

EVALUATION
AT
OLD WHARF COTTAGE/GLENHURST,
NEW STREET, LEDBURY,
HEREFORDSHIRE

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Report 1148
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Evaluation at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire

Anna Deeks

Part 1 Project summary

An evaluation was undertaken on a development site at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury (NGR SO 3690 7030). The project was undertaken on behalf of Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd, who intend to demolish existing buildings and redevelop the land, for which a planning application has been submitted to the County of Herefordshire District Council. A possible moat had been identified to the south of the site during a desk based assessment completed prior to the commencement of the evaluation project. The evaluation aimed to establish whether any archaeological remains were present on the site, including the extent of any remains associated with the canal and subsequent railway line which ran north – south along the western boundary of the site

A total of three trenches were machine excavated comprising a sample of approximately 3% of the overall site. The structural remains of a building were revealed in the western extent of the site. The orientation and location of these remains indicate that they represent a building which ran along the eastern side of the railway line, first noted within mapped sources on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1886. The evaluation did not reveal any evidence of the potential moat identified to the south by the desk-based assessment, furthermore no archaeological remains of significance were discovered.

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury (NGR SO 3690 7030 Fig.1), on behalf of Westbury Homes (Holdings) Ltd. Westbury Homes intend to demolish all existing buildings on the site and redevelop the land with new housing, and has submitted a planning application to the County of Herefordshire District Council (reference NE/2003/0081/F), who consider that a site of archaeological interest may be affected.

1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999). A formal brief was not issued for this project. A project proposal was submitted by Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service (AS 2003) in response to a written request from the Herefordshire Planning Archaeologist, and this was accepted on 13th March 2003.

1.3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to locate any *in situ* remains of features and/or structures associated with the canal wharf and subsequent railway, which ran along the western boundary of the proposed development. In addition trenches were located with the purpose of investigating whether a possible moat identified immediately south of the site actually impinged on the site of the development.

2. Methods

2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a desk based assessment was completed by Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service (Goat 2003). The archaeological sites registered with the Herefordshire Council SMR within 500m of the study area are summarised below in Table 1 (Fig. 2).

Table 1 Sites registered with the SMR. See also Figure 2

SMR reference/status	OS grid reference	Site name/description	Period
HSM 5299	SO 7000 3600	Finds from field walking	Prehistoric, Roman and medieval
HSM 5300	SO 7000 3600	Finds from field walking	Prehistoric and medieval
HSM 5043	SO 7034 3643	Hazle Farm	Post-medieval
HSM 5044	SO 7040 3637	Timber-framed barn, Hazle Farm	Post-medieval

Table 1 Sites registered with the SMR. See also Figure 2 (continued)

SMR reference/status	OS grid reference	Site name/description	Period
HSM 16608	SO 7075 3865	Ledbury-Gloucester railway	Post-medieval
HSM 18240	SO 6000 4000	Hereford and Gloucester canal	Post-medieval
HSM 21759	SO 7020 3680	Moat in Moat Meadow, believed to lie under Ledbury bypass	Medieval
HSM 24532	SO 7040 3715	Civil War mass grave, Gasworks Lane	Post-medieval
HSM 30714	SO 7020 3680	Wharf House, Hereford-Gloucester Canal	Post-medieval

A full list of sources and repositories consulted for this assessment is contained in the document.

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification had been prepared by the Service (AS 2003). As a result of the desk based assessment trenches were located to the west of the site to establish the nature of remains relating to the canal wharf and railway and to the south of the site to investigate the presence and nature of a potential moat. The fieldwork was undertaken between 17th and 19th March 2003.

A total of three trenches were machine excavated amounting to 88m² in area. This area, within the total site area of approximately 2.72h, represented a sample of 3.2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 9.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked/wheeled excavator, 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, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (AS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

Access to the land to the west of Glenhurst was not available, however this area in addition to the land surrounding the two properties was also subjected to a rapid field walk in order to identify any earthworks or residual archaeological finds.

A temporary bench mark (TMB) was established using a local bench mark on church gates to the north of the site. The value of the bench mark was 50.40m AoD, and the established value of the site TBM was 47.60m AoD.

2.2.2 Structural analysis

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

2.3 **Artefacts**

2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). A substantial dump of 20th century glass bottles and occasional blue and white transfer print porcelain was revealed at the eastern end of trench 1, and a sample of these artefacts were noted but not recovered from site. All artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits.

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 & Rees 1992).

2.4 **Environment**

2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The excavated deposits were largely of 19th or 20th century date and no deposits were deemed to be appropriate for environmental sampling, and so no samples were taken.

2.5 **Building recording**

There was no formal requirement for building recording within this evaluation. However general external photos of Old Wharf Cottage were taken with the intention of adding to the understanding of the overall development of the site.

2.6 **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**

Ledbury lies on sloping ground on the eastern edge of the valley of the River Leadon at a height of between 60m and 85m AoD. The soils of the Bromyard association, are overlying Devonian Raglan Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey 1:250000, sheet 52° N – 0.4° W; Barclay et al 1988). They are likely to be neutral to slightly alkaline below the surface.

The results of a desk based assessment indicated that there is little evidence of either prehistoric or Roman activity in the vicinity of the site. Although there is no written or mapped reference to medieval features within the locality of the site, the CSMR does note a moat located south of the current redevelopment. An angular U shaped feature evident on the Ledbury tithe map of 1813 may be the remains of such a feature (Fig. 3 & 4). The naming of adjacent fields as *Moat Meadow* and *Moat Field* would further support this theory as observed in the desk-based study (Goad 2003).

In the post-medieval period the area of the current redevelopment was the site of a wharf of the Hereford to Gloucester canal. The wharf, completed in 1798, is undoubtedly the source of the present-day name of the existing cottage, *Old Wharf Cottage*. The first mapped evidence of the wharf is provided by the 1813 tithe map, showing a bulbous end to the canal within the site of the current redevelopment. The canal initially only reached as far as Ledbury. The wharf terminal remained in existence, with some variations in form until 1832 (Fig. 5), and there is no evidence of any associated buildings during this period of the site (1813-1832). In 1880 the canal was closed and succeeded by the Great Western Railway, a reflection of the general move from canal to rail networks which was taking place across the country at this time. The existing canal and wharf area once decommissioned were in-filled and the new rail line (the Gloucester-Ledbury railway) appears to have been laid close to, if not exactly over, the original line of the canal (Fig. 4 & 6). The railway continued in use until May 1964, after which time it was dismantled and the land incorporated into adjacent properties (Fig.8; Goad 2003).

4. Description

The list of contexts are presented in Appendix 1. The trench location and features recorded are shown in Figures 9 and 10, the structural remains revealed in trench 1 have been overlain onto the 1932 Ordnance Survey map as an indication of the building they seemingly represent (Fig.11).

4.1 Phase 1 - Natural Deposits

Natural deposits were revealed in all trenches at a depth of between 1.14 and 1.58m below ground level, and comprised a compact red/brown sandy clay with varying bands of gravel and degraded siltstone.

4.2 Phase 2 - Late 18th – Mid 20th Century Deposits

Structural remains were revealed in trench 1 at a depth of 1.20 – 1.44m below current ground level (47.29 – 47.47m AoD), sealed by a substantial deposit of compact orange/brown sandy clay with mottles of grey/green clay and occasional gravel and charcoal (103). The remains comprised a red brick feature (105) and associated construction cut (104) running south-west to north-east across the trench, to the west of this a further 'L' shaped red brick feature (108) and associated construction cut (107) ran south-east to north-west at right angles to (105). The remains were both composed of 19th century machine made frogged bricks measuring 9x11x23cm (approximately 3.5x4.5x9inch) mortared with a pale cream sandy lime mortar with ash inclusions, laid in an informal bonding pattern. In addition a course of tiles had been mortared onto the eastern extent of 108 acting as a levelling course. A further red brick and sandstone rubble feature (111) was present overlying the northern corner of 108. The form of this features strongly suggests it represents the remains of a former stair case with stone rubble infill. All structural remains were heavily truncated at their upper levels. The full extent of the structure represented by these features continued both north and south beyond the limit of excavation. The location and apparent date of these structural remains both suggest that they represent the remains of a building associated with the 19th century railway line.

The structural remains 105 and 108 were cut through various deposits; to the west of 108 this comprised a compact silty clay subsoil (117), to the east of 105 a compact marl clay with frequent flecks of charcoal (114). To the north both features were cut through a compact silty grey deposit (112) rich in organic remains including shell, charcoal and rare pottery. This material (112) can almost certainly be interpreted as canal infilling, especially given its high organic content.

In trench 1 a substantial dump of refuse material **101**, within a cut (**121**) running north-south, was located at the western extent of the trench. The material contained frequent 20th century glass bottles and occasional blue and white transfer print porcelain, all of a domestic nature and is most likely associated with the adjacent dwellings, Old Wharf Cottage or Glenhurst.

4.3 **Phase 3 –Mid to Late 20th Century**

Modern layers were present in all trenches. In trench 1 this phase comprised a compact black/brown silty sand containing occasional gravel, clinker and rare iron objects **102**, which was present directly below topsoil **100** in the eastern half of the trench. This deposit acted as a levelling/consolidation layer for 20th century landscaping which resulted in a terrace in this part of the garden. Although this terracing had clearly been enhanced as a garden landscape feature it may reflect a rise in ground levels as a result of the railway embankment which would have affected this part of the site. In both trenches 2 and 3 a substantial deposit of made ground, **201** and **301** respectively, containing brick rubble and clinker was present directly below topsoil and above the subsoil. These layers can be interpreted as landscaping activity associated with the latter phases of occupation on this site, (i.e 20th century).

5. **Artefactual evidence**

5.1 **Results of analysis**

The assemblage came from two contexts, and consisted entirely of modern stone china (fabric 85), two sherds (27g) coming from context 112 and four (206g) from 101. Although the material was not very abraded, none of the sherds rejoined, and it seems probable that they were all from different vessels. Both contexts, therefore, have a *TPQ* date of 19th century. The assemblage was too small to draw many conclusions. The artefacts were not unusual for the area, and were consistent with the date of the construction of the railway line and associated building.

6. **Discussion**

6.1 **Late 18th – Mid 20th Century**

Canal

A deposit of organic rich material identified in the base of trench 1 (**112**) can be interpreted as probable canal infilling, which took place immediately prior to the construction of the railway line circa 1880. There were no extant structural remains which represented either the canal itself or associated structures.

Railway

The structural remains (**105 1108 111**) revealed in trench 1 (Fig. 10) can be identified as a long rectangular building first shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1886. The alignment and location of the remains strongly supports this interpretation as the overlay of site plans onto the 1886 edition Ordnance Survey further illustrates (Fig. 11). The foundations of this structure cut through several deposits, most notably the canal infilling **112** to the north, this confirms that the building was constructed following the decommissioning of the canal. This chronology also correspond with that indicated by mapped sources, which indicates that the railway line, its embankment and the associated buildings were constructed directly over the line of the former canal and wharf.

The building represented by contexts **105, 108** and **111** was still clearly visible on the 1932 Ordnance Survey map, but had been removed by the 1971 Edition. Presumably the building

was demolished shortly after the closure and removal of the railway line in 1964. The existing structural remains **105** and **108** only represent the lower levels or footings of the building. The rectangular structure overlying the northern corner of **108**, **111** appears to be the remains of a staircase, with a single extant step represented by the bricks on the eastern side of the feature. All upper extents having been intentionally removed and the area in-filled by compact clay dumping (**103**).

A refuse dump (**101**) located at the eastern extent of trench 1 is of a domestic nature and may be associated with either, Old Wharf Cottage, Glenhurst or the building remains identified within trench 1 all of which were present from 1886.

6.2 Mid to Late 20th Century

The modern remains revealed in trenches 1, 2 and 3 are all related to the 20th century landscaping of the garden associated with Old Wharf Cottage and may date to the period of the buildings extension between 1971 and 1987.

7. Significance

None of the archaeological remains revealed during the evaluation were considered to be of any great significance.

8. 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 evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Westbury Homes at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire (NGR SO 3690 7030; HSM 33736). The evaluation revealed remains of a 19th century building constructed in association with the Ledbury to Gloucester railway in the 1880s. The infill of the late 18th century canal was located and this was the earliest feature discovered on the site. The evaluation trenches did not locate any remains, either artefactual or structural of periods pre-dating the late 18th century.

9. The archive

The archive consists of:

- 6 Trench Records AS41
- 3 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 2 Colour transparency film
- 2 Black and white photographic films
- 1 Matrix sheets AS7
- 4 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Hereford City Museum

Broad Street

Hereford

10. Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project, Jon Kirby and John Offer (of Westbury Homes) and Julian Cotton (Herefordshire Planning Archaeologist).

11. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparations were led by Anna Deeks. The artefactual evidence and analysis was contributed by Erica Darch. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst. Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Deeks and Marc Steinmetzer, finds analysis by Erica. B. Darch, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

12. Bibliography

AS, 2003 *Proposal for an archaeological Evaluation at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire*. Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 11th March 2003. **P2360**

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

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

13. Abbreviations

HSM	Numbers prefixed with HSM are the primary reference numbers used by the Herefordshire County Sites and Monuments Record.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width 1.60m Depth: 1.10-1.65m

Orientation: East- West

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Compact mid brown fine soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal.	0.00 to 0.10-0.70m
101	Domestic dump	Fairly compact grey black ashy silt with frequent clinker, glass bottles and occasional transfer print porcelain (60-70%)	0.10-0.48m
102	Consolidation material	Compact black/brown silty sand with occasional gravel, rubble and clinker (10%) with rare Fe. objects (1%)	0.10-0.30m
103	Made Ground	Compact orange/brown with mottled grey green sandy clay. Contains occasional gravel (5%) and charcoal (2%)	Top at 0.15-0.30 to bottom at 1.20-1.35m
104	Construction cut	Cut running NE-SW, cutting 114 to east and 112 to north. Filled by 105 and 106	Top at 0.80m b.g.s
105	Brick foundations	Red machine made brick foundations of wall running NE-SW. Truncated at upper levels and at NW face	Top at 1.30 b.g.s.
106	Foundation Packing	Compact degraded sandstone and rubble backfilling construction cut 104. Abuts 105	Top at 1.30 b.g.s
107	Construction cut	Cut running NE-SW cutting 113 and 117 to west and 112 to north. Filled by 108 and 109	Top at 1.20 b.g.s
108	Brick foundations	Red machine made red brick 'L' shaped foundations running NE-SW and SE-NW. Truncated at upper levels and overlain by 111.	Top at 1.44m b.g.s

Main deposit description (continued)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
109	Foundation packing	Sandstone blocks and silty sand backfill abutting west of 108	Top at 1.20m b.g.s
110	Foundation packing	Compact red clay layer abutting S side of 108.	Top at 1.20m b.g.s
111	Brickwork and sandstone structure	Rectangular structure measuring 1.65 x 1.00 m composed of brick and sandstone blocks. Form suggests it represents remains of stairs	Top at 1.35m b.g.s
112	Refuse dump	Compact grey/brown silty sand with frequent charcoal and shell (15%), rubble (10%) and rare ceramic (1%) inclusions. Cut by 104 and 107	Top at 1.45m b.g.s
113	Made ground	Compact orange/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks (2-3%) gravel (1%) and occasional rubble – especially to W.	Top at 0.25-0.30 – bottom at 1.10-1.45m
114	Layer	Compact red/brown and grey/green silty clay with charcoal flecks (2%).	0.10-0.28m
115	Layer	Compact red/brown made ground with occasional charcoal, clinker and rubble (5%)	0.28-0.66m
116	Layer	Compact orange/brown silty clay subsoil with rare flecks of charcoal (1-2%). Present at E extent of trench	0.66 – 1.40m
117	Layer	Compact orange/brown silty clay subsoil with rare flecks of charcoal (1-2%). Present at W extent of trench	1.40 – 1.58m
118	Natural	Compact red/brown sandy clay with mottles of grey/green degraded siltstone	1.58m (At eastern end of trench only)
119	Consolidation deposit	Compact orange/brown mottled clay with occasional shell, charcoal and clinker inclusions. Consolidation layer abutting S side of 108, probable internal floor packing	1.20m b.g.s
120	Foundation packing	Compact red clay layer abutting W side of 105.	1.20m b.g.s
121	Cut	Running north-south at east end of trench. Filled by 101	1.20m b.g.s

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15.00m Width 1.60m Depth: 1.44m

Orientation: North-South

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Compact mid brown fine soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal.	0.00-0.13m
201	Made ground	Composed of orange sand, brown silty sand, clinker and general rubble	0.13-0.67m
202	Subsoil	Compact orange/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (2-3%) coal (1%) and gravel (1%)	0.67-1.44m
203	Natural	Compact red/brown sandy clay with varying amounts of gravel	1.44m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width 1.60m Depth: 1.14m

Orientation: East-West

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Compact mid brown fine soft sandy silt with frequent root action and worm sorting. Contains occasional medium flecks of charcoal.	0.00-0.27m
301	Made ground	Composed of orange sand, brown silty sand, clinker and general rubble. At eastern extent includes layer of road stone and brick rubble	0.27-0.87m
302	Subsoil	Compact orange/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (2-3%) coal (1%) and gravel (1%)	0.87m-1.14m
303	Natural	Compact red/brown sandy clay with varying amounts of gravel	1.14m

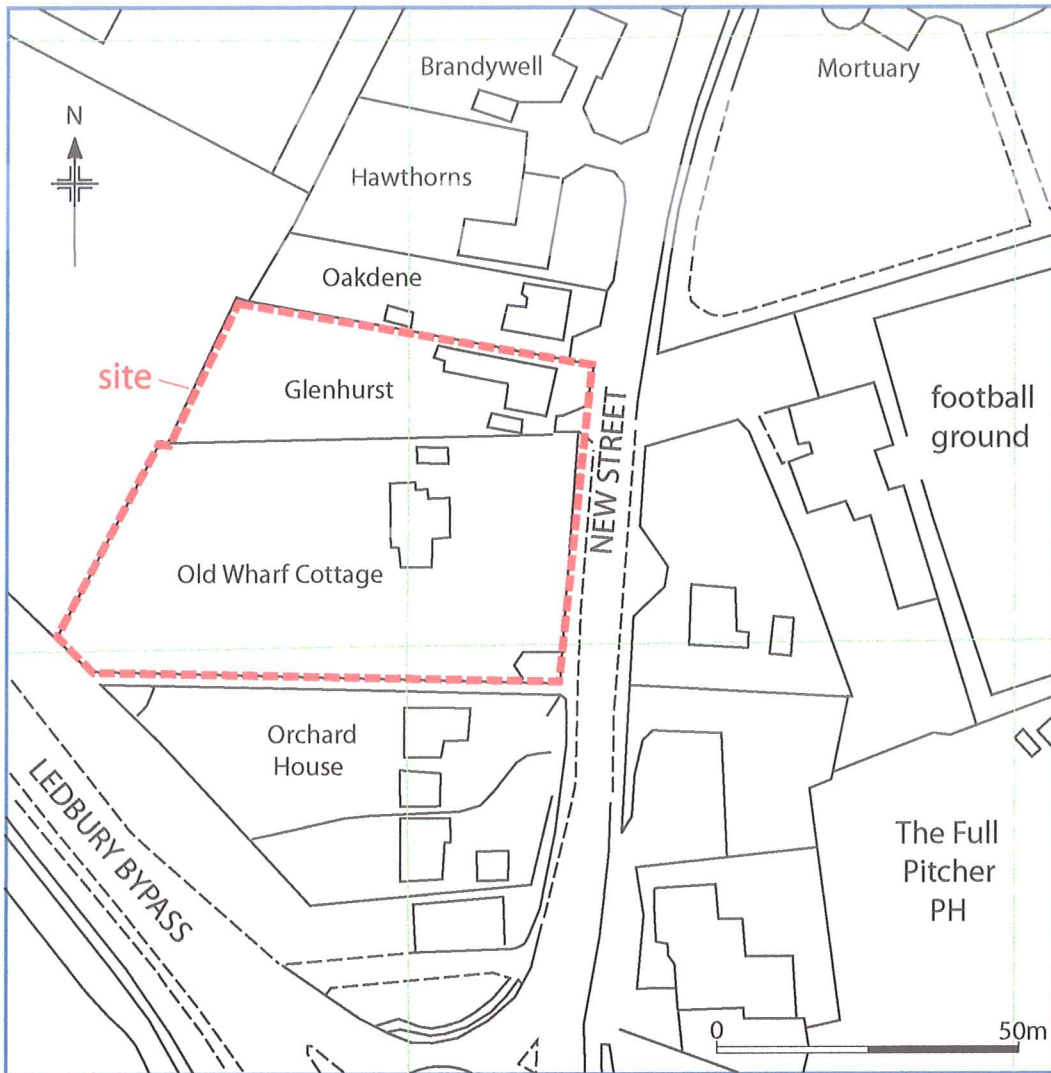
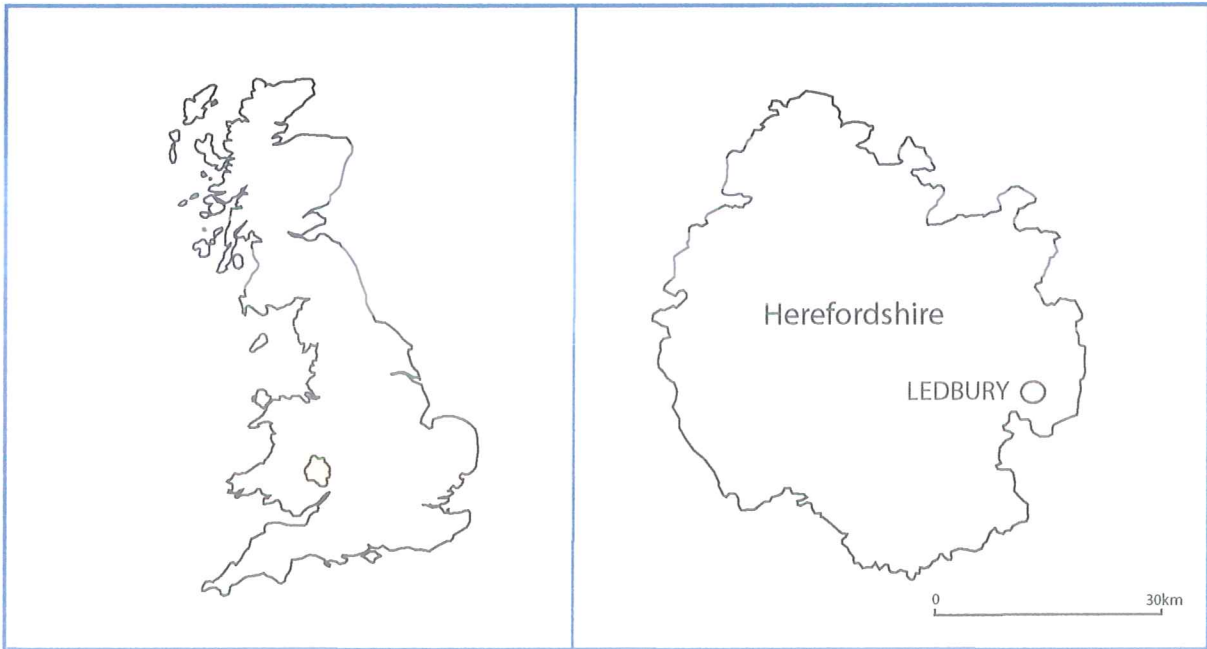
Appendix 2

Information for Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record

Report Name and Title	Evaluation at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury	
Contractors Name and Address	Worcestershire Archaeological Service, Woodbury Hall, University College Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ	
Site Name	Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Eldbury, Herefordshire	
Grid Reference	SO 3690 7030	Planning Application Number NE/2003/0081
SMR number/s of site	HSM 33736	
Date of Field Work	17 th – 19 th March 2003	
Date of Report	30 th April 2003	
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FINDS	
Pottery	Period	Number of sherds
	N/A	
Other	Period	Quantity
	N/A	
	NUMBER AND TYPE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED	
Sieving for charred plant remains	No of Features sampled N/A No of buckets N/A	
C14/scientific dates	No and Type N/A Result N/A	
Pollen	No of Columns/spot samples N/A Name of pollen specialist N/A	
Bone	Number of buckets sieved for bone N/A <i>Quantity Recovered</i> <i>Period</i>	
Insect	No of Columns/spot samples N/A Name of pollen specialist N/A	
Other	Type and specialist N/A	
Summary of the report	An evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Westbury Homes at Old Wharf Cottage/Glenhurst, New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire (NGR SO 3690 7030; HSM33736). The evaluation revealed remains of a 19 th century building constructed in association with the Ledbury to Gloucester railway in the 1880s. The exact function of this building was not evident from the extant remains, however it seems likely to have served as either a storage or maintenance building. The evaluation trenches did not locate any remains, either artefactual or structural of periods pre-dating the late 18 th century	

Appendix 3

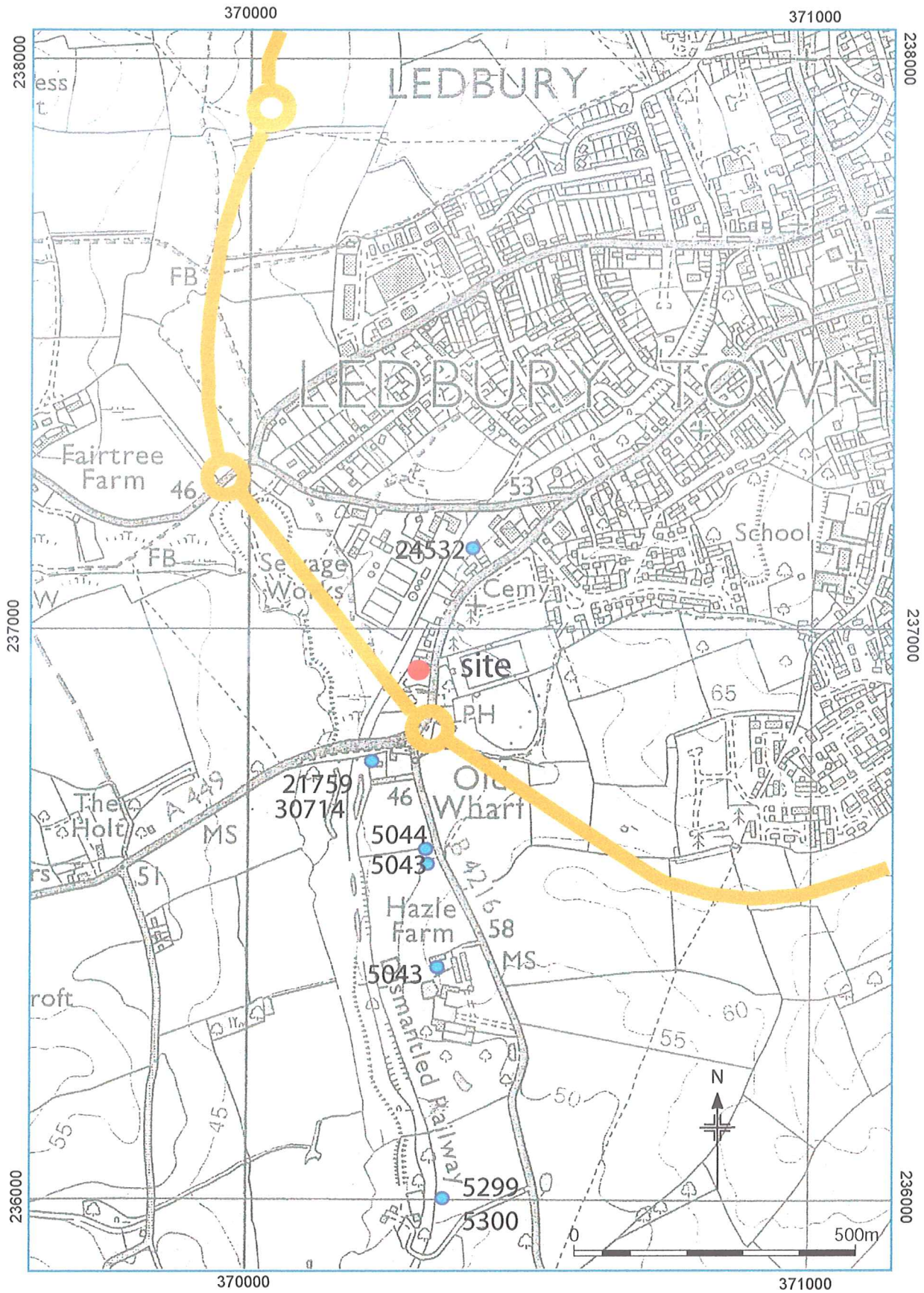
Proposal



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Location of the site.

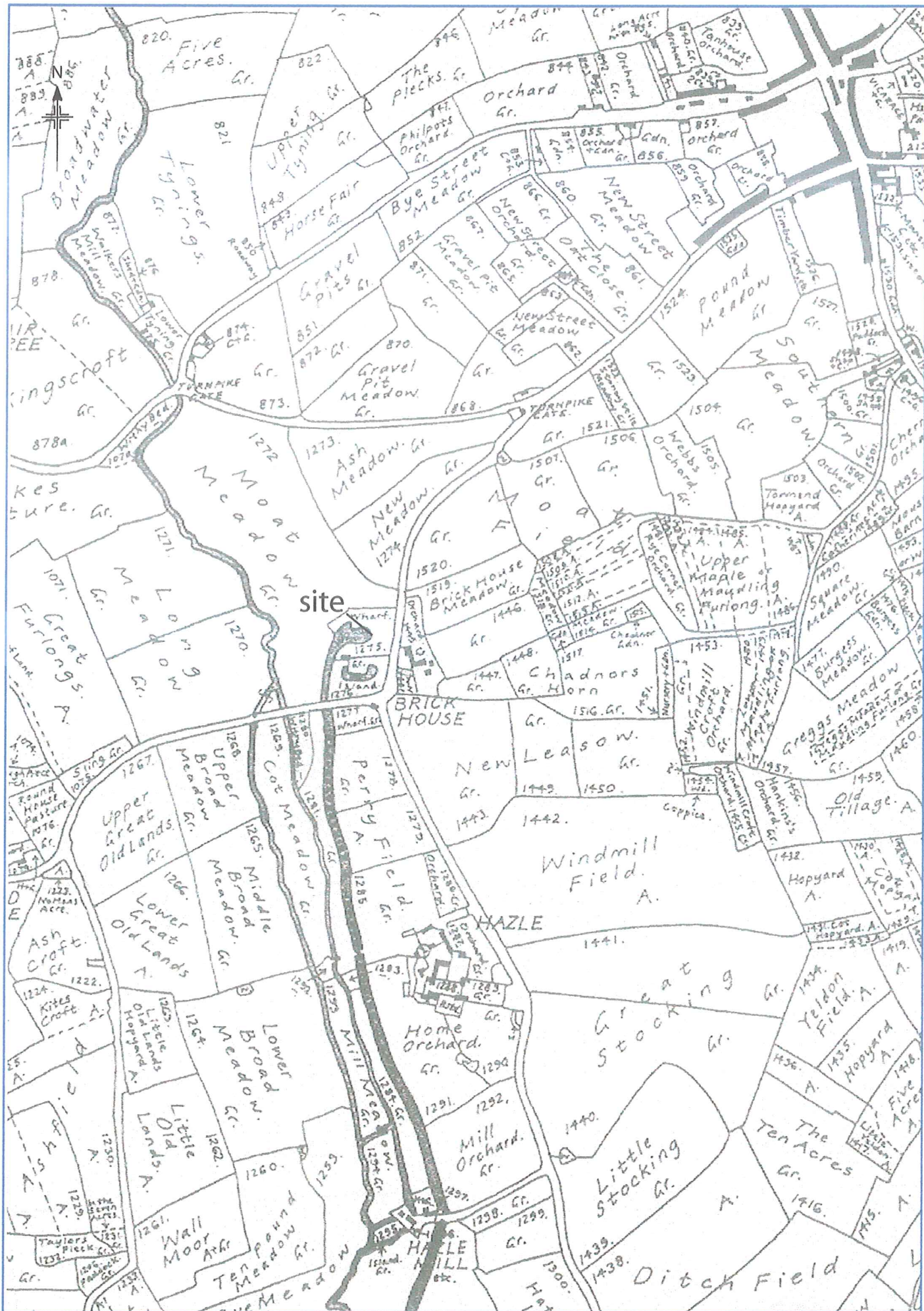
Figure 1



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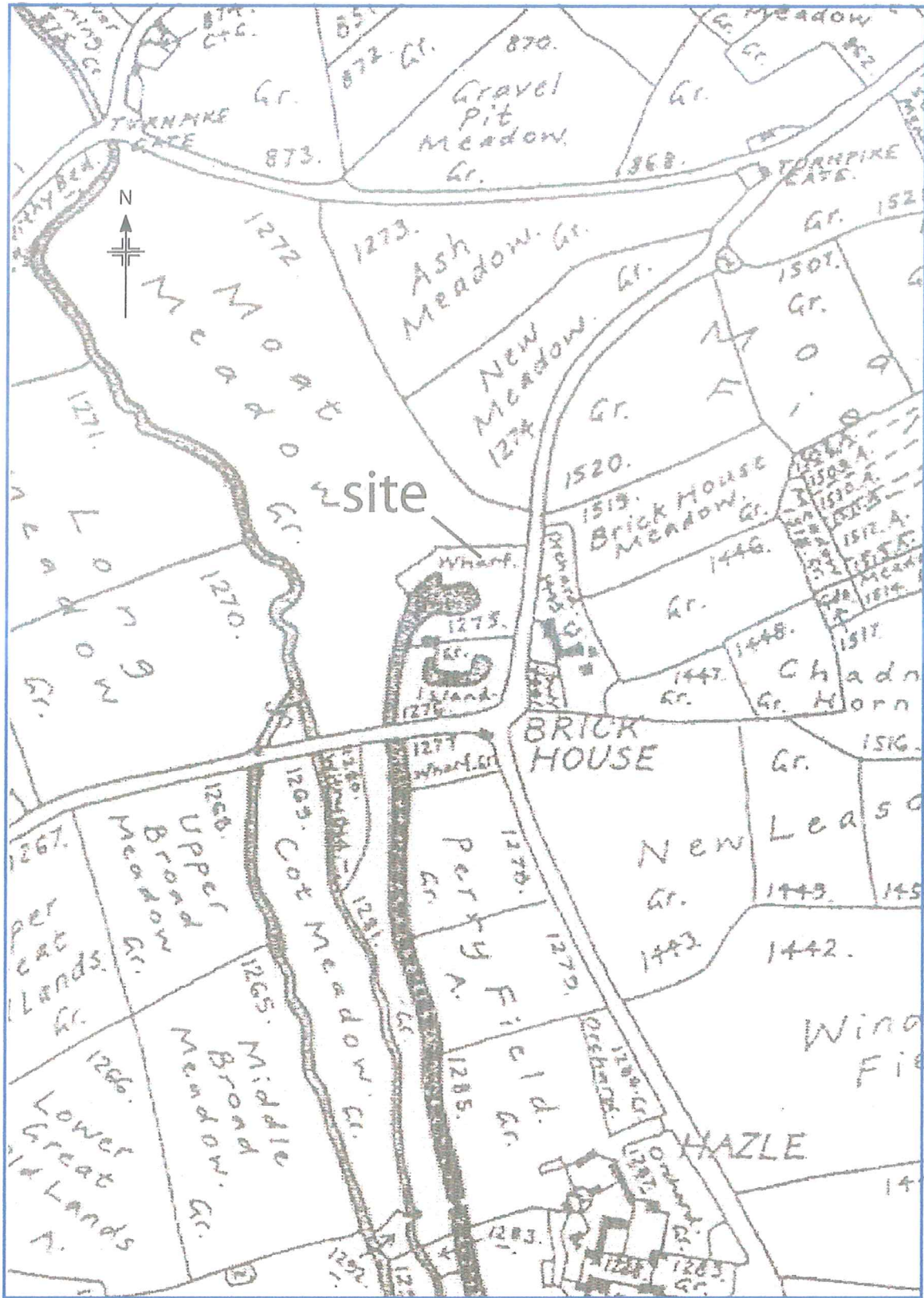
Figure 2

Sites in the vicinity.



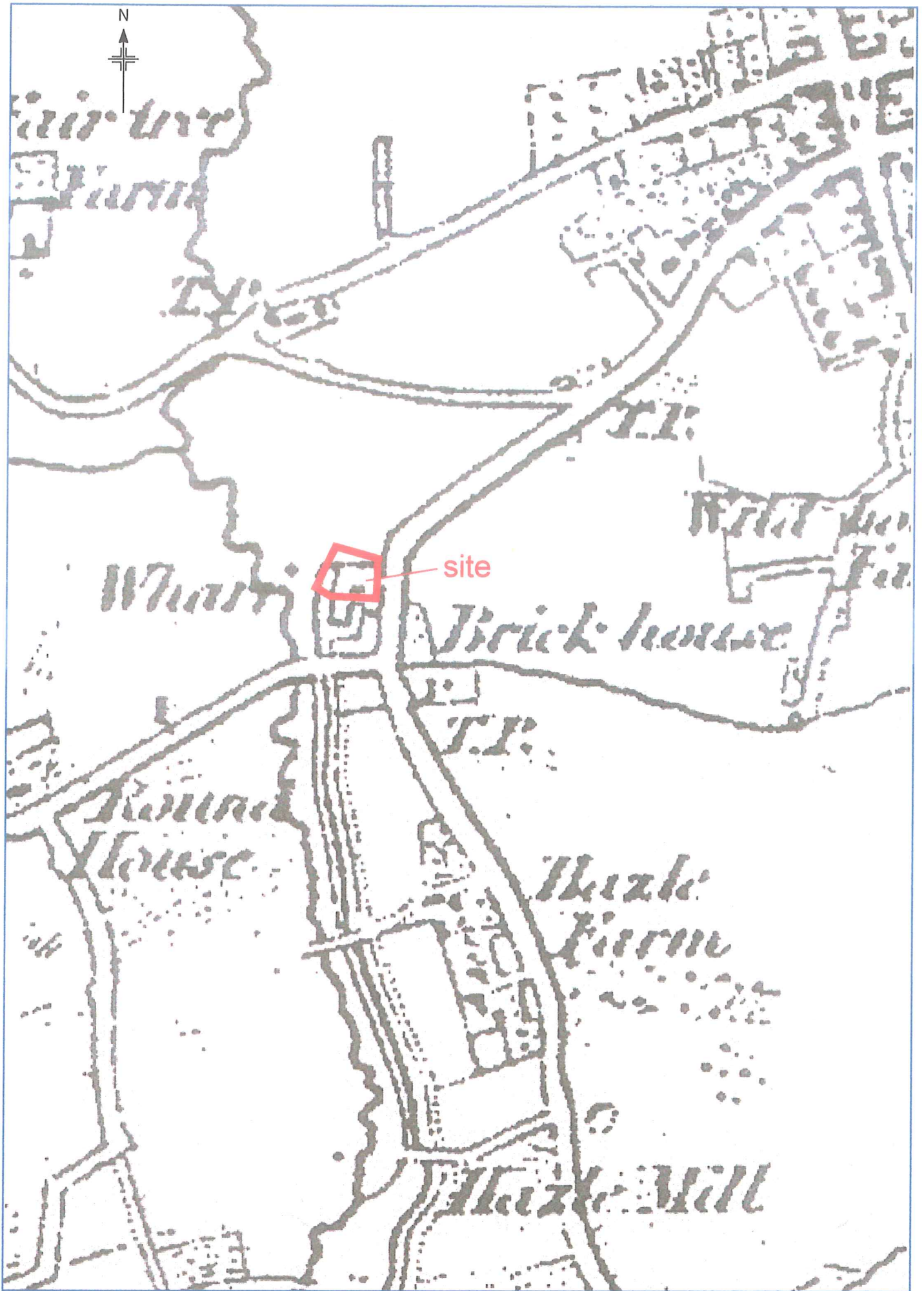
Extract from Tithe map.

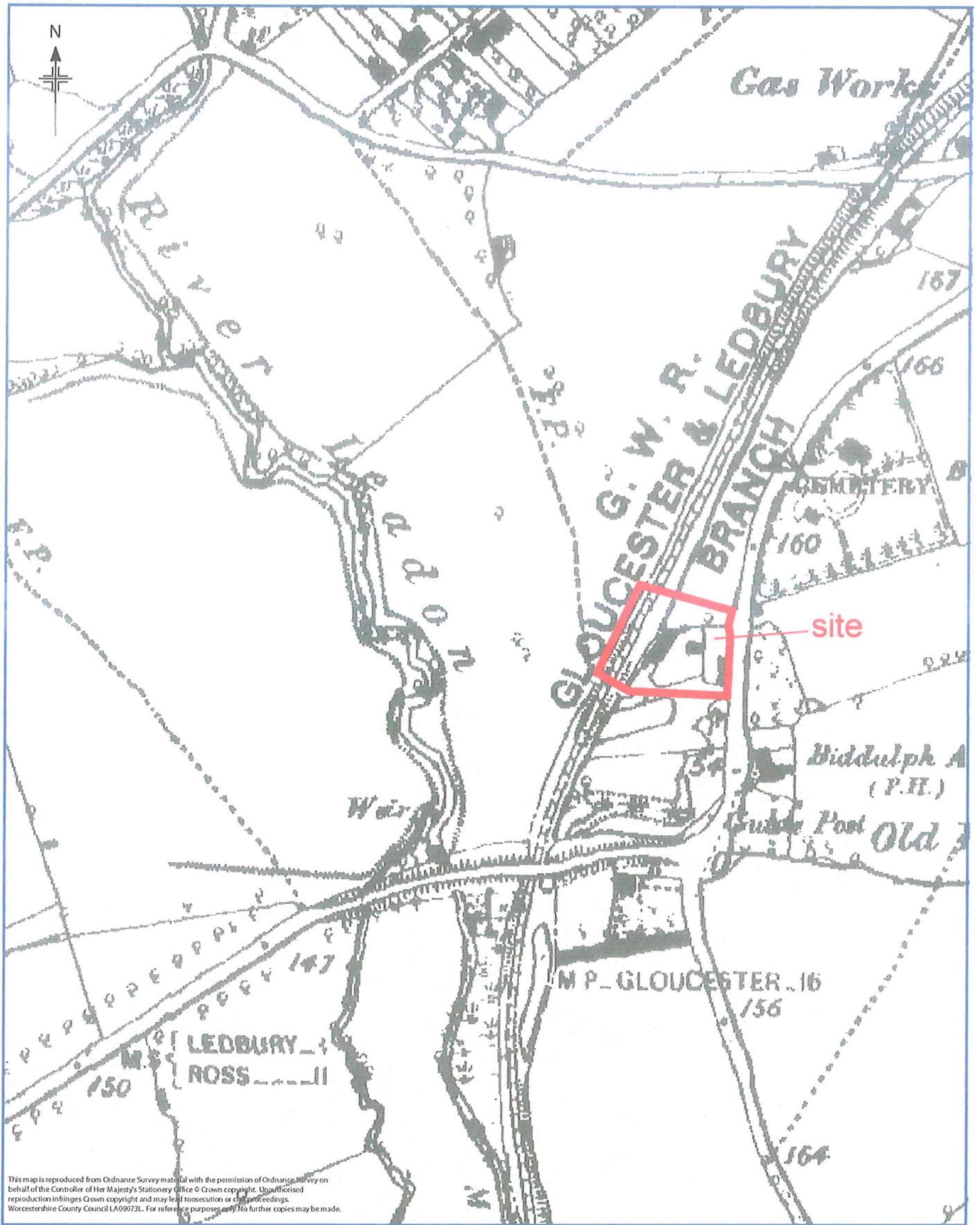
Figure 3



Detail of Tithe Map (approximate scale 1:5000)

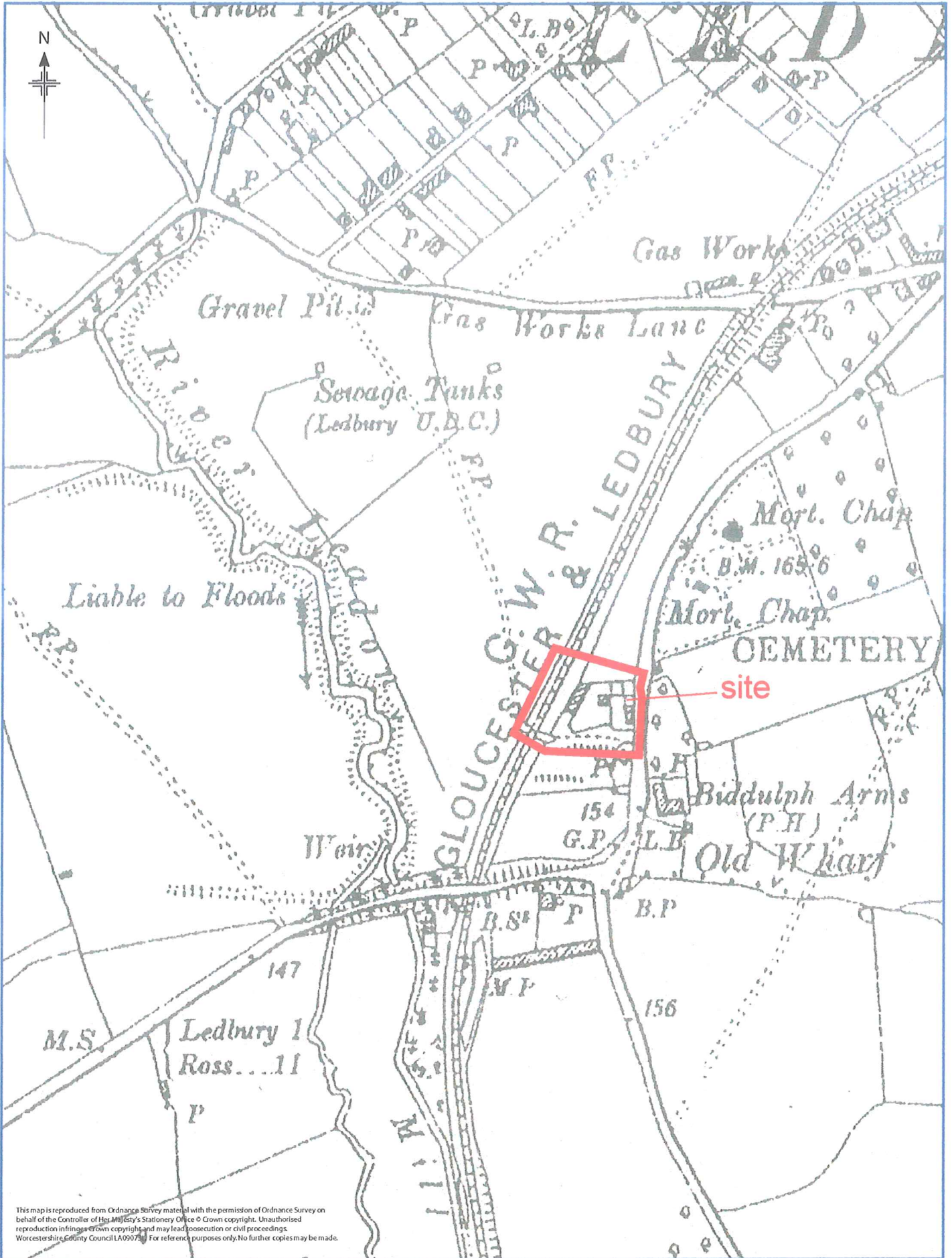
Figure 4





Extract from 1886 Ordnance Survey map showing remnants of moat and GWR railway along former line of canal.

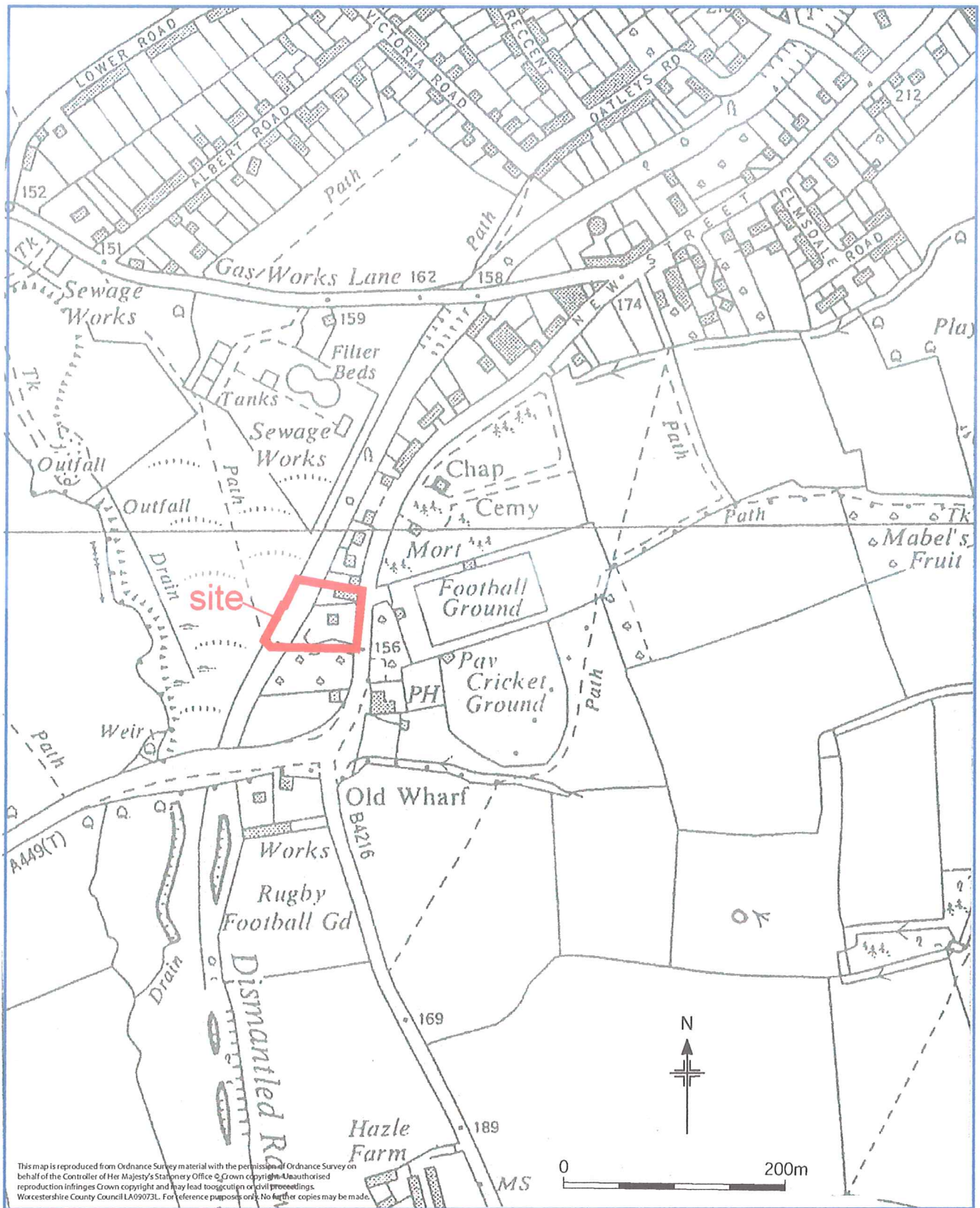
Figure 6



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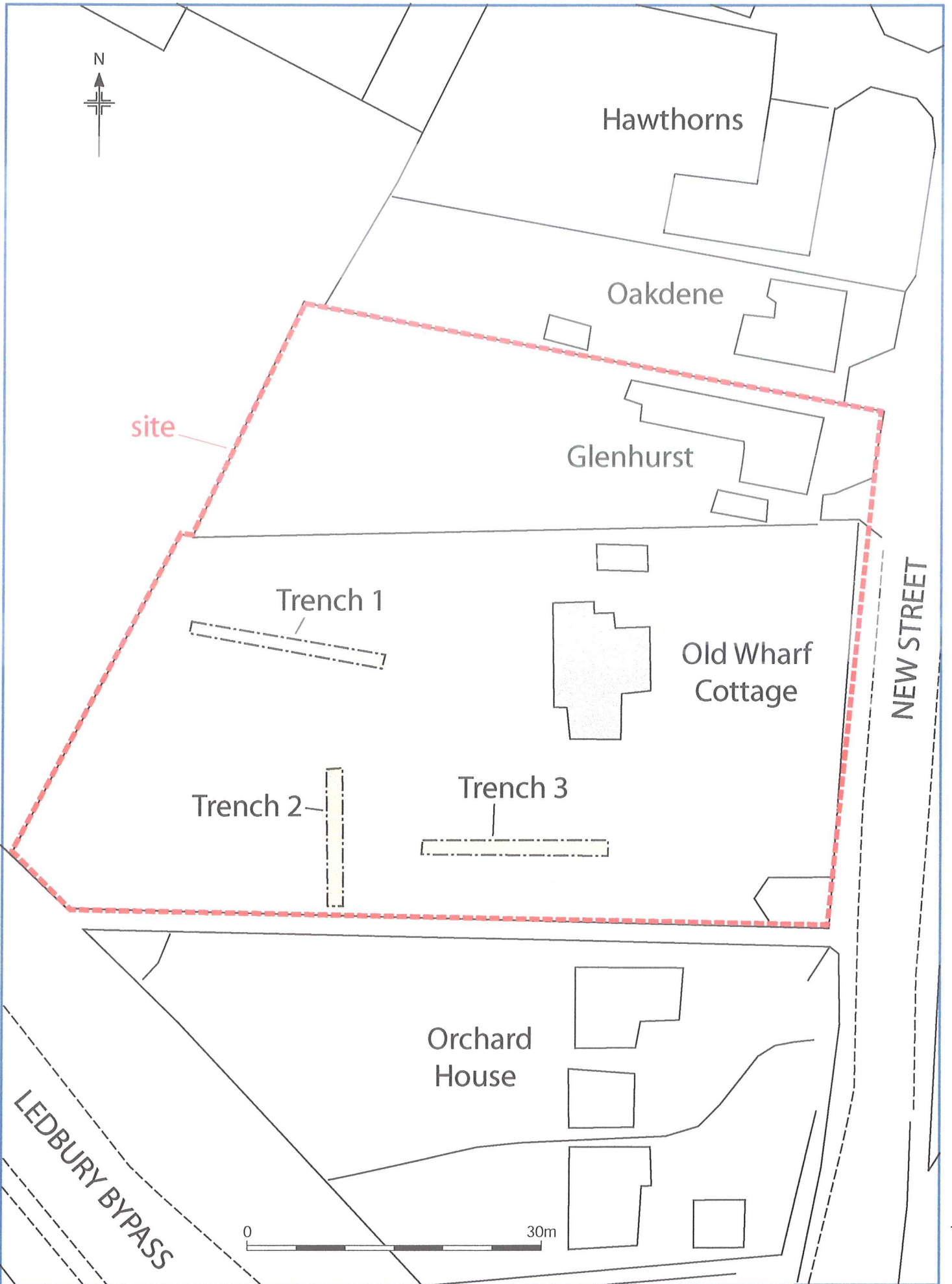
Extract from 1932 Ordnance Survey map.

Figure 7



Extract from 1971 Ordnance Survey map.

Figure 8



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Trench location plan.

Figure 9