

Parry/Kya House

Land Adjacent to Kya House, Piddington Road
Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SP 6570 1790

Planning Application 00/02019/APP

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11/12/2000

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at land adjacent to Kya House, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire on behalf of Mr Brian Parry. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed during the evaluation. Pottery of 18th -19th century date within the layers above the natural might suggest relatively recent disturbance. The remains of a structure found in Test Pit 1 are probably those of an outbuilding depicted on the 1880 1st edition O.S. map. The building was constructed over a layer containing pottery of 18th-19th century date, suggesting that the structure is of a Victorian construction.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook an archaeological field evaluation on private land adjacent to Kya House, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1) in November 2000. As part of the planning process, the County Archaeological Service requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in accordance with PPG 16, as Kya House is situated in the historic medieval village of Ludgershall. There are several earthworks in the village and documentary evidence survives for its medieval history (see below).
- 1.1.2 The developer, Mr. Brian Parry, commissioned OAU to undertake the evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by OAU detailing how it would undertake the fieldwork and report in accordance with the requirements of the project brief set by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service (Kidd, 2000).
- 1.1.3 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 (Fig. 2) is adjacent to Kya House on the north side of the Piddington Road (NGR SP 6570 1790). At the time of the evaluation the site was a grassed garden with trees.
- 1.2.2 Two north-south aligned bands of alluvium roughly define the extent of Ludgershall to the east and west. The southerly part of the village is on Upper Oxford Clay. This material is a pale-grey calcareous mudstone. The northern third of the village including the site of Kya House is at 60-70m above OD on Middle Oxford Clay (BGS 1994).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

*OAU is grateful to Michael Farley (Archaeology) who has prepared this historical account of the village and kindly given his permission for its inclusion in this report.

- 1.3.1 Ludgershall is recorded in Domesday as two manors (Morris, 1978) and the following entries appear in 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 Arcnote, 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 south-east of the village (Fig. 3) that was enclosed in 1305 (op cit., 25). 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 within 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 lies near to 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 the '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 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 of 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 present here, with possibly a platform of a croft. The SMR records other earthworks in the village (e.g. CASS 2332, 2366, and 2331).
- 1.3.8 The site of Kya House is depicted on the 1st edition O.S. map of 1880 (Fig. 4). The site at this time comprised a main building with outbuildings and a formal garden with trees. To the south-west is the site of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.
- 1.3.9 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

The aims of the project were

- 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. Specifically the aim was to establish the presence/absence of late Saxon and medieval occupation, ceramic production or boundary features and establish 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, 1994).
- 3.1.2 Two test pits measuring 2 m by 2 m were excavated east of the existing house (Fig. 5). The pits were excavated by mechanical excavator 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, whichever proved to be the higher. Archaeological deposits were inspected by hand. At the time of the evaluation, the site was a domestic garden with an outbuilding, trees and an infilled pool. The precise location of the test pits was therefore dictated by local ground conditions, but was as close to the outline of the proposed new building as practicable.
- 3.1.3 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OAU practice (OAU Field Manual, 1992). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. A colour transparency and black-and-white negative photograph record was made of the work. Test pit plans and sections were drawn at 1:20.

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

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 None of the deposits revealed exhibited potential for environmental analysis.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Description of deposits

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 6)

- 4.1.1 The earliest deposit in Test Pit 1 was a layer of dark yellow-brown clay (103) interpreted as the natural. This was overlain by a 0.2 m thick dark grey clay (102) that included charcoal and stones and several sherds of 18th/19th century pottery. At this level were the remains of a structure (105). The structure comprised two courses of roughly hewn limestone blocks with occasional brick fillers, bonded with yellow sand. The walls were 0.45 m wide and survived to a height of 0.2 m. Within the limit of the walls and abutting them was a layer of loose yellow sand (104), possibly construction material subsequently used as bedding material for a floor surface. Outside the limit of the walls and overlying 102 was a layer of brown silt (106) containing brick fragments and charcoal to a depth of 0.1 m, and containing pottery of 19th century date. The layer may have been occupation or demolition material. This layer and the stonework were overlain by the present topsoil (101).

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 7)

- 4.1.2 The natural clay (200) was revealed at the base of the Test Pit 2. This was sealed by a grey-brown silty clay (201) with occasional stones and pottery inclusions of 18th/19th century date. The layer was slightly mixed, possibly the result of the plough or garden activity and sealed by the present topsoil (202).

4.2 Finds

Pottery

- 4.2.1 Six sherds - 1 white china, 1 decorated transfer printed ware, 1 white china with painted decoration, 3 red earthenware with internal glaze, none of which need be earlier than late 18th/19th century date were retrieved from context 102 in test pit 1.
- 4.2.2 Ten sherds - 2 white china, vessel, 2 white china (tea cup), 1 red earthenware (no glaze) 2 rims red earthenware with internal green glaze, 1 sherd painted and glazed, 2 fired clay - all of which date to the 19th century were retrieved from context 106 in test pit 1.
- 4.2.3 Two sherds - 1 rim of red earthenware vessel, red internal glazing, 1 thin red clay with dark brown internal and external glaze- dating to the 18th/19th century were retrieved from context 201 in test pit 2.

Animal bone

- 4.2.4 One piece of unidentifiable bone was retrieved from context 106 in test pit 1.
- 4.2.5 Two pieces of unidentifiable bone were retrieved from context 201 in test pit 2.

Clay pipe

- 4.2.6 One stem and a part of a bowl with small bore and no other markings was retrieved from context 106 in test pit 1.

Glass

- 4.2.7 Two sherds - one of which was a bottle rim top dating to the 19th century at earliest- were retrieved from context 106 in test pit 2.

4.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 4.3.1 No samples were taken for environmental analysis.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The evaluation covered an area equivalent to approximately 5% of the area of the proposed development. In both test pits the natural geology was immediately overlain by deposits containing 18th-19th century artefacts. This is a reliable indication that recent activity is likely to have removed any archaeological deposits or remains, should any have existed in the area of the proposed development. The lack of any residual artefacts of an earlier date appearing in these late contexts suggests that there has been little or no historic activity on this site.

5.2 Overall interpretation

- 5.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed during the evaluation. Pottery of 18th -19th century date within the layers above the natural might suggest relatively recent disturbance. The remains of a structure found in Test Pit 1 are probably those of an outbuilding depicted on the 1880 1st edition O.S. map. The building was constructed over a layer containing pottery of 18th-19th century date, suggesting that the structure may be of Victorian date.

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF CONTEXT INFORMATION

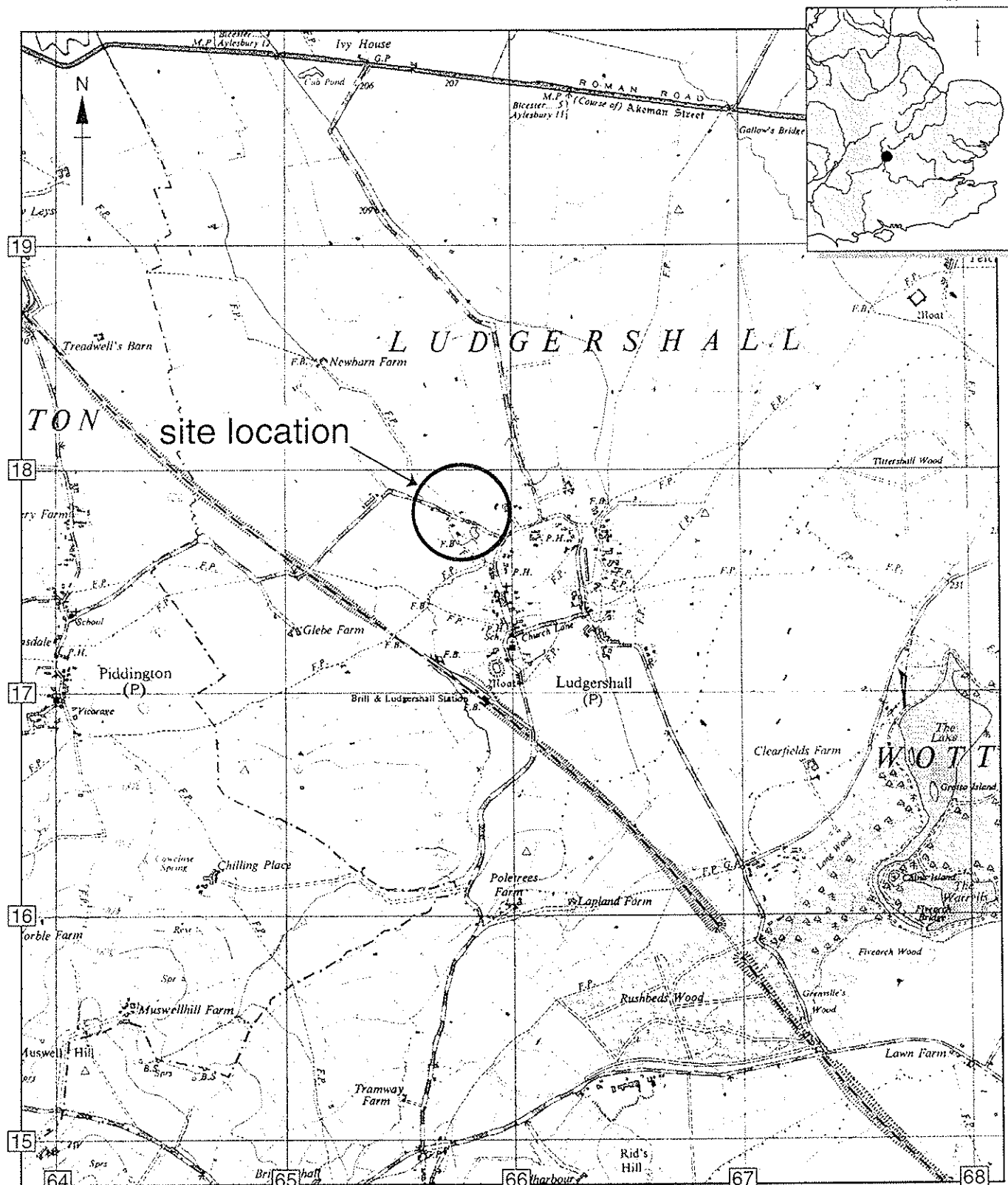
Test Pit	Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments/dating evidence
1	101	Layer	0.2 m	-	Topsoil
1	102	Layer	0.2 m	-	Layer above natural, mixed with C19 finds, construction horizon
1	103	Layer	0.25 m	-	Natural clay
1	104	Layer	0.15 m	-	Sand, construction debris
1	105	Structure	0.2 m	0.4 m	Wall of Victorian building
1	106	Layer	0.1 m	-	Demolition layer adjacent to wall 105
2	200	Layer	-	-	Natural clay
2	201	Layer	0.26 m	-	Mixed natural, post-medieval 18th/19th century - possible plough soil
2	202	Layer	0.34 m	-	Topsoil

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Bibliography and Abbreviations

ASC Garmonsway, G N (Ed)	1954	<i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i>
BGS	1994	<i>Solid and Drift Geology Thame</i> , 237 British Geological Survey
Broad, J & Hoyle, R	1997	<i>Bernwood: the Life and Afterlife of a Forest</i>
Harris		Paper 2, University of Central Lancashire.
BRO		<i>Buckinghamshire Record Office</i>
BRS	1964	<i>Buckinghamshire Estate Maps</i> Buckinghamshire Record Society
BRS	1997	<i>Buckinghamshire Glebe Terriers 1578-1640.</i> Buckinghamshire Record Society 30
CASS		<i>County Sites and Monuments Record</i>
EPNS	1925	<i>The place names of Buckinghamshire</i> : English Place Names Society 2. Mawer & Stenton.
Gough H	1878	The territorial, corporate and local armoury of Buckinghamshire, <i>Recs Bucks</i> 5, 359
IFA	1994	<i>Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluations</i>
Kidd, A	2000	<i>Brief for an archaeological field evaluation,</i> <i>Buckinghamshire Archaeological Service</i>
Morris, J (Ed)	1978	<i>Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire</i>

-
- | | | |
|-----------------|------|--|
| OAU | 1992 | Fieldwork Manual |
| RCHM | 1912 | <i>Royal Commission on Historical Monuments:
Buckinghamshire I (South)</i> |
| — Schultz | 1939 | An Elizabethan map of Wotton Underwood,
Buckinghamshire' <i>Huntingdon Library Quarterly</i> 3 |
| — Saunders, M J | 2000 | <i>Land adjoining Clovelly, Duck Lane, Ludgershall,
Buckinghamshire</i> (Thames Valley Archaeology Services
Report) |
| — VCH | 1927 | Victoria County History: Buckinghamshire 4 , 69-72 |



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Figure 1: Site location

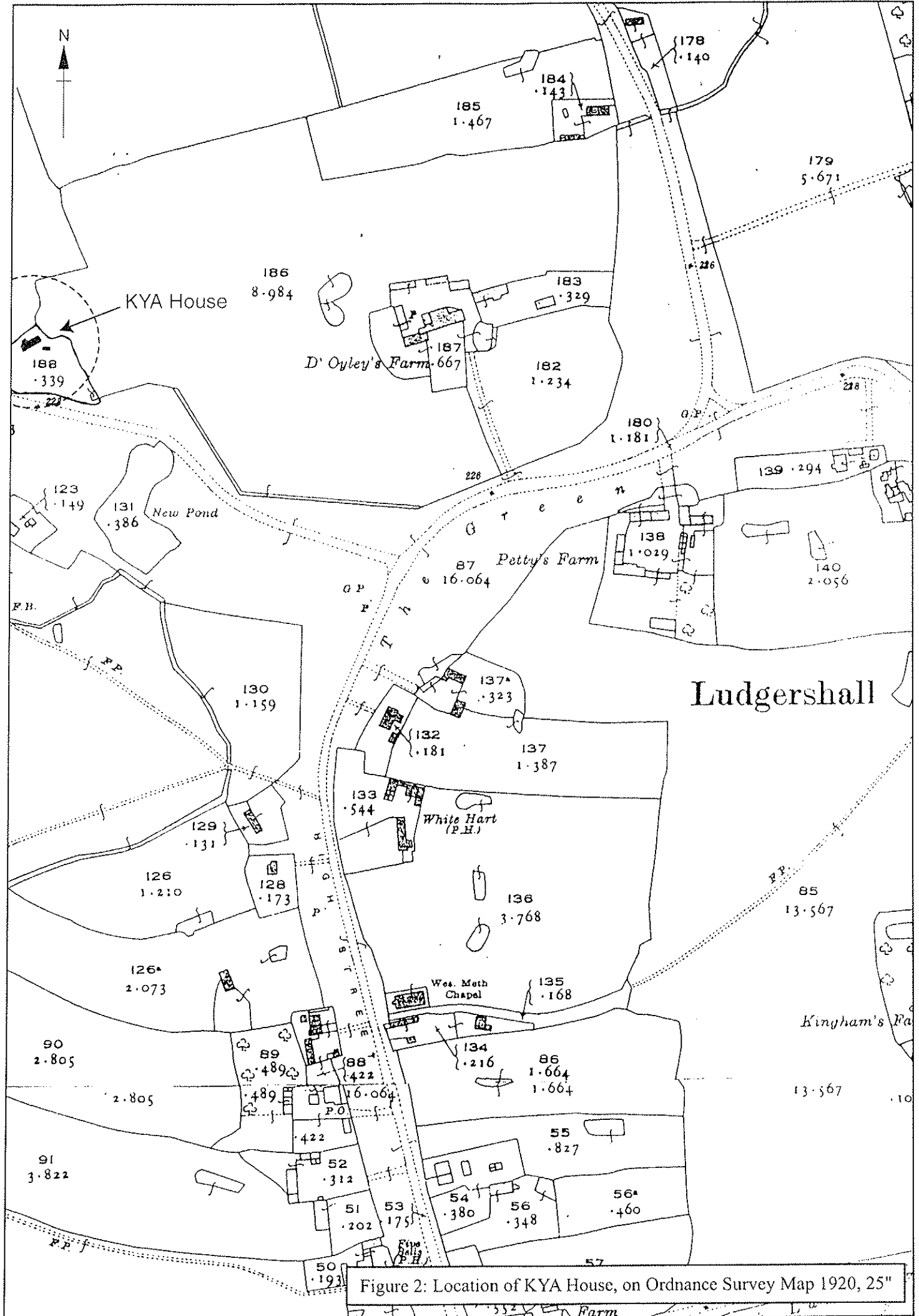


Figure 2: Location of KYA House, on Ordnance Survey Map 1920, 25"

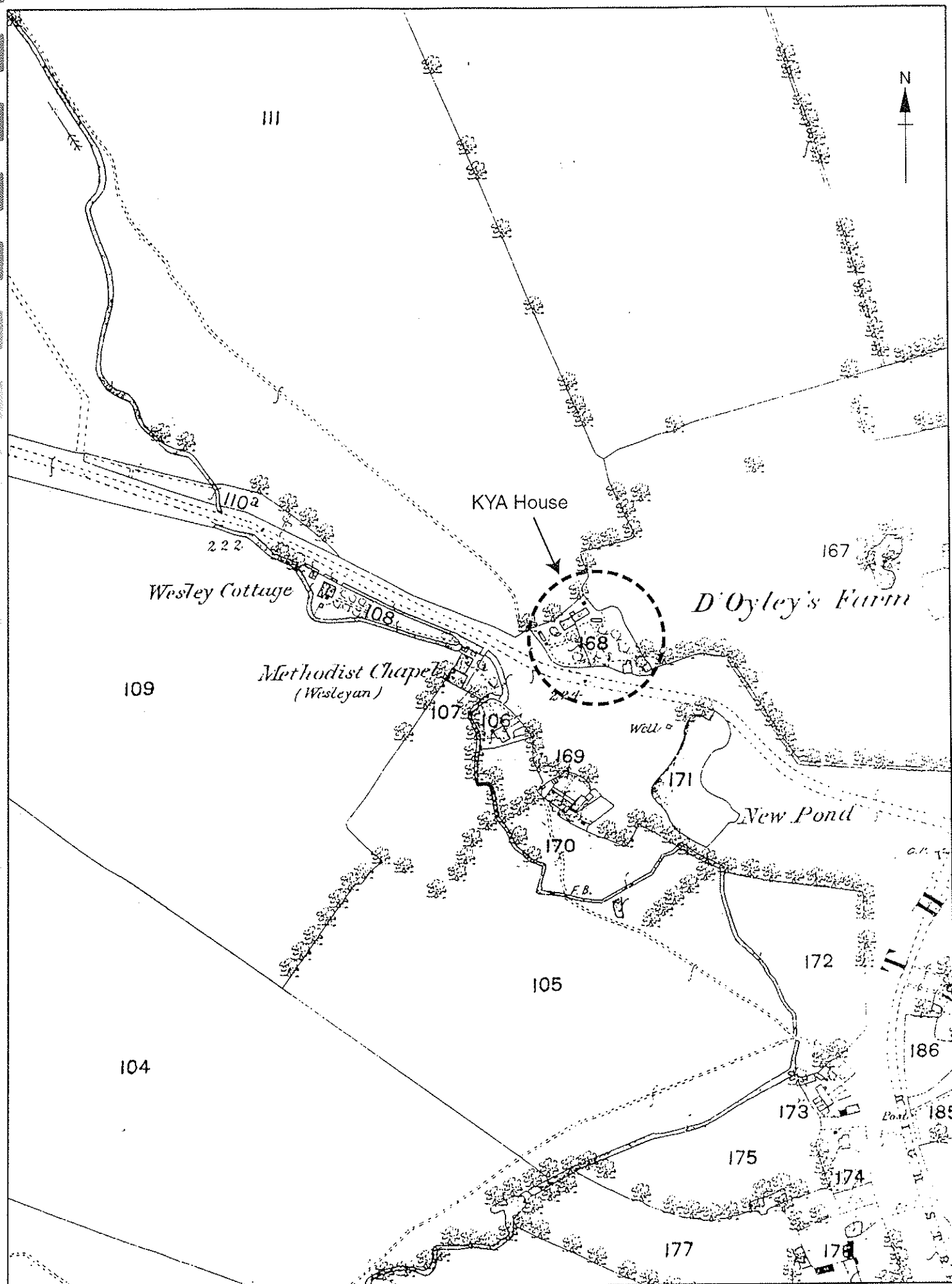


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey drawings of 1880, 1st Edition, showing site of KYA House

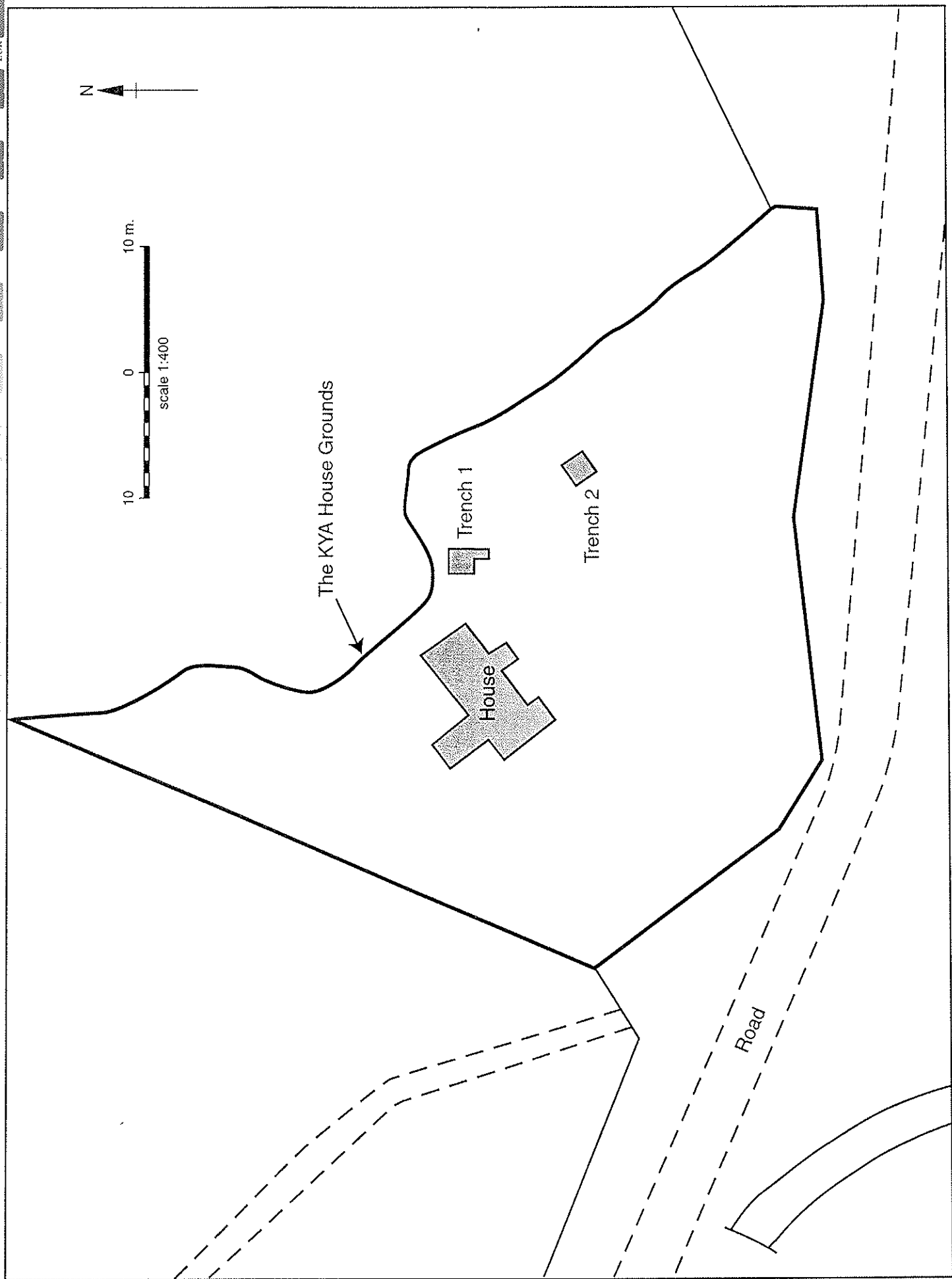


Figure 5: Test pit location plan

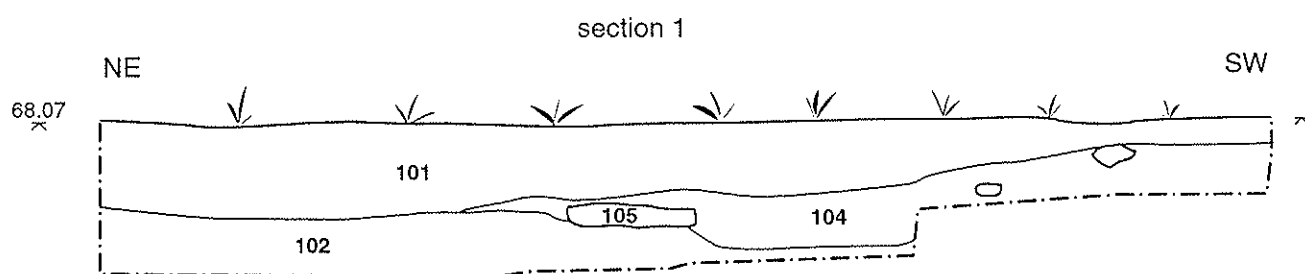
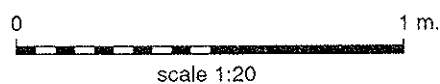
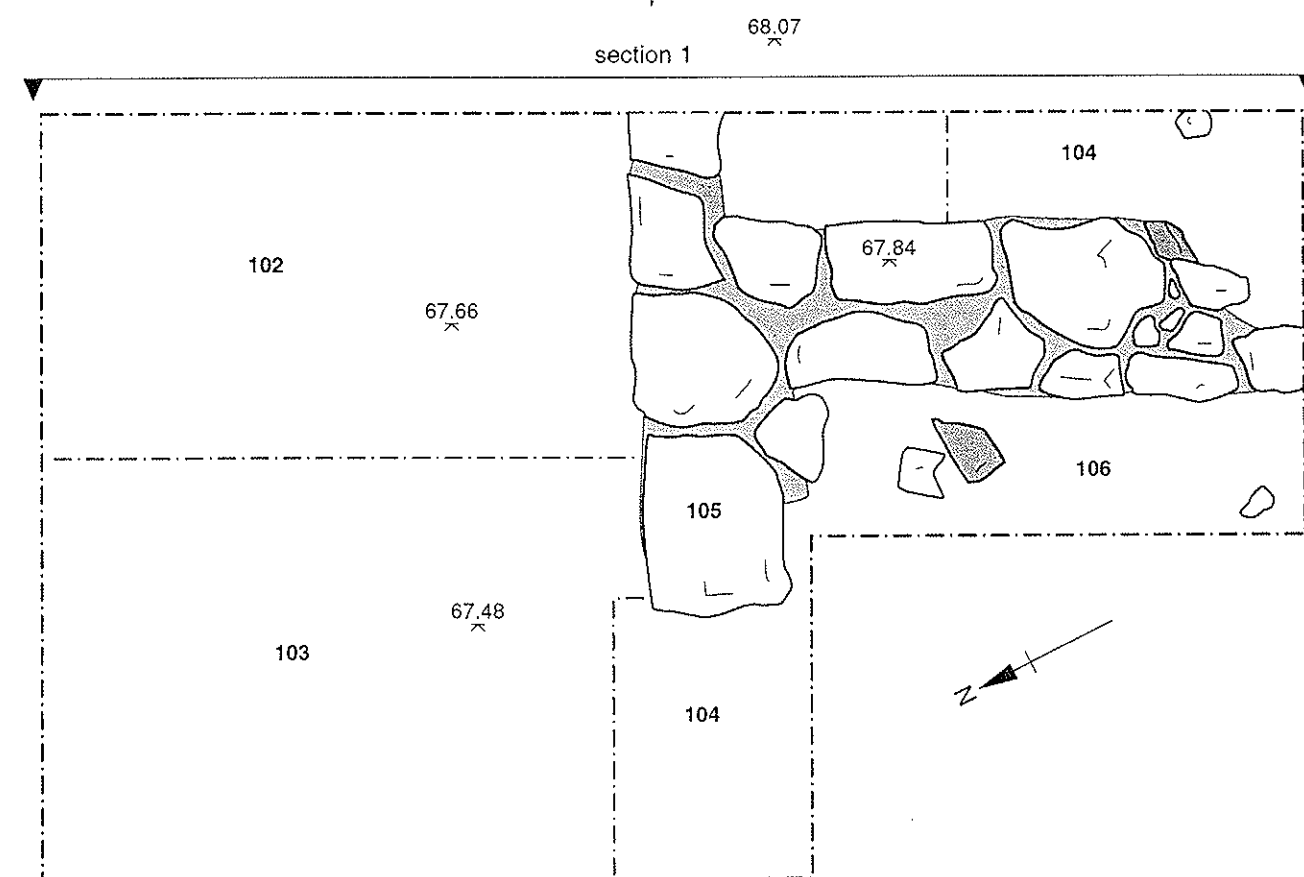


Figure 6: Test pit 1, plan and section

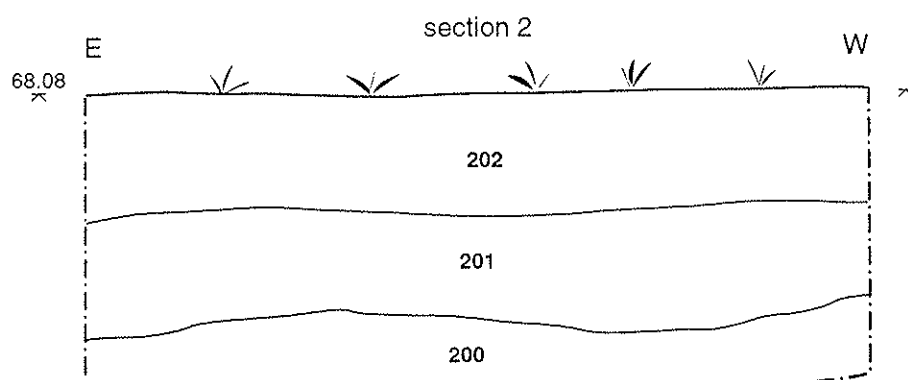
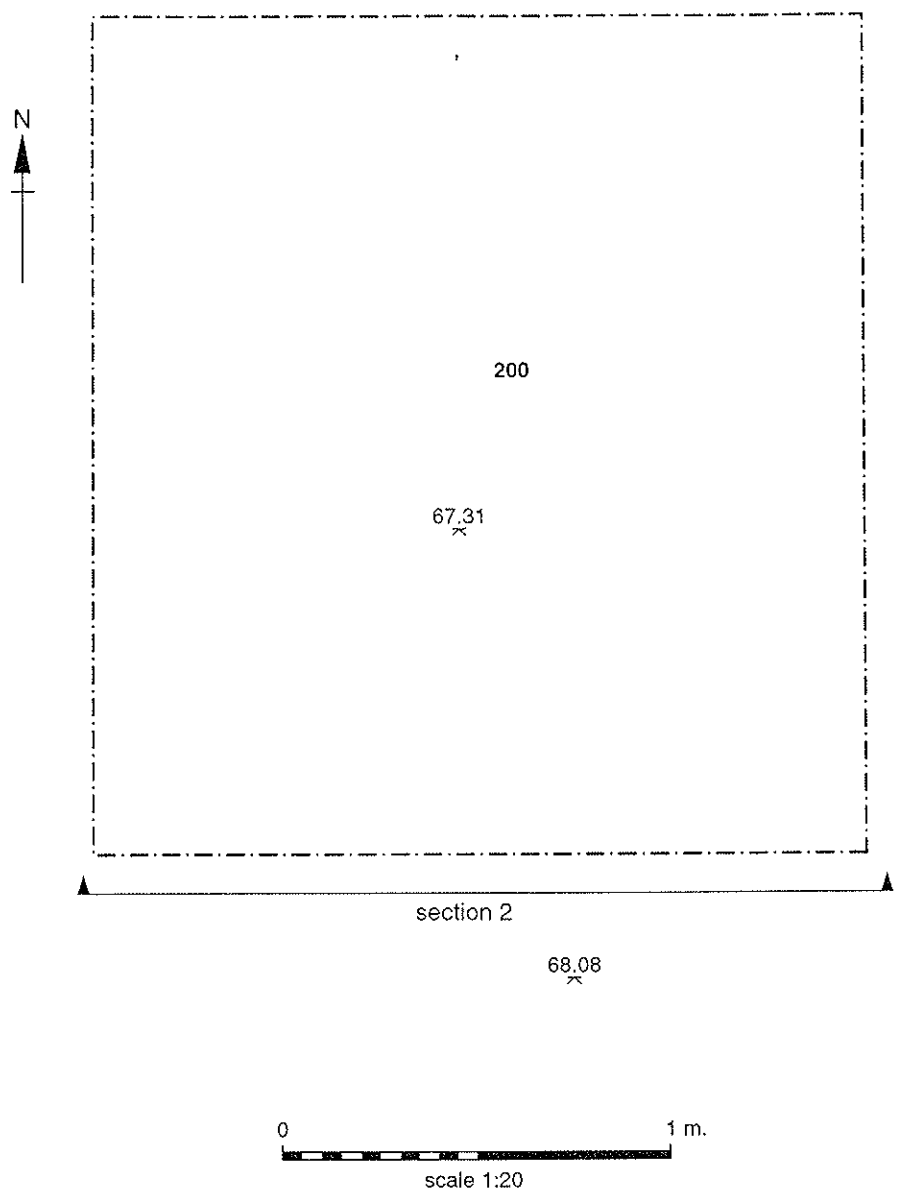
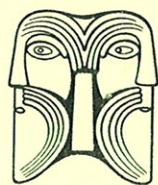


Figure 7: Test pit 2, plan and section



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