

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PARKERS MILL, MILL STREET, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

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NGR: TL 7093 7436	Report No: 2865
District: Forest Heath	Site Code: N/A
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 2914
Signed:	Date: May 2007

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Parkers Mill, Mill Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i>		
<i>In May 2007 Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Parkers Mill, Mill Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7093 7436). The assessment was undertaken in response to a planning condition (F/2006/1030/FUL) applied to residential redevelopment of the site.</i>			
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<i>The wider location of the site is significant, with fenland to the west and the light sandy soils of the Breckland to the east. This location would have been an attractive position to prehistoric farmers; there is some evidence of prehistoric activity to the east of the site. Domesday Book refers to a mill in Mildenhall, possibly in this location (SMR MNL455), and a spot find of an Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead has been recorded in the field adjacent to the site (SMR MNL061). The site therefore has particular potential for evidence of prehistoric and/or Anglo-Saxon activity</i>			
<i>The mill building is still standing, as is Mill House, which is scheduled. The majority of the site is currently occupied by hardstanding, and there is a likelihood that levelling layers, relating to the industrial use of the site, are present in some areas.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>May 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>2914</i>	Site code	<i>N/A</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological desk-based assessment</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Mill</i>		
Planned development	<i>73 residential dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>N/A</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>N/A</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Forest Heath</i>	<i>Mildenhall</i>
SMR for area	<i>Suffolk</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>1.56ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 7093 7436</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>7.00m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – Conservation Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>P Sparrow</i>		
Funded by	<i>Freshwater Estates U.K. Ltd.</i>		
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Authors	<i>Sparrow, P.</i>		
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Date (of report)	<i>May 2007</i>		

PARKERS MILL, MILL STREET, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

In May 2007, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Parkers Mill, Mill Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7093 7436). The assessment was undertaken in response to a planning condition (F/2006/1030/FUL) applied to residential redevelopment of the site.

Parkers Mill is situated on the north side of the river Lark, on a leat running roughly parallel to the river. The site is located on the edge of, and extends into, the Lark floodplain, straddling the divide between loam over chalk (to the north) and fen edge peat deposits to the south.

The wider location of the site is significant, with fenland to the west and the light sandy soils of the Breckland to the east. This location would have been an attractive position to prehistoric farmers; there is some evidence of prehistoric activity to the east of the site. Domesday Book refers to a mill in Mildenhall, possibly in this location (SMR MNL455), and a spot find of an Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead has been recorded in the field adjacent to the site (SMR MNL061). The site therefore has particular potential for evidence of prehistoric and/or Anglo-Saxon activity

The mill building is still standing, as is Mill House, which is scheduled. The majority of the site is currently occupied by hardstanding, and there is a likelihood that levelling layers, relating to the industrial use of the site, are present in some areas.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a desk-based assessment of land at Parker's Mill, Mill Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7093 7436; Figs. 1-2). The assessment was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Ref. F/2006/1030/FUL) applied to the residential development of the site. It is proposed to build 73 new homes (Fig. 12). The assessment was commissioned by Freshwater Estates U.K. Ltd. as the first part of a phased approach to mitigating the potential archaeological impact of the development.

1.2 The desk-based assessment was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS; dated 01/05/07) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 02/05/2007). The project adhered to the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001) and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the desk-based assessment were:

- To collate, verify and assess all available information relevant to the presence, survival and character of archaeological remains within the site.
- To provide a predictive model of the sub-surface deposits likely to be present on the site and assess their archaeological significance.
- To assess the impact of any development proposals on any identified archaeological remains.

The principal aim of the project was to identify the archaeological potential of the site, to describe the likely extent, nature, condition and importance of any archaeological remains and to consider the site within its wider archaeological context.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Mildenhall is located *c.* 13km north-west of Newmarket in Forest Heath District, north-west Suffolk. Parker's Mill is situated on the west side of Mill Street, *c.* 0.5km south of Mildenhall town centre. Cutting across the southern edge of the site is a channel of the river Lark, which rejoins the main river 100m to the south-west.

2.2 The site comprises an irregular parcel of land covering approximately 1.56ha. It is bounded to the east by Mill Street and to the south by a channel/millstream of the river Lark.

3 METHODOLOGY

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The known archaeology of the surrounding area can be indicative of the types and dates of archaeological remains present within the site itself. The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Suffolk comes from the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Significant SMR entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. Where relevant, these sites are discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

Documentary and cartographic sources can help to establish a geographical, topographical and historical context for archaeological remains in the site and its surroundings. The social and economic contexts in terms of land ownership and changes in land use can often also be inferred. The principal sources for these types of evidence were the Suffolk County Record Office, Bury St Edmunds (SCRO). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4-9. Several relevant 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey sheets were missing from the Bury St Edmunds branch of the Suffolk Record Office; search room staff said they were lost. Copies of some of these maps were obtained from a website (www.old-maps.co.uk); the reproductions are consequently of poor quality. They do, however, provide some useful information regarding the site and are therefore included in the report.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Bury St Edmunds branch of the Suffolk County Record Office, and AS's own reference library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All referenced materials are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

At the time of writing, the client was unable to provide a geotechnical report for the site. The Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record does not record any previous archaeological fieldwork in the immediate vicinity of the site from which a relevant deposit model could be drawn.

3.5 Site inspection

In the course of the desk-based assessment, a physical walkover of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 9th May 2007 (Digital Photos (DPs) 1 - 7). The inspection had the following purposes:

- to examine the areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment; in particular, with a view to gauging the likely survival and condition of archaeological remains; and
- to consider the significance of any above ground structures, historic buildings, and historic landscape features, and their potential impact on the proposed development

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 Parkers Mill is situated on the north bank of the river Lark. A leat flows east to west across the southern end of the site, before rejoining the main river 100m to the south-west. The site is located at the edge of, and partially within, the Lark floodplain, sloping very gently upwards to the north. Spot heights taken during a site survey range from 4.48m AOD in the south to 7.80m AOD in the north (Fig. 11). The site borders onto low-lying agricultural land to the west, with similar land-use to the east of Mill Street. Areas immediately north and south of the site are developed and form part of Mildenhall town.

4.1.2 The site lies on a solid geology of Middle Chalk, with no overlying drift (BGS 1985). There is a layer of alluvium running along the southern side of the river valley, which is clipped by the southernmost part of the site. There is also a strong likelihood of some peat deposits in the lower-lying southern extremity of the site.

4.1.3 The area around Parker's Mill comprises soils of the Swaffham Prior Association. These are described as well-drained, calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble, with some similar shallow soils (SSEW 1983). There is a likelihood of deep non-calcareous loamy soils in places and local striped and polygonal soil patterns (SSEW 1983). These soils can be associated with a slight risk of water erosion. These soils are suitable for the cultivation of cereals, sugar beets and potatoes (SSEW 1983). The land to the north, east and south of the site has soils of the Methwold Association, which is also chalky, but is vulnerable to wind erosion (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age (c. 700,000 – 750 BC)

4.2.1 There is limited prehistoric activity recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, although the early prehistoric period is well-represented in north-west Suffolk as a whole. Warren Hill, near Mildenhall, has produced c. 2000 handaxes of Palaeolithic date. Palaeolithic finds are often associated with river gravels, which formed when the landscape was adjusting to its current form after the last major glaciation (Dymond & Martin 1999; Wymer 1985).

4.2.2 Prehistoric finds have been recorded within a 500m radius of the site, but the majority are poorly-provenanced spot finds with few precise grid references recorded in the SMR. A considerable number (58) of Palaeolithic handaxes have been discovered in the parish of Barton Mills to the east of the site (BTM Misc MSF 232). Several handaxes of Palaeolithic date have also been found in Mildenhall parish.

4.2.3 No Mesolithic finds are known within c. 500m of the site. A tranchet axe was found in neighbouring Worlington parish (WGN Misc MSF8022). The Neolithic is slightly better-represented. A polished greenstone axe petrologically assigned to group VII and thus of Cumbrian origin was recovered from Mildenhall town centre (MNL Misc MSF14305). Another stone axe, of group IX, was discovered not far from

the greenstone axe (MNL Misc MSF14680). A flint scatter and one pottery sherd, dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, were found during fieldwalking *c.* 200m south-east of the site (MNL 499). The area in which the scatter was found has revealed a number of prehistoric, mostly Neolithic artefacts. A small number of Neolithic finds have been discovered in Barton Mills parish to the south of the site, attesting to the fairly intensive use of the area during this period of prehistory.

4.2.4 The Bronze Age in this area is represented by a sparse collection of finds including a bronze tool from Barton Mills (BTM 029), discovered during metal detecting, and a small number of axes from Mildenhall, all of which are located in the SMR database to a central point in the parish due to the uncertainty of their provenance. A hoard of four Arreton tradition flanged axes was found in Holywell Row, to the north-east of Mildenhall (MNL Misc MSF9302). A fragment of a Thames pestle type quartzite mace has been recorded from Mildenhall, which could indicate Bronze Age inhabitants of the area had links with counties to the south and west of Suffolk. A find of an ‘AB’ Beaker in Worlington parish, to the south-west of the site, may be from a cremation as it was associated with burnt bones found in a gravel pit (WGN Misc MSF8025). There are no recorded prehistoric finds within the site itself.

Iron Age (c. 750 BC – AD 43)

4.2.5 The fields around the site have yielded several Iron Age finds; these include a ‘button and loop fastener’ object found by a metal detectorist in Jubilee Fields to the east of the study area (MNL 166 MSF17993). The date is tentatively suggested as late Iron Age. The discovery of two late Iron Age coins associated with the Iceni, by a metal detectorist at Wamil Walk, *c.* 400m to the north-west of the site (MNL 141), could show a connection between the inhabitants of Mildenhall and the people of Norfolk. The works of Roman writers suggest the Iceni occupied Norfolk and possibly part of Suffolk, while the Trinovantes inhabited south Suffolk and Essex. The exact location of the territorial boundary between these groups is unclear and it is very likely its position fluctuated throughout the Iron Age. However, the river Lark has been proposed as a likely boundary; this would place Mildenhall and Barton Mills on the edge of the two territories (Moore *et al.* 1988).

Roman (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.6 Roman artefacts have been discovered within the search area, including several found in the vicinity of the Iron Age coins mentioned above. A collection found at Wamil Walk includes coins, brooches, a twisted snake-headed ornament, a fragment of a lead figurine, and a cameo gem stone of a male head thought to be similar to Antoninus Pius (MNL 141). A Roman cremation and six vessels were discovered in the 1950s when a small garden pond was extended in Barton Mills *c.* 600m south-east of the study area (BTM 001). Within Mildenhall parish, an *Urbs Roma* coin dating to AD330-337 was found near the church (MNL 135) and a hoard of coins was recovered in Mildenhall, although the exact location is not noted. This hoard contained 13 coins dating from the reign of Constantius II (AD 337-61) to Honorius (AD393-423) (MNL Misc MSF10843). Several pottery sherds were recorded at Jubilee Fields (MNL 166), to the east of the site, and fields around Wilde Street have produced several pottery sherds and a trumpet-shaped brooch (MNL Misc

MSF9335). Three cremation burials with Samian ware are recorded in Worlington Parish, to the south-west of the site.

4.2.7 In 1932, an excavation at Thistley Green, *c.* 4.4km north-west of the site, revealed a two-roomed Roman building with hypocaust associated with 4th century pottery. The nationally-important Mildenhall Treasure was discovered in 1942 at West Row, *c.* 3.6km north-west of the Parker's Mill site. The hoard comprised 34 pieces of Romano-British silver table ware dated to the 4th century, a pair of platters, two baptismal spoons and a large decorated dish *c.* 2 feet in diameter. The discovery of the hoard is attributed to ploughing in a field where the two-roomed building was excavated in 1932, although the circumstances are unclear (Lethbridge 1997). This evidence shows there was Roman settlement in and around Mildenhall during the 4th century AD, but there is no evidence to suggest that it was an important Roman town.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 - 1065)

4.2.8 Suffolk has many important Anglo-Saxon sites, such as Sutton Hoo. The trading port of Ipswich (*Gipeswic*) had important links with Continental northern Europe from the early 7th century and, from the 8th century, developed as a major pottery manufacturing centre producing what has subsequently been termed 'Ipswich Ware' (Welch 1992). Within the Lark Valley, there are several important Anglo-Saxon sites, including West Stow, an early Anglo-Saxon settlement *c.* 10km east of Mildenhall. The settlement was located very close to the river, as were many settlements of the period. A cruciform brooch has been discovered in Mildenhall, although no grid reference was recorded. This style of brooch characterises the 'Migration Period' in northern Germany, Scandinavia and Anglian England (Plunkett 2005).

4.2.9 Within the 500m search radius around the site, several Anglo-Saxon finds have been recorded. Within the parish of Barton Mills, *c.* 700m south-east of the site, an inhumation burial has been discovered (BTM 009). An early Anglo-Saxon brooch has also been found within the parish, although the location is uncertain. Some 200m to the west of the site, on the bank of the river Lark, an iron socketed spearhead has been found and tentatively dated to the Anglo-Saxon period, although an Iron Age date is also possible (MNL061). An SMR record of a second iron spearhead found in the river 'near Mildenhall Mill' may be a duplicate record (MNL Misc MSF9335). A small number of other finds of brooches and decorative items have been made in the parish, but none in the immediate vicinity of the site. A Saxon burial ground exists just outside the limits of the modern town (C.M. Dring, Website 1).

4.2.10 The entry for Mildenhall in Domesday Book states that King Edward gave it to St Edmund's Abbey. It was held of the Abbey as a manor with 12 carucates of land by Stigand. Mildenhall is recorded as having 33 villagers, 15 smallholders and 16 slaves. The entry states there was a church already standing, which suggests the presence of a settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. A mill at Mildenhall is also mentioned in the entry. Whether it was situated on the site of the present Parker Brother's Mill is uncertain. Mildenhall had six ploughs in lordship, eight ploughs owned by sokemen, 20 acres of meadow, three and a half fisheries, 31 wild mares, 37 head of cattle, 60 pigs, 1000 sheep and eight sokemen with 30 acres (Williams & Martin 2003).

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.11 As recorded in Domesday Book, the manor of Mildenhall was given to the Abbot of St. Edmunds by Edward the Confessor. It remained with the Abbey until the Dissolution in 1536, when the King gave the land to Sir Roger North.

4.2.12 Mildenhall Market Cross dates to the medieval period (MNL 133), as do the remains of a dovecote immediately to the north of the site (MNL 181). St Mary's Church, in the centre of Mildenhall, was originally constructed in the medieval period; the building was rebuilt in the 15th century, but retained some of the early features such as the arch and decorated east window. The earliest dated plaque within the church is of the early 14th century and dedicated to the rector Ricardus de Wichforde.

4.2.13 There was clearly medieval settlement in the town, but there are very few recorded finds from the period. A number of silver coins have been discovered at Wamil Walk (MNL 141), a 15th century comb has been found beneath the staircase of an old house in Mildenhall (MNL Misc MSF9343) and a boy bishop token (type 1c) has also been recovered, although the precise locations of these finds are not recorded (MNL Misc MSF9344). A lead cloth seal was identified by a metal detectorist in the Beck Row area (MNL Misc MSF 9989). One reason for the paucity of evidence dating to the medieval period could be a large fire of 1507, which destroyed 37 houses and many outbuildings in the town within two hours (White 1844).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 to present)

4.2.14 Mildenhall's economy was predominantly agricultural in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. In the 16th and 17th centuries, pasture and meadow represented the principal land use, supporting dairy herds, with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and poultry (White 1874). Arable farming comprised barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp. Part of Mildenhall and the entire parish of Barton Mills are described as sheep-corn areas. The Enclosure, which began in the late 18th century, altered traditional agricultural practices and a wider range of crops and management techniques began to be employed (Goult 1990). The agricultural depression of the 19th century affected the farmers of Mildenhall. An area whose economy had never been very strong was weakened further. (Dring, Website 1). However, during the middle decades of the 19th century the town was 'improved by the erection of new houses' (White 1885).

4.2.15 The town expanded in the 19th century; the population in 1801 amounted to 2283, by 1841 this had increased to 3731 and by 1851 it was 4374. By 1861, however, the population was decreasing. This is attributed to the discontinuance of the water traffic and the withdrawal of trade to the railways (White 1885).

4.2.16 There are several sites of significance on the river to the south of the site, including two locks of post-medieval construction (MNL 456 and 457). A bridge to the east of the site crossed the mill leat and joins Mill Street with a second bridge to the south which crosses the river Lark (MNL552). It is unclear when the leat was

created, although the mention of a mill in Domesday Book would suggest it was already present in the late Anglo-Saxon period.

4.2.17 A post-medieval Manor House, *c.* 600m north of the site, is known from documentary evidence, but was demolished in 1934 (MNL 329). Construction of the building began in the reign of Elizabeth I. Significant 16th – 17th century wall paintings decorated the interior.

4.2.18 The history of the mill itself is not well-documented. Pigot's Directory of Suffolk (1839) states that Samuel Owers owned the mill on Mill Street. Forty-six years later, White's Directory of Suffolk (1885) shows William Samuel Owers still owned the mill, but ran a partnership with his son entitled S & W Son & Co. The Parker Brothers bought the mill in 1898, producing flour (biscuit and rye). Parker Brothers mill was the only rye flour mill in East Anglia (Anon 1968). The mill was rebuilt in 1908 to facilitate modern milling practices. Photographic evidence shows the mill was all but destroyed by fire in 1921 (Fig. 9). However, the mill was repaired and production restarted. The mill continued working for several decades following this setback and eventually ceased production in 1948 (Frith & Paine 2003).

4.2.19 In 1931, Mildenhall was selected to be the home of the first Royal Air Force new-style bomber base, and by 1934 the base was the starting place for the MacRobertson International Air Race, which finished in Melbourne, Australia. During World War II, RAF Mildenhall became an important base for the British Bomber Command, and since the 1950s, it has been a United States Air Force base.

Undated

4.2.20 A possibly significant, yet undated, collection of finds was recovered from the 'bed of the mill stream' (MNL 572). The collection comprised cattle horn cores and other bones which have been interpreted as possible tanning waste. The finds could indicate further industry within the vicinity of the mill. However, it is possible they were washed downstream from a distance.

Listed buildings

4.2.21 There are two listed buildings situated on the boundary of the site – Mill House and Clinton House. No information was available regarding the construction date of these structures. The grounds of each of the listed buildings will be encroached upon by the development. The garden of Mill House will be reduced by roughly one-third, and around half of the garden of Clinton House, in the north-east of the site, will be developed.

4.3 Cartographic sources

1812 Mildenhall Enclosure Map (Fig. 4)

4.3.1 The mill is shown clearly, with four buildings to the north and north-west of the mill. This map shows the leat of the river Lark bridged by land to the east of the mill. There are no buildings in the fields surrounding the site, with the exception of

two fields to the south of the leat, one of which appears to show buildings and a garden or embankment around the leat and bridge.

Young's Parish Map of Mildenhall, 1834 (Fig. 5)

4.3.2 This map shows Mildenhall in considerable detail. Five buildings were present on the site in 1834. The structure closest to the river is very similar in shape to the present building in that location. Four structures in a cluster are depicted to the north of this building. Mill Street, although not identified as such, is visible to the east of the southernmost structure. The road continues over the leat, thus suggesting the presence of a bridge, although this is not marked on the map. The field boundaries in this map appear to correspond with those in existence today, with the mill bordering onto fields on its western side. A building is shown on the south bank of the leat. The river channel and the course of the leat appear to be much the same today as they were in 1834.

1859 Mildenhall Tithe Map (Fig. 6)

4.3.3 There are very few buildings depicted on this map, as it was largely concerned with the ownership and productivity of agricultural land. The Tithe Apportionment (Appendix 3) does not specify who owned the land on which the mill and its associated buildings stood. The Tithe Apportionment names the owners and tenants of the lands to the east of Mill Street, the majority of which seem to have been in use as gardens or pasture.

1890 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7)

4.3.4 Several structures are depicted in the site. A large building is shown in the south-eastern corner, straddling the mill stream, and is labelled as a corn mill. Other structures are shown to the north and north-west, occupying similar positions to those shown on the earlier maps. Between the buildings, empty areas probably denote a yard or forecourt. The northern area of the site, to the north-west of the buildings, appears to have been occupied by trees. The fairly neat 'rows' might suggest an orchard. The western part of the site, furthest from Mill Street, appears to have been undeveloped, perhaps an area of grass or pasture. The land to the west of the site was farmland, divided into small enclosed fields.

1905 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 8)

4.3.5 This map names the site as Lark Mill. A large structure is again shown in the south-east corner of the site, with other buildings clustered to the north and north-west, all positioned towards the Mill Street frontage. The west and north-western parts of the site again appear undeveloped; tree cover is no longer depicted in these areas, but this may simply be a mapping convention used by the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey. Given the concentration of buildings towards the east and south-east of the site, it is possible that less ground disturbance has occurred in the west and north of the site.

1952 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 8)

4.3.6 This map is almost identical to that of 1905. The site appears almost unchanged since the beginning of the 20th century.

4.4 Site visit (Fig. 10; DPs 1 – 7)

4.4.1 A site visit was carried out on Wednesday 9th May 2007. The site is bounded to the east by Mill Street, which runs north-south along the eastern edge of the site (DP 1). The mill leat diverted from the river Lark borders the southern edge of the assessment site (DP 2), running roughly east-west, while the northern boundary is formed by gardens. The western boundary of the site backs onto a cricket field.

4.4.2 Parker's Mill itself is situated in the south-east corner of the site (DP 3). The development will not encroach upon the mill building. Proposals are for the interior to be converted into offices and apartments with a car park for ten cars located on the north side of the building.

4.4.3 To the north of the mill, on the eastern edge of the site, is Mill House. Mill House is a listed building and therefore will not be demolished during the redevelopment. It is intended that the garden will be reduced to accommodate a new entranceway into the proposed development. The grounds of Mill House are enclosed by a flint wall, a small segment of which will be removed to facilitate the construction of the entranceway. The remains of the wall will be utilised to create a new wall enclosing the garden. A large grafted tree marks the end of the flint wall. This tree was grafted by Sir Bunbury and is one of only two in Suffolk. The tree will be uprooted as part of the encroachment on the garden, but a slice will be taken by the Natural History Museum in order to age the tree. This is being arranged by the developers. Also within the area of Mill House garden that will be affected by the development is a listed gazebo (DP 4). The latter will be moved from its current position on the southern limit of the garden to the north-western boundary.

4.4.4 Currently, access to the site is provided towards the southern end of the eastern boundary, adjacent to the north side of Parker's Mill (DP 5). The site was, until recently, covered in hardstanding, providing car parking spaces and access to the whole of the site (DPs 1 & 5). This has been removed prior to development, leaving the site covered in rubble.

4.4.5 The north-western part of the site is currently vacant land overgrown with grass. Local residents state that the area used to be a garden containing a tennis court, although there is no evidence of this visible today (DP 6). This area is bordered by large trees; likewise, the whole of the northern and western boundaries of the site are lined with trees.

4.4.6 An electricity sub-station is located to the west of the mill (DP 2), on the southern boundary of the site, and the northern bank of the leat. A wall shields the northern side of the shed in which it is housed. Towards the shed, the ground dips noticeably. It is unlikely this was caused by the modern demolition on the site, because the wall remains standing at the level it did prior to the recent work. The dip could therefore represent activity when the sub-station was originally constructed.

4.4.7 A low brick wall forms part of the north-western boundary of the site. This appears to be a post-medieval/modern wall.

4.4.8 The site has seen a considerable amount of activity during the post-medieval period. The maps discussed in Section 4.3 identify periods of construction on the site. Buildings which occupied the site until recently have been demolished as part of the redevelopment (Fig. 10). Their construction will likely have caused significant ground disturbance.

4.4.9 The areas of the site least developed are the northern extremity and areas in the west and south-west, alongside the mill stream.

4.5 Pictorial sources

Photograph of Parker Brothers Mill (Fig. 9)

4.5.1 This photograph depicts what was left of the mill in 1921 after a devastating fire. The brick shell appears to have been all that survived of the 1908 construction. The mill was a large, imposing building that dominated the southern end of Mill Street. The conclusion to be drawn from this photograph is that the mill proved to be a successful business over the decade between 1898 and 1908 – the period between which the Parker Brothers purchased the mill and rebuilt it- the mill would not have been rebuilt on such a large scale and presumably at such great cost, if it had not been extremely productive.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological background

5.1.1 Little earlier prehistoric material is known from the immediate vicinity of the site, but a few Iron Age finds suggest permanent settlement by this time. Iron Age material has been recovered from fields to the east and north-west of the site.

5.1.2 Finds of metalwork from close to Wamil Walk, 400m north-west of the site (MNL141), and pottery from Jubilee Fields to the east, point to continuing occupation after the Roman Conquest. Important Roman remain are also known in the wider area.

5.1.3 The Lark Valley saw important early Anglo-Saxon settlement. A possible Saxon spearhead has been found near the river *c.* 200m west of the site (MNL 061), although there is some uncertainty over the object's date (it could be Iron Age). A second SMR record of a spearhead found 'near Mildenhall Mill' could refer to another chance find, but could equally be a duplicate record (MNL Misc MSF9335). A mill is mentioned in Mildenhall in Domesday Book, suggesting that the mill stream on which the site is located could have already existed by the late Saxon period. The pre-Norman Conquest mill could feasibly have been on the present site, although this is conjectural.

5.2 Archaeological potential

The site has potential for remains of several periods:

- **Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age – Low Potential.** Despite the good geographical position of the site between the fen edge and the light soils of the Breckland, both areas known to have been attractive to prehistoric settlers, there have been relatively few prehistoric finds in the area. A field to the east of the site has produced a number of Neolithic objects, suggesting a slight possibility of finds/ features of similar date within the site.
- **Iron Age and Roman – Moderate Potential.** There have been a number of Iron Age and Roman finds discovered in areas to the north and west of the site, probably attesting to a level of settlement at this time.
- **Anglo-Saxon – Moderate Potential.** Mildenhall was a fairly rich manor by the time of the Norman Conquest and a church and mill are recorded in Domesday Book. The Anglo-Saxon mill may have been in the vicinity of the current mill. Spot finds of Saxon metalwork are recorded in the SMR close to the site.
- **Medieval – Moderate Potential.** The site was in use as a mill during the medieval period, but little is known about the ownership of the site or the extent of the land associated with the mill.
- **Post-medieval and modern– High Potential.** Improvements to the waterways in the 18th century and the increased population of the 19th century suggest Mildenhall was economically successful during the post-medieval period. The mill site was in use during this time, with a number of alterations made to the existing mill buildings. The mill was in use until 1948, therefore there is a high probability of discovering features and finds from the this period.

5.3 Previous ground disturbance

5.3.1 The rebuilding of the mill in 1908 will have affected archaeological remains if present, possibly truncating or completely destroying any within the immediate vicinity of the mill in the south-east of the site. The construction of a sub-station to the west of the mill is associated with a considerable dip in ground level, suggesting that archaeological features in this area, if present, will have been destroyed by this interference. Until recently, hardstanding covered the majority of the site and it is likely that this was levelled and under laid by made ground. The construction of the hardstanding will have impacted archaeological features, if present. There are no apparent services running through the site. The garden of Mill House has a high potential for medieval and post-medieval features associated with the construction and development of the building. The north-western area of the site, which is currently overgrown with tall grass, may have escaped significant truncation. No buildings are shown in this area on historic maps, and none have been constructed in this area in recent years, although local residents suggest it once contained a tennis court. Parts of the west of the site also appear undeveloped on 19th and early 20th century maps, and may have also escaped truncation from more recent buildings.

5.4 Impact of the proposed development

5.4.1 The proposed development will affect the entire area of the site. The foundations of the new buildings will truncate archaeological remains, if present. The majority of the area not built over will be covered with tarmac which will entail levelling, therefore impacting further upon archaeological remains, if present.

6 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Copies of this report will be filed with Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Freshwater Estates (UK) Ltd for commissioning and funding this project, in particular Mr Jeremy Nicholson.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the help of Colin Pendleton of Suffolk SMR and the staff at Suffolk Record Office.

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APPENDIX 1 Sites and Monuments Record data

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The location of the sites is shown in Figure 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

SMR	NGR TL	Description
Palaeolithic		
BTM Misc MSF 17631	7500 7500	Palaeolithic biface from Barton Mills held in Luton museum.
BTMMisc MSF230	7500 7500	Palaeolithic implements in Cambridge Museum
BTMMisc MSF231	7500 7500	A total of 58 Palaeolithic hand axes and four flakes
MNL Misc MSF9227	7500 7500	Palaeolithic cordate hand-axe slightly rolled recorded by Evans now in OXFAS. Found Holwell Row, near Eriswell
MNL Misc MSF9234	7190 7474	Palaeolithic 4 hand-axes. Found in Main Street
MNL Misc MSF9235	7500 7500	Palaeolithic surface of a slightly rolled pointed hand-axe
WGN Misc MSF8020	7400 7800	Palaeolithic one slightly rolled ovate hand-axe
Mesolithic		
WGN Misc MSF8022	7400 7800	Mesolithic tranchet axe between 10 and 20cm long, marked Worlington
Neolithic		
BTM002	7105 7415	Neolithic stone axe greenish mottled colour
BTMMisc MSF232	7500 7500	Neolithic arrowhead; other arrowheads have been found
BTM Misc MSF233	7500 7500	Neolithic polished flint axe found 1881
MNL 499	7120 7425	Neolithic – Bronze Age flint scatter and one sherd of pottery. Found fieldwalking.
MNL Misc MSF 11454	7500 7500	Neolithic flaked axe, patinated white with pale bluish patches, with slightly widened blade. Wide Street, Beck Row.
MNL Misc MSF14305	7160 7466	Neolithic stone axe, petrologically examined group VII
MNL Misc MSF14680	7150 7450	Neolithic stone axe from Mildenhall petrologically assigned to group IX
WGN Misc MSF8023	7400 7800	Neolithic polished axes, arrowheads and many other implements
WGN Misc MSF8025	7400 7800	Neolithic curved flint sickle, ground on both edges near butt, Fox collection in Cambridge University Museum
Bronze Age		
BTM029	7111 7385	Metal detector finds of bronze tanged and lugged tool, probably chisel ended but blade broken
MNL Misc MSF12770	7500 7500	Bronze Age, bronze flanged axe from Hollywell Row in collection of Dr. H Fawcett
MNL Misc MSF14304	7160 7467	Bronze Age fragment of a Thames pestle type quartzite mace from Mildenhall
MNL Misc MSF9280	7500 7500	Bronze Age, bronze flanged or haft flanged axe, or possible palstave
MNL Misc MSF9302	7500 7500	Bronze Age hoard of four Arretton tradition flanged axes from Holywell Row.
WGN Misc	7400 7800	Bronze Age 'AB' beaker, possible from a cremation, 5 inches high,

MSF8024		found in gravel pit with burnt bones
Iron Age		
MNL 166	7145 7435	Iron Age button & loop fastener type object. Metal detected.
Roman		
BTM001	7125 7395	Roman Cremation burial and 6 vessels
BTM029	7110 7385	Unknown stray find. Roman. Metal detected.
BTMMisc MSF13380	7150 7385	Roman oval plate brooch, missing pin, fairly corroded.
MNL 135	7085 7455	Roman coin – Urbs Roma AD330-337
MNL 166	7145 7445	Roman pottery and other un-named finds
MNL Misc MSF10843	7500 7500	Roman coin hoard, including thirteen siliquae, dating from Constantius II (AD337-61) to Honorius (AD393-423) found at Mildenhall.
MNL Misc MSF9330	7500 7500	Roman pottery and trumpet shaped brooch ‘on surface of field near Wild Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk, which has already yielded a considerable quantity of Romano-British pot sherds’
WGn Misc MSF8026	7400 7800	Roman. Three cremation burial with samian ware found in Worlington parish
Saxon		
BTM009	7150 7450	Saxon inhumation burial
BTMMisc MSF236	7500 7500	Early Saxon gilded bronze roundel brooch
MNL061	7075 7435	Saxon iron socketed spearhead, 17 inches long. Some confusion over actual date - ‘about 150BC’
MNL Misc MSF13199	7500 7500	Saxon gilt bronze cloisonné disc brooch with 7 turquoise coloured lobes.
MNL Misc MSF15069	7500 7500	Saxon small-long brooch
MNL Misc MSF9335	7500 7500	Saxon ‘large iron spearhead found in river near Mildenhall Mill, perhaps 19 th or early 20 th century find’
MNL Misc MSF9490	7500 7500	Saxon globe headed silver pin with gilded head
Medieval		
MNL133	7106 7466	Market Cross. Medieval. Both scheduled monument and listed building.
MNL 181	7083 7449 MBR10mx10m	Medieval. Remains of dovecote
MNL 211	7102 7459 MBR10mx10m	Medieval. St. Mary’s Church now listed as part of CRN 00442 Also incorrectly known as St Andrew in Victorian times.
MNI Misc MSF9343	7500 7500	Medieval 15 th century comb found beneath staircase of an old house in Mildenhall
MNL Misc MSF9344	7095 7475	Medieval boy bishop token type 1C
MNL Misc MSF9989	7500 7500	Medieval lead cloth seal from Mildenhall/Beck Row area found with metal detector by Sean Merchant
Post-medieval		
BTM018	7090 7397	Post-medieval water mill or granary on River Lark,
MNL 329	7097 7476 MBR10mx10m	Post-medieval. Site of the Manor House
MNL 449	7143 7471	Post-medieval lime kiln situated within chalk pit now covered with former Victorian cemetery
MNL 455	7094 7435 MBR10mx10m	Post-medieval. Lark Mill. A mill is mentioned in the Domesday Survey at Mildenhall
MNL 456	7083 7425 MBR10mx10m	Post-medieval. Mildenhall Turf Lock; New Lock; River Lark.
MNL 457	7100 7424 MBR10mx10m	Mildenhall Gas Works Lock (Old Lock); Gaspool; River Lark. Post-medieval lock on Lark navigation.
MNL 552	7096 7429	Post-medieval. Two bridges (&causeway?), one crossing River

		Lark, the other the mill leat
MNL Misc MSF11323	7140 7425	Post-medieval. Mildenhall gas works, built pre 1850.
Undated		
MNL Misc MSF9350	7500 7500	Undated spearhead, camp candlestick and stone shot found near Eriswell Lode, Mildenhall
BTM011	7150 7450	Skeleton of woman found in digging sand in Mildenhall Station yard in 1935
MNL 500	7097 7465	Watching Brief revealed two undated it features
MNL 572	7081 7427	Undated. Cattle horn cores and other bones from bed of Mill stream – probably tanning waste.
MNL Misc MSF 12903	7139 7459	September 1991. Watching Brief following digging of footing for new football clubhouse located flint scraper made on earlier patinated struck flint.

APPENDIX 2 Cartographic Sources

Date	Title	Scale	Location
1812	Mildenhall Enclosure Map	-	SCRO
1834	Young's Map of Mildenhall Parish	-	SCRO
1859	Mildenhall Tithe Map	-	SCRO
1882	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Suffolk	1:2500	Website 3
1890	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Suffolk	1:10560	Website 3
1905	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Suffolk	1:10560	Website 3
1952	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map Suffolk	1:10560	Website 3
2004	Trial Hole Location Plan November 2004	1:500	Figure 3

APPENDIX 3 Mildenhall Tithe Award 1859

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot/Field Name	Land Use	Area (a.r.p)
14	Wotton Isaacson	Wotton Isaacson	Old Inclosure,, Meadow	Garden	1. .34
20	William Webb	William Webb	Old Inclosure,	Garden	.2.31
33	George Reynolds Wilde		Old Inclosure, Meadow	Pasture	1.1.24
328	Sarah Morley	Henry Tyler	Old Inclosure, (O Hages)	Arable	1.1.14
2541	Elizabeth Windett	John Morley	Old Inclosure,	House and Garden	_.2.27
2545	Richard Butcher	Richard Butcher	Grotto	Garden	_.2.10
2785	Francis Large	Manning	Old Inclosure, (O Hages)	Garden	_.2.8
2867	Ebenezer Harlock	Elizabeth Fairchild	Old Inclosure, Ship Inn	Inn	_. .31
2868	Ebenezer Harlock	Elizabeth Fairchild	Old Inclosure,	Yard	_. .23
2869	Ebenezer Harlock	Elizabeth Fairchild	Old Inclosure,	Garden	_.3.1
2870	Ebenezer Harlock	Elizabeth Fairchild	Old Inclosure, Meadow	Pasture	1. .34
2871	Ebenezer Harlock	Elizabeth Fairchild	Old Inclosure, Wharf	Wharf	_. .12

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1 Eastern boundary of site and area of former hardstanding. From S.



DP2 Sub-station wall, with river channel behind. From NE



DP3 Parkers Mill on eastern site boundary, partially obscured by mounds of waste. From NW



DP4 Listed gazebo in Mill House garden. From N



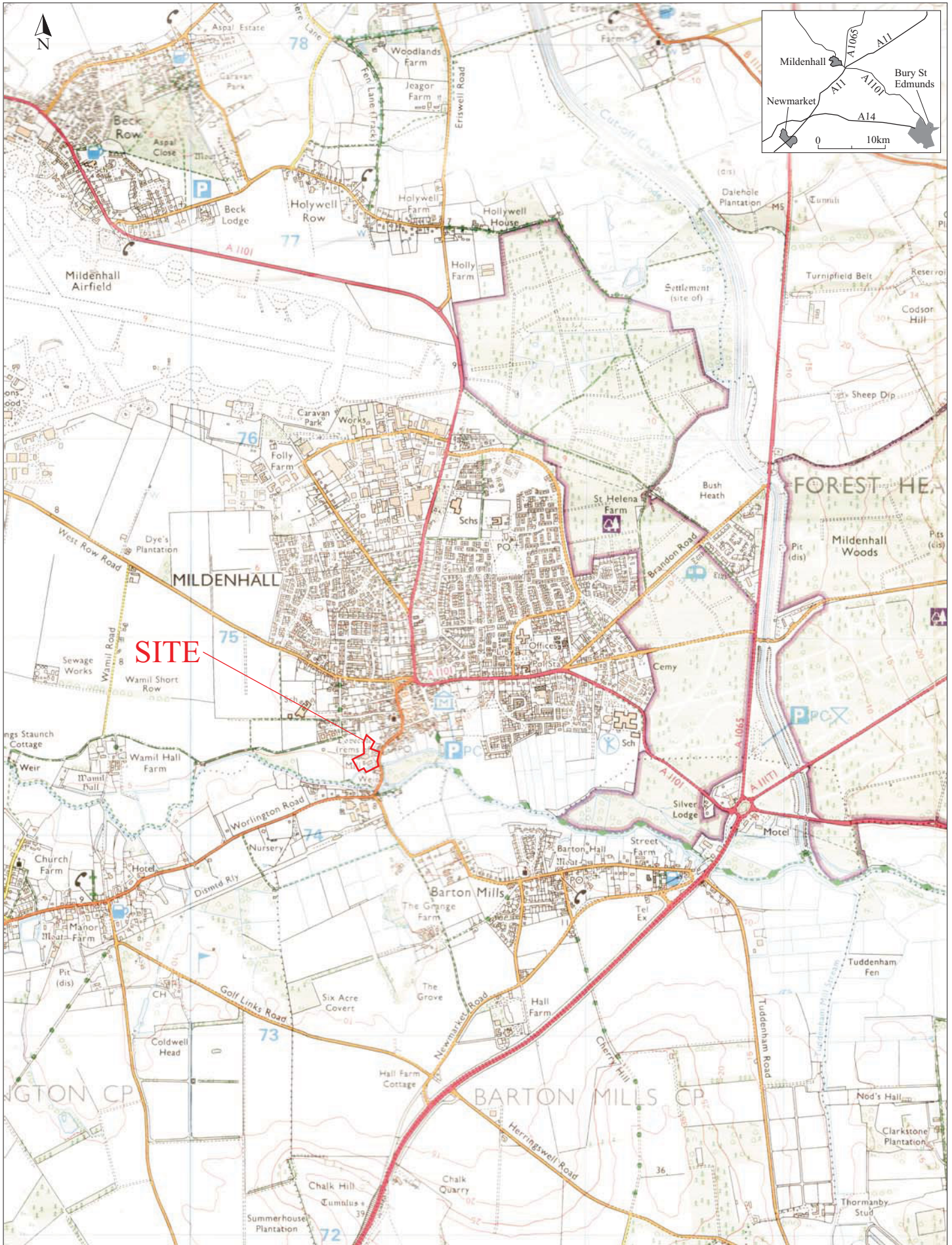
DP5 Current site entrance. From W.



DP6 North-west part of site, overgrown. From S.

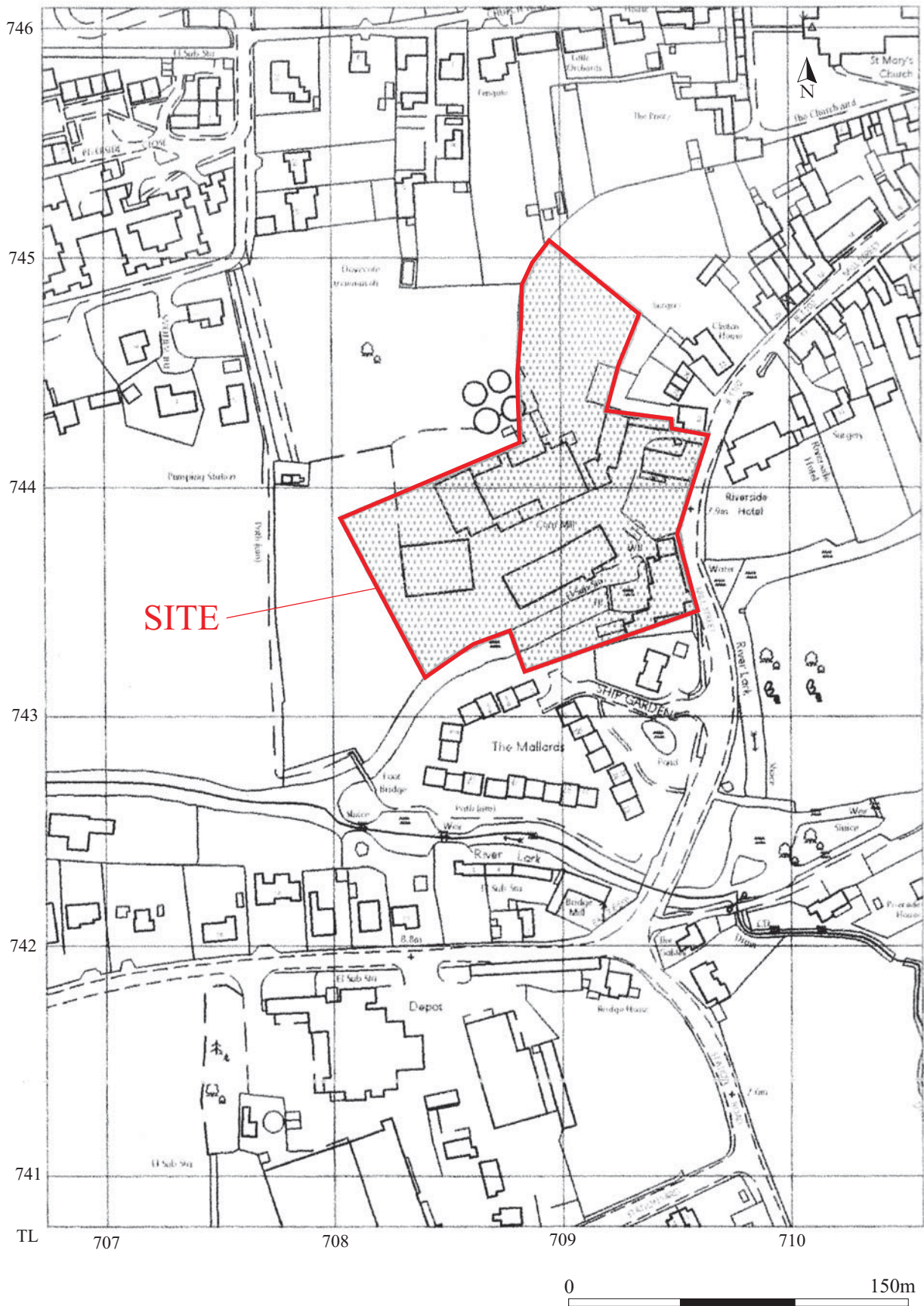


DP 7 General shot of site showing recent demolition. From W.



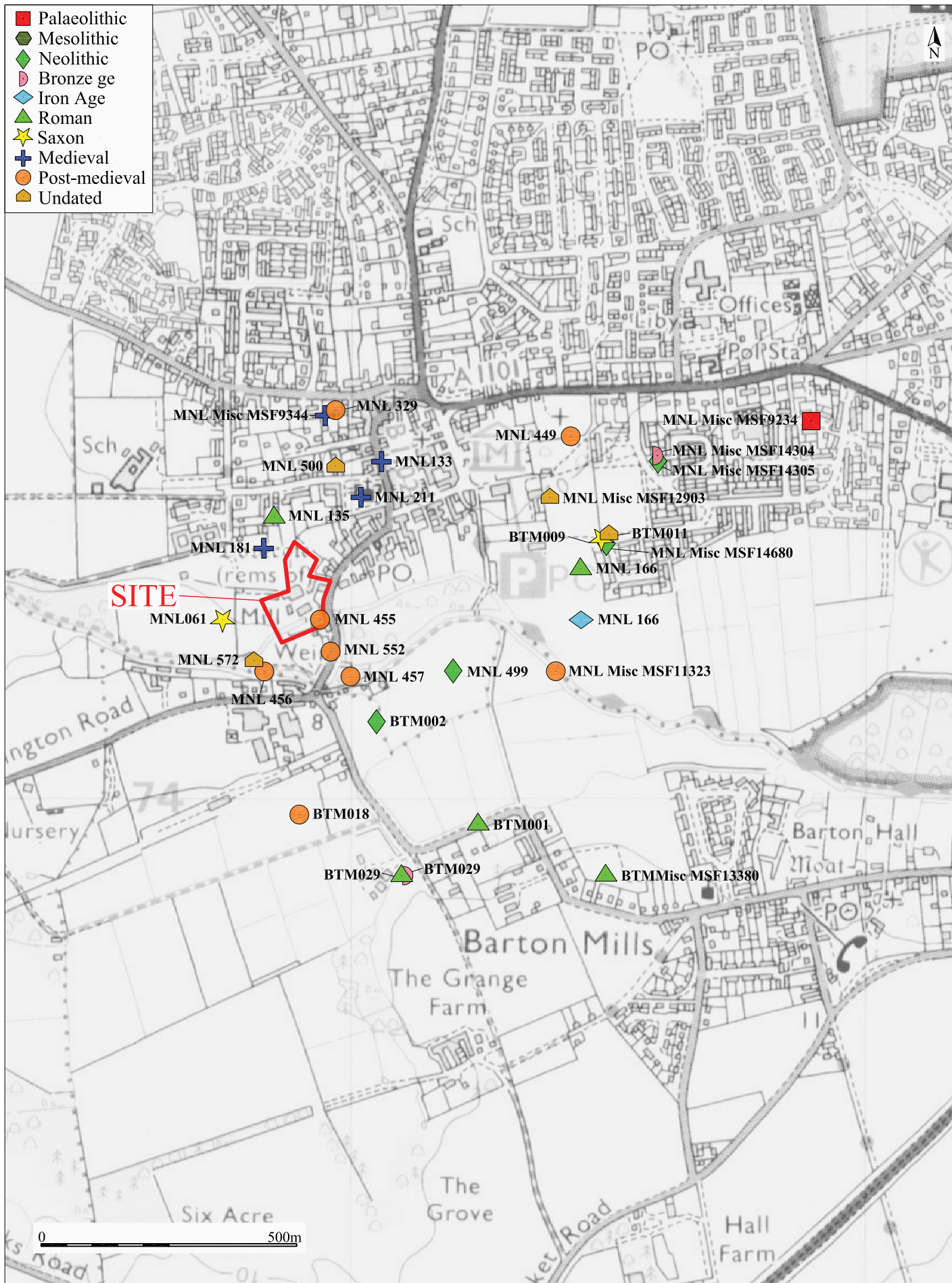
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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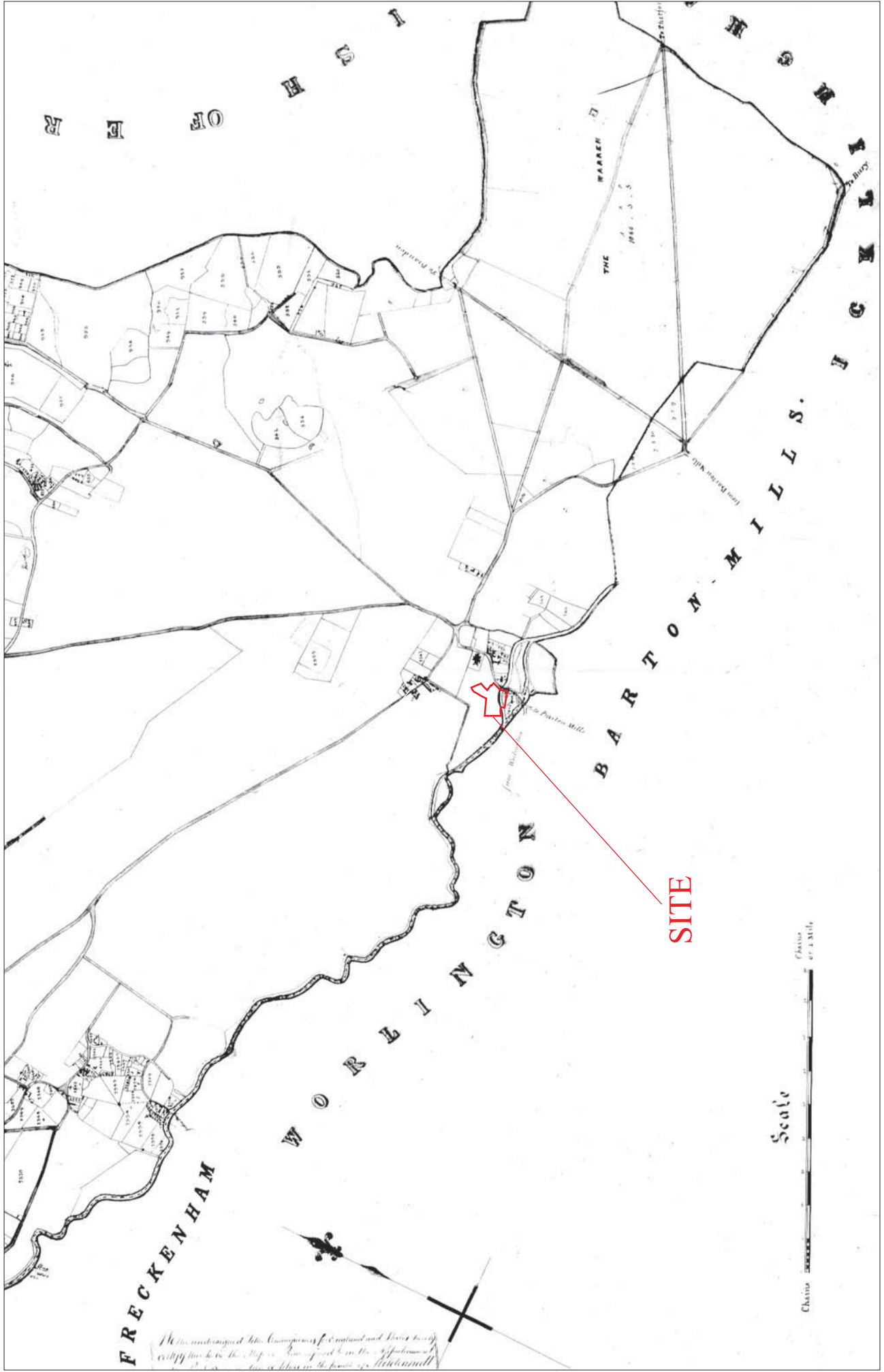
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 SMR Data
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Mildenhall enclosure map, 1812
Not to scale



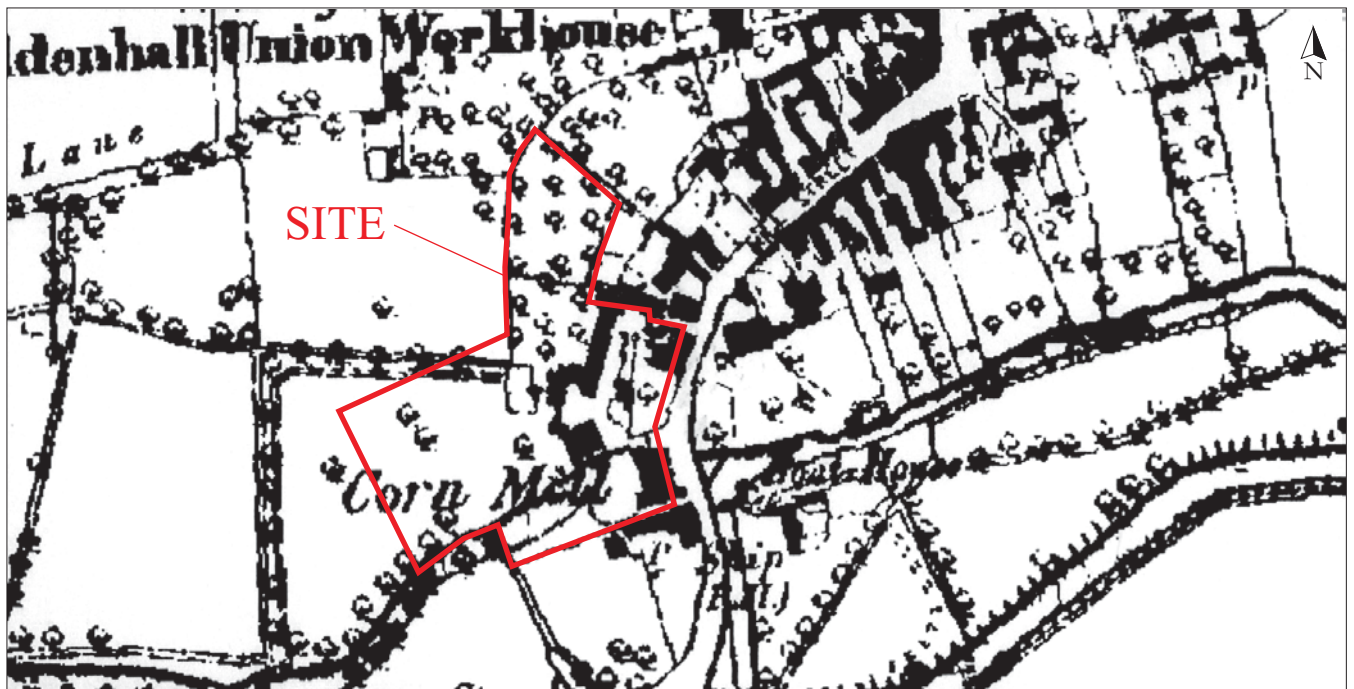
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Young's map of Mildenhall parish, 1834
Not to scale



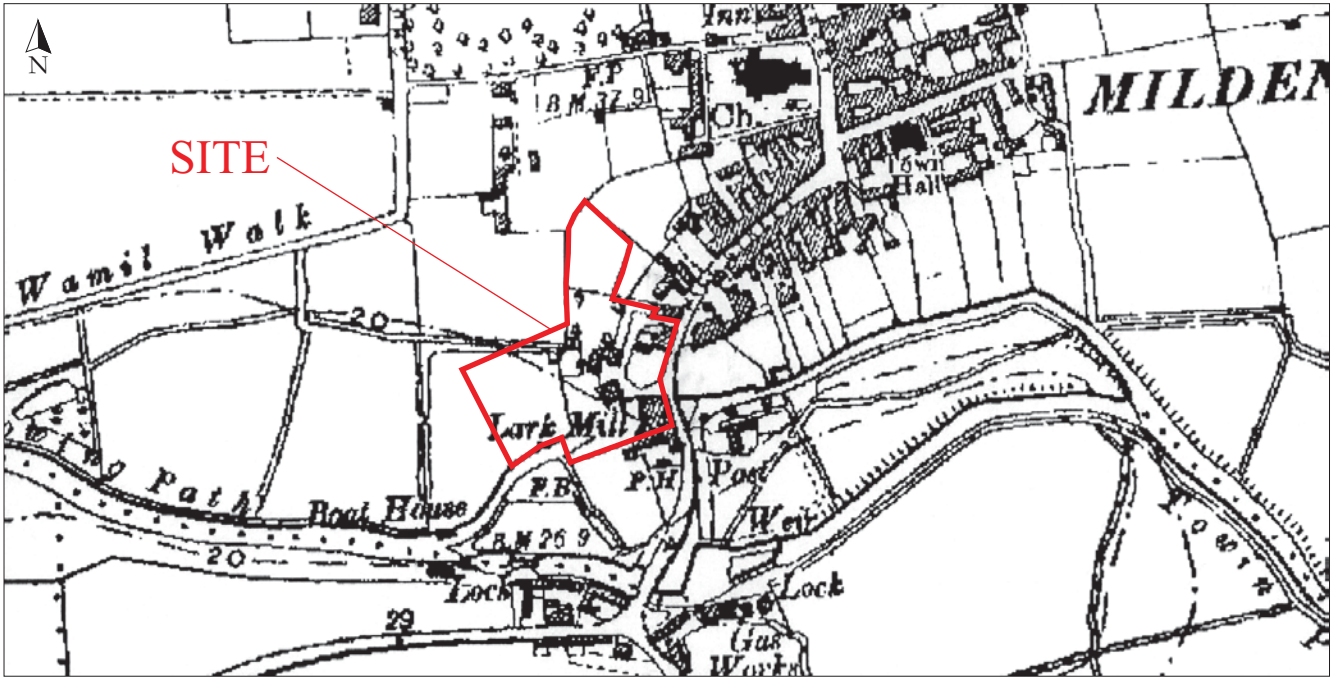
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 6 Mildenhall tithe map, 1859

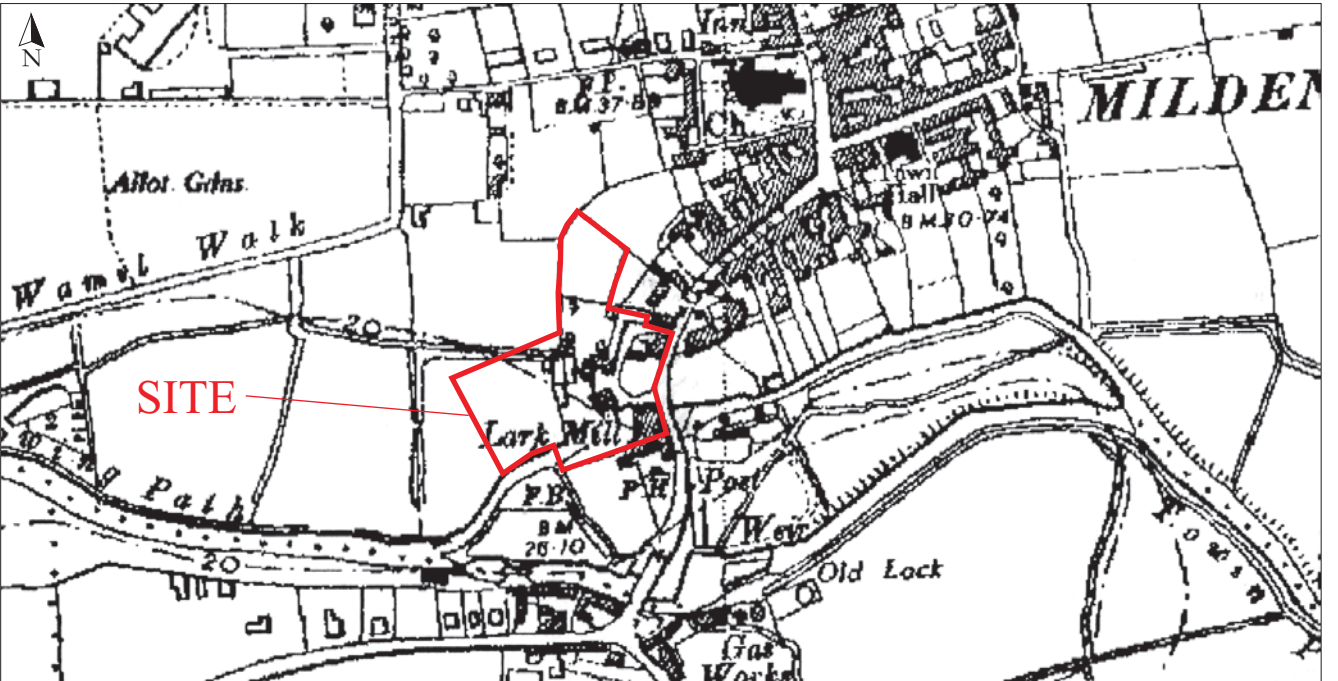
Scale as shown



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 OS map, 1890
Not to scale



OS 1905



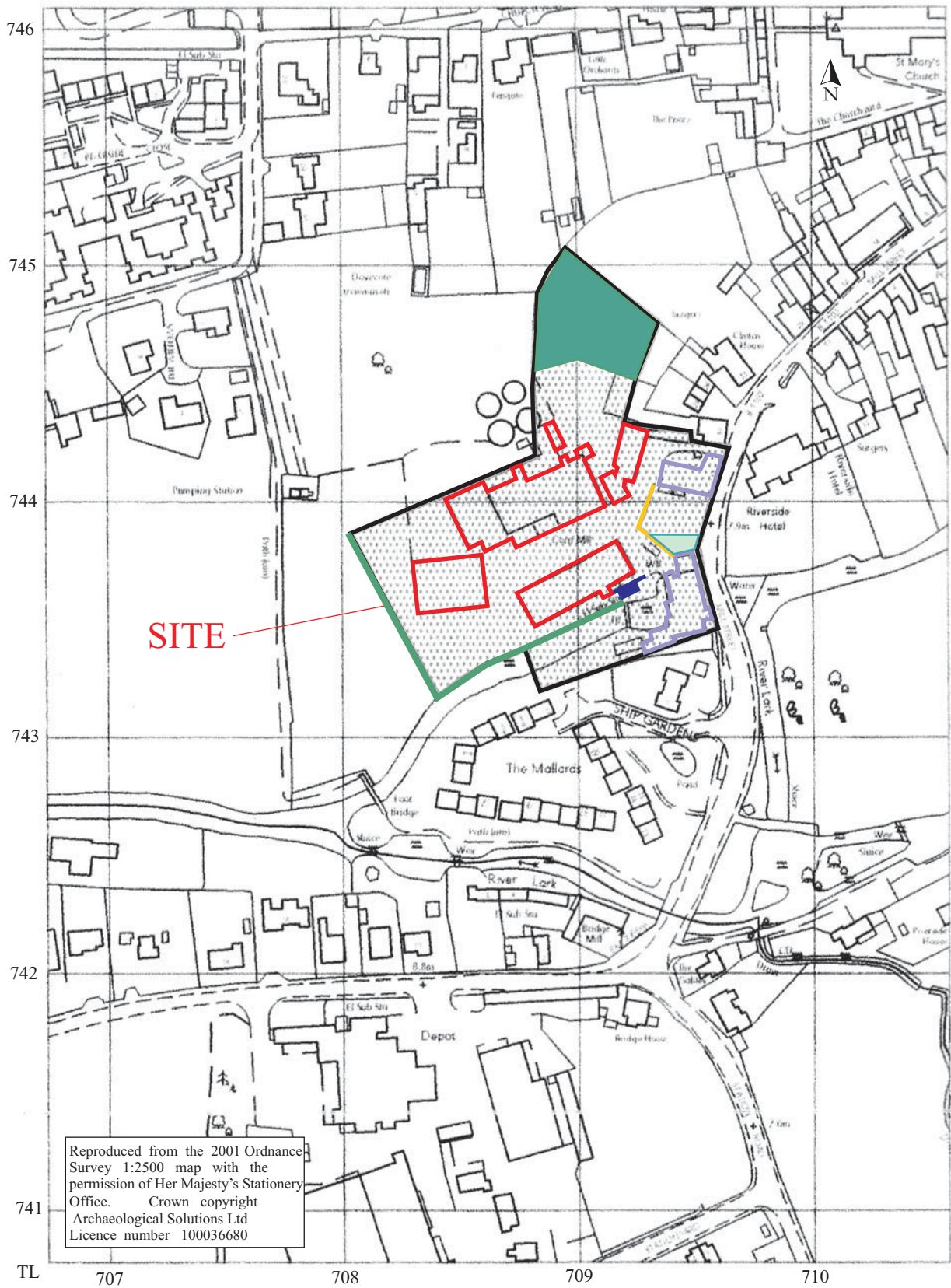
OS 1952

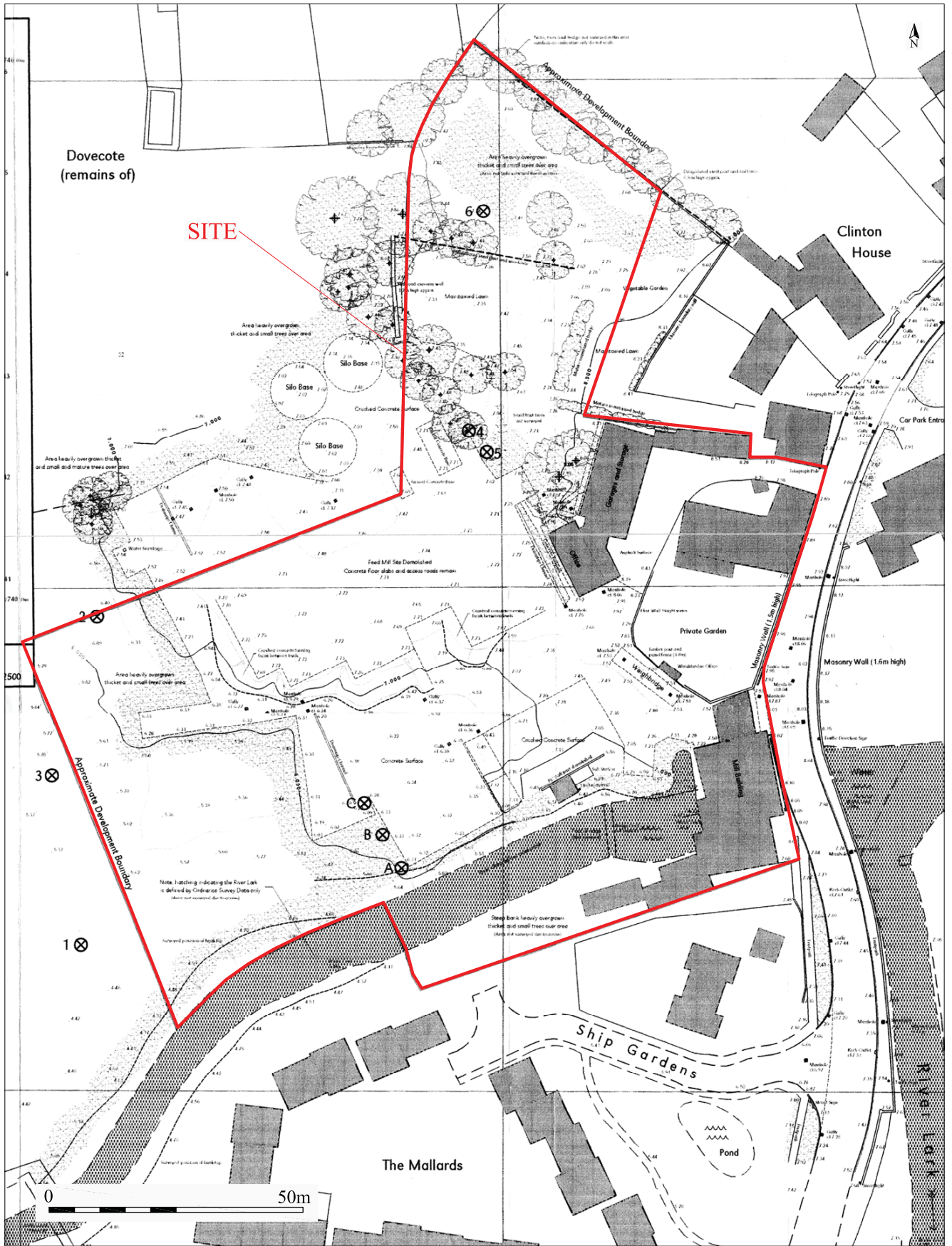
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Fig. 8 OS maps, 1905 and 1952
Not to scale



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Fig. 9 The Parker Brothers' Mill after the fire
of 21st August 1921





⊗ Trial hole location

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 11 Site survey
 Scale 1:750 at A3

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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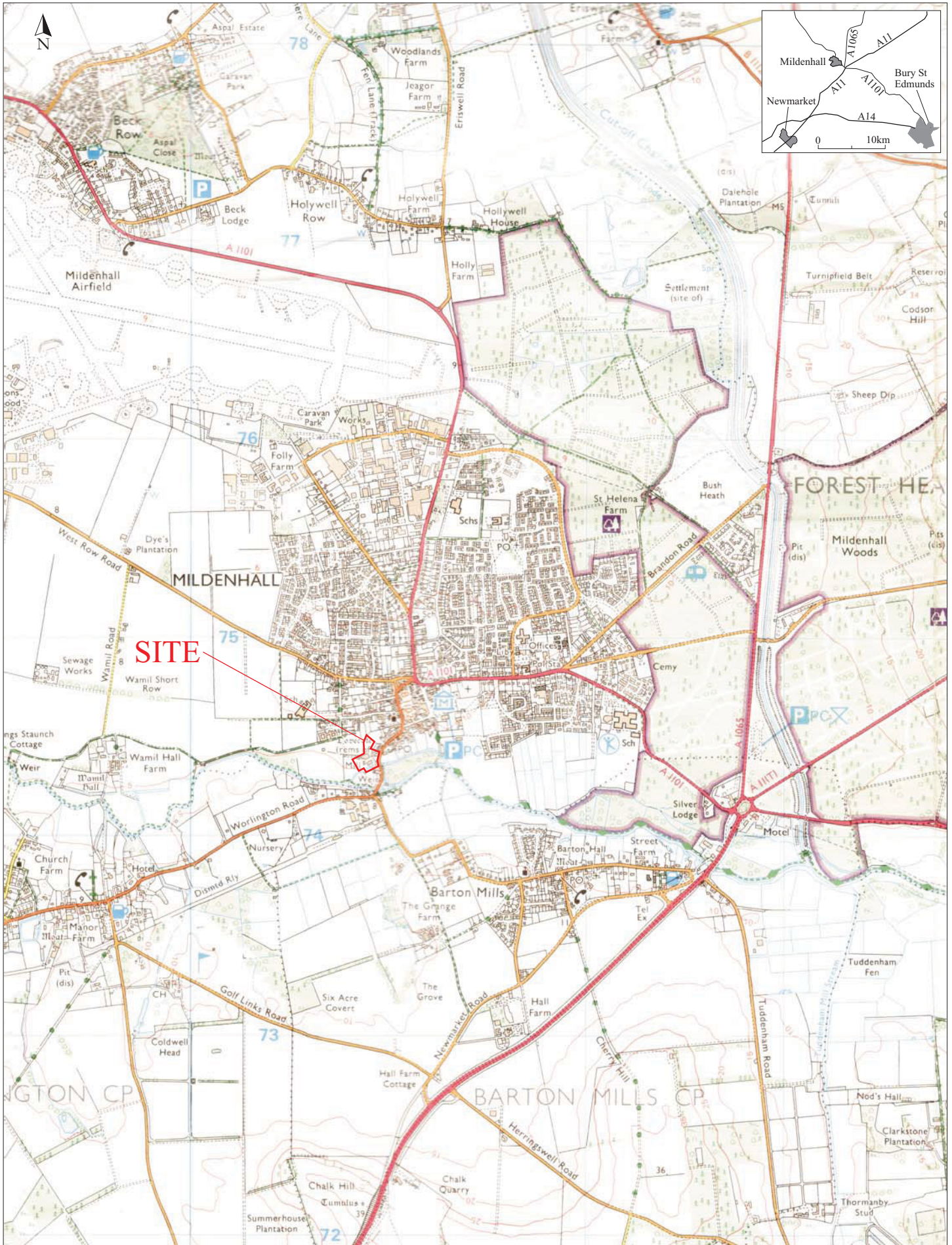
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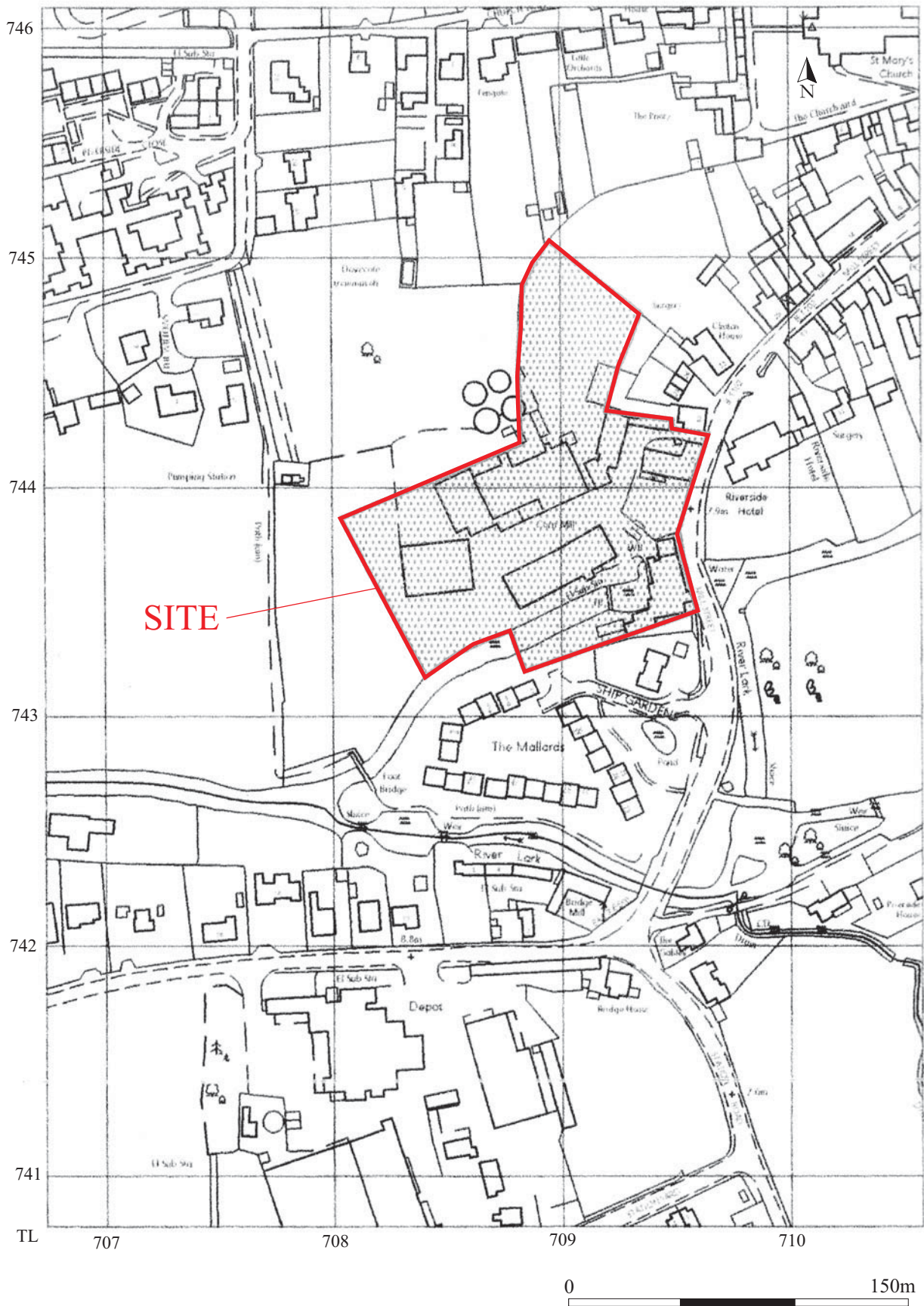


DP 7 General shot of site showing recent demolition. From W.



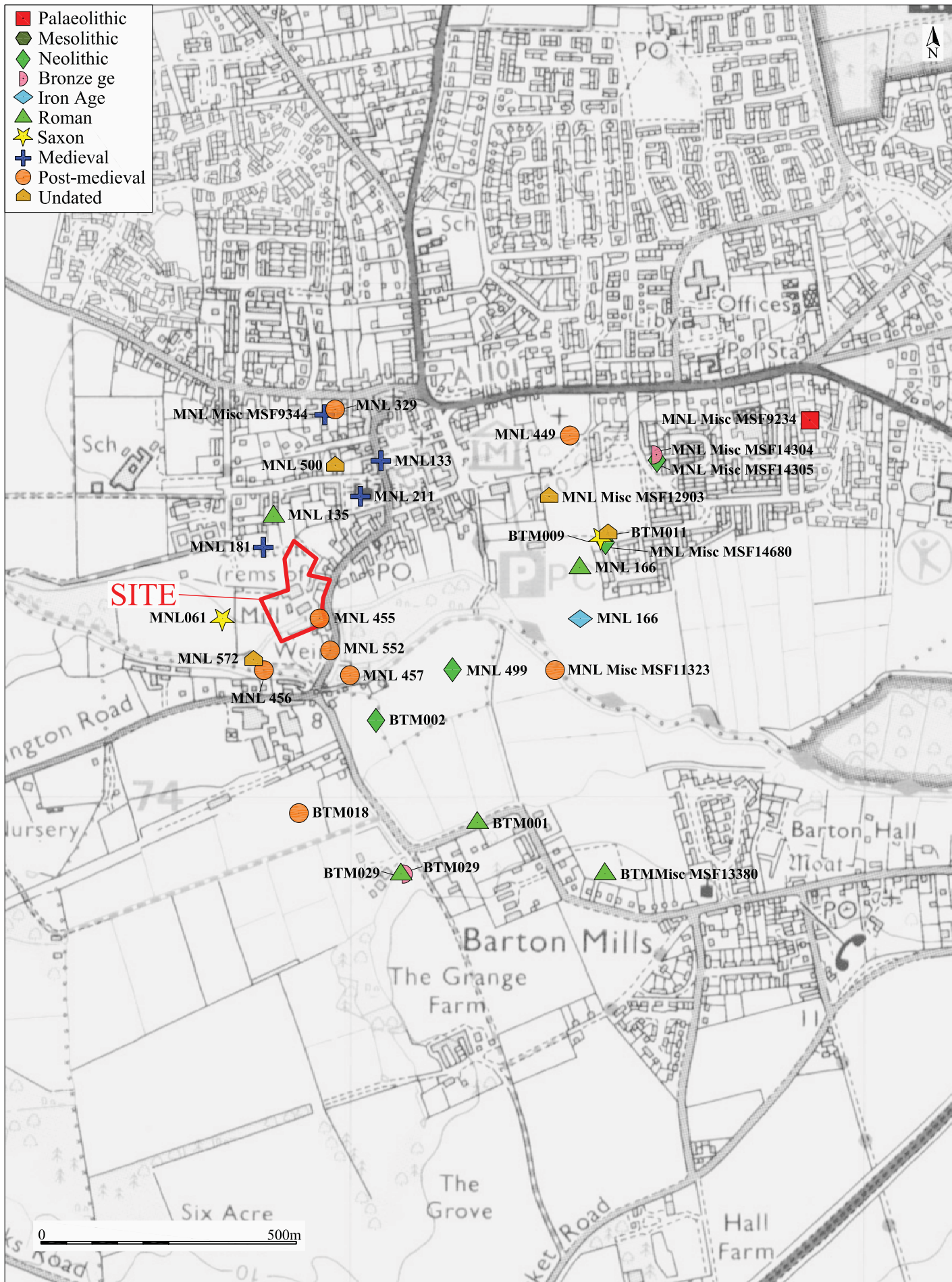
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 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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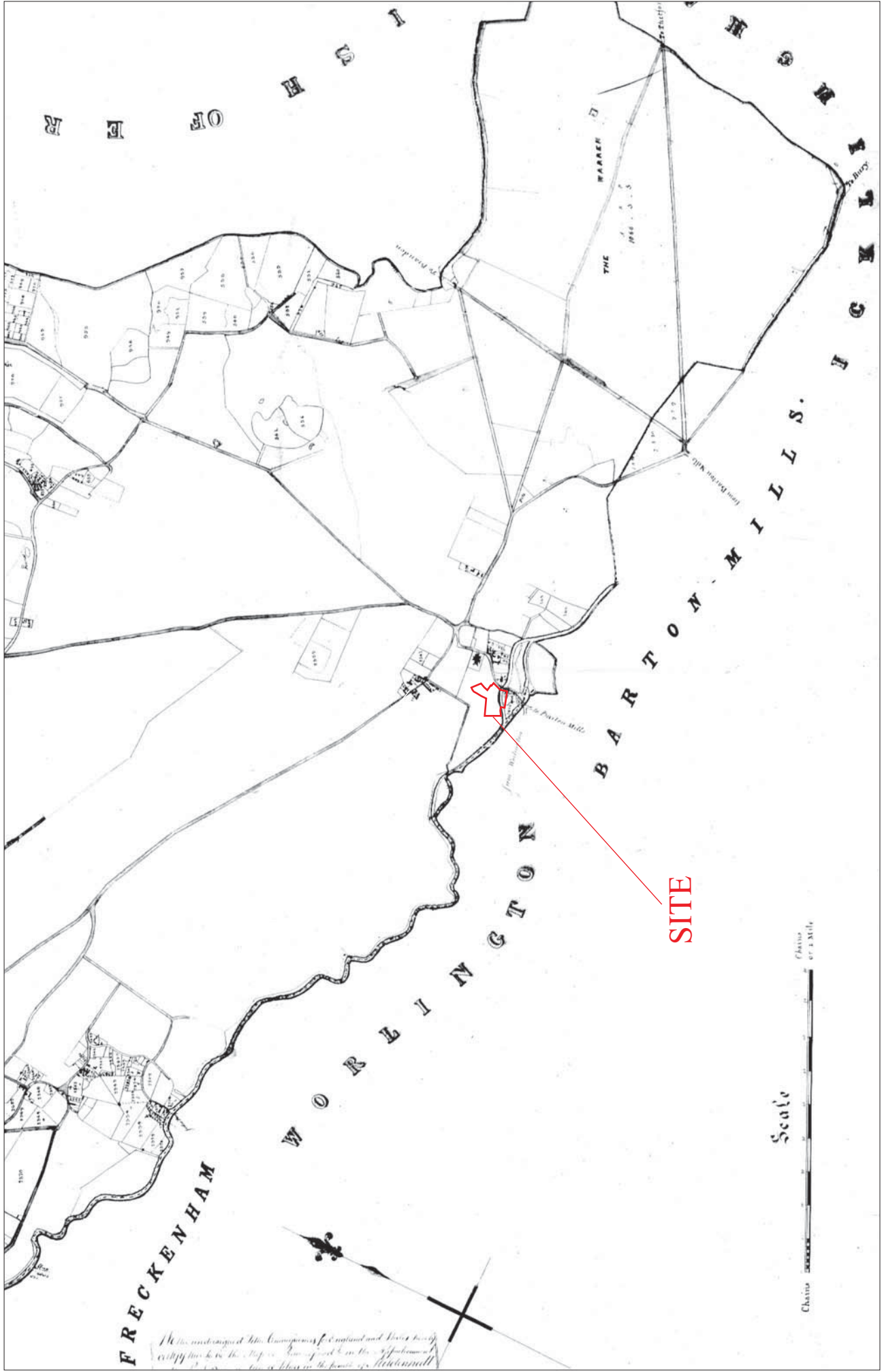
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 SMR Data
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Mildenhall enclosure map, 1812
Not to scale



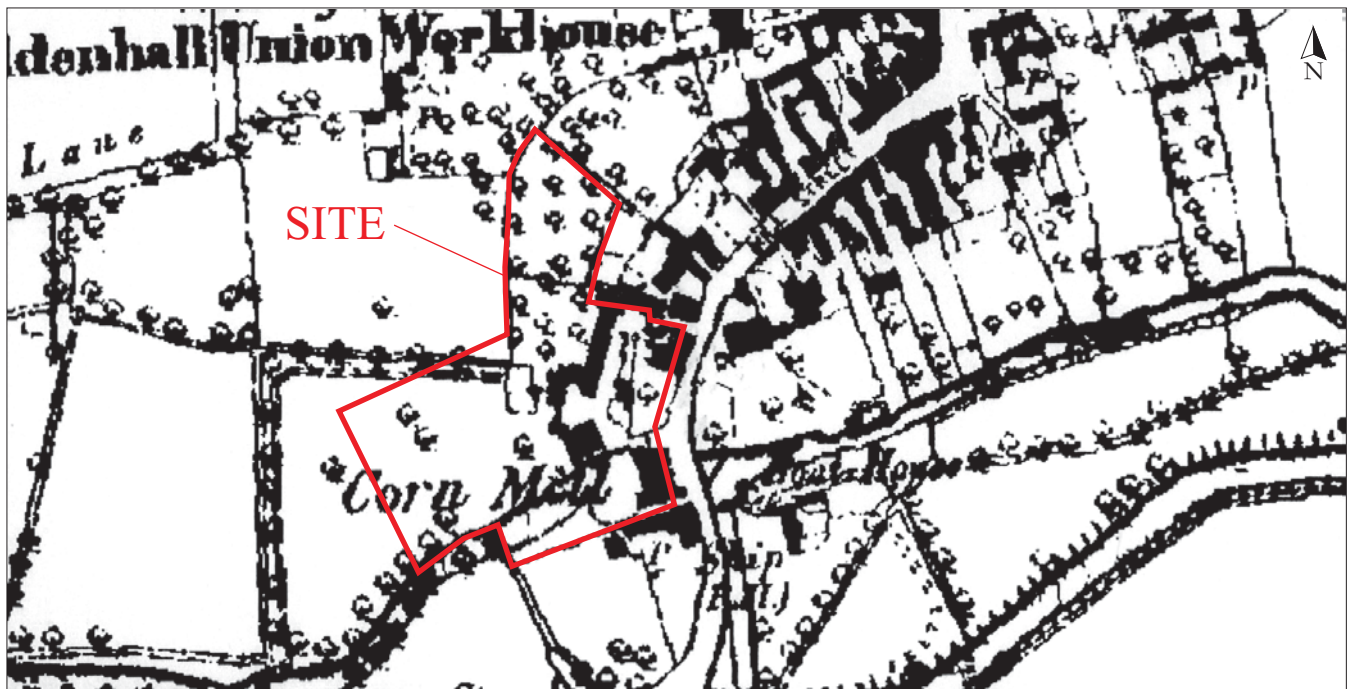
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Young's map of Mildenhall parish, 1834
Not to scale



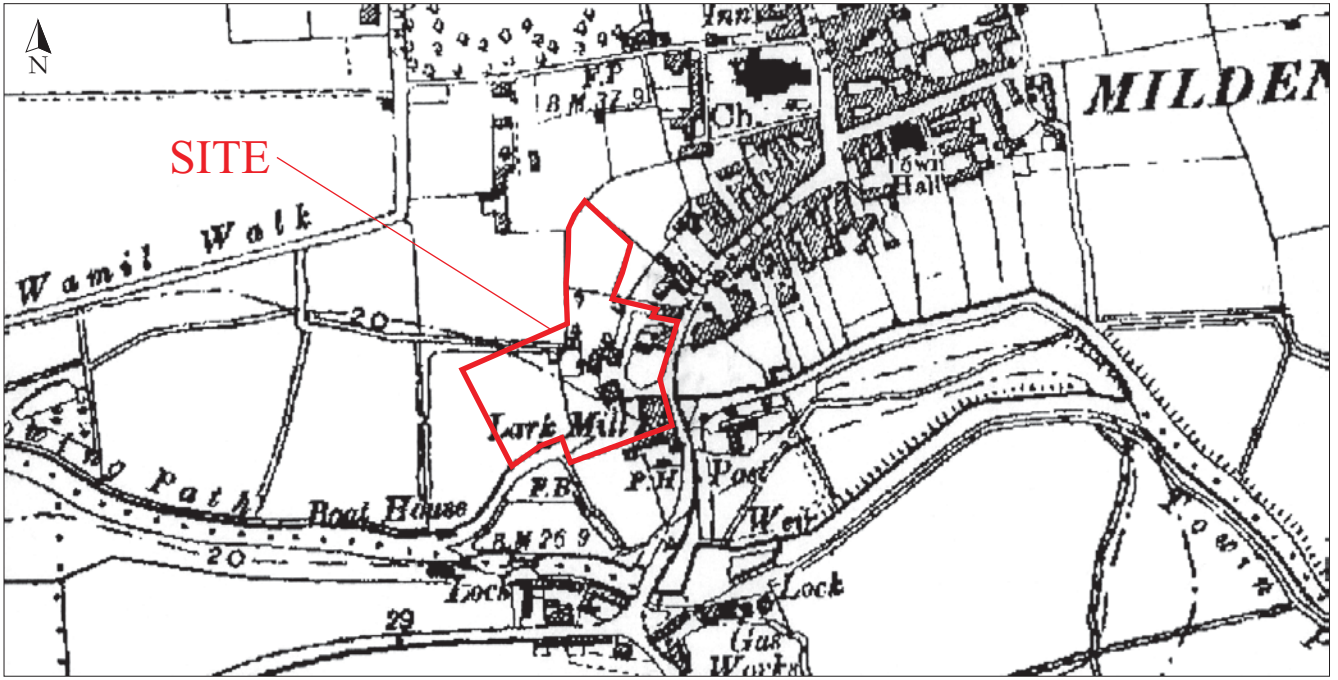
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Fig. 6 Mildenhall tithe map, 1859

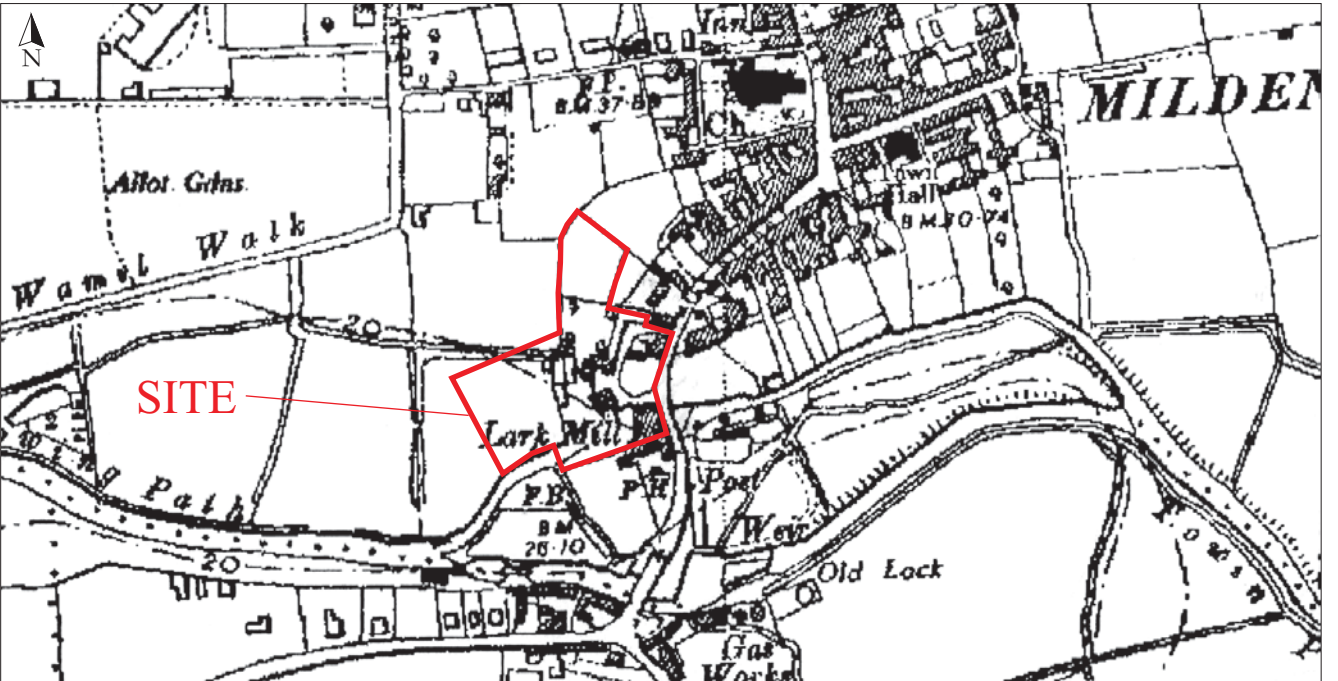
Scale as shown



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 OS map, 1890
Not to scale



OS 1905



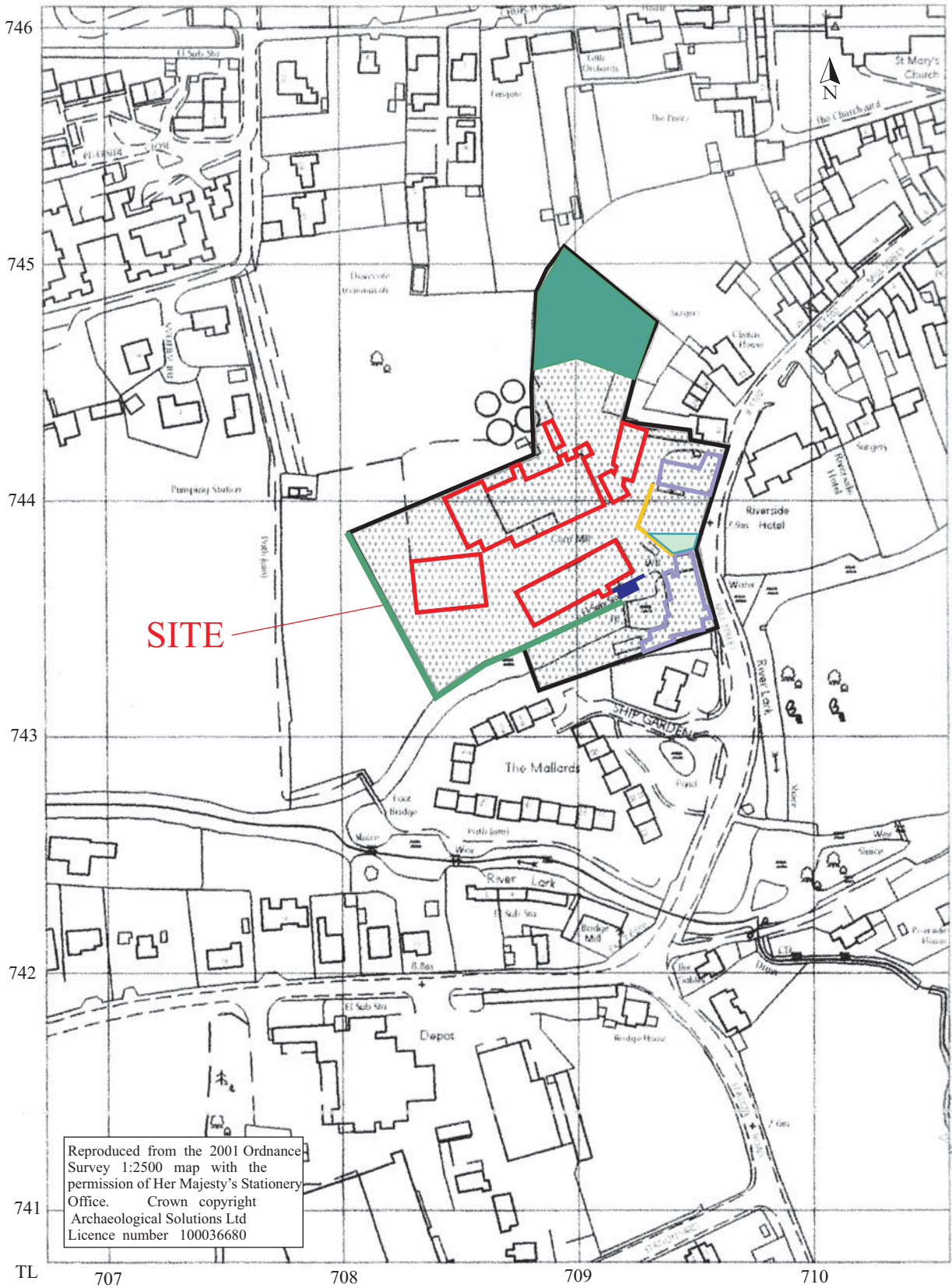
OS 1952

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Fig. 8 OS maps, 1905 and 1952
Not to scale



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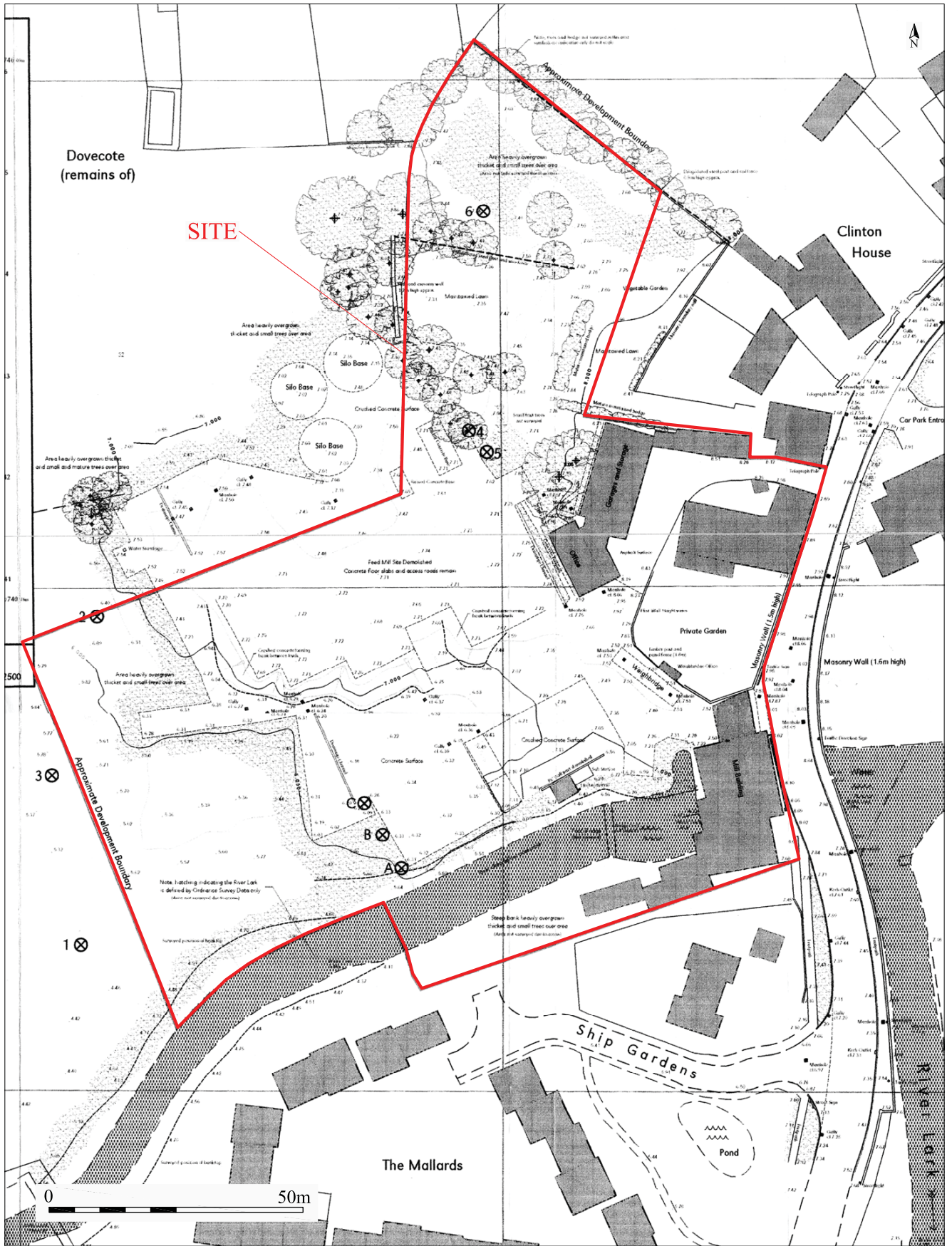


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- Recently demolished structures
- Flint wall
- Boundary vegetation (trees and shrubs)
- Buildings being retained after development
- Sub-station and wall
- Overgrown garden
- Portion of Mill House garden to be developed into a new entrance

0 150m

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Fig. 10 Current site land use
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



⊗ Trial hole location

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Fig. 11 Site survey
 Scale 1:750 at A3

