

Report on 8 Archaeological Test Pits Performed at Heath, Shropshire on the 24th to 26th of July 2021



Site name	Land around Heath Chapel, Heath, South Shropshire
Site location	SO 558 856
Site designation	List Entry Number 1006277
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1 Introduction

Heath prior to these investigations was assumed to be a largely deserted village dating from the medieval period with extensive earthworks and a fine and very little altered remaining chapel dating from c. 1100 A.D. It lies on land in the region of 240 meters above sea level on a shelving, south-west facing plateau with the Brown Clee Massif to the eastward and The Corvedale river valley to the westward on Devonian Old Red Sandstone rocks of the St. Maughan Series with mixed sands and finer grained sedimentary rocks and sporadic overlying glacial deposits. These generally weather to a reasonably fertile dark brown soil, with areas of gleyed clay and some standing water.

The investigations specified are by no means the first to have been done here and others include;

- Extensive earthwork surveys c.1974 done by archaeology students from the universities of Oxford and Birmingham done under the direction of Trevor Rowley and James Bond.
- Unpublished survey of The Rickyard, Heath 2017, and Leica survey of land adjacent to Heath Chapel 2017, see Cornah P. in references below.
- Photogrammetric survey done in 2017.
- Geophysical Survey of Heath 2018, see Cornah P. in references below.

Little excavation has been done in the locality, though please see Rowley in the bibliography below.

2 Historical Context

This area of South Shropshire is thought to have been settled relatively late in Anglo-Saxon, Early Medieval Period, this largely being determined on place-name evidence. The fine, largely unaltered chapel (c.1100 C.E.) and its village represented by abundant earthworks is felt to date from the Post-Conquest Middle Ages. The Heath was held, along with the mother parish of Stoke St. Milborough by the Cluniac Monks of Much Wenlock from the end of the 11th century A.D. though Heath was sub-infeudated to the landed Barony of Holdgate, by the late 13th century A.D. It was thereafter held by the Fitzalan family, later Dukes of Arundel, sometime among the most monied and influential families in the country.

Up till the mid 12th century Heath was under forest law as part of The Forest of Clee, which subsequently became the Chase of Clee administered from near-by Corfham Castle. Documentary evidence from the presumed period of the village hey-day (this is thought to be c. 1080 to 1280 A.D.), is limited though it is known that in 1301, when the village may have already been in substantial decline, there was a "Chief House and 4 Farmhouses", though of cottages there is no mention. (Victoria County History 1998).

In The Middle Ages that there were 3 open fields to the south of Heath Chapel and village. These are thought to have been lost to irregular enclosure between the 14th and 18th century. The use of the area to the north of the village, which in the later Middle Ages became 'Heath Park' is not known, though there is evidence of assarting on the northern margin of the chapelry abutting The Parish of Tugford. (Figure 2)

In the approximately 250 years separating The Conquest from the 'The Black Death', it is known that a lucrative and dynamic raw fine wool trade existed in this region of the March of Wales an exemplar of the times being the rise of the local de Ludlowe dynasty of wool merchants, ascending to national and international prominence. (Train 2005). It is also likely that the hides trade was important locally, with the adjacent town of Ludlow forming a manufacturing base.

The village itself, as represented by earthworks, shows apparent tight nucleation and is extensive, being c. 15 acres. Many of the earthworks and notably the 'holloways' to the east of the chapel precinct are deeply incised and the movement of beasts, notably cattle may have contributed to their production.

3 Archaeological Context

The rationale of choice of location for the test pits may be understood with reference to the Craven Estate Map of 1771 (Figure 4), and by the working partition of the medieval village into speculative functional areas (Figure 3). The blue shaded area on Figure 3, the Manorial Complex, is roughly coincident with the field 'Moat Meadow' and comprises shallow earthworks in the south-west of the field, traditionally interpreted as fishponds, and north of the Chapel Yard, where rectilinear sharply incised earthworks are seen to extend into the Chapel Yard. These have been interpreted as a medieval moat, and the western and south-western portion of this structure appears to be water-filled on the 1771 map. The inference has been that this was a protective or status feature associated with a manorial structure, although more recently it has been suggested by Trevor Rowley (pers comm), that this may be a post medieval feature associated with a water garden. He has pointed out the striking resemblance to the water gardens at Tackley, Oxfordshire (Plate 10). The green shaded area of Figure 3, referred to as "working and living", is complex, with flatter areas separated by deeply incised hollow-ways, and has been assumed to be the quarter where the peasantry might have had their dwelling houses, gardens and workshops.

The pink shaded chapel-yard on Figure 3, appears much smaller than would be expected on casual inspection on the ground, due to the intrusion of the earthworks from the north, which are included in the blue shaded manorial area. The area that appears highly distinctive on the 1771 map, is the central area, represented on Figure 3 by the red shaded portion.

Figure 6 is part of a photogrammetric survey done in 2017 and shows the very clean-cut nature of the possible moated structure just to the north of the existing chapel, and these are confirmed to extend into the current chapel precinct. If a post-medieval date for these structures is contemplated this extension may represent an intrusion into a small medieval green adjacent to the chapel, a feature seen in a number of local villages.

4 Methodology

Eight test pits were excavated by hand in the locations shown on the enclosed plans (Figures 4 to 7). These were positioned to investigate topographical features of the site and the wider extent of the settlement, with the intention being uppermost to characterise deposits and features with reference to any dating evidence. The test pits were chosen, with the broad strategy:

- To investigate the range of different topographical features.
- through the characterisation of archaeological remains, to follow up with establishing feature morphology of structures and deposits.
- where in stratigraphic relationships can be established, to identify site phases.

The trenches listed below cover the range of different results established during topographical survey. Where possible trenches have been placed to gather information over a wide area of the available site. More specifically, with reference to the criteria as classified in the topographical survey results and their specific investigation, this involves the following reasons for the location of trenches:

- Test Pit 1 Within possible medieval moat (possibly reworked as 'polite landscape' water feature in 16th century). To confirm or refute the above assumptions.
- Test Pits 2 and 3 Within the presumptive manorial area.
- Test Pit 4 On a raised area within the potential location of a building visible on a 18th century print. (Plate 9)
- Test Pit 5 To determine the extent of the village within the medieval period in the presumed living and working portion of the village.
- Test Pit 6 An area showing possible house platforms in the photogrammetric survey.

- Test Pits 7 and 8. Within the area of possible extension of manorial area into the environs of the chapel, or within a medieval chapel enclosure.

The test pits hand excavated to the top of significant archaeology and clean surfaces were inspected.

- Selected deposits were fully or partially excavated to determine their nature and retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples.
- Deposits were selected for excavation on the basis of the minimum required to meet the aims of the project.
- Less significant deposits were excavated in order to define the nature and extent of those, which were likely to be of greater significance..
- Selection for excavation was on the judgement of Tim Cornah, the project leader.
- Trenches were not excavated beyond approximately 1.50m depth below the ground surface.
- The assistance of English Heritage is welcomed in selection of deposits for excavation.
- Environmental samples up to 40 litres in volume were taken from suitable deposits. A sub-sample of up to eight of the most productive looking samples were selected by the project environmental archaeologist. These were processed, sorted and assessed for discussion in the report, with a statement as to the potential for further analysis.
- Selection of deposits for sampling followed guidance set out in English Heritage (2011) Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (2nd edition).
- Artefactual retrieval policy, treatment and discard followed the requirements of the Brief and the receiving museum.
- Context recording was undertaken using context sheets and other pro-forma recording sheets.
- Photographic recording was be taken with a standard SLR camera.
- Scale drawings of selected features were produced, along with a photogrammetric plan of the features in test pit 4.

Attention was especially be given to cleaning and recording exposure archaeological deposits, and any further exploration was only undertaken sufficient to answer very specific questions. Community support was received to support sieving of spoil and soils to ensure maximum recovery of artefactual evidence.

All the work of test pitting was done on schedule between the 23rd to the 25th of July by a team of highly experienced professional archaeologists from Worcestershire Archaeology led by Tim Cornah. Trevor Rowley was also in attendance for much of the time. Trevor has been an invaluable mentor to the project with a professional experience of the historical landscape of the Welsh March, which for him has an especial interest being a Shropshire Man.

Backfilling took take place with community support and tours were conducted for members of the public throughout the project.

5 Stratigraphic results

5.1 Test Pit 1.

Below topsoil deposit (100) was deposits (101 and 102) (Plate 1) which consisted of pink and orange silty clays, similar in character to the natural deposits of the site. It is probable that these represent

purposeful re-filling of the feature, potentially back filling after the feature became redundant. Below these were layers (103 to 104) which were increasingly gleyed towards the base, typical of formation within standing water.

The cut of the feature was located at 1.21m below ground level at 240.09m AOD. This was concave and cut into natural deposit (105), which consisted of a blue grey sandstone.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
100	Layer	Dark brown silt- clay	Topsoil	0-0.13 M.
101	Layer	Pink orange silty clay	Redeposited natural. (Back-filling)	0.13 – 0.41
102	Layer	Dark orange-pink silty clay	Redeposited natural. (Back-filling)	0.41 – 0.63
103	Layer	Orange -brown Silty Clay	Last natural infilling, siltation of moat [106]	0.63 – 0.94
104	Layer	Mottled light bluish – grey silty clay with some orange mottling	Gleyed basal moat fill indicating water -logged deposits	0.85-1.21
105	Layer	Blueish-grey sandstone bedrock	Natural	1.10m+
106	Cut	Slightly concave cut into bedrock	Very base of north-south aligned western side of moat.	1.21m

Table 1 Test pit 1

5.2 Test Pit 2

Below the topsoil deposit (200) (Plate 2) were two further layers. Deposit (201) was mixed and typical of wider soil movement or redeposit, as may be created within landscaping. Below this, deposit (202) was not mixed like (201), perhaps indicative of a of an earlier soil horizon. This was potentially confirmed by earlier pottery within the layer. This deposit filled a slight hollow with the natural substrate (203) which was a pinkish clay. The hollow did not appear to be a cut feature, though this could not be stated with certainty within the confines of a test pit.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
200	Layer	Light grey-brown silt with frequent bioturbation, with 16 th / 17 th c. pottery	Pasture field top-soil and turf with some extant earthworks	0 – 0.28
201	Layer	Light brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal patches (sampled) and late medieval to post-medieval pottery	Mixed redeposited material. Layer sampled	0.28 – 0.48
202	Layer	Light grey-brown sandy clay with some 13 th -14 th c. pottery.	Soil horizon, some infilling of terrace /shelf with some waterlogging	0.48 - 0.62
203	Natural	Pinkish-grey	Natural with shelf	0.62 – 0.72

		substrate	running centrally through the pit.	
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Table 2 Test pit 2

5.3 Test Pit 3

Below topsoil deposit (300) (Plate 3) is another mixed deposit similar to that within test pit 2 though deposit (301) had a higher content of material, most notably a large amount of lime mortar fragments. This was a relatively deep deposit, again indicative of a large-scale earth moving or landscaping. It is likely that deposit (302) was a slightly mixed top of subsoil deposit (303), which were in turn above natural pinkish red clay deposit (304).

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
300	Layer	Light, grey-brown clayey silt with frequent rooting	Top-?17 th to 18 th c	0-0.18
301	Layer	Friable dark-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and building material fragments	Levelling layer ?17 th – 18 th c.	0.18-0.52
302	Layer	Yellow-brown cohesive silty clay	? top of sub-soil	0.52-0.62
303	Layer	Cohesive brown-yellow Dark-brown greyish silt	Subsoil	0.62-0.75
304	Natural	Compact pinkish red clay	Natural	

Table 3 Test Pit 3

5.4 Test Pit 4

Topsoil deposit (400) covered deposit (401), a silt layer of unclear origin. This was stratigraphically directly above deposit (403), which filled cut feature [404] and was aligned east to west. This cut into deposits (402) (Plate 4, Figure 8). Cut feature [404] was extremely ephemeral but it was interpreted as a robber cut for a former sill beam or wall base, given its linear butting relationship with deposit (402). Deposit (402) was relatively level at its top and potentially was part of a former floor surface, though this interpretation again tentative given the small area of excavation. Deposit (402) also filled a horizontal cut [405] through the sandstone bedrock (406). It is possible that this was an earlier robber cut.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
400	Layer	Mid brownish grey clay silt	Topsoil	0-0.10
401	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silt with angular stones, pebbles and rounded cobbles	Layer	0.10- 0.13 to 0.18
402	Layer	Friable mid brownish orange silt clay with frequent angular stones cobbles and pebbles, stones more frequent at the surface, has a butting relationship with 403	Possible former floor?	0.13 to 0.26
403	Fill	Loose mid greyish-brown clayey silt with occasional angular pebbles	Fill of 404	0.13 to 0.23
404	Cut	Straight sided east to west tentative cut with flat base, cuts 402	Probable robber cut	

405	Cut	East-west cut with flat base, filled by 402, cutting 406	Probable robber cut	
406	Layer	Sandstone bedrock	Natural	0.23

Table 4 Test pit 4

5.5 Test Pit 5

The stratigraphy of this test pit consisted of topsoil (501), subsoil (502) and natural (503) (Plate 5), much more typical of an agricultural setting than the previous test pits. No features were present within this test pit.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
501	Layer	Loose light-brown clayey silt	Topsoil	0-0.0.11
502	Layer	Mid-brown silty clay with lenses of 'natural' with infrequent coal and medieval pottery.	Subsoil with probable intervention of burrowing animals	0.11-0.42
503	Natural	Pink-brown Clay	Natural	

Table 5 Test Ppt 5

5.6 Test Pit 6

The stratigraphy of this test pit consisted also of topsoil (600), subsoil (601) and natural (602), similar to test pit 5. However, a single feature was present [605] (Plate 6, Figure 9). This was rounded in plan and could have been either the terminus of a ditch, or a small pit and was 0.74m in width and 0.23m in depth. Its fills consisted of deposits (603) and (604), of which (603) humic and charcoal rich, potentially indicative of intentional waste backfill.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
600	Layer	Light grey-brown silty clay	Topsoil	0-0.27
601	Layer	Orangey-brown silty clay with occasional medieval pottery	Subsoil	0.27-0.48
602	Layer	Light brownish-orange silty clay	Natural	
603	Layer	Fairly humic and charcoal rich. Seems like deliberate back-fill. No dating	Upper Fill of Ditch terminus [605]	
604	Layer	Brownish -orange silty clay. no finds	Basal fill of ditch terminus [605]	
605	Cut	Not fully seen. Gently concave moderately well defined.	Cut of ditch terminus	0.48-0.71

Table 6 Test pit 6

5.7 Test Pit 7

The stratigraphy of this test pit consisted of topsoil (700), subsoil (701) and natural (702) (Plate 7), and like test pit 5 much more typical of an agricultural setting than the previous test pits. No features were present within this test pit.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
700	Layer	Light grey friable silt	Topsoil	0-0.12
701	Layer	Light orange/brown firm clay	Subsoil	0.12-0.35
702	Natural	Mid orange /brown firm plastic clay		0.35-0.4

Table 7 Test Pit 7

5.8 Test Pit 8

Topsoil deposit (800) (Plate 8) sealed silty clay subsoil (801), which in turn sealed deposit (802). This fill was interpreted as being typical of formation through water siltation. These deposits filled cut feature [804], the base of which was at a depth of 1.45m below ground surface, 241.2m AOD. Full reports of both the test artefactual findings including ceramics and the environmental findings are included below

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Interpretation	Depth Below Ground Surface
800	Layer	Greyish-brown silty clay	Topsoil	0-0.12
801	Layer	Mid orange/pink cohesive silty clay	Sub-soil	0.12-0.36
802	Layer	Mid orangey/brown cohesive and sterile	Fill of moat by natural siltation	0.36-1.47
803	Natural	Sandstone		
804	Cut	Sandstone	Cut of moat	

Table 8 Test Pit 8

Artefactual analysis

By Rob Hedge

5.9 Introduction

5.9.1 Summary

The assemblage comprised 197 artefacts weighing 1.436kg. The most numerous were sherds of pottery. The earliest potsherds were 12th to 13th-century in date, and the latest were late-18th century. Other finds included clay tobacco pipes, animal bone, and glass. The greatest density of finds was from test pit 3: these were mainly post-medieval. Three-quarters of the test pits contained medieval material, and the test pits to the east of the site contained little or no material post-dating the 14th century.

Overall, there is evidence for domestic activity on or close to the site in the 12th to early-14th centuries. Then there is a gap in the assemblage spanning the later-14th to mid-15th century, for which there is very little evidence of any activity. From the later-15th to the 18th century, there is an

increase in material, but this is generally small, abraded, and typical of agricultural activity rather than domestic occupation.

5.9.2 Aims

This assessment aims to quantify, spot-date and sort artefacts according to broad fabric groups, to describe their range and significance, and to make recommendations for further analysis.

5.9.3 Recovery strategy

All artefacts were hand-recovered under the supervision of professional archaeologists.

5.9.4 Standards and guidance

The project conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and CIfA's Toolkit for Specialist Reporting, as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993). As a full member of the

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, I am bound to the CIfA's Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines.

5.10 Methodology

5.10.1 Reference collections and concordances

The study of medieval pottery in Shropshire presents a number of challenges. Barker's (1970) synthesis of 11th to 14th-century pottery in the county set a solid baseline, but the paucity of well-stratified sequences and excavated kiln sites left the chronological sequence 'disappointingly vague' (Barker 1970, 42). In the intervening half-century, significant progress has been made with the publication of a number of large assemblages: key among these is the pottery from the Queen Anne House site, Shrewsbury Abbey (Bryant 2002), which forms the basis for a comprehensive fabric series held by Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery. Further work by Rátkai (e.g., 2014) on the pottery of the Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth region has enhanced understanding of the pottery sequence for central and south Shropshire, but it is still centred on towns; knowledge of the dynamics of production and supply in rural south Shropshire remains patchy.

5.10.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem date was produced for each stratified context. This date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded in Google Sheets.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form. Given the divergence from the Shrewsbury-based Shropshire series mentioned above, codes have been assigned according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (WAAS 2017), supplemented with site-specific codes prefixed with '3'. These are somewhat broad and should be read as indicating ware types rather than specific sources: fabric 300, for example, is an iron-rich sandy ware, but with sufficient variability to suggest it must encompass vessels from a number of different kilns, probably scattered across south Shropshire and the northern parts of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Pottery sherds that could not be identified or were too small to be identified accurately by fabric, were grouped as miscellaneous by period.

Periods have been categorised as follows. These reflect traditions and technological developments rather than historical categories. Many types of artefact cross these somewhat arbitrary boundaries, and so the quantification tables (Table 10 and Table 11) include broad categories, e.g., 'transitional to post-medieval' to account for these.

Period	Description	Start date	End date
0	Prehistoric	-10000	43
1	High medieval	1100	1350
2	Late medieval	1350	1475
3	Transitional	1475	1600
4	Post-medieval	1600	1800
5	Later post-medieval/modern	1800	2000

Table 9: Period dates

5.11 Results

5.11.1 Quantification

The assemblage comprised 197 artefacts weighing 1.436kg. Finds came from 18 contexts within 8 test pits. Approximately 1/3 of the assemblage comprised material (such as animal bone) which is not readily dateable by eye. Of the remainder, the majority was post-medieval, but there was also a significant assemblage of 12th to 14th-century pottery, and a single Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint blade segment.

The following table quantifies the finds by object type and period:

period	material	object type	count	weight(g)
0: Prehistoric	flint	blade segment	1	1
0: Prehistoric Total			1	1
1: High medieval	ceramic	pot	20	169
1: High medieval Total			20	169
1 - 4: Medieval to Post-medieval	ceramic	fired clay	5	16
	daub	daub	17	289
period	material	object type	count	weight(g)
	glass	window	1	2
	iron	nail	7	47
	slag	iron smithing slag	2	6
	stone	whetstone	1	195
1 - 4: Medieval to Post-medieval Total			33	555
2 - 4: Late medieval to Post-medieval	glass	rolled glass vessel	1	2
2 - 4: Late medieval to Post-medieval Total			1	2
3: Transitional	ceramic	pot	1	10
3: Transitional Total			1	10
3 - 4: Transitional to Post-medieval	ceramic	pot	10	61

3 - 4: Transitional to Post-medieval Total			10	61
4: Post-medieval	ceramic	clay pipe	16	35
		pot	39	176
	glass	vessel	2	5
4: Post-medieval Total			57	216
4 - 5: Post-medieval to Modern	glass	vessel	1	1
		window	1	2
4 - 5: Post-medieval to Modern Total			2	3
5: Modern	ceramic	drainage tile	1	34
		pot	1	1
	glass	unident	1	1
	plastic	film canister	1	4
5: Modern Total			4	40
undated	bone	mammal bone	54	285
	ceramic	unident	1	2
	organic	charcoal	5	1
		coal	4	13
	stone	burnt stone	3	4
		worked stone	1	74
undated Total			68	379
Grand Total			197	1436

Table 10: finds quantification by period and type

5.11.2 Pottery fabrics

Pottery represents the key dating evidence for activity on the site, as the most common dateable artefact. The earliest were a range of 12th to 14th-century local sandy wares - the majority were undiagnostic body sherds, but several lid-seated, everted rims typical of the late-12th/13th century were recovered. All but one were unglazed, and frequent sooting suggests most were jars used for cooking. The exception was a glazed sherd with wavy horizontal decoration, most likely from a pitcher of 12th to 13th-century date.

The late medieval oxidised wares typical of sites in the region occupied in the later-14th and 15th centuries were largely absent. Small quantities of 'transitional' wares — a term encompassing pottery made from the late-15th to 16th centuries — were present, including a sherd from a Raeren/Aachen 'bartmann' jug, probably early-16th century in date.

Activity spanning the 16th to mid-17th century was indicated by early 'speckled' redwares (fabric 78.4), along with a single sherd of Midland Purple and a small undiagnostic sherd of continental stoneware. Several transitional or early post-medieval oxidised wares of uncertain provenance are likely to be of similar date.

The range of post-medieval (17th/18th-century) wares was typical for the region, dominated by black-glazed redwares and a variety of decorated slipwares, mostly of Staffordshire production.

The mean sherd weight of the 12th to 14th-century pottery was 8.5g. This decreased to 6.5g for the material spanning the late-15th to early-17th century. For the 17th and 18th-century wares, the mean weight was just 4.5g. Although the sample size is small, this pattern tends to indicate that whilst the medieval material may derive from domestic occupation in the near vicinity, the later wares are more likely to have been introduced into site soils through agricultural activity such as manuring.

period	fabric code	supplementary code	count	weight (g)
1: High medieval	300	sandy oxidised with organic	10	82
	301	sandy buff oxidised with sandstone and organic	8	41
	302	sandy glazed with iron	1	16
	303	Coarse sandy oxidised with sandstone	1	30
1: High medieval Total			20	169
period	fabric code	supplementary code	count	weight (g)
3: Transitional	81.8	Raeren/Aachen stoneware	1	10
3: Transitional Total			1	10
3 - 4: Transitional to Post-medieval	78	Misc. redware	2	22
		Redware: black-glazed	1	4
	78.4	speckled brown-glaze redware	3	8
	81	Rhenish brown	1	2
	100	transitional, oxidised	1	5
	108	Midland Purple	1	2
	208	late medieval/transitional oxidised	1	18
3 - 4: Transitional to Post-medieval Total			10	61
4: Post-medieval	77	Midland Yellow	2	3
	78	Misc. redware	3	16
		Redware: black-glazed	16	78
	90	Metropolitan slipware	6	11
	91	Manganese mottled	3	6
		Metropolitan slipware	2	7

		Staffordshire slipware	2	3
		Staffordshire: combed	5	52
4: Post-medieval Total			39	176
5: Modern	85.11	pearlware	1	1
5: Modern Total			1	1
Grand Total			71	417

Table 11: pottery fabrics by period

5.11.3 Test pit summaries

The following sections comprise a brief summary and a table presenting a context date range for each test pit, based on production dates for the range of material within each context, excluding any material considered likely to be intrusive. It is important to remember that it represents a terminus post quem range: the formation of the deposit may have occurred at any time within the range, or subsequent to it, but it cannot have occurred prior to the earlier stated date.

Test Pit 1

Very little artefactual material was recovered, but this test pit did include a small quantity of fired clay, possibly hearth material. The only other find was a sandstone fragment with a conical depression of uncertain function.

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
1	102	fired clay	5	16	1100	1700	AD 1100 - 1700
	104	worked stone	1	74			undated

Test Pit 2

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
2	200	pot	2	22	1475	1650	AD 1475 - 1650
	201	charcoal	5	1			AD 1500 - 1650
		mammal bone	1	3			
		nail	2	4	1100	1800	
		pot	1	1	1500	1650	
	202	pot	4	28	1100	1350	AD 1100 - 1350

Test pit 2 contained a number of small body sherds from medieval jars, with external sooting indicating use in cookery, besides some early 'speckled' redwares of 16th or early-17th century date.

Test Pit 3

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
3	U/S	pot	1	6	1600	1800	N/A
	300	clay pipe	1	1	1600	1700	AD 1680 - 1800
			1	1	1600	1900	
			1	12	1660	1680	

			2	2	1600	1800	
			3	6	1600	1800	
		coal	1	3			
		daub	7	51	1100	1800	
		mammal bone	1	84			
			7	21			
			9	32			
			12	14			
		pot	1	2	1600	1700	
			12	49	1600	1800	
			2	3	1575	1750	
			2	5	1680	1780	
		vessel	2	5	1600	1900	
		window	1	2	1100	1800	
301		burnt stone	3	4			AD 1680 - 1800
		clay pipe	7	11	1600	1900	
		daub	3	107	1100	1800	
			7	131	1100	1800	
		mammal bone	4	24			
			14	99			
		nail	1	5	1100	1800	
			1	17	1100	1800	
		pot	1	1	1680	1780	
			1	2	1400	1700	
			4	37	1670	1795	
			3	26	1600	1800	
			5	9	1600	1700	
302		mammal bone	3	4			AD 1600 - 1800

This test pit was the most productive in terms of volume. All the closely dateable finds were late-16th to 18th century. They included:

- Clay tobacco pipe fragments, 17th-century. Two sections of bowl both have a stamp on the heel: one bears the initials 'RL' — probably Richard Legg of Broseley — and the other has a heart-shaped stamp.

- Typical pottery of the 16th to 18th centuries, including sections from large Midlands Blackware jars, and a sherd from a pie-crust dish in the distinctive Staffordshire-type slipware (late-17th to late-18th century), in which bands of red and white slip were trailed and combed across the surface, resulting in rich patterns of brown and yellow after firing.
- Animal bone: Cattle metapodial, butchery waste

Test Pit 4

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
4	401	whetstone	1	195	1100	1800	AD 1475 - 1650
	402	iron smithing slag	2	6	1100	1800	
		nail	1	4	1100	1800	
		pot	1	18	1475	1650	
		vessel	1	1	1600	1900	

Test pit 4 contained a relatively small quantity of material, including smithing slag and an iron nail. Key finds were:

- Whetstone. Domestic and agricultural tools needed frequent honing and sharpening, and whetstones are a common find on archaeological sites across the ages
- Base of a large bowl or pancheon, with an internal orange glaze. This is typical of transitional to early post-medieval wares, and dates from the late-15th to early-17th century.

Test Pit 5

Test pit 5 contained the earliest find: the central segment of a flint blade, a by-product of toolmaking in the Mesolithic and early Neolithic (Middle and Late Stone Age c10,000 to 3000 BC). These small blades would have been trimmed to make sharp points and embedded in wooden shafts.

Other finds from test pit 5 were almost exclusively medieval, with the exception of one tiny sherd of redware. They included:

- Lid-seated jar: pots of the later 12th and 13th centuries often had an out-turned rim with an internal groove, probably to hold a lid. We rarely find ceramic lids, so they were probably made from another material, e.g., wood.
- Iron nail. Metal was valuable and tended to be recycled, so metal finds are relatively rare on medieval sites. However, handmade iron nails — easily lost — do turn up.

Test Pit 6

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
6	601	pot	1	9	1100	1350	AD 1100 - 1350
			1	15	1100	1350	
			1	16	1100	1300	
			3	11	1100	1350	

Test pit 6 exclusively contained medieval pottery, including the only glazed and decorated medieval sherd in the assemblage. The curvature on this sherd suggests it is from the shoulder of a large vessel, likely a pitcher. It would have been used to decant drinks at the table. The

patchy lead glaze and wavy decoration are typical of 12th or 13th-century vessels. The fabric is an iron-rich micaceous sandy ware with frequent small rounded iron-rich nodules.

Test Pit 7

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
7	700	pot	1	4	1550	1700	AD 1550 - 1700
			1	10	1500	1550	
		glass	1	1	1850	1950	

Test pit 7 contained few finds but included a sherd from the shoulder of a decorated Raeren/Aachen stoneware vessel, probably early 16th-century in date. These beer jugs were imported in their millions in the 16th and 17th centuries. The decoration is the bottom of a bearded face, which is supposed to represent a 'Wildman' figure similar to the 'Green Man' in British folk mythology. They're often also called 'Bellarmines', after a deeply unpopular churchman, Cardinal Bellarmine, famous for his anti-alcohol and anti-Protestant stance.

Test Pit 8

Test Pit	Context	object type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
8	801	drainage tile	1	34	1800	1950	AD 1960 - 2010
		film canister	1	4	1960	2010	
	802	clay pipe	1	2	1600	1900	AD 1670 - 1795
		pot	1	5	1500	1700	
			2	7	1500	1650	
			2	11	1670	1795	
	803	pot	1	2	1550	1750	AD 1670 - 1795
			1	5	1670	1795	
		rolled glass vessel	1	2	1400	1625	
	804	mammal bone	2	3			AD 1670 - 1795
		pot	1	5	1100	1350	
			2	7	1670	1795	
	805	mammal bone	1	1			AD 1600 - 1800
		pot	1	1	1600	1800	
			1	1	1775	1830	
			1	18	1180	1320	

		window	1	2	1600	1900	
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Test pit 8 contained a range of material from the 12th/13th centuries up to the late-20th. A lid-seated medieval jar rim was the earliest. Other key artefacts included:

1. Rolled glass vessel lip, 15th to early-17th century. This is from a vessel with a wide lip, possibly a bowl or vase. The lip was formed by rolling the hot glass over onto itself, to form a double-layer, strengthening the lip and creating a smooth finish.
2. Plastic film canister, late-20th century. These curious ancient artefacts are thought to have been used to contain canisters of light-sensitive film, on which images were captured and stored. Found close to the surface in test pit 8, with a fine view of the chapel, it is likely to have been dropped by a visitor.

5.11.4 Discussion

The earliest potsherds were 12th to 13th-century in date, and the latest was a single piece of late-18th to early-19th century date. Other finds included clay tobacco pipes, animal bone, worked stone, daub, and glass. The greatest density of finds was from test pit 3. Three-quarters of the test pits contained medieval material.

Most of the artefacts comprise domestic rubbish, which typically ended up on a muck heap or midden and was left to rot down, before being spread as fertiliser. The organic matter and softer materials such as wood and leather rotted away, leaving us with the durable elements like ceramics, glass, and bone.

The medieval pottery reveals a busy settlement in the 12th and 13th centuries (circa AD 1100 - 1300), but there is very little evidence for activity from the mid-14th to the mid-15th century (c. AD1325 - 1475). There are two key factors that might account for this. Firstly, most rural sites with 12th to 14th-century occupation yield quantities of cooking pots — often showing signs of sooting and food residue — for the simple reason that they were regularly subjected to thermal stress and broke more frequently than tablewares such as jugs or pitchers. However, cooking pots were gradually being supplanted by metal ones by the early-14th century. Mid-14th and 15th-century pottery encompassed a wider range of forms but was less frequently broken and its relatively paucity can in part be attributed to this shift in usage.

The second factor is a decline in population and/or abandonment, an acute issue for rural settlement between 1315 and 1375 due to a combination of factors: the Great Famine of 1315-17, the Great Bovine Pestilence of 1319-20, the Black Death from 1348, and the general climatic downturn of the 14th century.

In the case of Heath, the total absence of later medieval wares from the assemblage might suggest that the latter was a factor, corresponding to the documentary evidence for a sharp decline in the settlement in the 14th century. From the late-15th century, the volume of finds starts to increase which could be due to increasing levels of agricultural activity from the Tudor period onwards.

It is notable that the mean sherd weights decrease over time, from 8.5g for the medieval material to just 4.5g for the post-medieval, despite the latter being considerably younger and more robust. Generally, mean sherd weight decreases as distance from a settlement increases, supporting the hypothesis that the later-15th to 18th-century pottery reflects increased agricultural activity rather than a resurgence in domestic occupation on the site.

With the exception of a single plastic film canister, there is very little modern material. Even the ubiquitous 19th-century 'blue and white' china is notable by its absence, suggesting the site has seen remarkably little disturbance over the last couple of centuries.

The earliest find pre-dates even medieval Heath, by thousands of years: a snapped flint blade from test pit 5 shows that mobile communities of people were making their way through this area in the Mesolithic or early Neolithic (middle to late Stone Age, around 10000 - 3000 BC).

The furthest-travelled is a small section from a 16th-century stoneware drinking vessel, on which the bottom of a bearded face is visible. This is one of millions of stoneware pots imported into Tudor England from the kilns near the border between Belgium and Germany.

It is rare to be able to say much about the makers of artefacts, but for at least one of the finds from these test pits we have a lead: the initials 'RL' stamped on the heel of a 17th-century clay tobacco pipe bowl. The only known Shropshire pipemaker with those initials was Richard Legg of Broseley, but the challenge is that the Leggs were long-standing pipemakers, based in Broseley - over the course of several centuries there were at least 3 pipemakers named Richard Legg (Oswald 1975). The bowl corresponds to Higgins' type 2B (Higgins 1987), with a date range of 1660-80.

5.12 Significance

The assemblage is small but excavated material from DMVs in this area is scarce. It offers the rare opportunity to study the dynamics of trade and supply in rural South Shropshire and is therefore locally significant. The presence of stratified medieval material that has suffered relatively little post-depositional disturbance is an encouraging sign for the prospects of future investigations. It should be retained.

5.13 Recommendations

Full analysis should include refinement of fabric types and attempts to establish firm concordances with the Shrewsbury series and pottery from other key sites in the region. It would prove most fruitful and cost-effective to attempt this once a more comprehensive assemblage has been recovered from future works.

5.14 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Peter Cornah for directing the work with verve and enthusiasm, and to John Cherry and Laura Griffin for resources and discussions.

6 Environmental analysis

By Elizabeth Pearson

6.1 Introduction

The environmental project conforms to guidance by ClfA (2014) on archaeological watching brief, further guidance by English Heritage (2011) and the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

The site is located on freely draining slightly acid soils of low fertility (Cranfield and Agri-food Institute 2022). The underlying geology comprises bedrock of Argillaceous rocks and sandstone, interbedded (BGS 2022).

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Samples were taken by the excavators from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains. A total of eight samples (each of up to 10 litres) were taken from the site (Table 12).

6.2.2 Processing and analysis

For each of the samples a sub-sample of 1 litre was processed by the wash-over technique as follows. The sub-sample was broken up in a bowl of water to separate the light organic remains from

the mineral fraction and heavier residue. The water, with the light organic fraction was decanted onto a 300µm sieve and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. The remainder of the bulk sample was retained for further analysis.

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Context	Sample	Feature type	Description	Position of fill	Period	Phase	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
102	1	Ditch	Backfill of moat			0	1	1	Yes	Yes
103	2	Ditch	Backfill of moat	upper		0	5	5	Yes	Yes
104	3	Ditch	Backfill of moat	Lower		0	1	1	Yes	Yes
104	4	Ditch	Backfill of moat	Lower		0	10	10	Yes	Yes
201	5	Layer	Mixed – with charcoal			0	1	1	Yes	Yes
301	6	Layer	Mixed – lime and charcoal				20	0	No	No
302	7		Mixed - possible floor?				20	0	No	No
603	8	Pit	Fill of pit/terminus			0	2	2	Yes	Yes

Table 12: List of bulk samples

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers et al 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

6.2.3 Discard policy

Remaining soil sample and residues (post scanning) will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Plant macrofossil remains

The results are summarised in Table 13 and Table 14.

Identifiable environmental remains were limited. However, in fills of moat 106, to the north of the chapel, occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), unidentified wheat (*Triticum* sp), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), possible oat (cf *Avena* sp; wild or cultivated) and vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp) were identified.

In a field to the east of the chapel, occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp free-threshing), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were also recovered from fill 603 of pit/terminus 605. Abundant, finely fragmented charcoal were associated with the charred cereal grain but were unidentifiable.

Waterlogged plant remains, consisting of mainly unidentified root fragments survived in the samples from the moat, with some leaf fragments and fungal spores, but little interpretation could be made of these remains.

Uncharred herbaceous root fragments were also noted in the non-waterlogged layers, but these are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Occasional fragments of large mammal bone, presumably from the domestic animal bone waste and small fragments of insect from the base of the moat were also recovered from some samples.

Context	Sample	Large mammal	Charcoal	Insect	Charred plant	Waterlogged plant	Artefacts	Comments
102	1		occ.			abt		
103	2	occ	occ		occ		occ daub ??	
104	4	occ	occ	occ	occ	occ		
201	5		occ			abt		
603	8	occ	abt		occ*	v abt		*=cereal & nutshell

Table 13 Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, v abt = very abundant

Context	Sample	Preservation type	Species detail	Category remains	Quantity/diversity	Comment
102	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc.	+/low	finely fragmented
102	1	wa	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified herbaceous fragments	misc.	+++/low	
103	2	ch	Unidentified wood fragments	misc.	+/low	
103	2	ch	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp	seed	+/low	

103	2	ch	Triticum sp (free-threshing, Poaceae sp indet grain (small))	grain	+/low	
104	3	ch	Triticum sp (free-threshing) grain, Hordeum vulgare grain (hulled), Cereal sp indet grain, cf Avena sp grain	grain	+/low	
104	3	wa	unidentified leaf fragments, unidentified fungal sclerotia, unidentified herbaceous fragments	misc.	+/low	
201	5	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc.	+/low	
201	5	wa	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc.	+++/low	
603	8	ch	Corylus avellana shell fragment	misc.	+/low	
603	8	ch	Triticum sp (free-threshing) grain, Triticum sp grain, Hordeum vulgare grain (hulled)	grain	+/low	poorly preserved, popped grains

Table 14: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
wa = waterlogged	++ = 11- 50
	+++ = 51 - 100

	++++ = 101+

6.4 Discussion

The environmental remains provided evidence for low levels of waste in the moat, but as the assemblage was small, it was not possible to interpret aspects of the local arable economy, such as crop processing methods and distribution of waste. As this area is thought to have been landscaped as a garden in post-medieval times, in the style of a moated farmstead, it does not necessarily represent farming waste. It is possible, however, that the charred remains from the basal fill may be residual from medieval tilled soils, being incorporated during excavation of the moat.

Likewise, the assemblage from the pit/terminus in the eastern field was small, but the presence of free-threshing wheat is in keeping with, and could be contemporary with, a deserted settlement of medieval or later date. Free-threshing wheat became the most prominent wheat from around the mid-Saxon period onwards (McKerracher 2018), and small-seeded legumes, such as vetch/pea, became common as weed contaminants of crops from this time.

Overall, because of the presence of free-threshing wheat and small-seeded vetch/pea, the small assemblages are consistent with activity of at least mid-Saxon date or later.

6.5 Recommendations

No further work is recommended on these samples.

Although the remains are consistent with a deserted medieval village, and later landscaping, sampling has shown low potential for detailed environmental analysis. As a result, should fieldwork be undertaken in the future it is recommended that sampling is restricted to discrete, concentrated deposits of charred or waterlogged material.

7 General Project Discussion

Test Pit 1; The stratigraphy in (101) and (102) are thought to represent backfilling. It is known from the Craven Map of 1771 (Figure 4), that at the time the north west limb of the moat was water filled and thus (101) and (102) are therefore shown to have been deposited post 1771. There is no specific dating from artefacts found in this pit. Lower deposits in this were thought to represent water-logged material and it is suggested by environmental study that the charred fragments could represent the incorporation of medieval plough soil residua. The presence of free-threshing wheat and other serial residua (datable from mid Anglo-Saxon to 1770 AD) in (104) may indicate incorporation at the time of refilling. So, if the stratigraphy is considered in context it would be consistent with post-medieval moated farmstead as suggested in the environmental report. As mentioned above the archaeological opinion was that the moat is unlikely to represent a working defensive structure, though the findings of the test pit cannot dogmatically refute the possibility that the moat was a medieval structure. In this context it may be bearing in mind that the traditional interpretation of fishponds presumably of medieval origin to the north and west of the moat structure. (See Rowley T et.al.1968).

Environmental samples taken in this pit did not contribute.

In test pit 2 below the topsoil (202) was interpreted as post medieval levelling deposits and this contained post-medieval artefacts. By contrast (203) was a soil horizon and contained artefacts from the high medieval period which would be consistent with cooking vessels. These findings thus indicate that this location within the moat could have been the site of medieval occupancy but again there is indication of post-medieval activity, and again consistent with reworking of the area at such a time when the moat might have been cut or recut.

It could be argued that test pit 3 shows similarity to test pit 2, although no medieval artefact was found in the former. Contexts (301) and (302), are again interpreted as levelling and abundant artefacts

found in (300) and (301), show post-medieval artefacts, largely Midlands and Staffordshire wares, so again are consistent with reworking after the middle ages, as discussed above.

Test Pit 4 gives the only structural evidence of a building on the site, which although tentative was interpreted as demonstrating a possible sill beam which could have been resting on natural substrate. This would be consistent with a house shown roughly orientated north to south in plot 39 of 1771 Craven Map (Figure 4). This is then a correspondence between the map and the test pit finding which appears to therefore validate the map. An engraving thought to be 18th century in origin (Plate 9), shows a possible building to the left of the chapel and it is conceivable that this is in the same position. The house was not marked on the 1884 Ordinance Survey Map and was therefore demolished between 1771 and 1884.

Test Pit 5 does not have any significant stratigraphic features to report, the interest being in the artefacts recovered. This area was provisionally identified as a 'living and working' area where peasant families might have had crofts, tofts and workshops.

The ceramic finds from test pits 5 and 6 were almost exclusively medieval and the ceramics report makes the emphatic point the average weight of fragments for the high medieval period was high at 8.5 grams, contrasting with 4.5 grams for the post-medieval fragments, notwithstanding the expected greater fragility of medieval wares. The significance of this is that it is thereby likely that these medieval fragments had a source within the vicinity of deposition, rather than having travelled into the area from a distant site where they would have been within dung heap material which was used to fertilise the fields. Subsequently such fragments would have been within the plough soil where they would have been subject to damage and abrasion.

The above comments on high medieval (1100 to 1350 AD) ceramic fragments apply in equal part to test pit 6. However, in addition in this test pit the only definable likely medieval cut feature was found, a possible ditch terminus. Being our only medieval feature on site, this could indicate proximity of settlement. As is made clear in the ceramics report, test pit 6 also contained only medieval pottery including the only glazed and decorated medieval pot on the site.

Looking critically at Figure 3, much needs to be revised after the performance of these eight test pits. What perhaps needs no revision is the basic assumption that a substantial mediaeval village was present associated with the Chapel at Heath, and as the above ceramics report states, "It is notable that the mean sherd weights decrease over time, from 8.5g for the medieval material to just 4.5g for the post-medieval, despite the latter being considerably younger and more robust. It also states that " medieval pottery reveals a busy settlement in the 12th and 13th centuries (circa AD 1100 - 1300)", and " there is very little evidence for activity from the mid-14th to the mid-15th century (c. AD1325 - 1475)."

Perhaps the biggest difficulty in interpretation is that the investigation involved some 8 square metres of excavation, whilst the entire site of the near deserted settlement comprises some 16 to 17 acres, which is little short of 70,000 square metres. This notwithstanding, a lot of useful information was obtained.

As regards the presumptive manorial area as expressed in map 3 below, the investigation gives little if any support that the earthworks traditionally interpreted as a mediaeval moat, to the north of the chapel contained any manor house, hunting lodge or fortified house. It is true to say that the general opinion of the having experienced archaeologists on site it was that this was unlikely to be a fortification. This gives further credence to the idea that the prominent rectilinear earthworks in Moat Meadow and the adjacent Chapel precinct were consistent with an early 17th century water feature and therefore likely to constitute a portion of 'a polite landscape' (English Heritage 1984).

Levels data showed convincingly that there was a significantly variable height (of between 2 and 3 meters), above sea level between the sites of test pit 1 and test pit 8. Additionally, this seems to explain why on the 1771 Craven Map, part of which is represented on (Figure 4) below, the two portions which are represented as being water-filled in the Moat Meadow to the north of the chapel

and in the chapel precinct quite clearly appear separated. This is not surprising given the height differences discussed immediately above.

The two test pits within the field to the east of the Chapel and the northward leading lane, that is test pits five and six, however did reveal significant finds of pottery from the high mediaeval period, and test pit 6 revealed the only previously unknown cut feature, a terminal ditch or pit. This latter does have implications for the possible future investigation of the site, as it is noted that this area that was negative of previously known features in the magnetometry geophysics investigation performed in 2019.

In summary it might be said that on the basis of these test pits, and given the necessarily limited sampling, that the focus has somewhat moved from what was previously regarded as the presumptive manorial earthworks in Moat Meadow to the north of the chapel. There is no substantial evidence of settlement at this location in the medieval period, though findings are consistent with later landscaping by noble or rich individuals.

There is however substantial evidence that area to the east of Moat Meadow, the provisionally named 'living and working' area, was the indeed the site of a medieval settlement, which could well have thriven in The High Middle Ages prior to the catastrophic depredations of the 14th century. The presence of free-threshing wheat in the environmental samples, although not specifically datable, supports the notion of a rural settlement benefiting from 3 substantial open fields.

7.1 Future work

There are several next steps that might be considered in the archaeological investigation of Heath.

1. Consideration might be given to the area to south of Heath cross-roads. This is an area out-with the Scheduled Ancient Monument but does show a good density of houses on the 1771 map, and one in particular might be considered the most substantial house in the village at that time (this to the west of the south-north lane and therefore to the south of the Heath Chapel). Investigating this area, by targeted excavation, would be interesting also in the context of the vast change which occurred in the village as shown between the 1771 and the 1841 Tithe Apportionment Map, when not only was the road system radically revised but almost all the buildings on the earlier map had disappeared. The field to the east might also be of interest, as this also showed a number of buildings on the 1771 map, though the earthworks in this field were known to be levelled in the later 20th century.
2. Further geophysical examination of the site might be considered, and ground penetrating radar has been suggested a possibly useful technique. Several areas would be potentially of interest in this context. Firstly, the two fields to the south of the chapel as discussed immediately above, but also the northern and southern moieties of the 'living and working' area shown on (Figure 3) below, or the eastern moiety of the 'manorial complex' shown in blue on the same map.
3. Further targeted or more substantial excavation might be considerable as a result of 1 and 2 above.

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9 Plates



Plate 1 Test pit 1, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 2 Test pit 2, looking west, scales 1m and 0.50m



Plate 3 Test pit 3, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 4 Test pit 4, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 5 Test pit 5, looking south, scales 1m and 0.5m



Plate 6 Test pit 6, terminal of ditch or pit [605], looking north-east, scales 1m and 0.5m



Plate 7 Test pit 7, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 8 Test pit 8, looking north, scale 1m

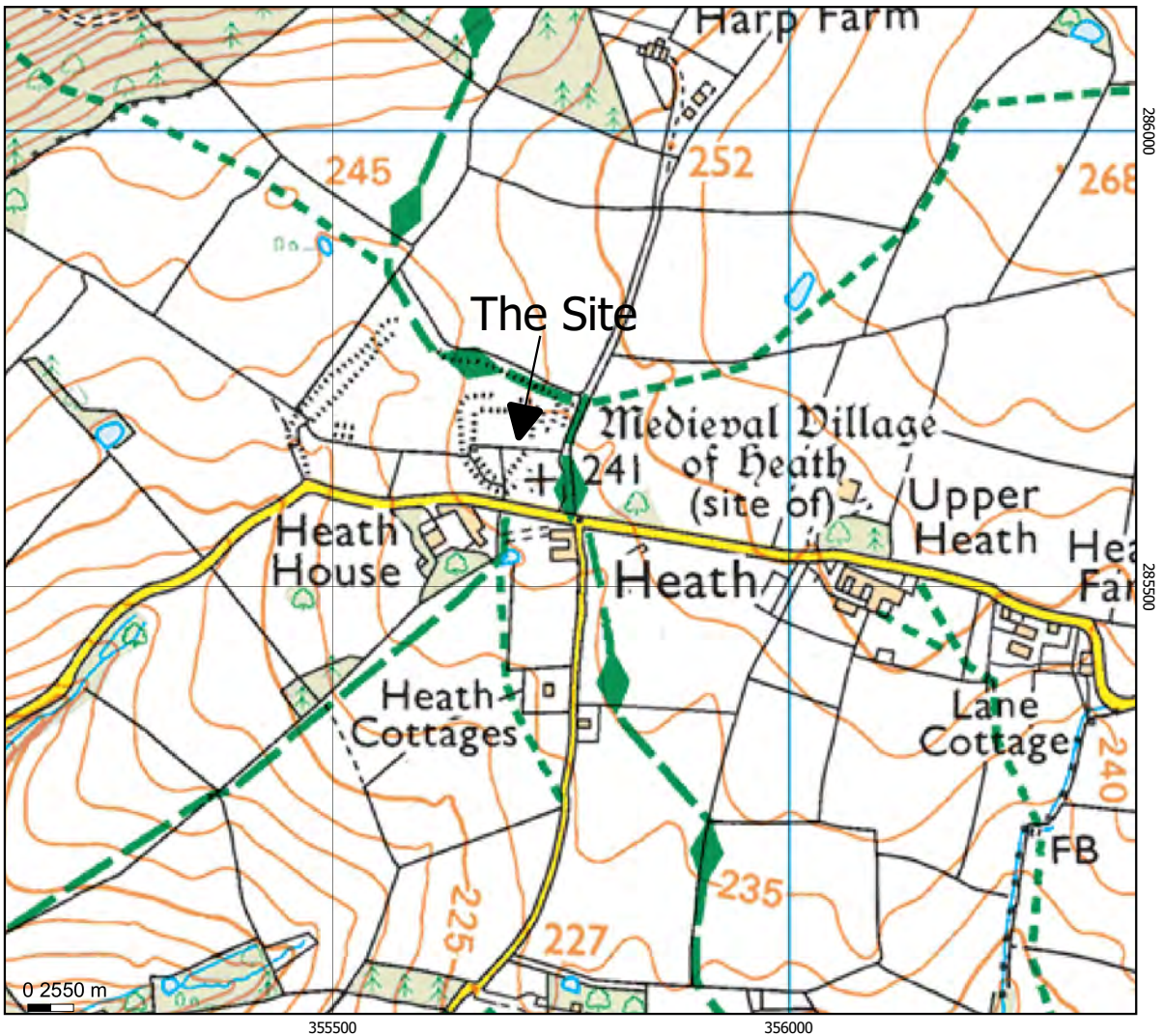
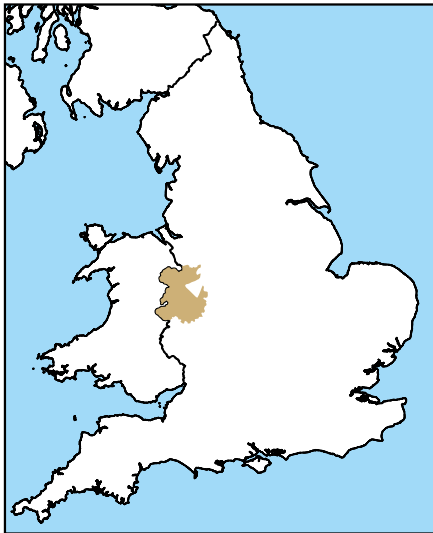


Plate 9 1790 Watercolour of Heath showing possible timber framed building to the left of The Chapel.



Plate 10 Surviving Portions of Water Garden at Tackley. Source Magic Maps

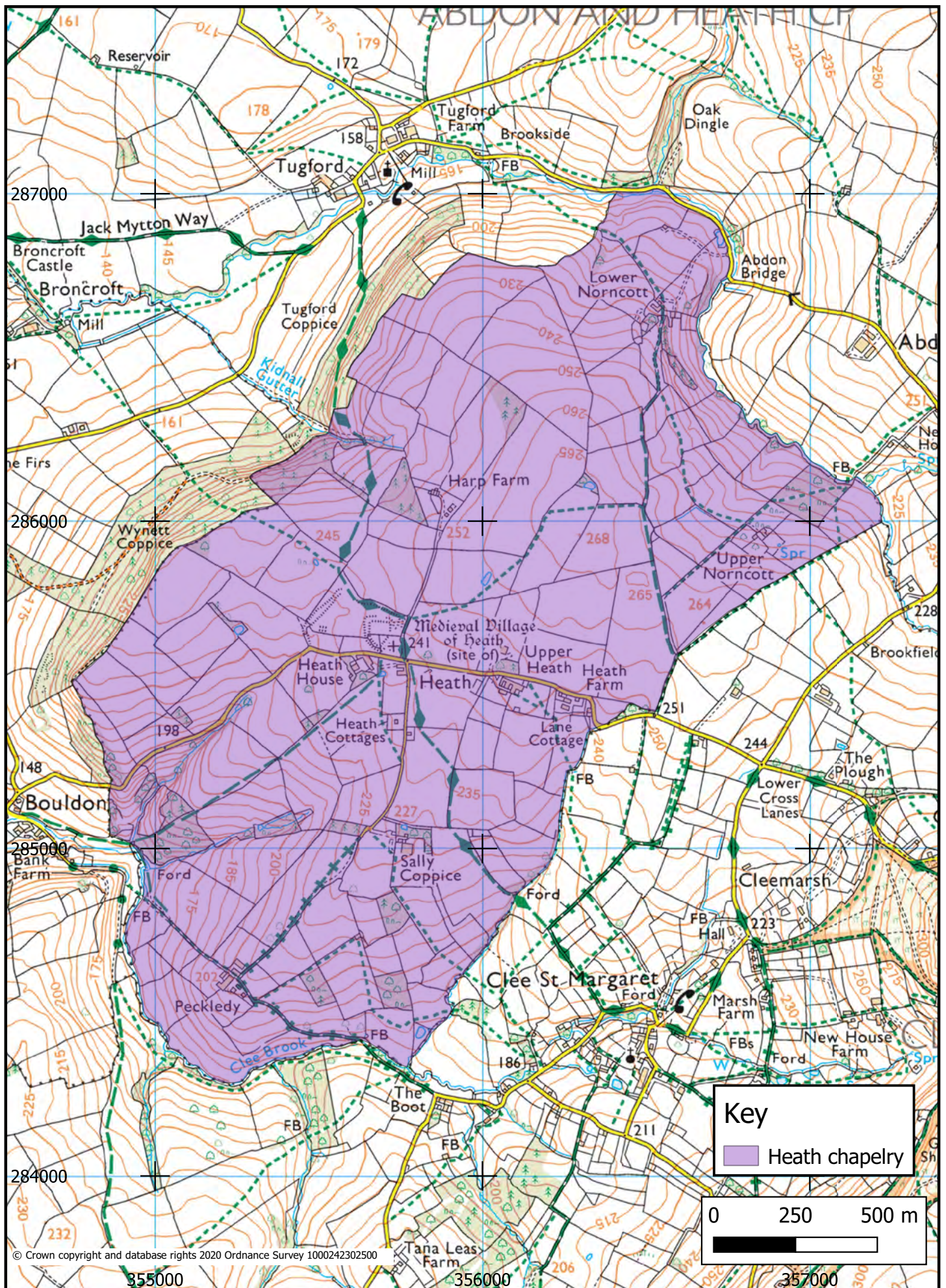
10 Figures



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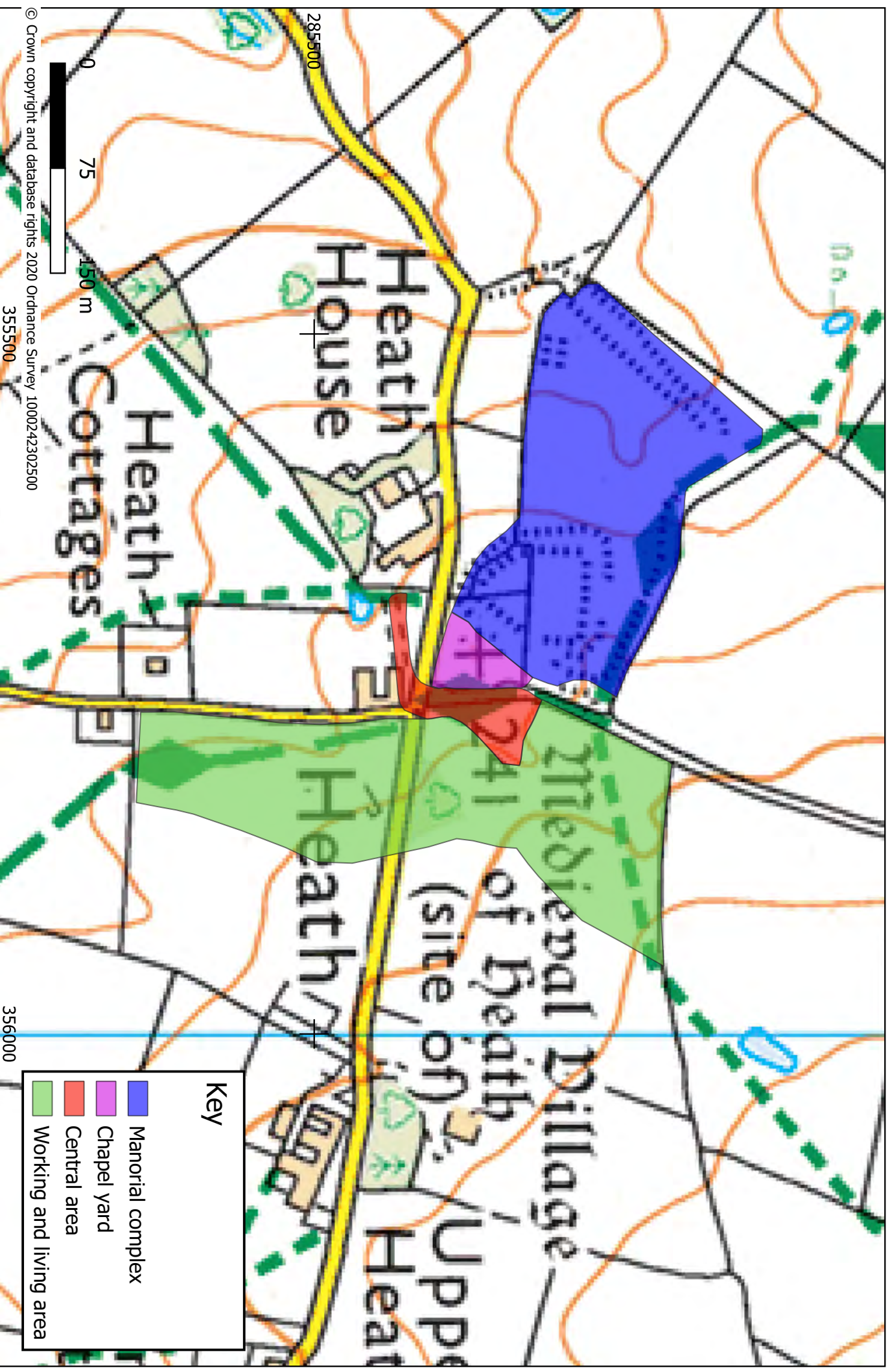
Location of the site

Figure 1



Extent of Heath Chapelry

Figure 2



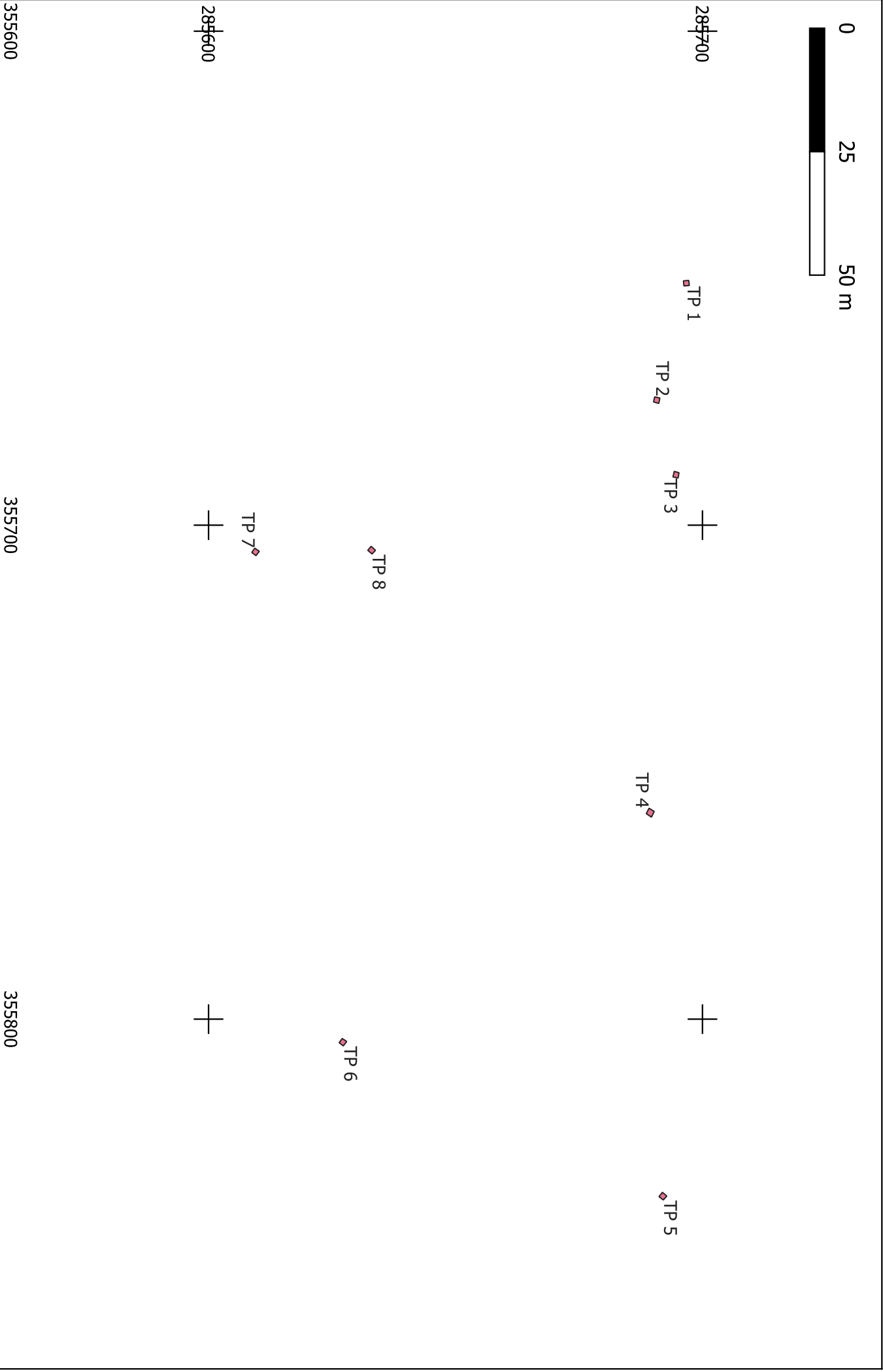
Heath working areas

Figure 3



1st edition 1884 Ordnance Survey Map.
With test pit locations

Figure 5



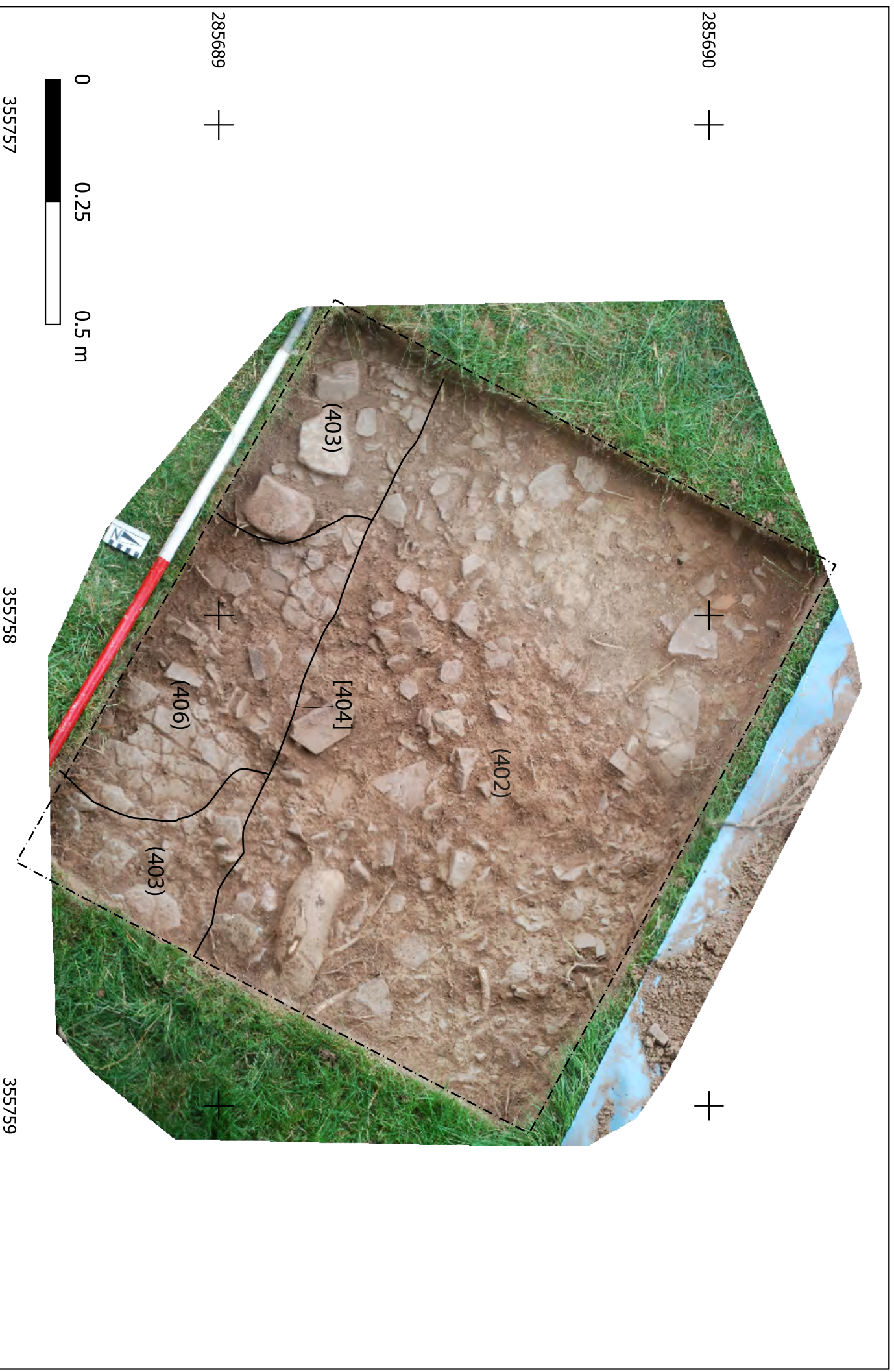
*Digital surface model captured from drone photogrammetry, lit from the east.
With test pit locations*

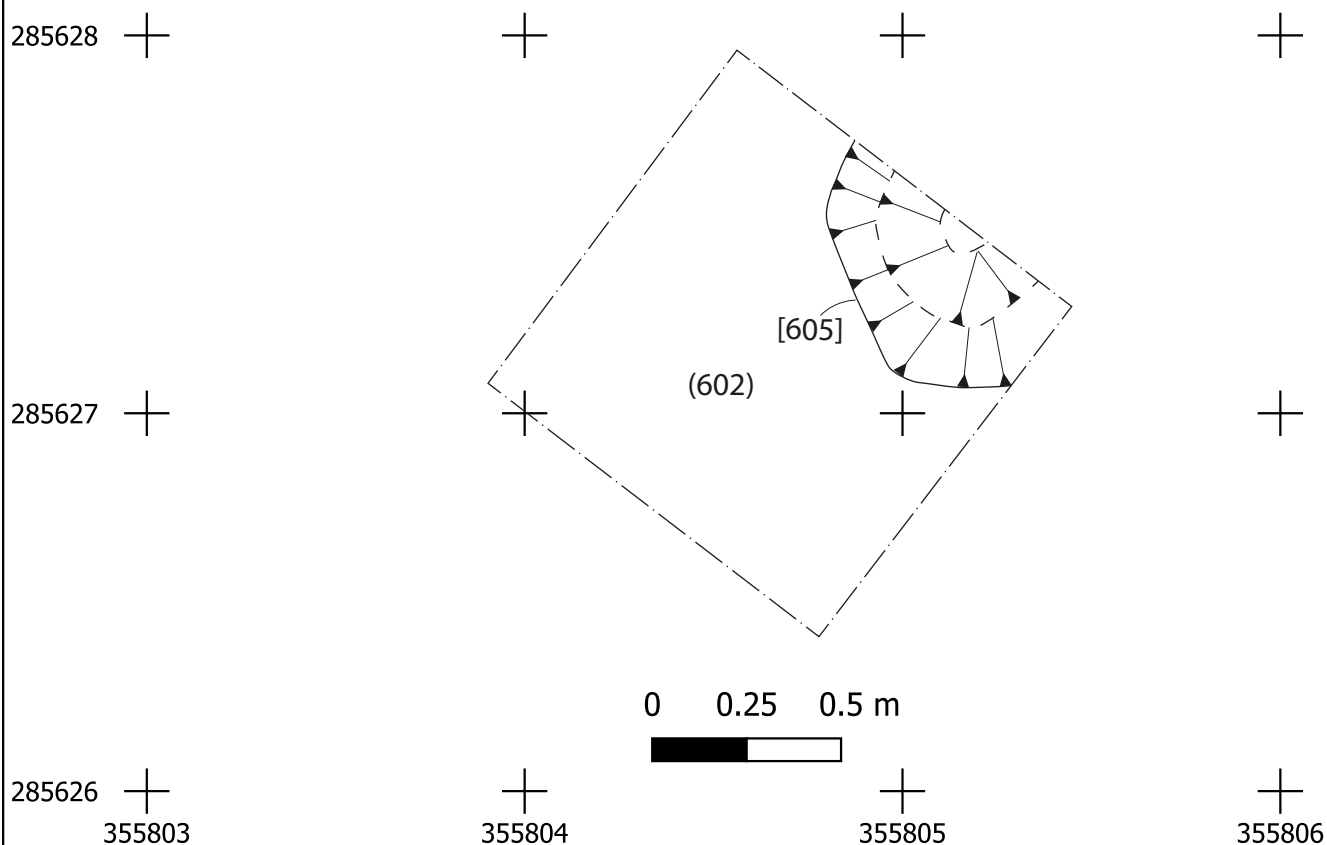
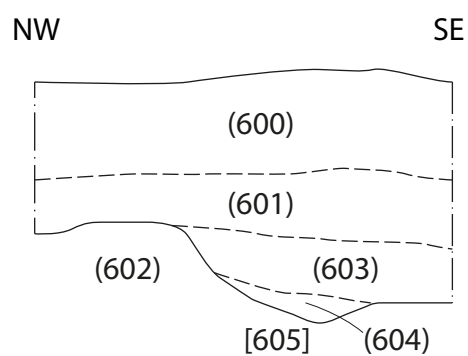
Figure 6



Orthomosaic image captured from drone photogrammetry.
With test pit locations

Figure 7





Plan and section of feature [605], test pit 6

Figure 9