

**LAND ADJACENT TO HOLY
CROSS CHURCH, ASHTON KEYNES
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AK98**

FOUNDATIONS ARCHAEOLOGY

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of the field evaluation undertaken adjacent to Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994), and *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (1995).
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken under the direction of Roy King BA, MIFA.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A proposal has been submitted for the construction of a car park adjacent to the church. The proposed development area lies in on a raised bank in an area of archaeological significance. In accordance with PPG 16 (Planning and Policy Guidelines) a planning condition for the excavation of three 2m by 2m test-pits was required by the County Archaeological Service.
- 2.2 The archaeological condition was imposed as the groundworks may have had an adverse impact on settlement features known to exist elsewhere in Ashton Keynes.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Three 2m by 2m test-pits were hand-excavated and appropriate levels of recording undertaken.
- 4.2 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not (including material from spoil tips), was collected and subjected to preliminary study on site. Finds of early modern date were not subsequently retained.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The stratigraphy present in all three trenches was substantially identical, consisting of a 0.10-0.25m thick topsoil sealing a c. 0.40m thick deposit of bank material. A 0.15-0.22m thick clay loam deposit beneath the banking material in Trenches 2 and 3 represented the old land surface. Natural deposits comprised a yellow silty clay deposit; the presence of silts suggesting that it was probably the result of Glacial deposition.
- 5.2 Trench 1 was excavated onto natural at 0.60m from the modern ground surface (88.15m OD). Quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from the bank deposit (101) which was 0.45m thick in this part of the site.
- 5.3 Trench 2 was excavated onto natural at 0.77m from the modern ground surface (88.69m OD). The trench was cut closer to the edge of the bank and revealed a slightly shallower, 0.30m thick (at 89.21m OD), deposit of banking material (201). Quantities of medieval Minety ware were again recovered from the bank. The old land surface (202) sealing the natural clay consisted of a 0.22m thick layer of grey brown clay loam. A flint core was recovered from the interface of this material and the natural.
- 5.4 Trench 3 was excavated onto natural at 0.60m (88.57m OD) from the modern ground surface. The trench revealed 0.32m of bank material (at 89.04m OD) over 0.15m of the old land surface. A flint flake was recovered from the interface of this deposit with the natural clays.

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 All site recording was undertaken in accordance with Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual). A full written, drawn and photographic record of the evaluation was compiled.

7 POST-EXCAVATION

- 7.1 Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the site archive with the appropriate museum.
- 7.2 A copy of this report has been forwarded to the County Archaeological Service.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The bank comprised the only archaeological feature encountered during the course of the evaluation.
- 8.2 Quantities of medieval pottery, predominantly Minety ware dating to the 13-14th centuries were recovered from the bank material. No post-medieval finds were recovered from this deposit, and it would appear that the bank was constructed at this time, probably to provide a dry area for the church and cemetery. Natural deposits, comprising a silty clay appeared at an average depth of 0.60m from the modern ground surface throughout the study area. This deposit was tested to a depth of 0.65m in Trench 2.
- 8.3 Two pieces of worked flint, comprising a core and a flake, were recovered from Trenches 2 and 3 respectively. Both were recovered from the interface of the old land surface and the natural.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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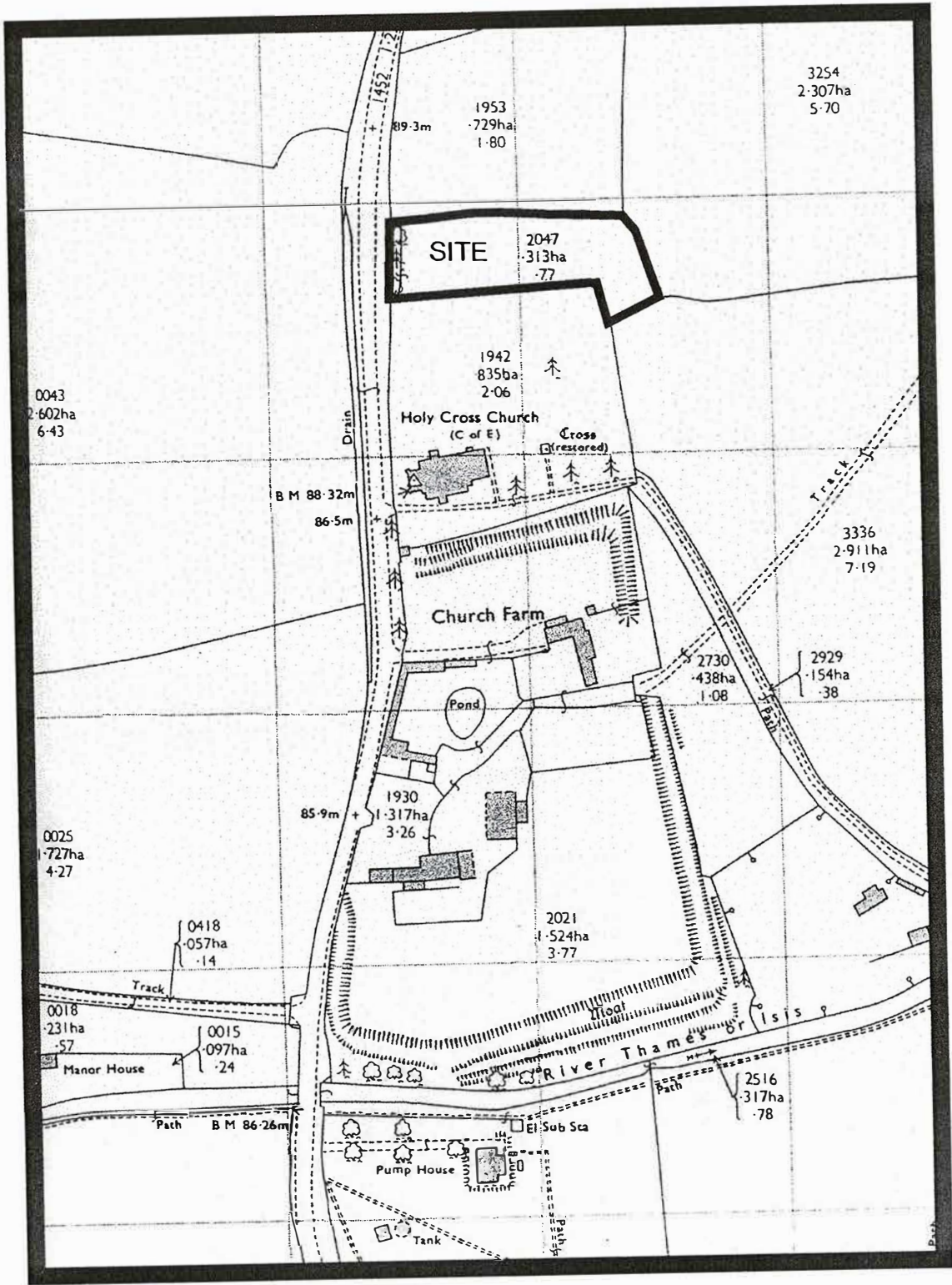


Figure 1 : Site Location

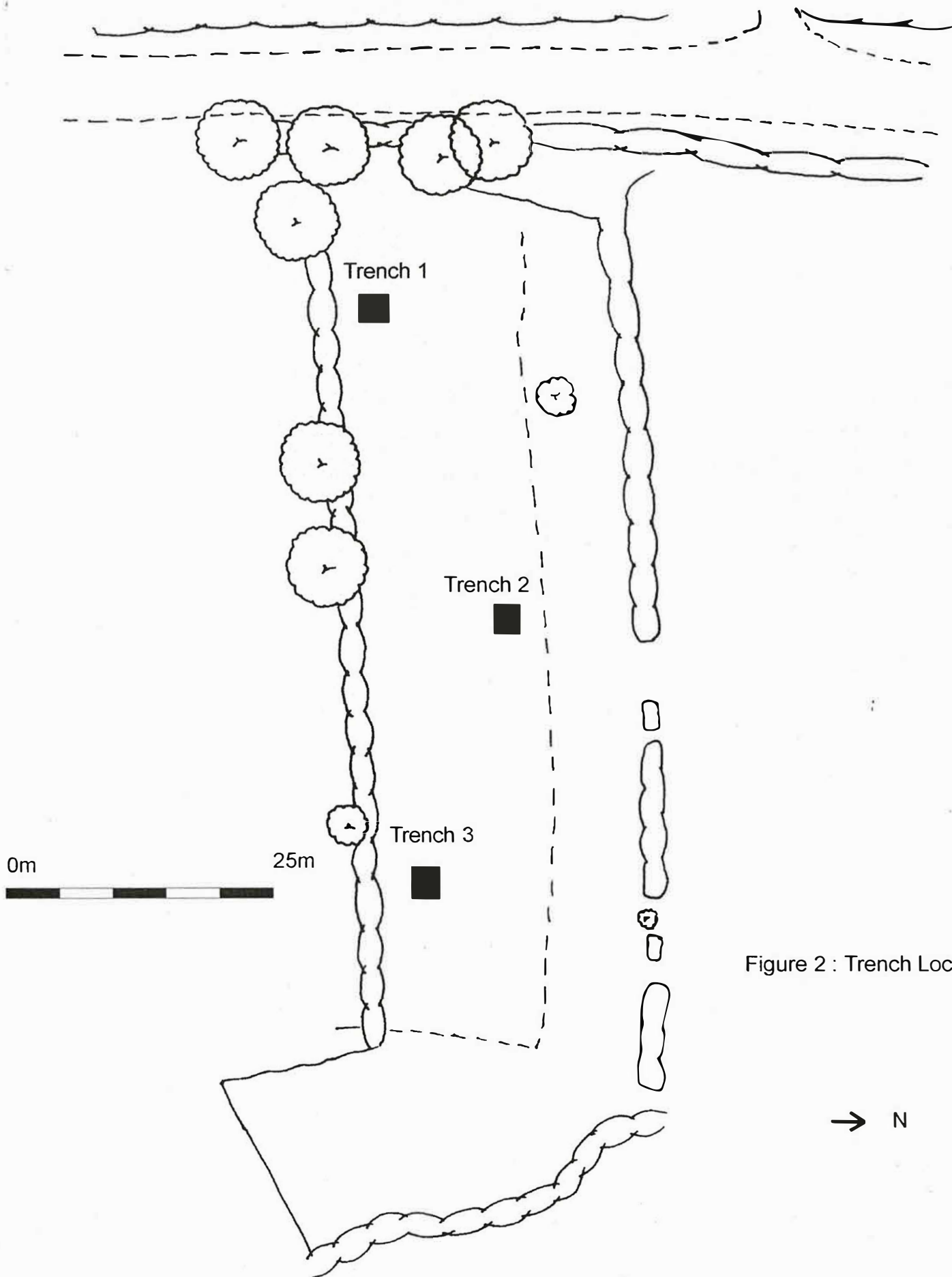
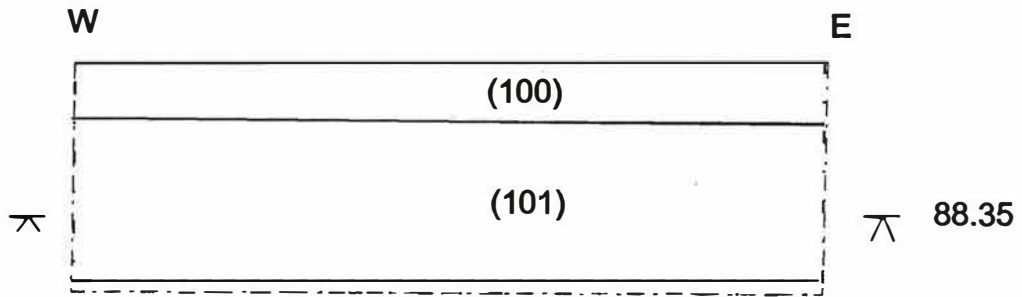
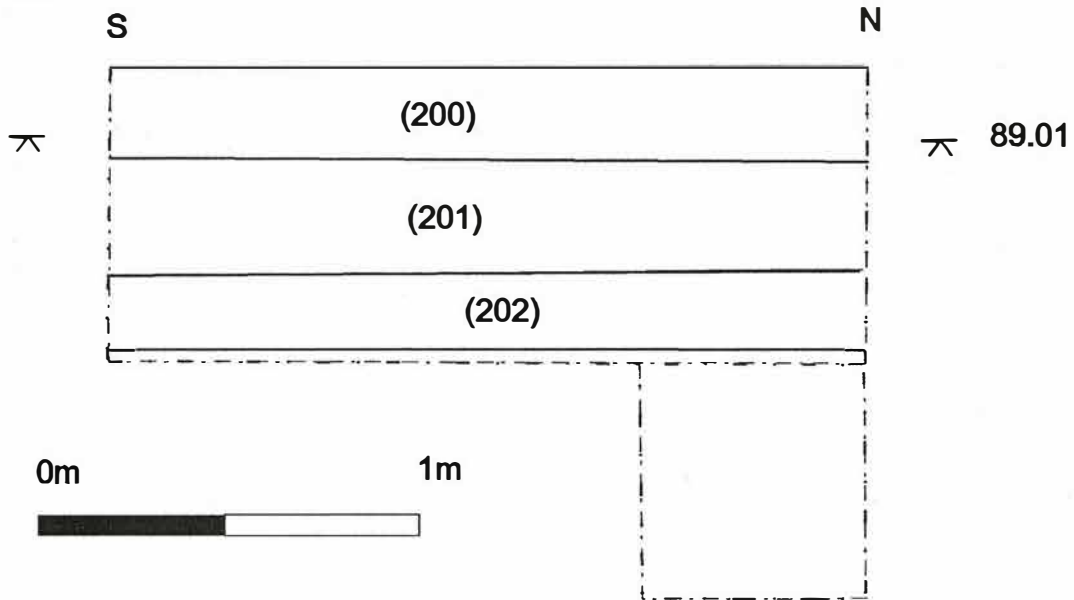


Figure 2 : Trench Locations

Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

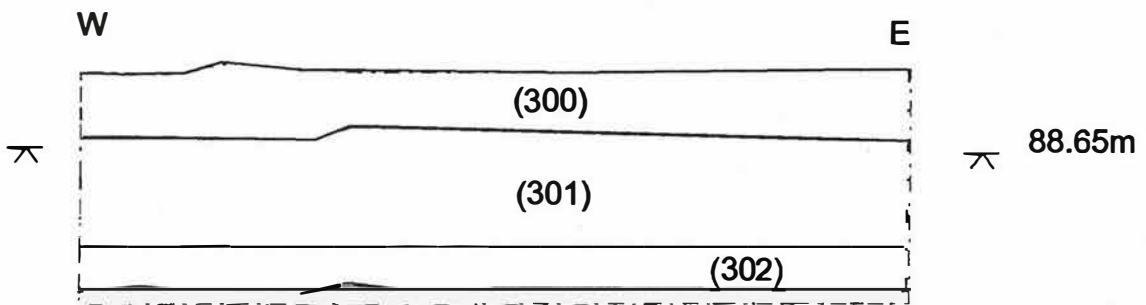


Figure 3 : Trench Sections