 209 : SMR No. NYM 10779). On architectural grounds the chapel appears to be of 12th century date with 13th and 14th century additions. In the floor towards the east end of the chapel are five grave slabs (Pl. 6), three bearing the Tyas shield (a fess in chief three mallets sinisterways in bend). Two of these grave stones cover the grave of Sir Baldwin Teutonicus (the Tyas family name derivation from the Latin Teutonic) who was living at Lead in 1219 and 1235 and his wife Margery.
- 4.9 A will proven at York on the 17th of October 1421 for Johanna, wife of Thomas Scargill states that her body was to be buried in the choir of the Chapel of the Blessed Mary of Lede, in the parish of the church of All Saints,

Ryther (S.S. iv, 402). She also bequeathed to the fabric of the chapel a grey fur and a red cloak (ibid). Her husband, Thomas Skargill of Lede in a will dated the 12th of March, 1432, proven 1st of February, 1433 says to be buried where God shall dispose and bequeathed “to the fabric of the Chapel of Lede 20s”. He also bequeathed 14 marks to two suitable and estimable chaplains to celebrate divine service at Leade for a whole year for the health of his soul &c (T.S. xxiv, 304).

- 4.10 The structure, constructed of Huddleston limestone, currently measures 10.25m by 4.82m, however excavations in 1934 located the foundations of a rectangular choir/chancel extending the original structure to the east by a further 6.94 x 4.82m. During this phase of excavation quantities of human bone (a skeleton of an old man) and the remains of two stone coffins (A & B) were recorded. In addition a large grave cover (H) and associated human remains were located as well as two fragmentary grave covers (E & F - England 1935, 321 : NYM 10780-82). The excavations illustrated the presence of a choir/chancel, which had been demolished at an unknown date, possibly to escape repair bills.
- 4.11 John Leland visited Lead in c. 1540
“Cock Beck springeth west of it” (Aberford)” and so runneth through it and thence, by much turning to Lead, a hamlet where Skargill had a fair manor place of timber. Skargill, late knight, ...” (YAJ 10, 243). There is no mention of the chapel.
- 4.12 In 1596 it is recorded in Dugdale’s Visitation of Yorkshire that “the Chappell of leade is in utter Ruyne and decaye. Mr Vavasor forasmuch as upon hearing of this matter it appeareth that it was a chapel of ease for one Scargill a knight that sometimes dwelt there whose lands since came to Mr Vavasor who now dwelleth there and repaireth to another church to divine service and forasmuch also as it appeareth that in that chapel there was two chantries which are dissolved & that since primo Edw. [I Edward VI] ther was no service done ther (Clay, ii, 227).

- 4.13 The Parliamentary Survey of 1650 recommended that with only thirty shillings per annum for maintenance that the chapel was dissolved. In 1674 a complaint was lodged over the failure to choose chapel wardens. Similar complaints are recorded in 1684 & 1693 (York Visitation Book : Kirk 1960).
- 4.14 During the 17th and 18th centuries the chapel was still owned by the Vavasours and it is suggested that as the main residence of this family was at Hazelwood, the manor house and chapel were experiencing periods of dereliction; whereas the site of the chapel is known, the location of the Old Hall is more problematic.
- 4.15 Cartographic evidence unfortunately sheds little light on the location and ground plan of the Old Hall.
- 4.16 There is no Enclosure Award for the parish of Ryther.
- 4.17 The Tithe Award records that the site was owned by Edward Marmaduke Vavasour Baronet, the occupier was John Halliley. The parcel of land (No. 210) covering 900 acres (565 acres arable, 300 meadow and pasture and 35 woodland) had rent charged at £1, 18s, 8p and it is recorded that the whole rent charge was with the consent of the rector as a penalty apportioned in this close.
- 4.18 The Tithe Award and accompanying plan dated February 1845 (Fig. 3 : BI TA 428S) shows two long parallel rectangular buildings aligned north south with an east west rectangular building to the south. A smaller building is shown along the northern side of this arrangement. To the south-east of the main complex is a small rectangular building. This group of buildings is entitled Lead Hall.
- 4.19 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Sheet 204 : Fig. 4) shows the buildings in greater detail. In addition to the 1845 arrangement there is a building attached to the western side of the range and also a small rectangular unit on the eastern side. Again this group of buildings is titled Lead Hall.

- 4.20 An account dated January 30th, 1874 (Glynne 1922, 293) records that “The chapel seems to have always been domestic, and probably belonging to the neighbouring ancient mansion”. This report suggests that a structure associated with the hall was still visible in this year.
- 4.21 Bogg’s travels at the end of the 19th/very early 20th century brought him to Lead where he commented “A mile further down the vale is the little Church of Lead, or Lede erected in the thirteenth century as a private chapel to Lead Hall : in by gone days a place of some importance, now deserted and falling to ruins (Bogg 1904 168 – first printed in 1902).
- 4.22 The 1909 County Series Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) illustrates a different arrangement of buildings. There has been a simplification in the form of the buildings. Sections appear to have been demolished and Lead Hall Farm has been constructed, although the farm is not named and the range of buildings to the south remain titled as Lead Hall. This is also true of the 1952 Ordnance Survey map.
- 4.23 By 1952 there has been a reduction in the size of the east west aligned building adjacent to Cock Beck, the small rectangular building on the western side of the farm buildings has been demolished and a new building constructed along the northern side of the range (Fig. 6).
- 4.24 The 1965 Ordnance Survey map shows the inconsistencies of the earlier smaller scaled versions. However, by this edition there is no mention of Lead Hall (Fig. 7).
- 4.25 Finally the 1987 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 8) shows a similar arrangement to that recorded in 1965.

5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were

1. To collate available archaeological and historical information to determine as far as reasonably possible from existing documentary, cartographic and photographic sources the nature of the archaeological resource within the application site and any changes in land use through time.
2. to determine by means of trial trenching, the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the development proposals.
3. to prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications, if, any of the proposed development.
4. to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum

6. Methodology

6.1 Evaluation

- 6.1.1 Two areas were subjected to evaluation, totalling 13m² (Fig. 2). Trench1 measured 3m x 2m and Trench 3.5m by 2m. Originally Trench 2 was to be the same size as Trench 1 but it was extended slightly due to the location of a live service trench.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation areas were stripped of topsoil and subsoil in shallow spits by a rear-acting excavator using a toothless blade, under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological deposits, the underlying natural not being reached during this procedure.
- 6.1.3 All subsequent deposits were excavated by hand in stratigraphic sequence.

6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.

6.2 *On-site Recording*

6.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

6.3 *Plans and Sections*

6.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

6.4 *Photographic Record*

6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.

6.5 *Finds*

6.5.1 Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

7. **Excavation Results**

7.1 Evaluation consisted of two evaluation trenches. Trench 1 was located at the area of the proposed sun room extension, north of a recently constructed utility room and east of the farmhouse (Fig. 2 : Pl. 7). Trench 2 was sited within the footprint for the proposed garage to the south of the utility room (Fig. 2 : Pls. 10-14).

7.2. Trench 1

7.2.1 Prior to excavation it was apparent that the land levels to the rear of the farmhouse had been cut away to facilitate the construction of the current dwelling. Trench 1 was sited within the footprint of the proposed new build and also within this area of disturbance (Pl. 7).

7.2.2 Measuring 3m by 2m the evaluation trench was excavated to a depth of 0.20m. Excavation illustrated that the only surviving deposits in this area of the site consisted of a 0.06m deep layer of topsoil (1001), which sealed a layer of frost fractured limestone (1002 : Pl. 8). No finds were recovered from this trench.

7.3 Trench 2

7.3.1 Natural deposits (2009) were encountered at varying depths from the present land surface. At the southern end of Trench 2 1m of deposits were recorded above the natural limestone (Fig. 9 – sections a-b, c-d & e-f) this decreased at the northern end of the trench to 0.8m.

7.3.2 Sealing the natural was a thick deposit of reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (2004), measuring 0.5m in depth, which had been disturbed by a modern service trench (2007).

7.3.3 A uniform deposit of limestone rubble and dark brown clayey silt (2006) representing a levelling deposit associated with landscaping of the garden was recorded respecting the natural topography in this area of the site. Above Deposit 2006 were further levelling deposits (2008, 2002 & 2003). Deposits 2003 and 2008 were re-deposited garden soils, and Deposit 2002 re-deposited material. It would appear that these deposits represent material removed during the construction of the present farm building and/or utility building and reused within the design of the gardens. Finds of animal bone were recovered from Deposit 2002 and modern pottery, and glass from Deposit 2003.

7.3.4 The stratigraphic sequence was completed in Trench 2 by a band of more recent topsoil and turf (2001).

8. Summary & Conclusions

- 8.1 No evidence was recovered for activity associated with the Battle of Towton even though the battle took place some two kilometres to the east. It therefore remains unknown as to the affect of this momentous historical event on the land holdings at Lead. The excavation of Trenches 1 and 2 failed to recover any evidence for earlier activity on this area of the site other than relatively recent landscaping associated with the construction of the current Lead Hall Farm and the new utility buildings. Pottery recovered was all from the first half of the 19th century, earlier than the construction date for Lead Hall Farm and more likely to be directly associated with the farm buildings to the south.
- 8.2 Aerial photographic reconnaissance and the surviving earthworks illustrate the complexity of the site and its importance is confirmed by its protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 8.3 The chapel of St Mary stands as testimony to the importance and influence of the Tyas family and which also featured in the lives of the Scargill family. Unfortunately when the land holdings at Lead passed on to the Vavasour family the chapel suffered and it was not until last century that works were put in to place to restore and care for what is now a Grade II* Listed Building.
- 8.4 There is no doubt that the manorial hall at Lead survived into the 19th century but it is also clear from historical documents that what was a “fair manor place of timber” in the mid 16th century gradually fell into ruin and followed a parallel fate to that of the chapel.

9. References

9.1 *Primary Sources*

North Yorkshire County Council : Sites and Monuments Record

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Local History Section, Central Library, Leeds
Borthwick Institute, York
West Yorkshire Archives Office, Wakefield

Ordnance Survey Maps

Ordnance Survey Sheet 204. First Edition. Scale 6" to 1 mile. 1849

Ordnance Survey Sheet CCIV.12. Scale 25" to 1 mile. 1909

Ordnance Survey Sheet CCIV (204) SE. Scale 6" to 1 mile. 1909

Ordnance Survey Sheet CCIV (204) SE. Scale 6" to 1 mile. 1952

Ordnance Survey Sheet CCV (205) SW. Scale 6" to 1 mile. 1909

Ordnance Survey Sheet CCV (205) SW. Scale 6" to 1 mile. 1952

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Abbreviations

SS Publications of the Surtees Society
YAJ Yorkshire Archaeological Journal

www.imagesofengland.org.uk

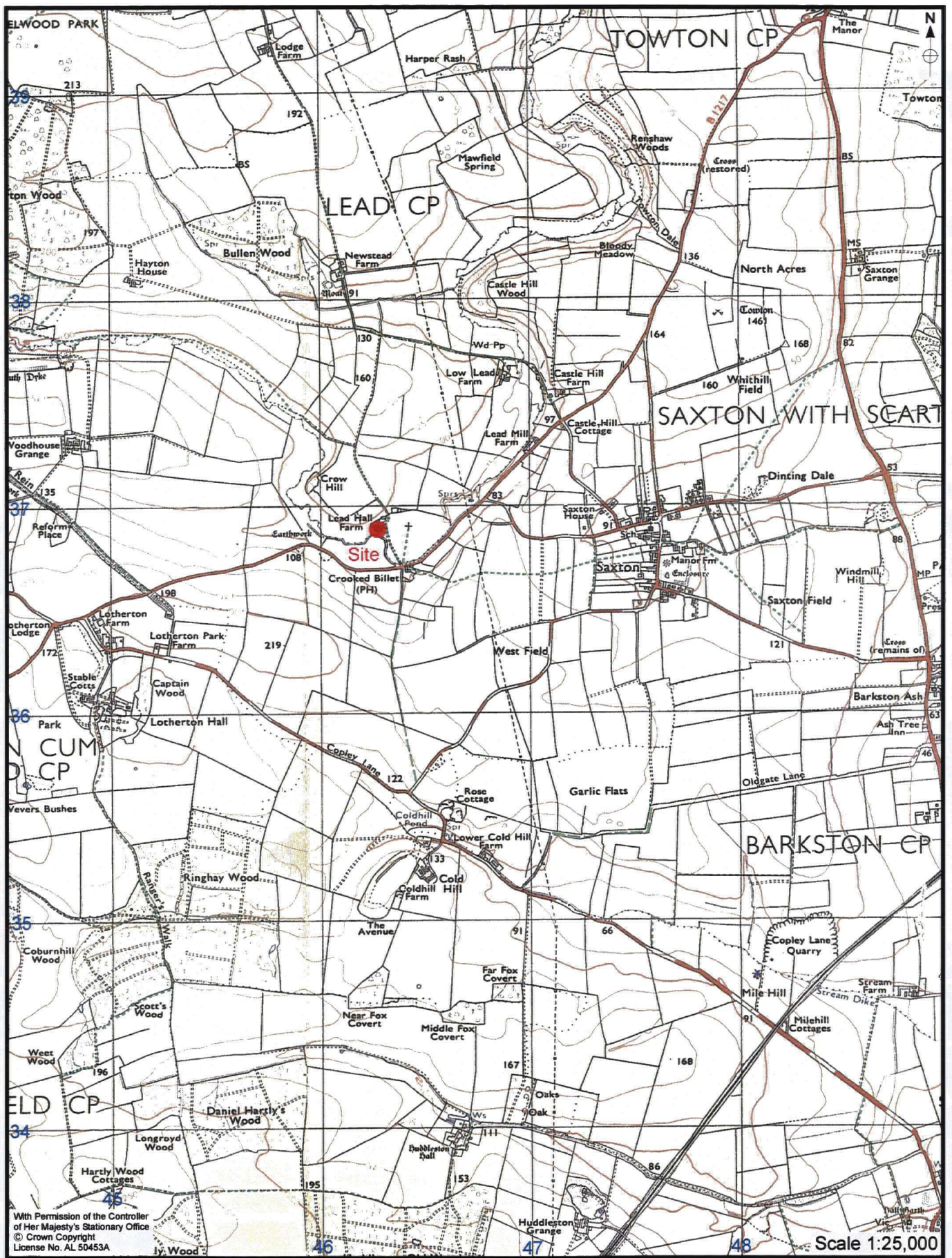


Figure 1. Site Location

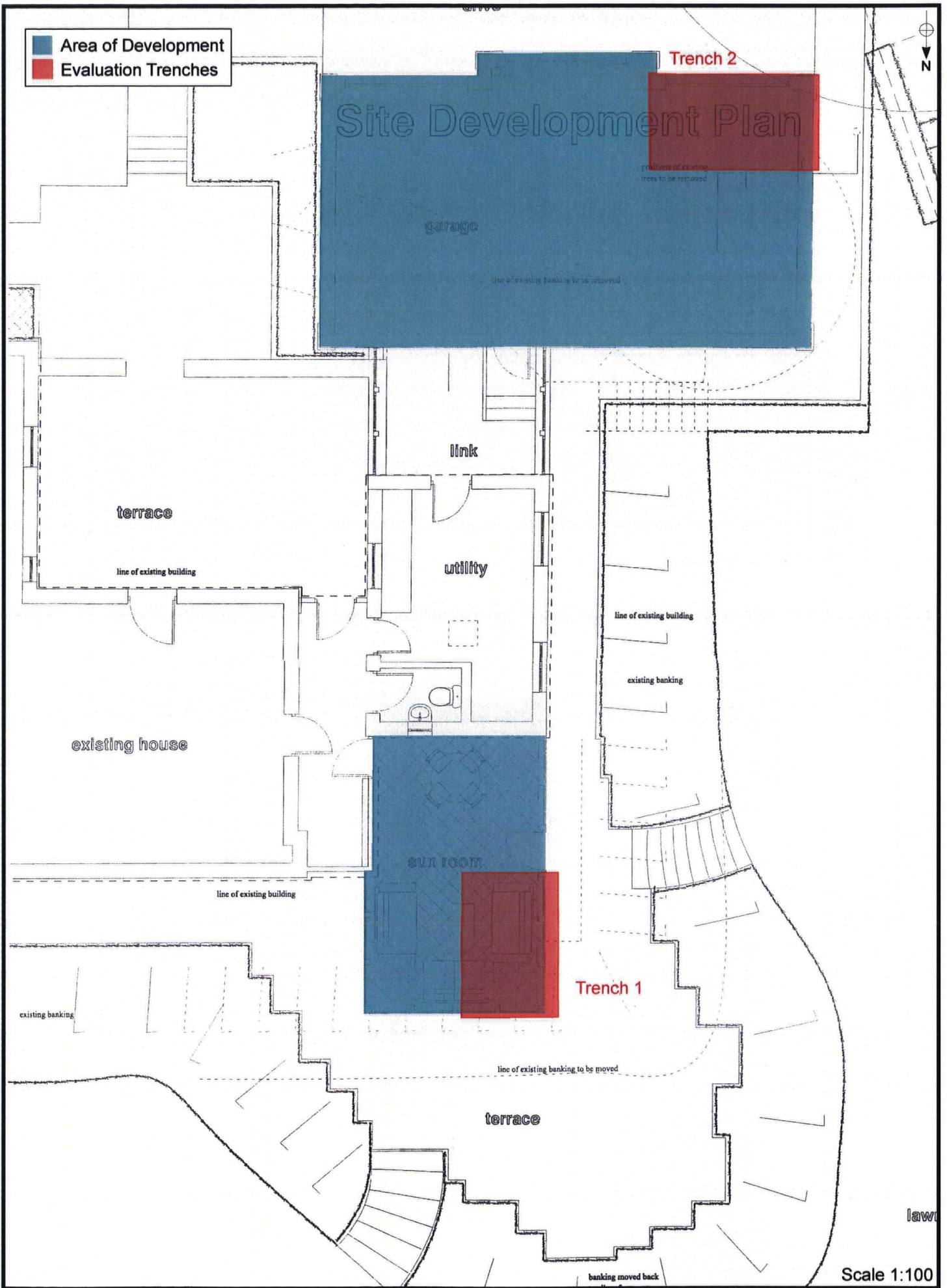


Figure 2. Pre Development Plan and Evaluation Trench Location

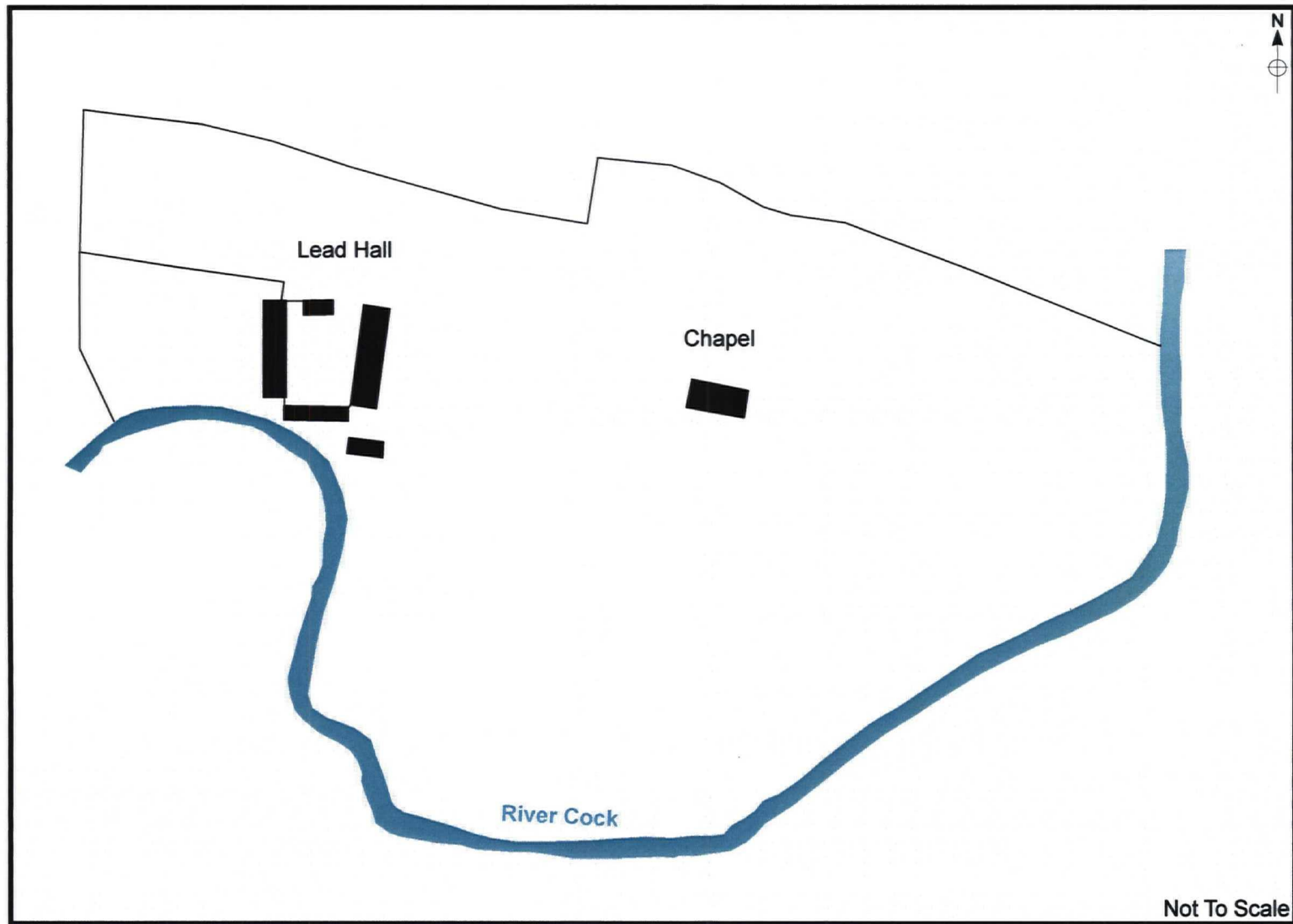


Figure 3. Tithe Award Plan

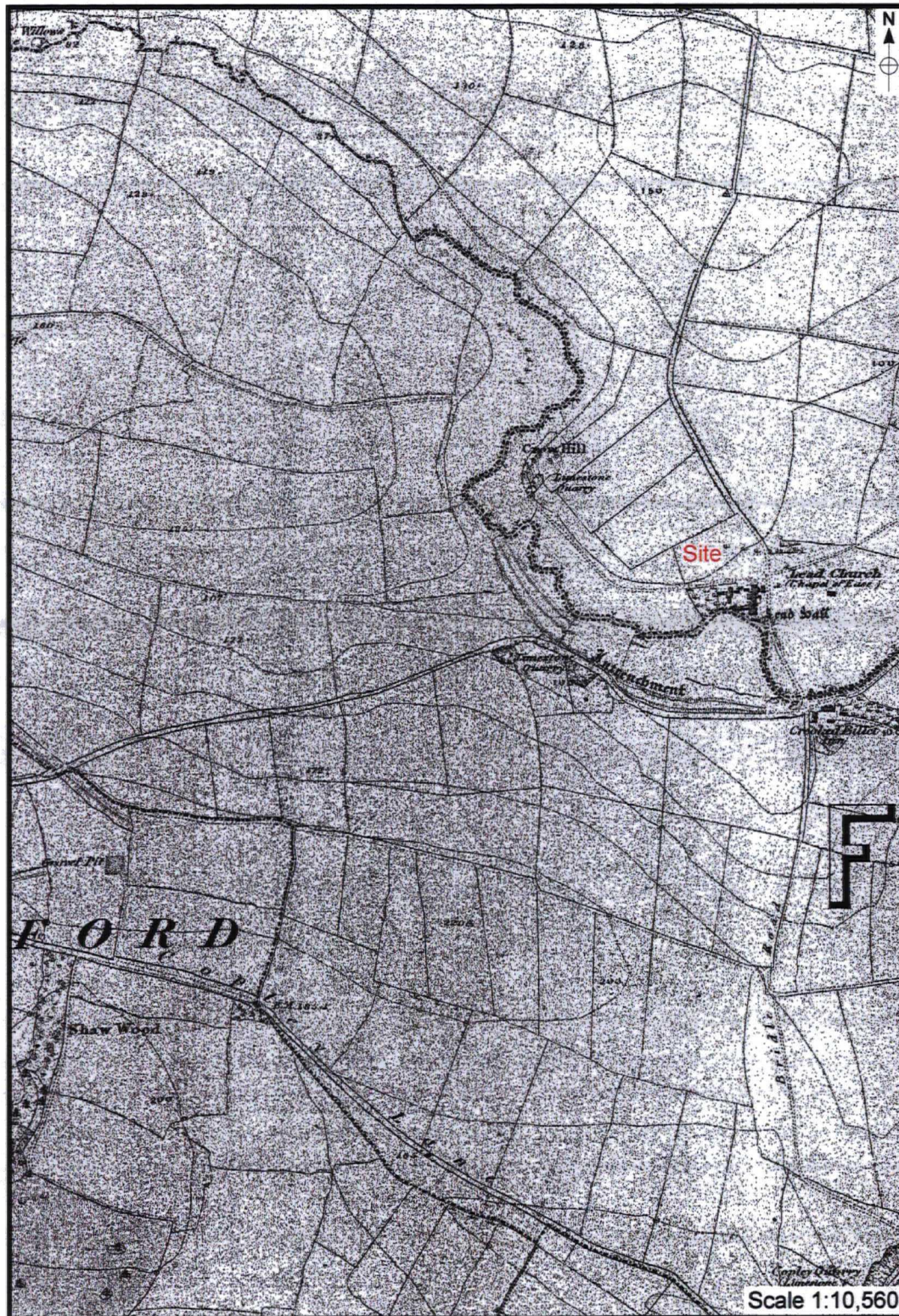


Figure 4. Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1849

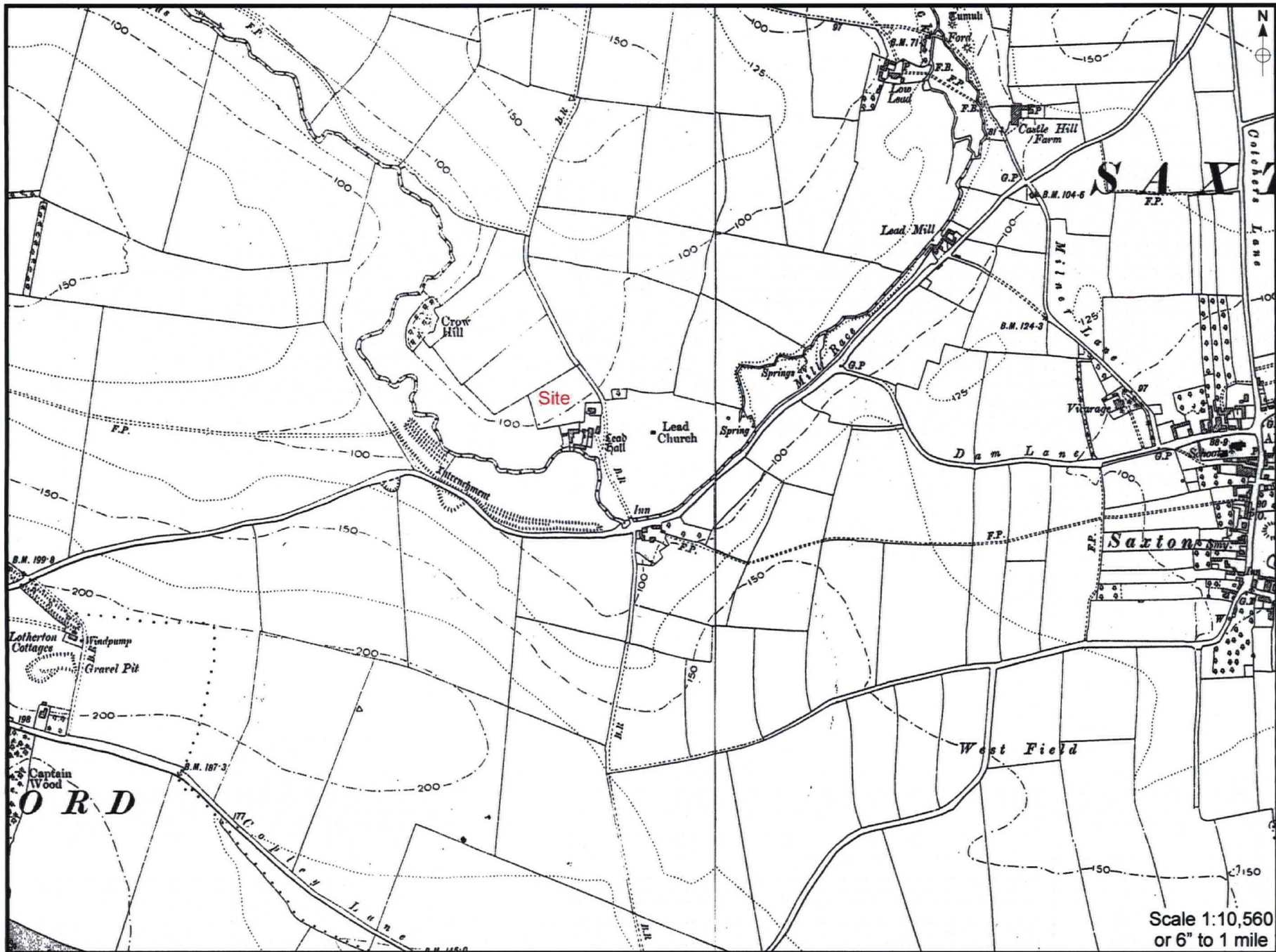


Figure 5. Extract from Ordnance Survey Maps, 1908-1909



Figure 7. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1965

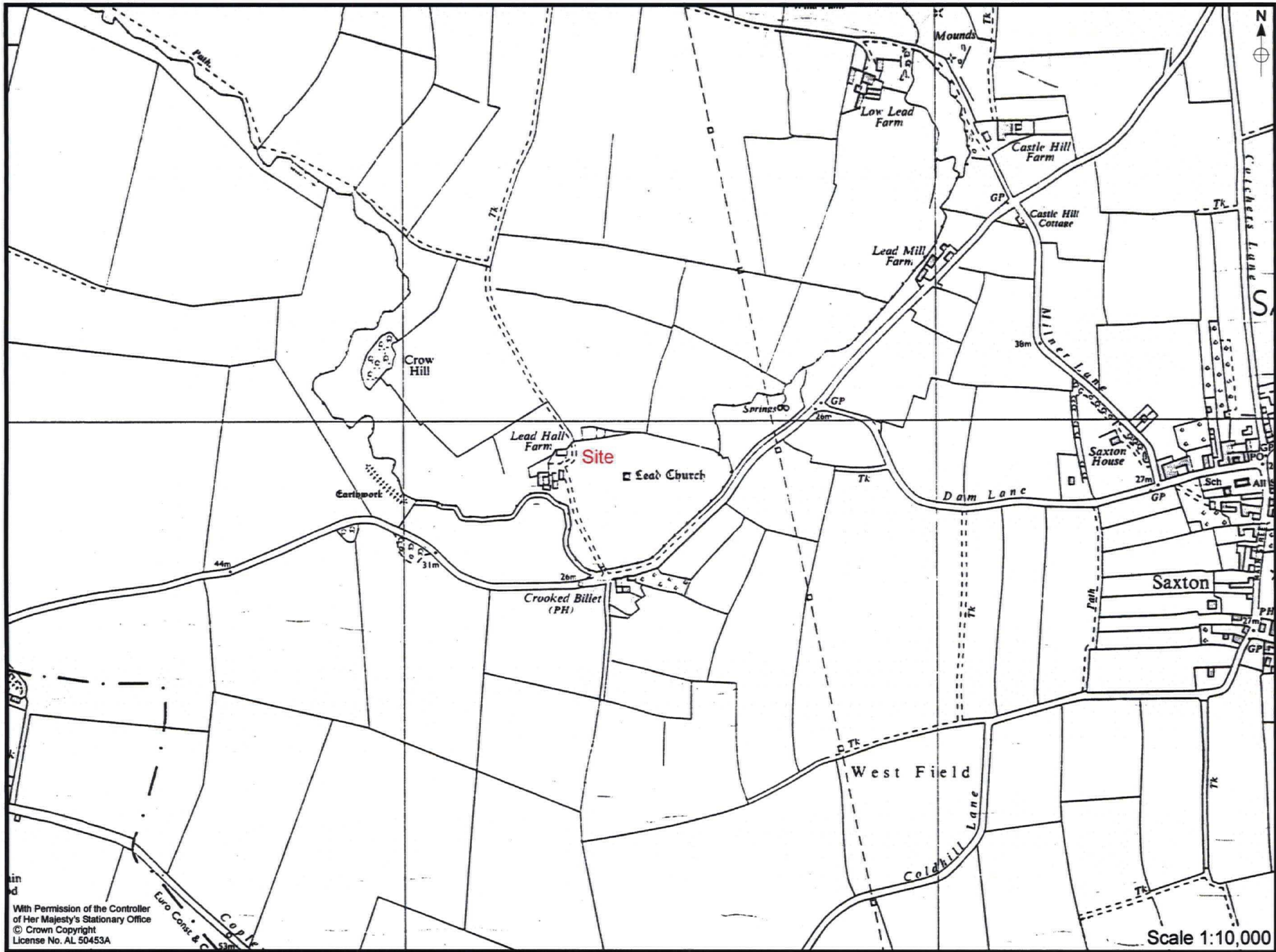


Figure 8. Extract from Ordnance Map, 1987

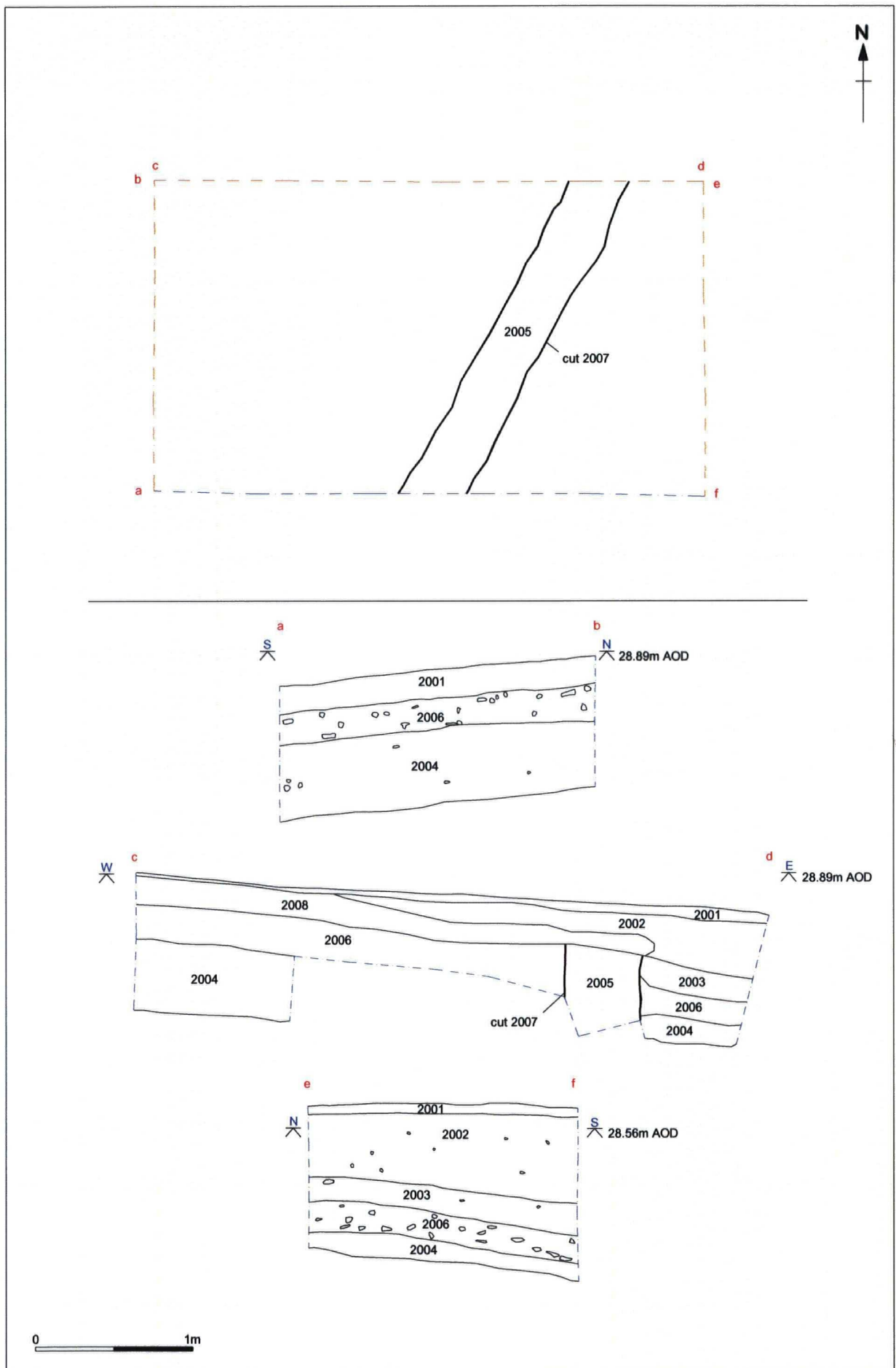


Figure 9. Plan and Sections of Trench 2 Features