

**CRABBS GREEN FARM, CRABBS LANE,  
STOCKING PELHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**CRABB'S GREEN FARM, CRABB'S LANE,  
STOCKING PELHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Authors: Kate Doyle BA Tim Schofield HND BSc PIFA	
NGR: TL 45630 28680	Report No. 3150
Parish: Stocking Pelham	Site Code: AS1161
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3205
Signed:	Date: August 2008

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In August 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (TL 45630 28680). The evaluation was commissioned by Jane Howden on behalf of Samantha Russell and was carried out prior to the proposed development of one structure incorporating 12 new boarding kennels.</i></p> <p><i>A ditch (F1006) was present in the 10m trench. It appeared to be the boundary ditch recorded on cartographic sources (dating from the 1839 Tithe Map). It was still depicted on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Map and was backfilled some time after this. The latter is confirmed by the date of the recovered modern finds.</i></p> <p><i>The HER postulate that a moat may adhere to a similar course as Ditch F1006, but the ditch is unlikely to represent the eastern side of a moat.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>21/08/08 – 26/08/08</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>3205</i>	Site code	<i>AS1161</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>12-unit boarding kennels</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval boundary ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None.</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Stocking Pelham</i>
HER/ HER for area	<i>Hertfordshire Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>210m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 45630 28680</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 125m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions</i>		
Funded by	<i>Ms Samantha Russell</i>		
Full title	<i>Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire; an archaeological evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Doyle, K. Schofield, T.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3150</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2008</i>		

# CRABB'S GREEN FARM, CRABB'S LANE, STOCKING PELHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## **SUMMARY**

*In August 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (TL 45630 28680). The evaluation was carried out prior to the proposed development of one structure incorporating 12 new boarding kennels.*

*A ditch (F1006) was present in the 10m trench. It appeared to be the boundary ditch recorded on cartographic sources (dating from the 1839 Tithe Map). It was still depicted on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Map and was backfilled some time after this. The latter is confirmed by the date of the recovered modern finds.*

*The HER postulate that a moat may adhere to a similar course as Ditch F1006, but the ditch is unlikely to represent the eastern side of a moat.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (TL 45630 28680; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by M Jane Howden on behalf of Ms Samantha Russell and was carried out prior to the proposed development of a new boarding kennel. It adhered to a planning condition attached to the approval for the proposed construction of a 12-unit boarding kennel and the change of use of an existing barn (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/0047/08/FP).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in response to a design brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU, A. Tinniswood; dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008), and was conducted according to a specification prepared by AS (dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008) and approved by HCC HEU.

1.3 The project adhered to the IFA' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised 2001) and was undertaken according to the requirements of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The project was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' (PPG16), which is widely applied by local authorities. PPG16 (1994) applies to archaeology and 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, when necessary, the excavation of the site.

1.5 The principal objectives of the archaeological trial trench evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Crabb's Green Farm is situated at Crabb's Green, which lies within the parish of Stocking Pelham, within the district of East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The village of Stocking Pelham is situated 500m to the north-west, whilst the settlement of Berden, which lies in Essex, is located 1.5km to the north-east. The site is also located 125m to the west of the county boundary demarcating Hertfordshire and Essex, and 200m to the north-west of an extensive electricity transformer station.

2.2 The site of the proposed new kennel block comprises a plot of undeveloped agricultural land at Crabb's Green Farm, located to the east of existing structures (Fig. 2). To the south of the property lies a series of irregularly-shaped ponds, which are thought to be medieval in date. Both the site and Crabb's Green Farm lie within Crabb's Green's Conservation Area, and both the farmhouse and timber-framed barn at Crabb's Green Farm are Grade II listed structures (IoE Nos. 160202 & 160201).

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The hamlet of Crabb's Green and neighbouring Stocking Pelham are located in a rural area close to the boundary between the counties of Hertfordshire and Essex (Fig. 1). The area surrounding the site has a varied relief and is punctuated by small watercourses and ponds such as those located to the immediate south of Crabb's Green Farm. The site lies on a relatively flat plot of agricultural land located at c.125m AOD, with land sloping slightly down to the south towards the aforementioned ponds.

3.2 The solid geology of the Stocking Pelham and much of East Hertfordshire district is Upper Cretaceous Chalk (BGS 1978), with a drift geology of chalky till. The site also lies upon soils of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983), which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, and some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soil, all of which are at slight risk of water erosion. Soils of the Hanslope association are also used in agriculture for winter cereals with some other arable crops and some grassland (*ibid.*).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Relatively little is known of the Crabb's Green and Stocking Pelham area during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The surrounding area was heavily wooded during at least the Saxon period, with a single wood, known as '*Park Wood*' stretching from '*Berden Hall*' 1.3km to the north-east to Crabb's Green (Bailey 2000). Local history sources suggest that Crabb's Green was documented in Anglo-Saxon sources of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, which record that '*Pela* (*'Peola'*), a Saxon leader

*left his dependents near Crabbs Green and with a few followers took an ancient track to select some high ground', thus founding Stocking Pelham (ibid.).*

4.2 Given the early reference to Crabb's Green, it is postulated that the irregularly shaped field boundaries and ponds located to the south and west of the site may comprise archaeological remains not yet subject to investigation (Bailey 2000). The Historic Environment Record (HER) suggests that the ponds present to the south of the existing buildings are possibly the remnants of a medieval moated enclosure (HER 11865). The Domesday Book of 1086 documents manors within Stocking Pelham, but makes no reference to Crabb's Green (Morris 1976).

4.3 Place-name evidence supports an Anglo-Saxon origin for Crabb's Green and associates the hamlet with the family of John Crabbe, who was first documented in a lay subsidy roll of 1294 (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1970). That the *Victoria County History* (Page 1914) also omits to mention Crabb's Green may indicate that the hamlet had declined in favour of Stocking Pelham by the historical period. Both the site of the proposed new kennel block and Crabb's Green Farm lie within Crabb's Green's Conservation Area.

4.4 The farmhouse at Crabb's Green Farm, which lies 35m to the west of the site is a Grade II listed timber-framed structure of 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date (IoE No. 160202). The timber-framed barn c. 10m to the west of the site is also Grade II listed and of a similar date (IoE No. 160201), although little more is known of the buildings' early history. The Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the farmhouse may have originated as a small open hall house of c.1500 (HER 10955), although no evidence of that could be found during a recent historic building survey at Crabb's Green Farm (Garwood 2000).

4.5 The parish of Stocking Pelham tithe map, which dates to 1839, reveals that the site formed part of a large agricultural field (#87) bound to the south by ponds (Ref. DSA4/77/2; Fig. 3). The latter are suggestive of a moated enclosure. The accompanying tithe award (Ref. DSA4/77/1) reveals that '*Crabs Green Farm Homestead etc*' (#87) was owned by Thomas Sworder, yet occupied by Charles Hoy.

4.6 Sale particular documents reveal that Crabb's Green Farm was sold at auction on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1878 (Ref. E2410-2426). Prior to its sale, the property, and thus the site, had been held by Mr. John Trigg and comprised a farm containing 98 acres 1 rood 27 perches of land. Although it is unknown who bought the property, a map accompanying the sale particulars for Crabb's Green Farm (Ref. DE/L/5569; Fig. 4) reveals that the site formed part of Lot 16 and plot #87. Lot 16 comprised in total 84 acres 34 perches arable and pasture land, whilst plot #87 was known as '*Homestead and Hoppets*' and consisted of 4 aces 2 roods 32 perches of partial grassland. Subsequent cartographic sources show no development within the site or any alteration to the ponds located to the south (Figs. 5 – 8).

## 5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 One trench, 10m x 1.8m, was excavated on a northeast to southwest alignment (Fig. 2). A JCB 3CX Site Master excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was employed to remove the topsoil and overburden. Thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 Sample Section 1. Fig. 9

<i>Sample section: Northwest end, facing southeast</i> <i>0.00 = 125.28m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. Light greyish brown compact silty clay with frequent sub-angular and angular flint and chalk (0.02 – 0.05m).
0.10 – 0.32m	L1002. Subsoil. Mid greyish brown compact silty clay and chalk with frequent angular and sub-angular flint (0.02 – 0.05m).
0.32 – 0.40m	L1003. Subsoil. Mid brownish/yellowish white compact clay and chalk with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.01 – 0.02m).
0.40m+	L1004. Natural drift geology. Light yellowish white compact clay and chalk with occasional sub-angular and angular flint (0.01 – 0.15m).

### Trench 1 Sample Section 2. Fig. 9

<i>Sample section: Southwest end, facing northeast</i> <i>0.00 = 125.28m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.10 – 0.82m	L1001. Subsoil. Light yellowish white clay and chalk with moderate angular flint (0.01 – 0.10m)
0.82 – 0.92m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.92 – 1.20m	L1005. Mid yellowish/brownish white compacted clay and chalk with occasional rounded flint (0.01 – 0.02m)
1.20m+	L1004. Natural drift geology. As above Sample Section 1.

### Trench 1 Sample Section 3. Fig. 9

<i>Sample section: Southwest end, facing northeast</i> <i>0.00 = 125.14m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.10 – 0.14m	L1001. Subsoil. Light yellowish white clay and chalk with moderate angular flint (0.01 – 0.10m)
0.14 – 0.28m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.28 – 0.40m	L1003. As above Sample Section 1



0.40m+	L1004. Natural drift geology. As above Sample Section 1.
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### Trench 1 Sample Section 4. Fig. 9

<i>Sample section: Northeast end, facing southwest</i>	
<i>0.00 = 125.14m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.10 – 0.20m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.20 – 0.30m	L1003. Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.30m +	L1004. Natural drift geology. As above Sample Section 1.

*Description: Trench 1 contained a ditch, F1006.*

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 1.10m+ x 0.64m) with steep sides and a markedly flat base. It was located at the south-western end of the trench and contained one fill, L1005. The latter was a mid yellowish/brownish white compact clay and chalk with occasional rounded flint (0.01 – 0.02m). A very modern plastic drainage pipe in full working order, a Tesco's plastic bag, broken wooden slats, a ferrous metal tractor lynch pin and modern CBM fragments were present. Layers L1002 and above it, L1001, levelled the ditch and capped Layer L1005.

No other archaeological features or finds were present.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The deposit model varied slightly towards the south-western extent of the trench where landscaping and backfilling of the ditch had taken place. Topographically the site sloped gently from southwest to northeast, and within the trench from 125.28 to 125.14m AOD. The topsoil, L1000, was present throughout the entire length of the trench (maximum 0.10m thick). It was a light greyish brown compact silty-clay with frequent sub-angular and angular flint and chalk (0.02 – 0.05m).

8.2 Below L1000 was L1002, a mid greyish brown compact silty clay and chalk with frequent angular and sub-angular flint (0.02 – 0.05m). Below L1002 was L1003, a mid brownish/yellowish white compact clay and chalk with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.01 – 0.02m).

8.3 At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural drift geology L1004, a light yellowish white compact clay and chalk with occasional sub-angular and angular flint (0.01 – 0.15m).

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Ditch F1006 appears to be the boundary ditch that is present on all of the cartographic sources (dating from the Tithe Map of 1839, Fig. 3). It was recorded on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 1), and was backfilled some time after this. The latter is confirmed by the very modern date of the recovered finds.

9.2 The HER postulate that a moat may adhere to a similar course as Ditch F1006, but the ditch is unlikely to represent the eastern side of the moat.

## **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

Archive records (with an inventory) will be deposited at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

AS would like to thank Ms. Samantha Russell for funding the project, and to Ms Jane Howden for her assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the advice of Mr Roger Jones of Jones & Sons Environmental regarding ecology issues.

Thanks are also due to the staff at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), and Ms. Isobel Thompson and Ms. Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU.

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### **Websites**

**(all consulted 21/08/08)**

Access to Archives (A2A) website;  
<http://www.a2a.org.uk>

English Heritage's Images of England (IoE) website;  
<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

## APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Description	Fig. No.	Scale	Location
1839	Parish of Stocking Pelham tithe map	3	-	HALS
1878	Crabbs Green Farm sale particulars	4	-	HALS
1878	Hertfordshire sheet XIV.8; 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	5	25":1 mile	HALS
1898	Hertfordshire sheet XIV.8; 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	6	25":1 mile	HALS
1921	Hertfordshire sheet XIV.8; 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	7	25":1 mile	HALS
1978	Sheet TL 4428 – 4528; Ordnance Survey map	8	1:2,500	HALS
2001	Ordnance Survey Explorer series 194; site location	1	1:25,000	AS
2008	Trench location plan	2	1:500	Client

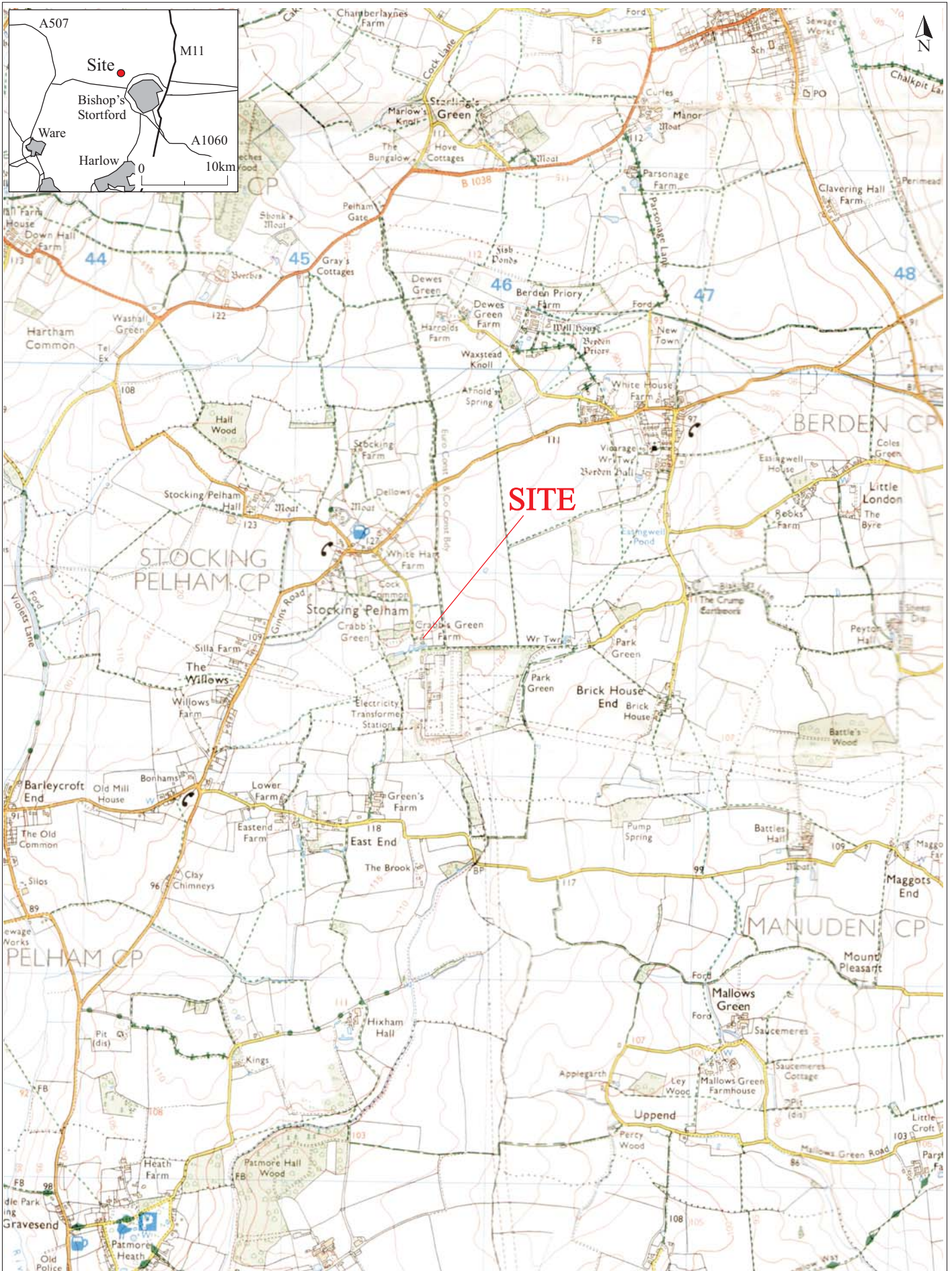
### Documents consulted at HALS;

Parish of Stocking Pelham tithe award, 1837	Ref. DSA4/77/1
Parish of Stocking Pelham tithe map, 1839	Ref. DSA4/77/2
Draft sale particulars, plans, valuation including Crabbs Green Farm, 1878	Ref. E2410-2426
Sale particulars for Crabbs Green Farm, 1878	Ref. DE/L/5569

**APPENDIX 2**  
**SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Crabbs Green Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b> Stocking Pelham	<b>Parish:</b> Stocking Pelham
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	EHDC Planning Ref. 3/0047/08/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Ms. Samantha Russell
<b>Nature of application:</b>	12-unit boarding kennel
<b>Present land use:</b>	Agricultural land
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> Entire application area
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 45630 28680
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1161
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Limited
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	August 2008
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	None
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Post-medieval to early modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>Ditch F1006 appears to be the boundary ditch that is present on all of the cartographic sources (dating from the Tithe Map of 1839). It was recorded on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Map, and was backfilled some time after this. The latter is confirmed by the modern date of the recovered finds.</p> <p>The HER postulate that a moat may adhere to a similar course as Ditch F1006, but the ditch is unlikely to represent the eastern side of a moat.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Doyle, K. Schofield, T.	<b>Date of Summary:</b> August 2008

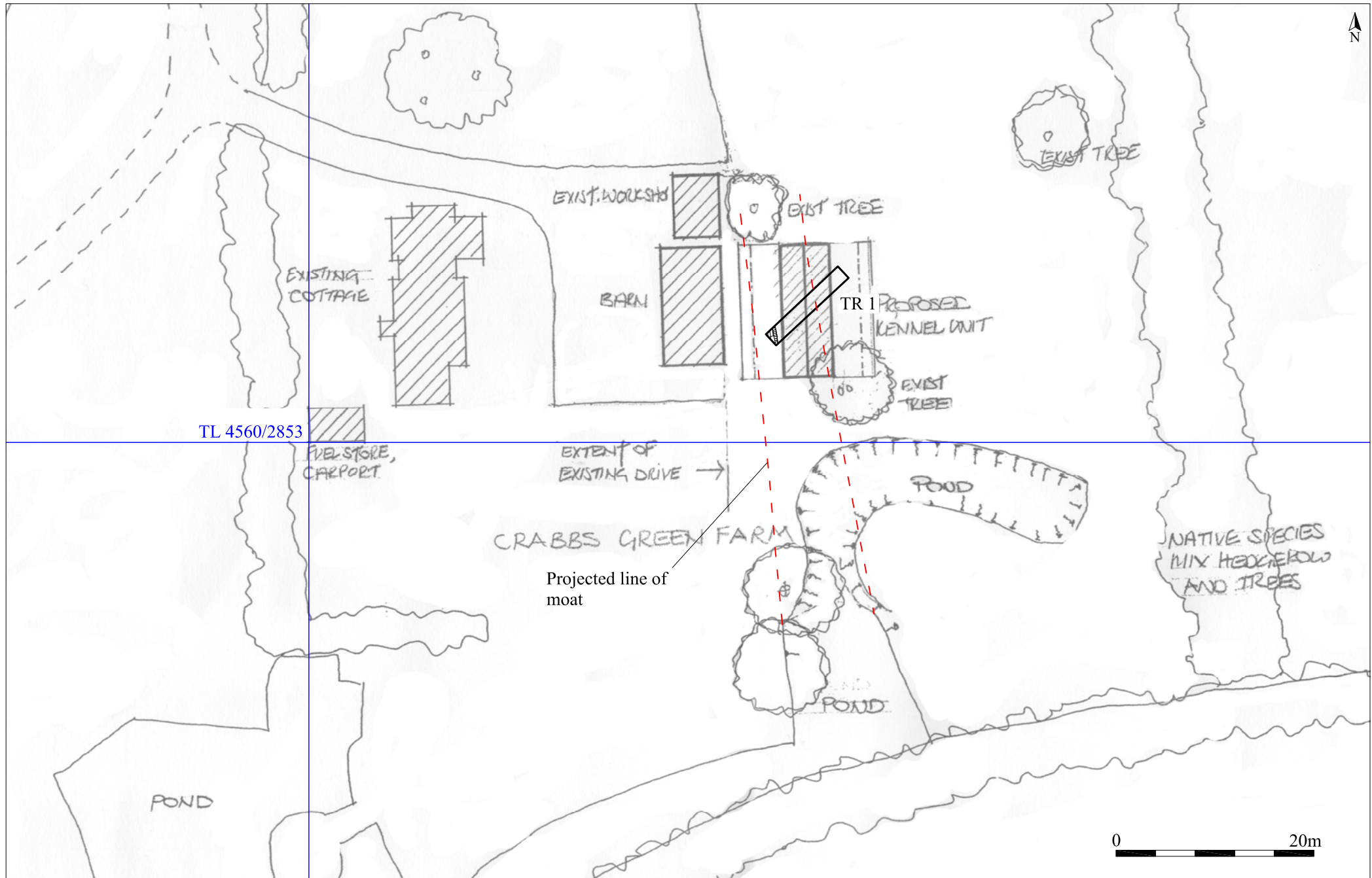




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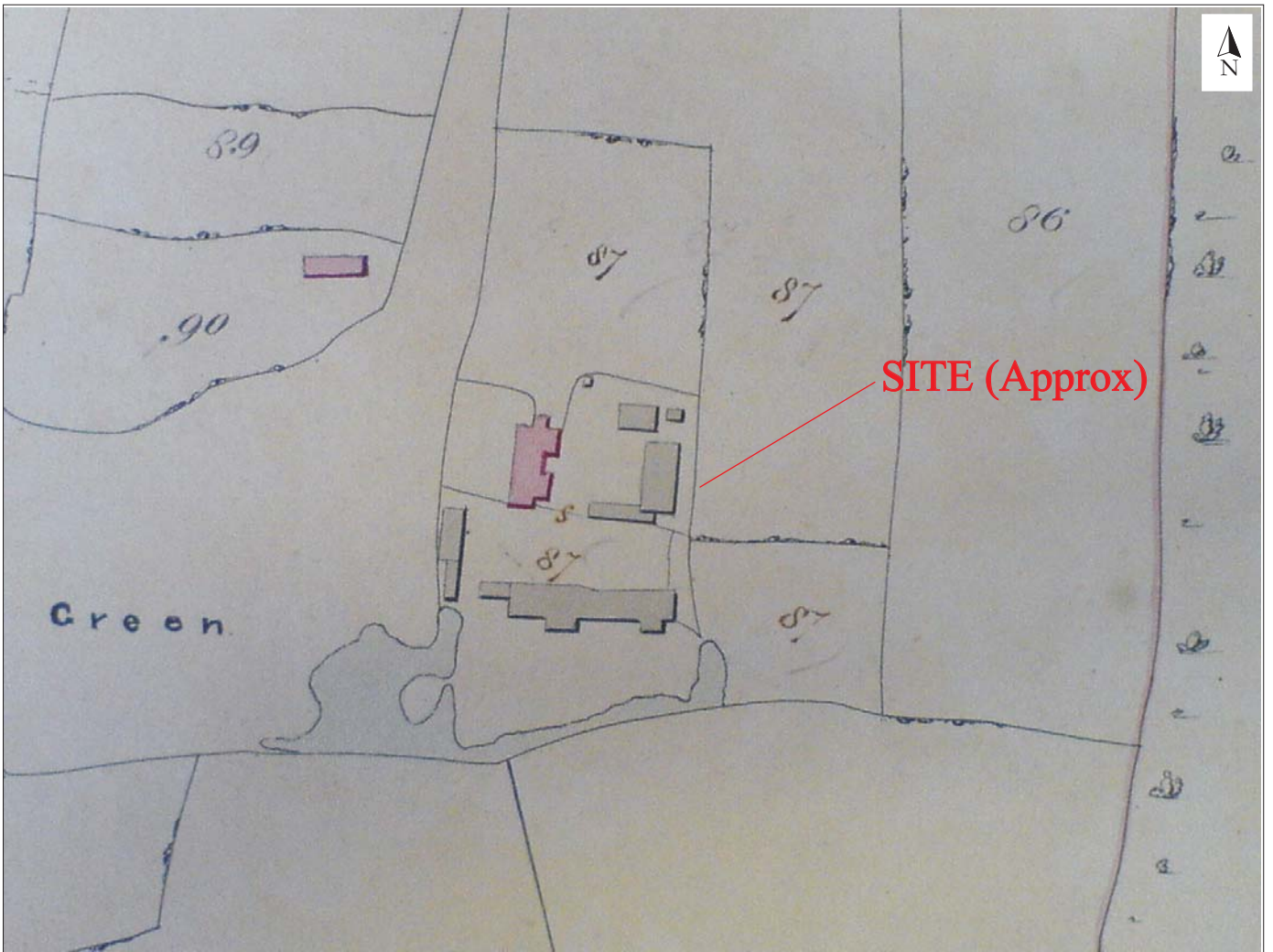
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000



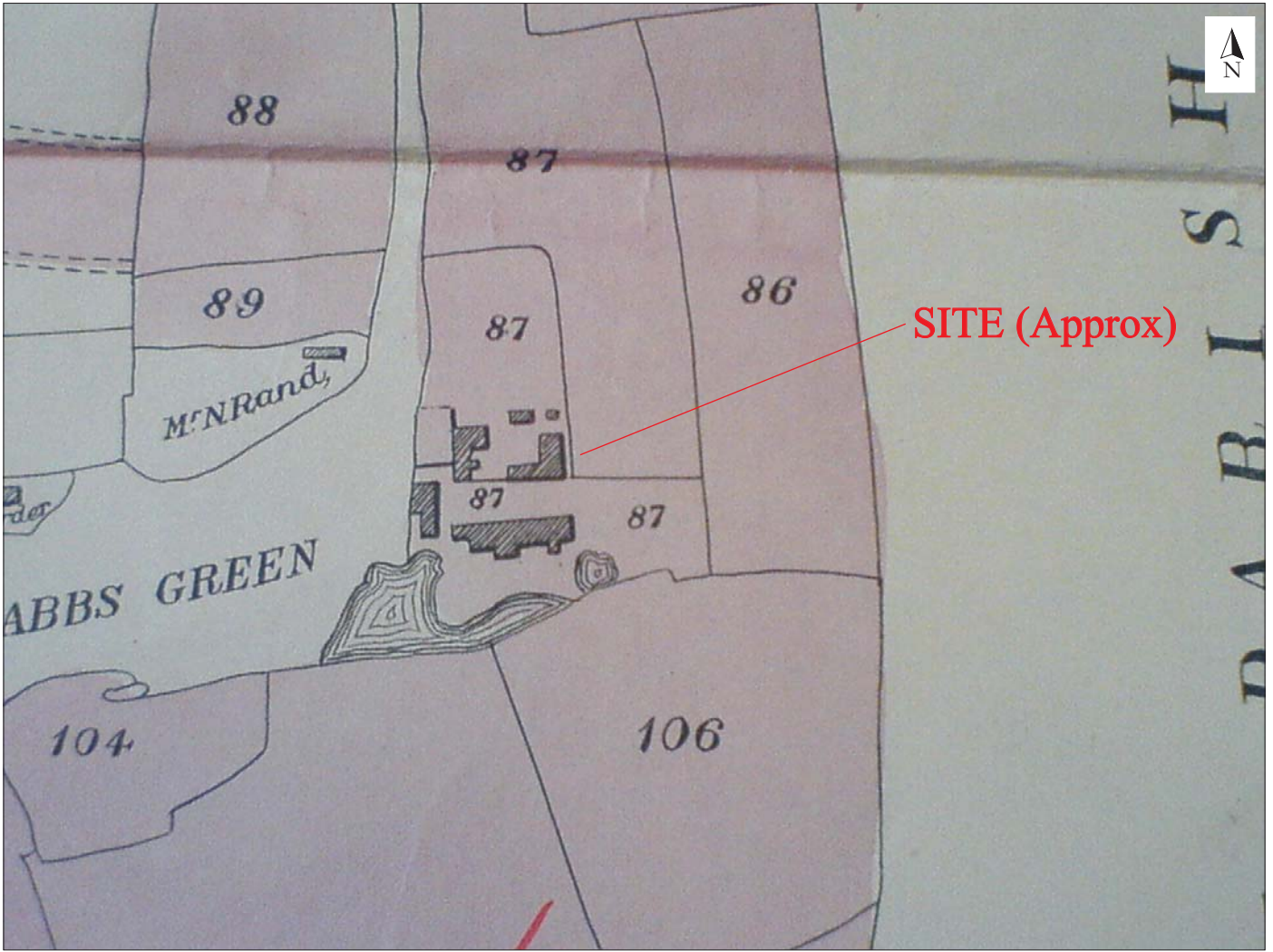


Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 2 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4

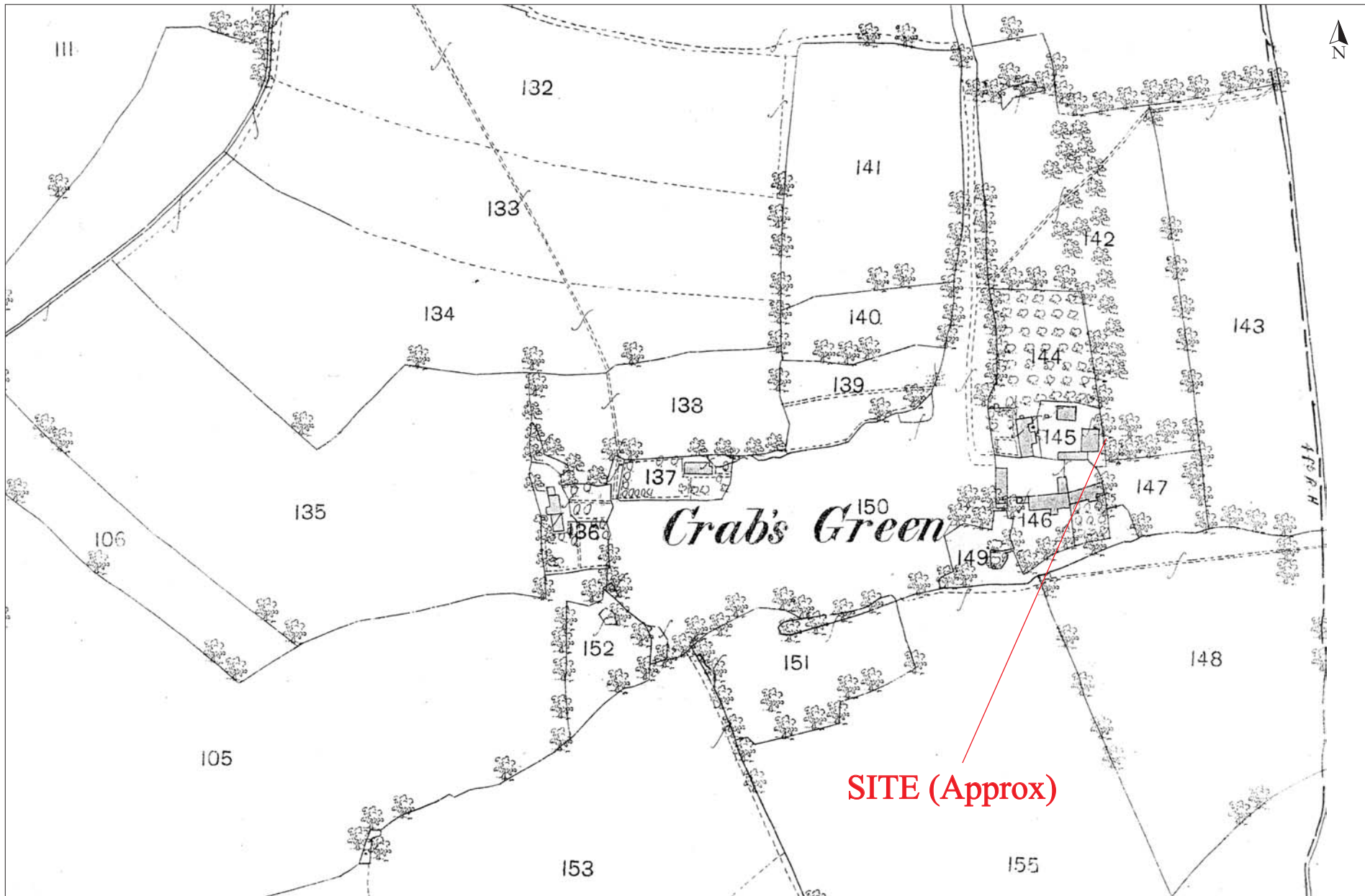




<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 3 Tithe map, 1839</b>
Scale unknown



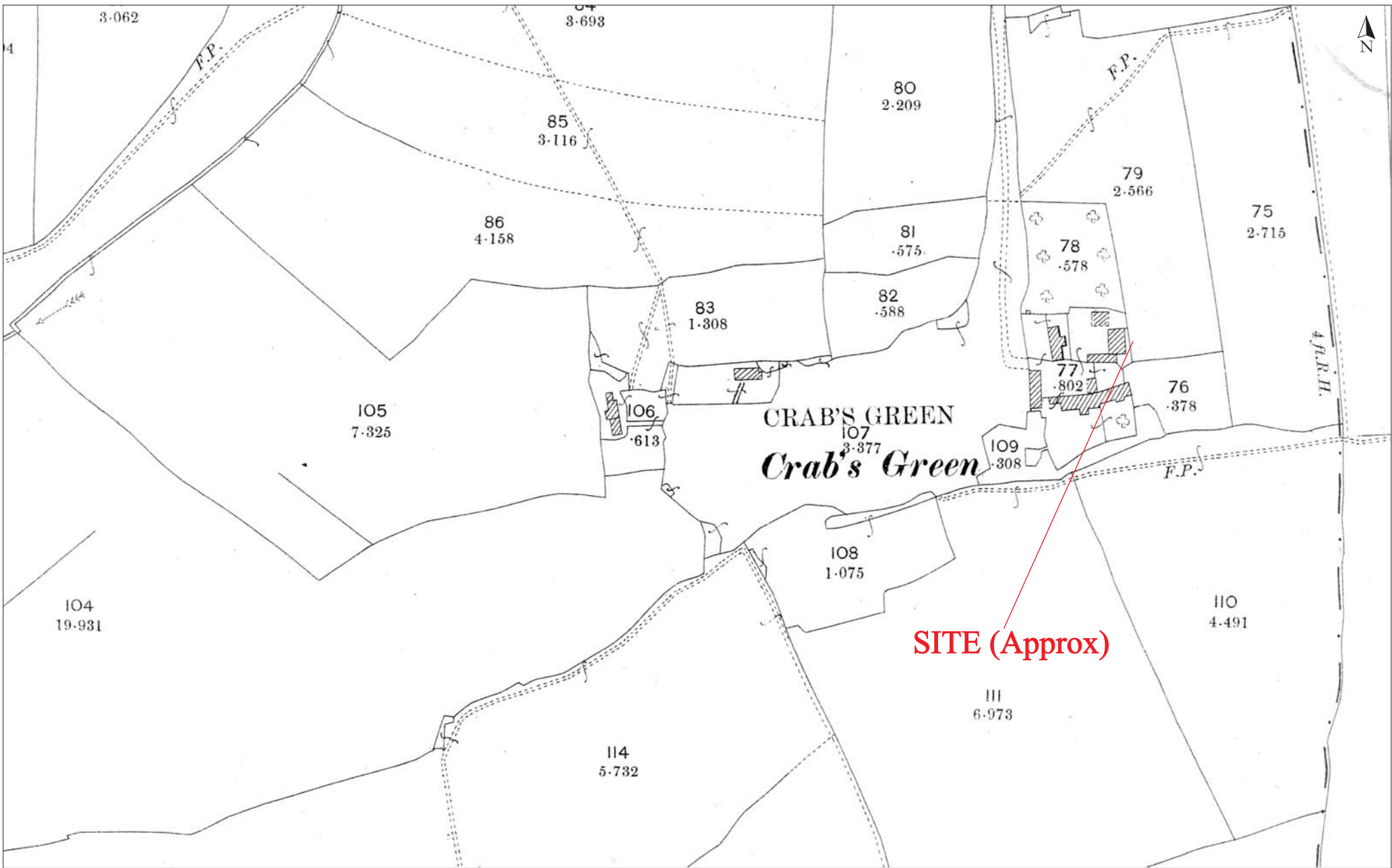
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4</b> Sale particulars map, 1878
Scale unknown



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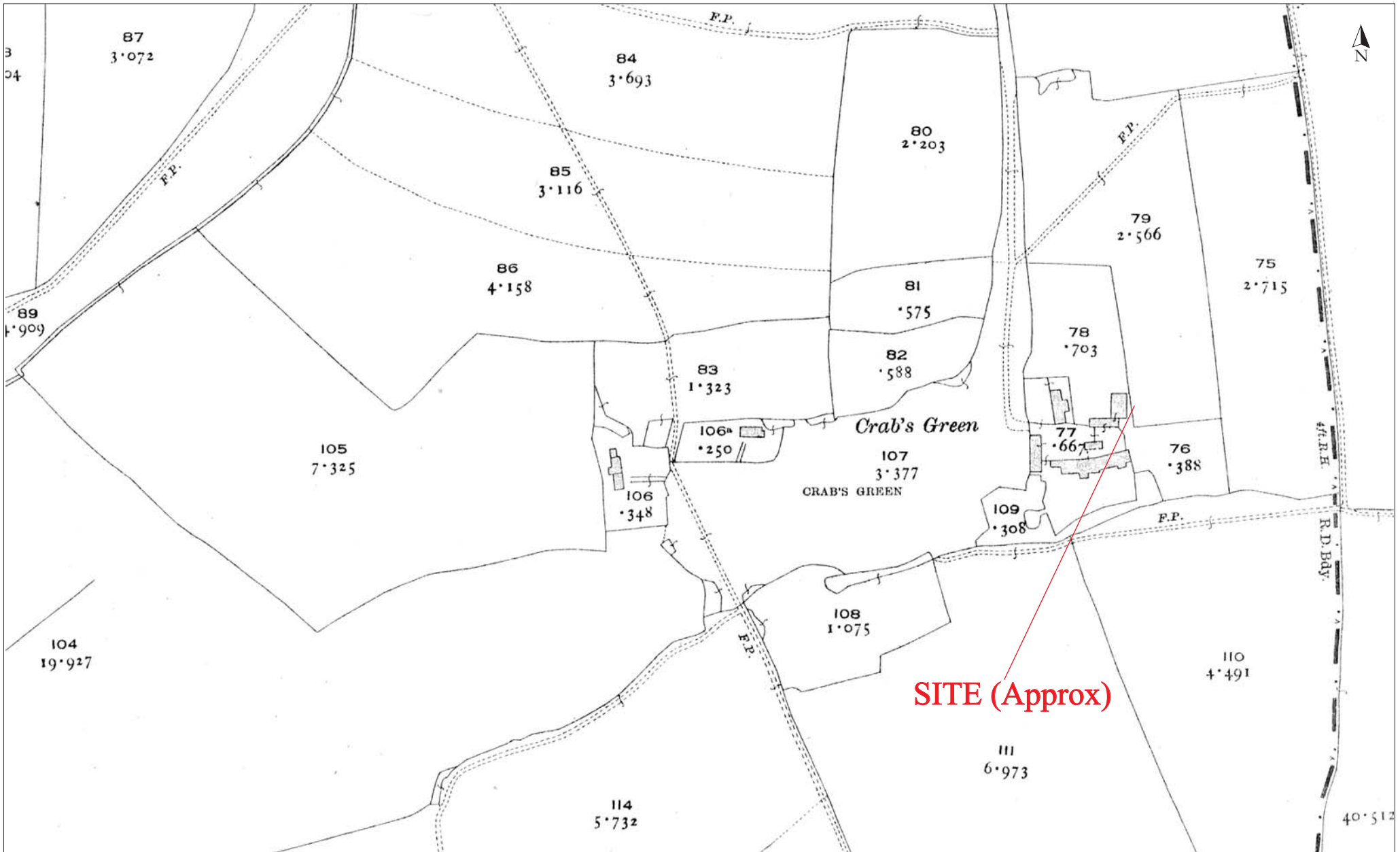
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 Fig. 5 1st edition OS map, 1878  
 Scale 25" to 1 mile at A4





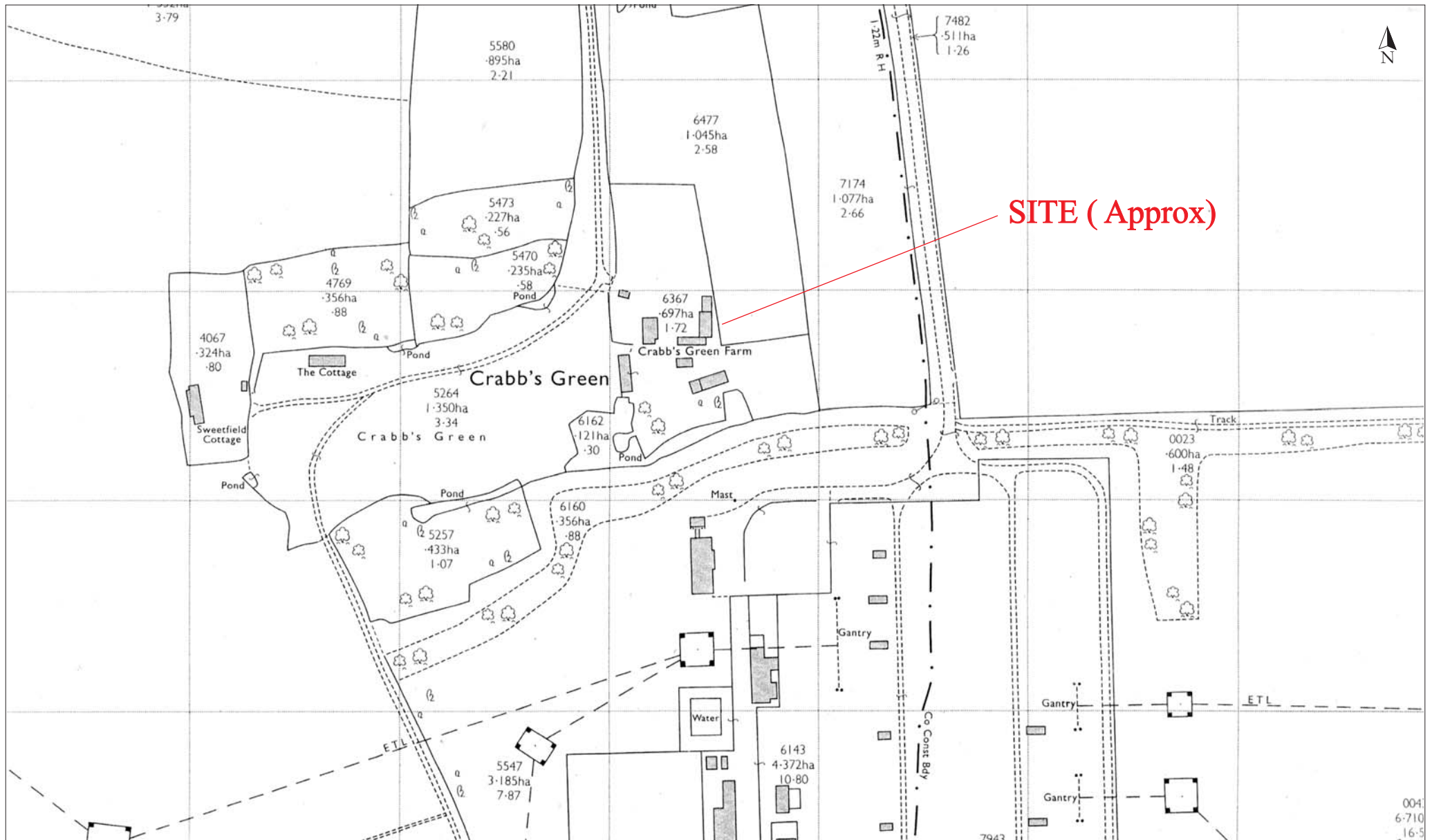
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**Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1898**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



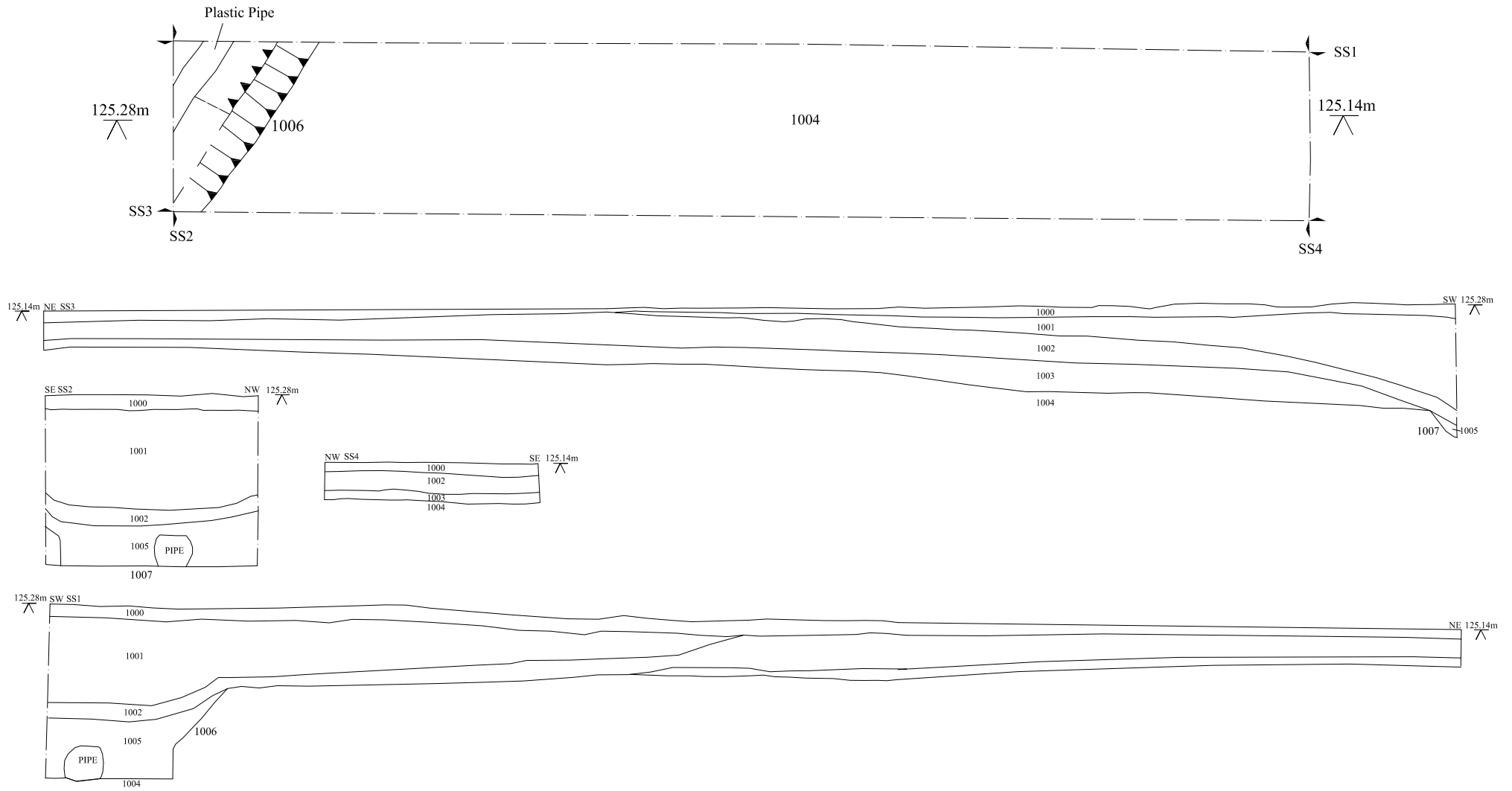
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 Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map, 1921  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



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**Fig. 8 OS map, 1978**  
 Scale 1:2500



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**Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections**  
Scale plans: 1:50 sections: 1:40 at A4