

**Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road,
Denmead, Hampshire**

**Archaeological and Building Recording
for Wilson Designer Homes**

By Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AY 285

November 2006

Summary

Site name: Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6640 1170

Site activity: Archaeological and Building Recording

Date and duration of project: 30th-31st August 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: AY 285

Area of site: 0.27 hectares

Summary of results: Wall foundations of the 19th-century mill

Monuments identified: Windmill

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Winchester Museum Service in due course, with accession code AY285.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.11.06 Steve Preston ✓ 07.11.06

Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire, 2006 Archaeological and Building Recording

by Andy Taylor

Report 06/21b

Introduction

This report documents the results of archaeological and building recording carried out 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire (SU 6640 1170) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr S. Wilson of Wilson Designer Homes Ltd, PO Box 305, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 9AR.

Planning permission (05/02568/FUL) has been granted by Winchester City Council to construct 10 new houses on the site. This consent is subject to a condition (17) relating to archaeology requiring a phased programme of works comprising evaluation and if necessary, further mitigation. The first phase having identified a wall probably from a 19th-century windmill, further work was required in order to satisfy the condition.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Council Sites and Monuments Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Paul Sanderson between the 30th and 31st August 2006 and the site code is AY285. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Winchester Museum Service in due course, with accession code AY285.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south-east of the historic settlement of Denmead, on the west side of Mill Road. The proposed area of development currently forms part of the gardens of Mill House (Fig. 2) and is surrounded by residential properties. According to geological maps the underlying geology consisted of Reading Beds (BGS 1998) although the actual geology observed orange brown sandy clay with frequent flint and gravel. The site lies at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in a project brief prepared by Ms Tracy Matthews. In summary, the site lies to the south-east of the historic hamlet of Denmead, which was formerly known as Barn

Green. The origins of Denmead are unclear but may be within the medieval period. Recent fieldwork has located an Iron Age cremation cemetery on the south-western margin of Denmead, along with evidence of prehistoric settlement and Roman industrial activity. The site was previously occupied by an early 19th-century mill complex, of which Mill House is the only building still standing (Matthews 2006). This was depicted on the Ordnance Survey First Edition in 1870 (Fig. 6) with additional structures shown by 1909 (Fig. 7). An earlier phase of work comprising a field evaluation, in which 5 trenches were opened (Fig. 3) (Wallis 2006), had identified a wall most likely related to the mill complex although no archaeological deposits had been identified.

Objectives and methodology

The purposes of the archaeological and building recording were to:

Record in plan, with selective sections, any remains associated with the 19th-century mill complex found within plots 8, 9 and 10. This was to include a written and photographic record;

Excavate and record any archaeological deposits and features within the area of the proposed development;

Record in plan, with a written and photographic record of the extant portion of garden wall;

Attempt to reconcile any below ground remains with information from cartographic sources.

The area was stripped using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results (Figs 4, 5)

The area was stripped of topsoil which lay directly over clay with flints and gravel natural. The area revealed part of a circular structure representing the remaining foundations of the windmill (1) (Pl. 1). This comprised a brick foundation with a flint core. A section was dug across the wall revealing only a single course of bricks remaining, directly sitting on the natural clay. However, there appeared to be further courses existing on the edge of the structure, although these were continuing outside of the excavation area. No trace was found of rectangular structures butting the windmill to the south as indicated on the 1870 and 1909 maps but these are likely to lie beyond the excavation area beneath the access road.

A section of standing flint wall (2) (Pl. 2) remained above ground, aligned approximately NW–SE. At the north-western end there was evidence that the wall curved north-eastwards. This became evident when the area had been stripped with the remains of the wall foundation continuing at the north-eastern end. Although this wall

can be confidently identified on the Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 6 and 7), this curvature of the wall is not depicted on either map. This might be a fine detail lost to the scale of the mapping. The northern portion of this wall forms part of a small structure. The wall was constructed of flint and mortar with typically 0.10m square flint nodules. The north-eastern end of this wall was cut by another wall aligned NW–SE (3).

Wall 3 was comprised of both brick and flint with areas of flint facing on both sides, as well as brick repairs. This wall formed a right angle aligned NW–SE and turning NE–SW and certainly represents the corner of a structure shown on the 1870 and later Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 6 and 7).

The wall remains observed comprise half of the former windmill as well as associated buildings from the windmill complex. The majority of these consisted of a single course of bricks directly sitting on the natural geology. Only parts of the windmill extending outside the development area and the existing standing wall consisted of further courses of mortared remains.

An area of modern disturbance was also identified, comprising modern brick and tile and glass bottles, none of which were retained.

Finds

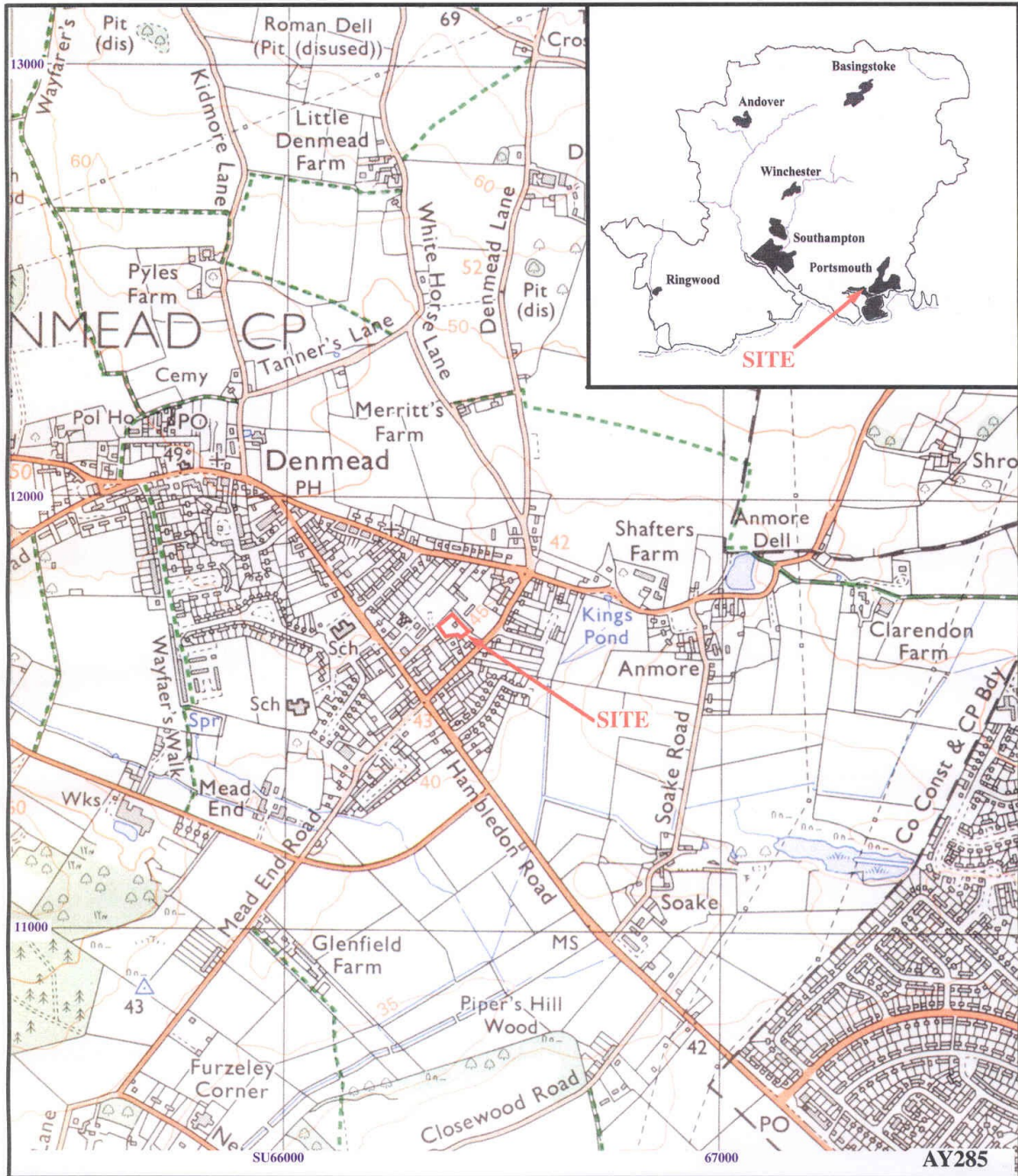
Only finds of modern brick and tile and glass were observed, none of which were retained.

Conclusion

The identified remains of part of the windmill foundation and its associated buildings were recorded in plan and photographed as the majority will be removed by the construction work. The existing standing wall was confirmed as being part of the wall identified during the evaluation and also as part of an outbuilding associated with the mill.

References

- BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 316, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Matthews, T, 2006, 'Mill House 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire-brief for archaeological field evaluation', Winchester
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Wallis, S, 2006, 'Land at Mill House, 17 Mill Road, Denmead, Hampshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 06/21, Reading



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Figure 1. Location of site within Denmead and Hampshire.

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Figure 2. Location of Site

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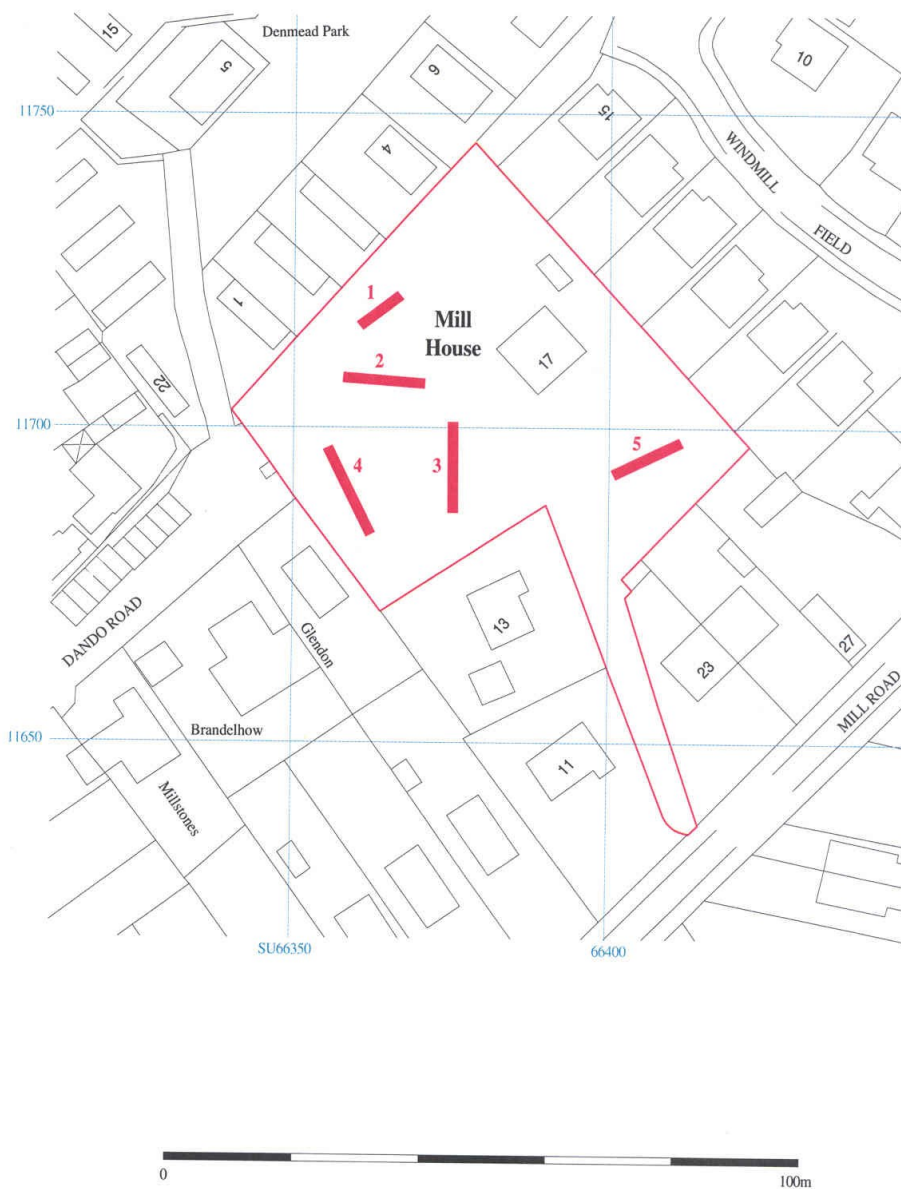


Figure 3. Location of Evaluation Trenches

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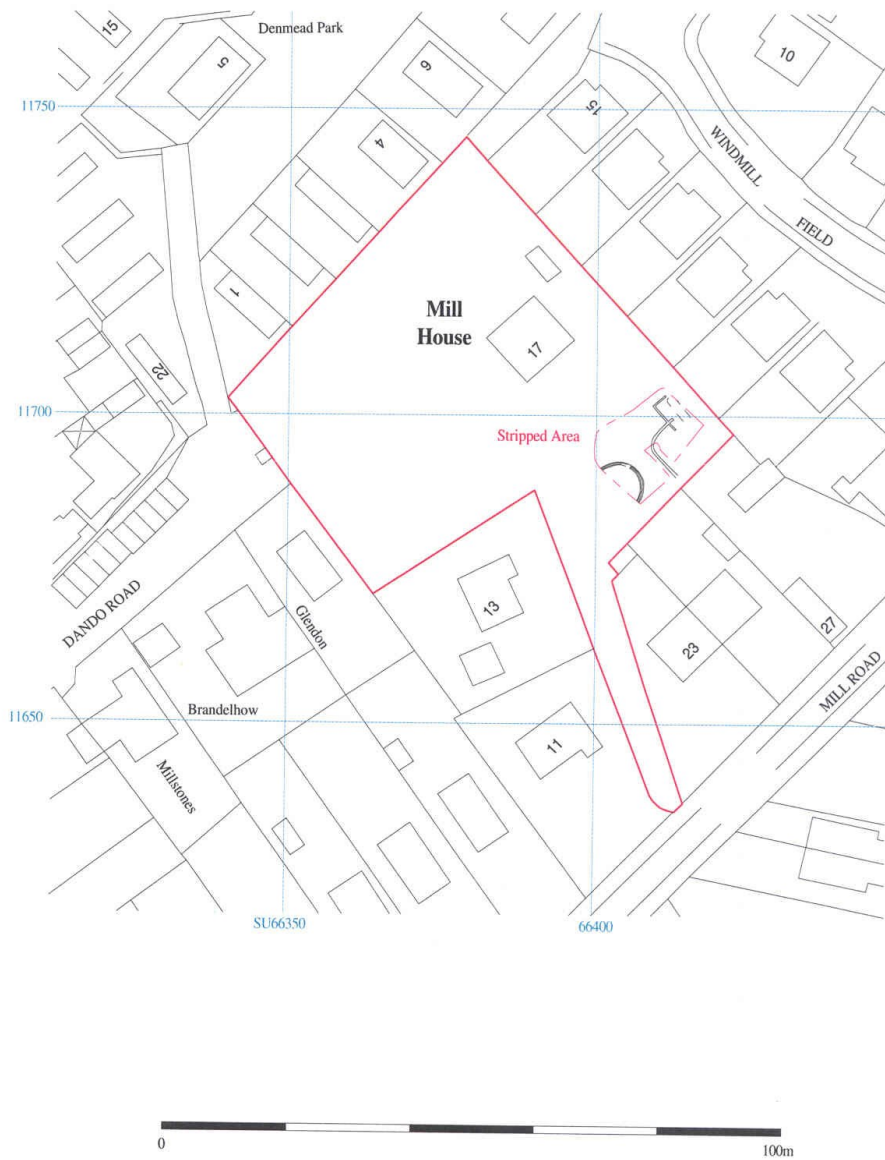


Figure 4. Location of Stripped Area

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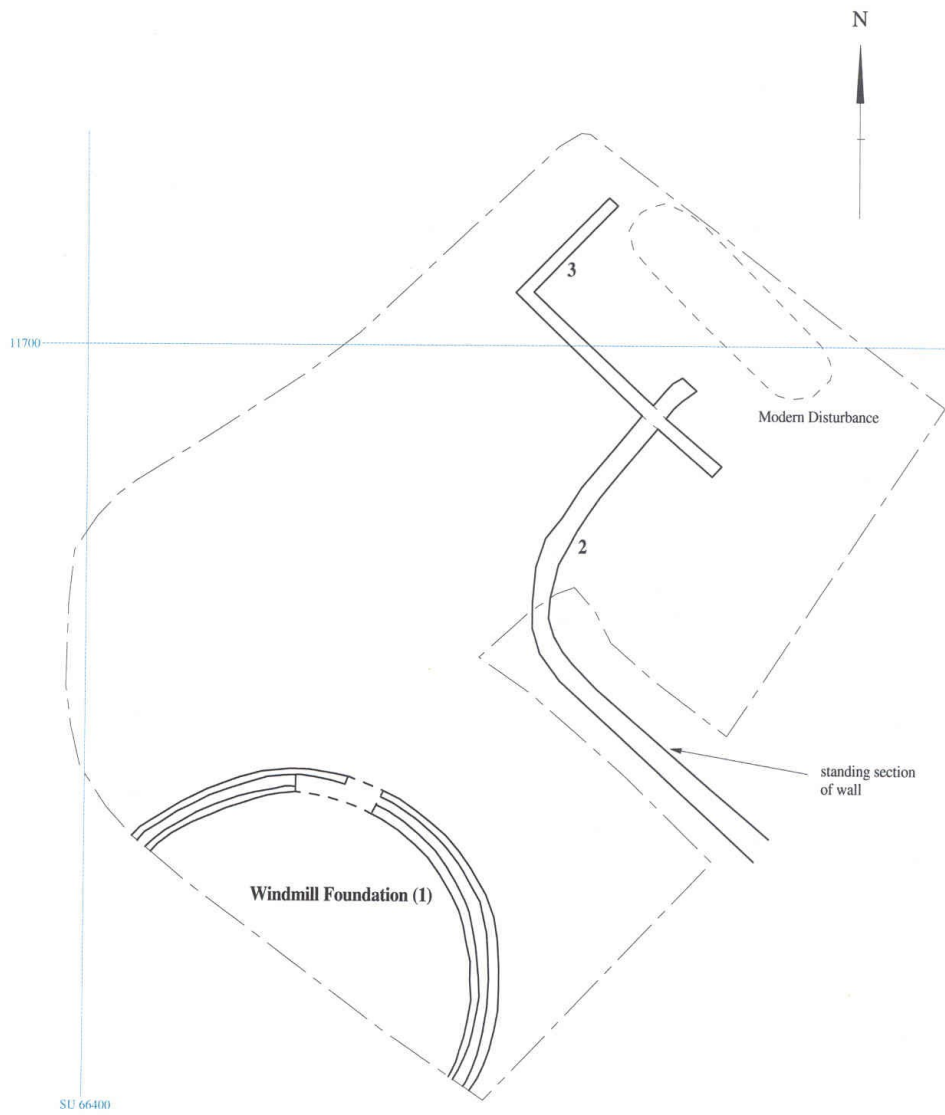
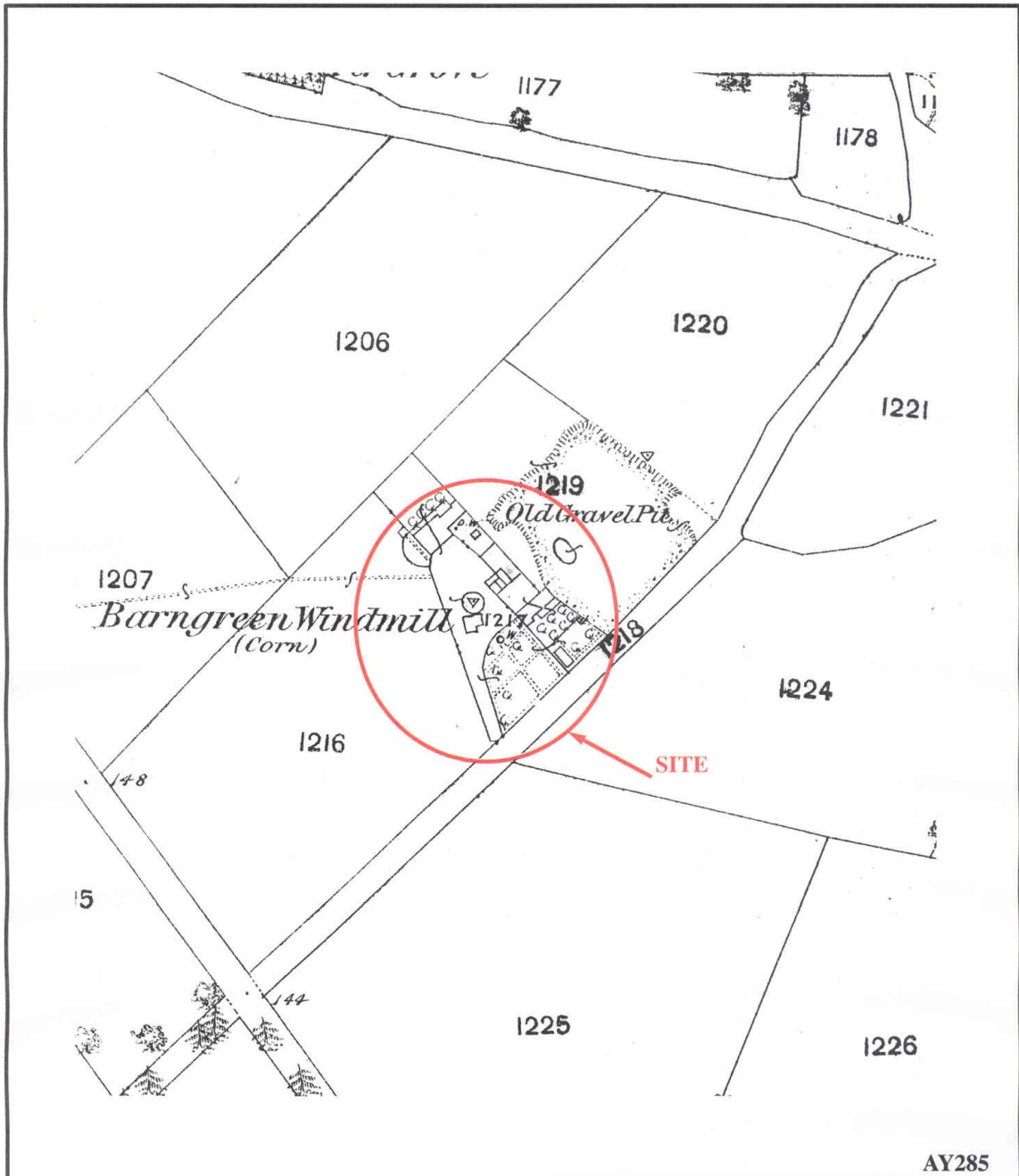


Figure 5: Plan of Stripped Area

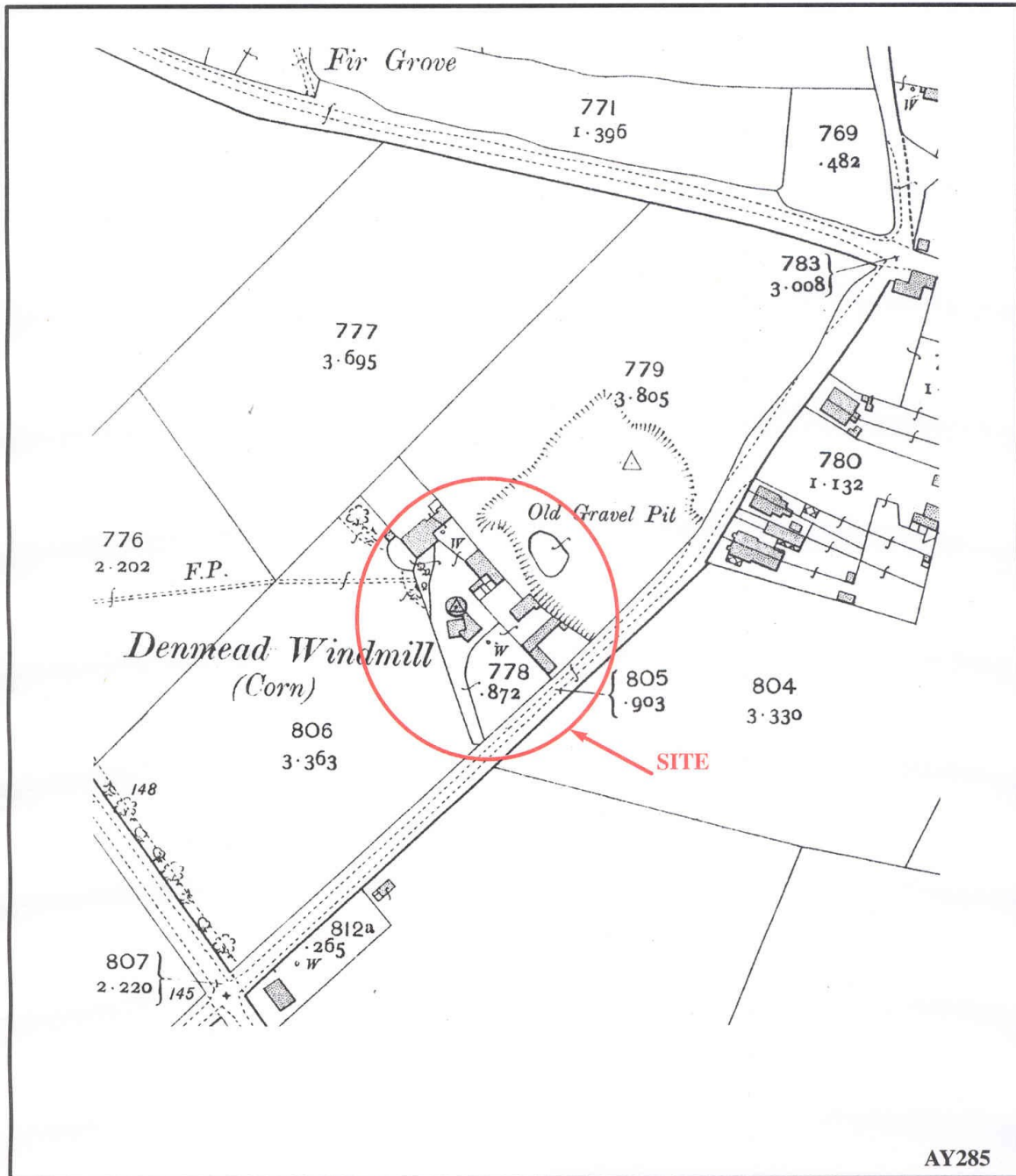


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Figure 6. Ordnance Survey, 1870.

Not to Scale

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Figure 7. Ordnance Survey, 1909.

Not to Scale

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Plate 1. Footings of windmill (1), looking NNE, scales 2m, 1m.



Plate 2. Standing remains of wall (2) looking ENE, horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.