

HERITAGE NETWORK



POTTER'S HALL FARM **Potter's Green, Little Munden, Herts.**

HN490

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

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POTTER'S HALL FARM

Potter's Green, Little Munden, Herts.

HN490

Desk-based Archaeological Assessment

Prepared on behalf of Marchfield Developments Ltd

by

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The cover shows an extract from Dury and Andrews' Map of Hart-fordshire, 1766

Acknowledgements

The research for this project was carried out Helen Ashworth and Alison Hudson, with the site walkover undertaken by David Hillelson. Illustrations were prepared by David Hillelson and David Kaye, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Potter's Hall Farm, Potter's Green, Little Munden, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Herts
Village/town:	Little Munden	Parish:	Little Munden
Planning reference:	N/A	NGR:	TL 3516 2066
Client name and address:	Marchfield Developments Ltd, Chells Manor, Chells Lane, Stevenage, SG2 7AA		
Project Reference:	HN490	Other reference:	N/a

Synopsis:

In order to assess the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to part demolish structures and to erect detached dwellings at Potter's Hall Farm, Potter's Green, Little Munden, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Marchfield Developments Ltd to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment of the site.

The map evidence shows that the study area has been occupied by a farm since at least the late 18th century. The farm buildings have undergone significant changes in layout since then. This is likely to have had an impact on the western side of the study area. The eastern and southern sides have remained undeveloped since the 18th century, but parts at least have been subject to ploughing since the early 1970s. The place name evidence suggests a medieval pottery industry close to the study area, and this is supported by the nearby discovery of a kiln and quantities of medieval pottery.

On the basis of the known evidence, there is a moderate to high risk that archaeological remains, particularly of the medieval period, survive on the eastern and southern sides of the present site, which appear to have remained largely undeveloped since at least the late 18th century. The actual nature of any surviving remains can only be characterised with certainty by intrusive investigation.

1. Introduction

1.1 This study has been prepared at the request of *Marchfield Developments Ltd*, as a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of a development site at Potter's Hall Farm, Potter's Green, Little Munden, Herts.

1.2 The study area comprises a rectangular plot, measuring approximately 1.3ha. It lies in the hamlet of Potter's Green, on the southeastern side of the parish of Little Munden, centred at NGR TL 3516 2066, and is bounded to the west by a short track from the road to Dane End, serving Potter's Hall Farm and its neighbouring properties; to the north by the garden of the adjoining property; to the south by the road running between Ermine Street (the modern A10) and Dane End; and to the east by open fields (Figure 1). The western side of the site is currently occupied by Potter's Hall Farm, whilst the remainder is undeveloped.

1.3 The site is located on the eastern side of a short access track from the road between Dane End and the A10, formerly known as Badger Lane. The farmhouse is 17th century in origin and it is possible that it was the site of an earlier, medieval farmstead. Finds of medieval date have also been recovered from the immediate vicinity.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.4 The aim of the present document has been to provide:

- A comprehensive overview of the development of landuse on and in the vicinity of the study area from readily accessible sources;
- An assessment of the risk that development within the study area might encounter archaeological remains, and of the significance of such remains.

1.5 The research has followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and includes reference, where appropriate, to:

- Archaeological databases
- Historical documents
- Cartographic and pictorial documents
- Aerial photographs
- Geotechnical information
- Secondary and statutory sources

1.6 Repositories consulted include:

- Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR)

- Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)
- National Monuments Record Air Photographic Library (NMR)
- Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP)

COMPETENCE

1.7 The Heritage Network is an independent practice specialising in archaeology and the historic environment. Founded in 1992, the company has undertaken a wide variety of commercial archaeological projects for clients involved in housing and industrial development, pipeline and road construction, agriculture and landscaping. As a *Registered Archaeological Organisation*, the company is monitored annually by the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that its work meets the highest professional standards.

1.8 Projects are administered and co-ordinated by David Hillelson, the Heritage Network's Archaeological Director, an established archaeologist with extensive experience of the management of archaeological projects in both urban and rural environments. He holds an honours degree in archaeology from the University of Durham, and is a Member of the *Institute of Field Archaeologists*. He has been the practice's principal officer since 1992.

1.9 Research projects are managed by Helen Ashworth. She holds a degree in English and History from Middlesex Polytechnic, a Post-graduate Diploma in Librarianship, a Post-graduate Certificate in Field Archaeology from the University of Oxford, and she is an Associate of the *Institute of Field Archaeologists*. She has over twenty years of practical archaeological experience in local government, with the Royal Commission for the Historical Monuments of England, and in private practice.

2. Evidence

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located at approximately 120m OD, on a ridge of higher ground above a small stream, which runs southeast to join the Barwick Tributary.

2.2 The soils of the area belong to the Hanslope association (411d) comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils and with a slight risk of water erosion (SSEW, 1983). The parent material is chalky till.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Prehistoric

2.3 Archaeological investigations along the route of the A10 Wadesmill, High Cross and Colliers End Bypass, approximately 2km to the east of the study area, revealed a number of previously unknown sites of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date, including evidence for settlement, metal-working and a plough-raised round barrow (Turner, 2002a; Turner, 2002b; Turner, 2002c; Winter & Turner, 2002).

2.4 Although no evidence of prehistoric activity has, so far, been identified from the vicinity of the study area, the number of previously unknown sites recently discovered to the east of the A10 suggest that others may be located on the western side. The lack of known sites of prehistoric date may either reflect a genuine lack of occupation, or indicate a lack of archaeological fieldwork in the area.

Iron Age

2.5 The present site lies approximately 2km to the west of the modern A10, which follows the line of an important pre-Roman route. Archaeological evidence indicates that this area was well-settled by the late pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA). Fieldwork to the east of the A10, along the route of the Wadesmill Bypass, revealed a number of small rural sites which apparently started in this period and continued into the Roman period (Turner, 2002a; Turner, 2002b; Turner, 2002c; Winter & Turner, 2002).

2.6 Although no evidence of Iron Age activity has, so far, been identified from the vicinity of the study area, the number of previously unknown sites recently discovered to the east of the A10 suggest that others may be located on the western side. The lack of known sites of prehistoric date may either reflect a genuine lack of occupation, or indicate a lack of archaeological fieldwork in the area.

Romano-British

2.7 Although no evidence for this period has been recovered from the study area itself, it lies approximately 500m to the north of Lowgate Lane, a possible Roman road which runs on a

southwest – northeast alignment to join Ermine Street, the modern A10, to the north of Colliers End. A number of small farmsteads, occupied between the late Iron Age and the early 2nd century AD were also identified on the higher ground to the east of the main road during archaeological fieldwork on the route of the A10 Wadesmill - High Cross - Colliers End bypass (ibid). This suggests the possibility that such sites may also exist on the western side of the A10.

2.8 No other evidence of Romano-British activity has, so far, been identified from the vicinity of the study area. This may reflect a genuine lack of occupation, or indicate that later ploughing has destroyed ephemeral evidence of earlier occupation. Alternatively it may reflect a lack of archaeological investigation in this area.

Anglo-Saxon

2.9 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity has, so far, been recorded from the immediate vicinity of the study area. This may reflect the slight nature of such remains, which do not easily show as cropmarks on aerial photographs and are easily destroyed by subsequent ploughing and development (Wingfield, 1995, 31).

2.10 However, no finds or features of this date were identified during the fieldwork on the route of the A10 Wadesmill Bypass, suggesting the possibility of a genuine population shift or shrinkage in this area. The lack of archaeological evidence for earlier Anglo-Saxon occupation possibly indicates that, for much of this period, the area may have been scrub or woodland. Documentary evidence shows that there was a manor of Little Munden by 1066.

Medieval

2.11 By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 two manors are recorded with the name Munden, both lying within the Hundred of Broadwater (Morris, 1976). The larger manor, which was assessed at 7½hides and 1 virgate (approximately 930 acres) probably equates the modern parish of Great Munden. The smaller manor, which was assessed at 5 hides and 1 virgate (approximately 630 acres) probably equates to the modern parish of Little Munden.

2.12 The manor of Little Munden was held by Walter the Fleming. He held the bulk of the land, 3½hides and 1 virgate (approximately 450 acres) in lordship, leaving only 180 acres for the tenants. There was enough arable land for 8 plough teams, of which 7 were present (a plough team consisted of a plough and 8 oxen), pasture for the village livestock and enough oak woodland to pasture 200 pigs.

2.13 A total of 17 males are recorded as living on the manor, comprising 12 villagers, a priest, 2 smallholders and 2 slaves, giving an estimated total population of between 68 and 85 people. Prior to 1066 the manor was held by Leofwin, earl Harold's man.

2.14 The manor remained in Walter the Fleming's family although they granted it to the Scales family by the late 12th century. The name of the manor became Munden Frevill in the mid 13th century, when Baldwin de Frevill married Lucy de Scales. The manor was conveyed to Sir John Thornbury in the late 14th century.

2.15 A document of 1448 records Richard Whitwick, as *lardynner, catour and cook* to Sir Philip Thornbury and his wife, Dame Margaret. In return for his services Richard received 20s yearly, with clothing, and a tenement at Pottersgrene (Page, 1971, 130).

2.16 Rowney Priory (HSMR 1309), the site of a small priory of Benedictine nuns, lies approximately 500m to the southeast of the present site. It was founded in the 12th century by Conan, Duke of Brittany, Earl of Richmond and lord of the manor of Great Munden and dedicated to St John the Baptist. By the 1450s the priory was in a poor state, with neglected buildings, and in 1457 it was made over to John Fray, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who established a perpetual chantry of the Blessed Virgin and St John the Baptist on the site. After the Dissolution the site became a farm, possibly incorporating part of the earlier buildings. The house was substantially rebuilt in the mid 19th century, following a fire. During the building works for the new house, a number of stone coffins were found from the priory's burial ground. Other burials were uncovered during the excavation of a drain trench in 1953. Stone foundations, possibly belonging to the chapel, were exposed in the early 20th century, also during the excavation of a drain trench.

2.17 The name *Potter's Green* indicates the presence of potters and kilns in the immediate vicinity of the study area. A known pottery kiln of late 12th – 13th date (HSMR 1377) was found in 1962, when a drainage trench was cut through scrubland, approximately 400m to the west of the present site. Substantial quantities of medieval pottery and tile have also been recovered from the plough soil in the immediate vicinity of the study area (HSMR 1879). The spread of this material is centred at approximately 200m to the northeast of Potter's Hall Farm, but extends outwards for several hundred metres

2.18 Two deer parks have been recorded close to the study area. One was established by 1299 (HSMR 9968), when the manor of Little Munden was owned by Richard de Frevill. It is estimated at 20 acres in size and is located approximately 500m to the north. The other was known as Fludgate Park (HSMR 9987) and lay in the manor of Great Munden, approximately 1km to the west. It was first documented in 1283 and was recorded as containing 40 acres in 1304.

2.19 Two moated sites have been identified in Roughground Wood, to the northeast of the study area. The larger (HSMR 1754) probably marks the site of a dwelling, approximately 750m to the northeast. The eastern arm measures 108m in length and 28.5m in width, whilst the southern is narrower. This feature was also associated with a water filled feature, possibly a fishpond, on the northern side of the moat. Approximately 200m to the southwest of this moat is the site of a moated post-mill of 15th century date (HSMR 783).

Post-medieval

2.20 In the late 15th century the manor of Little Munden was conveyed to Sir William Say, lord of the manor of Benington and was transferred, with that manor, to the crown in the 16th century. The manor passed through the hands of several families in the early 17th century, before being bought by Edmund Woodhall. By the early 18th century the manor had descended to the Heysham family through marriage. It remained with them until 1816.

2.21 The site of a possible windmill was identified at the junction of Langton's Lane and the road from Potter's Green, approximately 600m to the northwest of the study area. The remains of a brick structure were noted when the house now occupying the site was built (HSMR 11388).

Modern

2.22 The present site is located in a rural area, and examination of post-medieval and modern maps shows very little development in the locality. No modern sites, such as Second World War pillboxes, are recorded from the vicinity of the study area.

SITE SPECIFIC

2.23 Potter's Hall Farm is located in Potter's Green, on the southeastern side of the parish of Little Munden. This is composed of a number of small scattered villages and hamlets, of which Potter's Green is the most southerly. The largest village in the parish, Dane End, lies approximately 2km to the northwest.

2.24 Documentary evidence shows that the farm was part of the manor of Little Munden, but was located close to the Rowney Priory estate, to the southwest.

2.25 Potter's Hall Farm (HSMR 12070) is a Grade II listed building and is described as a plastered timber framed 17th century house, with an early 19th century two storey rear extension (DoE, n/d). It has a weatherboarded rear wing and a first floor at the southern end. It is described as a two-room central-chimney lobby-entry plan house, facing west, with two storeys and attics.

2.26 The study area appears to have changed hands several times in the mid 19th century. The Tithe Award of 1840 (HALS DSA4/71/1) shows that it was owned by Bernard John and occupied by George Thomas. By 1856 it was owned by Samuel Adams, who was declared bankrupt and forced to sell a number of properties. A series of deeds (HALS D/EL/B347) describes the sale by auction of Potter's Hall Farm, which took place on June 11th 1856. These describe the property as consisting of 147 acres, 3 roods and 19 perches of land (of which 144 acres, 2 roods and 28 perches was farmland and the remainder was wood) with spacious farmhouse, accommodation and extensive buildings. An existing tenant, William Mardell, is recorded as occupying the farm.

2.26.1. The farmhouse and farm buildings, together with the immediately adjacent land, were copyhold of the manor of Little Munden, with a quit rent of £3 6s 4d. A note on the deeds indicates that the farm was sold for £1,450.00.

2.27 The area of the proposed new buildings, to the east of the farm, appears to have formed part of the open fields to the rear of the farmhouse.

Cartographic

2.28 The earliest map consulted is dated 1728 (HALS 65084). This shows the Rowney Priory estate, which extended northwards to the Dane End road. The site of Potters Hall Farm is left blank, but marked as *Squire's Land*.

2.29 The earliest available map showing the present site is dated 1766 (Dury & Andrews', 1766). Although not strictly accurate, it does give an impression of the site at this period. The hamlet of Potter's Green is shown as lying either side of a short, wide lane, later known as Badger Lane (front cover). Potter's Hall Farm is depicted as a series of small rectangular buildings which appear to front directly on to the lane, with a long rectangular block to the rear, located at the junction with the road to Dane End and Badger Lane. The site appears to sit amongst trees, possibly an orchard, with ploughed fields to the rear.

2.30 The Tithe map of 1840 (HALS DSA 4/71/2) shows that at this time Potter's Green was a thriving hamlet, consisting of a number of properties on both sides of the lane (Figure 3a). The present site is shown as occupying part of plots 290, 294 and 297. It also clips plots 289, 295 and 296.

2.30.1. The layout of the farm buildings consisted of three ranges of buildings, forming a U-shape around an open yard. The northern and southern sides were aligned southeast – northwest, with northeast – southwest aligned structures at their western ends. Later maps reveal that the farmhouse formed the end of the northern range. A small rectangular structure was located immediately to the south of the southern range.

2.30.2. An accompanying Award (HALS DSA 4/71/1) also lists the owners and occupiers, the field names, their sizes and, in some cases, descriptions. The study area was owned by Bernard John, who appears to have owned all of the property in Potter's Green, which was occupied by George Thomas as his tenant. The plots forming the study area were listed as stack yard, measuring 1 rood and 15 perches (plot 289); homestead, measuring 2 roods and 16 perches (plot 295); Home Orchard, measuring 1 rood and 14 perches (plot 296); Ware Mead, measuring 2 acres, 3 roods and 25 perches (plot 290); Middle Mead, measuring 3 acres, 2 roods and 24 perches (plot 294); and Walnut Tree Close, measuring 4 acres, 2 roods and 38 perches (plot 297). All the fields and orchard areas immediately adjacent to the study area were grassland, rather than under arable cultivation.

2.31 The 1853 Enclosure map for Little Munden (HALS QS/E/52) did not show the study area, suggesting that it was not part of the open fields of the parish.

2.32 The 1st edition 25" scale Ordnance Survey map of 1880 shows a number of changes to the farm building layout (Figure 3b). By this period parts of the northern and southern ranges shown on the Tithe Map had been demolished.

2.32.1. The eastern end of the northern range had been replaced by an L-shaped building, which is shown in a light grey, suggesting that it may have been under construction at the time of the survey. The footprint of this building extended further to the east, and was located slightly to the north of the original structure. Its southwestern corner butted the northeastern corner of the eastern wing of the farmhouse, forming a small enclosed area on the northern side.

2.32.2. The southern arm of the new L-shaped structure also replaced part of the former eastern range. It appears that the original structure was completely demolished and replaced by a smaller northeast - southwest aligned building, which lay at an angle to the new building. An open-fronted shed had been erected at the northern end of the new eastern range, running westwards into the farmyard. These alterations formed a small enclosed yard in the northeastern corner of the farmyard.

2.32.3. The southern range was also apparently extended at the eastern end, and open-sided structures added on the northern and southern sides. This had the effect of further enclosing the formerly open yard. The western end of the southern range appears to have been demolished and replaced by a rectangular building. The smaller rectangular building to the south appears to have been replaced by a square structure.

2.32.4. Changes are also visible in the field boundaries. To the south of the farm the boundary between the stackyard (plot 289 on the Tithe Map) and the farm buildings (plot 295 on the Tithe Map) had been removed and the hedge line between former plots 290 and 294, to the east, appears to have been partially removed adjacent to the farm.

2.32.5. Two apparently new ponds are also visible. A sub-circular one immediately adjacent to the northwestern side of the study area, north of the boundary between plots 294 and 297. This may have been dug at the time that the track and footpath between Potter's Hall Farm and its neighbour to the north was formalised. Another long thin pond is visible at the southern end of the study area, adjacent to the road to Dane End. This appears to have created a new alignment to the lower end of the boundary between the stackyard and Ware Mead (plots 289 and 290). Neither of these features is shown on the Tithe Map.

2.33 The 2nd edition 25" scale OS map of 1898 shows that the building layout had not altered significantly since 1880 (Figure 4a). The construction of the L-shaped building on the northwestern side of the farmyard had apparently been completed by this period.

2.33.1. The hedge line between Ware Mead and Middle Mead (plots 290 and 294 on the Tithe Map) had been completely removed by this period, forming a much larger, irregularly shaped, field.

2.34 The 3rd edition 25" scale OS map of 1923 showed only slight changes in the layout of the farm buildings (Figure 4b). The rectangular building at the western end of the southern range had

been extended southwards. The small square structure to the south had been demolished to make room for the extension. The boundary, which ran between the buildings on the southern side, had been removed, giving open access to the field to the south.

2.34.1. Some changes had also occurred in other parts of the study area, consisting of an extension on the eastern side of the southern pond and the removal of the fence between the northern pond and the small field to the south.

2.35 The 1922 provisional edition 6" scale OS map, with additions of 1946/7, shows that the layout of the farm buildings changed between 1923 and the mid 1940s (Figure 5a). The L-shaped building on the northeastern side of the farmyard remained, but the offset eastern range had been demolished. A new L-shaped structure, which occupied the southeastern corner of the farmyard, had been erected. This was located in line with the northeastern building, extending the farmyard eastwards and removing the dog-leg in the eastern boundary. This structure has been left white on the map, suggesting that it may not have been roofed. No alterations are visible in the house footprint at this period.

2.35.1. The buildings on the southern side of the yard had also been altered. The western rectangular building appears to have been partially demolished on the eastern side and to have incorporated the smaller square structure to the south. The building to the east was also partially demolished on the eastern side to make room for the new L-shaped structure.

2.35.2. The boundary on the southern side of the northern pond had been removed, but a new boundary had been inserted to the west, parallel with the rear boundary to the neighbouring property. The boundary between the buildings on the southern range, which had been removed between 1898 and 1923, was re-instated between 1923 and 1946.

2.36 The 6" scale OS map of 1960 shows slight changes to the layout of the farm buildings (Figure 5b). The southeastern L-shaped structure had been extended westwards, apparently replacing the central building on the southern side of the farmyard. No changes are visible in the field boundaries or the house footprint. By this time all properties on the opposite of Badger Lane have disappeared, leaving open land.

2.37 By 1974 significant changes had occurred (Figure 6a). The eastern side of the farmyard was now occupied by two large blocks, joined by a narrow strip. The footprint of the rectangular northern block extended northwards and eastwards, covering the area of the small field between the track and the eastern boundary, including the sub-circular pond. It appears to have incorporated the L-shaped building, which marked the northeastern corner of the previous layout, at its southern end. The narrow building between the two new blocks was formed, at least in part, by the southern arm of the L-shaped building.

2.37.1. The southern block is basically L-shaped, with a small southern extension on the eastern side. It occupies the area of the southwestern L-shaped structure and extended into the small field to the south. It also covered part of the farmyard.

2.37.2. Two concreted areas had been laid out to the south and east of the new buildings. The eastern one was rectangular, with a central linear feature, and ran parallel to the northern block. A new access road had been made from the road to Dane End, which ran northwards to the southern block. The southern pond was probably removed as part of these works.

2.37.3. The changes in the farm buildings had the effect of isolating the house from the farm buildings. The eastern end of the rear extension to the house was demolished as part of these works.

2.38 The OS 1:10000 scale map of 1978 shows relatively little change to the study area. The farmhouse footprint appears to have been altered, instead of a T-shape it is shown as a square, suggesting that the eastern wing had been extended on the northeastern and southwestern sides (Figure 6b). The western building also appears to have been altered at the same time, with small extensions on the southeastern and northwestern sides.

2.39 Recent OS plans show further alterations to the study area (Figure 2 and Plate 1a). The southwestern end of the northern block has been altered to form an open sided shed (Unit 4a) to the north of the L-shaped building first shown on the 1880 OS map, which still stands. The northern end has been extended westwards, to link with the house, which has been altered and extended eastwards. The southern arm of the L-shaped building has also been extended westwards, covering the eastern end of the yard. The south end of the southern block (Units 1, 1a, 2 and 3) has been demolished, leaving a passageway between the building and the concreted areas to the south.

2.39.1. The rectangular area to the east of the farm buildings has now gone. A series of sheds and circular silos are located along the eastern edge of this area, to the northeast of the buildings. The access track from the Dane End road also appears to have been widened.

2.39.2. New property boundaries have been established across the fields to the north and east, marking the extent of the study area.

Aerial Photographs

2.40 In favourable circumstances, aerial photographs can reveal potential underlying archaeological features, in the form of cropmarks, soilmarks or as groundworks. They also show the changes to the site layout over that period. The Aerial Photographic Collections of the National Monuments Record were consulted and a number of aerial photographs, taken between 1946 and 1971, were examined for the present study.

2.41 A number of relict field boundaries were observed in the fields adjacent to the study area. The line of these can be traced on the 19th century maps consulted. However, the aerial photographs did reveal that the northeastern half of the study area has been subject to ploughing since 1971 (NMR OS / 71335). This may have damaged underlying archaeological deposits and

features. Although not shown on OS maps of the 1970s, the southeastern half of the study area appears to have been bounded by a hedge and, consequently, escaped the plough.

2.42 The holdings of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography were consulted. There were no photographs of the relevant area.

Site Walkover

2.43 The site is approached from the south and is occupied by four numbered business/industrial units on the west, a concrete yard, and a wide strip of scrub vegetation on the east. The site lies immediately to the east of Potter's Hall farmhouse, which lies outside the proposed development area and has not been considered in the present study.

2.44 Unit 1, at the southern end of the site, is a system-built pitched roof warehouse structure clad in corrugated cement asbestos sheets over a breeze block base wall.

2.45 To the south of Unit 1 is an area of concrete hard-standing with the remnants of steel stanchions cut down to ground level (shown on the present Ordnance Survey as being an open ended barn).

2.46 To the north of Unit 1, Unit 1A is system-built curved roof warehouse structure clad in corrugated steel over a brick base wall.

2.47 Unit 2 is a system-built pitched roof warehouse/barn structure clad in corrugated cement asbestos sheets over a breeze block base wall.

2.48 Unit 3, to the east of Units 1-2, is a long narrow L-shaped block divided into eight sub-divisions. At its southern end a breeze block base supports three oil tanks. Adjacent to this, stand two pent-roofed structures, built of fletton bricks bonded with cement mortar. To the north, the remainder of the block has a pitched cement asbestos roof. The longest sub-division is built of fletton bricks bonded with cement mortar. The remaining sub-divisions are built of Cambridge white bricks bonded with a cement mortar with coarse inclusions.

2.49 Unit 4 is a system-built pitched roof warehouse structure clad in corrugated steel over a breeze block and brick base wall. To its south, covering the area between Units 3 and 4, are the remains of a steel-framed open barn without roof or cladding, over a raised brick and concrete base.

2.50 On the other side of the yard, opposite the open barn, lie the bases of three grain silos, a breeze block shed or kennel, and a wooden shed or kennel clad with shiplap planking. To the south of the silo bases, a breeze block tower, clad in corrugated cement asbestos, protects a sunken tank.

2.51 Of the present buildings, the northern half of Unit 3, built of Cambridge white bricks, forms the earliest part of the site (excluding Potter's Hall farmhouse itself), and is likely to be late 19th century in date, appearing first on the Ordnance Survey of 1880 as a, possibly, unfinished structure. It has clearly been re-roofed, and it shows evidence for a number of bricked-up openings. Essentially this is a functional building which shows no evidence of forming part of a planned or systematic development of the farm.

2.52 The remainder of the buildings are modern and of no historical interest.

3. Assessment of Risk

General

3.1 A number of factors may affect the survival of underlying archaeological remains on any particular site. These include previous development, or changes to existing buildings and whether the site has been used for pasture or arable cultivation.

3.2 With regard to the present study area, significant changes to the layout of the farm buildings has been identified on 19th and 20th century maps, suggesting disturbance of archaeological layers and features in the immediate vicinity.

3.3 The land to the east of the farm buildings has remained undeveloped. It was recorded as grass in the Tithe Award (HALS DSA 4/71/1) and, until relatively recently, it appears to have remained as meadow. However, aerial photographs reveal that the northeastern end of the study area had been ploughed in July 1971 (NMR OS/71335) and it is likely that these fields have been regularly ploughed since then.

Prehistoric

3.4 No evidence for Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age or early Iron Age activity has been recorded within a kilometre of the study area. This may reflect either that the terrain was unsuitable for early settlement, or that the lack of archaeological fieldwork in the area has not yet discovered remains of prehistoric date.

3.5 A number of previously unknown sites of late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age date were recorded during recent archaeological investigations on the line of the A10 Wadesmill Bypass. These were located on the higher ground on the eastern side of the A10, indicating that this was an important route by this period, and suggesting the possibility of other sites of this date following the route on the western side.

3.6 On this basis, the risk of encountering features and finds of prehistoric date in the course of development on the present site may be considered to be *Moderate*.

3.7 The regional research framework has identified the development of farming, and the integration of settlements and their associated fields during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods as an important research topic (Brown & Murphy, 2000, 10 – 12). No sites of this type and period are known from the immediate area. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of prehistoric date on the present site, should be considered to be *High*.

Iron Age

3.8 Although archaeological evidence has shown that eastern Hertfordshire was well settled by the late Iron Age, no sites of this period have been recorded from within 1km of the study area. This may well reflect the lack of fieldwork in the vicinity of the study area rather than a genuine absence of sites of this period. A number of small rural settlements, starting in the late pre-

Roman Iron Age, were identified along the route of the A10 Wadesmill Bypass, suggesting that such sites may well be present on the western side of the road corridor.

3.9 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features of Iron Age date on the present site may be considered to be *Moderate*.

3.10 A number of research topics have been highlighted for the Iron Age in the regional research framework (Bryant, 2000, 16-17). As the present site is possibly located in the hinterland to the *oppidum* at Braughing these include the development of tribal areas; the relationship of small rural settlements to the larger nucleated sites; the organisation of the rural landscape and the development of farming; and the study of pottery assemblages. Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Romano-British

3.11 The archaeological evidence shows that Hertfordshire was well-settled during the Roman period. However, no sites of this period have been recorded within 1km of the study area. As with the prehistoric and Iron Age periods, this is likely to be a reflection of the lack of archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity, rather than a genuine absence of settlement

3.12 The present site is located approximately 500m to the north of the line of a small Roman road and 2km to the west of Ermine Street, a major Roman road running north from London to Lincoln. Investigations on the eastern side of Ermine Street, along the route of the A10 Wadesmill Bypass, revealed evidence for a number of previously unknown small rural settlements, occupied between the late Iron Age and the 2nd century AD. It is possible that similar sites are present on the western side of Ermine Street.

3.13 On this basis, the risk of encountering features and finds of early Roman date on the present site may be considered to be *Moderate*.

3.14 The study area is likely to have lain in a rural, rather than an urban, landscape in the Roman period, but probably formed part of the hinterland for the small town at Braughing. A number of relevant topics, including the late Iron Age and Romano-British transition period, the survival of Iron Age practices into the Roman period, the investigation of small rural settlements such as farmsteads and the relationship between town and country in the landscape, have been identified in the regional research framework (Going & Plouviez, 2000, 21 – 22). Therefore, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the present site should be considered to be *High*.

Anglo-Saxon

3.15 The documentary evidence suggests that a settlement had been established at Little Munden by the late Saxon period. However, no archaeological evidence has been recorded from the vicinity of the present site to indicate Saxon occupation. This may either reflect the lack of archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the present site or that the remains of such settlements are likely to be slight and easily damaged.

3.16 On this basis, the risk of encountering features or finds of Anglo-Saxon date on the present site may be considered to be *Low*.

3.17 A number of relevant research topics have been highlighted in the regional research framework, including evidence for the transition between the Roman and Saxon periods, settlement patterns and the relationship between rural and urban settlements (Wade, 2000, 23-26; Ayers, 2000, 29-31). As the present site is located in an apparently unoccupied area, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Medieval

3.18 The present site was located on the southeastern edge of the manor of Little Munden during the medieval period. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that there was arable land, pasture and woodland on the manor. An estimated population of between 68 and 85 people lived on the manor.

3.19 The modern settlement pattern of small scattered hamlets, is likely to have been established by the medieval period. One of these is Potter's Green, and the name suggests the presence of potters and kilns in the immediate vicinity. This has been borne out by the discovery of the remains of a late 12th – 13th century kiln approximately 400m to the west (HSMR 1377) and by substantial amounts of medieval pottery, recovered from the plough soil in the immediate vicinity of the study area (HSMR 1879).

3.20 On this basis the risk of encountering features and finds of medieval date on the present site may be considered to be *High*.

3.21 The study area was located in the hamlet of Potter's Green, one of the dispersed settlements forming the parish of Little Munden. The name indicates the presence of potters and pottery kilns in the immediate vicinity. A number of relevant research topics have been highlighted by the regional research framework, including rural settlement patterns; rural craft and industry, especially pottery production sites; and medieval agriculture and landscape (Wade, 2000, 23-26). As the study area probably represents part of a small rural pottery production site, located in a small hamlet surrounded by open fields, the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site should be considered to be *High*.

Post-medieval

3.22 Cartographic evidence has shown that the present site was occupied by a farmhouse and associated farm buildings since at least the mid 18th century. The layout of the farm buildings underwent a series of changes in the mid – late 19th century.

3.23 The earliest map consulted, dated 1766, showed a small farm at the junction of the road between Dane End and Ermine Street and a track known as Badger Lane. The Tithe map of 1840 showed changes in the building layout, from rectangular structures aligned on Badger Lane to a U-shaped farmyard, with three building ranges set on its northern, southern and eastern sides (Figure 3a). The study area is located in the fields immediately east of the farm buildings,

described in Schedule attached to the Tithe Award as grassland. These fields were apparently subdivided by hedges. The OS 1st and 2nd edition maps (1880 and 1898) show that the field boundaries remained the same, but farm layout changed significantly. By 1898 most of the building ranges shown on the 1840 Tithe map had been demolished and replaced by larger structures.

3.24 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features of post-medieval date, particularly on the western side of the study area, may be considered to be *High*.

3.25 Cartographic evidence has demonstrated that the layout of the farm buildings underwent significant changes in layout during the later 19th century. The development of the farmstead between 1715 and 1914, including buildings, layout and design, has been highlighted as a research topic in the regional research framework (Gilman et al, 2000, 39). Therefore the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site is considered to be *Moderate to High*.

Modern

3.26 Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence shows that most of the present farm buildings were erected between 1960 and 1974. The exceptions being the Grade II listed farmhouse, which has been extended, and the southern end of the northern block, which dates to the late 1870s. The fields to the east of the farm were apparently unploughed between the mid 19th century and the early 1970s, but have been ploughed since.

3.27 On this basis, the risk of encountering finds and features of modern date may be considered to be *High*.

3.28 No relevant research topics have been highlighted in the regional research framework and therefore the potential significance of any remains of this period on the site is considered to be *Low*.

CONCLUSION

3.29 The map and aerial photographic evidence shows that all the buildings on the study area have been subject to significant changes since the late 19th century. This indicates that the western side of the study area, adjacent to the farm, is likely to have been disturbed as a result of these works. The eastern and southern sides have remained undeveloped, although the northeastern quadrant has been ploughed in recent times.

3.30 The evidence suggests that there is a moderate to high probability that archaeological remains, particularly of medieval date, and of potential significance when considered in the context of the established research agenda for the region, are preserved on the site, and would be damaged, destroyed or otherwise affected by its development. The actual nature of such remains could only be characterised by intrusive investigation. It is likely that such an investigation would form an element in the requirements of the planning authority relating to the proposed development of the site, to be secured by a standard condition on consent being granted, in

accordance with the provisions set out in the DETR's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Archaeology and Planning).

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Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)

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 DSA4/71/2, 1840, Tithe Map, Little Munden
 QS/E/52, 1853, Enclosure Map
 QS/E/49, 1852, Enclosure Award
 D/EL/B 347, 1856, Deeds relating to Potter's Hall Farm
 65084, 1728, 1915 copy of plan of Rowney Priory estate
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 OS, 1898, Hertfordshire Sheet XXI.12, 2nd edition, 25" scale, 1898
 OS, 1923, Hertfordshire Sheet XXI.12, 3rd edition, 25" scale, 1923
 OS, Provision edn. 1992, with additions of 1946/7, Hertfordshire Sheet XXI.SE, 6" scale
 OS, 1960, Sheet TL 32 SE, 6" scale, 1960
 OS, 1974, Sheet TL 35 20, 1:2500 scale, 1974
 OS, 1978, Sheet TL 32 SE, 1:10,000 scale, 1978

English Heritage, National Monuments Record Air Photo Library (NMR)

Run	Frame	Date
RAF / 106G / UK / 1367	5354	03/04/1946
RAF / 106G / UK / 1367	5451	03/04/1946
RAF / 106G / UK / 1367	5452	03/04/1946
RAF / 106G / UK / 1367	7451	03/04/1946
RAF / 106G / UK / 1367	7452	03/04/1946
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RAF / CPE / UK / 1779	4307	10/10/1946
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RAF / CPE / UK / 1779	4309	10/10/1946
RAF / 58 / 4627 F41	0288	16/08/1961
RAF / 58 / 4627 F41	0289	16/08/1961
RAF / 58 / 4627 F41	0290	16/08/1961
RAF / 58 / 36	5164	18/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 36	5165	18/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 42	5001	19/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 42	5002	19/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 42	5003	19/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 42	5004	19/05/1948
RAF / 58 / 72	5012	26/07/1948
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MAL / 69033	106	06/04/1969
MAL / 69033	120	06/04/1969
MAL / 69033	121	06/04/1969
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OS / 71335	1327	07/07/1971

OS / 71335	1328	07/07/1971
OS / 71335	1329	07/07/1971
OS / 71334	499	07/07/1971
OS / 71334	500	07/07/1971
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MAPS

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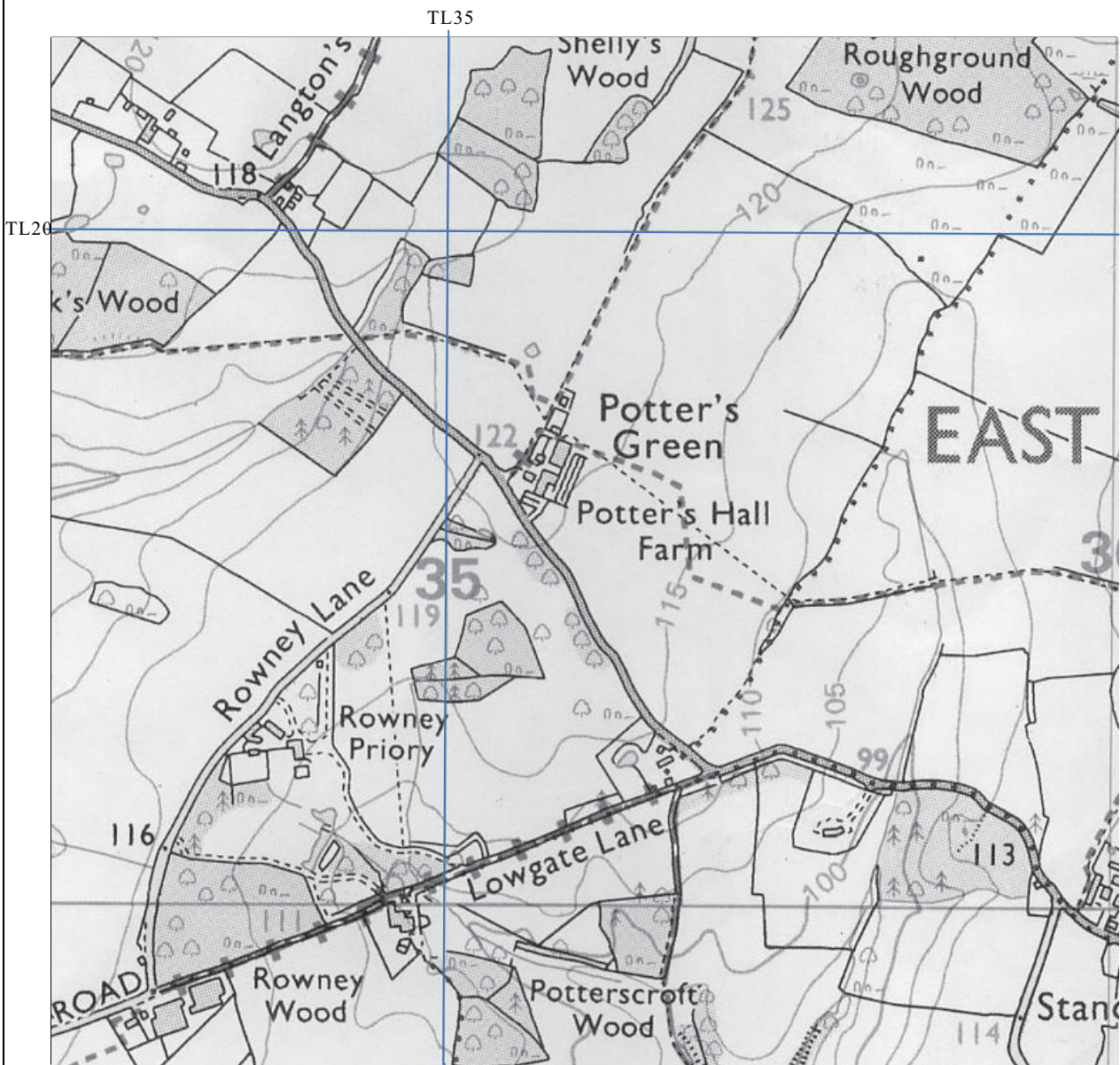
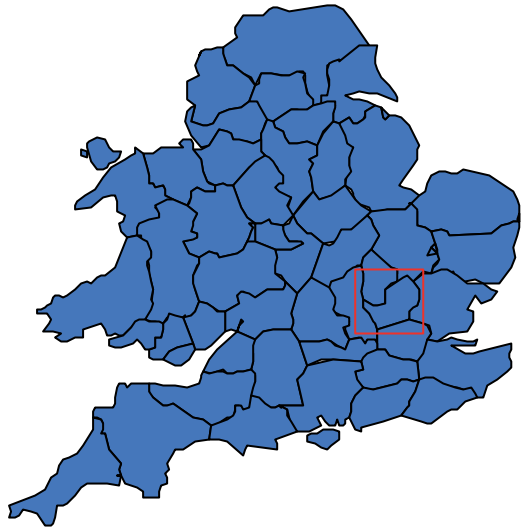
5. Illustrations

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Figure 2	Site layout
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Figure 3b	1 st edition OS, 25" scale, 1880
Figure 4a	2 nd edition OS, 25" scale, 1889
Figure 4b	3 rd edition OS, 25" scale, 1923
Figure 5a	OS 6" scale, 1946/47
Figure 5b	OS, 6" scale, 1960
Figure 6a	OS 1:2500 scale, 1974
Figure 6b	OS 1:10000 scale, 1978
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Plate 1b.....	General view of site from the south
Plate 2a.....	General view of site from the north
Plate 2b.....	Units 1, 1a and 2 from the southeast
Plate 3a.....	Units 1, 1a and the southern end of Unit 3 from the west
Plate 3b.....	Unit 3 from the southeast
Plate 4a.....	Northern end of Unit 3 from the northeast
Plate 4b.....	Units 4 and 4a from the southeast

Appendix 1

Extract from Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR)

HSMR	NGR	Period	Remarks
783	TL 3562 2123	Medieval	Moated windmill mound, Roughground Wood. Marks the site of 15 th century post-mill.
1309	TL 3477 2022	Medieval	Site of Rowney Priory, Benedictine Priory of St John the Baptist. Founded c.1146 by Conan, Duke of Brittany, Earl of Richmond & lord of the manor of Great Munden. 1457 became a perpetual chantry of the Blessed Virgin & St John the Baptist.
1377	TL 349 207	Medieval	Site of pottery kiln of late 12 th -13 th century date., Rowney Farm, Potter's Green. Pit full of charcoal, prepared clay, pottery & fired cylinders found during excavation of drainage trench, 1962.
1754	TL 357 213	Medieval	Moated site with probable fishpond, Roughground Wood.
1879	TL 3533 2098	Medieval	Substantial quantities of medieval pottery & tile recovered from plough soil. Spread extends for several hundred yards around central NGR. Possibly indicates medieval occupation.
9968	TL 3523 2125	Medieval	Deer park, first documented in 1299. Estimated size 20 acres.
9987	TL 3415 2059	Medieval	Deer park, first documented in 1283. Contained 40 acres in 1302. Later called Fludgate Park.
11388	TL 3475 2105	Post-medieval	Remains of a brick structure, possibly a windmill, observed during construction of house in angle of Langton's Lane and road from Potter's Green.
12070	TL 3516 2065	Post-medieval	Potter's Hall Farm, Potter's Green. Grade II listed. Plasterer timber framed 17 th C house, with early 19 th C 2 storey rear extension. Weatherboarded rear wing & 1 st floor at S end, & front wall renewed in plastered brickwork. Steep pitched roof to main range now slated, as rear wing. A 2-room central-chimney lobby-entry plan house, facing W, with 2 storeys & attics.



Site Location

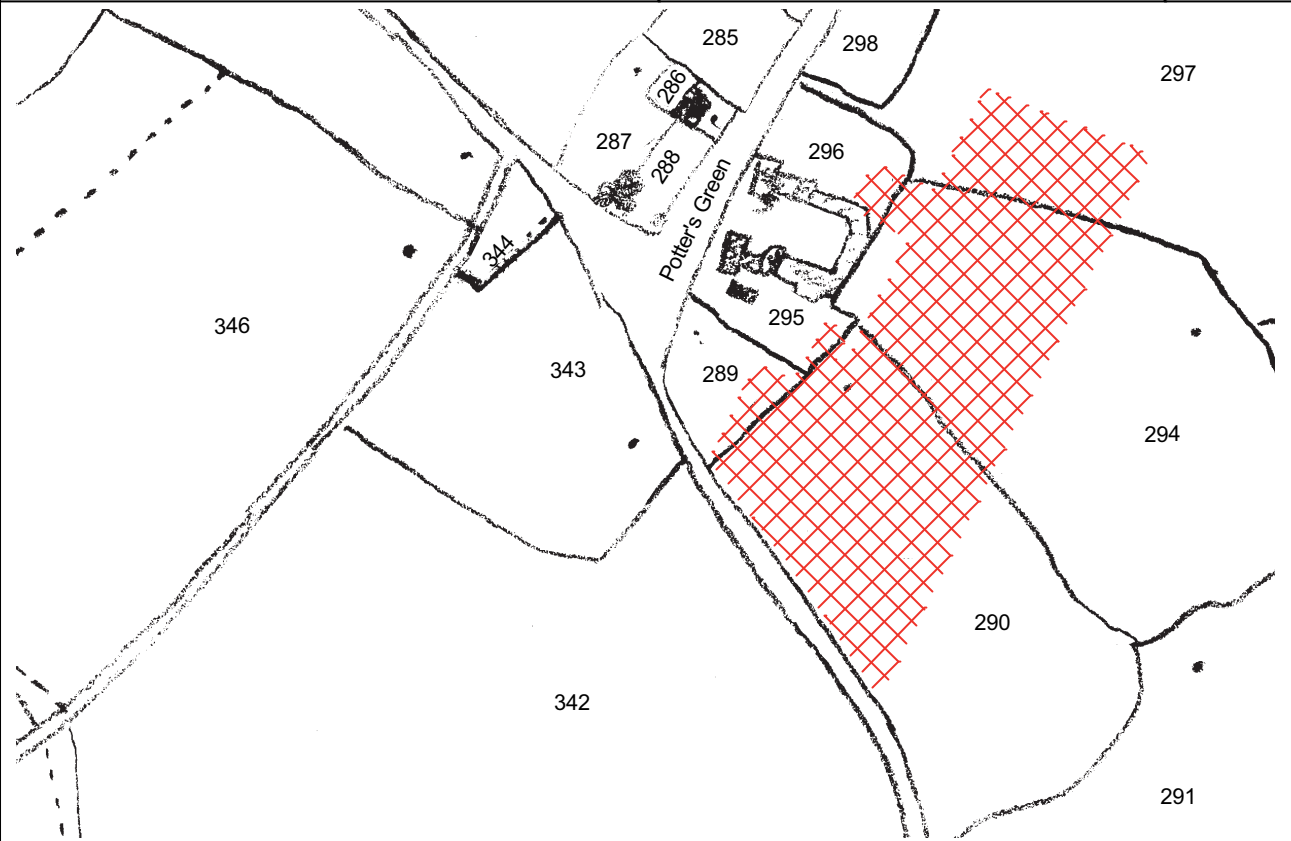
Scale 1:2000



Site Layout

Scale 1:1000

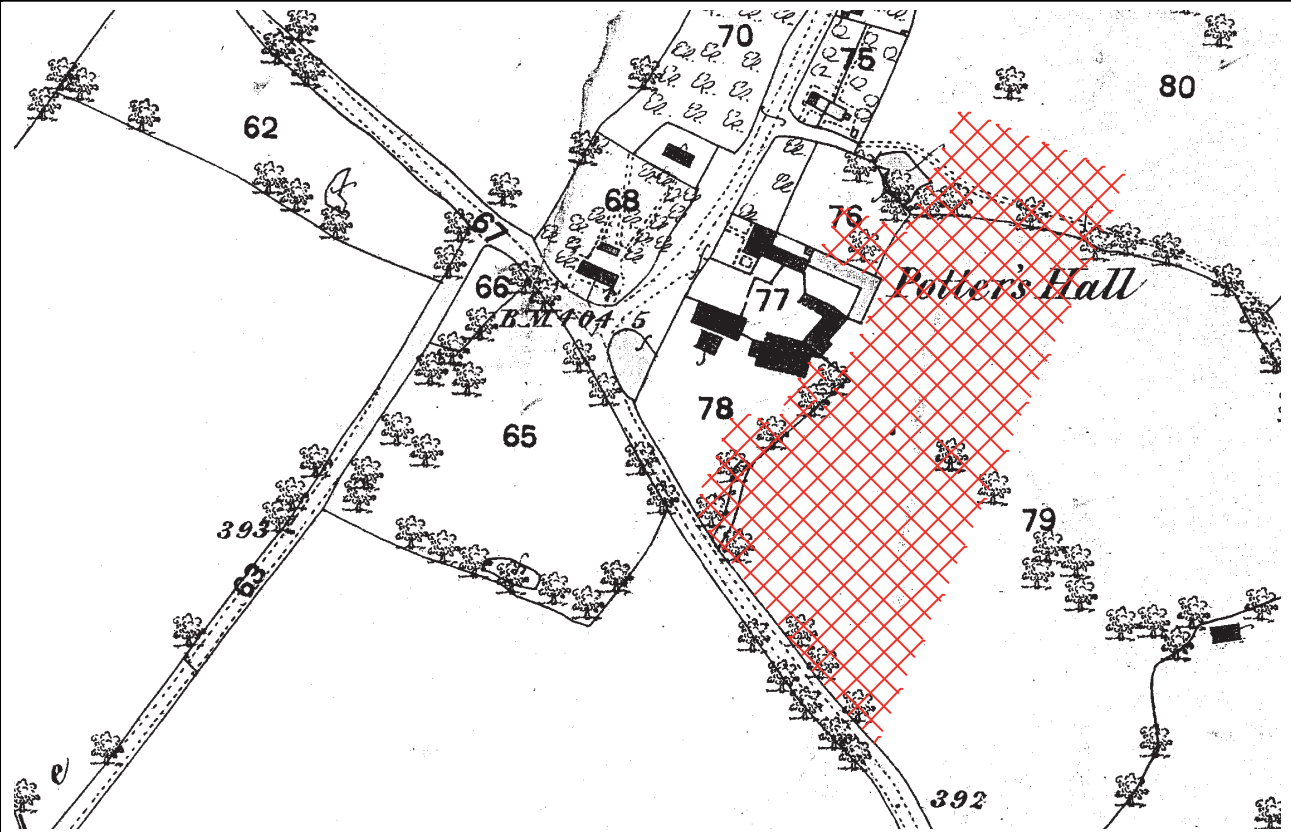
Figure 2



Tithe Map

Scale 1:2500

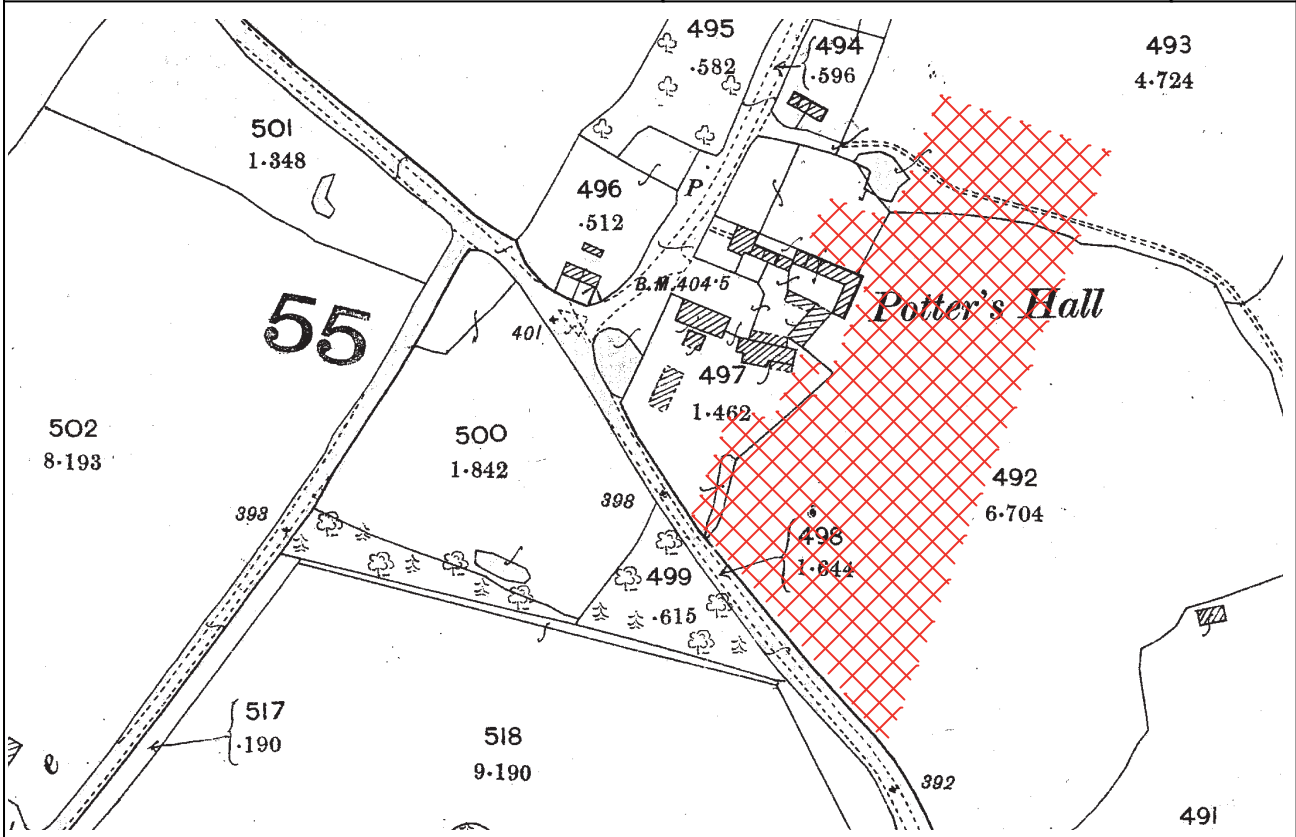
Figure 3a



Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1880)

Scale 1:2500

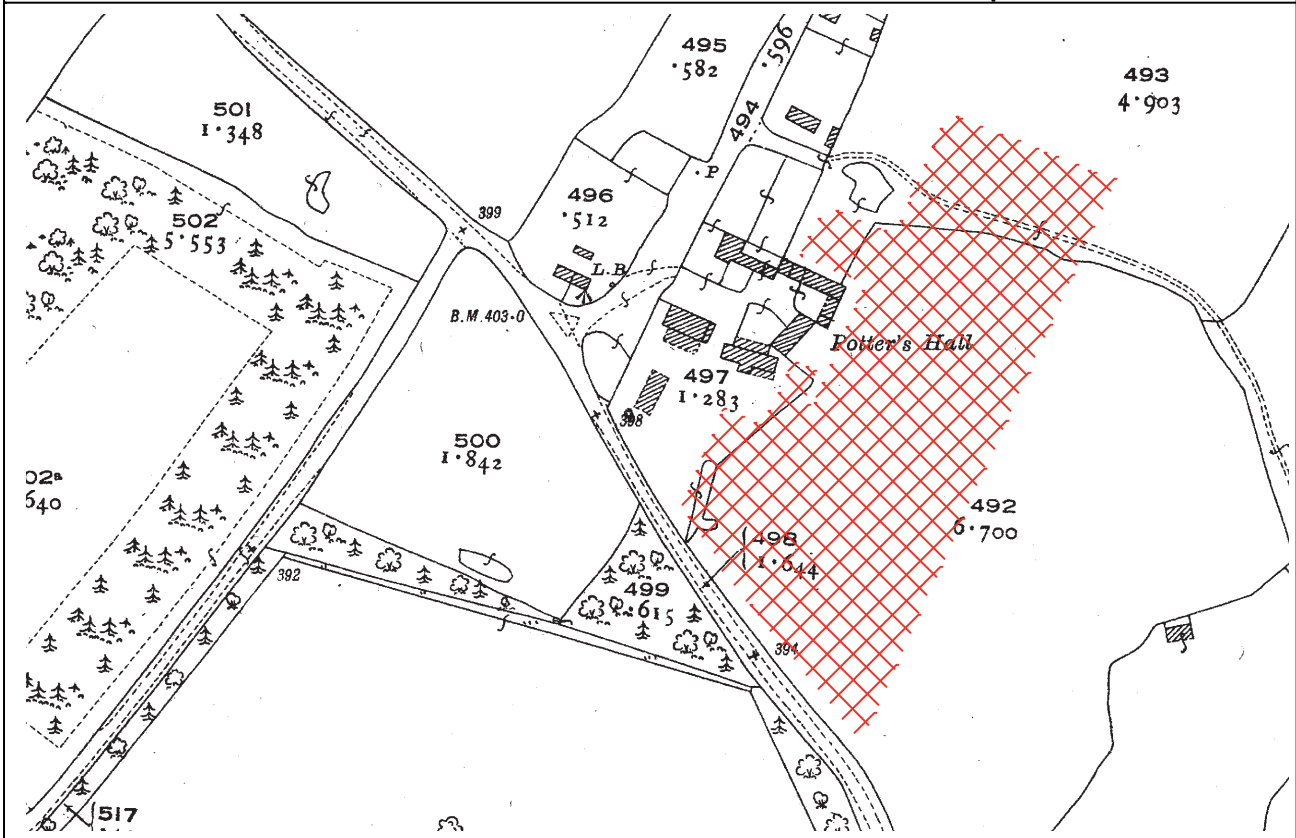
Figure 3b



Ordnance Survey 25" (1898)

Scale 1:2500

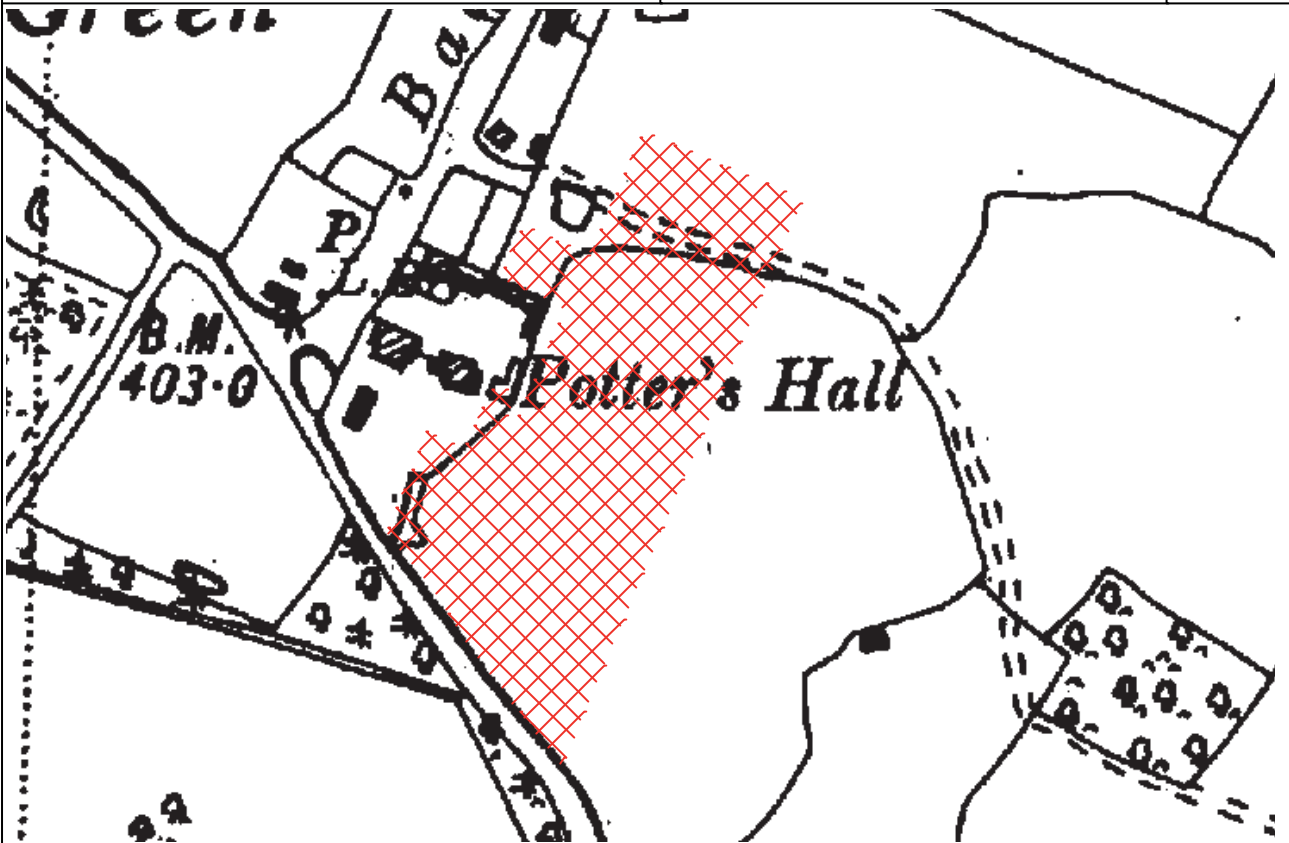
Figure 4a



Ordnance Survey 25" (1923)

Scale 1:2500

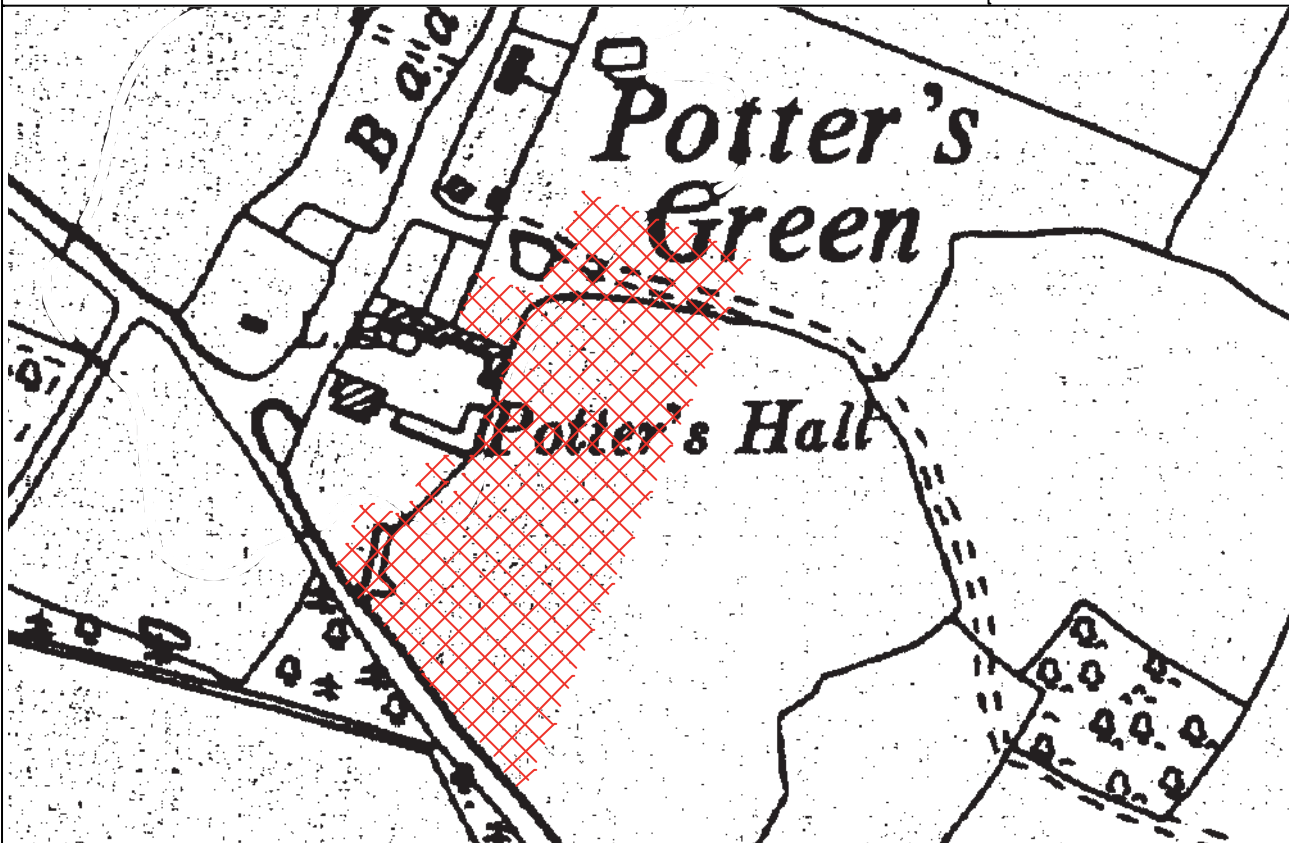
Figure 4b



Ordnance Survey 25" (1946/47)

Scale 1:2500

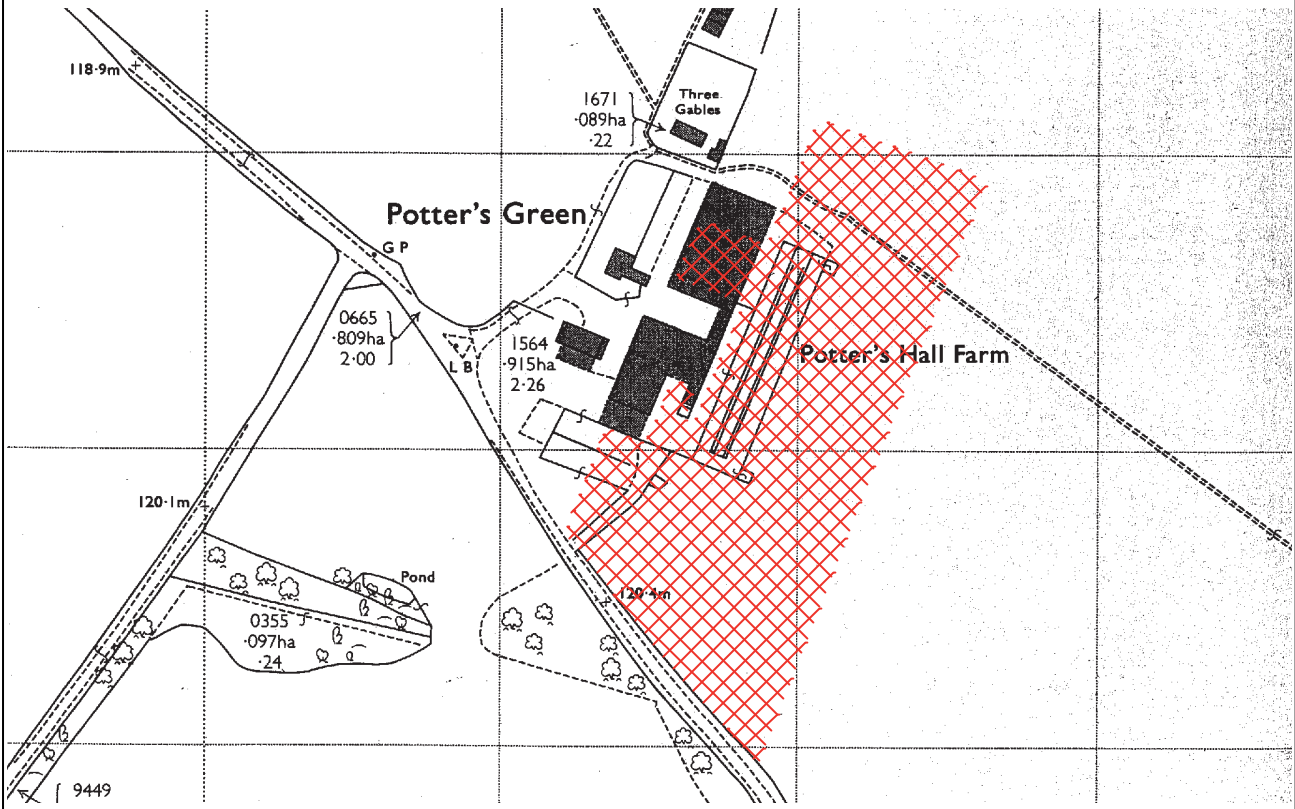
Figure 5a



Ordnance Survey 6" (1960)

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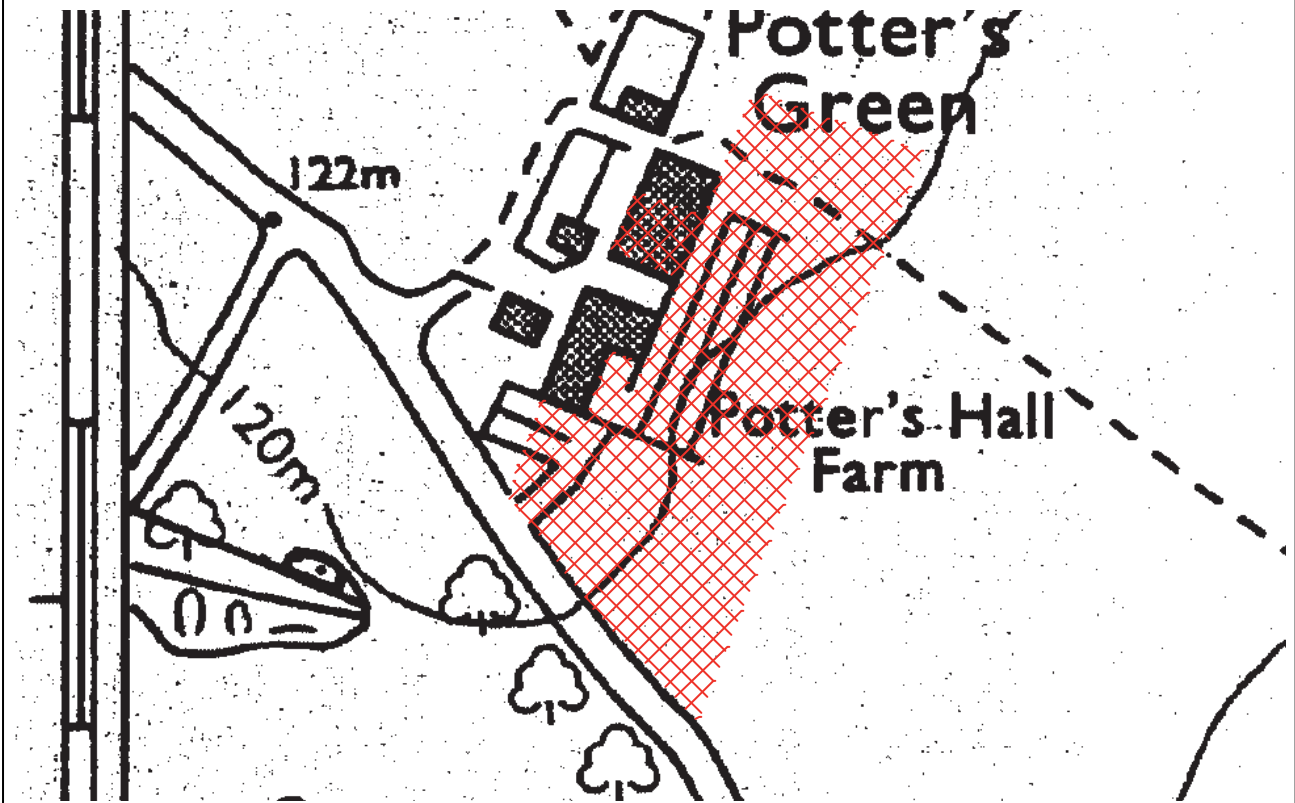
Figure 5b



Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (1974)

Scale 1:2500

Figure 6a



Ordnance Survey 1:10000 (1978)

Scale 1:2500

Figure 6b

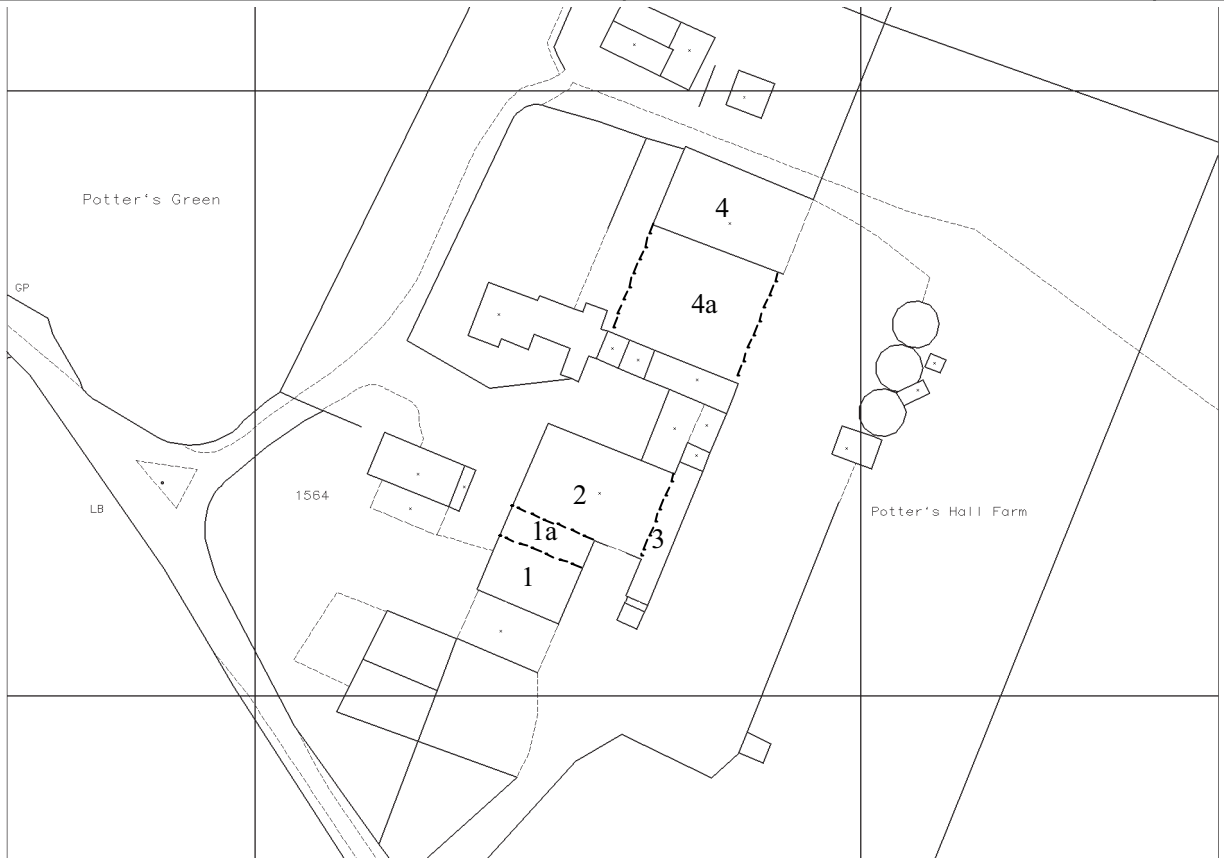


Plate 1a: Index to Buildings Photographed



Plate 1b: General view of site from the south



Plate 2a: General view of site from the north



Plate 2b: Units 1, 1a and 2 from the south-east



Plate 3a: Units 1, 1a, and the southern end of Unit 3 from the west



Plate 3b: Unit 3 from the south-east



Plate 4a: Northern end of Unit 3 from the north-east



Plate 4b: Units 4 and 4a from the south-east