



**Church Farm,
Shrewsbury Road,
Hadnall, Shrewsbury.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

PN P14-12

Project No. P14-12

11/2014

Church Farm, Hadnall

Church Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Hadnall, Shropshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By

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**for
for**

Cameron Homes

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Church Farm, Hadnall

Archaeological Watching Brief, 11/2014

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Church Farm, Hadnall

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SUMMARY

The Centre of Archaeology was commissioned in October 2014 by Cameron Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief in respect of a proposed housing development at Church Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Hadnall, Shropshire. The site is centred on NGR SJ 52164 20111, in the northern part of the village, approximately 7km northeast of Shrewsbury. Immediately adjacent to the site is the Church of St Magdalene.

The works consisted of the excavation of foundation and service trenches, all of which were excavated by a 360 degree mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed trenching bucket and observed by an archaeologist. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. The watching brief found that the previous farmhouse (removed as part of the scheme) was built on a series of levelling deposits extending, in places, up to 1.18m in depth. These various layers of hardcore were then capped by a final site-wide levelling deposit upon which, and into which the most recent iterations of the farm buildings and associated yards were constructed. These levelling deposits were all dated by the significant amount of modern pottery, CBM, glass and other detritus contained within them with the upper layers containing some plastics. The other discoveries of note are two wall foundations found in two of the plots excavated. Both of these wall foundations are associated with the recently demolished farm buildings that were on the site. No archaeological deposits or features were located during the course of these works.

Church Farm

Archaeological Watching Brief, 11/2014

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. The Centre of Archaeology based at Staffordshire University was commissioned by Cameron Homes to undertake an archaeological watching during the residential development at Church Farm, Hadnall (hereinafter referred to as the site, Planning Application Number (11/03200)). In accordance with the National Planning Policy (2014), a condition was placed upon this development stating that no intrusive groundworks shall take place without a suitable written scheme of investigation to record any archaeological features that are exposed during the works.
- 1.1.2. This report outlines the results of the watching brief carried out between 29/10/2014 and 17/11/2014 and has been prepared in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Centre of Archaeology 2014) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to implementation. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA 1994, revised 2008)

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. The site is located at Church Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Hadnall, Shropshire, approximate 7 km northeast of Shrewsbury, and is centred on NGR SJ 52164 20111. (Fig 1).
- 2.1.2. The underlying geology consists of Kinnerton Sandstone Formation underlying Devensian glacial till deposits of boulder clay. (British Geological Survey online geology viewfinder)
- 2.1.3. The present character of the site is consists of a combination of farm buildings, green houses, out buildings and areas of hard standing and lawns. The site is bounded to the north and west by residential properties, to the east by an industrial complex and to the south by a small track. On the other side of the track lies the Church of St Magdalene and open field. Prior to the start of the archaeological monitoring, one of the existing farm buildings was removed to ground level. The other building is being retained as part of the scheme.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1. The principal aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits, or horizons exposed during intrusive groundworks across the site.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1. Immediately adjacent to the site is the Church of St Magdalene. The Grade II listed (HER PRN 12246) church was constructed around 1190 and original functioned as a Chapel of Ease and not a parish Church. The structure has been altered on a number of occasions including a major rebuilt project in the 17th century and again in the

1840s with the construction of a tower. Markings on several stones around the church exterior have been identified as arrow sharpening notches possibly associated with the Battle of Shrewsbury. Several historical accounts suggest that land adjacent to the church has been acquired on a number of occasions to extend the churchyard, but it is unclear if this includes land within this proposed development site.

4.1.2. Hermitage Farm is located approximately 80m east of the development site and historical accounts suggest that Monks who established the church resided here, and visited the battlefield to bring back dead soldiers for burial. The present house dates to the Elizabethan period (1558 to 1603) and is sometimes referred to as Church House.

4.1.3. **Previous Archaeological Work**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2005 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Hadnall during ground disturbing works comprising the excavation of a telephone cable trench to the south and east of the church. No archaeological features were revealed and only one shred of tin glazed earthenware, one piece of terracotta tile and one fragment of dark green bottle glass were recovered from the topsoil. (Pat, 2005)

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1.1. Groundworks comprised the excavation of foundation trenches by a digger equipped with a toothed trenching bucket. This was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist and complemented with the salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and features revealed during works.

5.1.2. All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Sections were drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record was maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans were supplemented by photographs using digital photography.

5.1.3. Recovered finds were cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conformed to guidance contained within the Centre of Archaeology Fieldwork Manual (2013) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.1.4. The full site archive includes all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down 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 paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

6. RESULTS

6.1.1 **PLOT 6**

The first plot excavated not only consisted of the deepest excavations on the site but also yielded the deepest sequence of contexts. In total a sequence of 8 contexts

spanning a depth of 1.18m was observed with the trench extending a further 0.78m into the underlying natural geology (Fig 3; Plates 1 and 2). Contexts (1002) through to (1008) are comprised of a sequence of modern levelling deposits all sequentially overlaid over one another with fairly defined edges present between each. These levelling deposits were rich in modern CBM, ceramics and bottle glass, with some of the uppermost layers (1002-1004 particularly) containing plastics. One foundation wall was discovered during excavation but it clearly coincided with a wall recorded in the pre-demolition plan of the site (Plate 2). The presence of modern ceramics and other debris throughout the sequence is a suggestive of its modern date and suggests an association with the farm buildings and its surrounding grounds. Likely they are layers of hardcore laid down prior to the construction of the most recent iteration of the farm buildings.

6.1.2 **Plot 5**

The second plot excavated, similar to Plot 6, revealed multiple layers of levelling deposits associated with the modern farm buildings. Section 1001 (Fig 3 and Plate 3) shows one such sequence interrupted by the cut of modern drain [2001]. The layers of hardcore are likely identical in date and composition to many of those observed in the excavations of Plot 6. A particularly strong case for this can be made for this with deposit (2002). This deposit seems identical to deposit (1002) in plot 6 and deposits (3000) and (4000) discussed later in the report and is possibly suggestive of one final levelling of the entire site prior to the construction of the farm buildings or its yards.

6.1.3 **Plots 9/10**

The excavations in plots 9/10 yielded only a single levelling deposit, (3000) which, as mentioned previously, is likely part of a continuous, site-wide layer suggestive of a final levelling prior to construction. Situated in the south-easternmost corner of site this plot was more heavily rooted and waterlogged than other areas, with a thicker layer of topsoil overlying the single, thin levelling deposit. The underlying natural clay was also higher in this area. Unfortunately, a section could not be drawn of this area of the site as, due to the heavy rooting and waterlogged nature of the soil, the trenches were prone to collapse and largely did within minutes of excavation.

6.1.4 **Plots 7/8**

The final plots excavated, 7 and 8, were largely the same as plots 9/10, with only a single levelling deposit (4000) observable through many of the trenches, a thicker layer of topsoil, and a tendency for the trenches to collapse making it unsuitable for recording. However, in one of the westernmost trenches a buried layer of plywood was observed, coinciding with an increase in depth of the overlying levelling deposits and abutting another wall foundation associated with the modern farm buildings. (Plate 1)

6.1.4 **Drainage and Service trenches**

In addition to the foundation plots, a number of drainage excavations were monitored across the site, including preliminary work in Church Close (Plate 4). No archaeological features or deposits were identified during these works and the work did not exceed the levels of the modern levelling deposits across the site (Plate 5).

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1. The excavations at Church Farm, Hadnall found little of archaeological note, yielding a collection of modern ceramics, brickwork and other detritus. There were no archaeological features of significance, with only a few service trenches and farm building wall foundations being identified in the course of excavation. Despite this, it is now known that levelling deposits of some significant depth associated with the construction of the farm buildings and the yards around them are prevalent across the site. If there were any church outbuildings or burials on this site, they have since been destroyed or removed possibly by the construction of the farm buildings and their subsequent use.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Cameron Homes. Thanks are due to Paul Hartgroves for their co-operation and assistance throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Ian, Lewis and Joshua of ISB Groundworks. Thanks also go to Andy Wigley, who monitored the project on behalf of Shropshire County Council. The assessment was undertaken by Kevin Colls and Steven Cresswell. Steven Cresswell produced the written report which was illustrated by Kevin Colls, who also managed the project for the Centre of Archaeology.

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Appendix 1

**Church Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Hadnall, Shrewsbury
Shropshire Council
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Planning application no: (11/03200)
NGR: SJ 52164 20111**

1. Archaeological Contractor: Centre of Archaeology, Staffordshire University

- 1.1. This document describes the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological investigation at the above site. It forms the written scheme of investigation for the work, which is the requirement listed under Condition 10 of granted planning application (11/03200). This Condition states 'No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a WSI. This WSI shall be approved by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works. The proposed works shall be in accordance with the programme of archaeological work'.
- 1.2. The planning application (Planning application reference no. 11/03200) has been submitted to Shropshire Council for the proposed residential development of Church Farm, Hadnall. As the proposed development site is of possible archaeological significance an archaeological watching brief is recommended. This is in accordance with government advice contained with NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework; Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

2. SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

- 2.1. The site is located at Church Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Hadnall, Shropshire and is centred on NGR SJ 52164 20111 (Fig. 1). The site is situated in the northern part of the village, approximately 7km northeast of Shrewsbury.
- 2.2. The underlying geology consists of Kinnerton Sandstone Formation underlying Devensian glacial till deposits of boulder clay (British Geological Survey online geology viewer)
- 2.3. The present character of the site consists of a combination of farm buildings, green houses, out buildings and areas of hard-standing and lawns. The site is bounded to the north and west by residential properties, to the east by an industrial complex and to the south by a small track. On the other side of the track lies the Church of St Magdalene and open field.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. No archaeological evidence is known from the confines of the proposed site boundary.
- 3.2. Immediately adjacent to the site is the Church of St Magdalene. The Grade II listed (HER PRN 12246) church was constructed around 1190 and originally functioned as a Chapel of Ease and not a parish church. The structure has been altered on a number of occasions including a major rebuilt project in the 17th Century and again in the 1840s with the construction of the tower. Markings on several stones around the church exterior have been identified as arrow sharpening notches possibly associated with the Battle of Shrewsbury. Several historical accounts suggest that land adjacent to the church has been acquired on a number of occasions to extend the churchyard, but it is unclear if this includes land within this proposed development site.

- 3.3. Hermitage Farm is located approximately 80m east of the development site and historical accounts suggest that Monks who established the church resided here. The present house dates to the Elizabethan period (1558 to 1603) and is sometimes referred to as Church House.
- 3.4. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in September 2005 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Hadnall during ground disturbing works comprising the excavation of a telephone cable trench to the south and east of the church. No archaeological features were revealed and only one shred of tin glazed earthenware, one piece of terracotta tile and one fragment of dark green bottle glass was recovered from the topsoil (Pat, 2005).

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The principal aim of the archaeological watching brief is to excavate and record any archaeological remains that are identified during the course of the groundworks.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. The proposed development area covers approximately 0.4558 hectares. An appropriately skilled and qualified archaeologist will be on site to observe all provisional groundworks for the development, including the removal of the concrete yard surfaces and the foundations and floors of the existing buildings. Adequate time will be allowed for observation, excavation and recording to take place.
- 5.2. Based on the results of the provisional groundworks mentioned above, further archaeological monitoring will then be outlined after a meeting on site with the Principal Archaeologist. This may result in the need for:
- Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwellings.
 - Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks within targeted areas only, for example Plots 5-10 (being closest to the church).
 - No further archaeological monitoring.
- 5.3. All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology is present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using black and white monochrome, colour slide and digital photography.
- 5.4. Buried soils and sediment sequences will be inspected and recorded on site where appropriate. Examination of soil sediments conformed to guidelines set out in *Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (English Heritage 2004).
- 5.5. Deposits will be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of biological remains. The environmental sampling policy follows the guidelines contained in the Centre of Archaeology Fieldwork Manual and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002). Sampling strategies for wooden structures conformed to guidelines set out in *Waterlogged wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*. (Brunning 1996).

- 5.6. Where suitable deposits existed they will be sampled for dendrochronological dating evidence in line with *Dendrochronology: guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological data* (English Heritage 2004a).
- 5.7. Where there was evidence for industrial activity, samples will be taken to identify macroscopic technological residues in accordance with *Archaeometallurgy* (English Heritage 2001) and *Science for Historic Industries* (English Heritage 2006).
- 5.8. Recovered finds will be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds conforms to guidance contained within the Centre of Archaeology Fieldwork Manual and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 5.9. Lifting of human skeletal remains will be kept to the minimum which is compatible with an adequate evaluation. Burials will be recorded in situ and subsequently lifted, washed, marked and packed to standards compatible with *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Excavation of human remains confirms with advice provided in *Church Archaeology: its care and management* (Council for the Care of Churches 1999), *Human bones from Archaeological Sites* (English Heritage 2004) and in *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005).
- 5.10. The full site archive will include all artefactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive will be prepared according to guidelines set down 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 paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository subject to permission from the landowner.

6. STAFFING

- 6.1. The project will be managed and directed for the Centre of Archaeology by Kevin Colls MIFA and supervised in the field by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological supervisor (details to be notified, prior to the commencement of the fieldwork). Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

Prehistoric pottery	Dr Ann Woodward David Mullins	Freelance Specialist Freelance Specialist
Prehistoric flint	Barry Bishop	Freelance Specialist
Roman pottery	Jane Evans	Freelance pottery specialist
Roman pottery	Jane Timby	Freelance pottery specialist
Samian pottery	Felicity Wild	Freelance pottery specialist
Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery	Stephanie Rátkai	Honorary Research Associate and Finds Researcher, University of Birmingham
Medieval and post-medieval pottery	Chris Cumberpatch	Freelance
Post-medieval pottery and glass	Leigh Dodd	Freelance
Ceramic building material (CBM), tile	Phil Mills	Leicester University

Vessel glass	Cecily Cropper	Freelance specialist
Clay tobacco pipe	Dr David Higgins	Freelance Specialist
Coins, brooches	Dr Roger White	University of Birmingham
Iron, leather	Quita Mould	Freelance finds specialist
General finds	Erica Macey-Bracken	Freelance finds specialist
General finds	Jon Goodwin	Finds specialist, Senior Planning Officer, Stoke On Trent City Council
Animal bone	Matilda Holmes	Freelance archaeozoologist
Human bone	Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls	Staffordshire University
Archaeo-geomorphology	Dr Andrew Howard	Freelance specialist
Palynology	MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology
Archaeobotany	MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology
Entymology	Dr David Smith	University of Birmingham
	Dr Emma Tetlow	University of Edinburgh
Charcoal and wood	Rowena Gale	Freelance Specialist
Dendrochronology	Dr Robert Howard	Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory
Archaeometallurgy	Anthony Swiss	Freelance specialist
	Rod MacKenzie	Freelance specialist
	Jane Cowgill	Freelance specialist
Glass residues	Dr David Dungworthy	English Heritage

7. REPORT

- 7.1. A report will be produced for the watching brief. On completion of the fieldwork post-excavation work for each phase, including finds processing/ conservation, and analysis will be undertaken. A site archive will be compiled and an illustrated report will be prepared.
- 7.2. This report would be in the format required by the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006, 2008) guidelines as appropriate, to include:
- 1) Summary
 - 2) Description of the archaeological background
 - 3) Method
 - 4) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local, regional and national research context, supported by appropriate plans, sections and photographs
 - 5) Summary of the finds and environmental evidence
 - 6) Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence
 - 7) Impact assessment and recommended mitigation strategy.

- 7.3. The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Shropshire Historic Environment Record within three months of completion. Two copies of the report will be lodged with the Principal Archaeologist, Shropshire County Council. A summary report may be submitted for inclusion in a local archaeological journal or similar. If the results are considered of regional or national importance it may be appropriate to publish the report in a regional or national archaeological journal or other suitable publication outlet including digital online reports.
- 7.4. On completion of the report the appropriate OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations) form will be completed and the report will be submitted to OASIS.

8. ARCHIVING

- 8.1. The full site archive will include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. Finds and the paper archive will be deposited with Shropshire Museums subject to permission from the landowner.
- 8.2. Preparation and deposition of the site archive will be undertaken with reference to Shropshire Museums and to *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (Walker 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007).

9. TIMETABLE

- 9.1. At least two weeks notice of the start of fieldwork will be given to the Principal Archaeologist for Shropshire Council. Review/ monitoring meetings will be arranged during the fieldwork. As yet there is no provisional start date for the project and no current estimates for duration.

10. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- 10.1. All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 1994, revised 2008). The project manager is registered with the IfA at Member (MIFA) grade and the Centre of Archaeology is awaiting validation as a Registered Organisation after panel inspection in Feb 2014.
- 10.2. Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and covered. In the event that human remains need to be removed this will be carried out under the terms of a Ministry of Justice Licence and adhering to relevant environmental health regulations. All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. If removal is not possible on the same working day as discovery, appropriate security arrangements will be provided to keep the finds safe from theft.

11. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 11.1. A detailed risk assessment (and method statement when appropriate) will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 11.2. All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The excavation will conform to the *Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992*, *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*, and *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007* and any other health and safety legislation where appropriate. Work

will be carried out in accordance with guidelines laid out in the *Staffordshire University health and Safety Manual* and *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual* (SCAUM 2007).

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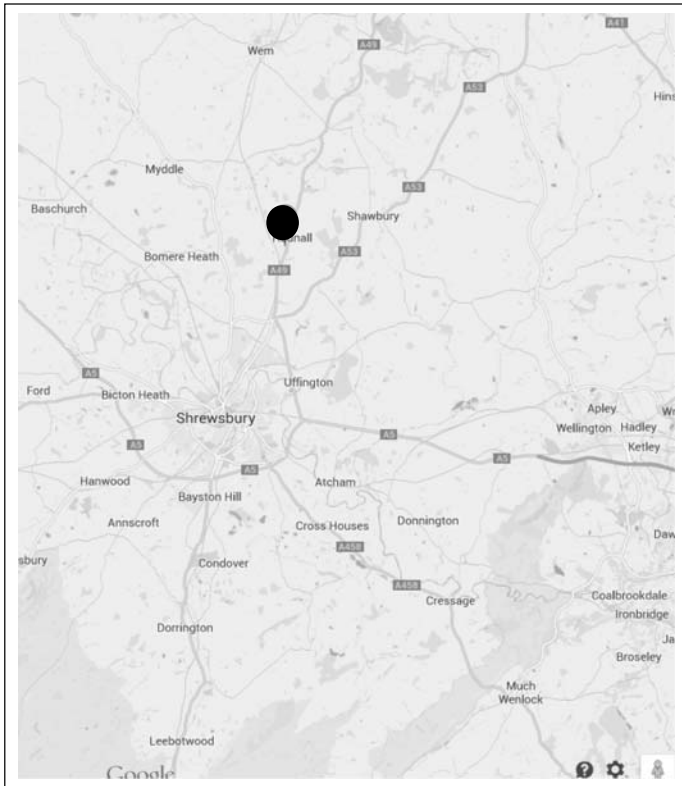
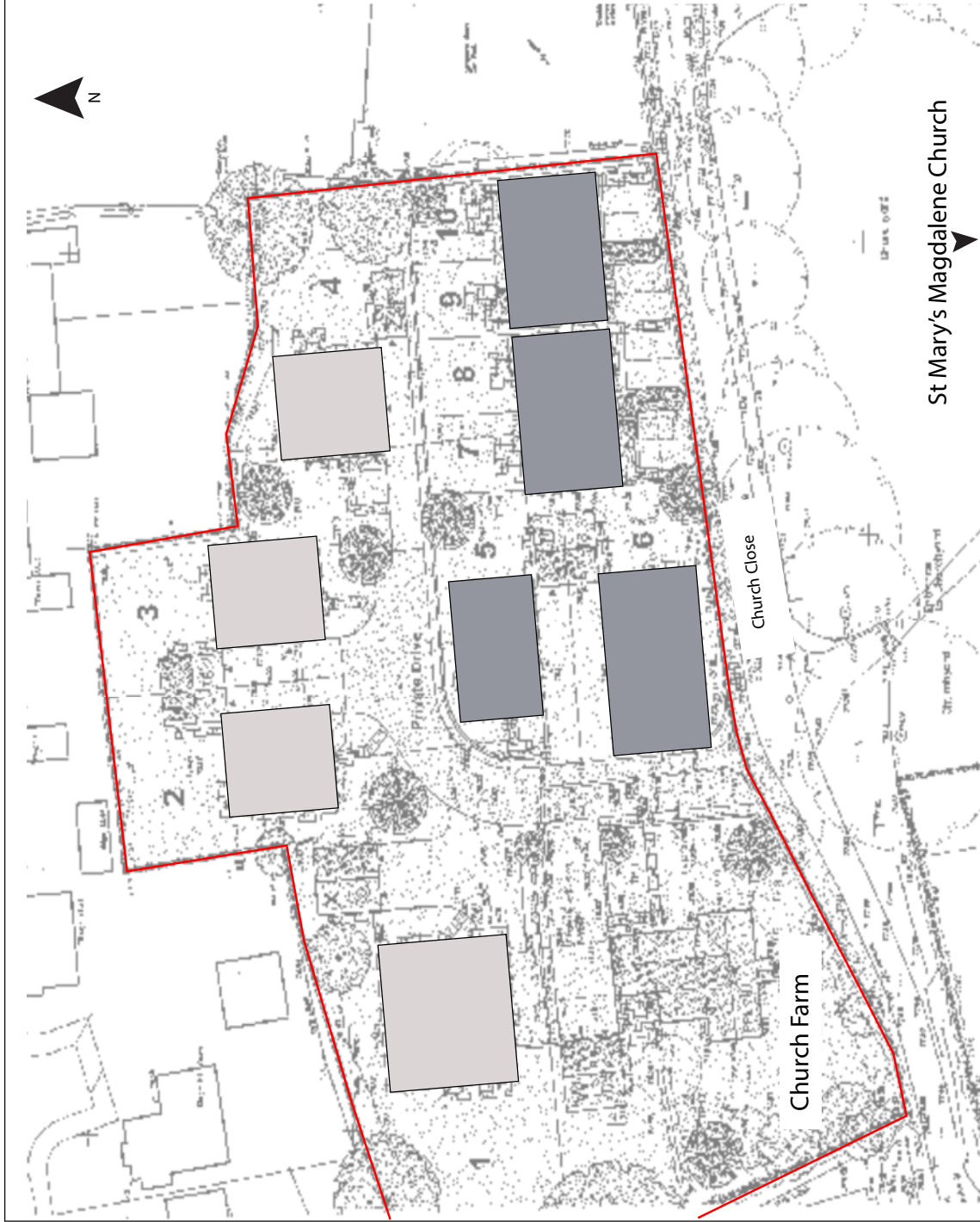


Figure 1 - Site location plan



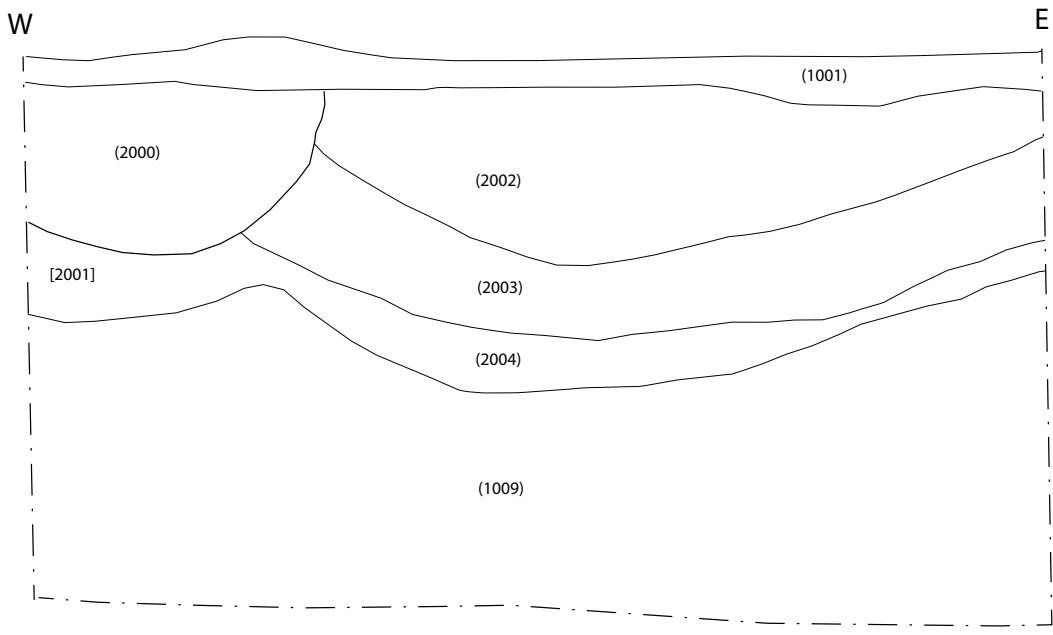
Development area

Plots monitored by archaeologists

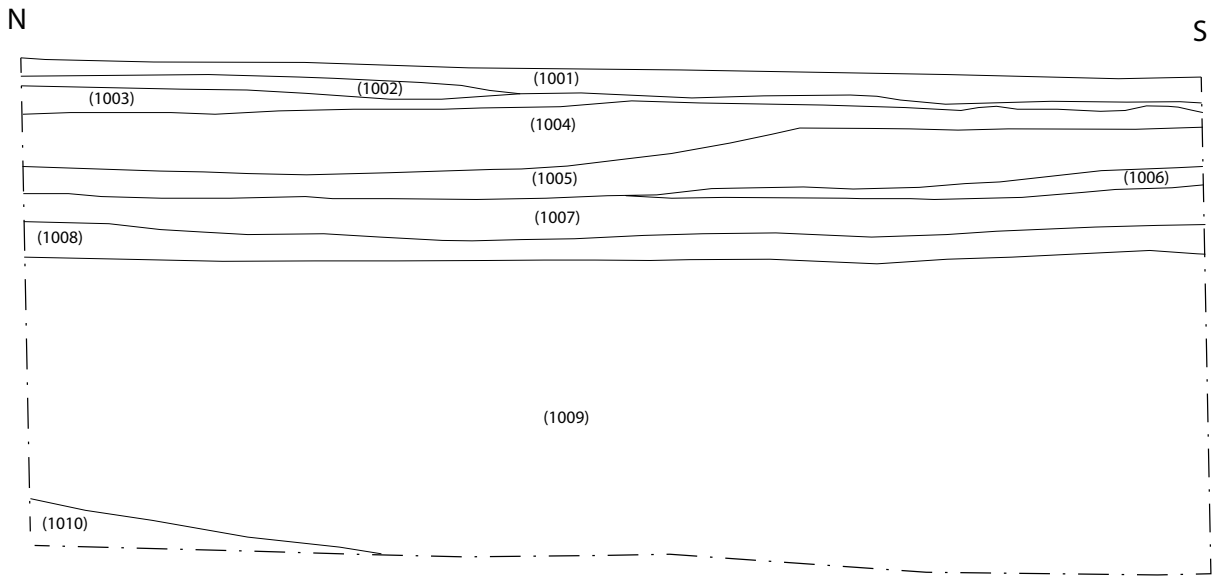
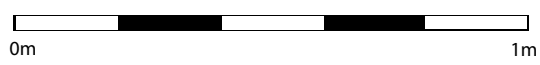
Plots not monitored by archaeologists

0m 100m

Figure 2- Location of observed and unobserved foundation plots



South facing section of east/west foundation from plot 5



West facing section of north/south foundation from plot 6

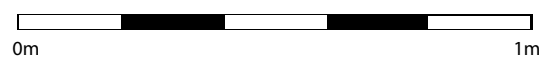




Plate 1— Plot 6 general stratigraphy showing sequence of levelling layers



Plate 2— Plot 6 showing brick foundation of demolished farmhouse



Plate 3— Plot 5 general stratigraphy showing sequence of levelling layers



Plate 4— Drainage work in Church Close



Plate 5— Modern levelling layers within the drainage trenches at Church Close