
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**144 BRIDGEWATER ROAD, BERKHAMSTED,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: SP 9845 0930	Report No. 3308
Parish: Berkhamsted	Site Code: AS 1207
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3493
Signed:	Date: June 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire; Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In June 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (SP 9845 0866). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Mr Neil Brown, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to the approval of a residential extension of an existing house.</i></p> <p><i>The construction trench for the modern house was revealed during the monitoring and recording. Despite the potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date, as indicated by the site's location in an Area of Archaeological Significance, no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>1st June 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P3493</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1207</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance 21</i>		
Current land use	<i>Side and backyard of residential property</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern construction pit</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Dacorum</i>	<i>Berkhamsted</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HP4 1EE</i>		
Area of site	<i>380 sq m</i>		
NGR	<i>SP 9845 0866</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 125m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Neil Brown</i>		
Full title	<i>144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire; Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3308</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>14th July 2009</i>		

144 BRIDGEWATER ROAD, BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (SP 9845 0866). The monitoring and recording was commissioned, and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to the approval of a residential extension to an existing house.

The construction trench for the modern house was revealed during the monitoring and recording. The site lies with Area of Archaeological Significance 21 but, despite the potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date that this indicates, no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (SP 9845 0866; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Mr Neil Brown, in compliance of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00369/09). It was carried out during the groundworks for the proposed construction of a new two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension to the residential dwelling at the site.

1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken according to advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 05/05/2009) and approved by HCC HEU. The project adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- 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;

- 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 quarry expanding 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 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

2.1 The site is located within a residential area to the north of the historic core of the town of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, within the district of Dacorum (Fig. 1). The settlement of Berkhamsted is situated approximately 6km to the south-east of Tring, c. 5km north-west of Hemel Hempstead, and c. 7km north-east of Chesham. The site lies 1km to the north-west of the castle at Berkhamsted, on high ground above the valley of the River Bulbourne, which lies c. 250m to the south.

2.2 The site comprises a rectangular plot occupied by a single two-storey house with adjacent backyard and garden (Fig. 2). The proposed development is within the yard to the rear and to the west of the house.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c. 125m AOD, above the valley of the river Bulbourne (c. 250m to the south), on land that slopes to the south and east (Fig. 1). The Bulbourne was once by far the most important natural water course in the western region of Hertfordshire, but is now overshadowed and

diminished by the presence of the 18th century Grand Union Canal, 235m to the south of the site. The site

3.2 The area surrounding both the site and the settlement of Berkhamsted is underlain by geology of Upper Chalk plateau drift (GBS 1979). That is capped locally by deposits of clay-with-flints; a flinty and chalky silty clay drift over the chalk bedrock. Close to the floor of the Bulbourne valley to the south of the site lies the occasional chalky and gravely river alluvium deposited relatively recently by the river Bulbourne.

3.3 The site is located on the cusp between two different soil associations. The area to the south of the site, which includes the majority of Berkhamsted, is located on soils of the Charity 2 association, which are described as well drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms (SSEW 1983). Such Charity 2 association soils also include calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, where they are sometimes shallow. Charity 2 association soils are used in agriculture for cereals, cereal and grassland rotations, permanent grassland, and some deciduous woodland on steep valley sides.

3.4 The area to the north of the site is situated on soil of the Batcombe association, which is described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils. Such soils may also consist of slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, with some well-drained clayey soils over chalk. Soils of the Batcombe association are suitable agriculturally for cereals, permanent grassland and deciduous woodland (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 3-9)

4.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 21, identified on the Dacorum Local Plan and which relates to the presence of archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date.

Prehistoric

4.2 The settlement of Berkhamsted lies in the Bulbourne river valley, where early activity is known through work on the route of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass and from within the town itself. These have revealed that the heavy local soils were exploited during the Neolithic, late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age. Grim's Ditch, a Scheduled Ancient Monument of late Bronze Age or Iron Age date in the form of long tribal boundary, lies on the high ground above the town to the west. Iron Age occupation is known from Cow Roast to the north-north-west of Berkhamsted. By the later Iron Age, an important iron working industry, focussed on Northchurch, had been developed, and this is thought to have extended over an area of approximately four square miles. Shaft furnaces of Iron Age date have been discovered at Bridgewater School at Dellfield, c. 300m to the north of the site (HER 4904). It is likely that the furnaces were in use in 1st century AD, and probably continued to function into the earlier part of the Roman period. Four late Iron Age cremation burials and

two lengths of a late Iron Age ditch have also been discovered at the school (HER 13059).

Romano-British

4.3 The route of Akeman Street, connecting Verulamium (St Albans) to Alcester and Cirencester passes through Berkhamsted, and it is thought to be the route of the modern High Street. At least two Romano-British villas have been identified within this part of the Bulbourne valley, including one at Northchurch. A second villa is located at Boxmoor, whilst a possible third may be on Berkhamsted Common. Roman buildings have been identified close to Berkhamsted Castle. The presence of the iron working industry ensured continuing activity around the site into the Roman period.

Anglo-Saxon

4.4 The district and Hundred of Dacorum, in which the site lies, derived its name from the Saxon period term 'hundred of the Danes or Dacians' in reference to its purported inhabitants originating in Dacia (Gover *et al* 1938). The settlement of Berkhamsted, however, first appeared as *Beorhðanstædæ*, or 'birch-grown homestead', in 966 – 984. The Domesday Book of 1086 documented that the Count of Mortain held the manor of *Berchamsted*, which comprised 13 hides and land for 26 ploughs (Morris 1976). The Saxon period in Berkhamsted is archaeologically represented by the discovery of several sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery recovered during field work at Chesham Road, on the south side of the town.

Medieval

4.5 It appears that the existence of an 11th century motte and bailey castle at Berkhamsted had surprisingly little influence on the topography of the medieval town. It is thought that Berkhamsted developed during the 12th and 13th centuries as an undefended settlement or trading centre on an arterial road, rather than a fortified town focussed on the Castle (Doggett & Hunn 1985). The manor of Berkhamsted remained an important centre throughout the medieval period. An excavation at Bridgewater School 300m to the north, however, revealed a length of medieval ditch (HER 2228), whilst the site of the graveyard for the parish church of St James and the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist is 400m to the north-east (HER 9182).

Post-Medieval and Modern

4.6 During the post-medieval period both Northchurch and Berkhamsted extended along the High Street and the main industries were lace making and straw plaiting (Page 1903), along with maltings and breweries, a sheep dip manufactory, milling and wood turning. Post-medieval/modern remains recorded close to the site comprised the Northchurch parish workhouse, demolished between 1830 and 1834 (HER 9314), an infilled chalk extraction pit (HER 10778) and the Crooked Billet public house (HER 13722). Modern

road and canal infrastructure features are also recorded (Appendix 1, below), as well as the East and Sons Ltd joinery factory 400m to the south of the site (HER 5711).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by a metal detector.

5.2 The monitored works comprised the mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extensions to the existing building located to the rear (north) and to the west side of the house. The trenches were excavated using a 360° mini-digger with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket, and hand cleaned and recorded.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Sample sections of foundation trenches (Fig. 10).

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP 4)</i>		
<i>Rear of the house, NE end of foundation trench, facing NW</i>		
<i>0.00 = c. 125.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Concrete yard surface.
0.10 – 0.25m	L1001	Made ground. Dark grey clayey silt with gravel and CBM rubble.
0.25 – 0.90m	L1003	Fill of F1002. Mid brown silty clay with gravel.
0.90m+	L1004	Natural mid yellow clay with flint gravel.

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP 5)</i>		
<i>Rear of the house, central part of foundation trench, facing SE</i>		
<i>0.00 = c. 125.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Surface. As above.
0.10 – 0.25m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.25m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above.

6.2 The northern edge of a construction cut, F1002, for the current house was located in Sample Section 1 (Fig. 10, DP 4), 2.20m north of the rear wall. It had steep sides and flattish base. Its single fill, L1003, was a mid brown, compact silty clay with gravel. It contained modern CBM. No archaeological features or finds were present, and no soil samples were taken.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 A modern concrete yard surface, L1000, covered the site. This sat on a 0.15m thick make up layer, L1001, of a layer of dark grey, compact clayey silt mixed with CBM and concrete rubble.

8.2 The make up for the yard surface sealed natural mid yellow, compact clay with flint gravel (L1004).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, as indicated by the site's location in Area of Archaeological Significance 21, no archaeological features or finds were located within the monitored area. Cut F1002 was probably related to the construction of the modern house.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Dacorum museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. There will be an overall site summary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr. Neil Brown of Exposure Promotions Ltd for commissioning and funding this project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (HER)

HER	NGR SP	Description
Prehistoric (to AD 43)		
4904	985 090	Rescue excavations during levelling for Bridgewater School, Dellfield, revealed four shaft furnaces containing late Iron Age sherds
13059	98430 08980	A length of late Iron Age ditch was recorded under emergency conditions during building work at Bridgewater School in late 2004
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
1335	9828 0853	Roman lamp and five samian bowls were found at Berkhamsted Gas Works on Billet Lane
6076	9845 0851	Roman sestertius coin of Hadrian (AD 117 - 138) found in 1975 on allotments at Dellfield, after the digging of a sewerpipe trench
6421	9843 0831	Roman pottery, bone and tile were found in a dark soil layer during observation of the construction of a storage shed at East's Timberyard
Medieval (AD 1150 - 1500)		
2228	985 090	Excavation at the Bridgewater School, Dellfield revealed a length of ditch orientated east to west containing a few pieces of medieval pottery
9182	9881 0881	Approximate site of graveyard for the parish church of St James and the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist, from which human remains were found during antiquity
Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1750)		
9314	9817 0835	The Northchurch parish workhouse stood near the corner of Billet Lane until its demolition between 1830 and 1834, following the transferral of the inmates to a new building in Berkhamsted
10778	981 086	The only feature noted on Northridge Road was probably an infilled chalk extraction pit, which may have been part of a nearby 18th century chalk pit or dene hole later cut by the railway line
13722	98175 08343	A building at the corner of the High Street and Billet Lane is shown on the 1766 Dury & Andrews map; the earliest reference to it as the Crooked Billet was in 1753
Early modern (AD 1750 – 1900)		
5231	9823 0849	Road bridge over Grand Union Canal on Billet Lane
5711	984 083	Factory owned by East and Sons Ltd, joinery manufacturers dating from 1840 onwards, expanding rapidly through war contracts during the Crimean War. Moved to present site after fire in 1888. Workshops wooden walled; Dutch barn type; 250ft by 125ft.
7193	9879 0862	Bushes Lock on the Grand Union Canal is dated 1896 on its western gate and 1875 on its eastern
7194	982 084	Grand Union Canal milepost located to the east of Bushes Lock and erected in 1893
7195	985 083	Gas Lock No. 1 on the Grand Union Canal is dated 1872 on its western gate
7196	986 083	Gas Lock No. 1 on the Grand Union Canal is dated 1875 on its western gate and 1874 on its eastern
Modern (AD 1900 onwards)		
11800	9834 0821	Crabtree Cottage at Gossams End comprised a semi-detached house built just prior to World War II, which was demolished in advance of redevelopment
Undated		
2529	9824 0877	Cropmarks of two roughly square enclosures, now destroyed by housing development

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Description	Fig. No.	Scale	Location
1839	Parish of Berkhamsted tithe map	4	-	HALS
1887	Hertfordshire sheet XXXIII.1; 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map	5	25":1 mile	HALS
1898	Hertfordshire sheet XXXIII.1; 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey map	6	25":1 mile	HALS
1925	Hertfordshire sheet XXXIII.1; 3 rd edition Ordnance Survey map	7	25":1 mile	HALS
1939	Hertfordshire sheet XXXIII.1; 4 th edition Ordnance Survey map	8	25":1 mile	HALS
1972	Plan SP 9808 9908; Ordnance Survey map	9	1:2,500	HALS
2001	Ordnance Survey Explorer series 181; site location	1 & 3	1:25,000	AS
2009	Detailed site location plan	2	XX	Client
2009	Proposed development plan	10	1:100	Client

Documents consulted at HALS;

Parish of Berkhamsted tithe map, n.d.

Ref. DSA4/19/1

Parish of Berkhamsted tithe award, n.d.

Ref. DSA4/19/2

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed side/rear extension, 144 Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1EE
County: Herts	District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Berkhamsted	Parish: Berkhamsted
Planning application reference:	Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00369/09
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Neil Brown, 35 Links Road, London, NW2 7LE
Nature of application:	Construction of a new two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension to the residential dwelling
Present land use:	Side and backyard of residential property
Size of application area:	380 sq m
NGR (8 figures):	SP 9845 0866
Site Code:	AS1207
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	1 st June 2009
Curating museum:	HALS
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: -
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	None
Summary of fieldwork results:	The construction trench for the modern house was located. No archaeological features or finds were present.
Author of summary: Gary Brogan	Date of Summary: 24 th June 2009

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Bridgewater Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. No 144 first to the left. Taken from SW.



DP 2. Rear of the house with works on the site. Taken from NNW.



DP 3. Foundation trench to the rear of the house, SE corner. Taken from WNW.



DP 4. Foundation trench to the rear of the house, SE corner. Sample section 1. Taken from WNW.



DP 5. Foundation trench to the rear of the house, SE corner. Sample section 2. Taken from SSE.



DP 6. Excavation of foundation trench, NW corner. Taken from E.



DP 7. Foundations of the house. Taken from NNW.



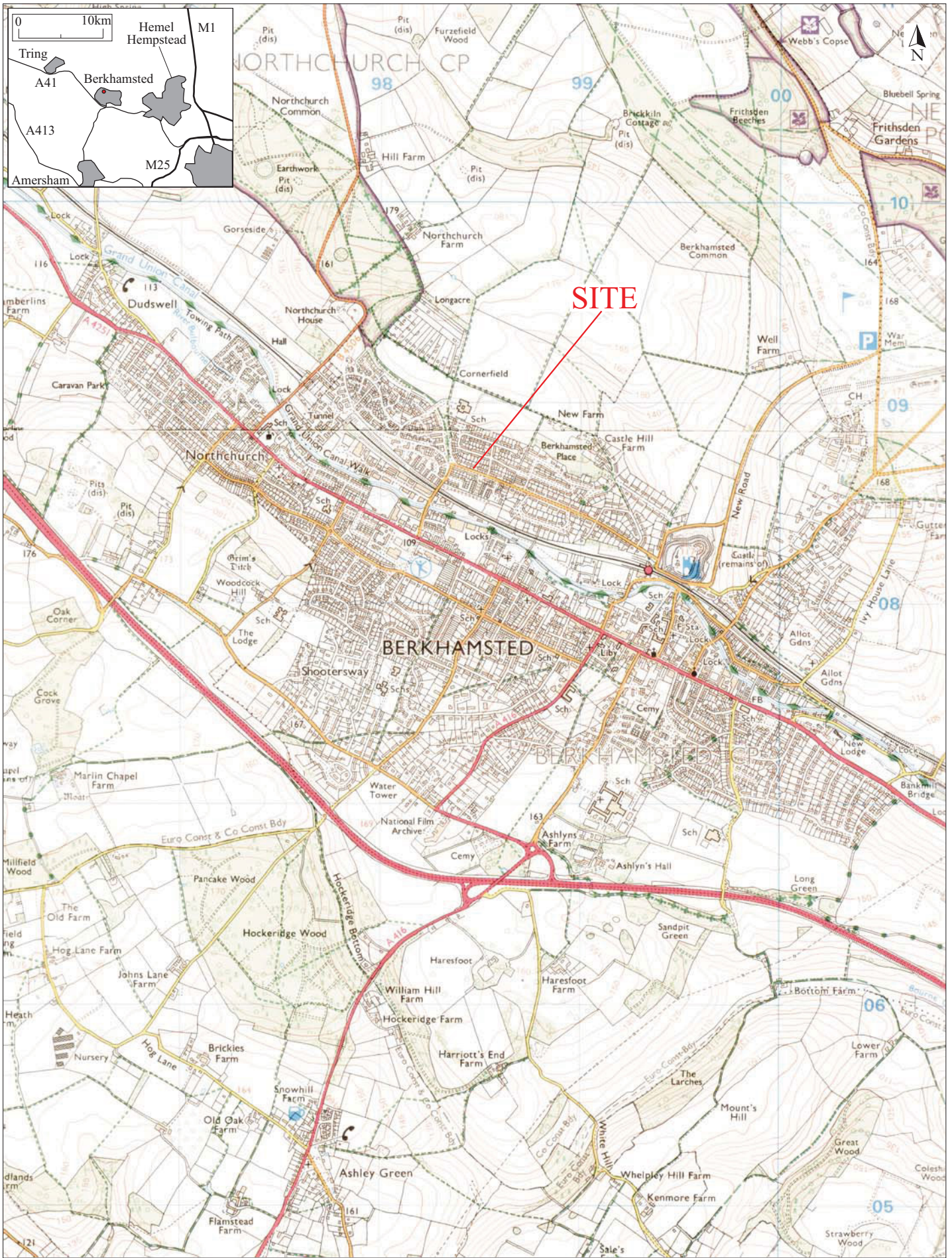
DP 8. W-E foundation trench to the rear of the house. Taken from ESE.



DP 9. NW corner of foundation trench. Taken from ESE.

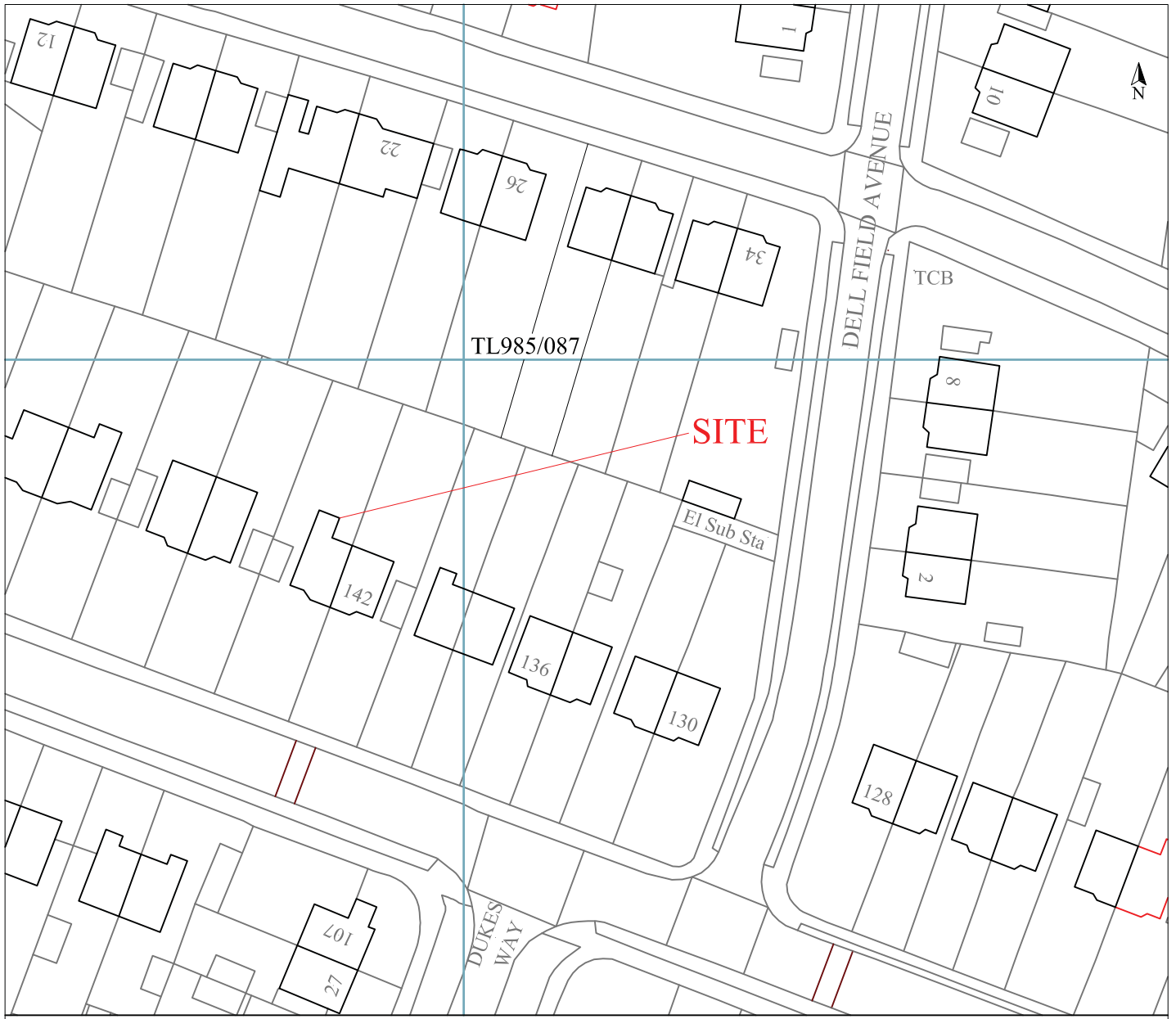


DP 10. Foundation trench to the W of the house. Sample section. Taken from ESE.



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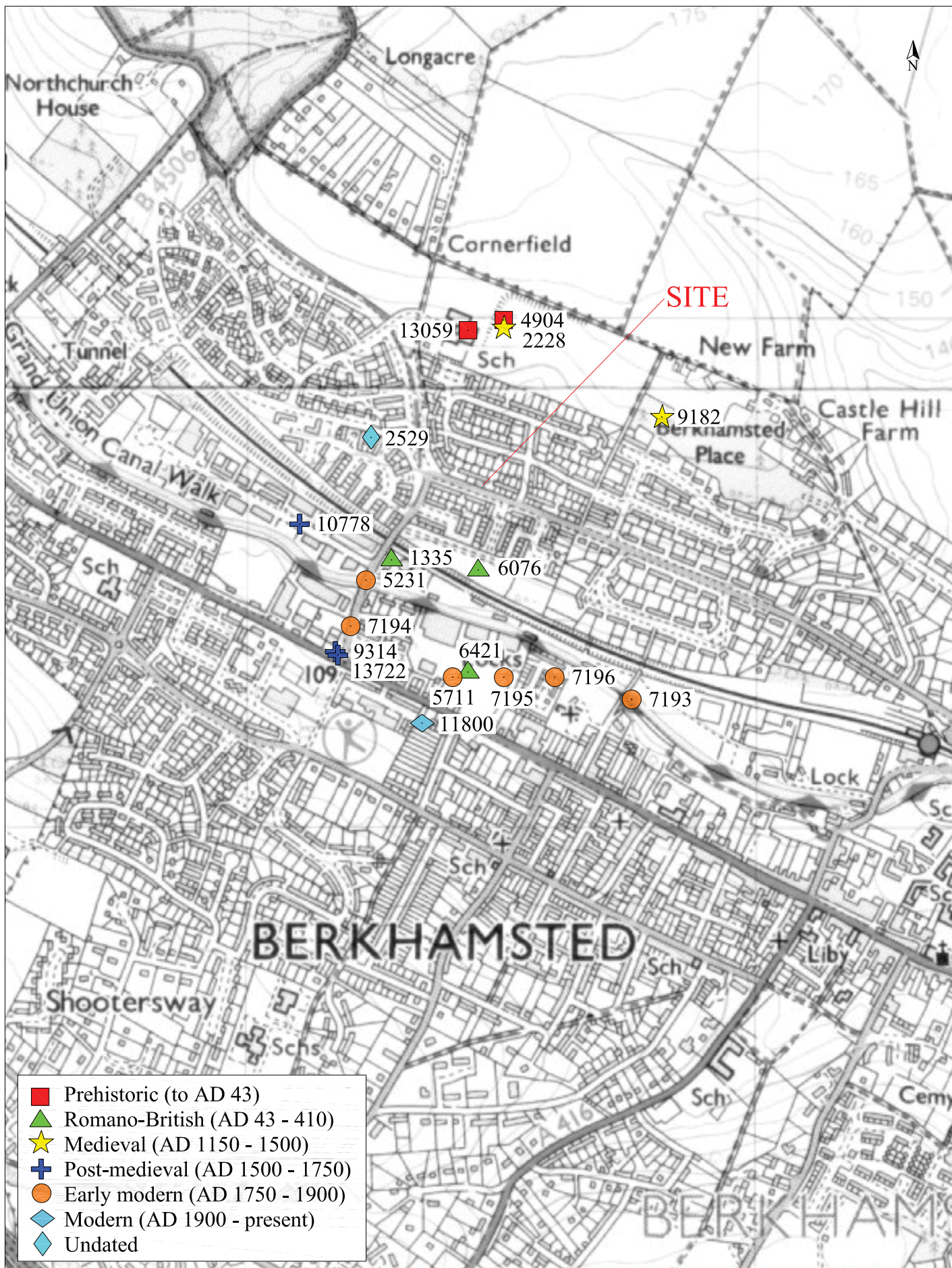
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4

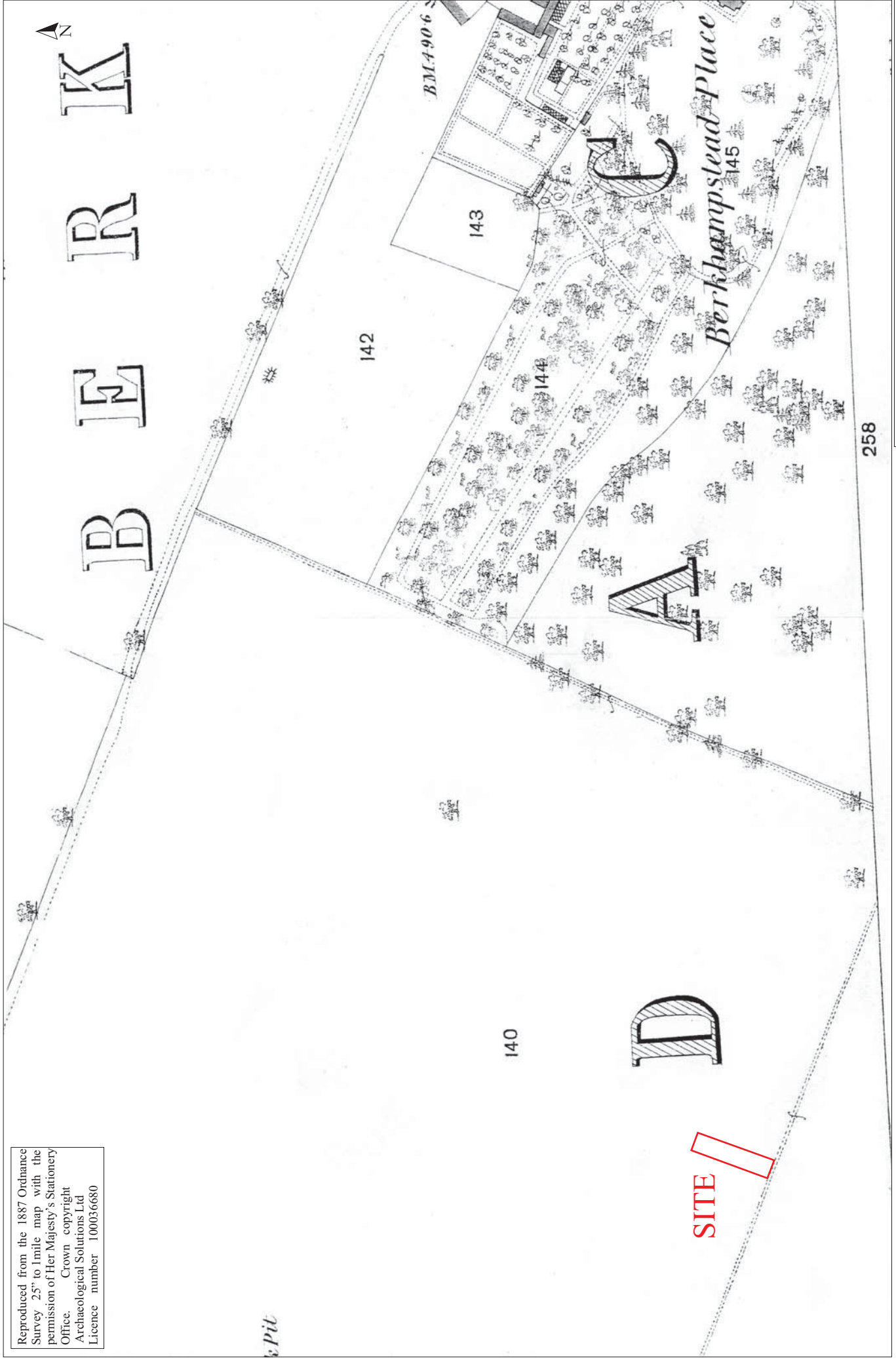


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Fig. 4 Tithe map, 1839

Not to scale

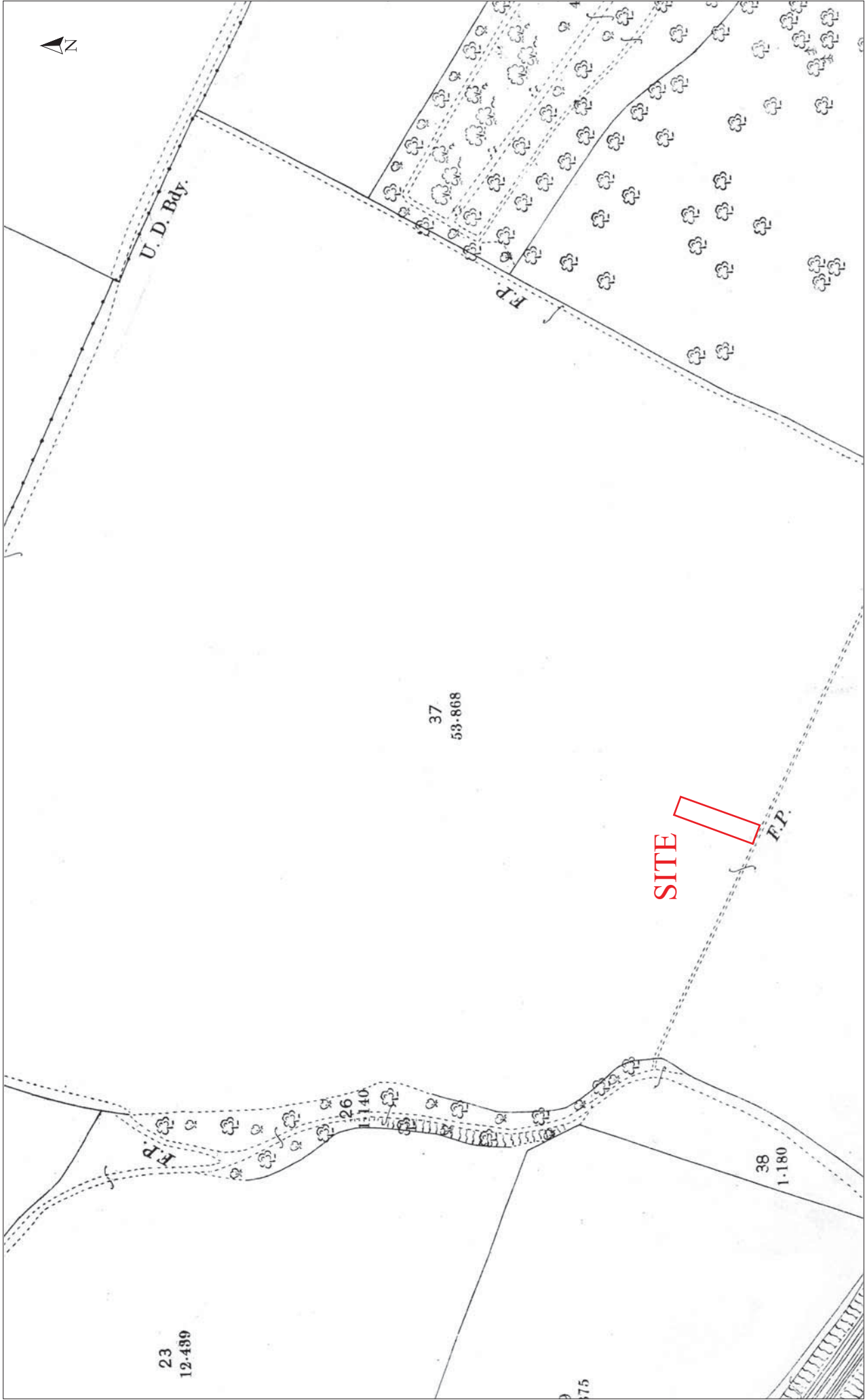
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Fig. 5 1st edition OS map, 1887

Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1898

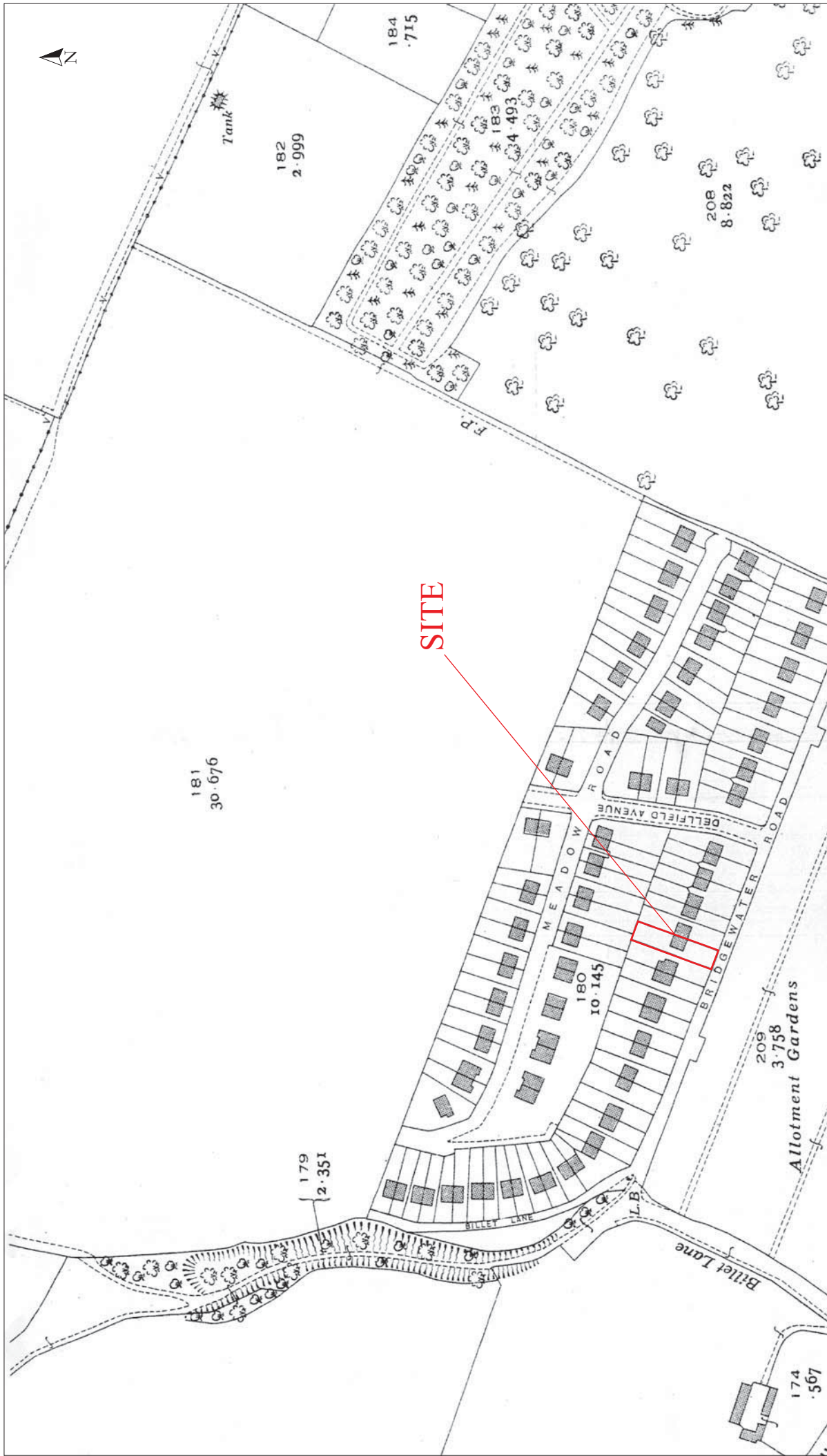
Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



SITE

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Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map, 1925
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4

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Fig. 8 4th edition OS map, 1939

Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4

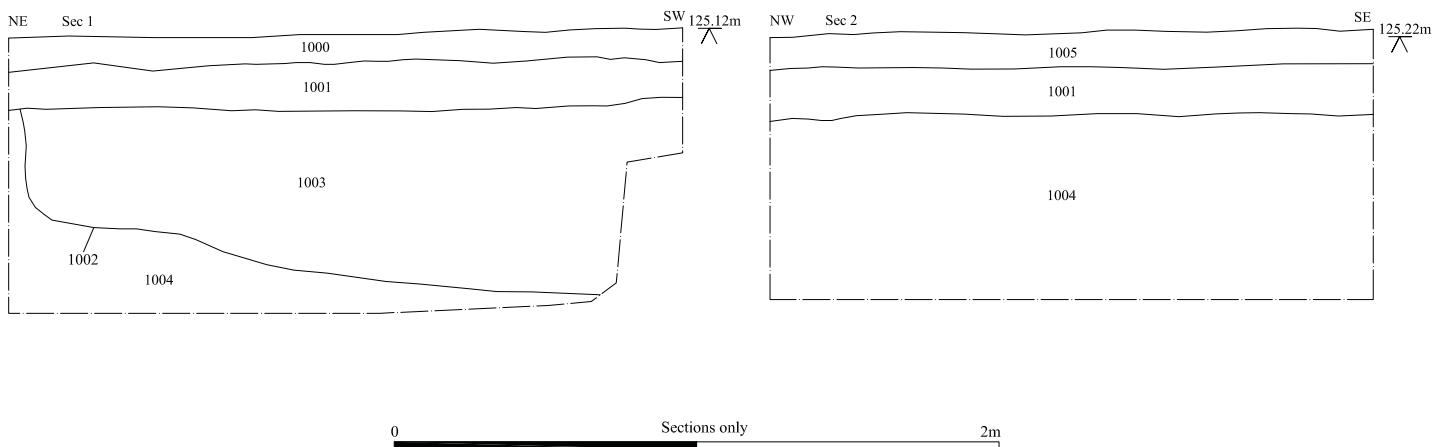
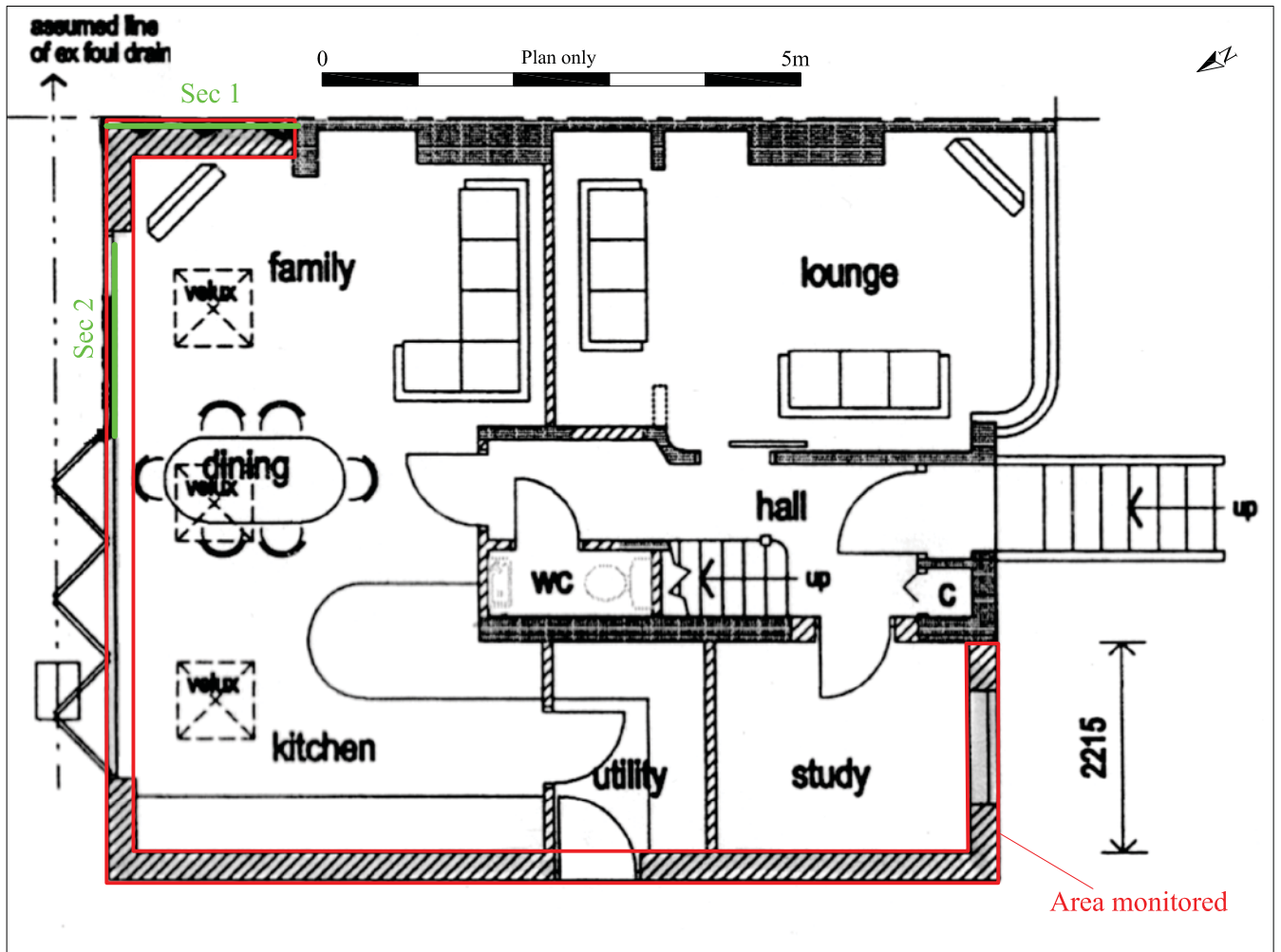


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Fig. 9 OS map, 1972

Scale: 1:2500 at A4

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Fig. 10 Trench plan and sections

Scale Plan 1:75, sections 1:25 at A4