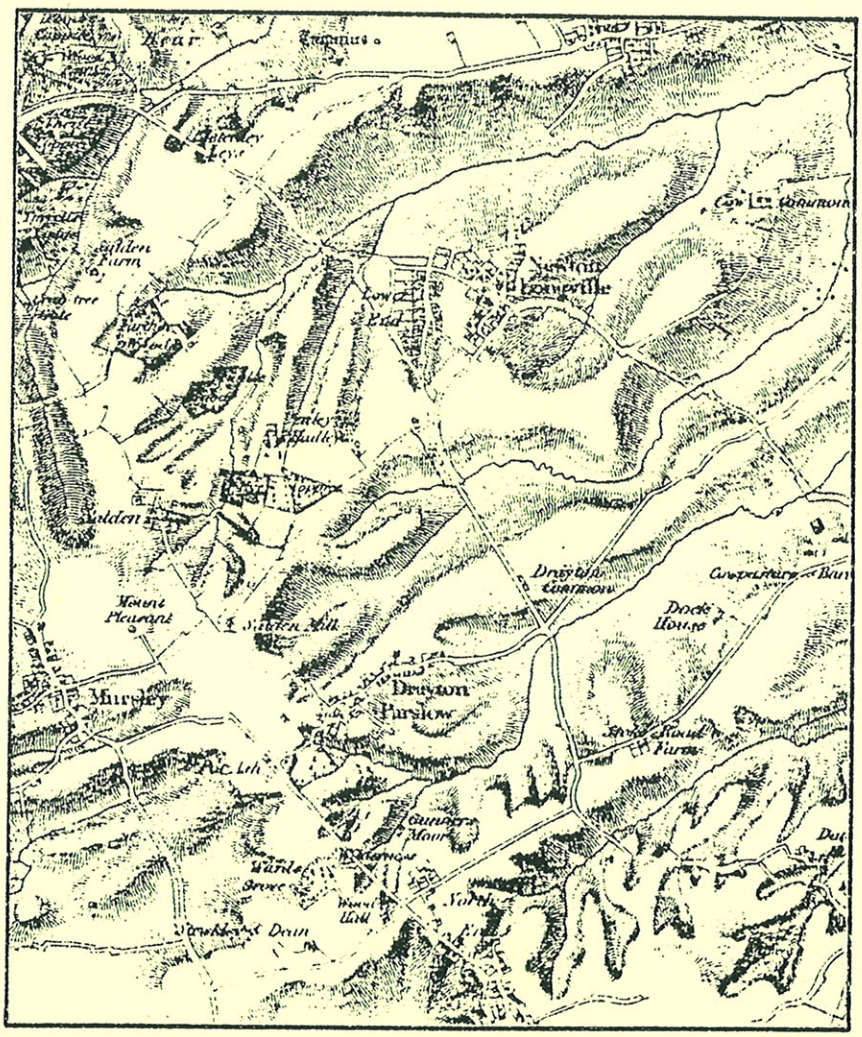
DRAYTON PARSLOW (BU)

DPHTC
839/93

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
DRAYTON PARSLOW

Archaeological evaluation

DPHCH 93



NOVEMBER 1993

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

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LAND ADJACENT TO DRAYTON PARISH CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

In October 1993 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a small evaluation on land being sold by Drayton Parochial Church Council for redevelopment. The plot of land comprises 350 square metres and is currently in use as allotments. Strategy, archeological background and the results are outlined below.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area (Fig. 1,2) lies immediately to the north of the Church of the Holy Trinity, a small country church which dates to the fourteenth century. Stonework dating to the Saxon period can be seen in the churchyard and is believed to be part of a cross. It was therefore considered possible that evidence of early settlement in close proximity to the church may be encountered. The geology of the region was thought to be gravelly clay.

STRATEGY

A grid, 15 m x 15 m, was laid out throughout the allotment area and a projected 15 hand dug test pits were to be excavated down to significant deposits, or to the natural. Owing to the problems of part of area being inaccessible due to the density of brambles and another area being inhabited by a sizeable wasp nest, only 10 test pits were dug. The pit locations (fig. 3) approximated the grid at 15 m intervals. Hand digging removed the accumulated layers in measured spit depths of 0.10 m or part thereof, and the artefacts retrieved after the soil had been seived through a 12 mm size mesh. The test pits measured 0.50 m x 0.50 m.

RESULTS

The deposits encountered in all the pits were generally consistent with the activities within an allotment area. The soils were usually well sorted, rich sandy and clay loams with frequent charcoal inclusions. Natural at the base of most of the pits was found to be a reddish-brown sand with small stone inclusions. For a summary of layers per pit see the appendix. Two of the pits were not bottomed; test pit 6 was dug to a depth of 0.71 m and natural not found. The modern nature of the finds suggested the layers encountered here were in a modern pit. Pit 10, 1.11 m deep but with natural not found was felt to be also cutting through a modern feature, arguably a trench dug for the planting of deep rooting plants.

RESULTS:THE FINDS

Most of the layers in each pit contained finds but analysis of the pot sherds has proven difficult owing to the abraided nature of all the pottery. However, it is clear that mid-late Saxon wares and late Saxon to Early Medieval pottery is present in the area. It is though unlikely that any of the sherds were found in situ or within definable features as in each case either post Medieval or later finds (mostly brick, tile, Willow Pattern china etc) were found either within the same layer, or were from layers below. For example whilst mid-late Saxon pottery was recovered from pit 7 in layer 1, post medieval material was found in the layers immediately below. Assigning contexts (ie. layers) to a period is therefore not possible,nor was it possible to assign exact dates to the finds, but the presence of early pottery forms should be noted.

The location of the early finds by layer within pit is as follows: 7/1, mid-late Saxon. 3/4, mid-late Saxon. 6/2, late Saxon-early Medieval and Medieval.

CONCLUSION

The test pitting covered a reasonable portion of the allotment area and in each pit a quantity of pottery recovered. That the land has in recent times been thoroughly dug over suggests that if Saxon or Medieval features were present in the vicinity, thus accounting for the pottery of that date, they are now no longer present. It may be that the church has a Saxon precursor which may explain the presence of Saxon pottery in the vicinity. Medieval pottery would be expected as the present church is of that date. The limited nature of the investigation means that despite the absence of in situ features in the test pits, there may yet be features surviving outside the trial pit areas.

ARCHIVE

The archive comprising the site records and finds has been deposited with the Buckinghamshire Museum Service.

Jonathan Hiller
Oxford Archaeological Unit
November 1993

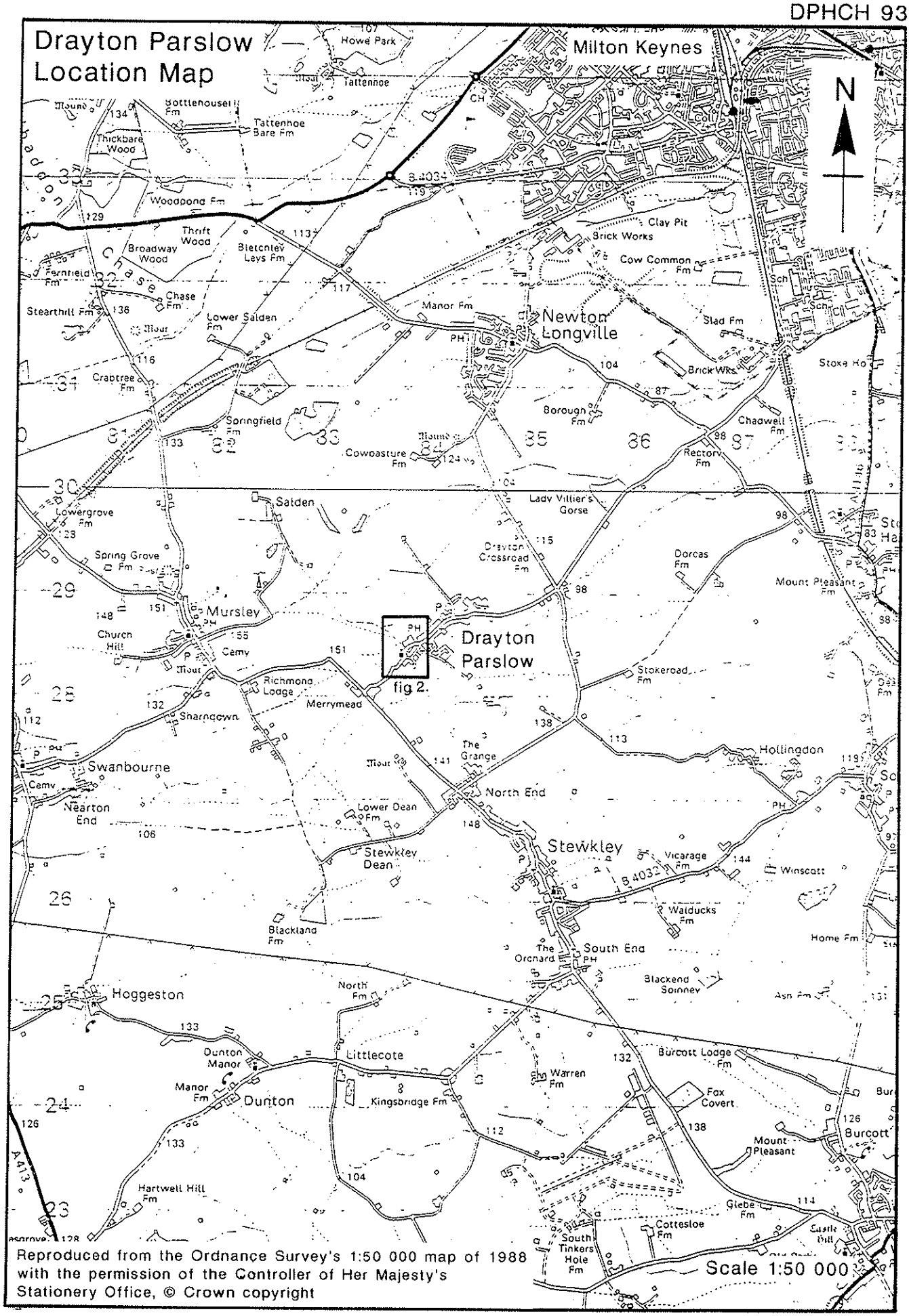
APPENDIX: TABLE OF PIT DESCRIPTIONS

PIT NUMBER	TOTAL DEPTH	LAYER NUMBER	SOIL TYPE	DEPTH OF LAYER
1	0.69m	1/1	Dark brown silty loam	0.20m
		1/2	Mid dark brown sandy loam	0.10m
		1/3	Light brown sandy silt	0.19m
		1/4	Light red-brown sandy loam	0.20m
2	0.74m	2/1	Dark brown silty loam	0.19m
		2/2	Mid dark brown sandy loam	0.14m
		2/3	Light brown sandy loam	0.41m
3	0.98m	3/1	Mid dark grey brown loam	0.10m
		3/2	Light grey sandy silt loam	0.10m
		3/3	Dark grey sandy silt loam	0.19m
		3/4	Mid dark brownish grey sandy silt	0.59m
4	0.28m	4/1	Dark grey brown clay loam	0.28m
5	0.43m	5/1	Dark grey brown clay loam	0.37m
		5/2	Mid dark grey brown silt loam	0.06m
6	0.71m	6/1	Dark grey brown clay loam	0.35m
		6/2	Mid dark grey brown sandy loam	0.36m
7	0.32m	7/1	Dark grey brown loam	0.24m
		7/2	Light brown clay silt (natural)	0.08m
8	0.32m	8/1	Dark grey silt loam	0.18m
		8/2	Mid dark brown clay silt	0.13m
9	0.20m	9/1	Dark brown grey silt loam	0.20m
10	1.11m	10/1	Dark grey silt loam	0.34m
		10/2	Light brown grey sandy silt	0,77m

APPENDIX: TABLE OF CONTEXTS CONTAINING PRE-MODERN FINDS

CONTEXT	POT	BRICK	Fe OBJ	TILE	BONE	COMMENTS
6/2/2	5	5	-	-	-	5 pot P.M, 1 pot sherd of late Saxon date.
6/2/3	3	5	3	-	-	Pottery: 1 sherd early Medieval, 1 Medieval, 1 P.M.
7/1/2	3	1	-	-	-	2 x Mid-late Saxon pot sherds, 1 x P.M.
7/1/3	2	1	-	2	-	2 sherds of Mid-Late Saxon date.

P.M= POST MEDIEVAL


Drayton Parslow
Location Map
Milton Keynes
N
Howe Park
Tattenhoe
Gotterhouse Fm
Tattenhoe Bare Fm
Thickbarrow Wood
Woodpond Fm
Thrift Wood
Broadway Wood
Bletchley Leys Fm
Clay Pit
Brick Works
Cow Common Fm
Fernfield Fm
Chase Fm
Stearthrill Fm
Lower Salden Fm
Manor Fm
Newton Longville
Slad Fm
Brick Wks
Stoke Ho
Crabtree Fm
Springfield Fm
Cowpasture Fm
Borough Fm
Chadwell Fm
Rectory Fm
Salden
Lady Villier's Gorse
Lowergrove Fm
Spring Grove Fm
Drayton Crossroad Fm
Dorcas Fm
Mount Pleasant Fm
Mursley
Church Hill
Cemy
Drayton Parslow
fig 2.
Richmond Lodge
Merrymead
Stokeroad Fm
Sharpcown
Swanbourne
The Grange
Hollingdon
North End
Nearton End
Lower Dean Fm
Stewkley
Stewkley Dean
Vicarage Fm
Winscott
Walducks Fm
Blackland Fm
The Orchard
South End
Home Fm
Blackend Spinney
Hoggeston
North Fm
Littlecote
Burcott Lodge Fm
Dunton Manor
Manor Fm
Dunton
Kingsbridge Fm
Warren Fm
Fox Covert
Burcott
Mount Pleasant
Hartwell Hill Fm
Glebe Fm
Cottesloe Fm
South Tinkers Hole Fm
Castle Hill
A413
B4032
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Scale 1:50 000

figure 1.

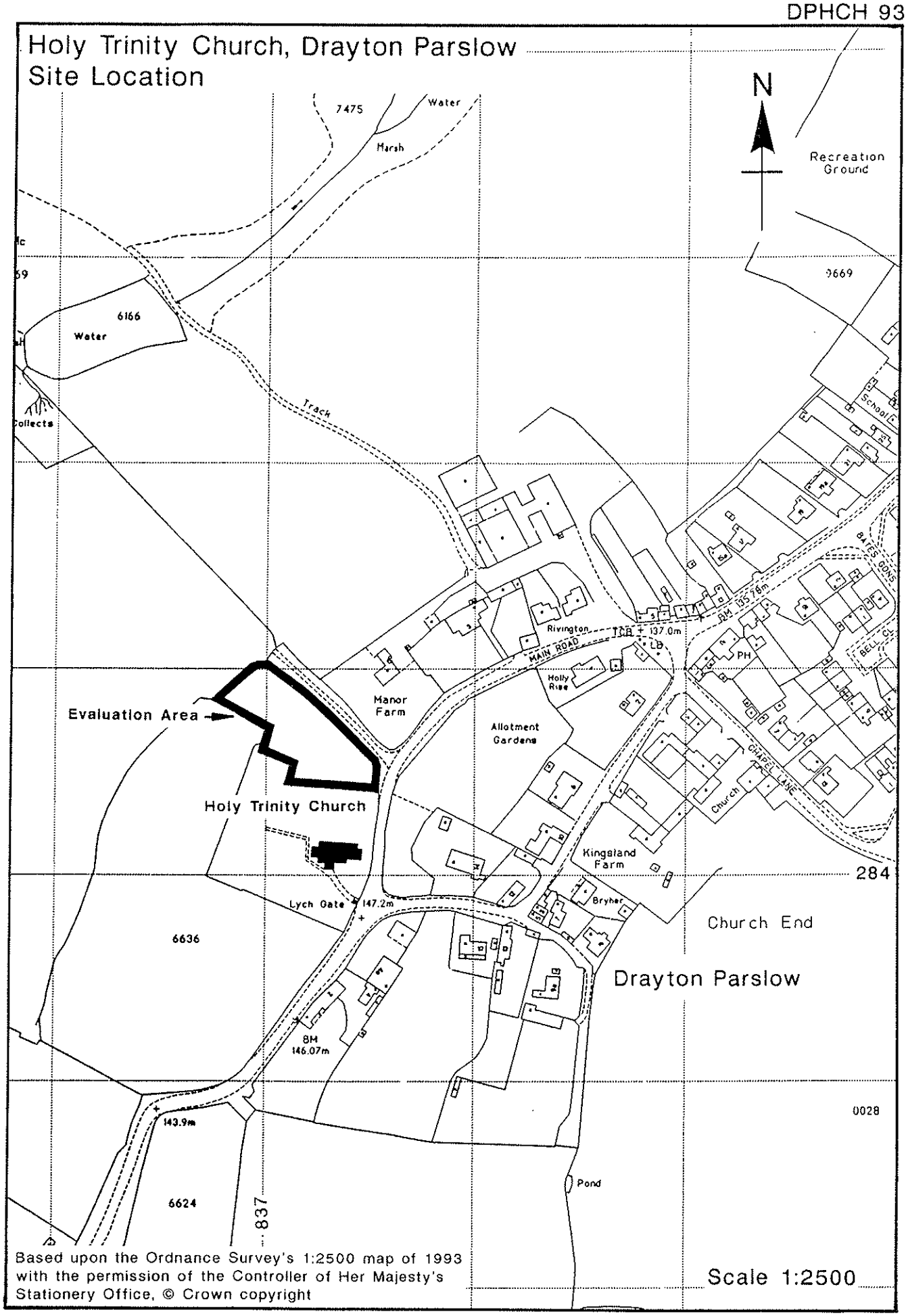
Holy Trinity Church, Drayton Parslow
Site Location
N
Recreation Ground
7475
Water
Marsh
6166
Water
Track
Collects
9669
School
Evaluation Area
Holy Trinity Church
Manor Farm
Allotment Gardens
Rivington
MAIN ROAD
TCB + 137.0m
LB
BM 135.78m
PH
Holy Rise
BATES GONE
BELL CL
CHAPEL LANE
Church
Kingsland Farm
284
Lych Gate + 147.2m
Bryher
Church End
Drayton Parslow
6636
BM 146.07m
143.9m
0028
Pond
6624
837
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figure 2.

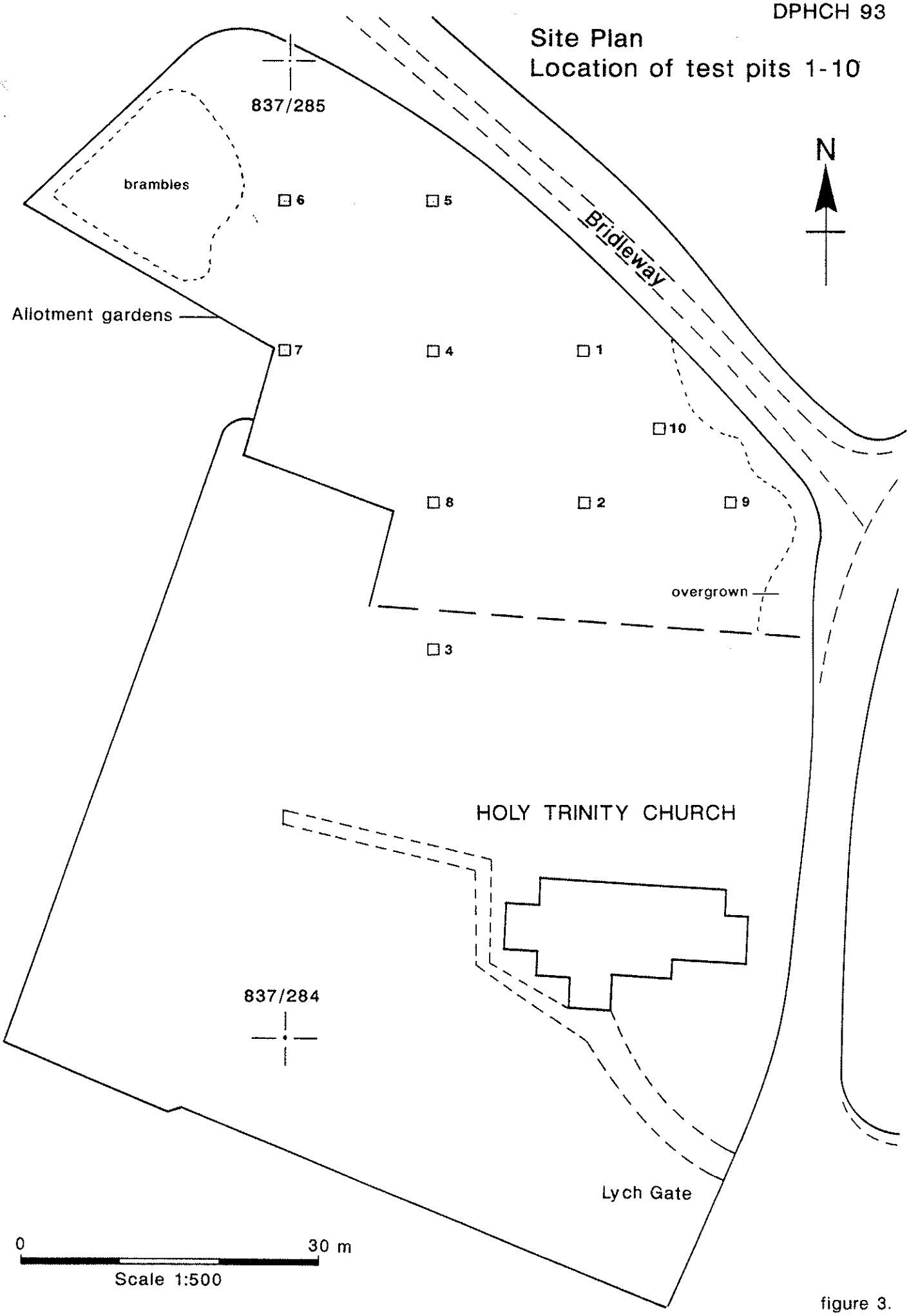
Site Plan
Location of test pits 1-10
837/285
brambles
6
5
Bridleway
N
Allotment gardens
7
4
1
10
8
2
9
overgrown
3
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
837/284
Lych Gate
0
30 m
Scale 1:500

figure 3.

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