



# 10 Whaddon Road

## Shenley Brook End

### MILTON KEYNES

*An Archaeological Watching Brief*



**April 2005**

**SMR 922**

Hereford Archaeology Series 674

---

This report is produced by

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS LTD

Manager : A Boucher BSc  
Assistant manager: N. Oakey BA MA MIFA

UNIT 1, PREMIERE BUSINESS PARK,  
WESTFIELDS TRADING ESTATE,  
FARADAY ROAD, HEREFORD  
HR4 9NZ

Tel. (01432) 364901  
Fax. (01432) 364900

for: Mr and Mrs Pugh  
10 Whaddon Rd.  
Shenley Brook End  
Milton Keynes

---

*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

*The west beam trench showing pile positions.*

---

Hereford City & County Archaeological Trust : Company Number 3283805  
Registered Charity Number 1060840  
Archaeological Investigations Ltd : Company Number 3356931 VAT 692 1750 23

**10 Whaddon Road,  
Shenley Brook End  
MILTON KEYNES**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

---

**Text and Site Work  
S. Porter BSc**

---

**Contents**

- 1. Summary**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Historical Outline**
- 4. Aims and Objectives**
- 5. Methodology**
- 6. Results**
- 7. Discussion**
- 8. Conclusion**
- 9. Bibliography**
- Appendix 1: Site Archive  
Figures**

---

**April 2005**

**©Archaeological Investigations Ltd**

# 10 Whaddon Road

## Shenley Brook End

### Milton Keynes

#### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

NGR SP 483480 235420

SMR 922

---

#### 1. Summary

---

*Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Pugh to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of ring beam trenches for a new garage.*

*The site is located at NGR SP 483480 235420 and is within the historic village of Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes (figure 1).*

*No finds or features of archaeological significance were present on the site. The ring beam trenches were excavated through 0.40m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil, which lay directly over the natural clay and gravels.*

*The site was given the site code SBE.05 and the event number 922. The site work took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2005.*

*Archaeological Investigations Ltd. would like to thank Mr and Mrs Pugh and the site contractors for their assistance during the archaeological monitoring.*

---

## **2. Introduction**

---

Archaeological Investigations Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Pugh of 10 Whaddon Road in Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of ring beam trenches for a new garage at the front of the plot.

The site (Fig. 1) lies within the historic village of Shenley Brook End near a road frontage and earthwork remains are known to survive nearby.

The site lies at approximately 110m OD and the underlying geology of the site is Oxford clay.

The site work took place on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, 2005.

---

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

---

The parish of Shenley was situated to the south-west of Watling Street and covered an area of around 1344 ha. There were four main foci of settlement in the parish: Shenley Church End, Shenley Brook End, Westbury and East Green.

Until recently the evidence for prehistoric activity in the parish relied on a few scattered Neolithic or Mesolithic flints. However the increasing development of the area has resulted in larger discoveries including an Iron Age farmstead at Shenley Common Farm North (Porter 2005).

Numerous finds of Roman coins and other artefacts have been made in most parts of the parish and those concentrations that may indicate the locations of settlements are indicated on figure 2. To the north west of Shenley Brook End an extensive and long-lived settlement spanned the Roman period and a tessellated pavement was recorded at Dovecote Farm in 1901 though subsequent excavations have not corroborated this (Croft and Mynard 1993).

The Domesday survey records four separate holdings in Shenley, two of which were in Shenley Brook End and were held by Richard Ingania and Urso de Bercheres (Morris 1978). The deserted medieval village of Westbury lies just to the north-west of Shenley Brook End.

Some of the buildings, such as Valley Farm and Shenley Lodge, within Shenley Brook End date to the early post-medieval period. The Dovecote farmhouse only dates back to the early years of the present century, however, it was rebuilt on the site of an earlier and probably medieval farmhouse. Dovecote farm is shown on the Salden Estate map of 1599 (figure 3) and on the 1698 survey (figure 4) which also shows a small building which may have been the dovecote itself.

A little to the north-east of Dovecote farm is the earthwork complex generally described as Shenley Brook End Moat. The 1698 survey (figure 4) shows a large,

two-storey house on this site set in an orchard or wooded garden. The surviving earthworks reflect the use of the site for a post-medieval house and garden, but this may be the re-use of a medieval moated, or perhaps earlier site (Croft & Mynard).

On both the 1599 and 1698 maps of the area, buildings are shown in close proximity to area to be developed. Though no individual plots can be identified on the earlier map, the general position of the site has been indicated on figure 3. Using some basic measurements it has been assumed that the site lies at the front of the plot marked on the 1697 map as being owned by Richardons (figure 4). It is clear that at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the plot was occupied by a reasonably large structure, possibly even the one that stands today.

---

#### **4. Aims and objectives**

---

The aims of the project were:

- To identify and record any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts within the area affected by the proposal.
- To record the survival, quality and condition of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the study area.
- To collect any environmental data where present.

The objectives of the project were:

- To report on the findings of the fieldwork
- To produce an ordered archive for deposition in a recognised repository.

---

#### **5. Method**

---

Prior to the excavation of the ring beam trenches, the eight mini pile foundations were constructed, two on each corner of the garage.

A mini excavator using a 0.5 metre wide toothed bucket excavated the ring beam trenches between the pile positions (Figure 5). The trenches were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.70 metres below the present ground surface.

An archaeologist observed ring beam trenches during and after excavation. Drawings were made at a scale of 1:20, notes were made in a site notebook and photographs were taken on 35mm colour film.

---

---

## **6. Results**

---

The ring beam trenches for the new garage were excavated through three deposits (figure 6). The upper topsoil deposit (101), a dark brown sandy loam had a maximum depth of 0.45 metres and contained some broken brick pieces.

Below the topsoil (figure 6) lay a pale brown clay loam sub-soil (102), which appeared undisturbed with the exception of a modern land drain visible in the most westerly section of the trenches. Deposit 102 lay directly above the natural clay and gravels (103).

No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were present within the garage foundation trenches.

---

---

## **7. Discussion**

---

The results of the archaeological monitoring at 10 Whaddon Road in Shenley Brook End indicate that no archaeological features, artefacts or structures were present in the area to be developed

As the known early medieval activity in the area is to the north of the site, it is possible that 10 Whaddon Road was not within the core of the village and therefore was not developed at this time.

---

---

## **8. Conclusion**

---

No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the watching brief at 10 Whaddon Road, Shenly Brook End, Milton Keynes.

Archaeological monitoring following and during the excavation of the ring beam trenches was an appropriate means to fulfil the aims of the project.

---

---

## 9. Bibliography

---

Croft, R. A. & Mynard, D. C. 1993. *The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society Monograph Series No. 5 (1993)

Morris, J. 1978. *Buckinghamshire Domesday Book*. Phillimore 'history from the sources' series. (Chichester)

Porter, S. 2005. *Oxley Park West, Milton Keynes. Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement and further Trenching*. HAS 659

---

---

## Appendix 1.

---

### Site Archive

No finds were recovered from the site. The site archive therefore consists of the paper archive, including photographs taken on site.

### Table of Contexts

Context	Type	Depth (m.)	Description
101	Layer	0.30-0.45	Dark brown loam containing some brick fragments and root disturbance.
102	Layer	0.15-0.40	Pale brown clay loam
103	natural	0.20+	Grey/blue clay with flint and chalk nodules and lenses of gravel.

---

---

## Figures

---

1. Site location
2. Shenley Brook End in 1967, showing major archaeological sites and finds
3. Salden Estate Map, 1599 (extract)
4. Shenley Brook End estate map, 1698 (extract)
5. Trench location plan and the north-east facing section



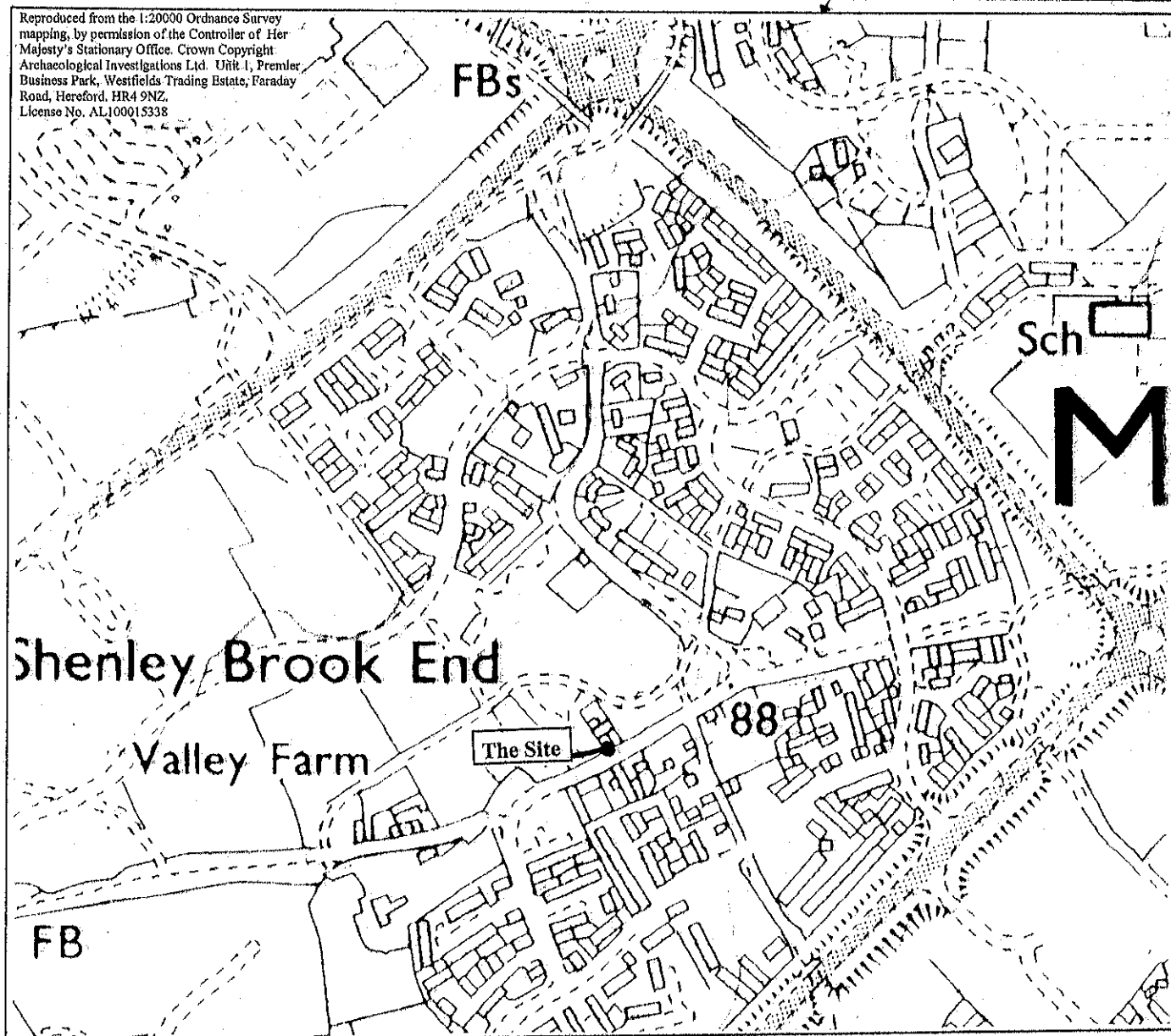
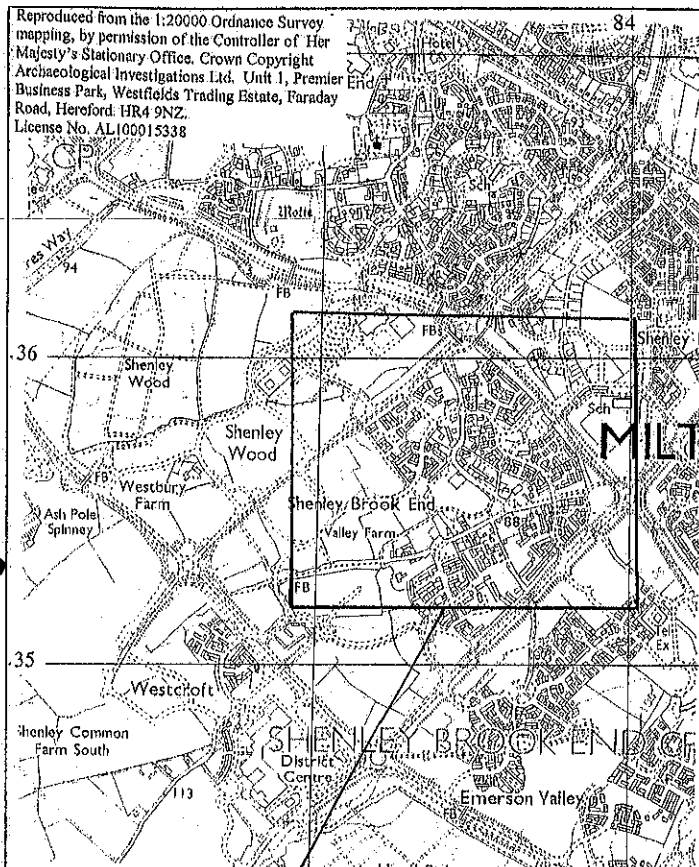
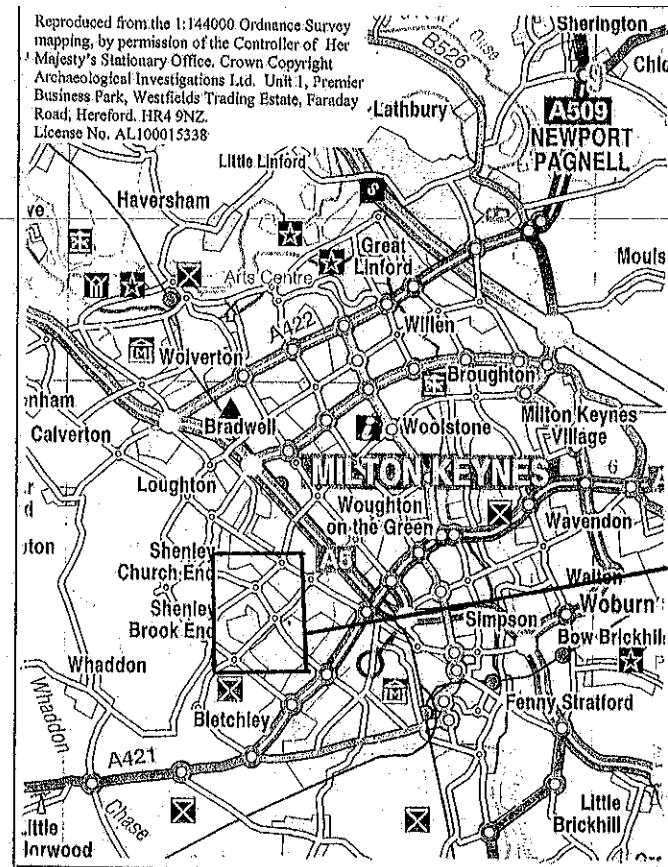


Figure 1. Site location

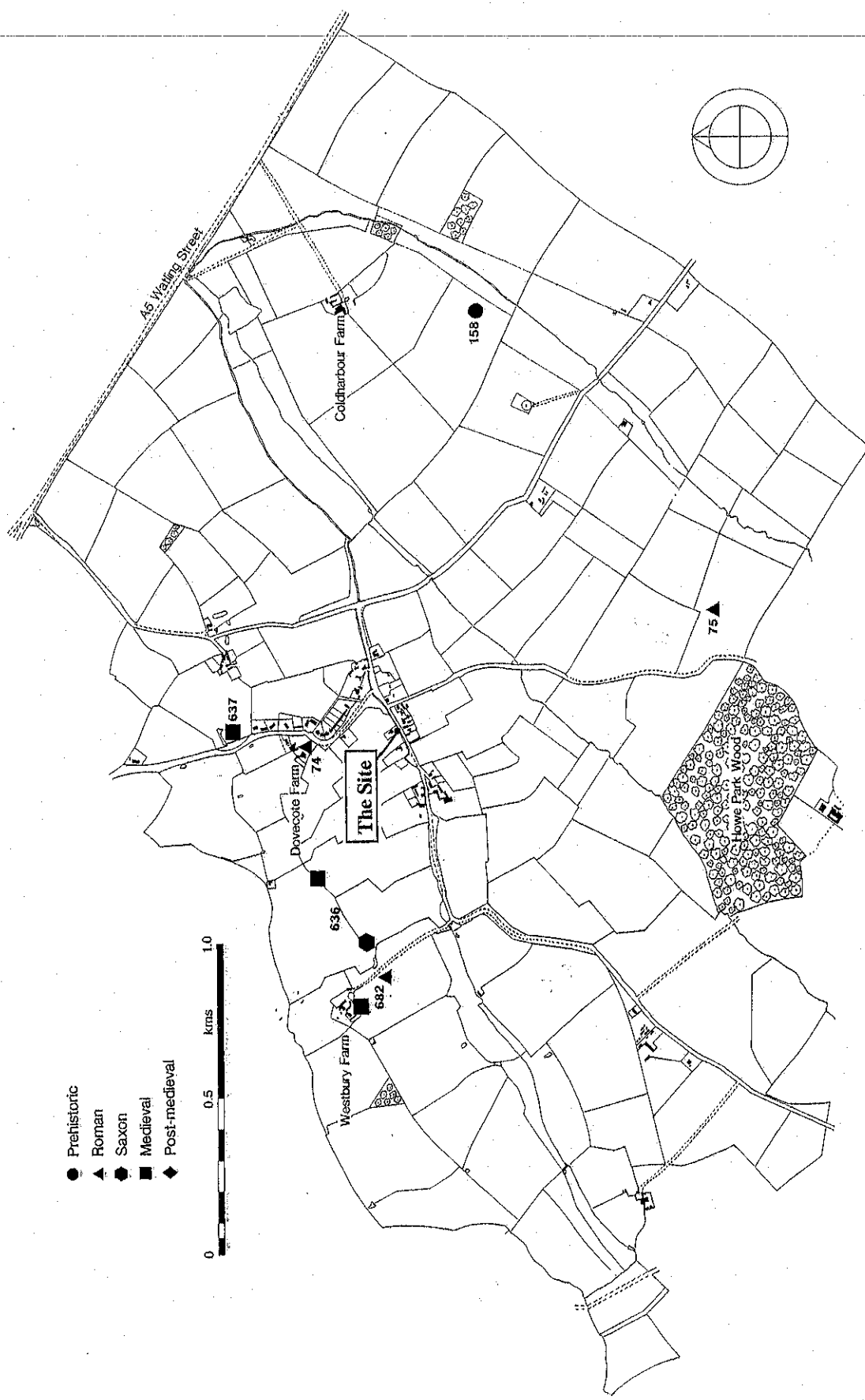


Figure 2. Shenley Brook End in 1967, showing major archaeological sites and finds

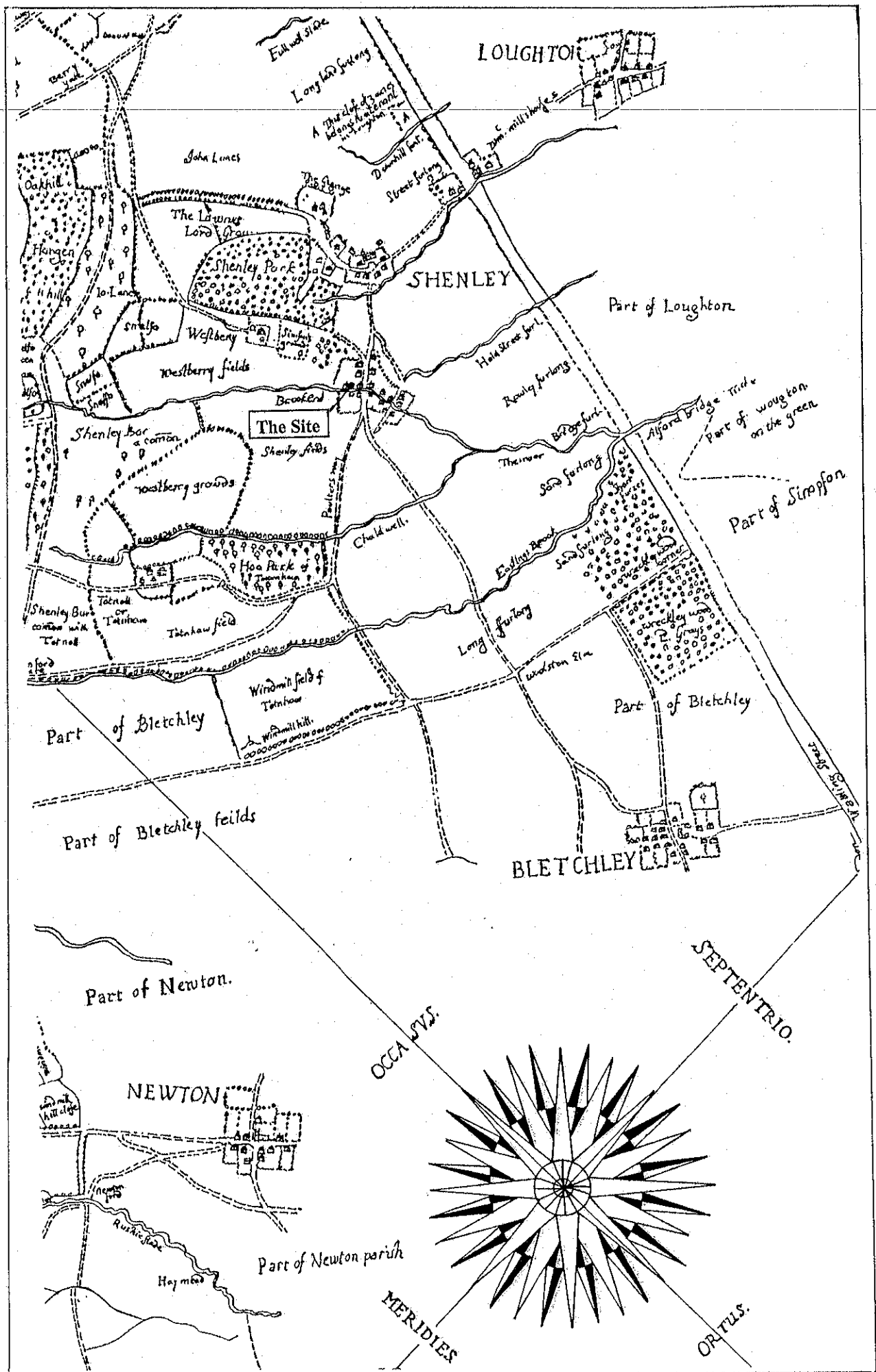


Figure 3. Salden Estate Map, 1599 (extract)



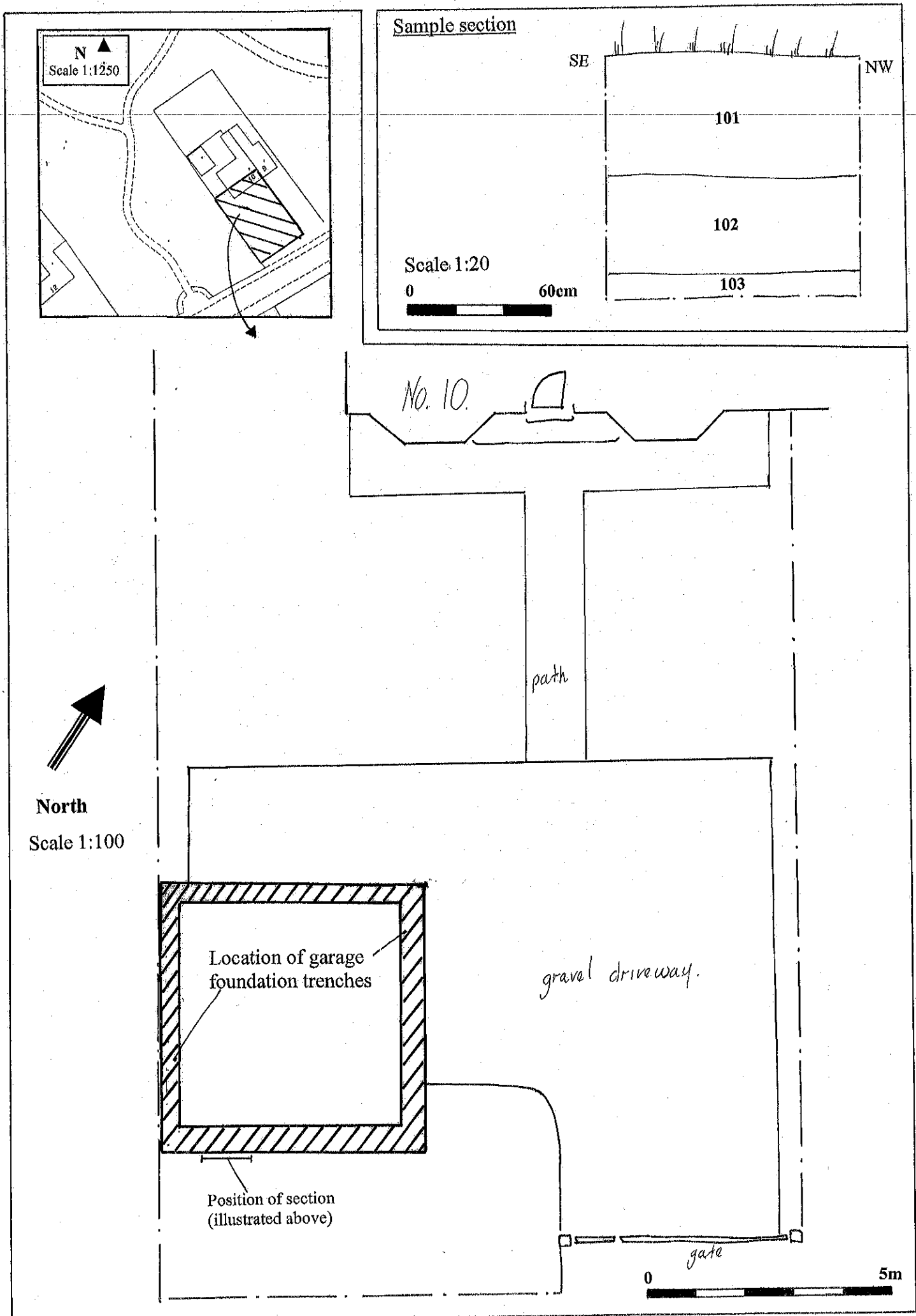


Figure 5. Trench location plan and sample section