

An Archaeological
Evaluation at
Welland Farm,
Main Street, Barrowden,
Rutland (SK 949 000).

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For: Burghley House Preservation Trust.

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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Welland Farm, Main Street, Barrowden, Rutland (SK 949 000) by ULAS in August 2005. The work was commissioned by Burghley House Preservation Trust. Four trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains. Excavation revealed possible medieval or post-medieval structural remains in the eastern half of the site in the form of a limestone wall that was probably part of a building that was demolished between 1886 and 1900. Fragments of a yard or floor of an unknown date were also revealed during trenching. Two pit features were also partially excavated and may represent quarry pits associated with the construction of buildings in the medieval period. The site archive will be deposited with the Rutland Museums Heritage Services under the Accession number RT 04 2005.

2. Introduction

In accordance with Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning, para 30), this document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Welland Farm, Main Street, Barrowden, Rutland (SK 949 000).

The evaluation forms part of an Archaeological Impact Assessment following the recommendations from Leicester County Council, Heritage Services. Together with a desk-based assessment the trial trench evaluation addressed the requirements detailed in a advice letter on 04/08/2005 from the Senior Archaeological Officer to Rutland County Council and follows the approved Design Specification for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (ULAS Report No. 05/672)

The proposed development site is located at Welland Farm, Main Street, Barrowden, Rutland, (SK 949 000). (Figs 1 and 2; SK 650 357). It consists of an area c.0.09ha that is currently a yard covered with tarmac and gravel chippings. Eight agricultural buildings are on site. The proposals involve the conversion of four stone built barns and the retention of another as an outhouse. The demolition of a modern barn is proposed and the construction of new residential units and garages.

3. Geology and Topography

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 157 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone. The land slopes down to the south and is at a height of c. 42-44m OD.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The SMR indicates that the area of the proposed buildings is within the historic core of the medieval village of Barrowden (**LE9540**). It is immediately to the south of Main Street Farm where excavations in 1997 have revealed the remains of an early medieval building and pits (**LE9273**). This comprised rectangular stone foundations which would have had a timber superstructure which was occupied between the 10th and 13th century (Meek 1997; 1999; 2000). Other medieval sites in the vicinity include the Church of St. Peter *c.*75m to the south-east (**LE5040** and **LE5039**). Elsewhere in the village, to the west, a medieval stone building was located during an evaluation at Durant Farm, Main Street (Kipling 2003). The listing description for the grade II Listed building Welland Farm dates it to the 18th century. Listed buildings are also recorded at Main Street Farm immediately to the north and along King Street which is opposite Welland Farm.

Historical Background

The place name of Barrowden is thought to mean ‘hill of the tumuli’, referring to the slope of the Welland Valley on which it lies (Gelling 1984). However it is unclear if the tumuli was a burial mound of just a hill, or where this was (Meek 1999).

The Domesday Book refers to Barrowden as *Berchedone*, the manor held by the king. Nine villagers, ten Freemen and three smallholders are recorded. Robert of Tosny is also mentioned as a landowner (Thorn 1980). The manor also held lands in Seaton, Thorpe, Bisbrook, Glaston, and Luffenham. In the 12th and 13th centuries Barrowden and several nearby villages were under the ownership of the Mauduit Chamberlains of the Exchequer (Mason 1987).

It is possible that at the time of the Domesday Book Barrowden was made up of at least two hamlets, the remains of which are indicated by the two greens (Meek 1999). One is located in the western half of the village and the other to the northeast of Welland Farm and east of Main Street Farm. During the medieval period the two hamlets combined into one village. Main Street is the old route of the road between Leicester and Stamford. The development of the village is likely to have occurred along the frontage of Main Street, with long rectangular plot boundaries still visible on the south side of the road in some places stretching down towards the Welland.

By the late 17th century Barrowden was described as the chief town of the Wrangdye Hundred (Wright 1684-1714; Meek 1999).

A watermill constructed in 1637 was located to the south west of Welland Farm. It became disused in the early 20th century although walls survived into the 1960's. Behind the mill was a Tannery and tan yard which closed in 1885.

Map Evidence

The earliest map available was the 1844 Tithe Map of Barrowden (fig. 4). The parish of Barrowden still had not been the subject of enclosure at this point and the map clearly shows the medieval open fields around the village. It also shows that the present stone buildings had been constructed by this time. Additionally there are also

two buildings in the south western part of the development area and a large building aligned northwest to southeast situated to the west of the entrance. This building is shown as a dwelling on the enclosure map of 1882 (fig.5). This map also shows that the area had undergone some changes including the remodelling of the eastern most barn and the demolition of the south western building. No alterations are present on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map (fig.6) but by the time that the 1900 Ordnance Survey map was produced the dwelling, the building west of it and the southern building had been demolished and a building had been constructed in the far northwestern corner adjacent to the road, presumably the wooden building still standing (fig 7). The rear boundary to the site has also changed with the area appearing to have been reduced in size from that shown on the 1886 map with the addition of a straight east-west aligned boundary. Three further farm buildings were constructed in the 20th century as shown on by the maps of 1974-5 and 1985.

5. Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

All work follows the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct* and adheres to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological evaluations*.

6. Methodology

Trial trenching totalled *c.* 70 sq metres that provided a *c.* 7.5 % sample of the *c.* 0.09 ha. This comprised one 20m x 1.5m, one 6m by 1.5m and two 10m x 1.5m trenches.

The topsoil and overburden was removed in spits by machine with a toothless ditching bucket under full supervision, until archaeological deposits or undisturbed substrata was encountered.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a hand held computer.

Each trench was hand cleaned. Samples of the archaeological deposits located were hand excavated and planned addressing the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan of 1:100. All plans were tied into the National Grid using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM).

All excavated sections were recorded and drawn at a scale of 1:10 and were levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

7. Results

Trench 1

Interval from NE end	0m	2m	4m	6m
Topsoil Depth	0.10m	0.09m	0.12m	0.14m
(002)	0.29m	0.30m	0.36m	0.36m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30	0.36m	0.36m
Base of Trench	0.30m	0.30m	0.36m	0.36m

Trench 1 was located in the north western corner of the development area between modern barns to the north and south and a stone barn of probable 19th century date to the northeast. It measured 6m long and 1.5m wide and was on a northeast to southwest alignment. Approximately 0.10m of loose mid to dark brown grey clayey loamy silt topsoil, (001), was removed revealing a subsoil layer of firm mid to dark brown clayey silt with 75% coarse angular pieces of limestone up to 0.25m in size (002). This is probably a layer of material deliberately dumped to level the farmyard prior to the construction of the farm buildings. Beneath it, at a depth of *c.* 0.35m below ground level, was natural substratum consisting of orange brown sandy clay with limestone inclusions. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 2

Interval from NNW end	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Topsoil Depth	0.12m	0.15m	0.14m	0.08m	0.06m	0.07m
(002) Depth	0.33m	0.30m	0.24m	0.27m	0.30m	0.28m
Top of Natural	0.33m	0.30	0.34m	0.27m	0.30m	0.28m
Base of Trench	0.33m	0.30m	0.34m	0.27m	0.30m	0.28m

Trench 2 was located in the western half of the development area within a modern barn. It measured 10m long and 1.5m wide and was on a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment. The same stratigraphy was revealed as in Trench 1.

At its southern end feature (004) was encountered. It was aligned northwest to southeast and comprised of loose dark brown silty clay with large amounts of concrete and modern pottery within it. It is probably a hollow that was filled in during the construction of the barn during the later half of the 20th century.

Trench 3

Interval from WSW end	0.5m	2m	3.90m	6m	8m	9.60m
(003) Depth	0.03m	0.05m	0.04m	0.02m	0.03m	0.04m
(013) Depth	0.26m	0.20m	0.10m			
(002) Depth	0.44m	0.38m	0.37m	0.34m	0.38m	0.30m
Top of Natural	0.44m	0.38m	0.37m	0.34m	0.38m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.45m	0.45m	0.37m	0.34m	0.42m	0.32m

Trench 3 projected at a right angle from the south of Trench 2 and was also within the modern barn. It measured 10m long and was 1.50m wide and was on a west-southwest to east-northeast alignment. Approximately 0.03m of compacted straw (003) was removed revealing the subsoil (002). At the western end of the trench was (013) consisting of limestone rubble within a matrix very similar to (002). It is also probably a layer of dumped material used to level the floor prior to the construction of the modern barn. Natural substratum was reached at *c.* 0.35m below the present ground surface.

Cutting the substratum were a number of features (figs. 8, 10 and 11). In the west of the trench was a shallow feature, [008] that was orientated northwest to southeast and is probably part of (004). In the eastern half of the trench two features were revealed. The first, [012] was a possible post hole. It was 0.40m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a mid orangish brown clayey sand fill. The full extent of the second feature, [010], was not established as part of it lay beneath the northern baulk. Excavation of its western half revealed that it was up to 0.50m in depth. It contained a primary fill of mid orange brown clayey sand and a secondary fill of light orange brown clayey sand that contained stone lines indicating deliberate backfilling. The modern pottery and glass found at the top of this layer cannot be used to date the feature as they could well be intrusive from later levelling episodes.

Trench 4

Interval from W end	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m	14m	16m	18m	19.20m
(003) Depth	0.01m	0.03m	0.02m	0.06m	0.03m						
Tarmac Depth						0.04m	0.04m	0.04m	0.08m	0.09m	0.09m
(002) Depth	0.07m	0.12m	0.12m	0.34m	0.15m	0.07m	0.10m	0.20m	0.18m	0.17m	0.18m
Top of Natural	0.07m	0.12m	0.12m	0.34m	0.15m	0.07m	0.10m	0.20m			
Base of Trench	0.08m	0.13m	0.17m	0.34m	0.17m	0.08m	0.11m	0.24m	0.18m	0.29m	0.27m

Trench 4 was sited partially within the modern barn and partially within the farmyard (figs 9 and 11). It measured 19.20m long and was 1.50m wide and was on a west-southwest to east-northeast alignment. Approximately 0.03m of compacted straw (003) was removed within the barn and c.0.08m of tarmac within the yard to reveal the subsoil (002). The natural substratum was encountered between 0.07m and 0.34m below the current ground surface.

At the western end of the trench the remains of a wall was revealed (006). There was no foundation cut present, it was butted up against and knitted to the stoney natural substratum of the site. It was constructed of irregular, un-worked limestone pieces up to 0.40m by 0.24m in size, one course thick and had no bonding material. Remains of another wall or post pad, (016) were encountered to the to the east comprising of three flat limestone slabs up to 0.35m by 0.22m laid onto the natural substratum.

Between (006) and (016) was a small pit [018]. It was sub-circular, measuring 0.85m by 0.68m and 0.12m deep. No finds were recovered to assist in dating.

At the eastern end of the trench feature (015) was located. It consisted limestone pieces set into mid grey brown sandy clay. It is very similar to the natural substratum to the west but differed in that it contained occasional larger limestone pieces and many of the stones were rounded. It is possible that this was natural bedrock that had been deliberately exposed and used as a yard or building floor.

Cutting (016) was (019), a sandy clay feature that, along with (020) to the east, is probably the fill of modern sewer trench.

8. Discussion

The Walls

The stone present on site is not good building stone but would be adequate for unmortared foundations. The wall (006) was most likely a dwarf wall onto which a timber superstructure was erected, a style commonly used throughout England by the 13th century (Hinton 1993) and which continued in use until the late post-medieval

period in Leicestershire and Rutland (N. Finn pers. com). The wall was constructed in the same way as those found across the road at Main Street Farm that were medieval in date (Meek 1999). A date for (006) cannot be ascribed as no dating evidence was recovered though either a medieval or post-medieval date is possible. Map evidence indicates that the building was present in 1844 and survived until 1886 but had been demolished by 1900.

An insufficient area was machined to interpret the flat stones (015). They could be part of the building (006) or alternatively may be part of a different structure all together.

The Cut Features

The pits [010] and [018] were similar in nature to features encountered to the north of the site at Main Street Farm (Meek 1999) where they were interpreted as medieval quarry pits associated with the construction of buildings. The depths of the pits, in particular [018] was likely to be greater when first excavated as the area beneath the barn appears to have been levelled prior to its construction. The date of the pits is uncertain due to the lack of finds though they could be from the same period as those at Main Street Farm.

The posthole could indicate the presence of other buildings, whether earlier, later or possibly contemporary to the present structures.

9. Conclusion

Evaluation trenches at Welland Farm established that archaeological remains survive within the proposed development area. Masonry features possibly dating to the medieval or post-medieval period were encountered. A stone spread, probably a yard or floor was located to the east of the wall. Two pit features may represent quarry pits associated with the construction of buildings in the medieval period and a post-hole suggests the presence of further buildings within the development area.

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11. Acknowledgements

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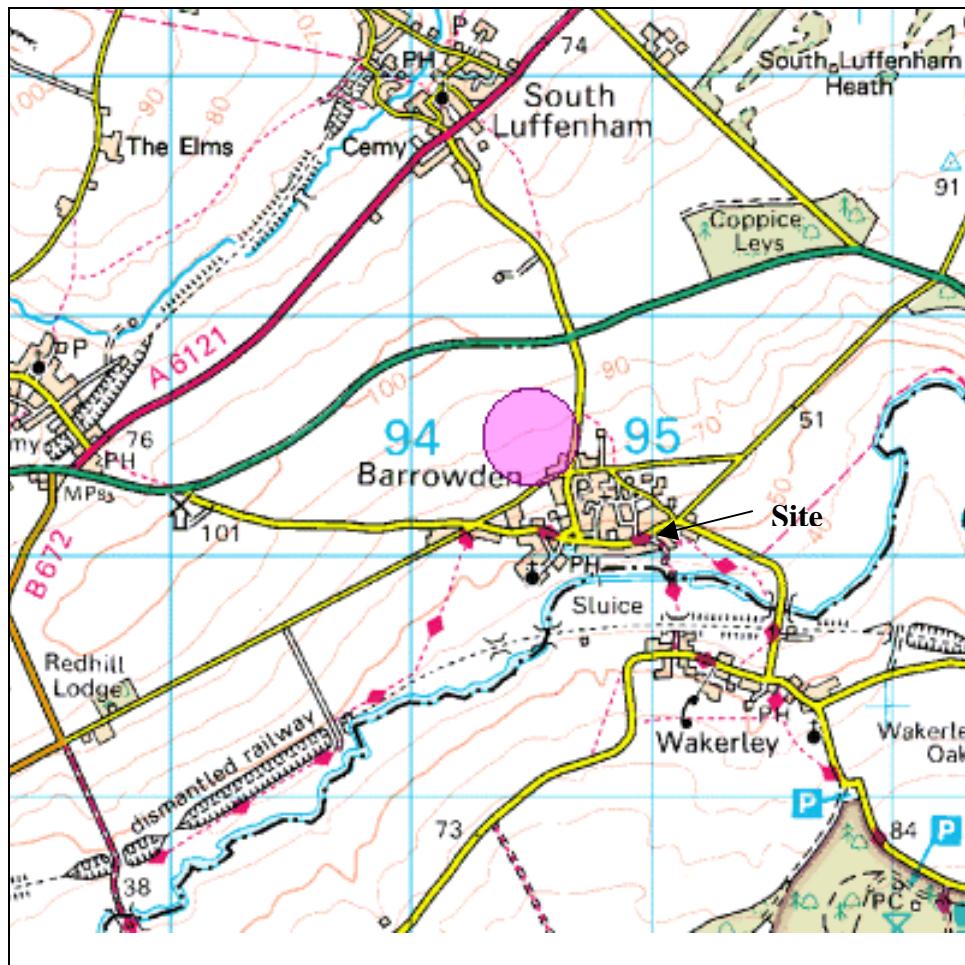


Figure. 1. Location of proposed development area.

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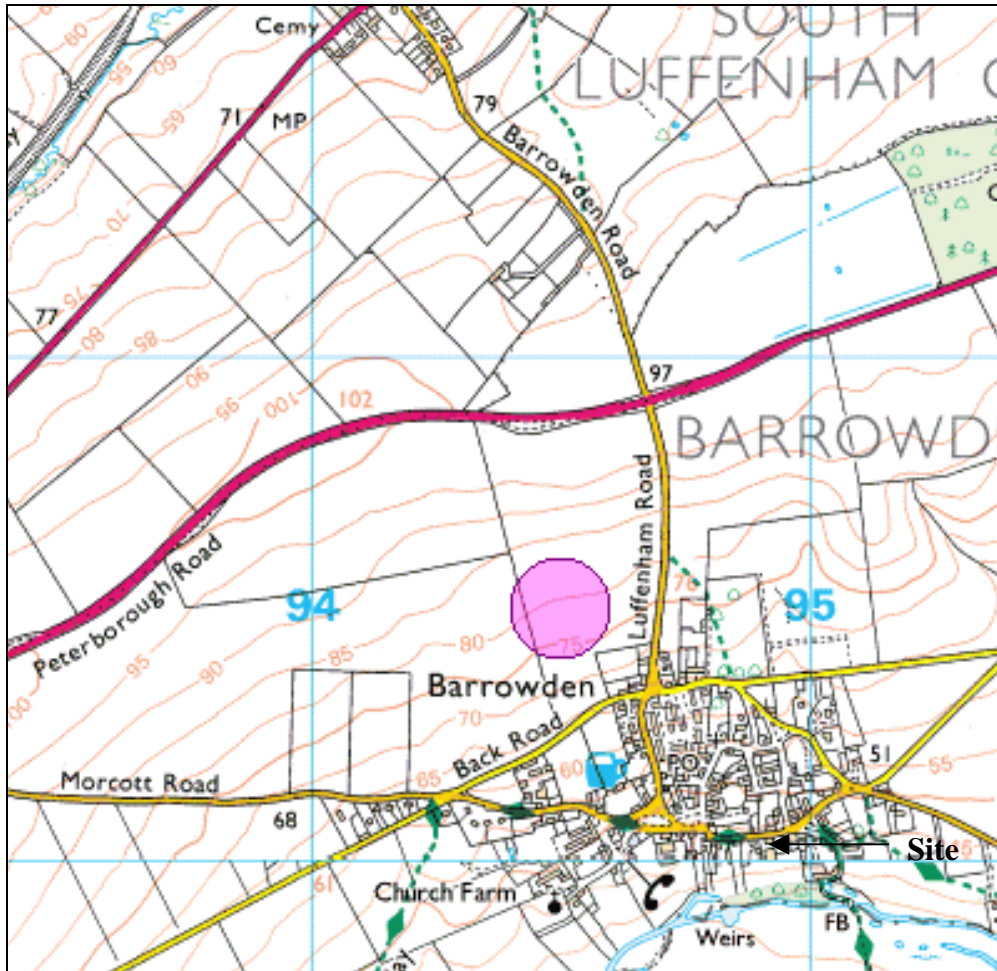


Figure. 2. Location of proposed development area.

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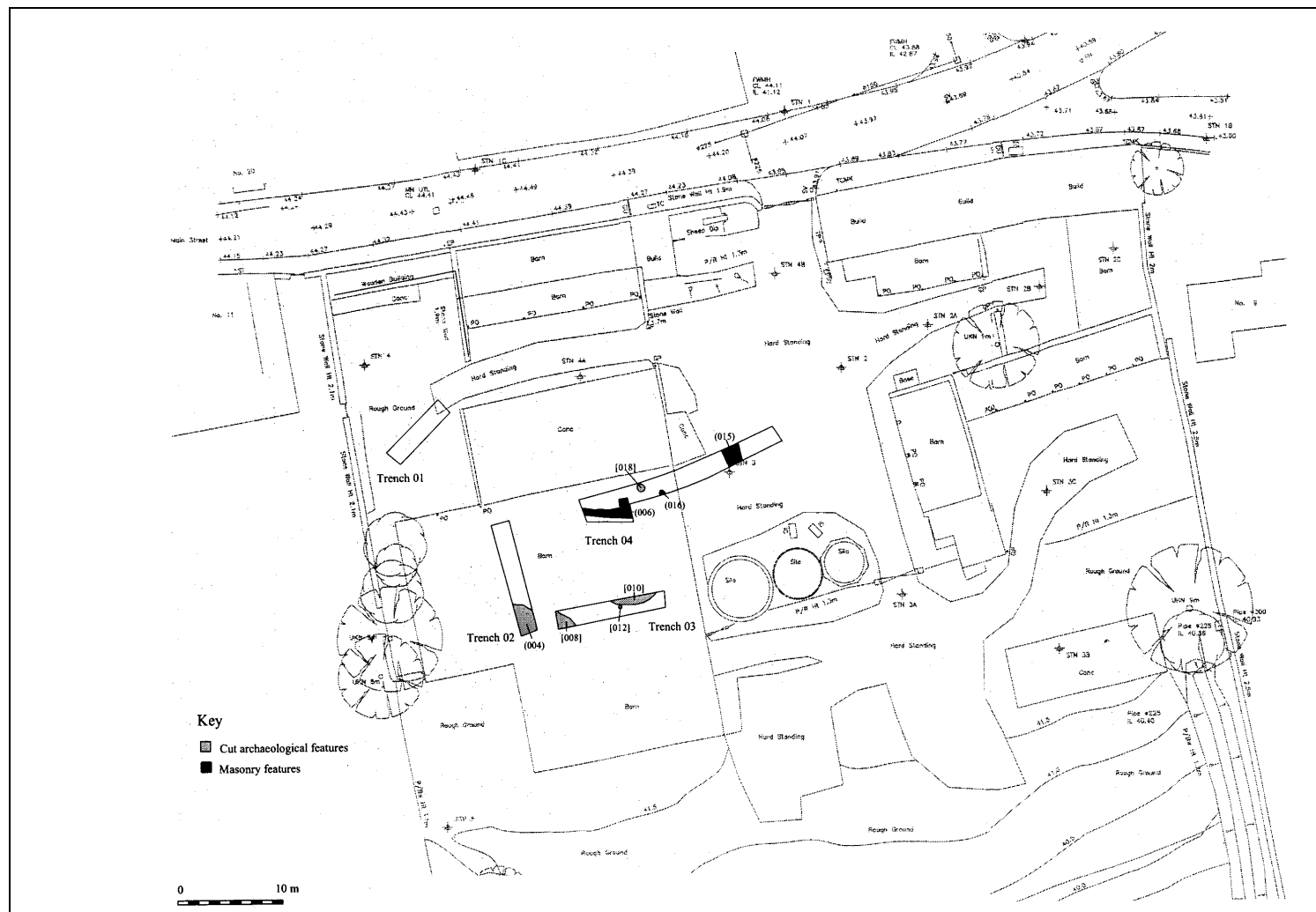


Figure 3. Trench and feature location plan.

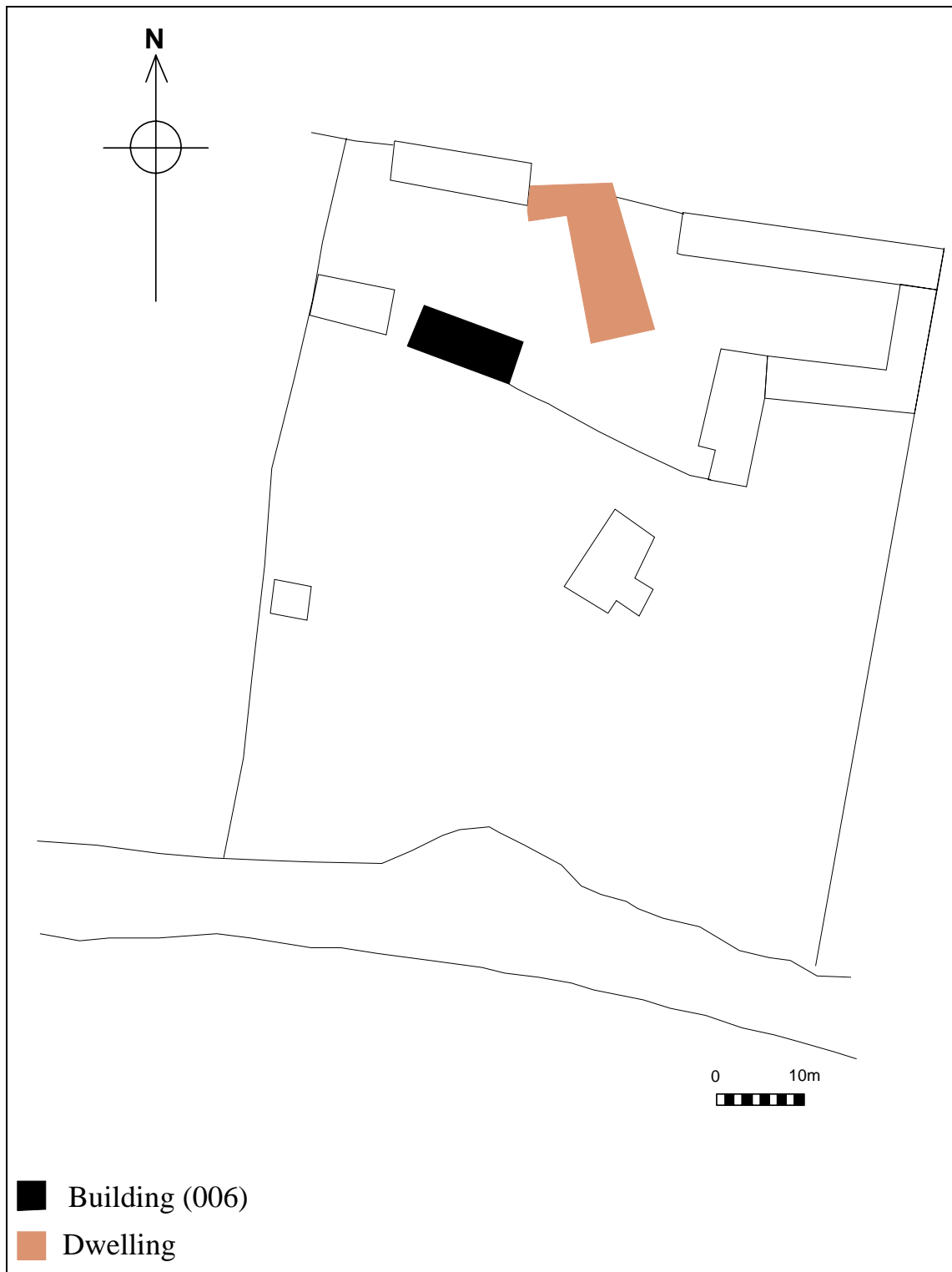


Figure 4. Plan based on the 1844 Tithe map of Barrowden

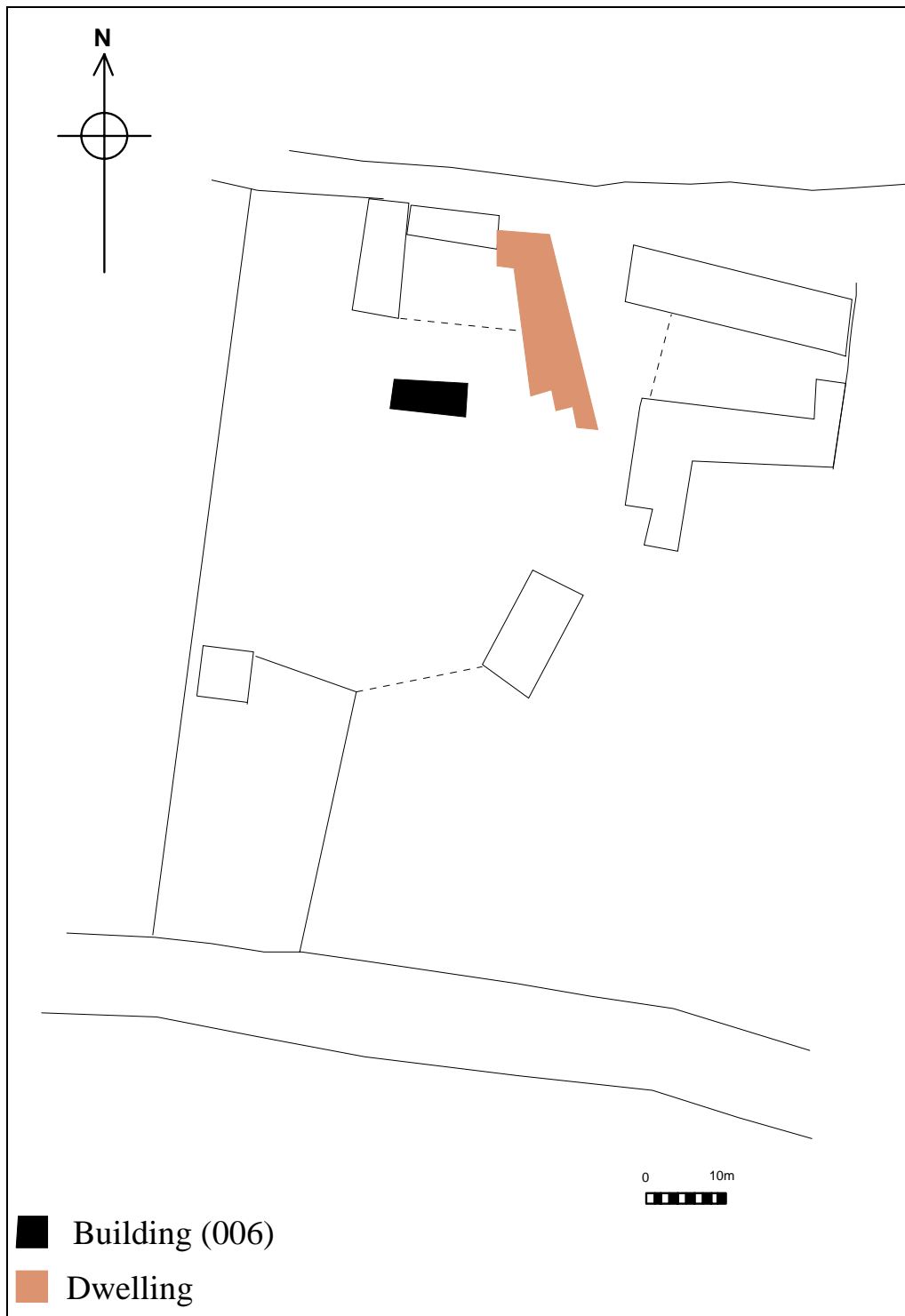


Figure 5. Plan based on the 1882 Enclosure map of Barrowden.

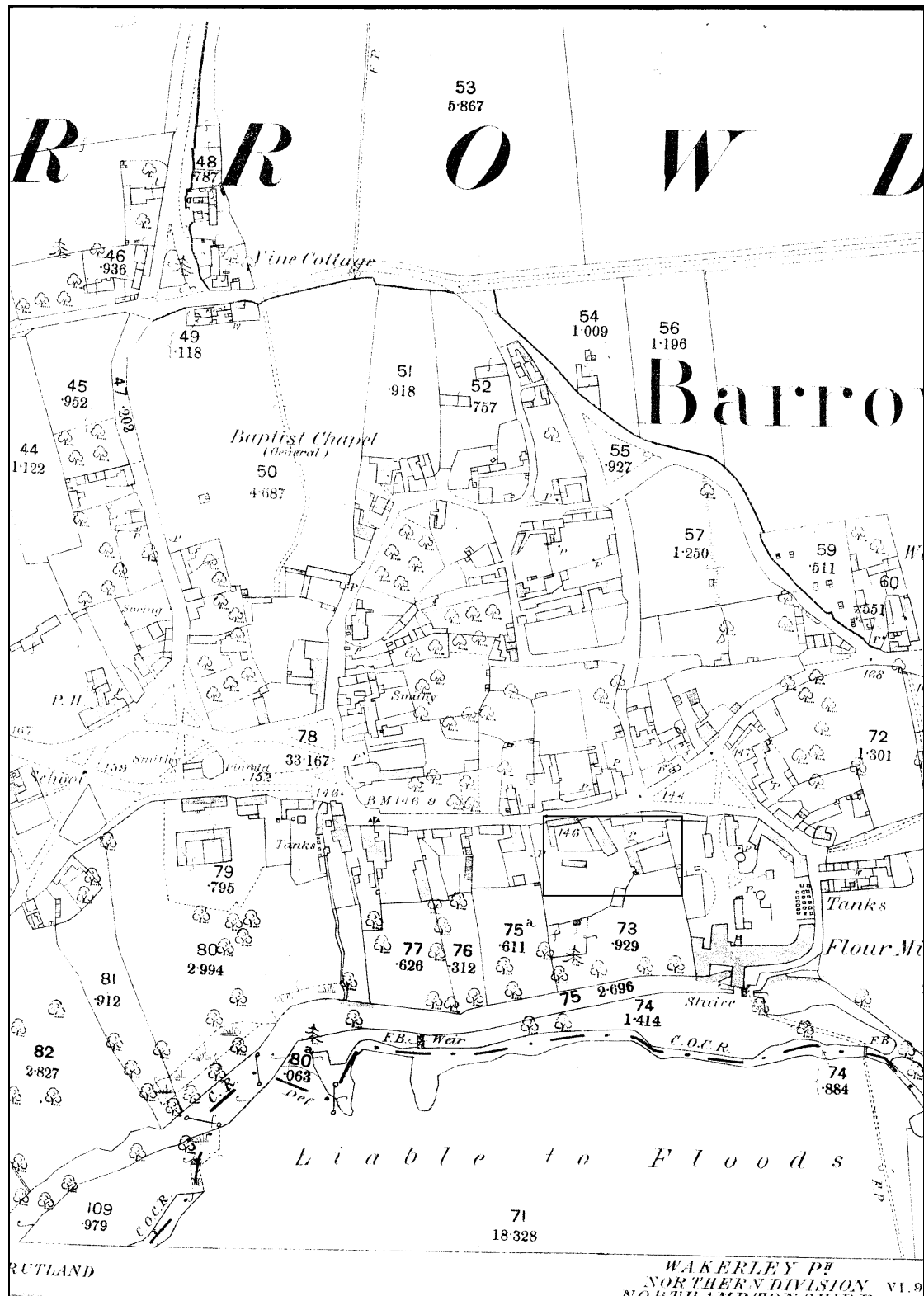


Figure 6. 1886 Ordnance Survey map Rutland XIV.5 with development plan outlined (Scale 1:2500).

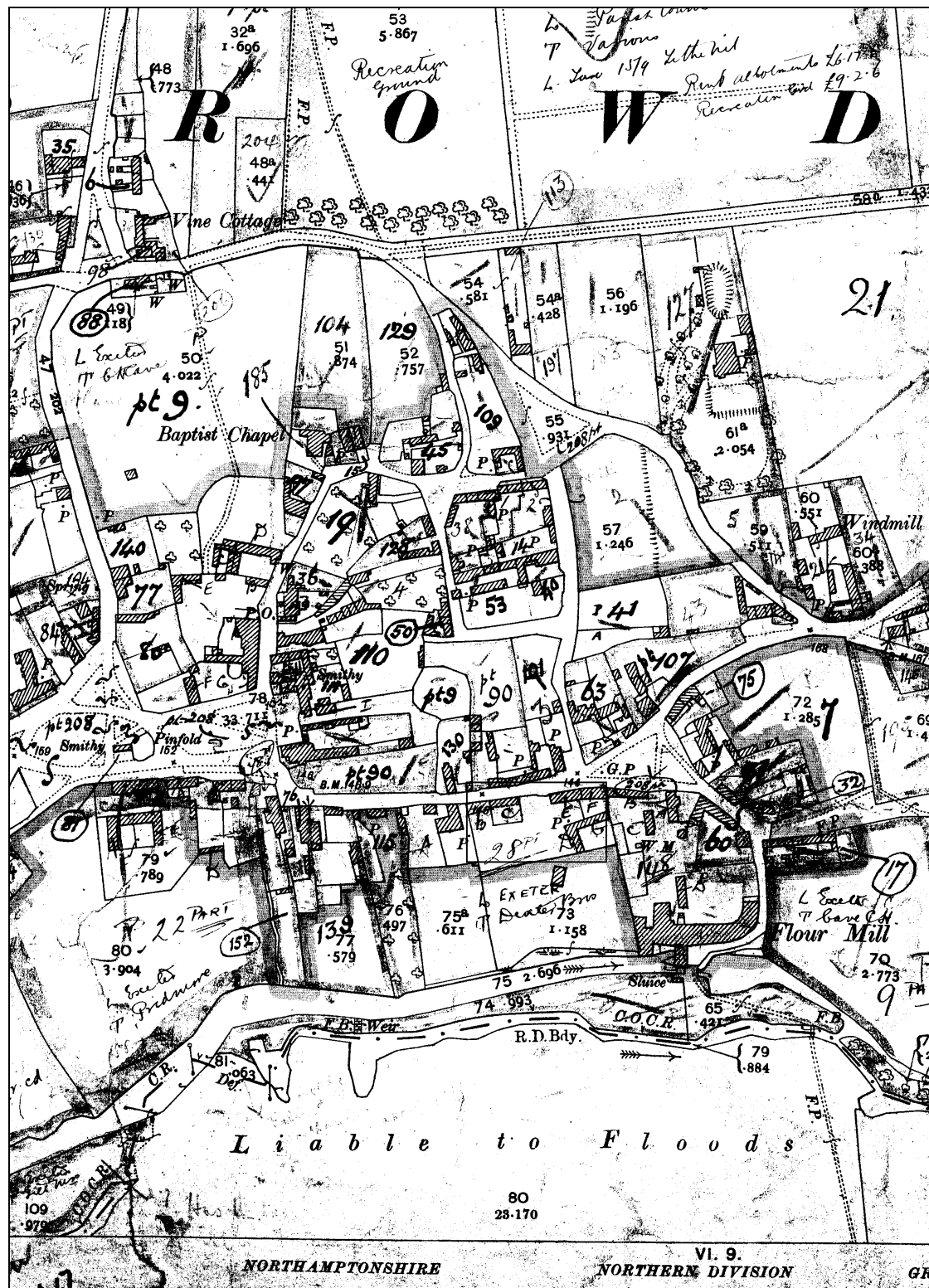


Figure 7. 1900 Ordnance Survey map Rutland XIV.5 with development area outlined (Scale 1:2500).

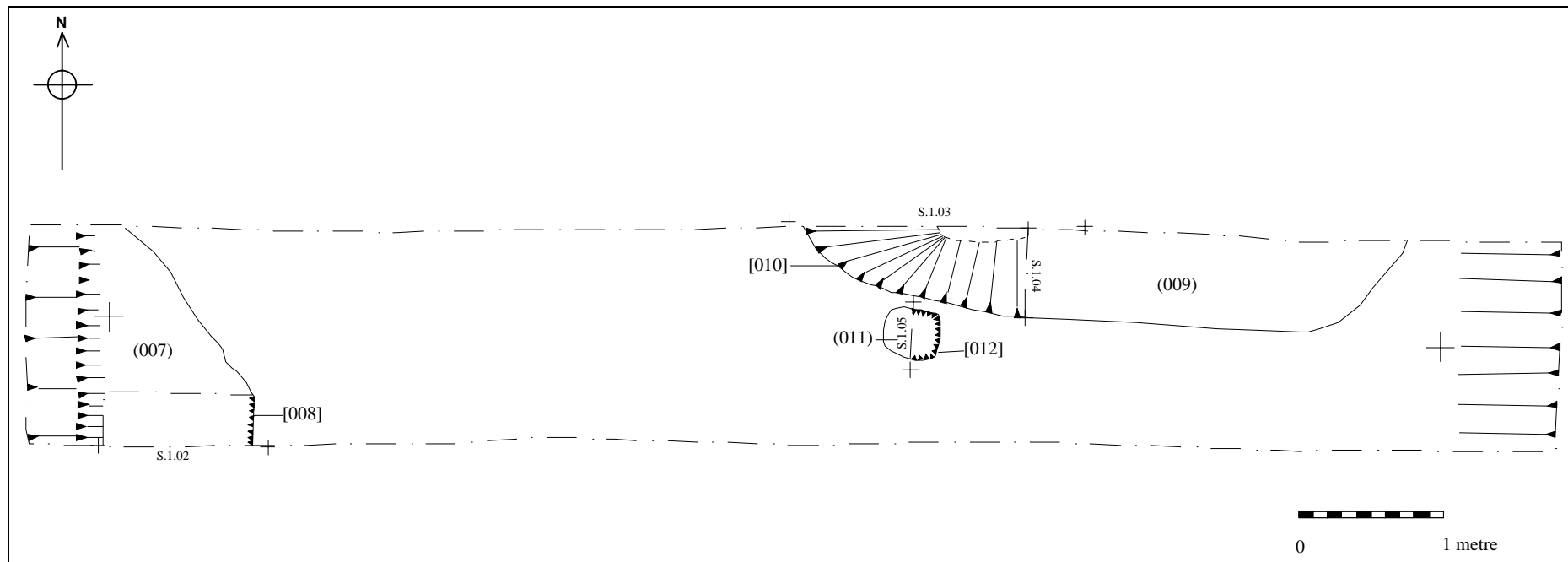


Figure 8. Plan of features in Trench 03.

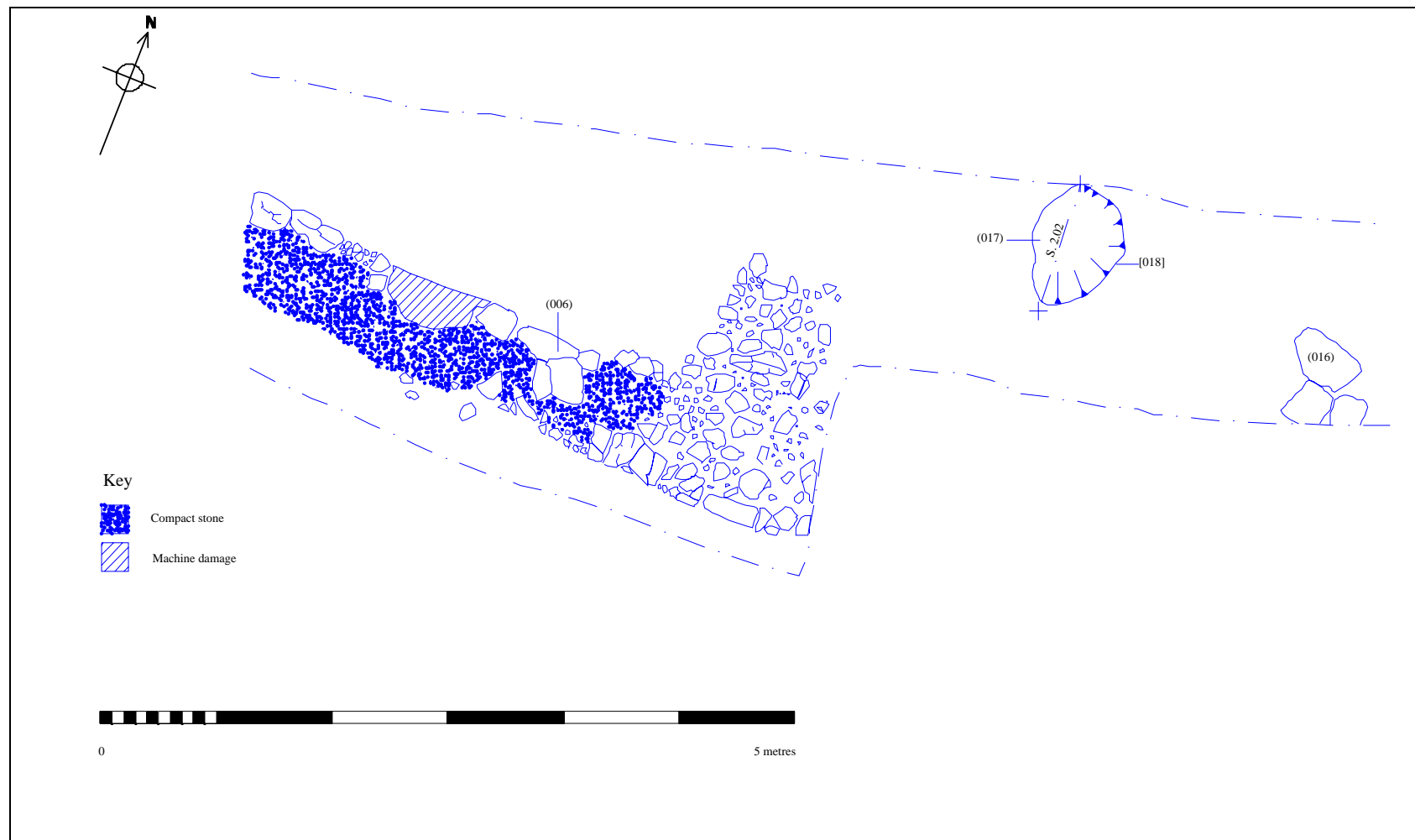


Figure 9. Plan of features in Trench 04.



Plate 1. Trench 03, quarry pit [010] and post-hole [012] looking east.



Plate 2. Trench 04 post pad (016) looking north



Plate 3. Trench 04 wall (006) looking north west.