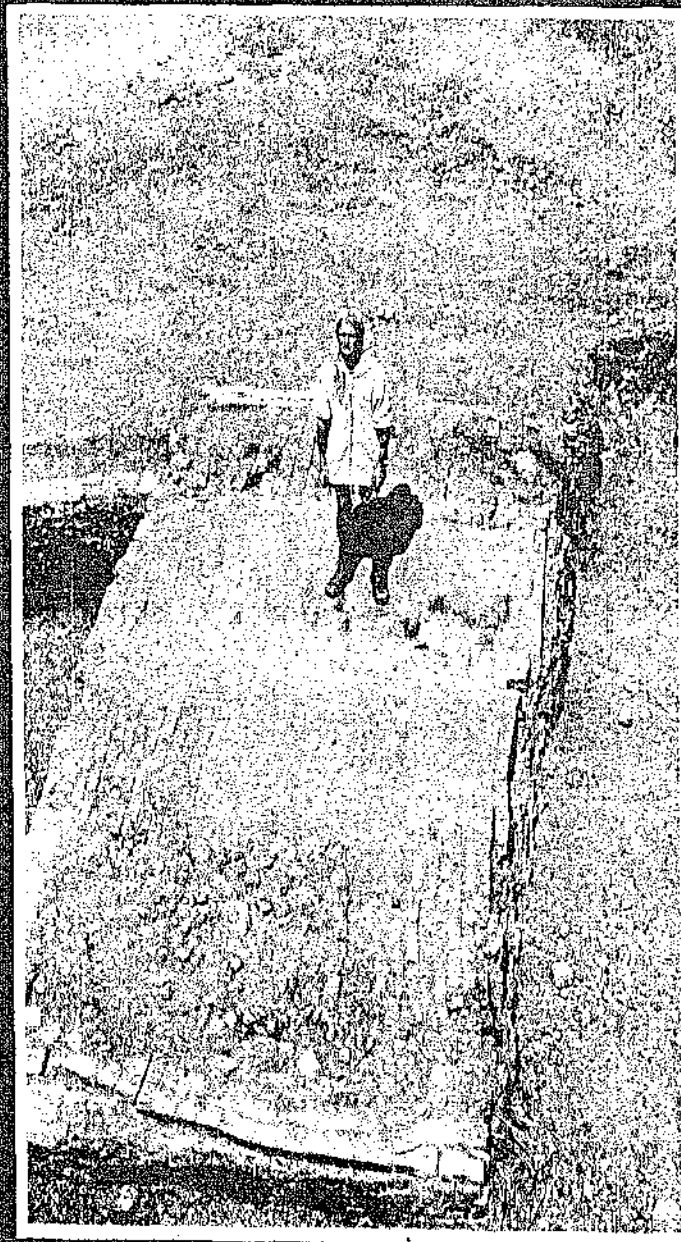
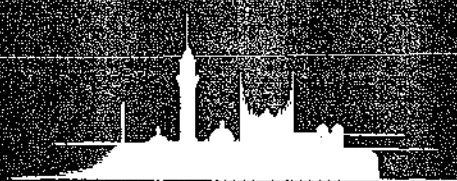


*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*



**Excavation at
Sidenhales Moated Site,
Blythe Valley Park,
Hockley Heath**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 597
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**Excavation at Sidenhales Moated Site,
Blythe Valley Park, Hockley Heath**

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EXCAVATION AT SIDENHALES MOATED SITE, BLYTHE VALLEY PARK, HOCKLEY HEATH

1.0 SUMMARY

This report describes the results of excavation within the environs of Sidenhales Moated Site, Hockley Heath, undertaken on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants for ProLogis Kingspark Developments Ltd. The footprints of three building plots were targeted for open area excavation following an extensive geophysical survey. The main aim of the excavation was to assess geophysical anomalies detected to the north and west of the moat, and to investigate the remains of a 16th-17th-century house and later farm buildings that were standing, until very recently, to the south of the moat platform.

Evidence for the early occupation of the site includes a buried soil, probably relating to the initial clearance and cultivation of the site, predating the excavation of the moat. The moat and a second ditch contemporary with the moat, both with external banks, were probably constructed in the 13th century. The land subsequently returned to cultivation with the reinstatement of ridge and furrow at the western end of the site. Only scanty remains of the house survived demolition; the 20th-century extension alone cuts the subsoil. Part of an 18th-century barn and associated yard surfaces were found to the south of the house.

Anomalies picked up by the geophysical survey were identified as a combination of geological variations in the natural subsoil, modern drainage systems, and ridge and furrow.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of excavations at Sidenhales Moated Site (SMR 3056), Blythe Valley Park, Hockley Heath (NGR SP 1375 7500, Figure 1). Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) undertook the work reported upon here during June-July 1999, on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants for ProLogis Kingspark Developments Ltd.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990), a recommendation for a programme of archaeological work to accompany a major redevelopment scheme of land within the Blythe Valley was made by the SMR Officer for the West Midlands.

Following a desk-based assessment undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC/228/97/001, 1998) the following mitigation strategy was proposed:

- To preserve *in-situ* areas of archaeological significance affected by roads and car parks.
- To excavate the footprints, and a further three metres surrounding the exterior, of three proposed buildings (Figure 2). Open area excavation to include those areas affected by the building of the Innovation Centre (Area A), the Leisure Centre (Area B) and the Day Nursery (Area C).
- A watching brief be applied to other areas of archaeological interest aside from those set out above.

The methodology conforms to an archaeological specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC/228/99/004, 1999).

3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are something in the region of 200 moated sites known within the West Midlands region. This concentration has generally been attributed to the coverage of the area by the Arden Forest: the historical geographer B.K.Roberts noted that the greatest concentrations of moated sites occur within woodland territories where, in general, the late 12th and 13th centuries saw substantial colonising activity taking advantage of the surviving resources of the woodland and waste (Roberts 1978, 50).

In the Arden the construction of moated sites seems to have taken place principally within two contexts: in either what may be termed the more traditional manor/church/village context, usually associated with already established settlement, or, alternatively, in a dispersed pattern associated with colonising homesteads within assarted and reclaimed areas. Furthermore, Roberts (*ibid*) argued that the freer tenurial conditions generally applicable to the newly colonised areas probably find some reflection in the desires and social aspirations of the better classes of colonisers, for example the freemen, franklins, small landowners, lesser knights, and occasionally the upper ranks of the peasantry, who were mainly responsible for digging the majority of the moats in the Arden. It is within this framework that Sidenhales moated homestead was established.

4.0 THE SITE AND ITS SETTING

The site is situated on a slight ridge overlooking the Blythe basin (between 130 and 135 AOD); the Birmingham plateau rises to the north. Although it is situated near to the Blythe, the Great Forest of Arden originally covered the area. It is one of a group of moats within the Upper Blythe Valley, many of which, including Sidenhales, occupy positions along the fringes of the flood plain on both sides of the river. The site originally lay within the parish of Tanworth-in-Arden that was divided into two manors during this period, the River Blythe forming the boundary with Tanworth manor to the south and Monkspath manor to the north. A second moated site, Sydenhams Moat (SMR 3059), lies just 1km to the northeast (this site is also within the proposed development area). A third site, The Mount Moated Enclosure (SMR 3065) is located 1.25km to the north on the opposite side of the Blythe flood plain.

Geologically the area is based on Keuper Marl with pockets of boulder clay and deposits of sand and gravel. This means that although the area seems to be well drained the soils are perfect for the construction of wet moats, and where they do survive today they remain largely waterfilled or marshy despite major changes in land drainage over the years.

The First Edition OS map (25 inches to a mile series, 1888) shows the site with a sub-rectangular platform and the ditch waterfilled on all four sides (Figure 3). A section of the southern arm is in-filled at its eastern end, probably to facilitate the construction of the house that by this point occupies a site to the south of the moat platform. The western arm of the moat extends northwards forming a wide waterfilled spur that may have been used as a fishpond; early records relating to the site include an entry concerning Henry de Sidenhale selling fish from Sidenhale pond in 1317 (VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 169 - Anecd. D. (P.R.O.), A. 9631).

The Tithe map of the parish does not depict the moat but several structures in the vicinity of the house are shown. The Apportionment records two fields immediately adjacent to the farm as being 'Buck House Close' and 'Great Yarn Close'. A buck house is a place for washing flax or linen. It is possible, then, that by the 18th century the spur, originally used as a fish stew, has developed into a pool for the retting of flax. Flax can only be used to make linen after the plant has undergone a series of processes that separates the fibre from the woody part of the plant. Soaking, or retting, the plant helps to loosen the structure of the plant which can then be combed and manually worked (Rogers 1997, 1725).

Several structures are visible on the First Edition OS map: the farmhouse (mentioned above), and four other structures spread around an open area to the south of the house. Several of these structures, A, B, C and D (Figure 3), have been identified as standing on the site until very recently; they are described in more detail in Appendix I of this report. Structures A and B represent the farmhouse and a barn that will be discussed in more detail later in this report (Results, section 6.2). Building C is an early 18th-century barn and Structure D a large 19th-century barn.

5.0 METHOD

Topsoil was removed by machine to the level of any undisturbed archaeological deposits or the natural subsoil. The areas were then recorded and a sample of all archaeological deposits was excavated by hand to characterise and date them. Excavation was carried out by qualified field archaeologists from Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit and several closely supervised trainees. The site was recorded using *pro-forma* record sheets complemented with scale drawings. A complete photographic record was maintained and finds were kept and processed.

None of the areas could be opened up according to the full specification (Figure 4). In Area A a septic tank was left *in situ* with a surrounding baulk, and it was deemed unnecessary to excavate the extra 3m around the footprint of the building along the

eastern side of the Innovation Centre due to the presence of a contaminated dump (1001). The edge of excavation in Area B had to be doglegged around oak trees and their rootballs and canopies. Area C could not be extended the extra 3m to the west due to the construction of a new footpath that had already been laid, and the area could not be completed to the east because of the presence of oak trees.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Summary of results from the geophysical survey

Two resistance surveys were undertaken in the vicinity of the moat (see figure 2). Survey 1 focused on the moat platform itself (Area 1) and the land immediately to the west (Area 2) and east (Area 3) of the northern extension of the moat (GSB Prospection 1998a). Survey 2 radiated out from the site, expanding northwards (Area 4) and to the west (Area 5) (GSB Prospection 1998b). The areas pertinent to open area excavation are principally Areas 2 and 3.

A number of high resistance anomalies within Area 3 were suggestive of building remains. Two linear anomalies on a roughly north-south alignment were identified as being of possible archaeological significance in Area 2, as well as probable ploughing trends on a roughly east-west orientation.

6.2 Area A (Figure 5)

Area A is the site of the Innovation Centre, and until very recently was occupied by the house and outbuildings associated with a working farm. The farmhouse, a listed building (SMR 195), burnt down in September 1997 and was subsequently demolished. A barn and pigsties situated southeast of the house were demolished ahead of the start of excavation.

Phase 1: 13th Century

Buried soils

The earliest phase in Area A is represented by a grey charcoal flecked sandy silt (1015), c. 0.25m in depth, interpreted as a buried soil. Fragments of medieval tile, 13th-14th-century cooking pot and a lead merchant's weight (SF1, Appendix III, Figure 8) were the only finds recovered. The deposit lay over the whole of the western part of the area except where truncated by the foundations of the farmhouse (Structure 2) and its associated manholes, and a modern pit (F122). This layer directly overlay the natural subsoil (1002).

The external bank of the moat (F140; Figure 6) sealed the buried soil (1015). Similarly a very slight bank along the northern edge of ditch F119 caps the deposit. Between these two positive features a second buried soil (1060) had built up. This horizon has an undulating surface and must have been ridge and furrow originally. This sequence is masked by the modern topsoil (1000).

Ditch (F119)

Ditch F119 had an east-west orientation and was located south of the original line of the moat (Figure 5). It had a wide steep-sided flat-bottomed cut with a slightly stepped profile, c. 1m deep (Figure 6). It is of unknown width due to the modern re-cutting of the ditch (F121) that truncated its southern lip. Upcast from the ditch formed a slight bank along the northern lip of the cut. The ditch was filled with orange sandy silt (1035) that contained tile dating from the medieval period through to the late post-medieval period.

Postholes

A cluster of four postholes, F153, F154, F155, and F156, lay to the north of ditch F119 (Figure 5). They formed an arc, open at the northern side, and may have been structural. They were visible cutting the natural below the buried soil (1015) and may date to Phase 1, although no dating evidence was recovered.

Phase 2: 16th-17th Century

From architectural and documentary sources, it is clear that Sidenhales House was established immediately to the south of the moat in the 16th century. However, later activity, most significantly the demolition of the house, has erased almost all archaeological evidence for this period with the exception of a substantial assemblage of 17th-century pottery (Appendix IV) found in the construction trench for a later agricultural building (Structure 3).

Phase 3: 18th-19th Century

Barn (Structure 1)

The partial remains of the foundations of an 18th-century barn lay in the southeast sector of the site (Structure 1; Figure 5). The barn must have been severely truncated at its eastern end during the demolition process; no physical remains were found and this area was subsequently machine excavated due to the contamination of the deposit (1001). The foundations of the north and south walls (F101 and F100 respectively) of the barn remained *in situ*. They had stepped brick footings (Figure 7a) and were bonded with the western elevation (F102). The western elevation, 5.1m wide, must have provided access to the barn as a brick step forms a slight external lip at the entrance. A dump of dirty yellow clay, c. 0.4m thick, provided levelling for the internal floor surface. Part of the original floor, consisting of patches of very abraded prefabricated brick cobbles and natural stone cobbles (1032), was visible along the southern side of the barn. A series of postholes in the eastern part of the building (F141, F142, F143, F144, F145, and F147) is suggestive of some kind of internal divisions that were later discarded.

Garden Wall (F107)

Sometime just after the construction of the barn a brick wall that runs westwards from the northwest corner of Structure 1 was built. This may have been to separate the domestic space around the house from the fannyard and agricultural area.

Extension to Structure 1

In the 19th-century the barn was extended, to 6.6m wide, with the addition of an extra aisle on the northern side. There do not appear to have been any access points directly linking the barn proper with the extension. Walls F103 and F108 make up this extension. The extension also incorporated the eastern butt end of the garden wall (F107) into its western elevation. The brick floor of the extension (1009) was made from engineering bricks that sat on a levelling layer (1010). The brick floor (1005) of the 18th-century barn was also replaced during this period. It was composed of prefabricated loaf-shaped brick cobbles.

House (Structure 2)

There was little evidence of the structure or layout of the house on the ground. A sudden rise in the natural subsoil occurred where the late medieval and 18th-century part of the house stood, but no structural remains survived. The layout of the 20th-century extension to the west was discernible from wall footings and a cellar that remained *in-situ*. However, the original outline of the house can be reconstructed from the pattern of services that surrounded it (Figure 5).

Farm Building (Structure 3)

This building, only the partial foundations of which survived, was made of several brick piers. It was open sided to the north with internal partitions (Figure 5), and was constructed from red clamped bricks. A brick-lined drain incorporated into the southern elevation drained away to the south. The building is likely to have been originally built for livestock, and was most probably a stable or cowshed.

The fill of the construction trenches for the walls (1074) contained a substantial assemblage of residual 17th-century pottery, together with medieval and later tile. Other finds included a nail, a single dog metapodial and a fragment of a bone lace-making bobbin (SF 2, Appendix III, Figure 8). Originally 19th-century in date, the building was still standing when the yard received its first poured concrete surface (1058). The superstructure was subsequently demolished and the whole area levelled and paved some time earlier this century.

Yard surfaces (Figures 5 and 7b)

The earliest identifiable yard surface (1036) was situated west of the barn (Structure 1). It was composed of gravel, small river pebbles, and fragments of brick and tile that had been rammed to form a metalled surface. Within this layer, around the entrance to the barn, was a small area of large river cobbles (1033) that butted against

the step into the barn and the garden wall (F107). Finds from this layer include 3 hand made nails, 2 horseshoe nails, and 3 fragments of chain links.

The remains of a second yard surface (1038), composed of 18th-century clamped-bricks, lay over the earlier surface. The surface was very worn and abraded, and had some 19th-century brick repairs around its edges; the repairs showed little sign of wear. The surface had been cut into a layer, c. 0.1m thick, of compacted ash and clinker (1041) that extended to the south beyond the boundaries of the brick floor. Where the ash and clinker layer was not overlain by the brick surface, fragments of brick and tile have been driven into the top of the deposit to form a better surface. A straight-sided pit (F151), dating to the 19th century, cut this sequence.

A levelling layer (1079) was spread over the second yard surface as a bedding for a second brick floor. This layer produced 30 nails, 6 of which were handmade, 2 tacks, 2 iron washers, and a fragment of copper alloy wire. The second brick yard surface (1037) was made from a mixture of re-used 18th-century and late 19th-century bricks. The later bricks within this surface were part of the actual build of the floor and did not appear to be repairs, although they were generally less degraded than their earlier counterparts.

A drain to the north and a water service trench (F123) to the east cut this 19th-century brick yard surface. The latter trench was irregular in plan and had been backfilled with a mixed charcoal and clinker-rich deposit (1042). The backfill contained a quantity of 18th-19th-century tile, a dump of horseshoes, and an assortment of metal artefacts (see Appendix II). Also present were a cattle horn core and some fragments of industrial slag.

Phase 4: 20th Century

Ditch (F121)

The line of the medieval ditch (F119) was visible as a ditch on the ground until groundworks began on the site. It had been re-cut very shortly before the excavations commenced. The black organic fill (1034) of the re-cut contains polystyrene as well as an assortment of ferrous objects and some animal bone (see Appendix II). The profile of the cut revealed that it was machine-excavated, with an almost vertical northern side where the machine bucket dug in and a gentle slope along the southern edge where the bucket was pulled back and out (Figure 6). It can thus be concluded that the machine was standing on the southern side of the ditch whilst excavating the ditch.

Dumping (1001 and F122) (Figure 5)

Two locations had been used for the dumping of material within Area A. An area under modern pigsties at the east end of the barn (Structure 1) contained bags of 'gone off' cement, as well as batteries and oil and diesel drums. This whole deposit (1001) was machined away due to its contaminated, toxic nature.

The second area of dumping was a machine cut pit (F122) to the west of Structure 3, containing backfill of a more domestic character. The backfill of this large dump (1040), a dark grey silt, produced quantities of pottery as well as brick and tile.

6.3 Area B (Figure 4)

Approximately 0.4m of topsoil (2000) was removed by machine to a depth of 137.5m AOD and 138.3m AOD at the northern and southern ends of the site respectively. Several charcoal-rich features were revealed cutting the natural subsoil at this level; excavation identified them as tree boles.

Postholes

Two postholes at the southern end of Area B (F200 and F201) are most likely to represent a modern fenceline, although no datable artefacts were recovered.

6.4 Area C (Figure 4)

This area was situated on the western edge of the ridge overlooking the Blythe Valley, and was consequently on an incline. Between 0.2m and 0.4m of topsoil (3000) were removed to reveal the natural subsoil (3002), which was reached at a height of 136.0m AOD at the north end and 136.7m AOD at the south. Ridge and furrow was visible in the west facing section of the area; sections were excavated through it where it was visible in plan. No finds were recovered from any of the sections, although medieval tile was present in the topsoil.

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Medieval occupation of the site (Phase 1)

The general trend of moat building in this area suggests a date in the late 13th century for the construction of Sidenhales Moat. Prior to the digging of the moat the site was apparently under some kind of agricultural regime; the presence of early tile in the buried soil (1015) may reflect the process of manuring, although some fragments are quite large. With the digging of the moat, and the creation of the associated bank, a second ditch (F119) was also excavated. The flat-bottomed profile of the ditch suggests that it was part of the water management system of the site. The area of land between the moat and the ditch reverted to agriculture resulting in the creation of ridge and furrow. The house belonging to this period would have been situated on the moat platform.

7.2 16th-17th Century development of the site (Phase 2)

In a survey of the moated sites of Warwickshire, Smyth (1994, p109) noted that many of the sites had been extensively rebuilt and redesigned through all periods of their existence, but most particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries. At Sidenhales some time during the 1500s a section of the southern arm of the moat was backfilled and the

settlement focus was relocated south of the moat with the erection of a new farmhouse, part of Structure 2. These changes may have occurred under John Hugford who owned the manor in 1544, during which period it is referred to as 'Syddenhalles Hall' (VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 171; L and P Hen VIII, xix (2), p.419; Cal. Pat. 1547-8, p.69).

The earliest part of the building, that may have been part timber-framed with a large stone chimney (see Appendix I), subsequently became the eastern wing of the house. The presence of other buildings of this date is suggested by the incorporation of 16th/17th-century structural elements in farm buildings of later date. Barns 1 and 2 (see Appendix I) both have re-used timber trusses incorporated into their superstructures. The Queen post trusses visible in the western gable of Barn 1 and the southern gable of Barn 2 both belong to a building of 16th-century date. This early building was probably dismantled to facilitate growth around the farm yard area.

In the 17th century the manor became the property of one Nathaniel Cookes of Ingon. Then, according to the VCH (VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 171), it is likely to have been sold with the Cookes other property to Aaron Rogers.

7.3 18th-19th Century expansion (Phase 3)

Like many other farms in 18th-century England, Sidenhales farm underwent a period of expansion in the 1700s. It was around this time that the farmhouse had an extra wing added, described as follows in the Victoria County History:

'It is of L-shaped plan, the main part facing south and the east gabled cross-wing projecting in front.... The walls of the house are mainly of later brickwork, but story-posts remain in the north wall. The south-east room has a heavy chamfered ceiling beam and 18th century joists...'

(VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 166).

During the 18th century there is a trend towards the building of ancillary structures on farmsteads as the function of buildings becomes more and more specialised (Brunskill, 1971, 143). At Sidenhales the whole of the farmyard is restructured and formally laid out in the late 18th century. Barns 1 and 2 (see Appendix I) were erected around an ordered yard area, that was itself divided from the domestic area of the farm through the building of a garden wall (F107) between the two.

In 1765 the manor was held by Bridget Prew (VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 171), a descendant of Aaron Rogers (q.v.). From her it passed to her granddaughter and thus into the hands of the Wise family, who held it into the early years of the 19th century. Thus it appears to have been the Wise family who flourished during this period of expansion.

7.4 20th Century additions (Phase 4)

Although there was little evidence of the house on the ground at the time of excavation, a site visit in 1994 by the West Midlands Moated Sites Survey team

recorded that the house had been extended further with the addition of a western wing, and had subsequently become H-plan. The inter-connecting part of the H-plan was the 18th-century extension, and the western wing with its many services and manholes was dated to the 20th century.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although moated sites are so numerous they are still relatively poorly understood. Through excavation it is now apparent that Sidenhales Farm has a long and continuous history of occupation from the 13th century onwards. We cannot be sure who originally settled the site, but by 1317 the *de Sidenhale* family (VCH Warw. Vol. 5, 1949, 169) were in residence. We can assume that they lived in a house on the moat platform itself, farming the surrounding area and breeding fish, either in the moat itself or in the spur off the moat, to sell in the local markets. However, the overall plan of this early occupation of the site remains tantalisingly out of reach and the site, as excavated, merely alludes to this period. However, there remains potential for further investigation should any development be undertaken on the moat platform itself.

Perhaps the moat platform became too small and restrictive for the aspirations of the later occupants of the site. The relocation of the main house to the south of the moat may have been part of a general trend in the English countryside during the 16th century, which saw the erection of specialised farm buildings stimulated by increased livestock and crop surpluses. This, in turn, stimulated reorganisation of the farmstead. For whatever reason, the southern arm of the moat was in-filled and a new house, known as '*Syddenalles Hall*' by 1544, was erected south of the original settlement.

The site continued to develop in this vein through the following centuries, and the continued prosperity of the farm is reflected in the social and economic development of the site. Additions are made to the house and the farm expands with alterations made to existing buildings, more structures being erected, and the central yard being maintained and enlarged. The nature of this development reflects a trend throughout England whereby the yard becomes the central focus of the farm, becoming more and more enclosed as new buildings are added.

What is disappointing about the site is that very little evidence survived concerning the early period of occupation. The presence of tile in the earliest buried soil attests to a building of some importance; normally buildings of that date would have been thatched. Comparative evidence is found at Sydenhams Moat (Smith 1989-90), just 1km to the northeast, where excavation of the platform revealed 'irregular tiled features' in phase IB, of mid 13th-century date. The absence of material from early in the life span of the moat within the excavated areas may in some part be explained by hard landscaping of the site in the 18th and 19th centuries, together with the thoroughness of recent demolition works, but without investigation of the moat platform itself this period may never be fully understood.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Victoria County Histories 1949 *VCH Warw. Vol. 5*

APPENDIX I

Descriptions of standing buildings by Kirsty Nichol, with specialist identifications and interpretation by Steve Litherland.

There was no formal building recording done on any of the standing buildings of the site prior to their demolition. The descriptions below are based upon a very few photographs taken by John Samuels ahead of groundworks (see Figure 3 for their location).

A. The Farmhouse (Plate 1)

This building is difficult to interpret from the photographic evidence as we only have an oblique shot of the north and east-facing elevations, and there are none of the interior detail. The house is multi-phase in character but appears to be largely of 18-19th century brickwork with a 20th-century extension to the west. The presence of the large stone chimney implies a timber-framed building by association. It is difficult to tell if the putative timber framing of the eastern gable may be either part of a central hall with cross-wings at both ends or, alternatively and possibly more likely, the survival of a cross-wing that may have contained kitchens.

B. Barn 1 (Plates 2 and 3)

The barn was originally free standing, with pigsties attached latterly. It is a red clamped-brick structure with a half-hipped clay tile roof that is not original. It is two bays long and two storeys high, open from floor to roof. The western gable has a cart entrance supported by a re-used timber lintel. The entrance has been modified recently. Above the entrance, centrally situated, is wooden slatted ventilation. There does not appear to have been an entrance in the eastern gable, but the build beneath the tie beam of the end roof truss looks to be of a later date.

The roof appears to be re-used from an earlier building. The western most roof truss is pegged and mortised and of a Queen-post type design. The only other photographic record of another roof-truss is the central, internal truss (Plate 3). This has been pegged and mortised but is of a King-strut design with raking supports from the base of the King strut to the principal rafters. The principal rafters only extend to the height of the collar truss and there are two sets of trenced purlins cut into the upper face of the primary rafters.

The King-strut is possibly late 18th to early 19th century in date, whilst the Queen-post truss could be anything up to 150 years earlier. The common rafters are of sawn timber of regular but small scantling to the principal roof timbers, and are recent in date.

The barn has a later 19th century clamped red brick extension along the northern elevation. It is single storey and has two modern entrances at each end of the building. There does not appear to be access from the extension into the barn. The roofline of the original barn is continued to first floor level and it has dentilated eaves.

C. Barn 2 (Plates 4 and 5)

The second barn appears to be similar to Barn 1 in size - two bays long - and shape; it has a half-hipped roof at both ends. It has a cart entrance and weather boarding at the north end. There does not appear to be any openings within the red-clamped walls, but the southern gable wall has centrally placed, slatted ventilation.

The internal roof truss (Plate 5) is of King-post design with raking struts from the King-post to the principal rafters, which meet and provide support at the point where a single pair of purlins is trenched into the principal rafters. The common rafters, although smaller, are not sawn and may be contemporary with the main roof truss.

It is difficult to be sure, given the limited evidence, but it is possible that the roof might be contemporary with a later 18th to early 19th century date for the construction of the barn.

D. Barn 3 (Plates 6 and 7)

The barn is of combination arrangement (Brunskill, 1971, 148); a long low building with a two-storeyed barn at the western end. Both elements of the building have a common red brick build of Flemish bond. They date to the late 19th - early 20th century.

The roof in the long low barn is of King-strut design with raked struts to a single purlin each side of the roof. The timber is regular sawn wood but pegged at the roof trusses; it would have been tiled. The original window openings (now blocked up) have segmentally arched heads made of single course uncut bricks laid on edge. The building also employs a rudimentary diapering effect in the brickwork in the eastern gable end. It is around seven bays in length.

It was probably designed as a cow house due to the lack of large doors; horses need more height and it is too large for pigs. It has regular internal sub divisions (Plate 6), the general arrangement being a single doorway flanked by a pair of windows, for a longitudinal feeding regime (Brunskill, 1971, 155).

The two-storied barn (Plate 7) forms a cross-wing with the western end of the cow shed. It has a large entrance at the bottom, possibly for wagons. Again of common red brick, engineering bricks are used to emphasise the windowsills. It has a plain tiled roof.

Both elements of the building show evidence of later alterations – possibly because of a change of use. However, the building is fairly typical of a Midland farm arrangement.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to John Samuels for his kind loan of the photographs that enabled these identifications.

References

Brunskill, R.W. 1971 *The Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*.

APPENDIX II

The Finds by Kirsty Nichol

All of the finds recovered from the site are catalogued by material; they are sorted by feature and context.

Metalwork

F106 (1016)

5 handmade nails; 1 part of a hinge.

F121 (1034)

The tip of a ploughshare; 11 nails, 3 of which were handmade; 1 S-shaped ?carriage spring; 3 fragments of spur; 2 bolts, one with a nut still attached; 1 bracket; 3 teeth from a machine bucket; 1 chain link; 2 screws; 10 fragments of sheet metal; 1 strip; 1 piece of wire; 2 unidentified objects.

F123 (1042)

2 fragments of lock and mechanism; 16 horseshoes; 4 bolts; 14 nails; 3 pieces of sheet metal; 3 pieces of strip; 1 section of pipe; 1 fragment of bracket; 2 hinge fragments; 7 chain links; 1 stirrup; 1 washer; 1 large nut; 1 unidentified object.

F141 (1061)

3 nails

F143 (1063)

1 unidentified object.

1010

1 nut; 6 pieces of sheet.

1015

Lead weight SF 1 (see appendix III, Figure 8).

1036

3 handmade nails; 2 horseshoe nails; 3 fragments of chain link.

1074

1 nail.

1079

24 nails, 6 of which are handmade; 2 tacks; 2 washers; 1 fragment of copper alloy wire.

Metal Detector Finds

Two buttons one of copper alloy, domed with a cast face, similar to type 1 (Hume 1970, 91) and probably 19th century in date. One made from brass, similar to type 7 (Hume 1970, 91) of mid 19th century date.

Worked Bone

A bone lace making bobbin SF 2 (see Appendix III, Figure 8) was recovered from the fill of the construction trench (1074) of Structure 3.

Clay pipe

A total of 6 fragments of stem was recovered from Contexts 1016, 1061 and 1077. One fragment of stem from 1077 had a spur that dates it to the late 18th century. A fragment of undecorated bowl, from the same context, can be dated to the early 19th century.

Worked Stone

A tapered cylindrical honestone of fine grained micaceous sandstone was recovered from yard surface 1036. At least two of the surfaces of the hone have been used for sharpening. Moore (1978, 62) attributes such sandstone hones to the late 19th – early 20th centuries, although other examples dating to the early 19th century are known.

Glass

A total of 44 sherds of glass was found during the excavation, 11 of which are window glass from contexts 1016, 1042, and 1079. The remainder, vessel glass, comes from two contexts, 1034 and 1036. From context 1034 comes 2 sherds of a modern green glass wine bottle, 2 fragments of 18th century olive green wine bottle with large kicked base, and 1 burnt (warped and sooted) fragment of clear glass vessel. Context 1036 includes 8 sherds from an early 19th century wine bottle with a kicked base, 9cm in diameter; 4 fragments of an olive green pharmaceutical vessel, and 16 pieces from clear glass vessels, 3 from the same vessel that had a squared rim and sloping shoulders.

Slag

In total 15 pieces of slag were excavated from 1042, the fill of a service trench.

References

Hume, Ivor Noel. 1970 *A Guide to the Artifacts of Colonial America*.

Moore, D.T. 1978 'The Petrography and Archaeology of English Honestones',
Journal of Archaeological Science 5, 61-73.

Animal Bone by Kirsty Nichol, with specialist identifications by Andy Hammon

A total of 12 fragments of bone was collected from the site. The standard of preservation was generally good with little exfoliation of the surfaces. None of the bone shows signs of being gnawed, suggestive that they were within their original place of deposition. There are no obvious butchery marks on any of the bones. The bone catalogue is sorted by feature and then context number.

Catalogue

F106 (1016)

Sheep, adult, distal humerus

Sheep/Goat unfused epiphysis of calcaneum (burnt)

Unidentified fragment

F119 (1035)

Cow/Horse rib fragment

F121 (1034)

Cow/Horse rib fragment

Sheep/Goat, adult, proximal end of a metatarsal

Cow, adult, first phalange

Unidentified fragment

F123 (1042)

Cow horn core

1036

Sheep/Goat radius

Sheep/Goat fragment of pelvis

1074

Dog metapodial

APPENDIX III

Small Finds by Lynne Bevan

Small finds consisted of a disc-shaped lead weight (1) and part of a bone lace-bobbin (2).

Lead Weight (Figure 8)

The weight is a pan weight for use with balance scales. It has been damaged at one side and has the remains of a possible raised central 'knop', but any other design detail is now obscured by surface degradation. A 14th-century weight from London, with exactly the same diameter, has a central knop surrounded by elaborate *fleur-de-lys* decoration on one side and four drilled holes on the other (Egan 1998, No. 993, 312-313). This has been interpreted as a possible four shilling standard, an unusual weight, as bulk coin was usually weighed in five shilling batches (*ibid.* 312). The heavier weight of the Siddenhales example (which weighs 12 grams more than the London weight) suggests that this might have been the more common five shilling standard weight, and it is not necessarily of 14th-century date since some undecorated weights (also from London) have been dated from the 12th to 14th centuries (*ibid.* Nos. 981 and 1001).

Lace Bobbin (Figure 8)

Lace-making is a long-lived craft which began in England at some time during the 16th century and declined during the mid-19th with the introduction of machine-made lace (see Hopewell 1994 for discussion). Dating of such a small, undiagnostic fragment is difficult, and the crudeness of the carving does not necessarily imply that it dates to the earlier centuries of the craft. The surface tool marks suggest that it was hand-carved with a 'shut-knife'. Hand-made bobbins were popular courtship gifts but no less functional than the more elaborate machine-turned examples (*ibid.* 21). Thus, the crudeness of the piece is more likely to relate to the economic circumstances of the lace-maker than to chronological factors.

Catalogue

1. Disc-shaped lead weight. Original diameter: 36mm, height: 8mm, weight: 84 grams. Context 1015.
2. Fragment from the bottom of a lace bobbin with a through-drilled bun-shaped terminal for the attachment of beads. Some decorative grooving is visible on the remains of the broken shaft. Length: 38mm, diameter of head: 7mm. Context 1074.

References

Egan, G. 1998 *The Medieval Household. Daily Living from c.1150-c.1450*. Medieval Finds From Excavations in London:6. Museum of London and The Stationery Office, London.

Hopewell, J. 1994 *Pillow Lace and Bobbins*. Shire Publications Ltd.

APPENDIX IV

Pottery and tile assessment by Stephanie Ratkai

Phase 1

Context 1015 – Two rim sherds from medieval cooking pots in coarse sandy fabrics. The fabrics are both commonly found in southern Warwickshire and date to the 13th-14th centuries.

Context 1015 – 25 fragments of flat roof tile. There are no diagnostic sherds but the fabrics are medieval. The roof tile is most likely to have come from a domestic building rather than an agricultural one.

Context 1035 – several flat roof tile fragments ranging in date from medieval to late post-medieval.

Phase 2

Three contexts contain only 17th century pottery. These are:

Context 1061 – 1 sherd of blackware

Context 1077 – 2 coarseware sherds (later 17th century)

Context 1074 – 2 yellow ware sherds from flat wares, one with impressed decoration
4 blackware sherds
20 coarseware sherds from a large storage jar
9 coarseware sherds probably from a pancheon
1 coarseware rim from a pancheon (?mid 17th century)
2 coarseware sherds, fine cream fabric, red slip, black glaze (?late 17th century)

Phase 3

There is one 18th century context:

Context 1016 – 2 cream coarseware sherds

1 orange coarseware sherd

1 slipware flatware, trailed brown decoration on a yellow ground

1 creamware sherd (later 18th century)

1 tortoiseshell ware sherd (later 18th century)

The remaining pottery is made up of coarsewares, stoneware, and factory produced earthenwares, many of which have transfer printed decoration. Most of this pottery looks to be 19th century. The factory produced earthenwares look to be later 19th century or possibly 20th century.

The roof tile from all the contexts, save 1015, is a mixture of medieval – 19th century in date. Most contexts contain a mix from the whole range. The brick fragments look to be 19th century.

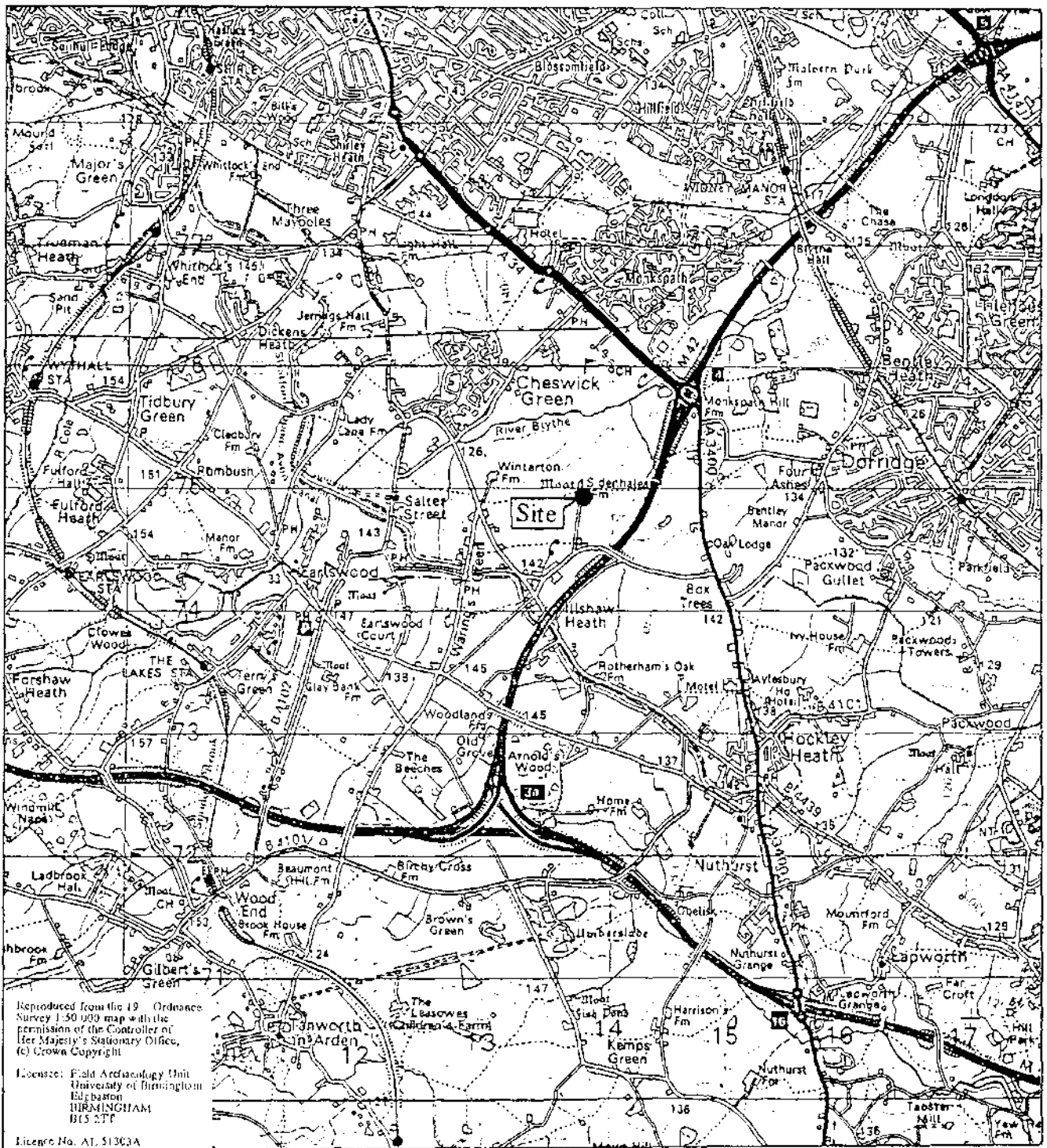


Fig 1

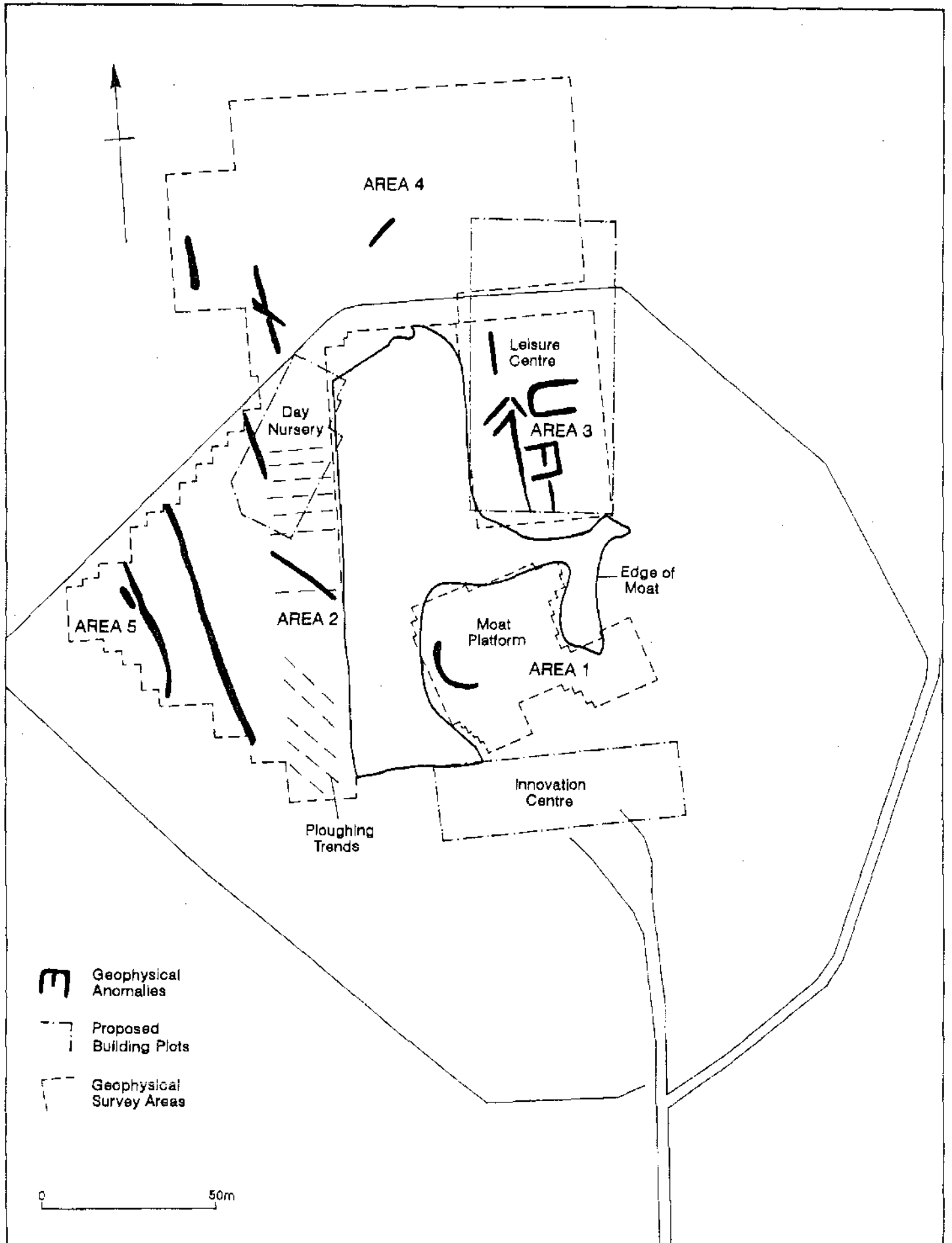


Fig.2

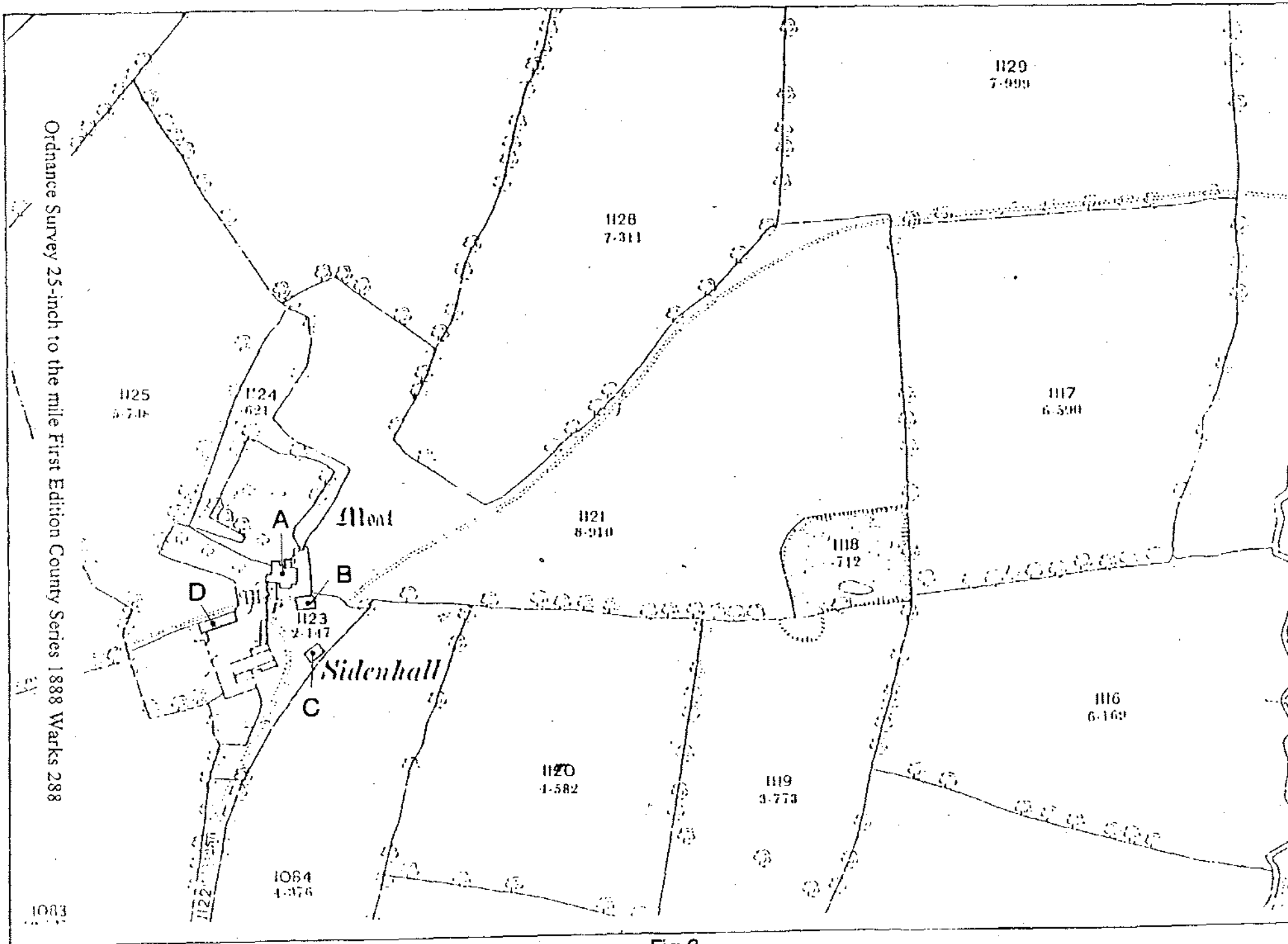


Fig.3

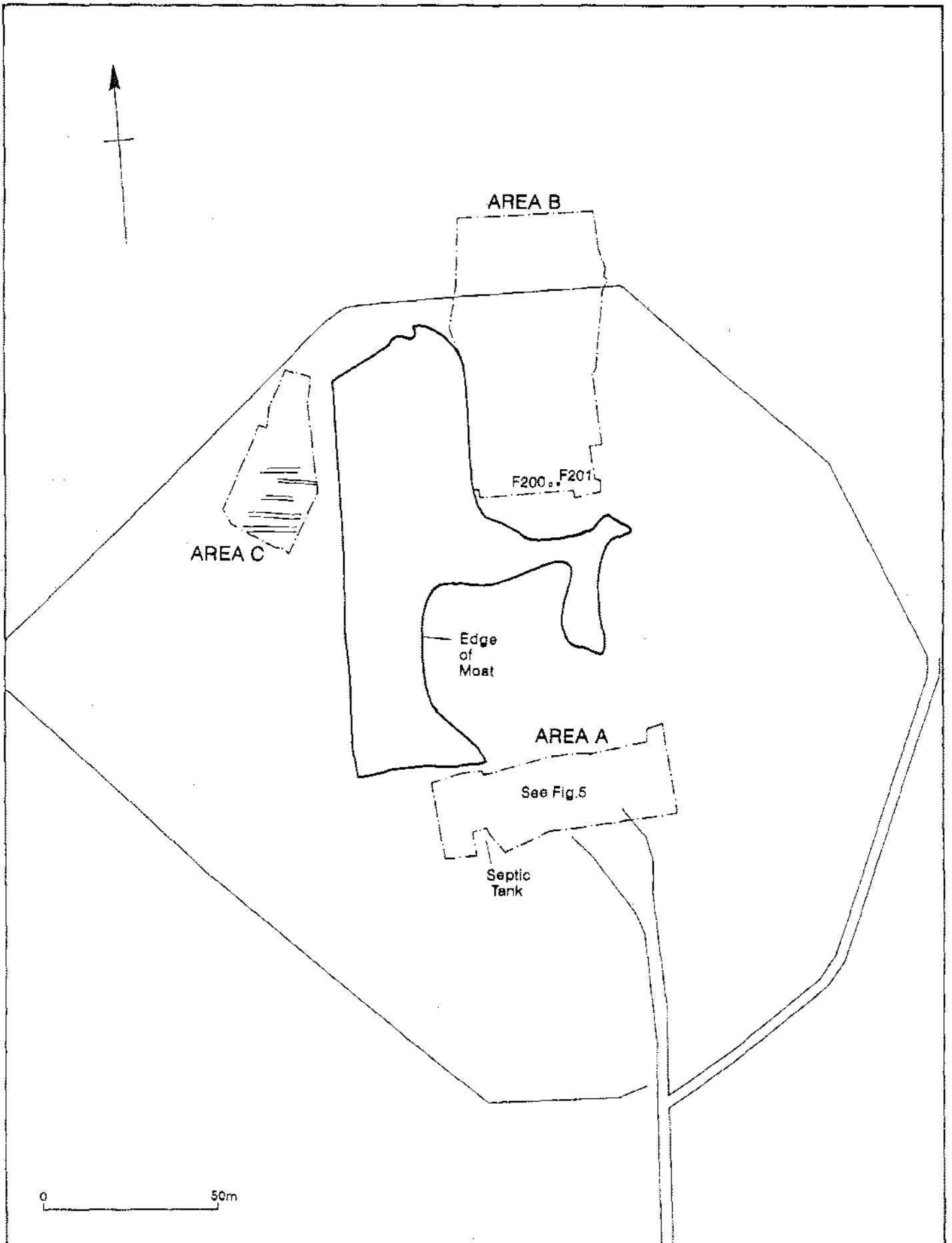


Fig.4

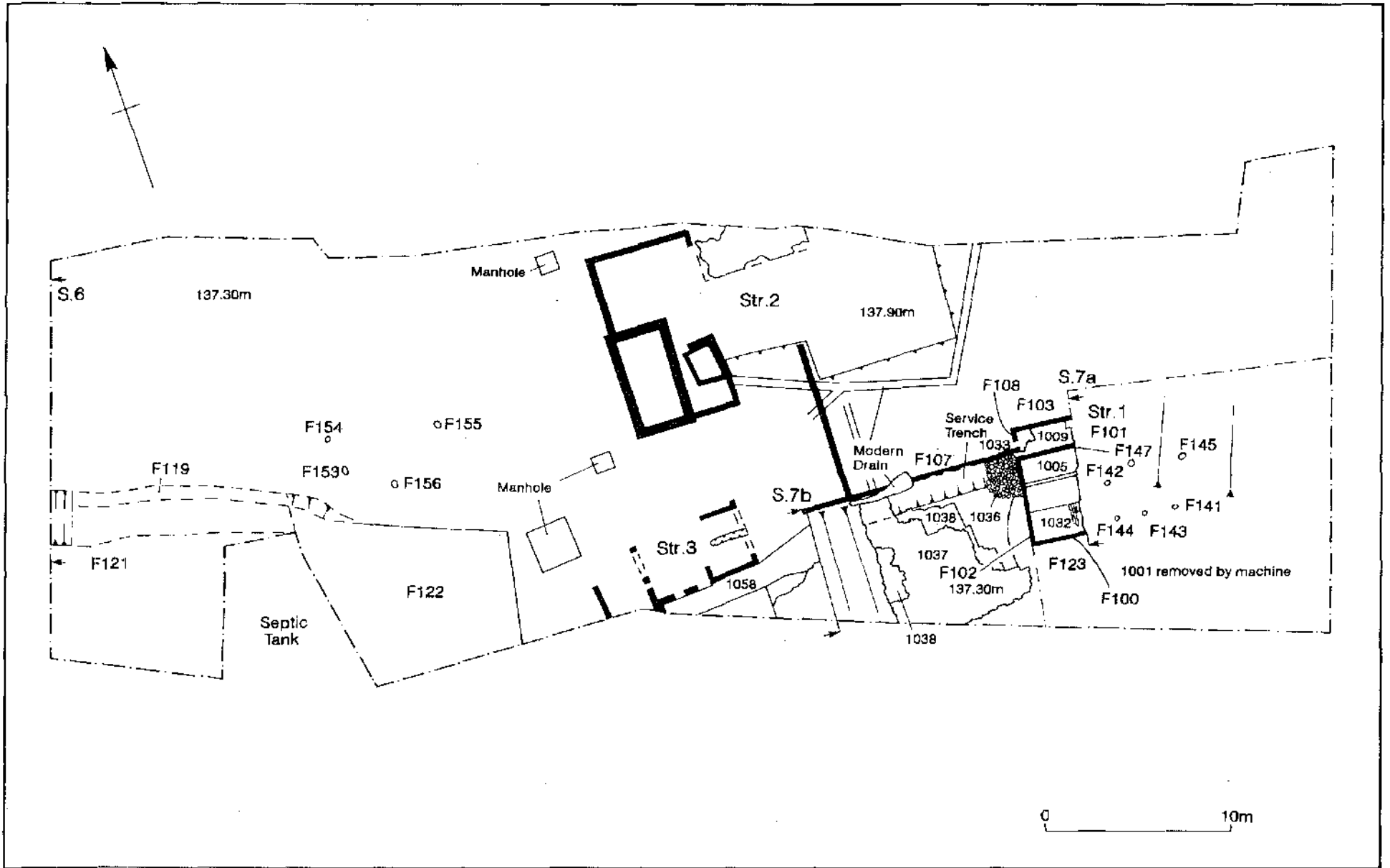


Fig.5

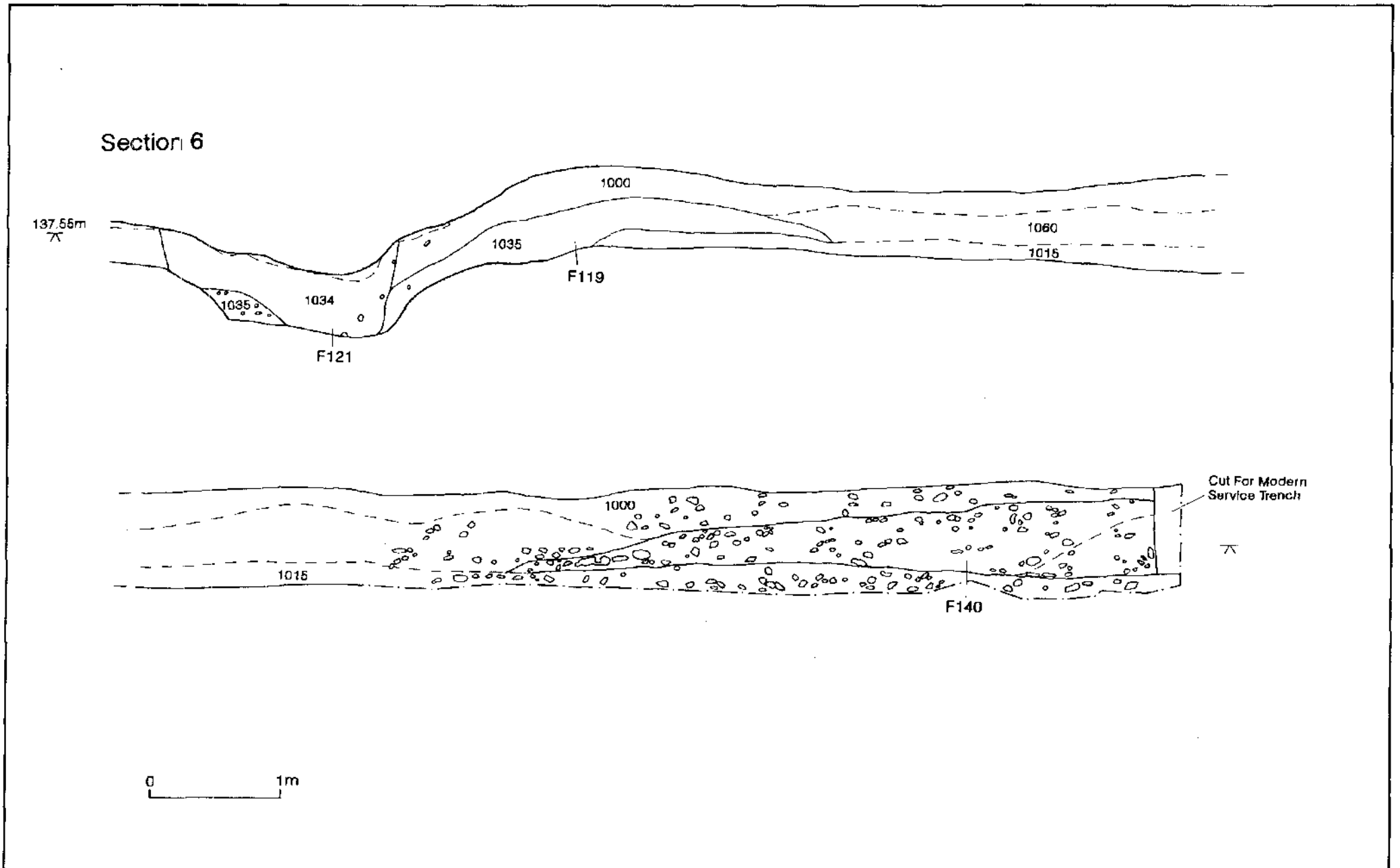
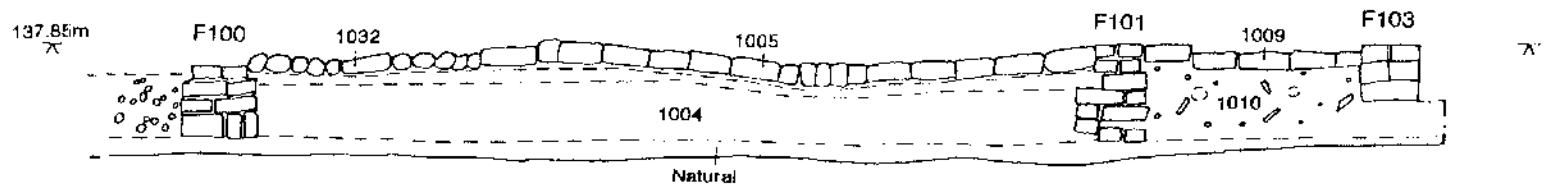


Fig 6

Section 7a



Section 7b

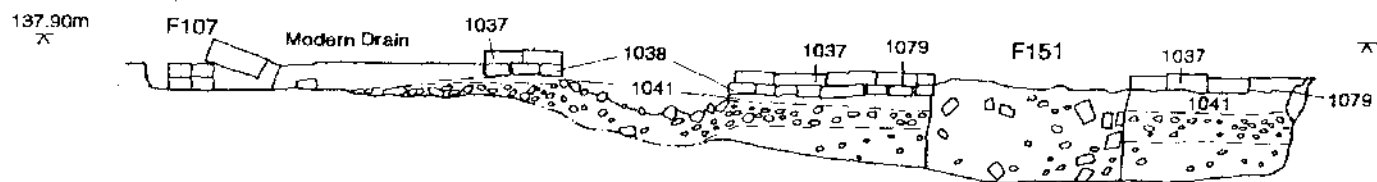
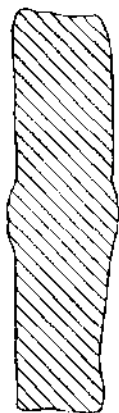
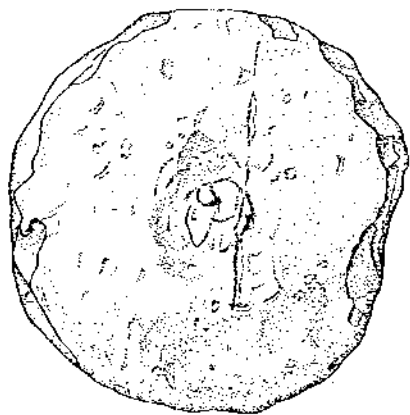
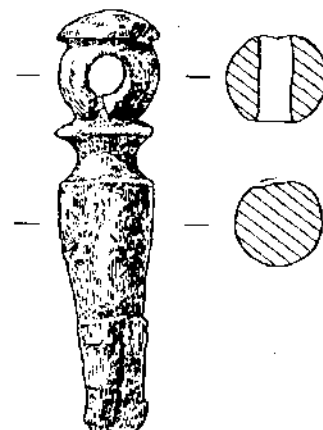
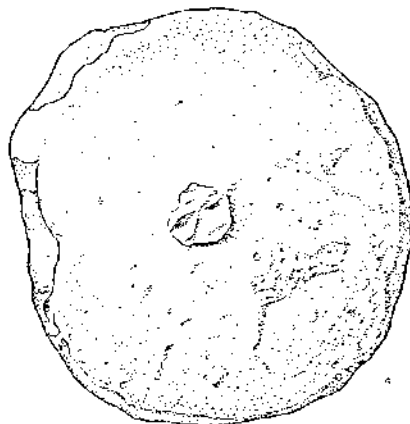


Fig.7



SF1



SF2

0 60mm

Fig. 8

Plate 1 Sidenhales Farmhouse (SMR 192)



Plate 2 Barn 1

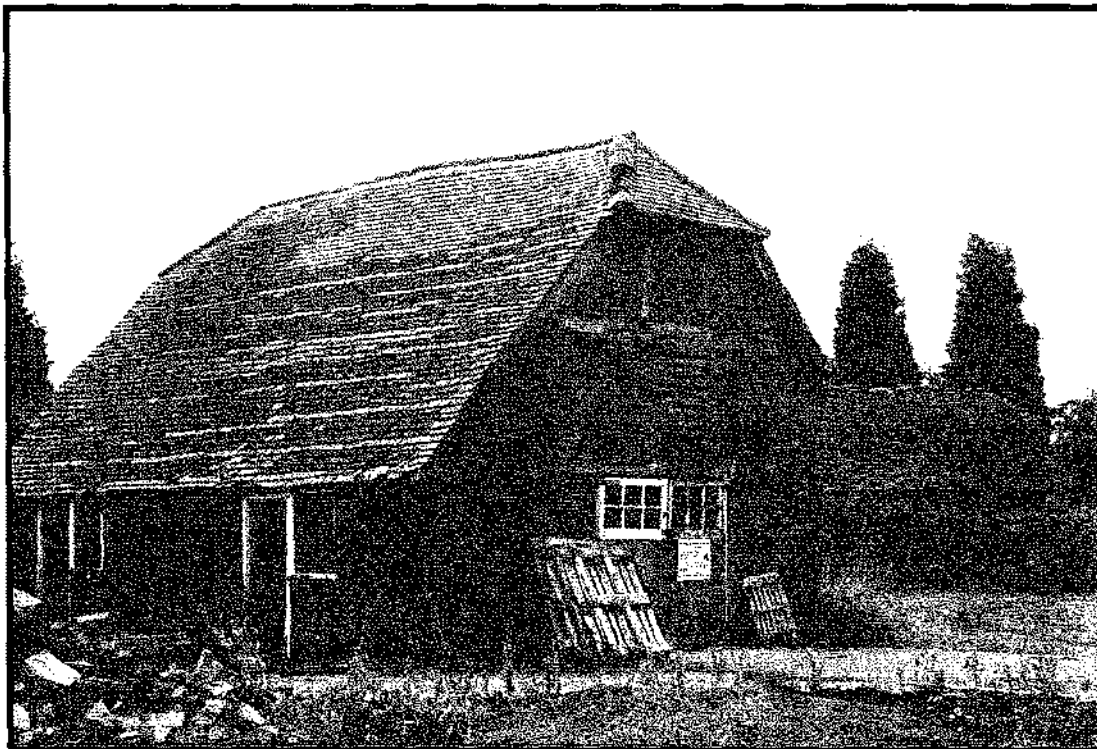


Plate 3 Barn 1, internal roof detail

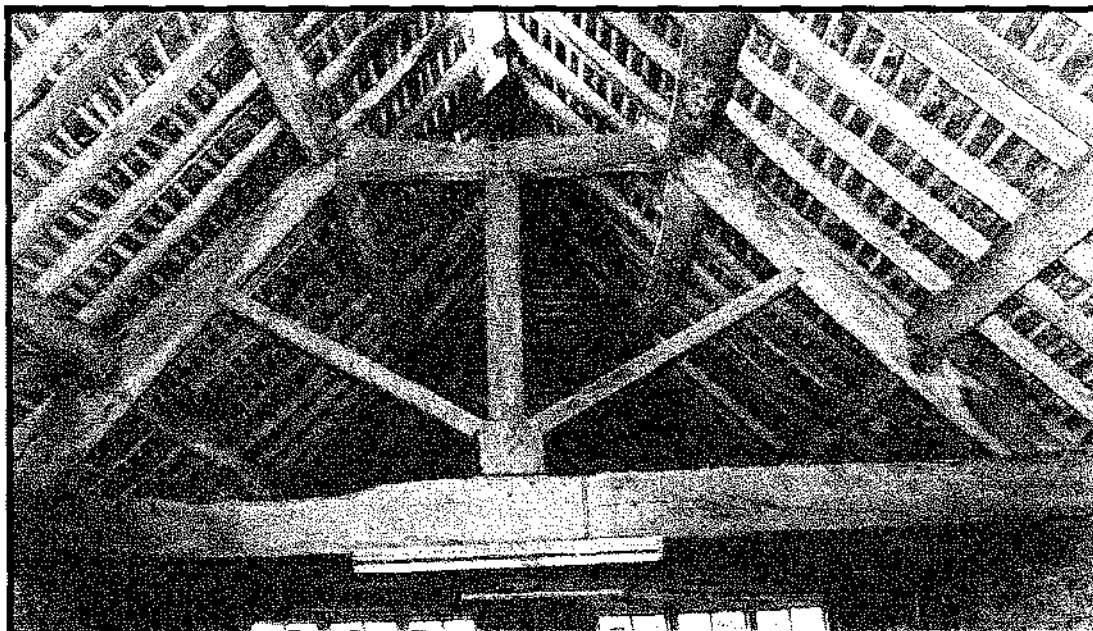


Plate 4 Barn 2



Plate 5 Barn 2, internal roof detail



Plate 6 Barn 3, interior detail of cowhouse



Plate 7 Barn 3, exterior of two storied barn

