

Martin Elliott Partnership

**Manor Farm, Broadwell  
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT***

NGR SP 2005 2760

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## SUMMARY

*In August 2001 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at Manor Farm, Broadwell, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 2005 2760) on behalf of Martin Elliott Partnership for the Broadwell Parochial Church Council. The evaluation revealed no archaeological deposits.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work (Figs 1 & 2)

1.1.1 In August 2001 OAU carried out a field evaluation at Manor Farm, Broadwell, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire on behalf of Martin Elliott Partnership. A planning application for the change of land use within the grounds of Manor Farm, from agriculture to that of an additional graveyard for Broadwell Parish Church, led to a brief for an archaeological evaluation set by Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer of the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Service. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently produced by OAU and approved by Mr. Parry.

1.1.2 The development site is situated at NGR SU 2005 2760 and is 0.09 hectares in area. Manor Farm borders the historic core of Broadwell and there was potential for the development to reveal archaeology associated with the early origins of the village and with a nearby Roman Villa located to the northwest.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on farm land at *c* 154 m above OD. The site is presently used as arable land. The underlying geology comprises a mixture of stone brash over Lias Clay with outcrops of oolitic limestone on the higher ground of the Parish; on the lower ground clay caps lower Lias Clay and Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey Map, drift edition [revised], 217).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site itself lies on the north-western edge of the historic village of Broadwell and has produced no archaeological evidence with reference to the earlier origins of the village. The field immediately adjacent to the evaluation area was characterized by obvious ridge and furrow and additional building platforms associated with the medieval origins of the village.

1.3.2 The Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record is the primary repository on all known archaeological sites and finds in the County. OAU visited the SMR on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2001 in order to collect all SMR data within a 1 km study area around the area of proposed development. All historic maps of the site were examined at the County Record Office. The information collated is summarised as follows :

- 1.3.3 The study area contains one known find dated to the prehistoric period (500,000 BP - 43BC), the chance find of a Neolithic polished stone axe head, *c.* 300 m to the south-east of the area of proposed development in 1984 (GSMR No. 11862). The significance of this find is uncertain, but indicates possible Neolithic activity in the general area. The Clay geology and heavy soils (VCH *Gloucs* vi, 53) suggest that the study area would not have been a first choice for early farming communities, and is likely to have been heavily wooded throughout this period. Broadwell, however, is located along a spring line which may have attracted settlement or other activity. The modern Ordnance Survey map marks springs *c.* 100 m to the west and *c.* 150 m to the north of the area of proposed development.
- 1.3.4 The study area contains two known sites dated to the Roman period (43BC - AD410). The Fosse Way, a Roman road aligned approximately north-south lies at the top of the slope *c.* 400 m to the west of the area of proposed development. The road ran from the Roman town and fort of Cirencester towards the South Midlands and was a major line of communication in this period. Margary notes that traces of the road foundation are visible 'near Broadwell as the road descends towards Stow' (Margary 1967, 151).
- 1.3.5 Located at the side of the Fosse Way, *c.* 250 m north-west of the area of proposed development, is the site of Broadwell Roman villa. The site was apparently first identified in 1913 when numerous Roman finds including tesserae, tiles, pottery and nails, were recovered during ploughing. In 1923 DT Rice carried out a small excavation of one part of the site and identified well preserved structural remains of two rooms with at least two phases of construction (RCHM *Gloucs* I, 21). The villa is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 157).
- 1.3.6 Broadwell is first mentioned in AD708 when King Coenred gave the manor (estate) to Evesham Abbey (VCH *Gloucs* vi, 51) and it is mentioned again in *c.* AD1034. At the time of Domesday Book (1086) the manor was still in the possession of Evesham Abbey, when 48 people are recorded, and remained so until the time of the dissolution in the later half of the 16th century. Early medieval settlement within the manor is likely to have been centered on or within the vicinity of the village at Broadwell, as shown on historic maps dated to the late 18th century (see below) with settlement around the village green *c.* 250 m to the south-east of Broadwell Manor, and the 12th century church of St Paul, located immediately to the north of the Manor.
- 1.3.7 In *c.* 1200 Abbot Roger Norreys built 'a noble house' at Broadwell. The house was burnt down *c.* 20 years later and was replaced by a grange, which was rebuilt and enlarged in *c.* 1300 (VCH *Gloucs* vi, 49-50). The 'noble house' was probably located on or near the site of the existing 17th century Broadwell Manor (see below). The area of proposed development is located immediately south of the manor house on the edge of the medieval green.

- 1.3.8 The Victoria County History (VCH) discusses the possible early development of the village based on documentary and cartographic sources:

*'It is uncertain whether the village once centred on the green. Most of the larger house lie near it, and the smith, the pound, and both inns were on the edge of its lower (south-eastern) end. There is no evidence, however, that there were ever cottages round the upper end near the church, and the cottages round the lower end, though possibly replacing earlier ones, were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century...'* (VCH Gloucs vi, 51). *'By 1793 the green had been divided, by tracks and by farm buildings across it, into upper, middle, and lower greens, and the common land was then allotted to various landowners. A piece of the former green was added to the churchyard in c. 1921...'* (VCH Gloucs vi, 50)

- 1.3.9 The Tithe Map of 1795 confirms this pattern of development with Broadwell Manor and the area of proposed development to the south of it, on the edge of 'Middle Green', with Upper Green to the north-west and 'Lower Green', with most of the settlement, to the south-east. The map indicates that the original medieval green would have covered an extensive area of land.

- 1.3.10 In 1757, following a fire, Dr Thomas Chamberlayne rebuilt Broadwell Manor (the building is Grade II\* Listed). Chamberlayne incorporated parts of the original early 17<sup>th</sup> century structure at the back of the house that had survived (*ibid.*, 50). The earliest maps consulted dated to 1792, 1793 and the Tithe Map of 1795 show Broadwell Manor as a substantial square building immediately south of St Paul's church. These maps also show a small crofts or yards around the house, and a range of three buildings to the north of the house.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks to Mr. Elliott of Manor Farm, for his help and information.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation are to determine the location, extent, date character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the development.
- 2.1.2 Attention will be given to sites and remains of all periods including evidence of past environments, with provision for environmental sampling included.
- 2.1.3 The evaluation will determine if applicable the relationship of above ground structures to surviving deposits below ground - should these relationships be identified then the evaluation will encompass the character, condition, significance and quality of the above ground remains.
- 2.1.4 The evaluation will seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion on the site and assess the degree of archaeological survival of all buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

- 2.1.5 To record all remains to established OAU standards (OAU Fieldwork Manual, 1992), in order to secure their preservation by record.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation took the form of archaeological investigation through trial trenching.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring 20 m by 1.85 m (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

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

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Any sealed archaeological deposits from within discrete features would be sampled where the composition of the deposit could aid the interpretative of the site and its environs.

#### 3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The results are described by context, starting with the earliest, and are followed by an interpretative discussion of the site in general.

### 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

#### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on a slight downward slope from south to north dropping from 154.60 to 152.90 m OD across the length of Trench 1. Ground conditions were good and dry with some disturbance in the topsoil being noted as a result of the site having been used as a pig field.



## 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Both trenches were devoid of archaeological deposits and features.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

#### *Trenches 1 & 2 (Fig. 3)*

5.1.1 The natural geology (102, 202) of limestone and clayey silts (cornbrash) was encountered at 154.21 m OD at its highest level on the south end of the site.

5.1.2 This was directly overlain by sub-soil deposit (101, 201) which was an orange-brown clay-silt *c* 0.35 m thick. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

5.1.3 The sub-soil deposit was cut by a linear feature (103) running *c* southwest – northeast. This was filled by a loose gravel / pea grit (104) within which a ribbed ceramic drain was observed.

5.1.4 The final layer within the sequence observed was the topsoil deposit (100, 200). This was a thin mantle of silty loam which was up to *c* 0.15 m thick. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

### 5.2 Finds

5.2.1 No finds were recovered from this evaluation site and therefore no specialist analysis was required.

### 5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

5.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis were encountered during the evaluation as no archaeological features/deposits were revealed.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Impact of Development

6.1.1 The development would impact the site in the form of grave cuts across the area of the evaluation.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

#### *Summary of results*

6.2.1 The single feature located was in Trench 1 where an overflow drain (103) for a septic tank across the road was found to run southwest-northeast. This linear feature incorporated a square cut in the northern part of Trench 1 which appears to be a soak-away for the overflow before the drain run continued to the northeast.

- 6.2.2 It is clear that looking at the topography of the field to the west that archaeology is definitely present in the form of medieval ridge and furrow field systems and possibly contemporary building platforms.
- 6.2.3 The evaluation at Manor Farm was conclusive in providing negative evidence of the existence of archaeological deposits in this area of investigation. The archaeological potential and significance of the site is therefore low.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
001	100	Layer		0.15	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A
	101	Layer		0.35	Sub-soil	N/A	N/A	N/A
	102	Layer		N/A	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A
	103	Cut	0.30		Drain	N/A	N/A	N/A
	104	Fill	0.30	>0.45	fill of 103	N/A	N/A	N/A
002	200	Layer		0.15	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	N/A
	201			0.12	Sub-soil	N/A	N/A	N/A
	202			N/A	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (Ref.)

Gloucestershire Record Office (Ref.)

Margary ID 1967 *Roman Roads in Britain*. John Baker. London.

OAU 1992, *Fieldwork Manual* (first edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

OAU 2001, *Broadwell Manor Archaeological Evaluation Report*

OAU 2001, Manor Farm, Broadwell Written Scheme of Investigation

Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, Gloucestershire*

RCHM (1976) *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the County of Gloucestershire, Vol I*.  
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

Victoria County History of Gloucester, Volume vi, 1965. London

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Manor Farm, Broadwell

**Site code:** BWMG01

**Grid reference:** SP 2005 2760

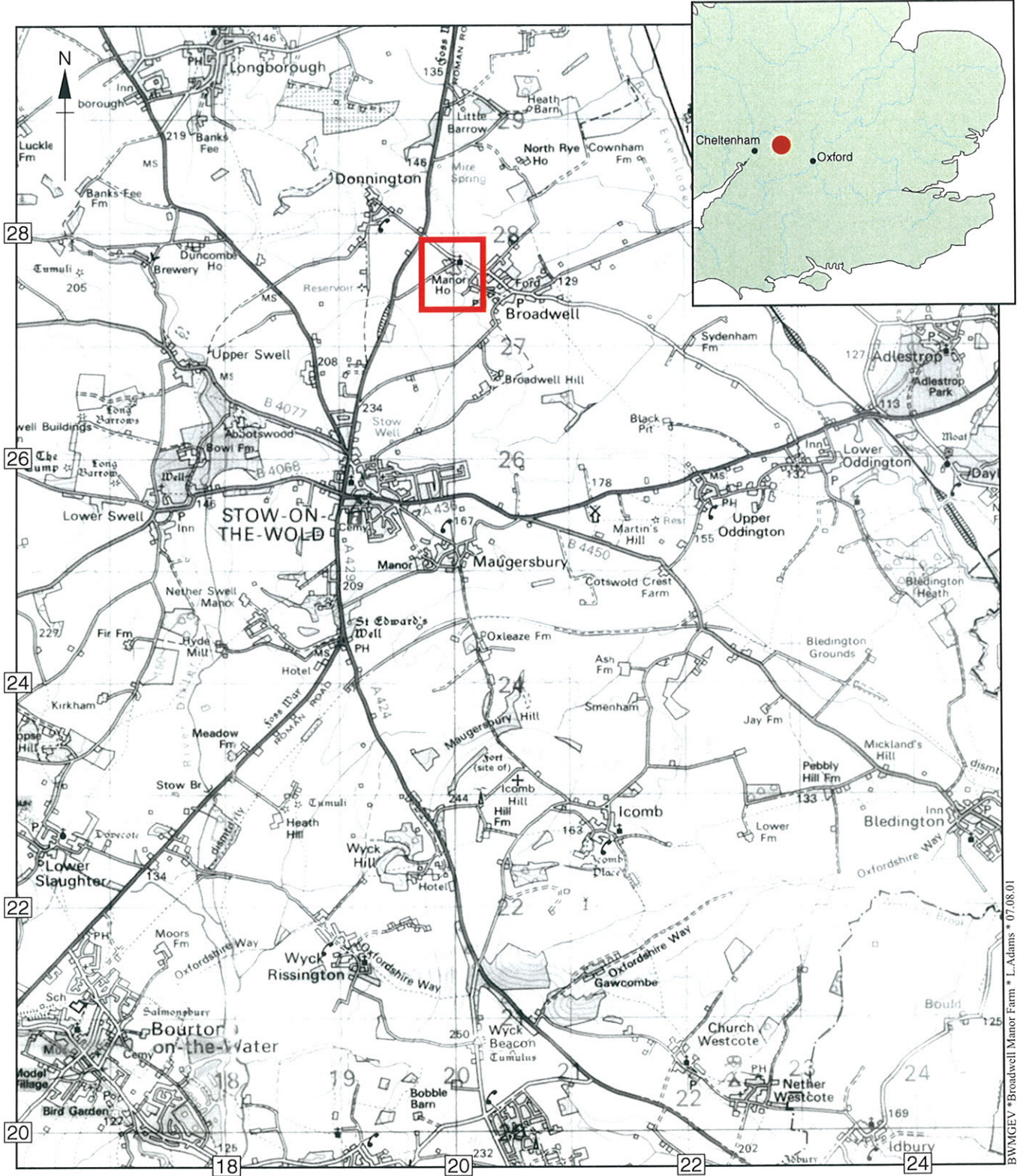
**Type of evaluation:** Two 20m trenches

**Date and duration of project:** 31/07/2001 – 01/08/2001

**Area of site:** 0.074 ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits were encountered.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, Gloucestershire in due course.



BWMGEV \*Broadwell Manor Farm \* L.Adams \* 07.08.01

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Figure 1: Site location



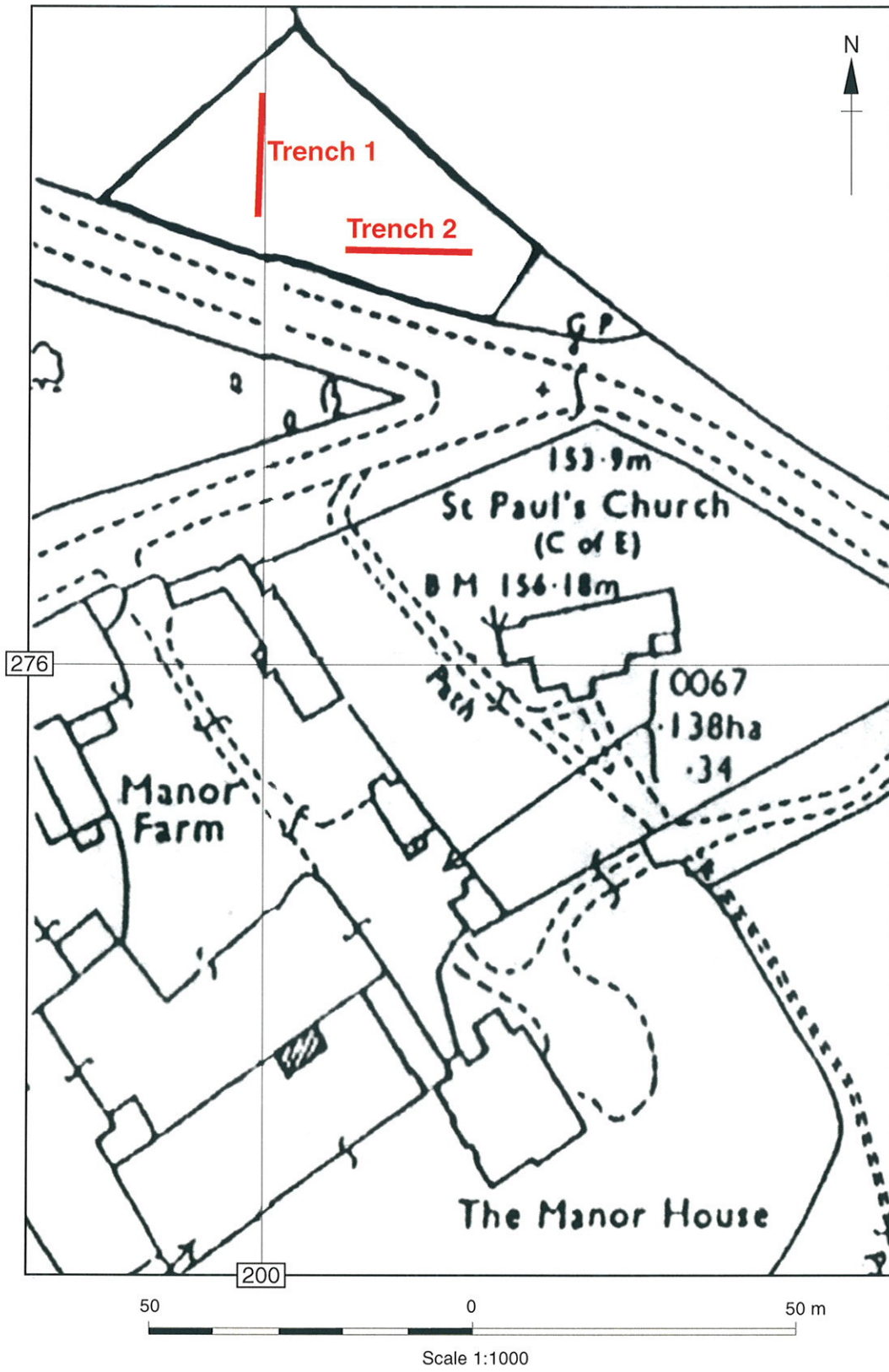
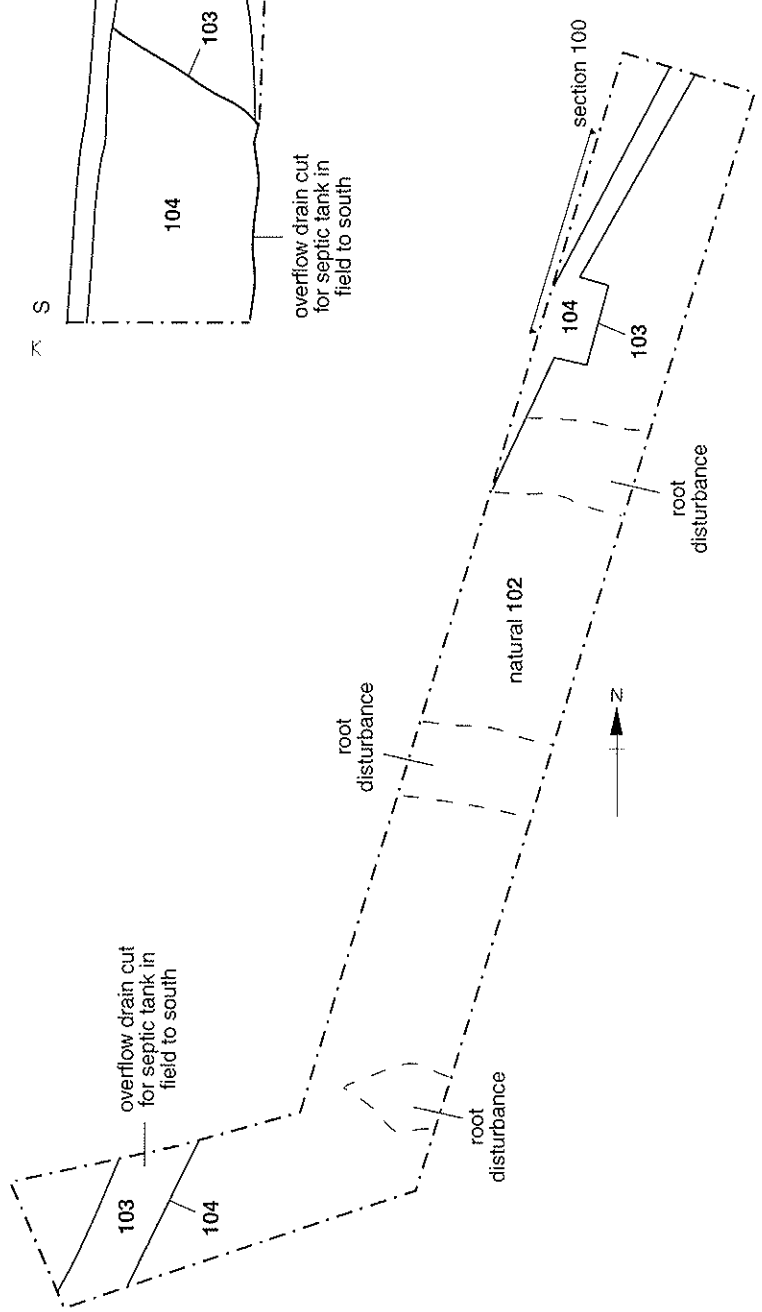


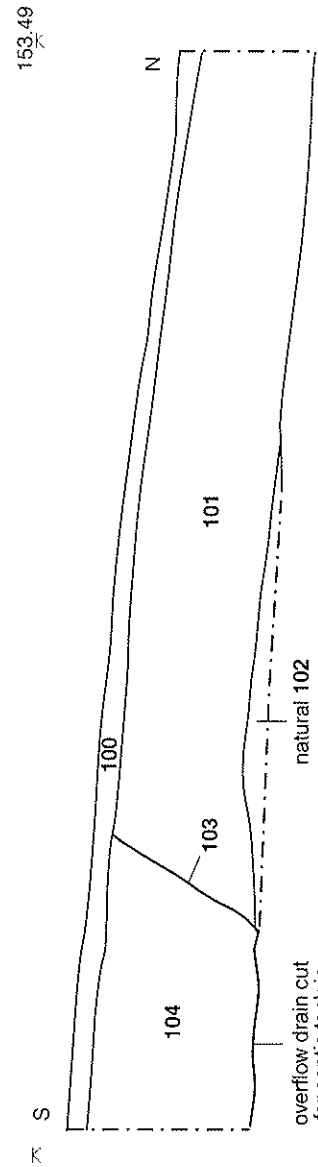
Figure 2: Trench locations



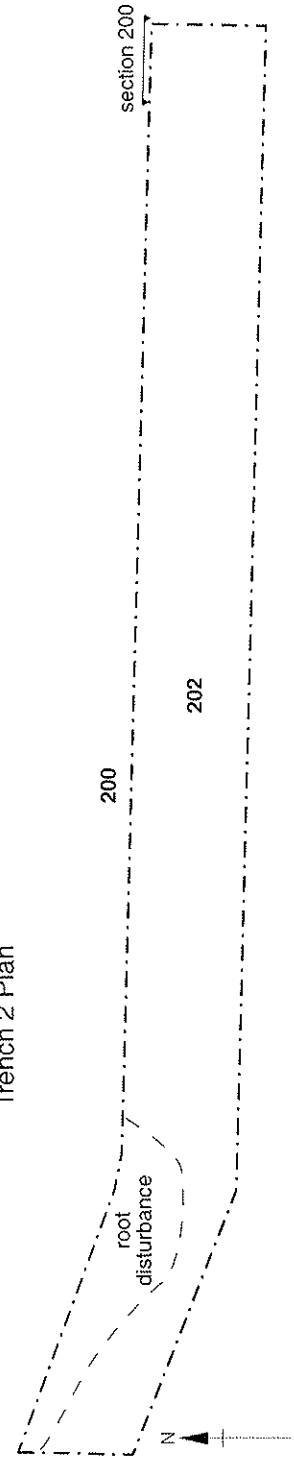
Trench 1 Plan



Section 100



Trench 2 Plan



Section 200

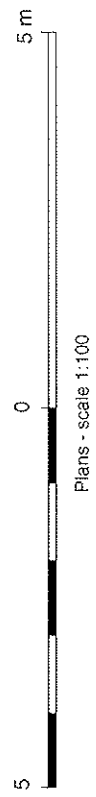
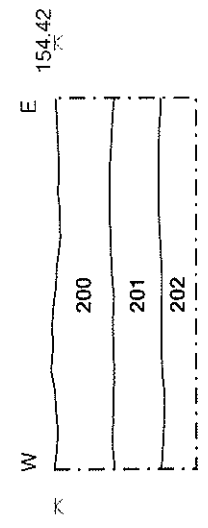


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2, plans and sections



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