

**An Archaeological
Evaluation at Primrose
Hill Farm, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, West
Midlands
2002**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 931
May 2002

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Primrose Hill Farm, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, West Midlands.
2002**

by
M. Duncan
With contributions by S. Ratkai

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux or Iain Ferris (Directors)
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
The University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT
Tel: 0121 414 5513
Fax: 0121 414 5516
E-Mail: BUFAU@bham.ac.uk
Web Address: <http://www.bufau.bham.ac.uk>

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0. Location	2
3.0 Topography and Geology	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
5.0 Aims	3
6.0 Method	3
7.0 Results	4
7.1 <i>Trench 1</i>	4
7.2 <i>Trench 2</i>	4
7.3 <i>Trench 3</i>	5
8.0 The Artefacts	6
8.1 <i>The Pottery by S. Ratkai</i>	6
8.2 <i>Pottery Discussion</i>	6
9.0 Discussion	6
10.0 Recommendations	7
11.0 Acknowledgements	7
12.0 Bibliography	8

Appendix 1 List of Finds

Appendix 2 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location plan

Fig. 2 Trench location plan

Fig. 3 Trench 1 south-west facing section. Trench 2 east-facing section

Fig. 4 Trench 3 east-facing section. Trench 3 south-facing section. Trench 3 plan

List of Plates

Plate 1 General site shot with the standing buildings

Plate 2 Trench 2 general shot

Plate 3 Trench 3 general shot

An Archaeological Evaluation at Primrose Hill Farm, Kings Norton, Birmingham 2002.

Summary

This report details the results of archaeological fieldwork in advance of plans for redevelopment of land at Primrose Hill Farm, Kings Norton, Birmingham, West Midlands (centred on NGR SP 05000 7779). BM3 Architecture, on behalf of B.N. Kaushal and Davis Langdon and Everest, commissioned Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in May 2002.

The site at Primrose Hill Farm consisted of a well preserved 15th-century timber framed building and an associated, equally well preserved 17th-century barn. These are set approximately in the middle of a plot of land that bowls down to the buildings. Work carried out on this site in previous years suggests that the area proposed for redevelopment could be the location of significant archaeological deposits relating to the history of the medieval activity at Primrose Hill Farm. An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to assess the extent and significance of any archaeological deposits and to propose a suitable mitigation strategy for any further development.

Three trial trenches, 10m long and 1.6m wide, were excavated by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision on the property, to the south and east of the structures, in order to investigate a platform recorded to the south of the structures in the 1970s and in order to investigate a deposition of tiles to the east of the structures reported in previous excavations. The trenches were excavated to a natural horizon in order to reveal any archaeological activity. Any archaeological deposits were excavated by hand or left in situ as appropriate and fully recorded.

A buried soil horizon was apparent in two of the trenches to the south and the east of the buildings. This was sealed by an accumulation of levelling material over which lay another buried soil horizon apparent in one of the trenches to the south – east of the buildings. This second buried soil horizon was probably the ground surface at the time of the development of the modern housing estate at present surrounding the site. This was itself then sealed by an accumulation of more dumped material, again probably relating to the construction of the housing estate. A trench to the east of the hall range revealed a sill wall constructed of large sandstone blocks dated to the 15th to 16th century. This was on the same alignment as the hall itself (north-south); this then turned to the west, towards the hall. This wall was heavily truncated by a large ditch on approximately the same alignment and turning at approximately the same place and in the same direction. The fill of this ditch was rich in roof tiles which were roughly contemporaneous with the construction of the hall. The ditch fill was dated by pottery to the mid-16th century to late 17th century, or possibly the early 18th century.

1.0 Introduction

This report details the results of archaeological fieldwork in advance of plans for redevelopment of land at Primrose Hill Farm, Kings Norton, Birmingham, West Midlands (centred on NGR SP 05000 7779). BM3 Architecture, on behalf of B.N. Kaushal and Davis Langdon and Everest, commissioned Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) to carry out an archaeological evaluation in May 2002.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990), a recommendation for a programme of archaeological work to accompany a planning application was made by Birmingham City Council. The archaeological work complied with a brief defining the scope of the required survey, outlined by the Local Planning Authority (Hodder 2002, Appendix 1), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (BUFAU 2002). The excavation was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994).

2.0 Location (Fig. 1)

Primrose Hill Farm (centred on NGR SP 0500 7779) is located to the south of the centre of Kings Norton in the middle of Hawkesley, to the south of Birmingham city centre, close to the boundary between Birmingham and Bromsgrove. The site is bordered to the south and the west by Meadowsweet Avenue and surrounded to the north and the east by homes that are part of a modern housing estate.

The site incorporates two standing buildings, a late 15th-century timber-framed farmhouse consisting of a hall and cross-wing and a 17th-century timber-framed barn (Hodder 2002). These are set in approximately the middle of a plot of land that banks up around the perimeter of the site; this is mainly grassland with some small shrubs.

3.0 Topography and Geology

The site is located near the top of a hill to the south of Kings Norton. Development of the area surrounding the site means that it is difficult to determine whether surrounding land has been built up or scraped down. The solid geology in the area is of Mercia Mudstone with glacial tills overlying this (Jones and Ratkai 1992), which specifically on this site seem to consist of red sandy clay.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Primrose Hill Farm is situated to the south of the historic centre of Kings Norton and may be considered a peripheral settlement to Kings Norton itself. Kings Norton is certainly of Anglo-Saxon origin and is recorded in the Domesday Book as one of the outlying estates of Bromsgrove, and it is suggested that Bromsgrove and King's Norton formed a large estate prior to this, placing the site within the boundary of this

larger estate (Jones and Ratkai 1992). It seems that the establishment of Primrose Hill Farm is most probably connected to the settlement of this tract of land in the medieval period.

Two buildings stand on the site today. These consist of a late 15th-century hall-range, with a hall and cross-wing, which is in a very good state of repair, and an associated, equally-well-preserved, 17th-century barn (Price 1994). Archaeological excavation on this site in the 1970s revealed a house platform to the south of these structures (Hodder 2002) and a concentration of roof tiles to the south of the hall, from which 12th-to-13th-century pottery was recovered (Hodder 2002). Archaeological observations during geotechnical test pitting in 1996 suggested that a buried soil may be preserved below the house platform, which could be related to activity prior to the construction of the house now standing on the site.

5.0 Aims

The aim of the evaluation as laid out in the archaeological brief (Hodder 2002, Appendix 2) was 'to define the nature, extent and significance of archaeological remains on the application site, so that an appropriate mitigation scheme can be devised.' It was also an aim of the evaluation to pay particular attention to any archaeological remains associated with the standing buildings on the site.

6.0 Method

It was proposed that three trenches be excavated on the site, to the east and the south of the existing buildings, in order to investigate archaeological observations from the test pits dug in 1996 and excavations carried out in the 1970s. Trial Trench 3 was changed in orientation from the original proposed location due to the nature of the ground conditions. Services encountered were not excavated, and some of the trenches were stepped due to their depth, in order to comply with health and safety guidelines.

The trenches were excavated by machine, under direct archaeological supervision, down to the natural subsoil or the upper surface of any significant archaeological horizon. The trenches were then cleaned by hand. All significant archaeological deposits encountered were excavated by hand or left *in situ*, as appropriate, and recorded on *pro-forma* record cards, supplemented by scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Where no archaeological deposits were identified, the stratigraphy was recorded and photographed. Finds were retained by context and suitably qualified staff carried out preliminary analysis.

The paper records, together with the finds, comprise the site archive which will be prepared according to the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of the *Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC, 1990), and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The archive will be deposited with the relevant repository, such as the Birmingham City Museum, with the prior notification and agreement of the

museum, within a reasonable time after the completion of the evaluation, subject to approval by the landowner.

7.0 Results

7.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was excavated to the south of the standing buildings, in order to investigate a buried ground surface located in Test Pit 5, during the test pitting carried out in 1996 (Hodder 2002).

The trench was aligned northwest–southeast and was 14.5m long, 3.5m wide and had a maximum depth of 2.9m below the modern ground surface (164.05m AOD). This trench was located on a slope; down-slope towards the north-west. The deposition towards the upper slope was at a greater depth than the deposition at the bottom of the slope. Due to the depth of this trench it was stepped outwards, at the south-east end, in order avoid collapse. The natural clay horizon was exposed for a length of 7m at the bottom of this trench. The natural horizon consisted of hard dark red sandy clay (1004). Above this was a 0.20m-deep layer of compact grey silt and clay (1003). A sample of this layer was excavated by hand, in order to obtain some dating evidence. A piece of post-medieval drainpipe and a fragment of tile were recovered from this context (Ratkai pers. comm.). Sealing this layer was a 1.4m-deep layer of compact dark red silt and clay with some stone and rubble inclusions (1002). Overlying this was a thin band, 0.1m thick, of black silt and clay with some stone inclusions (1001), present over a length of 7m at the southeast end of the trench. Sealing this and 1002 was a layer of compact clay and silt with some rubble inclusions (1000), with a maximum depth of 1.2m, which became deeper upslope, towards the southeast. Within this layer at the northwest end of the trench a gas main was uncovered. This was not excavated, as it was still live, which resulted in a shortening of the trench dug to a natural horizon. Sealing the area of the trench was a thin, 0.10m thick, layer of turf (1005).

7.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 3 and Plate 2)

Trench 2 was excavated to the south of the standing buildings, in order to investigate the house platform that was recorded here in 1973 and to investigate a buried soil identified in a nearby test-pit (Hodder 2002).

The trench was orientated north-south and was 13m long, 1.6m wide and dug to a maximum depth of 1.5m below the modern ground surface (163.55m AOD). The trench was excavated onto a natural horizon of hard red sandy clay (2002). Above this was a 0.20m thick layer of friable black silt and clay with a large number of rounded pebbles within the fill (2001). A hand-dug sondage was excavated through this layer, in order to obtain some dating evidence, although none was recovered. Sealing this layer was a 1.2m thick deposit of compact dark red silt and clay with brick rubble throughout (2000). This was present over the whole area of the trench. Above this, again over the whole area of the trench, was a 0.1m thick layer of turf (2003).

7.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 4 and Plate 3)

Trench 3 was excavated to the east of the farmhouse, in order to investigate a deposit rich in roof tiles identified in the test pitting in 1996 and an excavation in 1974 and 1975, in which pottery dating to the 12th or 13th century was recovered (Hodder 2002).

It was originally proposed that this trench be dug on an east-west alignment, but due to the break in slope this trench had to be abandoned and moved perpendicular to this original plan, closer to the bottom of the slope. This resulted in a T-shaped trial trench on a north-south alignment, 12.5m long, 1.6m wide and dug to a maximum depth of 1.55m (165.7m AOD).

At the base of the trench was a natural horizon of hard dark red clay with blue clay lenses (3001). Cut into the natural, visible in the middle of the trench, was a negative linear feature (F303), aligned north-south. The feature was heavily truncated by later archaeological activity, so the full extent of this feature is not known. Only the western edge of F303 survived. The fill of this feature consisted of a series of large sandstone blocks (3008), split along the natural bedding planes in order to create a flat face and set in a compact grey silt and clay with some construction rubble (3006). Pottery dating from the 15th to the 16th century was recovered from this context (see Appendix 1). This is probably the same feature as F302, which was apparent at the northern end of the trench, although the relationship between these two cuts could not be proven during evaluation due to later truncation. This was probably a linear feature on a north-south alignment with a U-shaped profile. Again, the extent of this feature was not clear, due to later cuts. The fill of this was a compact, relatively clean, grey silt and clay (3007).

A later linear feature (F300/F301) cut both F302 and F303. This feature was larger than the extent of the trial trench, in both width and length. The ditch was aligned north-north-west – south-south-east for 7.5m at the northern end of Trench 3 and then turned 90°, towards the west. The primary fill of this ditch (called 3004 in the case of F300 and 3005 in the case of F301) had a maximum depth of 0.6m and consisted of a compact brown sand clay and silt, with general demolition rubble throughout, notably sandstone blocks and roof tile. Pottery from this fill was dated from the mid-to-late 16th century to the mid-17th century (see Appendix 1). The top fill of this feature (3003) was present over the majority of the area of the trench and was excavated by machine, although a sample was dug by hand. This fill consisted of a dark brown clay and silt that was rich in coal and charcoal and demolition rubble, especially roof tiles and had a maximum depth of 0.5m. Finds from this context were dated from the mid-16th century through to possibly the early 18th century (see Appendix 1). Above this was a layer of compact dark red clay and silt with demolition material throughout (3002), becoming considerably deeper upslope, towards the east, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. Covering the area of the trench was a 0.1m-thick layer of turf.

8.0 The Artefacts

8.1 The Pottery by S. Ratkai

A total of 39 sherds of pottery was recovered, the majority of which were late medieval or post-medieval. The earliest pottery consisted of a cooking pot rim (13th–14th century), a Deritend sherd (13th-14th century), a cooking pot sherd (13th-14th century) and a jug sherd (probably 14th century) all from 3005 in Trench 3. These sherds indicate that the site was certainly occupied in the 14th century and may have been in use in the second half of the 13th century. The ceramic sequence continues, apparently without break, into the 17th century and possibly early 18th century.

8.2 Discussion

The medieval fabrics, with the exception of the Deritend sherd, seem to belong to the north Worcestershire tradition, best exemplified by the ceramics from Bordesley Abbey. As such there was little in common with the pottery from The Green, Kings Norton, for example.

The post-medieval pottery contains a typical range of domestic wares. However, the mould-blown clear glass beaker rim-body sherd from 3003 in Trench 3, which dated to the first half of the 17th century, is far from common and suggests occupation of high status, which is completely at variance with the very routine nature of the pottery assemblage.

Should there be any further archaeological work on the site in the future, it is recommended that the pottery recovered from the 2002 evaluation receives further, fuller study as part of any post-excavation programme resulting from that further work.

9.0 Discussion

The archaeological evaluation provides a coherent picture of archaeological activity on the site. Trenches 1 and 2 have a relatively similar stratigraphy, demonstrating periods of deposition of soils and redeposited natural over the site. The overall impression is one of buried soil horizons, with an accumulation of dumping material presumably deposited in order to flatten the ground surface to the south of the structures, and then to build up a bank between the farmhouse and the housing estate to the east of the site.

Trench 2, positioned in order to investigate the house platform recorded in the 1970s, was excavated through this platform build up on to a buried soil deposit. It had been thought that this deposit was earlier than the activity represented on this site by the standing buildings, but the dating evidence retrieved from these contexts would indicate that this deposit is in fact post-medieval. It is possible that relatively modern landscaping activity has disturbed the platform recorded previously, or that this platform is actually relatively modern.

It is apparent from these trenches that the natural topography of the site has been substantially altered due to periods of dumping, the latest period of dumping being represented by 1000, 2000 and 3002. It is presumed that this is related to the construction of the housing estate now surrounding the site.

Features of greatest interest archaeologically are concentrated in Trench 3 to the east of the farmhouse. It seems that F301 and probably F302 are the very bottom of a sill wall, subsequently disturbed and truncated by a later ditch. The pottery retrieved from the fill of this wall would suggest that it was constructed between the 15th and 16th century, a date similar to that suggested for the construction of the farmhouse. This sill wall seems to have been aligned north-south, on the same alignment as the farmhouse, and to be turning 90° towards the farmhouse in the western 4.5m of the south end of the trench. Although the full extent of this wall is not apparent, it does seem that the alignment with the farmhouse and the dating evidence from the fill would suggest that this wall is closely related to the buildings at present standing on this site. This could be in the form of an outhouse of some description, for example a barn that originally accompanied the house prior to the erection of the 17th-century barn at present on the site. Otherwise it could be part of another crosswing to the east of the hall that would have created a traditional H-shaped house as speculated by Price (1995).

The later ditch that cut this wall was not fully defined in the trench, although it is clear that it was quite substantial. It was on roughly the same alignment as the wall and the farmhouse. It makes a sharp 90° turn towards the west, as did the wall, and so respects the farmhouse. It is dated from between the mid-16th to mid-17th century. This is roughly contemporary with the barn, and may represent a period of activity associated with renovation to the hall range. This is also suggested by the large number of roof tiles from the fill of this ditch, which are consistent in date with the original construction of the hall.

10.0 Recommendations

It has been recommended by Dr Mike Hodder that a strategy of development be adopted to either leave archaeological deposits *in situ* or, if this is not possible, to preserve the archaeology by record, prior to development. Once development plans have been finalised a brief for these archaeological mitigation works, relating them to the specific details of the scheme, will be produced by Dr Hodder on behalf of the City Council.

If the structures that are at present standing on the site are to be refurbished a scheme of detailed recording will be required prior to this work and during restoration works.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Martin Cowley of Davis Langdon & Everest, David Jones of BM3 Architecture and Ravi Kaushal of B N Kaushal Ltd who also supplied the mechanical excavator. Thanks are also due to Dr Mike Hodder who monitored the evaluation on behalf of Birmingham City Council. Thanks to Stephanie Ratkai for her assessment of

the pottery. The evaluation was carried out by Mary Duncan, with the assistance of Phil Mann and Alison Dingle. Erica Macey and Phil Mann processed the finds, Nigel Dodds prepared the illustrations and Dr Iain Ferris managed the project on behalf of BUFAU and edited this report.

12.0 Bibliography

Hodder, M. 2002 Primrose Hill Farm, Meadowsweet Avenue, Kings Norton (SMR 01301 and 03680, NGR SP 0500 7779). Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Birmingham City Council Planning Department.

Jones, L. and Ratkai, S., with Ellis, P. 1992 Excavation at No 15, The Green, Kings Norton, 1992. Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society 104, 101-121.

Price, S. 1994 Supplement to the *Interim Report on the Archaeological Implication of Development* Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society.

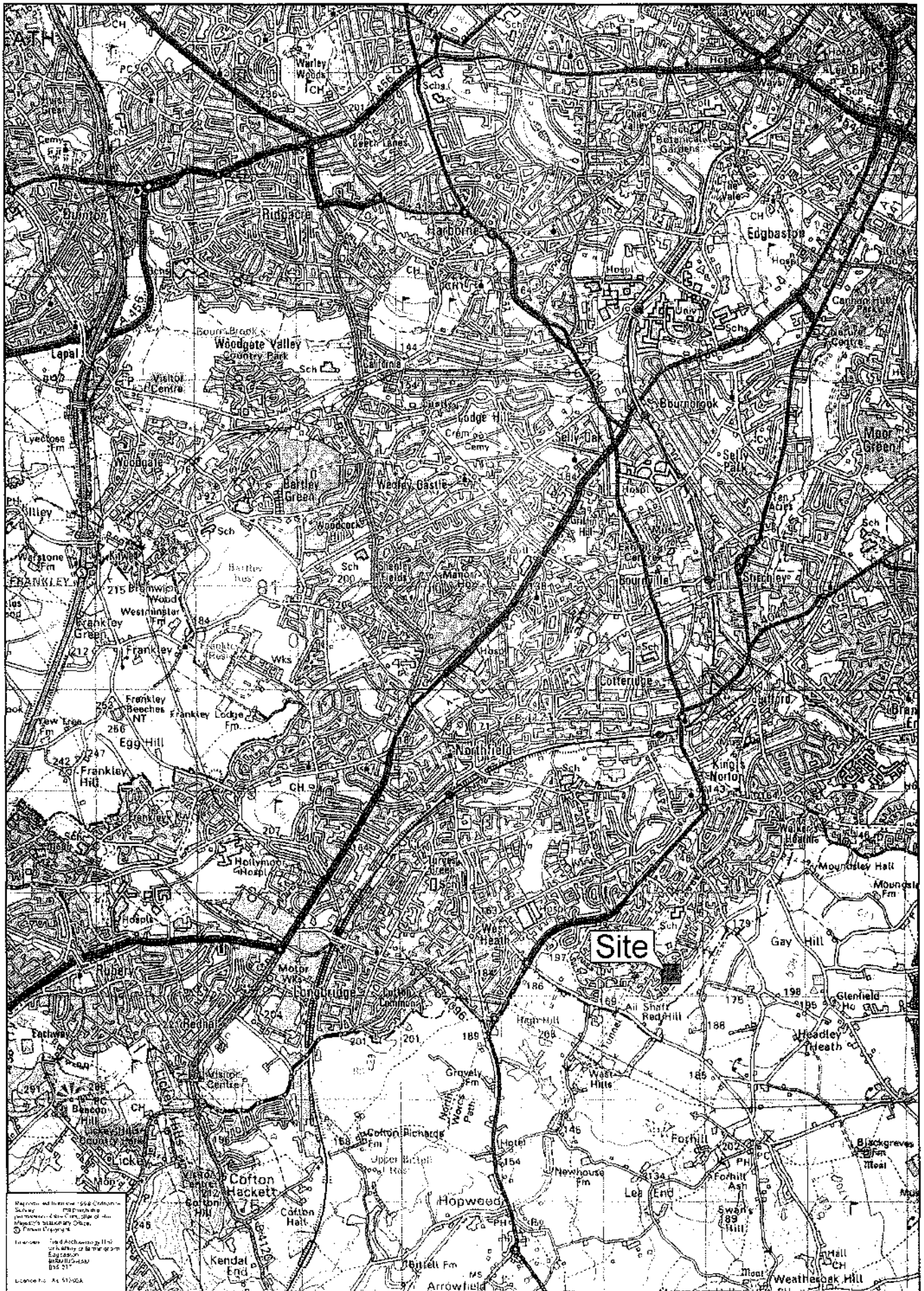


Fig. 1

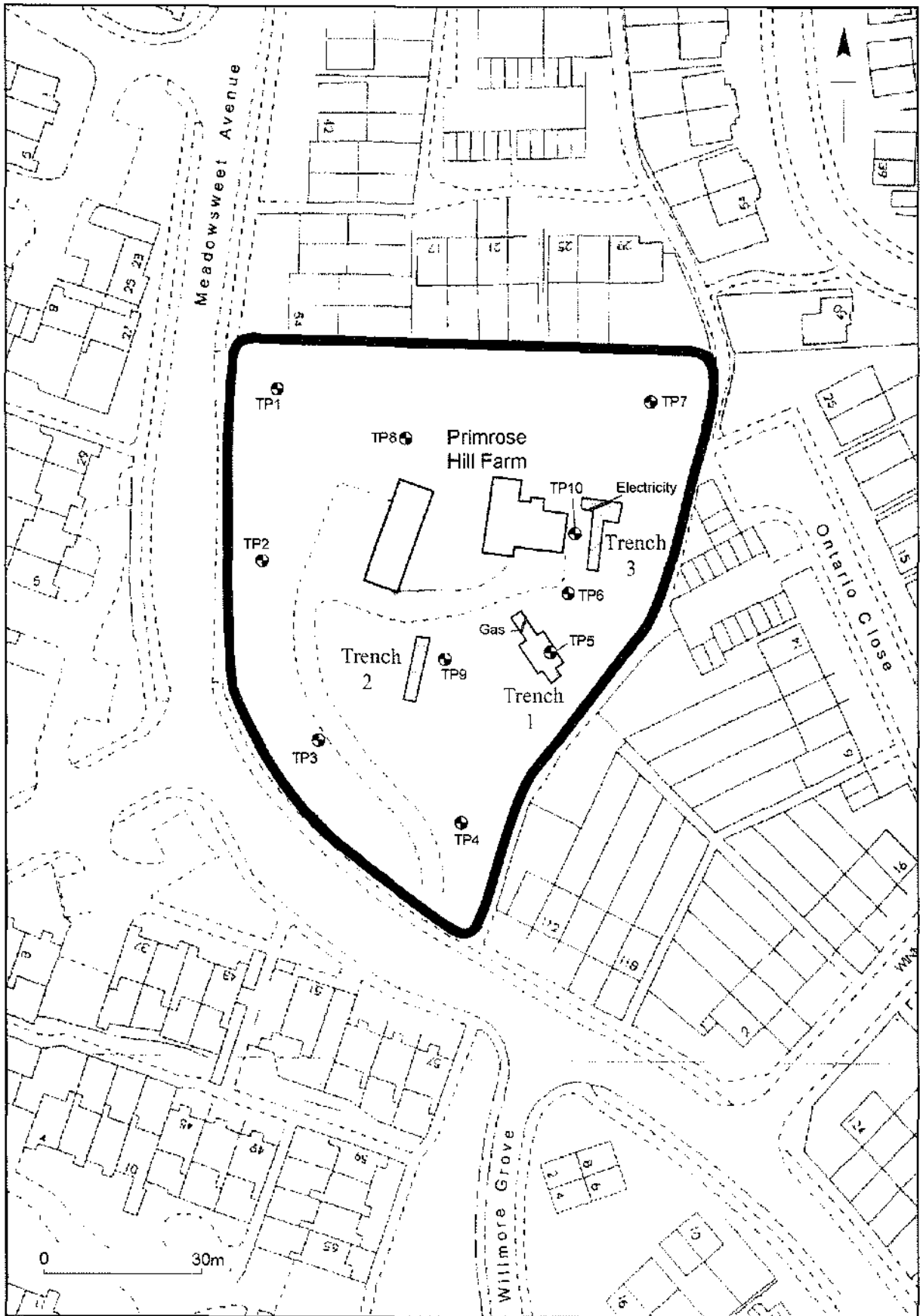


Fig.2

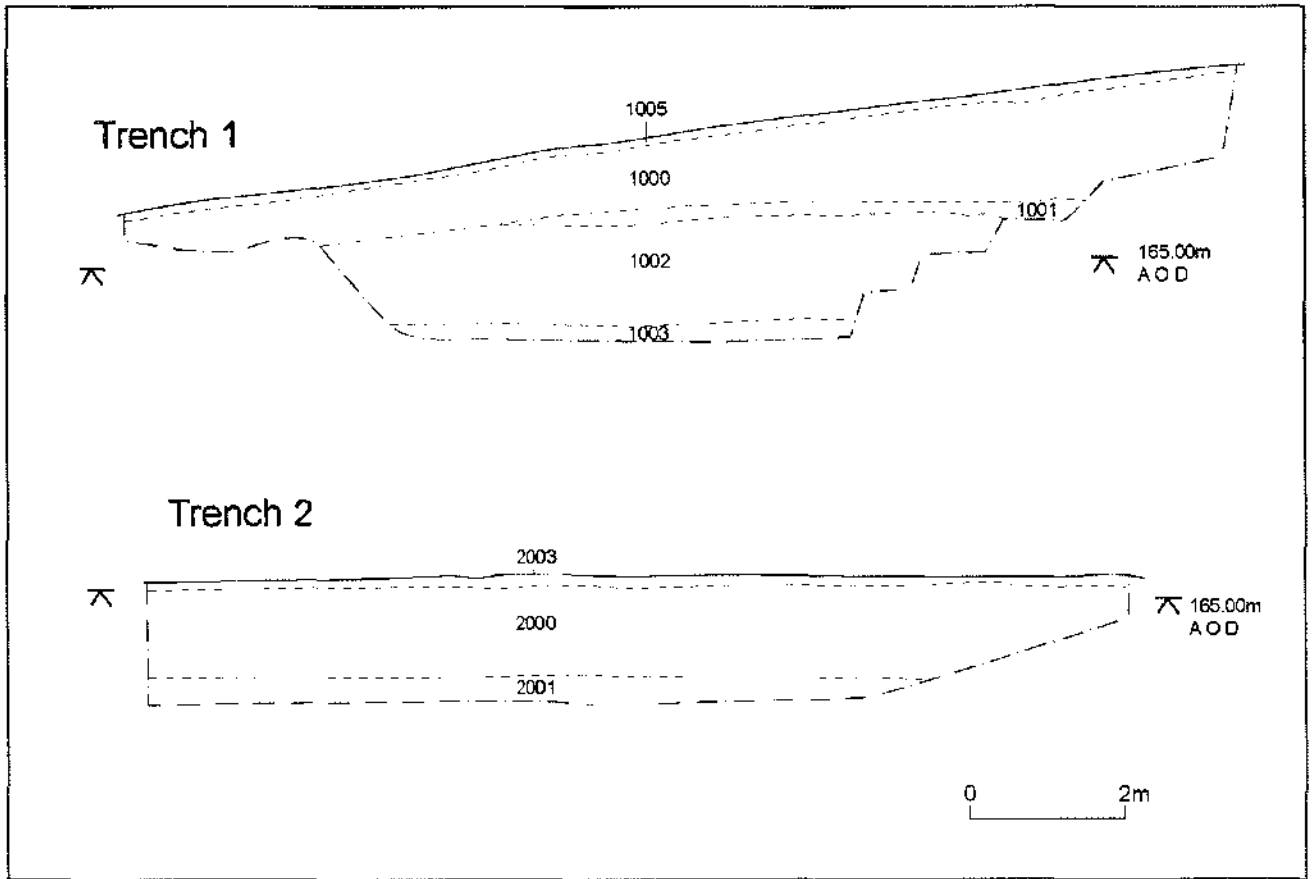


Fig.3

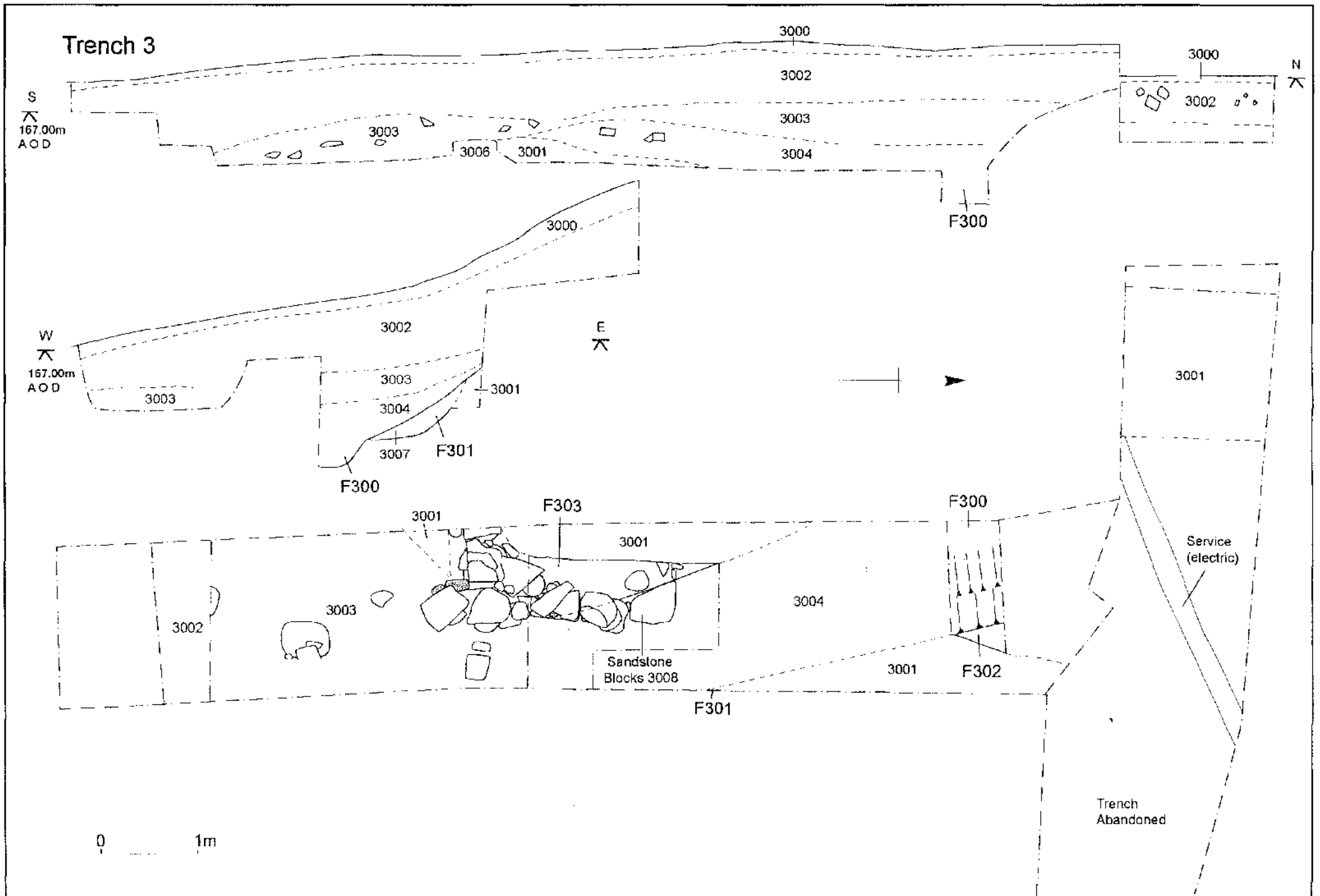


Fig.4

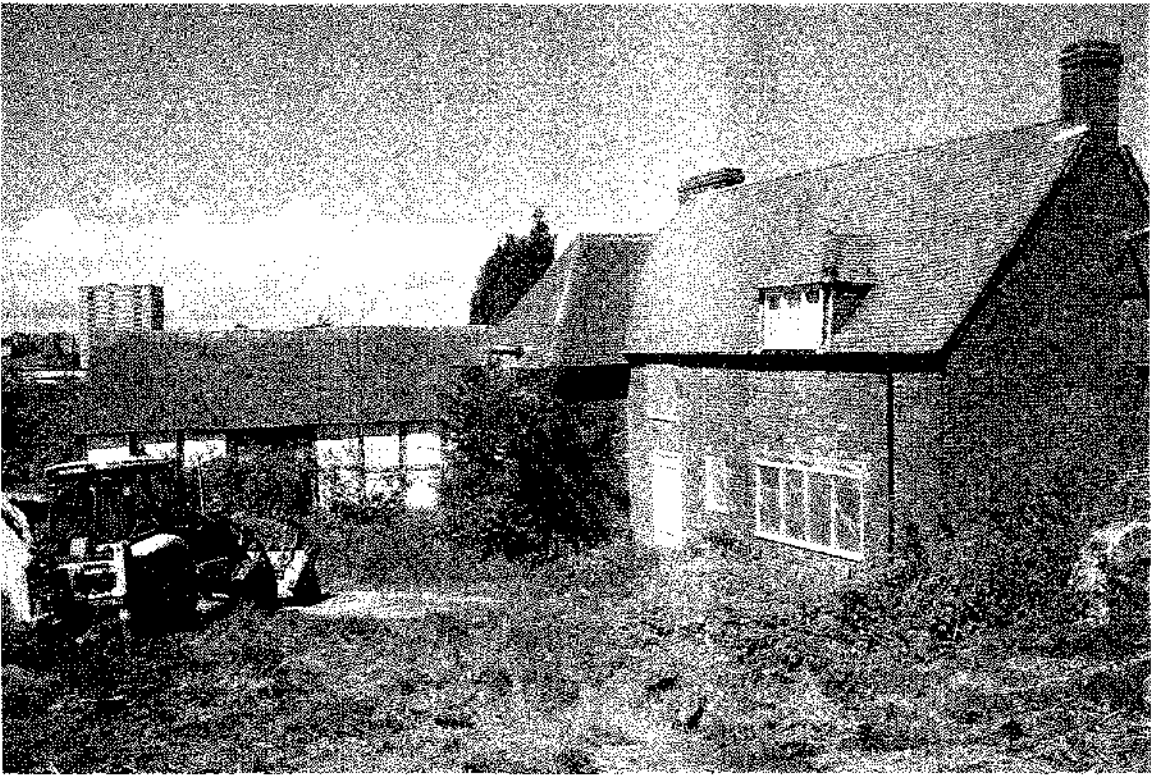


Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

Appendix 1

Catalogue of finds (by context)

1003

- 1 One fragment of post-medieval drainpipe.
- 2 One fragment of tile.

3003

- 1 One sherd of mid-16th-17th century blackware.
- 2 One rim sherd of late 17th-early 18th century coarseware.
- 3 Five sherds of 17th century coarseware.
- 4 Two rim sherds of 17th century coarseware.
- 5 One small tile fragment.
- 6 One piece of clay pipe.
- 7 One sherd of window glass.
- 8 One sherd of mould blown clear glass beaker, probably from the first half of the 17th century.
- 9 A piece of mortar.
- 10 Two fragments of animal bone.
- 11 One fragment of brick.
- 12 Fifteen fragments of roof tile.

3004, dating from the mid-to-late 16th century to the mid-17th century.

- 1 Two roof tiles.
- 2 Four sherds of mid-16th to mid-18th century blackware.
- 3 Two sherds of late 15th to mid-16th century Cistercian ware.
- 4 Two sherds of medieval cooking pot/jar from the 13th century or later.
- 5 One sherd of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery from the 15th to 16th century.
- 6 Eight fragments of roof tile.

3005, dating to the late 16th to the mid-17th century

- 1 Two sherds of mid-16th to 17th century blackware.
- 2 One sherd of late 16th to 17th century yellow ware.
- 3 Two sherds of medieval cooking pot/jar from the 13th century or later.
- 4 One sherd of medieval cooking pot rim from the 13th to 14th century.
- 5 One sherd of Deritend ware from the 13th to the 14th century.
- 6 Eight fragments of roof tile.
- 7 Four fragments of animal bone.

3005 (cleaning layer)

- 1 Two sherds of 17th century coarseware.
- 2 One sherd of a coarseware rim from a mid-17th century storage jar.
- 3 One sherd of a mid-17th century coarseware bowl.
- 4 One sherd of a late 16th to the 17th century yellow ware bowl rim.
- 5 One sherd of late 17th to early 18th-century blackware.
- 6 One sherd of late medieval redware from the 15th to the 16th century.
- 7 One sherd of late medieval or early post-medieval pot from the 15th to the 16th century.
- 8 One sherd of a possible Chilvers Coton C sherd from the 14th to the 15th century.
- 9 One sherd of medieval jug, possibly from the 14th century.
- 10 One sherd of medieval cooking pot from the 13th to 14th century
- 11 One medieval jug handle from the 13th to the 14th century.

3006

- 1 One sherd of cooking pot/jar.
- 2 One sherd of late-medieval rim from the 15th to 16th century.

The tile from the site is single nib and quite narrow for the period, at 7" in width. It is medieval, dating to the 14th to the 15th century.

Appendix 2

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**PRIMROSE HILL FARM, MEADOWSWEET AVENUE, KINGS NORTON
(SMR 01301 and 03680, NGR SP 0500 7779)**

Brief for *Archaeological Field Evaluation* as part of design of proposed development

1. Summary

*Proposed development at Primrose Hill Farm may affect buried archaeological remains. This brief is for assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains, consisting of an **archaeological field evaluation by means of excavated trenches**. This will determine the need for preservation of archaeological remains in-situ through appropriate design of the development and/or for further archaeological excavation in advance of commencement of development, followed by analysis and publication of the results.*

2. Site location and description

The site is east of Meadowsweet Avenue, Kings Norton, and consists of Primrose Hill Farm, its barn to the west, and open space around them which is mainly grassland.

3. Planning background

The current outline scheme for the site consists of residential development around the edges of the site. Because of the potential archaeological importance of this site, a field evaluation would be required in advance of determination of any planning application, in accordance with Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan and government guidance in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, "Archaeology and Planning".

4. Existing archaeological information

Primrose Hill Farm is a late 15th-century timber-framed building consisting of a hall and cross-wing. Its accompanying barn is also timber-framed and is probably of 17th-century date. Both buildings are listed, grades II* and II respectively. 19th-century brick farm buildings to the north-west of the barn have since been demolished. A platform to the south of the farm and barn, possibly the site of further buildings, was recorded in 1973 and is still visible despite later dumping. Removal of turf and topsoil east of the farmhouse in 1974 and 1975 revealed a concentration of roof tiles and pieces of medieval pottery, from a 12th- or 13th-century cooking pot. Further information about subsurface deposits is provided by geotechnical trial pits dug for a prospective developer in February 1995. Ten pits were dug around the site, in the approximate locations shown on the attached plan. These revealed dumping of a variable thickness, probably derived from the construction of houses around the site in the 1970s, overlying a buried ground surface. The dumping was 0.7 to 1.8m thick. To the south-east of the farmhouse, a second, lower buried surface was found, at a depth of 2m below the present ground surface. This is probably the surface at the time of

construction of the building, i.e. the 15th century, buried by the platform recorded in 1973, which probably resulted from the creation of a level area on a sloping site for building construction. East of the farm, in the area where pottery and roof tiles were found, there was only a shallow topsoil over weathered natural.

5. Requirements for work

The existing archaeological evidence can be summarised as follows:

- (i) Possible occupation of the site before construction of the existing buildings, suggested by the 12th/13th century pottery;
- (ii) Possible further medieval buildings on the platform to the south of the farm and barn;
- (iii) A buried medieval ground surface which could contain remains of structures predating the existing buildings, and evidence for the surrounding environment. Foundation trenches and landscaping for the proposed development are likely to disturb subsurface archaeological remains.

The archaeological field evaluation is required to define the nature, extent and significance of archaeological remains on the application site, so that an appropriate mitigation scheme can be devised. The mitigation strategies may involve modification of site layout or foundation design to ensure in situ preservation of archaeological remains, or, if this is not feasible, full recording of archaeological remains in advance of development, through archaeological excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results.

This is in accordance with Policy 8.36 of the City Council's Unitary Development Plan and government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, "Archaeology and Planning".

6. Stages of work

The archaeological field evaluation will consist of the excavation of at least 3 trenches, each at least 10m x 1.6m at base, at the approximate positions shown on the attached plan, to define and record, but not totally excavate, archaeological deposits and structures encountered:

- (i) South of the farmhouse, in the area of test pit 5, to investigate the buried ground surface located in the test pit;
- (ii) East of the farmhouse, in the area of test pit 10, to investigate the area in which pottery and roof tiles were found;
- (iii) South of the buildings, near test pit 9, to investigate this part of the platform recorded in 1973.

The potential depth of deposit and consequent need for stepping and/or shoring should be noted.

The exact location of each trench is to be agreed on site with the Planning Archaeologist prior to commencement. Surface deposits in each trench are to be mechanically removed, under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation is to be entirely manual. Excavation in each trench is to be sufficient to define record and sample all archaeological features encountered. The potential of deposits for environmental analysis must be assessed. Finds are to

be cleaned, marked and bagged and any remedial conservation work undertaken.

7. Staffing

The archaeological field evaluation is to be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and all staff are to be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles in the project. It is recommended that the project be under the direct supervision of a Member or Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

8. Written Scheme of Investigation

Potential contractors should present a Written Scheme of Investigation which details methods and staffing. It is recommended that the proposal be submitted to the City Council's Planning Archaeologist before a contractor is commissioned, to ensure that it meets the requirements of the brief.

9. Monitoring

The archaeological field evaluation must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Chief Planning Officer, Birmingham City Council, and will be monitored on his behalf by the Planning Archaeologist. At least five working days notice of commencement of the evaluation must be given to the Planning Archaeologist, so that monitoring meetings can be arranged.

10. Reporting

The results of the archaeological field evaluation are to be presented as a written report, containing the following:

- (i) An analytical summary of features and deposits;
- (ii) Appropriate plans and sections;
- (iii) A summary of finds;
- (iv) An assessment of the site's significance in terms of national, regional and local importance. The non-statutory criteria for scheduling should be employed;
- (v) A copy of this brief.

A copy of the report must be sent to the Planning Archaeologist:

11. Archive deposition

The written, drawn and photographic records of the archaeological field evaluation, together with any finds, must be deposited with an appropriate repository within a reasonable time of completion, following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist.

12. Publication

The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, within six months of completion. The contractor must submit a short summary report for inclusion in *West Midlands Archaeology* and summary reports to appropriate national period journals.

