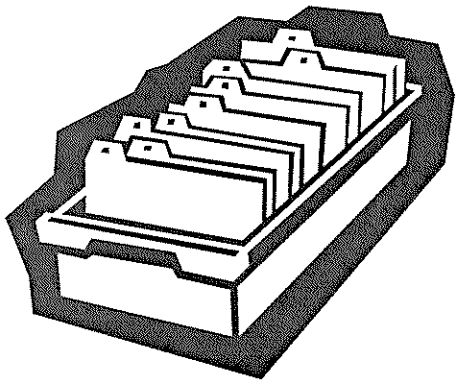
DATE: 10 October 2011

SCANNING INFORMATION SHEET

CONDITIONS



Application number: **O/2000/1891**

Applicant name: University Of Reading

Site address: Land At Church Farm & Cattle Breeding Centre, Church Lane, Shinfield, Reading.

A DESKTOP ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT CHURCH FARM, SHINFIELD, BERKSHIRE

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

SU 729 681

CLIENT

DAVID WILSON HOMES SOUTHERN

PLANNING SERVICES | HPT
POL | TLS
DC | ENF
APP |
CS |
07 MAR 2002
COPIES TO | MAS
FILE:

Berkshire Archaeological Services

61 Lower Farm, Wasing Lane, Aldermaston, Berkshire RG7 4LY
Telephone: 0118 9714 059 Fax: 0118 9714 811 Mobile: 07771 963 027
Email: basmail@lineone.net

FRONTSHEET

SITE NAME: Church Farm, Church Lane, Shinfield, District of Wokingham

SITE CODE: CFS/01

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SU 729 681

PROJECT TYPE: Evaluation by Machine Trenching

PROJECT DATE AND DURATION: 29th October 2001 to 18th February 2002

AREA OF SITE: 4.66 hectares

MONUMENT CLASS: n/a

ARCHIVE LOCATION: Reading Museum Service

ACCESSION NUMBER: REDMG: 2001.406

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 0/2000/1891

ABSTRACT

An application to Wokingham District Council by David Wilson Homes Southern for the construction of 140 homes in 4.66 hectares of land at Church Farm was subject to an archaeological condition. The consultants to Wokingham District Council (Babtie) drew attention to the archaeological potential of the site, which is located close to a number of significant remains and find-spots. Since the development site is situated opposite St. Mary's Church, which includes architectural elements of the late twelfth century, there was particular concern that traces of Medieval settlement could be encountered on the site.

In order to determine the character and extent of any archaeological deposits that might survive within the development area, Babtie advised Wokingham District Council that a desktop assessment should be prepared, followed by the implementation of a field evaluation. The desktop assessment and evaluation were undertaken of behalf of the developer (David Wilson Homes Southern) by Berkshire Archaeological Services.

Despite the range of archaeological remains and find-spots in the vicinity of the Church Farm development site, and the potential for encountering features associated with Medieval settlement, the evaluation results were mostly negative. The site failed to produce any finds of archaeological significance, and the only features discovered were two undated drainage ditches and traces of a pond shown on nineteenth century maps. Remnants of plough soils survived across the northern part of the site, but again there was no evidence for their date.

FRONTSHEET

ABSTRACT

CONTENTS

		Page No.
1	BACKGROUND	1
1.1	Origin of the Project	1
1.2	The Scope of the Report	1
1.3	Approaches to the Desk-Based Research	2
2	THE SITE	2
2.1	Site Location and Description	2
2.2	Topography	2
2.3	Geology and Soils	3
3	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY	3
3.1	Introduction	3
3.2	The Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age (500,000-700 BC)	4
3.3	The Late Iron Age (100/50 BC – AD 43)	4
3.4	The Roman Period (AD 43-410)	4
3.5	The Late Saxon, Medieval and Tudor Periods (AD 1042-1603)	5
3.6	The Post-Medieval Period (AD1604-1900)	6
3.7	Undated Finds and Features Transcribed From Aerial Photographs	6
4	THE HISTORIC MAPS	7
4.1	Introduction	7
4.2	The Site in the Seventeenth Century	7
4.3	The Site in the Eighteenth Century	7
4.4	The Site in the Nineteenth Century	7
4.5	The Site in the Twentieth Century	8
5	THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EVIDENCE AND THE LIKELY IMPACT OF PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT	9
5.1	The Significance of the Archaeological and Historical Evidence	9
5.2	The Impact of Previous Development on the Site	10

6	THE FIELD EVALUATION	11
6.1	Introduction	11
6.2	Site Conditions and Strategy Revisions	11
6.3	The Fieldwork results	12
6.4	Summary and Reliability of the Results	13
6.5	Archive Contents and Location	14
REFERENCES		14
APPENDIX 1		15
	Gazetteer of Sites (from the Wokingham Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record)	15
APPENDIX 2		17
	Gazetteer of Contexts by Evaluation Trench	17
APPENDIX 3		22
7	A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE CHURCH FARM EVALUATION	22
7.1	Introduction	22
7.2	General Aims and Objectives	22
7.3	Evaluation Requirements	22
7.4	Excavation Methods Statement	23
7.5	Post-excavation and Archive	25
7.6	Reporting	25
7.7	Dissemination	26
7.8	Timetable and Staff	26
7.9	Health and Safety	27
7.10	Copyright and Confidentiality	27

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	**Location of the Church Farm Development Site**
Figure 2	**Distribution of prehistoric and Romano-British sites from SMR data**
Figure 3	**Distribution of Medieval, post-Medieval and undated sites from SMR data**
Figure 4	**Extract from the 1756 survey of lands belonging to Arthur James Plunkett Woolascott, Earl of Fingall**
Figure 5	**Extract from the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1816**
Figure 6	**Extract from the tithe map of 1838**
Figure 7	**Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872**
Figure 8	**Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899**
Figure 9	**Extract from the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1911**
Figure 10	**Extract from the Revised Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1936**
Figure 11	**The Church farm development site showing the proposed trench layout**
Figure 12	**The Church Farm development site showing trench locations as excavated**
Figure 13	**Post-excavation plans of trenches 1, 2, 13 and 14 and sections of features F1302 and F1402**

A DESKTOP ASSESSMENT AND REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT CHURCH FARM, SHINFIELD, BERKSHIRE

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Origin of the Project

An application to Wokingham District Council by David Wilson Homes Southern for the construction of 140 homes in 4.66 hectares of land at Church Farm was subject to an archaeological condition (Application No. 0/2000/1891). Condition 3 of the District Council's Notification of Approval stipulates that *"no development shall take place within the application area, until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, which has been submitted and approved by the District Council"*.

The archaeological consultants to Wokingham District Council (Babtie) drew attention to the archaeological potential of the site, which is located close to a number of significant remains and find-spots. In order to determine the character and extent of any archaeological deposits that might exist within the development area, Babtie advised Wokingham District Council that a desktop assessment and field evaluation should be carried out on the site. This would provide the necessary information for a full consideration of the impact of the proposed development on the archaeology and ensure that an appropriate mitigation strategy could be implemented.

Accordingly, Berkshire Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Wilson Homes Southern, to carry out the archaeological work.

1.2 The Scope of the Report

The first part of this report provides a synthesis of the available evidence for past settlement and land-use in the vicinity of the development site. The significance of these findings and the potential for similar remains occurring on the site is also appraised, while the likely condition of any archaeological deposits is taken into consideration.

Secondly, the report describes the field evaluation which was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) included in Appendix 3. The strategy for that work was informed by the desk-based research and complied with the current sampling requirements of Babtie.

1.3 Approaches to the Desk-based Research

The approach adopted follows the *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment (1990). In format and contents it conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 1994). The work has involved the consultation of available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historic maps.

The principal sources of documentary information include:

- the Wokingham Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record;
- historic maps held by the Berkshire County Record Office;
- and documents in the Local Studies Library for the Reading area.

References from the Wokingham Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record cited in the text are listed in Appendix 1.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record is held by Wokingham District Council, while the Berkshire Record Office hold the copyright to the historic maps. Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, Berkshire Archaeological Services retains the copyright of this document.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Site Location and Description

The site is located to the south of Church Lane, Shinfield, in the District of Wokingham and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 729 681 (Figure 1). The development site extends over 4.66 hectares and incorporates Church Farm and the former Cattle Breeding Centre.

Much of the site is currently occupied by the buildings of the Institute of Food Research and the Institute for Grassland and Animal Production. A cemetery is situated in the centre of the development site, while an animal burial site is located along part of its southern boundary. Most of the ground between the existing buildings comprises concrete or tarmac surfaces, although there are a few small patches of land under dense scrub. The largest undeveloped area is situated in the north-western corner of the site, where there are two enclosures of rough pasture.

2.2 Topography

The development site is centred on the upper slopes of a narrow ridge following a south-west to north-east alignment. This forms a strip of relatively high ground dividing the valley of the River Lodden to the south-east from the Kennet Valley to the north-west. The ground surface within the site falls from a height of approximately 57 metres above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the north-west corner, to between 53 and 54 metres above OD along its south and south-eastern perimeter.

2.3 Geology and Soils

Shinfield lies towards the western end of the London Basin which is infilled with a series of Palaeogene deposits, laid down between 65 and 23 million years before present (Sumbler 1996). The development site at Church Farm is located on the London Clay (Geological Survey of England and Wales Map Sheet 268) which formed under shallow marine conditions and is approximately 90 metres thick in the Reading area (Sumbler 1996). This deposit is fairly uniform in character and consists of a brownish grey to dark bluish grey clay, containing variable amounts of sand and silt (ibid.; and Blake 1903).

The soil map for Berkshire indicates that Church Farm is situated on soils belonging to the Windsor Series. These are typically derived from the Palaeogene clays and are loamy or clayey pelo-stagnogley soils with impeded drainage. The more detailed mapping of the soils in the Reading area suggests that the Windsor Series are confined to the south and south-eastern part of the site. Soils belonging to the Tidmarsh Series are shown within the development area to the north. These are gleyed brown earths which form above gravel, but their occurrence on the site is somewhat anomalous since it does not tally with the geological data. Although Pleistocene drift deposits of Plateau Gravel occur in the Shinfield area, none are mapped at Church Farm (Geological Survey of England and Wales Map Sheet 268).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

3.1 Introduction

No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development site. The desk-based research focuses on the known distribution of remains within a one kilometre radius of the site. This information is derived from the Wokingham Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record and is based on various types of evidence, including the results of surface collection, mainly carried out as part of the Lodden Valley Survey (Ford 1997), archaeological evaluations in advance of development, chance finds and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution of finds reflects the piecemeal focus of archaeological fieldwork and the extent of current knowledge. For this reason, apparently blank areas should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The distribution of archaeological and historical features and finds in the vicinity of the site is shown in Figures 2 and 3 and a summary of this evidence is presented below in chronological order. Local sites mentioned in the report are identified by unique numbers, corresponding with the numbers shown in Figures 2 and 3 and listed in the gazetteer (Appendix 1). This provides a brief description for each entry, an Ordnance Survey National Grid reference, and the Sites and Monuments Record number. The sources of all data are duly referenced in the text or gazetteer, while all reports consulted are listed in the bibliography.

3.2 The Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age (500,000-700 BC)

All of the evidence for activity between the lower Palaeolithic and the late Bronze Age consists of worked flint recovered from field surfaces (Figure 2, 1-32). Some of the nearest finds came from positions approximately 100 metres from the south-west corner of the development site (Figure 2, 20-21). They form part of a light scatter of worked flint focussed on the ridge to the south-west of the site (Figure 2, 19-31), which was recovered from the two large fields extending southwards from Church Lane and abutting Hyde End Lane. The assemblage includes waste flakes (Figure 2, 19-22, 24 and 27-31), two cores (Figure 2, 23 and 25) and a scraper (Figure 2, 26), which have not been dated to a specific phase of prehistory.

A distribution of isolated waste flakes and a core found in a similar topographic setting also extends to the north-west and east of the development site (Figure 2, 17-18 and 32). These finds came from positions within 100 metres of the north-west corner of the site (Figure 2, 32), and 200 metres from its eastern perimeter (Figure 2, 17-18).

The remainder of the worked flint was recovered from locations within and on the lower slopes of the Lodden Valley, to the south, south-east, east and north-east of Church Farm (Figure 2, 1-16). The diagnostic material from this area includes two lower Palaeolithic hand-axes (Figure 2, 1-2), dating between 500,000 and 150,000 BC; an early Mesolithic to late Bronze Age flint scatter (Figure 2, 3), indicating activity between 10,000 and 700 BC; two Neolithic axes (Figure 2, 4-5), produced between 4000 and 2350 BC; and a flint scatter of early Neolithic to late Bronze Age date (Figure 2, 6), spanning the period between 4000 and 700 BC. The rest of the flint-work from the Lodden Valley has not been assigned to a specific phase of prehistory (Figure 2, 7-16). It includes two small assemblages (Figure 2, 7-8), a flint implement (Figure 2, 15) and a series of more scattered waste flakes (Figure 2, 9-14 and 16).

3.3 The Late Iron Age (100/50 BC – AD 43)

A recent field evaluation on land to the rear of 82 Oatlands Road, some 800 metres to the north-east of Church Farm (Figure 2, 33), revealed a ditch containing a few sherds of late Iron Age pottery (Taylor 2001). The ditch appeared to run through two evaluation trenches (Taylor 2001), and was on a similar alignment to a ditch found during an earlier evaluation (Figure 2, 34) on adjacent land to the east (Saunders 2000; and Taylor 2001). A potentially contemporary gully, which produced possible loom-weight fragments, was also found in a nearby trench (Taylor 2001).

3.4 The Roman Period (AD 43-410)

The limited evidence for activity during the Roman period is confined to the ridge to the south-west and north of Church Farm (Figure 2, 35-39). This primarily consists of a few sherds of pottery scattered across the fields close to Hyde End Lane and Ryeish Green (Figure 2, 35-37), at least 350 metres to the south-west of the development site. An isolated fragment of late Roman pottery (Figure 2, 39) was also found less than 100 metres from the north-west corner of the site. Scatters of this type are often interpreted as the result of manuring practices within Roman fields. This introduces

the possibility that at least part of the ridge was under cultivation during the Roman period.

Further evidence for Roman activity may have been found during an evaluation and geophysical survey on land some 300 metres to the north of Church Farm (Figure 2, 38). This revealed a ditch which was tentatively assigned to the Roman period, although the date and character of this feature remains uncertain.

3.5 The Late Saxon, Medieval and Tudor Periods (AD 1042-1603)

Shinfield (Figure 3, 40-41) was held by the Saxon lord Sexi during the reign of Edward the Confessor (Page and Ditchfield 1923), although there is little information about its character at that time. Following the Norman Conquest, the land was given to William Fitzosborn, who initiated the building of a church in AD 1069 and granted the advowson to the Abbey of Lyre in Normandy (Neave 1989). The Fitzosborns lost their lands at Shinfield shortly afterwards, when William's son, Earl Roger, committed treason in AD 1079 (Jefferies 1971). By the time of the Domesday survey of AD 1086, Shinfield (known as Selingefelle) was recorded as a royal demesne (Page and Ditchfield 1923).

Although the documents suggest that St. Mary's Church (Figure 3, 42) is an eleventh century foundation, the earliest part of the building is late twelfth century in date (Jefferies 1971; and DOE List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest). Subsequently, it was substantially rebuilt in the fourteenth century and then altered and extended in the fifteenth century (ibid.).

It has been suggested that Church Farm formed part of the lands provided for the maintenance of the church and its priest by William Fitzosborn (Doble 1961; and Neave 1989). However, there is no archaeological evidence to support this assertion. The earliest recorded find from the site comprises fourteenth century pottery found in 1958, when the house (Figure 3, 43) was connected to the main sewer (Doble 1961). This was apparently associated with building foundations (ibid.). Surviving elements of the farmhouse (Figure 3, 43), which is a Grade II listed building, certainly date back to the early fifteenth century (DOE List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest). By the sixteenth century, at least two other farmhouses had been constructed in the Shinfield area. These include Lane End Farm (Figure 3, 44), 600 metres to the north-east of Church Farm; and Nullis Farm (Figure 3, 45), 1.2 kilometres to the south-west.

A series of possible moats have also been recorded in the local area (Figure 3, 46-49). These are potentially of Medieval origin, although the evidence for their date and character is ambiguous. One of these features lies just outside the western perimeter of the Church Farm development (Figure 3, 46). While it might be a moat, its physical character is also reminiscent of a series of clay pits. It has been suggested that these were dug to provide the material for the bricks used in the construction of the seventeenth century church tower (Page and Ditchfield 1923). The other possible moated sites lie some distance from Church Farm, approximately 600 metres to the south (Figure 3, 47) and 1.2 kilometres to the north-east (Figure 3, 48-49). The latter is associated with an area of Medieval cultivation, marked by ridge and furrow surviving in an orchard (Figure 3, 50).

The remainder of the evidence for Medieval activity across the land surrounding the development at Church Farm consists of sherds of pottery (Figure 2, 35; and Figure 3, 40 and 51-60). The densest spread of material was found approximately 300 metres to the north-west near Nursery Cottage (Figure 3, 51). A more scattered distribution of sherds extended from this site to the east (Figure 3, 58) and south (Figure 3, 57) in the direction of Church Farm. Medieval pottery was also found during trial trenching to the east of the church (Figure 3, 40), within 100 metres of the northern edge of the development site. Another light scatter of pottery was recorded in the fields along the ridge to the south-west, within 200 metres of the site and continuing towards Hyde End Lane (Figure 2, 35; and Figure 3, 52-54 and 59-60). Similar material was found in the Lodden Valley, some 800 metres to the south-east of the development site (Figure 3, 55-56).

3.6 The Post-Medieval Period (AD1604-1900)

The occupation of many of the sites established during the Medieval and Tudor periods continued into subsequent centuries. The rebuilding of Church Farmhouse (Figure 3, 43) is variously attributed to the late sixteenth century (DOE List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest), or more precisely to AD 1604 (Neave 1989). The staddle-stone granary (Figure 3, 43) close to the house is a later seventeenth century addition (DOE List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest). By this time the local road system certainly included Church Lane (Figure 3, 61), which appears on a map of 1678 although it may well have earlier origins.

Evidence for later activity, during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, was found during an evaluation on land adjacent to the church (Figure 3, 62). Buildings constructed during this period include the former vicarage (Figure 3, 63), the County Infants School (Figure 3, 64), Mays Farm (Figure 3, 65) and Parrot Farm (Figure 3, 66).

3.7 Undated Finds and Features Transcribed from Aerial Photographs

Undated pottery sherds were recovered from the plough-soil in three locations, where they were associated with Medieval wares (Figure 3, 67-69). The closest was found some 150 metres north of the development site (Figure 3, 67), while the other two find-spots were about 800 metres to the south-east in the Lodden Valley (Figure 3, 68) and approximately 450 metres to the south-west near Hyde End Lane (Figure 3, 69).

The remainder of the evidence comprises a series of features transcribed from aerial photographs (Figure 3, 70-83). Virtually all of these occur in two clusters, approximately 800 metres to the south-east (Figure 3, 70-77) and north-east (Figure 3, 78-82) of the development site. The features to the south-east include a possible settlement marked by a group of pits (Figure 3, 70) and a complex series of enclosures, ditches and possible trackways (Figure 3, 71-77). The area to the north-east includes several superimposed enclosures and associated ditches (Figure 3, 78-82). Although these features are undated, they lie close to the Oatlands Road evaluation sites (Figure 2, 33-34) and it is conceivable that some may be broadly contemporary with the late Iron Age ditch and gully.

A single isolated feature thought likely to represent a rectangular enclosure has also been identified near Ryeish Green (Figure 3, 83). This is situated 500 metres to the south-west of the development site and corresponds with light scatters of material dating from the prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods.

4 THE HISTORIC MAPS

4.1 Introduction

The historic maps, providing information about the changing character of the development area, have been examined as part of the research for this report. The work has concentrated on the larger scale depictions of the site, which show sufficient detail to contribute to a reconstruction of its use. A consideration of the broader changes which took place in the surrounding landscape is beyond the scope of the current study.

4.2 The Site in the Seventeenth Century

The earliest map of the area dates to 1678 and only shows details of the lands belonging to the church, mostly to the north of Church Lane. The copy held by the Record Office is a very faint photocopy of the original and is not suitable for reproduction. This map depicts Church Farmhouse (Figure 3, 43) fronting onto Church Lane (Figure 3, 61), but details of the development area are not shown.

4.3 The Site in the Eighteenth Century

Church Farm next appears in 1756 on the survey of lands belonging to Arthur James Plunkett Woolascott, Earl of Fingall. Although the copy in the Record Office is blurred it has been reproduced for this report (Figure 4). Once again the mapping is limited to Church Farm and associated buildings adjacent to Church Lane. At the time, the development area was in different ownership and was not depicted.

4.4 The Site in the Nineteenth Century

The first map to show the development area is the Old Series Ordnance Survey map, published in 1816 (Figure 5). Although the scale is small, it does illustrate the property boundary surrounding Church Farmhouse.

A much greater level of detail is provided by the tithe map of 1838 (Figure 6). This too shows Church Farmhouse and associated buildings, but also covers the development area. Three structures are depicted on the map, all confined to the areas immediately south of the farmhouse and north of the site of the later cemetery. The accompanying tithe awards of 1842 lists these as barns, stables and outbuildings with associated paddocks. The map also shows two ponds in the paddocks. The rest of the area was divided into three fields (Figure 6, 165, 167 and 170). These include a meadow (Figure 6, 165), which corresponds to the rough pasture in the north-west corner of the development site; and an arable field immediately to the south (Figure 6, 167), which is now occupied by buildings in the south-west part of the site. An area of pasture is also shown, which corresponds to the land to the south of the cemetery

and in the eastern part of the development (Figure 6, 170). This is associated with a third pond, in a position which is now close to the south-eastern corner of the site.

This arrangement of buildings and fields was substantially unaltered when the First Edition Ordnance Survey map was issued in 1872 (Figure 7). Minor changes had been made to the internal arrangement of the farmyard and paddocks, while some of the existing buildings appear to have been extended and a few new structures were in place at this time. The pond in the area of pasture had also been enlarged.

By 1899, when the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map was published, the two ponds in the paddocks close to the farmyard had been backfilled (Figure 8). Otherwise the area encompassed by the site remained unchanged.

4.5 The Site in the Twentieth Century

The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site in 1911, when again the major land divisions were still in place (Figure 9). The only significant addition is the cemetery, which had been established by this time, while a new building had been constructed in the farmyard.

The National Institute for Research in Dairying took the farm over in 1923 (Neave 1989). Some of the changes which were made to the property are depicted on the Revised Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1936 (Figure 10). The farmyard had been extended to the south and east, a series of new buildings had been constructed in these areas and the one remaining pond had been backfilled. Otherwise much of the site remained as established farmland divided into the same fields shown on the 1838 tithe map.

The development of the site continued after the second World War when the existing buildings were constructed across two of the fields. The National Institute for Research in Dairying closed in 1985 and was replaced by the Food Research Institute (Neave 1989). The only land to remain untouched by any of these changes was the former meadow of 1838 in the north-west corner of the site.

5 THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EVIDENCE AND THE LIKELY IMPACT OF PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The Significance of the Archaeological and Historical Evidence

The distribution of archaeological remains and find-spots in the vicinity of the Church Farm development site identifies the ridge as a focus of various types of activity, beginning during prehistory and continuing to the present day. The scattered character of the worked flint across the surrounding landscape seems to suggest intermittent and low-level use of the area, at least until the end of the Bronze Age. The late Iron Age finds from Oaklands Road (Figure 2, 33-34) will be derived from a settlement somewhere in the vicinity, but as yet the location of this is unknown. It is conceivable that the crop-marks just over 100 metres to the north-east of the site (Figure 3, 78-82) may include contemporary elements. The ridge overlooking the Lodden and Kennet Valleys would be a typical preferred location for Iron Age settlement. The fact that there is little evidence for this is no surprise, since crop and soil-marks are relatively rare on the London Clay. Furthermore most of the finds from the area have been collected from field surfaces and Iron Age pottery is simply far too soft to survive for long in the ploughsoil.

Activity during the Roman period seems to have focused on the ridge to the south-west of the Church Farm site near Ryeish Green (Figure 2, 35-37) and apparently encompassed land immediately to the north (Figure 2, 39). The undated crop-mark enclosure at Ryeish Green (Figure 3, 83) might be a related feature, although this is by no means certain. The low numbers and scattered distribution of sherds would be consistent with an area under Roman arable cultivation.

By the eleventh century Shinfield (Figure 3, 41) is known to have been a settlement. The focus and character of this remains elusive, although evidence from elsewhere indicates that occupation would have been located in the vicinity of the church (Figure 3, 42). This suggests that there is a high potential for encountering features associated with Medieval settlement, particularly in the northern part of the development site. The known Medieval origins of Church Farm (Figure 3, 43) and the documentary evidence for the early use of the land by the church also points to the possible presence of Medieval agricultural features. Remains directly associated with Church Farm are most likely to be encountered in the area of the former farmyard and paddocks shown on the historic maps.

It is probable that the features interpreted as a possible moat, immediately to the west of the development (Figure 3, 46), are post-Medieval clay pits. However, there is a remote possibility that Medieval remains associated with a moated site might be encountered in the western part of the site.

5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on the Site

The least disturbed part of the site is the rough pasture in its north-west corner. The boundaries of this area are unchanged since they were first depicted in 1838 on the tithe map. There is no record of any structures within this small block of land.

Otherwise, the least disturbed ground is likely to be found between existing buildings, although services and drainage channels will certainly have had an impact on the survival of deposits in such areas. The preparation of the ground prior to surfacing with concrete or tarmac may also have resulted in some truncation, although any relatively substantial archaeological features should survive intact.

The foundations for load-bearing walls of the buildings across the site will almost certainly have destroyed any archaeological deposits. However, there is a potential for encountering remains within building footprints.

All deposits on the animal burial site along part of the southern perimeter of the development site will have been destroyed. Similarly, archaeological features will not have survived below the level of the cellar in the north-east corner of the site.

6 THE FIELD EVALUATION

6.1 Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of Babtie, the evaluation strategy was based on the machine excavation of a 6% sample of the development site (Appendix 3). This amounted to 62 trenches (measuring 30 metres in length and 1.5 metres in width) distributed across the site to achieve a uniform coverage (Figure 11). The fieldwork was carried out at intervals between the 29th of October 2001 and the 18th of February 2002, during which time three monitoring visits were made by a Babtie representative.

The trenches were excavated to the surface of archaeological deposits, or the top of the natural, by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All stages of the machining were carried out under constant archaeological supervision, and the spoil was checked for archaeological material. The subsequent hand excavation, recording and finds recovery followed the methods statement set out in the WSI (Appendix 3). Deep excavations by the groundworks contractors for the removal of foundations were monitored during the evaluation and between episodes of fieldwork.

6.2 Site Conditions and Strategy Revisions

The evaluation took place in tandem with the demolition of standing buildings and the removal of foundations and hard surfaces. That work resulted in widespread ground disturbance, reaching a depth of some two metres in places. Numerous services remained in place, as did several concrete roads which were being used as access routes by the demolition contractors. These restrictions necessitated minor adjustments to the trench layout, and at some locations the trenches were shorter than intended. The ground disturbance was particularly severe in areas A and B (Figure 12), and for that reason the trenches planned in these two areas were omitted after consultation with the Babtie representative. A number of badger sets along the north-eastern edge of the site prevented evaluation in that area, whilst at the southern end an animal burial area was also avoided (Figure 12).

The high level of ground disturbance and proliferation of modern building material significantly interfered with the identification of archaeological features and finds. In some parts of the site conditions were worsened by fuel oil and farm effluent contamination, which had penetrated and blackened the sub-soil to the extent that subtle archaeological features may have been obscured. Flooding was a problem across most of the site, especially towards the low-lying southern end, where the high water table and ruptured drains caused many of the trenches to fill with water as they were being excavated.

In consultation with the Babtie representative, it was agreed that archaeological remains were unlikely to survive in the areas of deep disturbance. Consequently the number of trenches was reduced to 50, with a readjustment of the proposed distribution to focus more on the least disturbed areas. Although in principal this reduced the sample size, the use of the wider buckets provided by the groundworks contractors (1.8 or 2.2 metres) compensated to some extent for the loss of trenches.

6.3 The Fieldwork Results

Trenches 1 and 2, located in the southernmost corner of the site, (Figure 12) were excavated to maximum depths of 1.03 and 0.72 metres respectively. Both excavations encountered dark alluvial sediments, recorded as F106 and F203 (Figure 13), underlying made ground of variable thickness. The alluvial deposits were not excavated, but appear to coincide with the location of a large pond shown on the nineteenth century maps (Figures 6, 7 and 8; C). Neither of the other two ponds appearing on the same maps (ibid; A and B) were located during the evaluation.

The remaining three trenches in the southern part of the site (Figure 12; trenches 3, 4 and 5) were devoid of archaeological features. All three revealed varying depths of made ground overlying remnants of disturbed topsoil.

The area occupied by trenches 1 to 5 varied between 52.8 and 54.0 metres above Ordnance Datum and was subject to flooding. Groundwater contamination was evident in most of these trenches, and in some localised instances it had penetrated a considerable depth into the natural. No archaeological features or finds were discovered during the machining of trenches 1 to 5, nor there was there any trace of archaeological material on the spoil heaps.

The excavation of trenches 6 to 12 (Figure 12) had a similarly negative outcome. These trenches were less susceptible to flooding and contamination, and for the most part they were relatively undisturbed by drains and foundation removal. Despite the more favourable conditions, no archaeological finds or features were discovered in the trenches.

Trenches 13 to 22 were excavated in the area to the north-east of the cemetery and immediately south of Church Lane (Figure 12). This was a part of the development site where the desktop assessment suggested that Medieval settlement features might survive in proximity to the church. In the event, there were no archaeological finds from that part of the site, and the only features were two shallow and undated ditches in trenches 13 and 14 (Figure 13; F1302 and F1402) Though both were heavily truncated, the character of the fills and their down-slope alignment suggests that they were drainage ditches.

In many of the trenches in this area (Figure 12; 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 22), a weakly-sorted soil horizon below a truncated topsoil was interpreted as an old plough soil. It varied in depth between 0.26 metres and 0.94 metres and was similar in texture and composition throughout its distribution. This deposit was probably more widespread across the north-eastern part of the site, but the high level of building and demolition disturbance prevented any determination of its full extent. The putative plough soil lay above both drainage ditches (Figure 13; F1302 and F1402) and its estimated distribution coincides with a small field, or paddock, shown at the north-eastern edge of the site on the historic maps between 1838 and 1911 (Figures 6 to 9). The plough soil is entirely undated, though it clearly pre-dates the 1936 map, which shows buildings on the paddock (Figure 10).

Opposite St. Mary's Church, a large part of the evaluation site had been heavily disturbed to a depth of some two metres by the removal of concrete slurry tanks (Figure 12; A). The disturbance, and the subsequent contamination from fractured drains, prevented the excavation of any of the proposed evaluation trenches in that part of the site.

Further to the west, 12 trenches were excavated (Figure 12; TR23 - TR34) in an area that was largely open ground from 1838 through to 1936 (Figures 6 to 10). A large part of this land had remained free from farm buildings and at the time of the evaluation the western part was under pasture. Although no archaeological materials or features were discovered in any of these trenches, further traces of an early plough soil were identified (Figure 12; TR31 to TR34). This varied in depth between 0.25 metres and 0.5 metres and reached its maximum in trench 31, situated alongside the footpath leading from Church Lane to the cemetery (Figure 12). This boundary marks the edge of a field on the historic maps from 1838 through to 1936 (Figures 6 to 10), and in all probability the greater depth of soil in trench 31 was a lynchet formed during cultivation of the field.

In the south-western part of the site, 16 trenches were excavated (Figure 12; TR35 to TR50), but none produced any archaeological finds or features. Towards the centre of the area, extensive foundation removal and flooding had created a deep morass which prevented machine access, while along the southern edge an animal burial site was also avoided. Conditions were better on the slightly higher ground adjacent to the footpath and cemetery, although a deep backfilled excavation which had filled with water prevented the full excavation of trench 35.

6.4 Summary and Reliability of the Results

Of the few features that were identified, the pond (Figure 13; F106 and F203) is post-Medieval and first appears on the tithe map of 1838 (Figure 6; C). The two drainage ditches (Figure 13; F1302 and F1402) are undated, although they are certainly earlier than the plough soils in the surrounding area. Plough soils were encountered in a number of trenches and even though the cultivation cannot be dated it coincides with areas known to be farmland from at least 1838. It is possible that these soils originated during the Medieval period, but in the absence of any dating or structural evidence this remains conjectural.

Despite the high level of disturbance created by previous development, and especially by the demolition, any trace of a Medieval settlement associated with the early origin of St. Mary's Church would certainly have been detected. However, this might not have been the case with finds or features of prehistoric date. The conditions prevailing on the site might have obscured subtle features, or small numbers of finds. In most of the trenches frequent drains, services and other disturbances made machining particularly difficult, and it is entirely possible that isolated or subtle features may have been removed by inadvertent over-cutting. Moreover, small numbers of prehistoric finds would have been particularly difficult to detect given the proliferation of modern building debris in superficial deposits across the site.

To some extent the largely negative outcome of the evaluation might be attributed to site conditions, but even though these hampered the fieldwork there is no reason to suppose that significant archaeological remains have been missed. There can be little doubt that the paucity of features and the total absence of finds are almost certainly an accurate reflection of the low archaeological potential of the development site.

6.5 Archive Contents and Location

The project archive consists of the field records, notes and photographs (B & W and colour slides) and will be fully indexed and cross-referenced. The archive is currently held by Berkshire Archaeological Services, but in due course it will be deposited with the Reading Museum Services under Accession Number: REDMG; 2001.406.

REFERENCES

Blake, J. H., 1903, *The Geology of the Country Around Reading (Explanation of Sheet 268)*, Memoirs of the Geological Survey of England and Wales

DOE (Department of the Environment), 1990, *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*

Doble, D., 1961, *A History of the Parish of Shinfield Berkshire*

Ford, S., 1997, Lodden Valley (Berkshire) Fieldwalking Survey, *The Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, **Vol 75**, 11-33

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists), 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*

Jefferies, P. J., 1971, *A Short History of Shinfield*

Neave, J., 1989, *The History of St. Mary's Church Shinfield*

Page, W. and Ditchfield, P. H. (eds.), 1923, "Shinfield", *The Victoria County History: A History of Berkshire*, **3**, 261-267

Saunders, J. M., 2000, *84 Oatlands Road, Shinfield, Wokingham, Berkshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished report (00/72) by Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Sumbler, M. G., 1996, *London and the Thames Valley*, British Regional Geology (Fourth Edition)

Taylor, A., 2001, *84 Oatlands Road, Shinfield, Wokingham, Berkshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*, unpublished report (01/23) by Thames Valley Archaeological Services

APPENDIX 1

Gazetteer of Sites (from the Wokingham historic buildings, sites and monuments record)

Site	SMR No.	NGR	Description
1	00713.00.000 – WK8570	SU 731678	Lower Palaeolithic hand axe
2	00724.00.000 – WK8578	SU 738678	Lower Palaeolithic hand axe
3	06129.00.000 – WK6804	SU 737674	Early Mesolithic to late Bronze Age flint scatter
4	00725.00.000 – WK8579	SU 738672	Neolithic axe
5	00730.00.000 – WK8583	SU 729673	Neolithic axe
6	06119.00.000 – WK6803	SU 731676	Early Neolithic to late Bronze Age flint scatter
7	06131.00.000 – WK6805	SU 728675	Prehistoric flint scatter
8	06132.00.000 – WK6806	SU 728677	Prehistoric flint scatter
9	06120.00.000 – WK15210	SU 732676	Prehistoric flint flake
10	06121.00.000 – WK15211	SU 732677	Prehistoric flint flake
11	06122.00.000 – WK15212	SU 729677	Prehistoric flint flake
12	06123.00.000 – WK15213	SU 736679	Prehistoric flint flake
13	06124.00.000 – WK15214	SU 736680	Prehistoric flint flake
14	06125.00.000 – WK15215	SU 737685	Prehistoric flint flake
15	06125.00.001 – WK15216	SU 737685	Prehistoric flint implement
16	06126.00.000 – WK15217	SU 736681	Prehistoric flint flake
17	06127.00.000 – WK15218	SU 733681	Prehistoric flint flake
18	06128.00.000 – WK15219	SU 732679	Prehistoric flint flake and core
19	06133.00.000 – WK15223	SU 727678	Prehistoric flint flake
20	06134.00.000 – WK15224	SU 726679	Prehistoric flint flake
21	06135.00.000 – WK15225	SU 726679	Prehistoric flint flake
22	06136.00.000 – WK15226	SU 724679	Prehistoric flint flake
23	06137.00.000 – WK15227	SU 723677	Prehistoric flint core
24	06138.00.000 – WK15228	SU 724676	Prehistoric flint flake
25	06139.00.000 – WK15229	SU 723677	Prehistoric flint core
26	06140.00.000 – WK15230	SU 723676	Prehistoric flint scraper
27	06141.00.000 – WK15231	SU 721678	Prehistoric flint flake
28	06142.00.000 – WK15232	SU 721678	Prehistoric flint flake
29	06143.00.000 – WK15233	SU 721678	Prehistoric flint flake
30	06144.00.000 – WK15234	SU 721679	Prehistoric flint flake
31	06145.00.000 – WK15235	SU 722679	Prehistoric flint flake
32	06148.00.000 – WK15237	SU 728683	Prehistoric flint flake
33	WK15619	SU 735685	Late Iron Age ditch and gully; one undated pit (Taylor 2001)
34	WK15620	SU 736685	Undated ditch (Saunders 2000)
35	06264.00.000 – WK15387	SU 723677	Roman pottery sherd; Medieval pottery sherd
36	06265.00.000 – WK15390	SU 724677	Roman pottery sherd
37	06266.00.000 – WK15391	SU 722678	Two Roman pottery sherds
38	06596.00.000 – WK15611	SU 730685	Possible Roman ditch identified during trial trenching and a geophysical survey
39	00731.00.000 – WK8584	SU 728683	Late Roman pottery sherd
40	00722.00.000 – WK1108	SU 730682	Medieval pottery found in Shinfield village
41	00722.01.000 – WK1108	SU 730682	Medieval village of Shinfield
42	00722.02.000 – WK1110	SU 729681	Medieval to post-Medieval church of St. Mary the Virgin
43	00722.03.000 – WK1111	SU 729681	Medieval farmhouse (Church Farmhouse) and post-Medieval granary
44	03800.00.000 – WK5185	SU 731687	Tudor farmhouse (Lane End Farmhouse)
45	03992.00.000 – WK5387	SU 721672	Tudor farmhouse (Nullis Farmhouse)
46	00720.00.000 – WK1104	SU 727681	Either a Medieval moat or post-Medieval clay pits
47	00721.00.000 – WK1106	SU 731673	Either a Medieval moat or a decoy pond
48	00727.00.000 – WK1112	SU 738689	Either a Medieval moat, a fish pond or an ornamental feature
49	00727.01.000 – WK1113	SU 738689	Either a Medieval moat, a fish pond or an ornamental feature
50	00727.02.000 – WK1114	SU 738689	Area of ridge and furrow, possibly pre-dating [48-49]
51	06277.00.000 – WK6821	SU 726685	Medieval pottery scatter
52	06263.00.000 – WK15386	SU 724676	Medieval pottery sherd

Gazetteer of Sites: continued

Site	SMR No.	NGR	Description
53	06267.00.000 – WK15393	SU 724679	Medieval pottery sherd
54	06268.00.000 – WK15394	SU 720779	Medieval pottery sherd
55	06269.00.000 – WK15396	SU 738677	Medieval pottery sherd
56	06270.00.000 – WK15397	SU 737676	Medieval pottery sherd
57	06275.00.000 – WK15403	SU 728684	Medieval pottery sherd
58	06276.00.000 – WK15404	SU 728685	Two Medieval pottery sherds
59	06278.00.000 – WK15406	SU 723680	Medieval pottery sherd
60	06279.00.000 – WK15407	SU 720680	Two Medieval pottery sherds
61	WK15640	SU 727683	Church Lane, shown on 1678 map
62	00722.04.000 – WK7434	SU 731682	Late 18th to early 19th century field boundary and pits
63	WK15629	SU 728682	Former vicarage built c. 1840 (Milton Sandford Restaurant)
64	WK15630	SU 733677	School built in 1707 (Shinfield County Infants School)
65	WK15634	SU 719678	Nineteenth century farmhouse (Mays Farm)
66	WK15635	SU 737678	Nineteenth century farmhouse (Parrot Farm)
67	06280.00.000 – WK15409	SU 728683	Undated pottery sherd
68	06271.00.000 – WK15398	SU 736675	Undated pottery sherd
69	06264.00.000 – WK15389	SU 723677	Undated pottery sherd
70	01090.04.000 – WK1838	SU 737676	Pit cluster seen on aerial photographs
71	01090.00.000 – WK1833	SU 738676	Multi-phase complex of enclosures, linears and possible trackway seen on aerial photographs
72	01090.02.000 – WK1836	SU 738675	Confused angled linears seen on aerial photographs
73	01090.03.000 – WK1837	SU 737674	Parallel linears seen on aerial photographs
74	01090.01.000 – WK1834	SU 738677	At least three land parcels and associated enclosure seen on aerial photographs
75	01090.06.000 – WK 1840	SU 738676	Confused incomplete rectangular features seen on aerial photographs
76	01090.05.000 – WK1839	SU 737678	Parallel linears seen on aerial photographs
77	01090.01.100 – WK1835	SU 737677	Irregular square enclosure seen on aerial photographs
78	01091.02.000 – WK1843	SU 737685	Irregular oval enclosure seen on aerial photographs
79	01091.01.000 – WK1842	SU 737685	Possible enclosure seen on aerial photographs
80	01091.03.000 – WK1844	SU 737686	Part of irregular rectangular enclosure seen on aerial photographs
81	01091.00.000 – WK1841	SU 738685	Superimposed irregular enclosures in corner of field seen on aerial photographs
82	01091.04.000 – WK 1845	SU 738683	Field boundary seen on aerial photographs
83	WK15643	SU 723676	Possible rectangular enclosure seen on aerial photographs

APPENDIX 2

Gazetteer of Contexts by Evaluation Trench

Context	Description	Below	Above	Thickness	Extent	Finds
Trench 1						
100	made ground	n/a	101; 104; 105	0.1-0.15m	trench	none
101	made ground	100	102	0.33 m	trench	none
102	sub-soil	101	F103	0.15-0.30m	trench	none
103	natural -London Clay	102	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
104	fill of F106 - not excavated	100	n/a	n/a	1.0 X 2.5m	none
105	fill of F106 - not excavated	100	n/a	n/a	2.2 X 13.5m	none
F106	pond on historic maps	100	cuts natural	n/a	2.2 X 14.7m	n/a
Trench 2						
200	made ground	n/a	201; 204	0.10m	trench	none
201	made ground	200	202; 204	0.25m	trench	none
202	natural – London Clay	201	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
F203	pond on historic maps	200/201	cuts natural	n/a	2.1 X 12.8m	none
204	fill of F203 – not excavated	200/201	n/a	n/a	2.1 X 12.8m	none
Trench 3						
300	made ground	n/a	301	0.05m	trench	none
301	made ground	300	302	0.45m	trench	none
302	natural – London Clay	301	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 4						
400	made ground	n/a	401	0.20m	trench	none
401	sub-soil	400	402	0.40m	trench	none
402	natural – London Clay	401	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 5						
500	made ground	n/a	501	0.30m	trench	none
501	disturbed topsoil	500	502	0.35m	trench	none
502	natural – London Clay	501	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 6						
600	topsoil/made ground	n/a	601	0.53m	trench	none
601	sub-soil	600	602	0.25m	trench	none
602	natural – London Clay	601	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 7						
700	disturbed topsoil	n/a	701	0.71m	trench	none
701	sub-soil	700	702	0.22m	trench	none
702	natural – London Clay	701	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 8						
800	top soil/made ground	n/a	801	0.66m	trench	none
801	sub-soil	800	802	0.17m	trench	none
802	natural – London Clay	801	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 9						
900	made ground	n/a	901	0.57m	trench	none
901	sub-soil	900	901	0.18m	trench	none
902	natural – London Clay	901	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 10						
1000	disturbed topsoil	n/a	1001	0.39m	trench	none
1001	sub-soil	1000	1002	0.15m	trench	none
1002	natural – London Clay	1001	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a

Gazetteer of Contexts: continued

Context	Description	Below	Above	Thickness	Extent	Finds
Trench 11						
1100	disturbed topsoil	n/a	1101	0.54m	trench	none
1101	sub-soil	1100	1102	0.13m	trench	none
1102	natural – London Clay	1101	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 12						
1200	hard standing	n/a	1201	0.15m	trench	n/a
1201	truncated topsoil	1200	1202	0.13m	trench	none
1202	?plough soil	1201	1203	0.23m	trench	none
1203	sub-soil	1202	1204	0.20m	trench	none
1204	natural – London Clay	1203	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 13						
1300	topsoil	n/a	1301	0.54m	trench	none
1301	?plough soil	1300	1303; 1304	0.22m	trench	none
F1302	drainage ditch	1303	cuts natural	0.40m	2.30m	n/a
1303	fill of F1302	1301	F1302	0.40m	2.30m	none
1304	natural – London Clay	1301	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 14						
1400	disturbed topsoil	n/a	1401	0.54m	trench	none
1401	?plough soil	1400	1403; 1404	0.26m	trench	none
F1402	drainage ditch	1403	cuts natural	0.19m	2.15m	n/a
1403	fill of F1402	1401	F1402	0.19m	2.15m	none
1404	natural – London Clay	1401	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 15						
1500	contaminated topsoil	n/a	1501	0.40m	trench	none
1501	?plough soil	1500	1502	0.38m	trench	none
1502	natural – London Clay	1501	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 16						
1600	disturbed/truncated topsoil	n/a	1601	0.42m	trench	none
1601	natural – London Clay	1600	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 17						
1700	hard standing	n/a	1701	0.21m	trench	n/a
1701	sub-soil	1700	1702	0.42m	trench	none
1702	natural – London Clay	1701	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 18						
1800	topsoil	n/a	1801	0.45m	trench	none
1801	?plough soil	1800	1802	0.41m	trench	none
1802	natural – London Clay	1801	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 19						
1900	truncated topsoil	n/a	1901	0.19m	trench	none
1901	?plough soil	1900	1902	0.60m	trench	none
1902	natural – London Clay	1901	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 20						
2000	topsoil/?plough soil	n/a	2001	0.86m	trench	none
2001	natural – London Clay	2000	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 21						
2100	sub-soil	n/a	2101	0.48m	trench	none
2101	natural – London Clay	2100	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a

Gazetteer of Contexts: continued

Context	Description	Below	Above	Thickness	Extent	Finds
Trench 22						
2200	?plough soil	n/a	2201	0.94m	trench	none
2201	natural – London Clay	2200	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 23						
2300	topsoil under grass	n/a	2301	0.31m	trench	none
2301	sub-soil	2300	2302	0.59m	trench	none
2302	natural	2301	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 24						
2400	topsoil under grass	n/a	2401	0.28m	trench	none
2401	sub-soil	2400	2402	0.58m	trench	none
2402	natural – London Clay	2401	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 25						
2500	topsoil under grass	n/a	2401	0.17m	trench	none
2501	sub-soil	2400	2402	0.33m	trench	none
2502	natural – London Clay	2401	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 26						
2600	topsoil under grass	n/a	2601	0.23m	trench	none
2601	sub-soil	2600	2602	0.21m	trench	none
2602	natural – London Clay	2601	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 27						
2700	topsoil under grass	n/a	2701	0.26m	trench	none
2701	sub-soil	2700	2702	0.32m	trench	none
2702	natural – London Clay	2701	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 28						
2800	topsoil under grass	n/a	2801	0.37m	trench	none
2801	sub-soil	2800	2802	0.15m	trench	none
2802	natural – London Clay	2801	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 29						
2900	disturbed natural	n/a	2901	0.40m	trench	n/a
2901	natural – London Clay	2900	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 30						
3000	disturbed natural	n/a	3001	0.40m	trench	n/a
3001	natural – London Clay	3000	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 31						
3100	topsoil	n/a	3101	0.30m	trench	none
3101	?plough soil	3100	3102	0.50m	trench	none
3102	sub-soil	3101	3103	0.10m	trench	none
3103	natural – London Clay	3102	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 32						
3200	?plough soil	n/a	3201	0.25m	trench	none
3201	sub-soil	3200	3202	0.20m	trench	none
3202	natural – London Clay	3201	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 33						
3300	rubble/?plough soil	n/a	3301	0.40m	trench	none
3301	sub-soil	3300	3302	0.10m	trench	none
3302	natural – London Clay	3301	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a

Gazetteer of Contexts: continued

Context	Description	Below	Above	Thickness	Extent	Finds
Trench 34						
3400	rubble/?plough soil	n/a	3401	0.40m	trench	none
3401	sub-soil	3400	3402	0.10m	trench	none
3402	natural – London Clay	3401	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 35						
3500	made ground	n/a	3501	0.60m	trench	none
3501	natural – London Clay	3500	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 36						
3600	contaminated sub-soil	n/a	3601	0.31m	trench	none
3601	natural – London Clay	3600	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 37						
3700	made surface	n/a	3701	0.31m	trench	n/a
3701	contaminated topsoil	3700	3702	0.25m	trench	none
3702	contaminated sub-soil	3701	3703	0.18m	trench	none
3703	natural – London Clay	3702	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 38						
3800	topsoil/?lynchet	n/a	3801	0.39m	trench	none
3801	sub-soil	3800	3802	0.12m	trench	none
3802	natural – London Clay	3801	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 39						
3900	topsoil/rubble	n/a	3901	0.36m	trench	none
3901	natural –London Clay	3900	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 40						
4000	?lynchet	n/a	4001	0.89m	trench	none
4001	natural – London Clay	4000	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 41						
4100	truncated sub-soil	n/a	4101	0.19m	trench	none
4101	natural – London Clay	4100	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 42						
4200	disturbed topsoil	n/a	4201	0.32m	trench	none
4201	sub-soil	4200	4202	0.12m	trench	none
4202	natural – London Clay	4201	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 43						
4300	?lynchet	n/a	4301	0.60m	trench	none
4301	natural – London Clay	4300	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 44						
4400	topsoil/?plough-soil	n/a	4401	0.50m	trench	none
4401	natural – London Clay	4400	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 45						
4500	disturbed sub-soil	n/a	4501	0.47m	trench	none
4501	natural – London Clay	4500	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 46						
4600	disturbed topsoil	n/a	4601	0.53m	trench	none
4601	natural – London Clay	4600	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a

Gazetteer of Contexts: continued

Context	Description	Below	Above	Thickness	Extent	Finds
Trench 47						
4700	?plough soil	n/a	4701	0.68m	trench	none
4701	natural – London Clay	4700	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 48						
4800	demolition layer	n/a	4801	0.37m	trench	n/a
4801	natural – London Clay	4800	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 49						
4900	demolition layer/sub-soil	n/a	4901	0.69m	trench	n/a
4901	natural – London Clay	4900	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a
Trench 50						
5000	demolition layer/sub-soil	n/a	5001	0.41m	trench	n/a
5001	natural – London Clay	5000	n/a	n/a	trench	n/a

APPENDIX 3

7 A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE CHURCH FARM FIELD EVALUATION

7.1 Introduction

The desktop assessment has drawn attention to a range of archaeological remains and find-spots in the vicinity of the Church Farm development site and has identified the ridge as a focus of various types of activity, beginning during prehistory and continuing to the present day.

In view of the potential for further archaeological remains being encountered at the Church Farm site, Babtie have advised that a field evaluation should be implemented prior to any development taking place (Notification of Approval of Permission, Condition 3).

7.2 General Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present on the site.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

7.3 Evaluation Requirements

- All mechanical excavation will be carried out in such a manner as to avoid or minimise damage to the archaeological remains. All machinery used will be of an appropriate nature to suit the situation and be fitted with a toothless bucket. All machine work must be directly supervised by an archaeologist.
- Spoil will be scanned for artefacts, which are to be recorded and retained.

- Sufficient of any features located will be excavated by hand in order to fulfil the project aims and objectives.

- Care will be taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might better be investigated by full excavation.

- The depth and complexity of the deposits across the whole site will be assessed. Written records are to be made of the stratigraphy in all trenches, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified. Trench sections will be drawn of all trenches found to contain archaeological remains. All trenches, irrespective of their archaeological content, will be planned at an appropriate scale.

- Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts shall be made in accordance with best archaeological practice. Archaeological deposits which are not excavated are to be recorded to the maximum extent possible. Records shall include overall trench and site plans. All excavation and recording shall be in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations*.

- Recording, cleaning and conservation of finds shall follow the IFA *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

- Where human remains are encountered, they should initially be left in-situ and the coroner should be informed as soon as possible. Where their removal is necessary, an appropriate licence shall be obtained from the Home Office.

- A programme of soil sampling to recover palaeo-botanical, palaeo-zoological and pedological evidence shall be undertaken as appropriate. The scope of the programme will be agreed prior to work commencing. Specialist advice will be sought as necessary, and a site visit made by the relevant specialist if necessary.

- The project will be managed on a daily basis by an archaeologist with membership of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, or with equivalent academic and practical experience.

7.4 Excavation Methods Statement

- In accordance with the stated requirement of the Babtie Group, a 6% sample of the 4.66 hectare site will be excavated by machine. This amounts to a total area for the evaluation of 2796 square metres. It is proposed that the target sample is achieved by the excavation of 62 trenches measuring 30 metres in length by 1.5 metres in width.

- A provisional trench layout is shown on the accompanying plan (Figure 11) and is subject to approval by Babtie and the client. The arrangement of trenches is designed to provide broad coverage of the entire site, whilst avoiding the animal burial area, a building with a cellar, badger sets in the north-eastern corner of the site and inappropriate encroachment on the area immediately adjacent to the cemetery. Some minor adjustments to the

finalised scheme may be necessary in the light of practical constraints, but no significant alterations will be undertaken without prior consultation.

- The removal of concrete or asphalt surfaces and make-up will be undertaken by appropriate plant, although below this level a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket will be used in order to avoid damage to archaeological deposits. The machining will involve the removal of overlying material down to the surface of archaeological deposits or the natural, whichever is encountered first. All stages of the machining, including the removal of foundations, will be carried out under strict archaeological supervision. Any archaeological finds recovered during the machining will be recorded and retained, and all spoil heaps will be searched for artefacts which will be recorded and retained.

- All archaeological deposits and features will be cleaned by hand and planned at an appropriate scale. Trenches devoid of archaeological deposits or features will be planned at 1:100; those with archaeological deposits or features will be planned at 1:50, with more detailed plans where necessary.

- A selection of features will be excavated by hand. These will be chosen on the basis of their potential for meeting the project objectives. In general, discrete features will be half-sectioned, whereas a sufficient sample of linear or extensive features will be excavated in order that their date and function can be ascertained.

- A record of the deposits in each trench will be made, even if these are not of dateable archaeological origin. Sections of archaeological deposits and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:10, while the sections of trenches containing archaeological deposits will be drawn at a scale of 1:50.

- All plans and sections will be accurately related to the Ordnance Datum.

- In general finds will be recorded by context, except in special circumstances when a 3D recording system will be adopted. Bulk finds such as burnt flint or ceramic building material in archaeological deposits will be quantified by weight and number and discarded on-site. Samples of any discarded material may be retained for inclusion in the project archive.

- Any archaeological deposits which would be compromised by excavation within the limitations imposed by the evaluation will be reserved and recommendations made for appropriate action.
- A sampling strategy for palaeo-environmental data will be devised on-site following advice from the specialist consultant. All sample locations will be accurately recorded and a sample register maintained.

- A full written and graphic record will be maintained in accordance with the standard system employed by Berkshire Archaeological Services. A full photographic record (in colour slide and black & white) will be kept. The standard of excavation and recording will comply with the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluations*.

- Human remains will be left in place until the coroner has been notified. If removal is necessary, a Home Office license will be obtained beforehand.

- Any finds subject to the Treasure Act will be treated in accordance with the published guidelines (1996).

- The timing and the programme of the fieldwork will be agreed between the developer's representative, the Babtie Group and Berkshire Archaeological Services. Arrangements will be made in advance for a representative of the Babtie Group to monitor the evaluation.

7.5 Post-excavation and Archive

- The finds will cleaned and marked with the site code, context and special find number as appropriate. Any finds which subsequently requiring conservation will be treated according to the specialist recommendations for stable long-term preservation.

- The various categories of material will be submitted for analysis to appropriate specialists. The level of analysis and reporting requested will be based on an assessment of the quality, associations and potential of the assemblages.

- The project archive will consist of all field records, materials and photographs along with copies of the specialist reports and a copy of the final project report. Reading Museum has been notified and an accession number requested. The museum will also supply details of any specific requirements regarding conservation and storage.

- The archive will be prepared in accordance with "Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage" (Walker 1990) and "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1994).

7.6 Reporting

- Within two weeks of completing the fieldwork an interim assessment statement will be prepared. This will summarise the project findings and set out a timetable for the post-excavation work and final reporting. It will include an assessment of the potential of the results and a proposal for publication at a suitable level.

- A fully illustrated final project report will be prepared following completion of the assessment stage. Although the scope of this report will be determined in some measure by the quality of the analytical results, in general the structure will be as follows:

  Frontsheet (to include Planning Application No., Site Name and NGR)
  Abstract
  Introduction and Archaeological Background
  Statement of Objectives and Methodology
  Description of the Excavations

Specialist Reports
Synthetic Discussion of the results drawing on published reports and SMR Sources
Conclusions
Archive location and contents
Appendices listing the project data and SMR sources

7.7 Dissemination

- A copy of the results will be supplied to the Wokingham District SMR on the understanding that the contents will become publicly accessible in due course, usually not exceeding six months.

- Berkshire Archaeological Services will provide a fully indexed set of project slides, together with a selection of negatives, for use in lectures, publications, or other publicity material.

- Provision has been made to allow for the publication of an edited project report in an appropriate journal and in a form reflecting the significance of the results.

7.8 Timetable and Staff

- The fieldwork will be supervised by Roy Entwistle and Frances Raymond (Berkshire Archaeological Services).

- Specialist fieldwork consultant: Dr. Martin Bell (University of Reading).

- Post-excavation specialists:

Prehistoric pottery	Frances Raymond
Romano-British pottery	Malcolm Lyne
Medieval/post-Medieval pottery	Duncan Brown
Worked flint/stone	Martin Tingle/John Allen
Metalwork	David Richards
Animal bone	Brian Connell
Human remains	Janet Firth/ Jacqueline McKinley
Plant remains	Mark Robinson/Rowena Gale
Insects	Mark Robinson
Pollen	Pat Wiltshire
Molluscs	Roy Entwistle
Soils	Martin Bell
Coins	Paul Cannon

7.9 Health and Safety

- Berkshire Archaeological Services carries out all archaeological work in accordance with the requirements of current health and safety legislation. The company complies with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974); the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1992); the Construction, Design and Management Regulations (1994); the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR 1985); the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH 1988); and all regulations and codes of practice made under the acts which affect Berkshire Archaeological Services' operations.

- Public liability insurance: Berkshire Archaeological Services is indemnified up to a limit of £3,000,000. The policy is underwritten by GA Bonus plc and the policy number is 08 CME 1523796.

- Berkshire Archaeological Services has adopted the standards set out in the manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* published by SCAUM (1991) and *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (CBA Practical handbook No. 6). The company maintains a current health and safety document and health and safety policy statement, and will conform to any specific safety requirements imposed by the client or his representative.

- Berkshire Archaeological Services complies with the standards set out in the manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* published by SCAUM (1991) and *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (CBA Practical handbook No. 6). A first aid kit, accident book and mobile phone will be available on-site: phone No. 07771 963 027.

7.10 Copyright and Confidentiality

- Berkshire Archaeological Services will assign copyright to the client, but will retain the right to be identified as the author of all documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

- Berkshire Archaeological Services gives an undertaking to respect all requirements for confidentiality regarding the client's proposals provided that these are made clear. However, it is expected that the client will respect the general ethical obligations of Berkshire Archaeological Services not to suppress significant archaeological findings for an unreasonable period.

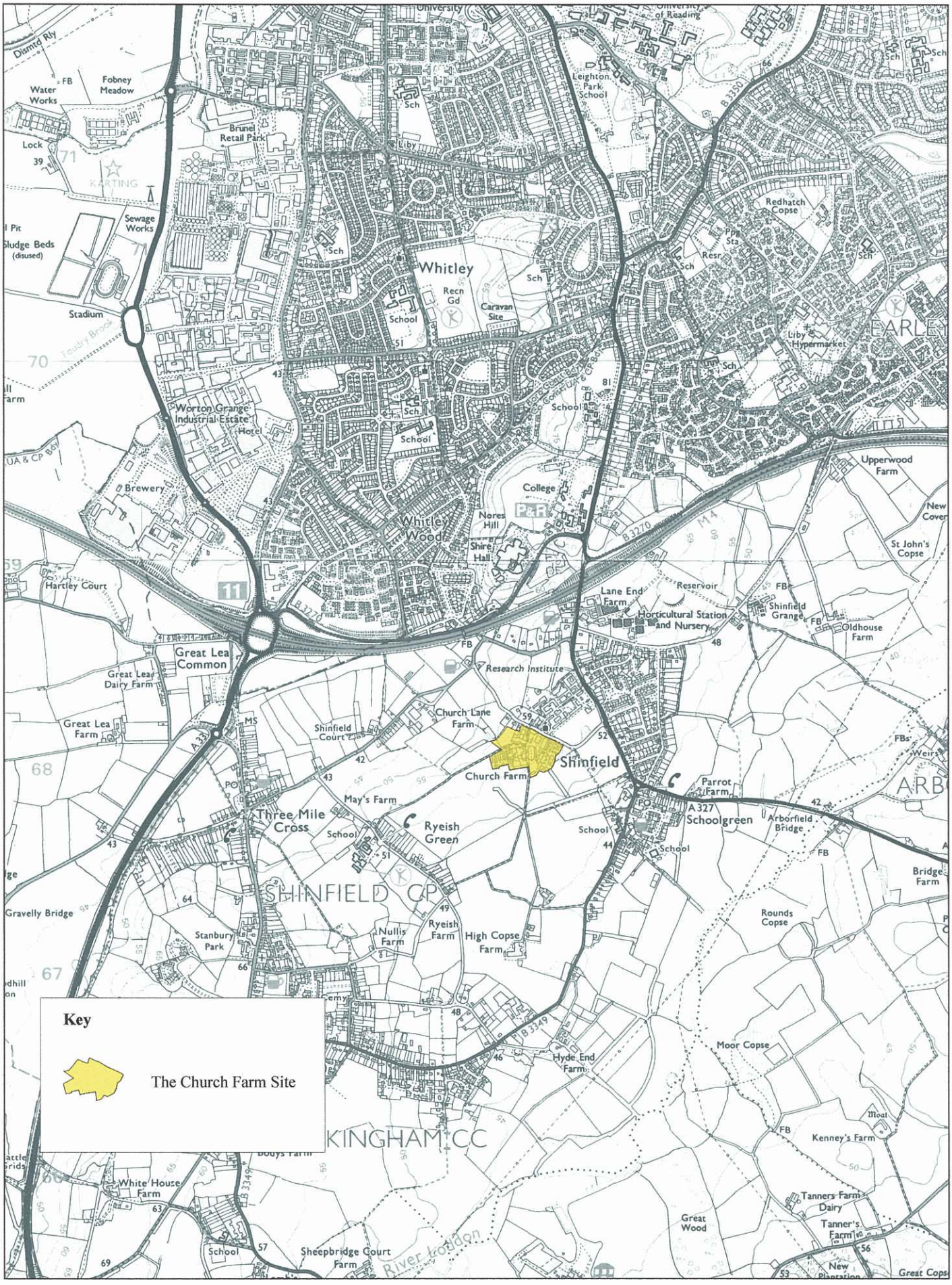


Figure 1: location of the Church Farm Development Site (scale at 1 to 25000)

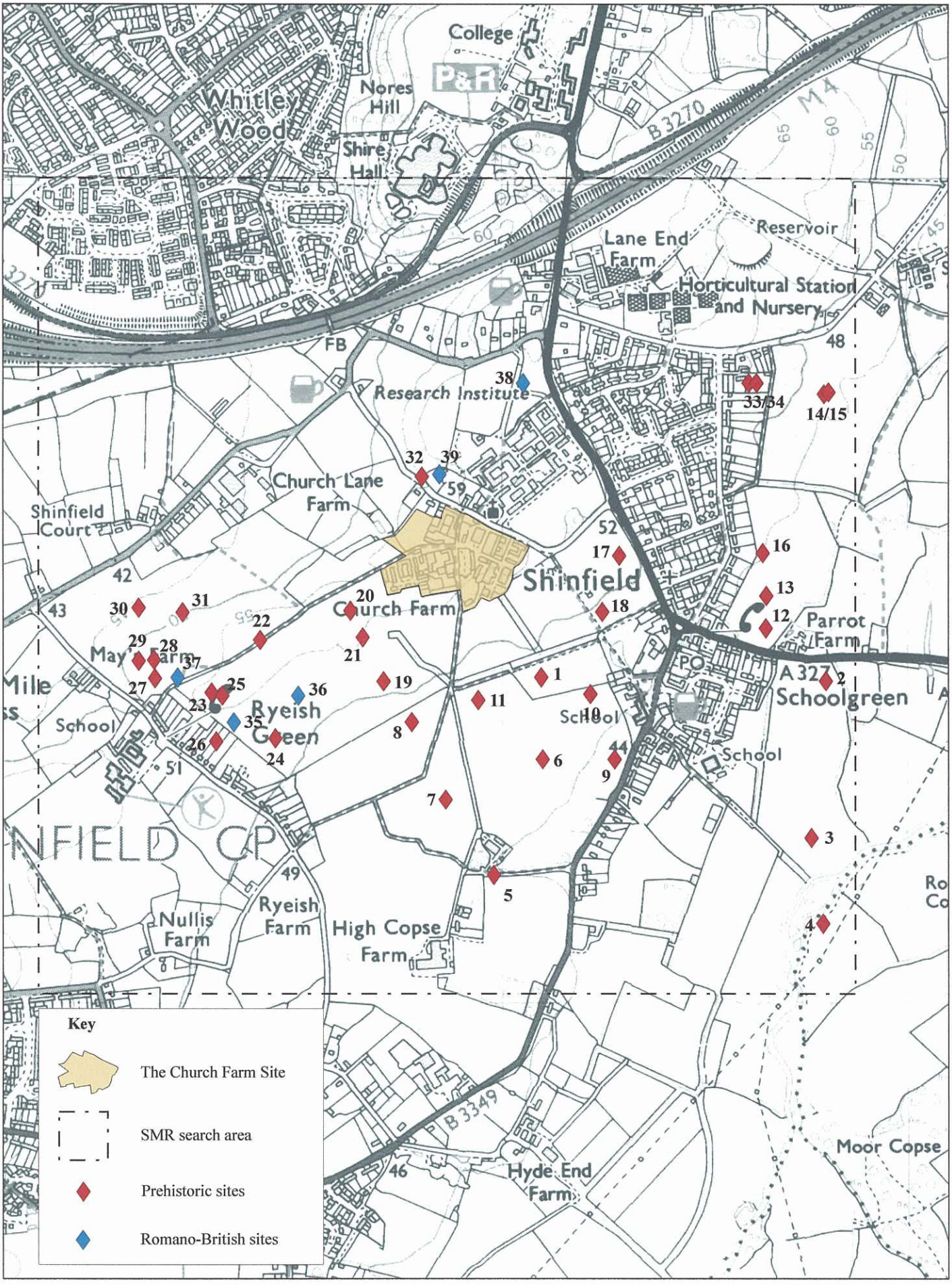


Figure 2: distribution of prehistoric and Romano-British sites from SMR data (scale at 1 to 12500)

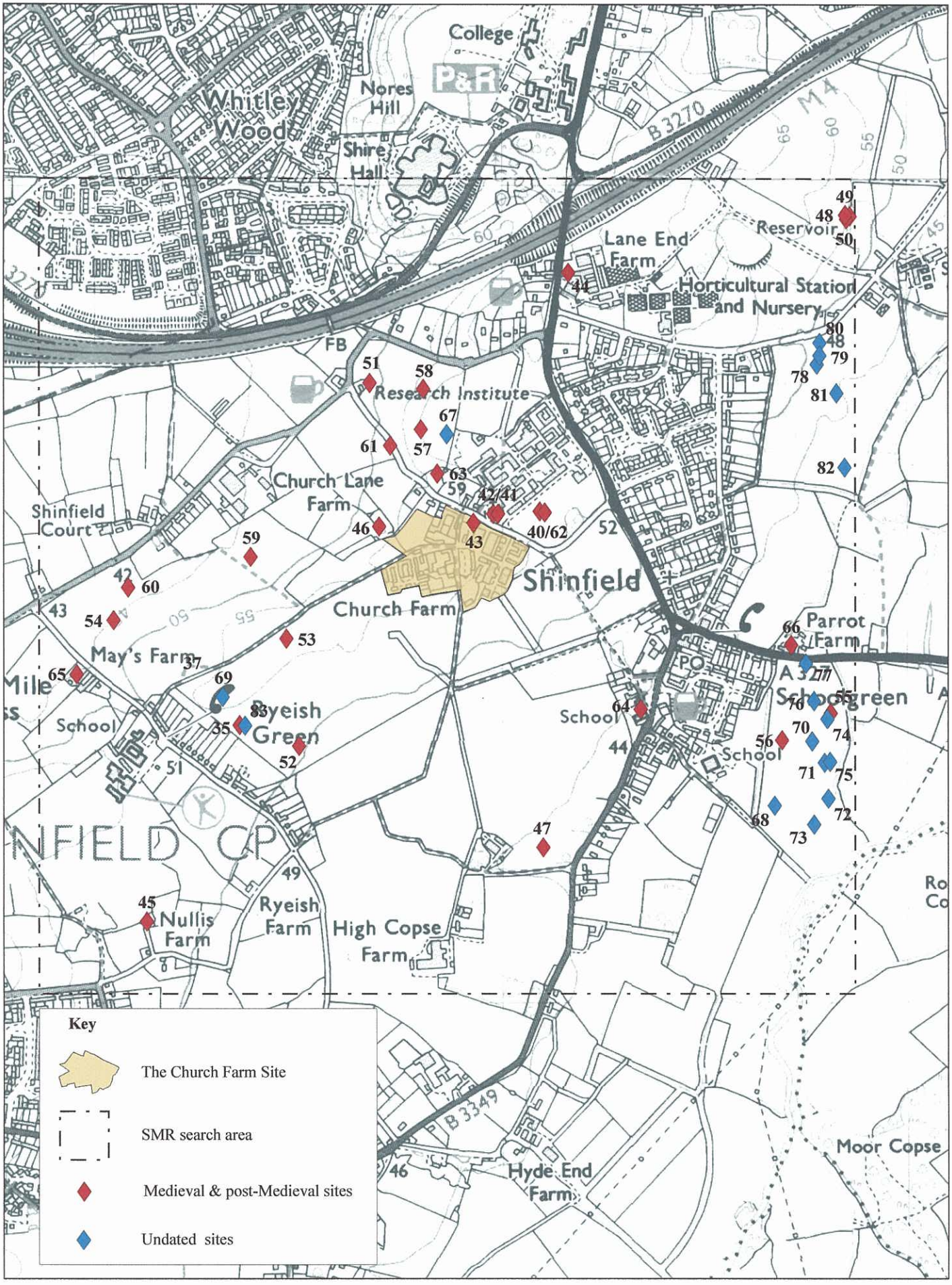


Figure 3: distribution of Medieval, post-Medieval and undated sites from SMR data (scale at 1 to 12500)



Figure 4: extract from the 1756 survey of lands belonging to Arthur James Plunket Woolascott, Earl of Fingall

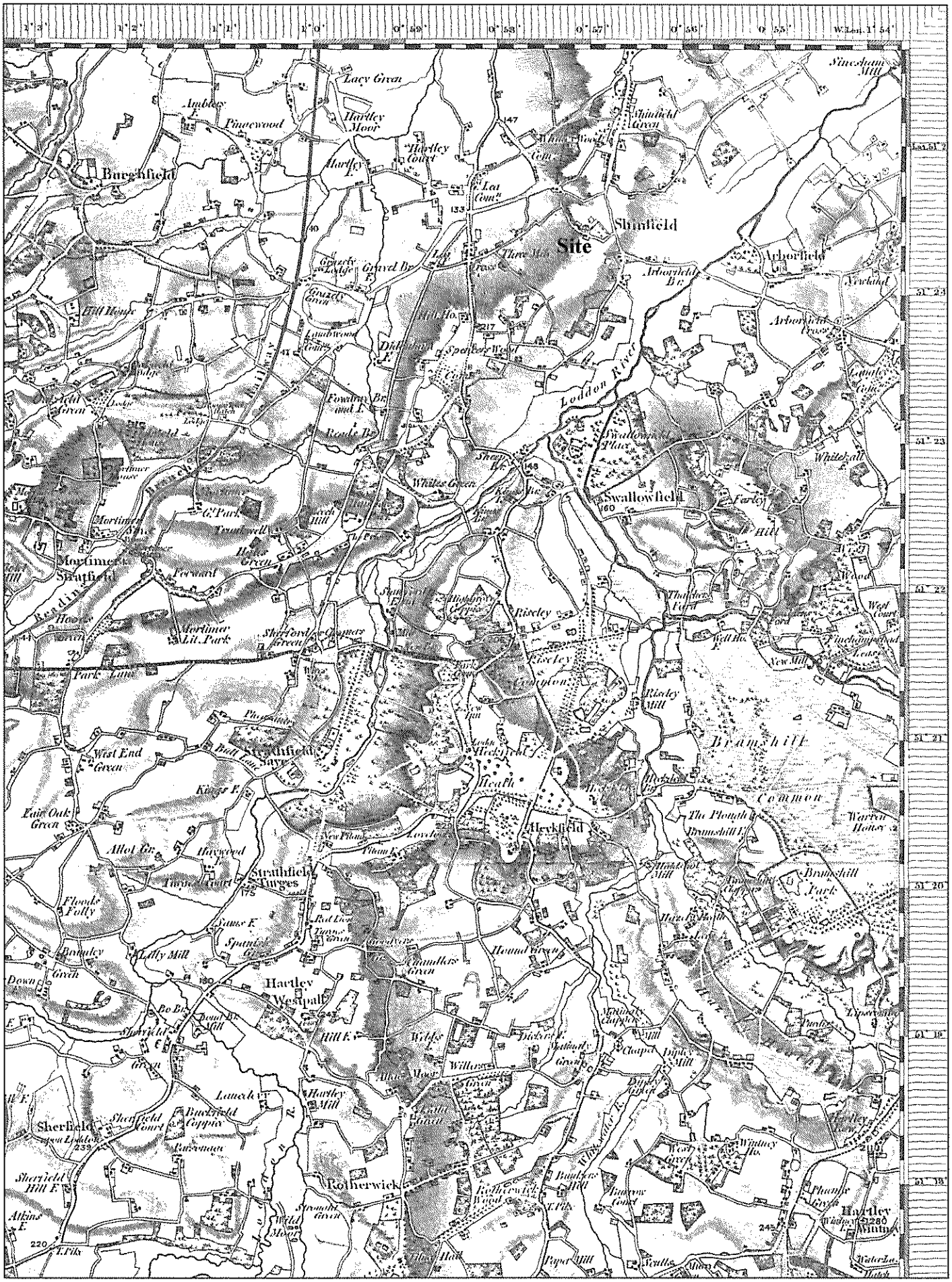


Figure 5: extract from the Old Series 1 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1816 (revised 1886)

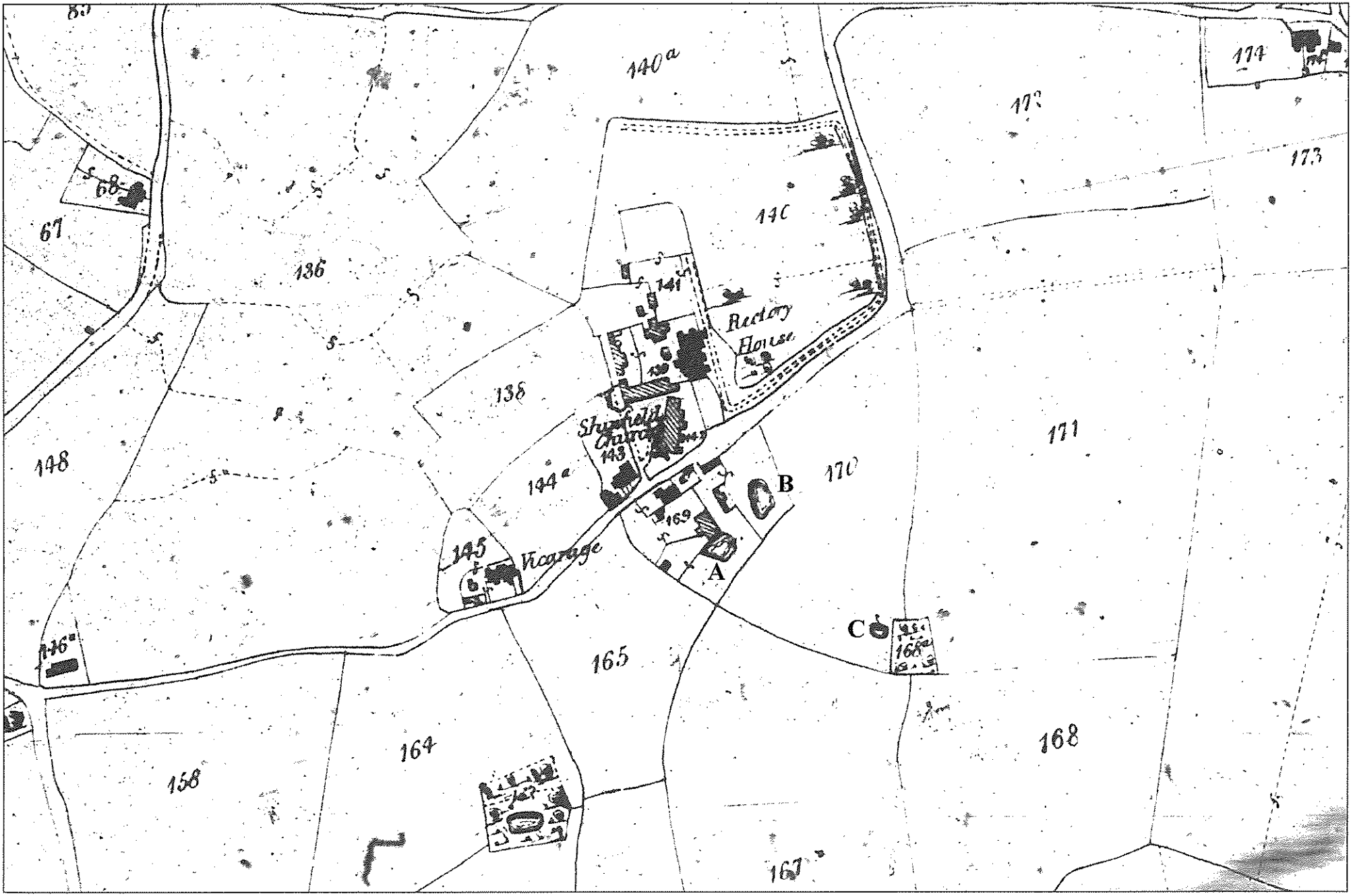


Figure 6: extract from the tithe map of 1838 (not to scale)

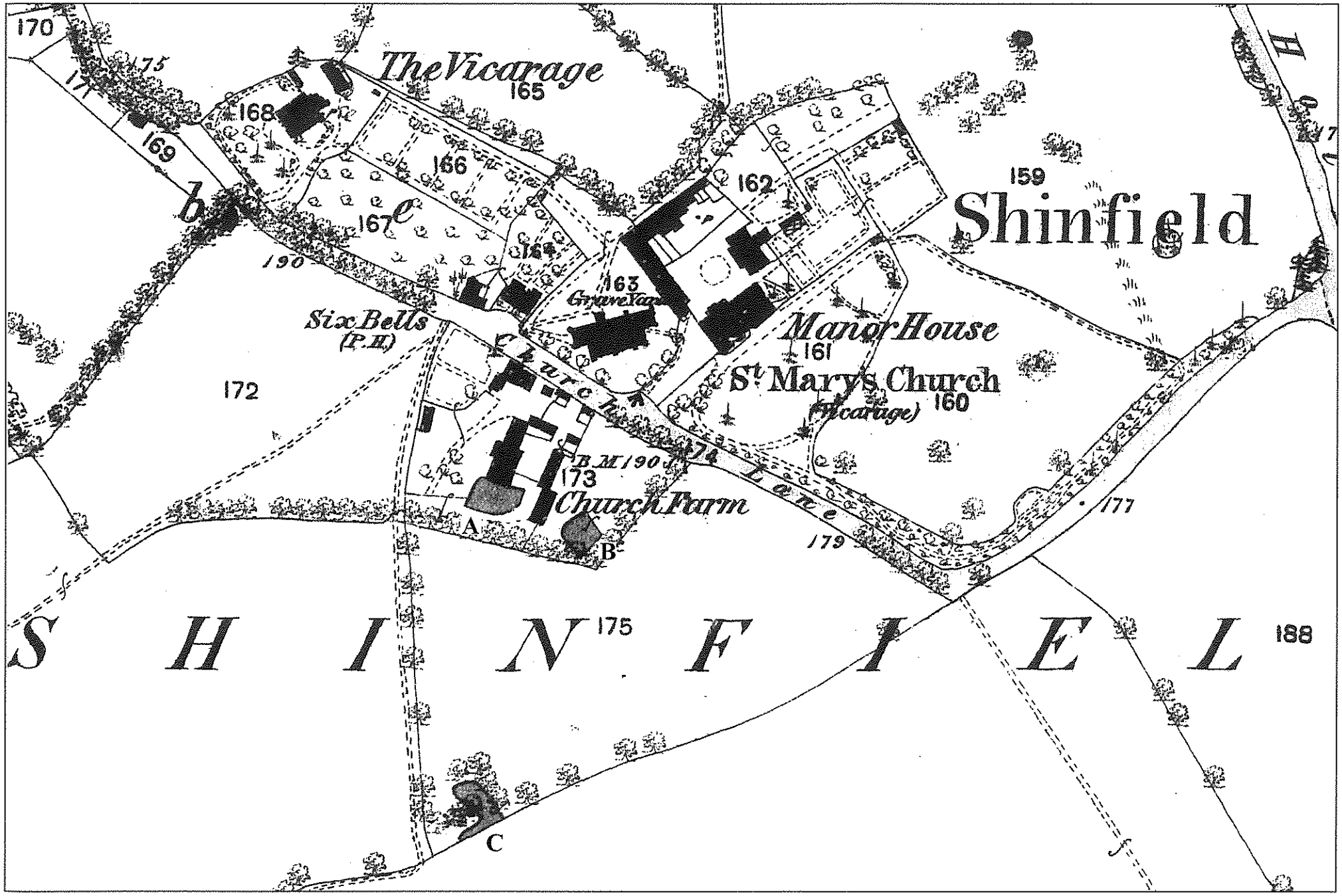


Figure 7: extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (not to scale)

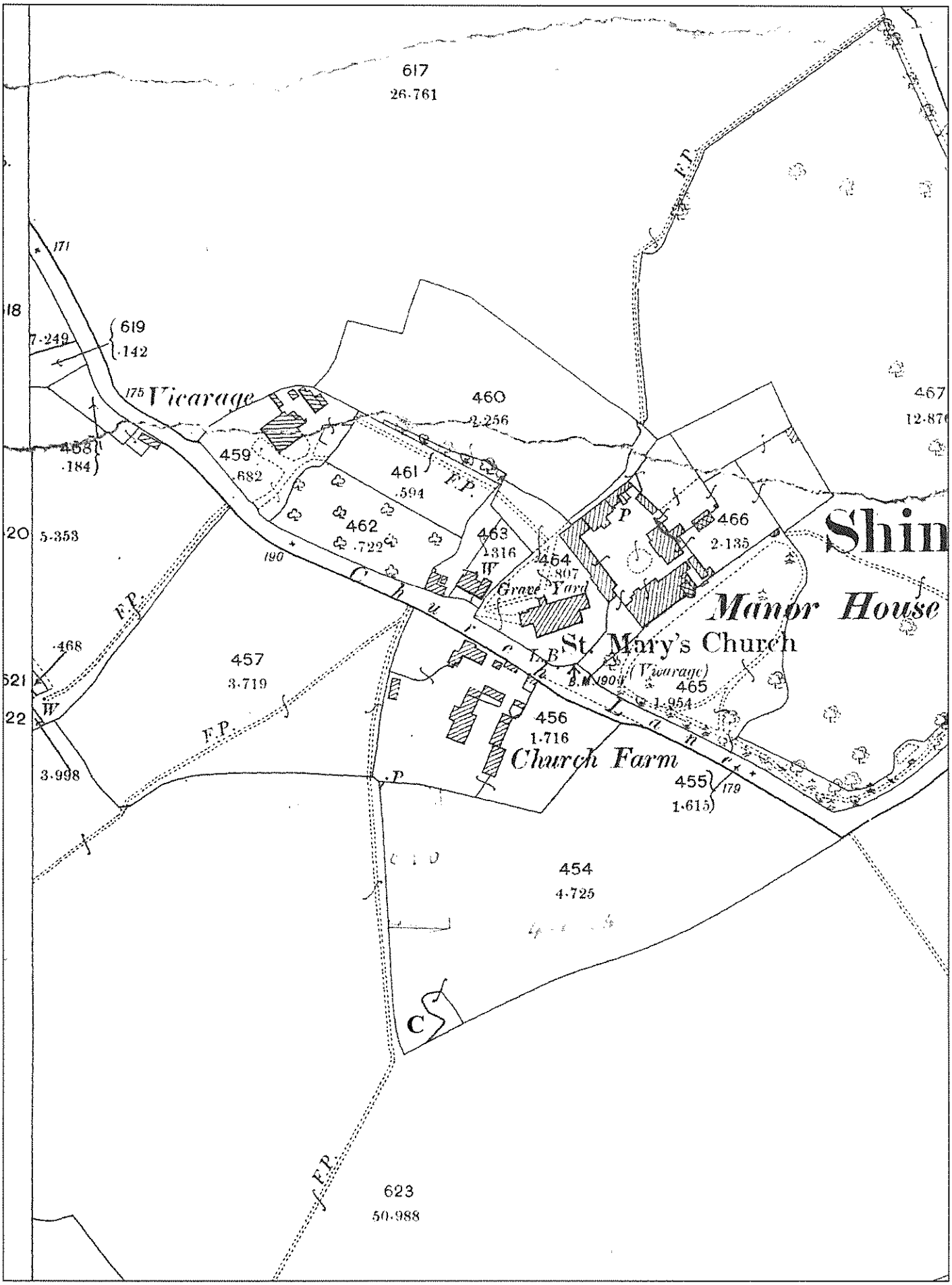


Figure 8: extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1899

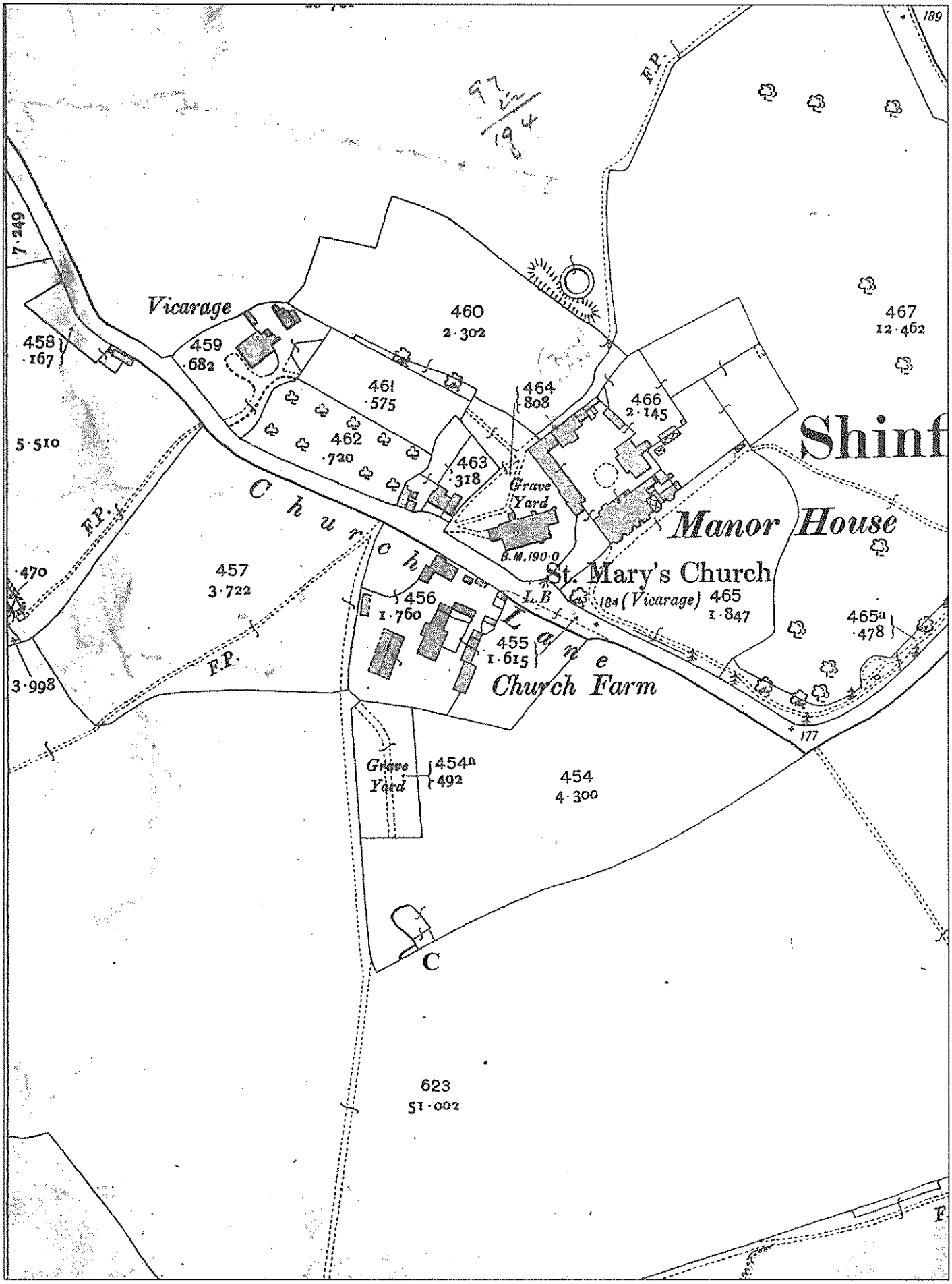


Figure 9: extract from the Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1911

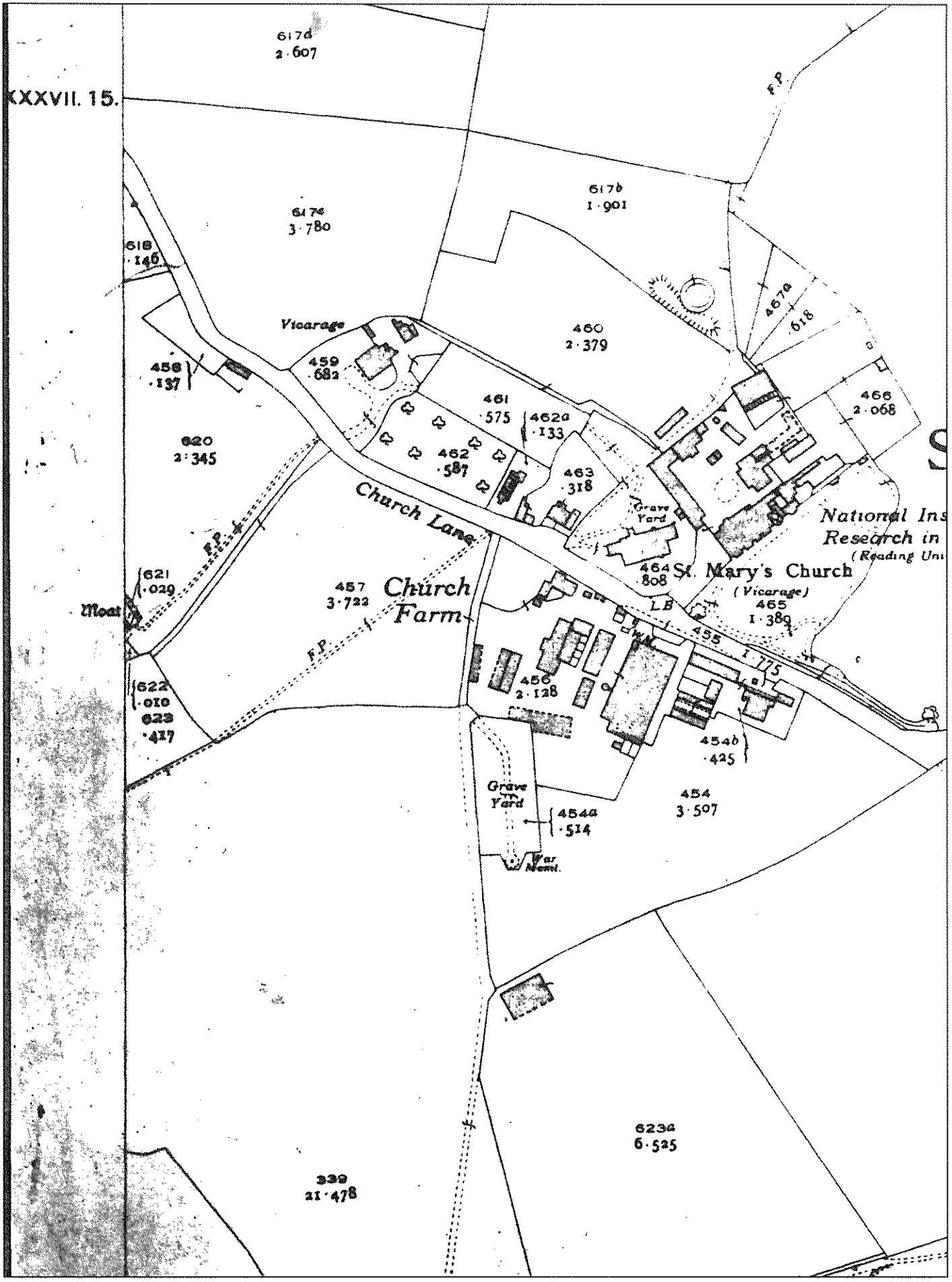


Figure 10: extract from the Revised Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1936

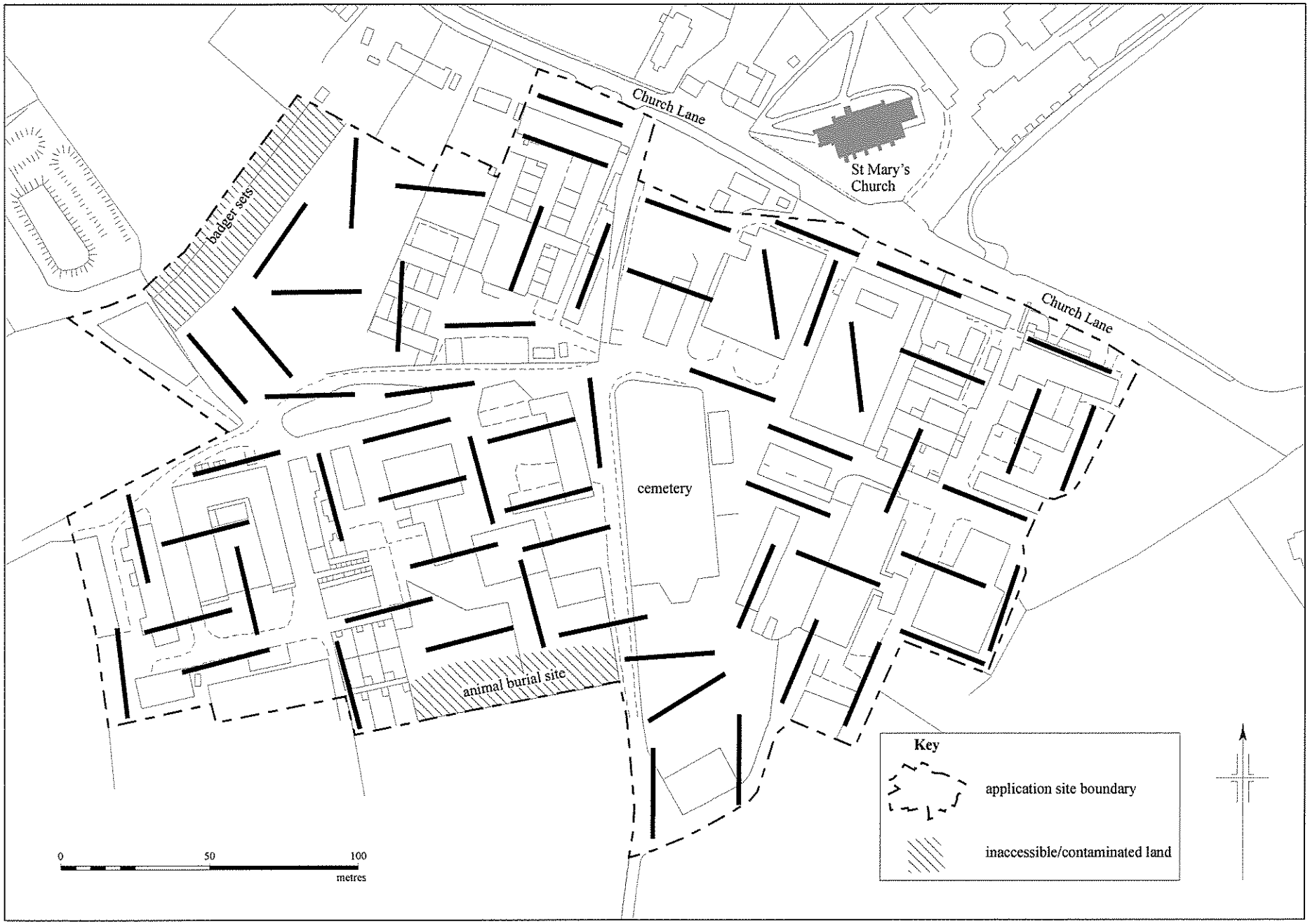


Figure 11: the Church Farm development site showing proposed trench layout

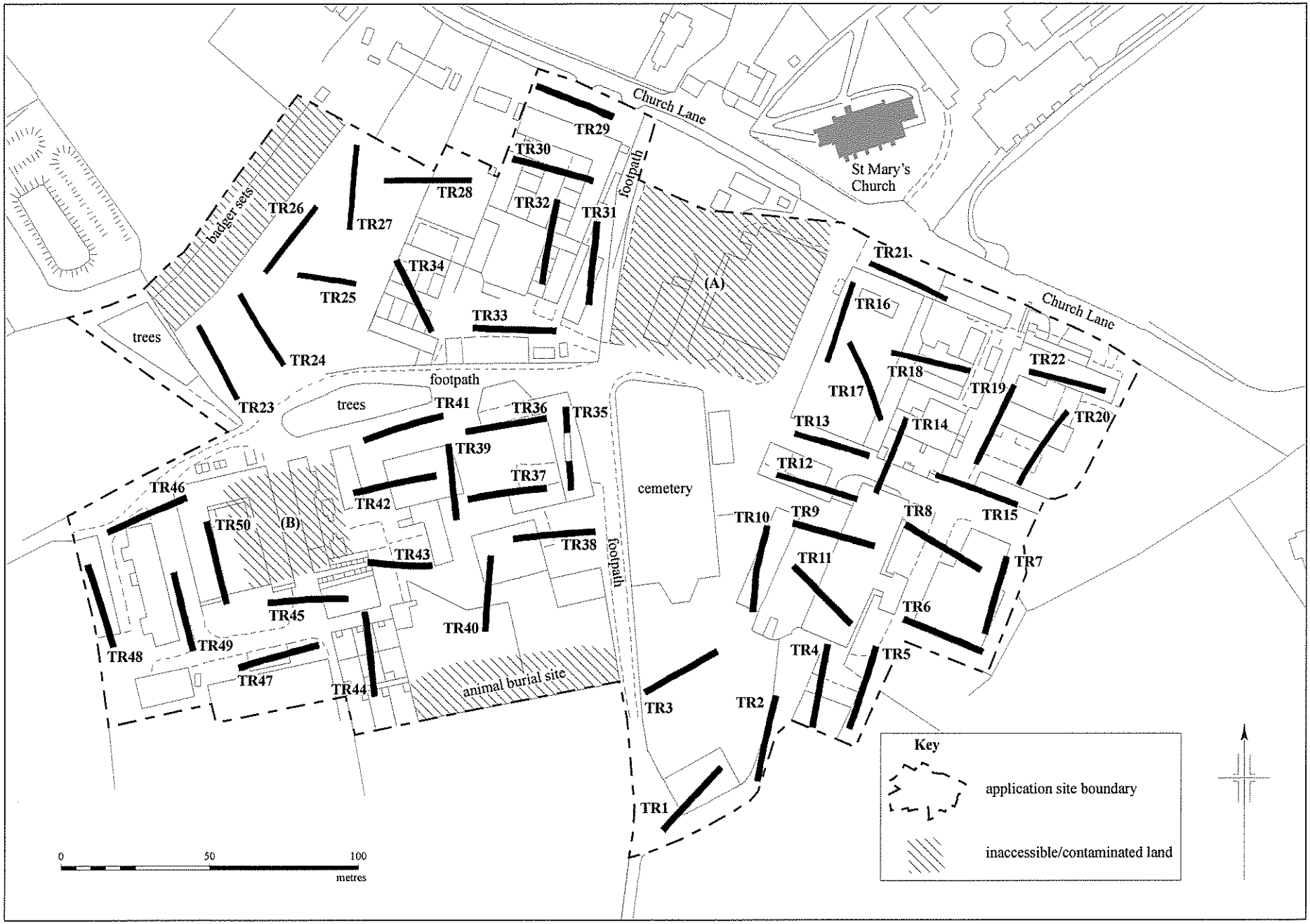


Figure 12: the Church Farm development site showing trench locations as excavated

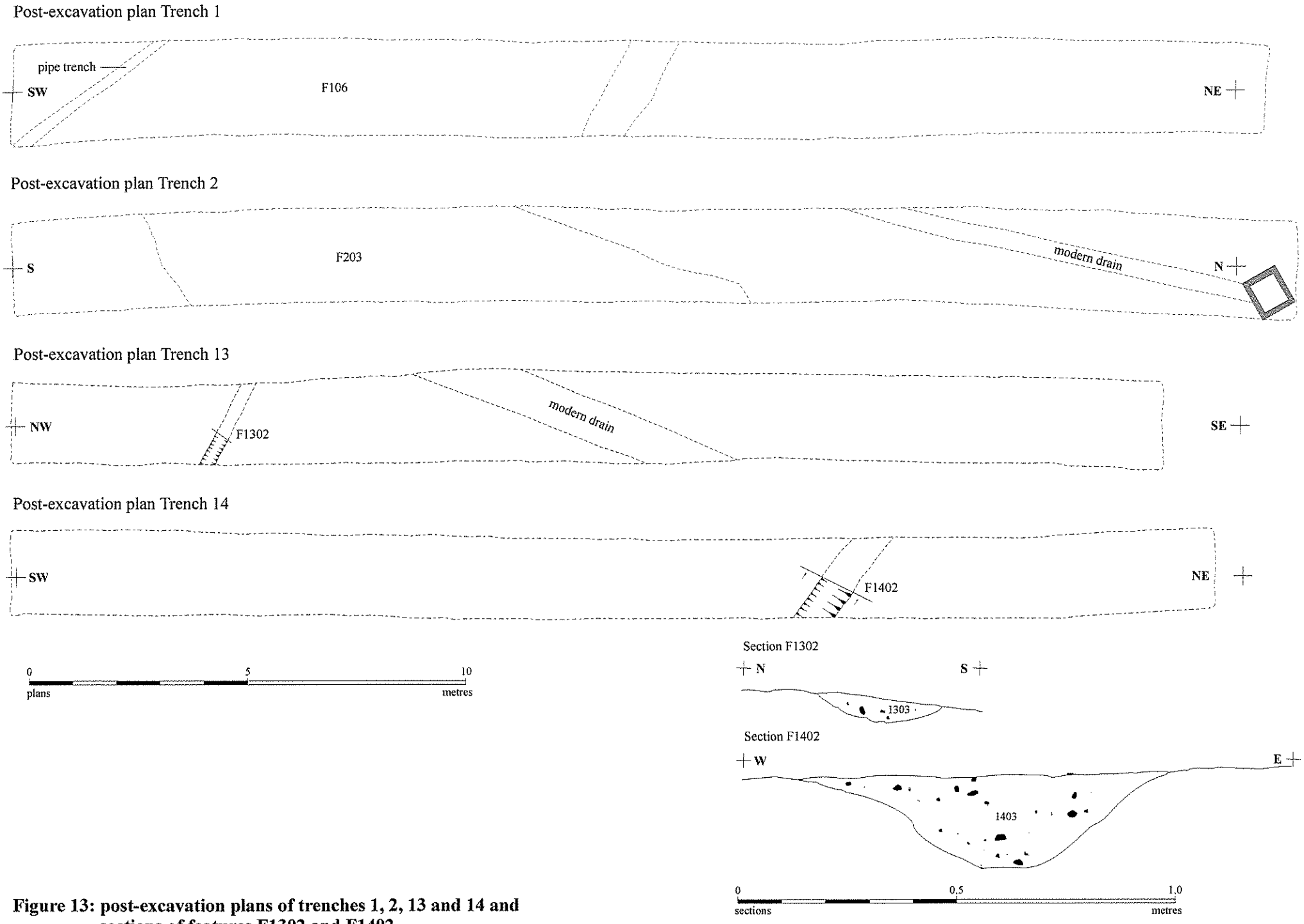


Figure 13: post-excavation plans of trenches 1, 2, 13 and 14 and sections of features F1302 and F1402