



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
ON LAND AT BARRELS PITCH, CIDERMILL LANE
CHIPPING CAMPDEN,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
NGR SP 1537 3952

On behalf of
CgMs Consulting

MARCH 2014

REPORT FOR CgMs Consulting
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FIELDWORK 11th March 2014

REPORT ISSUED 17th March 2014

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Site Code CCAL14
JMHS Project No: 3003
Archive Location The archive is currently held at JMHS and will be deposited in due course at the appropriate museum.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services which identified five tree-planting pits and a ditch. Four of the pits and the ditch are of unknown date, while the fifth tree-planting pit is later than the early 16th century. The area in which they were present was an orchard in the 19th century, but the pits are potentially older.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The proposal site is located north of Cidermill Lane and east of Aston Road at the northeast end of Chipping Campden (415370 239525 centred). The geology is on the junction of the Marlstone Rock Formation and the underlying Dyrham Formation at approximately 148m AOD. It is presently in use as a car park.

1.2 Planning Background

Redevelopment of land is proposed at Barrels Pitch Car Park, Cidermill Lane, Chipping Campden. The applicant, Leysbourne Homes, have been in consultation with Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Archaeologist, and it has been deemed appropriate to prepare a programme of archaeological works as part of the pre-application process. CgMs Consulting commissioned John Moore Heritage services to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation, which was agreed with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Service who issued a brief for the work, and to carry out the fieldwork and preparation of this report.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site was located at the northeast end of the historic settlement of Chipping Campden, due north of the listed building and associated earthworks of the scheduled monument of Campden House (HER 2758). It was within an area defined as part of the medieval development of the town.

There have been a small number of archaeological interventions in Chipping Campden. A radius of 500m around the site defines the extent examined. Approximately 500m to the north of the proposal site combined desk-based assessment and geophysical survey identified the possibility of anomalies representing archaeological remains, although it is not clear whether these are the same features represented by cropmarks (HER 45739 & HER 45740); c. 250m northeast of the proposal site within the Chipping Campden School grounds geophysical survey detected some further weak anomalies as well as ridge and furrow (HER 33544); similarly, desk-based assessment and survey (HER 44358 & HER 44789) was carried out c. 500m to the southeast where desk-based assessment identified a low potential, although geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies with potential; subsequent evaluation (HER 46532) identified late Iron Age and undated remains.

A watching brief (HER 22317) was carried out an adjacent site, c 300m southeast of the proposal area, which failed to reveal archaeological remains; approximately 100m

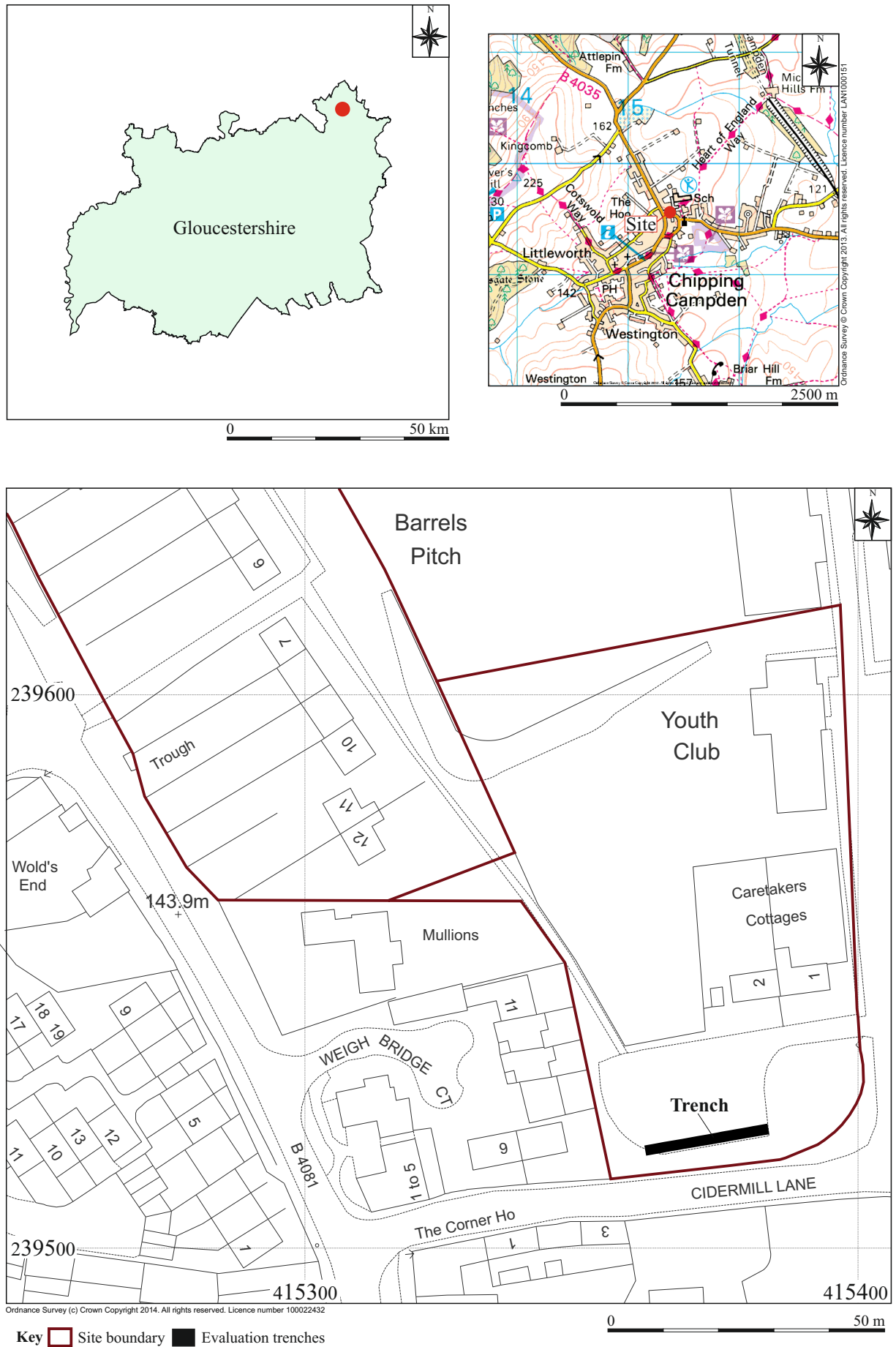


Figure 1: Site location

due south of the site within the Sir Baptist Hicks Almshouses work yielded extensive post-medieval remains, including walls, postholes, surfaces and rubbish pits (HER 41194); on an adjacent site (HER 21487) Gloucester County Council Archaeology Service identified two post-medieval pits during a watching brief. Further watching briefs were carried out to the south (HER 21836), which failed to identify any archaeological features, although a post-medieval soil horizon was present; an adjacent watching brief (HER 28406) was also negative.

A watching brief carried out at Calf's Close (HER 20561) identified a wall on the 1st Ed Ordnance Survey map. An evaluation at the former Police Station, Calf Lane (HER 21011) revealed deep post-medieval water-logged deposits which may be associated with a pond or similar.

Approximately 100m south of the almshouses, Sir Baptist Hicks' house was investigated during a watching brief (HER 46498) which established that the house was built using burnt stone from the preceding house, as well as a layer post-dating the 12th century and some residual Roman pottery. An evaluation was carried out at Seymour House Hotel, High Street (HER 17234) revealing some evidence for medieval activities and extensive 18th- and 19th-century activity. Subsequently, dendro-dating (HER 42995) on a beam from the building only yielded a broad post-medieval date.

An archaeological evaluation at The Cotswold House Hotel (HER 27569) found two medieval wells and contemporary land-surfaces, as well as a possible wall. Post-medieval remains include culverts and a path.

Approximately 100m to the west at St Govans, Leysbourne (HER 29180) only modern remains were present. Further west at 1 Rolling Stone, (HER 28547) and Rolling Stone Orchard (HER 20566) no archaeological remains were present. To the northwest of the proposal area, west of Aston Road, Cotswold Archaeological Trust identified extensive medieval ridge and furrow and possibly undated roadside quarrying (HER 20082).

At Domesday Earl Hugh held Campden, previously held of Earl Harold, with 15 hides paying geld; there were 6 ploughs in demesne, and 21 ploughs and two mills held by 50 villans and eight bordars; there were also 15 slaves. It was worth £20, £10 less than when Earl Harold held it. Chipping Campden takes its name from 'Chipping' – a market-town or -place; while Campden is believed to mean 'valley of the enclosures'. It took its affix sometime between the 13th and 14th centuries when the town was granted the right to a weekly market; the town and market declined over the course of the 17th century. There is a historical mention of an anchorite, Matilda de Campden, occupying the churchyard in AD 1269 (HER 2768).

The proposal site is on the northeast edge of the medieval town, and only a small amount of post-medieval expansion occurred at the southwest end of High St. There are a number of medieval buildings including the Grade I St James' Church (HER 8354). Stone from St Katherine's Chapel (HER 2766) is believed to have been incorporated into the present medieval Town Hall. Island House (HER 18675) on the High St and Grevel's House (HER 2763) are also examples of buildings which are possibly medieval in origin.

There are extensive remains of post-medieval buildings in the town. Notable examples include Sir Baptist Hicks' Almshouses (HER 2762), as well as various parts of Old Campden House, such as the Grade II* Banqueting House (HER 11179), the old stable (HER 11186) and the North and South Lodges (HER 11190). At the north end of Church St with the junction of Cidermill Lane is a group of 17th to 19th-century buildings including the vicarage (HER 18681) and Leysbourne House (HER 18762).

Map regression indicates that the present site became a car park between 1955 and 1977 (OS 1955, OS 1977), during which time the land to the north changed in use from allotments to housing and recreation area. The use of this land as allotments has been the situation since the latter part of the 19th century (OS 1902). The earliest Ordnance Survey map (OS 1885) indicates the proposal area was wooded, possibly an orchard. Previously, on the 1845 Tithe map the proposal area is shown as Tanners Close, which extended from Aston Road to east of the turn south that Cidermill Lane makes towards the church, where it meets the present Station Road. Tanners Close extended to include much of Barrels Pitch as well as the present school location. No earlier mapping showed the site.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site
- to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered in the context of their immediate historic environment
- to assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits

In particular:

- to establish whether the medieval expansion of Chipping Campden included the land which in the 19th century was an orchard covering the proposal site

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared for CgMs Consulting and agreed with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Service.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

A single trench, oriented east-west, was excavated across the south part of the school car park. This was excavated with a 5-tonne excavator, supplemented by hand-excavation of features.

4 RESULTS (Figures 2, 3, 4 & 5)

4.1 Evaluation

All features were assigned individual context numbers. A general description of the feature fills is given.

The trench was excavated to the natural clay (104) which was between 0.55m and 0.3m (from east to west) below existing ground level at a height between 148.38m AOD and 148.04m AOD (from east to west). Above the clay were deposits associated with the use of the site for car parking (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Trench looking east; putative tree planting pits in foreground, behind machine-bucket

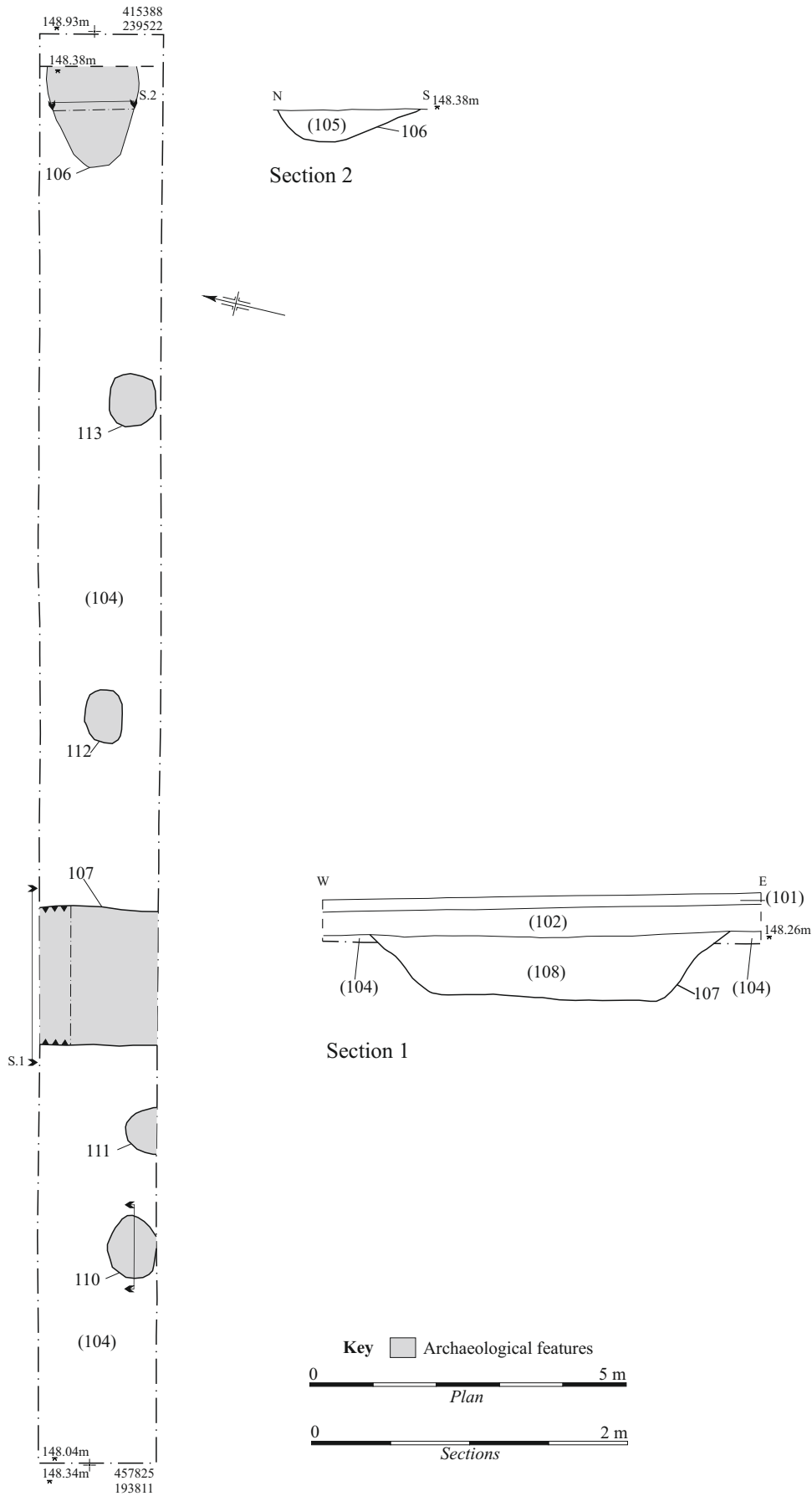


Figure 3: Trench - plan and sections

Cut into the natural clay at the west end was a very shallow sub-rounded pit 110 (Fig. 3), barely 0.01m deep and approximately 1m in diameter, filled with a remnant fill of humic clay (109); the natural clay (104) was discoloured grey beneath the fill (109); this pattern of discoloured patches of natural was observed to the east (Fig. 2) – (111), (112) and (113) – and is potentially the remains of further tree planting pits (see discussion). These features were tested by mattock.

To the east of pit 110 was a north/south oriented ditch 107 at least 1.5m long and 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep, filled with mottled grey brown loamy clay with some occasional gravel (108), which yielded a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone (Fig. 3, Section 1, Fig.4).



Figure 4. Ditch 107; looking north

At the east end of the trench was a further pit 106 (Fig. 5) filled with dark brown orange humic sandy clay (105), which yielded a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (Fig. 3, Section 2). This may well also represent a tree-planting pit, although the shape is dissimilar to the others present in the trench.

A thin deposit of cinders (103) sealed the tree planting pit 106, extending approximately 5m to the west; this in turn was sealed by a layer of limestone fragments (102) which extended beyond the edges of the trench, comprising hardcore for the tarmac (101).

4.2 Reliability of results and methodology

The evaluation was carried out in clement conditions on March 11th and the results are felt to be representative.



Figure 5. Tree planting pit 106; looking east

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

A single sherd of pottery weighing 6g occurred in fill (105) of pit 106. It is a sherd of late medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware, from the base of a bowl with a dull orange-brown internal glaze, and probably of 15th – 16th century date (Mellor 1994). It is a typical product of the tradition, and a common find in the region

5.2 Animal bone

A single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone, weighing 11g, was recovered from the fill (108) of the ditch 107.

5.3 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the remains encountered did not warrant sampling.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified the presence of a number of potential tree planting pits – 110, (111), (112) and (113) – the majority of which were only identifiable as discolouration of the underlying natural. Similar tree planting pits were investigated at Wokingham, Berks. (Winnett & Williams 2010).

The relationship between these planting pits and the ditch 107 is stratigraphically open. They could be contemporary, with trees either side of the ditch. No dating was recovered from any of the features and so it is not clear whether tree planting historically existed when ditch 107 was present. The fill (105) of the putative tree planting pit 106 at the extreme east end of the trench was of a marked different colour to the fill (109) of pit 110 or ditch 107; it was darker and more humic in character.

The area under investigation formed part of Tanners Close on the Tithe Map of 1845 (Tithe map 1845 GDR/T1/44) although this had become smaller by the latter half of the 19th century (OS 1885, Fig. 6). By the early 20th century the small orchard area is not indicated any longer (OS 1902). None of the local historical sources consulted indicate what was occurring in this peripheral part of the town.

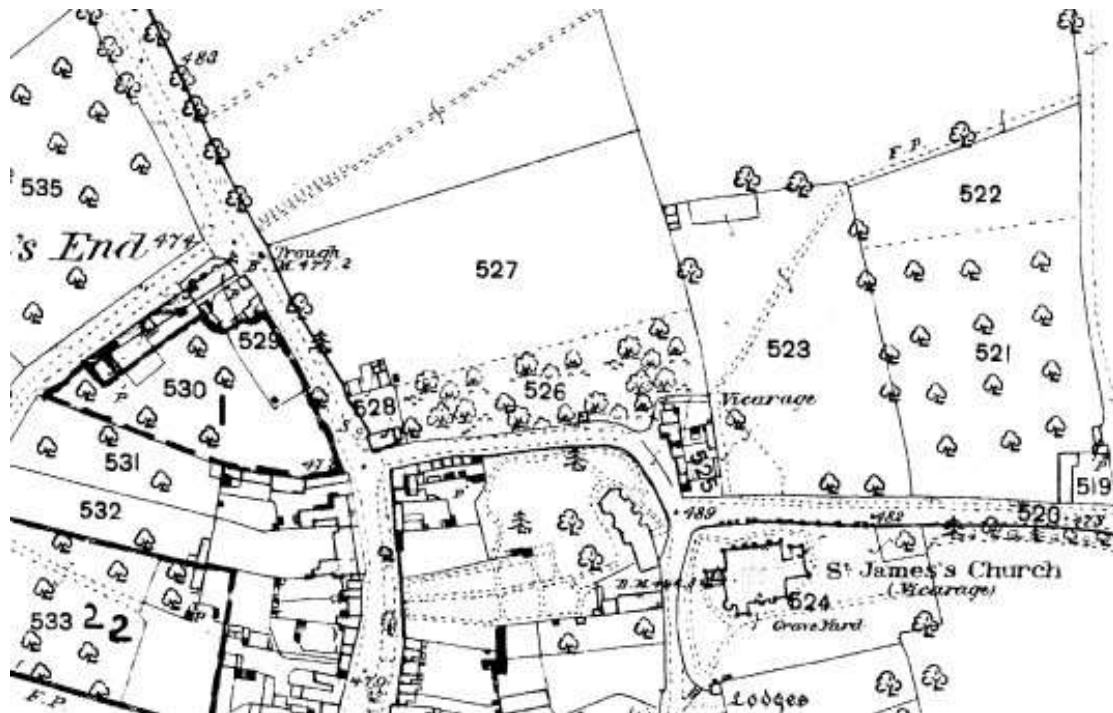


Figure 6. Site in 1885 (OS); trench location to south of '526'

The site was probably in use from the medieval period onwards – as revealed by the extensive late medieval and early post-medieval activity in the town which extended north toward the proposal site – but that this use was unlikely to have been an intensive regime. The use of the plot as an orchard, whether during the medieval period or, certainly in the latter part of the Victorian period (Fig. 6) is therefore perhaps unsurprising, given its proximity to the town centre.

The only feature of note is an undated north-south orientated ditch.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ctxt	Type	Description	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Finds	Date	Interpretation
Trench 1: 20m × 1.5m								
		East top: 148.93 West top: 148.34						
		East base: 148.38 West base: 148.04						
101	Layer	Tarmacs	>20	>1.5	0.1	No	–	Tarmac
102	Layer	Firm yellow/brown stone	>20	>1.5	0.2	No	–	Hardcore
103	Layer	Loose black cinders	>5	>1.5	<0.1	No	–	Dump of cinder
104	Layer	Compact yellow slightly sandy clay	>20	>1.5	Unk.	No	–	Natural
105	Fill	Soft, dark brown orange humic sandy clay	>1.2	>0.8	0.25	Pot	16 th C+	Fill of putative tree planting pit
106	Cut	Sub-rounded irregular cut, with N sharp Break of Slope(BoS and S gentle BoS; rounded bottom	>1.2	>0.8	0.25	No	–	Putative tree planting pit
107	Cut	N/S linear with sharp E & W BoS, flat base	>1.5	2.2	0.3	No	–	Possible field boundary ditch
108	Fill	Firm mottled grey brown loamy clay & occ. gravel	>1.5	2.2	0.3	Bone	–	Fill of possible ditch
109	Fill	Brown black humic clay	1	0.9	<0.01	No	–	Fill of putative tree planting pit
110	?Cut	Sub rounded trace of possible cut	1	0.9	<0.01	No	–	Putative tree planting pit