



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM

**Sheldon Hall Farm,
Birmingham:**

**An Archaeological Desk-Based
Assessment.**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit



Institute of Field
Archaeologists

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 1036
January 2003

**Sheldon Hall Farm, Birmingham:
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.**

by
EMMA HANCOX

For further information please contact:
Simon Buteux, Alex Jones 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

	Page
Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Location of the Study Area	1
3.0 Objectives	2
4.0 Methodology	2
5.0 Geology and Topography	2
6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
7.0 Cartographic Evidence	4
8.0 Walkover Survey	5
9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations	6
10.0 Acknowledgements	6
11.0 References	6

Appendix 1- Sheldon Hall Farm, Brief for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Birmingham City Council Planning Department.

Appendix 2- SMR data within 500 metres of the study area.

Figures

1. Location of Study Area.
2. Proposed Development Area.
3. Plan of Sheldon c.1200, from Skipp 1960.
4. 1756 plan of estates belonging to John Taylor Esq. in Sheldon.
5. 1787 plan of estates belonging to John Taylor Esq. in Sheldon and Bickenhall.
6. 1840 plan of the parish of Sheldon.
7. 1886 First edition Ordnance Survey.
8. 1904 Ordnance Survey.
9. 1938 Ordnance Survey.

Plates

1. Tile Cross today.
2. The Study Area from Cook's Road, showing the garage forecourt.
3. The car sales centre.
4. Sheldon Hall Farm Barn.
5. Open area, looking north from the barn.
6. Open area, looking south from the barn.
7. Open area, looking west.
8. Open area, looking north.
9. Scaffolding on the north bay of the barn.

Sheldon Hall Farm, Cooks Lane, Birmingham: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment.

Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) in January 2003 of a site in Sheldon, southeast Birmingham. The assessment was carried out ahead of proposed development on the site of Sheldon Hall Farm (NGR SP16368734). The site is located just 100m to the southeast of Sheldon Hall, a moated house dating to the early sixteenth century. Given the proximity of the farm to Sheldon Hall, it was thought possible that the development may disturb archaeological deposits. The assessment examined the available documentary and cartographic evidence and incorporated a site visit in order to identify features or potential features of archaeological or historical value. The assessment found that the site is within the area settled during the Anglo-Saxon period. Tile Cross appears to date from c.800-1000 AD. The Study Area was part of the demesne of Sheldon Manor from c.1200, which was situated where the present Sheldon Hall is located. The Study Area contains a listed building, Sheldon Hall Farm Barn, and another small building is also shown along Cook's Lane on the 1756 map. This has now gone, but the foundations may survive. It was considered that there may be potential for survival of archaeological remains relating to the early settlement of the area and later agriculture associated with Sheldon Hall Farm.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) on behalf of Smith Balla, ahead of the proposed development of a site in Sheldon, southeast Birmingham (NGR SP16368734). The location of the site, hereafter referred to as the Study Area, is shown on Figs. 1 and 2. As the Study Area is likely to contain archaeological remains which would be affected by the proposed development, an assessment of its archaeological implications was required in advance of consideration of the proposals. This is in accordance with government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 *Archaeology and Planning*. The desk-based assessment forms the first stage of assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The aim of the report is to provide a summary of known and potential archaeological information for the Study Area, based on existing data, in order to enable appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies to be devised, as required by the Brief for the work prepared by Birmingham City Council. The assessment adheres to the guidelines set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999) and is written in accordance with Birmingham City Council's Guidance on Sources for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments.

2.0 Location of Study Area

Sheldon Hall Farm, now called Sheldon Heath Farm, is located in Sheldon in southeast Birmingham (NGR SP16368734) (Figs. 1 and 2). The Study Area is bounded by Cook's Lane to the southeast, Lark's Meadow Drive to the northeast, Gressel Lane to the southwest and Coleview Crescent and Rockmoor Close to the north. Sheldon Hall lies just to the north of Coleview Crescent, c.100 metres away. The Study Area is located just to the southeast of Tile Cross along Cook's Lane.

The Study Area is currently occupied by a car sales centre, fronting onto Cook's Lane, and to the north of this are farm buildings, the oldest of which dates to the 18th century and is Grade II listed (SMR 02404). The majority of the site is open areas of tarmac, grass and hardstanding. A house and garden, Sheldon Heath Farm, occupy the eastern corner of the Study Area.

3.0 Objectives

The objectives of this assessment were to determine the likely survival and significance of archaeological remains within the Study Area, to identify the need for any further archaeological work in advance of the proposed development, and to identify potential requirements for any *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains, or for their recording in advance of, or during, development. The Brief supplied by Dr. Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist for Birmingham City Council, stated that the Study Area may contain archaeological remains given its proximity to Sheldon Hall (Appendix 1). The area does contain farm buildings, the oldest of which is listed, and the impact of the development on this also needs to be considered.

More specific aims of the assessment were to look at the potential relationship of the Study Area to Sheldon Hall, and to assess the area as part of the historic development of this part of Birmingham.

4.0 Methodology

Documentary research of primary and secondary records and maps held at BUFAU, the University of Birmingham Library and Birmingham Reference Library was undertaken. Birmingham City Council Sites and Monuments Record (Appendix 2), the primary source of known archaeological information for the city, was consulted. All sources consulted are listed in Section 11.0 below.

5.0 Geology and Topography

Sheldon lies on the edge of the Birmingham Plateau, on a gently-rising, south-facing slope. Much of it is underlain by Keuper Marl with several areas of sand and gravel. The Study Area lies over one of these areas, with Sheldon Hall to the north being over the Keuper Marl. The Study Area is almost at the top of the south-facing slope.

6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1 Historical

In 1957 a group from the local historical society decided to research the history of the parish of Sheldon. They spent three years researching under the direction of Victor Skipp, a local historian. The following historical background is mostly taken from their findings (Skipp 1960).

The settlement dates from the Anglo-Saxon period when it was called Machitonc, meaning Macca's Farm. It was founded c.800-1000AD by a chief named Macca. The settlement was first recorded as Makinton in 1220, and several name changes led to the area being referred to as Mackadown on the modern maps. Macca's Farm was located at the junction of Mackadown Lane and Tile Cross Road. Two fields, Elder and Rye-eddish, were cleared to the north of the farm. Ridding field was added some time after, to the east of the farm.

'Mackadown Lane and Tile Cross Road are the two oldest roads in Sheldon, originating as the trackways between the first open fields. Their line has remained substantially the same down to the present day' (*ibid*, 9).

Skipp (*ibid*, 10) believes that the areas of sand and gravel would have been the first cleared, as tree growth would have been less dense than over the Keuper Marl. The Study Area is over one of these sand and gravel areas. This, along with its proximity to Tile Cross, suggests that the Study Area was cleared for farming fairly early on in the development of the settlement. The settlement probably developed northwards first, as the south-facing slope gave good drainage and optimum sunlight. The area to the south of Macca's Farm was wetter and more suited to meadow.

The Domesday Book records Machitone as having '5 hides less 1 virgate. There is land for 5 ploughs. There are 10 villeins and 4 bordars with 3 ploughs and 2 acres of meadow.' It was valued at 20 shillings in 1066 and 40 shillings in 1087. That the settlement doubled in value in this time suggests rapid growth during those twenty years. The three original fields, Elder, Rye-eddish and Ridding, would have only provided about 200 acres, probably not enough for 10 villeins and 4 bordars. This suggests that the settlement had already expanded northwards by this stage.

Sometime between 1087 and 1220 a manor was built. The manor is believed to have been where the present Sheldon Hall is located. The Study Area is within the demesne of the manor (see Fig. 3). The settlement became known as Sheldon in the early thirteenth century, named after Ansel de Scheldon, who is recorded as lord of the manor in 1220.

During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the settlement expanded southwards and the population increased. By 1373, Sheldon had been separated into two manors, East Hall (the current Sheldon Hall) and West Hall (now demolished, the moat still survives as earthworks, known as Kent's Moat) (Dornier 1965). There was possibly a third manor called Lyndon Manor, approximately 400m to the southwest of the parish church, on the site of the Mott House, an eighteenth-century building. The moat has been filled in.

The Act of Enclosure occurred in Sheldon between 1776 (Sheldon deed) and 1791 (Yardley deed), with the enclosure of the commons being completed by 1813. There is evidence for the piecemeal enclosure of land from 1377 onwards. Deeds from the fifteenth century indicate that by this time the lord of the manor had bought all the land around Sheldon Hall. A deed of 1570 mentions Sheldon Hall Farm as owning various parcels of land. Skipp used the field names in the deed to establish the extent of the farm's land (marked as the demesne of Sheldon Hall on Fig. 3). The Study Area is within this demesne.

The population of Sheldon seems to have been very low right up until the twentieth century, not passing 500 until 1921. After this there is a sharp increase to 45,900 in 1959. Descriptions of Sheldon in 1960 still show much of it as open fields, especially to the northeast of the parish where the Study Area is located. Since that time several housing estates have been built and there is now very little open ground.

6.2 Previous excavations

No excavations have taken place within the Study Area. There is only one record of any archaeology being discovered during the building of surrounding housing estates, a fifteenth-century coin which was discovered during the building of an extension to a house in Downton Close, c.100 metres from the Study Area.

Archaeological excavations and a watching brief have been carried out at Sheldon Hall only 100m from the site (Price 1976; Ferguson 1981; Cook *et al.* 1995; Cook and Hancocks 1996). The 1981 excavations (Ferguson 1981) located medieval deposits to the north of the present hall. Cook and Hancocks (1996) found evidence of buildings pre-dating the Hall, but no date was assigned to these buildings. However, twelfth-century pottery was found unstratified close by. Cook *et al.* (1995) also found pottery dating from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries. These findings concur with the theory that the area was the site of a previous manor from the twelfth-century. Given that medieval archaeology has been found within 100m of the site and the fact that the Study Area was once part of the demesne of Sheldon Manor, it is possible that the area was built on during the medieval period.

6.3 The Sites and Monuments Record

The Sites and Monuments Record for Birmingham lists five entries within a 500m radius of the Study Area: Sheldon Hall (SMR-01239 is the early sixteenth-century manor house to the north; The White Hart Pub (SMR-03443) is an early eighteenth-century pub, which is on Tile Cross, at the corner of Gressel Road to the west of the Study Area; Sheldon Hall Farm Barn (SMR-02404), which is within the Study Area; Babb's Mill (03047), which is an eighteenth century mill associated with Sheldon Hall; and there is also a record of a fifteenth-century coin being found in Downton Crescent (SMR-02898) during the building of an extension at number 26. The coin was a silver groat of Henry V, dated to 1413-1422.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence

Several historical maps were examined in order to focus on the changing morphology of the Study Area with regard to the properties contained within it. The earliest map evidence dates to 1756. Victor Skipp (1960) has drawn up a map of how he believes the area would have looked in c.1200 from evidence in documentary sources (Fig. 3). This shows the Study Area within the demesne of the manor.

The 1756 map (Fig. 4) details the property of John Taylor, Esq. within the parish. It shows the Study Area covering a small field containing Sheldon Hall Farm Barn and part of a large field, Barn Crofts. Hemp Yard is situated on the corner of Tile Cross, the boundary of the Study Area running along the edge of Hemp Yard. Barn Crofts is a large field stretching up to Sheldon Hall. On the southern edge of the Study Area, fronting onto Cook's Lane, is a small building enclosed in a small field. With the exception of this small building the rest of the fields belong to John Taylor at this time. It is unclear whether the small property is part of his land. Sheldon Hall is shown, with three outbuildings and an orchard. There is no evidence of the moat, apart from a small pond to the southeast of the Hall.

The only other eighteenth-century map is one from 1787 (Fig. 5), which also details the property of John Taylor, Esq. On this map there are no property boundaries marked. There is a small building in a field on the edge of Cook's Lane, similar in

size and shape to the building on the 1756 map. However, it is positioned further to the east. Sheldon Hall Farm Barn is not shown on this map. Sheldon Hall itself appears to be slightly further north than it is positioned on the other maps and there is no evidence of the moat. The enclosure map of 1813 (not illustrated) is very similar to the 1756 map and nothing appears to have changed since that time.

The 1840 (Fig. 6) plan of the parish is also very similar to the 1756 map. It shows Hemp Yard to the west of the Study Area. Barn Crofts has now been split into two fields. This boundary now forms the western edge of the current Study Area. Sheldon Hall Farm Barn is shown, as is the small building, and associated land, which fronts onto Cook's Lane. The moat around Sheldon Hall is clearly visible on this map, which is strange as it does not appear on earlier maps. It is possible that the moat was re-dug.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1886, Fig. 7) shows that outbuildings have now been built onto Sheldon Hall Farm Barn. The small building fronting onto Cook's Lane now appears to be two, semi-detached, properties. It is unknown whether this is the same building as on the earlier maps or a new one. The moat around Sheldon Hall has been filled in and only remains visible as earthworks. The second edition Ordnance Survey map (1904, Fig. 8) is almost the same as the 1886 map, the only difference being that more land has been acquired by the small property fronting onto Cook's Lane. By 1938 (Fig. 9) properties have been built along the edge of Cook's Lane. Within the Study Area Sheldon Heath Farm has appeared, along with two associated outbuildings. The small property to the south is still visible and has acquired a little more land. The 1998 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 1, larger scale not illustrated) shows the building of properties all around the Study Area. Within the Study Area, the small property fronting onto Cook's Lane has been replaced by a car sales centre and associated forecourt.

8.0 Walkover Survey (Plates 1-9)

A walkover survey was conducted to assess the present character of the land. The area is now residential. Tile Cross is a busy crossroads (Plate 1). Most of the Study Area is open grass, tarmac or hardstanding. In the south of the Study Area, fronting onto Cook's Lane, is a car sales centre with a large forecourt (see Fig. 2, Plates 2 and 3).

Sheldon Heath Farm lies in the east corner of the Study Area. This is a fairly modern building dating to the early part of the twentieth century. The house is surrounded by a garden. A road, Lark Meadow Drive, now runs to the east of the farm. This is very recent and post-dates the 1998 Ordnance Survey.

In the centre of the Study Area is Sheldon Hall Farm Barn (Plate 4), a Grade II listed building (SMR 02404). The building is an eighteenth-century barn, built of red bricks with a tiled roof. It consists of three bays, with the centre one breaking forward by nearly 3 metres. It is gabled, with a waggon entrance. The north and south bays are currently scaffolded. The building appears in a poor state of repair. Attached to the barn, and nearby, are several outbuildings. None of these is very substantial and all probably have shallow foundations. Access to the inside of the building was not possible.

9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The assessment found that the Study Area lay on the edge of the Anglo-Saxon settlement and within the medieval manor lands. The land appears to have been open until the fourteenth century when it was enclosed. As the Study Area is close to Tile Cross it is possible that properties may have been built along Cook's Lane from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards. The Study Area is also less than 100m from extant medieval archaeology relating to the manor, which may have extended south.

9.1 Below-Ground Archaeology

There is a high potential for survival of archaeology below-ground within the Study Area, as much of the land has remained undisturbed for several centuries. Later activity in the form of early eighteenth-century farm buildings has disturbed a small part of the Study Area. Archaeology relating to this phase of activity, such as the foundations of the small property fronting onto Cook's Lane, may survive below ground. It may be considered appropriate, in consultation with Dr. Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Planning Archaeologist, to undertake an archaeological evaluation, consisting of trial-trenching within the Study Area. The results of such an evaluation would indicate whether or not any further archaeological mitigation work would be required ahead of any development, such as excavation or the provision for *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains encountered.

9.2 Above-Ground Archaeology

As only extremely limited observations of the listed building were made, it is likely that a further, more-detailed inspection will be needed prior to, or during the development, which may consist mainly of photographic recording.

10.0 Acknowledgements

This report was researched and written by Emma Hancox. Dr. Iain Ferris edited the report and managed the project. The figures and plates were prepared by Nigel Dodds. Thanks are due to Dr. Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Planning Archaeologist.

11.0 References

11.1 Textual

Cook, M. Templeton, L. and Woodiwiss, S. 1995. *Evaluation and Building Recording at Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross, Birmingham*. Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeological Service, Internal Report 378.

Cook, M. and Hancocks, A. 1996. *Watching Brief at Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross, Birmingham*. Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeological Service, Internal Report 465.

Dornier, A. 1967. *Kent's Moat, Sheldon, Birmingham*. Transactions of the Birmingham Archaeological Society Vol. 82. Monograph.

Ferguson, R. 1981. *Excavation, Survey and Evaluation at Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross, Birmingham*. BUFAU Internal Report.

Price, S. 1976. *Sheldon Hall*. Unpublished Manuscript, Birmingham City Library, ref LF 56.1 1976.

Skipp, V. 1960. *Discovering Sheldon- A Brief History of a Birmingham Parish from Anglo-Saxon to Modern Times*. Dept of Extra-mural Studies, Birmingham University.

Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record (see Appendix 2).

11.2 Cartographic

1756 - Surveyor J. Tomlinson, plan of the estates belonging to John Taylor, esq.

1787 - Estates belonging to John Taylor in Sheldon and Bickenhall.

1813 - Enclosure map of Sheldon.

1840 - Plan of the Parish of Sheldon.

1866 - Plan of Estates in Warwickshire, surveyors D. Houghton and Giles.

1886 - 1st Edition Ordnance Survey.

1904 - 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey.

1938 - 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey.

1998 - Ordnance Survey.

Appendix 1

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Sheldon Hall Farm, Cooks Lane(SP 1636 8734; SMR 02404)

Brief for *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* in advance of consideration of proposed development

1. Summary

*Proposed development at Sheldon Hall Farm, Birmingham includes 18th century and later structures and may affect below-ground archaeological remains of earlier structures. This brief is for the first stage of assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains, consisting of an **archaeological desk-based assessment**. This will determine the need for further archaeological assessment by field evaluation in advance of consideration of development proposals.*

2. Site location and description

Sheldon Hall Farm is located between Cooks Lane and Coleview Crescent. The surviving farm buildings consist of a brick barn with attached structures. The south of the site, on Cooks Lane, is occupied by a 20th century former garage and vehicle repair workshop. Sheldon Hall is less than 100m to the north-west.

3. Planning background

The listed building is to be retained and residential development is proposed over the rest of the site. Because the site includes surviving historic buildings and is likely to include archaeological remains which would be affected by the proposed redevelopment, an assessment of its archaeological implications is required in advance of consideration of the proposals. 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" and PPG 15, "Planning and the Historic Environment". The archaeological assessment will enable appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies to 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. This may involve archaeological excavation and recording historic buildings.

4. Existing archaeological information

The oldest surviving building is a brick barn which is a grade II listed building and is dated in the list description to the 18th century. It has later buildings attached to it. The earlier history of the site is unknown but it may have been the home farm for Sheldon Hall(SMR 01239), which is a moated site with surviving 16th and 17th century structures and archaeological evidence for earlier occupation. A plan of 1756 shows a building in the area of Sheldon Hall Farm.

5. Requirements for work

The archaeological desk-based assessment is required to define the likely extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains in the area of the proposed development, so that appropriate mitigation strategies can be devised. If the desk-based assessment suggests that archaeological remains survive on the site, a second stage of archaeological assessment would be required through an archaeological evaluation consisting of excavated trenches.

In particular, the archaeological desk-based assessment must address the following:

- The date of the earliest surviving building on the site
- The relationship of the site to Sheldon Hall
- The likelihood of below-ground archaeological remains
- The potential of the site to contribute to an understanding of the historic development of this part of Birmingham.

6. Stages of work

The extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains on the application site, as described in part 5 above, are to be assessed by site inspection and a search of published and unpublished written records, illustrations and maps, and archaeological and geotechnic records, and a comparison with other similar sites in Birmingham and the west midlands. The attached guidance note provides information on sources. In addition to the general sources, V Skipp's *Discovering Sheldon* should be consulted, and information relating to Sheldon Hall.

7. Staffing

The archaeological desk-based assessment 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 that 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 desk-based assessment 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 assessment must be given to the Planning Archaeologist, so that monitoring meetings can be arranged.

10.Reporting

The results of the archaeological desk-based assessment are to be presented as a written report, containing appropriate illustrations and 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 desk-based assessment 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.

CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Date prepared: 28 November 2002

Planning Archaeologist: Dr Michael Hodder 0121-303 3161 fax 0121-464 3514

Mike.hodder@birmingham.gov.uk

Birmingham City Council

Planning Department

PO Box 28

Alpha Tower

Suffolk Street Queensway

Birmingham B1 1TU

Sheldon Hall Farm.doc

Appendix 2

Birmingham City Council: Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments*(Full*

08/01/2003

SMR	Site Name	Record
03443 - B11079	THE WHITE HART	Monument
Probably early C18, altered and considerably added to. Timber framed; painted brick; old tile roof.T		

Classification and Type and

INN 18th Century - 1700 AD to 1799 AD
Class

Materials/Evidenc

EXTANT BUILDING

Rating and**Location****National Grid**

SP16318722

Administrative

Ward Shard End, Birmingham
Historic County Warwickshire

Address

EAST MEADWAY (S)

Historic Names**Status and other**

Listed Building (II)
Development Control Area (North)
Reference Number - 03443
Area of Archaeological Importance - 117

Description

03443 Probably early C18, altered and considerably added to. Timber framed; painted brick; old tile roof. The front has a 3 light casement window and a little porch. The roof sweeps down left and right and has a modern canted bay window with leaded lights on the left and a range of casement windows on the right. One storey plus attic. <1>

Sources

(1) Bibliographic reference: List of Bldngs SAHI, , DoE, 1982,

Associated Finds**Associated Events/Activities****Associated Individuals****Associated Organisations**

SMR 01239 - Site Name SHELDON HALL

SMR Site Name Record
01239 - BI188 SHELDON HALL Monument

Early C16 building, inside earlier moat

Classification and Type and

MOAT Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD
HOUSE Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD

Class

Materials/Evidenc

EXTANT BUILDING
EARTHWORK

Rating and

Condition 80-99% -
Good -

Location

National Grid

SP16248744

Administrative

Ward Shard End, Birmingham
Historic Parish Sheldon
Historic County Warwickshire

Address

GRESSEL LANE (W)

Historic Names

Status and other

Listed Building (II)
Development Control Area (North)
Reference Number - 01239
Area of Archaeological Importance - 116
OS Number - SP18N
National Archaeological Record - SP18NE 5

Description

01239 Early C16, added to c1600. Centrepiece of brick with old tile roof. 2 storeys; 4 bays, the outer ones advanced, gabled and with an attic storey, the left hand one with a segment headed entrance porch. All windows transomed and mullioned, those of the centre 2 bays of 3 lights, those of the outer bays of 4 lights except in the attic storey where they are of 3 lights. At the rear a single and a group of 4 star-shaped brick chimneys. To the left of this are, a gabled bay, roughcast with slightly projecting gable. Ground and first floors each with 4 light transomed windows. All these windows with oak frames. To the right of the core, 2 bays similar to those on the left, that on the left slightly broader than that on the right. On the left and right hand returns groups of star-shaped brick chimneys. <1> Dates from the 1st half of the C16, and has a pair of cross wings of c 1600. Around the house are the remains of a moat of irregular 4-sided plan. The S side is filled in. <2> Survey of moat. The timber framed wings of the house have been rough-cast and there are minor modern additions to the N side. <3> No change. Pub. survey 1:1250 revised. <4> A large private residence in good repair. The bldg has been much restored and few original features remain visible externally, but it remains outstanding for its period in the area. The now dry and much overgrown sub-rectangular homestead moat, which enclosed the house and of which the E arm and part of the S arm have been filled in, measures overall 110.0m N-S X 65.0m transversely. The arms, steep sided and flat-bottomed, average 9.0m in width and 1.8m in depth. The original water supply to the moat cannot now be determined and there are no traces of the Moated site. <5> Survey includes structural description and review of documentation. <6> Excavations before building of squash courts behind house revealed medieval pottery on a silty soil, disturbed by later surfaces. The moat was sectioned and found to have brick revetments built in a similar way to the walls of the central block of Sheldon Hall, and therefore thought to be contemporary with it. <7> An evaluation and building recording has been undertaken as part of a planning application to convert the building. Its moat is possibly contemporary with the early C16 brick hall, and may be considered as a late

Number Type

Scoring Date e

Scoring Sources

- (1) Index: List of Bldngs SAHL, , DoE, 1977, Birmingham
- (2) Bibliographic reference: Warwick, , Midgeley, MM, 1947, Vol 4, p.2
- (3) Bibliographic reference: , White, JH, 1961, Field Insp
- (4) Bibliographic reference: , Seaman, BH, 1967, Field Insp
- (5) **Reference** Bibliographic reference: , ASP, 1976, Field Insp
- (6) Bibliographic reference: Sheldon Hall, Birmingham. Report and Survey 1976, , Price, S J,
- (7) **Area** Bibliographic reference: Excavation, survey and excavation at She, , Ferguson R, 1981, 24,97
- (8) Bibliographic reference: Evaluation & Building Recording at Sheldon Hall, , Cook M., Templeton L. & Woodiwiss S, 1995, 38,111
- (9) Bibliographic reference: Watching Brief at Sheldon Hall, , Cook, M and Hancocks, A, 1996,
- (10) Bibliographic reference: Building Recording at Sheldon Hall, Tile Cross....., , Cook, M and Rigby, S, 1996,

Associated Finds

Associated Events/Activities

- BI114 **references** Event - Intervention: , -
- BI132 Event - Survey: , -
- BI166 Event - Intervention: , -
- BI17 Event - Intervention: , -

Associated Individuals

Associated Organisations

example of the moated house tradition. Timber framed wings to the E & W ends of the original hall were added during C17, although these are not thought to be contemporary with each other. A number of outbuildings are shown on a map of 1756. However, evidence of buried structures from the evaluation trenches is slight and has been affected by later disturbance. The only indicator of earlier activity is pottery of the C12-15. <8> A watching brief during development located the foundations of one or more earth-fast buildings, predating the Hall, the nature of the foundations of the existing Hall, the continuation of the moat on the E side of the Hall, and a series of probable garden features. The sequence of construction for the principle elements of the Hall was also determined. It was clear that the timber-framed wings preceded the brick central range, which was built up against them.<9> Archaeological observation and recording of the building following stripping of wall coverings, removal of floorboards and partial demolition suggested the following sequence of development: (i) East cross-wing, originally free-standing; (ii) West cross-wing, originally free-standing, and originally constructed elsewhere, on or off the site; (iii) Outshut built to north of west cross-wing; (iv) Brick central range built between two cross-wings, replacing a postulated earlier structure in this position. <10>

SMR 02404 - **Site Name** SHELDON HALL FARM BARN

SMR 02404 - BI670 **Site Name** SHELDON HALL FARM BARN **Record** Monument

C18. Brick; tiled roof. Three bays, the centre one advanced somewhat, gabled and containing the wagg

Classification and

Type and

BARN 18th Century - 1700 AD to 1799 AD

Class

Materials/Evidenc

EXTANT BUILDING

Rating and

Location

National Grid

SP16368734

Administrative

Ward Shard End, Birmingham
Historic County Warwickshire

Address

GRESSEL LANE (W)

Historic Names

Status and other

Listed Building (II)
Development Control Area (North)
Reference Number - 02404

Description

02404 C18. Brick; tiled roof. Three bays, the centre one advanced somewhat, gabled and containing the waggon entrance. The outer bays with vented walls and brick dentilled eaves. At the rear, later lean-to's right and left of the central waggon entrance nor gabled. Extending back from the left-hand lean- to a yet later long single-storeyed wing.<1>

Sources

(1) Index: List of bidings SAHI, , DoE, 1982, Birmingham

Associated Finds

Associated Events/Activities

Associated Individuals

Associated Organisations

SMR 02898 - **Site Name** DOWNTON CRESCENT MEDIEVAL

SMR **Site Name** **Record**
02898 - BI785 DOWNTON CRESCENT MEDIEVAL Find Spot

Silver groat of Henry V (1413-1422), found in 1979 whilst digging foundations for extension to 26, D

Classification and Type and

Class FINDSPOT 15th Century - 1413 AD to 1422 AD

Materials/Evidenc

FIND, SILVER

Rating and

Location

National Grid

SP162873

Administrative

Ward Shard End, Birmingham
Historic County Warwickshire

Address

DOWNTON CRESCENT

Historic Names

Status and other

Development Control Area (North)
Reference Number - 02898
Area of Archaeological Importance - 116

Description

02898 Silver groat of Henry V (1413-1422), found in 1979 whilst digging foundations for extension to 26, Downton Crescent, Tile Cross. Location now uncertain <1><2>

Sources

- (1) Bibliographic reference: , , , 1979,
- (2) Bibliographic reference: Roman & Medieval chance finds reported to Birm Mus, , Symons D, 1991, 96,97

Associated Finds

COIN 15th Century - 1413 AD to 1422 AD **SILVER**

Associated Events/Activities

Associated Individuals

Associated Organisations

SMR 03047 - **Site Name** BABBS MILL

SMR **Site Name** **Record**
03047 - BI928 BABBS MILL Monument
C18 mill house with adjoining mill keepers cottage

Classification and Type and

WATERMILL 18th Century - 1700 AD to 1799 AD
Class

Materials/Evidence
EXTANT BUILDING

Rating and

Location

National Grid

SP16138772

Administrative

Ward Shard End, Birmingham
Historic County Warwickshire

Address

GRESSEL LANE (S)

Historic Names

Status and other

Listed Building (II)
Development Control Area (North)
Reference Number - 03047

Description

03047 C18 but named apparently after John Babb, miller died 1651. Mill house with adjoining mill keepers cottage on the left. Both are of 2 storeys and 2 bays, but the mill house is higher and advanced somewhat from the keepers cottage. Brick partly painted; tile roof. Mill house altered with ground and first floor segment headed casement windows. Keepers cottage has casement windows on the ground and first floors, those on the ground floor with segmental heads. Mill house with slightly off centre door, the cottage with a slatted door on the right. The mill is timber framed and has dentilled eaves cornice and an attic storey. To the left of the cottage, an outbuilding. <1> The mill was closed c1914 <2> <3> Babbs Mill - There was a mill here in the early 18th Century. The mill ceased working c.1914 and was converted into a cottage. The brick building dates from the 18th Century. There is a small mill house attached. The waterwheel was mounted externally, but enclosed in a brick wheelhouse. The wall of the pool, and the line of the tail race can still be followed. <4>

Sources

- (1) Bibliographic reference: Warks Watermills, , Booth DTN, , P.55, No 8
- (2) Bibliographic reference: City of Birmingham re-survey report, , , , Part 2, p4
- (3) Index: List of Bldngs SAHI, , DoE, ,
- (4) Bibliographic reference: Warks Watermills, , Booth, , no85 p55

Associated Finds

Associated Events/Activities

SMR 03047 - **Site Name** BABBS MILL

Associated IndividualsNumber

Type

Associated Organisations

Date

e

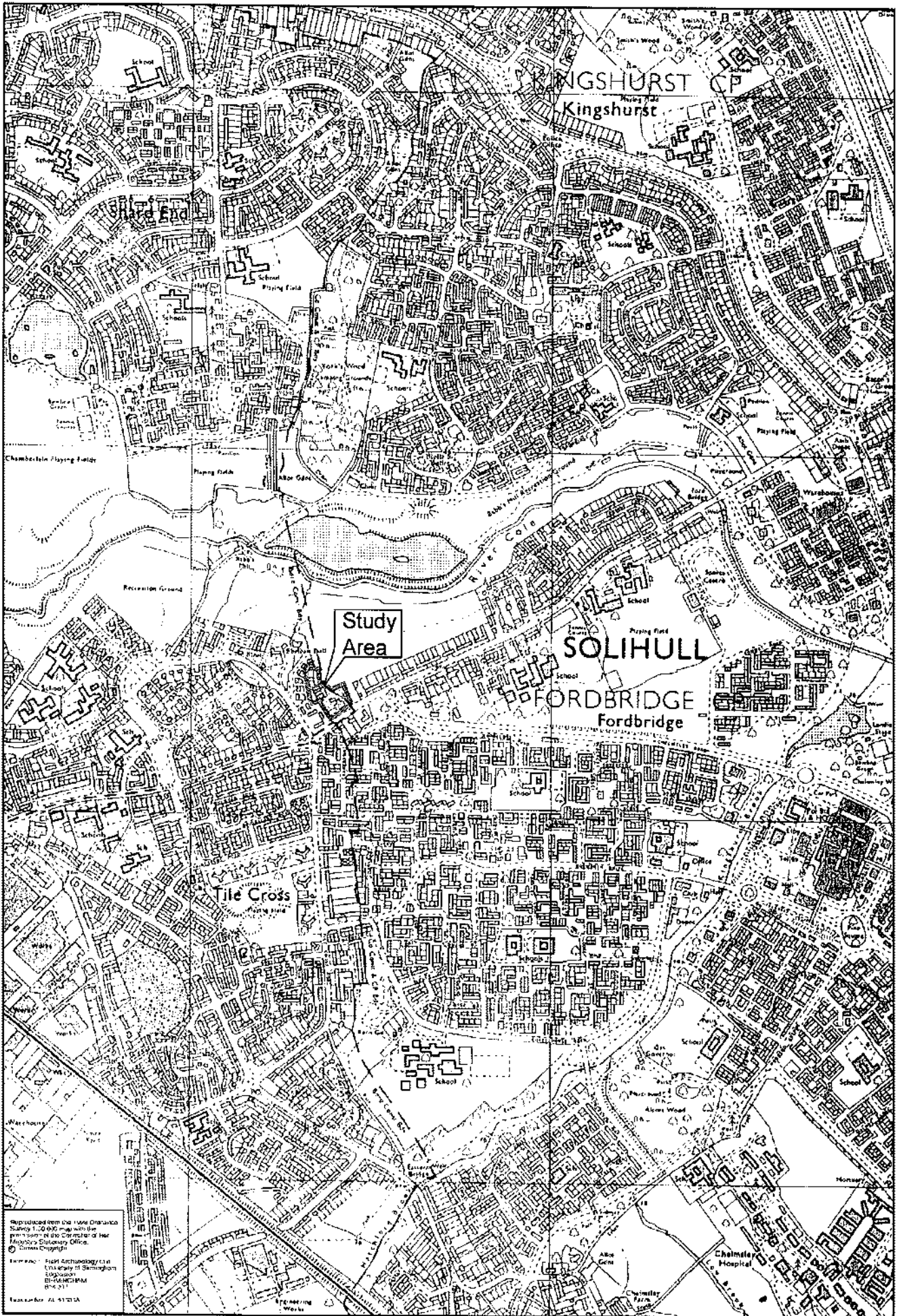
Scoring

Reference

Area

references

Figures



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey
 Series 1:000 map with the
 permission of the Controller of Her
 Majesty's Stationery Office.
 © Crown Copyright

Source: Field Archaeology Unit
 University of Birmingham
 Catalogue
 BU-ARCHM
 014-211

Reference: AL 5121A

Fig.1

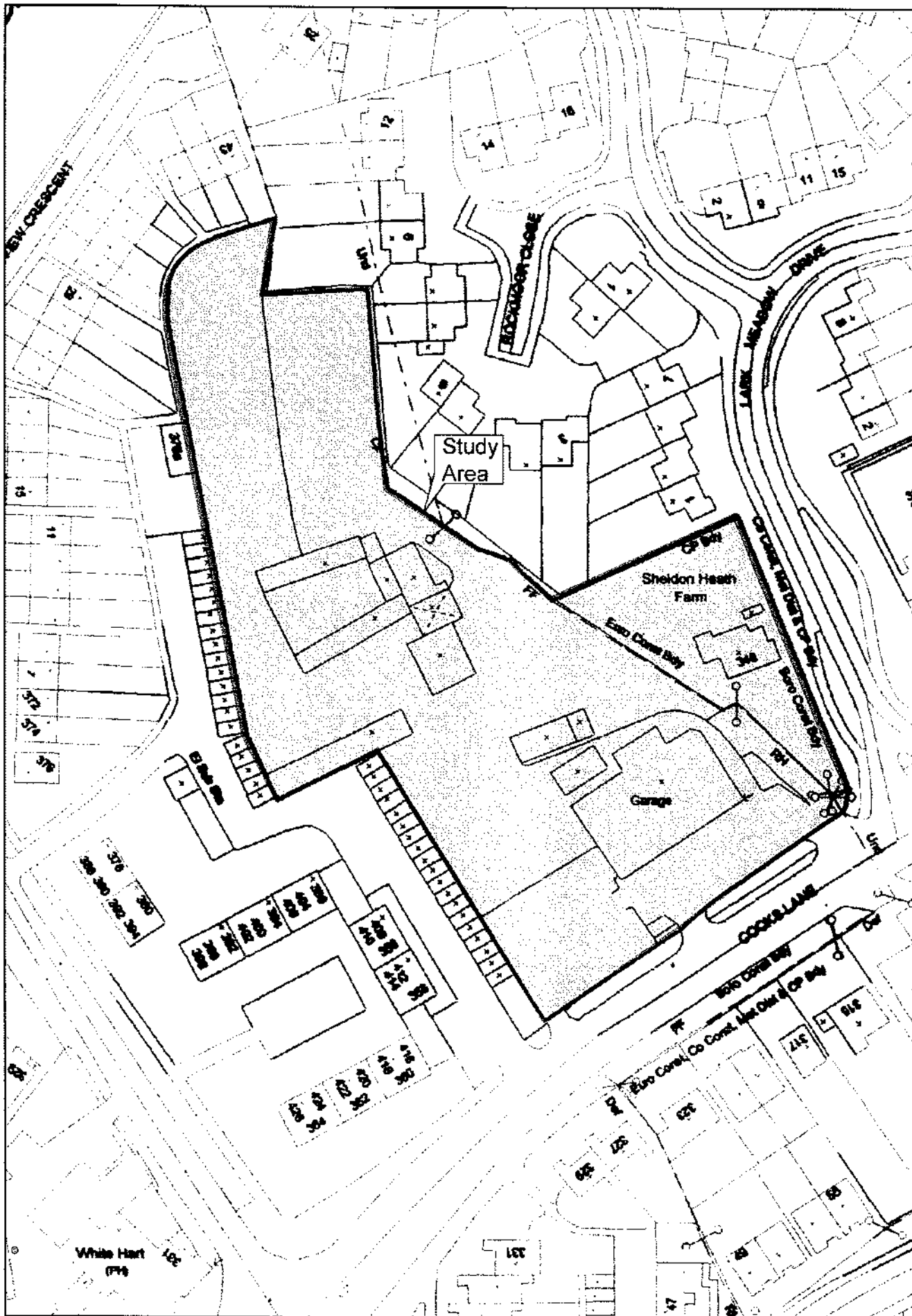
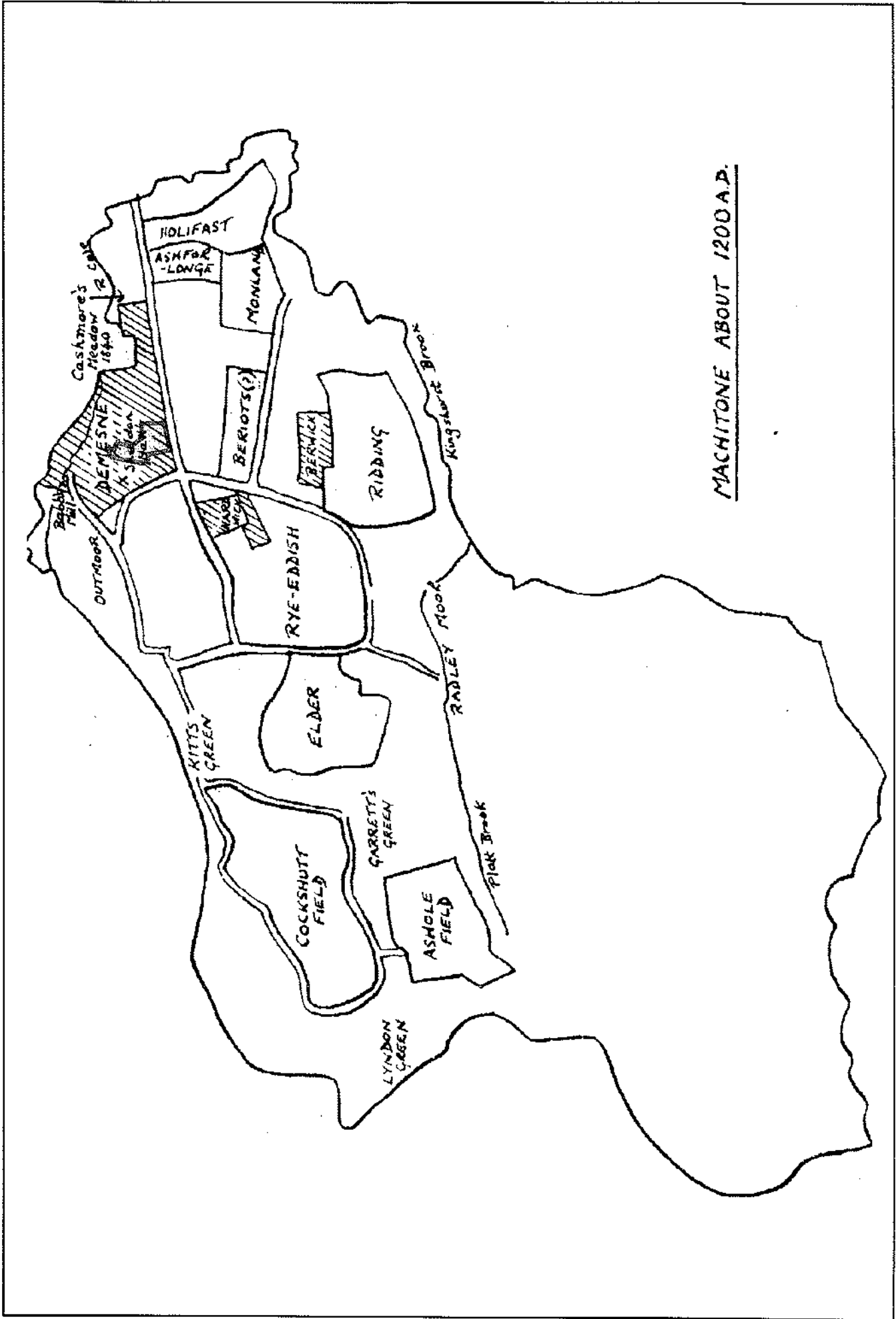


Fig.2



MACHITONE ABOUT 1200 A.D.

Fig.3 (V. Skipp 1960)

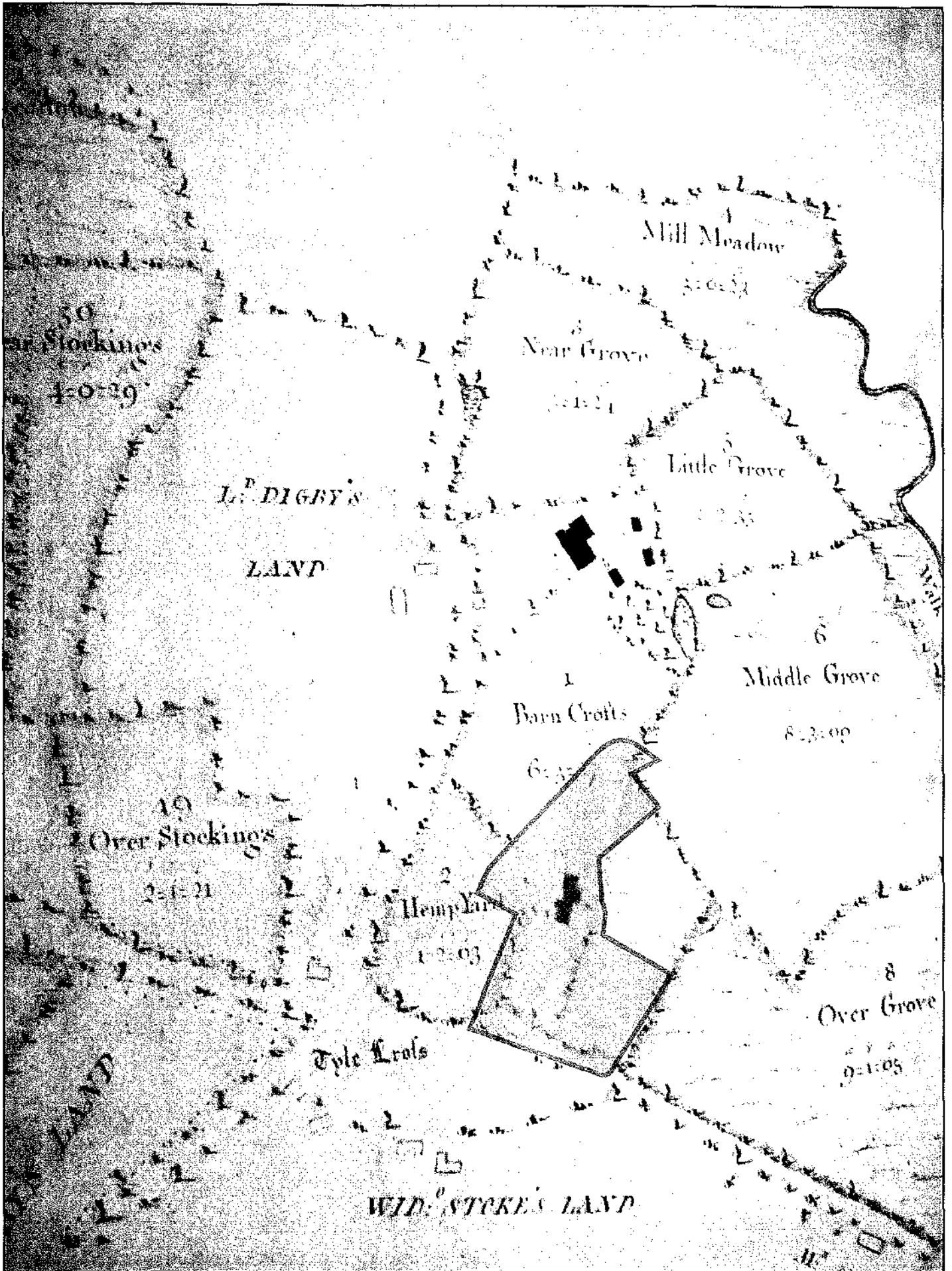


Fig.4 (1756)

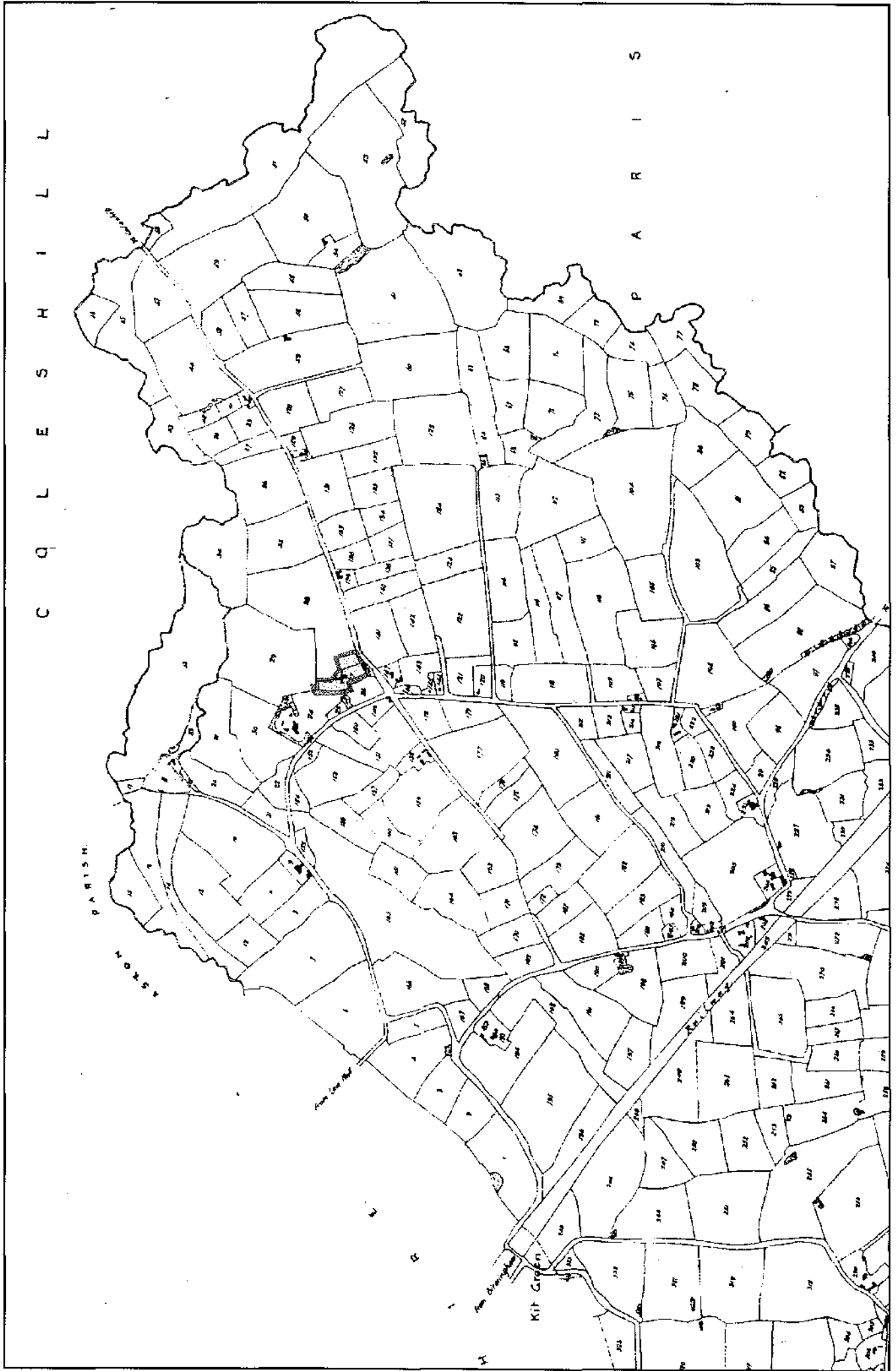


Fig.6 (1840)



Fig.7 (1886)

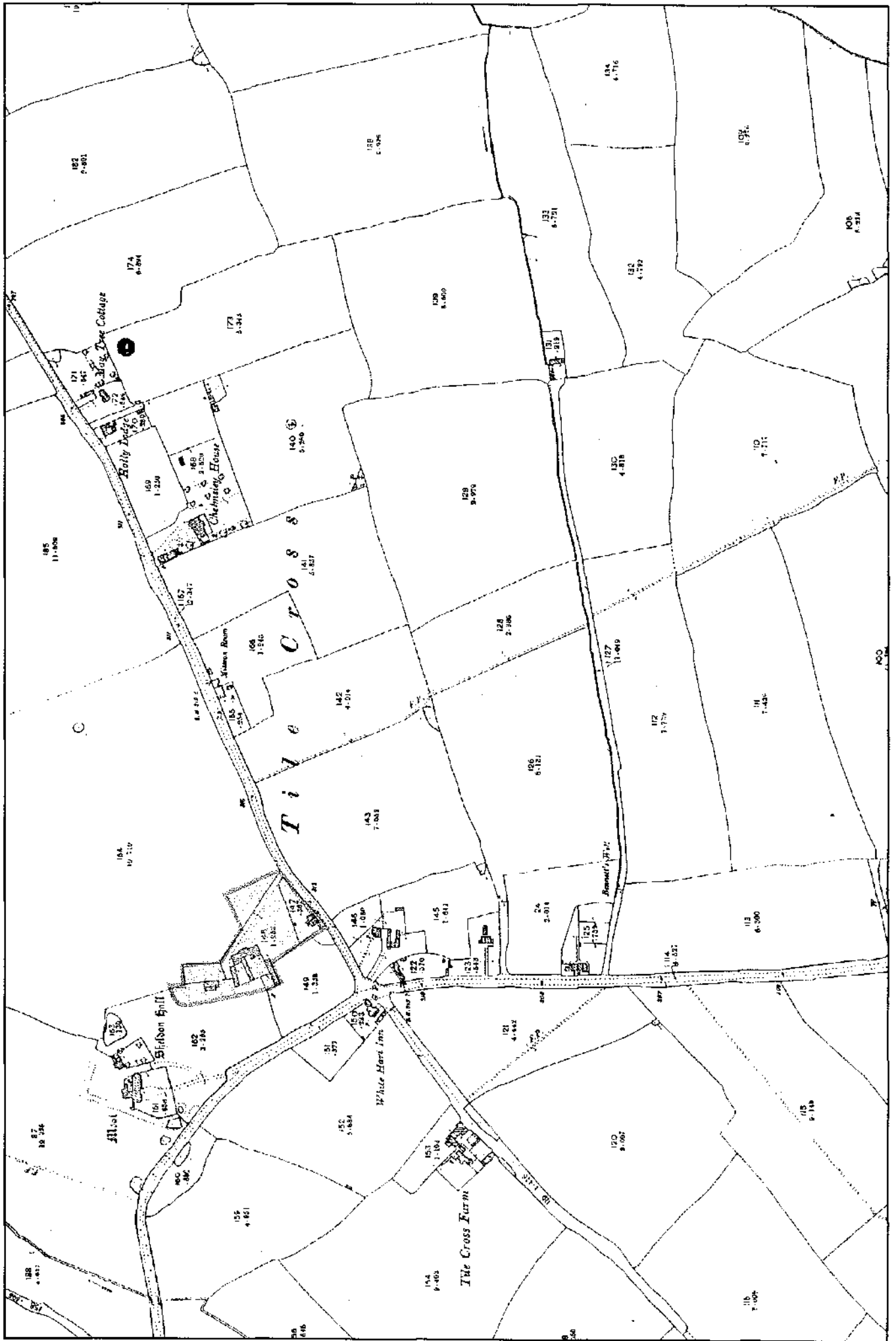


Fig. 8 (1904)

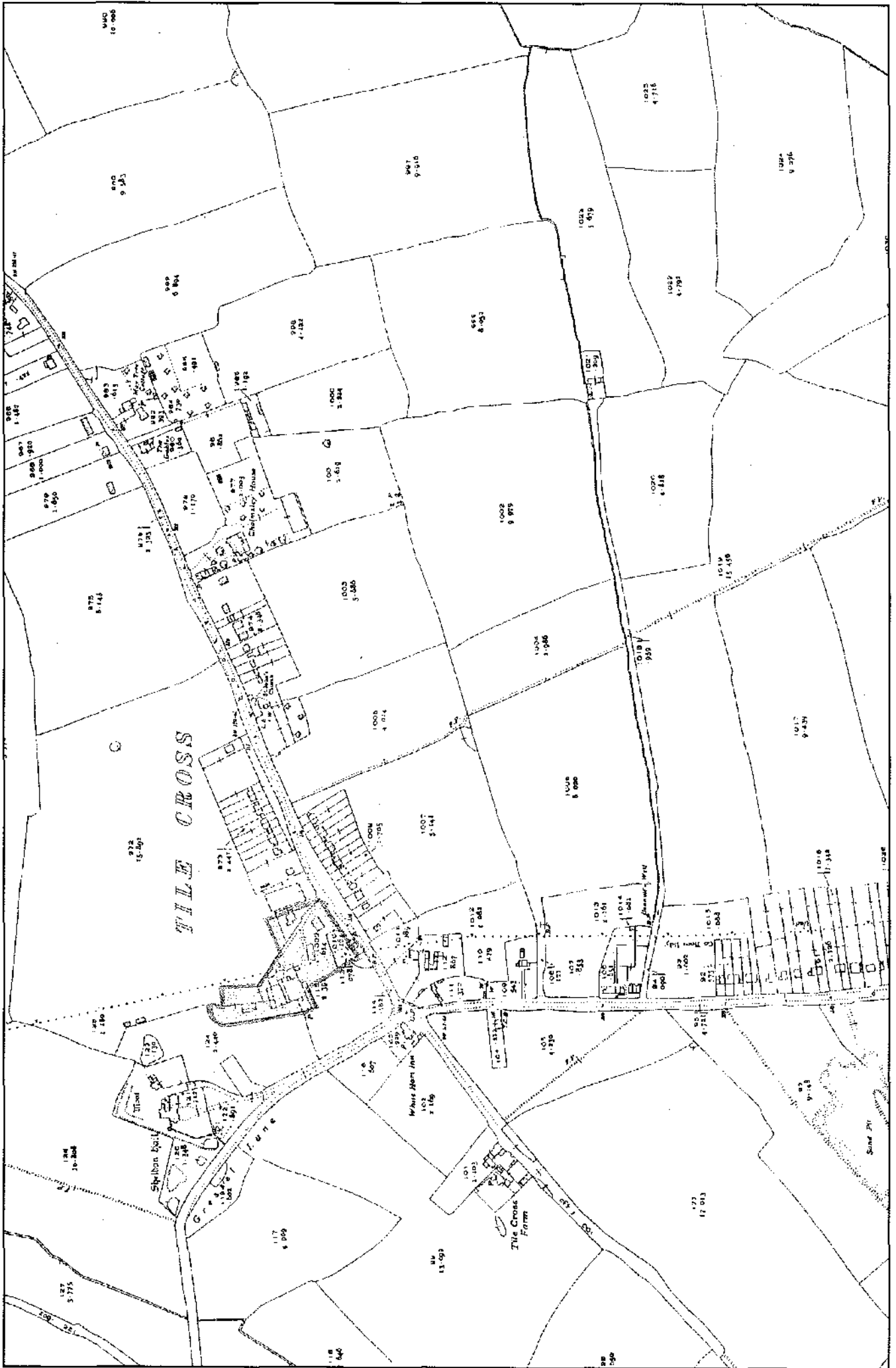


Fig. 9 (1937)

Plates



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7



Plate 8

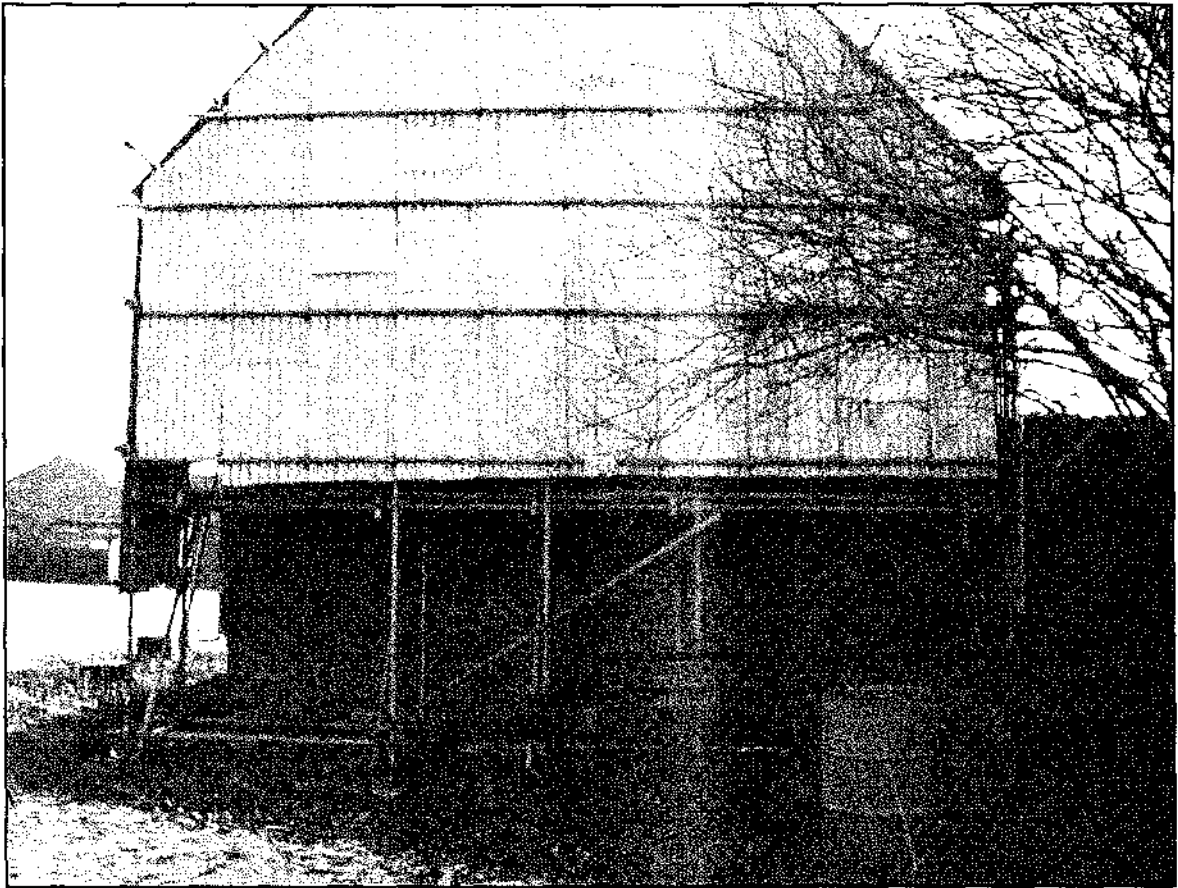


Plate 9