

LONG HANBOROUGH MALT HOUSE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

SUMMARY

A field evaluation at The Malt House, Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire uncovered no archaeological features or finds.

INTRODUCTION

A field evaluation was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in July 1991 at The Malt House, Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire (SP 415 145) in advance of house construction.

TOPOGRAPHY (Fig. 1)

The site lies to the north-west of Long Hanborough village overlooking the Evenlode Valley. It is situated on fourth gravel terrace at approximately 320 m OD.

The proposed building area lies within an existing garden; one of the trenches was located on a gravel drive and the other two within a vegetable plot.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the medieval village of Long Hanborough. Possible building platforms which could be of medieval date have been seen to the north-east of the site (SMR no. 9220).

A Palaeolithic handaxe was found approximately 400 m to the south-west.

No archaeological deposits or finds were known from the site itself.

STRATEGY (Fig. 2)

Three trenches were excavated by a 3.5 ton tracked machine using a five foot ditching bucket down to the natural gravel. The gravel was cleaned by hand, planned, photographed and any potential features were hand excavated.

The trenches represent approximately 1% of the building area.

Trench 1 was 15 m long and ran north-west to south-east parallel to a barn, along a gravel driveway. Trench 2 ran east-west across the north side of the vegetable garden. Trench 3 ran north-south across the south side of the vegetable plot and onto the lawn.

RESULTS

No archaeological features were located and only one sherd (modern) of pottery was recovered.

The natural gravel was everywhere disturbed by roots and treeholes. Several of these were examined but none proved to be archaeological features.

The gravel was overlain by between 0.35 m to 0.50 m of reddish brown clay loam sub-soil with 20% large gravel.

In the vegetable plot (Trenches 2 & 3) there was between 0.30 m and 0.40 m of garden soil above the sub-soil.

Next to the barn (Trench 1) there was 0.40 m of dark grey brown clay loam build-up from which one sherd of 20th century pottery was recovered. This layer was probably deposited to build up the area around the barn. A slightly sunken garden lies to the south.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation was undertaken with good ground and weather conditions.

The trenches are felt to have been representative and the overall conclusions are drawn with confidence.

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from the assessment and the area appears to have no archaeological potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no further archaeological work that needs to be undertaken on this development.

CHK July 1991

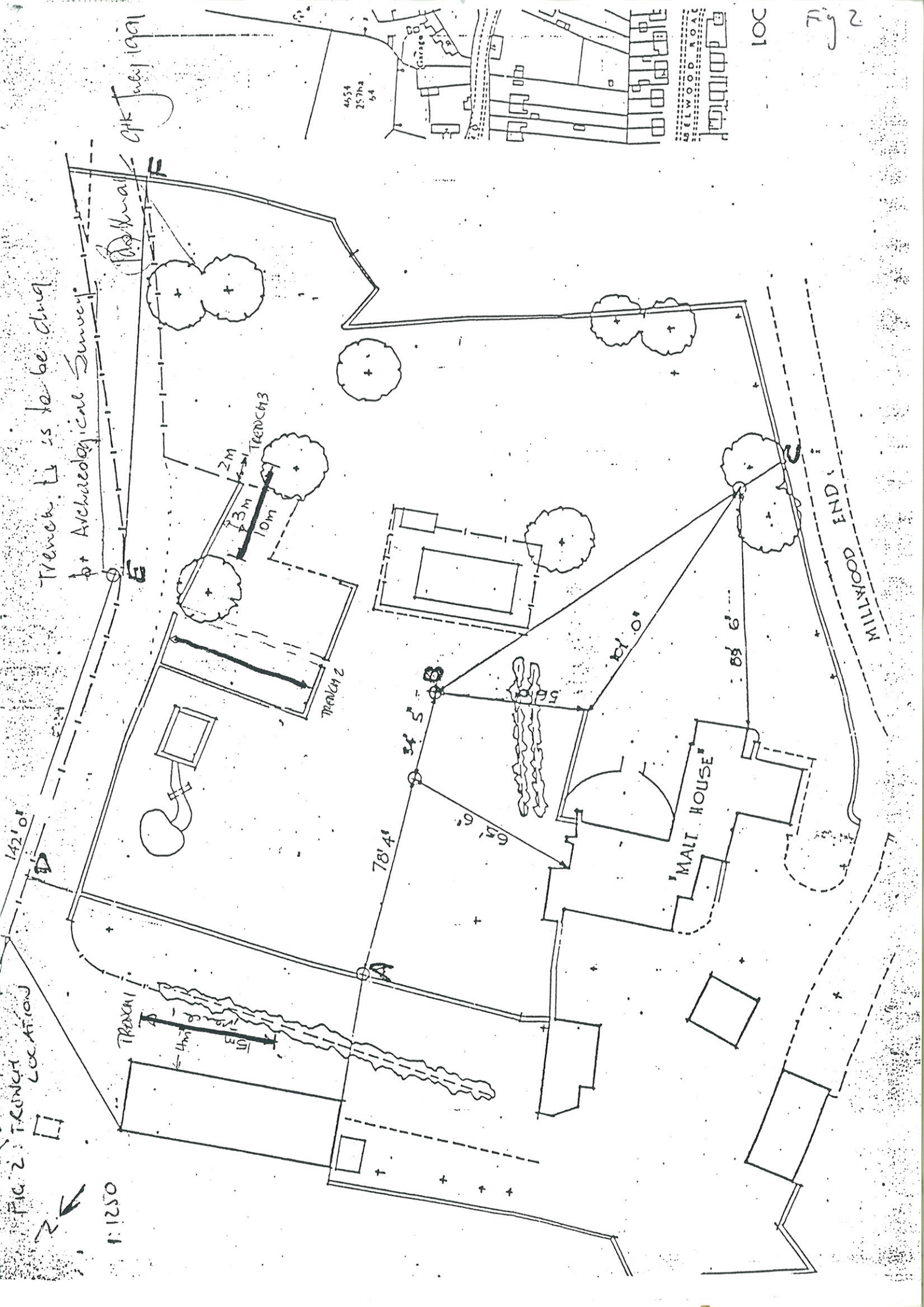
4654
25.7ha
54

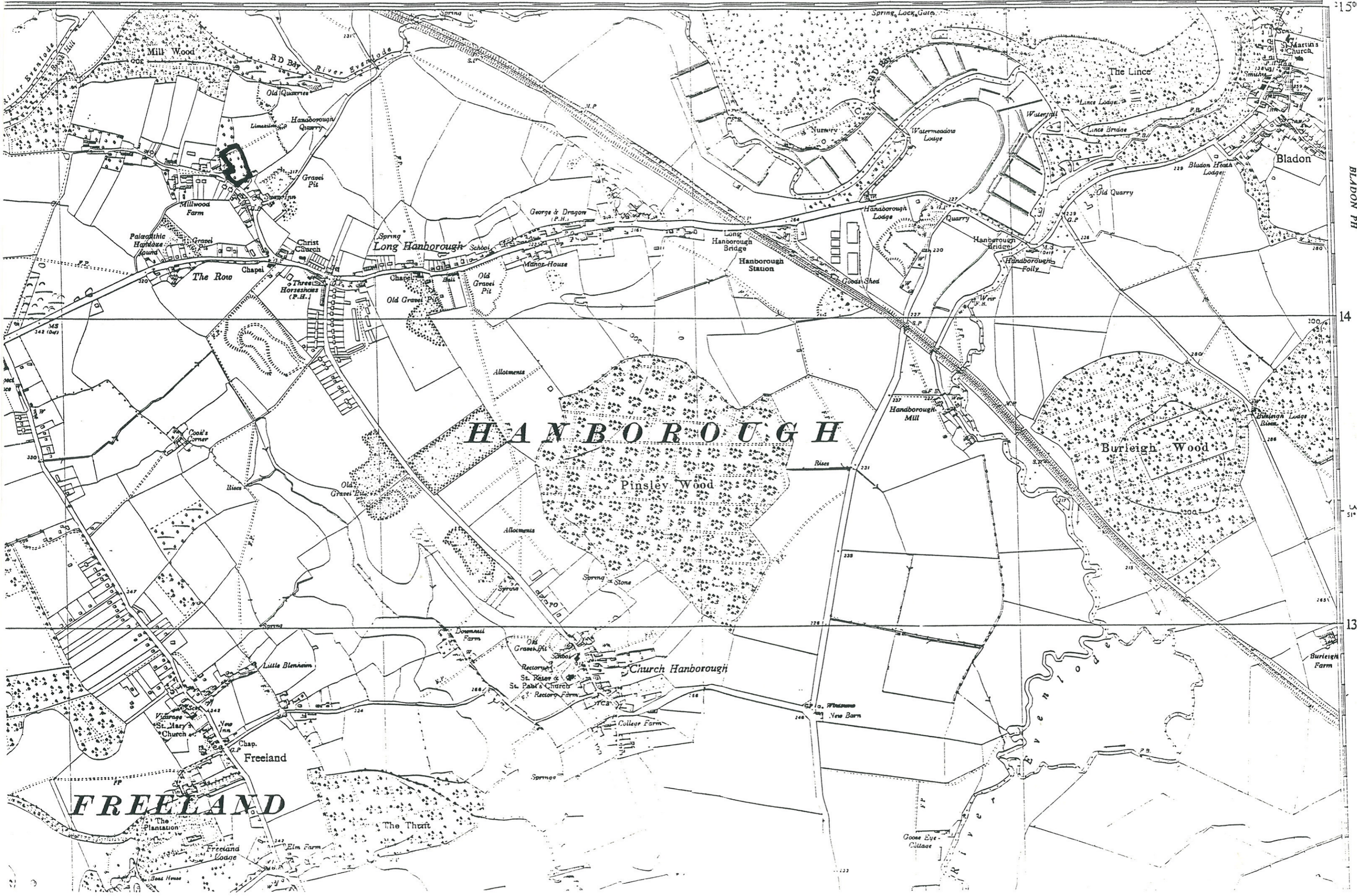
MELWOOD
Garage

Trench 1 is to be dug
Archaeological Survey

FIG 2 TRENCH LOCATION

1:1250





BLADON PH 14
LAT 51° 49'