

**THE FORGE, CHURCH STREET
WOODHURST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

Project: WL1360
CHER event no.: ECB3060
OASIS ID: albionar1/50552

Document: 2008/116
Version: 1.0

Compiled by	Approved by
Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

11th November 2008

Prepared for:
Mr D. Cade
4 Honeydon Avenue
St Neots
Cambridgeshire
PE19 8PJ



Contents

Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Project Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Description	6
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
1.4 Project Objectives	7
2. METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 Standards	8
2.2 Trial trenching	8
2.3 Building Recording	8
2.4 Archive	9
3. RESULTS OF TRIAL TRENCHING	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits	10
3.3 Archaeological Remains	10
4. DISCUSSION OF TRENCHING RESULTS	11
5. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING	12
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	13
7. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY	14



Figures

1. Site and trench location map
2. Trench plan and section drawings
3. Plan of blacksmith's workshop

Plates

1. View of blacksmith's workshop from the south-east
2. View of blacksmith's workshop from the north-east
3. Shoeing area
4. Door to smithy from shoeing area
5. Interior of smithy
6. Anvil
7. Pedestal drill
8. Bench shears
9. Leg vice
10. Bench

All figures and plates are bound at the back of this report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 01234 294001
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>11/11/08</i>	

Structure of this Report

The project and its background are described in Section 1 with an outline of the methodology employed during the project presented in Section 2. The results of the trial trenching are provided in Section 3 and Section 4 is a discussion of these results. Section 5 contains the results of the historic building recording. Section 6 is a bibliography and Section 7 an Appendix containing detailed data on trenches and deposits.

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>CAPCA</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice office</i>
<i>CHER</i>	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record</i>
<i>IFA</i>	<i>Institute of Field Archaeologists</i>
<i>LPA</i>	<i>Local Planning Authority</i>

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by David Cade and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Eliza Gore of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice office.

The fieldwork was carried out by Lennard Anderson and Robert Wardill. The report was prepared by Robert Wardill with illustrations by Joan Lightning.



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission has been granted for a development at 'The Forge', Church Street, Woodhurst comprising demolition of an existing workshop and the construction of a residential dwelling and garage.

Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site, a condition was attached to the permission requiring an archaeological evaluation and recording of the extant building.

A number of archaeological features were found within the trial trench, however, all appeared to be pits of post-medieval or modern date.

The evidence from the trenching suggests that the site of the proposed development contains little or no significant archaeological remains, and that settlement associated with Saxon or later medieval Woodhurst is not located in the immediate vicinity.

The building at the site is a purpose-built blacksmith's workshop constructed during the early 20th century. It comprises a rectangular single storey structure of two compartments, built of brick. Within the building are a number of extant fixtures and fittings.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission has been granted for a development within the grounds of a residential dwelling called 'The Forge', on Church Street, Woodhurst (ref. 0801496FUL). Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site, a condition was attached to the permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

The local planning authority's archaeological adviser, Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA), issued a Brief (CAPCA 2008) detailing the requirements for this work which was to comprise building recording and the excavation of an evaluation trench.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out this work and a Project Design was prepared (Albion Archaeology 2008) and approved by the CAPCA office prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The site is centred on grid reference TL31390 76140 and lies to the west of the village of Woodhurst and to the immediate west of the existing residential dwelling (Figure 1). The existing building within the site comprises a small, single story redundant blacksmith's workshop. The remainder of the site of the proposed development is laid to lawn or rough ground

The planned building works comprise the demolition of the existing workshop and the construction of a residential dwelling and garage.

The geology of the area comprises Glacial Till overlying clay, with the land surface lying at a height of around 35m OD.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The present street plan of Woodhurst is essentially of medieval origin and the site of the proposed development lies within this early plan.

Excavations carried out in 1949, south of the site at Moot Way, revealed archaeological remains of Saxon and medieval settlement (CHER 03588a). Several inhumations were also found and these individuals were interpreted as plague victims due to the distance of their graves from the village church.

More recent archaeological investigations located towards the centre of the village at Harradine's Farm (CHER's 13047, 13048) revealed a range of archaeological features indicative of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement of the area.



1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the trial trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the site and, if so, what is their extent, condition, nature and significance. This information was to be used to inform any subsequent mitigation strategy designed to protect or preserve by record any significant remains that may be present.

The objective of the building recording was to make a basic descriptive and pictorial record of the extant structure prior to its demolition.

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area and produce an archive report that fully describes the archaeological works.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were followed.

• IFA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i>
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)</i>
• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001).</i>
• ALGAO (east)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• CCC	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store (HER 2004/1).</i>

2.2 Trial trenching

The trial trenching took place on 22nd October 2008. A single trench was opened measuring 10m x 1.6m (Figure 2).

The trench was opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits and/or archaeological remains. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

A photographic record of the works was maintained and all deposits and features were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100. A full methodology was provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008).

2.3 Building Recording

A record conforming to a minimum Level 1 survey, as defined by English Heritage (2006), was made of the extant blacksmith's workshop on the 20th October 2008.

Internal and external, monochrome and colour photographs were taken with 35mm film cameras. Digital photographs were also taken to supplement the main record.

A basic sketch plan was made which is reproduced in Figure 3.



2.4 **Archive**

The full archive for the project will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Stores. This will include:

- The report
- Site plans and section drawings
- Context recording sheets
- Site registers
- Site photographs – digital and 35mm film

In addition, a copy of this report will be sent to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record located in County Hall, Cambridgeshire, and to the online OASIS database (ref.albionar1/50552).



3. RESULTS OF TRIAL TRENCHING

3.1 Introduction

Deposits and features recorded within the trench are summarised below. Detailed information on all contexts can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Deposits of topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) were excavated before archaeological remains were identified cutting into *in-situ* geological deposits at a depth of approximately 0.9m below ground level at the southern end of the trench and 0.7m at the northern end.

The geological deposits exposed in the trench comprised a mix of yellow/white clay and orange clay silt.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

The trench contained a total of five distinct features. None were exposed to their full extent within the trench but all were characteristic of pit features rather than ditches. All features appeared in the trench sections to be cut through the subsoil layer (101).

Features [103], [105], and [107] all contained a similar mixed fill of yellow grey clay silt. All appeared to be moderately sized pits of fairly regular shape. Features [105] and [107] were excavated and were found to be between 0.20-0.28m deep. Both contained pieces of modern china ware and fragments of coal. Feature [103] was not excavated as its character was similar to features [105] and [107] and fragments of china and glass were found protruding from its exposed surface.

Features [109] and [111] were more irregular in plan and were filled with darker grey clay silt. Both were around 0.3m deep and contained pieces of coal, burnt wood and china ware.



4. DISCUSSION OF TRENCHING RESULTS

A number of archaeological features were found within the trial trench, however, none are believed to be significant or of particular interest. The five features revealed all appeared to be pits of post-medieval or modern date. No specific function or purpose for the pits could be ascertained from their form or content.

The evidence from the trenching suggests that the site of the proposed development contains little or no significant archaeological remains and that settlement associated with Saxon or later medieval origins of Woodhurst is not located in the immediate vicinity.



5. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

The blacksmith's workshop located at the site is a rectangular, purpose-built structure of yellow stocks in Flemish bond measuring 10.15m x 4.5m (Plates 1 and 2). It was built in the early 20th century but has been out of use as a fully functioning blacksmiths for a number of years.

The building comprises a central chimney and is divided into two compartments, the smithy (3.8m x 6.20m) and an adjacent shoeing or general outdoor working area (3.20 x 3.80m). The pitched, close-couple roof contains timber trusses with struts and is clad with tile.

The rear wall of the building utilised an existing wall constructed in English bond with a brick-on-edge coping. Brick piers have been added to the top of this wall, with a single skin brick wall infilling between.

The shoeing area is open fronted and paved with brick sets (Plate 3). The internal dividing wall contains a small hatch for raking out the forge and, between the shoeing area and smithy is a ledged door. The latter is covered with graffiti, mostly initials scorched into the wood (Plate 4).

The smithy compartment has both a door and window opening along its eastern frontage and is paved with brick sets. Both openings have wooden lintels. The door opening contains a ledged door, the window opening a wooden-framed window. The forge, with two built-in water troughs (boshes), and chimney are still present as are the bellows (Plate 5). Other extant fixtures and fittings include the anvil (Plate 6), pedestal drill (Plate 7), bench shears (Plate 8), leg vice (Plate 9), work bench (Plate 10) and assorted roughly constructed shelving.



6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2008. *The Forge, Church Street, Woodhurst, Cambridgeshire: Project Design for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Historic Building Recording.*

CAPCA 2008. *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording: The Forge, Church Street, Woodhurst.*

English Heritage 2006. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice.*



7. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL31394/76146

OS Grid Ref.: TL31392/76136

Reason: Evaluation of house plot

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt frequent small stones Thickness of 0.4 - 0.55m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid grey yellow clay silt frequent small stones Thickness of 0.2 - 0.25.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm light yellow white clay frequent small stones Also orange clay silt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Pit	Oval E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min length 1.15m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt moderate small stones Contained glass and china.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Pit	Oval E-W profile: convex base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.2m, min length 1.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey clay silt moderate small stones Contained china ware.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Pit	Rectangular E-W profile: convex base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min length 0.9m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey clay silt moderate small stones Contained coal fragments and china ware.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Pit	Irregular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.55m, min length 2.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Firm dark grey clay silt occasional small stones Contained china ware.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Pit	Rectangular N-S profile: stepped dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.29m, min length 2.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Fill	Firm dark grey clay silt occasional small stones Contained china ware.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

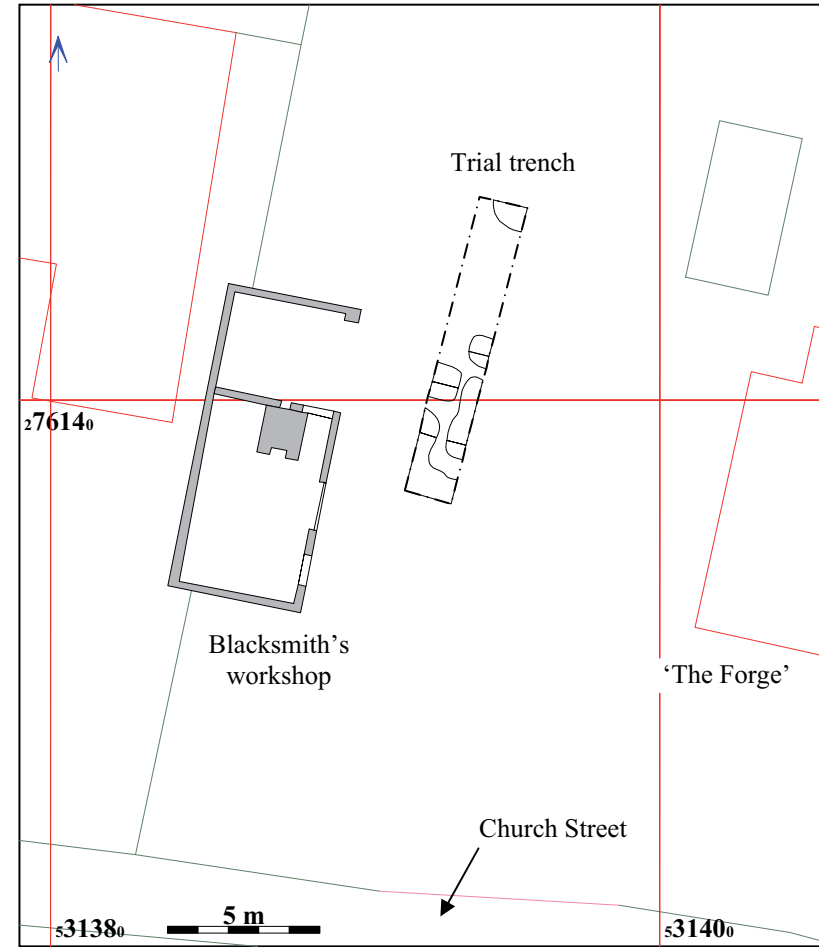
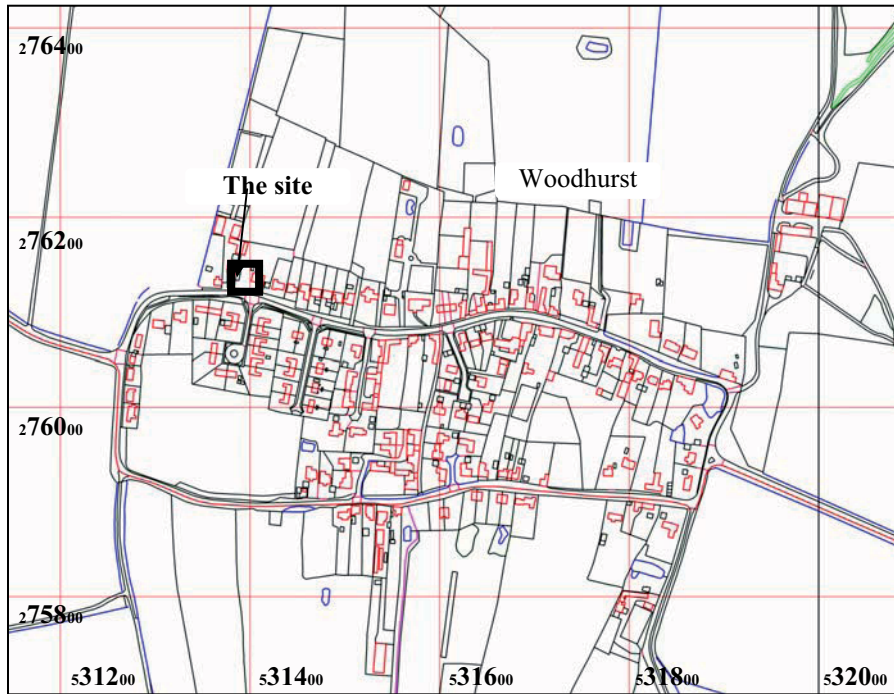
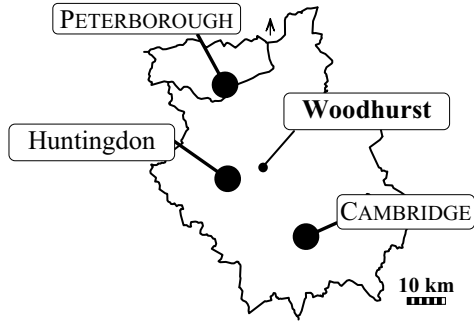
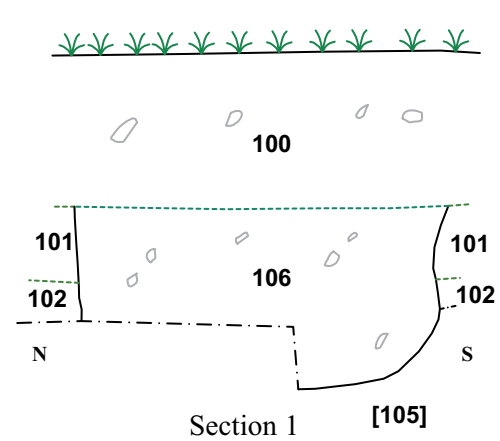
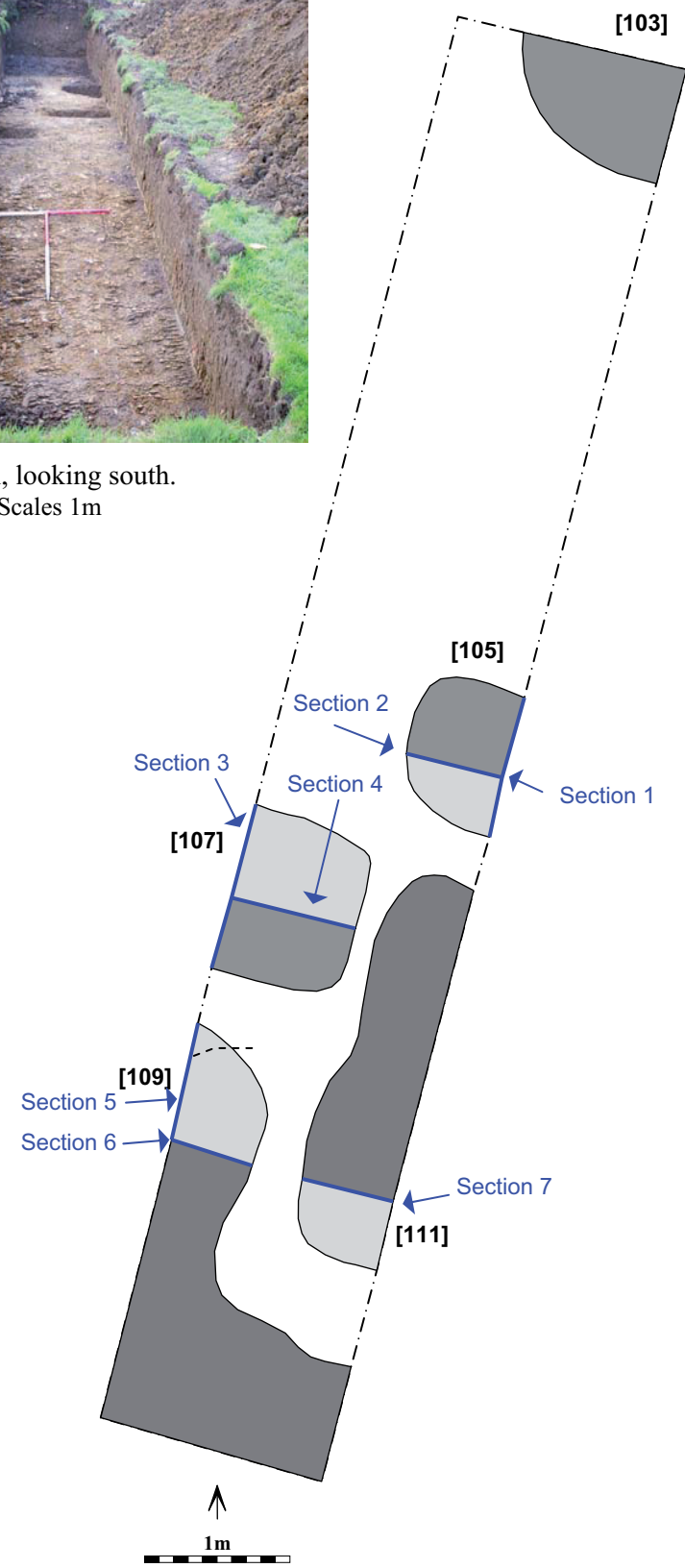


Figure 1: Site and trench location map

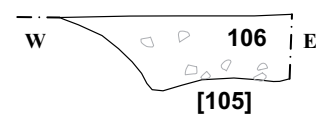
Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright



Trench, looking south.
Scales 1m



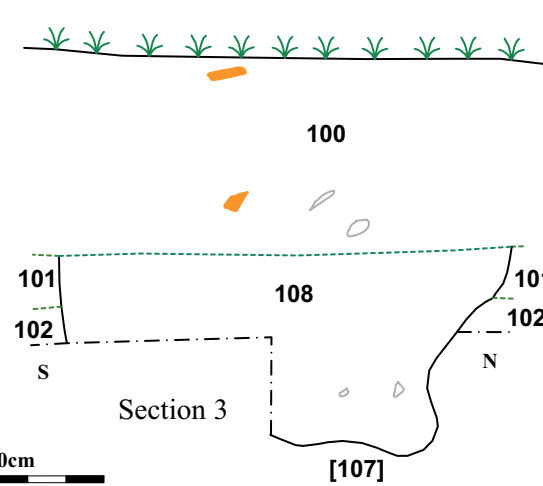
Section 1 [105]



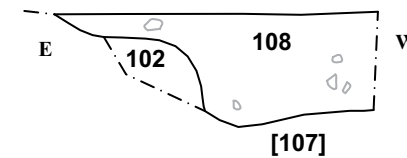
Section 2



Feature [105], looking north.
Scale 40cm



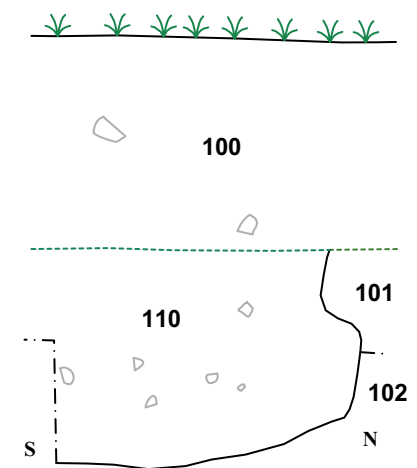
Section 3



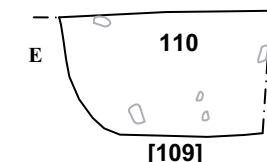
Section 4



Feature [107], looking south.
Scale 40cm



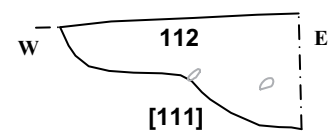
[109]
Section 5



[109]
Section 6



Feature [109], looking west.



Section 7



Feature [111], looking north.

Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawings

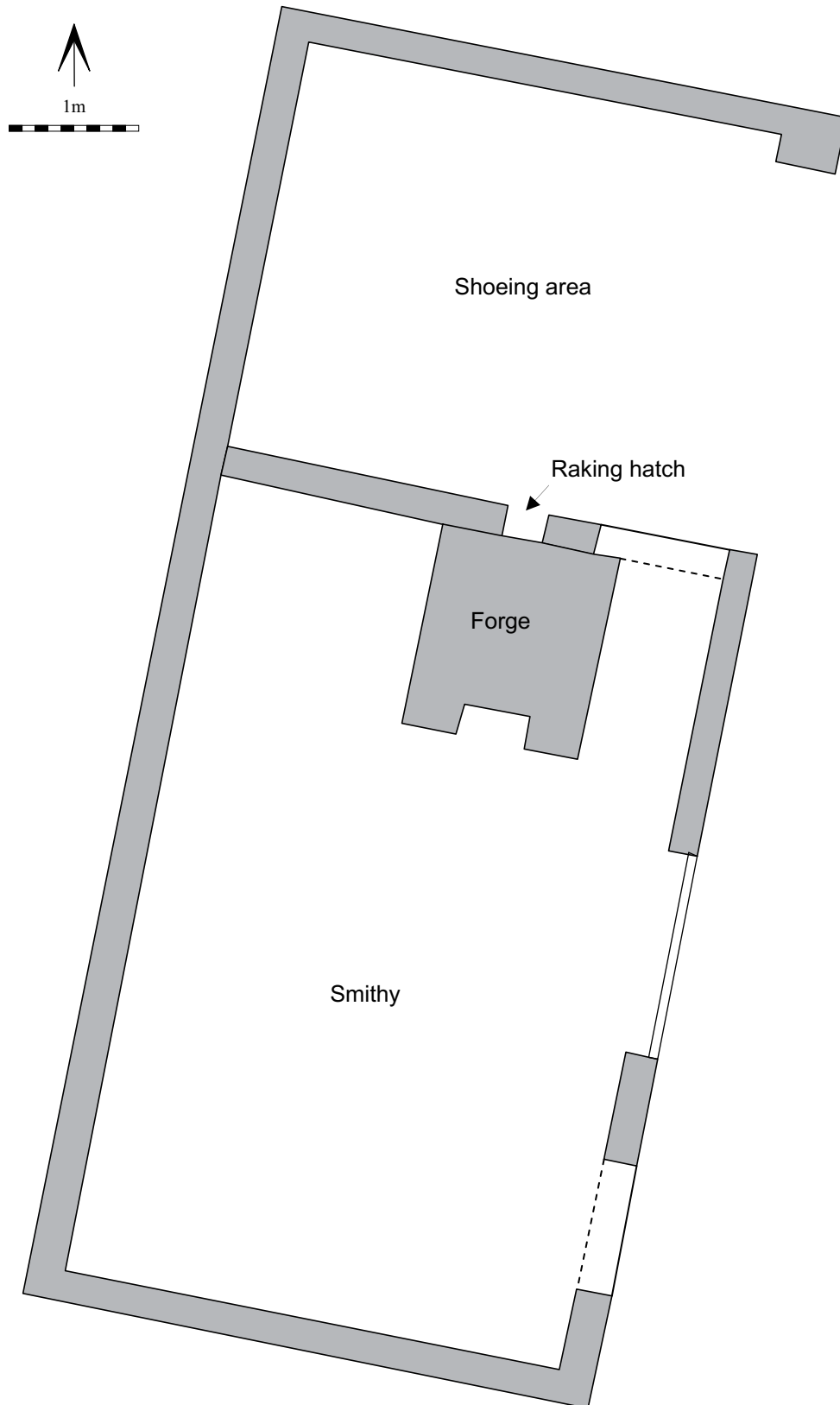


Figure 3: Plan of blacksmith's workshop



Plate 1. View of blacksmith's workshop from the south-east.



Plate 2. View of blacksmith's workshop from the north-east.



Plate 3. Shoeing area.



Plate 4. Door to smithy from shoeing area.



Plate 5. Interior of smithy.



Plate 6. Anvil.

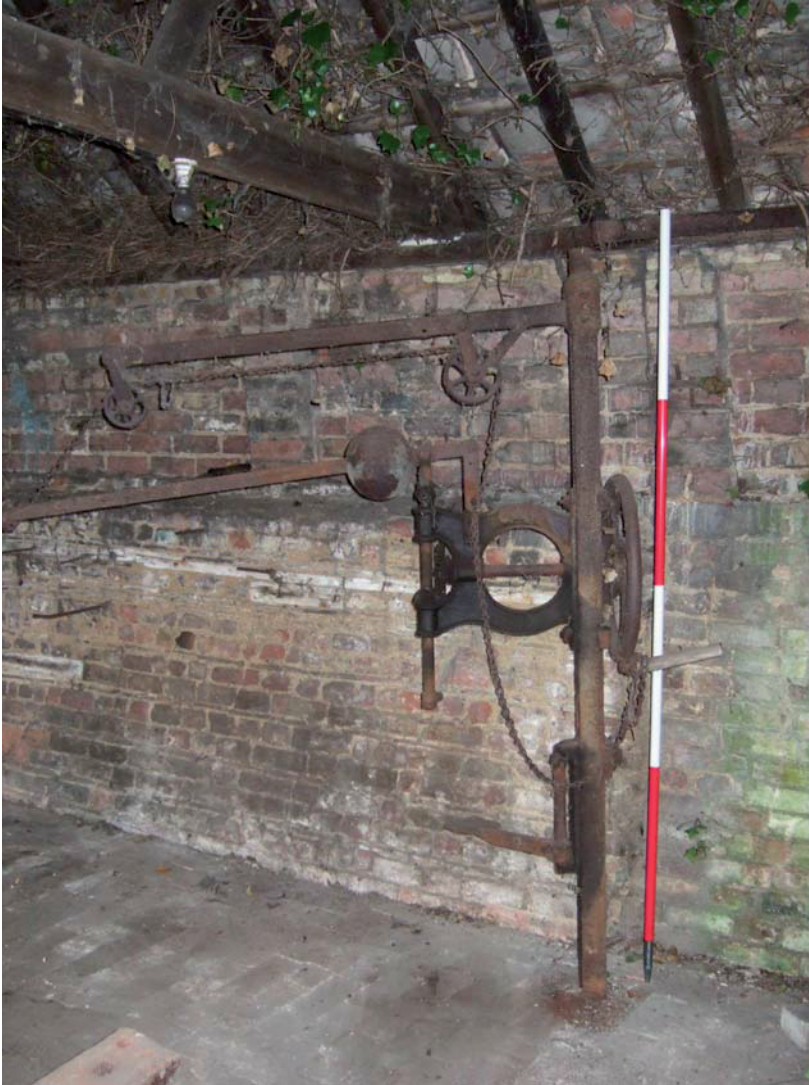


Plate 7. Pedestal drill.



Plate 8. Bench shears.



Plate 9. Leg vice.



Plate 10. Bench.