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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

THATCHERS HOUSE, BOWER HOUSE TYE,  
POLSTEAD, SUFFOLK

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Peter Thompson MA (Desk-based assessment) Martin Brook BA (Fieldwork) Gary Brogan BSc (Report)	
NGR: TL 986 407	Report No: 3327
District: Babergh	Site Code: PLS Misc
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3523
Signed:	Date: June 2009

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Thatchers House, Bower House Tye, Suffolk. Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In June 2009 Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted archaeological monitoring at Thatchers Barn, Bower House Tye, Suffolk (Grid Ref: TL 986 407). The monitoring was carried out in advance of renovation of existing barns.</i></p> <p><i>As the site is within a small hamlet with possible medieval origins and adjacent to an early post-medieval house there was the potential for archaeological remains of these periods. In the event, no archaeological features or finds were revealed other than foundations associated with the existing outbuildings.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	18/06/09		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	3523	Site code	PLS Misc
Type of project	<i>Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Importance</i>		
Current land use	<i>Derelict outbuildings</i>		
Planned development	<i>Building extension and alterations to existing outbuildings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Babergh</i>	<i>Polstead</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk HER (Bury St Edmunds)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CO6 5DD</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 10 sq m (10 1m x 1m pads)</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 986 407</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 70m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeology (Dr Jess Tipper)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Martin Brook</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mrs Louise Renshaw</i>		
Full title	<i>Thatchers Barn, Bower House Tye, Suffolk. Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Martin Brook &amp; Peter Thompson</i>		
Report no.	3327		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2009</i>		

# THATCHERS HOUSE, BOWER HOUSE TYE, POLSTEAD, SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*In June 2009 Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Thatchers Barn, Bower House Tye, Suffolk (Grid Ref: TL 986 407). The monitoring was carried out in advance of renovation of existing barns.*

*As the site is within a small hamlet with possible medieval origins and adjacent to an early post-medieval house, there was the potential for archaeological remains of these periods. In the event, no archaeological features or finds were revealed other than foundations associated with the existing outbuildings.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Thatchers Barn, Bower House Tye, Polstead, Suffolk (NGR TL 986 407, Figs 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Louise Renshaw in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the erection of an extension and internal alterations to an existing outbuilding (Babergh District Council Planning Ref. B/09/00260).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (dated 28/05/2009), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (dated 02/06/2009). The monitoring complied with the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were set out in the brief and specification:

- To ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required.
- To secure the analysis, long term conservation and storage of the project archive.

## **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 The site is located on the south side of the rural hamlet of Bower House Tye in the Parish of Polstead. This hamlet is adjacent to the A1071, the road between Boxford, 2 km to the west, and Hadleigh, 4km to the north-east.

2.2 Currently the site is occupied by the two dilapidated barns that are to be renovated. The walls of the partially demolished barns are standing but the interior is full of demolition rubble. The barns are located to the west of Thatchers House, set within the mature gardens. The eastern and northern sides are bounded by the gravel driveway and paths, with grass and bushes elsewhere.

## **3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)**

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 standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Suffolk comes from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within an approximate 1 km radius of the site. These are listed (Appendices 1 and 2) and plotted below (Figure 3). Their significance, where

relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1 km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

### **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Record Office, Bury St Edmunds. These are listed in Appendix 3 and reproduced in Figures 4 - 6

### **3.3 Secondary sources**

The principal sources of secondary material were the Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

### **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the British Geological Survey.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and soils**

4.1.1 The site is located at approximately 70 metres OD. It comprises brown sandy earths overlying solid Eocene and Palaeocene sedimentary rock.

### **4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)**

#### *Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)*

4.2.1 Prehistoric stone tools have been found in the Parish of Polstead most notably a Palaeolithic handaxe (PLS 035) and two Neolithic axe heads (PLS 017 and 018). A series of, probably prehistoric, crop circles have been identified just over 1 km to the west of the site which include a possible ring ditch 25 metres in diameter, an irregular enclosure and a sinuous trackway (PLS 010 and PLS 036).

#### *Romano-British (AD 43-410)*

4.2.2 No Romano-British remains are recorded in the study area

#### *Saxon (AD 410-1066)*

4.2.3 No Saxon remains are recorded in the study area

### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

4.2.4 Polstead is first recorded as *Polstede* in c.975 and *Polesteda* in 1086 and means 'Place by the pool' (Mills 1991). The site however lies at Bower House Tye, 2.5 km from the core of village settlement. Prior to 1066, Polstead was held as a manor by Robert son of Swein and comprised 4 carucates of land with the jurisdiction. At that time it had 26 villagers, 36 smallholders and 15 men's ploughs compared with 21, 30 and 9 respectively in 1086. Also decreasing in size was the meadow acreage available and the number of swine in the woodland, 80 pigs before 1066 and 40 at Domesday. However, with the addition of 28 cattle, 150 sheep and 8 horses at the hall, the manor actually prospered and was worth £12 at Domesday compared with £10 in the reign of Edward the Confessor (Domesday Book 1986).

4.2.5 The hamlet of Bower House Tye is designated an area of archaeological importance. It is possible that the hamlet has medieval origins and the site is adjacent to a green, named 'Mock Beggar Green' on Hodskinsons map of 1783 (Figure 4). The word Tye refers to an area of common pasture (Martin 1999)

### *Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)*

4.2.6 The outbuildings are located immediately west of Thatchers House which is a Listed Building at Bower House Close (DSF 1140). Seven listed buildings are located within approximately 1 km of the site (Appendix 2). Holmwood Cottages, possibly dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, are located next to the Brewers Arms (DSF 2990) close by. The Bower House was the farmhouse for Bower House Farm (DSF 1516) accessed from Bower House Tye.

## **4.3 Cartographic Sources**

4.3.1 The 1843 Tithe Map (Fig. 5) shows Bower House Tye located close to the Boxford Parish boundary with the hamlet not much smaller in size than it is today. Plot 444 adjacent to the study site was owned and occupied by John Strutt and called Four Acre Field, it was used as arable land. Strut also owned the adjacent plot, 442, an allotment, and Plot 439, an orchard, which is where the site is located. The 1904 Second Edition OS Map shows clearly the Thatcher's House and the outbuildings to be converted with remnants of an orchard surrounding them (Fig. 6). It can be seen that the longer field boundaries running approximately from south-west to north-east have remained consistent from the Tithe Map through to the modern OS Map (Figs. 1, 3 and 6). However, there have been changes to some of the shorter field boundaries running approximately from north-west to south-east.

## **5 METHODOLOGY (Archaeological Monitoring)**

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks undertaken on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps

and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5.2 The monitored works comprised the recording of the square foundation trenches for the new foundation pads. These foundations were approximately 1m square and located beneath the timber uprights for the outbuildings (DPs 2 - 4). They were excavated using a combination of a 360° mini-digger with a toothless bucket and by hand.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### 6.1 Sample sections of foundation trenches (Fig. 7).

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP 5), facing north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 70.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. Dark grey brown clayey sand with turf, located outside the barn.
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Made ground. Brownish grey loose sand and rubble, located inside the barn .
0.24m +	L1001	Natural sand. Loose orange sand

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP 6), facing south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 70.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. As above
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Made ground. As above
0.23m +	L1001	Natural sand. As above

No archaeological features or finds were present within the foundations. The made Ground, L1000, probably represented the foundation / levelling the interior of the barns.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil (L1002) was located immediately outside of the barns. This was 0.26m thick and had a patchy covering of turf. Within the interior of the barn a consistent made ground layer (L1000) was recorded. This loose brownish grey sand was 0.24m thick.

8.2 The natural substrate was loose orange sand.



## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The desk-based assessment indicated the potential for archaeological remains, principally dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

9.2 There are disparate scatters of prehistoric finds in the surrounding area and a concentration of crop marks indicating possible prehistoric activity further to the west. There is no evidence for Romano-British or Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. The site is located adjacent to a green that may have medieval origins. It may be judged that any archaeological remains that might be present are more likely to relate to post-medieval buildings or field boundaries.

9.3 Despite the potential for medieval or post-medieval remains, no archaeological features or finds were present. The foundation / levelling layer of the existing outbuildings was revealed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mrs Louise Renshaw for her co-operation and for funding the monitoring.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Colin Pendleton at the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record and of staff at the Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a c. 1 km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 2. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

HER Number	Grid Reference	Description
<i>Prehistoric</i>		
MSF 23116 (PLS 035)	TL 975 407	Palaeolithic handaxe
MSF 13403 (PLS 017)	TL 9940 4130	Neolithic igneous stone axe found on Evans Heath
MSF 13970 (PLS 018)	TL 9839 4127	Polished Neolithic axe head
<i>Medieval</i>		
Outparish 033	TL 987 402	Metalwork scatter
<i>Undated</i>		
MSF 18188 (PLS 027)	TL 982 413	Stony Grove ancient woodland
MSF 18189 (PLS 028)	TL 987 414	Marsh/Whinny field woods
MSF 18191 (PLS 030)	TL 997 407	Stack Wood
MSF 23116 (PLS 036)	TL 976 407	Crop marks including ring ditch 25m diameter, an enclosure and sinuous trackway
(PLS 010)	TL 9773 4060	Irregular enclosure, part of crop circle group above

## APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

The following listed buildings are those that lie within c. 1 km of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

Identification number	Name	Description
DSF 647	Holly Cottage	Grade II 18 <sup>th</sup> century house
DSF 1140	The Bower House Close	Grade II 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed
DSF 1516	Bower House	Grade II 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century timber house
DSF 2754	Potash Farmhouse	Grade II 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed house
DSF 2784	Brewery House Farm	Grade II 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed house
DSF 2989	Tills Farmhouse	Grade II Grade II 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed
DSF 2990	Holmwood Cottages	Grade II 18 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed house with plaster and thatch

## APPENDIX 3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Figure	Date	Map	Scale	Description
1	Modern	OS Explorer	1:25000	Site location
2	Modern	OS Explorer	1:25000	HER sites within c. 1 km of assessment site
3	1842	Tithe Map		Tithe Map (with Apportionment) T154/1 and 2
4	1783	Hodskinsons Map		Map of the county of Suffolk
5	1904	OS Map 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition	1:25 inch	

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*General view of the site. The outbuildings under renovation are in the background.*



2  
*Outbuildings under renovation. Sample Section 1 is located within the nearest trench. Looking south.*



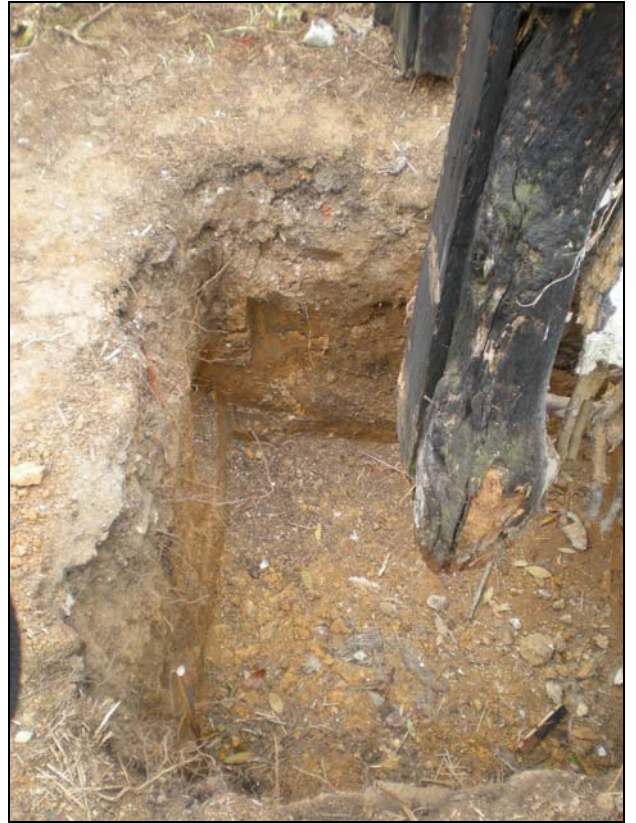
3  
*Outbuildings under renovation. Looking north.*



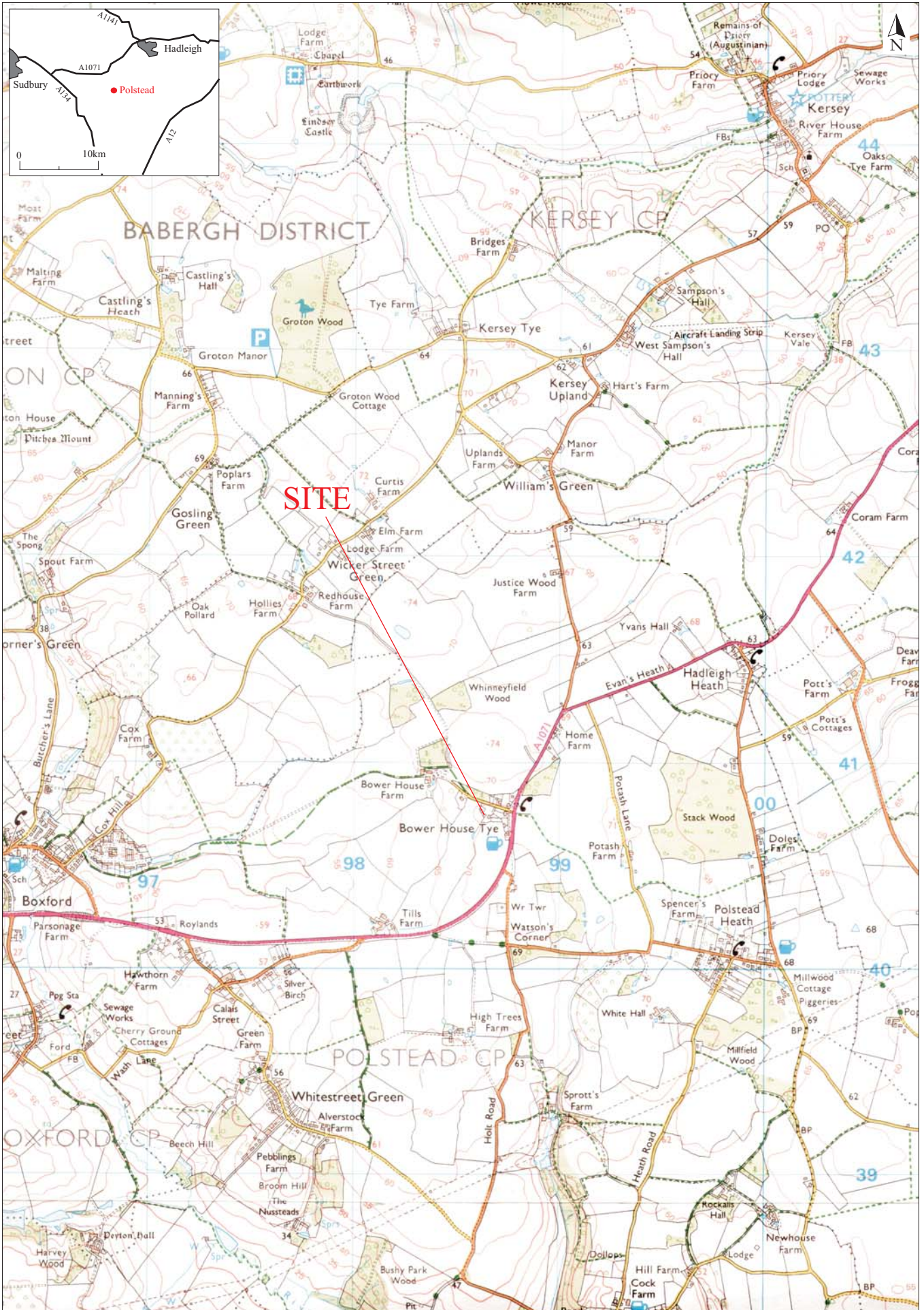
4  
*Outbuildings under renovation. Looking south-west.*



5  
*Sample Section 1. Looking south-west.*

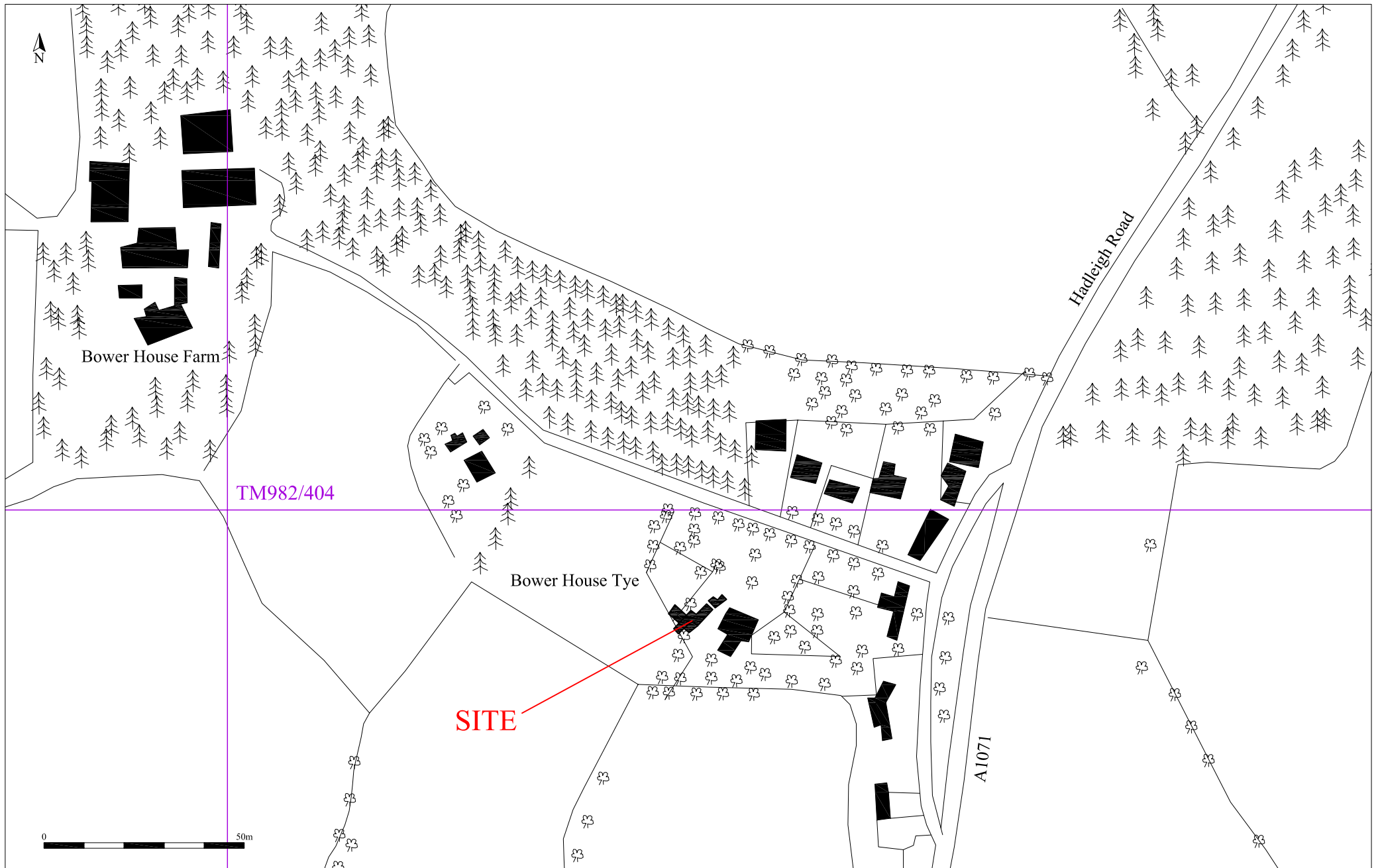


6  
*Sample Section 2. Looking north-east.*



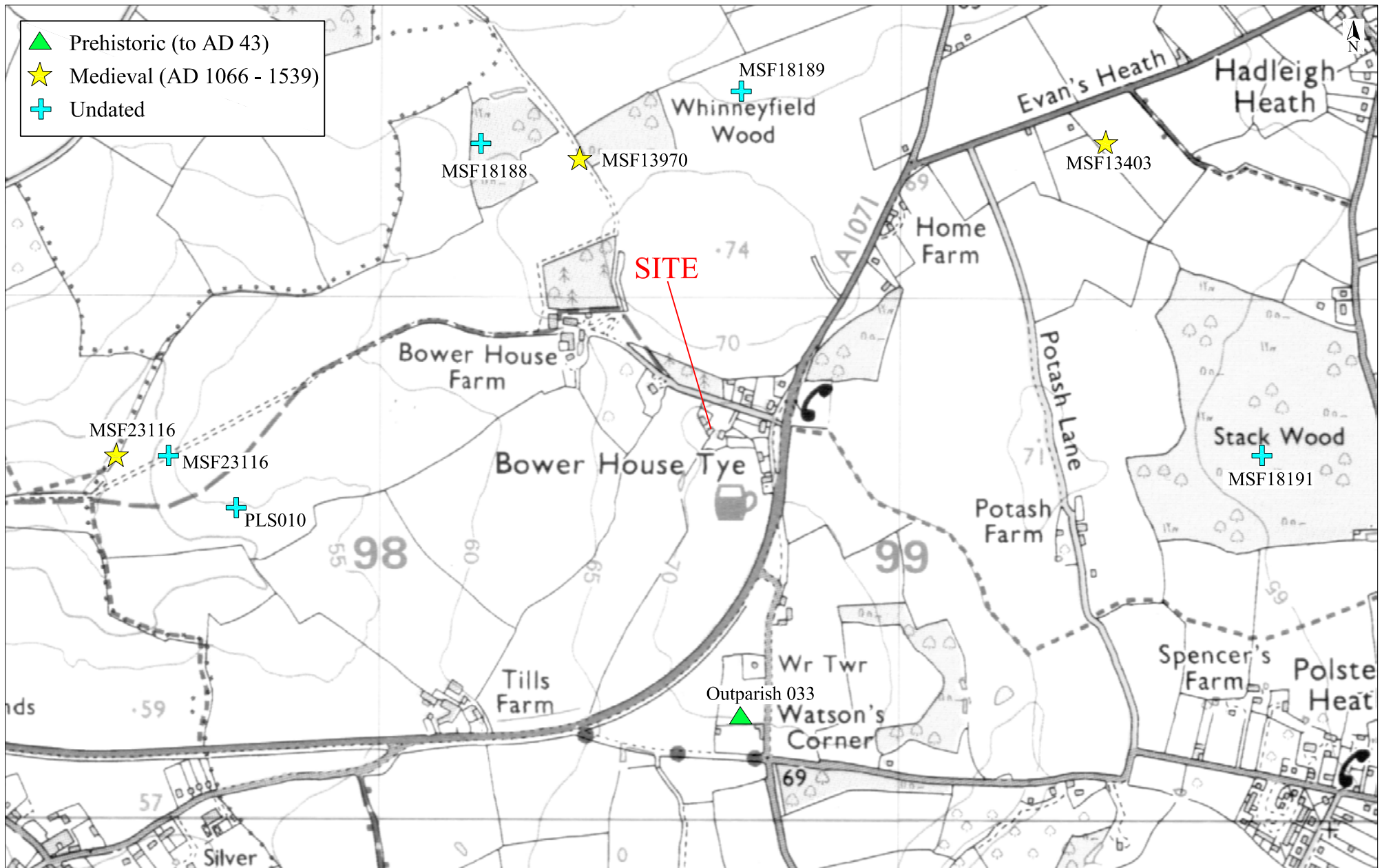
Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



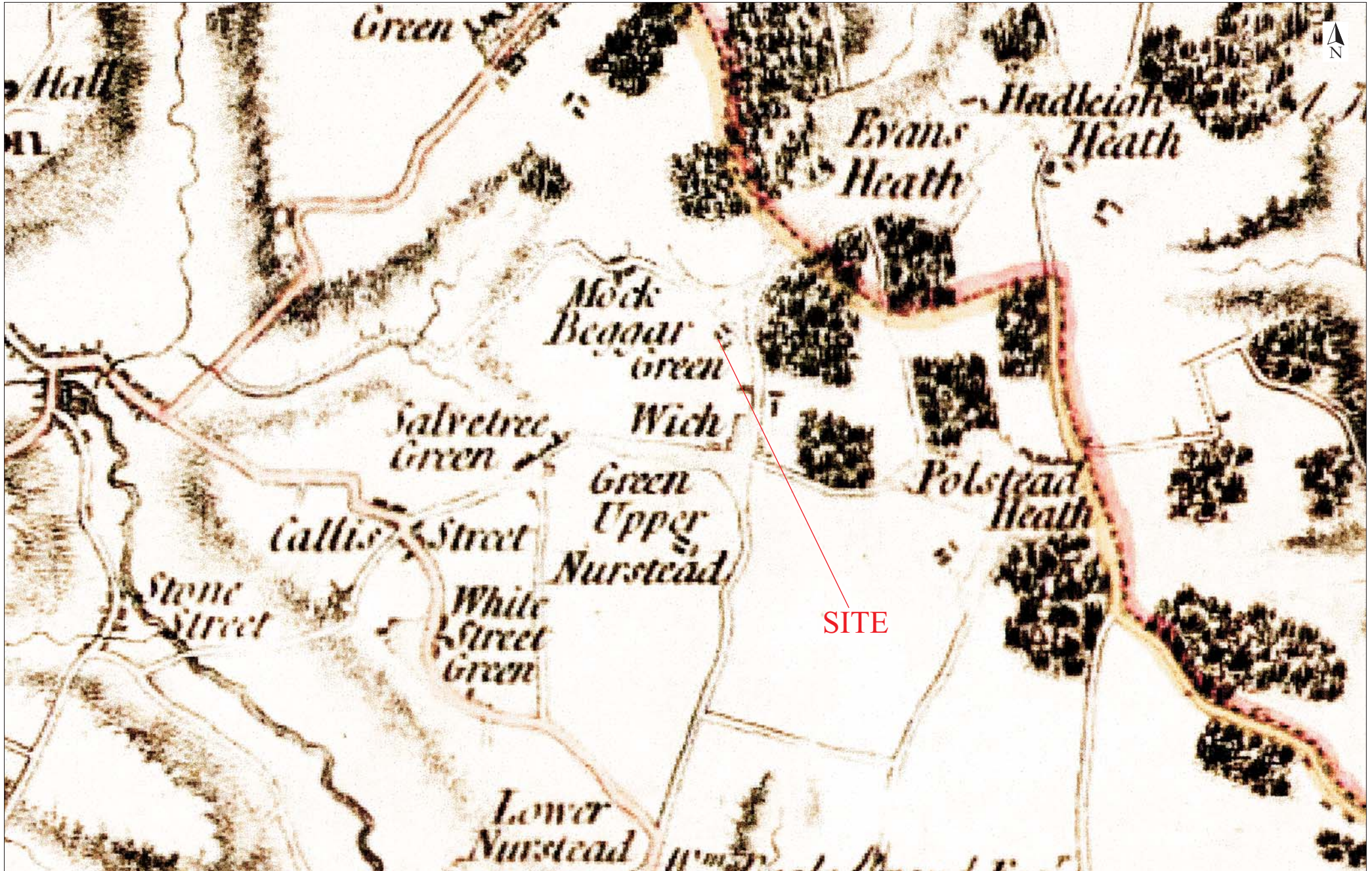
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:1250 at A4





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**Fig. 3 HER Data**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



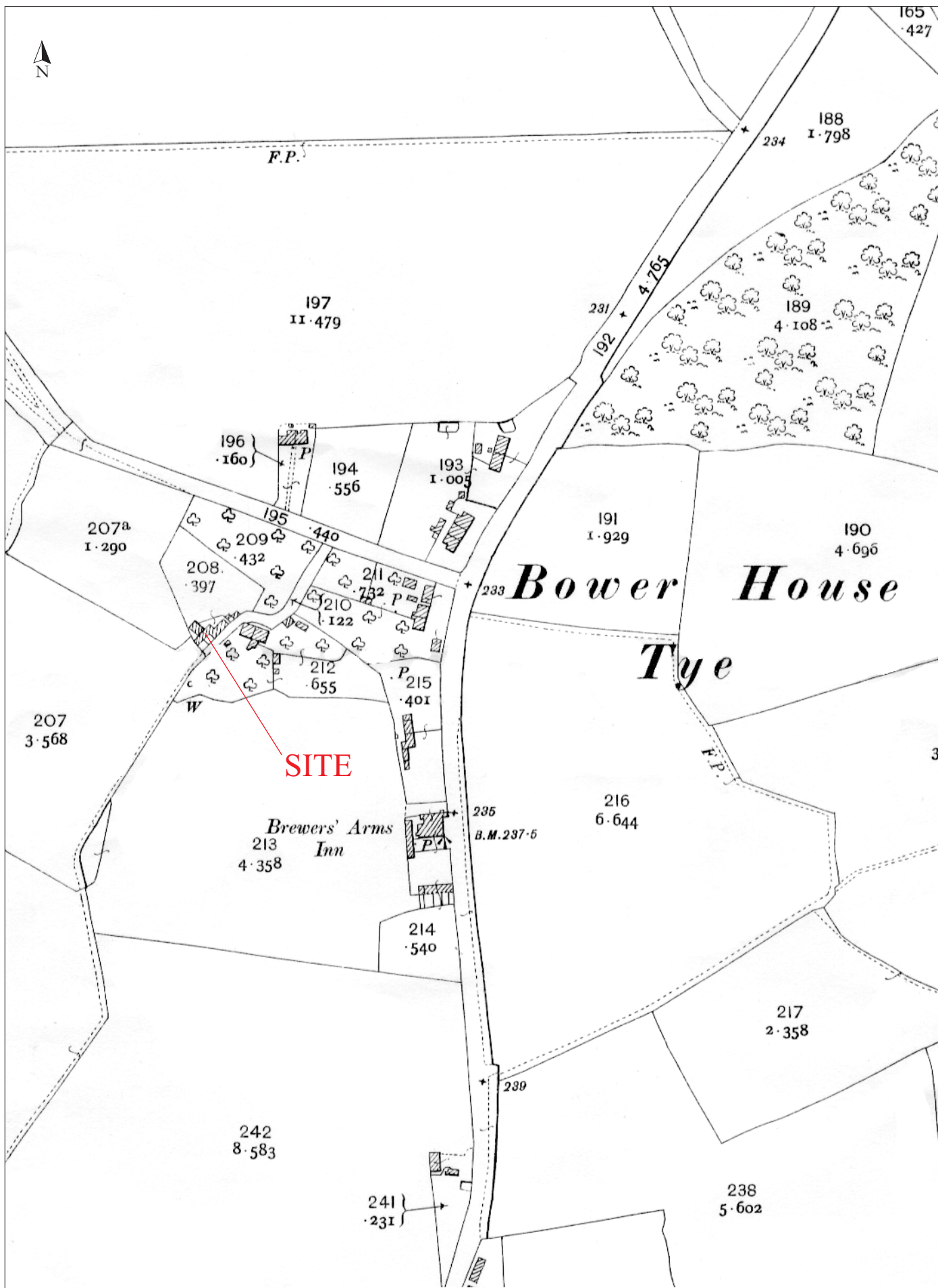
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 4 Hodskinsons map of the county of Suffolk, 1783

Not to scale

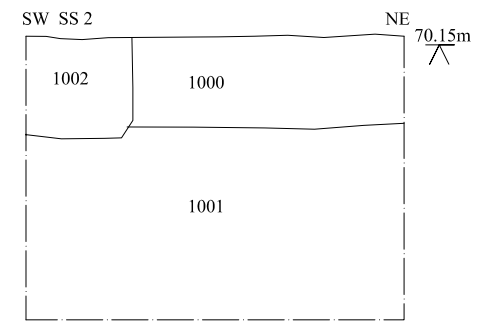
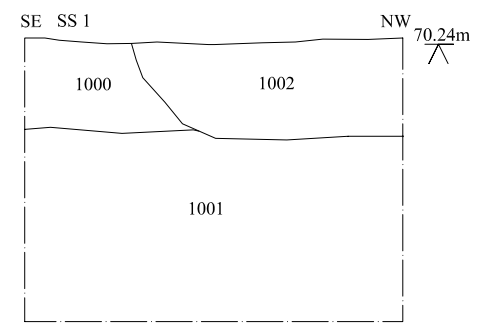
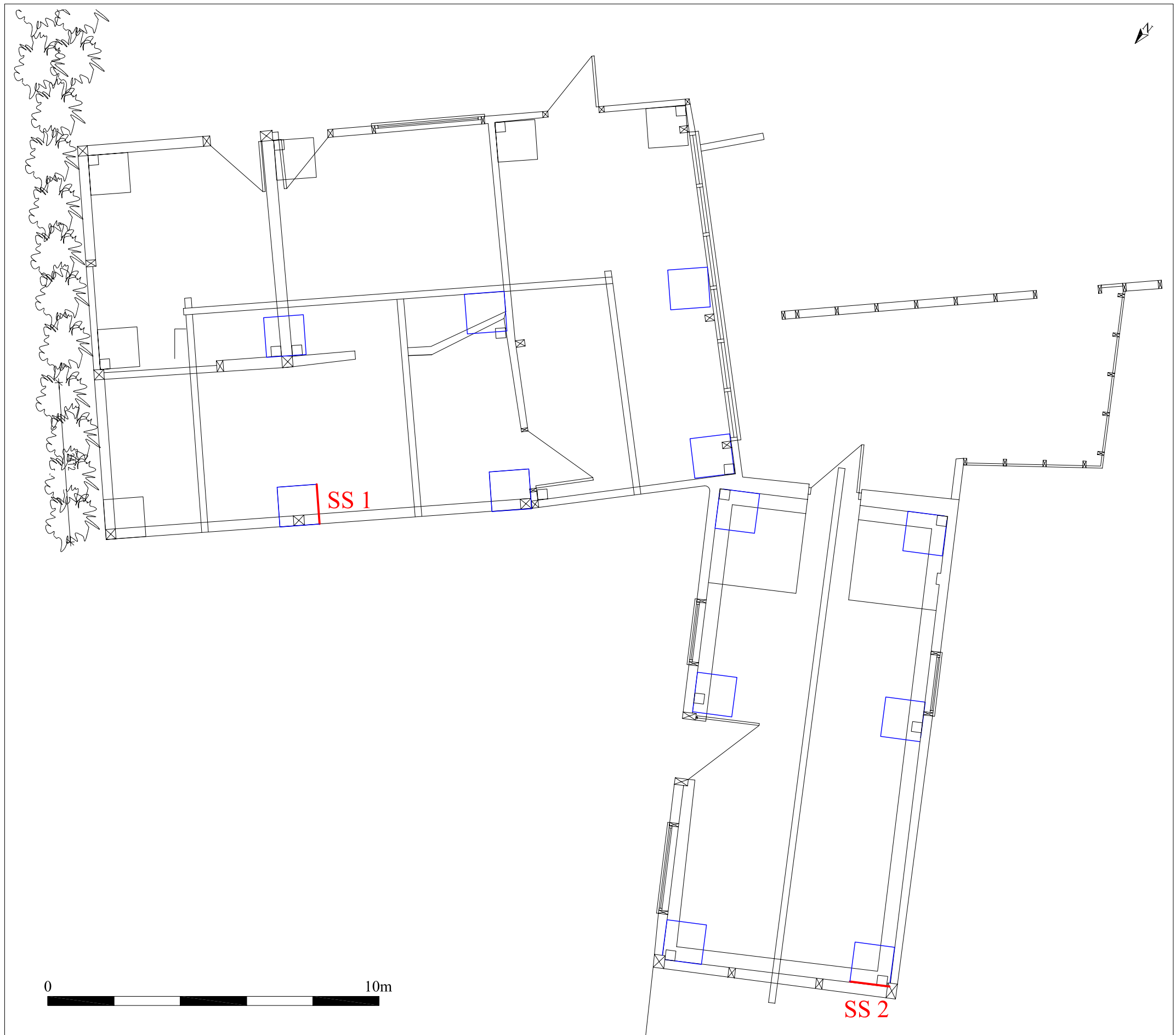


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**Fig. 5 Tithe map with apportionment, 1843**  
 Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1914 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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**Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1904**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



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**Fig. 7** Area of watching brief and sample sections  
 Scale plan at 1:125 & sample sections at 1:20 at A3