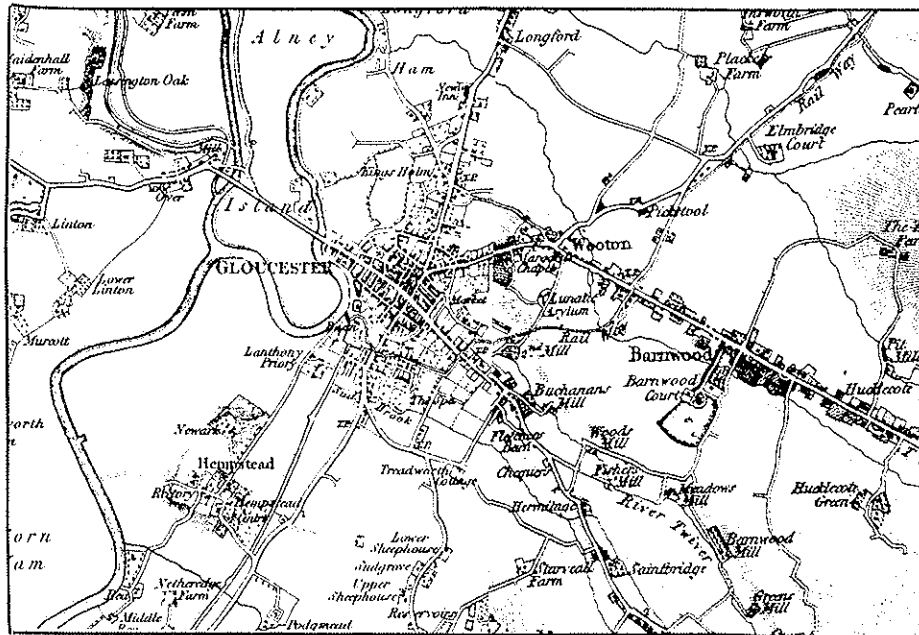


ROBERT HITCHINS GROUP
PAYGROVE FARM, LONGLEVENS, GLOUCESTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SO 8585 2050



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

October 1998

Robert Hitchins Group

Paygrove Farm, Longlevens, Gloucester
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
SO 8585 2050

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OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LIST OF CONTENTS

	SUMMARY	1
1	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Location and scope of work.....	2
1.2	Geology and topography.....	2
1.3	Archaeological and historical background	2
1.4	Geophysical survey	2
2	EVALUATION AIMS	3
3	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	3
3.1	Sample size and scope of fieldwork	3
3.2	Fieldwork methods and recording	3
4	RESULTS: GENERAL	4
4.1	Soil and ground conditions	4
4.2	Distribution of archaeological deposits	4
4.3	Presentation of results	4
5	RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS	4
5.1	Trench descriptions	4
	5.1.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3.....	4
	5.1.2 Trenches 4, 5 and 6.....	4
5.2	Finds	4
5.3	Environmental data	4
6	DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION	5
6.1	Reliability of field investigation	5
6.2	Overall interpretation	5
	6.2.1 Summary of results.....	5
	6.2.2 Significance	5
	6.2.3 Impact of development.....	5

Bibliography and references

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Trench location map

Paygrove Farm, Longlevens, Gloucester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at Paygrove Farm on behalf of Robert Hitchins Group. The evaluation, conducted in advance of an outline planning application revealed no archaeological deposits in the area surrounding the farm.

Paygrove Farm, Longlevens, Gloucester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work (Fig.1)

An outline planning application is shortly to be submitted to Gloucester City Council by Robert Hitchins Group, to develop a site on the north-east side of Gloucester (NGR SO 8585 2050). Following consultation with the manager of Gloucester Archaeology Unit (the City Archaeologist), it has been determined that the local authority would require an archaeological evaluation prior to the application for planning consent being presented to committee, in accordance with Planning policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). The Oxford Archaeological Unit has been commissioned by Robert Hitchins Group to carry out the evaluation. As the evaluation is in advance of the outline planning application, no formal brief has been prepared.

1.2 Geology and topography

The drift geology consists of sand and gravels, over the Lower Lias. The site is *c* 1.6 ha in extent and is currently occupied by farm buildings and paddocks.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The proposed development site lies in an area formerly consisting of detached portions of a number of parishes, which have been incorporated into the City of Gloucester only in the 20th century.

Little is known about the archaeology of the site, although Paygrove Farm may be of post-medieval or earlier origin. Medieval mills are recorded along the line of the Horsbere brook, and Roman settlement is recorded further to the east.

The site has been designated by the local authority as an area of archaeological interest, largely because of the lack of information for the area in the Gloucester City Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey of the site has been carried out. The results suggest that the site is extensively disturbed by service trenches and other modern features. However, some parts of the site, particularly to the south-east of the farm buildings, appear to be relatively undisturbed. The survey gives no indication that significant archaeological deposits are present in these areas.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1 The aims of the investigation were as follows
- 2.2 To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.
- 2.3 To clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.4 To establish the presence/ absence of medieval and post-medieval settlement on the site, representing possible earlier phases of Paygrove Farm.
- 2.5 To determine the local, regional, national and international significance of such archaeological deposits as are revealed, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.
- 2.6 To make the results of the investigation available.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation was based upon a 2% sample of the proposed development area, which is c.1.6 ha in extent. The evaluation consisted of 6 trenches. Three of the trenches were 30 m long and the remaining three trenches were 20 m long. All of the trenches were c. 1.70 m wide. The overburden was removed by a JCB mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).

The trenches were generally located to avoid the positions of known service trenches and areas of modern disturbance identified by the geophysical survey. However, one trench was located to investigate an apparently post-medieval or modern linear feature. The trenches were concentrated particularly to the south-east of the farm buildings, as this area appears to be relatively undisturbed by modern activity.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

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 were drawn at a scale 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).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was a brown Lias clay overlying drift geology consisting of sand and gravels. Ground conditions were dry.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

No archaeological deposits were encountered in any of the trenches.

4.3 Presentation of Results

The results of the evaluation are described by trench from the earliest to the latest deposits. The context inventory is contained in Appendix 1. As no archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation and the layers of overburden within the trenches were almost identical, the trench descriptions are grouped by site area.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trench descriptions (Fig.2)

5.1.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3

Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned to the south-east and east side of the Farm. Trench 3 was positioned to the east of the Farm. No archaeological deposits were uncovered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 and all were excavated by machine to the surface of the natural brown clay (102, 202 and 302). Overlying the clay in all three trenches was a layer of earlier plough soil. The depth of this deposit varied in thickness throughout the three trenches from a depth of 0.35 m in Trench 1 to 0.14 m in Trench 3. Overlying the earlier plough soil was the modern top soil.

5.1.2 Trenches 4, 5 and 6

Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were positioned to the west of the Farm. Trenches 4 and 5 were situated in paddocks to the north-west. Trench 6 was located in a paddock to the south-west. No archaeological deposits were uncovered in Trenches 4, 5 and 6. All were excavated by machine to the surface of the natural clay (402, 502 and 602). Overlying the clay in all three trenches was a layer of earlier ploughsoil. The depth of this deposit was broadly similar in all three trenches at *c.* 0.20 m thick. This layer was in turn overlain by the modern topsoil.

5.2 Finds

No finds were retrieved during the evaluation

5.3 Environmental data

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The results of the geophysical survey indicates considerable disturbance by modern service trenches. Disturbance to certain parts of the evaluation area is known to have occurred during the construction of a mains water pipe and other services (Fig 2), but the linear nature of the trenches means that destruction to archaeological deposits will have been confined to a limited area. There was no indication of unusual levels of plough disturbance on the site. Some archaeological deposits would therefore be expected to survive if the area surrounding the farm buildings had been intensively occupied in the past.

The negative result of the evaluation does not preclude the possibility that Paygrove Farm is of medieval or early post-medieval origin. However, if this is the case, the earlier phases are probably restricted to the site of the present farm buildings, where they are likely to have suffered extensive modern disturbance.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 *Summary of Results*

Although the proposed development area is on a site of a modern settlement which could well be post-medieval or earlier in origin, the evaluation found no archaeological evidence for settlement occupation in the areas targeted by the trial trenching.

6.2.2 *Significance*

The evaluation suggests that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the area immediately surrounding Paygrove Farm. The only evidence of settlement occupation on the site are the existing farm buildings. The site has no potential for further archaeological work.

6.2.3 *Impact of development*

As no archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation it is unlikely that the proposed development will have any significant archaeological impact.

Bibliography and references

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

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	100	layer			Modern top soil			
	101	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	102	layer			Natural clay			
002								
	200	layer			Modern top soil			
	201	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	202	layer			Natural clay			
003								
	300	layer			Modern top soil			
	301	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	302	layer			Natural clay			
004								
	400	layer			Modern top soil			
	401	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	402	layer			Natural clay			
005								
	500	layer			Modern top soil			
	501	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	502	layer			Natural clay			
006								
	600	layer			Modern top soil			
	601	layer			Earlier plough soil			
	602	layer			Natural clay			

**GLOUCESTER CITY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM**

- 1 **Type of recording** **Excavation**
 Watching brief
 Other (specify) **Evaluation**
- 2 **Address:** Paygrove Farm

Site Name: Paygrove Farm

Site Code: GLRCM 1998/42

National Grid Refs: **centre of site** SO 8585 2050

 Limits of site **(a)** **(b)**
 (c) **(d)**
- 3 **Directed/Supervised by:** Sean Cook

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES

For (organisation/department) Oxford Archaeological Unit

Funded by: Robert Hitchins Group
- 4 **Date fieldwork started** 12/10/98 **Date finished** 15/10/98

Fieldwork previously notified Yes/No

Fieldwork will continue: Yes/No
- 5 **Periods represented:** NONE

palaeolithic **roman**

mesolithic **saxon**

neolithic **medieval**

bronze age **post-medieval**

iron age **unknown**

6 Period summaries

Although the proposed development area is on a site of a modern settlement which could well be post-medieval or earlier in origin, the evaluation found no archaeological evidence for settlement occupation in the areas targeted by the trial trenching

7 **Natural** Brown Lias clay

Height above Ordnance Datum Approximately 13.50 m AOD

8 **Type (specify)**

Location of Archive

(a) **All records will be deposited with the** Gloucester City museum.

(b) **Approx. year of transfer** 1998

(c) **Location of any copies**

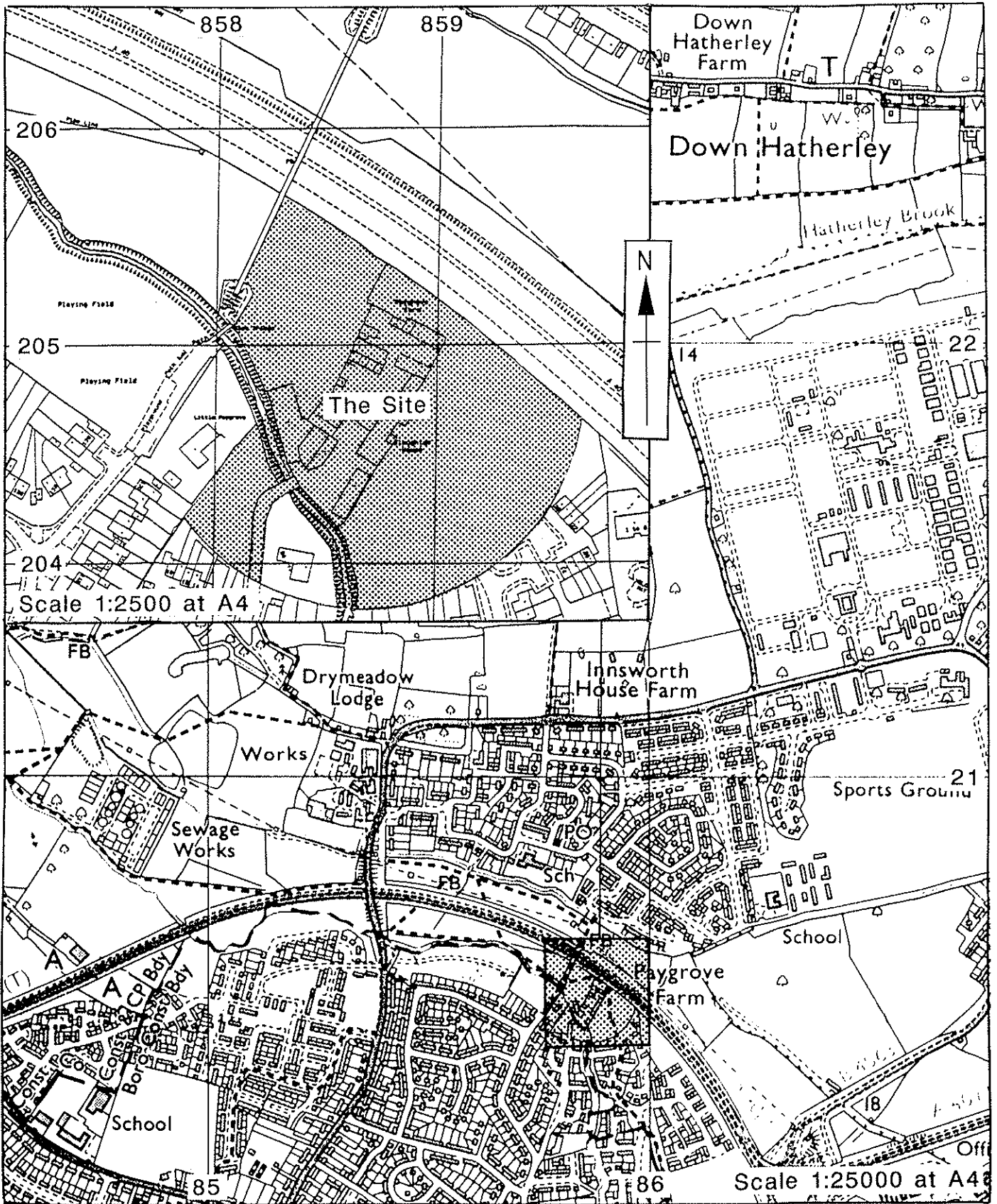
(d) **Has a security copy of the archive been made ?** Yes/no

9 **Location of finds:** No finds were retrieved during the evaluation

10 **Bibliography**

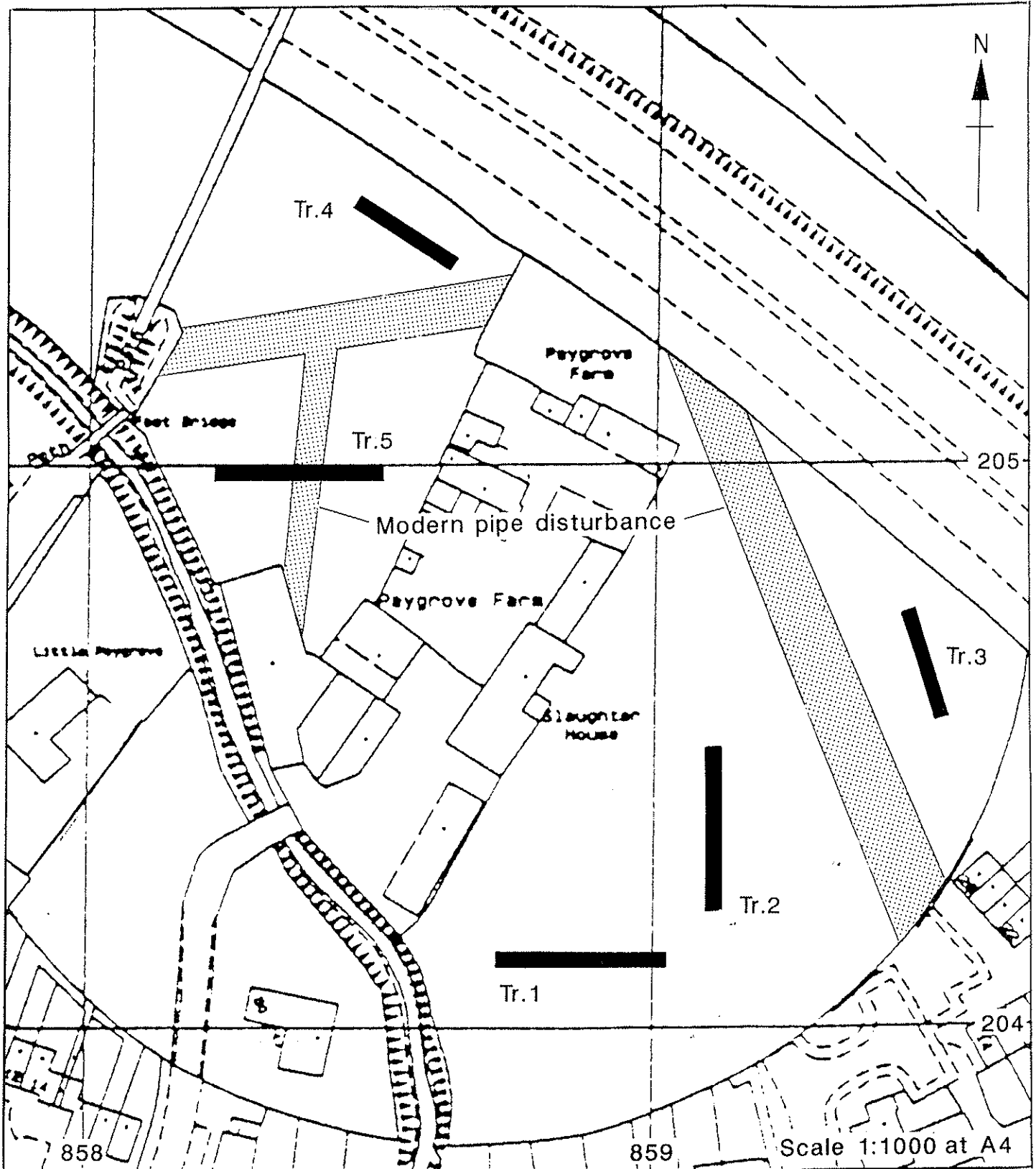
Signature.....

Dated.....



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Figure 1: Site location plan



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Figure 2:Trench location plan,