

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road,
Lingfield, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: RRL11/66

(TQ 3947 4331)

**Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road,
Lingfield, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Thakeham Homes**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeRRL11/66

October 2011

Summary

Site name: Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road, Lingfield, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 3947 4331

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 27th–28th September 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: RRL 11/66

Area of site: c. 0.35 ha

Summary of results: Over twenty deep wooden tanks, probably relating to the 19th-century tannery which is known to have stood on the site, were recorded during the evaluation. No artefacts nor deposits pre-dating the 19th century were identified.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with East Surrey Museum in due course

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.10.11
	Steve Preston ✓ 06.10.11

Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road, Lingfield, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 11/66

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road, Lingfield, Surrey (NGR TQ 3947 4331) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ashley Beckett of Thakeham Homes, Gillmans Industrial Estate, Natts Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9EZ. Planning consent (TA/2011/407) has been gained from Tandridge District Council to construct new residential units on the site following demolition of the existing buildings. The consent is subject to a condition (12) relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits which could be damaged or destroyed during construction on the site a field evaluation has been requested. Based on the results of this evaluation, an appropriate mitigation strategy can be devised if necessary. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the District Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis on 27th and 28th September 2011, and the site code is RRL 11/66. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with East Surrey Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Racecourse Road, about 600m south-east of the historic core of Lingfield (Fig. 1). Lingfield Park Race Course is situated to the south of the site, on the other side of Racecourse Road. The area to the west of the site is used as an overflow car park when race meetings take place, and there are school playing fields to the east. At the time of the evaluation, the site was occupied by the large squash club building and two cottages (Fig. 2). The buildings in the western part of the site had recently been demolished. The site is relatively flat, although some areas have been landscaped, and lies at a height of approximately 51m

above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, close to an area of alluvium (BGS 1971). However, sand was only encountered in one trench (5) in the northern part of the site, with orange / pale blue clay being recorded in all the other trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site primarily stems from the fact that it was occupied by a tannery in the 19th century (Figs 7-8) and it is possible that this activity may have been carried out for a long period prior to this, possibly dating back to the early post-medieval, or even medieval, era. Historic maps suggest that the tannery closed some time after 1912, by which time the cottages had been built on the site. The maps also indicate that the main squash club building was built in the 1990s. However, photographic evidence indicates that some elements of the tannery, including the chimney, were retained within the squash club building.

A history of the tannery on the site has been researched by a member of The RH7 History Group (Bateson 2006). In summary, the site was known as Lingfield Tannery and the recently demolished buildings were built and developed by J T Kelsey in about 1840. In 1820 Kelsey had bought the adjacent house (Batners) along with the site which contained various tannery buildings. No obvious tannery is depicted on the Tithe map of 1846 (Fig. 6), though three small structures on or close to the site lie adjacent to the road.

A very modest range of other features of archaeological interest are recorded for the environs of Lingfield, none of which are particularly close to the site. Prehistoric finds include a cluster of struck flints, a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, and a number of Neolithic stone axes, one of which was found to the north of the present site. Lingfield itself is of medieval origin, but is not mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The parish church has later medieval elements, and medieval pottery has been recorded during archaeological investigations in the village.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to determine if any deposits of Saxon or medieval occupation are present; and

to determine if any Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval craft/industry is present relating to tanning.

It was proposed to dig five 10m long trenches, targeting the footprints of the proposed new buildings and access, but excluding the areas occupied by the former squash club building and cottages. All the trenches were to be 1.6m wide, and excavated by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was to be taken down to the top of the natural geology or the top of the relevant archaeological level. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Due to site logistics, two trenches (3 and 5) were moved slightly from their original planned positions (Fig. 3). The trenches ranged in length from 10m to 10.6m, and were between 0.66m and 1m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was up to 0.73m deep. Tarmac (50) and an associated bedding layer (51) were removed to reveal a made ground deposit (52), which was up to 0.4m thick. The made ground consisted of various dump layers, including some re-deposited natural at the north-western end of the trench. Some demolition rubble was visible within the made ground, along with sherds of modern pottery, and fragments of glass and ceramic building material (not retained). The made ground lay directly above the natural geology, which consisted of light orange blue clay.

Eight pits or tanks (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) were recorded in the trench, all of which were timber-lined and rectangular in plan. All are presumably tanning tanks. The upper fills of the tanks were sealed by the made ground. Due to the position of the trench, none of the tanks was fully exposed in plan, although it was clear that there was some variation in size, with the smallest being about 1.8m long and the largest being just under 3m long, and they appear to be arranged in matched pairs.

One of the tanks (7) was partially excavated by hand, after the trench had been extended slightly to reveal its complete width. This pit was at least 1.8m long and 1.6m wide, and measured 1.02m from the base of the trench to its timber base (Pl. 2). As the pit was encountered at the far north-western end of the trench it had been

slightly over-machined, and it was seen to have originally been at least 1.3m deep. The pit had been deliberately backfilled with various dump layers of clayey silt (73), which contained several fragments of brick and tile. A lower deposit of backfill material (97) was recorded, which was similar in character to layer 73, but damper. Further pieces of brick and tile were recovered from deposit 73, along with two sherds of pottery dating from the 18th or 19th century. A thin deposit of compact greyish green clayey silt (94) was noted immediately below layer 97: this contained no inclusions or archaeological finds. Layer 94 appeared to seal a primary fill of waterlogged organic material (93), from which two small pieces of leather or felt were retrieved. The timber lining of the pit (65) was constructed from large planks, up to 0.55m wide and 0.1m thick, which were placed on the base and up the sides of the pit. The side timbers were supported by shaped uprights in the corners of the pit, which appeared to be nailed to the side planks, but did not extend as far as the base timbers. The side timbers appeared to have been positioned flush with the edges of the construction cut of the pit, suggesting that there would be no fill material behind the planks to assist in dating. Although they were not excavated, all the other tanks in the trench appeared to have been backfilled in a similar manner, apart from pit 11, the upper fill of which consisted of modern made ground. Two areas of modern disturbance were also noted within the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was aligned approximately NE-SW, and was up to 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy was almost identical to that observed in Trench 1, consisting of Tarmac (50) over a bedding layer (51), above made ground (52). The made ground lay directly above the natural geology, which consisted of light greyish blue clay. Six probable tanning tanks (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) were recorded within this trench. As with trench 1, all the tanks were timber lined and rectangular in plan. The tanks all seemed to be of a similar size, measuring between 1.4m and 1.6m long, and at least 1.6m wide, and were positioned in a row, running along the length of the trench.

One of the tanks (3) was partially excavated, and its timber lined bottom was recorded 1.12m below the base of the trench (Pl. 4). As well as a small amount of made ground in the top of the pit, two layers representing deliberate backfilling were observed. The uppermost of these (61) consisted of mid greenish grey clayey silt, which contained 19th-century pottery and a few small pieces of brick and tile. This deposit was up to 0.22m thick, and lay above a similar looking deposit (95) which filled the bottom of the timber lined pit. Deposit 95 also contained 19th-century pottery and some fragments of brick and tile, along with a small amount of organic material, which appeared to be straw. The timber frame (55) within the pit was almost identical to that recorded in pit 7, although it seemed possible that the original upright in the southern corner of the pit may have been

replaced by a flat plank. The upper fills of the other tanks in the trench appeared to be similar in nature to deposit 61, suggesting that they were probably all backfilled at the same time.

Trench 3

Trench 3 had to be moved slightly from its original intended position, due to the presence of a large skip full of demolition material. As a result, the trench was aligned NE-SW. Tarmac (50) was only present at the south-western end of the trench, and was removed to reveal a bedding layer (51) and two distinct layers of made ground (90 and 52). Pottery from the lower of these (52) dated from the late 19th century. At the north-east end of the trench two layers of made ground (91 and 89) lay above deposit 52, which ran along the entire length of the trench. Deposit 52 lay directly above the natural geology which consisted of yellow brown clay. Some late 19th- or 20th-century disturbance was noted within the trench, but there were no archaeological features.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW, and was 1m deep. Two distinct layers of modern made ground (90 and 52) were recorded beneath the Tarmac (50) and its bedding layer (51). The lower of these (52) lay directly above the natural geology, which consisted of light greyish blue clay. Four probable tanning tanks (15, 16, 17 and 18) were recorded in the trench, of which only one (16) appeared to be timber lined. The timber linings of three further tanks (19, 20 and 21) were seen along the north-western edge of the trench. None of the tanks in this trench were excavated, but they appeared to vary in length from 2.2m to 3.4m. Where visible, the upper fills of the tanks appeared to consist of a mixture of made ground and re-deposited natural. There was some modern disturbance at the south-western end of the trench.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was moved slightly from its original intended position to avoid the concrete slab of a small building which is depicted on the Ordnance Surveys up to 1964. The trench was aligned approximately N-S, and was up to 0.8m deep. About 0.14m of topsoil was removed to reveal two distinct layers of made ground (91 and 90), which lay above a probable buried soil horizon (92). This layer was approximately 0.15m thick, and lay directly above the natural geology, which consisted of light yellow brown clayey sand. No archaeological features were seen within the trench.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 285g. It was entirely of 18th or 19th century date. It was recorded using the fabric codes of the Museum of London post-Roman type-series (Vince 1985), as follows:

CHINA: 'Ironstone' china, 1800–1900. 12 sherds, 263g.
EYGE: English yellow-glazed earthenware, 1785–1835. 2 sherds, 15g.
NOTS: Nottingham stoneware, 1700–1800. 1 sherd, 3g.
PMR: Post-medieval redware, 1580–1900. 1 sherd, 4g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The range of fabric types is typical of the early modern period.

Made ground 52 produced the base of a Ironstone China jar with 'MALING' impressed into the base. This was the mark of the Ouseburn Pottery in Newcastle between 1859 and 1890 (Lang 2006, 307). The pottery from context (97) is dated to the 18th century, as that is when both ware types started, but they also continued in use into the 19th century.

Ceramic Building Material by Sean Wallis

Fragments of brick and tile, weighing over 2.5 kg, were recovered from the backfill of tanning pit 7 (73 and 97). Although not closely dateable, the fragments are likely to date from the late 19th century. A smaller number of brick and tile fragments found in the backfill of pit 3 (61 and 61), are likely to be similar in date.

Other Finds by Sean Wallis

The only other finds retained during the evaluation were a small piece of bone, probably from a bird, and a bristle from a broom, which were found in the organic deposit at the bottom of pit 7 (93).

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed re-development but have not been significantly disturbed by the existing, or recently demolished, buildings. Historic maps (Figs 7 and 8) indicate that the site was formerly occupied by a tannery, and clear evidence of this was found in three trenches in the western half of the site, in the form of numerous rectangular tanks. The

density of the tanks found in the evaluation trenches suggests that there could easily be up to fifty of them present on the site. Many of those recorded during the current project were timber lined, and all appeared to have been deliberately backfilled prior to the demolition of the tannery buildings in the early 20th century. The only trace of these buildings found during the evaluation consisted of relatively small pieces of masonry within the made ground deposits which sealed the probable tanning tanks.

Apart from the probable tanning tanks, no other archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation. The complete absence of buried soil horizons in all but the most easterly trench (5) suggests that much of the site had been disturbed to some extent in the past. Due to the size and density of the closely packed tanks, it is very unlikely that any earlier features could be interpreted successfully, even if present. Therefore, the archaeological potential of the site lies solely in the presence of the probable tanning tanks, which are likely to date from the second half of the 19th century.

References

- Bateson, J, 2006, *Tanning and Tanners*, Fact sheet 63, The RH7 History Group , www.RH7.org
BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 287, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Cotton, J, Crocker, G, and Graham, A, 2005, *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey; towards a research framework for the county*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford
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Vince, A G, 1985, 'The Saxon and Medieval Pottery of London: A review', *Medieval Archaeol* **29**, 25–93

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

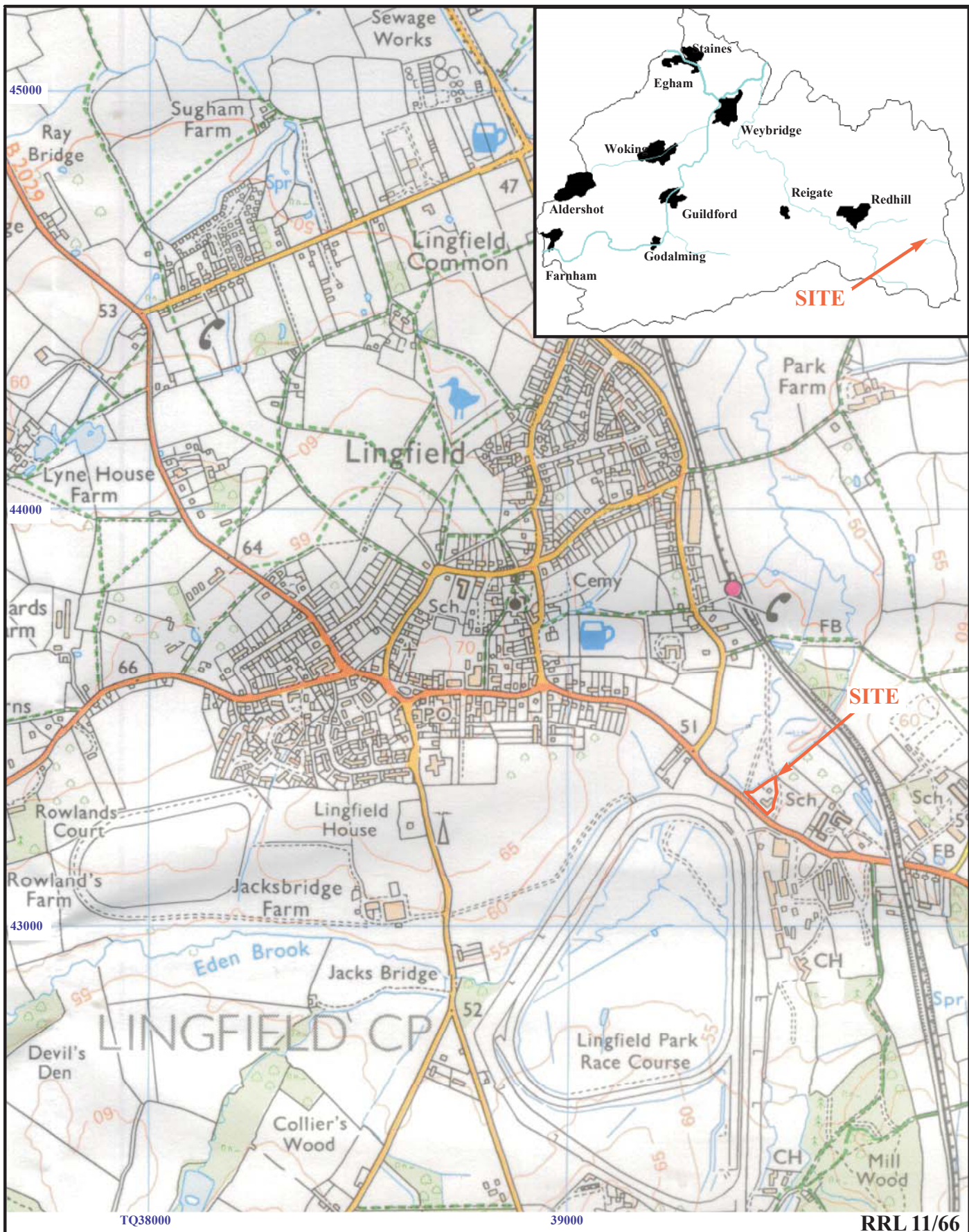
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	10.00	1.60	0.73	0-0.05m Tarmac (50); 0.05-0.27m bedding layer (51); 0.27-0.54m re-deposited natural (89) / made ground (52); 0.54m+ light greyish blue clay (natural geology). Tanks 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. [Plates 1 and 2] .
2	10.30	1.60	0.66	0-0.05m Tarmac (50); 0.05-0.20m bedding layer (51); 0.20-0.53m made ground (52); 0.53m+ light greyish blue clay (natural geology). Tanks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. [Plates 3 and 4] .
3	10.40	1.60	1.00	SW end: 0-0.05m Tarmac (50); 0.05-0.16m bedding layer (51); 0.16-0.34m made ground (90); 0.34-0.60 made ground (52); 0.60m+ light yellowish brown clay (natural geology). NE end : 0-0.37m made ground (91); 0.37-0.53m made ground (89); 0.53-0.91m made ground (52); 0.91m+ light yellowish brown clay (natural geology).
4	10.00	1.60	0.81	0-0.06m Tarmac (50); 0.06-0.29m bedding layer (51); 0.29-0.59m made ground (90); 0.59-0.80m made ground (52); 0.80m+ light greyish blue clay (natural geology). Tanks 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.
5	10.60	1.60	0.80	0-0.14m disturbed topsoil; 0.14-0.44m made ground (91); 0.44-0.55m made ground (90); 0.55-0.68m buried soil (92); 0.68m+ light yellow brown clayey sand (natural geology).

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	1	53, 59	Pit	19th century	
2	2	54, 60	Pit	19th century	
2	3	55, 61, 95	Pit	19th century	Pottery
2	4	56, 62	Pit	19th century	
2	5	57, 63	Pit	19th century	
2	6	58, 64	Pit	19th century	
1	7	65, 73, 93, 94, 97	Pit	19th century	Pottery
1	8	66, 74	Pit	19th century	
1	9	67, 75	Pit	19th century	
1	10	68, 76	Pit	19th century	
1	11	69, 77	Pit	19th century	
1	12	70, 78	Pit	19th century	
1	13	71, 79	Pit	19th century	
1	14	72, 80	Pit	19th century	
4	15	85	Pit	19th century	
4	16	81, 86	Pit	19th century	
4	17	87	Pit	19th century	
4	18	88	Pit	19th century	
4	19	82	Pit	19th century	
4	20	83	Pit	19th century	
4	21	84	Pit	19th century	

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of pottery

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>PMR</i>		<i>NOTS</i>		<i>EYGE</i>		<i>CHINA</i>	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
1	7	97	1	4	1	3				
2	3	61							5	7
2	3	95					1	13	3	28
3		52					1	2	4	228
		Total	1	4	1	3	2	15	12	263



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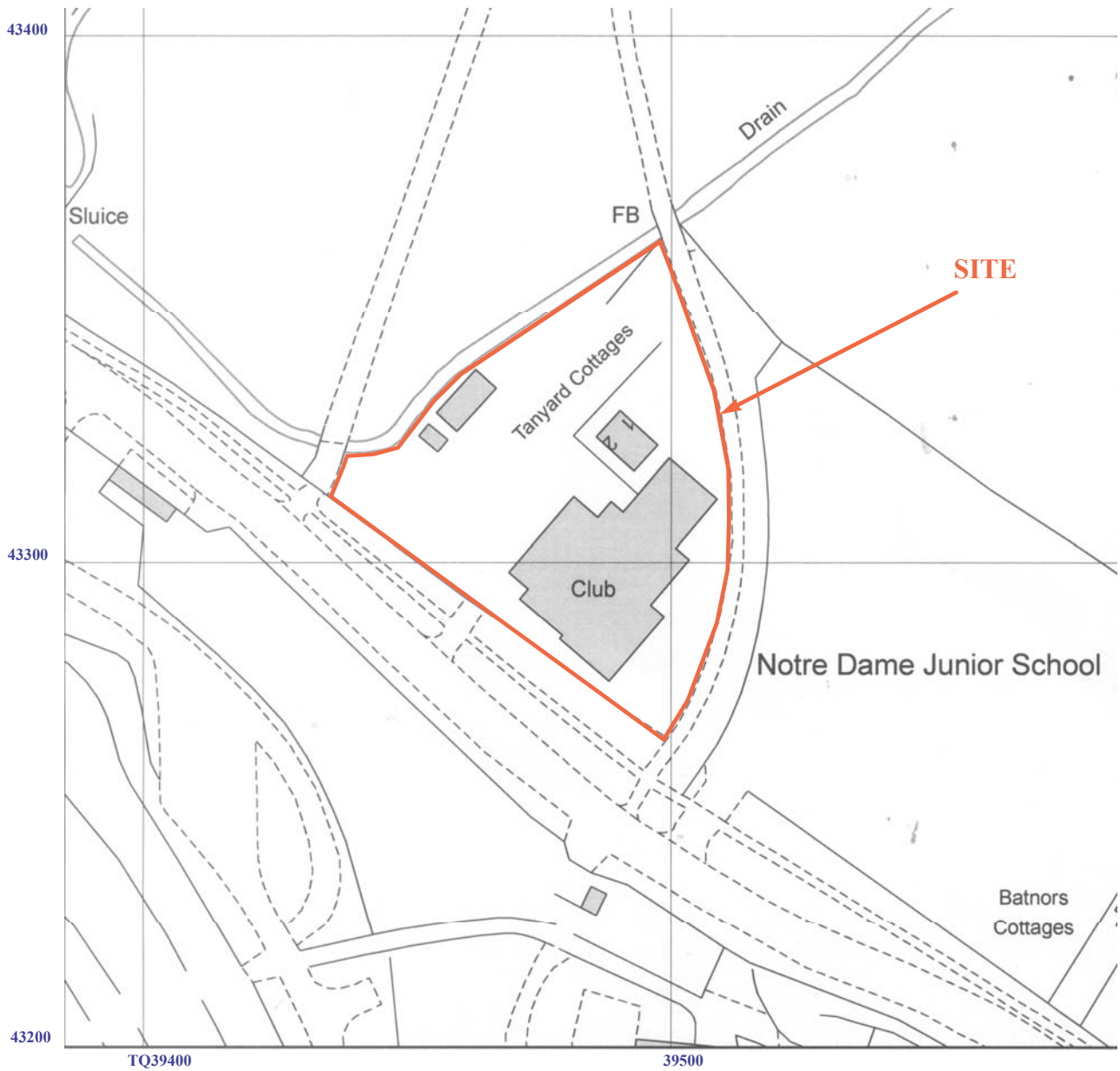
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**Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Lingfield and Surrey.

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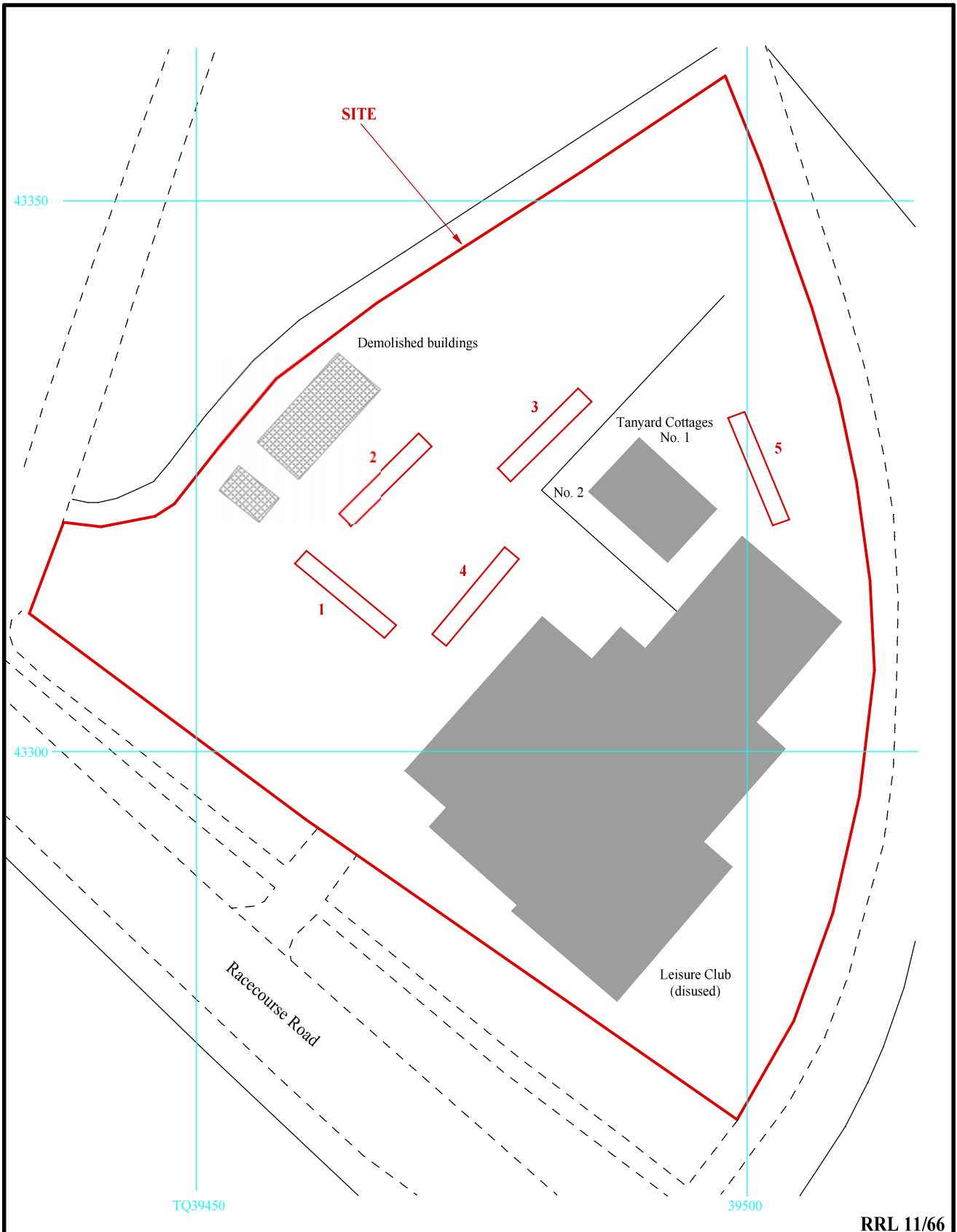


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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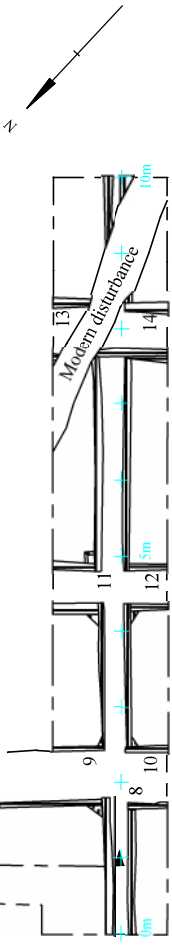
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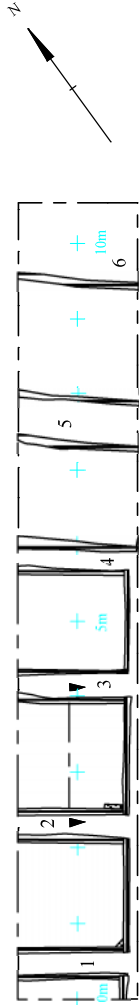
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

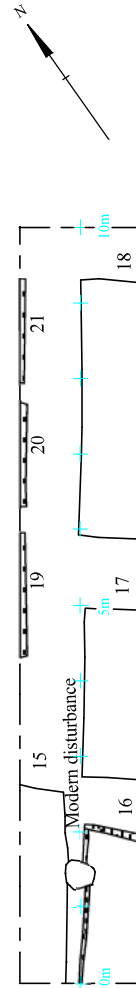




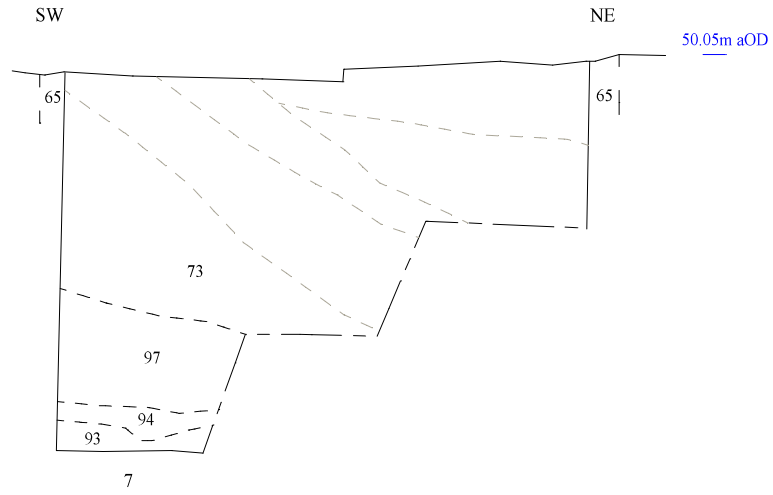
Trench 2



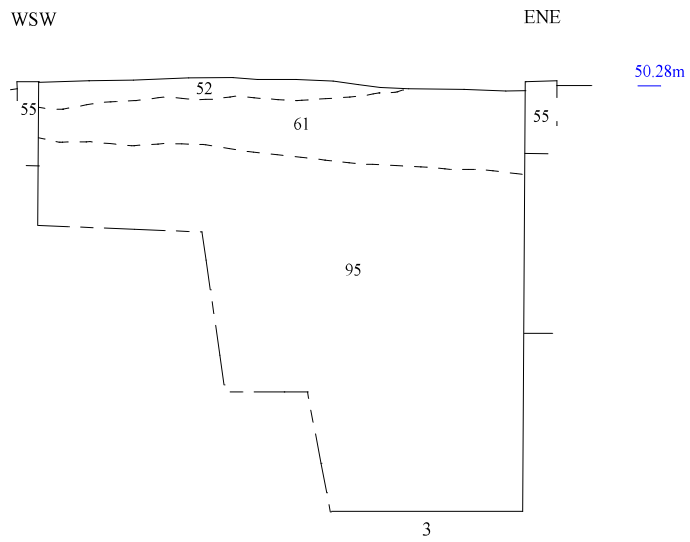
Trench 4



Trench 1



Trench 2



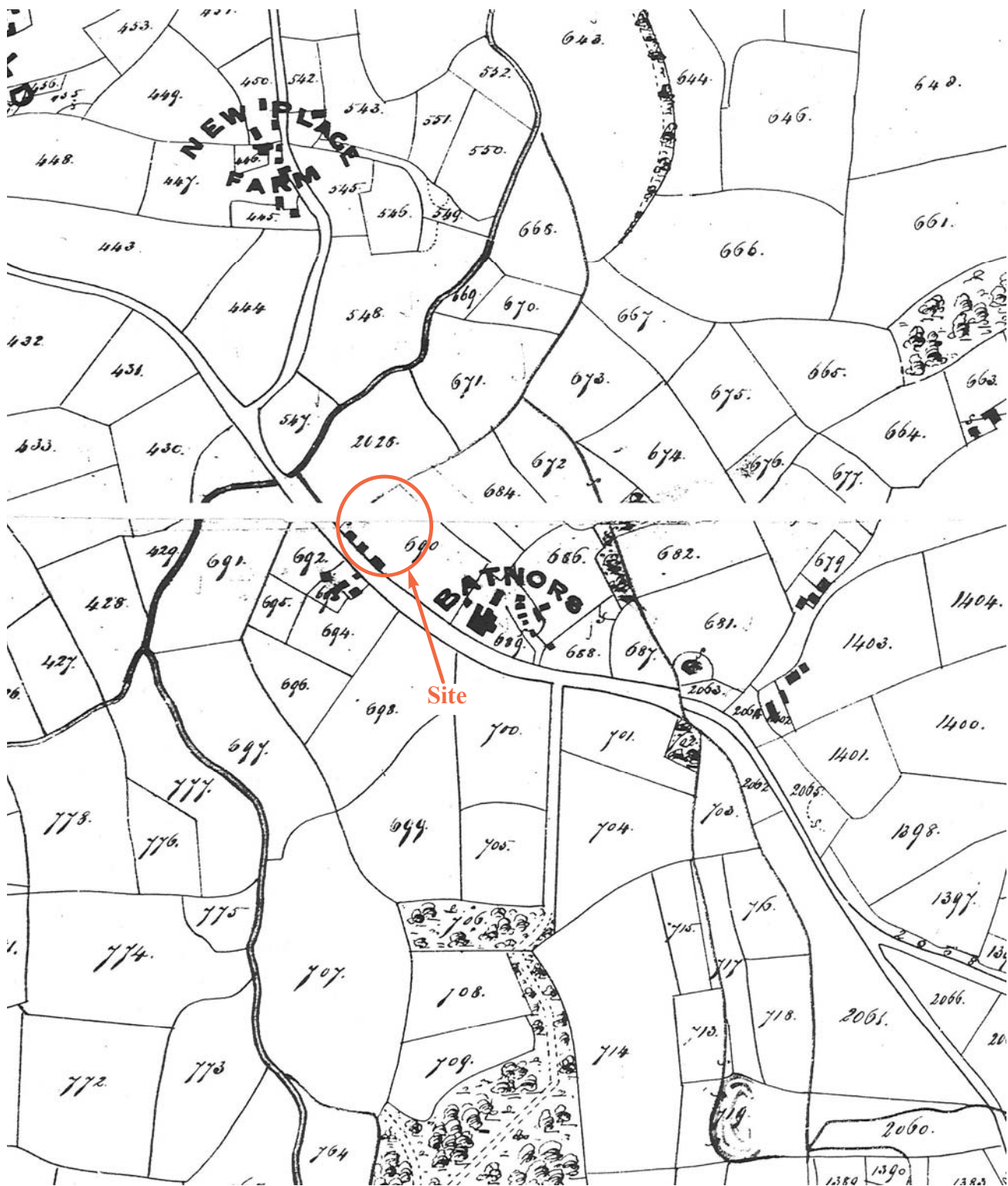
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Figure 5. Sections.



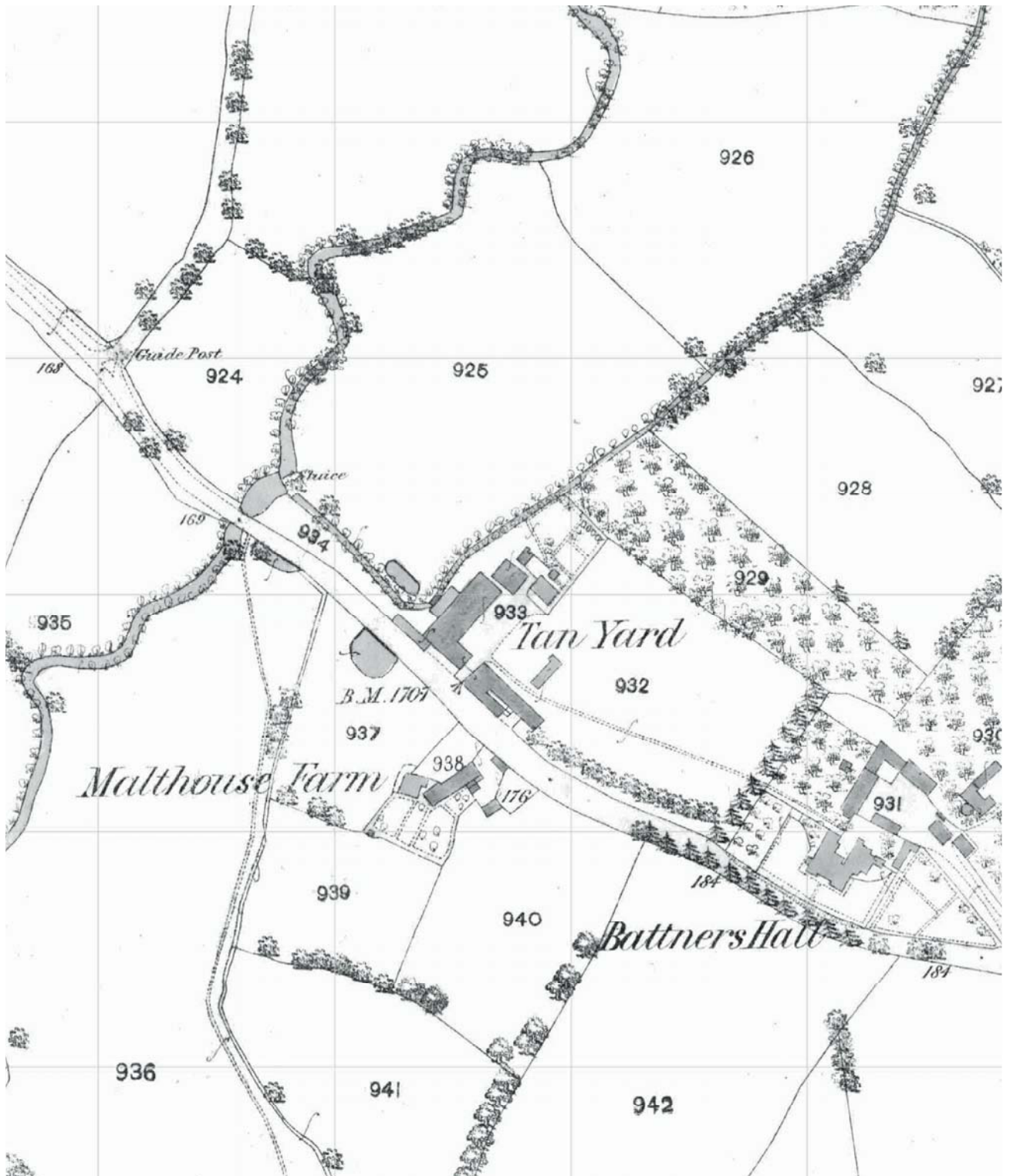
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 Figure 6. Tithe map 1846.

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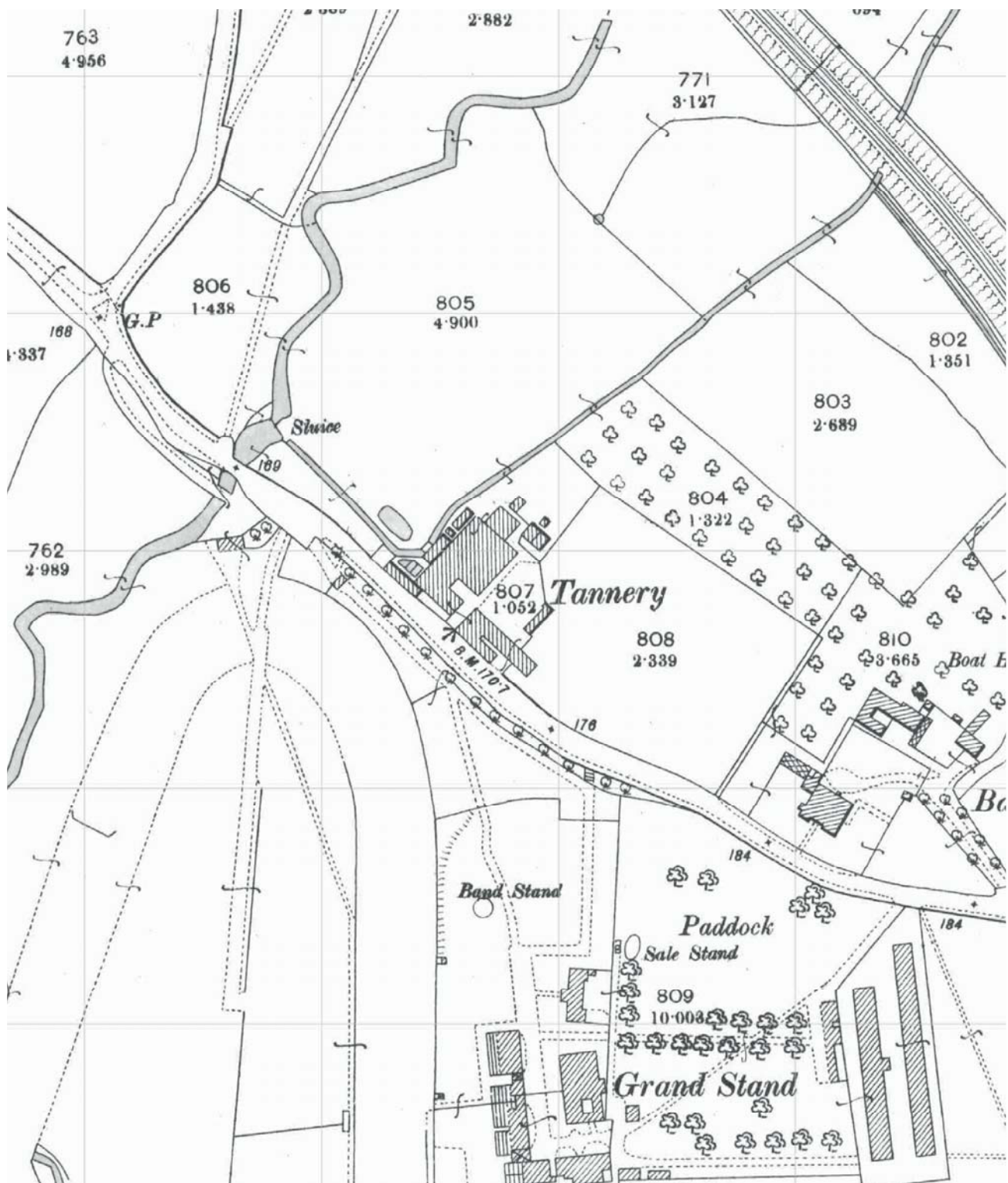


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Figure 7. Ordnance Survey map 1870.

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 Figure 8. Ordnance Survey map 1897.

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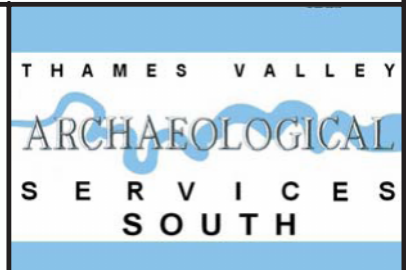




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south-east. Scales: 2m 1m and 0.5m



Plate 2. Pit 7 looking west, Scale: 2m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north-east. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Pit 3 looking north-west, Scales 2m and 1m.

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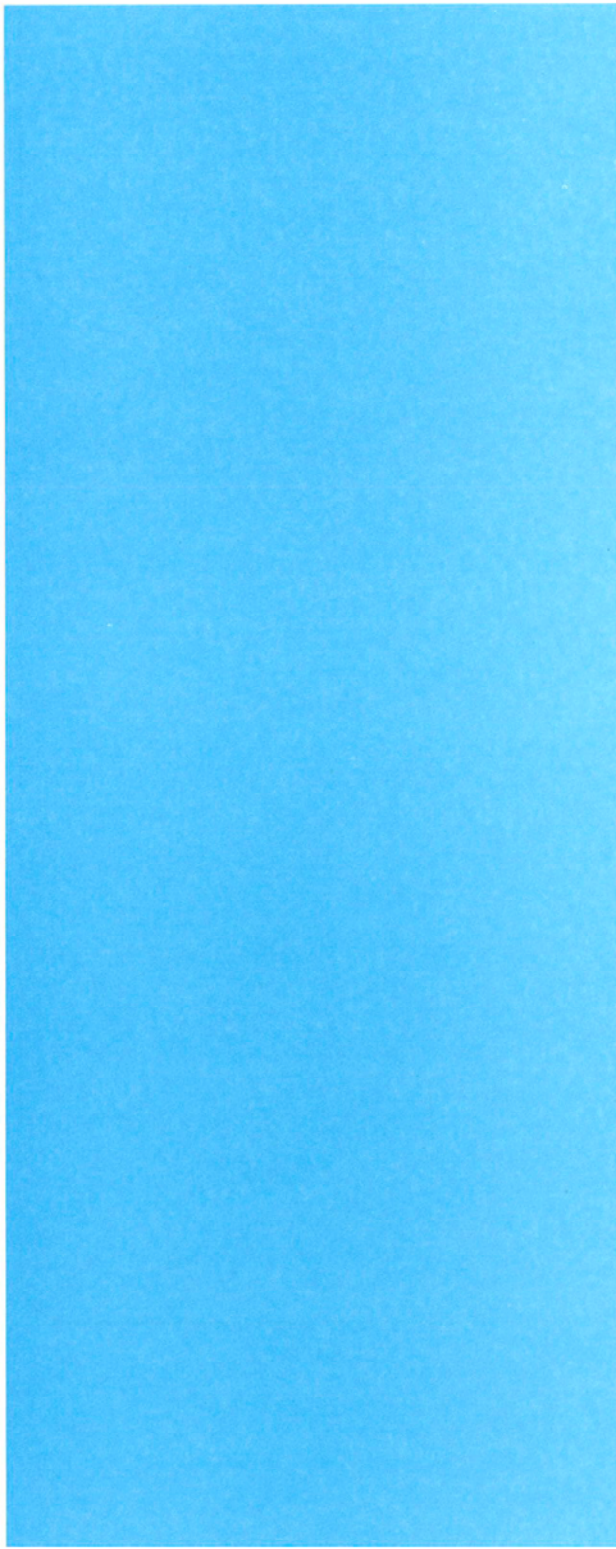
Lingfield Park Squash Club, Racecourse Road,
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Plates 3 and 4.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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