

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT
SIDEWAY, STOKE-ON-TRENT,
STAFFORDSHIRE

Jon Milward and James Goad

With contributions by Alan Jacobs and Liz Pearson

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

4th July 2005

© Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council

Historic Environment and Archaeology Service,
Worcestershire County Council,
Woodbury,
University College Worcester,



Project 2576

Henwick Grove,
Worcester WR2 6AJ

Report 1352
SOT 30270

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 methodology.....	2
2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy	2
2.2.2 Structural analysis	3
2.3 Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs.....	3
2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy	3
2.3.2 Method of analysis	3
2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson	3
2.4.1 Sampling policy	3
2.4.2 Method of analysis	3
2.5 The methods in retrospect	4
3. Topographical and archaeological context	4
4. Results	4
4.1.4 Phase 1 Natural deposits.....	5
4.1.5 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits.....	5
4.1.6 Phase 3 Modern deposits.....	5
4.2 Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs.....	5
4.2.1 Discussion of the pottery	6
4.2.2 Post-medieval pottery	6
4.2.3 Modern pottery	6
4.2.4 Ceramic building material	7
4.2.5 Other finds.....	7
4.2.6 Significance	7
4.3 Environmental analysis	8
4.3.1 Results	10
4.3.2 Discussion	10
4.3.3 Significance	11
5. Synthesis	11
5.1 Medieval.....	11
5.2 Post-medieval	11
5.3 Research frameworks	12
6. Significance	12
7. Publication summary	12
8. The archive	12
9. Acknowledgements	13
10. Personnel	13
11. Bibliography	13
12. Abbreviations	14

Archaeological evaluation at Sideway, Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire

Jon Milward and James Goad

With contributions by Alan Jacobs

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation (SOT30270) was undertaken at Sideway, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Investigation was focussed on two areas; Site A, the area of the former Sideway farm (NGR 387500 343500) and Site B (NGR 387500 342500). It was undertaken for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mouchel Parkman. The work is required to support a future planning application for the proposed development of the Site and forms part of an Environmental Appraisal of the Site. The project aims identified within the specification were to clarify the presence/absence and extent of Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval remains at the site; to identify, within the constraints of the investigation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site; and to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits (CgMs 2004b).

The evaluation comprised trenching in two zones of the development area. Site A was located at Sideway Farm at the northern end of the proposed development zone, and Site B, which was at the southern end.

Four trenches were opened up at Sideway Farm, exposing the foundations of the farmhouse and surrounding buildings. Two walls of the farmhouse itself dated to the 18th century. Other features within the building were of a modern date. The other farm buildings nearby dated mainly to the 20th century, with some earlier surfaces and materials being present. The farm is significant for Stoke-on-Trent as it is of a form that is relatively rare within the city boundary and potentially worthy of further investigation.

The Site B evaluation was much larger in scale, comprising 25 trenches excavated across one field. The field had the potential for medieval settlement and activity, which was taken from aerial photographs. The trenches exposed a variety of features along with a mix of natural strata. Ridge and furrow was identified in some of the trenches and survived to varying degrees. The trenches on the north side of the field also located the former course of a brook. This seems to be the former course of Chitlings Brook, which forms the present northern boundary to the field. A former field boundary was picked up in the trenches on the western side of the field. This boundary is shown on the historic Ordnance Survey Maps. The earthworks that showed up on the aerial photographs of the site were post-medieval in date, rather than medieval.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Sideway (NGR SJ 879 429), Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (Figure 1), on behalf of CgMs for Mouchel Parkman. The work is required to support a future planning application which will be submitted to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the proposed development of the site, as well as forming part of an Environmental Appraisal. The Stoke-on-Trent City Council archaeologist identified two areas for investigation indicated by a desk-based assessment of the site conducted by CgMs (2004a).

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999). The field evaluation will be conducted within the general parameters defined by PPG16 “Archaeology and Planning” (DoE 1990), and the Stoke-on-Trent City Local Plan First Deposit Draft, adopted February 2002.

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Stoke-on-Trent City Council (SOTCC 2004) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (CgMs 2004b).

1.3 Aims

The project aims were identified within the specification, and were to clarify the presence/absence and extent of Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval remains at the site; to identify, within the constraints of the investigation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site; and to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons while documenting the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits (CgMs 2004b).

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing, a desk-based assessment was produced by CgMs (2004a).

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th and 14th June 2005. The site reference number is SOT30270. After consultation with the Stoke-on-Trent City Council Archaeologist, it was decided that trenching was required in two areas; the site of the Old Sideway Farm, demolished within the last five years (Site A) and a field containing a raised “platform” (Site B). Thirty trenches were proposed, five 30m x 2m trenches to be excavated on Site A, to be positioned targeting the demolished farm buildings shown on the 1984 Ordnance survey map (Figure 3). Twenty-five trenches measuring 30m x 2m were proposed to be excavated on Site B spread out across the whole field. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. This constitutes an approximately 4% sample of the area required to be archaeologically evaluated.

It was subsequently decided that one of Site A's trenches, Trench 30, should not be excavated due to a close proximity with a sewage main running along the southern boundary of the site. The orientation of Trench 29 was also changed to maximise the potential for structural remains exposed in the trench, in addition to avoiding overhead services. Both changes of trench location were subject to approval by the Stoke-on-Trent City Council Archaeologist.

Trenches were excavated to the depth of the first archaeologically significant horizon or natural deposits. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB 3CX at Site A and a 13 tonne 360° tracked excavator at Site B, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

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

2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the service (Hurst and Rees 1992; Hurst 1992).

2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling policy was as defined in the County Archaeological Service Recording System (1995 as amended). Samples of 20 litres were taken from a silty layer (703) within a possible pond and from organic clays within a former course of the Chitlings Brook (1303 and 1403). These were all undated. (see Table 1).

2.4.2 **Method of analysis**

For each of the samples a sub-sample of 0.5 or 1 litre was processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µ sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low power EMT stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the Service, and seed identification manual (Beijerinck 1947). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition (Clapham, *et al* 1989).

2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

For more detailed descriptions of topographical and archaeological context of the site refer to the desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs (2004a).

The only record of prehistoric activity is recorded on the site or vicinity is a find spot of part of a Bronze-age sword with ritual connotations found approximately 500m west of the south-western tip of the site (SMR 30109 – SR29). A possible Roman bracelet is the only evidence for Roman activity in the area and was found 400m from the north-western boundary of the site (SMR 3005 – SR23). There are no records or evidence of Saxon or early medieval activity. Later medieval activity is attested by finds and features at Hanford and other finds surrounding the site (SMR 30046 – SR22, SMR 30050 – SR23, SMR 30052 – SR 23). The raised “platform” earthwork at the south-western corner of Site B is defined on historic maps from 1838 and may represent the location of a farmstead. There is also evidence of a medieval field system transecting the western boundary of the site. Evidence of post-medieval settlement and land use surrounds the site. Sideway Farm is first shown on Yates’ Map of Staffordshire dated 1775. Cartographic evidence from the mid 19th century onwards shows that with the exception of Sideway Farm and an associated large pond in the north-eastern corner, the site is undeveloped and forms part of an agricultural landscape. Many of the boundaries appear to represent an earlier medieval field system. The Trent and Mersey Canal and the London Midland and Scottish Railway run along the eastern site boundary (CgMs 2004).

4. **Results**

Site A

4.1.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

The natural strata was orangey yellow sandy clay.

4.1.2 **Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits**

Brick walls of 18th century date were recorded in Trench 27 (Figure 4) with the other trenches providing bricks of a 19th century date in the other buildings targeted by the trenching. An early partial brick floor was present in Trench 28 associated with one of the walls of the 18th century farmhouse.

4.1.3 **Phase 3 Modern deposits**

Evidence of the continued use of the buildings up until recent times as a working farm was observed. The excavation of Trench 26 exposed a partial concrete surface, probably an internal surface within the long building shown on the west side of the Sideway Farm complex (Figure 4) while a sunken concrete-block feature was present in Trenches 27 and 28.

The use of this feature is unknown, it may have been a machine pit, probably existing within the farmhouse building.

No demolition layers were present over the remaining building remains so the material removed during the demolition of the farm must have been taken off site. The made ground above the building remains had been formed from redeposited soils and levelled so no evidence of the farm itself is presently visible above ground.

Site B

4.1.4 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural deposits observed at Site B were extremely variable. The solid geology comprises marl with sandstone beds. The natural superficial deposits comprise recent alluvium overlying mainly sand and gravel deposits. The trenches in the eastern part of the field exhibited the presence of a more alluvial environment, with the trenches cut through solid clay deposits.

4.1.5 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Evidence of the landscape's post-medieval agricultural past was abundant throughout Site B. The bases of furrows were recorded in eight of the twenty-five trenches excavated. These were all aligned on two distinct orientations; Trenches 2, 9 and 20 had furrows on a north-east to south-west orientation while the furrows in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 24 were aligned approximately north to south. This suggests that the field was split up in the past into at least two different land parcels in the post-medieval period. Evidence of a former field boundary was present in Trench 10 and was possibly contemporary with the ridge and furrow field system although no corroboratory dating evidence was recovered.

A re-cut ditch was present in Trenches 1 and 2 along with boundary ditches that were observed but post-dated the furrows with the exception of feature 1005 in Trench 10. As no furrows were recorded in association with this ditch it could not be ascertained whether it was contemporary with, or post-dated the furrows.

Although not dated, the former palaeochannel in Trenches 16, 14, 13 and 11 probably became redundant during this period, although its origins are possibly earlier.

4.1.6 Phase 3 Modern deposits

Modern activity on the site was attested in the form of a number of ceramic land-drains bisecting the site. These were recorded in Trenches 4, 5, 9, 10, 16 and 23 and represent 20th century land drainage. A machine-excavated trench of unknown use was present in Trench 21, possibly associated with some kind of recently instated service. A modern rectangular feature also probably associated with mechanical excavator activity was present in Trench 19. These features might be associated with the geotechnical test pitting that had been conducted across the site. A modern ditch termination was present in Trenches 18 and 19.

4.2 Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1-5.

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 31 sherds of pottery weighing 577g, in addition fragments of tile; brick, plastic, glass and clay pipe stems were recovered. The group came from 18 stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval period onwards (see Tables 1 and 4). Level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Material	Total	Weight (g)
Post-medieval pottery	3	63
Modern pottery	28	514
Brick	13	25821
Tile	3	268
Iron objects	3	225
Glass	1	21
Tobacco pipe	1	1
Plastic	1	1
Total	53	26914

4.2.1 Discussion of the pottery

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Tables 2 and 3). A total of five diagnostic form sherds were present and could be dated accordingly, and the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Table 2: Quantification of the post-medieval pottery by fabric

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	2	36
84	Creamware	1	27
Total		3	63

4.2.2 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery consisted of just 6% of the assemblage by count and 10% by weight. The only fabrics present were post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78), from unstratified context 500 and subsoil context 701. Both were residual amongst later pottery sherds, in addition Creamware (fabric 84) dating from 1770-1790 was also present in unstratified context 500.

Table 3: Quantification of the modern pottery by fabric

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total sherds	Weight (g)
81.4	Miscellaneous modern stoneware	2	249
83	Porcelain	5	40
85	Modern stone china	21	225
Total		28	514

4.2.3 Modern pottery

The modern pottery consisted of just 94% of the assemblage by count and 90% by weight. The only fabrics present were two sherds of miscellaneous late stoneware (fabric 81.4), forms represented consisted of the base of a ginger beer bottle from subsoil context 701, and a rim from subsoil context 1501. Porcelain, (fabric 83) dating from the mid 18th-20th centuries, was

present in unstratified contexts 200, 300, and waster sherds in context 2605. Modern stone china (fabric 85) comprised the largest element of the assemblage, was present in unstratified contexts 200, 300 and 500 and subsoil contexts 701, 901 and 2001. These sherds were a variety of flower and willow pattern plates and dishes of 19th–20th century dating.

4.2.4 Ceramic building material

Fragments of modern tile (fabric 1) dating to the 19th-20th centuries were recovered from context 203, 2004 and post-medieval/modern tile (fabric 2c) from context 10 which could only be dated more broadly to the 17th-20th centuries. A number of bricks were recovered as samples, these dated from the post-medieval period onwards. Two examples of which dated from 1740-1780 was recovered from contexts 2718 (fabric 2c) and 13 (fabric 2b). A single red brick (fabric 2a) dating from 1760-1850 came from context 2908. A number of bricks of 19th-20th century dating (fabric 1) came from contexts 2612, 2805 and 2104 along with an 1850-1920 example (fabric 2c) from context 2906.

4.2.5 Other finds

A single fragment of tobacco pipe stem was recovered from unstratified context 200. In addition a fragment of brown beer bottle was recovered from context 203, and a small fragment of plastic from context 1807. An iron skewer was recovered from context 2004 and a rivet from context 402. Finally a modern sickle or mower blade fragment was recovered from subsoil context 1.

4.2.6 Significance

The pottery was recovered entirely from modern or unstratified context with a few residual post-medieval sherds. As such no earlier activity is indicated beyond that of the late post-medieval bricks dated through thickness (Peters 1969) and mortar type, from 1740 onwards. All features were of post-medieval or modern dating (Table 3) no earlier features or finds being recovered, and as such the archaeological assemblage is of limited archaeological interest.

Table 4: Quantification of the assemblage by context

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight	Date range
1	Mower blade fragment	Iron	1	154	19 th -20 th
1	Modern pottery	Fabric 85	1	15	19 th -20 th
10	Post-medieval/Modern	Tile	1	121	17 th -20 th
13	Post-medieval	Brick	1	2750	1740-1780
200	Post-medieval	Tobacco pipe	1	1	17 th -19 th
200	Modern Pottery	Fabric 85	3	37	19 th
200	Modern Pottery	Fabric 83	2	7	19 th -20 th
203	Modern	Brick	1	57	19 th -20 th
203	Modern	Tile	1	90	19 th -20 th
203	Glass vessel	Beer bottle	1	21	19 th -20 th
300	Modern Pottery	Fabrics 85/83	4	66	19 th -20 th
402	Rivet	Iron	1	8	
500	Modern Pottery	Fabric 85	3	17	17 th -18 th
500	Modern Pottery	Fabric 85	2	11	19 th -20 th
500	Post-medieval pottery	Fabric 84	1	27	1770-1790
500	Post-medieval pottery	Fabric 78	1	34	17 th -18 th
701	Modern pottery	Fabric 85/81.4	2	108	19 th -20 th

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight	Date range
701	Post-medieval pottery	Fabric 78	1	2	19 th -20 th
901	Modern pottery	Fabric 85	1	9	19 th -20 th
1501	Modern pottery	Fabric 81.4	1	145	19 th -20 th
1807	Modern	Plastic	1	1	20 th
2001	Modern	Fabric 85	7	96	19 th -20 th
2004	Modern	Tile	1	57	19 th -20 th
2004	Modern	Iron	1	63	
2104	Modern	Brick	4	374	19 th -20 th
2605	Modern pottery	Fabric 83	2	3	1753-2000
2612	Modern	Brick	1	4280	1850-2000
2718	Post-medieval	Brick	1	3180	1740-1780
2805	Modern	Brick	1	3600	19 th -20 th
2805	Modern	Brick	1	3780	1820-1900
2906	Modern	Brick	2	3820	1850-1920
2908	Post-medieval/modern	Brick	1	3980	1760-1850

Table5: Context terminus post-quem dates

Context	Terminus post-quem date
10	17 th -20 th century
13	1740-1780
203	19 th -20 th century
402	19 th – 20 th ? century
1807	20 th century
2004	19 th – 20 th century
2104	19 th -20 th century
2605	19 th -20 th century
2612	20 th century
2718	1740-1780
2805	19 th -20 th century
2908	1760-1850
ALL OTHERS	20 th century

4.3 Environmental analysis

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6: list of environmental samples

<i>Context</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Sample type</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Sample vol</i>	<i>Vol processed</i>	<i>Res assessed</i>	<i>Flot assessed</i>
703	1	organic	layer	?pond	undated		20	0.5	Y	Y
1303	2	organic	watercourse		undated		20	1	Y	Y
1403	3	organic	watercourse		undated		20	1	Y	Y

Table 7: waterlogged plant remains from selected contexts

<i>Latin name</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Habitat</i>	<i>0703</i>	<i>1303</i>	<i>1403</i>
Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus	Ranunculaceae	buttercup	CD		+	+
<i>Rubus cf idaeus</i>	Rosaceae	raspberry	CD		+	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Rosaceae	blackberry/bramble	CD		+	
Ficus carica	Moraceae	fig	F			+
<i>Juncus cf gerardi</i>	Juncaceae	saltmarsh rush	E		+++	
<i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp	Gramineae	Fescue/rye grass	ABCD		++++	+++
unidentified seed	unidentified			+		+

4.3.1 **Results**

Context 703: silty layer from a possible pond

Environmental remains were poorly preserved in this deposit. Only unidentifiable fine herbaceous material (mainly stems and roots) and one unidentified seed were recovered.

Contexts 1303 and 1403: organic clay from former course of the Chitlings Brook

Both deposits had a slightly soil like structure (crumbly, granular) and, therefore, it is likely that the channel had dried out for some time, allowing the organic clay fill to partially form into a soil, before being sealed by the overlying deposits. The plant remains (Table 7) from both contexts were dominated by fescue or rye grass (*Lolium/Festuca* sp). Although it is difficult to distinguish between *Lolium* and *Festuca*, these most closely resembled meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*) or rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) which would have grown in meadowland or a wide variety of grass land respectively, and in the latter case, may have been deliberately sown as a fodder crop. Rush vegetation also seems to have been moderately abundant. The seeds resemble saltmarsh rush (*Juncus* cf *gerardi*) which may seem somewhat anomalous with this location, but as Stoke-on-Trent lies on a band of Triassic rocks which contain saliferous beds (Northolt and Highley 1973), it is possible that salt springs exist in the vicinity allowing saltmarsh vegetation to develop. This type of vegetation is known in Staffordshire in an inland saltmarsh at Pasturefields, Stafford.

Little other vegetation seems to have been growing here, as only occasional seeds of buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), possible raspberry (*Rubus* cf *idaeus*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) were identified in context 1303 which are likely to have been growing in scrubland, probably fringing the brook. The raspberry and bramble could also have been collected for food, and represent food waste.

The presence of two edible cultivars, one grape pip (1303) and a fig pip (1403) demonstrates some disposal of food waste into the dried up channel probably originating from nearby settlement.

Occasional insect (Coleoptera or beetle) remains were noted, which included *Octhebius* sp which colonise settled stagnant waters which would be expected in this environment (Andrew Mann pers comm.). Although only a small assemblage was recovered from the 1 litre sub-sample processed for plant remains, it would be possible to recover a sufficiently large assemblage for detailed analysis from the remaining sample (approximately 20 litres). It was not possible to carry out this analysis within the remit of this project.

4.3.2 **Discussion**

The former channel appears to have dried up for some time before it was sealed by later deposits. The environmental evidence indicates that this area was grassy meadowland (which is not unexpected at this location) or rough grassland at the time the channel was abandoned. The assemblage of plant remains was, however, dominated by one particular grass (rye or fescue grass), and it is possible that this was purposely cultivated for fodder. Rye-grass is an important agricultural grass and has been sown in leys to improve pastures and meadows for grazing, silage or hay (National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland and Environment and Heritage Service 2000-2004). In this case, it is possible that rather than being natural mixed grassland, this was an improved area of grassland or cultivated land.

4.3.3 **Significance**

The evaluation of the environmental remains have demonstrated the potential for survival of well preserved, albeit undated, organic remains within the area of an abandoned channel of the Chitlings Brook. Organic remains from this feature have hinted at the improvement of grassland or specific cultivation of rye-grass plots to provide fodder for livestock.

5. **Synthesis**

5.1 **Medieval**

No medieval structures or artefacts were found on Site A (Sideway Farm). The bricks and pottery dated to the 18th century onwards.

Despite the potential for significant archaeological remains of this period existing on Site B, none were found. The aerial photographs and visual assessment from the ground had established the potential of a “raised platform” area as being of medieval date (CgMs 2004a). However, after investigation, this was determined to be a post-medieval feature. The palaeochannel (former course of Chitlings brook) on the northern side of the Site B field was possibly present during this period, though the watercourse later became disused and had changed course by the post-medieval period.

5.2 **Post-medieval**

Several of the structures found within the Sideway Farm site dated from the 18th century onwards. Two of the external walls in Trench 27 were of the same dateable period in the 18th century, as was one of the structures in Trench 29. The Trench 29 structures related to the northernmost outbuilding of the farm complex. The earliest date of the exposed structures would therefore appear to be between 1740 and 1780, with all the later additions, internal and external to the buildings, being 19th and 20th centuries. The evaluation on this site involved machining down on top of the remaining structures and cleaning and recording the exposed remains. Given the absence of earlier artefacts and building materials, there is a low potential for earlier structures existing on the site. The building remains at Sideway Farm therefore show the establishment of the farmhouse and associated building to the north of it in the mid to late 18th century. The farmhouse and surrounding farm complex would appear to have grown and developed organically from that point up to the late 20th century.

Site B produced a variety of materials and features from the post-medieval period. Ridge and furrow that was common throughout the site could have originated in the medieval period but the only dating material recovered from them is post-medieval. The field boundary located in Trenches 1, 2, 18 and 20 would have appeared to have originated in the post-medieval period as it is readily visible on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map. The boundary was still extant in 1994 (CgMs 2004a). The former course of the Chitlings Brook and the pond in the southern end of Trench 7 might well have had medieval origins, but their point of disuse would appear to have been within the post-medieval period. The pond produced poor environmental evidence but the Chitlings Brook produced seeds that supported evidence for meadowland management and the deliberate cultivation of rye grass for animal fodder. The former course of the brook had been silted up and sealed for a long while, possibly centuries. The 1890 OS map (Figure 3) shows neither water feature in existence, and presumably they were silted up or backfilled at an earlier date.

A pair of postholes in Trench 2 were most probably modern in date, given the lack of finds and the fact that the last farmer on the land had a fence running roughly west to east across the field at one point in his tenure (land manager pers comm).

Site B showed a purely agricultural usage that dated back to the post-medieval period and possibly earlier. The evidence revealed in the trenches showed landscape management. With

changes in the land enclosure pattern. The changing field boundaries are also evident in the Ordnance Survey maps in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2004). The site would appear to have always been used for agricultural purposes, being a little too far away from the area of settlement at Hanford that has produced a number of finds spots that are recorded on the Stoke SMR.

5.3 **Research frameworks**

The sites under investigation are of local significance to Stoke-on-Trent, particularly Site A at Sideway Farm. The form of the farm buildings discovered are uncommon for Stoke and are worthy of further investigation. The results of this evaluation could also inform the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology, which was established to produce an archaeological research framework for the region.

6. **Significance**

The two sites under investigation did not reveal any archaeological deposits that were of national significance. Site A at Sideway Farm was the most productive of the two sites. The farm buildings exposed during the trenching revealed structures dating back to the mid to late 18th century, along with additions and developments in and around the buildings since then. The farmhouse and the outer buildings are of some significance in the context of the City of Stoke-on-Trent as there are no other examples of this form on the city's Sites and Monuments Record.

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 evaluation was undertaken for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mouchel Parkman at two locations at Sideway, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (Site A - NGR SO 387500 343500 and Site B - NGR SO 387500 342500; SOT30270). Site A revealed the remains at foundation level of the farm buildings at Sideway Farm. The earliest structures seemed to be external walls dating between 1740-1780, with later additions, both internal and external to the buildings, dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. These forms of farm buildings are rare within the Stoke-on-Trent city boundary. Site B was a larger scale of evaluation comprising 25 trenches machined throughout a single, large field. Visual survey and aerial photography had established the presence of a raised platform area in the western part of the field. This was considered to have the potential to be medieval in date. The trenches revealed features relating to the field's use in an agricultural context during the post-medieval period, though none were medieval. The trenches also revealed field boundaries which had been changed in the modern era. The northern side of the field revealed the former course of the Chitlings Brook which presently forms the northern boundary of the field. Samples were taken from this palaeochannel, which revealed that the surrounding area was probably deliberately cultivated for rye grass used for animal fodder. The remnants of food items were probably carried down from upstream settlement. There were no significant archaeological deposits at Site B, indicating its history of agricultural usage away from the settlement of Hanford half a kilometre to the west.

8. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

3	Photographic records AS3
127	Digital photographs
29	Trench sheets AS41 10/99
1	Sample records AS17
3	Abbreviated context records AS40
18	Scale drawings
2	Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery

Bethesda St

Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 3DW

9. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Noel Boothroyd (Stoke-on-Trent Museums), David Barker (Stoke-on-Trent City Council) Cathy Patrick (CgMs Consulting).

10. **Personnel**

The fieldwork was led by James Goad. The report preparation was led by Jon Milward and James Goad. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was undertaken by James Goad, Jon Milward and Alvaro Moro-Attamano, finds analysis by Alan Jacobs, environmental analysis by Liz Pearson and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

11. **Bibliography**

Beijerinck, W, 1947 *Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora*, Wageningen CAS 1995 *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual* County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, internal report, **399**

CAS, 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

CgMs 2004a *Archaeological desk-based assessment of Sideway, Stoke-on-Trent* CgMs Consulting April 2004

CgMs 2004b *Archaeological specification for land at Sideway, Stoke-on-Trent* CgMs Consulting May 2004

Clapham, A R, Tutin, T G and Moore D M, 1989 *Flora of the British Isles*, (3rd edition), Cambridge University Press

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

Hurst, J D, 1992 Ceramic building material, in Woodiwiss, S (ed), Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich. CBA Res Rep **81**, pp 155-157

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the county of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*. CBA Res Rep **81**, pp200-209

National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland and Environment and Heritage Service, 2000-2004 *Flora of Northern Ireland*, available from <http://www.habitas.org.uk/flora/species.asp?item=2527>, accessed 30/06/05

Northolt, A J D and Highley, D E, 1973 *Salt Minerals Resources Consultative Committee*, mineral dossier, **7**, HMSO

Peters, J E C, 1969 *The development of farm buildings in western lowland Staffordshire up to 1880*, Manchester University Press

Stoke-on-Trent City Council 2004 *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation on land at Sideway Farm, Stoke-on-Trent* The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

University of Birmingham, Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity *West Midlands Research Framework for Archaeology* [<http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/wmrrfa/intro.thm>] accessed 30th June 2005

12. **Abbreviations**

NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
STOC	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
SOT	Numbers prefixed with 'SOT' are the primary reference numbers used by the Stoke-on-Trent City Council sites and monuments record.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trenches 1 – 25 were excavated at site B (see Figure 2). Trenches 26 – 29 were excavated at site A (see Figure 4).

Trench 1

A possible base of a furrow (105) was observed just cutting the natural, and a ditch (107) with a re-cut (109) which was likely defining a pre-existing boundary were recorded cut from the subsoil.

Trench 2

At natural level two postholes (contexts 208 and 211) were recorded at the east end of the trench. Due to their similarity and proximity to each other it is reasonable to assume these are related. The bases of three furrows (contexts 212, 213 and 214) were also present but were very ephemeral in nature. These were all of similar width and depth, aligned on the same axis and were equally spaced 4m apart. The probable field boundary ditch 107 and the re-cut 109 were also present in this trench and were recorded as 204 and 206 respectively.

Trench 3

Three possible furrow bases (contexts 304, 306 and 307) were recorded in this trench aligned on the same axis.

Trench 4

A ceramic land drain (404) was recorded running from the high southwestern corner of the field to the lower southeastern corner.

Trench 5

The bases of two possible furrows (contexts 505 and 506) were recorded on the same alignment. A ceramic land drain (context 507) cut furrow 505, which was likely to have been the same one recorded in Trench 4 as 404.

Trench 6

A very ephemeral feature (606), possibly relating to a ploughed-out furrow or ditch termination was recorded at the west end of the trench.

Trench 7

At the southern end of the trench a large natural feature filled with very dark humic clay was present (703). This likely represented an old pond situated in the low-lying ground at the southeastern corner of the field.

Trench 8

One base of a furrow (804) and two ephemeral possibly ploughed out furrows (contexts 807 and 808) all spaced equally at 2.3m intervals were recorded in this trench.

Trench 9

Five possible furrow bases were present in this trench (contexts 904, 906, 907, 908 and 909). These were all aligned in the same direction. Three ceramic land drains (910, 911 and 912) were also present. These varied in their orientation with drain 911 cutting furrow 908.

Trench 10

A thin ditch (1005) was recorded in this trench. This was different in nature and on a different alignment to the features recorded in many other trenches and interpreted as furrows. It may therefore represent a pre-existing field boundary. A ceramic land drain (1008) was also present in this trench running from the higher ground on the west side of the field.

Trench 11

Evidence of the previous course of the Chitlings Brook now running farther to the north was present in this trench. Deposits associated with flowing water were observed and were consistent with those in Trenches 13, 14 and 16.

Trench 12

No archaeological deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 13

The edge of an old course of the meandering Chitlings Brook was visible at the north end of this trench. The recorded deposits were consistent with those recorded in Trenches 12, 13 and 16.

Trench 14

The width of the old course of the Chitlings Brook at 4.5m was visible in this trench corresponding with a roughly semi-circular earthwork and previous field boundary.

Trench 15

No archaeological deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 16

Deposits consistent with the old course of the Chitlings Brook were present along with a ceramic field drain (1607) at the east end of the trench.

Trench 17

No archaeological deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 18

Trench 18, located on the slope at the northern end of the raised “platform” contained a shallow ditch (1809). Although on a different alignment it was very similar to the possible boundary ditch to the south in trenches 1 and 2 and almost certainly the same feature as 2005 in trench 20. Another feature, also observed in trench 19 seemed to be a shallow ditch terminus (1807).

Trench 19

The north end of trench 19 had part of the ditch 1807 that was also present in trench 18. There was also a shallow rectangular feature in this trench (1919) which was modern in date, possibly created by a mechanical excavator.

Trench 20

Five furrow bases were recorded in this trench on the same alignment spaced between 3.0 and 3.5m apart (contexts 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011). A later ditch (2005), possibly a boundary ditch, truncated Furrow 2007. This lined-up with and was likely to have been the same as feature as 1808 recorded in Trench 18.

Trench 21

This trench was devoid of archaeological features except for a thin vertically sided linear feature spanning the trench. This was modern as it must have been cut by a mechanical excavator (2105).

Trench 22

No archaeological deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 23

A ceramic land drain was recorded in this trench aligned toward the lower south-eastern corner of the field from the higher south-western corner.

Trench 24

One furrow base was recorded in this trench (2406).

Trench 25

No archaeological deposits were present in this trench.

Trench 26

The corner of a brick-built structure relating to the demolished farm complex was present at the north end of this trench (2613) along with part of a concrete yard surface at the southern end (2609).

Trench 27

Two related brick walls were present in this trench representing either side of a demolished farm building (contexts 2713 and 2718). Between these walls and respecting their alignment was a sunken feature constructed out of concrete blocks and been backfilled with rubble (2708). Although the true function of this feature was not ascertained it was probably quite deep and could have been some kind of machine pit.

Trench 28

A brick-built wall mirroring 2713 and 2718, recorded in Trench 27 was exposed (2819), representing the eastern range of the same building. Associated with this wall was the remainder of a brick floor, the only part of flooring of the farm building recorded in trenches 27 and 28 which survived demolition. The concrete block lined subterranean feature observed in trench 28 (2708) continued into this trench and was recorded as 2811.

Trench 29

Two phases of brick built wall associated with the demolished farm buildings were recorded in this trench. 2908 was at a right angle to and butted an earlier wall, 2906.

Appendix 2 Photographic plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 with former field boundary in foreground



Plate 2: Trench 7 looking north



Plate 3: Former course of Chitlings Brook in Trench 13



Plate 4: Furrows in Trench 3



Plate 26: Sequence of floor surfaces in Trench 26



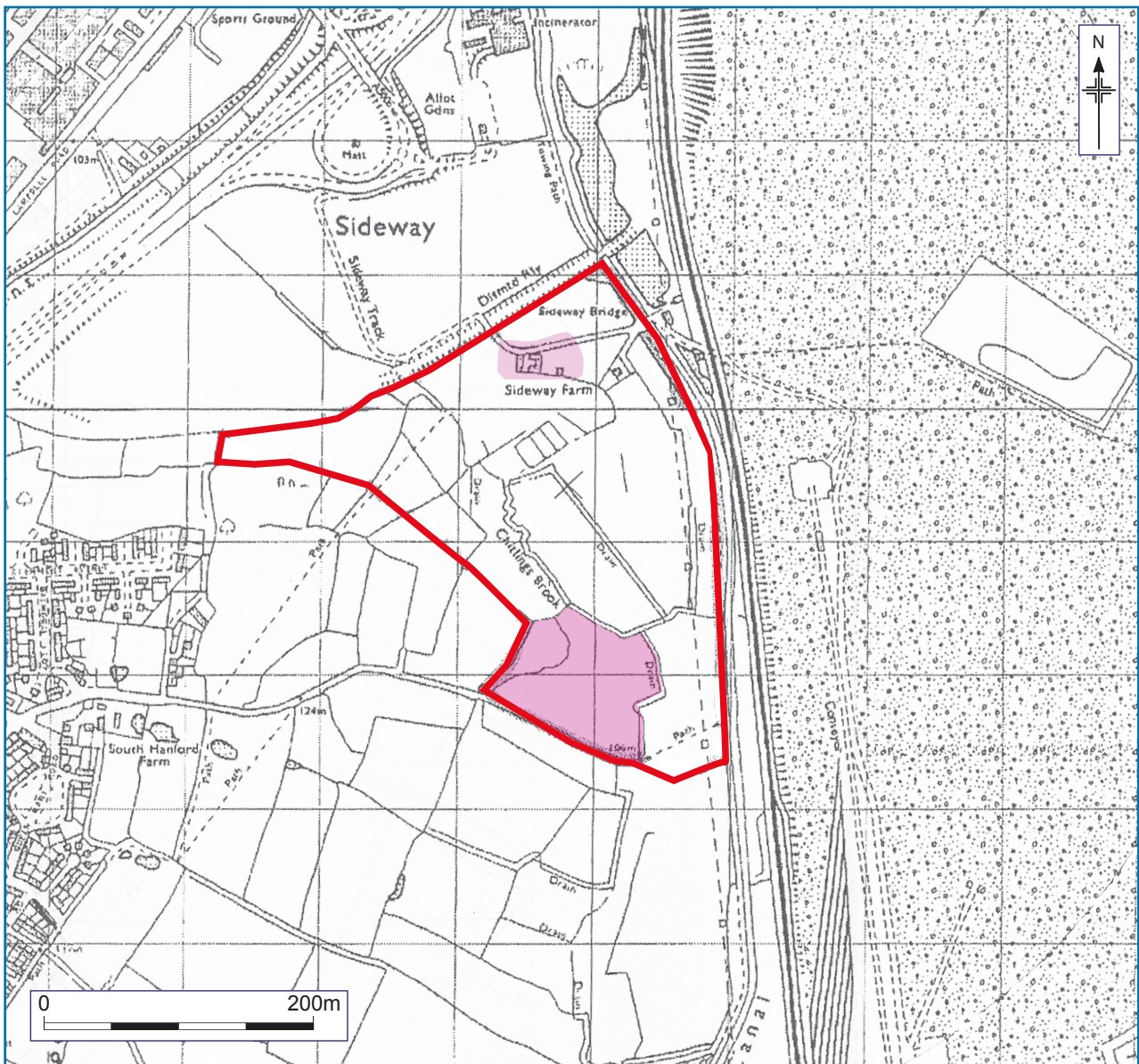
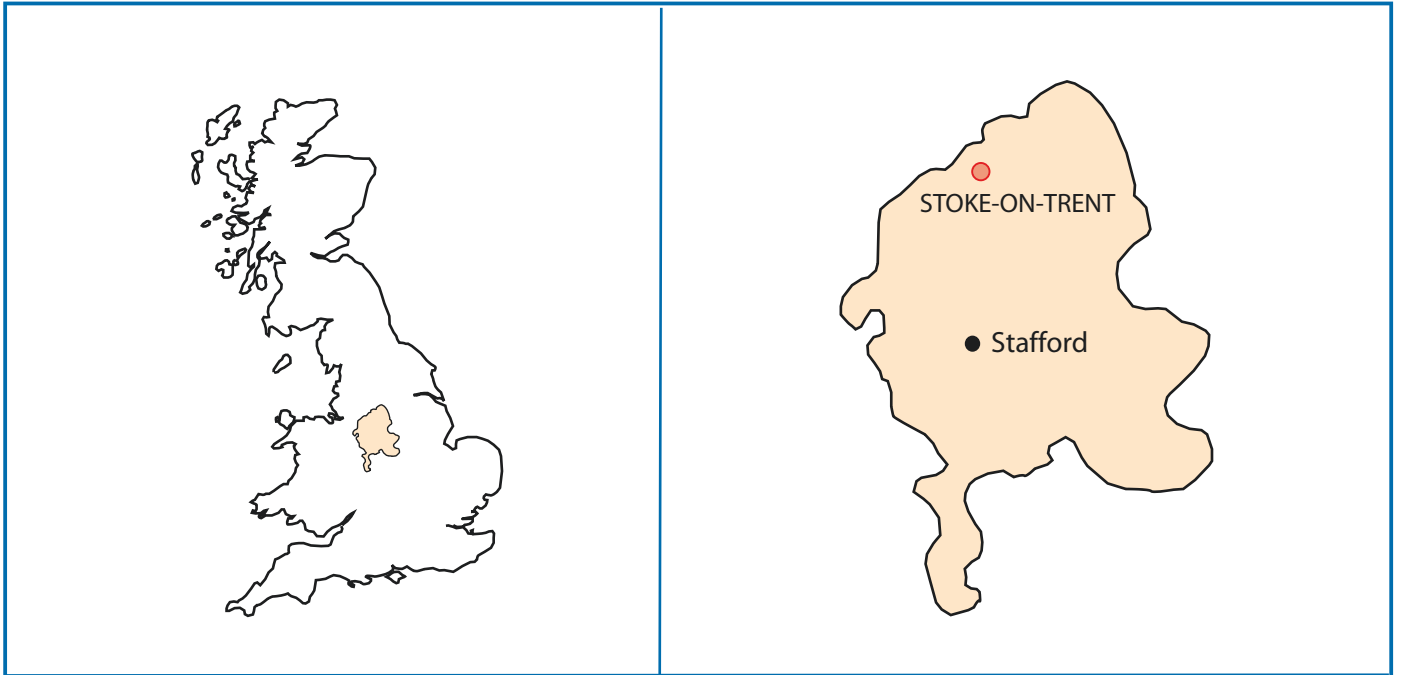
Plate 27: Modern internal feature within 18th century farmhouse



Plate 7: Brick floor adjacent to external wall in Trench 28



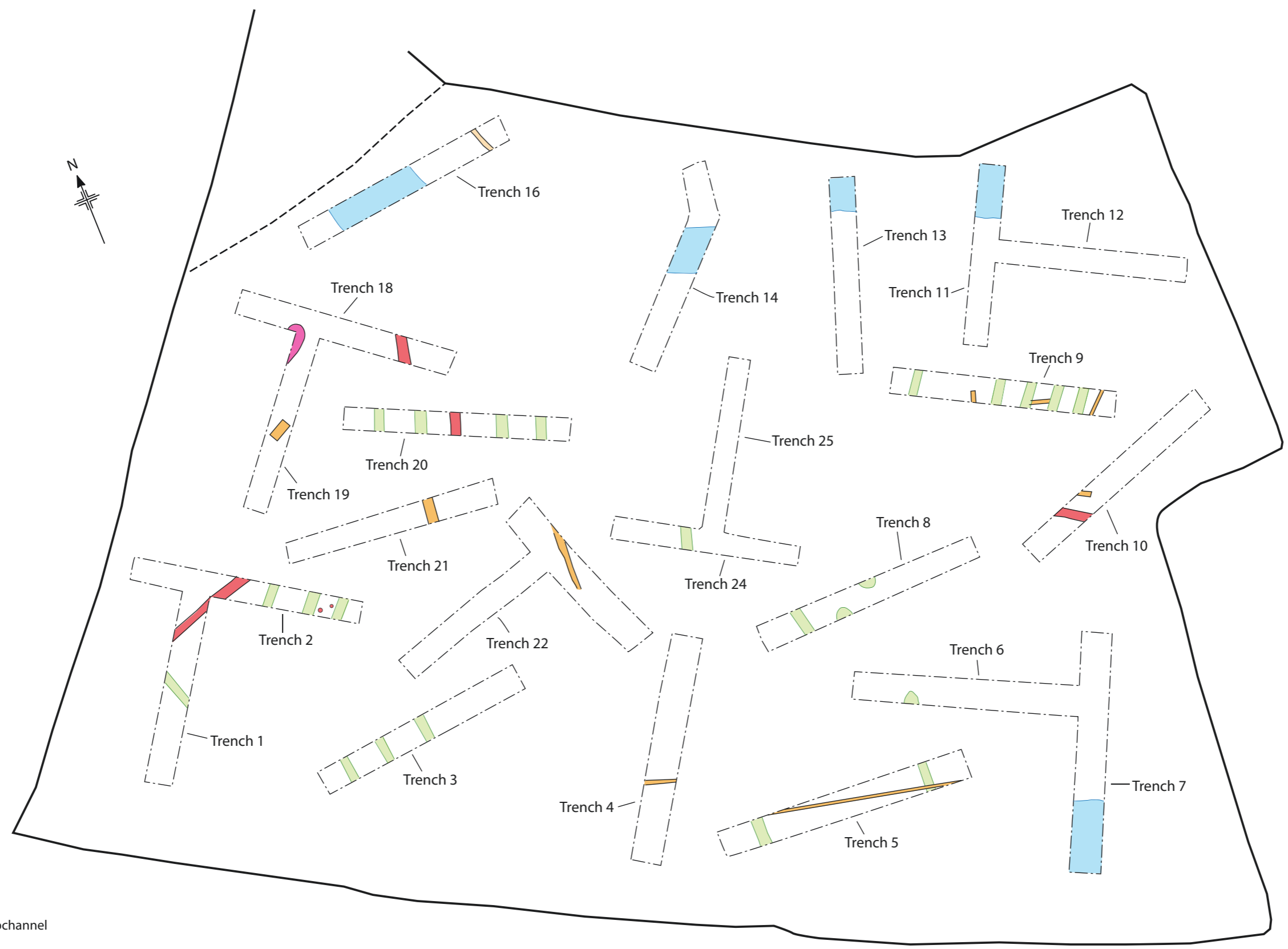
Plate 8: Looking south over Trench 27. External farmhouse wall in foreground



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Worcestershire County Council LA09073L. For reference purposes only. No further copies may be made.

Location of the site.

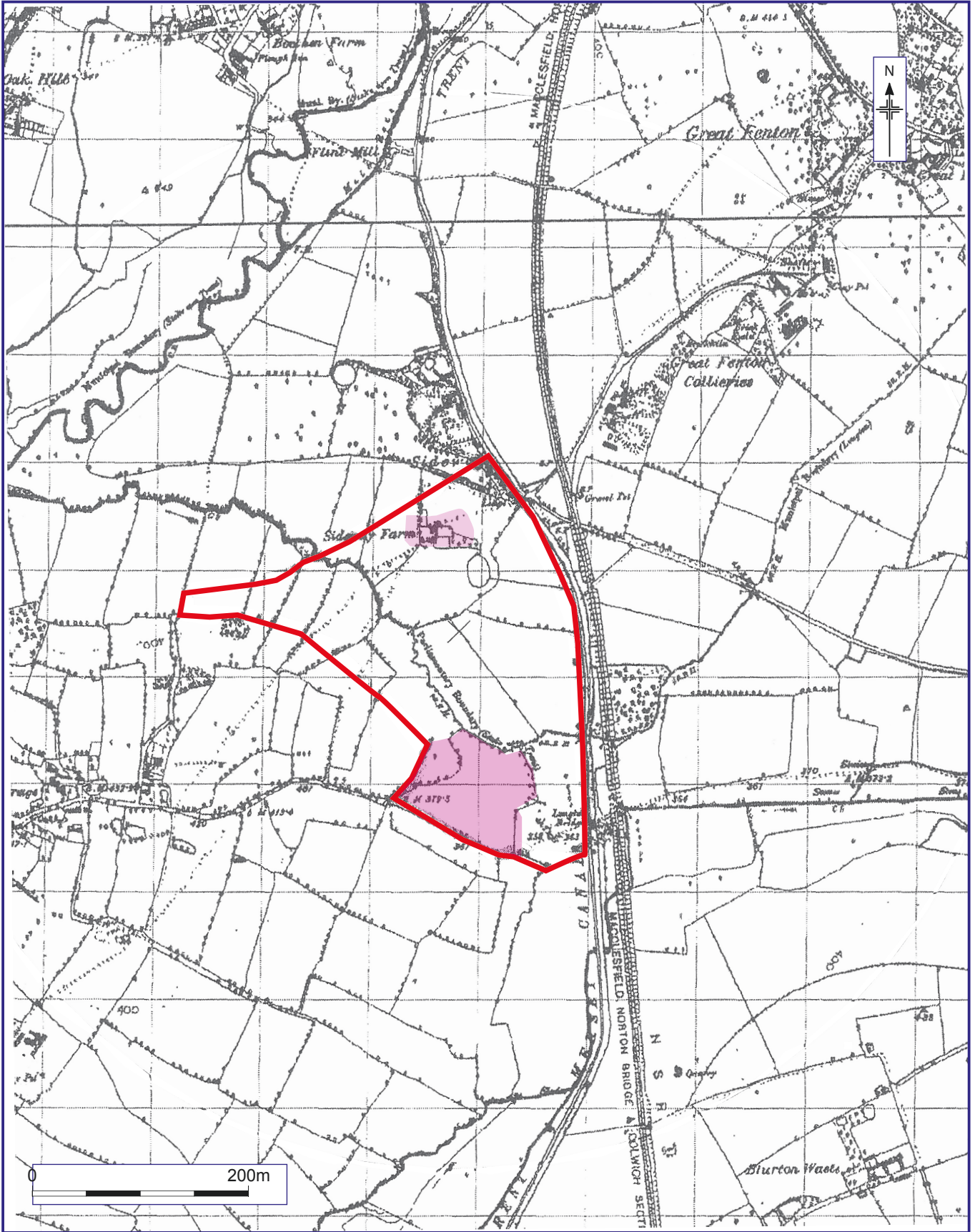
Figure 1



- KEY
- palaeochannel
 - ridge and furrow
 - field boundary
 - other feature



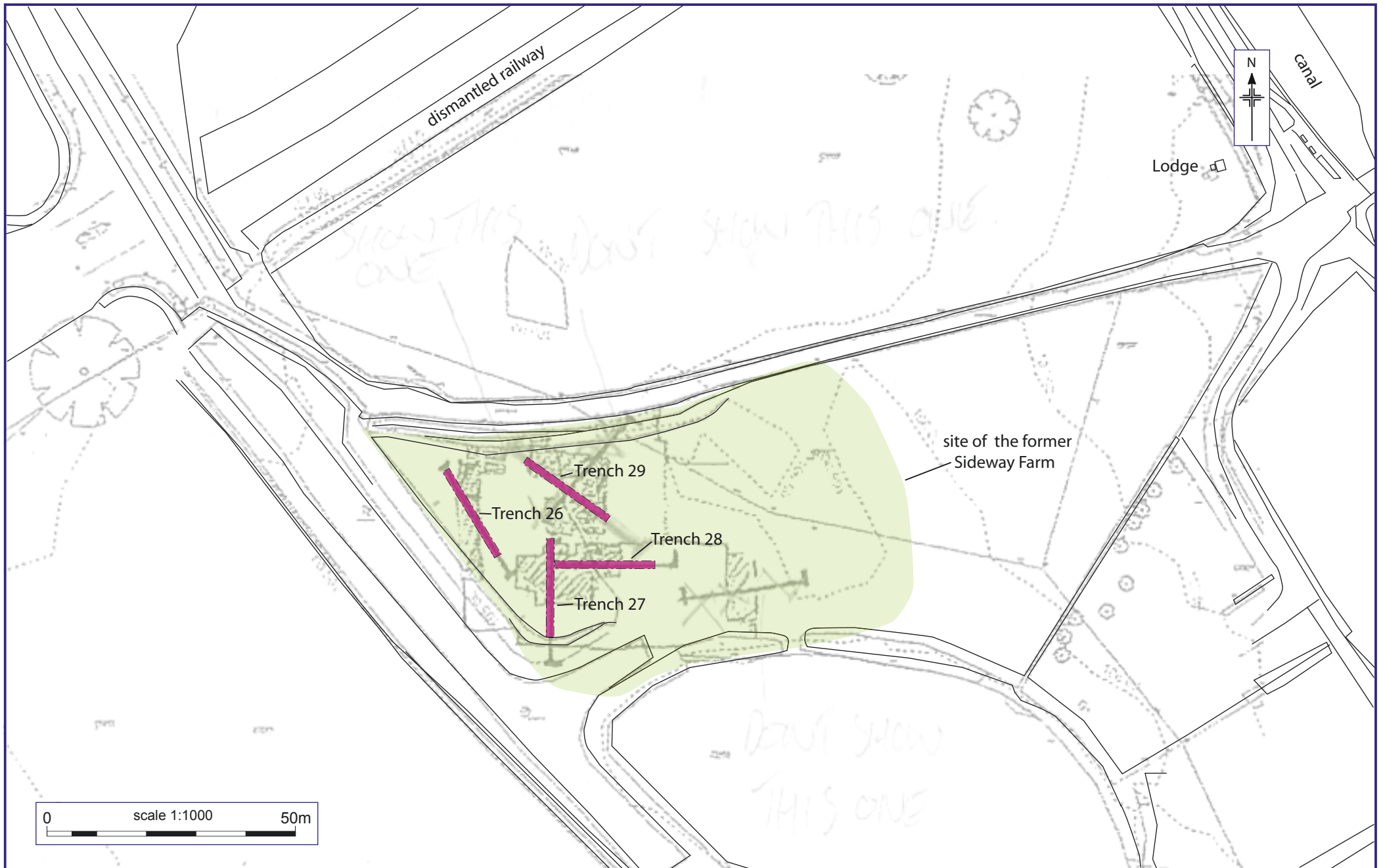
Trench Plan; southern part of site



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Worcestershire County Council LA09073L. For reference purposes only. No further copies may be made.

Extract from 1890 Ordnance Survey map

Figure 3



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Worcestershire County Council 100015914. For reference purposes only. No further copies may be made.

Location of trenches 26 to 29; northern site

Figure 4