

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
MANOR FARM  
CHURCH LANE  
PADBURY  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

*on behalf of Mr A. Inchbald*



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**November 2004**

**ASC: 626/PCL/02**

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## Site Data

|                                       |   |                    |     |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----|
| <i>ASC site code:</i>                 | PCL   | <i>Project no:</i> | 626 |
| <i>County:</i>                        | Buckinghamshire   |                    |     |
| <i>District:</i>                      | Aylesbury Vale  |                    |     |
| <i>Village/Town:</i>                  | Padbury   |                    |     |
| <i>Parish:</i>                        | Padbury CP  |                    |     |
| <i>NGR:</i>                           | SP 7217 3086  |                    |     |
| <i>Present land use:</i>              | Farm  |                    |     |
| <i>Planning proposal:</i>             | Barn conversion, residential development and car park                                     |                    |     |
| <i>Planning application ref/date:</i> | 04/01974  |                    |     |
| <i>Client:</i>                        | Mr A Inchbald<br>C/o Brian Barber Associates<br>154 High Street<br>Berkhamsted<br>HP4 3AT |                    |     |
| <i>Contact name:</i>                  | Sarah Wills   |                    |     |
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## Internal Quality Check

|                           |             |              |                                |
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### Plates:

*Cover: Rear Elevation of The Manor House*

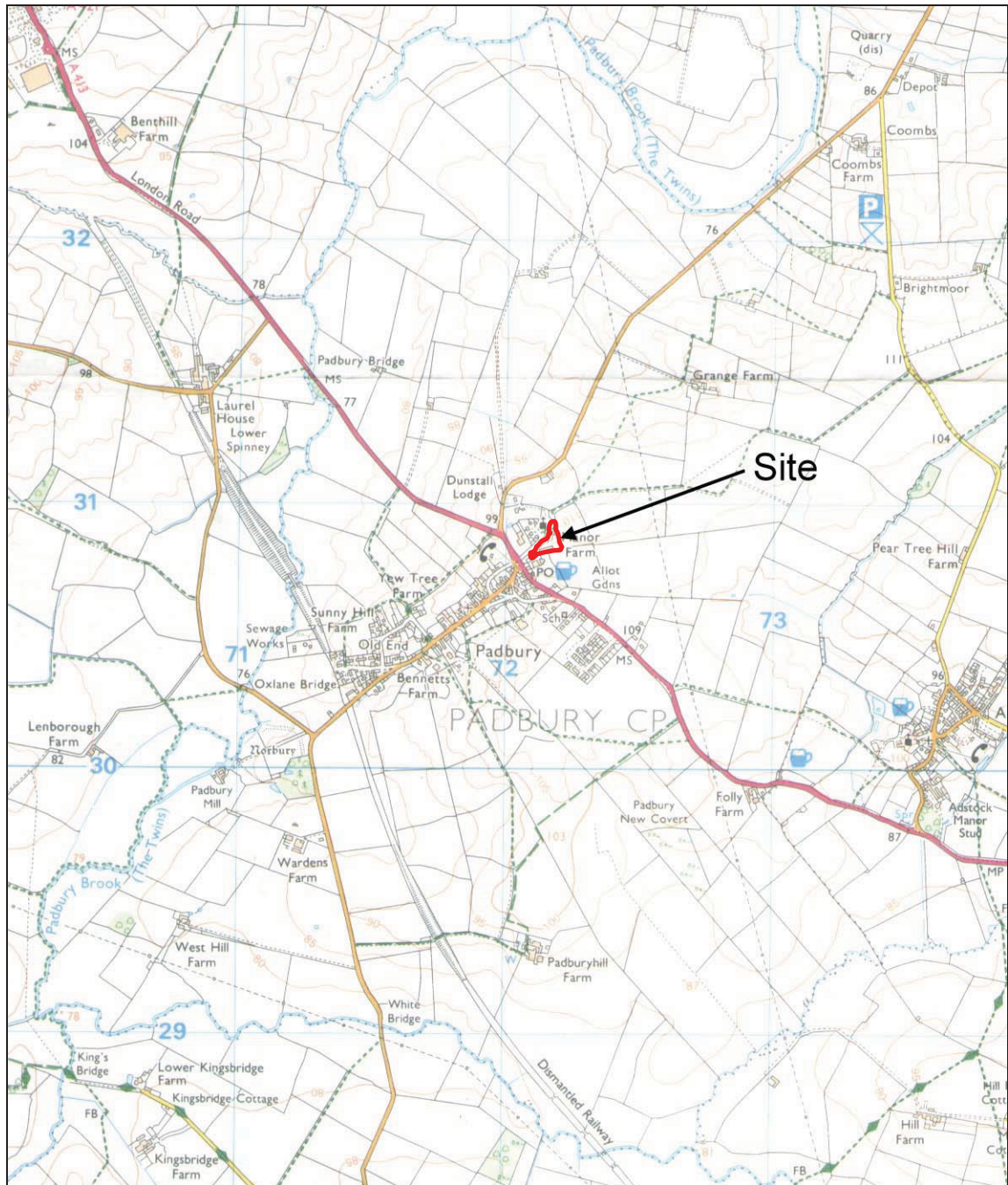


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In November 2004 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Manor Farm, Padbury, Buckinghamshire. The site was located immediately to the south of the 13<sup>th</sup> century village church. A total of four machine cut evaluation trenches were excavated revealing evidence of modern intrusive groundworks and three earlier ditches. The three ditches were located toward the central area of the site and appeared to predate the extant 19<sup>th</sup> Century and later farm buildings. It was impossible to securely date these ditches due to a paucity of artefactual evidence although the presence of a single medieval potsherd in the primary fill of one of these ditches indicated that it may have been in use between the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 During November 2004 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a trial trench evaluation on a site at Manor Farm, Church Lane, Padbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 7217 3086: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr A. Inchbald, after initial contact was made with ASC by his agent Miss S. Wills of Brian Barber Associates, and was carried out according to a brief (Radford 2004) prepared by *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service* (BCAS), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Griffiths & Fell 2004).

### 1.2 *Setting*

#### 1.2.1 *Location, Description and Extent*

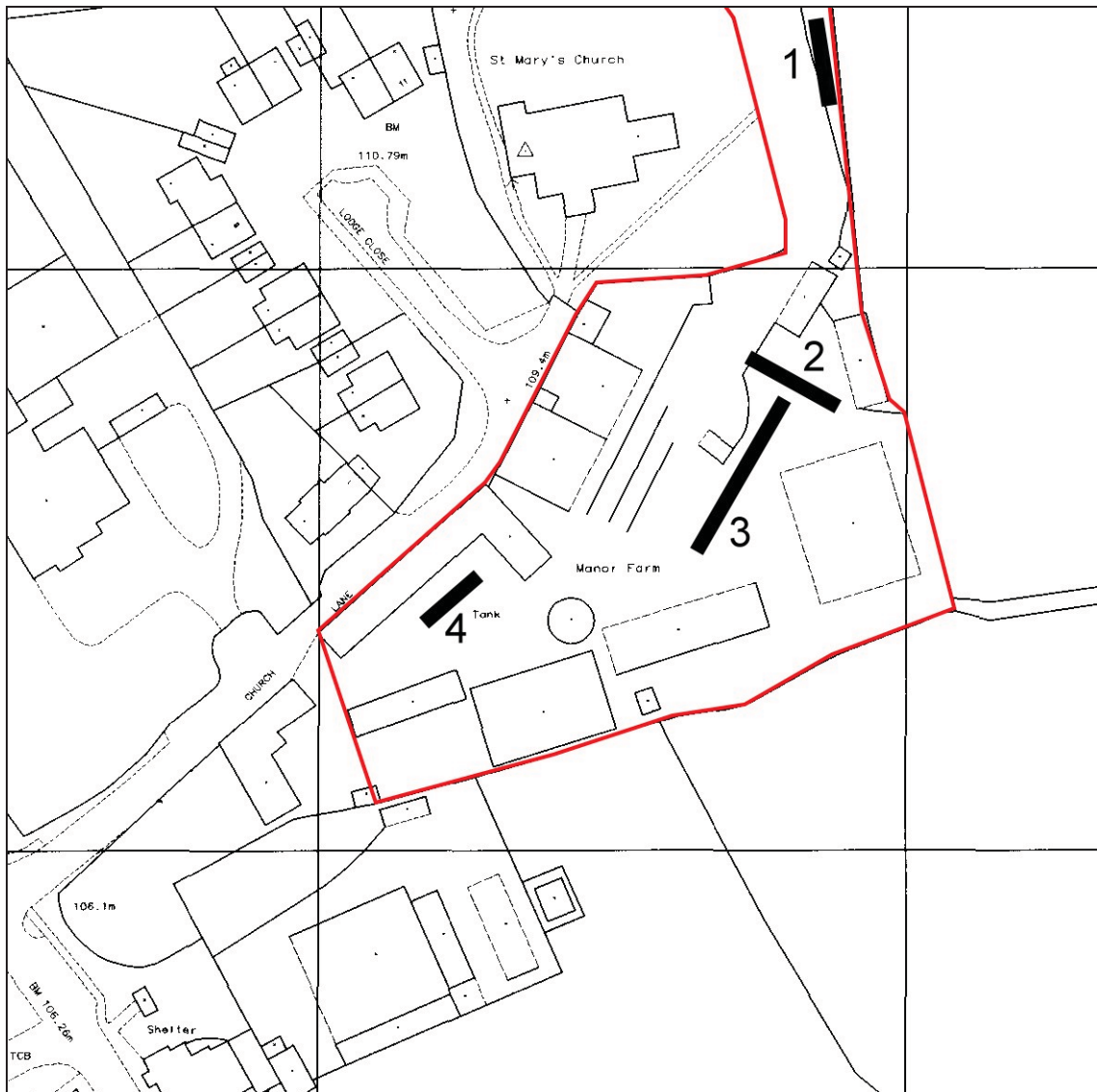
Padbury is situated approximately 2.5 km southeast of Buckingham. The site, situated in the northeast of the village of Padbury, is located within the historic core of the village and contains the disused Manor Farm (Fig. 2). The site is an irregular triangular plot bounded to the northeast by the village Church and London Road to the southeast.

#### 1.2.2 *Geology and Topography*

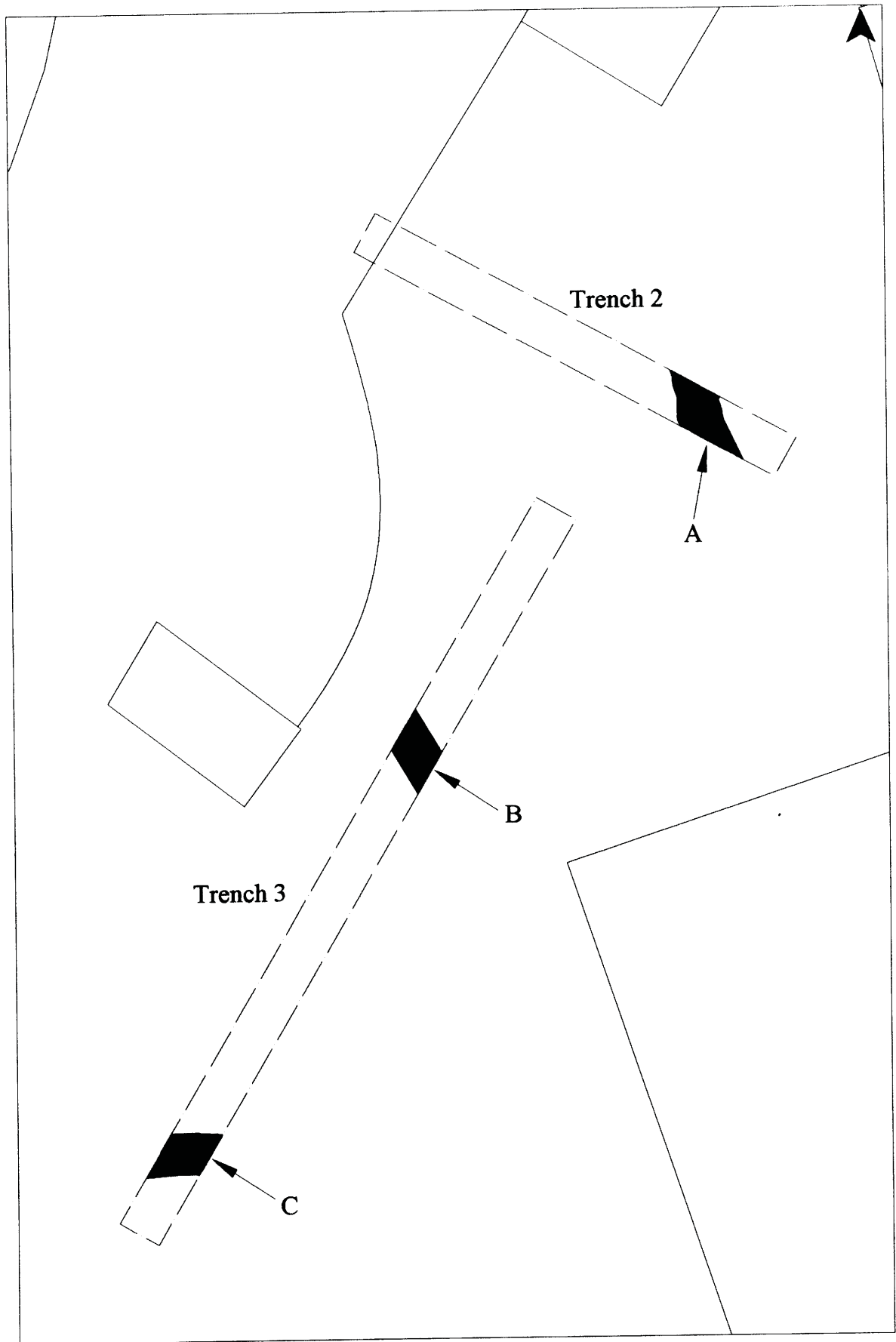
The soils of this area belong to the Hanslope Association (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). They are described as *slowly permeable calcereous clayey soil. Some slowly permeable non-calcereous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion (ibid)*. The site is situated on the eastern part of the village which stands on rising ground. The site itself lies at c.110m AOD.

### 1.3 *Reason for Work*

The proposed development (planning ref. 04/01974) comprises the conversion of barns to form three two-storey dwellings, erection of a further four two-storey dwellings and provision of church car parking (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site plan and trench locations (scale 1:1250)



**Figure 3:** Trenches 2 and 3 showing indicative location of archaeological features (1:200)

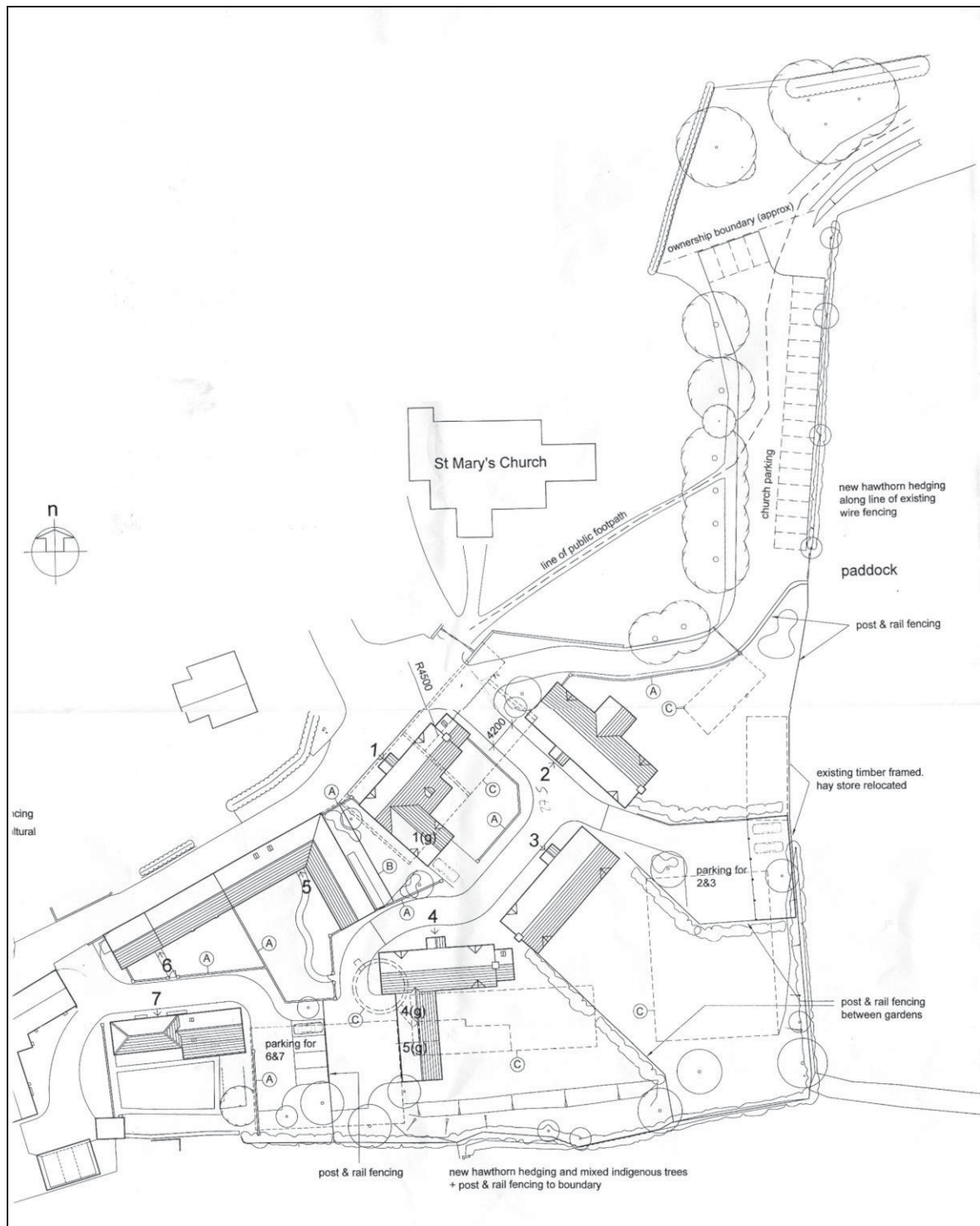


Figure 4: Proposed development (not to scale)



## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 In line with the requirements of the brief, the aims of the evaluation were:

- to obtain information on the extent and character of any archaeological remains that may be present
- to obtain information on the state of preservation and relative quality of any archaeological remains present

### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the brief, the methods adopted for this project were:

- desk-based assessment (incorporated in the Project Design);
- trial trenching involving the excavation of 70m of trenches, subject to constraints, with a contingency for an additional 20m;
- preparation of a report (this document);
- deposition of the project archive.

The original trenching proposals were modified by agreement with BCAS, to give a better coverage of the areas of the site where new buildings are proposed. Indicative trench locations and constraints are shown on Figure 2.

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conforms to the requirements of the *Brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a) to English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

The following sections summarise the findings of the desk-based assessment undertaken for the development site as the first stage of the evaluation (Griffiths & Fell 2004). *N.b.* SMR = Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 3.1 Prehistoric (before AD43)

Prehistoric sites are not currently known from Manor Farm and are poorly represented in the parish generally. A ringwork known as *Norbury* is situated beyond the west side of the village, and may be of prehistoric or Saxon date (SMR 783).

#### 3.2 Roman (AD43-c.450)

The site is not known to contain Roman remains. This area of Buckinghamshire was of importance during the Roman period and a Roman road linking *Magiovinium* with Alcester runs c.2km north of the site. Evidence for Roman activity in the village is limited to the chance discovery of a coin of Hadrian (AD 117-138) on the west side of the village.

#### 3.3 Saxon (c.450-1066)

Padbury probably originated during the Saxon period but little is known of the early development of the village. The place-name suggests that it may have been the location of a defended Saxon settlement, and the *Norbury* ringwork (SMR 783) has been interpreted in this light. The ringwork is undated and there is no other evidence for Saxon activity in the village.

#### 3.4 Medieval (1066-1500)

The village developed during the medieval period. The manor of *Pateberie* was referred to in the Domesday survey and Manor Farm (SMR 2906) may be the site of the capital messuage. The evaluation site is immediately south of the village church, which dates from at least the mid/late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The present village has probably developed from two separate settlements or 'ends', situated at either end of Main Street. The area on the west side of the village is referred to as *Old End* and the settlement at the east end may have developed as a separate *end*, centred on the church and manor house.

#### 3.5 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

3.5.1 The earliest surviving map of Padbury was prepared for All Souls College in c.1591 including Manor Farm. The present boundaries of the site had been established by that time and the tenure as described as "*The college in the tenure of Tho. Harris*". A house is shown at the southwest end of the site, approximately in the location of the present Manor House.

3.5.2 Padbury was enclosed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The enclosure map (Bucks Rec. Off. IR/4) was prepared in 1795 and the Enclosure Award is dated 25 April 1796. The land was held by Rev William Eyre and is described as '*Homestead Cottage and Orchard*'. A number of structures are shown in the west part of

the site, notably a linear structure along its northwest side. The existing wall on this alignment dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and may be a surviving element of this structure. A structure on the site of the existing farmhouse is also shown and a range of further structures are illustrated in the central part of the site. The east side is shown as open ground, enclosed by a hedge.

- 3.5.3 The present Manor House is an 18<sup>th</sup> century L-plan brick building and is Grade II listed.
- 3.5.4 Manor Farm developed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its layout is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map, published in 1880. New buildings had been constructed in the central and northern parts of the site and a track/road leading towards the east side of the church is also shown
- 3.5.5 The layout of the area immediately to the west of the site was extensively modified in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when the *Wendover-Buckingham Turnpike Trust* improved the road through Padbury. The former sinuous road through the centre of the village (now *Lower Way*) was replaced by a new route to the northeast (part of the present *London Road*), which runs along the west boundary of the site.

### 3.6 Modern (1900-present)

A small number of changes were made to the 19<sup>th</sup> century layout of Manor Farm during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1973 Ordnance Survey map shows that the southeast range of farm buildings had been demolished and the modern farm buildings had been constructed. The site and its buildings were in a disused state at the time of the evaluation.

## 4 Results

4.1 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the results of the trial trenches. A full illustrated description of the trenches is provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 **Results** (see Figure 3 for location of described features)

### 4.2.1 Trench 1

The trench was machine stripped of topsoil revealing the natural sandy gravel at a depth of *c.*0.8m. The trench was aligned north-south and 1.6m wide x 15m long. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### 4.2.2 Trench 2

Topsoil was machine excavated to the natural chalky clay at a maximum depth of *c.*0.66m. The trench was aligned northwest-southeast and was 1.6m wide x 17m long. Cut into the natural were two ditches which traversed the width of the trench.

A northeast-southwest aligned ditch containing a single fill with occasional inclusions of modern glass crossed the northwestern end of the trench. The date of the artefacts incorporated in the fill indicated that this feature was relatively modern and probably associated with the infilled pond visible to the northeast on the 1880 and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey mapping.

A north-south aligned ditch (**A**) traversed the southeastern end of the trench. It was sealed by the topsoil and cut the natural clay. With steep sides and a broad slightly uneven base it measured >3m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.3m depth. A light greyish-brown soft clayey silt (203) filled the ditch and yielded no finds.

### 4.2.3 Trench 3

The trench was machine stripped of topsoil revealing the natural chalky clay at a depth of *c.*0.55m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest and was 1.6m wide x 30m long. Cut into the natural and traversing the width of the trench were three service trenches, a modern wall footing and two ditches.

Ditch **B** was aligned north-south and located at the northeastern end of the trench. Due to the presence of an electricity cable it was only possible to excavate a section part way across this feature. This showed the ditch to have a steep northeastern side breaking onto a broad flat base. The ditch contained two distinct deposits (303 & 304) and the primary fill (303) yielded a single sherd of pottery. This was part of the rim of a grey sandy ware medieval cooking pot that approximated Fabric MS3 in the Milton Keynes type series (Mynard & Zeepvat 1992, 260). This ubiquitous ware has a date range from the mid/late eleventh to early fifteenth centuries, reaching its peak in the thirteenth century.

Ditch **C** was aligned east-west and traversed the southwest end of Trench 3. Its profile had moderately steep sides and a rounded base and it contained a

single deposit (306) of light orangey brown clayey silt, from which no finds were recovered.

#### 4.2.4 **Trench 4**

A concrete slab was broken up and hardcore base removed revealing made ground. This hydrocarbon contaminated and discoloured material was excavated down to the natural chalky clay at a depth of *c.* 1.1m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest and 1.6m wide x 12m long. A modern drain crossed the trench at its northeastern end. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

## 5. Conclusions

### 5.1 Confidence Rating

The confidence rating for the recognition of archaeological deposits on this site was good. The weather was fine during fieldwork and the differing strata were easily distinguished.

### 5.2 Conclusions (see Figure 3 for location of described features)

The modern features discovered in evaluation Trenches 2 and 3 and the concrete capping of Trench 4 indicate a concentration of recent activity within the central and western areas of the site. The relatively undisturbed nature of the strata in Trench 1 and the lack of modern or archaeological finds and features suggests that the northern area may have remained peripheral throughout the sites history.

The presence of Ditches **A**, **B** and **C** in Trenches 2 and 3 suggests phases of activity predating the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings and focussed on the central area of the site. Unfortunately the locations of Trenches 2 and 3 did not reveal the relationships between these features, and this fact combined with the lack of artefacts in the fills of Ditches **A** and **C** precludes serious discussion of their function and relative ages. A *termini post quem* of mid/late eleventh century can be given for Ditch **B** due to the discovery of the sherd of medieval grey sandy ware in its primary fill (section 4.2.3), and it is hesitantly suggested that the different profiles and alignments of Ditches **B** and **C** (Trench 3) may indicate at least two phases of activity.

The evaluation did not conclusively confirm the presence of a medieval settlement nucleated around the village church and the Manor House (Griffiths and Fell, 2004, p8, section 2.5.4). The lack of archaeology in Trench 1 and the relative paucity of medieval finds from the ditches in Trenches 2 and 3 suggests that these features, if they date to the Medieval period, may have been peripheral to the main focus of settlement, which consequently may be located to the north and west of the church.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to Miss S. Wills of Brian Barber Associates for contacting ASC on behalf of Mr Andrew Inchbald who funded the evaluation.

The input and advice of Mr David Radford of BCAS is also acknowledged. The fieldwork was supervised for ASC by Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA assisted by Justin Neal. The report was written by Alastair Hancock and Nicholas Crank and edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA and Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA, who also managed the project.

## **7. Archive**

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs/slides
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.


7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. Accession number is 2005.8.


## 8. Bibliography

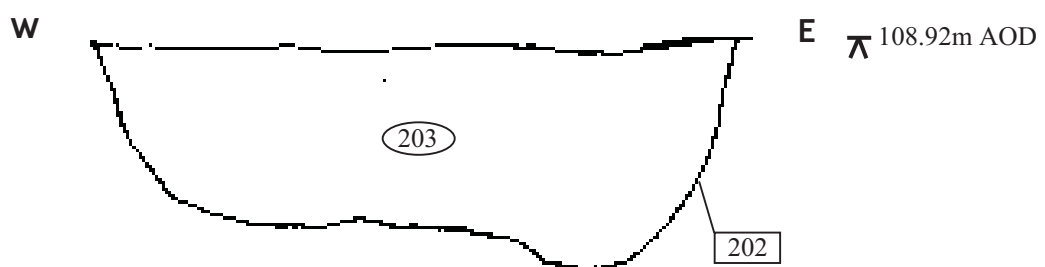
- Griffiths, C & Fell, D. 2004. *Manor Farm, Church Lane, Padbury, Buckinghamshire: Desk-Based Assessment & Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASC: 626/PCL/01).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Mynard DC & Zeepvat RJ 1992 *Great Linford*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph 3 (Aylesbury).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).




## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

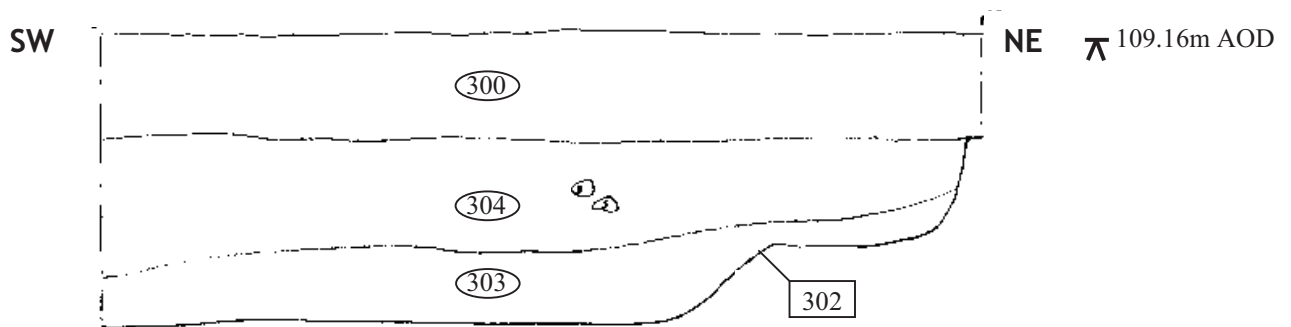
| Trench 1  |                          |  |                       |                       |                       |      |
|---|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|
|  | <b>Max Dimensions</b>    |  |                       |                       |                       |      |
|   | <b>Length</b>            | 15m  | <b>Width</b>          | 1.6m                  | <b>Depth</b>          | 0.8m |
|   | <b>NGR</b>               |  |                       |                       |                       |      |
|   | <b>N</b>                 | SP 72185 30942   |                       | <b>S</b>              | SP 72187 30928        |      |
|   | <b>Levels</b>            |  |                       |                       |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench base north</b> |  |                       | 109.01m AOD           |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench top north</b>  |  |                       | 109.79m OD            |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench base south</b> |  |                       | 109.47m OD            |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench top south</b>  |  |                       | 109.86m OD            |                       |      |
|   | <b>Orientation</b>       |  |                       | North to south        |                       |      |
| <b>Reason for Trench</b>  |                          |  | General evaluation    |                       |                       |      |
| <b>Context</b>  | <b>Type</b>              | <b>Description and Interpretation</b>                                      | <b>Max Width (mm)</b> | <b>Max Thckn (mm)</b> | <b>Depth BGL (mm)</b> |      |
| 100   | Layer                    | Dark brown sandy loam topsoil, frequent inclusions of modern brick rubble. | -                     | 800                   | -                     |      |
| 101   | Layer                    | Light orange sandy clay with flint and gravel inclusions. Natural.         | -                     | -                     | 800                   |      |

| <b>Trench 2</b>   |                              |  |                    |                        |                |       |
|---|------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------|
|  | <b>Max Dimensions</b>        |  |                    |                        |                |       |
|   | <b>Length</b>                | 17m  | <b>Width</b>       | 1.6m                   | <b>Depth</b>   | 0.66m |
|   | <b>NGR</b>                   |  |                    |                        |                |       |
|   | <b>NW</b>                    | SP 72173 30884   |                    | <b>SE</b>              | SP 72188 30876 |       |
|   | <b>Levels</b>                |  |                    |                        |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench base northwest</b> |  |                    | 108.25m OD             |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench top northwest</b>  |  |                    | 108.91m OD             |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench base southeast</b> |  |                    | 108.91m OD             |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench top southeast</b>  |  |                    | 109.37m OD             |                |       |
|   | <b>Orientation</b>           |  |                    | Northwest to southeast |                |       |
| <b>Reason for Trench</b>  |                              |  | General evaluation |                        |                |       |
| Context   | Type                         | Description and Interpretation   | Max Width (mm)     | Max Thckn (mm)         | Depth BGL (mm) |       |
| 200   | Layer                        | Mid/dark brown clayey loam topsoil, frequent inclusions of brick/concrete rubble.                          | -                  | 660                    | -              |       |
| 201   | Layer                        | Creamy/orangey mottled chalky clay. Natural.   | -                  | -                      | 660            |       |
| 202   | Cut                          | Steep sides with gradual break to broad uneven base. Cut of ditch A  | 850                | -                      | -              |       |
| 203   | Deposit                      | Light greyish brown soft clayey silt, occasional inclusions of sub-rounded flint pebbles. Fill of ditch A. | 850                | 300                    | 660            |       |

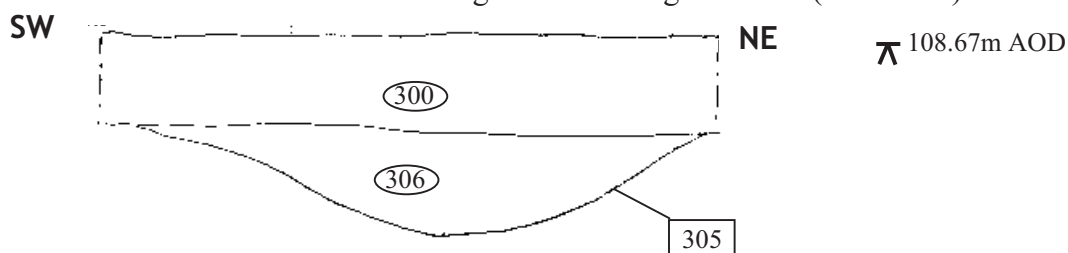


South facing section through Ditch A (scale 1:10)


| Trench 3  |                              |   |                        |                |                |       |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
|  | <b>Max Dimensions</b>        |   |                        |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Length</b>                | 30m   | <b>Width</b>           | 1.6m           | <b>Depth</b>   | 0.55m |
|   | <b>NGR</b>                   |   |                        |                |                |       |
|   | <b>NE</b>                    | SP 72179 30877  | <b>SW</b>              | SP 72164 30851 |                |       |
|   | <b>Levels</b>                |   |                        |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench base northeast</b> |   | 108.82m OD             |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench top northeast</b>  |   | 109.37m OD             |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench base southwest</b> |   | 108.42m OD             |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Trench top southwest</b>  |   | 108.89m OD             |                |                |       |
|   | <b>Orientation</b>           |   | Northeast to southwest |                |                |       |
| <b>Reason for Trench</b>  |                              | General evaluation  |                        |                |                |       |
| Context   | Type                         | Description and Interpretation  | Max Width (mm)         | Max Thckn (mm) | Depth BGL (mm) |       |
| 300   | Layer                        | Mid/dark brown clayey loam topsoil, frequent inclusions of brick/concrete rubble.   | -                      | 550            | -              |       |
| 301   | Layer                        | Light brownish yellow chalky clay. Natural.   | -                      | -              | 550            |       |
| 302   | Cut                          | Steep sides with gradual break to broad flat base. Cut of ditch <b>B</b> .  | 1500                   | -              | -              |       |
| 303   | Deposit                      | Light brown soft clayey silt, occasional inclusions of rounded flint pebbles. One sherd of Medieval pottery recovered. Primary fill of ditch <b>B</b> . | 1500                   | 50             | 985            |       |
| 304   | Deposit                      | Dark grey soft sandy/clayey silt, occasional inclusions of brick fragments. Secondary fill of ditch <b>B</b> .  | 1500                   | 450            | 550            |       |
| 305   | Cut                          | Sides slope moderately and break gradually onto concave base. Cut of ditch <b>C</b> .   | 1500                   | -              | -              |       |
| 306   | Deposit                      | Light orangey brown clayey silt, occasional inclusions of chalk fragments. Fill of ditch  | 1500                   | 300            | 550            |       |



Southeast facing section through Ditch **B** (scale 1:20)



Southeast facing section through Ditch **C** (scale 1:20)

| <b>Trench 4</b>   |                              |  |                       |                        |                       |      |
|---|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
|  | <b>Max Dimensions</b>        |  |                       |                        |                       |      |
|   | <b>Length</b>                | 12m  | <b>Width</b>          | 1.6m                   | <b>Depth</b>          | 1.1m |
|   | <b>NGR</b>                   |  |                       |                        |                       |      |
|   | <b>NE</b>                    | SP 72127 30847   | <b>SW</b>             | SP 72118 30838         |                       |      |
|   | <b>Levels</b>                |  |                       |                        |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench base northeast</b> |  |                       | m OD                   |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench top northeast</b>  |  |                       | m OD                   |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench base southwest</b> |  |                       | m OD                   |                       |      |
|   | <b>Trench top southwest</b>  |  |                       | m OD                   |                       |      |
|   | <b>Orientation</b>           |  |                       | Northeast to southwest |                       |      |
| <b>Reason for Trench</b>  |                              |  | General evaluation    |                        |                       |      |
| <b>Context</b>  | <b>Type</b>                  | <b>Description and Interpretation</b>  | <b>Max Width (mm)</b> | <b>Max Thckn (mm)</b>  | <b>Depth BGL (mm)</b> |      |
| 400   | Layer                        | Concrete slab and hardcore base  | -                     | 200                    | -                     |      |
| 401   | Layer                        | Topsoil and brick/concrete rubble with heavy hydrocarbon contamination and discolouration. Made ground | -                     | 900                    | 200                   |      |
| 402   | Layer                        | Light brown chalky clay. Natural   | -                     | -                      | 1100                  |      |