

**Archaeological evaluation
at Greville Hall Farm,
Cheltenham Road,
Hinton-on-the-Green,
Evesham,
WR11 7QX**

Martin Cook BA MCIfA

20th April 2020

WSM 72815

Oasis ref martinco1- 392376

Sundowner
Circus Field Basin
Stocklake
Aylesbury
HP20 1AP

07850 918755
07309 666554

Archaeological evaluation at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX (SP 0387 4073; Fig 1) at the request of Mr Paul Miller. This work was undertaken in compliance with a written scheme of investigation provided by Martin Cook BA MCifA, informed by upon a condition on a Planning Approval Notice from Wychavon District Council, dated 5th March 2020; planning ref: 20/00057/FUL). The written scheme of investigation was approved by Aidan Smyth, Archaeology and Planning Advisor, of Wychavon District Council (event number WSM 72815) The archaeological project involved an archaeological evaluation at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX, subsequent analysis and a report.

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX. The project identified no significant archaeological features and, apart from a single fragment of nib tile, no finds either. This lack of finds was reflected in a previous project about 100m to the north-north-east. However, the importance of the results of this project (and its predecessor) may lie not in what was found but in what was not. With a very thin topsoil and no evidence for manuring scatters, it is possible that the project has identified limits to the extent of the historic arable and pasture on opposite sides of the farmstead.

A summary will be published in West Midlands Archaeology.

The documentary material

Geology and topography

The search area sits within a rolling lowland vale based on Mudstone bedrock geology with little tree cover and is mainly utilized for intensive arable agriculture (Worcestershire HER). There has been a significant amount of boundary loss throughout the wider area due to modern field amalgamation however within the search area the historic character of planned private enclosure is partially retained. The settlement pattern is principally nucleated with scattered, isolated farmsteads and aside from the encroachment of Evesham to the north, the area has seen little modern urban expansion.

In addition, the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire states:

Hinton on the Green lies in the vale two miles south of Evesham (Elrington 1968). Formerly in Gloucestershire, it was transferred to Worcestershire in 1931. The parish is fairly compact and comprises 2291 acres. The land of the parish is flat lying at *c.* 100 ft.; there is one small hill - Blake's Hill in the east - which rises to *c.* 250 ft. The whole parish lies on the heavy clay of the Lower Lias. The brook called the River Isbourne runs north through the centre of the parish to join the Avon.

Historic mapping

The earliest available mapping is the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Fig 2.1). This shows Greville Hall Farm. The area occupied by the site at this period was an arable or pasture field (plot 168). The 1900 and 1921 Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 2.1 and 2.2) show nothing different.

The Victoria County History for Gloucestershire

Woodland

The amount of woodland was formerly more extensive: 900 elms and oaks were planted in the 15th century and in the early 19th century there was a wood in the south-east of the parish. In 1841 there were 58 acres of woodland. The land has long been used for mixed agriculture; in 1966 it was intensively cultivated for market-garden produce.

The village and surrounding farms

Before the mid-20th century the village lay mainly east of the river. In 1266 parts of the waste of the manor were said to have been occupied by squatters. About 1300 there were several cottages east of the river, near the church and manor-house, standing among pasture closes; and it was probably the setting in pasture-land rather than the existence of a central village green that gave rise to the suffix 'on the green', which was used from the early 16th century. There were thirteen cottages on the land of the Manor Farm in 1791, but in the 19th century some houses in the eastern part of the village were demolished. They stood in the Freemans, a meadow north of the rectory, in Lampitts Ashbeds, the copse on the road east of the church, and possibly also south of the manor house. The smithy was also in Lampitts Ashbeds. The row of stone cottages opposite the church, known as the Street, was not built until the mid-19th century. The cottage to the east of the Street, said to have been the house of the bailiff of the manor, was built c 1700 and is probably the oldest cottage in the village; dormers were added in the 19th century. The 19th century house by the Isbourne was probably built for the miller. There are a few 19th century brick and stone cottages in the village area to the west of the Isbourne; the Bevans, an 18th century brick farm-house, has been converted into cottages. All the farmhouses apparently occupy sites which date from inclosure in the 17th century. Ballard's Farm, built of stone apparently in the 18th century, has timber framed barns; Graville Hall, built in the early 19th century, is stuccoed, and the other 19th century farm-houses are mostly of brick.

Mid-13th century agricultural activities

In 1266 most of the parish lay in open arable fields. An open field in the north of Hinton was mentioned in the early 14th century, and in 1966 surviving ridge and furrow showed that there had also been a large open field lying south of the road between the Isbourne and Ballard's Farm. The custom of inhook prevailed, by which part of the land in the fallow field was retained for growing crops each year. In the early 14th century it led to a dispute between the tenants and Thomas the Freeman, who complained that he was prevented from preparing his land in the fallow field because part of it was under corn. A several meadow belonged to Thomas the Freeman's estate at the time. The tenants had rights of common in pasture closes in the centre of the village in the early 14th century, and a piece of land in the south-east of the parish, known as Sheep Hill (? Now Blake's Hill) in the 19th century, may earlier have been a common pasture.

Crops grown in the 13th century included wheat, pulse, barley, and oats, and in the 16th century wheat, barley, and beans. Sheep were important in the 13th century when there was a shepherd on the manor, and the labour-services of the tenants included two days' sheep-washing and shearing; the two yardlanders who had most of their services commuted by 1266 were still required to do that service. In 1587 one of the tenants on the manor had a flock of 22 sheep.

Inclosure

The parish was inclosed in the mid-17th century and inclosure was said to have improved the value of the land. Inclosure did not bring about the formation of fewer and larger farms; several years afterwards only one of the 33 tenants had a farm of considerable size. By the late 18th century the estate was divided into 7 large farms; the largest comprised 570 acres, and another was 416 acres. During most of the 19th century there were the same seven or eight large farms, which existed in the mid-20th century. In 1779 it was said that the parish consisted almost entirely of pasture, which was probably an exaggeration as only thirteen years later it was said to comprise arable and pasture in almost equal parts. The amount of arable in the parish grew during most of the 19th century. In 1801 there were 824 acres of arable, in 1841 977 acres, and in 1868 c. 1,020 acres, almost half the area of the parish. By 1901, however, the arable had been reduced to 740 acres.

In 1801 the crops included potatoes and turnips, and a few years earlier flax was also grown. In 1853 the leases of three farms amounting to c 800 acres stipulated a four-course rotation: fallow or turnips; barley, oats or spring wheat; clover, trefoil, beans, or vetches; and in the fourth year, wheat. From the late 19th century there was a steady increase in the amount of land used for market-gardening; there was one market-gardener in the parish in 1885, three in 1897, and eight in 1931. In 1966, when the land of the parish was almost entirely arable, most of the farms had a large acreage growing market-garden produce; there was also a considerable acreage of corn, some stock-rearing, and one dairy herd.

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

There are a number of landscape components or monuments nearby or adjacent to the site. By proximity to the site these are:

Immediately adjacent to the site

Landscape components

These comprise various elements of Greville Hall Farm. These are:

WSM 47571 - remnant 19th century farm buildings of a largely demolished historic multi-yard farmstead; WSM 59349 - Greville Hall Farm; WSM 67596 - series of demolished outbuildings at Greville Hall Farm; WSM 67597 - horse turning circle at Greville Hall Farm; WSM 49718 - ridge and furrow north of Greville Hall Farm; WSM 49719 - ridge and furrow west of Greville Hall Farm.

Events

WSM 55811 - desk based assessment (2014) on land south of Evesham. An assemblage of Mesolithic flint recorded within the study area suggests there may be limited potential for flint scatters to survive within the topsoil in the site. There is the possible route of a Roman road. A previously unrecorded possible boundary stone has been identified during a site visit. It is likely to date from the medieval period at the earliest. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture have also been identified.

WSM 69351 - An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX on the site of a new slurry storage area. The only features recorded were a series of parallel trenches associated with land drainage, dating to the late 19th or early 20th century.

Surrounding the site

Scheduled Monuments

There is one scheduled monument near the site. This is:

Romano-British settlement remains 300m and 750m north east of Narrow Meadow Farm (ref 1020257). The monument includes the buried remains of a Romano-British settlement complex lying to the south of Evesham and adjacent to the A46 Cheltenham to Evesham Road. The remains are visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks. The settlement lies in two areas of protection. The settlement extends beyond the Scheduled Areas in all directions.

The fieldwork

General

Fieldwork took place on the 14th April 2020. It was to comprise the excavation of three trenches, 20m long by 1.6m wide on the location of the new development (Fig 3.1). Five linear metres of trench was to be held in hand in case one or other the three trenches need to be enlarged for the better understanding of features revealed in the trench. If no such need arose, this length of trench was to be added to the most easterly trench: Trench 3. This length of trenching represented 4% of the area of the footprint of the proposed building. In the event, the available bucket was 1.8m wide. The length of trenching was kept the same resulting in 4.5% of the area of the proposed building being sampled.

A full description of the contexts is given in Appendix 1. Contexts are described in summary form below.

Description

General

Three trenches were laid out parallel to the axis of the proposed building (Fig 3.1). It was noted in the Written Scheme of Investigation that the configuration of the ground meant that, at the eastern end of the proposed building, the ground level was to be raised by about a metre and the footings would not penetrate to a depth likely to affect archaeological deposits. The western end of the building, however, lay at approximately existing ground level. Therefore, two out of the three trenches were positioned near the western end of the proposed building with one trench near the eastern.

Trench 1 (Figs 3.3 section 1 and 4)

A mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones (context 001) overlay a

light yellow buff sandy clay with occasional to moderate small angular stones (context 002) which in turn overlay a mid grey brown tenacious clay with very occasional small angular stones (context 003).

Trench 2 (Figs 3.3 section 2 and 5)

A mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones (context 004) overlay a light yellow buff sandy clay with very occasional very small angular stones (context 005) which in turn overlay a mid grey brown, slightly green tenacious clay (context 006).

Trench 3 (Figs 3.3 section 3, 6 and 7)

A mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones (context 007) overlay a light yellow buff sandy clay with occasional to moderate very small angular stones (context 008) which in turn overlay a mid brown green-grey tenacious clay (context 009). Within context 009, at the western end of the trench, was a black plastic pipe (context 010).

The finds

A single sherd of nib tile (39g) was recovered from Trench 3 (context 007; Fig 8).

Discussion

The black plastic pipe

The black plastic pipe (context 010) was the only feature recorded by the project. No trench for the pipe could be discerned in the sections of the trench so it is presumed that some form of trenchless laying method was employed. When the pipe was severed by the machine bucket, no water came out. Although the pipe is presumed to have fed a redundant trough, since no water emerged, it is possible that it was laid but never commissioned.

Modern water-supply pipes (for potable water) are blue in colour. However, black pipes are often used in agricultural and industrial environments. Such pipe is usually polybutylene. It first came to the market in the mid to late 1970s and was used in residential situations all the way through the mid-1990s.

The absence of finds

It is common, when undertaking work of this nature in rural areas, to encounter a low-level of ceramic finds in the topsoil and subsoil. This 'background' level of finds frequently dates to the 19th or earlier 20th centuries and occasionally a little earlier (eg Cook 2019a, Cook 2019b, Cook 2020, *etc*). They are the remains of pottery vessels, presumed to have been broken in the homestead, discarded in more general compost, and later spread on to the fields (Finberg 1951). Finberg went on to note that:

the main source of manure for the peasant farmer [was] household waste. For the archaeologist, this is the very material which leaves a readable signature in the soil, most commonly in the form of ceramic scatters.

As the Whittlewood Survey, and other research (Dyer, Jones and Page 2005; Jones 2004) showed, if analyzed carefully, these scatters can hold vital information for the reconstruction of the medieval arable and the identification of the different farming regimes used in its exploitation.

Conversely, the absence of such low-level ceramic scatters may suggest an area that has been pasture for a very long time. It is noteworthy that clear evidence for early agricultural activity, is attested mostly in fields to the north and west of the farmstead (WSM 49718 and 49719) in the form of ridge and furrow, and ridge and furrow (or at least cropmark remains of it) can be observed on Google Earth (Fig 9). Furthermore, a large area of grazing land, or rough grazing land, is shown about 300m to the east-south-east of Greville Hall Farm on the Ordnance Survey map of 1902 (Fig 9).

The Victoria County History (VCH) noted that in 1779 the parish consisted almost entirely of pasture. While acknowledging that this may have been an exaggeration, it went on to state that by

1792 the parish was said to comprise arable and pasture in almost equal parts. This, it implies, is a more reliable figure. Since the whole parish consisted of around 2291 acres, this suggests, since the parish was inclosed in the mid-17th century, an area of pasture of about 1200 acres. The VCH goes on to list the amounts of arable through the 19th century:

- 1801 824 acres
- 1841 977 acres
- 1868 1020 acres

This may provide some context for its original comment regarding the extent of pasture in 1779. Perhaps the parish consisting ‘almost entirely of pasture’ was not so far short of the truth. In any event, it seems likely that animal husbandry was, historically, an important element of the parish’s economy. Considering what can be reconstructed of the medieval to 19th century landscape (Fig 9), it seems likely that the arable lands for Greville Hall Farm were located mainly to its north and west and its pasture to its south and east.

If this is the case then this could account for the extraordinary lack of finds resulting from the two projects (WSM 69351 and 72815) carried out on the south-east side of Greville Hall Farm. Since neither of these projects carried out by the author found a level of finds compatible with manuring scatters the tentative conclusion must be that manure from the farmyard was not being brought in this direction because the land was pasture. Such fertility enhancement as occurred on these fields came about as a result of the folding of animals directly on to the fields, whose dung might be spread on the hoof (Jones 2004).

Significance

The project identified no significant archaeological features and, apart from a single fragment of nib tile, no finds either. This lack of finds was reflected in the previous project about 100m to the north-north-east. However, the importance of the results of this project (and its predecessor) may lie not in what was found but in what was not. With a very thin topsoil and no evidence for manuring scatters, it is possible that the project has identified a limit to the extent of the historic arable and pasture on opposite sides of the farmstead.

Bibliography

Traditional sources

Cook, M, 2017 *Archaeological watching brief at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX*

Cook, M, 2019a *Archaeological evaluation at Bear Hill House, Alvechurch, Birmingham, Worcestershire, B48 7JX, WSM 71636*

Cook, M, 2019b *Archaeological watching brief at Adsett Cottage, Main Street, Beckford, GL20 7AD, WSM 71002*

Cook, M, 2020 *Archaeological watching brief at The Willows, Evesham Road, White Ladies Aston, WR7 4QQ, WSM 70797*

Dyer, C, Jones, R, and Page, M, 2005 *The Whittlewood Project: medieval settlements and landscapes in the Whittlewood Area*

Elrington, C R, (ed) 1968 *A History of the County of Gloucester: 8*

Finberg, H P R, 1951 *Tavistock Abbey. A Study in the Social and Economic History of Devon*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Jones, R, 2004 *Signatures in the soil: the use of pottery in manure scatters in the identification of medieval arable farming regimes*, in *The Archaeological Journal*, **161**, 159-188

Internet sources

<https://www.draindepot.co.uk/blog/exploring-the-difference-between-blue-water-and-black-water-pipes/>

<http://www.thehomeinspector.com/Newsletter/Wicklund/1WicklundIndex.html>

Acknowledgements

The author would particularly like to thank Paul Miller of Shanael Farms Ltd and Aidan Smyth of Wychavon District Council for their kind cooperation.

Archive

The physical archive consists of:

- 10 Context sheets
- 1 Drawing
- 1 Hard copy of the report
- 1 Hard copy of the report illustrations
- 1 Hard copy of the WSI

It will be deposited at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury upon approval of the report. It is anticipated that the finds, comprising a single fragment of nib tile, will not be of interest to the museum. However, the museum will be consulted in this respect before disposal.

The digital archive consists of:

- 1 Digital copy of the report (.doc format)
- 10 Illustrations (.bmp format)

It will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service upon approval of the report.

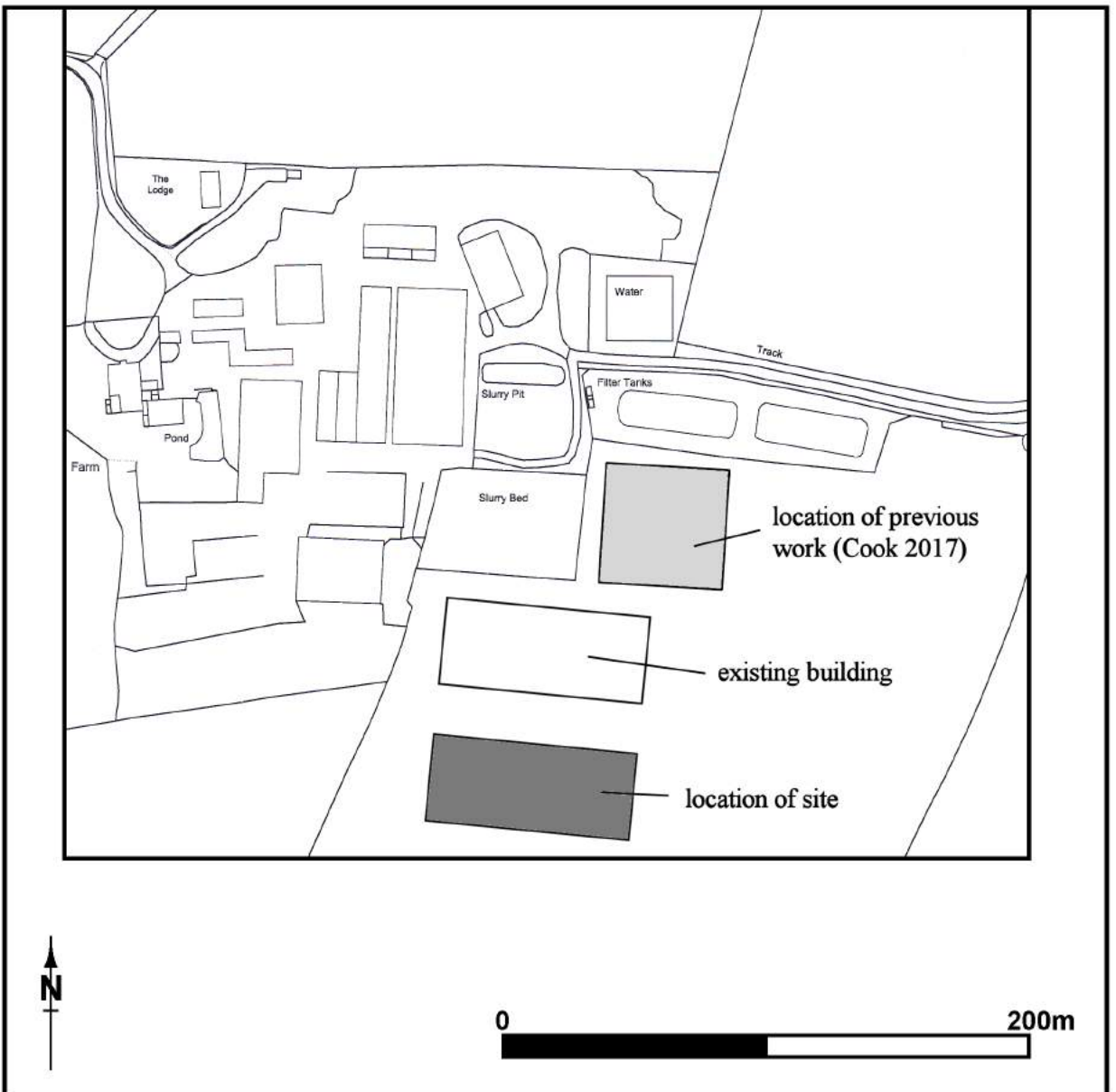
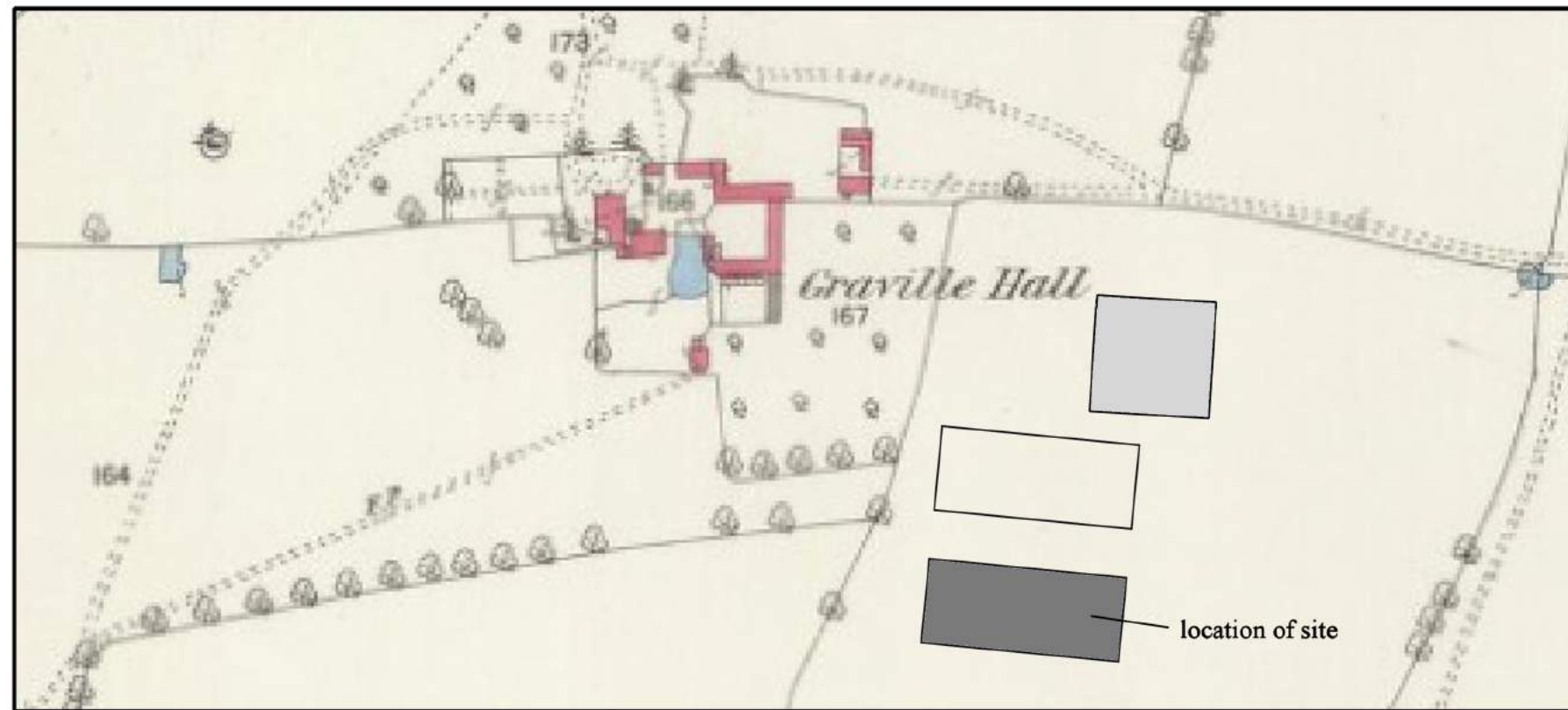


Fig 1: Location of site

1884



1900

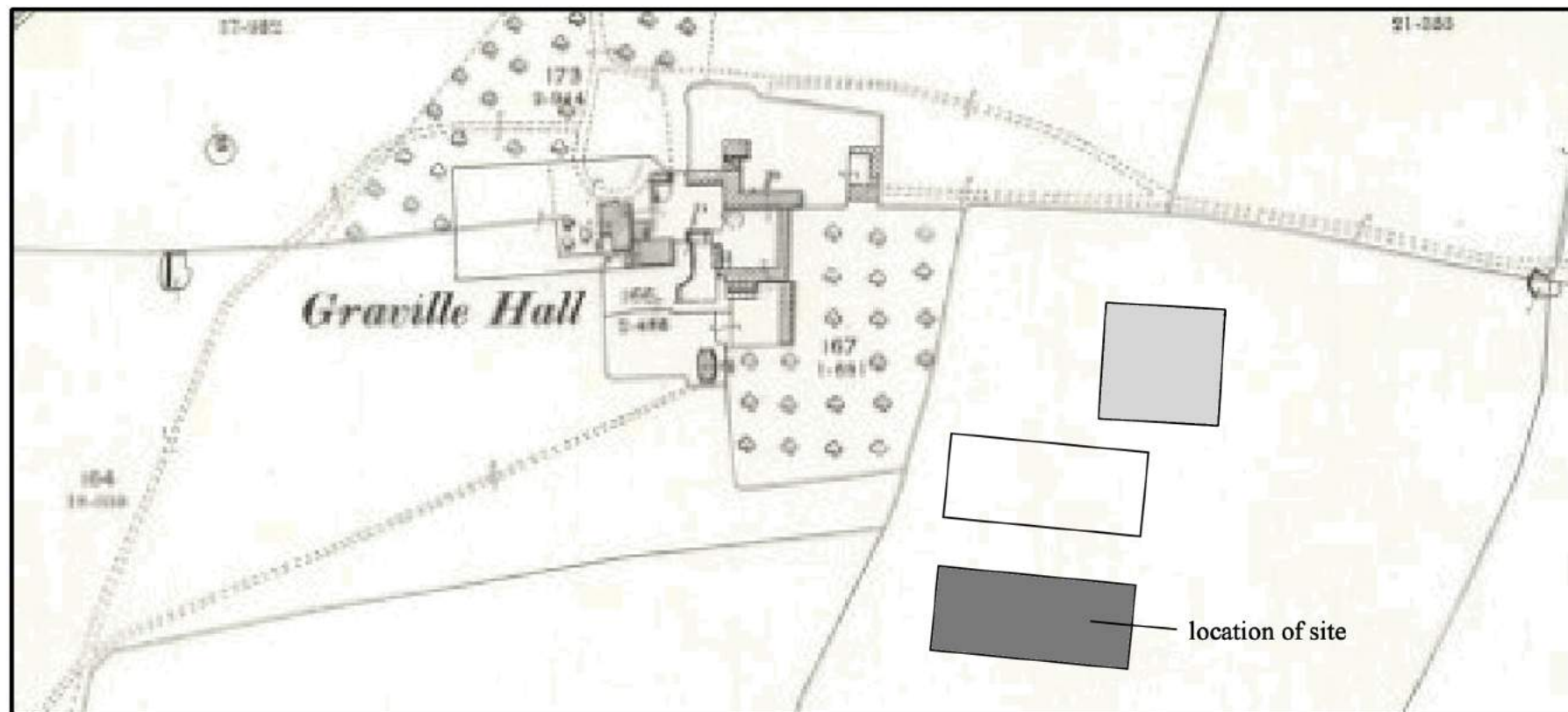


Fig 2.1: Historic mapping

1921

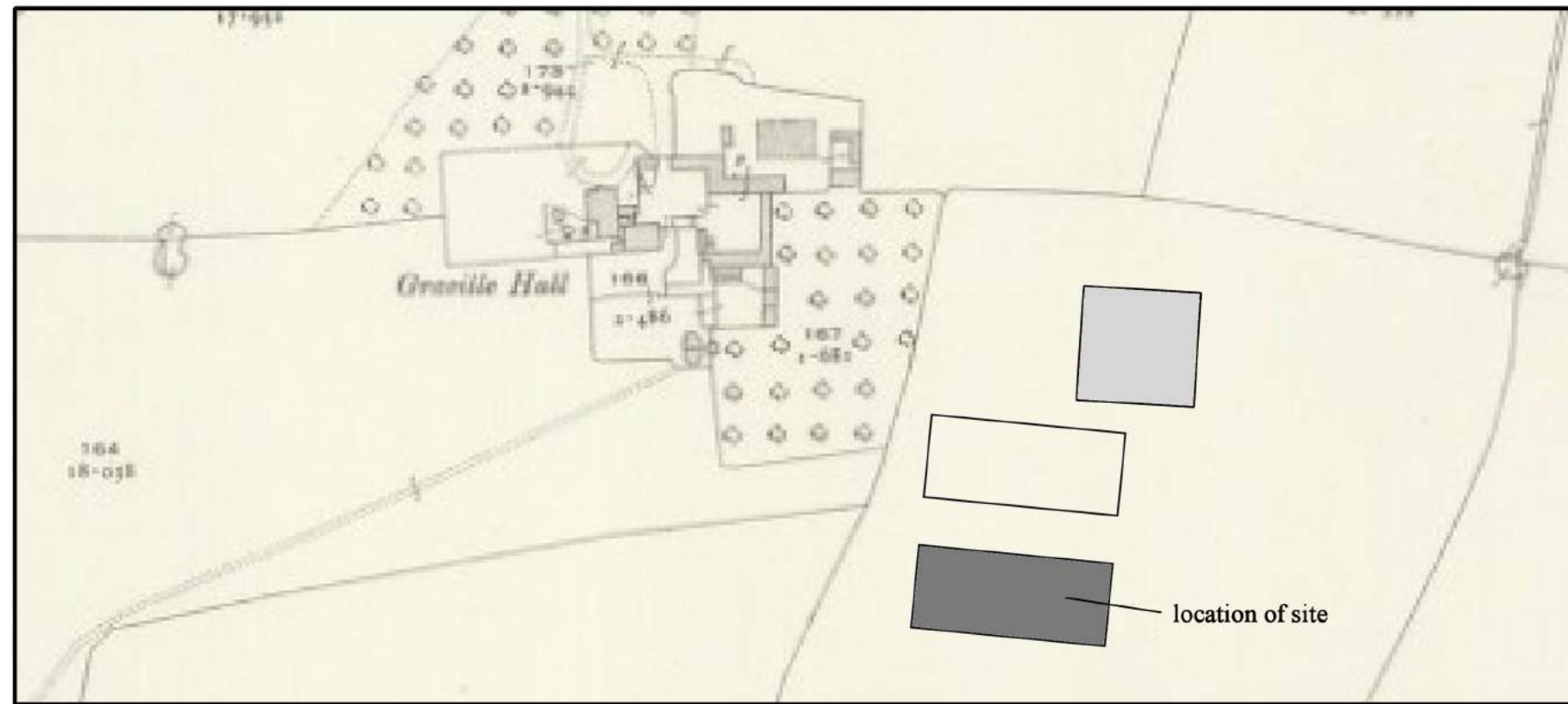


Fig 2.2: Historic mapping





based upon an original survey by
The Dairy Group Ltd
drawing GrevillHallPLAN_2_D_001.dwg

Fig 3.1: Trench location plan

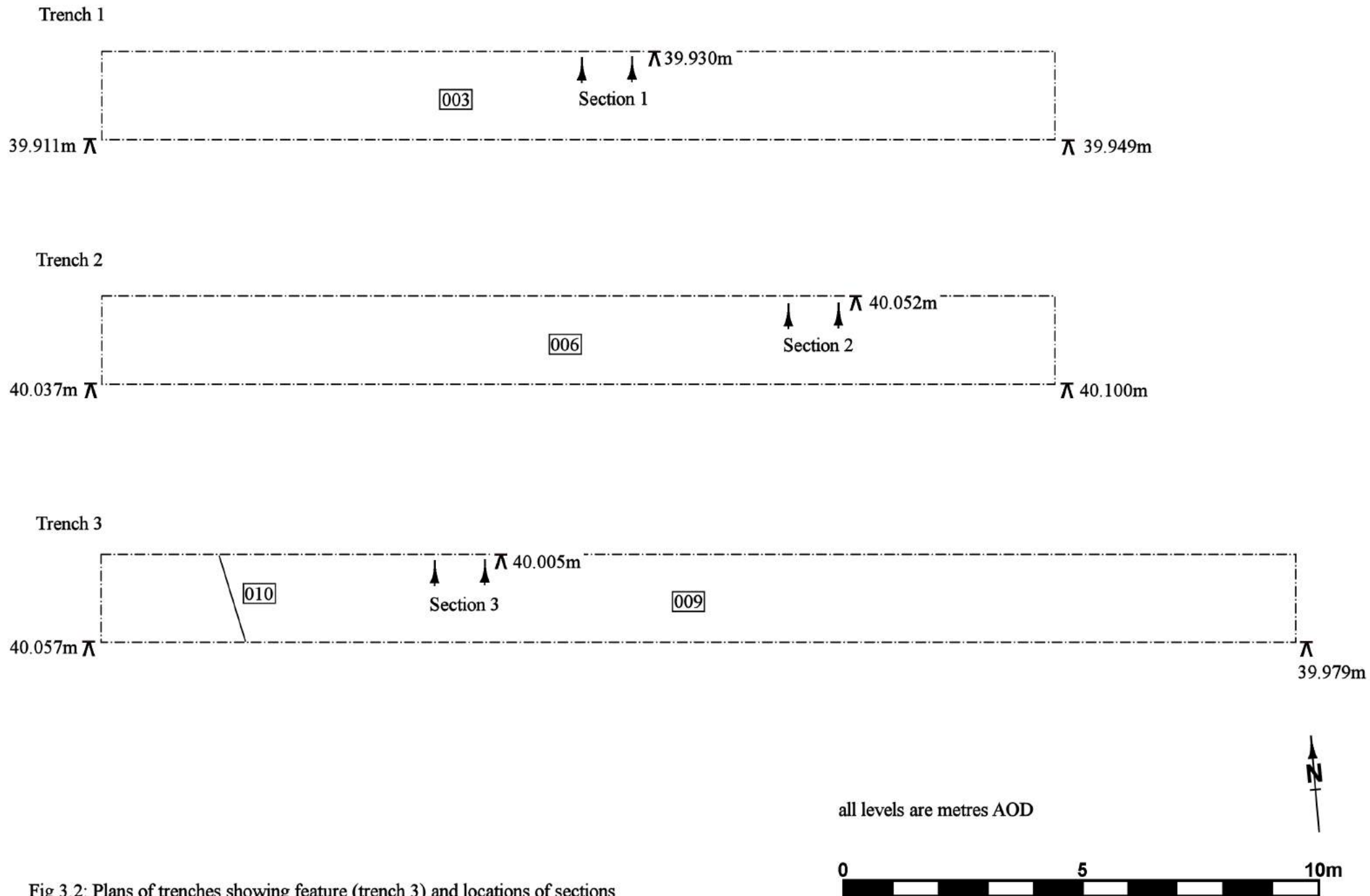
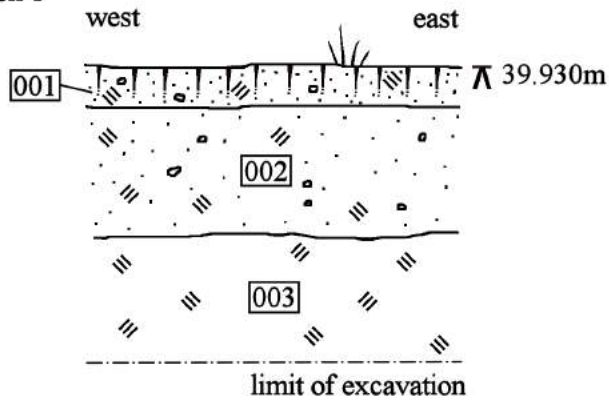
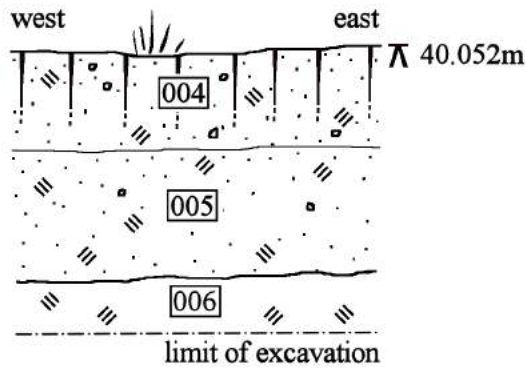


Fig 3.2: Plans of trenches showing feature (trench 3) and locations of sections

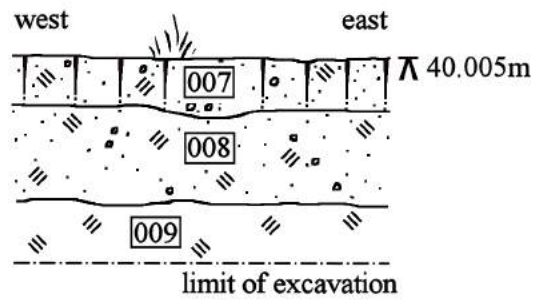
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



all levels are metres AOD

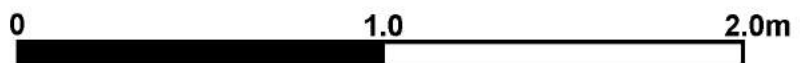


Fig 3.3: Sections









	loam and/or topsoil
	stones
	sand/gravel
	clay
	bricks
	ash and charcoal
	limit of excavation
	height above Ordnance Datum

Fig 3.4: Section key



Fig 4: General view of Trench 1 looking east



Fig 5: General view of Trench 2 looking east



Fig 6: General view of Trench 3 looking east



Fig 7: Trench 3; context 010, black plastic water pipe



Fig 8: Fragment of nib tile from Trench 3, context 007

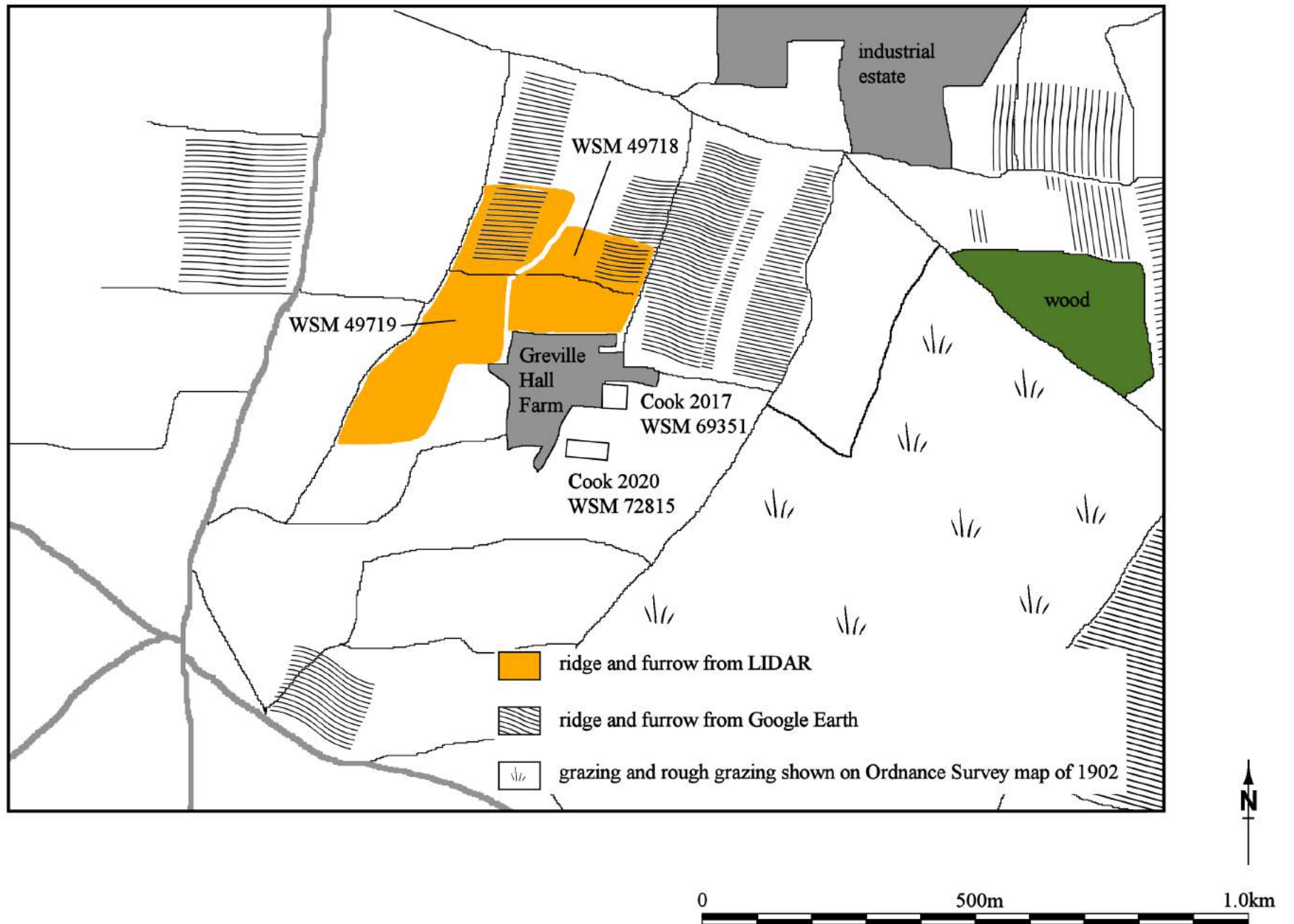


Fig 9: Ridge and furrow and grazing land in the vicinity of Greville Hall Farm

Appendix 1: List of the contexts

Context number	Description	Interpretation
001	Mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones	Topsoil
002	Light yellow buff sandy clay with occasional to moderate small angular stones	Subsoil
003	Mid grey brown tenacious clay with very occasional small angular stones	Natural subsoil
004	Mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones	Topsoil
005	Light yellow buff sandy clay with very occasional very small angular stones	Subsoil
006	Mid grey brown, slightly green tenacious clay	Natural subsoil
007	Mid yellow brown sandy loam with occasional small angular stones	Topsoil
008	Light yellow buff sandy clay with occasional to moderate very small angular stones	Subsoil
009	Mid brown green-grey tenacious clay	Natural subsoil
110	Black plastic pipe, no water came out when it was severed	Presumably the redundant feed to a trough

Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: martinco1-392376

Project details

Project name	Greville Hall Farm Hinton on the Green
Short description of the project	Evaluation at Greville Hall Farm Hinton on the Green Worcestershire
Project dates	Start: 14-04-2020 End: 20-04-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WSM 72815 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	20/00057/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NIB TILE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Photographic Survey","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WORCESTERSHIRE WYCHAVON HINTON ON THE GREEN Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX
Postcode	WR11 7QX
Study area	117 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 0387 4073 52.06451326827 -1.943540924724 52 03 52 N 001 56 36 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 39.33m Max: 39.45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project director/manager	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Project supervisor	Martin Cook BA MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Worcestershire County Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Greville Hall Farm, Cheltenham Road, Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham, WR11 7QX
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, M.
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Martin Cook MCIfA
Place of issue or publication	Aylesbury
Description	A4 blue card cover with transparent front cover

Entered by	Martin Cook (office@martinjcook.com)
Entered on	21 April 2020