
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**NEW GARDENERS BUILDING, DALHAM HALL STUD,
WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER ECB 3388

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NGR: TL 6602 6079	Report No: 3570
District: East Cambs	Site Code: AS1316
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3934
Signed:	Date: June 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>New Gardener's Building, Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<i>Project description.</i>			
<i>In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (TL 6602 6079). The evaluation was commissioned by the Darley Stud Management Company in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new gardener's building and associated landscaping (10/00164/FUL).</i>			
<i>The site is located in an area of archaeological potential close by the medieval moated site in Derisley Wood (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record as HER 01189). The principal potential of the site was for further evidence of medieval activity associated with the adjacent moat, or for prehistoric activity known from the wider area.</i>			
<i>During the evaluation a sherd of mid – late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Gully F1003 (Trench 1) and Trench 3 contained prehistoric struck flint, from Ditch F1003. Despite being within close proximity to the medieval moated manor, no features or finds from this period were present.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>14 & 15 June 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P3934</i>	Site code	<i>AS1316</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Stud farm</i>		
Planned development	<i>New gardeners building and associated landscaping</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditch, gully and undated posthole</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Mid – late Iron Age pottery, prehistoric struck flint</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>East Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Woodditton CP</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>1600m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6602 6079</i>		
Height AOD	<i>96-97m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>T. Schofield</i>		
Funded by	<i>Darley Stud Management Company Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>New Gardeners Building, Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Schofield, T, Higgs, K & Davies, C</i>		
Report no.	<i>3570</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2010</i>		

NEW GARDENERS BUILDING, DALHAM HALL STUD, WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (TL 6602 6079). The evaluation was commissioned by the Darley Stud Management Company in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new gardener's building and associated landscaping (10/00164/FUL).

The site is located in an area of archaeological potential close by the medieval moated site in Derisley Wood (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record as HER 01189). Earthwork remains of this moat survive within the adjacent woodland belt today, and more of the earthwork survived until the mid 20th century. The principal potential of the site was for further evidence of medieval activity associated with the adjacent moat, or for prehistoric activity known from the wider area.

During the evaluation a sherd of mid – late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Gully F1003 (Trench 1) and Trench 3 contained prehistoric struck flint, from Ditch F1003. Despite being within close proximity to the medieval moated manor, no features or finds from this period were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (TL 6602 6079; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by the Darley Stud Management Company Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new gardeners building and associated landscaping (10/00164/FUL).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation consisted of trial trenching conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA; dated 24th May 2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 24th May 2010). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation was to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened was studied, and attention was given to sites and remains of all periods. The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning Context

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. PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology, and PPG15 (1994), 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), have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment.

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Woodditton is a relatively large parish, comprising mostly land associated with stud farms and agricultural production. The village of Woodditton is set amid the arable land, approximately 2.8km south of Newmarket (Fig. 1). There is one principal road through the village that diverges off Vicarage Lane (leading to Newmarket in the north), and links Woodditton with its nearest neighbouring

hamlet of Little Ditton. Running almost perpendicular to this is School Lane, which connects the parish's three main hamlets: Saxton Street, Little Ditton and Ditton Green. The northern boundary of the parish approximately aligns to a secondary route of the Icknield Way south of Newmarket; the north-eastern and south-eastern boundaries are bordered by Cheveley and Kirtling parish respectively; whilst westwards a length of the parish boundary follows Devil's Ditch. The parish lies close to the county boundary between south Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

2.2 The site is located to the west of Newmarket, in the northern area of the parish of Woodditton and c. 1.3km to the north of the village (Fig. 2). It also lies to the west of the Dalham Hall Stud building complex and to the immediate west of the medieval Derisley Wood Moat. The site comprises the south-eastern corner of a roughly rectangular field in use as part of the stud farm. It is rectangular in plan covering an area of approximately 1600m². The southern and eastern boundaries of the site are demarcated by existing hedges, further to the east lies a narrow band of trees associated with the aforementioned Derisley Wood Moat. The proposed development is for the construction of a new gardeners building, with associated access roads, outbuildings, car parking and a tarmac wash down yard.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Cambridgeshire comes from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the CHER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the study area. Entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Fig. 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridgeshire County Record Office (CRO) in Cambridge.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) and Cambridgeshire County Record Office (CRO) at the County Council's Shire Hall Complex in Cambridge, as well as AS's own library. Relevant material is 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 (1989) and those produced by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The parish of Woodditton nestles among the hills of south Cambridgeshire, which in places attain heights of c. 120m AOD and forms narrow valleys. The site is situated on relatively level ground that slopes from 96-97m AOD from south to north. Most of this area of south Cambridgeshire is arable and stud farm land, with a few small and disperse settlements in the vales, on the higher ground, and especially within river basins. The River Stour flows through the south of the parish, approximately 4km south of the village centre. There are no major watercourses close to the site, but many of the surrounding villages originated as Anglo-Saxon settlements near springheads in the chalk. One such spring rises c. 1.5km south of the site and is the starting point for a short stream flowing north, roughly parallel to Saxon Street.

4.1.2 Derisley Wood is a belt of ancient woodland, most of which has now been cleared, which occupied approximately 6 hectares of land in a linear band on the eastern side of Derisley Valley (now dry) in the north-eastern sector of Woodditton parish. The wooded area is located on a capped plateau promontory of Boulder Clay drift among the gently undulating hills of Cretaceous Upper Chalk in the south-east of the Cambridgeshire, although the site itself is situated on Lewes Nodular Chalk formations. The soil is of the Hanslope Association, comprising a slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils, ideal for winter cereals, some arable crops and grassland.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

4.2.1 The heavy Boulder Clays in this sector of the county do not make for optimal farming soils, and may be a reason for the lack of evidence for prehistoric (as well as Roman and Saxon) occupation in the area. Four sections of the Icknield Way pass through the parish of Woodditton. Running parallel are two routes north of the village and one to the west, whilst a fourth runs perpendicular to the northernmost E/W aligned track. Despite some dispute regarding the

validity the Icknield Way as a series of prehistoric route ways (Harrison 2005), it is generally accepted that the tracks were in use from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and formed a network of paths channelling movement between the southwest of England and East Anglia. Despite the apparent lack of settlement in the prehistoric era, the Icknield Way doubtlessly brought transitory activity to the area and thus spot finds and artefact scatters are likely to occur.

4.2.2 A ring ditch crop mark has been identified through aerial photography (HER 09134) to the south of the site, and it may represent the remains of a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow. There is a known concentration of contemporary funerary monuments along the south-west to north-east chalk ridge running north of Woodditton. The locations of the burials may be attributable to a preference for prominent ground associated with the Icknield Way. Alternatively, the greater visibility of such crop marks on chalky soils as opposed to those on heavy clay soils could have prompted a misinterpretation of this apparent 'concentration' (Last in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 9). Iron Age and Roman crop mark enclosures are known from aerial photographs of the wider area, although this tentative Bronze Age monument represents the only prehistoric evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site. In 2006 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation and excavation within the environs of this prehistoric ring ditch (Woolhouse & Trott 2006). The evaluation found linear ditches of prehistoric date, and during the excavation a probable Bronze Age driveway was partially uncovered lying to the north-east of the ring ditch.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.3 The nearest known Roman settlements are some distance from Woodditton, although sections of the Icknield Way, and Ashwell Street running parallel to it, continued in use by the Romans. In recent years, archaeological monitoring to the south-east of the site, close to the Moorley Plantation, noted the presence of two small gullies. These were considered to be of prehistoric to late Roman date, and identified as possible drainage ditches associated with the Icknield Way (HER MCB16934; Bailey 2004).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)

4.2.4 'Ditton' means 'settlement by a dyke or ditch' (Ekwall 1936, 140), the prefix 'wood' undoubtedly denoting that the area had been covered by woodland. The dyke/ditch part of the name refers to the Devil's Dyke, which forms the western boundary of Woodditton Parish. It is the northernmost and largest of four earthwork banks and ditches running south-east to north-west across south Cambridgeshire. The dyke was seemingly constructed in one phases and extends over 11km. In places it has survived to a height of 10.5m from the base of the ditch to the peak of the embankment. The dykes were strategically positioned across the Icknield Way, controlling access to areas of East Anglia,

although it has yet to be established with certainty if the dykes represent purely territorial boundaries or defensive installations (Muir 2002). The dating of the dykes is also questionable, though excavations in the 1990s produced evidence to suggest that they were built in the immediate aftermath of the Roman withdrawal, in the context of internecine among the surviving Romano-British population. They had previously been connected with conflicts between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7th century (Malim in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 27). Neither theory has been exclusively accepted as definitive.

4.2.5 The land units of Ditton and Saxton pre-date 1086 and the Domesday survey records dispersed communities in the general area. As yet no archaeological evidence of a Saxon settlement has been discovered within Woodditton although a late Saxon pit containing domestic waste associated with a nearby settlement was uncovered during the 2006 evaluation by Archaeological Solutions. A Minster was established in neighbouring Kirtling during the 10th century and it is likely the settlement there was at this time a relatively important local centre (Oosthuizen in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 28). Several mid 10th century coins have also been recovered in the parish of Kirtling (Miller in Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 29), lending weight to the notion of activity pre-dating the medieval period in the general area.

4.2.6 One of the few finds to have come from the area was a Saxon knife that was found in a field c. 200m north-east of the site (HER 11841), and 300m south of the find spot of other Saxon period metal objects (HER 11842). These finds are insufficient to speculate over the possibility of Saxon occupation, but they do indicate some activity, possibly associated with transitory activity or woodland industry (at the time the area would have been covered with woodland). Certainly much of the woodland in the area was cleared when Devil's Dyke was constructed (Lewis 2002, 80).

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.7 Woodditton parish comprises two ancient land units; Ditton and Saxton, although Ditton had been subdivided some time prior to 1086 (Lewis 2002, 80). Consequently, medieval Woodditton was divided between three principal manors: Ditton Camoys in the west, Ditton Valence in the centre, and Saxton in the east. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the manor house of Ditton Valence stood within a moat, probably at Church Hall Farm adjacent to the church and therefore the site, c. 1km north of this likely manor site, probably fell within the holdings of Ditton Valence. Saxton Hall medieval manor house stood within a moated enclosure immediately east of the modern Saxon Hall, c. 1.2km south-east of the site, (probably on the site of Wulfwine's manor) although only the medieval moat and fishpond have survived (HER 01190). To the north-east of Woodditton, Cheveley Park (HER 12335) appears to have first been enclosed as early as the 14th century, although the earliest documentary reference to the park is in 1517.

4.2.8 Derisley Wood is a plot of ancient woodland that was substantially cleared during the 14th century but not completely deforested until the 20th century (Lewis 2002, 81). A small number of dwellings were constructed in the Derisley area, and were mostly timber-framed, thatched structures; later post-medieval examples of this type are known at Ditton Green, Little Ditton and Saxton Street. A moated sub-rectangular enclosure along the eastern boundary of the site was for a long time masked by the woodland, but is now visible (HER 01189), although only one arm of it survives. Three of the arms were dry by 1948, but the northern stretch still retained standing water at this time. It is an irregular shape, measuring approximately 65m by 90m, and the moat is between 6 - 7m wide. The moated site may have been part of the Derisley family residence, the family lived in the area during the early medieval period. By 1240 the woodland and adjacent fields (including the site) was within the freehold property of the Derisley family, and by 1399 the name Chyttokyscroft was listed in regard to the land, although there remains some confusion as to who actually owned the land (Lewis 2002, 83). In 1301 the shepherd of Ditton Valence had a flock at Derisley, and had rebuilt the sheepfold in this area. In the 1390s there were some 300 sheep recorded. In 1462 the Lord of Ditton Valence leased an ash and oak grove of the woodland, as well as some pastures.

4.2.9 Much of the area of modern Woodditton parish comprised small patches of forest, and records indicate a significance amount of coppicing and clearing during the 13th and 14th centuries of woodland in Saxton Heath, Ditton Park, Ditton Valence and Derisley (Lewis 2002, 80). Non-wooded land north of the village and in Saxton Heath was, in the 16th century, used for grazing and ferreting and not built upon until the 1850s. In the 19th century the land was donated to the Jockey Club of Newmarket to be used as exercise paddocks. In the north-western sector of the parish, the manor of Ditton Camoys purportedly had enough land for sixteen plough teams in 1086 but only employed five. It has been suggested that most of the heath area here was not ploughed before the enclosure, and since then has largely been sold off for racecourses, a game covert and a golf course (*ibid*). The estate of Ditton Park in the south was granted to the Forestry Commission in 1953, which removed the remaining oaks and replaced them with conifers and hardwood trees, therefore clearing the parish of its last remaining patch of ancient woodland (*ibid*).

4.2.10 Small dwellings were widely distributed in Woodditton during the medieval period, with peasant houses located around various greens in the south of the parish, and around the woodland in the north. The focus of settlement in Ditton Valence was probably in the vicinity of the modern Ditton Green village, at the crossroads of the Saxon Street to Ditton Green road and the lane from Woodditton Church to Kirtling. At Saxton manor, the earliest settlement may have been around Trunks Well, a spring to the south of the site (Lewis 2002, 81 - 2).

4.2.11 The parish economy was at this time based on mixed cereal production and sheep husbandry. Open-field arable land occupied the centre of the parish,

incorporating most of the site (Lewis 2002, 79). A larger settlement at Newmarket was established in c. 1200, and since the 13th century, the most important roads in Woodditton parish were those leading to and from the town. Woodditton looked to Newmarket as its market and to Bury St Edmunds rather than Cambridge for the goods and services provided by a county town. Records from the 14th century list ironwork and a millstone bought at Newmarket and Bury; wheat carted and animals driven for sale to Brandon Ferry on the Little Ouse; and hay bought at Lidgate. Brandon and Lidgate are both located in Suffolk and as no Cambridgeshire villages or towns are mentioned, the records illustrate the strength of Woodditton's economic links with Suffolk rather than Cambridgeshire in the medieval period (Lewis 2002, 81-4).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 to present)

4.2.12 In the 1730 - 40s, Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, bought most of the land in Woodditton and incorporated it into the Cheveley Park Estate. Cheveley Park, c. 800m east of the site (HER 12335) may have originated as a medieval deer park. It was enlarged and landscaped during the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1775, it also had wide avenues and rides. The parish was enclosed in c. 1816, although the formal award was not made until 1823. The Cheveley Park Estate was divided up c.1920 and stud farms were increasingly established throughout the parish. The first, later to be called Woodditton Stud, was established in the mid 1890s by a Newmarket trainer Martin Gurry. Others were founded after 1920 on land formerly part of the Cheveley Estate, which included the area in and around the site. New farmhouses were constructed after the enclosure of 1823, including one at Derisley Wood. It is only in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that the number of houses and subsequent population increased (Lewis 2002, 82).

4.3 Previous fieldwork

4.3.1 There has been extensive archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site, much of it undertaken by Archaeological Solutions. Some work was completed in an area of known crop marks near Woodditton Stud on Kirtling Road, possible pits were tree hollow and linears represented periglacial activity (Bailey 2004; Wilkins 2003). Along School Road in Cheveley, test pitting associated with the laying of a water pipeline found two ditches that may have been part of a road drainage system associated with the known route of a Roman road in the area (Bailey 2004). No finds were found at either of these sites to suggest with any certainty a plausible date, or in fact if the features were natural occurrences or not.

4.3.2 At Cheveley work carried out on Church Lane prior to redevelopment yielded no finds or features, although at the time it was suggested that significant ground disturbance had been caused by the constructions of the then extant

bungalow (Vaughan 2000). Hall Farm in Cheveley falls within a Scheduled Ancient Monument area (Cambridgeshire No. 3), and lies just 300m south-east of the site of Cheveley Castle built in the reign of Edward III (1327 - 77 AD). However, no finds or features were found attesting to the possible use of the area in the medieval period. Furthermore an old road running along the north of the site may have been aligned to a route from the castle to the village. This road was abandoned in favour of a new road (Park Road) along the south of the site after the enclosure of 1844 (Zeepvat 1999).

4.3.3 During 2006, Archaeological Solutions carried out an evaluation and excavation on a large plot of land 750m to the south of the site within the proposed stud development area adjacent to School Road and Saxon Street (Woolhouse, Munding & McConnell 2006). Several linear ditches and pits were encountered of prehistoric, Romano-British, late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. The associated archaeological monitoring of the road corridor (Grassam, Munding, Trott & Woolhouse 2007) identified 13 features in five trenches, consisting of seven linear features, four pits, a dewpond and a posthole. The features produced a small assemblage of pottery dating from the early Bronze Age through to the late Iron Age. The remains provide evidence for small scale human activity which increased in intensity in the late Iron Age.

4.3.4 The subsequent excavation on land north of School Road and c. 750m to the south of the site revealed a series of linear features and sparse pits, which yielded finds from the prehistoric, 15th to 17th century and the 17th-18th century (Munding, Grassam & Weston 2007). However, the pottery assemblage was very small and abraded, and there is a chance all of the features are post-medieval to early modern in date. One re-cut linear feature is thought to be a boundary shown on the 19th and early 20th century OS maps. The others may be earlier versions of this boundary, although they are more likely to be plough scars. The pits maybe associated with quarrying. Although the finds assemblage from the prehistoric period is small, it provides evidence for human activity in the area in the Bronze Age and Iron Age. A possible ploughed out barrow was also located c. 100m to the west.

4.3.5 In 2006, Archaeological Solutions also conducted an evaluation at Darley Stud, within recently cleared ancient woodland (Derisley Wood) and to the immediate south-east of the site (Munding, Hogan & Trott 2006). Minimal ground disturbance had occurred until the transformation of the land into a stud farm in the late 19th century. Few farm buildings were erected during the 20th century and thus the stud farm has not caused significant damage to the ground. The evaluation revealed ditches and a pit of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age date, and several undated ditches, gullies and pits. A tree-throw pit and a post-medieval ditch were also recorded. The features recorded suggest sparse prehistoric human activity, possibly some distance from a settlement. Possibly the site was used periodically and it was likely associated with agriculture. No evidence for medieval occupation associated with the moated enclosure was

recorded.

4.4 The site

Enclosure map of Woodditton parish, 1823

4.4.1 At the time of the 1823 enclosure map of Woodditton, the site fell within one of the many large allotments of land owned by the Duke of Rutland (Fig. 4). What remained of *Derisley Wood* occupied a plot of land that conforms precisely to the plan of stud farm field located to the immediate east of the site, although it was still completely covered in woodland, with a small plot of additional woodland located off the south-east corner. It is thus likely that the eastern boundary of the site in 1823 was demarcated by the covert of *Derisley Wood*, although the purpose of the land immediately encompassing the site was probably used for grazing or, as suggested by the Victoria County Histories, as a game covert.

4.4.2 The roughly square divisions of land seen today were largely in place at this time, though with fewer fenced subdivisions cutting the land into parallel strips. Trackways and roads were in place but their names had not yet been ascribed, with the exception of Duchess Drive to the east of the site, which formed then, as it does today, the boundary between Woodditton and Cheveley Parish. The road to the west (Woodditton Road) and the path to the south (The Icknield Way Path) were labelled some time after this initial enclosure. The moated site immediately east of the site is not depicted on this map, although it is probably true that the woodland obscured it from view and it does not appear until a detailed map was made in 1884 (see Section 4.4.3, below).

1st edition Ordnance Survey map of Woodditton, 1884

4.4.3 The scale of 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 map allows for a clearer picture of the site and moat during the late 19th century (Fig. 5). The site itself remained undisturbed, existing as the south-eastern corner of an undeveloped agricultural field (#22) located to the immediate west of *Derisley Wood*.

1925 revision Ordnance Survey map with additions, 1950

4.4.4 The 1950 Ordnance Survey map indicates that *Derisley Wood* had not yet been completely cleared (Fig. 6), and nor had the small patches to the north-east and south-east of the site, as seen on the enclosure map of 1823. *Derisley Stud* had expanded to the east of the covert and may or may not have incorporated the buildings to the south-east of the site. The surrounding area had been subdivided into field systems associated with the two major stud farms that had been built in the late 19th (*Derisley Wood Stud*) and early 20th centuries (*Derisley Stud*, later *Dalham Hall Stud*). The chalk pit plantation had not been deforested either. In fact, aside from the fenced enclosures built for the stud

farms, the map of this area of Woodditton parish bears a close resemblance to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, indicating that little had changed during the 66 years between the publications.

2nd series Ordnance Survey map, 1979

4.4.5 The 2nd series Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1979, makes clear the network of minor roads or tracks that run from major routes to and between the stud farms in the vicinity of the site (Fig. 7). Although it does not record the moat to the immediate east of the site, it nevertheless confirms that the site has remained as undeveloped agricultural land most recently in use as stud farm grazing land associated with *Dalham Hall Stud*.

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION)

5.1 Three trenches were mechanically excavated using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Trench 1 measured 18 x 1.60m, Trench 2 measured 15m x 1.60m and Trench 3 measured 10 x 1.60m.

5.2 The topsoil and subsoil overburden were mechanically excavated and 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* record sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. The trenches and features were recorded accurately using a Leica 805 Total Station. Soil heaps were scanned for finds and metal detected using a C.Scope CS1220R.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 DP1

<i>Sample Section 1; north-east end, north-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 96.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, compact clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint.
0.22 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown yellow, compact clay with frequent angular and rounded chalk and flint.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural drift geology. Light yellow white, clay with chalk and flint nodules.

Description: Trench 1 contained a gully (F1003) and a land drain orientated north-east to south-west.

Gully F1003 (DP1) was linear in plan (2.04 x 0.54 x 0.08m) orientated north-east/south-west. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid orange brown, compact silty clay with occasional angular flint and moderate chalk flecks and angular stones. One sherd of mid – late Iron Age pottery (29g) and animal bone (181g) were present.

Trench 2

<i>Sample Section 2; south-east end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 96.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1.
0.22 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained a posthole (F1005), and three land drains orientated north-east to south-west.

Posthole F1005 (DP2) was oval in plan (0.17 x 0.17 x 0.13m). It had steep near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a dark blackish brown, compact silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional angular chalk stones. One sherd (>1g) of post-medieval pottery was present

Trench 3 DP3

<i>Sample Section 3; south-west end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 96.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Trench 1.
0.23 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Trench 1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural drift geology. As above Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained a ditch (F1007), and two land drains orientated north-east to south-west and west to east.

Ditch F1007 (DP3) was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.55 x 0.55m) orientated north-west to south-east. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid yellow brown, compact silty clay with occasional flint and moderate angular chalk. Animal bone (138g), shell (3g) and struck flint (4g) were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy was consistent throughout all three trenches. Uppermost was Topsoil L1000 and it comprised a mid greyish brown, compact clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint stones (maximum depth 0.23m). Two heavily abraded post-medieval pottery sherds (6g) were recovered from the topsoil.

8.2 Below Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1001 which comprised a mid brown yellow, compact clay with frequent angular and rounded chalk and flint (depth 0.48m). At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was the Natural Drift Geology L1005, a light yellow white compact clay with chalk and flint nodules.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential close by to the south west of a medieval moated site in Derisley Wood (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record as HER 01189). Earthwork remains of this moat survive within the adjacent woodland belt today, and more of the earthwork survived until the mid 20th century.

9.2 Derisley Wood is a plot of ancient woodland that was substantially cleared during the 14th century but not completely deforested until the 20th century. The moated site may have been part of the estate owned by the Derisley family, who lived in the area during the early medieval period. By 1240, the woodland and adjacent fields (including the site) was within the freehold property of the Derisley family and by 1399, the name Chyttokyscroft is associated with land. Investigations by AS in 2006 to the east of the site revealed prehistoric activity across the wider area of the stud farm, including some evidence of earlier medieval ditches in the field to the immediate east.

9.3 In 2006 Archaeological Solutions conducted an evaluation at Darley Stud, within recently cleared ancient woodland (Derisley Wood) and to the immediate south-east of the site (Mundin, Hogan & Trott 2006). The evaluation revealed ditches and a pit of late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age date, and several undated ditches, gullies and pits. A tree-throw pit and a post-medieval ditch were also recorded. The features recorded suggest sparse prehistoric human activity. No evidence for medieval occupation associated with the moated enclosure was recorded.

9.4 The principal potential of the site was for further evidence of medieval activity associated with the adjacent moat, or for prehistoric activity known from the wider area.

9.5 A sherd of mid – late Iron Age pottery was recovered from Gully F1003 (Trench 1) and Trench 3 contained prehistoric struck flint recovered from Ditch F1003. The data is directly comparable to that recorded during the adjacent evaluation, and is suggestive of sparse prehistoric human activity. Despite being within close proximity to the medieval moated manor, no features or finds from this period were present.

10 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AS also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Ms. Sally Thompson at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment (CHER) and the staff at the Cambridgeshire County Record Office, particularly Ms. Gill Shapland.

AS is also grateful for the input and advice of Mr Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA).

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APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (CHER)

The following sites are those that lie within the assessment area (c. 1km radius of the site). The Table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

CHER	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (to AD 43)</i>		
MCB16934	6750 5987	Archaeological monitoring on the route of a water pipeline found two small ditches, possibly of prehistoric to late Roman date. They may be drainage ditches associated with the nearby Icknield Way (see also Bailey 2004)
<i>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1065)</i>		
11841	6630 6145	Saxon metal objects found in Cheveley. Metal detector finds included an iron square-headed pin, 2 rings of twisted iron wire and two pot sherds.
11842	6630 6101	Iron knife, some 15cm in length found just within Cheveley parish.
07801	6101 6221	Devil's Ditch/Dyke. Located to the southwest of the site, this large earthwork is thought to be originally of Anglo-Saxon or early medieval date.
<i>Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)</i>		
01189	6605 6085	Moat at Derisley Wood. Only the E arm of the moat survives; the rest having been destroyed during recent woodland clearance. Derisley Farm is first recorded in 1239.
01190	6759 6019	Medieval moat and fishpond at Saxton/Saxon Hall
07374	660 592	Saint Mary's Church, Woodditton. Earliest surviving structure dates to the early 13 th century. Several rare alabaster carvings were discovered when a previously blocked-up window was re-opened in 1897.
12335	674 614	Cheveley Park. Parkland probably originally enclosed in the 14 th century and enlarged in later centuries. Relict earthworks relating to both landscaping and boundary features survive on parts of the estate, which is now divided between two stud areas (also see below for post-medieval entry).
<i>Post-medieval and modern (AD 1540 – present)</i>		
07415	664 592	Derelict 19 th century smock mill.
07452	672 608	Site of Cheveley Park mansion, built in the 1670s and demolished in the 19 th century.
12335	674 614	Cheveley Park. Probably originally a medieval deer park (see above). A picture of continuous enlargement emerges from post-medieval documentary sources. The park was landscaped with wide avenues and rides by 1775. The area also contains the site of Cheveley Castle (14 th century) and constitutes a Scheduled Monument

CHER	NGR TL	Description
		Area (Cambridgeshire No. 3).
DCB585	6722 6085	Hopes Cottage (Grade II Listed). Lodge built c. 1900 in Cheveley Park.
DCB1440	6720 6084	Late 17 th century gate piers and boundary wall to Cheveley Park (Grade II Listed).
DCB899	6590 5915	Church Hall Farm Cottages. Row of farm cottages (1837), now one dwelling (Grade II Listed).
<i>Undated</i>		
09134	663 596	Ring ditch cropmark visible on aerial photographs. Possibly a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow.
12260	659 592	Church Hall Farm Park. Little of the original gardens survive, apart from various tree plantations around the church.

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Fig.	Location	Ref.
1816 & 1844	Pre-inclosure and Inclosure Map of Cheveley Parish	-	-	CRO	124/P 40-41
1823	Enclosure map of Woodditton	-	4	CRO	P55/2 6/2
1884	1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of Woodditton	1:2500	5	CRO	XLII:1 5
1950	Revision of 1925 Ordnance Survey map of Woodditton with additions 1950	6":1 mile	6	CRO	XLII:S E
1979	2 nd series Ordnance Survey map of Woodditton	1:50,000	7	CRO	Sheet 154

APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS 1316: New Gardener's Building, Dalham Hall Stud, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000			Topsoil	Post-Med	(2) 6g	2		
1003	1004	1	Gully Fill	Mid – Late Iron Age	(1) 29g		181	
1005	1006	2	Fill of Posthole	Post-Med		1		
1007	1008	3	Ditch Fill				138	Shell (1) 3g S. Flint (1) 4g

APPENDIX 4 THE SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 2 sherds. Gully F1003 (L1004) contained a single sherd of later prehistoric pottery weighing 27g. The hardness and sandy fabric, also containing some voids from burnt organics suggests, a likely mid to late Iron Age date, although the poor firing and thickness suggests the possibility of a Middle Bronze Age date. The latter less likely

The Topsoil L1000 contained a single sherd weighing 5g of post-medieval red earthenware c.16-18th centuries

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Two small fragments or 'crumbs' (2g) of CBM were recovered from Topsoil L1000 and Posthole F1005 (L1006). Both fragments are in an oxidised, sand-tempered fabric that can tentatively be assigned to the post-medieval period, although the evidence is too limited for any further conclusions to be drawn.

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

A single fragment (4g) of unpatinated struck flint was recovered from Ditch F1007 (L1008). The fragment comprises a tertiary flake of debitage in a dark brown flint with a thick white cortex. Although the flake has not been retouched the remainder of the striking platform exhibits abrasion marks comparable to those used in the preparation of blade cores, therefore this fragment probably has Neolithic origins.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1



Gully F1003, Trench 1, looking S

2



Posthole F1005, Trench 2, looking NW

3

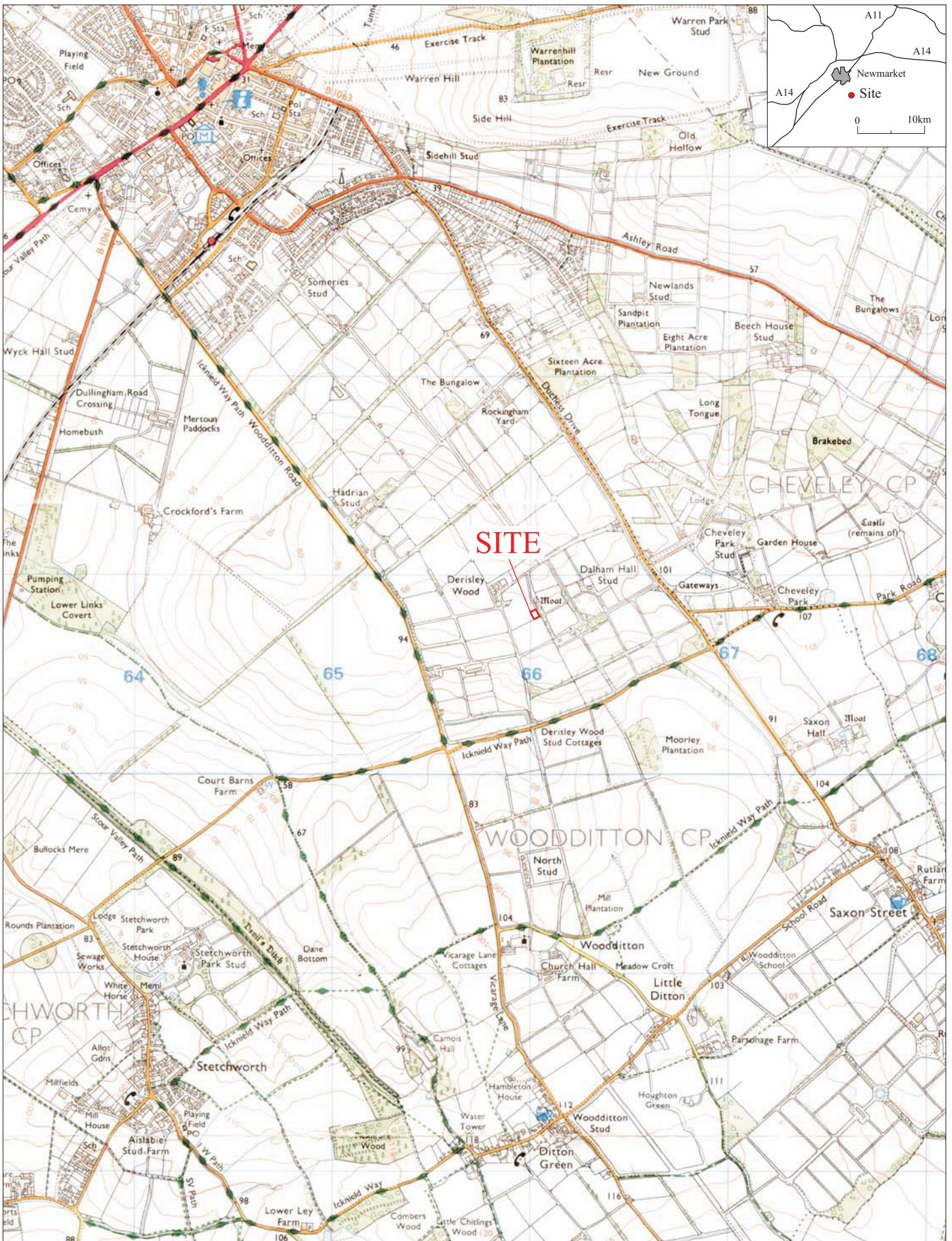


Trench 3 looking SW with Ditch F1007 in the foreground

4

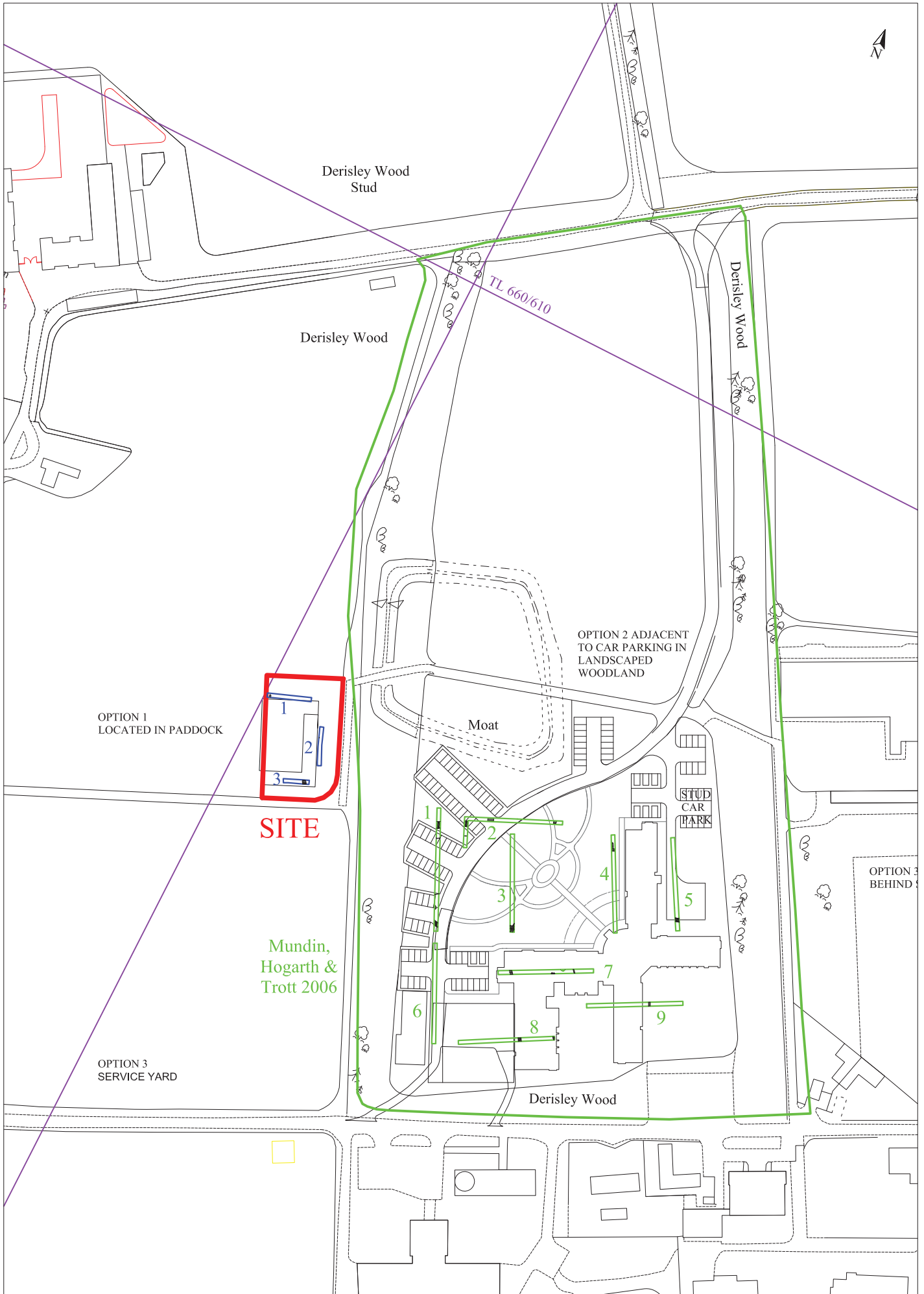


Trench 1 looking SW



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



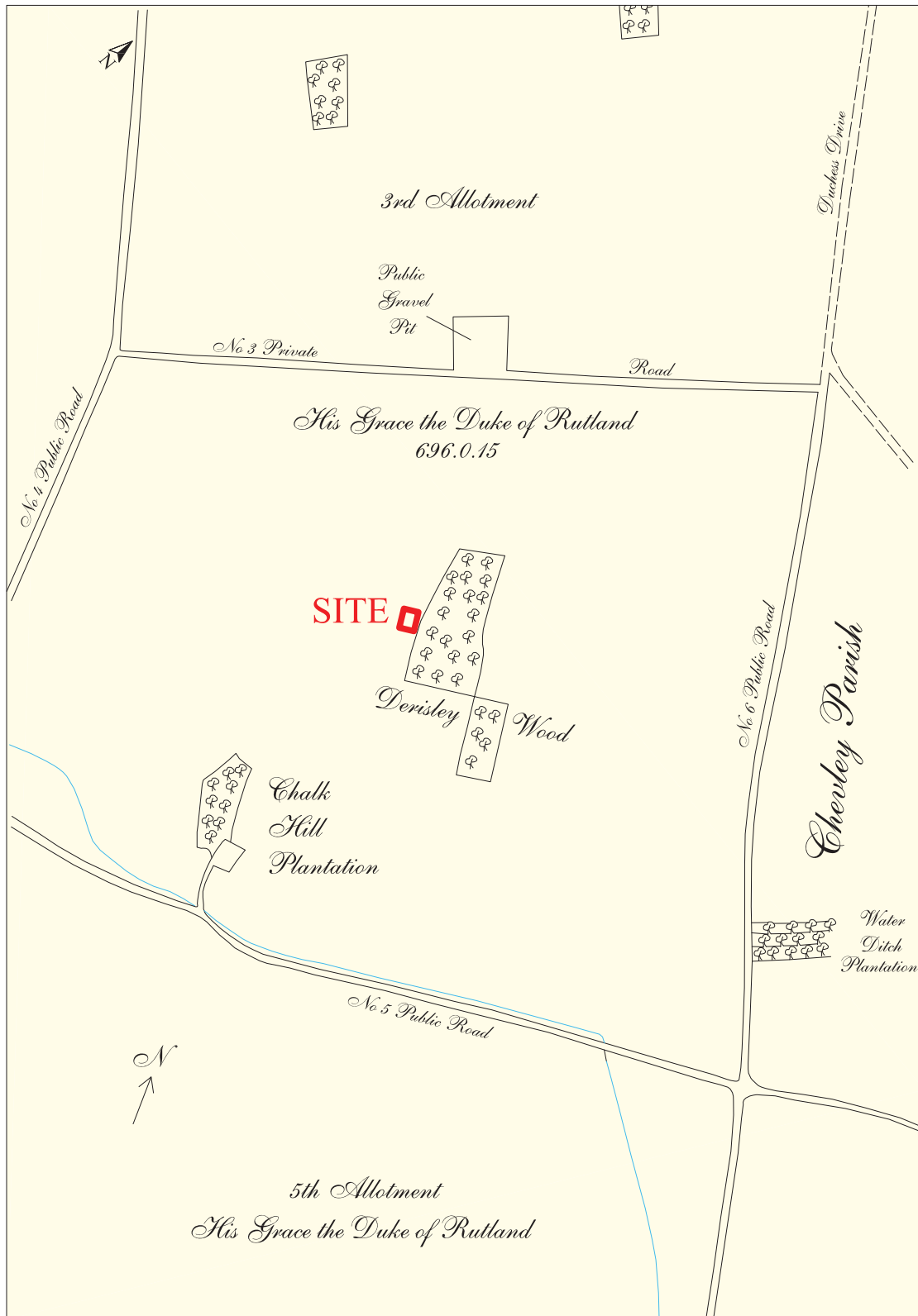
SITE

Mundin,
Hogarth &
Trott 2006

Archaeological Solutions Ltd.

Fig. 2 Trench location plan

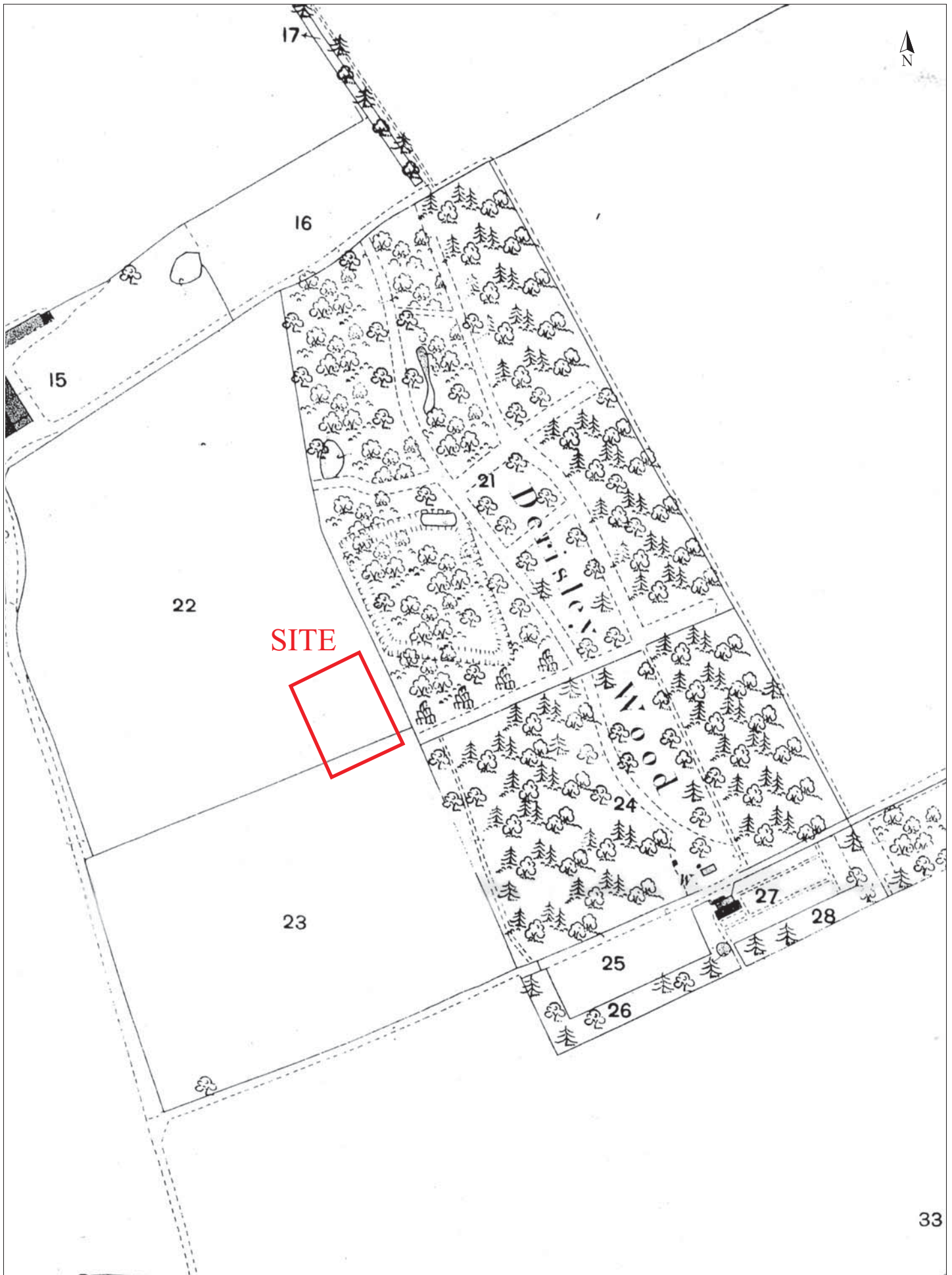
Scale: 1:1250 at A4



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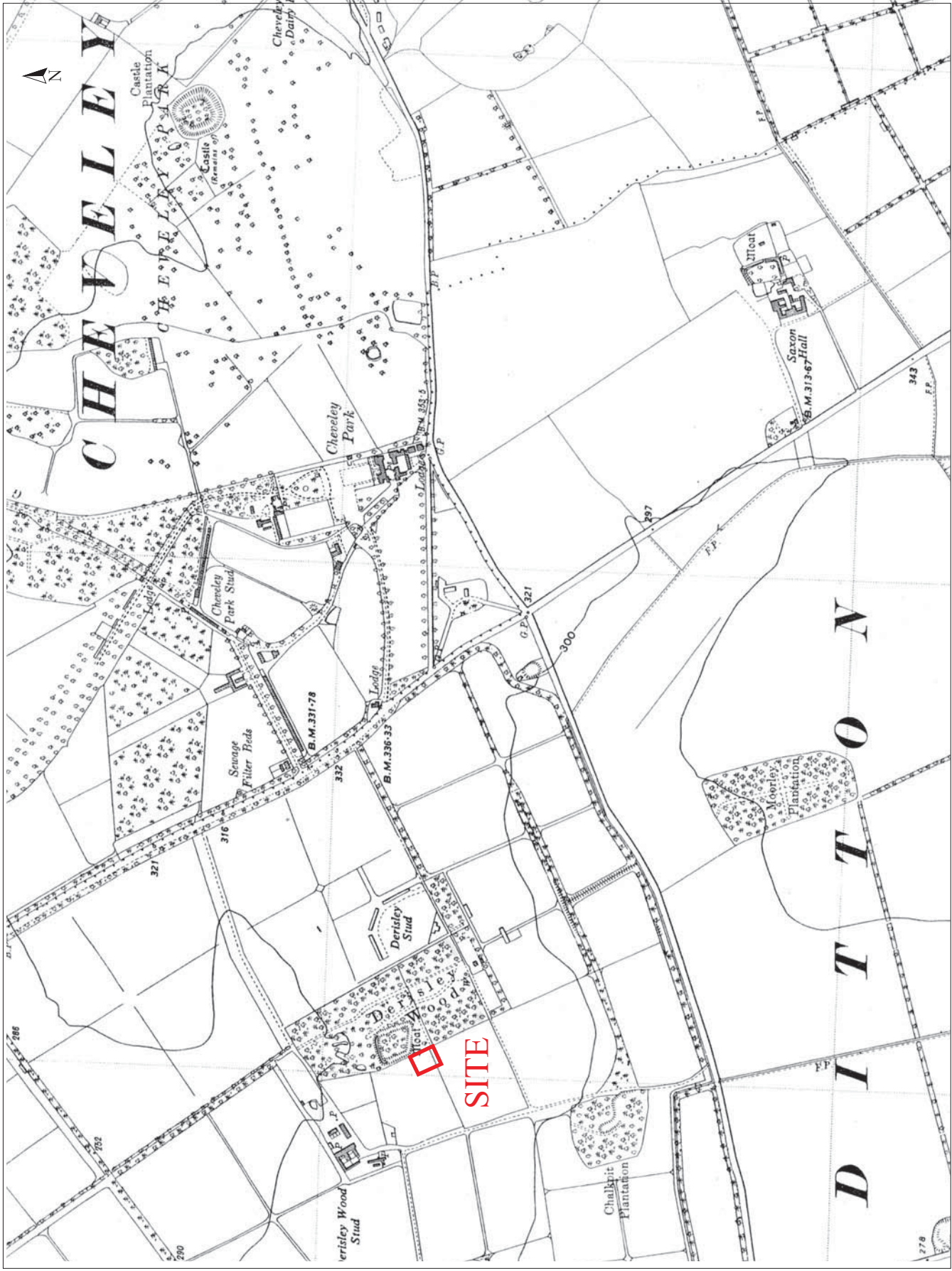
Fig. 4 Inclosure map of Wooditton, 1823

Not to scale



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Fig. 5 1st edition OS map, 1884
 Scale 25" to 1 mile at A4

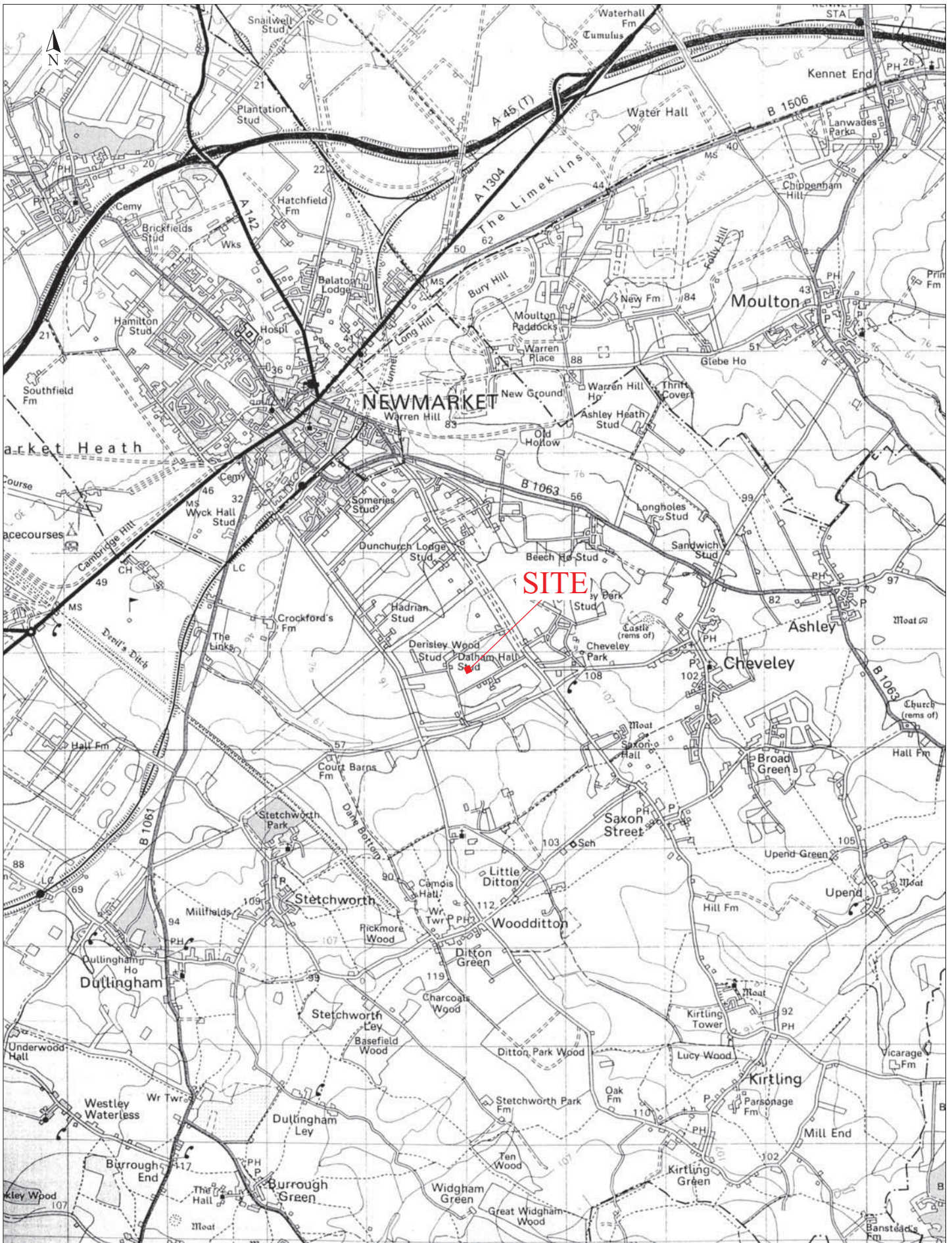


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Fig. 6 Revised 1925 OS map with additions, 1950

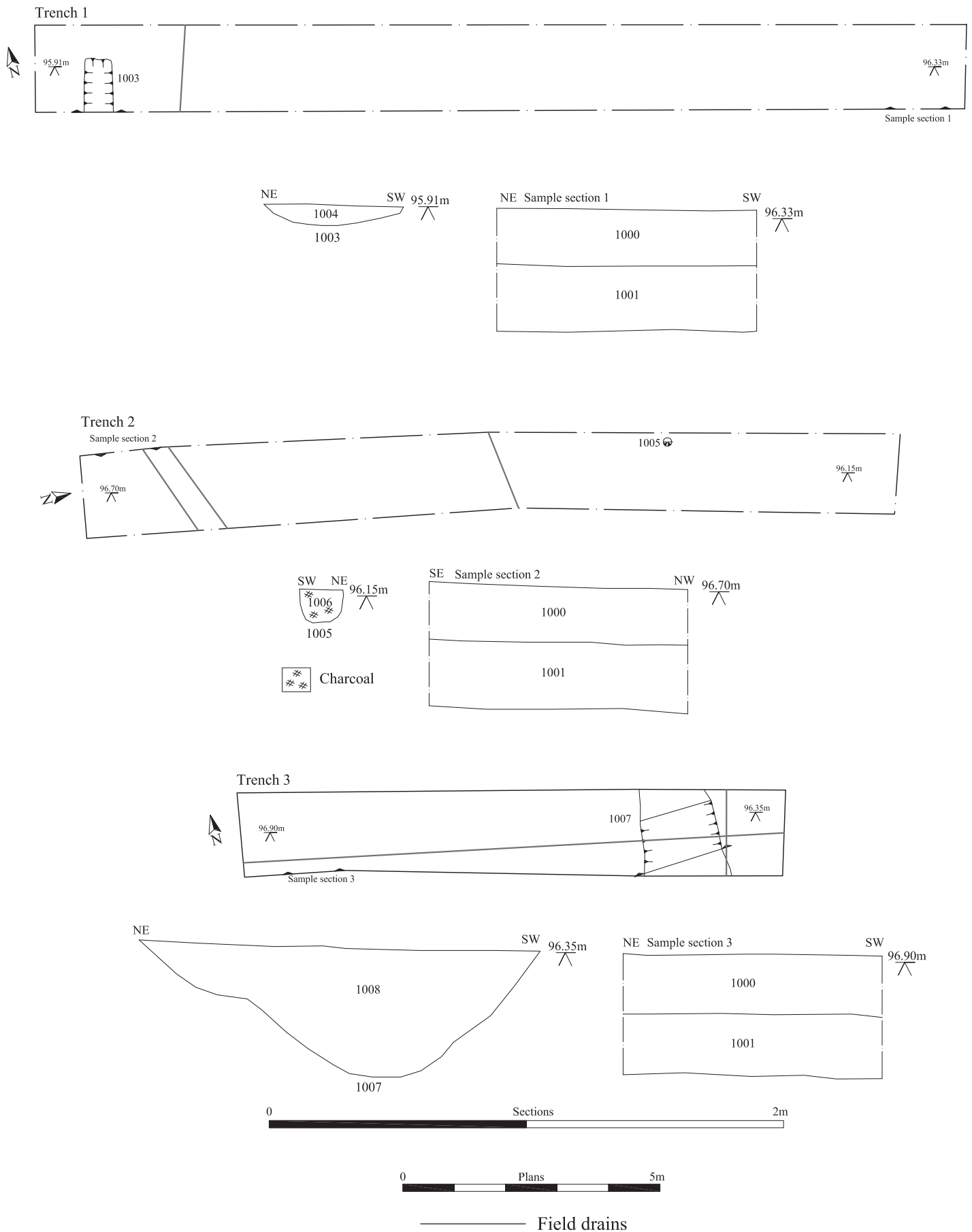
Scale: 6" to 1 mile at A4

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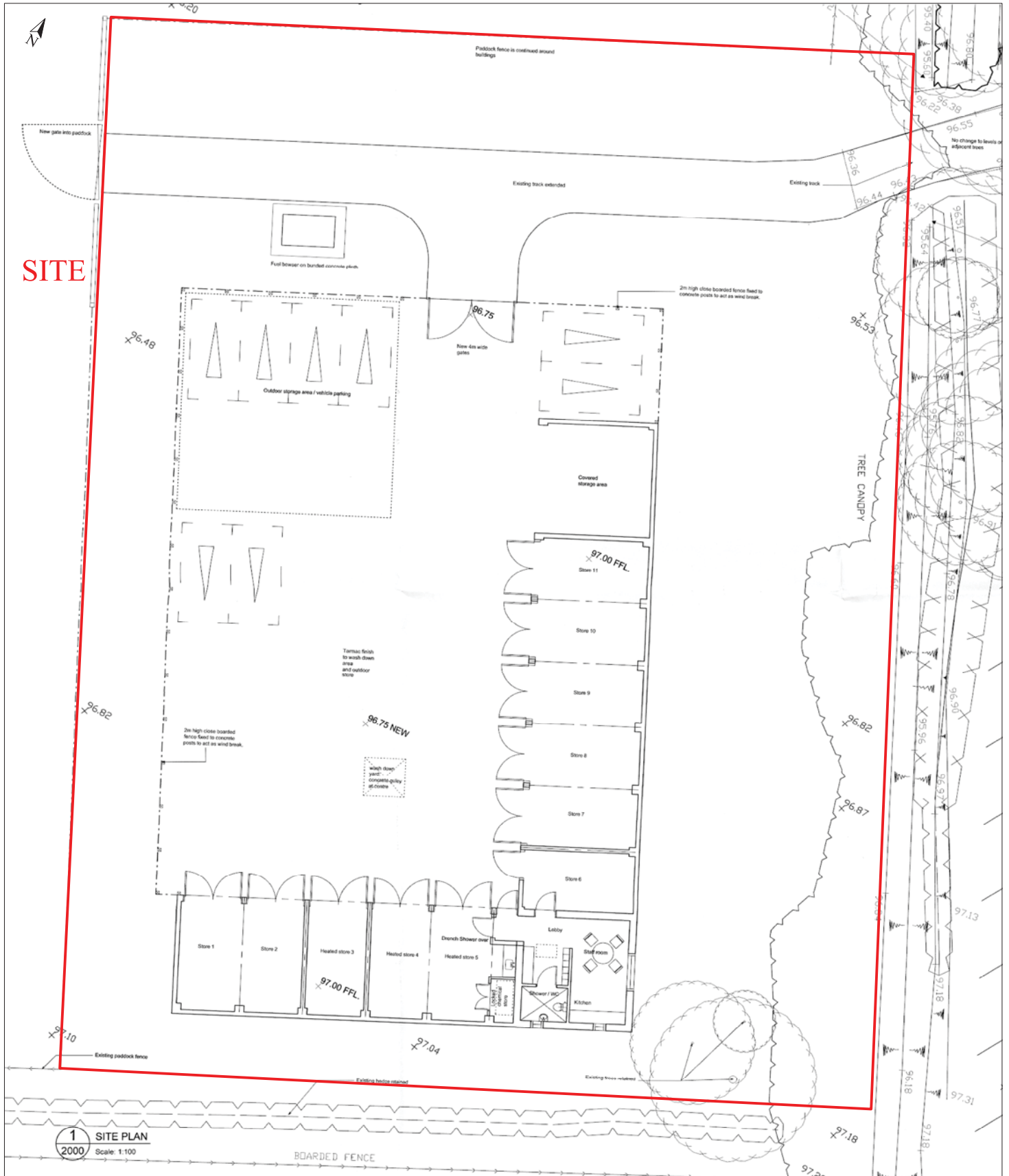
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Fig. 7 2nd series OS map, 1979
 Scale 1:50,000 at A4



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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 9 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:250 at A4