

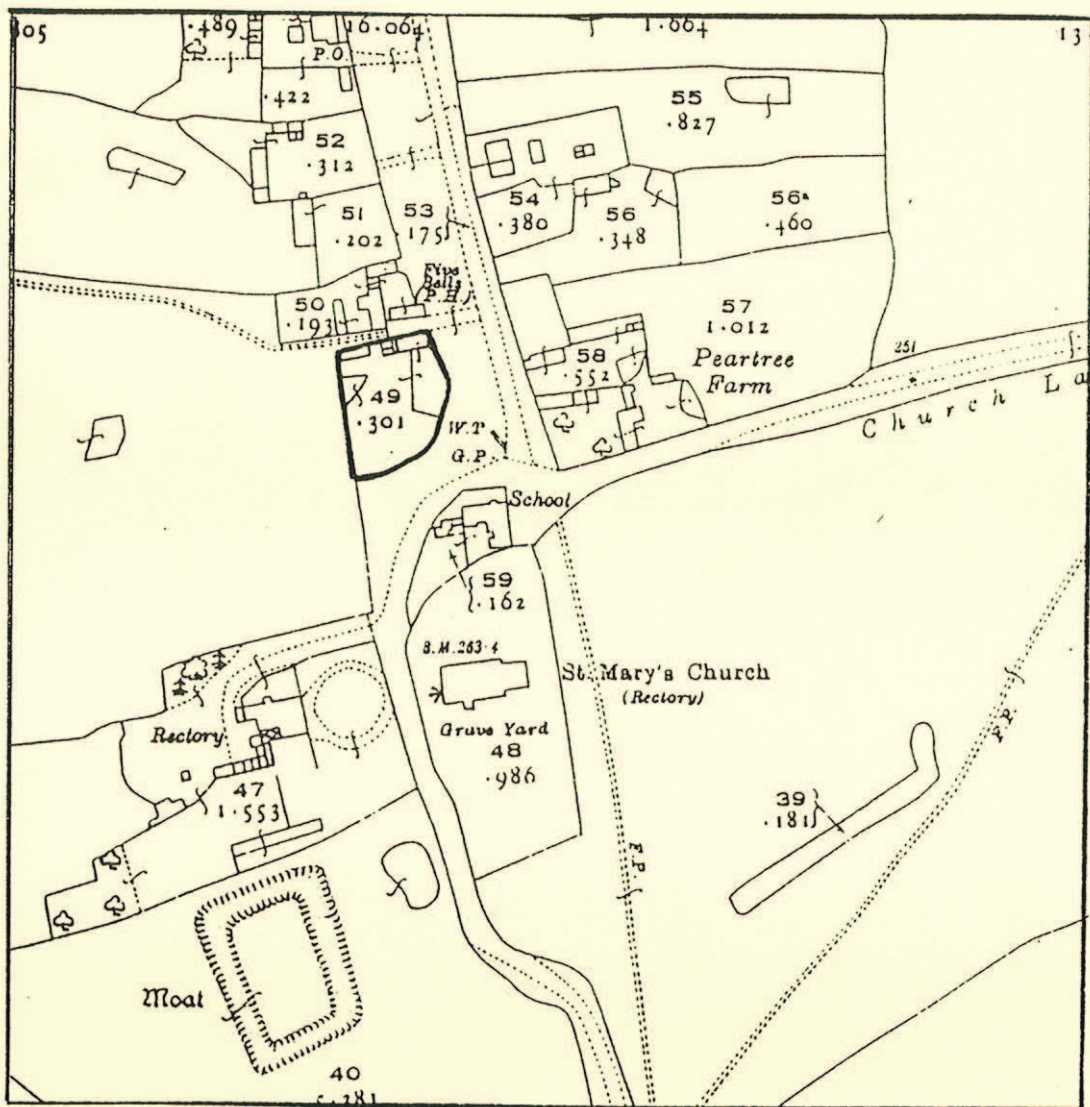
Barnes/Farley

Land Adjoining Five Bells Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire

NGR SP 6600 1740

Planning Application 00/01105/APP

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT



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**Land Adjoining Five Bells
Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation on land adjacent to the Five Bells, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire. The investigation was carried out in November 2000 on behalf of Mr. P.A. Barnes subsequent to an application for private development. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed. A pit was located at the southernmost end of the trench representing post-medieval activity; possibly a refuse pit. The date of the finds suggests the pit may have been associated with an early version of the Bell building. A brick rubble spread was also identified in the northern part of the trench derived from a comparatively modern outbuilding, probably that illustrated on the 1920 OS. map.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An application (planning application 00/01105/APP) for private development of land adjacent to a former public house at Ludgershall, Bucks (Fig. 1) is the subject of a planning matter for the local planning authority. As part of the planning process, the County Archaeological Service requested that an archaeological evaluation of the land be undertaken in accordance with PPG 16, as the site is situated within the historic medieval village of Ludgershall.

1.1.2 The developer, Mr. P.A. Barnes, commissioned Oxford Archaeological unit (OAU) to undertake an evaluation of the site through the advice of Mike Farley (Archaeology). A written scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) detailing how it would undertake the archaeological field evaluation, in accordance with the requirements of the project brief set by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service (Kidd 2000).

1.1.3 The evaluation was carried out on the 9th November 2000. This report presents the historical background to the village and the results of the fieldwork.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The evaluation site is a field adjacent to the Brill Road (Fig. 2) and c 60-m due north of St. Mary's Church (NGR SP 660174). Two north-south aligned bands of alluvium roughly define the extent of Ludgershall to the east and west. The southerly part of the village, including the proposed development site, is on Upper Oxford Clay. This material is a pale-grey calcareous mudstone. The northern third of the village is on Middle Oxford Clay (BGS 1994).

1.2.2 At the time of the evaluation the site was under rough grass with areas of dense vegetation and trees.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The following account been prepared by Michael Farley (Archaeology).

- 1.3.1 Ludgershall is recorded in Domesday as two manors (see Morris 1978) and the following entries appear in the Domesday Book:

Land of the Bishop of Coutances: Ashendon Hundred: 'The Bishop holds Ludgershall himself. It answers for 9 hides. Land for 8 ploughs: in lordship 4 hides: 2 ploughs there: a third possible. 13 villagers with 4 smallholders have 5 ploughs. 5 slaves; meadow for 8 ploughs; woodland, 40 pigs. The total value is and was 100s: before 1066 6 pounds. Edeva held this manor from/Queen Edith: she could sell.

Land of William son of Mann: In Ashendon Hundred: William son of Mann holds 2 hides in Ludgershall. Land for 2 ploughs: in lordship 1 hide and 1 virgate; 1 plough there. 3 villagers have 1 plough. Meadow for 1 plough. The value is and always was 20s. Aelfric, King Edward's chamberlain, held this manor; he could sell.

- 1.3.2 Ludgershall lay at the heart of Bernwood Forest at its greatest in the late Saxon period (Broad and Hoyle, 1997). The forest is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for AD 921 (ASC). In the early 13th-century Henry II sought but failed to extend forest law into north Buckinghamshire; by the late 13th-century forest law was confined to the Brill/Boarstall/Oakley area south of Ludgershall. Nevertheless, the village remained one of the 'purlieu townships'. In 1363 and 1452, for example, it paid a pasturage fee for the use of the Forest. By c 1561 representations were made on behalf of Ludgershall and other local villages as '*...the commoners of Arncote, Ludgershall, and other towns cannot come into the forest as they have done before by reason of the hedging and ditching.*' (*Op cit.*, 47). Several areas of forest including or adjacent to Ludgershall had been enclosed quite early, including Clear Field Farm to the south-east (Fig. 3) that was enclosed in 1305 (*op cit.*, 25). The Bernwood Forest ceased to be a legal entity in 1632, but its former existence led to many land disputes.
- 1.3.3 Early maps depict Ludgershall in the much-reduced forest. One of 1590 has the church on the northern margins of *Bernwood*, with a defined area (*the Brache*) adjoining to the south (BRS 1964, map 2: Broad 1997, 66). This may be the *la Breche* wood, with 100 acres of land adjoining, which John de Moleyns was licensed to impark in 1339 (VCH 1927, 69). A schematic 16th-century map of Wotton Underwood shows Wotton and Ludgershall (Schultz 1939, copy BRO Ma R/7).
- 1.3.4 The parish also contains the hamlets of Tetchwick and Kingswood. Ludgershall comprised 3 tenurial elements (excluding Tetchwick). Two are named 'Ludgershall', the third 'Ludgershall Manor' (VCH 1927, 68-72). The VCH notes that '*there is no*

manor house, but there is evidence that the capital messuage in Ludgershall was habitable at the end of the 16th century. South-west of the church is a small moated site with the traditional name of King Lud's Hall which was still connected at the end of the 18th century. Bury Court, from which a portion of the tithes were payable to Bermondsey Abbey ... stood on the north-east of the church in the middle 19th century'. The second manor, over which Brill had over-lordship rights, also had a capital messuage, but 'in the wood of Brill'. The third 'manor' was apparently not so designated until the 16th or 17th century. This land unit emerged following a grant by Henry II to the brethren of the Holy Trinity, St Inglevert near Picardy. Previously a hospital was built here by 1236 and was still in use in 1348. As an 'alien' house it is thought to have been suppressed by Henry V in the early 15th-century (Gough, 1878, 359).

- 1.3.5 One or both of the above sites (CASS 0033 and 2134) may have been part of the principal manor. The moated site (CASS 0033) is scheduled, and is immediately south-west of the medieval church (CASS 0665). The location of the second manor 'in the wood of Brill' implies a location outside the village. The hospital site is unknown, though Sheahan suggests that it was north of the Rectory (Sheahan, 1862).
- 1.3.6 Jefferys' map of 1770 shows the open-plan of the village as a roughly rectangular central core with buildings facing outwards at the periphery. An open band encloses these with buildings facing inwards at the edge of the common. The church is at the south-west of this 'outer' band and buildings are shown on the opposite (west) side of road to church (site of the Rectory and moat). Bryant's map of 1825 is similar to Jefferys' but names the Rectory and defines its grounds; more buildings are shown on the west side of High Street.
- 1.3.7 The 1780 Inclosure Map (BRO IR/109.R) has been examined for this project (Plot 17 on Fig. 4). The map shows two buildings on the plot, a possible dwelling with an ancillary building to the south. Accompanying the original map is a notation of the following - '*Bicester Poor*', Plot No 17: '*The House and Homestead 0A – 1R – 17 P ... value 12s 1½ p.*' The building is not named as 'Five Bells' although 'bell end' was a name used as early as 1637.
- 1.3.8 Sheahan's work of 1862 contains some comments that relate to his own time (County SMR numbers have been included where available).

'The village is very much scattered, and the greater part of the dwellings are old and covered with thatch' ... 'Ludgershall village, though exposed to floods, is remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants' ... 'Bury Court, a decayed mansion north-east of the church, was first divided into tenements, but in 1840 it was converted into a farmhouse.' [CASS 2134] ... 'In Dove-house Field, on the south side of the Rectory, is a moated enclosure. This is probably the site of a mansion. [CASS 0033] ... 'On the north side of the Rectory, in a field called Friar's Mead, are traces of a moat, within which it is supposed stood the cell to the Santingfield Hospital ... 'The Rectory House, rebuilt shortly after the inclosure of the parish, is separated from the

west side of the church-yard by the high-road and is a genteel residence of brick with a tiled roof, surrounded by about six acres of pleasure and garden grounds'

His reference to 'the cell of the Santingfield Hospital ' could be the 13th-14th century hospital of St. Inglevert, and if it lay north of the Rectory, as Sheahan suggested, it may have been situated somewhere west of the current evaluation site.

- 1.3.9 The 25" 1920 survey in Fig. 2 shows ten named farms and depicts the proposed development site as a field with an outbuilding. The site appears to have been separated from the Five Bells Public House by a fence and possible track. The early existence of "The Bell" is indicated by a 17th century reference describing the parsonage and its lands *'imprimis the homestall or Scite of the parsonidge scituate and lying at the bell end (a cart-way going between) contayning by estimacon with a garden 1 acre'* (BRS 1997, 82). The Five Bells Inn dates to the 17th century and was *'of timber and brick on stone foundations'* (RCHM, 1912, 250). The Commission noted another early building on the west side of High Street and three others on the east.
- 1.3.10 Aerial photographs reveal that the village has well-preserved ridge and furrow and therefore direct evidence for medieval open-field cultivation. The furrows stop *c* 100 m west of High Street, south-west of the village (CAS, runs 215 dated 23.1.76; 498 of 12.3.85: see also unnumbered Cambridge University/Northants Open Field photos, 1999). Local evidence of this 'blank' area suggests there may be north-south aligned linear boundary features here, with possibly a platform of a croft. The SMR records other earthworks in the village (e.g. CASS 2332, 2366, and 2331).
- 1.3.11 Archaeological work has recently been undertaken in Duck Lane (TVAS, 2000). A considerable quantity of pottery wasters from discarded pots fired in the Brill-Boarstall tradition was recovered. The material is provisionally of later 15th-century date and indicates a pottery kiln site nearby (Saunders, 2000).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present. Specific aims were to establish the presence/absence of late Saxon and medieval occupation, ceramic production or boundary features and their relationship to the village green.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation through a written report.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluations' (IFA).

3.1.2 The County Archaeologist determined the trench location (Fig.5): a single trench measuring 24 m x 1.6 m, with an additional length measuring 6 m by 1.6 m was opened by a mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Excavation proceeded in level spits to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology. Trench sections and features were investigated by hand.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trench was cleaned by hand and all features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was undertaken in accordance with established OAU practice (OAU Field Manual, 1992). All contexts were allocated unique numbers with bulk finds collected by context. A full colour and black-and-white photographic record was made of the work. The trench plan was drawn at 1:200 and section drawings of features and sample sections of stratigraphy were recorded at a scale of 1:20.

3.2.2 The trench was opened and infilled in the course of one day and the County Archaeological Service monitored the work as it was in progress.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No environmental samples were taken. None of the deposits in the deposits revealed exhibited potential for environmental analysis.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 Section 4 includes individual context descriptions, with archaeological deposits and features described from earliest to latest. Context information is summarised in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The proposed development is sited on Upper Oxford Clay; a pale-grey calcareous mudstone. No difficult ground conditions were encountered

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 A single archaeological feature was encountered towards the southern end of the trench in the form of a post medieval refuse pit (context 104). No features were identified towards the northern part of the trench.

4.3 Description of deposits

(Figs 5 and 6)

- 4.3.1 The trench measured 24 m in length with a 6 m long extension at the north end. The earliest deposit at the base of the trench was a layer of compact brown clay with red-brown mottling with no other inclusions (100). This was interpreted as the natural clay. Towards the southern end of the trench the natural was cut by a pit (104) that was 1 m deep with a diameter of 3.1 m the sides of which were steep descending to a rounded base. The fill of the pit (105) was a tenacious grey-brown silty clay, with charcoal, brick fragments and burnt stone. Pottery from the fill of the pit is 17th century in date (see finds below). The natural clay was overlain by a layer of reddish-brown clay (101), similar in nature to the natural but containing some charcoal. This may have been a ploughsoil. Above and to the north end of the trench lay a mixed layer of clay, brick rubble, stones and charcoal (102) that was 0.18 m deep. The deposit was recently formed. This layer and the fill of pit 104 were overlain by the loam topsoil (103).

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 The finds retrieved from the investigation consisted of 14 pieces of ceramic building material recovered from context 105, the deliberate backfill of pit 104. Three of the pieces consisted of brickwork that can be dated to the nineteenth century at the earliest. In addition a single sherd of pottery; part of a handle of a red clay fired vessel with an external dark brown glaze, was recovered from the same context. The sherd is likely to of 17th century date and residual in this context.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The positioning of the trenches in the evaluation covered a large part of the footprint of the proposed development. The reliability of the investigation is considered to be good.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed during this evaluation. The pit found at the southernmost end of the trench represents post-medieval activity, possibly a refuse pit. The date of the finds suggests the pit may have been activity associated with an early version of the Bell building.

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
100	Layer			Natural Oxford Clay			
101	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
102	Layer		0.18	Rubble dump	Brick		Modern
103	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			Modern
104	Cut	3.10	1.00	Pit			Post- med
105	Fill		1.00	Pit fill	Pot, brick		Post-med

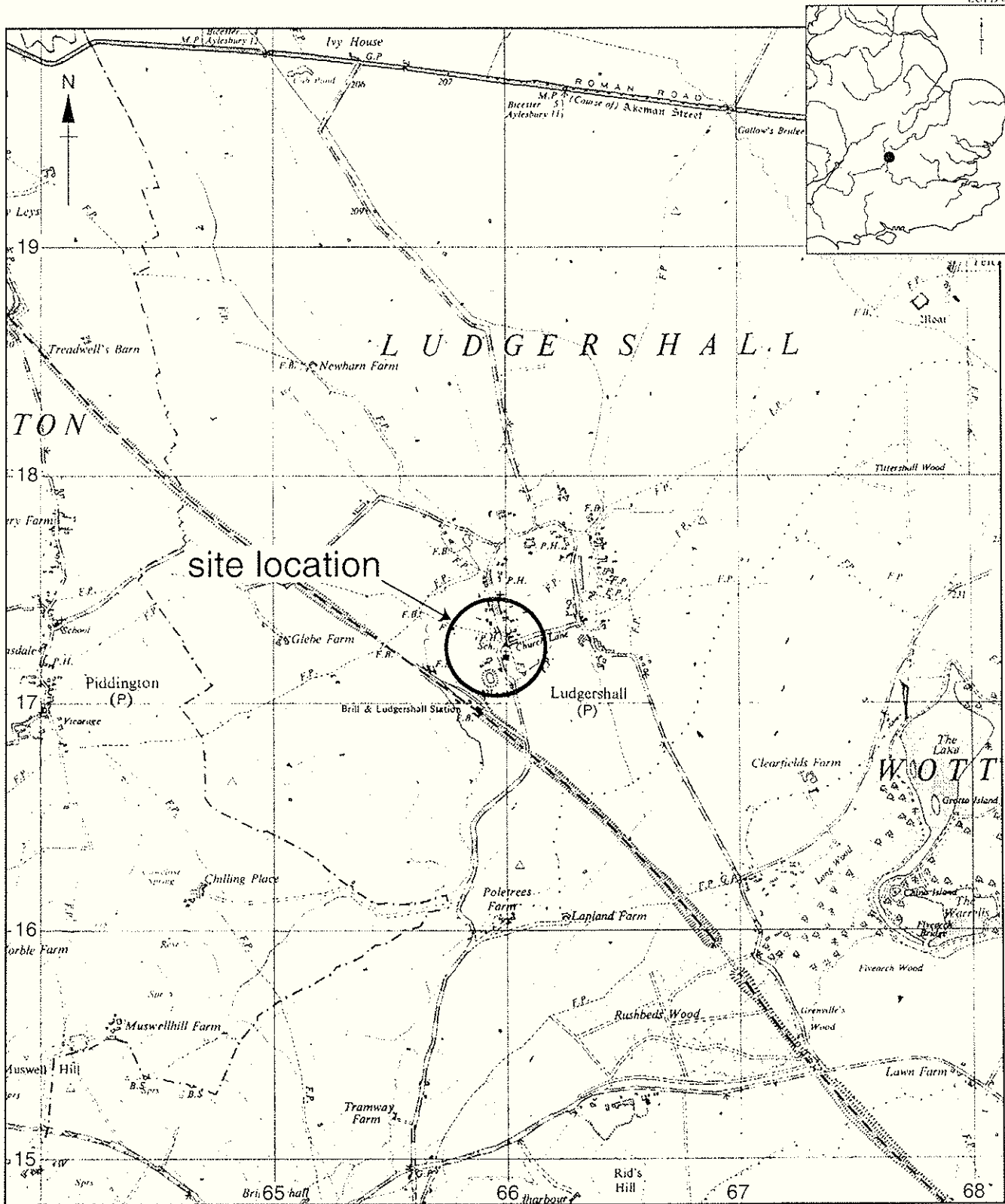
APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CASS County Sites and Monuments Record

Farley M. 2000 *Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire: archaeological, historical and topographical background to a proposed development site on land adjacent to the Five Bells*

Kidd A. 2000 *Brief for an archaeological field evaluation, Buckinghamshire Archaeology Service*

Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992) Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992



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Figure 1: Site location

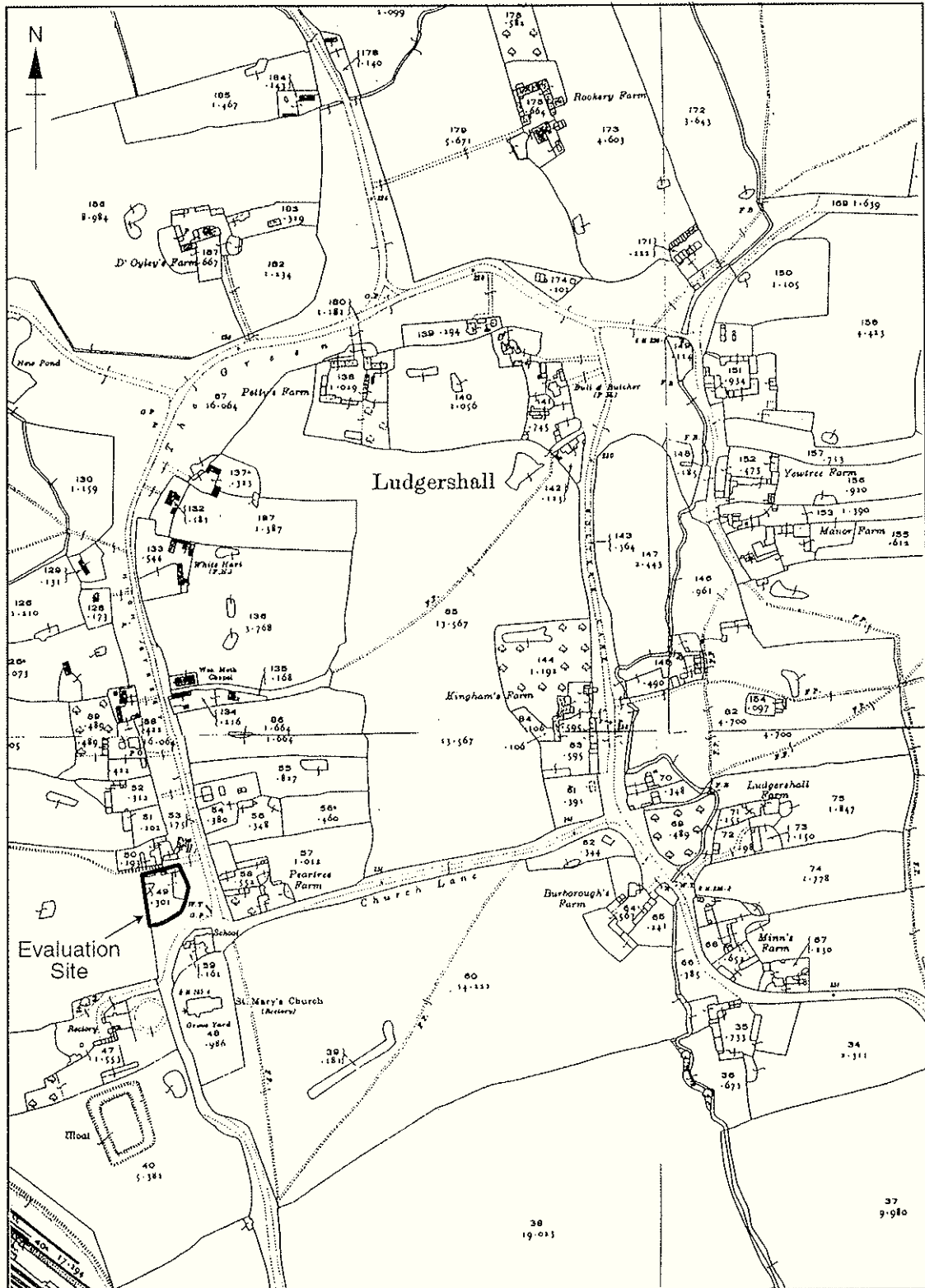


Figure 2: Site location, OS 1920, 25".

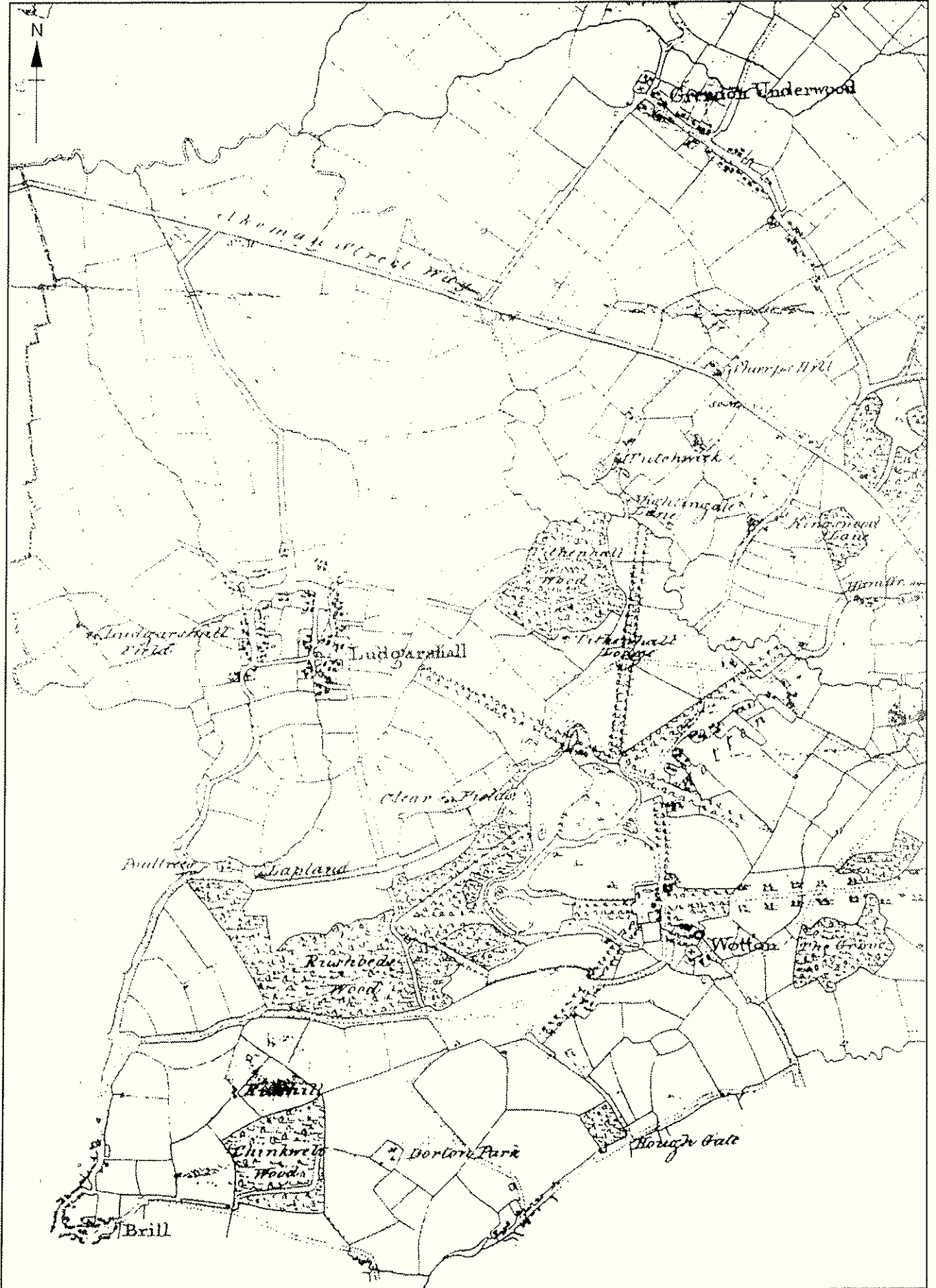


Figure 3: 1815 OS map, 2" to 1mile.

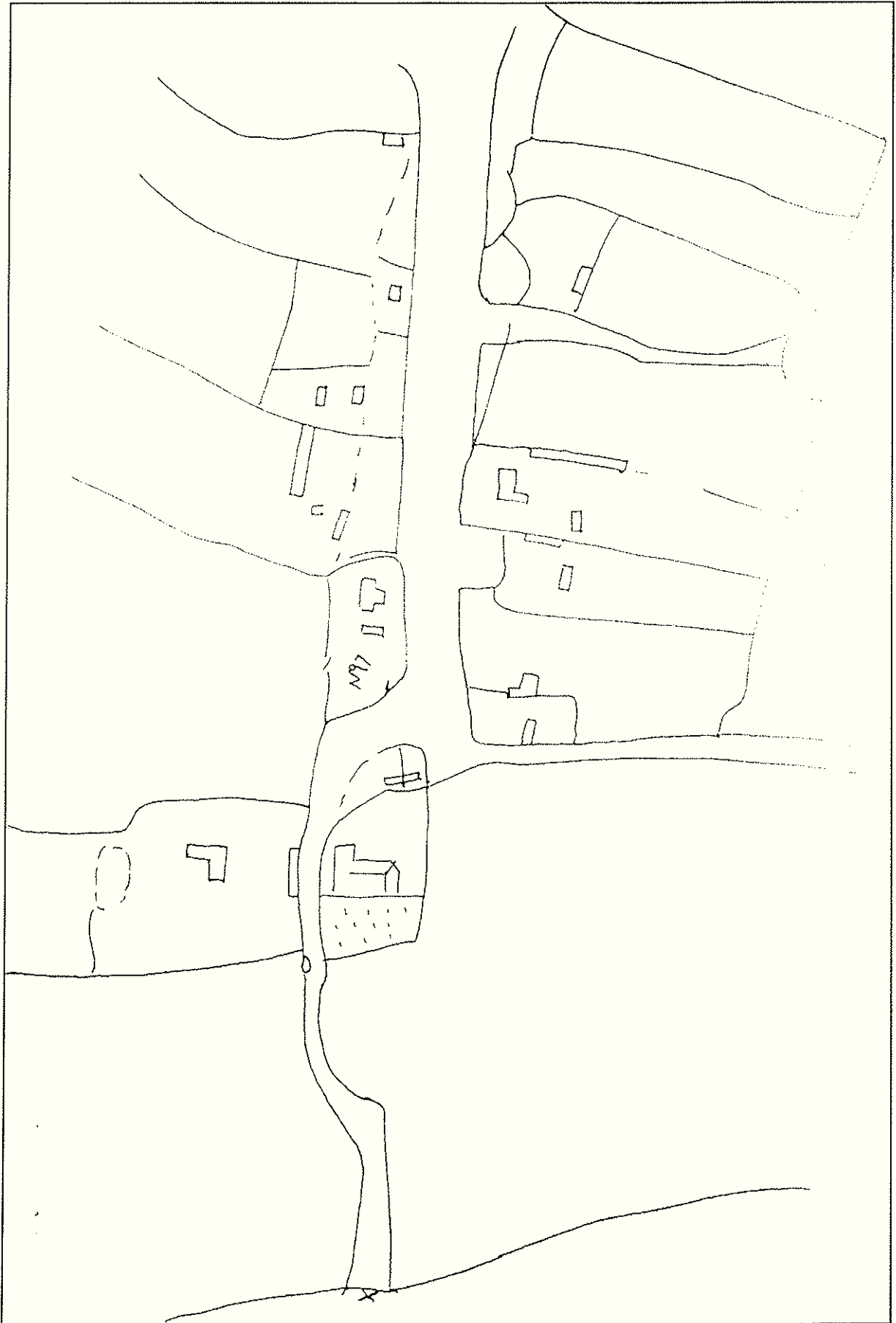


Figure 4: Inclosure map of 1780, Plot 17.

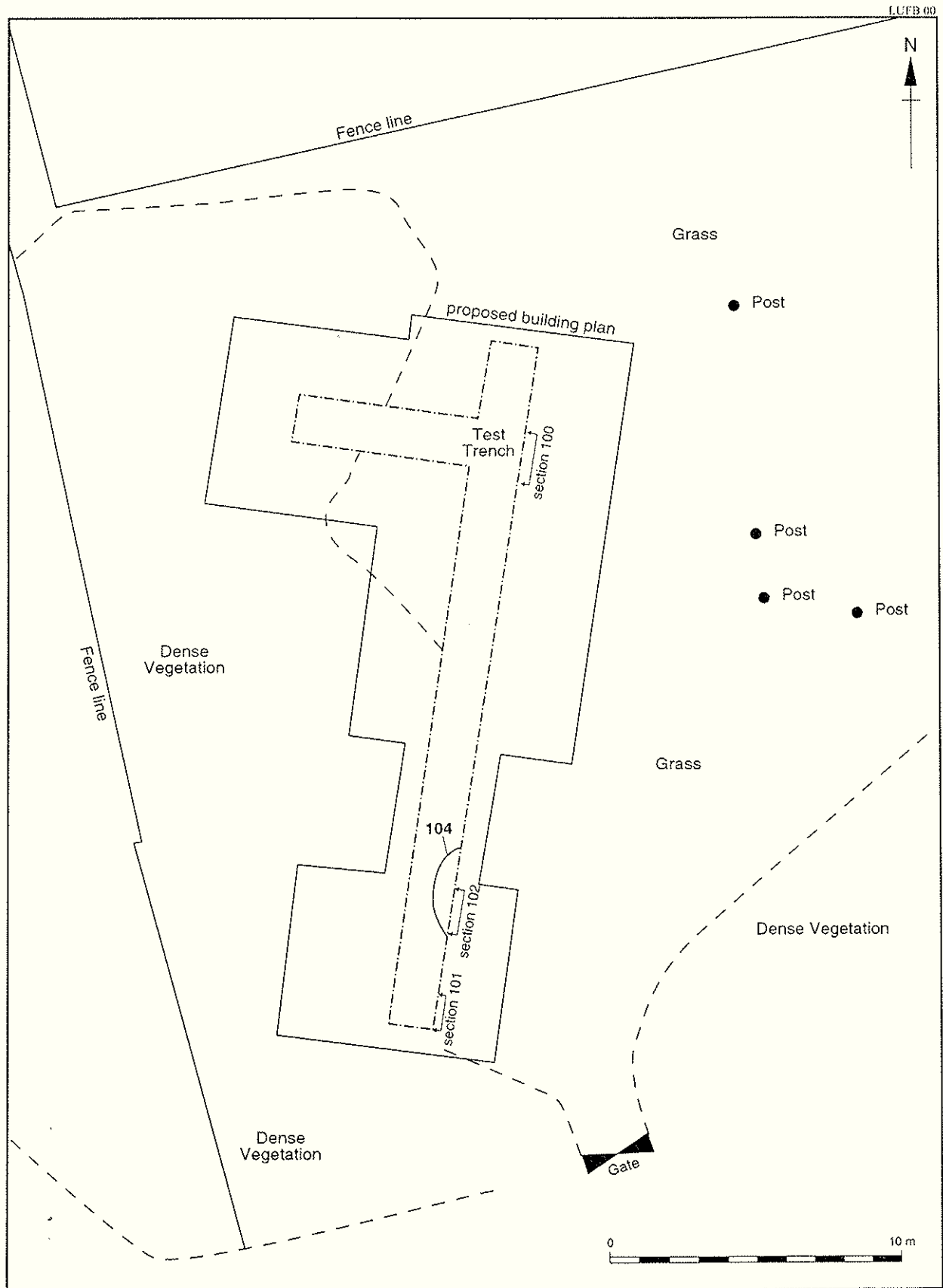
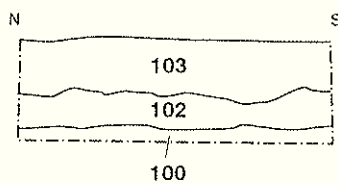
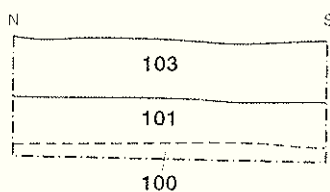


Figure 5: Trench layout.

Section 100



Section 101



Section 102

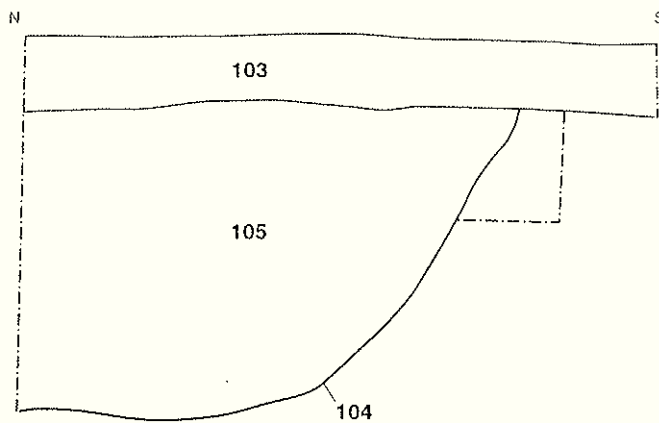


Figure 6: Trench sections.



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