

**SEALAWN CATTERY, 126 HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL,
BEDFORDSHIRE MK45 4BL**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Vinnie Monahan (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 0935 3809	Report No: 5731
Unitary Authority: Central Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS1969
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7034
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Project details			
Project name	Sea Lawn Cattery, 126 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BL		
<p><i>In December 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Sealawn Cattery, 126 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BL (NGR TL 0935 3809; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of planning condition (3) attached to outline approval for the residential development of land (CBC Planning Reference CB/17/01623/OUT). The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed peat and evidence of wet ground conditions. Peat deposit L1002, which was concentrated in the southern end of the site, and the underlying alluvial clays are likely to have formed in marshy conditions in the floodplain close to the River Flit prior to the historic drainage of the area. Historically, the former course of the river and a subsidiary channel can be seen running through this part of the site on the 1716 Clophill and Cainhoe Estate map (Fig. 5) and the 1828 Enclosure map (Fig. 6). The Enclosure map (Fig. 6) shows that the river has been diverted by this time, leaving the former course as a subsidiary channel. The channels through the site are subsequently absent on the 1883 OS map (Fig. 7), although traces remain to the west, most likely as part of the land drainage system. Geotechnical investigations on the site have identified peat deposits at greater depth overlying the terrace gravels, which may represent earlier periods of peat formation or the fills of the above former channels.</i></p> <p><i>Features were present in Trenches 2 and 3, and they comprised post holes and ditches. The features were undated or of post-medieval and modern date. The lack of earlier features will be related to the site's wet ground conditions.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	December 2018		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7034	Site code	AS 1969
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Former cattery		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Post holes. Ditches		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
	Bedfordshire	Central Beds	Clophill
HER/ SMR for area	Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	MK45 4BL		
Area of site	0.85ha		
NGR	TL 0935 3809		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.50m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC).		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Firstland Developments Limited		
Full title	An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Monahan, V.		
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Date (of report)	December 2018; revised March 2019)		

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SUMMARY

In December 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Sealawn Cattery, 126 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BL (NGR TL 0935 3809; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of planning condition (3) attached to outline approval for the residential development of land (CBC Planning Reference CB/17/01623/OUT). The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC).

The evaluation revealed peat and evidence of wet ground conditions. Peat deposit L1002, which was concentrated in the southern end of the site, and the underlying alluvial clays are likely to have formed in marshy conditions in the floodplain close to the River Flit prior to the historic drainage of the area. Historically, the former course of the river and a subsidiary channel can be seen running through this part of the site on the 1716 Clophill and Cainhoe Estate map (Fig. 5) and the 1828 Enclosure map (Fig. 6). The Enclosure map (Fig. 6) shows that the river has been diverted by this time, leaving the former course as a subsidiary channel. The channels through the site are subsequently absent on the 1883 OS map (Fig. 7), although traces remain to the west, most likely as part of the land drainage system. Geotechnical investigations on the site have identified peat deposits at greater depth overlying the terrace gravels, which may represent earlier periods of peat formation or the fills of the above former channels.

Features were present in Trenches 2 and 3, and they comprised post holes and ditches. The features were undated or of post-medieval and modern date. The lack of earlier features will be related to the site's wet ground conditions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the former Sealawn Cattery, 126 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4BL (NGR TL 0935 3809; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of planning condition (3) attached to outline approval for the residential development of land (CBC Planning Reference CB/17/01623/OUT). The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by CBC (*Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication, Sealawn Cattery, 126 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire*, dated 1st November 2017), , and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 18th December 2017) and approved by CBC Archaeology Team. It followed the

procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies on the eastern edge of Clophill and just beyond the eastern extent of Clophill's Conservation Area. It also lies along the southern frontage of the High Street and to the rear and immediate south of No. 126, 126a, 128, 130 & 132 High Street, which are all residential dwellings.

2.2 The site comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 0.85 hectares. It was in use as Sealawn Cattery and was occupied by a large number of small buildings associated with the cattery. The majority of structures comprised pens with concrete bases, while a stable block and range of sheds were present in the site's western section. The structures were cleared prior to the evaluation taking place. The site also contains a large pond and a number of established trees.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Clophill is situated upon the lower slopes of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, which comprises a sandstone escarpment located to the north of the Chiltern Hills and south of the valley of the river Great Ouse. The ridge is an area of gently rolling hills and small valleys, and is heavily wooded in parts. Clophill also lies just above the valley of the River Flit, which flows roughly west to eastwards c. 200m to the south of the site. Small watercourses or drains lie along the southern sections of the site's western and eastern boundaries, and drain into the River Flit, whilst the site itself incorporates a large pond, with further disused quarry pits to the south. The site lies at c.48m AOD and the surrounding relief sloping slightly southwards.

3.2 The site lies on bedrock geology of Woburn Sands Formation of the Lower Greensand Group, which is sandstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 100 - 125 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2016). It is overlain by a drift geology of silts, sands and gravels, specifically undifferentiated Head deposits, associated with the River Flit (*ibid.*). The valley of the River Flit to the south also contains alluvial and river terrace deposits. The soils of the Clophill area comprise those of the Frilford Association, which are described as deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils, some ferruginous soils and some coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (CBHER), held at the Central Bedfordshire County Council offices in Shefford, has been consulted to supplement the historical and archaeological narrative for the written scheme of investigation (HER Search Ref. 201718/222). Significant entries within an approximate 500m radius are discussed below.

4.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment & heritage statement was prepared by AS in support of the planning application for the proposed development (Higgs & Newton 2017). In summary:

4.3 Whilst the fertile floodplains of watercourses such as the River Flit would have been subject to the earliest exploitation and occupation, it is known from elsewhere along the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge that the uplands were occupied from probably the Mesolithic, and certainly the Bronze Age, onwards. Prehistoric activity in the wider Clophill area is attested only by undated cropmarks located to the south-east of Pedley Wood, which lies 1.5km to the north-north-east and may represent a late prehistoric rectangular enclosure. The only known prehistoric findspot recorded in the area immediately surrounding the site comprises the Mesolithic struck flint recovered during the archaeological evaluation and excavation at No. 122a High Street, which lies to the immediate west of the site (HER 19613; Barlow & Peachey 2012). The struck flint was found at the interface of the subsoil (L1001) and natural (L1002), and represents a homogenous group dating to the earlier Mesolithic period. It is suggested that the spread of struck flint represents a localised area of earlier Mesolithic activity. Other Mesolithic finds in the area surrounding Clophill derive from

Beadlow c. 1.8km to the east, which was a possible Mesolithic working floor (CBHER2595) that produced a similar assemblage.

4.4 There is little evidence for Romano-British occupation in the vicinity of the site. Roman activity was likely focussed on the Roman villa and cemetery at Shefford 5.5km to the east (HER 379) or the settlement recorded at Ruxox Farm at Maulden 4.2km to the west (HER 918). Furthermore, the nationally significant 'Haynes Hoard' was discovered 4km to the north-north-east by metal detecting in 1998 (HER 748). It comprised a large hoard of silver coins, mainly 4th century in date, found alongside three silver spoons, two gold rings, three silver rings, three silver ring fragments and two fragments of a silver necklace clasp.

4.5 In addition to the A6, the Viatores have suggested that Clophill lies along an east to west aligned Roman road running from Woburn to Dunton (HER 5342). There is a small section in Woburn Park, which may possibly have Roman origins, but there is almost no evidence along the rest of this route of a Roman road having existed along this trajectory. Although the road must therefore remain speculative, there have been small finds of Roman material in Clophill, comprising a 4th century radiate coin (HER 3650), pottery of late Iron Age to Roman date (HER 14643), and pottery and building materials (HER 2770).

4.6 No Anglo-Saxon finds are recorded in the vicinity of the site, but place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Clophill, which is judged to derive from '*tree stump hill*'. The possibility of Saxon settlement at Clophill is attested by the discovery of a small Anglo-Saxon bronze brooch, which has been dated to the late 6th century, found on the allotments towards the western extent of the village (HER 15969).

4.7 The site is located at the eastern extent of the historic medieval core of Clophill, which is a linear settlement located along both sides of the High Street (HER 16998). The northern section of the site, comprising its northern extension and a small section of the site's main plot, lies within the designated medieval core, and thus has the potential to reveal medieval or post-medieval remains associated with its road-side location. Domesday Book confirms the existence of Clophill by the 11th century, when the manor was held by Nigel de Albini, without a tenant, and consisted of five hides (Page 1908). It contained five villagers, five smallholders and a slave, suggesting a population of approximately 50 people.

4.8 Although the medieval core of Clophill was focused on the High Street, the scheduled St Mary's Church stands distant from the present village and 800m to the north of the site (HER 2476; NHLE 1005392). The tower and aisle-less nave of the late medieval church are constructed of ironstone, with Totternhoe clunch dressings. The chancel arch is now represented by an 18th century wall with brick window surround. It has been suggested that the original late Saxon settlement at Clophill lay in this area (HER 9145). In common with much of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, the medieval landscape of the wider Clophill area was dominated by woodland such as Pedley Wood (HER 9142), Maulden Wood (HER 13232), Warren Wood (HER 13235) and Cainhoepark Wood (HER 13179), which are designated ancient woodlands.

4.9 A second scheduled ancient monument, Cainhoe Castle, is 900m to the south-south-east of the site (HER 225; NHLE 1009248). It comprises a motte and bailey castle and associated moated site with fishponds and part of a field system situated on the southern side of the valley of the River Flit. The castle was the head of a Bedfordshire barony known as that of d'Aubigny (*de Albinaco*) of Cainhoe and represented the Domesday fief of Nigel de Albini.

4.10 The post-medieval and early modern history of Clophill is relatively unexplored, but cartographic evidence attests to its linear settlement form with extensive roadside dwellings. The parish was never subject to tithes and the manor of Clophill was held of the honour or barony of Cainhoe until the reign of Henry VIII, when it was annexed to the manor of Ampthill and granted out by the king (Page 1908). Linear earthworks and cropmarks are recorded to the north-west and north-east of Cainhoe Castle (HER 14642). To the west of the Sealawn Cattery site, a number of pits and ditches representing medieval and post-medieval settlement activity have been recorded at 118B High Street (Albion Archaeology 2016). Some fit with the pattern of watercourses shown on historic maps and can probably be explained as post-medieval drains and field boundaries, yet the *Victoria County History* suggests that the castle was used for military purposes during the Civil War.

4.11 There is extensive evidence for post-medieval extraction in the vicinity of the site, including the site of a disused post-medieval extraction pit recorded on historic maps of 1716 and 1719 near Jacques Lane and 300m to the south-east of the site (HER 9137). Small scale late post-medieval to modern sand extraction in a large cut was also recorded during an evaluation adjacent to Castle Hill Court and 300m to the east (HER 20435; King 2012). Further post-medieval and modern ditches, pits, a gully and a post hole were encountered during an evaluation on land at 122a High Street, which lies to the immediate west of the site (HER 20435; Barlow & Peachey 2012).

4.12 The post-medieval period is represented in Clophill by a significant number of findspots, which attest to the overwhelmingly residential character of the village. Surviving post-medieval buildings include Nos. 85 (HER 3718), 87, 97 (Grade II listed), 108a (HER 10548), 110, 110a 110b (HER 3720; Grade II listed), and 122 High Street (HER 13107), as well as Journey's End on Old Church Path (HER 10549) and Nos. 1 & 2 Church Mews (HER 12787). To the immediate north-west of the site also stands the Grade II listed No. 124 High Street, which is an 18th century timber framed house (HERs 13105 & DBD6479). A post-medieval house formerly stood to the north of the Rectory, but has since been demolished (HER 3719), whilst a post-medieval pest house once stood to the south of the village where individuals with infectious diseases were placed (HER 9153).

4.13 A large number of extant, early modern residential dwellings are also recorded in the vicinity of the site, including the Grade II listed St Mary's parish church, which was built on the High Street between 1847 - 49 and restored in 1879 (HERs 3721 & DBD2986). The Grade II listed Nos. 11 and 13 Little Lane are a late 18th century pair of timber framed cottages located further westwards (HER DBD2995), whilst No. 3 Great Lane is an 18th - early 19th century house, deemed of local interest (HER 13108). A former public house known as The Compasses formerly on the High Street (HER 3717), which additional early modern buildings of

noted lost to Clophill include the 1871 Clophill School and 19th century reading room (HERs 7452 & 9152).

4.14 The parish and village of Clophill have been subject to only small-scale development in the 20th century, with much of the village forming part of the wider Wrest Park estate until its dispersal at auction in 1919. The modern period is represented by the former Clophill Waterworks on Shefford Road, which was built in 1906 and pumped water from boreholes with electric pumps installed in 1950 (HER 13890). A Grade II listed World War I War Memorial, later also dedicated to the fallen of World War II, stands 250m to the west of the site (HERs 18202 & DBD3106).

4.15 Very little is known about the history of the site and no documents concerning the site or the residential dwelling of No. 126 High Street, which stands to the immediate north, could be found in the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS). Furthermore, the former occupants of No. 126 High Street could not be ascertained from historic census data, as the house numbers along the High Street were not provided. Historic cartographic evidence indicate that a narrow range of outbuildings or stables, presumably associated with No. 126 High Street, stood within the northern extension of the site from 1883 onwards. However, the majority of the site remained undeveloped in 1956, presumably until the development of Sealawn Boarding Cattery in approximately 1975.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

4.16 The village of Clophill has been subject to relatively few previous archaeological investigations, and those undertaken at No. 100 High Street (HER EBD1261), No. 91 High Street (HER EBD645) and adjacent to Castle Hill Court (King 2012) have produced only limited or negative archaeological evidence. However, in 2012 AS carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation and excavation on land at 122a High Street, which lies to the immediate west of the site (HER EBD1064, HER 19613; Barlow & Peachey 2012 & 2013). The evaluation revealed ditches, pits, a gully and a posthole, dating principally to the post-medieval and modern periods, whilst finds of struck flint represents a homogenous group and dates to the earlier Mesolithic period. In 2016, an evaluation at 118B High Street recorded evidence for medieval and post-medieval settlement activity (Albion Archaeology 2016). An evaluation at 100 High Street recorded a single pit of 13th to 15th century date (Absolute Archaeology 2015).

Research potential

14.17 The main research potential of the site relates to its proximity to the historic medieval core of Clophill. Oake *et al* (2007, 14) emphasise the need for further research into the medieval rural settlements of Bedfordshire, both in terms of investigating the chronology, structure, and function of individual settlements and in terms of looking at broader patterns of medieval settlement. The location of this site suggests the possibility that its northern and central parts may contain information regarding the form and character of medieval settlement in Clophill.

4.18 The identification of Mesolithic artefacts from 122a High Street, to the immediate west (HER 19613; Barlow & Peachey 2012), suggests that further evidence may occur within the current site. The main research priority associated with the Mesolithic in Bedfordshire is carrying out further characterisation of the period, about which comparatively little is known in this county (Oake *et al* 2007, 9).

4.19 Post-medieval features were recorded at the adjacent 122a High Street site (Barlow & Peachey 2012). Any such evidence that may be encountered within the current site would have the potential to provide information relating to the development of Clophill or to the agriculturally-based industries for which Bedfordshire became known (Oake *et al* 2007, 16).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The CBC brief required 450m² of initial trial trenching to be undertaken with a further contingency for 150m² of further trenching to further investigate features/deposits as necessary. Six trenches each 30m x 2m and three trenches each 15m x 2m were proposed for the initial sample. The existing paddock land to the south is to remain undeveloped and hence is excluded, excepting where a pond is proposed in the corner. Due to practical constraints on site including identified services the proposed trench locations were altered and Trench 4 was not excavated because of an overhead power cable. A pond was excavated without archaeological supervision and Trench 7 was re-located. The trenches were 1.80m wide and their actual lengths were Trench 1: 20m; Trench 2: 30m; Trench 3: 18.50m; Trench 5: 18m; Trench 6: 22m; Trench 7: 10m; Trench 8: 32m; and Trench 9; 27.50m.

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Fig. 3

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 49.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark reddish brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel.
0.41m +	L1003	Natural. Firm, mid yellow brown clay
Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 49.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38m +	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 49.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36 +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 49.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid reddish brown silty clay
0.58m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample Section 2C 0.00 = 49.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.21 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid reddish brown silty clay
0.38 – 0.41m	L1002	Peat. Dark reddish brown / black
0.41m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained Post Holes F1005 and F1007, and Ditches F1009 and F1011

Post Hole F1005 was circular in plan (0.41 x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable, mid / dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1007 was circular in plan (0.32 x 0.11m). It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a friable, mid / dark grey brown silty clay. It contained CBM (21g).

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.46 x 0.15m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a firm, mid red brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.46 x 0.21m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, pale blue silty clay. It contained 17th - 19th century pottery (1; 10g) and glass (5g).

Trench 3 Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Section 3 0.00 = 49.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.46m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.46m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained modern Drainage Ditch F1013. Two modern ditches (F1015 and F1017), and modern drainage (F1019) also traversed the trench

Drainage Drain F1013 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.75 x 0.28m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a firm, pale blue silty clay. It contained 19th - mid 20th century pottery (4; 31g), CBM (66g); glass (19g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (4g).

Ditches F1015 and F1017 contained concrete and also ?drain pipes, and on this basis were interpreted as modern.

Trench 4 Fig. 2

Trench 4 was not excavated due to the presence of overhead power lines

Trench 5 Fig. 2

Sample Section 5A 0.00 = 48.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.36 – 0.45m	L1004	Made Ground. Crushed brick and concrete
0.45 – 0.76m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.76m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 6 Fig. 2

Sample Section 6A 0.00 = 49.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.56m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 5
0.56 – 0.91m	L1002	Peat. As above, Trench 2
0.91m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample Section 6B 0.00 = 48.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.21 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.48 – 0.77m	L1002	Peat. As above, Trench 2
0.77m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 7 Fig. 3

Sample Section 7 0.00 = 47.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41 – 0.78m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.78 – 1.16m	L1002	Peat. As above, Trench 2
1.16m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 8 Fig. 3

Sample Section 8A 0.00 = 48.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.49m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 5
0.49 – 1.10m	L1002	Peat. As above, Trench 2
1.10m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample Section 8B 0.00 = 48.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1004	Made Ground. As above, Trench 5
0.31 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.60 – 0.95m	L1002	Peat. As Above, Trench 2
0.95m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 9 Fig. 2 & 6

Sample Section 9A 0.00 = 48.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.34 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.58 – 0.96m	L1002	Peat. As Above, Trench 2
0.96m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 2

Sample Section 9B 0.00 = 48.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.28 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 2
0.56 – 0.89m	L1002	Peat. As above, Trench 2
0.89m +	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 2

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors significantly inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The majority of the site area was overlain by Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark reddish brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel. This topsoil layer was recorded at depths up to 0.41m. In Trench 8 and the south-western end of Trench 6, made ground deposits (L1004) up to 0.56m were encountered.

8.2 In the eastern end of Trench 2, the north-eastern end of Trench 6, and across Trenches 5 and 7 - 9, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil, L1001, with a thickness of between 0.24m and 0.40m. This lay below topsoil (L1000) or made ground (L1004) deposits.

8.3 In the southern portion of the site, recorded in Trenches 6-9, was dark reddish brown / black peat (L1002). The upper level of this deposit graded from north to south across the site, falling from a maximum of 48.47m AOD in Trench 6 to a minimum of 47.2m AOD in Trench 7, a reduction of 1.27m over a distance of approximately 100m. The thickness of the peat increased southwards from 0.03m (Trench 2) to 0.29 - 0.35m (Trench 6); 0.38m (Trench 7); 0.35 – 0.61m (Trench 8) and 0.33 – 0.38m (Trench 9). This deposit is likely to have developed in a marshy environment in the floodplain of the River Flit, prior to historic drainage (see below). Traces of organic peaty sediment were also recorded in Trench 2, which appear to represent organic deposits developing in lower-lying areas in other parts of the site.

8.4 Underlying these deposits across the entire site was natural L1003, which consisted of a firm, mid yellow brown clay. This deposit was at a height of 49.02m AOD in the north of the site (Trench 2), falling to 46.12m AOD in the south (Trench 7). This is likely to represent the upper portion of alluvial deposits of the river floodplain and geotechnical investigations have identified deeper stratified peat deposits, potentially underlying this deposit, and overlying the river terrace gravels.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
2	1005	Post Hole	-
	1007	Post Hole	CBM 18 th C +
	1009	Ditch	-
	1011	Ditch	17 th – 19 th C
3	1013	Drain	19 th – mid 20 th C
	1015	Ditch	Modern
	1017	Ditch	Modern
	1019	Drainage	Modern

9.2 Peat deposit L1002, which was concentrated in the southern end of the site, and the underlying alluvial clays are likely to have formed in marshy conditions in the floodplain close to the River Flit prior to the historic drainage of the area. Historically, the former course of the river and a subsidiary channel can be seen running through this part of the site on the 1716 Clophill and Cainhoe Estate map (Fig. 5) and the 1828 Enclosure map (Fig. 6). The Enclosure map (Fig. 6) shows that the river has been diverted by this time, leaving the former course as a subsidiary channel. The channels through the site are subsequently absent on the 1883 OS map (Fig. 7), although traces remain to the west, most likely as part of the land drainage system. Geotechnical investigations on the site have identified peat deposits at greater depth overlying the terrace gravels, which may represent earlier periods of peat formation or the fills of the above former channels.

9.3 Features were present in Trenches 2 and 3, and they comprised post holes and ditches. The features were undated or of post-medieval and modern date. Ditch F1013 (Trench 3) appears to correspond with a plot boundary depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 (Fig.8). The ditch is notably not shown on the earlier estate or enclosure maps. The lack of earlier features will be related to the site's wet ground conditions.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford (Bedford Accession No. BEDFM: 2017.108). The archive will be prepared in accordance with *Preparing archaeological archives for deposition in registered museums in Bedfordshire* (Bedford Museum 2010).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Firstland Developments Limited for funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Mr Peter Barnett).

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Slawek Utrata, Archaeological Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council.

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Web resources

www.old-maps.co.uk

Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

AS1969 - P7034, Sea Lawn Cattery, 126 Highstreet Clophill

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1007	1008		2	Fill of Post Hole				21				
1011	1012		2	Fill of Ditch	17th-19th C	4	31			Glass	1	5
1013	1014		3	Fill of Drainage Ditch	19th-mid 20th C	1	10	66		Glass	4	19
										Clay Pipe	1	4

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 5 sherds of post-medieval to modern pottery weighing 41g, from two ditches. Ditch F1011 contained a sherd of post-medieval brown glazed red earthenware. The remaining sherds from Ditch F1013 were early modern to modern (19th-mid 20th centuries).

Methodology

The sherds were recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001).

KEY:

GRE: Glazed red earthenware mid 16th+

MOCH: Mocha ware late 18th+

WHIST: White stoneware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1013	1012	3x27g MOCH 1x4g WHIST	19 th -mid 20 th	
Ditch 1011	1014	1x10g GRE	17 th -19 th	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

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Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of two fragments (87g) of late post-medieval to early modern (18th century to Victorian) CBM; in a very highly fragmented and abraded (rounded) condition, best-regarded as small rubble. Posthole F1007 and Drainage Ditch F1013 contained single fragments of soft red brick, manufactured in a highly-fired fabric tempered with common medium sand, but otherwise not preserving any technological traits or extant dimensions.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7034)



1
Trench 1 looking south-east (1m scale)



2
Sample section 1B in Trench 1 (1m scale)



3
Trench 2 looking north-east (1m scale)



4
Sample section 2A in Trench 2 (1m scale)



5
Sample section 2B in Trench 2 (1m scale)



6
Post Holes F1005 and F1007 in Trench 2 (30cm scale)



7
Ditch F1009 in Trench 2 looking east (40cm scale)



8
Ditch F1011 in Trench 2 looking south-east (1m scale)



9
Trench 3 looking south-east (1m scale)



10
Sample section 3 in Trench 3 (1m scale)



11
Drain F1013 in Trench 3 looking north-east (1m scale)



12
Modern ditches in Trench 3 looking north-east (1m scale)



13
Modern Ditches F1015 and F1017 containing
broken concrete and broken drainpipe (1m scale)



14
Trench 5 looking south-west (1m scale)



15
Sample section 5B in Trench 5 (1m scale)



16
Trench 6 looking north-east (1m scale)



18
Trench 7 looking north-east (1m scale)



17
Sample section 6A in Trench 6 (1m scale)



19
Sample section 7A in Trench 7 (1m scale)



20
Trench 8 looking north-west (1m scale)



21
Sample section 8B in Trench 8 (1m scale)



22
Trench 9 looking east (1m scale)

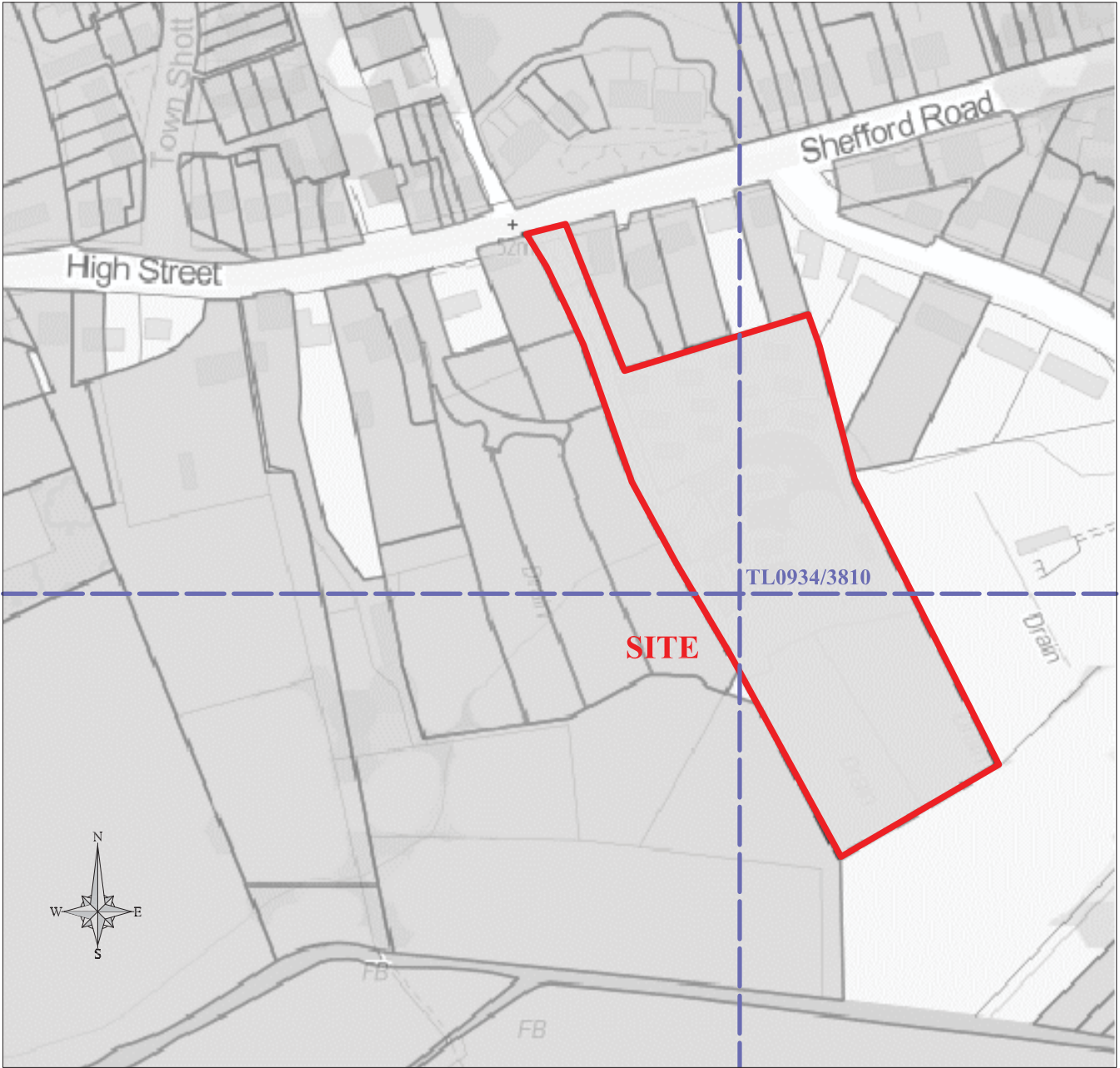


23
Sample section 9A in Trench 9 (1m scale)



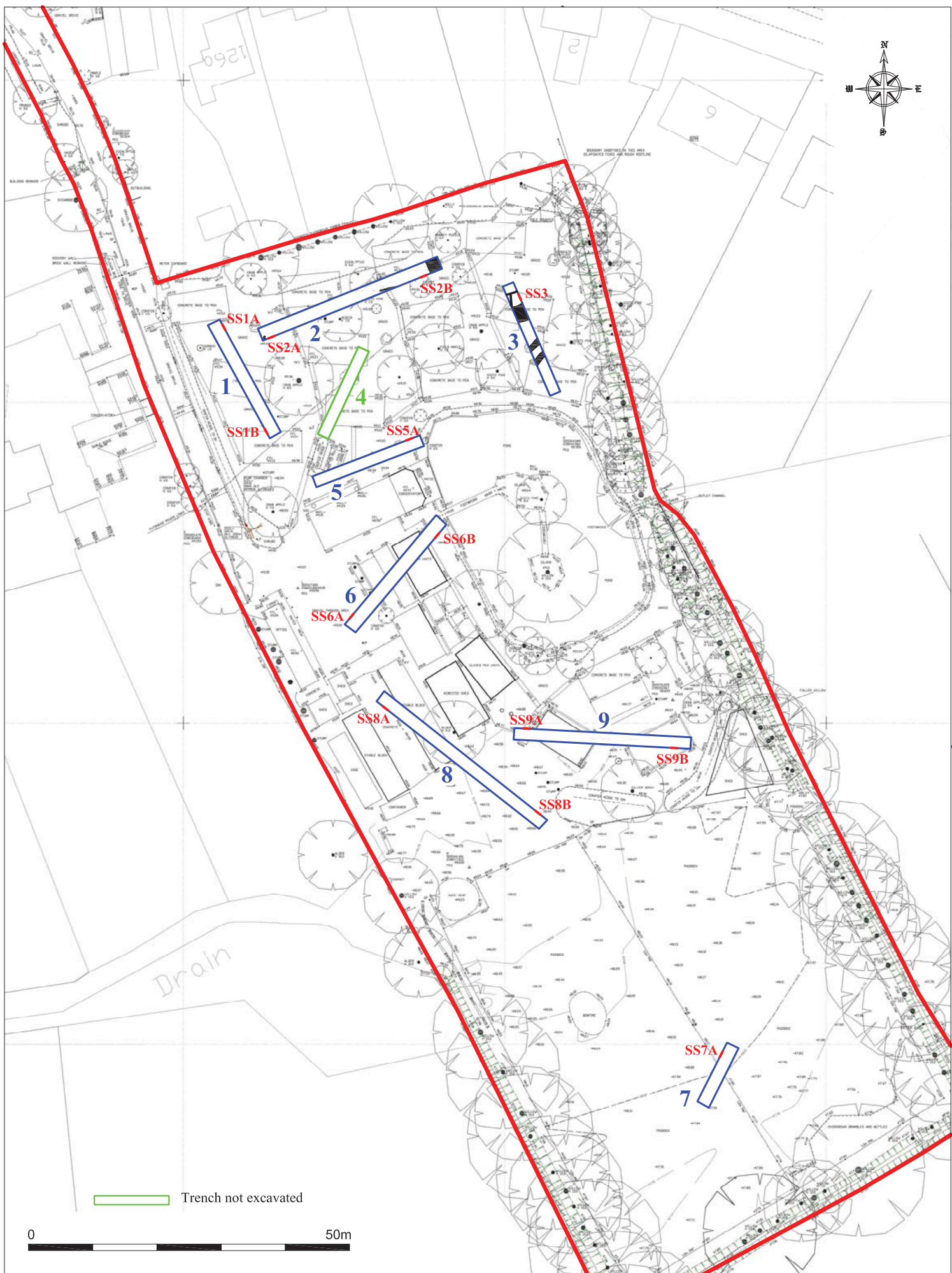
Reproduced from the 2010 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)



0 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4
Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)

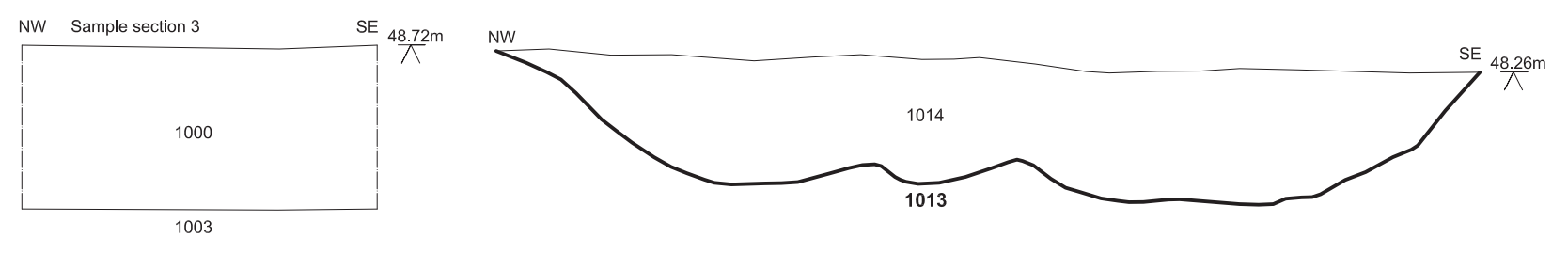
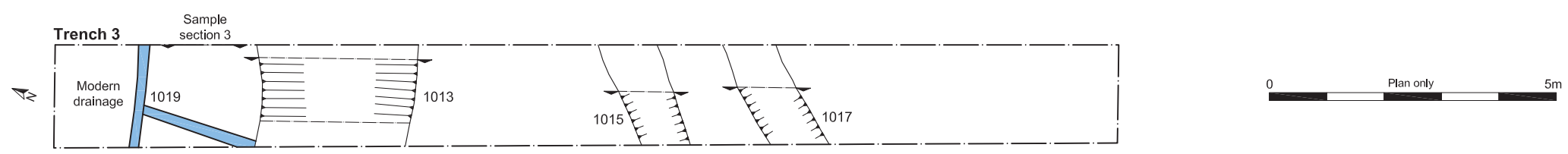
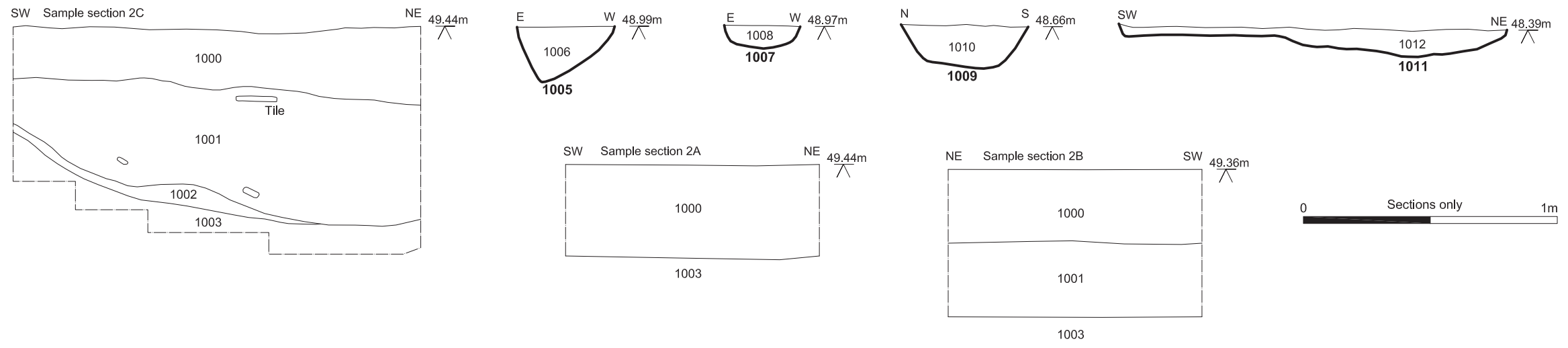
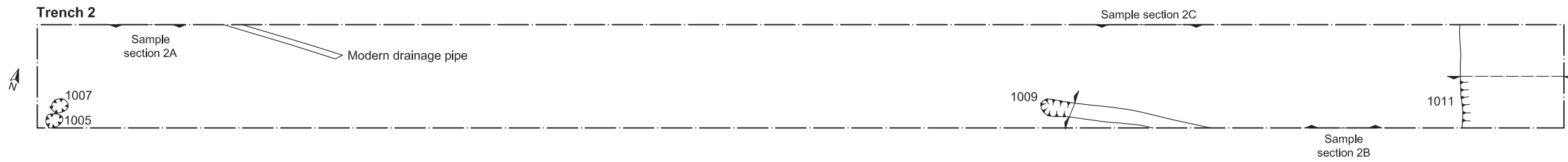


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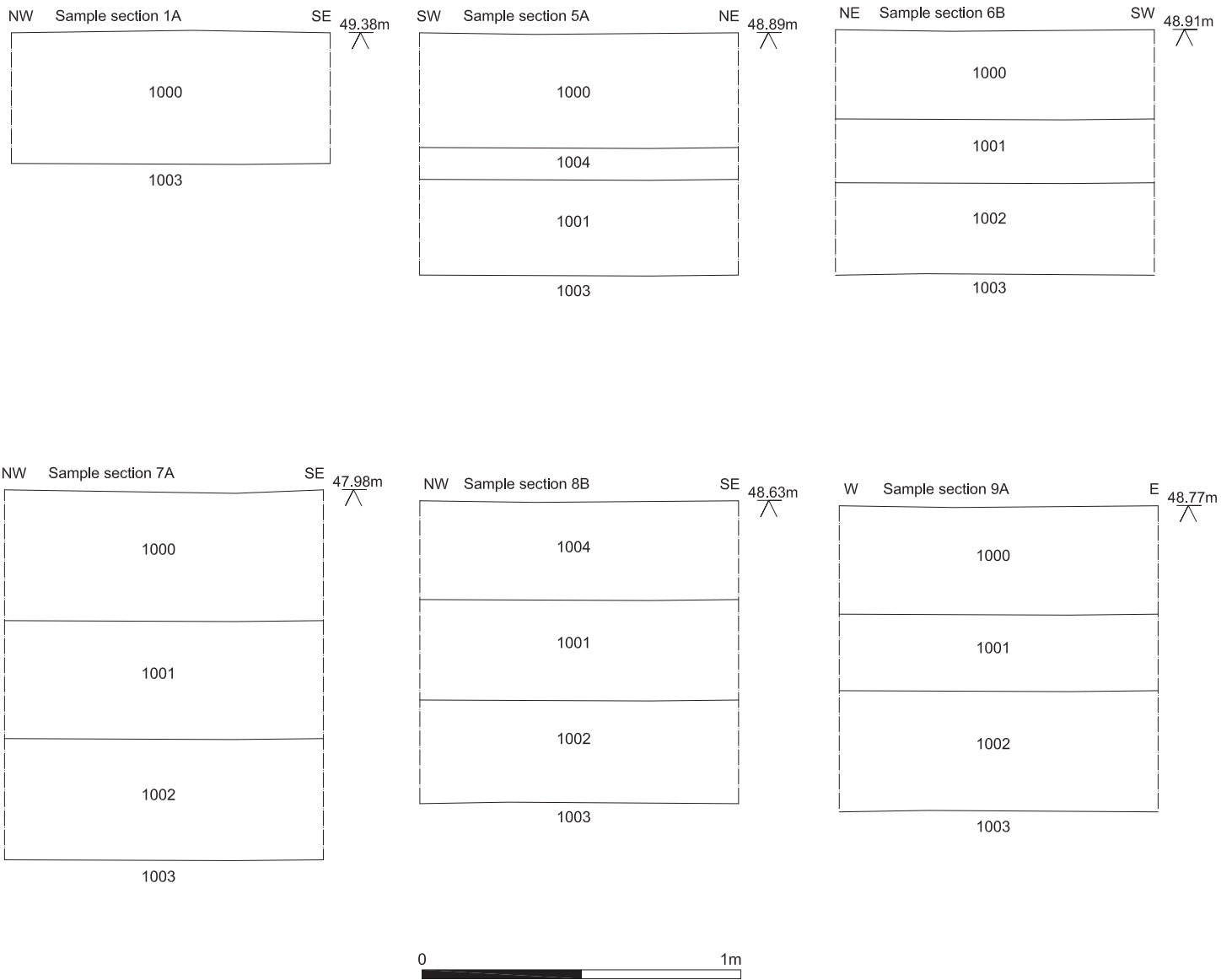
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
 Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)

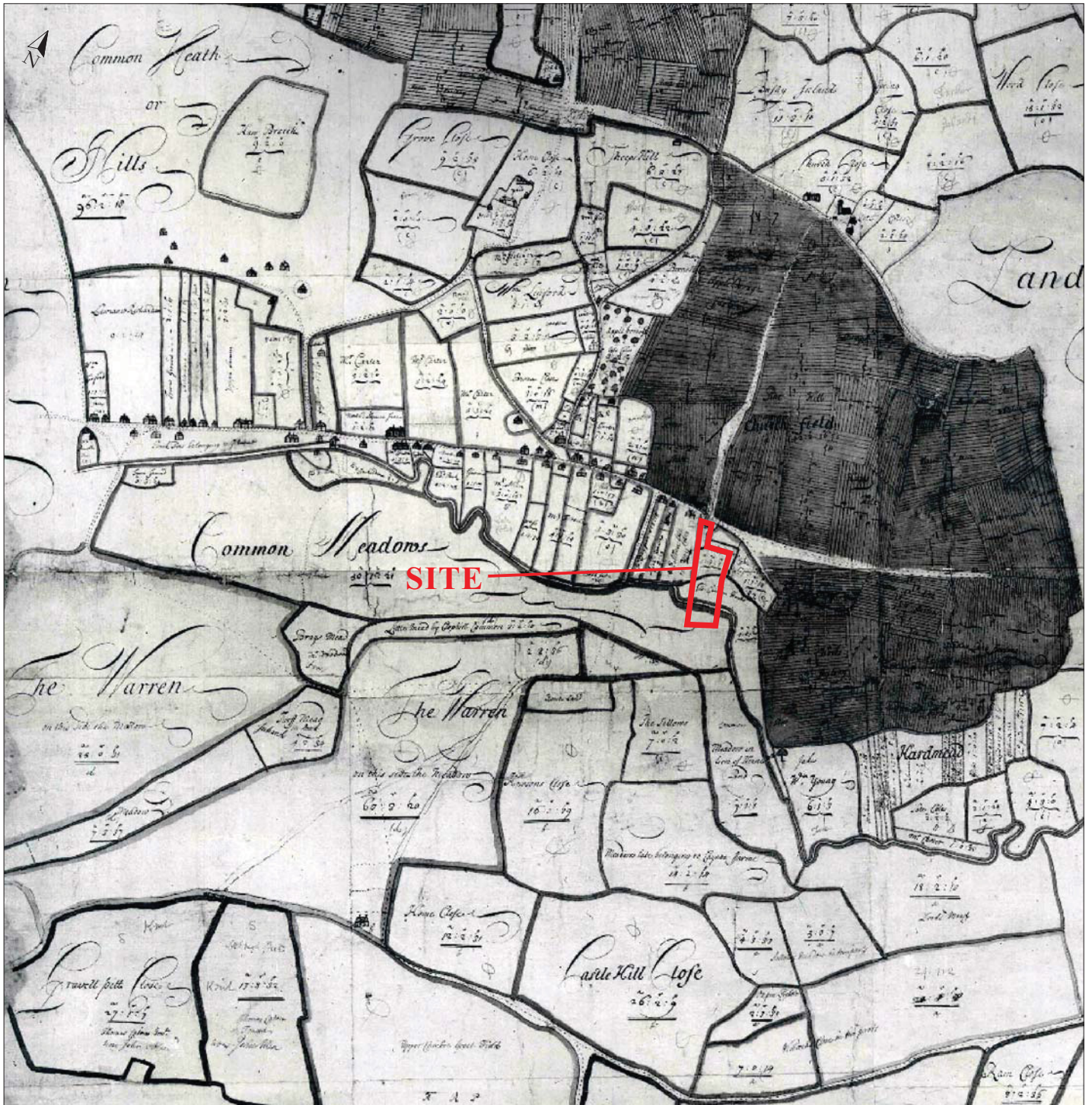


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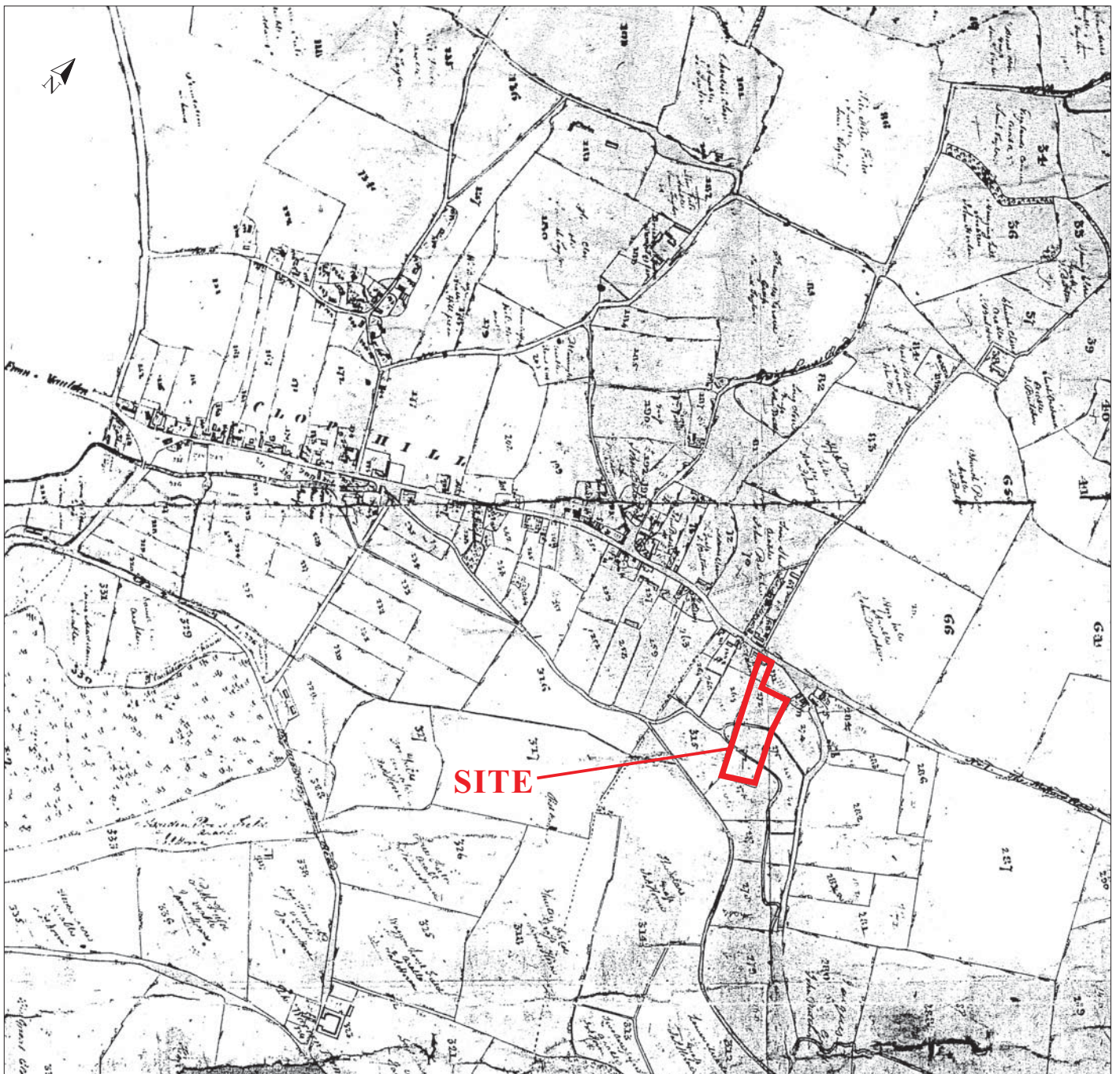
Fig. 5 Selection of sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A4

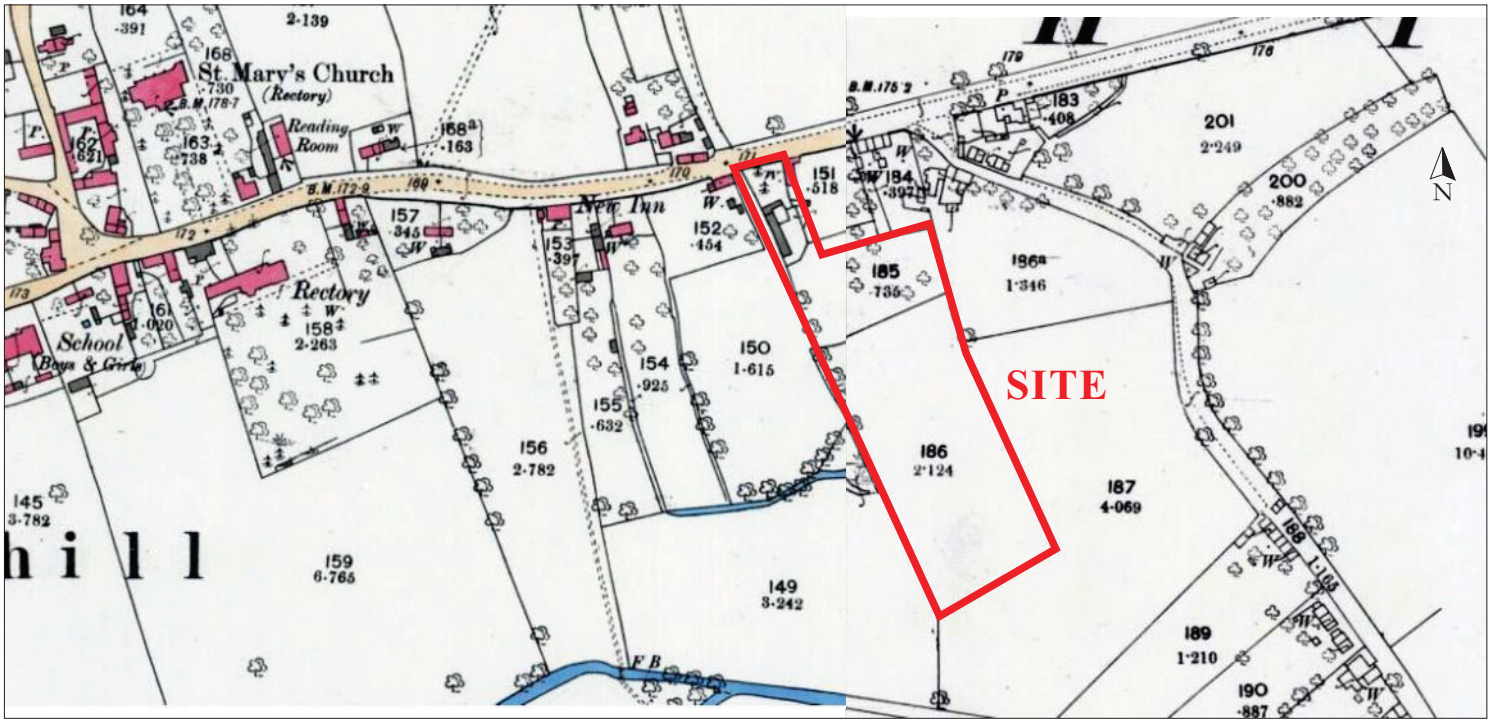
Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)



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Fig. 6 Clophill & Cainhoe Estate map, 1716
Not to scale
Sealawne Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)



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Fig. 7 Enclosure map, 1828
Not to scale
Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)



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Fig. 8 OS map, 1883

Not to scale

Sealawn Cattery, Clophill, Bedfordshire (P7034)