

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT
NEW SHIPTON FARM,
WALMLEY,
SUTTON COLDFIELD,
BIRMINGHAM

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Contents

Part 1 Project summary	1
Part 2 Detailed report	
1. Background	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
1.2 Project parameters	2
1.3 Aims	2
2. Methods	2
2.1 Documentary search	2
2.2 Fieldwork	3
2.2.1 Prior archaeological work	3
2.2.2 Fieldwork strategy	3
2.2.3 Structural analysis	3
2.3 Artefacts	3
2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy	3
2.3.2 Method of analysis	3
2.4 Environment	3
2.5 The methods in retrospect	4
3. Topographical and archaeological context	4
3.1 Geology and soils	4
4. Results	5
4.1 Structural analysis	5
4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits	5
4.1.2 Phase 2 Late medieval/early post-medieval	5
4.1.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval/modern	5
5. Artefact Report	6
5.1.1 Artefactual analysis	6
5.1.2 Discussion of artefacts	6
5.2 Post-medieval/modern	6
5.2.1 Significance	7
6. Synthesis	9
6.1 Late medieval/early post-medieval	9
6.2 Post-medieval/modern	9
6.3 Conclusion	10
7. Publication summary	10
8. The archive	11
9. Acknowledgements	11
10. Personnel	11
11. Bibliography	11
12. Abbreviations	12

Appendix 1 Deposit descriptions

Archaeological watching brief at New Shipton Farm, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham

Simon Sworn

Part 1 Project summary

Between October and November 2004, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeological Service undertook an archaeological watching brief at New Shipton Farm, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, (NGR SP 1348 9423). It was undertaken on behalf of Chase Homes, who intended to convert the existing farmhouse and barn range and to develop the surrounding area for new housing. The watching brief formed the final phase of archaeological work, following on from a detailed building survey and a series of evaluation trenches in 1995. Though the evaluation trench results proved to be inconclusive it was felt that the potential for surviving buried archaeological remains relating to the 15th century cruck barn remained high. The project aimed to determine if any significant buried archaeology was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were. The watching brief involved the observation of all groundworks within the development area, these mainly centred around the footing trenches for two new housing blocks, one to the south-east of the existing 18th - 19th century farmhouse, and the other, to the north of the 15th century timber barn. Two other areas were also observed, but the nature of the development required minimal disturbance meaning that the impact level was well above the level of any potentially buried archaeology.

To the south-east of the brick 18th – 19th century farmhouse the footings for one of the new housing blocks revealed a pair of ditches, running parallel in a roughly south-west to north-east direction, an area of cobbled surface, and a small number of possible pits, post-holes or small gullies. Unfortunately, none of these features contained any datable material finds. Though the lack of any post-medieval artefacts, in an area heavily truncated and overlaid with post-medieval detritus suggests that the features may be dated to the late-medieval period, possibly relating 15th century cruck barn. A short section of a north-west to south-east ditch was also exposed in the foundation trenches to the north of the 15th century cruck barn, again this was devoid of any datable material artefacts. Extant foundations of at least two 18th – 20th century brick buildings were found to both the north and south of the cruck barn.

Overall the results of the watching brief, allied to other previous work show that in all but one area, to the south-east of the present brick farmhouse where the archaeology here may represent agricultural activity from the late-medieval period, the development area was devoid of any significant buried archaeological remains.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at New Shipton Farm, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, (NGR SP 1348 9423, Fig 1) on behalf of Chase Homes. The client intends to convert the existing 18th – 19th century farmhouse and barn range, including a 15th century timber framed cruck barn and to develop the surrounding area for new housing and has submitted a planning application in accordance with PPG 15/16 to Birmingham City Council (reference N/01604/00FUL, N/01603/00/LUB and N/02456/02/FUL), who considered that a site of archaeological interest may be affected (SMR ref: BSMR 01680).

The watching brief followed on from the 1995 building recording survey which established, through dendrochronological sampling, a felling date for the timbers within the cruck barn as *c* 1425 (OAU 1995). Also evaluation trenches, in which two external and one internal trench, within the 15th century cruck barn, were excavated. The results of which indicated that externally there were considerable deposits of modern building material, representing a recent phase which involved the raising of the ground level, potentially for the present concrete yard surface surrounding the extant farm buildings, although the potential for buried archaeological deposits under this layer remained. The trenching within the 15th century cruck barn clearly established that any earlier surface deposits had been completely truncated by the insertion of a 19th century brick floor (OAU 1995).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Birmingham City Council (BCC 2004) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (CgMs 2004).

1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type and relationship to other archaeological remains in the area.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

Cartographic sources

- Yates map of Warwickshire 1789

Documentary sources

- 1995 OAU evaluation report

-
- 1947 Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire **IV**

2.2 **Fieldwork methodology**

2.2.1 **Prior archaeological work**

Prior to the instigation of the housing development, a detailed archaeological evaluation and building survey took place in 1995 by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (now Oxford Archaeology).

2.2.2 **Fieldwork strategy**

Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th October and 4th November 2004. This was carried out during both the initial ground reduction stage and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new properties. The site reference number and site code is NSFSC04.

The site was divided into four zones (Areas 1-4, Fig 2) for ease of recording and to fit in with the developers' programme of works. The location of the foundation trenches is indicated in Figures 2, 3 and 6. Trenching was undertaken by first removing the concrete and tarmac with a breaker and then trenching with a 360 degree machine excavator fitted with both 650mm and 550mm toothed and toothless buckets and under archaeological supervision. All the resulting trench sections were then inspected for archaeological features. All exposed surfaces and trenches were accessible, though access was limited as far as gaining entry to the deep trenches in the far north-west corner of Area 4 due to health and safety considerations. Clean surfaces were inspected, but no further archaeological excavation was undertaken other than to allow for better definition, as requested in the brief. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

2.2.3 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was affected through a combination of structural and artefactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

2.3 **Artefact methodology**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All finds were recovered by hand and in accordance with the standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Pottery fabrics are referenced to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst 1994).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology**

No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were identified in the course of this project.

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Within the context of the watching brief, sufficient time and clear access to most of the site allowed the archaeology to be investigated and interpreted to a high standard.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

A detailed account of the history of New Shipton Farm and the immediate surroundings can be found within the evaluation report (OAU 1995) and in VCH IV.

The study area for the watching brief comprised four main areas (Areas 1-4) surrounding the extant farmhouse and barns of New Shipton Farm within the parish of Walmley. Present-day land use consisted of derelict farm buildings and milking parlour surrounded by a concrete yard surface.

The first mention of New Shipton Farm was in a deed of 1472, when it was referred to as 'Shippen', and later as 'New Shippen' in a rental of 1525. Historically the farm lay within the manor of Sutton, part of the extensive landholdings of the Earls of Warwick, and possibly formed part of a satellite farm for the estate at New Hall. The medieval topography of the area is unclear, but prior to the 14th century the land is likely to have consisted of uncultivated woodland, heath and rough pasture. The formation of the New Hall estate would have marked the first stage in the enclosure and cultivation of this land. The relationship between New Shipton Farm and New Hall is unclear, but it is likely that it represented an outlying farm or isolated barn, this is suggested by the first detailed map of the area (Yates 1789), which shows New Shipton Farm located within a small area of enclosed land surrounded by a large area of rough common to the south-east of New Hall.

Until the 19th century New Shipton Farm continued to form part of the New Hall estate. Continued development of the estate would have seen an extension of the 15th century timber barn to the east, noted by the inscribed dates of 1790 and 1791 on the timbers (OAU 1995). By the Parochial Valuation map of 1857 the farm had passed into the hands of Baron Webster, the then owner of the neighbouring Penn Hall estate. Following the death of Baron Webster in 1864, New Shipton Farm was divided into two parts and sold off. The later development of the farm can be traced over a succession of 18th – 20th century maps.

By 1821 the Corn Rent map shows the 15th century barn had developed into an 'L' shaped structure, with and two ancillary buildings to the east. By 1857 the number of buildings on the site had increased with addition of an extra building in the yard to the south of the barn and three further buildings to the north. Between the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and the 2nd edition of 1903 further changes had been made, including the addition of another rectangular building to the south of the barn and the demolition of the buildings to the north.

3.1 **Geology and soils**

The geology is predominately glaciofluvial or river terrace drift gravels overlain by deep, well-drained coarse loamy and sandy soils (Mackney *et al* 1983). The underlying soils were noted throughout Areas 1 and 4.

4. Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-8. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were clearly observed at a depth of between 0.20m-2.55m below the present ground surface in Areas 1 and 4.

4.1.2 Phase 2 Late medieval/early post-medieval

All of the features revealed that were clearly not post-medieval or later are assumed to fall into this period purely on stratigraphic rather than artefactual evidence. There remains, therefore, some uncertainty over the date of these features. Here the archaeology consisted of three main types: a rough cobbled surface, three linear ditches, various pits and/or short gullies. The majority of these features were found in the area to the south-east of the extant farmhouse (Area 1).

A group of pits or gullies represent the earliest features within this phase, located under a cobbled. The pits/gullies were filled with a very stoney fill and occasional charcoal flecks. Their exposure only in section, rather than in plan makes interpretation difficult.

A distinctive area of cobbled surface was exposed in Area 1, forming part of a possible yard surface or a small fragment of cobbled trackway set directly onto the natural deposits, though overlying some of the earlier pits/gullies. There were no other associated features or structures identified, suggesting that the surface was an external yard rather than in internal floor associated with a building. To either side of this cobbled surface were two parallel ditches (contexts 1050 and 1051), running in a south-west to north-east direction, containing a mid brown silty sand and frequent sub-rounded pebbles overlying a primary fill of light brown silty sand.

To the north of the 15th century cruck barn a north-west to south-east ditch (context 4010/4016) was also exposed within the foundation trenching, again the fill of the ditch contained well compacted silty sand with frequent pebbles. The extent of this feature was unclear as it only appeared in section, being totally masked by the overlying modern rubble deposit (context 4001).

4.1.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval/modern

This phase is represented by a layer of broken brick and tile (contexts 2001, 3001, 4001) that covered the total extent of Areas 2, 3 and 4, which appears to have derived from the deliberate deposition of material in order to raise the level of the yard surface and to provide a hardcore surface on to which the present concrete yard surface was constructed. Visible within this layer were the extant remains of brick foundations for at least two structures, one to the north and one to the south of the 15th century cruck barn. Both structures were only exposed in plan and not truncated by the foundation trenching for the new housing development. The structure to the south of the barn was the clearest in plan, it comprised an almost complete external wall (context 2002) and two internal walls (contexts 2003, 2004), with two heavily truncated fragments of a brick floor surface to the eastern end (contexts 2005, 2006).

To the north of the cruck barn were the heavily disturbed remains of four sections of brick structures. These consisted of a concentration to the south-east of Area 4, comprising two brick walls, one running east to west (context 4002), the other running north to south (context

4004) and a possible surface consisting of a single course of red bricks laid on edge (context 4003). Dating evidence for the brick samples from each context suggest three separate phases of building. The bricks and mortar from the single course of red bricks (4003) suggest a building date pre 1784. The east to west wall would appear to date from post 1784, these dates being inferred from the variation in dimensions that came about in the introduction of the 'brick tax' in 1784. The north to south wall appeared to use bricks made prior to 1784, but were bonded together by a clearly 20th century mortar. This wall is likely to have formed part of the now demolished 20th century milking parlour, but utilising the abundance of readily available building material from previously demolished brick structures. There was also an isolated brick foundation wall to the north-west (context 4012), running in an east to west direction. The nature of the brickwork indicates that this was clearly a 20th century structure.

Noted within Area 1 was a large, deep modern cut (context 1052), filled with general mid-late 20th century detritus, such as tarmac, clinker and modern ceramics. This pit appeared to have been machine excavated and was present throughout the majority of the western end of this area.

Also throughout Area 1 a number of field drains containing ceramic pipes were also noted, running in a north-east to south-west direction, these, along with feature 1052, truncated many of the earlier features.

5. **Artefacts (by A. Crawford)**

5.1.1 **Artefactual analysis**

A summary of the artefacts recovered can be seen in Table 1. The assemblage recovered from the watching brief came from seventeen stratified contexts. Recovered artefacts dated from the post-medieval to modern periods. Pottery sherds were the largest group recovered consisting 33% of the assemblage. Ceramic building material, as brick, was the second largest totalling 27% of all material recovered. The majority of the pottery recovered, totalling eleven sherds, dated from the post-medieval to modern period. Other finds consisted of glass bottle shards, a fragment of clay pipe and fragments of ceramic roof tile.

The pottery was identified and grouped by fabric (see Table 2). The majority of the sherds were undiagnostic but could be dated between the 18th – 20th century by fabric type.

5.1.2 **Discussion of the artefacts**

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. The importance of individual finds has been commented upon as necessary.

5.2 **Post-medieval/modern**

The post-medieval/modern assemblage amounted to eleven recovered pottery sherds. The dominant fabric was Modern stone china (fabric 85) dating from the 19th – 20th century (two sherds context 1053 and three sherds from context 4001). Further fabrics included three large sherds of tin glazed ware (fabric 91; context 1053) from a modern souvenir mug from Brittany. One sherd of miscellaneous modern ware (fabric 101; context 1003) dating to the 20th century and a single sherd of post-medieval red ware (fabric 78; context 4001) datable to between the 18th and 19th century. One partial late 20th century porcelain teacup of Czechoslovakian origin (fabric 83; context 1053) could be dated to being produced during the period of 1948 to 1990.

Eight complete bricks and one partial brick, retrieved as samples from individual contexts, were included within the assemblage. Of these the partial brick from context 4012 was readily identified as modern (machine manufactured) and dating from the late 19th – middle 20th century. The brick from context 4004 was dated to roughly the 17th – 18th century but was set within a modern wall with adhering 20th century concrete mortar. The remaining bricks were all hand-made with those from contexts 2002, 2005, 2006 and 4002 having been made at the time of, or shortly after, the introduction of the brick tax in 1784 which resulted in the production of larger bricks as a method to reduce tax costs associated with brick constructions. The remaining three bricks from contexts 2003, 2004, and 4003 pre-date the tax and therefore can be dated to the period between c 1600 and 1784.

An intact glass bottle from context 1053 was manufactured during the early to middle 20th century. Two further glass bottle shards were found, one shard from context 1003 was middle to late 20th century in date, while the second from context 1015 could only be broadly placed within the 20th century as a period of manufacture. One partial clay pipe bowl (context 1001) could only be broadly dated to the post-medieval period.

Due to the small size and abraded condition of the recovered roof tile fragments (one from each of contexts 1007, 1011, 4001 and 4012) they could only be broadly dated to between the 13th and 18th century. In light of the rest of the assemblage they are also probably of post-medieval to modern date.

5.2.1 Significance

The examination of all recovered finds and the results from quantification indicate that there is no evidence for significant on-site archaeological activity. The brick samples are all of post-medieval date but the possibility that they have been reused at a latter date must be kept in consideration. The finds assemblage generally seems to be best characterised as general detritus of the 18th – 20th centuries.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight (g)
1001	Clay pipe	Bowl	1	0.5
1003	Glass	Bottle	1	34
1003	Pottery	Mod	1	4
1007	Tile	Roof	1	30
1011	Coal	N/A	1	6
1011	Tile	Roof	1	10
1015	Glass	Bottle	1	18
1035	Mineral	Iron pan	4	56
1053	Glass	Bottle	1	155
1053	Pottery	Modern	6	250
2002	Brick	Post-medieval	1	4000
2003	Brick	Post-medieval	1	2360
2004	Brick	Post-medieval	1	3400
2005	Brick	Post-medieval	1	3900
2006	Brick	Post-medieval	1	4000
4001	Pot	Post-medieval	3	7
4001	Pot	Post-medieval	1	6
4001	Tile	Roof	1	5
4002	Brick	Post-medieval	1	4000
4003	Brick	Post-medieval	1	3000
4004	Brick	Post-medieval brick/Modern mortar	1	3000
4012	Brick	Modern	1	1094
4012	Tile	Modern	1	206

Table 1: *Quantification of evaluation assemblage*

Context	Fabric name	Fabric	Total	SumOfWeight
1003	Miscellaneous modern wares	101	1	4
1053	Tin glazed ware	82	3	125
1053	Porcelain	83	1	74
1053	Modern stone china	85	2	51
4001	Post –medieval red wares	78	1	6
4001	Modern stone china	85	3	7

Table 2: *Quantification of assemblage fabrics*

Context	Date range	Material	Total	Weight (g)	Specialist report?	Important research assemblage?
1001	18 th –19 th Century	Clay pipe	1	0.5	N	N
1003	20 th Century	Pottery	1	4	Y	N
1003	M-L20 th Century	Glass bottle	1	34	Y	N
1007	13-18 th Century	Roof tile	1	30	Y	N
1011	NA	Coal	1	6	N	N
1011	13-18 th Century	Roof tile	1	10	Y	N
1015	20 th Century	Bottle glass	1	18	Y	N
1035	NA	Mineral deposit	4	56	N	N
1053	1948-1990	Pottery	1	74	Y	N
1053	20 th Century	Pottery	5	176	Y	N
1053	E-M 20 th Century	Glass bottle	1	155	Y	N
2002	Post 1784	Brick	1	4000	Y	N
2003	Pre 1784	Brick	1	2360	Y	N
2004	Pre 1784	Brick	1	3400	Y	N
2005	Post 1784	Brick	1	3900	Y	N
2006	Post 1784	Brick	1	4000	Y	N
4001	13 th –18 th Century	Roof tile	1	5	Y	N
4001	18 th –19 th Century	Pottery	1	6	Y	N
4001	19 th –20 th Century	Pottery	3	7	Y	N
4002	Post 1784	Brick	1	4000	Y	N
4003	Pre 1784	Brick	1	3000	Y	N
4004	Pre 1784/ Modern	Brick/Mortar	1	3000	Y	N
4012	20 th Century	Brick	1	1094	Y	N
4012	20 th Century	Roof tile	1	206	Y	N

Table 3: *Summary of the assemblage*

6. **Synthesis**

6.1 **Late medieval/early post-medieval**

Although all the artefacts recovered related to the post-medieval to modern periods a number of features were identified that produced no datable artefacts, although these features can not be clearly dated, their stratigraphic position within the archaeological deposits suggest a date range to somewhere within the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

These features include a small area of cobbled surface, bounded by two parallel ditches and overlying a number of small, ephemeral features that have been loosely interpreted as either pits, post-holes or short gullies. All of these features were found during the excavation of soil for the foundation trenches in Area 1, to the south-east of the extant 18th – 19th century farmhouse. The lack of exposed surfaces in plan, along with lack of finds make interpretation difficult. Though it would appear that the two parallel ditches were contemporary, similar dimensions and fill sequences, and seem to wholly encompass the cobbled surface, they may be interpreted as linear field boundary ditches or parallel trackway ditches, with a metalled surface, possibly a trackway or yard surface, between the two. This metalled surface appears to be similar in make-up to that found within the 1995 evaluation trenching (Trench 1, context 1/10 OAU 1995), where, in that case a number of sherds of post-medieval pottery were found within the matrix.

The underlying features below this cobbled surface were only visible in section and were hard to interpret; they appear to have consisted of small pit like features, though no finds were recovered. The fills of these features were very similar to that of the overlying cobbled surface, suggesting that they were likely to have been open at the time of the construction of the cobbled surface and deliberately in-filled.

To the north of the barn, in Area 4, a single north-west to south-east ditch was observed, unfortunately this again yielded no dateable finds, but was clearly located below the overlying post-medieval deposits. This feature may be interpreted as a field boundary, and potentially relates to the earlier activity in and around New Shipton Farm within the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

6.2 **Post-medieval/modern**

The rectangular brick building to the south of the 15th century barn can be dated to post 1784 due to the dimensions of the individual bricks, though some of the bricks within the structure could be dated to before 1784, and are likely to have been re-used from earlier demolished structures. The building seems to correlate to the structure visible on the late 18th maps, the brick work that makes up the extant brick floor surface within the structure is similar to that of the 19th century floor surface found within the cruck barn during the 1995 evaluation (OAU 1995).

To the north of the barn the small fragments of brick structures can all be dated to ranges from pre 1784, post 1784 and 20th century by brick dimensions and mortar type. The earlier two features (contexts 4002 and 4003) are likely to relate to the period of extensive building and altering that took place in the 18th and 19th centuries. The brick surface (4003) appears to be similar to that those noted within the cruck barn, though those were assigned a date of the floor surface to within the 19th century, these may represent a re-use of earlier bricks within a later phase of construction. Likewise, the bricks contained within the wall aligned north to south (4004) were dated to pre 1784 but clearly set within a 20th century concrete mortar.

Throughout Areas 2, 3 and 4 were extensive rubble deposits comprising post-medieval and modern material, it is clear that this represents a recent phase of ground level rising, potentially when the present concrete yard surface was laid down and number of the ancillary buildings were pulled down.

In addition to this, a number of field drains and a modern drainage ditch were observed in Area 1. Also in Area 1 a large proportion had been heavily truncated by the excavation of a large trench that was filled with a large amount of late 20th century material, consisting mainly of tarmac, clinker and ceramics, this feature truncated a considerable amount of the earlier archaeology.

Although the trenching in Areas 1 and 4 were extensive they seem to have not had a considerable detrimental affect on the archaeological remains, but provided a series of sections across the area. The foundation trenches were then filled with concrete and the remaining buried archaeology sealed under the new floor surfaces of the development, preserving a considerable proportion of the site *in situ*.

The foundation trenches for the housing development may have exposed a variety of potential archaeological features. Though in two areas the nature of the development meant that the ground level was reduced to a level that only disturbed clearly modern deposits, preventing potential underlying deposits from being identified. Though this would preserve any existing archaeology *in situ* under the existing modern rubble deposits.

6.3 **Conclusion**

The watching brief confirmed the results of the prior evaluation, suggesting that the area around the extant farm buildings had been subject to considerable modern alteration and truncation, and that a extensive phase, involving the rising of the ground level, had taken place within the recent past. The areas of buried archaeological deposits including the parallel ditches and cobbled surface, though undated, imply an agricultural usage that may have dated from the late medieval period, not unexpected, considering the history of the farm estate. No features from any earlier periods were identified. The extensive housing development appears not to have considerably disturbed buried archaeological remains, but has highlighted the potential for further study within the surrounding area of the farm.

7. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Chase Home at New Shipton Farm, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, (NGR ref SP 1348 9423; SMR ref BSMR 01680). The watching brief confirmed the results of a prior evaluation, suggesting that the area around the extant 18th and 19th century farm buildings had been subject to considerable modern alteration and truncation, and that a extensive phase, involving the raising of the ground level with brick rubble, had taken place within the recent past. An area of potential archaeological remains were found to the south-east of the farmhouse, these included two ditches running parallel with a cobbled surface in-between. This cobble surface overlay a number of small ephemeral features interpreted as either pits, post-holes or short gullies, although all these features yielded no datable finds, they imply an agricultural usage that may have dated from the late medieval/early post-medieval period purely on stratigraphic rather than artefactual evidence. No features from any earlier periods were identified.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

12	Fieldwork progress records AS2
9	Photographic records AS3
209	Digital photographs
1	Levels records AS19
1	Sample records AS17
81	Abbreviated context records AS40
18	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
1	Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Birmingham Museum
Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
B3 3DH
Tel Birmingham (0121) 303 2834

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Ian Roach of Chase Homes, Greg Pugh of CgMs Consulting and Mike Hodder from Birmingham City Council.

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Simon Sworn. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, finds analysis by Angus Crawford and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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12. **Abbreviations**

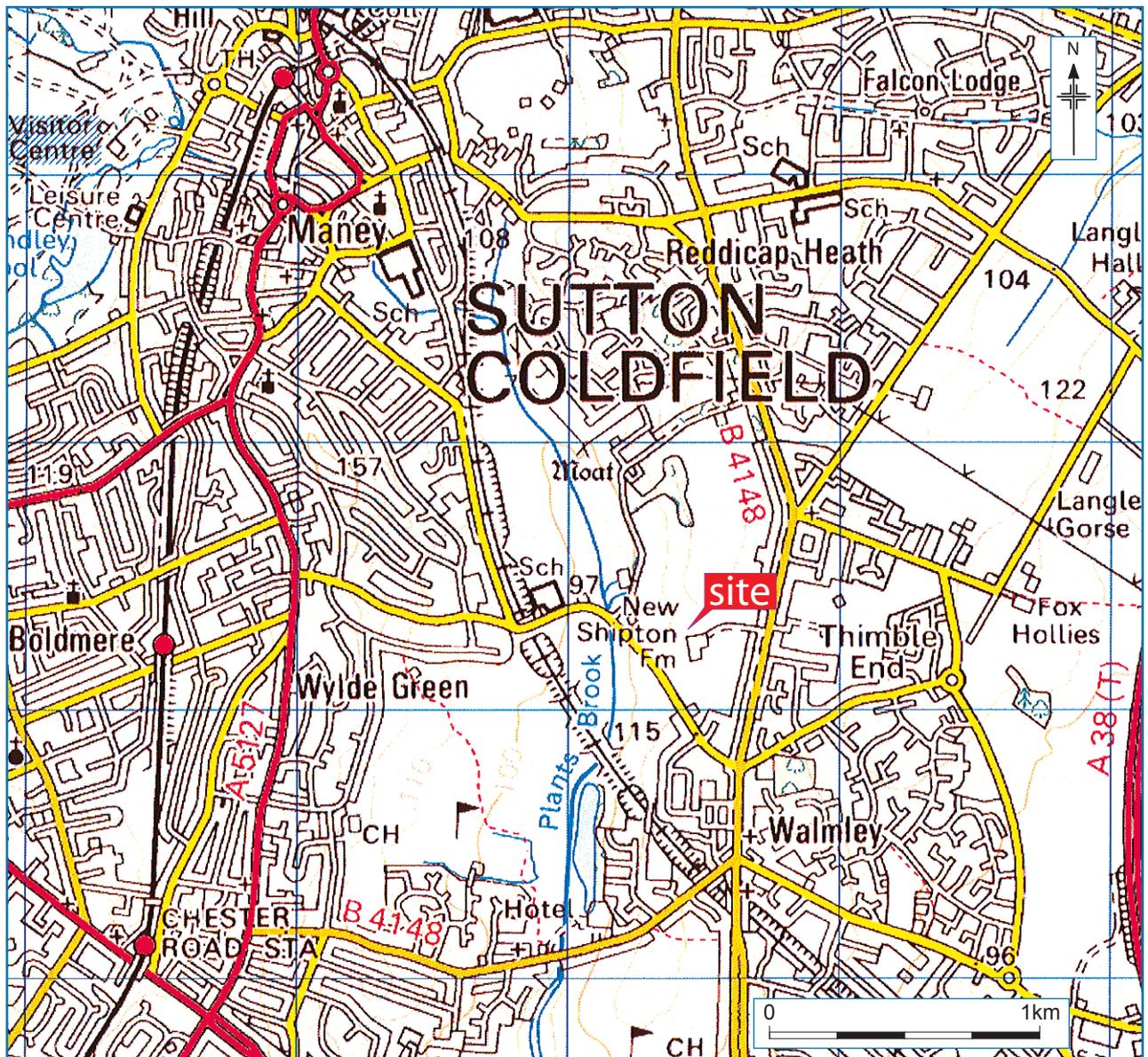
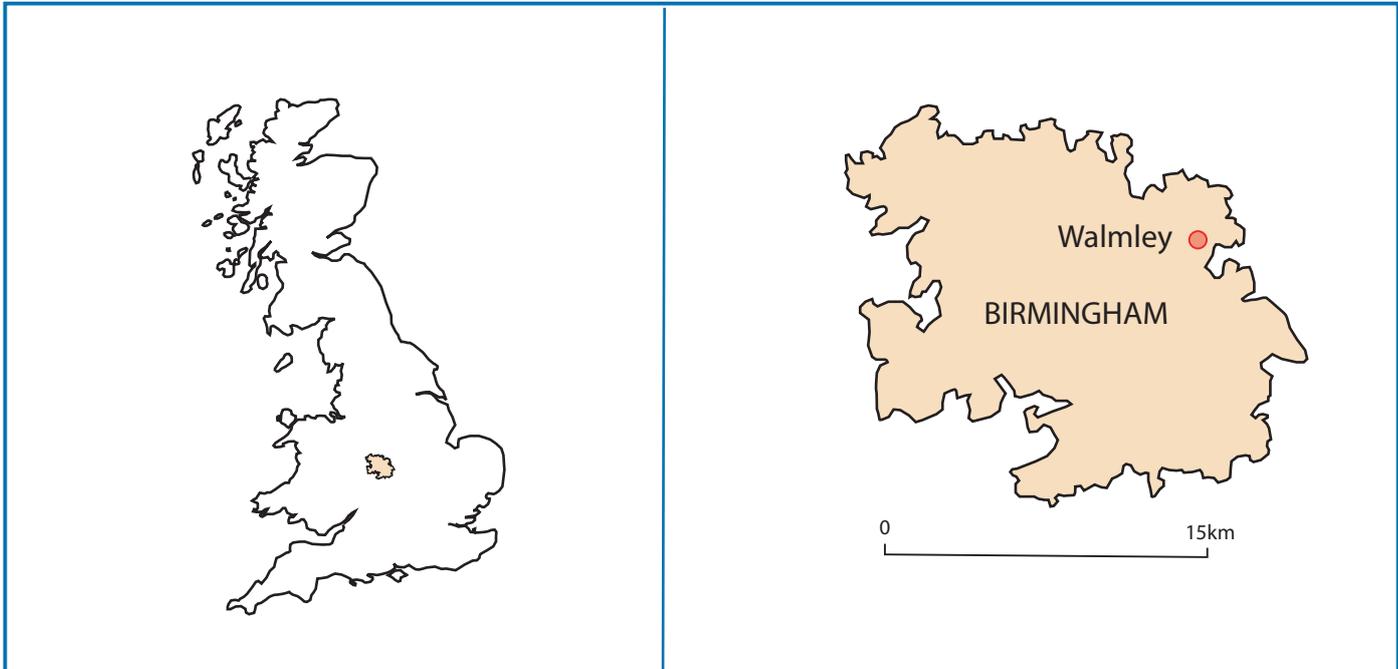
NMR National Monuments Record.

SMR Sites and Monuments Record.

BCC Birmingham City Council.

NGR National Grid Reference

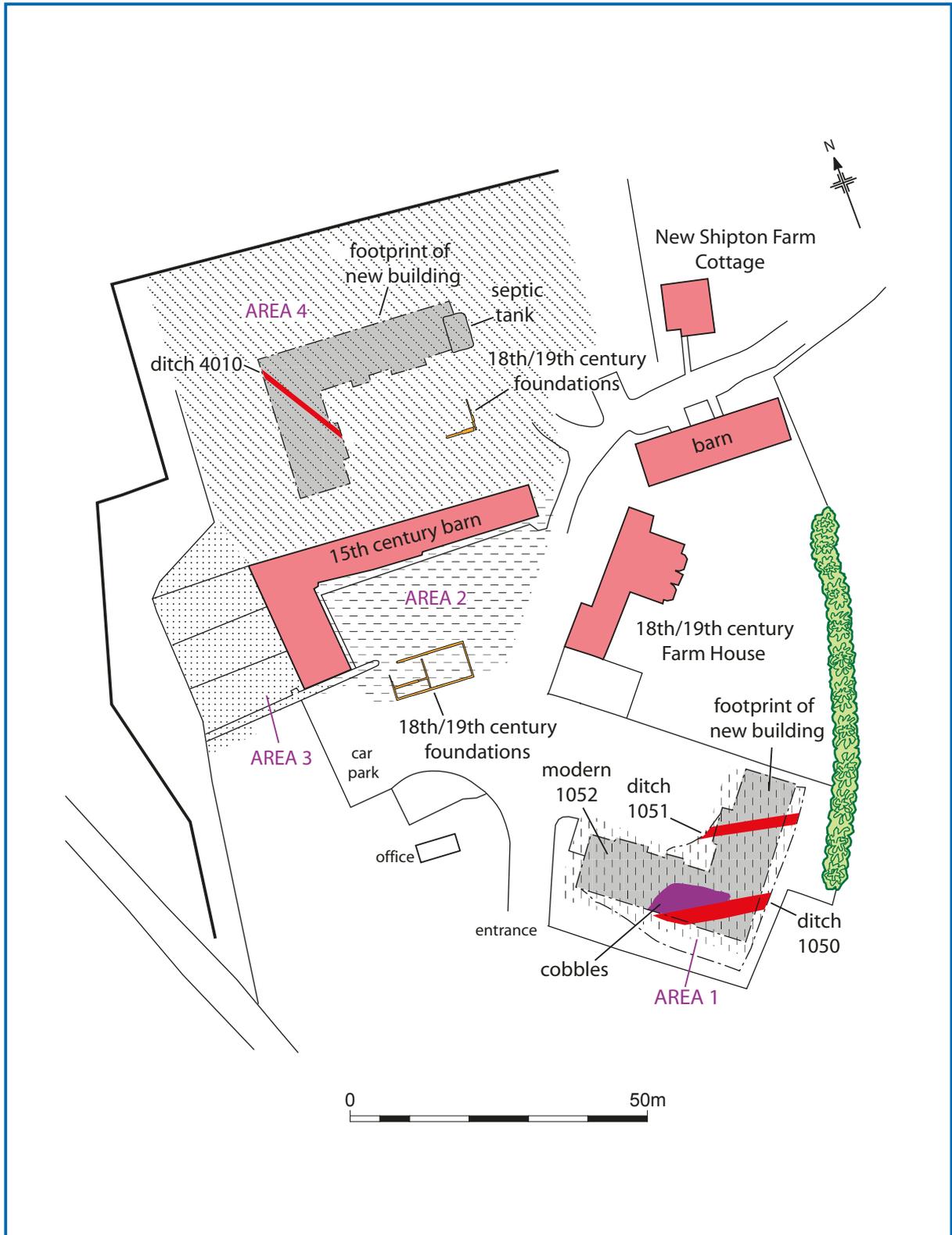
PPG Planning Policy Guidance



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Location of the site.

Figure 1



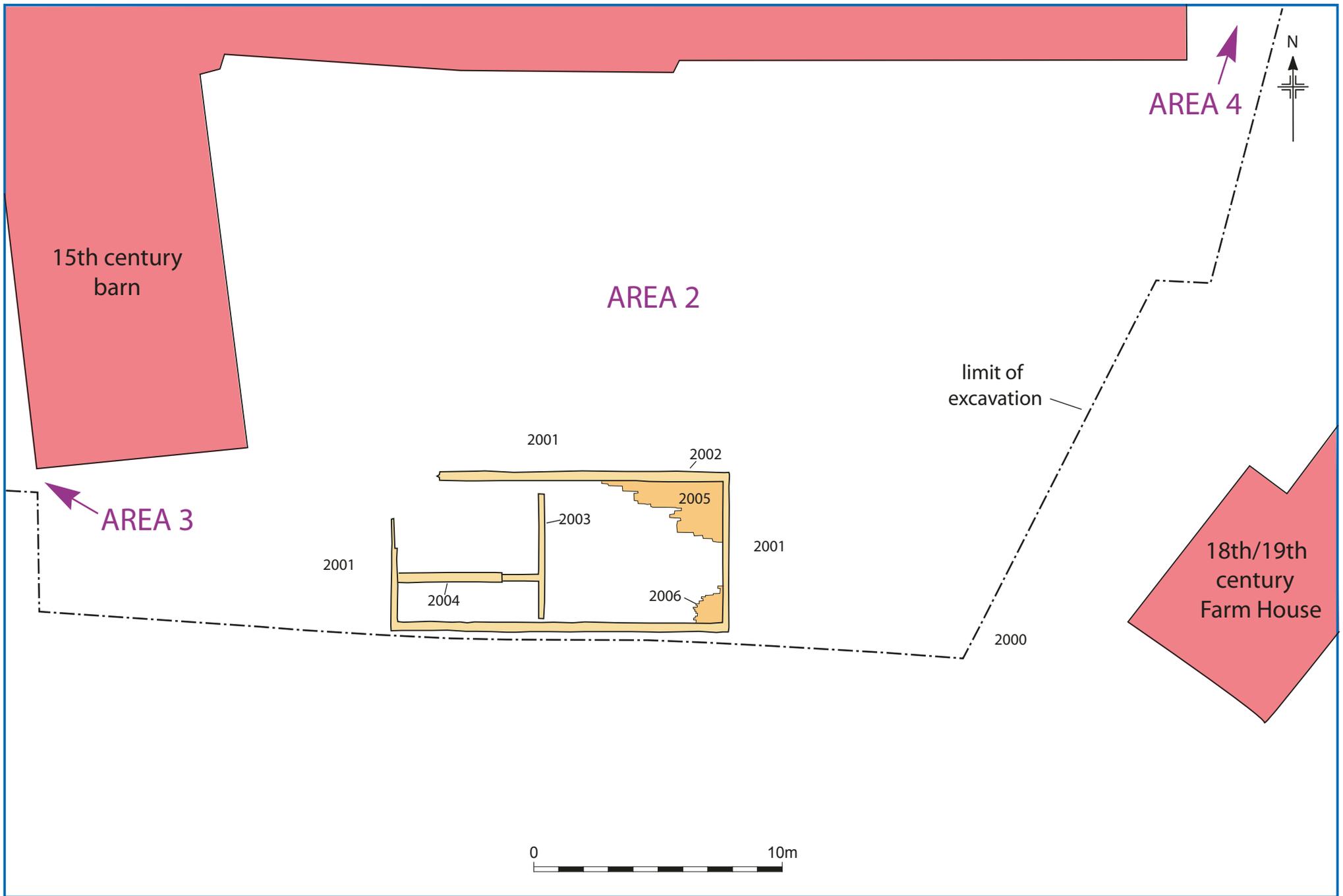
Location of areas observed

Figure 2



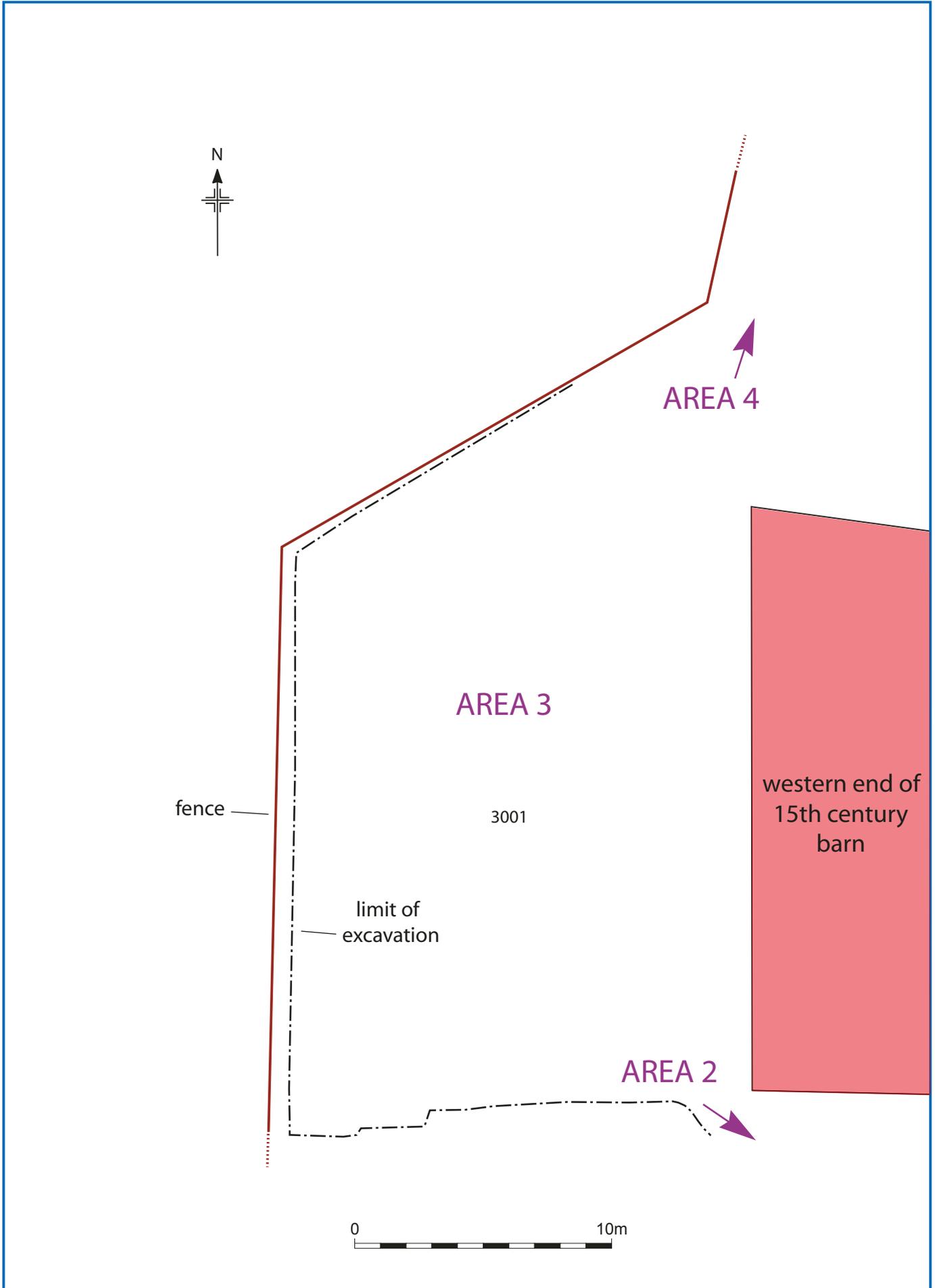
Plan of Area 1

Figure 3



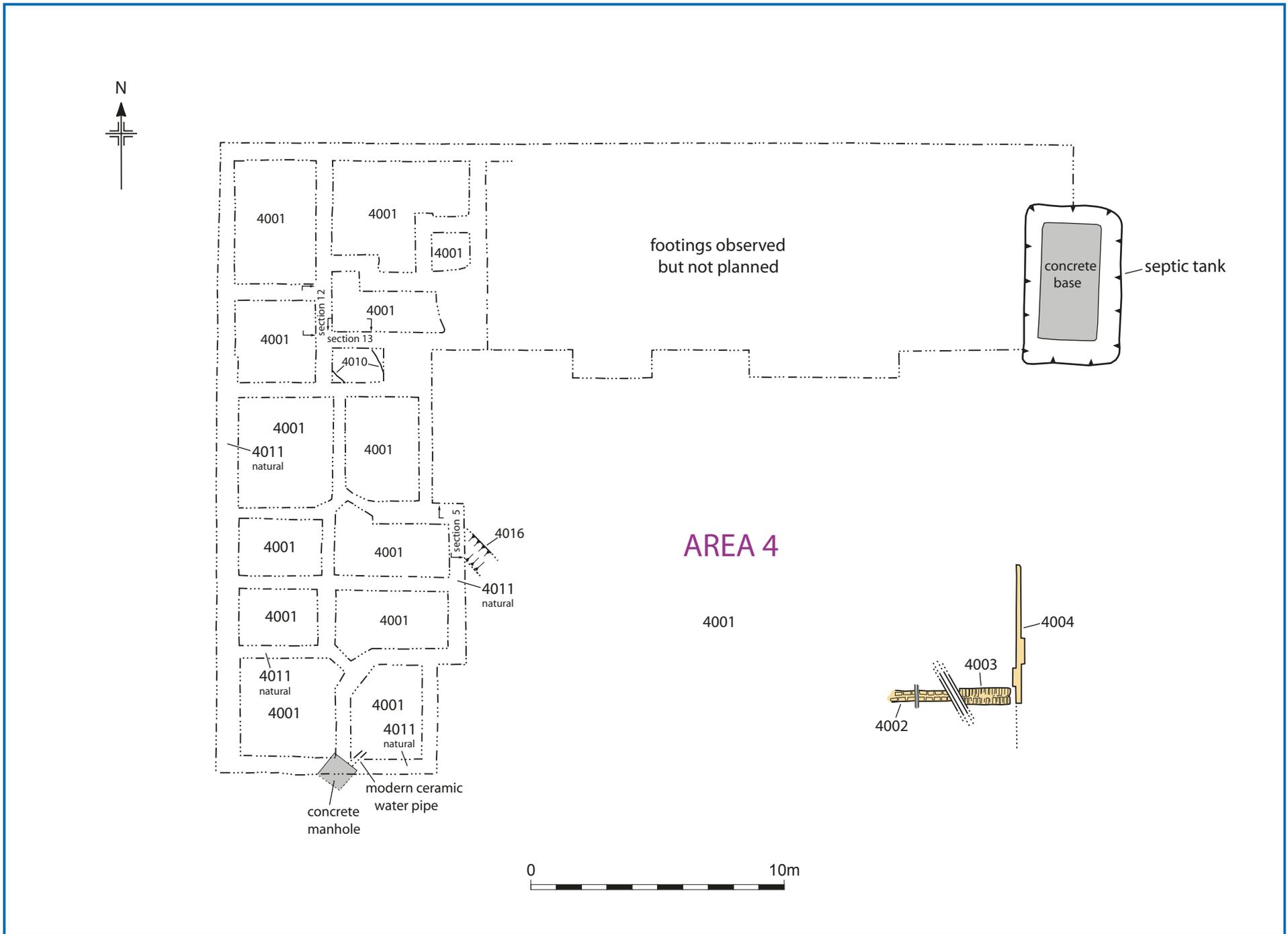
Plan of Area 2

Figure 4



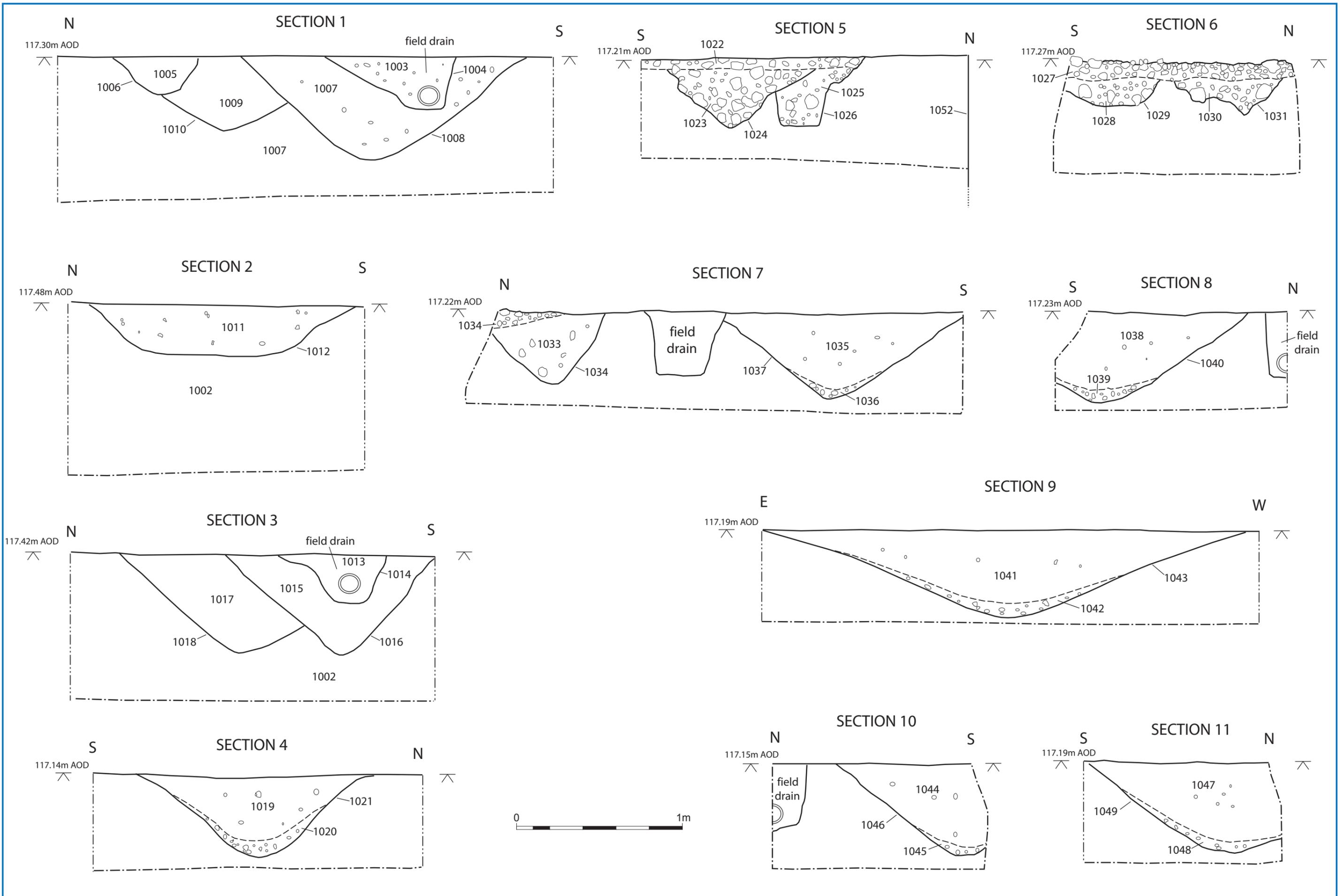
Plan of Area 3

Figure 5



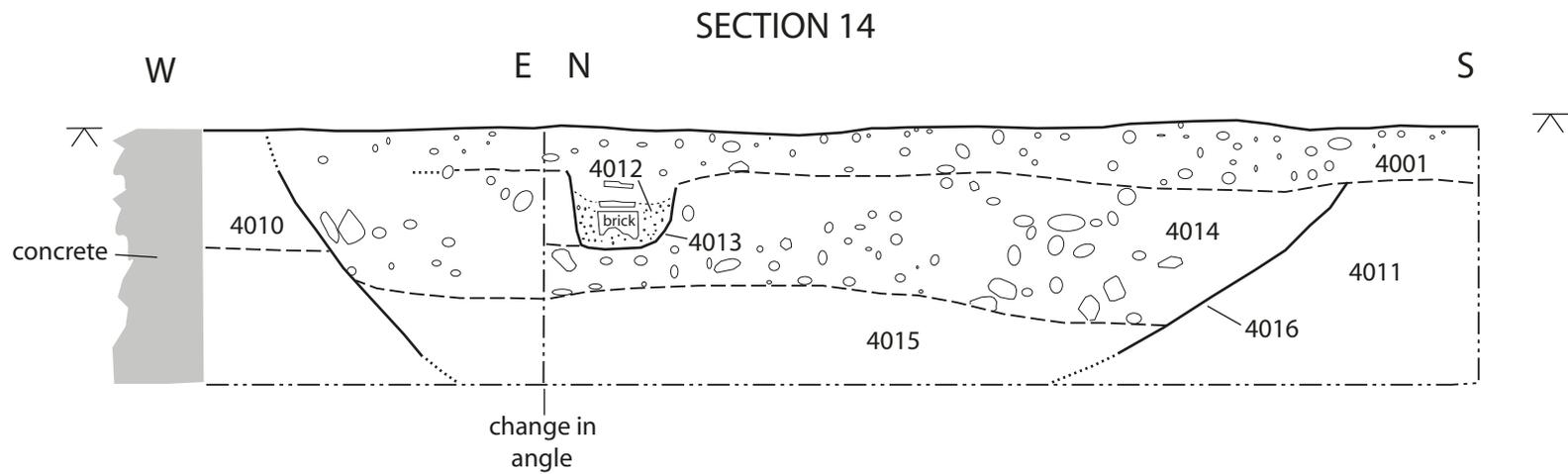
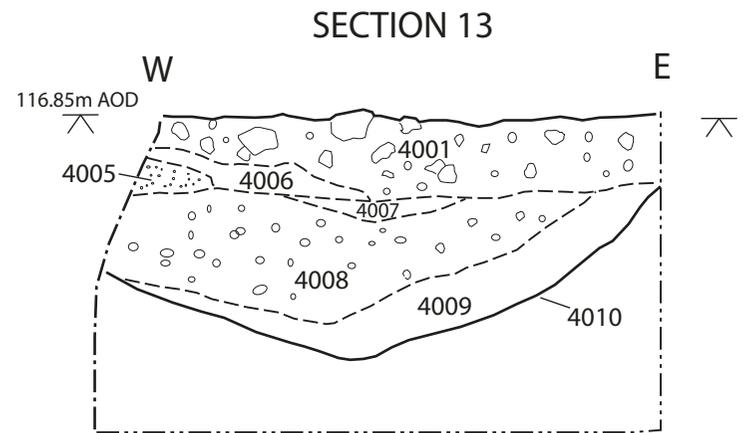
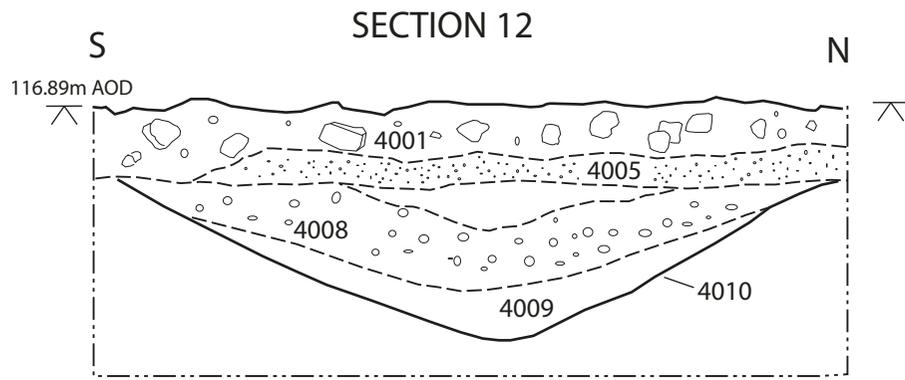
Plan of Area 4

Figure 6



Area 1 sections.

Figure 7



Area 4 sections.

Figure 8



Plate 1: General overview of Area 1, prior to excavation, facing north-east



Plate 2: General overview of Area 2 and foundations of structure 2007, facing west



Plate 3: General overview of Area 4, to the north of the 15th century barn, facing south-west



Plate 4: Section 1, possible late medieval ditch cut by later modern service trenches to right, facing east



Plate 5: Cobbled surface 1027, with underlying features 1029 and 1031, facing west



Plate 6: Detail of walls/surface 4002, 4003 and 4004 (foreground), facing west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Area 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 32.50m Width: 31m Depth: 1.25-0.60m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Loose dark brown / black silty loam, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels, occasional charcoal fragments. Heavy root disturbance.	0-0.60m
1001	Subsoil	Friable mid-dark brown sandy silt. Occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Roots and fibrous material.	0.20-0.80m
1002	Natural	Loose reddish brown sand, occasional patches of yellow silty sand overlying firm reddish brown silty clay.	0.30m +
1003	Mid-Late 20 th century fill of 1004	Loose black silty loam, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels.	0-0.32m
1004	Linear service cut	Regular, steep sided, flat based cut.	0-0.32m
1005	Modern fill of 1006	Loose black silty loam, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels.	0-0.23m
1006	Modern pit or post hole	Circular, clear, irregular sided cut.	0-0.23m
1007	Post medieval ditch fill of 1008	Loose black silty loam, frequent small sub-angular pebbles and gravels and occasional charcoal flecks.	0-0.63m
1008	Post medieval ditch cut	East-west linear cut with clear, regular, slightly concave sides and a gentle concave base.	0-0.63m
1009	Ditch fill of 1010	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and charcoal flecks.	0-0.45m
1010	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1050	Gentle 'V' shaped cut with regular, slightly concave sides.	0-0.45m
1011	Modern fill of 1012	Loose black silty loam, frequent moderate sub-angular pebbles and gravels and occasional charcoal flecks.	0-0.30m
1012	Linear ditch terminus	Gentle, slightly convex sides, with flat, regular base.	0-0.30m
1013	Modern fill of 1014	Loose black silty loam, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels.	0-0.29m

Area 1 (cont.)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1014	Linear service cut	Regular, steep sided, flat based cut.	0-0.29m
1015	20 th century ditch fill of 1016	Loose black silty loam, frequent small sub-angular pebbles and gravels and occasional charcoal flecks.	0-0.59m
1016	20 th century ditch cut	East-west linear cut with clear, regular, slightly concave sides and a gentle concave base.	0-0.59m
1017	Ditch fill of 1018	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and charcoal flecks.	0-0.58m
1018	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1050	Gentle 'V' shaped cut with regular, slightly concave sides.	0-0.58m
1019	Secondary ditch fill of 1021	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.37m
1020	Primary ditch fill of 1021	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.17-0.48m
1021	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.48m
1022	Cobbled surface	Sub-rounded pebbles (c 100 x 100 x 50mm), set within a mid brown sandy silt matrix	0-0.07m
1023	Stoney fill of 1024	Friable light brown silty sand containing very frequent sub-rounded pebbles (c 100mm dia) and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.07-0.43m
1024	Stone filled pit (?)	Shape unclear in plan, 'V' shaped pit with moderate, irregular sides and sharp brake of slope at base.	0.07-0.43m
1025	Fill of pit/post hole 1026	Friable mid-dark silty sand, frequent moderate sub-rounded pebbles and small sub-angular gravels, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.06-0.41m
1026	Pit/post hole cut	Circular (?) cut with clear, steep, regular sides and flat, regular base.	0.06-0.41m
1027	Cobbled surface	Sub-rounded pebbles (c 100 x 100 x 50mm), set within a mid brown sandy silt matrix	0-0.13m
1028	Fill of pit/gully 1029	Friable light brown silty sand, frequent sub-rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.08-0.27m
1029	Pit/gully cut	Not clear in plan, clear, steep, concave sides and gentle concave base. Possibly same as 1024.	0.10-0.27m

Area 1 (cont.)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1030	Fill of pit/gully 1031	Friable mid brown silty sand, frequent sub-rounded pebbles and gravels, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.08-0.30m
1031	Pit/gully cut	Not clear in plan, clear, steep, concave sides and irregular concave base. Possibly same as 1024.	0.08-0.30m
1032	Cobbled surface	Sub-rounded pebbles (c 100 x 100 x 50mm), set within a mid brown sandy silt matrix	0-0.10m
1033	Fill of ditch/gully/pit 1034	Friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, occasional sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks.	0-0.42m
1034	Ditch/gully/pit	Does not extend into other sections so may either short gully or circular (?) pit with moderate, regular, slightly concave sides and 'V' shaped base.	0-0.42m
1035	Secondary ditch fill of 1037	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.44m
1036	Primary ditch fill, part of Group 1051	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.34-0.51m
1037	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.51m
1038	Secondary ditch fill of 1040	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.46m
1039	Primary ditch fill, part of Group 1051	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.38-0.53m
1040	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.53m
1041	Secondary ditch fill of 1043	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.44m
1042	Primary ditch fill, part of Group 1051	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.13-0.53m
1043	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.53m
1044	Secondary ditch fill of 1046	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.50m

Area 1 (cont.)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
1045	Primary ditch fill, part of Group 1051	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.34-0.55m
1046	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.55m
1047	Secondary ditch fill of 1049	Friable mid brown sandy silt, occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, gravels and manganese flecks.	0-0.47m
1048	Primary ditch fill, part of Group 1051	Firm light brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels. Occasional manganese flecks.	0.17-54m
1049	Linear ditch cut, part of Group 1051	Clear, gentle brake of slope at top with moderate concave sides and moderate, concave base.	0-0.54m
1050	Ditch group	East to west liner ditch, single non-anthropogenic fill, runs parallel with, and possibly associated with 1051 to the south.	0-0.58m
1051	Ditch group	East to west liner ditch, two fills, secondary non-anthropogenic fill, and lower, primary fill consisting mainly of re-deposited natural, possibly from the original up-cast/bank on the southern edge. Runs parallel with 1050.	0-0.55m
1052	Late 20 th century pit cut	Vertical sided, flat bottomed pit, widens to the west, machine dug. Clear edges, filled by 1052	0-2.20m
1053	Late 20 th century fill of 1052	Loose black fill, containing rubble, tarmac blocks, clinker, charcoal and modern ceramics / metalwork, capped by a thin layer of mid reddish brown silty clay	0-2.20m

Area 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 34m Width: 22m Depth: 0.20-0.25m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
2000	Yard surface	Concrete slabs	0-0.20m
2001	Modern rubble make-up layer	Layer of loose rubble, brick, tile, clinker, charcoal and patches of reddish brown sandy silt. Only exposed in plan.	0.20m+
2002	Brick wall, part of group 2007	External brick wall, bricks 235 x 110 x 70mm. At least two regular courses deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.20m+
2003	Brick wall, part of group 2007	Internal brick wall, bricks 235 x 110 x 60mm. At least two regular courses deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.20m+
2004	Brick wall, part of group 2007	Short length of internal brick wall in the western end of structure, bricks 235 x 115 x 65mm. At least two regular courses deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.20m+
2005	Brick surface, part of group 2007	Remnant floor surface in southeast corner of 2007, bricks 225 x 115 x 75mm. Only one course deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.18m+
2006	Brick surface, part of group 2007	Remnant floor surface in northeast corner of 2007, bricks 235 x 110 x 80mm. Only one course deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.18m+
2007	Structure group	Brick built structure with two internal walls and sections of remnant floor surface to the east end. Possibly associated with the present 18 th – 19 th century farmhouse and ancillary structures to the east.	0.18m+

Area 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 31m Width: 17.50m Depth: 0.25m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
3000	Topsoil	Loose dark brown / black silty loam, frequent small sub-rounded pebbles and gravels, occasional charcoal fragments. Heavy root disturbance.	0-0.25m
3001	Modern rubble make-up layer	Layer of loose rubble, brick, tile, clinker, charcoal and patches of reddish brown sandy silt. Only exposed in plan.	0.25m+

Area 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 42.50m Width: 36.25m Depth: 1.10-2.55m

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4000	Yard/floor surface	Concrete slabs, floor of milking parlour.	0-0.25m
4001	Modern rubble make-up layer	Layer of loose rubble, brick, tile, clinker, charcoal and patches of reddish brown sandy silt. Only exposed in plan.	0.25m+
4002	Brick wall	Short length of straight brick wall, bricks 230 x 110 x 70mm. At least two regular courses deep. Loose yellowish brown sandy mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.23m+
4003	Brick wall/surface	Double row of bricks 220 x 105 x 65mm, placed side on, possibly to form level surface of entrance way. Loose sandy light brown mortar. Only exposed in plan.	0.25m+
4004	Brick wall	Short length of straight brick wall, bricks 200 x 100 x 80mm. At least two regular courses deep. Pinkish	0.20m+

		beige concrete mortar. Only exposed in plan.	
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Area 4 (cont.)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
4005	Modern dump layer	Small sub-angular gravels set within a loose reddish brown clayey sand matrix.	0.12-0.24m
4006	Modern (?) make-up/dump layer	Compact yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent sub-rounded gravels.	0.08-0.22m
4007	Secondary fill of ditch 4010	Compact grey silty sand, occasional patches of brown sand and small sub-angular gravels.	0.21-0.33m
4008	Secondary fill of ditch 4010	Firm, well compacted grey silty sand, frequent moderate sub-rounded pebbles, occasional patches of brown sand.	0.21-0.54m
4009	Primary fill of ditch 4010	Loose reddish brown sandy clay, occasional sub-angular gravels.	0.17-0.64m
4010	Linear ditch cut	Northwest-southeast linear with clear, gentle, slightly concave sides and shallow, concave base. Possibly same as 4016.	0.17-0.67m
4011	Natural	Loose reddish brown sand, occasional patches of yellow silty sand overlying firm reddish brown silty clay.	0.21m+
4012	Fill of 20 th century foundation trench 4013	Friable yellowish brown sand set around <i>in-situ</i> modern bricks.	0.19-0.31m
4013	20 th century foundation cut	Only visible in section. Regular, vertical sides and flat, level base. Does not appear in opposite, east facing section.	0.11-0.31m
4014	Secondary fill of ditch 4016	Firm brownish red silty clay, frequent small/moderate sub-rounded gravels	0.12-0.61m
4015	Possible secondary fill of ditch 4016	Compact light brownish red sandy silt/possibly natural deposit.	0.41-0.67m+
4016	Ditch cut	Linear ditch cut with moderate, clear, slightly concave sides, defuse base. Possibly same as 4010.	0.11-0.67m+