

**ROADS AT CHURCH END
LITTLE HADHAM
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

June 2006

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Client: Messrs D. and R. Collins, Hadham Water Ltd

NGR: TL 44698 22724

Planning reference: 3/05/1835

FAU project number: 1555

Site Code: LHCE 06

Oasis entry number: essexcou1-15242

Date of fieldwork: 9/5/06

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in advance of construction of a road realignment, an access road and parking spaces at Church End, Little Hadham, to the north and east of the medieval church of St Cecilia and near an area of medieval settlement at Church End. The trial trenching evaluation recovered archaeological finds from the topsoil, but identified no archaeological features. The finds comprise a Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead and a small quantity of late medieval and 16th-century metalwork, pottery, brick and tile. Some of these finds were high-status objects.

The results of the trial trenching evaluation suggest that the proposed road works are unlikely disturb any significant archaeological remains.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out in advance of proposed road realignment, and the construction of a new access road and parking spaces at Church End, Little Hadham. The trial trenching evaluation was carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Hadham Water Limited, as a condition on determination of a planning application submitted to the local planning authority, East Hertfordshire District Council.

The proposed new roads are located in area of Archaeological Significance 105 as designated in the Local Plan, which covers most of Church End, a known medieval settlement focused on the church of St Cecilia. As a result archaeological evaluation was recommended to the local planning authority by the Hertfordshire County Council's County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO). The evaluation was carried out according to a design brief prepared by the HCC CAO (2005) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2006).

Copies of this report will be supplied to Hadham Water Ltd, the local planning authority, HCC CAO, and the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record. A copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS online archaeological record at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>. The site archive and finds will be held at Hertford Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

Church End is located to the north-east of Little Hadham (TL 4469 2272) immediately to the north of the A120. Hadham Hall lies 0.5km to the east, and Bishop's Stortford, the main town in the area, is 3km (2 miles) to the south-east. The proposed road works cover 0.28ha overall and lie north and east of the church of St Cecilia and 100m south of Church End Farm (Fig. 1). The existing road east of the church will be widened and realigned, and an access road and a parking area will be constructed along the north side of the churchyard, with a branch leading to Hall Farm Cottages.

Church End is situated in a rural setting on the west-facing slope of the valley of the river Ash. The field to the north of the church is arable, and the one to the east of the existing access road is for the grazing of horses. In the vicinity of the church are the Rectory and a small number of houses, including Church End Farmhouse and Hall Farm Cottages.

The area immediately east of the access road to the east of the church has been landscaped (Mr Collins, Hadham Water Ltd, pers. comm.). The landscaping took place about 20 to 30 years ago and involved the temporary removal of the topsoil and the smoothing out of the underlying surface. It is not known if the landscaping exposed or truncated archaeological remains.

The surface geology comprises glacial deposits of clay and silt clay, and is overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil consisting of dark greyish brown silt-clay.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The settlement of Church End is medieval in origin. St Cecilia's church dates to the late 14th or early 15th century, and probably lies on the site of an earlier church, possibly dating to the 12th century. Hadham Hall to the immediate east of Church End was originally a medieval manor house. Archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity of Hadham Hall and have found Late Iron Age finds and features and the site of a medieval farmstead. A circular mound located to the north of Hadham Hall is probably a prehistoric monument.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the location, extent, date, character, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed road works.

The research objectives for the project were based on those set out in the research agenda for archaeology in the region, one of whose key topics is the origins, date and development of medieval rural settlements (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 23).

The specific objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

1. To identify and record any archaeological evidence for the origins, date, form, function and development of the church of St Cecilia and Church End in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
2. To record any archaeological evidence of earlier periods, if present.

4.0 METHOD

The trial-trenching sampled 4% of the development area and consisted of four 15m x 2m long trenches (Fig. 2, A to D) and one 20m x 2m long trench (Fig. 2, E). The trenches were stripped of their topsoil down to the natural (geological) subsoil by a tracked excavator with a broad toothless bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. The stripped surface was inspected for archaeological features and finds, and hand-cleaned where necessary.

The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2003). The minimum sample sizes are 50% for self-contained features (e.g. pits and post-holes), and 10% for linear features (e.g. ditches and gullies). Plans are drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Two cameras are used to take photographs – black and white prints and colour transparencies. Each context is recorded on individual pro-forma sheets. A metal detector is used to check spoil heaps and stripped surfaces for metal finds.

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officer's *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IFA 1999a, 1999b; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

No archaeological features or finds were found in trenches A, B, C and D. A Bronze Age flint arrowhead was discovered on the spoil heap of trench C, and a small quantity of medieval and early post-medieval pottery, brick, tile and metalwork in a thin spread of subsoil towards the south end of trench E. Included amongst the finds from the subsoil were part of a late 15th-century iron rowel spur, and a small fragment of an early to mid-16th-century bellarmine jug. No archaeological features or finds were present underneath the subsoil. The topsoil in the trench varied in thickness, and was less than 0.15m thick towards the north end. A modern sewer trench was present in trench D.

6.0 FINDS, by Joyce Compton

A variety of finds, of mainly late medieval or early post-medieval date, were recovered from the subsoil in trench E (context 1). In addition, a reworked barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from the spoil in trench C (context 2). The finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context and details are provided in the table (Appendix 3). All of the finds are described by category below.

6.1 Iron rowel spur

Part of a substantial iron rowel spur unfortunately has the terminals broken off. There appears to be a projection above the heel, however, which can be paralleled with examples from London, dated to the late 15th century (LMMC 1940, fig.34, nos 5 and 7).

6.2 Pottery, by Helen Walker

Six sherds of pottery weighing a total of 50g were recorded. The most interesting find is the rim from a Cologne stoneware bellarmine jug showing an eye and part of the beard from the face mask, datable to 1525-1550 (cf. Hurst *et al.* 1986, pl. 38). Bellarmine jugs of this early date are not common, especially on inland sites, and could indicate high status or links with the continent. The accompanying pottery is more mundane, comprising an abraded sherd of medieval coarse ware, and joining sherds of late-medieval sandy orange ware, which could be contemporary with the

Cologne stoneware. Two tiny sherds of modern earthenware, date from the late 18th to 20th centuries.

6.3 Brick and tile

Five roof tile fragments cannot be closely dated, since the materials and methods used were the same from the medieval period until relatively recent times. The brick fragment is in a dull red, poorly mixed fabric, with grass impressions on the lower surface and striations on the upper. The full measurements could not be ascertained but the brick has an average depth of 40mm. Using the brick typology in Ryan (1996, 95-7) it can be seen that this is likely to be a late medieval brick, perhaps 15th to 16th century.

6.4 Flint arrowhead, by Hazel Martingell

An interesting Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from trench C (Fig. 3). It appears to have had two separate periods of use, first as an arrowhead and then, later, the barbs and tang were snapped off, and the sides chipped into concave edges to form a different tool. This concave-edged tool could have been used for a number of tasks, including the trimming of wooden rods and the cutting of reeds and rushes.

6.5 Conclusion

Although the assemblage is small, most of the finds form a cohesive chronological group. No further work is required, however. The finds should all be retained, but selected discard could take place at the archiving stage. It is recommended that the bellarmine sherd is retained in the ECC FAU pottery reference collection.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation trial trenching identified no archaeological features in any of the trenches, but did recover a small quantity of finds from topsoil.

The earliest artefact is the Bronze Age flint arrowhead (Fig. 3). It was discovered on the spoil heap of trench C, and implies Bronze Age activity or settlement in the vicinity of Church End between c. 2000 and 700 BC. A circular mound north of Hadham Hall, 700m to the north-east of the find spot, may be a Bronze Age round-barrow.

All the other finds come from a thin layer of subsoil towards the south end of trench E and comprise pieces of late medieval and 16th-century brick, tile, pottery and metalwork. They form a chronologically cohesive group dated to the 13th-16th centuries, broadly the date-range of known later medieval settlement at Church End. The brick, the rowel spur and the Cologne stoneware possibly originate from Hadham Hall because they were high-status objects.

The landscaping that took place 20 years ago to the east of the access road is probable responsible for the uneven thickness of topsoil in trench E.

8.0 ASSESSMENT

The results of the trial trenching evaluation suggest that no extensive archaeological deposits or features are present within the footprint of the proposed road works. The area immediately east of the access road has been previously stripped, although it is not known if archaeological deposits or features were damaged in the process.

The Bronze Age flint arrowhead is an interesting artefact, but is not related to any archaeological features or deposits, so has no direct implications for Bronze Age activity in the area of the road works. The medieval and post-medieval finds are also unstratified, and merely represent chance deposition or loss of artefacts in the area to the east of the churchyard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essex CC FAU would like to thank Robert and David Collins of Hadham Water Ltd for commissioning the archaeological trial trenching and for providing an earthmoving machine, and Alison Tinniswood for monitoring the project on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council Archaeology Office. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Germany and Dave Smith. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael and were analysed by Joyce Compton, Helen Walker and Hazel Martingell. Figures 1 and 2 were drawn by Andrew Lewsey, and Figure 3 by Hazel Martingell. The project was managed by Patrick Allen.

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- | | | |
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| ECC FAU | 2006 | <i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trenching: Roads at Church End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire</i> |
| Hurst, J.G. | 1986 | <i>Pottery produced and traded in north-west Europe 1350 – 1650</i> (Rotterdam Papers VI) |
| IFA | 1999a | Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations |
| IFA | 1999b | <i>Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations (revised)</i> |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Occasional Paper 14 |
| LMMC | 1940 | <i>Medieval Catalogue</i> (London Museum Medieval Catalogues: No. 7) |
| Ryan, P. | 1996 | <i>Brick in Essex: From the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i> (Chelmsford) |

Appendix 1: Trench data

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Coordinates
A	15	1.3	TL 544596.4829 222823.3710 TL 544610.5250 222818.0966
B	15	1.3	TL 544640.4222 222803.6605 TL 544654.4774 222798.4212
C	15	1.3	TL 544683.7477 222835.6785 TL 544675.9110 222822.8884
D	15	1.3	TL 544687.9709 222789.3764 TL 544702.7514 222786.8195
E	20	1.3	TL 544709.6743 222742.0584 TL 544699.1117 222725.0751

Appendix 2: Context data

No.	Category	Trench	Description	Date
1	Finds	E	Finds from deposit 9	Modern
2	Finds	C	Finds from spoil heap	Modern
3	Topsoil	A to E	Dark greyish-brown silt clay	Modern
4	Natural	A	Brownish-red silt clay	
5	Natural	B	Brownish-yellow silt clay	
6	Natural	B	Yellowish-brown clay silt	
7	Natural	C	Brownish-yellow clay	
8	Natural	D	Brownish-yellow silt clay	
9	Subsoil	E	Yellowish-brown silt clay	Modern
10	Natural	E	Yellowish-brown silt clay	
11	Natural	E	Brownish-yellow clay	

Appendix 3: Finds data

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Finds	1	102	Iron rowel spur fragment	Medieval/EPM
		1	535	Brick fragment, red fabric, one surviving side, grass impressions on underside, 40mm deep	Late medieval
		5	256	Roof tile fragments	Med/post med.
		6	50	Pottery; body sherds	Med/post med.
2	Finds	1	2	Worked flint; barbed and tanged arrowhead, broken	Bronze Age

Pottery data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Finds	1	14	Medieval coarse ware, abraded	12th to 14th C
		2	26	Late medieval sandy orange ware, unglazed, joining sherds	14th to 16th C
		1	9	Cologne stoneware, rim of bellarmine jug showing an eye and part of the beard from a face mask, pale grey fabric with a clear glaze	1525-1550
		2	1	Modern white earthenware	late 18th-20th C

Appendix 4: Contents of archive

Contained in one foolscap document wallet:

- 1 Context register sheet
- 11 Context recording sheets
- 5 Trench recording sheets
- 2 Photographic register sheets
- 1 Archaeological brief
- 1 Written scheme of investigation
- 2 Copies of this report
- 1 Finds report and table
- 15 Black and white prints and negatives
- 14 Colour transparencies

Separate from foolscap document wallet:

- 1 Box of finds

Appendix 5: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

Site name and address: St Cecilia's Church, Church End, Little Hadham		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Little Hadham	Parish: Little Hadham	
Planning application reference: 3/05/1835		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Hadham Water Ltd		
Nature of application: Construction of access road, parking places and realignment of existing road		
Present land use: Grazing and arable		
Size of application area: 2.8ha	Size of area investigated: 110m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 4469 2272		
Site code: LHCE 06		
Site director/Organization: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching		
Date of work:	Start: 9/5/2006	Finish: 9/5/2006
Location of finds/Curating museum: Hertford		
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results:		
<p>The excavation of five archaeological trenches preceded the proposed construction of an access road, parking spaces and road realignment to the immediate north and east of the church of St Cecillia. The trenching did not identify any archaeological features but recovered a small quantity of finds. The oldest artefact was a Bronze Age flint arrowhead. The other finds comprised a small quantity of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, brick, and tile, and part of a 15th-century iron rowel spur.</p>		
Author of summary: Mark Germany	Date of summary: June 2006	

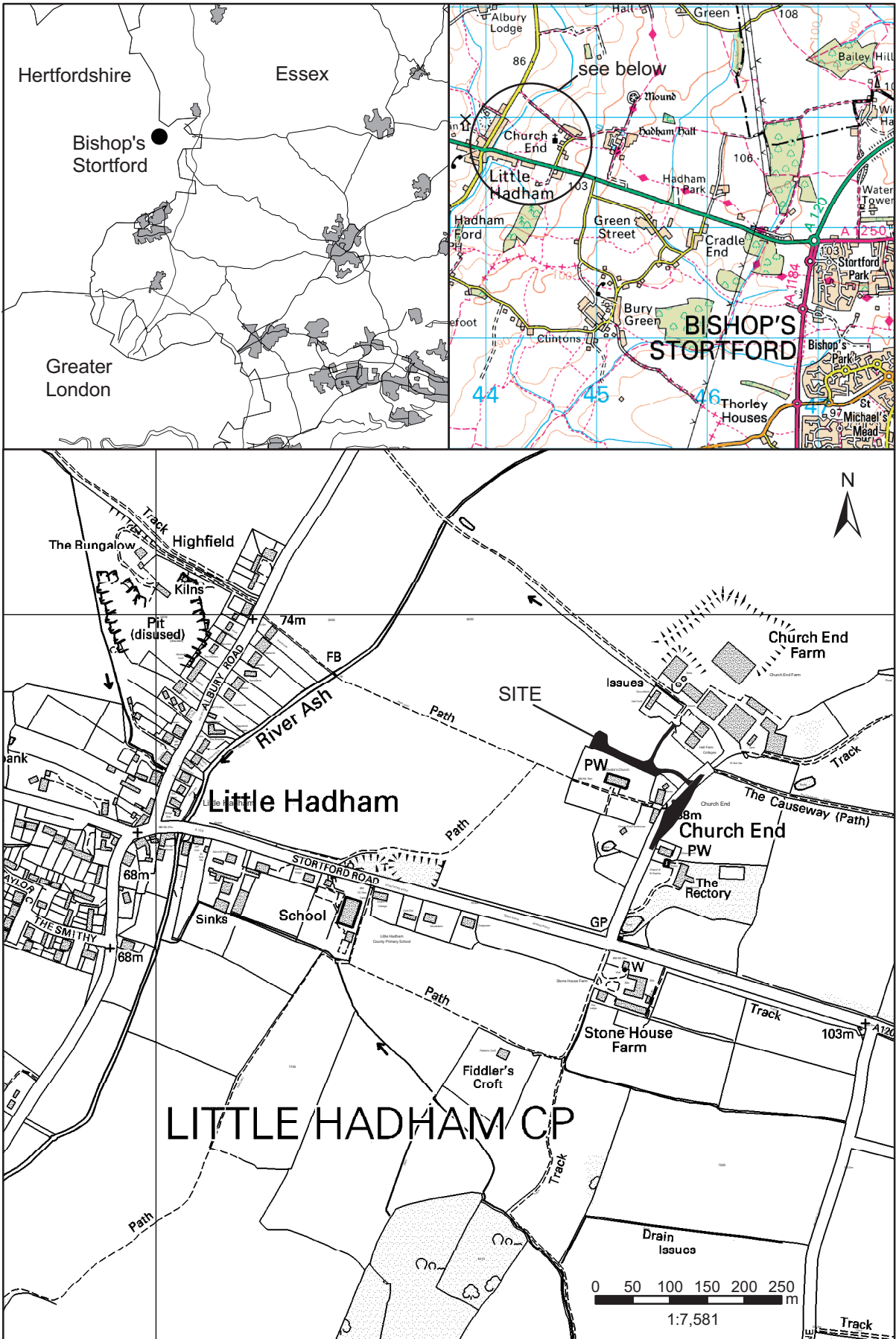
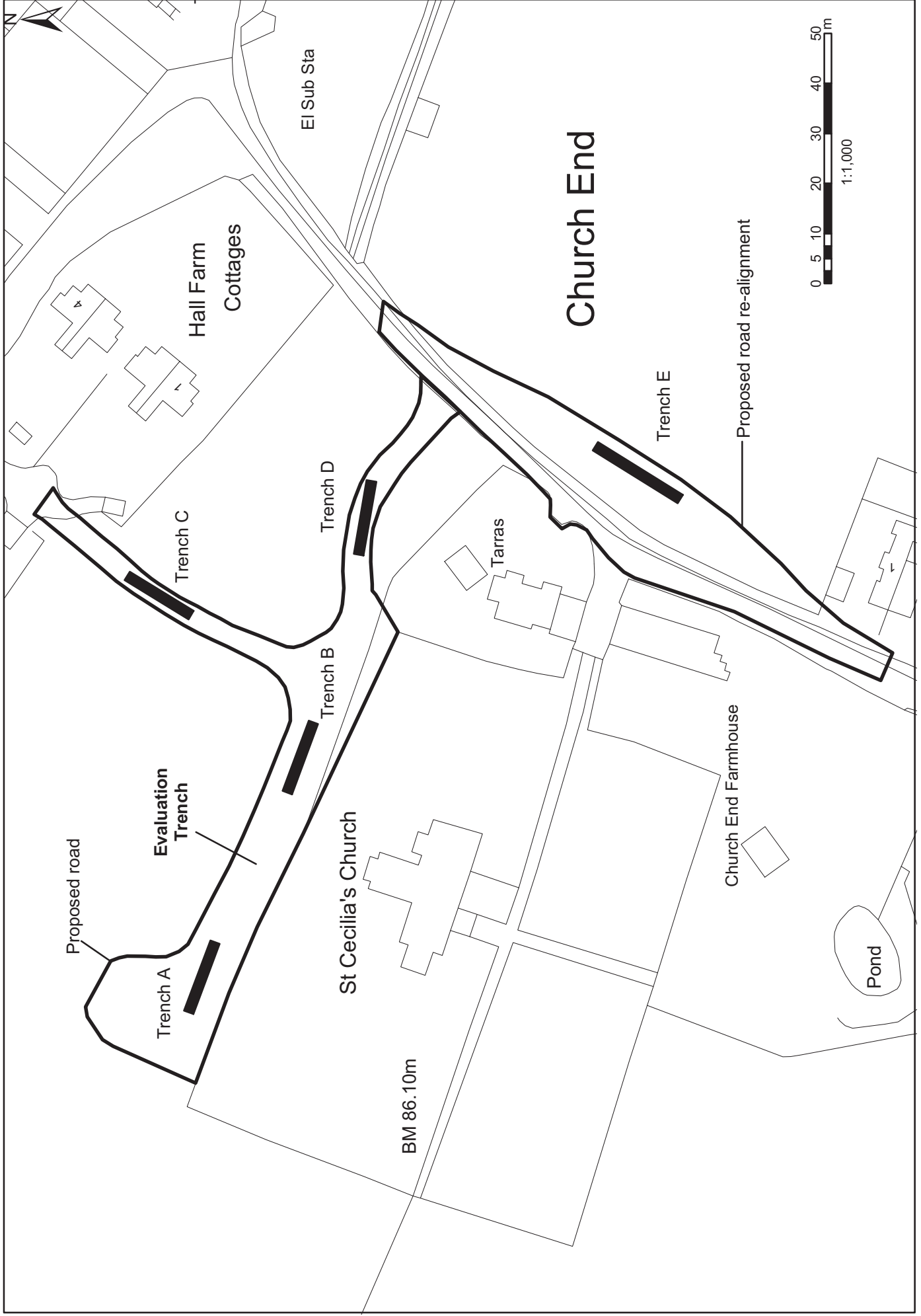


Fig.1. Location plan



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Fig.2. Trench location plan



Fig. 3 Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead