

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Speke Hall, Speke,
Merseyside.
NGR SJ 4187 8256
(Site Code 112)**

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief at Speke Hall, Speke, Merseyside.

The objective of the watching brief was, where possible, to identify and record the presence/absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits or features which were disturbed or revealed during the excavation of cable trenches and camera tower bases for a new CCTV security system being installed in the grounds of the Hall.

The only significant features identified were two groups of foundations. The first consisted of a single north-west aligned foundation situated just north-west of the moat and constructed in squared red sandstone blocks. Although the associated finds suggested a date in the 19th century, the wall is not depicted on the available contemporary mapping and its function remains uncertain. The other foundations were situated within the picnic area adjacent to the south-east corner of Home Farm and relate to sheds or similar structures shown on mapping from the late-19th century.

The watching brief found little other evidence for archaeological deposits in the areas monitored. In most areas the deposits consisted of a thin layer of topsoil over geological deposits of sand and clay. Only four fragments of pottery were found at various locations around the hall. The earliest of these dated to the 17th/18th century but was recovered from the spoil heap in an unstratified context. The remaining sherds dated between the 18th– 20th centuries and were found along the western and northern side of the moat surrounding the Hall.

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1. Introduction

Speke Hall, The Walk, Liverpool, Merseyside is situated close to the north bank of the River Mersey (NGR SJ 4187 8256). The site lies at the core of the former township of Speke which formed part of the parish of Childwall. The hall and its grounds cover an area of approximately 100 ha, though the watching brief was confined to areas around the moat, Home Farm and North Lodge (Fig. 1).

The site is situated at a height of c. 12 m AOD in an area of gently sloping topography. The solid geology in this part of Merseyside consists of Permo-Triassic Pebble Beds overlain by deposits of glacial drift.

The hall, and parts of the present gardens, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM13481) and Grade I Listed Building. The bridges to the north and east of the house are Grade II Listed. The North Lodge situated at the northern entrance to the estate was constructed in the late 19th century and is also Grade II Listed. Other buildings associated with the hall such as farm buildings and cottages had also been present within the grounds of the site before being demolished.

This project was to be undertaken in relation to groundworks required to insert a new CCTV security system in the grounds. Some of these ran sufficiently close to the scheduled area to require Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent. Others areas were of sufficient archaeological potential to also require monitoring.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

Speke Hall originated in the 13th century as a moated site although the earliest surviving documentary evidence for a building on the site dates from 1314. It is likely that there had been a hall since at least the 14th century in the form of a quadrangular manor house. The current building probably dates to between the late 15th - early 17th centuries when the hall was completely rebuilt.

Most of the recent fieldwork in the area relates the development of new visitor facilities, involving the conversion of Home Farm and the creation of a new car park and access road in 1996-2000 (Adams 1999).

A desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of the area was carried out (Milln and Woodside 1996, 1-2) in 1996. This discussed several pieces of fieldwork undertaken at Speke Hall since the 1970's. Most of these were concerned with recording standing structures, such as Home Farm (constructed in the late 19th century) and identifying the location of ancillary buildings associated with the hall. The report identified the requirement for systematic fieldwalking of the site prior to construction of the car park which now occupies the site. The main reason for this was that the Addison Estate map of 1781 named one of the fields 'Barn Hey' which suggested that the field may have been the location of a Medieval barn.

The evaluation took place in June 1999 and was followed by watching briefs in August of that year and January to February 2000. The evaluation was aimed at assessing the nature, survival and extent of any archaeological deposits in a part of the site which was to be redeveloped for car parking and a new access road. A desk-based assessment (Milln & Woodside 1996) and fieldwalking (Lewis 1997) of

the area had produced significant evidence which was thought likely to relate to archaeological deposits below the ground. Of particular importance were two groups of material from the fieldwalking, one composed of prehistoric struck flint and another of Romano-British pottery. A geophysical survey of the area conducted in May 1999 (Archaeophysica 1999) found limited evidence for occupation in one of the fields. However, the only deposits excavated were associated with two ditches which contained no directly datable material. In the absence of any associated dateable material or distinctive features such as internal structures or gateways it is impossible to be certain of the function or date of these features. However, map evidence suggests that they form part of either the Medieval or Post-Medieval management of the land around Speke Hall.

A watching brief on 'The Wilderness', a section of the infilled moat, was undertaken as part of the same project. This area is part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (National Monument Number 13481). The works on this part of the site were required for the insertion of new service ducts for phone, gas, foul and fresh water. Where possible the line of the trench was designed to follow the line of existing services. All of the deposits excavated from the moat were associated with late 20th century disturbance or the late 19th century filling of that section of the moat. Two fragments of human cranium were found in the moat, these had almost certainly been disturbed from elsewhere during quarrying of material for filling the moat. The excavation of the trench for services extending from the moat to Home Farm was also monitored. No archaeological deposits were encountered on that section.

Several historic maps are available of the study area. The earliest is the Addison Estate map of 1781 (Fig. 2) which shows the hall prior to improvements made in the 10th century. The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch sheet (Fig. 4) was surveyed in 1845-8 and published 1849 and shows the landscape in a very similar form to the Speke Tithe Map of 1844 (Fig. 3). The Shelmedine Estate map of 1869 (Fig.5) provides more detail, whilst the First Edition 25in Survey (Fig. 6) surveyed in 1891 and published in 1893 shows the area around the hall in its present form. The 1907 Edition (Fig. 7) shows Home Farm in its final form.

In the wider area fieldwalking at Oglet and at Hale, c. 5 km to the east, has located scatters of Prehistoric flint tools and there were topographic grounds for believing that similar scatters would be found at Speke Hall (Cowell 1982). A Bronze Age axe was found just outside the National Trust property in 1946 (Liverpool Museum Accession Number 60.27) but is not known to have been directly associated with occupation of the area. An evaluation and Watching Brief on the Northern Airfield site (Connelly 1998 a & b) had located a system of ditches believed to relate to the Post-Medieval enclosure of the area and a pit on the foreshore believed to date to the Late Bronze Age.

2. Aims & Objectives

The project aims to assess the survival of previously undisclosed archaeological features and/or finds around the moat, Home Farm and North Lodge. Full details of the research aims are given in the Project Design (Appendix A).

3. Methodology

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the project design issued by NMLFAU (Appendix A). The contractors adhered to the Code of Conduct and Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology issued by the IFA, at all times during the course of the investigations.

The project was managed by Mark Adams and site supervision was by Clare Ahmad (NMLFAU). The watching brief was carried out over ten days between 16 June – 01 July 2008.

A tracked mini-excavator fitted with a c. 1 m toothless ditching bucket was used for excavation of the CCTV tower bases, a 0.30m bucket was used for the excavation of the cable trenches. A hand-held hydraulic breaker was used to break through any concrete or extremely compacted layers. Machine excavation continued until the top of any suspected archaeology was encountered, manual excavation then followed.

The following procedures were used to excavate and record deposits:

A representative number of excavation contexts were cleaned by hand.

All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological feature or deposits which appeared to be worthy of preservation in situ.

The stratigraphy of the cable run trenches and camera pits was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were present.

All trenches were located with respect to the Ordnance Survey base map with additional taped survey undertaken by the ground works sub-contractors. This was digitised on to Auto CAD base mapping provided by the National Trust.

A photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using a Olympus 7.1 mega pixel model camera supplemented where appropriate with Black and White images taken with a 35 mm SLR camera. The photographic record includes images illustrating in both detail and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The record also includes working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. Given the nature of the results (see below) no other images were produced.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard National Museums Liverpool context recording sheets.

All finds retrieved from the site were processed at NMLFAU, where they were recorded on an Access finds database having been identified by J. Speakman. In accordance with NMLFAU guidelines, all modern items were discarded unless otherwise stated. The pottery was recorded by general ware/fabric type, with a count of the individual sherds present and a total weight for each record. Each record was assigned a unique identification number or SF no. (Small Find number).

On conclusion of the excavation, the trenches were laid with cables, backfilled and the surface reinstated.

4. Results

All archaeological features and deposits excavated within the watching brief area are described below. Because of the nature of the project they are described by area. All the CCTV tower bases (Pits 5 – 10 numbers provided by the client) measured c. 1 m² and were 1.30 m deep. The cable trenches measured 0.30m wide by c. 0.45 – 0.50m deep and are located within the text by reference to the pit numbers.

4.1 The Hall

4.1.1 Area south and west of the Hall (Pit 7 to 6)

Pit 7 was located on the south lawn, south-west of the moat and 13.50 m from the path adjacent to trees and shrubs (Figs 8 and 9; Plate 1). An upper turf layer, context 26, was 0.06 m thick and overlay a very dark brown humic topsoil layer, context 27, which was 0.20 m thick and contained frequent rounded pebbles. This overlay a loose gingerish brown sand layer, context 28, which was 0.20 m thick and contained fragments of red handmade brick rubble measuring c. 120 by 60 mm. A thicker friable, dark brown sandy loam deposit, context 29, 0.60 m thick, containing occasional brick fragments lay below context 28. The lowest deposit encountered was a soft, light brown sand layer, context 30, 0.24m thick.

A stretch of cable run was excavated northwards, bending to the west along the southern path, and also branching towards the north-east for 10 m (Fig. 8). The latter section stopped at the gravel path running parallel to the moat which forms the edge of the Scheduled area. In the area immediately adjacent to Pit 7 were more fragments of handmade brick within a loose deposit of sands and gravels, context 32 (Plate 2) which was probably part of the same deposit as context 28. There were also fragments of red, sub-angular sandstone rubble up to 230 by 110 by 100mm and stone roofing tile c. 200mm width by 17 – 20mm thick. No mortar was evident on the brick surfaces so they were probably not structural. These deposits probably resulted from the disposal of building debris from the hall. No datable material was associated with them, though they have been presumed to be 19th century.

For the remainder of this run of the trench the deposits were uniform throughout consisting of 0.20 m of topsoil (context 27) over a soft, very dark greyish brown sand deposit, context 31, with charcoal flecks to a depth of 0.50 – 0.60m. This layer showed some signs of moisture but was not waterlogged.

The cable trench continued north-west along the southern path running parallel to the moat through 0.10 m of stone chippings, context 33, onto soft, reddish brown sandy subsoil, context 34 (Plate 3).

A cut sandstone block (SF no.5), 370 by 220 by 100mm was recovered from the spoil heap at the extreme north-west corner of the moat. The block had punch tool dressing on one broad face and two longer narrow sides (Plate 4). The trench section was checked but there was no evidence of any further blocks, the only deposits present being topsoil (context 27) and sandy subsoil (context 34).

The cable trench continued north-west parallel to the west side of the moat, along the grass verge. The trench followed a slight bank and the finds and stratigraphy recovered suggested that this area was built up, using building debris from the estate, in the late 19th or early 20th centuries (Plate 5).

At c. 5m from the southern end fragments of stone roof tile, one with a peg-hole (SF no.4), were found at around 0.30 m deep in subsoil 34. This increased to very frequent inclusions within the context 34 at the base of the trench (Fig. 10). The only associated material was one fragment of handmade brick and one fragment of Welsh roofing slate which suggests that this material was deposited in the 19th century or later. No other dating evidence was present. At this point the subsoil was observed overlaying very coarse gravels, context 35, at a depth of 0.50 m. The gravels had

faded out by c. 10 m from the southern end of the trench as had the building material (Plate 6).

At c. 45 m from the north end of the trench there was a group of coarse, unmortared, red sandstone blocks (Plate 7) set within a very compact reddish brown clay (Fig. 8). The section (Fig. 11) showed slight evidence of a cut, context 37, filled by clay and gravel, c. 1m wide. The blocks were left *in situ* and were probably an 18th or 19th century land drain.

At 22 m from the centre of Pit 6 (Figs 8, 12 and 13) was an *in situ* red sandstone block, context 38, apparently part of a wall (Plate 8). This was surrounded by a very soft, dark reddish brown silty sand, context 39, containing frequent gravel inclusions and occasional brick fragments and sherds of Victorian pottery (including SF no.2). The sandstone block had punched tool marks on the north face and was 0.30 m in depth. On widening the trench to remove the block the wall was seen to extend both to the east and west (Plate 9). Upon removal of the block another equally substantial sandstone block was observed underneath, the cut here was also more obvious (Plate 10).

The finds evidence suggests that this wall relates to a Victorian garden feature, though the available map evidence shows no structures at this location (Figs 2-7) and its exact function remains uncertain.

4.1.2 Area north of moat and Hall (Pit 6-5)

Pit 6 was located at the north-west corner of the path surrounding the moat. An upper turf layer 26, 0.06 m thick, lay directly over a deep, dark brown humic topsoil layer, context 42, 0.80 m thick with frequent roots from the nearby shrubs. This was followed by a firm, gingerish brown clay layer, context 43, 0.45 m in depth (Figs 8 and 9, Plate 11). No finds were recovered from this area.

The cable trench continued eastwards from Pit 6 along the path in front of the north-east wing of the hall (Plate 12). This stretch was over 100m long before turning north into the trees and shrubs towards Pit 5.

The path north of the moat consisted of compressed stone chippings, context 44, to a depth of c. 0.30m, overlaid a layer of friable, dark greyish brown sandy loam, context 45, 0.10m thick containing moderate root action (Plate 13). An 18th/19th century darkware pancheon rim (SF no.3) was recovered 22.50 m from the western end within context 45. At around 30 m from the western end the layer below the path gradually changed to a yellowish brown mottled sand deposit, context 46, with evidence of a moderate amount of root action (Plate 14). As the trench progressed past the footbridge context 46 became deeper further towards the trees and shrubs. At around the last 7 metres of this stretch the mottled sands began to fade out into a thicker, compacted gingerish brown clay deposit, context 47, up to 0.35 m in depth.

Machine excavation at this point had to cease and the trench excavated by hand through the area of trees and shrubs. A short stretch, 9 metres, was hand dug northwards towards Pit 5 (Plate 15). The trench section was generally consisted of a 0.30 m deep layer of soft, dark brown rooty topsoil, context 48, overlying context 47 measuring 0.20m in depth (Plate 16).

The deposits in Pit 5 consisted of an upper layer of very dark brown, humic topsoil with frequent root action, context 48, 0.35m thick (Fig. 9, Plate 17). This overlay soft, light brown sandy subsoil, context 49, 0.50m, in depth over a thinner orange clay

deposit, context 50, 0.15m thick. The last layer encountered was a compacted, yellowish grey mottled sand deposit, context 51, 0.30m thick. No finds were recovered.

4.1.3 Area east of the moat and hall (Pit 5 to the Stables)

The cable trench branched off from Pit 5 continuing eastwards towards the approach road to the hall (Fig. 14). This stretch measured approximately 27 metres and had to wind through the trees and undergrowth (Plate 18) and consequently is only located approximately on the drawings. For much of this section the trench ran through a uniform context 48 (Plate 19) of very dark brown, humic topsoil with frequent root action. At around 14 metres along some modern rubbish was observed within the spoil. This consisted of beer and coca-cola cans, small glass bottles and plastic food wrappers all relatively recent in date, from the 1980s onwards.

After passing across the hedge line the cable trench continued eastwards across the drive, before turning south towards the Stable Block (Fig. 14). Tarmac, context 52, was removed to a depth of 0.06 m onto a black tar bound stone sub-base, context 53, which was 0.10 m thick (Fig. 15). A c. 0.10 m thick layer of disturbed cobbles, context 54, was visible in the section. This context probably represented an earlier road surface. Below 54 there was a layer of unworked sandstone blocks within a loose, red gravelly sand, context 55, 0.12 m deep. The sandstone blocks, whose average size was 0.35 by 0.25 by 0.10 m were probably deposited as make-up for the cobbles. At around the halfway across the road, c. 4 metres along, contexts 54 and 55 began to peter out and the tarmac layer became thicker, c. 0.10 m in depth. Below context 53 was a deposit of soft, gingerish yellow sand, context 56, 0.30 m thick, which carried on for the remainder stretch across the road (Plate 20).

The cable trench then turned and continued across a lawn in a south easterly direction for c. 25 metres towards the Stable Block (Fig. 14). The trench profile for this stretch was largely uniform in that turf, context 57, was removed to a depth of c. 0.06 m onto a very dark brown, rooty, humic topsoil, context 58, ranging in depth between 0.25 – 0.35 m. The lower 0.10 – 0.15 m consisted of a soft mottled gingerish yellow sand layer similar to context 56. At the northern end, nearest the road, a 0.50 m wide dump of building debris was observed in section containing red, hand-made brick and sub-angular sandstone fragments within context 58.

The trench continued across the track to the cottages. At the southern end it crossed the upper surface of a brick and stone drain on the edge of a grass verge, east of the Stable Block. The drain was set within a 1.50 m wide cut backfilled with stone flags feeding into a modern manhole. No dating material was found, though it is likely to be probably contemporary with the road to the cottages to the east. The trench then turned at a right angle heading west through topsoil into the Stable Block.

4.1.4 Home Farm

Two pits (8 and 9) connected by cable trenches which also linked to the main farm building were excavated in this area (Fig. 16).

Pit 9 was situated within the picnic area approximately 20 m west of Home Farm. Below the turf, context 8, at a depth of 0.08m, a brick wall, context 9, two courses wide, running northeast – southwest was encountered almost immediately. A concrete slab, context 10, butted against the wall on its western side (Plate 21, Fig. 17). Wall 9 consisted of seven courses, 0.65 m deep, of red hand-made bricks laid in

stretcher bond and using lime mortar. The lowest two courses were stepped out by c. 0.10 m. The brickwork overlaid a thick deposit of soft, brown sand, context 11, measuring 0.60 m thick. It was decided that in order to avoid damaging any of the brickwork that the pit would be re-located to the eastern side of the brickwork (Plates 21 and 22). Here, the pit was opened a further 1.10 (N – S) by 1.40m (E – W). Directly below the turf was a thick layer of disturbed made-ground measuring 0.60 m thick. This consisted of a loose, brown gravelly silt deposit, context 12, containing frequent brick and mortar fragments. This was followed by context 11, a thick layer of soft, brown sand measuring 0.65m in depth (Plate 22).

Another brick foundation, context 13, was exposed on the south-eastern side of the pit (Plate 23). Again, the brickwork lay directly below the turf and consisted of three courses of red, hand-made bricks, 0.30 m deep. The bricks lay over a foundation of sandstone blocks, context 14, only three were visible in section, all 0.13m thick. During excavation of the cable trench it became apparent that immediately north of Pit 9 wall 13 turned to the south-east.

It was not clear if these walls were associated with each other, or represented separate structures, though both clearly dated to the late 19th century. However, the closest buildings are a set of small square sheds or similar structures just to the east of Home Farm on the 1893 and 1907 OS sheets (Figs 6 and 7). It is difficult to relate walls 9 and 13 to specific structures, though it seems likely that wall 9 relates to what appears to be a boundary between the sheds and Home Farm which suggests that the concrete surface is part of the farmyard for Home Farm.

Immediately to the north-east of Pit 9 the cable trench was excavated through brick and mortar rubble with fragments of red sandstone and Welsh slate within a loose, brown gravelly silt (Context 15, Fig. 19). Approximately 1.50 m north of pit 9 context 15, petered out into a very dark brown humic topsoil, context 16, below the turf containing frequent root action, 0.40 thick (Plate 34). This was followed by a dark brown sandy subsoil context 17, 0.10m thick. At around 10 metres from Pit 9 fragments of concrete slab measuring c. 0.70 by 0.50 by 0.10m, brick rubble and occasional cobble stones, c. 0.15 by 0.07 by 0.05m, were observed within context 17. At around 11 metres a concrete slab, context 18, was encountered 3 metres long at a depth of c. 0.40m (Figs 17 and 19). The slab was left undisturbed and the trench carried on northwards over the surface. At this point the cable trench reached the grassed area outside of the picnic area. A short stretch connected the main cable trench with a duct within the grassed area.

The main trench then branched both to the east, towards the hedge and Pit 8, and west towards the main farm building Fig. 16. The deposits below the turf in this area, were heavily contaminated with building debris from the building works during the refurbishment of Home Farm building in 1999-2000. Turf lay directly over, a loose, brown rubbly subsoil deposit, context 19, to the base of the trench. Within this layer were frequent amounts of modern bricks, sandstone fragments, large blue plastic sheeting, plastic tube casings for cables and a wellington boot .

Machining continued west across the driveway for 6 metres, finishing at the Farm building, near the southeast corner. Below the compacted crushed stone drive surface, context 21, 0.20m thick, lay a firm, dark gingerish brown sandy clay, context 22, 0.30m in depth.

Pit 8 was located on the grass verge adjacent to the western side of the existing car park, 5 metres south of the main public pathway into the grounds (Fig. 16). The turf layer was removed to a depth of 0.08 m onto a loose, light brown sandy subsoil

deposit, context 23, 0.26m thick, containing frequent red, handmade brick and sandstone fragments (Plate 24, Fig 20). This overlay a soft, dark grey ashy/cinder layer, context 24, 0.30m thick, onto a thick deposit of soft, light brown sand, context 25, 0.64m in depth. No archaeological features or finds, other than building material including whole bricks and fragment, were recovered.

The cable trench ran southwards for 21 metres before turning at a right angle westwards for 2.60 metres under the hedge. This connected to the cable trench from the picnic and grassed area on the opposite side. The trench profile for this stretch consisted of contexts 8, 23 and 24, though the quantity of building rubble increased within context 23 as the trench progressed towards Pit 8.

4.1.5 North Lodge

Pit 10 was positioned furthest away from the hall, c. 33 metres south of the main gate, on the eastern side of 'The Walk' (Fig. 21).

The turf layer, context 1, 0.07 m deep, was excavated onto loose, sandy topsoil context 2, 0.20 m thick, with evidence of extensive root action. This was underlain by a loose, dark grey ashy/cinder layer, context 3, 0.09 m thick, containing frequent fragments of red handmade brick. This overlay a layer of concrete, context 4, 0.10 m thick (Plate 25, Fig. 20). A breaker was used to excavate through the concrete and following compacted layers. A very compacted layer of dark grey/black layer of cinders, context 5, 0.09m thick, followed context 4. This overlaid an unbound, compacted sandy gravel/pebble layer, context 6, almost 0.40m thick over a compacted dark greyish brown soil, context 7, containing a moderate amount of root action, 0.15m thick.

The cable trench connected to this pit ran northwards towards the main gate for approximately 32 metres to a distribution board. The trench profile consisted of the upper three contexts (1 – 3) encountered in Pit 10.

5. Conclusions

In general the watching brief found that the cable trench and towers were excavated through deposits of top soil and undisturbed sub-soil. Finds generally consisted of building material including hand-made brick, dressed red sandstone and roofing slate probably derived from the hall and other buildings on the estate. In places the building material was concentrated at the base of top soil, possibly as a result of disposal of debris during landscaping, though in many areas the excavated area was too narrow to be certain of this. There was remarkably little ceramic material, such as pottery, within top soil given the long occupancy of the site.

There was more extensive evidence for made-ground along the western edge of the moat, probably relating to late 19th century landscaping, though otherwise there was little or no structural evidence and much of that present related to drainage.

An east-west aligned stone wall at the north-west corner of the moat was of uncertain significance. The associated finds suggest a date in the late 19th century, though it is not shown on contemporary mapping and its function remains uncertain.

The brick walls located in the area around Home Farm appear to relate to small structures or sheds shown on 1893 and 1907 OS mapping of the area.

7. Figures



Fig. 1. Site Location.

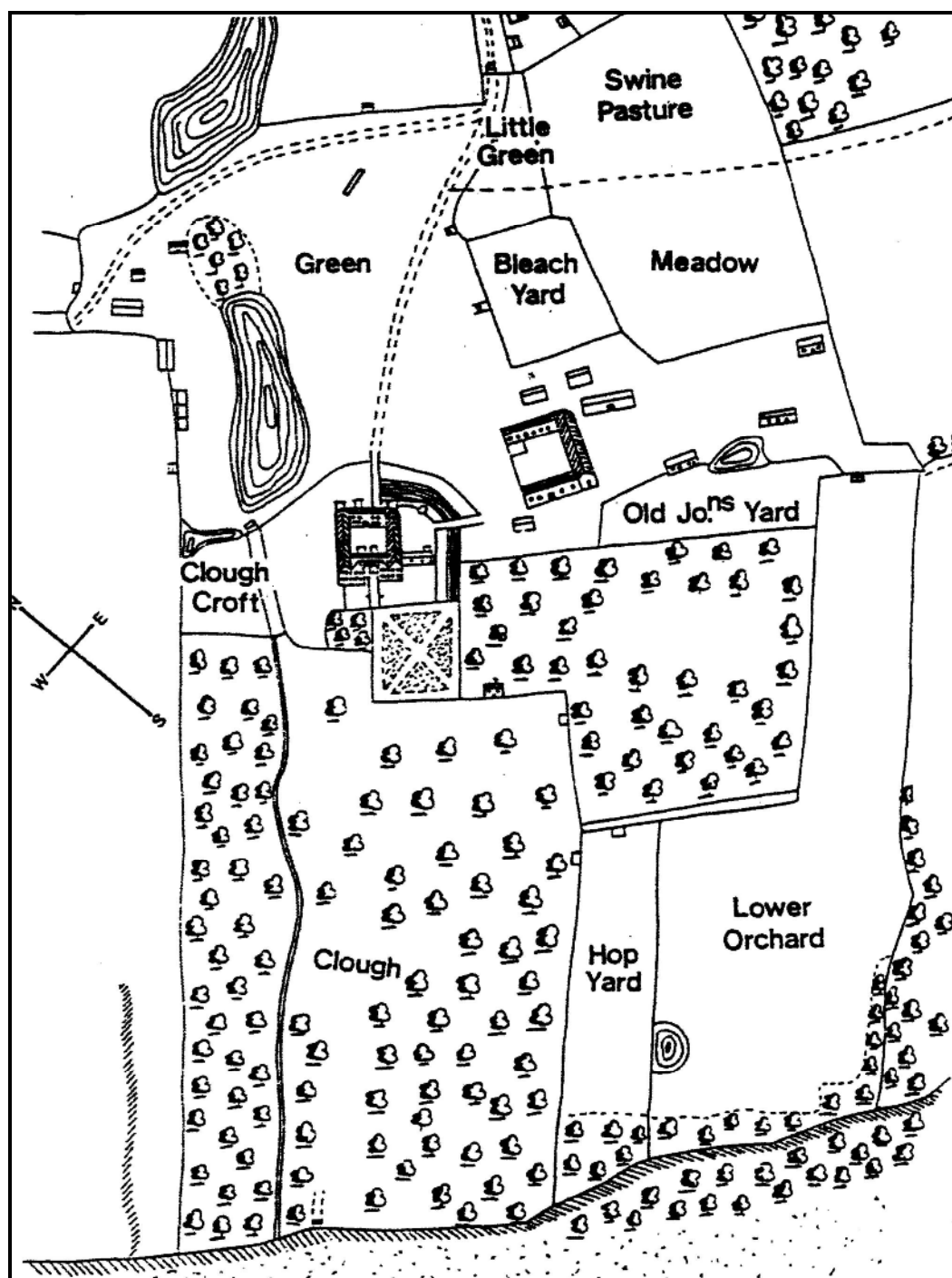


Fig. 2. Part of the Addison Estate Map of 1781. Not to scale.

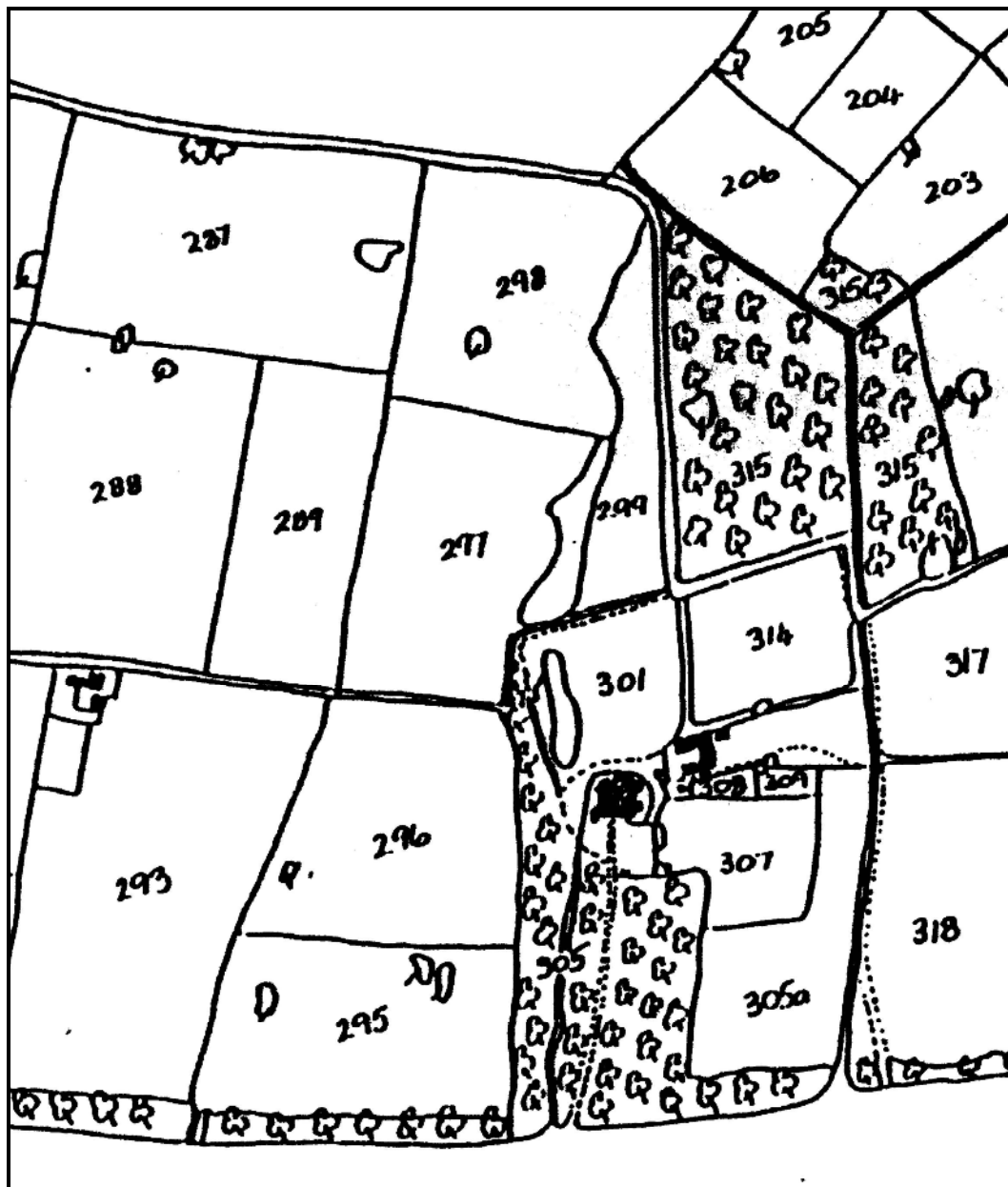


Fig. 3. Part of the Speke Tithe Map of 1844. Not to scale.

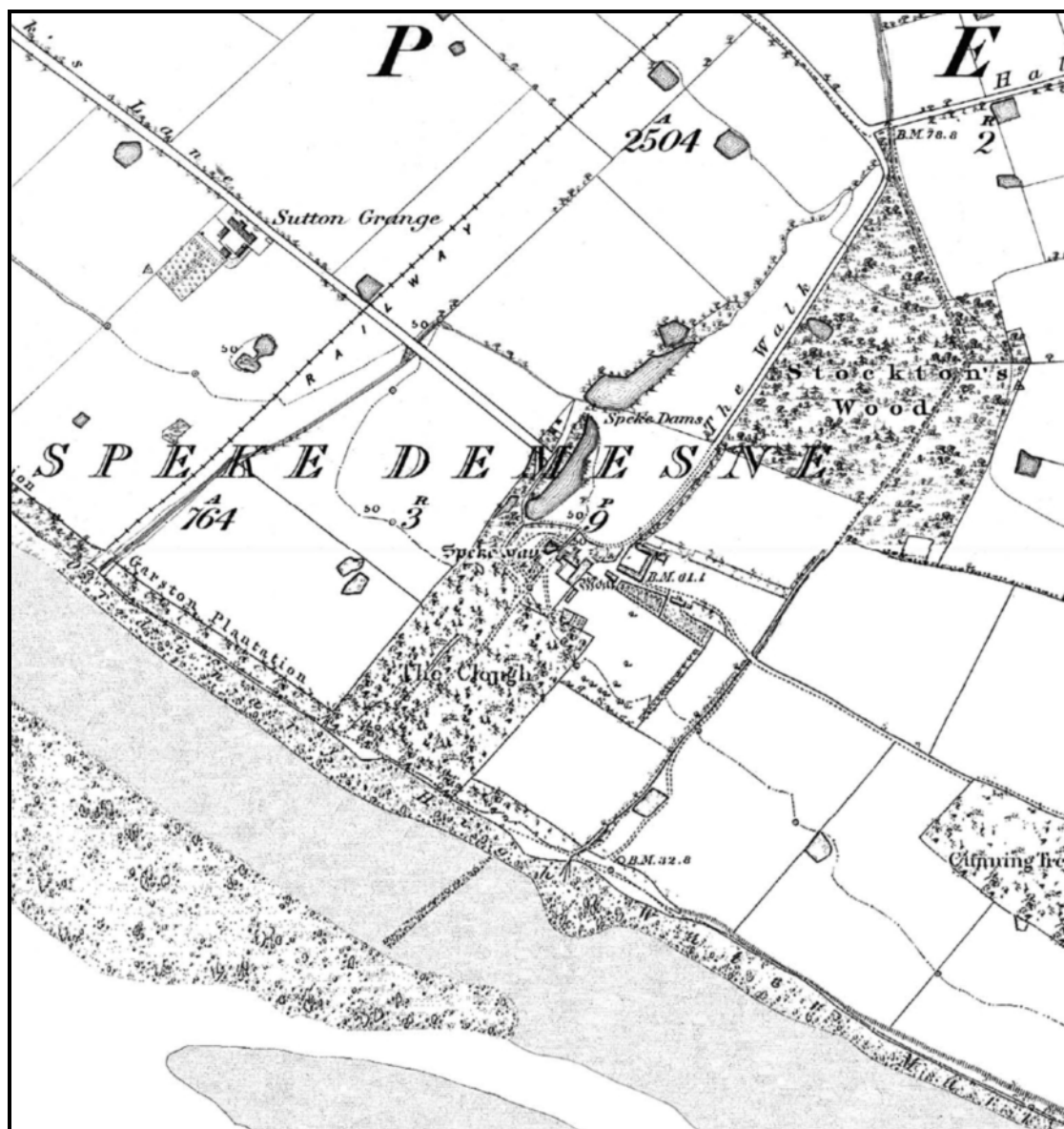


Fig. 4. Part of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6in sheet published 1849. Not to scale.

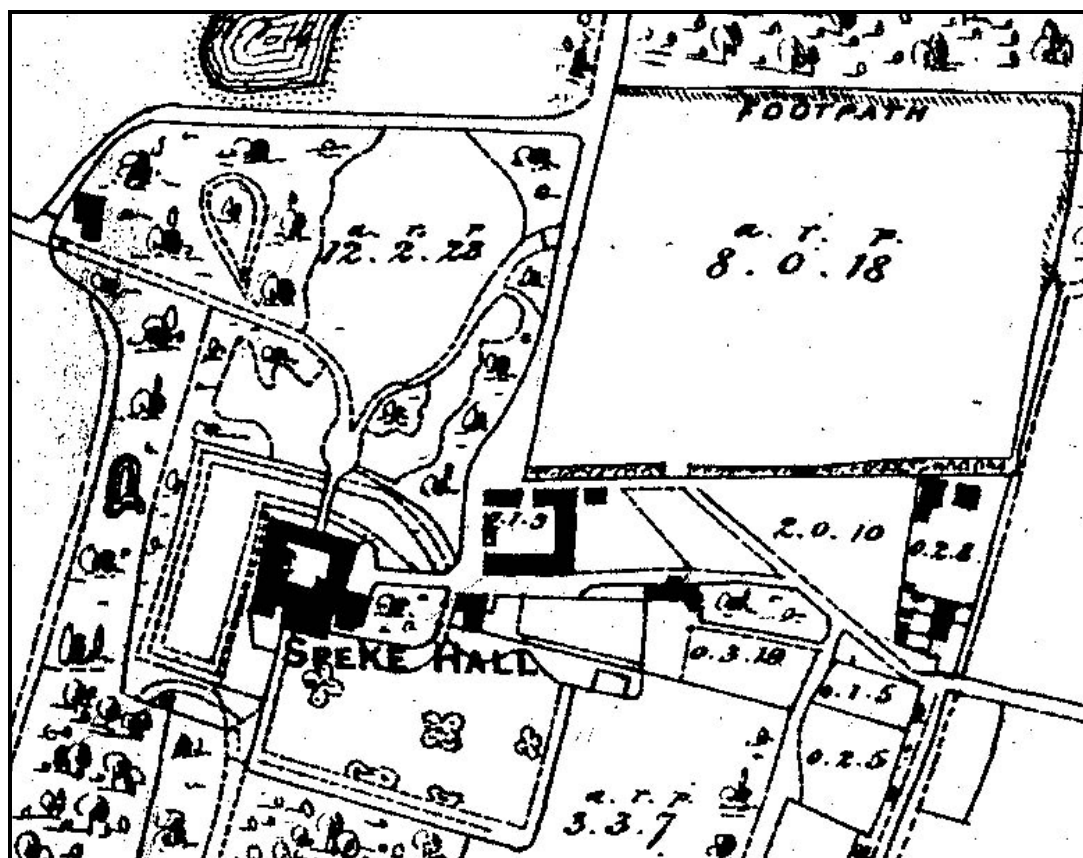


Fig. 5. Part of the Shelmedine Estate Map of 1869. Not to scale.

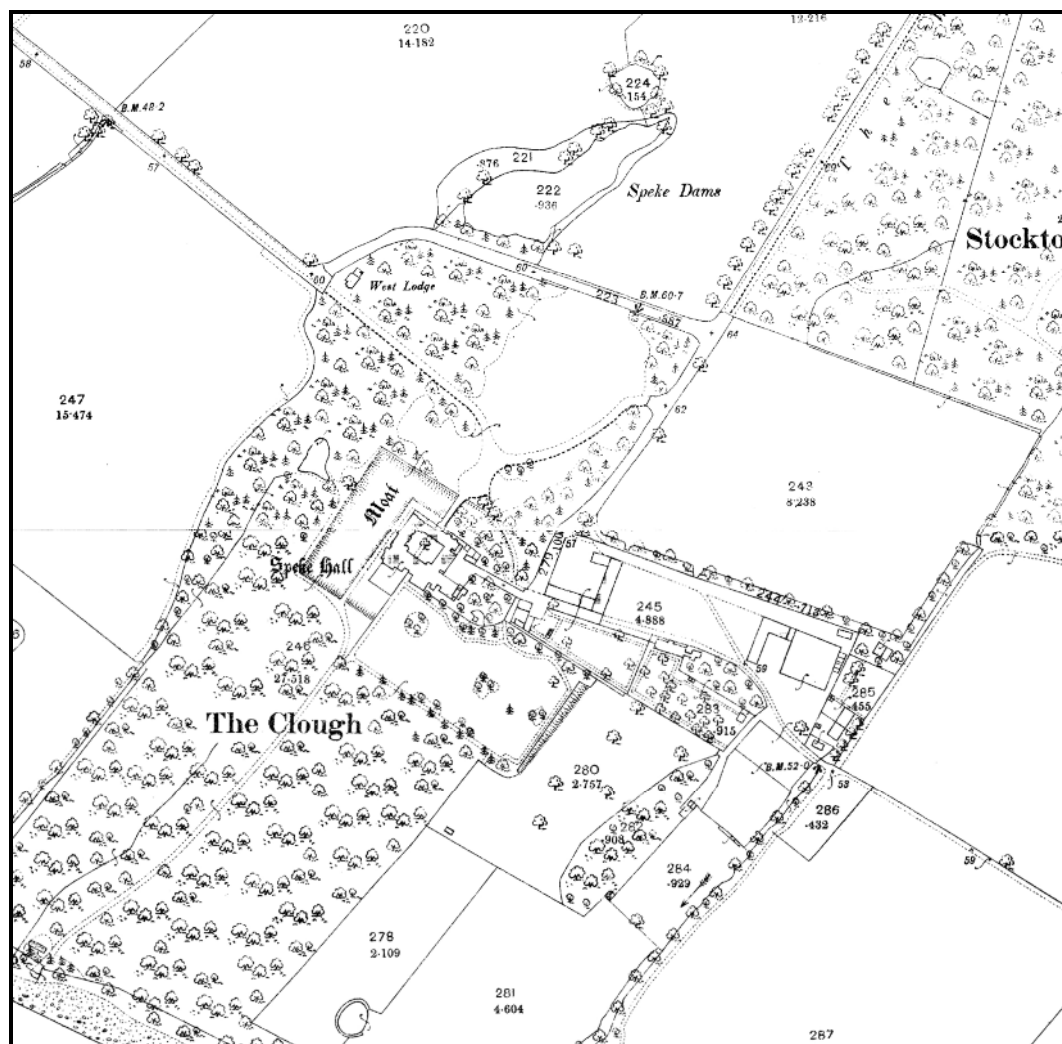


Fig. 6. Part of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25in sheet published 1893. Not to scale.

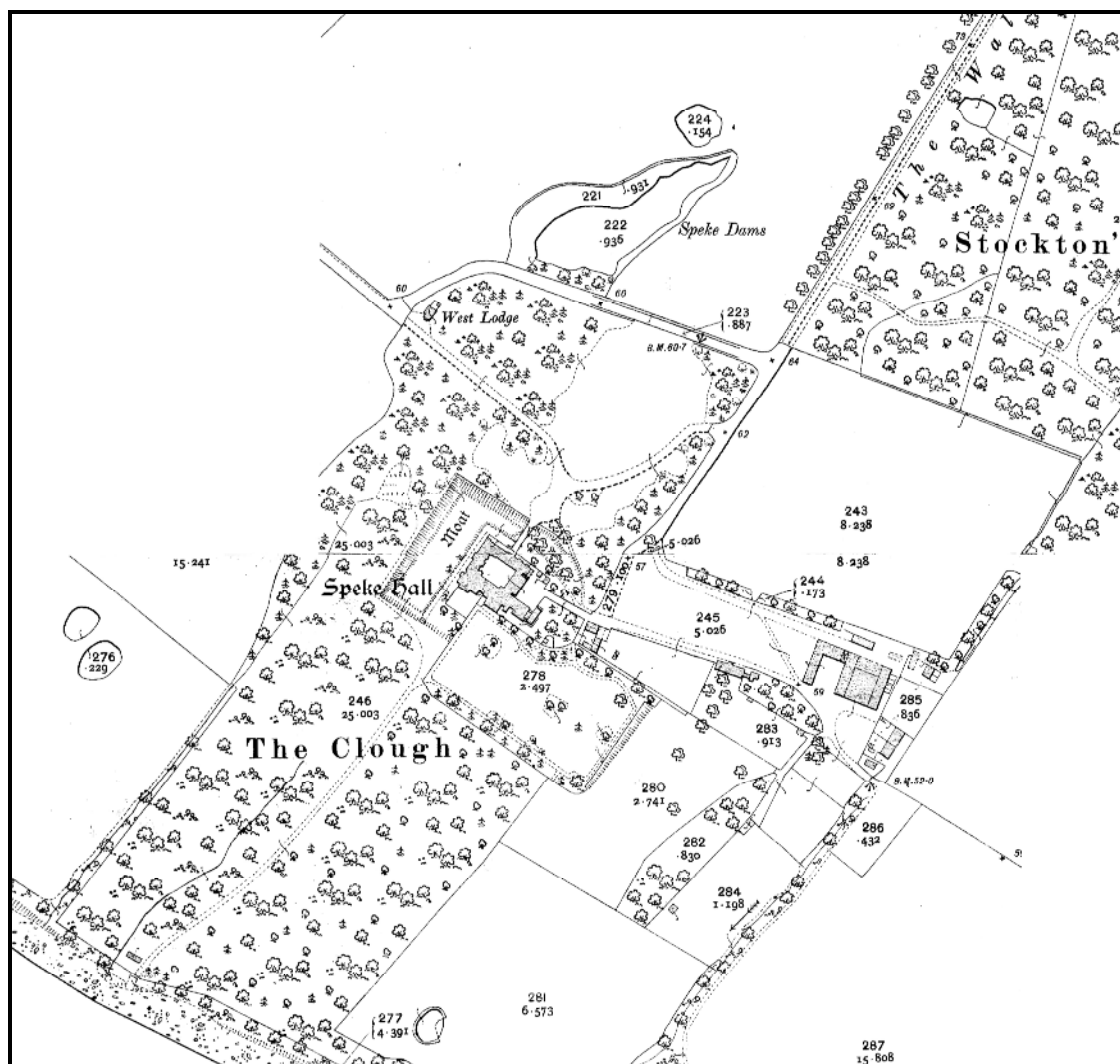


Fig. 7. Part of the 1907 Edition Ordnance Survey 25in sheet. Not to scale.

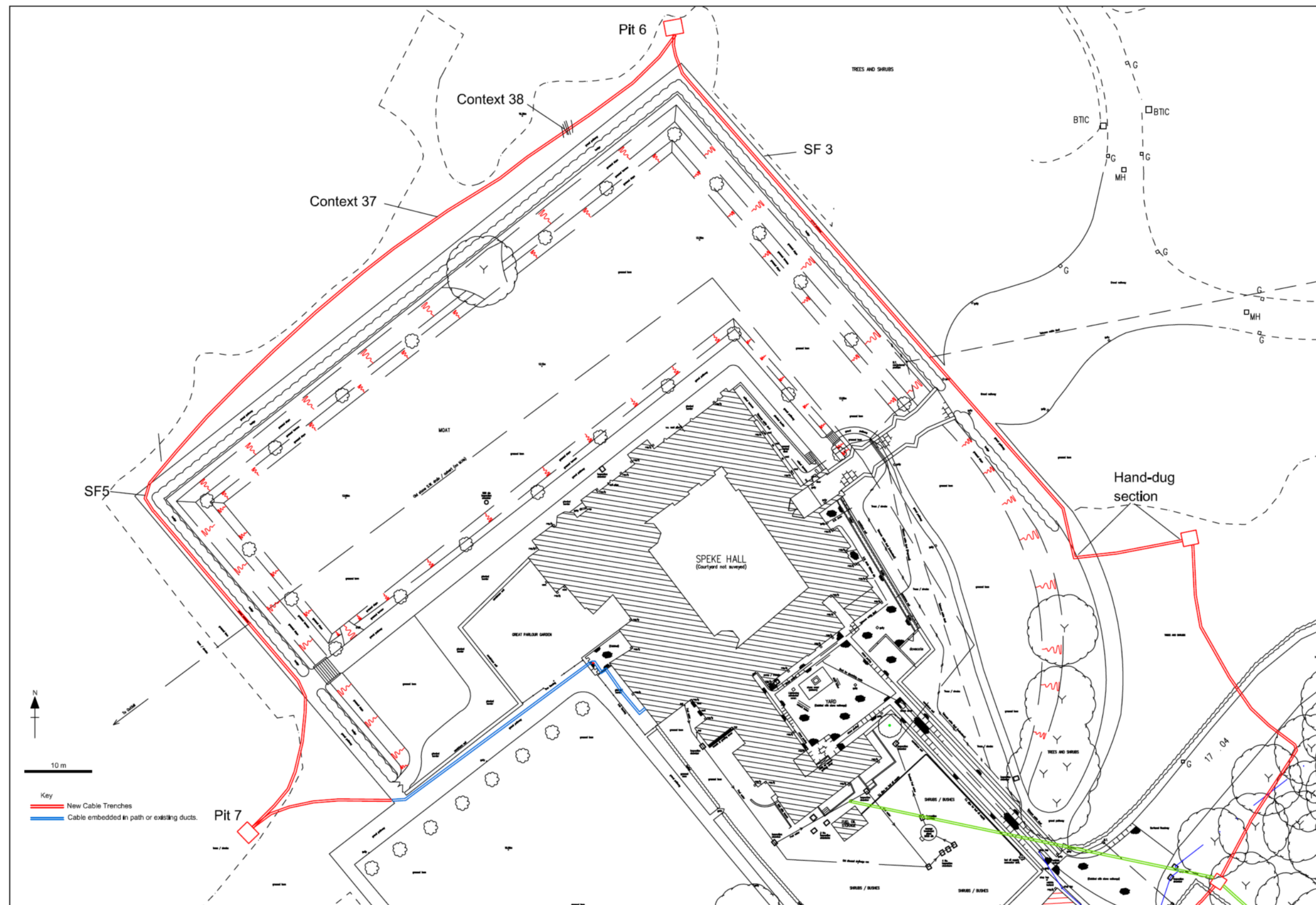


Fig. 8. Location of cable trenches around the hall.

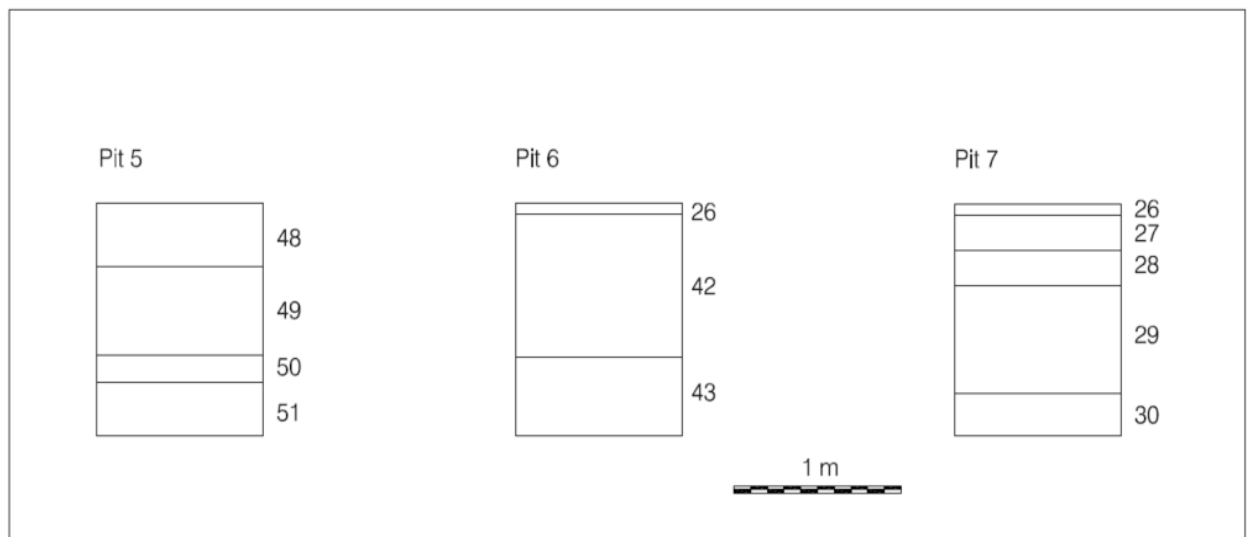


Fig. 9. Schematic profiles of generalised sections across pits 5, 6 and 7 showing the relative positions of contexts.

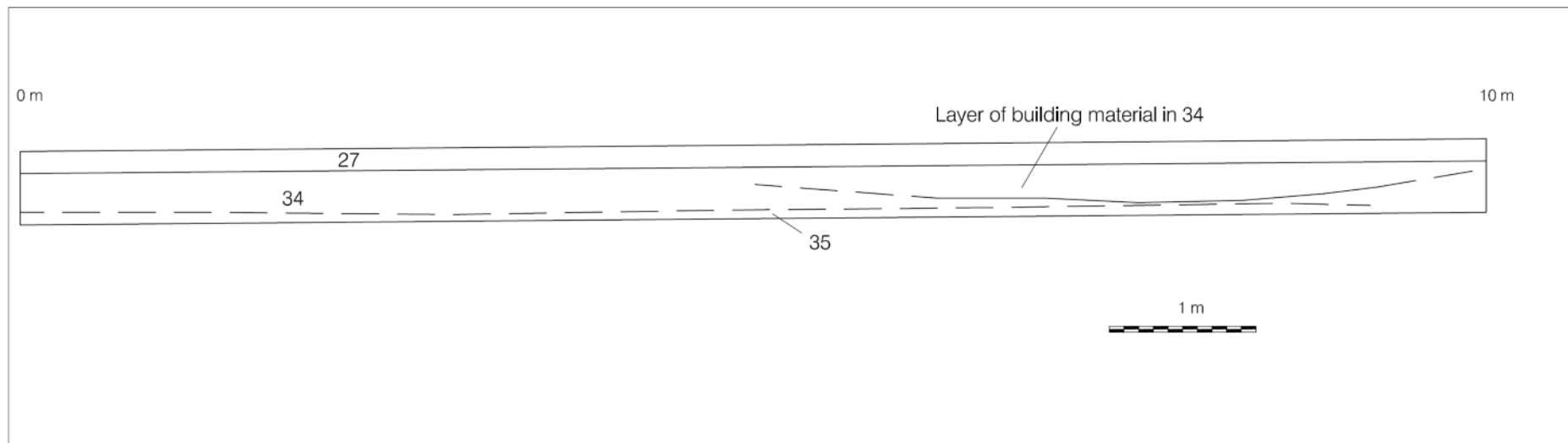


Fig. 10. East facing section, south end of cable trench west of moat.

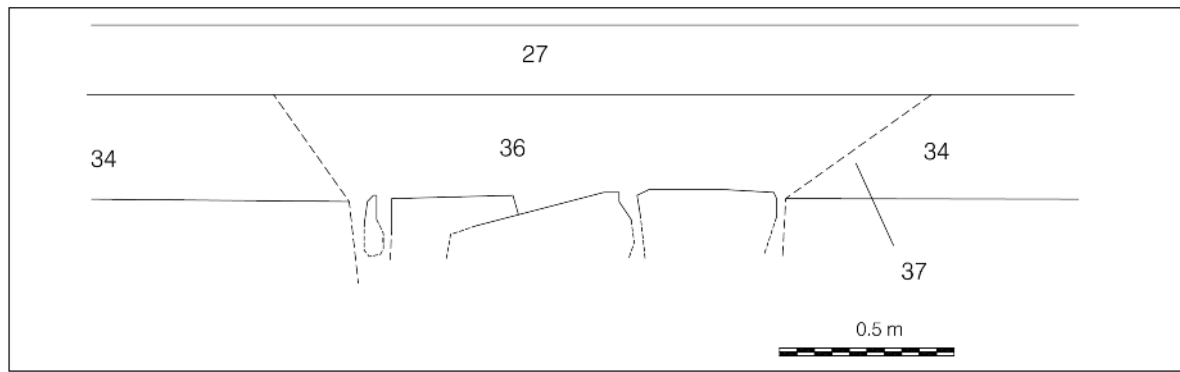


Fig. 11. East facing section of cable trench showing drain 36.

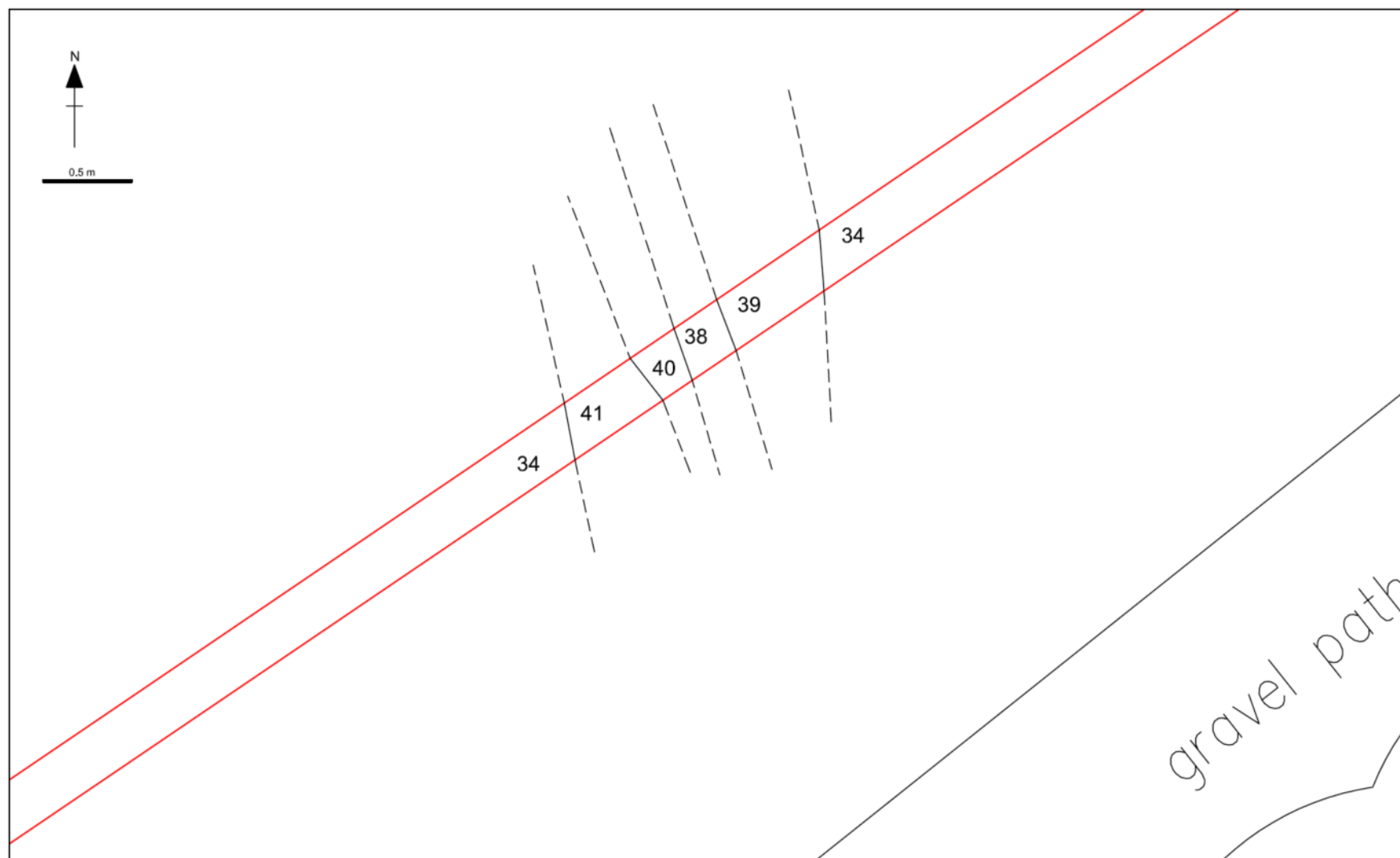


Fig. 12. Plan of wall 38 and associated contexts

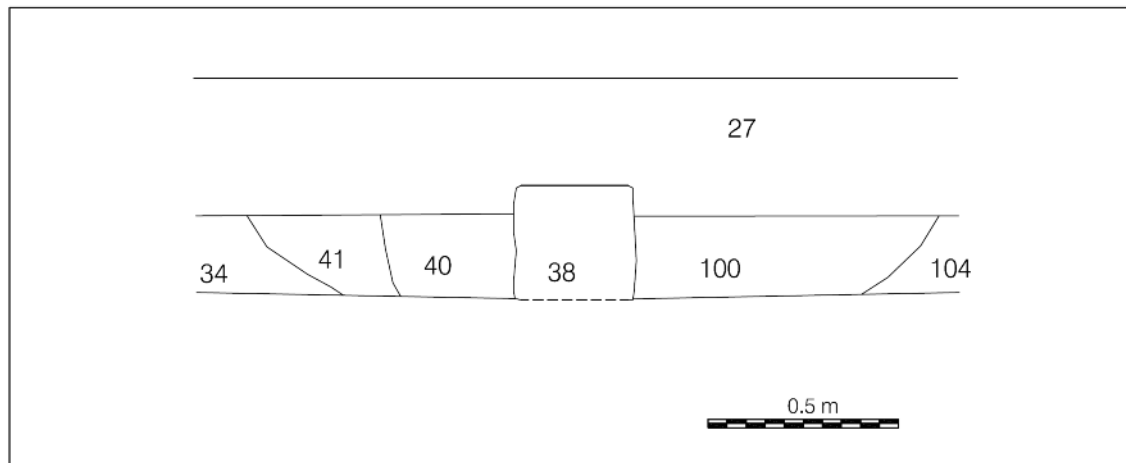


Fig. 13. East facing section of cable trench showing wall 38.

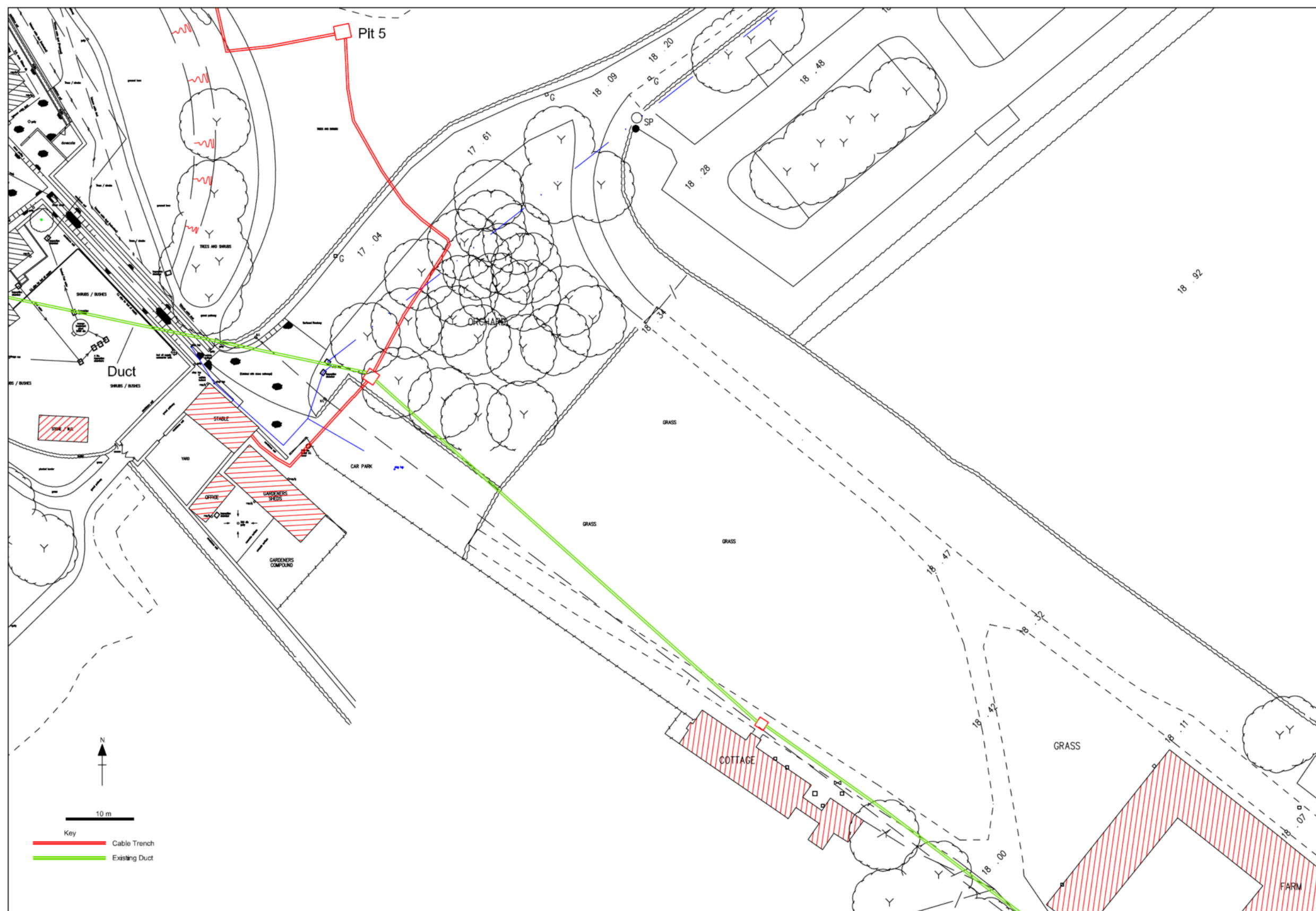


Fig.14. Location of cable trenches east of the hall.

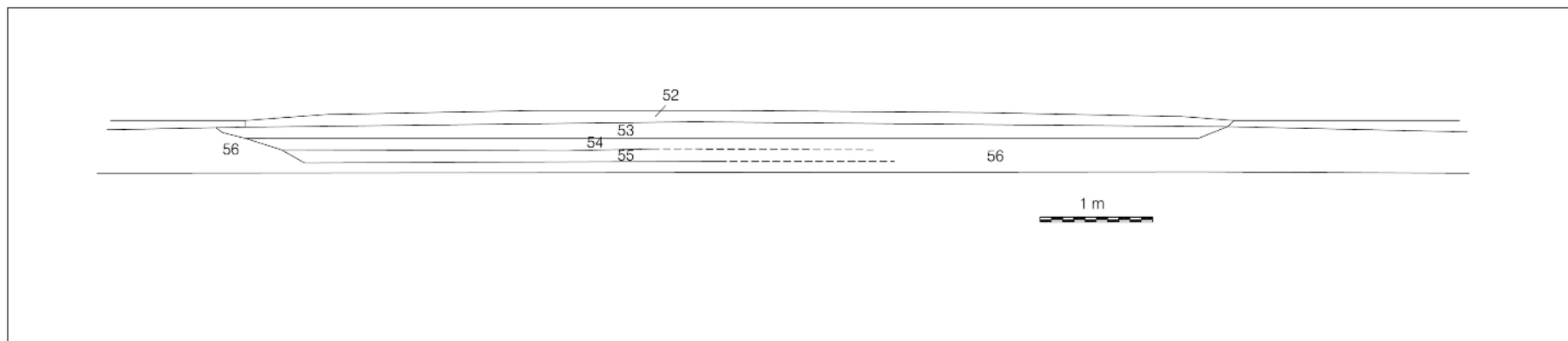


Fig. 15. South facing section of trench across road.

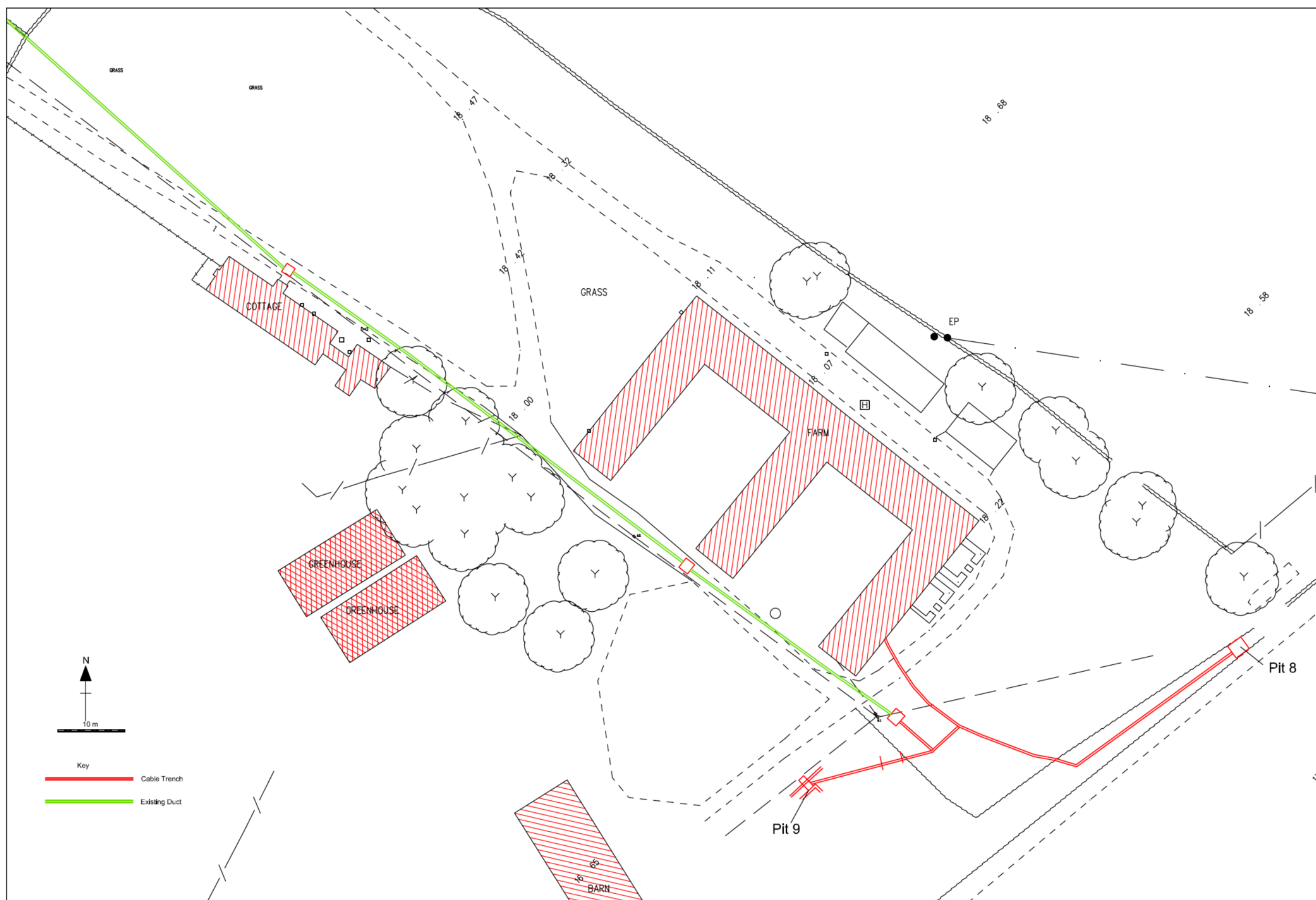


Fig.16. Location of cable trenches in the Home Farm area.

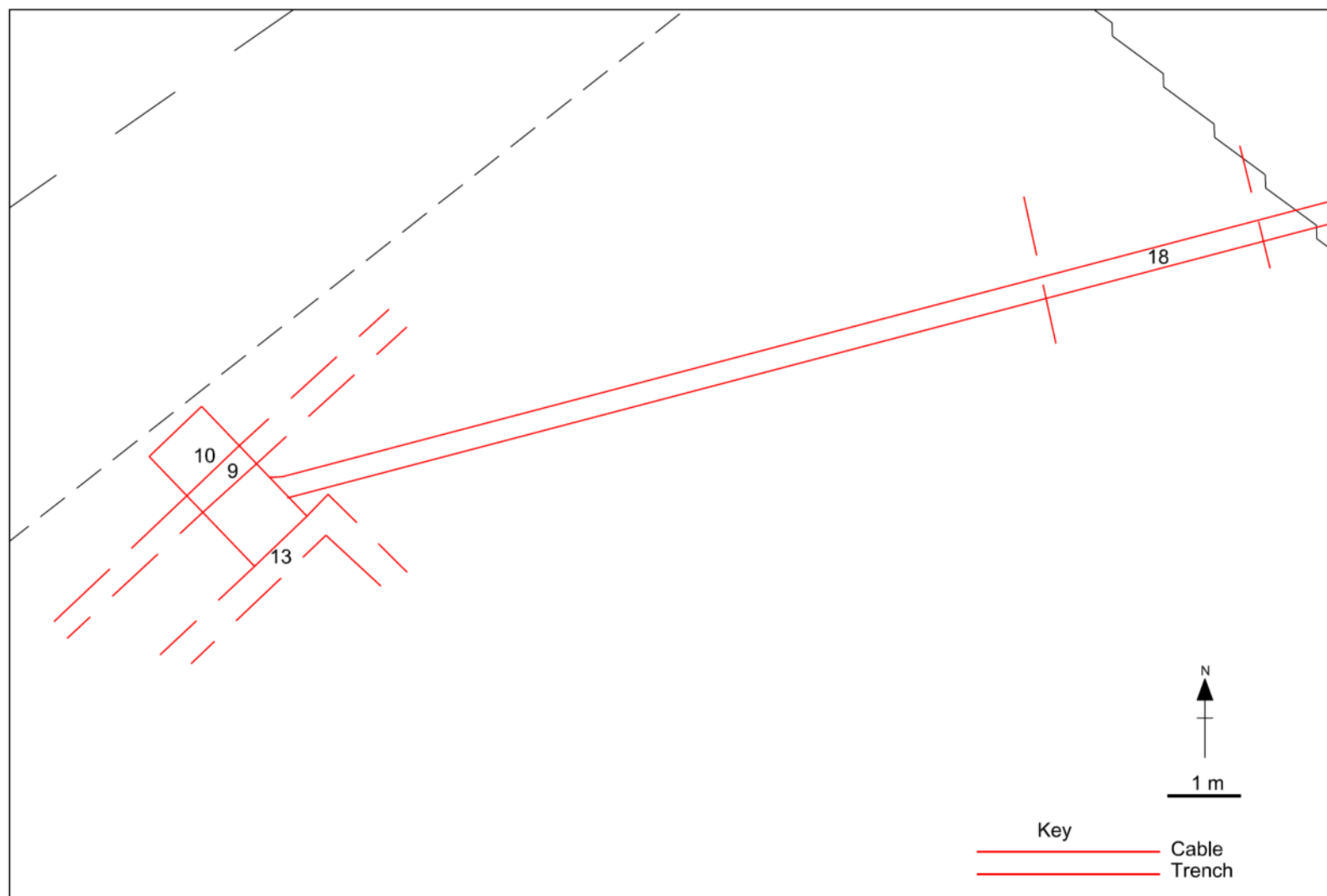


Fig. 17. Plan of contexts in Pit 9.

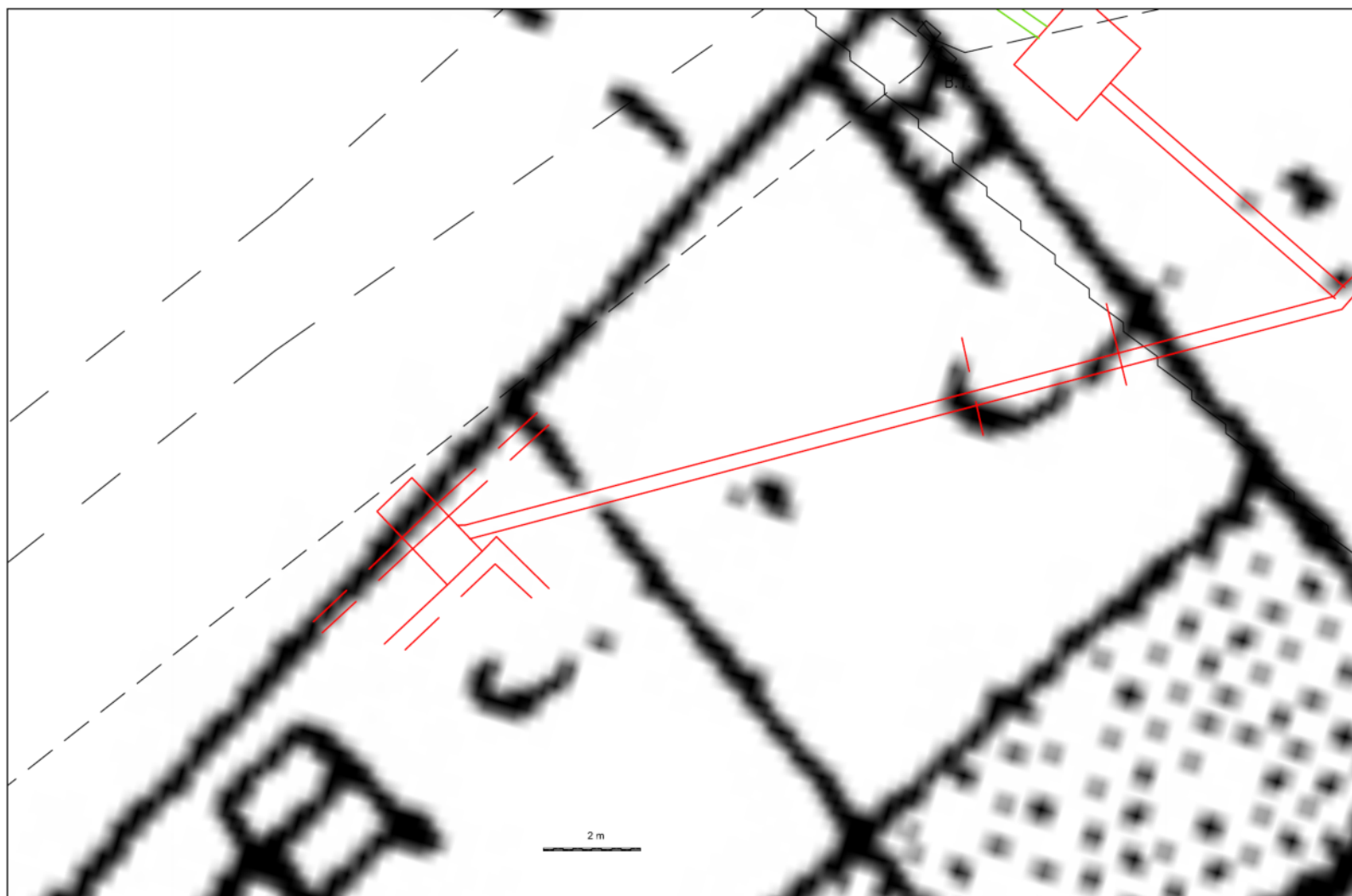


Fig. 18. Deposits in Pit 9 superimposed on 1907 OS

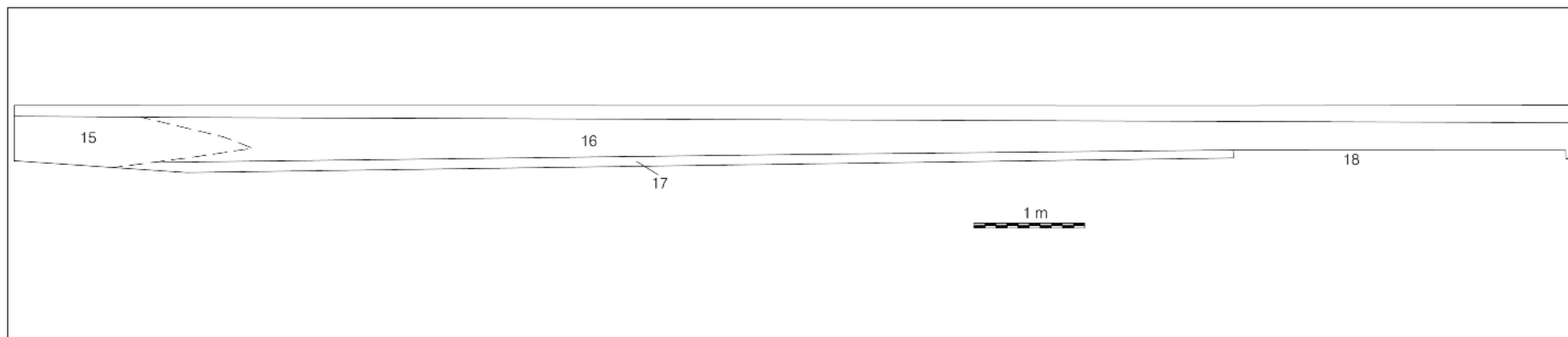


Fig. 19. East facing section, cable trench north of Pit 9.

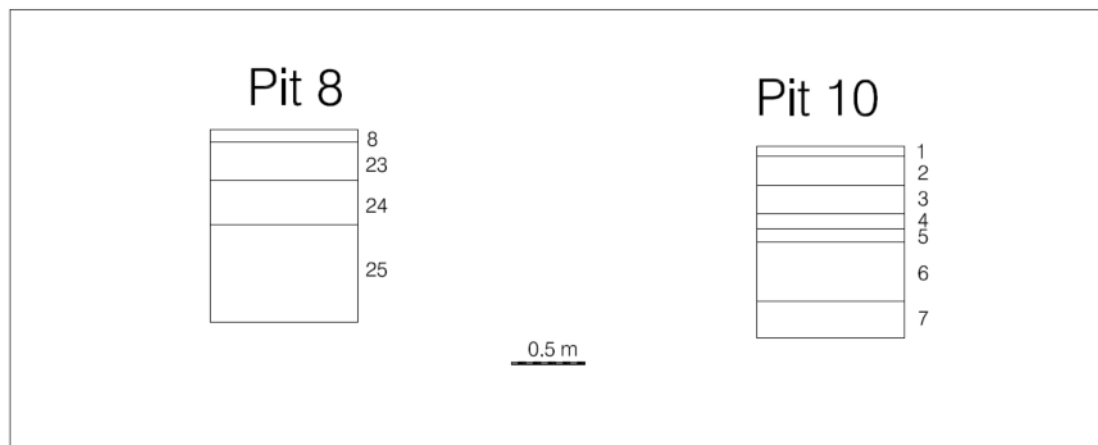


Fig. 20. Profiles across Pits 8 and 10.

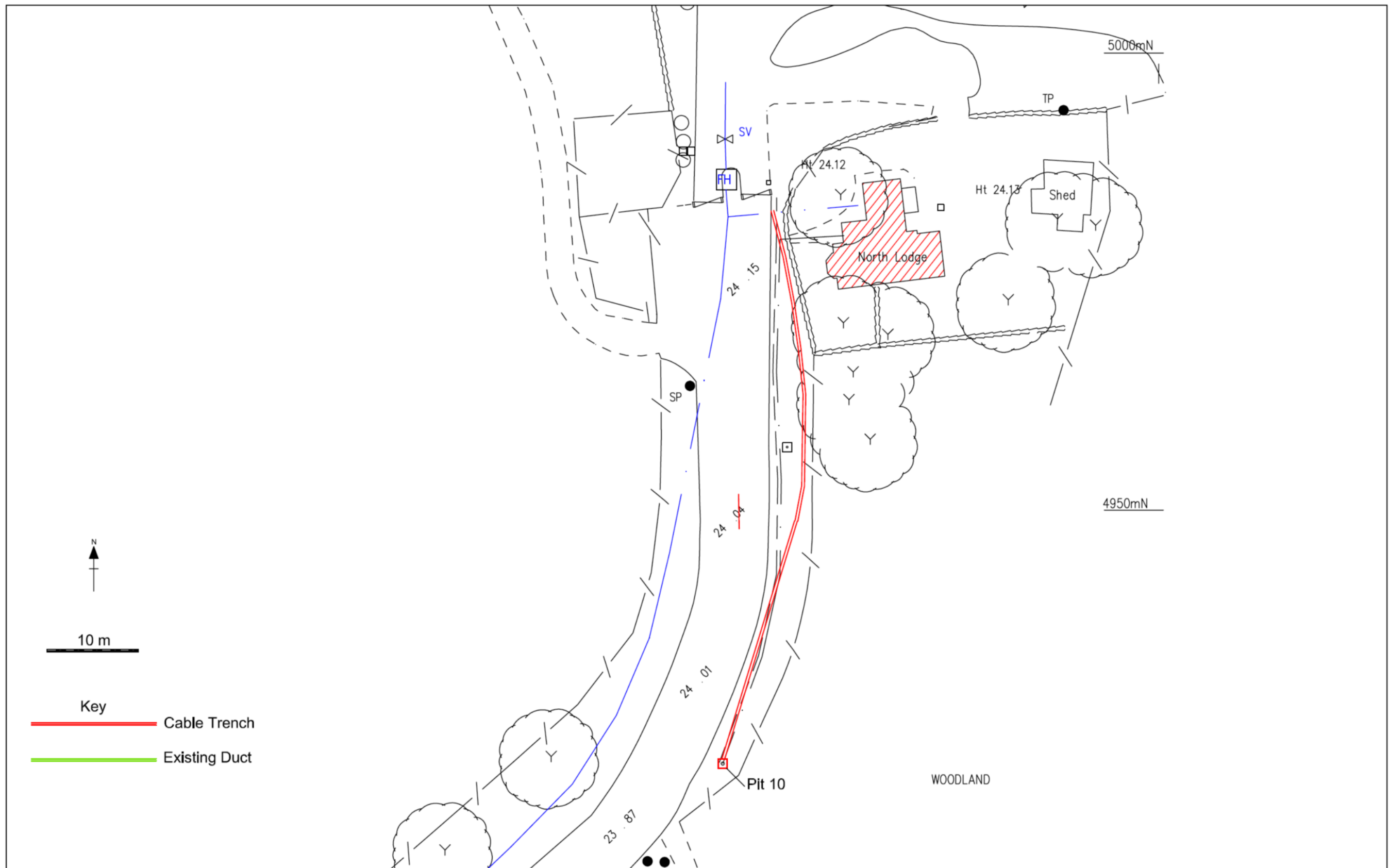


Fig.21. Location of cable trenches in the North Lodge area.

8. Plates



Plate 1. North facing profile of Pit 7. From the north.



Plate 2. Profile of cable trench branch from Pit 7. From the north-east.



Plate 3. View of cable trench running along southern side of moat along E - W path. From the east.



Plate 4. Cut sandstone block (SF no. 5) recovered from spoil heap in extreme SW corner.



Plate 5. Working shot of machining continuing northwards along the grass verge on western side of moat. From the south.



Plate 6. Cable trench profile along the grass verge on western side of moat. From the east.



Plate 7. Plan view of sandstone blocks forming part of a possible drain at the base of the cable trench



Plate 8. View showing sandstone block forming part of wall 38. From the south.



Plate 9. Trench widened in order to remove sandstone block. From the south.



Plate 10. View of wall continuing past trench section. From the south-west.



Plate 11. South facing profile of Pit 6. From the south.



Plate 12. Machining along E - W path running along northern side of moat, From the west.



Plate 13. Profile of trench along E - W path running along northern side of moat. From the north.



Plate 14. Trench profile along E - W path running along northern side of moat, towards Pit 6, past the footbridge entrance to hall. From the north.



Plate 15. Initial hand-dug stretch of cable trench heading northwards towards to Pit 5. From the south.



Plate 16. Profile of initial hand-dug stretch of cable trench. From the west.



Plate 17. North and east facing profile of Pit 5. From the south-west.



Plate 18. Continuation of hand-dug stretch of cable trench running eastwards through trees and shrubs towards holly hedge. From the west.



Plate 19. Profile of hand-dug stretch of cable trench running eastwards through trees and shrubs. From the south.



Plate 20. Trench profile across drive further eastwards. From the south.



Plate 21. East facing profile of Pit 9 showing wall 9 in section. From the east.



Plate 22. South facing section of Pit 9 showing rubble layer Context 12) between walls 9 and 13. From the south.



Plate 23. West facing section of Pit 9 showing wall 13. From the west.



Plate 24. East facing profile of Pit 8. From the east.



Plate 25. East facing profile of Pit 10. From the east.

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Appendix A: Project Design. June 2008

1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1 National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit (NMLFAU) have been approached by The National Trust to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Speke Hall, Speke, Merseyside. The Hall and parts of the present gardens is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM13481) and Grade I Listed Building. This project is to be undertaken in relation to groundworks required to insert a new CCTV security system in the grounds. Some of these run sufficiently close to the scheduled area to require Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent. Others areas are of sufficient archaeological potential to also require monitoring.
- 1.2 This Project Design has been prepared according to a brief produced by the client which gives the general archaeological and historical background to the site, an outline of the work required and its aims, a specification for project outputs and general terms.
- 1.3 This document defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used.

2. The Study Area

- 2.1 Speke Hall is situated close to the north bank of the River Mersey. The Hall and its grounds cover an area of approximately 100 ha, though the project will be confined to the investigation of the areas highlighted in the brief from the client. In summary these are the area around the moat, North Lodge and Home Farm (See brief from client).

3. Geology

- 3.1 The solid geology in this part of Merseyside consists of Permo-Triassic Pebble Beds overlain by deposits of glacial drift.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is given in the brief from the client.

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

- 5.1 The principal areas of archaeological potential are the area around the moat, Home Farm and North Lodge.

6. Aims and Objectives

- 6.1 The objective of the watching brief is, where possible, to identify and record the presence/absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits or features which are disturbed or revealed during the excavation of cable trenches and camera tower bases.

7. Location of Watching Brief Areas

- 7.1 The area of the watching brief is as defined in the brief from the client.
- 7.2 This specification covers all ground remediation work within the watching brief area, until this has been agreed sufficient in consultation with the client and English Heritage.

8. Methodology

- 8.1 All work shall be carried out in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and with the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 8.2 Monitoring will be undertaken in the locations specified and agreed with the client.
- 8.3 It is the client's responsibility that all relevant Scheduled Ancient Monument Consents are in place before the project commences.
- 8.4 An archaeologist should be present on site as necessary and appropriate to monitor all excavation and/or soil disturbance as outlined in the brief from the client. The precise nature and extent of the watching brief will be agreed at an initial site meeting with the client. The

archaeologist will monitor the area as groundworks proceed, and will, where possible and practicable, view any available trench sections after excavation is completed.

- 8.5 NMLFAU will record the date, time and duration of all visits and the nature and extent of the works being monitored.
- 8.6 If archaeological features or deposits are identified the area should be rapidly cleaned. The archaeological sub-contractor will be allowed sufficient time, where required, to record any archaeological deposits identified. This stoppage time will be a minimum of 2 hours and to a maximum of 24 hours.
- 8.7 **The National Trust Archaeologist, appropriate English Heritage Inspector and the Merseyside Archaeological Officer will be notified by NMLFAU immediately significant/extensive archaeology is uncovered by the watching brief.**
- 8.8 Any archaeological deposits/features identified will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the investigation.
- 8.9 The areas of excavation/ground disturbance (even if they reveal no archaeological features) will be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphy and depth of the excavation will be recorded.
- 8.10 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all archaeological features. Hand drawn plans and sections of features will be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Drawings will include spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum in metres, correct to two decimal places.
- 8.11 Digital and monochrome negative photographs will be taken at a minimum format of 35mm as required. In addition to records of archaeological features, a number of general site photographs will also be taken to give an overview of the site and the scope of the works taking place.
- 8.12 All non-modern artefacts will be retained. If appropriate all 'small finds' will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Finds will be treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' (1995) and stored in controlled conditions where appropriate. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines of the IFA. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) guidelines will apply (UKIC 1998). All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins) will be x-rayed.
- 8.13 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered an appropriate soil sampling strategy will be implemented in accordance with Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (English Heritage 2002).
- 8.14 Should human remains be discovered during the course of the excavations the remains will be covered and protected and left in situ in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857 and Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981. In such an event the contractor will notify MAS immediately.
- 8.15 Any artefacts which are recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1997 will be reported to H. M. Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 8.16 The intention of the watching brief is not to delay unduly the work of other contractors on site. NMLFAU will make every reasonable effort to complete archaeological excavation and recording works without impacting upon the programme of other site contractors.

9. Reporting

- 9.1 Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist. The integrity of the site archive should be curated and maintained.
- 9.2 An assessment report will be submitted as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork. The report will include the following:

- a non-technical summary
- site location
- archaeological and historical background
- methodology
- aims and objectives
- results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
- an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context
- publication proposals if warranted
- archive storage and curation
- general and detailed plans showing the location of the excavated areas accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a known scale)
- detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale)
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive

9.3 One copy of the complete report will be submitted to The National Trust as a draft.

9.4 Five bound copies, one unbound copy and two digital copies of the report and illustrations will be required within one week of the receipt of the clients comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format).

9.5 NMLFAU will submit a copy of the report to the Archaeological Officer for Merseyside for deposition in the Merseyside HER.

10. Publication

10.1 Provision should be made for the publication of the results in an appropriate archaeological journal, if of regional or national significance.

10.2 A summary of findings will be submitted to the regional Council for British Archaeology group, CBA North West (c/o Dr. M. Nevell, UMAU, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL who will provide a pro-forma sheet).

11. Archive Preparation and Deposition

11.1 The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3;

11.2 The archaeological sub-contractor shall, prior to the start of fieldwork, liaise with the appropriate museum, in this instance Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, to obtain agreement in principle to accept the archive for long term storage and curation. The sub-contractor shall be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive (National Museums Liverpool (NML) *Guidelines on the Deposition of Archaeological Archives*), and for adhering to those requirements.

11.3 The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide copies of the communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

12. Monitoring

12.1 Monitoring will be undertaken by the client.

13. Confidentiality and Publicity

- 13.1 The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

14. Copyright

- 14.1 Copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to reside with National Museums Liverpool who retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all archaeological aspects of the project.
- 14.3 The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the client and Merseyside Archaeological Service by NMLFAU and will ultimately be made available for public access.

15. Resources and Timetable

- 15.1 All archaeological personnel involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced professionals.
- 15.2 The timetable for the work will be dependant upon the geo-technical and groundworks contractors programme.

16. Insurances and Health and Safety

- 16.1 NMLFAU is covered by public and professional indemnity insurance.
- 16.2 NMLFAU has its own Health and Safety policy compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety policy may be submitted to the client in advance of fieldwork.
- 16.3 NMLFAU will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health and Safety requirements. The risk assessment shall be submitted to the client in advance of commencement of site work. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.
- 16.4 The archaeological sub-contractor will familiarise themselves with, and comply with, the Health and Safety requirements of the principal contractor on site.

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