



18a Church Vale WEST BROMWICH

(NGR SP 0105 9335)

Archaeological Evaluation



May 2006

Hereford Archaeology Series 718

This report is produced by

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

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Archaeological Investigations Ltd is a trading company wholly owned by the Hereford City and County Archaeological Trust Ltd, a registered charity founded in 1997 to further the work of the City of Hereford Archaeological Committee (founded in 1974) throughout Herefordshire. The Company maintains a core staff with a broad range of expertise, whilst also making extensive use of specialist contract personnel. Besides working on the buried archaeology of Hereford and the country in general, the Company specialises in geophysical survey, historical illustration and the archaeological recording and analysis of standing buildings. Work is usually on a commission basis on behalf of organisations such as English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Landmark Trust. The Company also accepts commissions from local authorities and private developers and provides specialist consultancy advice in relation to archaeology in the planning process and general environmental issues.

Cover picture

Excavation of evaluation trench 1.

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18a Church Vale
West Bromwich
(NGR SP 0105 9335)

Archaeological Evaluation

Text and Site Work
L. Craddock-Bennett BSc.

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May 2006

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18a Church Vale WEST BROMWICH (NGR SP 0105 9335)

Archaeological Evaluation

1. Summary

The project was undertaken in response to proposals to develop the site by Arbor Townscape Ltd.

The main aims were to investigate potential archaeology in the areas likely to be affected by the proposed development and to make satisfactory recordings of the findings.

The evaluation results came from three trenches positioned at regular intervals across the site.

No evidence for archaeology was found. The site was disturbed by a cellar and other 20th century intrusions.

2. Introduction

Archaeological Investigations Ltd. was commissioned by Mr. Julian Timmins of Arbor Townscape Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at 18a Church Vale, West Bromwich, prior to the construction of a residential apartment building on the site. The fieldwork took place on the 10th May 2006.

In line with Planning Policy Guidelines Note 16, section 30 the Planning Authority was advised that a programme of archaeological work was required, taking the form of an archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of building works.

The 34m by 19m site lies to the north-east of the centre of West Bromwich and west of Sandwell Valley, on the corner of Little Lane and Church Vale (Fig. 1). It is currently undeveloped waste ground. The site has a steady slope from 149.32m OSL in the west to 148.03m OSL in the east. All levels were recorded from a temporary benchmark (148.340m) located on manhole cover 0303 positioned at the east end of Little Lane to the south of the site.

The natural geology of the site is a deep red sand containing a large amount of rounded and sub-rounded pebbles.

3. Historical Background

Prior to the 14th Century West Bromwich was known as Bromwich, and is referred to in the Domesday Book as '*Bromwic*' the home of '10 villeins and 3 bordars'. The main settlement at this time was at Lyndon, south of the Parish Church. Prior to the 18th century the settlement was thinly populated and rural with some domestic nail-making the only noticeable industry (Baugh *et al* 1976).

The site is within an area of archaeological potential as defined in the council UDP. The site lies to the south of the 14th century Church of All Saints, adjacent to Sandwell Valley and within the historic core of West Bromwich. Many features survive in Sandwell Valley including earthworks and buried remains from the prehistoric to the medieval period (Fig. 6).

John Wood's 1837 survey map of the area (Fig. 3) shows the rural nature of the site in the mid 19th century. The earliest documentary evidence for any development on the site is the 1890 OS First Edition (Fig. 4) which shows an 'L' shaped structure at the west of the site and a rectangular structure in the south. These structures are also present on the 1904 Second Edition OS map (Fig. 5) and the 1938 Revision OS map. These would appear to be the structures that were demolished as part of the current development programme.

4. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project was to investigate the nature and extent of any archaeological remains present on the proposed development site and provide a satisfactory record of such.

The main objectives were to

- Identify the date and nature of features or deposits.
- Assess survival condition and significance of features, deposits or structures in the study area.
- Produce a record of the features and deposits.
- Assess analyse and report on the findings of the work.

5. Method

Following the recommendation of the Borough Archaeologist, Mr. Graham Eyre-Morgan, 3% of the area to be developed was investigated by trial trenching. Three trenches (Fig. 2) measuring approximately 4mx2m were excavated using a tracked excavator with a 1.50m toothless bucket. Deposits were removed until the first archaeological horizon was encountered or undisturbed natural subsoil uncovered. A small sondage was excavated in the base of trench 1 to confirm that natural had been encountered.

All trenches were recorded in the same manner. A section was drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 7), and a plan made at a scale of 1:50. Each drawn section and an overview of each trench was photographed using 35mm black and white, and colour film. A context record was produced, numbered individually by trench, and registers maintained for photographs, drawings and context records.

Trench locations were recorded by triangulating from known points and recording this on an ordnance survey map of the area (Fig. 2).

6. Results

None of the trenches revealed any evidence of archaeology

Depth	Context Number (s)	Description
0 - 0.24m	100=200=300	Dark brown sandy clay, c.2% charcoal flecking & large amount of brick rubble. Heavily disturbed modern make up layer.
0.24 - 0.74m	202	Orange brown sand. No visible inclusions. Possible interface between natural and topsoil.
0.24 - 0.84m	303	Browny orange sandy clay with rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions. Modern brick inclusions. Redeposited natural.
0.24m -	101=201=301	Browny red sandy clay. 40% rounded and sub-rounded stones (40-100mm). Firm compaction. Natural.

The upper c.24cm of the site was characterised by a dark brown sandy clay layer of 19th and 20th century disturbance. In the east of the site adjacent to Church Vale Road, this lay directly above natural. As the site rose up towards its western extent, redeposited natural had been used to create a slope to the site (202,303).

7. Discussion

None of the trenches revealed significant archaeology. Deposits 202 and 303 seem likely to be contemporary, and their nature (mainly natural with some 19th century rubbish) would suggest that they were deposited during the landscaping of the plot prior to the construction of the recently demolished detached house and cellars on the site. This would date these deposits to between 1837 and 1890, which fits in well with the type of brick and rubbish found within them. The overlying deposit (100, 200, 300) post-dates this made up layer and is massively disturbed by the current groundworks.

8. Conclusion

No surviving archaeology was found during the evaluation. Activity relating to the Medieval period or before that may have existed on the site is likely to have been destroyed by the construction of a detached dwelling with cellar on the site at some point between 1837 and 1890.

9. Bibliography

Baugh, G.C., Greenslade, M.W., and Johnson, D.A. (1976). *West Bromwich* in Greenslade, M.W. (ed.), *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of the County of Stafford, Volume XVII*. Institute of Historical Research/OUP.

Boucher, A (2006). *Land at 18a Church Vale, West Bromwich, West Midlands. Archaeological Proposal.* Archaeological Investigations Ltd.

Eyre-Morgan, G. (2006) *Archaeological Evaluation. 18a Church Vale, West Bromwich.* Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

1. Three section drawings at 1:20 scale
2. Three trench plan drawings at 1:50 scale
3. One drawing register
4. Three photographic registers
5. One context register
6. Four context sheets
7. One pack of colour photos
8. One pack of B&W photos
9. A copy of this report
10. One Levels register

Appendix 2: Sandwell MBC Brief

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

18 A CHURCH VALE, WEST BROMWICH

SANDWELL MBC

MARCH 2006



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Site: 18A Church Vale, West Bromwich

Agent: Aborbuilders, Julian Timmins

Planning Officer: John Baker 0121 569 4049

Borough Archaeologist: Graham Eyre-Morgan (0121 569 4025)

Assistant Archaeologist: Charlotte Lewis Assistant Archaeologist (0121 569 4217)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Borough Archaeologist should be contacted. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period. The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

This brief has been prepared by the Assistant Archaeologist of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. The purpose of evaluation is to determine the presence/absence of archaeological features within the application area so that an informed decision can be made on their preservation or otherwise. This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of the Condition can be adequately discharged.

2. Site Location and Description

The site subject to development is 18A Church Vale, located on the corner of Little Lane and Church Vale, lying to the north east of the centre of West Bromwich and the West of Sandwell Valley. The land is currently a residential property and in an area of archaeological potential as defined in the council UDP.

3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning application (DC/05/45545) was submitted on the 13/12/05 for the demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of 6 apartments.

3.2 Based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990, paras 21-22):

'No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing'

The evaluation is designed provide sufficient information on the presence/absence, nature, quality and extent of any below ground remains. If present, the investigation will identify any archaeological remains thereby enabling the formulation, if appropriate, of an additional programme of excavation; should the deposits be of 'national importance' there would be a presumption in favour of their in-situ preservation.

3.3 This Brief and any resulting Contractors' Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) will ensure that the requirements of any future Condition can be adequately discharged.

4. Archaeological Background

The site is within an area of archaeological potential as defined in the UDP. The site lies to the south of the 14th Century Church of All Saints (PRN 1411), adjacent to Sandwell Valley and within the historic core of West Bromwich (PRN 6204). Many features survive in Sandwell Valley including earthworks and buried remains from prehistoric to medieval.

The current application provides a fresh opportunity of examining the origins and development of the medieval town. Isolated pottery fragments are also likely to provide important information on the chronology of the town, the status of the inhabitants and their general living conditions. Other archaeological remains could also be revealed.

5. Requirement for Work

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation is to locate and identify any surviving remains within the constraint area; in this particular instance this office wishes to know the extent, the date, nature and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits, which may be present under the area, proposed for development. The work must also assess the relative importance of these deposits, and the potential loss of any archaeological information by the

development, therefore substantiating any need for further excavation or change in the planning consent

5.2 A **3% sample** of the development area will be investigated by trial trenching and the layout should be designed to ensure uniform coverage across the site; a trench plan must be appended to the specification.

5.3 The site-specific aims are:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- To determine the nature, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- To provide further information on the origins and development of West Bromwich from the medieval period to the present day
- To contribute to any existing corpus of academic knowledge
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions

5.4 The evaluation recommended above is only the first stage in the archaeological investigation of each of the sites recommended. The scope of any further archaeological recording on each of the sites will depend on the results of the preliminary (and second phase if appropriate) evaluation of surviving archaeological deposits.

5.5 If evaluation indicates that significant archaeological evidence survives on the site, and would be negatively impacted by the proposed redevelopment, a further stage of detailed archaeological excavation and recording will be carried out, in accordance with a site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Borough Archaeologist, which sets out specific aims of further recording work.

6.0 General Methodology

6.1 The evaluation shall be supported by a written scheme of investigation.

6.2 The contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.3 Details including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff) shall be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist as part of the written scheme of investigation.

6.4 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the members of the team shall be provided in writing to Borough Archaeologist at least one week in advance of commencement of work.

6.5 The site code for this project is CHCV06.

6.6 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines shall be followed on site.

6.7 Should the client wish to curtail the investigation for any reason at any point in advance of its completion the contractor will still be expected to produce a full report including specialist finds assessments within the timetable set out below.

6.8 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7. Evaluation Methodology

7.1 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

7.2 Prior to the commencement of on-site works the contractor must consult the Sandwell Sites and Monuments Record (Fay de Souza 0121 568 4216) and undertake a rapid map regression exercise based on the sources held at the Local Studies Section of Smethwick Library. This information will assist in on-site interpretation.

7.3 It is recommended that a minimum of 3% of the area to be developed is investigated by trial trenching. The trial trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be hand cleaned in all trenches and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

7.4 At least 50% of all contained features shall be excavated. A stated percentage of structural and linear features to be excavated shall be provided in the WSI. For those trenches where substantial nineteenth and twentieth century masonry remains are encountered hand dug test pits will be excavated within the trench in order to examine the presence/absence of earlier remains. NOTE: In some circumstances it may be necessary to use shoring to support the sides of the trench, but advice must be sought from the Borough Archaeologist before employing this methodology.

7.5 Details of how all archaeological contexts and artefacts will be excavated, surveyed, recovered and recorded shall be provided. The site grid will be tied to the national grid.

7.6 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the WSI. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

7.7 The photographic record shall consist of high quality digital colour and black and white copies. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs; a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register and supporting plan detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.8 The contractor must arrange, through a suitably qualified specialist, the assessment of the environmental and metallurgical potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits. Guidance should be sought from the appropriate English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science and details of the methodology included within the WSI.

8.0 Finds

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed and marked with both the site code and context number.

8.2 The WSI shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.3 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines for Finds Work*. Details of the finds retrieval policy must be included within the WSI.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Wednesbury Museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist.

9.0 Results

9.1 The draft full report including all specialist assessments of artefact assemblages shall be submitted to the Borough Archaeologist within six weeks of completing the fieldwork for approval. Once approved a total of **eight** copies plus a copy on CD-ROM are to be supplied to the Borough Archaeologist for general distribution.

9.2 The report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted during the course of the evaluation.
- Detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. This must be linked to the research objectives cited above and consider the sites in their local, regional and national context.
- An assessment of the local, regional national importance of the site. The latter should be based on the criteria for scheduling as set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990).
- Impact Assessment and recommended mitigation strategy will be used to assess the impact of the proposal on the surviving archaeological resource.

- The contractor is also expected to formulate a mitigation strategy and future research programme. The latter should be based on national/regional/local research frameworks and identify the aims/objectives of any future excavation.
- Although the emphasis should be on those deposits that are likely to be destroyed, the wider potential the site must also be considered
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- All specialist reports and assessments
- Site location plan, copies of any historical maps and a representative sample of the photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. All corners of each trench shall be given a 10 figure grid reference
- A section/s within each trench showing the depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale
- Sufficient plans by period and area to aid interpretation
- Artefact illustrations that would be submitted in any future publication

9.3 The following appendices should also be included:

- Location and summary of the archive contents
- Completed summary sheet (copy attached to brief)
- Photographic register
- Archaeological brief, the approved contractors' written scheme of investigation together with the completed pro-forma and site location plan which were submitted as part of the planning application

9.4 The proposed format of the report will be described within the WSI.

10.0 Archive

10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the Contractor must contact the Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, West Midlands B661AB. Tel. 0121 5582561), to determine the requirements for the deposition of the archive.

10.2 The archive should include the record photographs and digital information together with a copy of the Report.

10.3 Photographic prints should be re-produced at a minimum of five by four inches and labelled on the back using indelible ink with the frame number, date, photographers name together with the site code, name and grid reference; the photographs being mounted in archival quality sleeves.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to meet the Community History and Archives Service requirements with regard to the preparation of material for deposition.

10.5 Written notification of the commencement of fieldwork shall be given to Community History and Archives Service at the same time as the Borough Archaeologist.

10.6 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to Borough Archaeologist at the time of deposition.

11.0 Monitoring

11.1 The Borough Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and should be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, interpretation and reporting stages.

11.2 Written Notification of the start date will be given to the Borough Archaeologist at least one week before the commencement of work and once the fieldwork stage of the investigation has been completed.

12.0 Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

12.1 Any variations to the WSI shall be agreed in writing with the Borough Archaeologist before being implemented.

12.2 This Brief has been written following a cursory examination of the site by the Borough Archaeologist, potential contractors are therefore strongly advised to carry out their own inspection before submitting a written quotation.

12.3 If on first visiting the site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears that:

- i) part or the whole of the site is not amenable to the recording programme outlined above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features that should be recorded as having a bearing on the interpretation of the site have been omitted,

then it is expected that the Contractor will contact the Borough Archaeologist as a matter of urgency.

For further information regarding the content of this Brief please contact the author at the address below. As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this Archaeological Brief.

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Appendix 3: AIL Archaeological Proposal



LAND AT 18A CHURCH VALE

West Bromwich
WEST MIDLANDS

Archaeological Proposal

April 2006

LAND AT 18A CHURCH VALE,
WEST BROMWICH
Sandwell
(NGR SP 0105 9335)

Project Design for archaeological evaluation

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

LAND AT 18A CHURCH VALE,
WEST BROMWICH
Sandwell
(NGR SP 0105 9335)

Project Design for archaeological evaluation

1. Background

1.1 Description of the site

- 1.1.1 The plot of land is to the north-east of the centre of West Bromwich and west of Sandwell Valley, on the corner of Little Lane and Church Vale. It is currently a residential property.
- 1.1.2 The site is within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the council's UDP.
- 1.1.3 The site is located at NGR SP 0105 9335.

1.2 Previous archaeological work/knowledge

- 1.2.1 The site is located within an Area of Archaeological Potential as defined in the UDP, being within the historic core of West Bromwich and to the south of All Saints, a 14th-century church. It is adjacent to the Sandwell Valley where many features, in the form of earthworks and buried remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period, survive.

1.3 Reasons for the project

- 1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Sandwell MBC for demolition of the existing buildings on the site and construction of six apartments subject to an archaeological condition (Application Ref: DC/05/45545).
- 1.3.2 The condition is based on advice within Planning Policy Guidelines Note 16 and states
"No development involving any ground disturbance shall take place until an archaeological investigation of the site has been carried out in accordance with a specification to be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing."
- 1.3.3 A brief has been drafted to demonstrate the archaeological methodology for an evaluation to partially fulfil the terms of the condition and this project design has been submitted to comply with the requirements of the brief.
- 1.3.4 The client must arrange for access to the site and provide information on all services.
- 1.3.5 Trenches will be backfilled on completion using the material removed from the trenches. On completion of site work **Archaeological Investigations Ltd. will not**

take any responsibility for the maintenance of the backfilled trenches. If special reinstatement is required then this is additional to the quote submitted.

1.4 *Archive deposition*

1.4.1 It is Archaeological Investigations Ltd's policy to encourage landowners to deposit the site archive including all finds with the local museum. Archaeological Investigations Ltd will prepare the archive for transfer following discussion with the Wednesbury Museum.

2. *Aims and objectives*

2.1 *Research design*

2.1.1 The objectives of the work are to:

- a. Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area
- b. Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered
- c. Provide further information on the origins and development of West Bromwich from the medieval to the present day
- d. Contribute to the existing body of academic knowledge
- e. Make available to interested parties the results of the investigation (subject to restrictions of confidentiality).

3. *Method statement*

3.1 *General archaeological method*

3.1.1 This applies to all relevant cases below.

3.1.2 The trench positions and survey grid will be tied into features shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping. A temporary site bench mark would be set up on site using the nearest surviving Ordnance Datum (where possible).

3.1.3 All archaeological features will be recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20, and photographed, using B&W negative and colour slide film (35mm), following cleaning. A trench plan will be produced at 1:50. Selected sections of the trenches would be drawn at 1:10.

3.1.4 Trenches will be excavated by a machine with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous supervision by a qualified archaeologist. After removal of overburden and topsoil, exposed subsoils or archaeological horizons will be cleaned for planning.

3.1.5 At least 50% of all features totally contained within the trenches will be excavated. A sample of at least 20% will be dug of linear or large features extending beyond the bounds of the trenches and, where substantial 19th- or 20th-century masonry

foundations are encountered within trenches, test pits will be dug by hand to establish the presence/absence and condition of earlier remains.

- 3.1.6 A hand auger may also be used to establish the sequence of deposits in areas where further excavation is not being carried out. The auger has a head diameter of 100mm, which is usually sufficient for the collection of soil samples, and identification of relatively fine changes in stratigraphy.
- 3.1.7 A system of context records will be kept and numbered independently by trench. Recording will be in accordance with Archaeological Investigations Ltd's site manual. Registers will be kept for context records, photographs, drawings, small finds and samples on site.
- 3.1.8 General biological samples (c.30 litres) would be retained from archaeological deposits. Each sample would be floated to recover carbonised remains. A number of further samples which, based on assessment of the environmental remains, demonstrate good potential for environmental preservation will be assessed for plant macrofossils, insects and pollen. Specialist advice will be used to determine which samples to collect and assess.
- 3.1.9 All pottery, metal artefacts and stratified bone would be retained for further analysis. Any ceramic building material would usually be retained although if large quantities are present (>10 pieces per context) then only diagnostic pieces/or a representative sample would be retained.
- 3.1.10 The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists will be adhered to, together with their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

3.2 *Documentary research*

The following sources will be consulted:

- Sandwell Historic Environment Record
- Community History and Archives Service, Smethwick Library.

3.3 *Trial trenching*

A sample by trenching of 3% of the development area is proposed for the site and will take place after demolition of existing buildings and removal of rubble. This has been provided as 3 trenches of 3m length, each measuring 2-m in width, targeted on the footprint of the proposed developments. **Trench positions may vary according to the results of the documentary research and factors local to the site (e.g. service locations).** Any variations to the indicated trench locations will be agreed with the Borough Archaeologist for Sandwell MBC.

3.4 *Schedule of drawings (preliminary)*

Drawing	Scale
Trench location plans	1:500
Trench plans	1:20/1:50
Plans of archaeological features	1:20
Selected sections of trenches	1:10
Sections through archaeological features	1:10/1:20.

4. Fieldwork resources and programming

4.1 Staffing and equipment

4.1.1 The project team would comprise the following members of staff:

Project manager – Andy Boucher or Niall Oakey

Based in Hereford and responsible for the over all co-ordination of the development of the project along with determining strategies and reassessing priorities in consultation with the project supervisors, specialists, monitors and client.

Project officer/Field officer - (at least three years experience in field archaeology)

Responsible for the day to day running of the site work and adherence to the agreed project design and risk assessment along with the assignment of priorities to individual project staff following consultation with the project manager.

1 Site assistant (at least 12 months experience)

Responsible for the excavation of deposits/features, collection of samples. Also responsible for the accurate production of drawn and written records.

1 Post excavation assistant - finds/environmental processing.

Due to the vagaries of our current work programme, it is impossible to nominate individual members of field staff at present.

4.1.2 Specialists

Faunal remains – Andy Hammon

Charred remains – Angela Monkton

Pollen/plant macrofossils - James Greig

Insects - David Smith (Birmingham)

Medieval pottery – Kath Crooks (AIL)

Roman Pottery – Dr Jerry Evans

Post-medieval and modern pottery – Jon Goodwin (Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology)

Industrial - Jerry McDonnell (Bradford).

4.1.3 Specialist equipment

Soil auger (2m depth/100mm head)

Flootation tank.

4.1.4 Site accommodation/security

A toilet may need to be placed on site and fencing will be required around the edges of the site.

4.2 Draft Programme

Trial trenching on site

up to 2 days

Report for above

4 weeks.

A weeks' written notice of the commencement of fieldwork and composition of the site team will be given to the Sandwell MBC Borough Archaeologist.

5. Consolidation of the site archive

5.1 Paper records

5.1.1 All records will be checked and catalogued. The site supervisor and staff will ensure that the site archive is complete and all registers are up to date.

5.1.2 On completion of the fieldwork the entire paper record will be copied and the copy held in a repository other than the building in which the post excavation work is being carried out.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 Pottery

All pottery will be washed and marked with the site code and context number.

5.2.2 Bone

All bone will be washed and stored in labelled bags. Any bone tools will be marked and bagged separately.

5.2.3 Metal artefacts

All metal artefacts will be X-rayed and stored under appropriate humidity conditions.

5.2.4 Glass

A conservator will be contacted if any glass is recovered and they will ensure that the material is stored and adequately consolidated.

5.2.5 Industrial waste

The conservator's and industrial specialist's advice will be sought over the treatment and storage of industrial waste.

5.3 Inventory

An inventory of the site archive will be produced and this will be available to all members of the project team.

5.4 Report

The site report will amalgamate the results from specialist work and the excavation and research. A plan and section for each trench will be produced as well as an overall site plan showing the location of the trenches in relation to surrounding features. The sections will include vertical and horizontal scales, together with a level aOD. The site will be assessed for local, regional and national importance (on the criteria set out in Annex 4 of PPG 16) and a strategy formulated to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

6. Report specification

The interim report will contain the following elements and will not be paginated but each section is numbered for easy reference:

- Contents page
- Summary
- Introduction
- Background information

- Statement of aims and methods employed
- Description of results
- Discussion of results integrated with any other information
- Assessment of the local, regional and national importance of the site
- Assessment of the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological resource
- Formulation of a mitigation strategy and future research programme, if appropriate
- Conclusion
- Site location plan, copies of relevant historical maps and a representative sample of photographs including colour prints
- Location plan of trenches in relation to proposed development. The corner of each trench will be given a ten figure grid reference
- Appendices containing specialist reports, site archive information (including photographic register), archaeological brief, written scheme of investigation and summary sheet.

Eight copies will be provided for planning purposes and a copy on CD-ROM.

7. Publication

It is envisaged that the results of the work will be published in either a regional or local journal depending on the relative importance of their findings. This will be determined after the completion of the interim report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

1. Company/Location: Archaeological Investigations Ltd
Unit 1, Premier Business Park
Westfields Trading Estate
Faraday Road
Hereford HR4 9NZ

2. Date of assessment: 25/04/06

3. Activity/situation: Archaeological works at West Bromwich

4. Identification of hazards/action to note

4.1 Heavy plant

All staff to be issued with safety boots, hard hats and vis jackets and to wear these at all times on site. Visitors to be issued with hard hats/vis jackets. Access to areas where plant is working to be restricted to members of the client's agents and company staff only. Staff should note that they must keep out of the swing arc of the machine. Never approach a machine from behind. Always ensure the driver of the machine has seen you before approaching a machine.

4.2 Fall on level

Staff should be aware that soil and gravel is slippery when wet. Take extra care when working in the wet. Never run on site. Grid pegs should be clearly identifiable and safely protected.

4.3 Use of ladder/fall from height

No one is to climb the step ladder for the purpose of taking photographs without it being placed on firm level ground and another member of staff supporting the ladder all the time it is in use.

4.4 Use of hand tools

Staff using hand tools must be aware that lack of care can result in injury. Always regularly clean soil off tools. Take short rests if feeling fatigued. Ensure no one is working within 2-3m of the maximum swing distance of picks, mattocks and shovels. If you are unfamiliar with any particular item of equipment then ask a supervisor.

4.5 Deep holes

Be aware of the location of the sides of excavation trenches. All trenches should be marked 1m from their edge with bunting. Ramped access should be provided at one end of each trench. Shoring and fencing will be provided where necessary.

4.6 Underground services

A plan of known services will need to be obtained prior to work commencing from the site agent.

4.7 Lifting soil sacks/equipment

Do not lift anything that because of its size or weight is likely to cause you injury.
Remember:

Keep a straight back
Take the strain with your thigh muscles
Keep your fingers clear of edges and trapping areas
If you are lifting with someone else ensure that you both work as a team -
notifying each other when to lift or lay the item to rest.

4.8 Contaminated ground

The site is not known to be contaminated but never the less staff should wash hands before eating or any other hand to mouth activity.

5. Items assessed which present low level risk

5.1 Bad weather

Come equipped with enough clothing and waterproofs for bad weather.

Appendix 4: Completed Summary Sheet

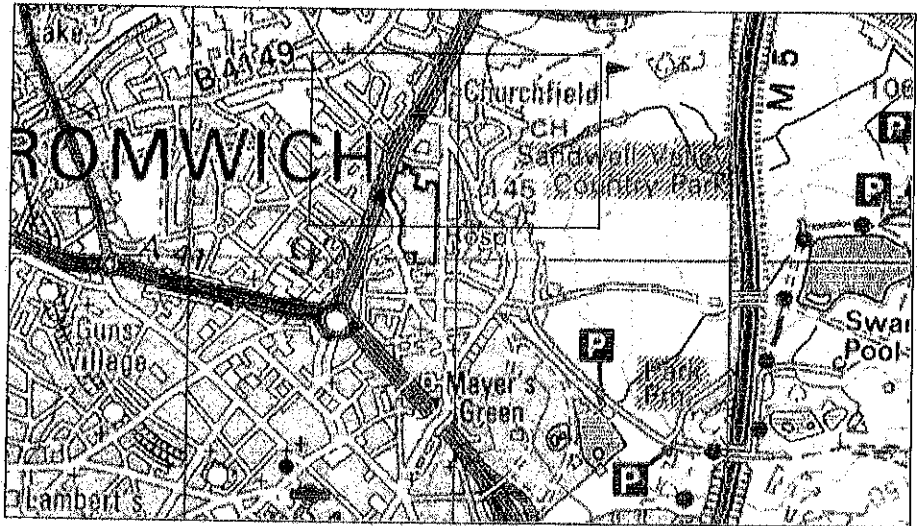
**SANDWELL MBC/ SMR
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site Name/Address: 18a Church Vale, West Bromwich	
Borough: Sandwell	NGR: NGR SP 0105 9335
Type of Work: Evaluation	Date of Work: May 2006
Site Director/Group: Luke Craddock-Bennett, Archaeological Investigations Ltd, Hereford	Site Code: CHCV 06
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Wednesbury	Further Seasons Anticipated?: No
Full Title of Report: 18a Church Vale, West Bromwich. Archaeological Evaluation	
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: The evaluation results came from three trenches positioned at regular intervals across the site. No evidence for archaeology was found. The site was disturbed by a cellar and other 20th century intrusions.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Niall Oakey	Date of Summary: 23 rd May 2006

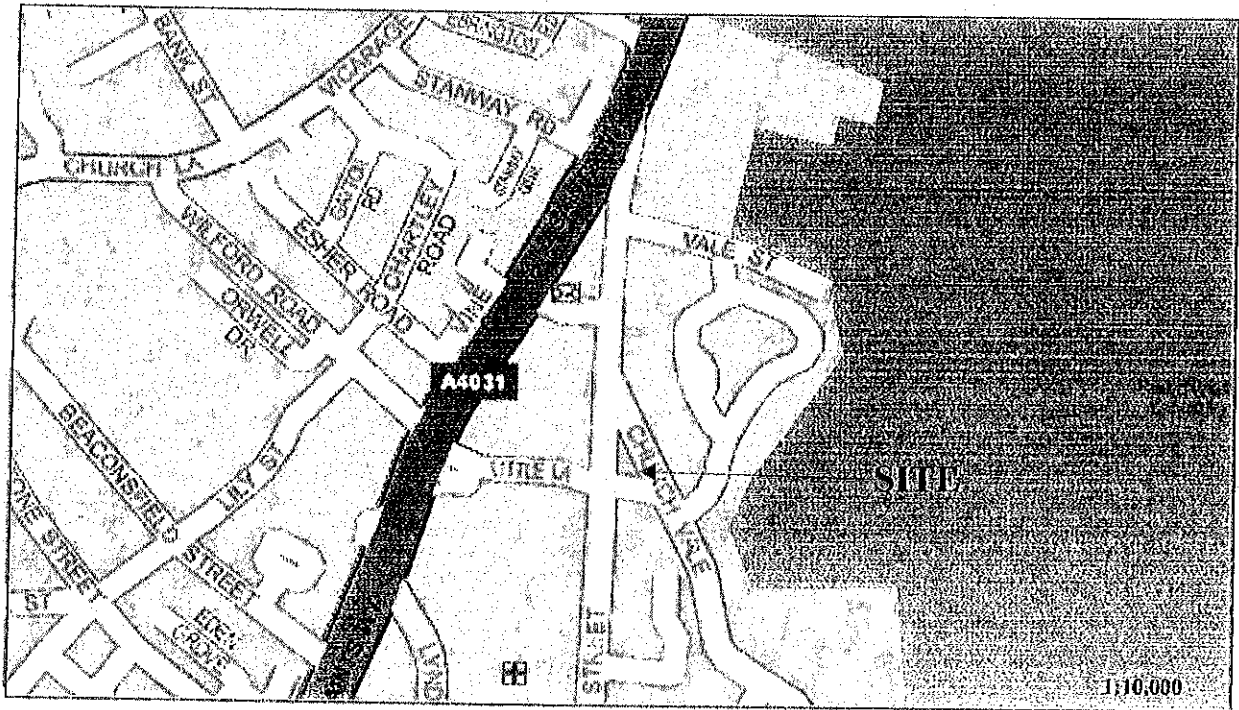
Site Location Map



1:200,000



1:25,000

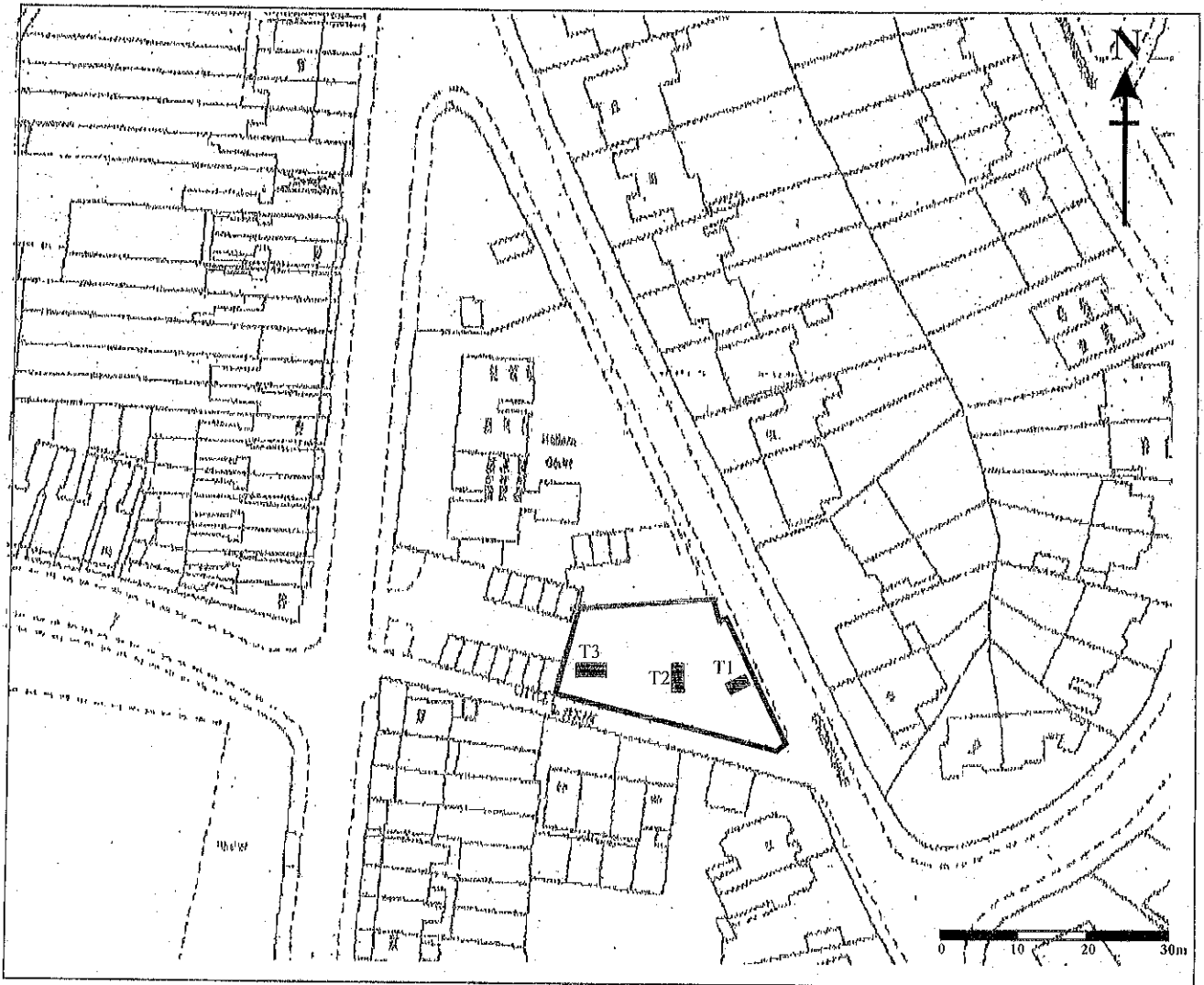


1:10,000

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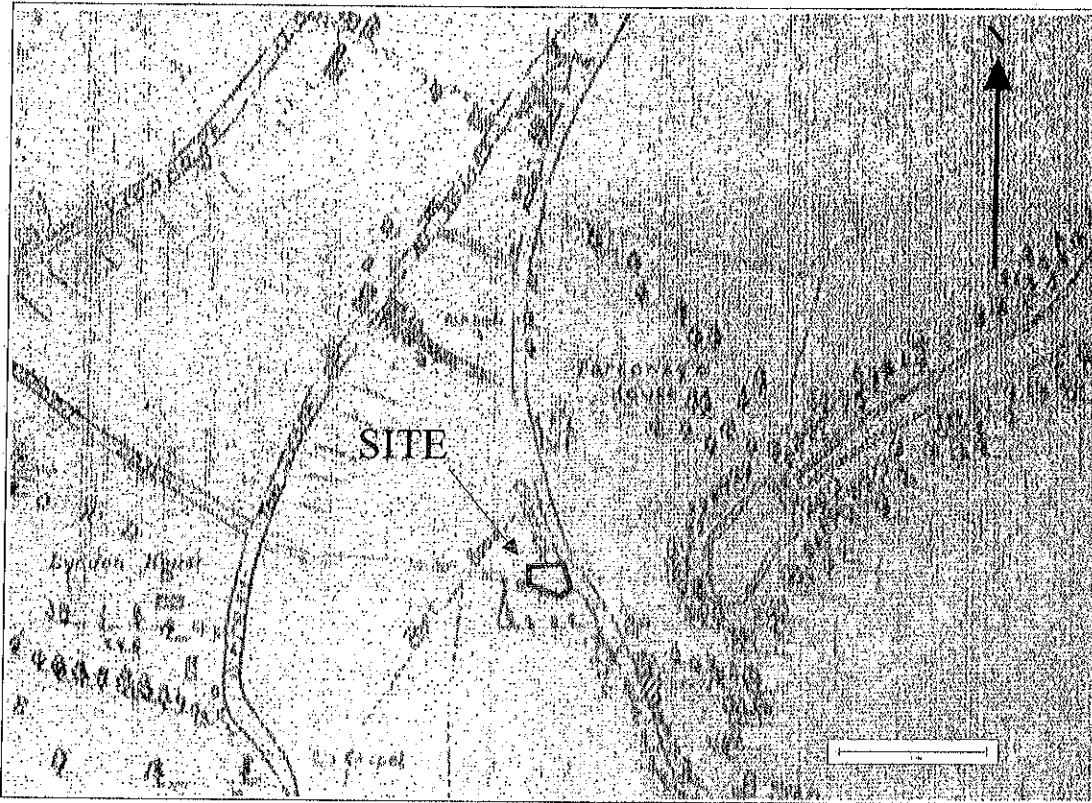
Figure 1

Trench Location Map



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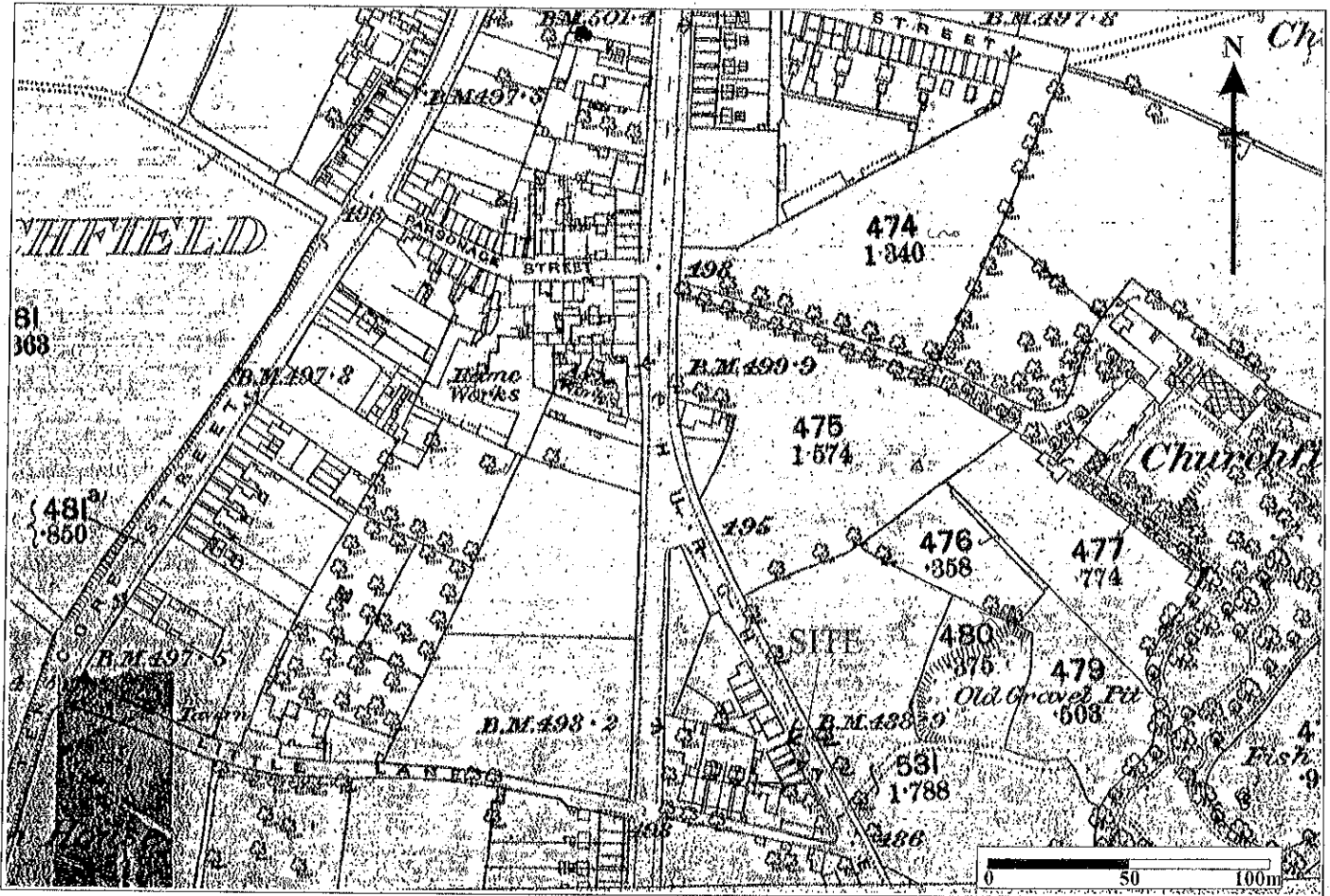
Figure 2



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Reproduced from 1837 Plan of West Bromwich from Actual Survey by John Wood

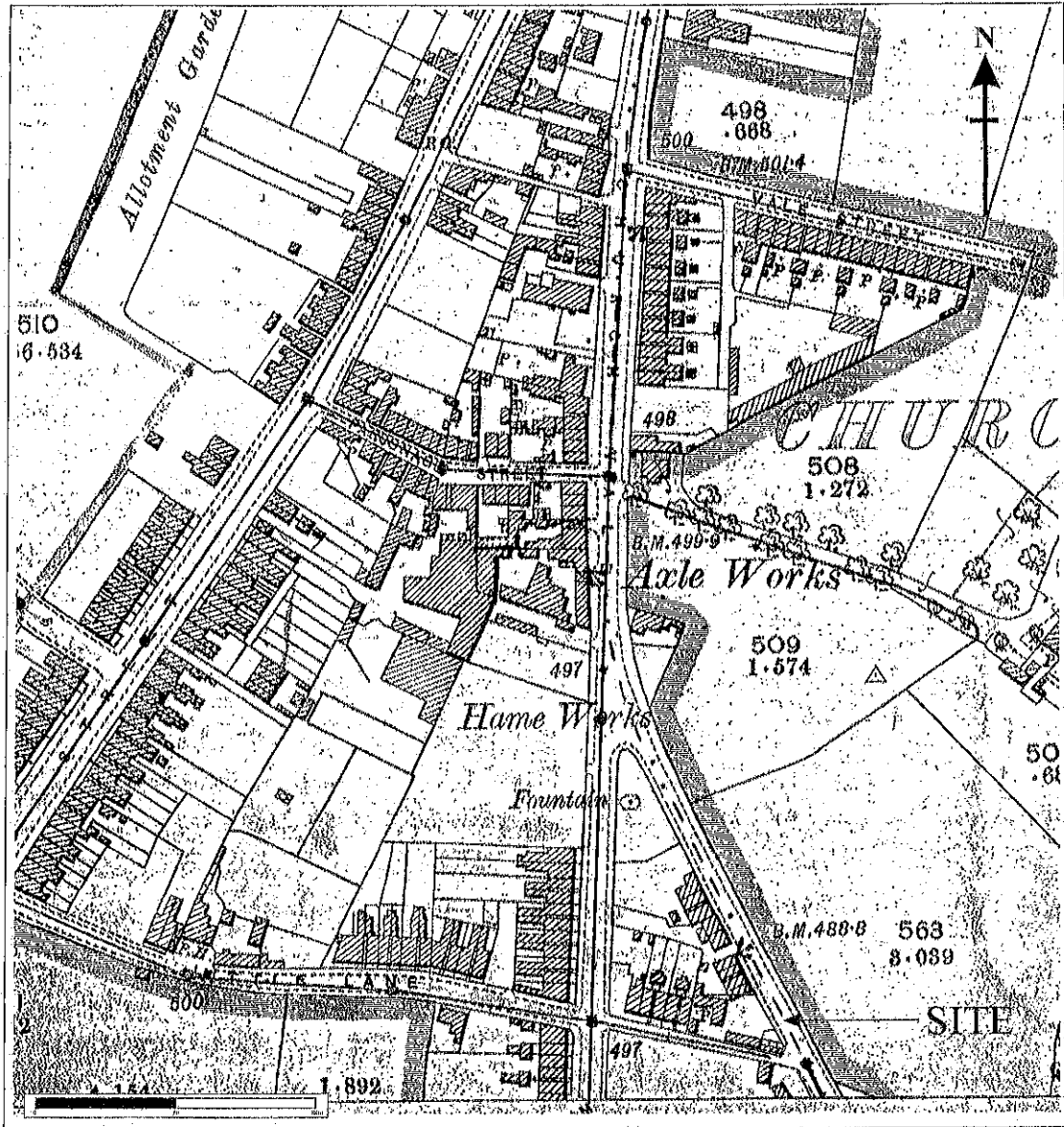
Figure 3



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1890 Ordnance Survey First Edition

Figure 4

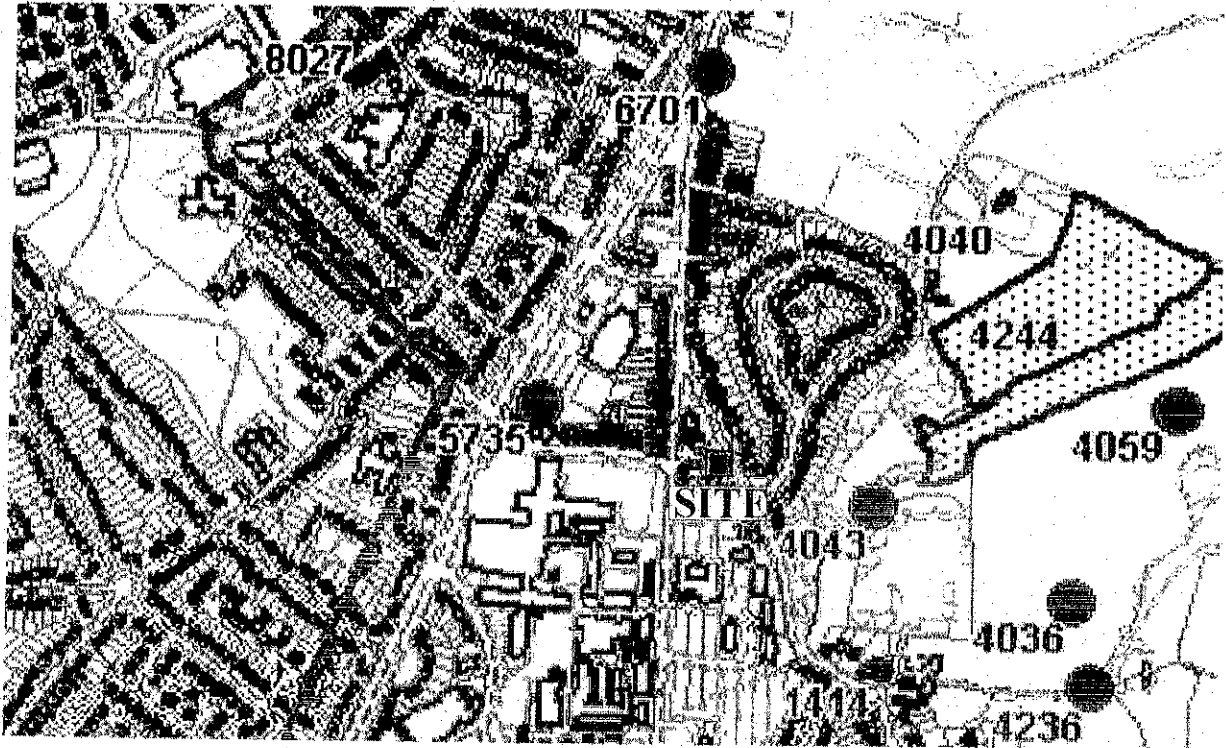


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1904 Ordnance Survey Second Edition

Figure 5

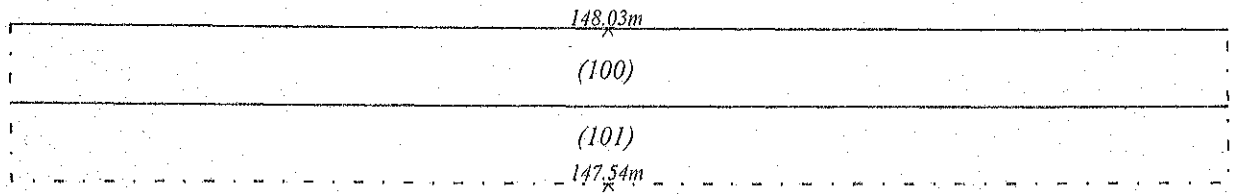
SMR Location Map



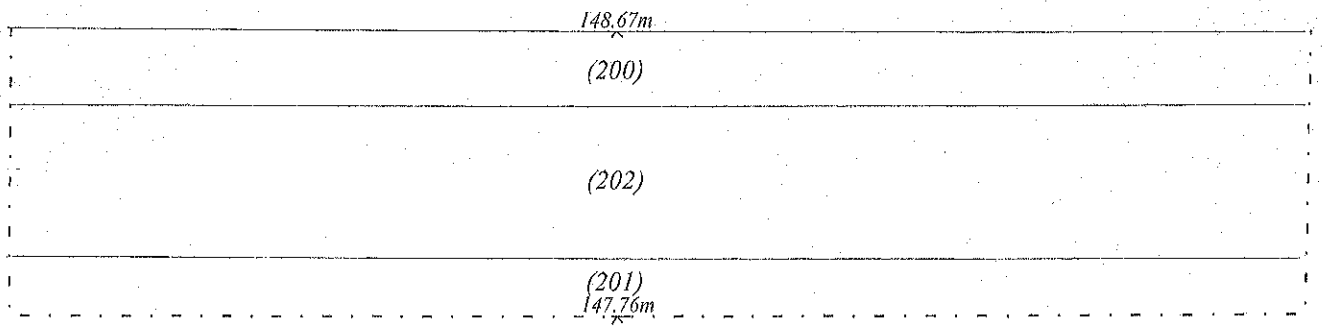
- SMR 1414 - Hill House & 47 Dagger Lane, Charlemont. Early C16th building with later additions.
- SMR 4036 - Hill House Farm. Medieval pottery from Fieldwalking.
- SMR 4040 - Brick remains of C18th barn.
- SMR 4043 - Victorian house garden, NW of Hill House farm.
- SMR 4059 - Hill House Farm. Prehistoric flint scatter.
- SMR 4236 - Hill House Farm. Earthwork. Undated Trackway.
- SMR 4244 - Dartmouth Golf Course. Medieval Ridge and Furrow.
- SMR 5735 - Lyndon Mill. Site of Post Medieval Windmill.
- SMR 6701 - All Saints Way. Post Medieval site of Pound.
- SMR 8027 - 58 Vicarage Road. Undated Boundary Ditch.

Figure 6

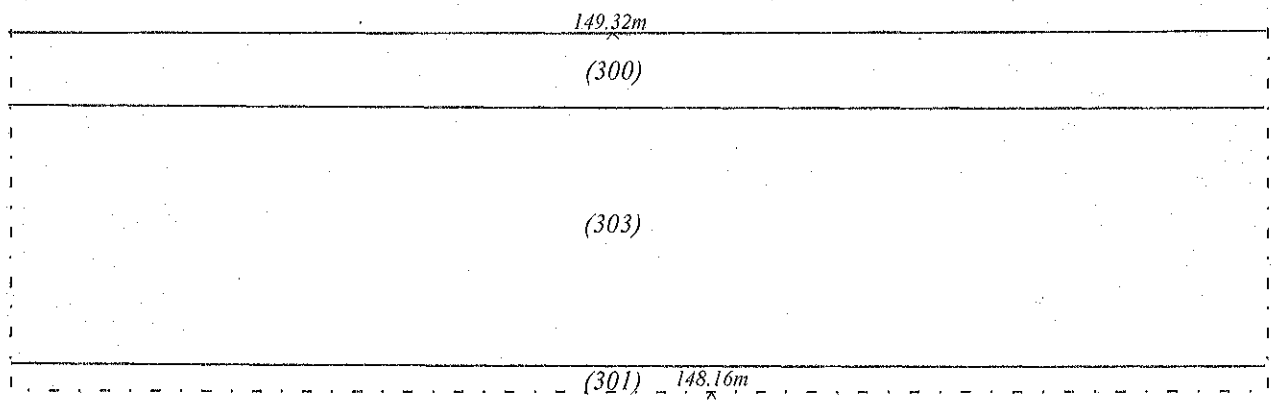
Section drawings



Trench 1 - South facing section



Trench 2 - East Facing Section



Trench 3 - South Facing Section

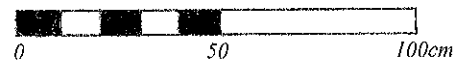


Figure 7