

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.



## New Moat, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Evaluation



By  
**Chris Smith BA (Hons) AIFA**  
**and Richard S Jones MA**



CAP Report No. 459

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT & FIELD EVALUATION

# New Moat, Pembrokeshire

By

Chris E Smith Ba (Hons) AIFA & Ricard S Jones MA

## Corrigendum

This report was prepared for the Trustees of the New Moat Plantation Site

CAP Report No: 459

Project No:805

Date: September 2006



Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd  
Old Chapel  
Llanidloes  
Powys  
SY18 6JR

Telephone/Fax: 01686 413857  
e-mail: [Info@cambarch.co.uk](mailto:Info@cambarch.co.uk)

## CONTENTS

1	Introduction .....	1
1.1	Location and scope of work.....	1
1.2	Geology and topography.....	1
1.3	Desk-based Assessment .....	2
2	Aims and Objectives.....	8
2.1	Field Evaluation.....	8
3	Methodology.....	9
3.1	Evaluation.....	9
3.2	Finds .....	9
3.3	Palaeo-environmental evidence .....	9
4	Evaluation Results .....	10
4.1	Soils and ground conditions .....	10
4.2	Distribution of deposits .....	10
4.3	Descriptions .....	10
4.31	Trench 1 .....	10
4.32	Trench 2.....	11
4.33	Trench 3.....	12
4.34	Trench 4.....	13
5	Finds .....	14
6	Discussion and Interpretation .....	15
6.1	Reliability of field investigation.....	15
6.2	Overall interpretation.....	16
6.3	Significance .....	17
7	Acknowledgements.....	18
8	Bibliography and references .....	19
	Archive cover sheet .....	21

## List of Figures

Figure 1	Location map
Figure 2	Estate map of 1814 and Tithe map of 1839
Figure 3	1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS Map of 1891
Figure 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS Map of 1908
Figure 5	Aerial photograph taken in 1955
Figure 6	Trench location map
Figure 7	Trench 1 plan & section
Figure 8	Trench 2 plan & sections
Figure 9	Trench 3 plan & sections
Figure 10	Trench 4 plan & section

## List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 1 General View
Plate 2	Trench 1 Platform
Plate 3	Trench 1 Floor Level
Plate 4	Trench 1 Floor & Wall
Plate 5	Trench 2 General View
Plate 6	Trench 2 Sondage
Plate 7	Trench 3 General View
Plate 8	Trench 3 Platform
Plate 9	Trench 3 Platform
Plate 10	Trench 3 Pit & Posthole Complex
Plate 11	Trench 3 Baked Natural
Plate 12	Trench 4 General View
Plate 13	Trench 4 Ditch Section

### Copyright Notice:

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Frans Nicholas Architects to use and reproduce the material contained within.

The Ordnance Survey has granted Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. AL 52163A0001) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

## Non Technical Summary

*This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Frans Nicholas Architects on land at New Moat, Pembrokeshire. This report draws upon the results gained by the excavation of four evaluation trenches immediately to the north of the church of St. Nicholas within the historic core of the medieval borough of New Moat.*

### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

In September 2006 Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) carried out a pre-determinate archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site on land north of St. Nicholas' Church at New Moat, Pembrokeshire (Fig 1).

This was in respect of a planning application for development (Planning ref: 05/1666/PA). A brief was supplied by Charles Hill (Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management) against which a specification of works was drawn up by Kevin Blockley (Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd).

The assessment area is located within an area of rough pasture and woodland north of St. Nicholas Church and adjacent to the road, centred on national grid ref: SN 06250 25290, approximately 158m above sea level (Fig 1).

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the New Moat area is primarily made up of Llanverin and Arenig deposits of the Ordovician series with areas of Basalt, Dolerite, Camptonite and other allied types (British Geological Survey, 2001).

The assessment area is located in a landscape of small villages set amongst gently undulating hills. Small areas of woodland exist to the south and east of the village of New Moat with the large Llys-y-fran reservoir being located two kilometres to the west. New Moat is laid out on a 'T' Junction of two roads with a linear pattern of settlement visible fronting against the roads.

### 1.3 Desk-based Assessment

The desk based assessment gathered material on historical and archaeological sites and features within 0.5km of the centre of the evaluation site within New Moat village.

Both the National Monuments Record (NMR) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) had very few sites within the bounds of the study area, other than reference to the Norman Motte near the centre of the village, from which the village takes its name, and the church of St. Nicholas, the local village church. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology, then Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in 1994, during the instatement of a new water main that skirted the bailey of the Norman motte on the west side. No evidence of a bailey was found during the excavations nor were there any finds recorded, however during a preliminary field survey a series of house platforms and enclosures were noted on the west side of the road in the area of the evaluation.

The National Library of Wales (NLW) and the Pembrokeshire Records Office, as well as having all of the expected cartographic material beginning from 1814, had very little else pertaining to the immediate and surrounding landscape. The Records office documents concentrated on the sales and title deeds of the ancient Scourfield family, who claim 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> century origins to the Moat mansion and surrounding estate.

#### *Historical introduction*

Perhaps the best way to historically introduce the village and area of New Moat is through the description given by Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales in 1833.

"NEW MOTE, or NEW MOAT, a parish in the hundred of DUNGLEDDY, county of PEMBROKE, SOUTH WALES, 10 miles (N.E.) from Haverfordwest, containing 331 inhabitants. This place derives its name from an artificial mount, which is within a short distance of the church, and is entirely surrounded by a deep moat, which may be easily filled with water. . . The parish is pleasantly situated on a branch of the river Cleddy, and comprises a considerable portion of meadow, arable, and pasture land, which is all enclosed and in a good state of cultivation. The surrounding country is pleasingly diversified, and displays some interesting features of mountain scenery.....The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is an ancient and venerable



structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and one aisle, with a square embattled tower at the west end: the chancel appears to have been very richly embellished at no very distant period, but has of late been very much neglected; it contains several handsome monuments to the Scourfield family, of which some are of great antiquity. . ." [From *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (S. Lewis, 1833).]

#### *Prehistoric Period*

There are no records of any prehistoric sites within the bounds of the study area, however there are numerous recorded prehistoric sites to the north, as would be expected in a landscape so close to the Preseli Mountains. Sites include Bronze Age standing stones and Iron Age enclosures, the closest being an Iron Age camp or circular enclosure, approx. 800 meters to the north near Parc Roberts farm.

Analysis of aerial photographs of the 1950's however show the existence of a further potential Iron Age enclosure only approx. 500m to the north-north-west cut through by later post medieval field boundaries. The feature appears as a negative cropmark, implying a sub-circular enclosure with bank and ditch approx. 100 meters in diameter. This feature may be indicative of a former Iron settlement enclosure (SN 0621 2585).

#### *Iron Age Period*

Within the 500 meter bounds of the study area there are no known Iron Age sites, however immediately beyond this distance Iron Age sites abound. The most significant of these is an enclosure or camp to the north near Parc Robert.

As already mentioned in the prehistoric period, analysis of an aerial photograph from the SMR showed the presence of a cropmark indicative of a large sub-circular ditch and bank enclosure. This feature is located approx. 500-600 meters to the north of New Moat village.

#### *Roman Period*

The NMR and SMR records show no Roman sites or features within the bounds of the study area. Although the early OS map series of 1880 and 1901 has a Roman Camp marked as existing within the centre of the village of New Moat itself, this is a mistaken record as the reference is in fact referring to the rectangular bailey that surrounds the Norman Motte in the village, which itself has been marked as being a tumuli.

To the north the early OS series also shows the line of a Roman Road running from Henry's Moat to Maenclochog.

### *Medieval Period*

Documentary and archaeological records for the medieval period of New Moat begin with the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM – Pe 241) 11<sup>th</sup> century Norman Motte (PRN: 1320) itself. The motte is described as approx. 5 metres high mound with a 17 meter top diameter, surrounded by a 4 metre wide ditch which holds water. A counter scarp bank exists on the west, south and east side, but the best preserved exists at the southern end. In shape and form the surrounding bailey can be best described as a parallelogram with the western side alongside and beneath the present north-south road. The low earthworks of the bailey bank can be seen running parallel to the field bank along the road-side, and are less well preserved, but still visible, on the two short sides where the bank turns to join the motte on the south and, in the garden, on the north. There is no sign of any ditch. The bailey bank encloses an area of some 125m x 80m, and the entrance was probably on the south-west. The land to the east of the motte is marshy, and it would have acted as an extra defence.

The RCAHMW Pembrokeshire Inventory of 1925 describes the motte thus;

"This monument of antiquity is described on the Ordnance map as a "Tumulus," and a fairly rectangular piece of ground on one side of it is termed a "Roman Camp," whereas the former is a good example of a Norman mound castle, and the latter represents the enclosure which accompanied the mottes of the Norman barons. The mound is now about 35 feet high. There are no indications of a stone keep, and it is probable that the defences consisted only of wood. The moat may originally have been dry; the present watercourse having been formed (or, perhaps, only deepened) by a recent owner. The bailey is placed on the northern side of the mound, it is a fairly regular parallelogram 250 feet by 120 feet, and is surrounded by a ditch.—Visited, 80th September, 1914.

NOTE.—New Moat is an excellent example of a Norman mound-castle, as well in its general lay-out as in its particular features. It is withdrawn a few yards from the village to which it gives its name, and from the church, which may be contemporary with the manor of its proprietor. Four or five roads radiated from the village to various points of



the manor. The bailey lay nearest to the village, and the residence of the manorial lord occupied a position of dignified seclusion. The name New Moat implies an earlier structure intended to serve a similar purpose, and in the absence of indications of a second motte it may be suggested that the earlier defensive position to which the name bears witness is the strong camp of Rhyd y brwyn (No. 804). On the other hand, it is possible that the neighbouring motte castle known as Henry's Moat (No. 317) may have been constructed sufficiently in advance of that of New Moat to give it the senior place. The motte passed through the usual course of transformation into a domestic habitation. Some time in the Middle Ages it was deserted in favour of a larger and more convenient residence on the flat ground near by, and in quite recent years this again gave place to a modern mansion, which continues the name of The Moat. As one of the most instructive of the historical monuments of the county the New Moat should be a subject of constant solicitude, to the Pembrokeshire Society for their Preservation (*RCAHMW Pembrokeshire Inventory 1925, No:805, p268*)

The church of St. Nicholas (PRN: 1318) is located <sup>south west</sup> ~~east~~ of the Norman motte and immediately south of the proposed development area. Despite its Norman foundation, like many churches in the county, it was solidly built and enlarged during the medieval period and extensively restored during the Victorian era. The church serves as a handsome monument to the Scourfield family who dominated the area for many centuries. The Scourfield family crypt can still be found under the village church, where their fine lead coffins can be seen to bear the family crest.

The church is listed in the Taxatio documents of 1291 as a chapelry and was granted to Pill Priory in c.1200 (SOULSBY 1983). Once the chapelry was in place New Moat formed part of the estates of the bishops of St. Davids and Bishop Bek is known to have laid out a small town around it in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The medieval manor of the parish of New Moat is marked on the W. Rees 14<sup>th</sup> century map.

According to the Pembrokeshire County History Vol II, in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century,.....  
'in his barony, the Bishop held the Manor and bourough of New Moat. Here there were 46 tenants holding 88 burgages as well as 16 other tenants. Each burgage had 8 acres of land and the Bishop had 118 acres of demesne arable, four acres of meadow and 50 of woodland. There were two annual fairs, at Michaelmas and St. Nickolas, both among the many concessions of Edward I to Bishop Bek' (*Pembrokeshire County History Vol II 2002*).  
page 149

The early OS maps of the area show an area just south of the village church marked as 'Mote (*site of*). This implies that the original manor house fell into ruin and eventually moved eastward at some time possibly in the 16<sup>th</sup> or else 17<sup>th</sup> century, as a new 'Mote Manor' exists to the east with a laid out landscape park. This is the manor that was occupied by the later Scourfield family.

The origin of the Scourfield family is one shrouded in mystery and colourful local legend. One of the most popular stories told is the visit of King John to the area in 1210 who came to stay with the Bishop of Llawhaden. The Scourfields, who were then the Bishop's foresters, presented the King with a greyhound with which to race his own. When the Scourfield's hound beat the King's own hound the name 'scour the field' was given to the forester and his family. After reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries, the Scourfields went on to accumulate land in and around New Moat. Their estate stretched far and wide, with properties in Nevern, in the North and Tenby, in the South. The Scourfields abandoned New Moat in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century resided in Williamston, near Burton.

#### *Post Medieval*

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the parish was vibrant with activity. Farms were generally larger than today and employed a much larger workforce. At one time the village was known as Pentreffos thus emphasising its duality regarding the so-called lansker language divide. Within the village communities the various occupations included blacksmiths, wood turners, carpenters and gamekeepers. Religion was a strong focal point within the community and in the 1800s different dominations of religion began to emerge, the majority of whom were Baptists and Congregationalists. However, the only two chapels within the parish are both Methodist.

A public house 'The Ivy Bush' once existed in the parish, today the building had been demolished and the site redeveloped. For educational and entertainment purposes, traditional 'penny readings' were held at the local school in Penffordd. Local community members would pay the entry fee of one penny to hear recitations and singing (usually in Welsh).

### *Cartographic sources*

Estate Map of 1814: This estate map is dated 1814 and is from the RK. Lucas collection Roller map No:5 (Fig 2). It was drawn up for the Scourfield family and shows land owned by Henry William Scourfield of New Moat. The area of the evaluation, just north of the church is numbered 34 and is described as 'plantation'.

Tithe Map of the Parish of New Moat 1839: This tithe map and schedule is a copy of the 1814 New Moat estate map (Fig 2). All of the land surrounding New Moat was owned by William Henry Scourfield esq.. The area of the evaluation, is again, like the map of 1814, marked down in the apportionment schedule as being 'plantation'.

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map 1891: The early OS map of 1891 shows the Norman motte at New Moat as being a 'tumulus' and the surrounding bailey is marked as a 'Roman Camp' (Fig 3). This is evidently not the case with either of the sites. The area of the evaluation, just north of the church is marked as being the 'church plantation'. The former 'Mote' is marked as being the '*site of*', with the later Mote Manor being well established to the east surrounded by plantations.

An interesting feature on the early OS and indeed the early 1814 map is the existence of a strip field system to the west of New Moat village, on the west bank of the West Moor watercourse. These fields are very likely the remains of former medieval burgage plots.

Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map 1908: No difference from the first edition 1891 map (Fig 4).

### *Aerial Photographs*

Analysis of the 1946 RAF aerial photos show no unrecorded features present within or immediately surrounding the village of New Moat. The area of the evaluation is partly tree covered, but only the northern end.

However, analysis of the 1955 Meridian AP's show a series of very faint circular crop marks in the field to the west of the study area (Fig 5). A further, much larger cropmark, is what appears to be a sub-circular ditch and bank enclosure some 90-100 meters in diameter. This is located approx. 500m north-north-west (SN 0621 2585) and may be the remains of an Iron Age settlement enclosure.

### *Summary of Desk Based Assessment*

The desk based assessment for the archaeological evaluation of the land immediately north of the New Moat church has revealed that a series of house platforms and enclosures were noted in the area in 1994 during a watching brief by DAT for a new water main.

The village of New Moat it seems has a comparatively old history that stretches back to the Norman period with the construction of the Norman Motte in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a later chapelry in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. With this motte and chapelry a manorial system also seems to have been in play organised by Bishop Bek in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Documentary records tell of a medieval town at this time with 46 tenants and 88 burgage plots. Aerial photo and cartographic sources show that a series of long strip fields do exist in the area immediately to the west of the village. This strip field system may well be the remains of these former medieval burgage plots.

Analysis of aerial photographs also managed to record the existence of a possible iron age settlement enclosure 500 meters to the north of the village. A further series of smaller circular crop marks were also noted in a field only 150 meters west of the study area.

## **2 Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1 Field Evaluation**

The field evaluation was undertaken to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area;
- determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present;
- establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features;
- To appraise the likely impact of the proposal on any surviving archaeological deposits and if appropriate to make suggestions for a mitigation strategy or,

where areas contain archaeology of national importance, for preservation *in situ*;

- To produce a record of the features.

### 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Evaluation

The evaluation consisted of four machine-excavated trenches measuring 15 metres by 2 metres (Fig 6). A JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket removed the overburden under close archaeological supervision.

Project Officer Chris E Smith (AIFA) and project assistant Hywel Keen undertook the evaluation under the overall direction of Kevin Blockley (MIFA). The trenches were cleaned by hand with plans and sections being recorded and drawn at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All trenches were photographed using 35mm black and white print film, 35mm colour slide film and high resolution digital photography.

The trenches were located so as to gain the maximum amount of information for the area. Three trenches were located so as to investigate possible structural evidence adjacent to the road with the final trench being located further to the west so as to investigate any extramural activity to the rear of possible structures (Fig 6).

All works were undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

#### 3.2 Finds

Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

#### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

No deposits suited to environmental sampling were located during the evaluation.

## **4 Evaluation Results**

### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

Generally the site and weather conditions were dry and bright throughout the course of the evaluation with only one day of rain. Ground conditions thus remained generally good and well drained.

### **4.2 Distribution of deposits**

The topsoils were of a uniform distribution over the surface of the trenches, varying little in their depth. The topsoil was mainly composed of a dark silt and root matter material. This was due to the assessment area being located within an area of woodland and rough pasture.

### **4.3 Descriptions**

#### **4.31 Trench 1**

Trench 1 (Fig 7, Plate 1) measured 15 x 2 metres, was aligned on an east - west axis and was the closest trench to the church of St. Nicholas. Overburden was removed by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The topsoil deposit (101) was found to be extremely thin (0.3m) and composed of dark brown/black silt, heavy with root material. Beneath (101) was a layer of dark brown silt overburden. This too was removed by mechanical excavator revealing a lighter brown/yellow deposit (127) butting against the remains of a wall (126). Mechanical excavation continued beyond the wall revealing natural soil/stone deposits (115) at a lower level to wall (126). Natural deposits were uncovered over the base of the remainder of the trench with several features cut into it. Cut [123] proved to be a shallow gully adjacent to the wall (126) terminating halfway across the trench and containing a single uniform fill of dark brown/grey silt (124). Cut [106] also proved to be a small shallow gully, again running parallel with wall (126) and containing a similar uniform fill to [123]. Cut [108] appeared to be a linear arrangement of shallow root disturbance, again running parallel with wall (126). The linear arrangement of the root disturbance is possibly reminiscent of a hedgerow or similar boundary to the rear of the structure fronting onto the road. Cut [110] proved to be a shallow undulation in the natural soil levels filled with a shallow layer of darker silt (111). Further hand excavation around the wall (126) proved it to be only the lowest levels remaining. It also appeared that the wall was sat on the lip of an area of

redeposited natural soil and stone (114), the area on the east side of the wall appearing as a raised 'house' platform (Plate 2). Excavation of a small sondage against the east face of the wall through deposit (127) revealed an intact floor level associated with wall (126) (Plate 3). The floor (116) was composed of beaten/stamped earth, sloping slightly away from the wall. The floor (116) was also cut through by 3 small postholes [117], [119] & [121], apparently running parallel with and immediately adjacent to the wall. Posthole [121] was also partially covered by the wall, lying beneath a facing stone. This is possibly suggestive of the postholes representing an earlier timber phase to the structure. The sondage cut against wall (126) contained context (127) which yielded sherds of late medieval/post medieval pottery as well as two corroded iron objects, one of which appears to be a buckle. In order to ascertain the extent of the floor a further sondage was excavated against the eastern end of the trench (Plate 4). The floor (116) was present beneath a dark brown silt layer (125). The floor in this second sondage had stakeholes cut into it, possibly representing internal divisions within the building. The cut of the largest of the three stakeholes appears as though it may have been made through floor levels beneath floor (116). Context (125) above floor (116) yielded similar finds to that of context (127); 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval pottery sherds as well as two corroded iron objects, a key and a knife. It should be noted that no finds from the floor level itself were recovered.

#### 4.32 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig 8, Plate 5) measured 15 x 2 metres, was aligned on a north west – south east axis and was located so as to investigate possible buildings fronting onto the road as well as two earthen banks and a ditch visible as earthworks. Overburden was removed by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The topsoil deposit (201) was approximately 0.2m thick and was made up of dark brown silt and root material. Immediately beneath the root material (201) at the south east end of the trench was a layer of light brown/yellow sandy silt (203) which appeared to make up an earthen bank deposit visible as an earthwork. Removal of a brown silt overburden (202) from the remainder of the trench revealed a further possible bank deposit (206) composed primarily of redeposited natural running parallel with bank material (203). Located in between banks (203) & (206) was a ditch [204]. The ditch contained a single, highly disturbed, fill episode (205) composed mainly of dark brown silt and root material. Two sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval pottery was recovered from (205) although given the amount of bioturbation these may be intrusive. A sondage (Plate 6) was excavated at the



south east end of the trench in order to assess what the possible bank (203) was constructed above. Excavation of the sondage went on for approximately 1.2m before natural levels were reached. Beneath (203) was located (209), this was a very similar deposit to (203) although slightly darker. Both (203) & (209) contained large amounts of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and glass with a mid 17<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe being located almost immediately above the natural (208) at the base of the sondage. No apparent medieval material was recovered from this trench, possibly due to truncation during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Possible cut features in the remainder of the trench were investigated although these appeared to be slight undulations in the natural into which soil had washed. This was confirmed by the cutting of two sondages; both of which revealed natural after less than 0.1m. The natural (208) at the base of the sondage appeared to be sloping upwards away from the road. The rising slope of the natural away from the road was thus confirmed by the presence of natural deposits in the two shallow sondages.

#### 4.33 Trench 3

Trench 3 (Fig 9, Plate 7) measured 15 x 2 metres, was aligned on an east – west axis and was located so as to investigate possible structures fronting against the road. Location of trench 3 was influenced by a large semi-circular platform adjacent to the road visible as an earthwork. The trench was positioned to investigate a small area on the top of the platform, the edge of the platform and an area to its rear. Overburden was removed by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Topsoil in trench 3 (301) was found to be similar to that in trenches 1 and 2 in that it was composed of dark silt and root material. A mid-dark brown silt overburden was removed from across the surface of the trench and was found to contain several sherds of late medieval/post medieval pottery as well as fragments of clay tobacco pipes. Removal of silt overburden from the top of the platform revealed a layer of redeposited natural (314) making up the raised area. Several cut features were recorded on the top of the platform (Plate 8) including a shallow gully [304] running parallel with the edge of the platform. A section cut through gully [304] revealed a possible structural nature to the feature as a stake hole was excavated at its base. Two further stakeholes were recorded cut into the redeposited natural of the platform. A possible shallow pit or gully/terminus [315] was recorded on top of the platform though it was only partially exposed as it ran into the trench section. A small sondage was sunk on the top of the platform in order to ascertain the presence or absence of flooring deposits similar to that found in trench 1. The sondage revealed only a continuation of the redeposited natural (314). A large amount of silt deposit appeared

to have accumulated against the edge of the platform area. This was sectioned (Plate 9) in order to ascertain the true edge of the platform and the angle at which it had been created. An accumulation of two deposits of silt against the platform edge can clearly be seen in the section. Both deposits contained 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval pottery sherds. Natural soil deposits were uncovered across the remainder of the trench, into which several features had been cut. Two parallel linear gully cuts [308] & [310] were excavated and found to be relatively shallow and to contain similar uniform single fills of mid brown/grey silt (309) & (311). These linear cuts appear to be very shallow and may represent short lived boundaries to the rear of the platform area. The steeply cut edges of these two linear features also make it possible that they relate to the structure of short lived timber buildings, likely ancillary in nature, to the rear of the main residence on the platform. At the western end of the trench a complex of cut features were excavated (Plate 10). An oval pit [322], 0.8m wide, was excavated and found to be 0.4m deep containing a single fill of orange silt material (323). The base of this pit appeared to be slightly disturbed, possibly from bioturbation. Immediately adjacent to [322] was pit [320]. This was found to be a figure eight shaped cut 0.8m long and approximately 0.4m wide. This too contained a single orange silty fill (321) and was approximately 0.3m deep. Two postholes [324] & [318] were located adjacent to the two pits, one flanking each side, possibly suggestive of a timber structure above the pits. Five stakeholes around the features are also suggestive of this. Immediately to the west of these features, and with a smaller area to the south east, was an area of scorched/baked natural clay (303) (Plate 11). The baked natural was *in situ* and seems likely to have been associated with the pit features [320] & [322]. No finds were recovered from this complex of features although 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval ceramics were recovered from the silt overburden overlaying them.

#### 4.34 Trench 4

Trench 4 (Fig 10, Plate 12) measured 15 x 2 metres, was aligned on a north - south axis and was located to the west of trenches 1, 2 & 3 so as to investigate any possible extramural activity to the rear of the street frontage. Topsoil in trench 4 (401) was similar to that elsewhere on the site being composed mainly of root material and dark silt. A dark brown silt overburden (402) was removed by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. Immediately apparent was a large dark brown/black feature [403] at the northern end of the trench. A smaller deposit of dark brown material [406] was also visible after removal of the overburden. Natural orange soil (405) was located across the base of

the remainder of the trench. Excavation of [406] revealed it to be a shallow scoop (0.15m deep) measuring 1.6m x 1.4m cut into the natural containing a single dark brown silt fill (407) and no finds. Excavation of [403] revealed it to be a 4.2m wide, 1m deep, flat bottomed ditch (Plate 13). The ditch appeared to be cut through both the silt overburden (402) and the natural (405) and contained four distinct fill episodes. The primary fill of the ditch (410) was the largest fill episode. It was composed of orange silty clay which seems likely to have weathered from the edges of the cut and accumulated at the ditches base. The secondary fill episode (411) was composed of a dark brown/black silt material containing decayed root material and occasional charcoal flecks. The third fill episode (409) was composed of mid brown/orange silt material which, visible in the section, had clearly been cut by two stakeholes. Several other possible stakehole cuts were visible in the surface of deposit (409) although given the amount of root disturbance also visible at this level the stakeholes were uncertain. The stakeholes were filled with the same material as made up the next fill episode (404), a dark brown/black deposit similar to (411). 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval pottery sherds were recovered from this layer, the upper fill of the ditch. No finds were recovered from earlier fill episodes perhaps suggesting a date of pre 17<sup>th</sup> century. Also in the upper fill of ditch cut [403] was an isolated large piece of burnt quartz which appeared to have baked the soil around it.

## 5 Finds

A large amount of finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation, primarily made up of pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipes and Pembrokeshire slate roof tile fragments. Several iron objects were also recovered. In all a total of 140 finds were recorded.

The pottery assemblage was relatively large given the small area sampled within the evaluation with a total of 104 sherds being recovered. The assemblage was largely composed of heavily quartz/gravel tempered earthenwares of apparent 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval date. The earthenware assemblage contained both glazed (either internally or externally: 67 sherds) and unglazed (32 sherds) examples with several glazed and unglazed sherds showing evidence of domestic use i.e. blackened deposits from fire.

The glass was mostly composed of green vessel fragments likely to be contemporary with the majority of the ceramic sherds. Of the 18 glass fragments recovered only 1 can be identified as very thin green window glass.

The clay tobacco pipes formed only a small part of the assemblage with only 8 pieces being recovered in total. Four of the eight pieces recovered were clay pipe bowls, all of which bore their maker's mark. Two of the maker's marks were worn and indistinguishable but two can be very accurately dated. The first mark was the embossed initials 'EA'. This is a pipe of Edward Abbot, a founder member of the Pipe Makers Guild in Bristol in 1652 (Walker, 1971). The second mark bears the name 'Flower Hunt'. Flower Hunt was also a founder member of the Bristol Pipe Makers Guild in 1652 and by 1677, on the apprenticeship of his son Richard, was described as deceased (Walker, 1971). The two remaining pipes can be typologically dated through their form to around 1660 – 70 (Higgins, 1987) although no estimate as to their place of origin can be made. It would seem then that quite a close date range of 1650 – 1670 can be applied to the clay pipes recovered during the evaluation.

The slate roof tiles also formed only a small part of the finds assemblage with only 4 pieces being retained. Although large amounts of slate were encountered throughout the evaluation only the 4 pieces retained can be positively identified as roof tiles owing to the holes pierced through them. The slate used in the roofing would appear to be local Pembrokeshire slate.

The iron objects recovered were generally in a poor state of preservation, each having heavy corrosion. Five objects were recovered in all of which four were readily identifiable. The first was a key which came from context (125) above the floor (116) in Trench 1. This layer also produced 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and clay pipe. The second iron object was a small whittle tang knife coming from the same likely 17<sup>th</sup> century context and also bearing heavy corrosion. The third identifiable object is a belt buckle, also coming from a layer (127) above the floor. From the same context (127) as the buckle a spherical iron band or clasp was recovered. Four of the five iron objects were located above the floor level in Trench 1; the remaining item was found in the overburden of Trench 3 and is too heavily corroded to be identified.

## **6 Discussion and Interpretation**

### **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

The evaluation was unhampered by any modern buildings, agricultural activity or the presence of services. The location of trenches was slightly dictated by the need to avoid trees although this was not a major problem.

The overall findings of the evaluation were consistent with what would be expected to be found on a previously undeveloped site within the core of a medieval village, especially given the location of the site alongside the medieval road and flanked by both medieval castle and church.

## 6.2 Overall interpretation

The overall interpretation gained from the evaluation must be that the assessment area is located within the historic core of the medieval settlement of New Moat and that intact deposits do survive *in situ*. The raised platforms located during the evaluation are likely to represent burgage plots fronting onto the medieval road with the features located behind the platforms likely to represent the boundaries and extramural activities of the tenants. The lack of medieval material culture recovered by the evaluation is likely to be due to both the small area sampled and the burgage plots being largely aceramic. Wooden or leather domestic vessels, which seem more likely to have been used in this context, do not survive as well once discarded.

The possibility of different phases of construction must also be addressed here. A series of post holes cut into floor (116) appear to be located immediately adjacent to wall (126) and in the case of posthole [121] seem to be partially overlain by the stonework. It is possible that any structure may have been built originally in timber and then later consolidated, at least partially, in stone. Evidence of this occurs elsewhere in Pembrokeshire at Wiston where medieval stone buildings on a street frontage were found to overlay an earlier timber phase (Murphy, K, 1990). Different phases of flooring also seem likely. The large stakehole excavated in the Trench 1 sondage had the appearance of being cut through various floor levels possibly hinting at different phases.

It appears that the majority of the material culture recovered from the site dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It must be noted that no material was recovered from wall or floor contexts and that the bulk of the recovered material seemed to come from possible abandonment horizons located above or butting against the raised platforms.

The features located immediately to the rear of the raised platform areas seem, in the main, to be composed of shallow gullies or small truncated ditches possibly acting as boundaries although maybe relating to structure. Both platform areas appear to have two parallel linear features to their rear, possibly representative of an enclosed area behind the property.

The small complex of pit, stake and posthole features associated with the baked natural clay in Trench 3 may tentatively be associated with short lived cooking or light industrial activity. The profile of posthole cuts [318] & [324] would appear to suggest that the posts were forcibly removed at some point rather than being allowed to decay *in situ*. Pits to the rear of medieval street frontages have also been recorded in the nearby village of Wiston (Murphy, K & Darke, I, 1995).

The large ditch located in Trench 4 surprisingly was not visible as an earthwork. Given that 17<sup>th</sup> century/post medieval pottery was located only in its upper fill it seems likely that this feature is a contemporary of the raised platform areas and seems likely to have been extant at the time of abandonment. The relatively large width of the ditch (over 4 metres) and the presence of stakeholes within its various fills would suggest a function other than that of a boundary, however a larger area would need to be sampled before an estimate as to its use could be made.

The small co-axial system of field boundaries visible within the assessment area would also seem to be of a similar age to the possible abandonment of the burgrave plots. A sondage sunk through possible bank material (203) & (209) revealed a wealth of 17<sup>th</sup> century material. The field boundaries are later referred to as a Roman camp on both the first edition Ordnance Survey map and by Lewis in his Topographic Dictionary of Wales (1833). This perhaps suggests that the boundaries were by this point overgrown and disused.

It is possible that a local building technique known as 'clom' (unfired clay) may have been employed in structures on the site. The earliest cottages were commonly made of turf and other materials that were close to hand and although these were temporary constructions many cottages that remain from the 19th century have been built with little more. Such buildings have walls made from compacted earth, known as 'clom'. Such walls may seem unstable but they are surprisingly strong, especially when given extra protection through lime washing and possess many qualities such as good insulation and breathability that are not present in modern bricks and cement (McCabe, www).

### 6.3 Significance

The archaeology encountered within the assessment area is generally in a very good state of preservation. The features uncovered are significant within a national context as they do not appear to have ever been disturbed apart from negligible root action. This means

that the potential of the archaeological resource in terms of medieval implanted settlement and later medieval/post medieval land use remains extremely high.

The fact that New Moat was noted as having 89 burgage plots in 1326 would make it a large medieval settlement. It seems highly likely that the majority of the assessment area will contain such high quality intact archaeological remains given that no disturbance other than tree root action has taken place since the laying out of the small field boundaries.

Given both the quality and quantity of the archaeological remains present it is recommended that either preservation *in situ* be sought or a mitigation strategy be agreed prior to any development so as to both increase what is known about the medieval settlement pattern in New Moat and to limit any impact upon the archaeological resource.

## 7 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Hywel Keen (CAP) for his on site assistance as well as to both Charles Hill and Louise Austin of Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management for their monitoring of the project.



## 8 Bibliography and references

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet.

HIGGINS, D, A. 1987. Some Clay Pipes from Cheshire and Merseyside. *North West Archaeological Trust*. Report No. 3

LEWIS. 1833. *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*

MURPHY, K. 1990. Wiston Medieval Borough. *Archaeology in Wales*. Vol 30

MURPHY, K. 1994. *DAT Report on Watching Brief on New Moat to Rhyd-y-brwyn watermain Renewal Scheme*. Contract no: 93 – 17B.

MURPHY, K & DARKE, I. 1995. Wiston Watching Brief. *Archaeology in Wales*. Vol 5

RCAHMW 1925. *Pembrokeshire Inventory*.

REES. SE. 1981. *Scheduled Ancient Monuments visits*. CADW.

REES. W. 1932. *South Wales and the Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> century*.

SOULSBY, I. 1983. *The Towns of Medieval Wales*. Chichester

SOULSBY + JONES 1975. *Historic Towns, South Pembrokeshire*.

WALKER, C, I. 1971. *The Bristol Clay Tobacco Pipe Industry*. City Museum, Bristol

WALKER. RF (ed). 2002. *Pembrokeshire County History* Vol II. Pembrokeshire Historical Society.

[www.genuki.com](http://www.genuki.com) – Accessed 12/9/06

[www.underthethatch.co.uk/essay-building-techniques.htm](http://www.underthethatch.co.uk/essay-building-techniques.htm) - Accessed 18/9/06

### *Other sources consulted*

British Geological Service, 1979, *Geological Survey Ten Mile Map: South Sheet*. BGS.

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 2 Wales*. SSEW.

### *Photographic sources*

FORMAT	PHOTOGRAPHIC ANGLE	SORTIE	FRA ME	DATE
B/W	Vertical	106G/UK/1625	3063	07/07/1946
"	"	"	3064	11/07/46
"	"	"	3065	16/05/72
"	"	"	3066	16/05/72
"	"	106G/UK/1472	4054	04/05/1946
"	"	106G/UK/1472	4055	04/05/1946
"	"	Meridian 200/220	27166	1955
"	"	"	27167	1955

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

### New Moat, Pembrokeshire

Site Name:	New Moat, Pembrokeshire
Site Code:	NM/06/EVAL
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	Planning Ref: 05/1666/PA
NGR:	NGR SN 06250 25290
Site Type:	Medieval Occupation
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	September 2006
Categories Present:	Medieval – Post Medieval
Location of Original Archive:	CAPLtd
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAPLtd
Restrictions to access:	None

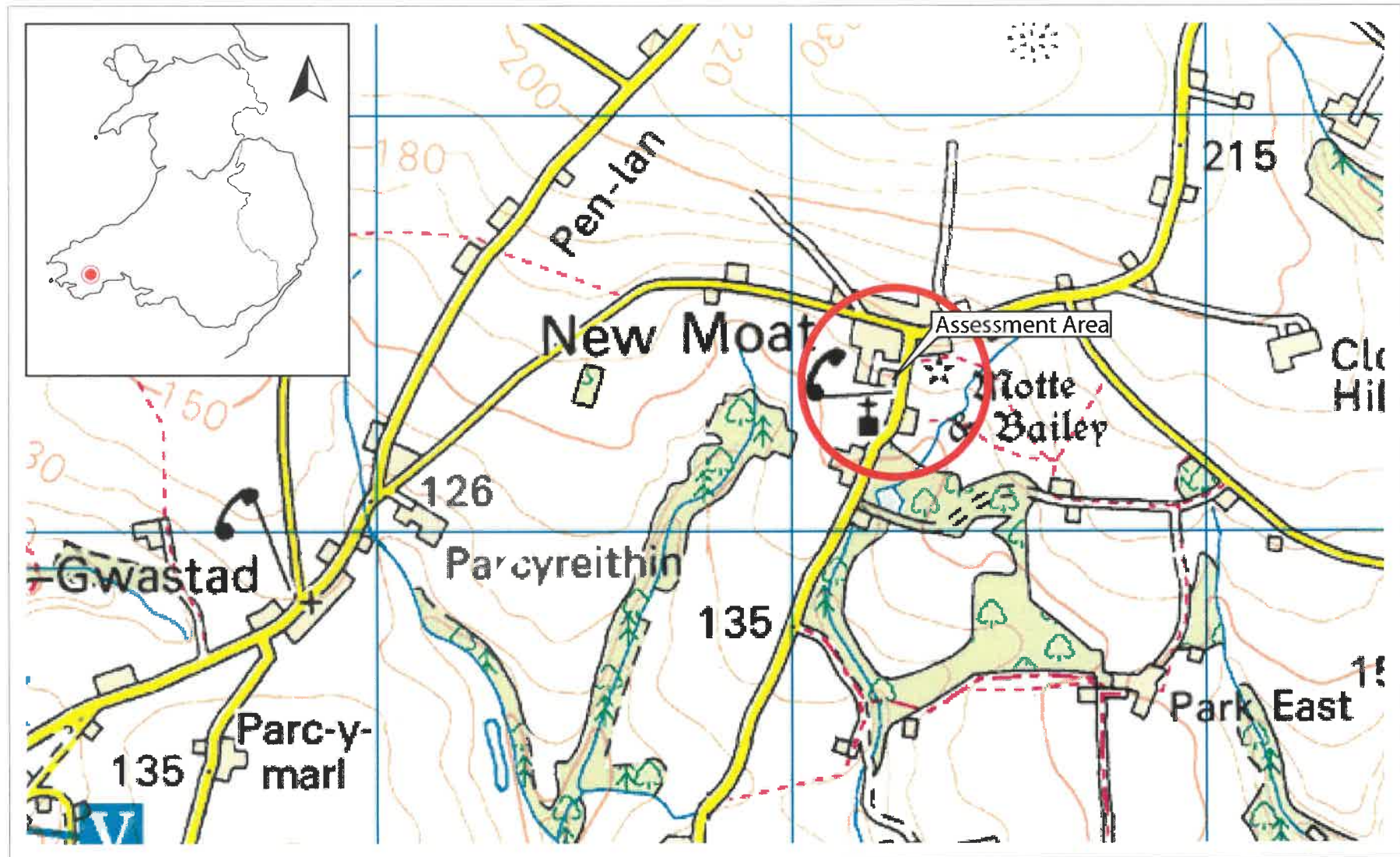
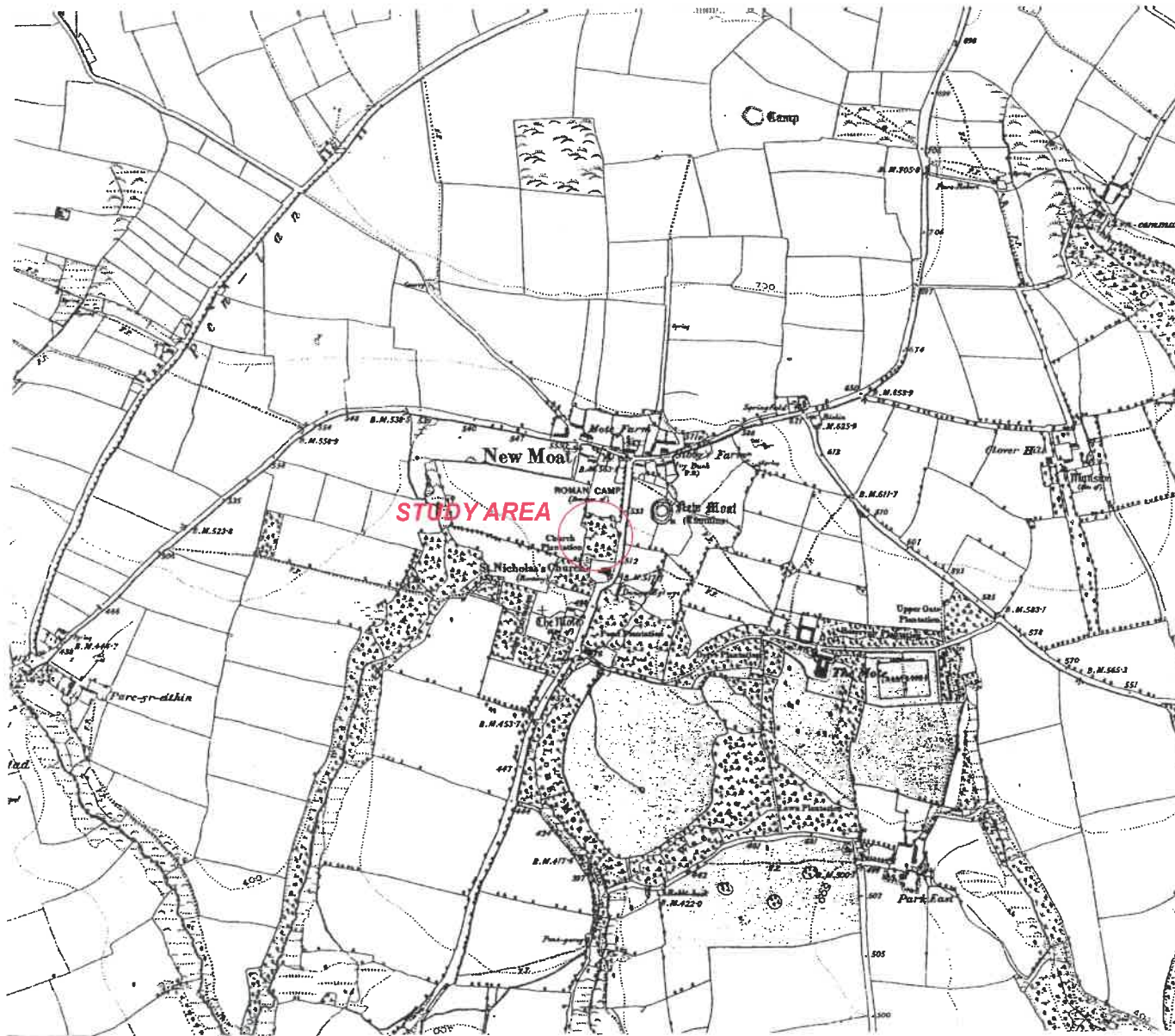


Fig 01: Map showing location of assessment area



**Figure 2** Ordnance Survey Map of 1891.



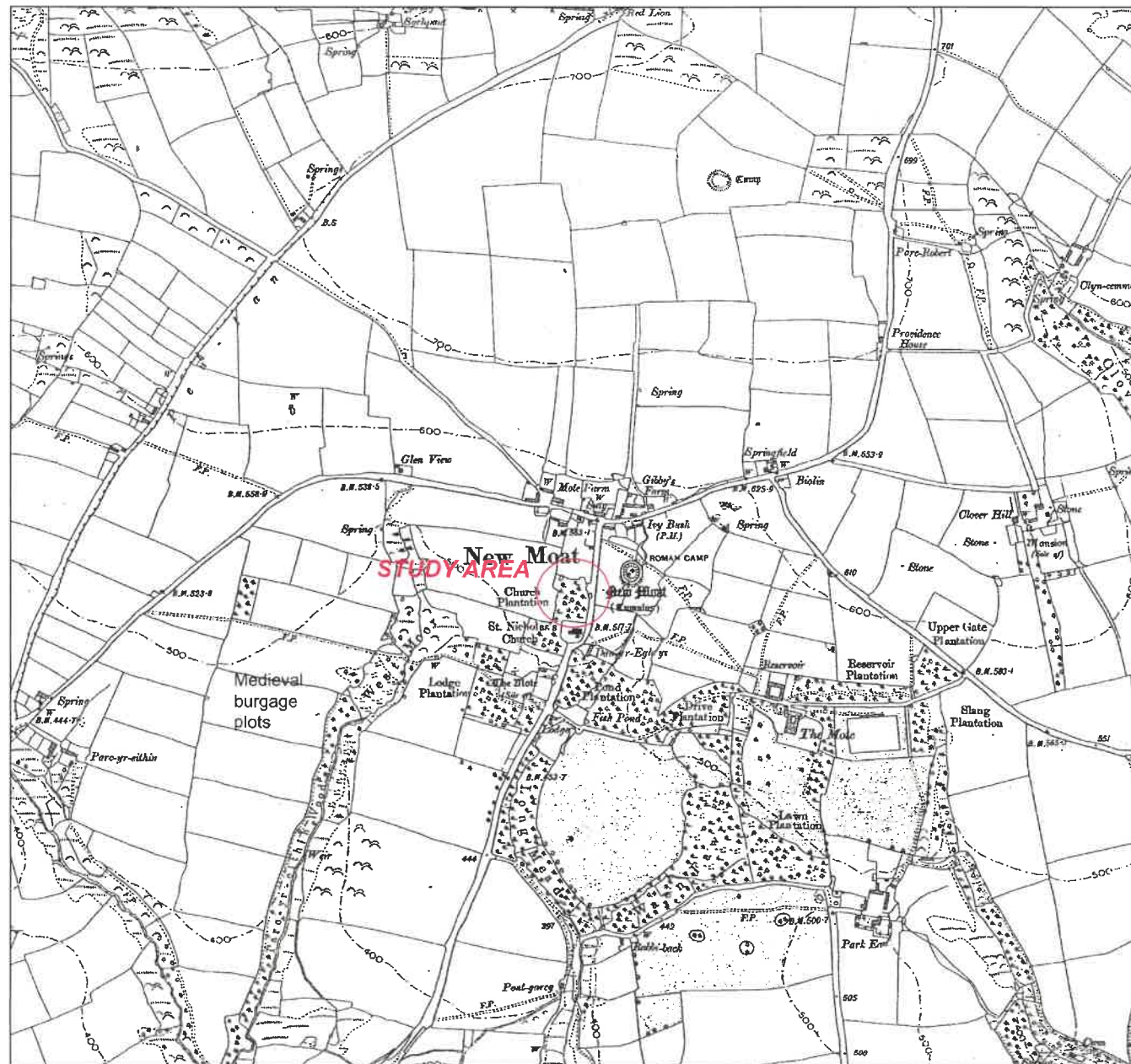
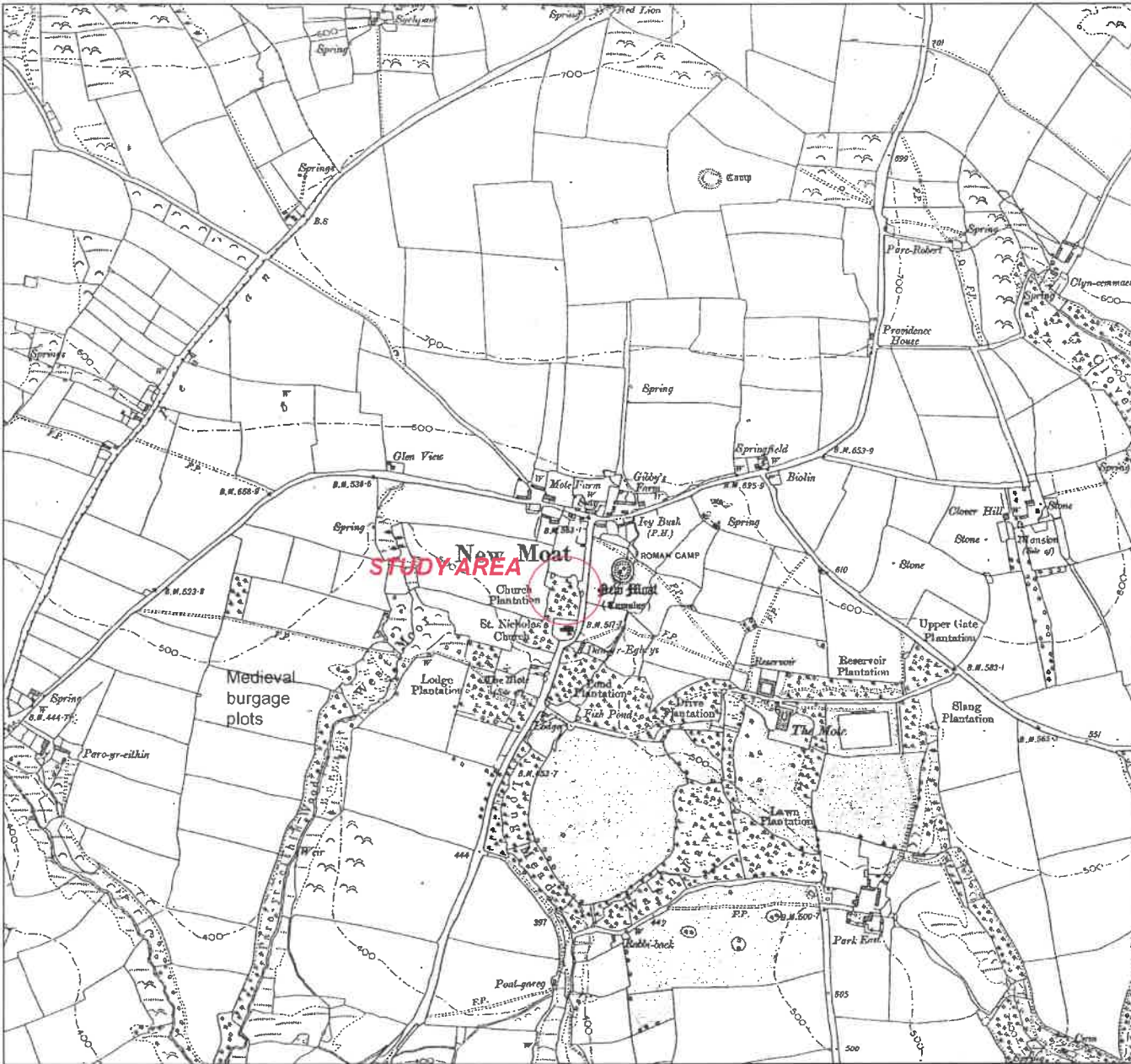
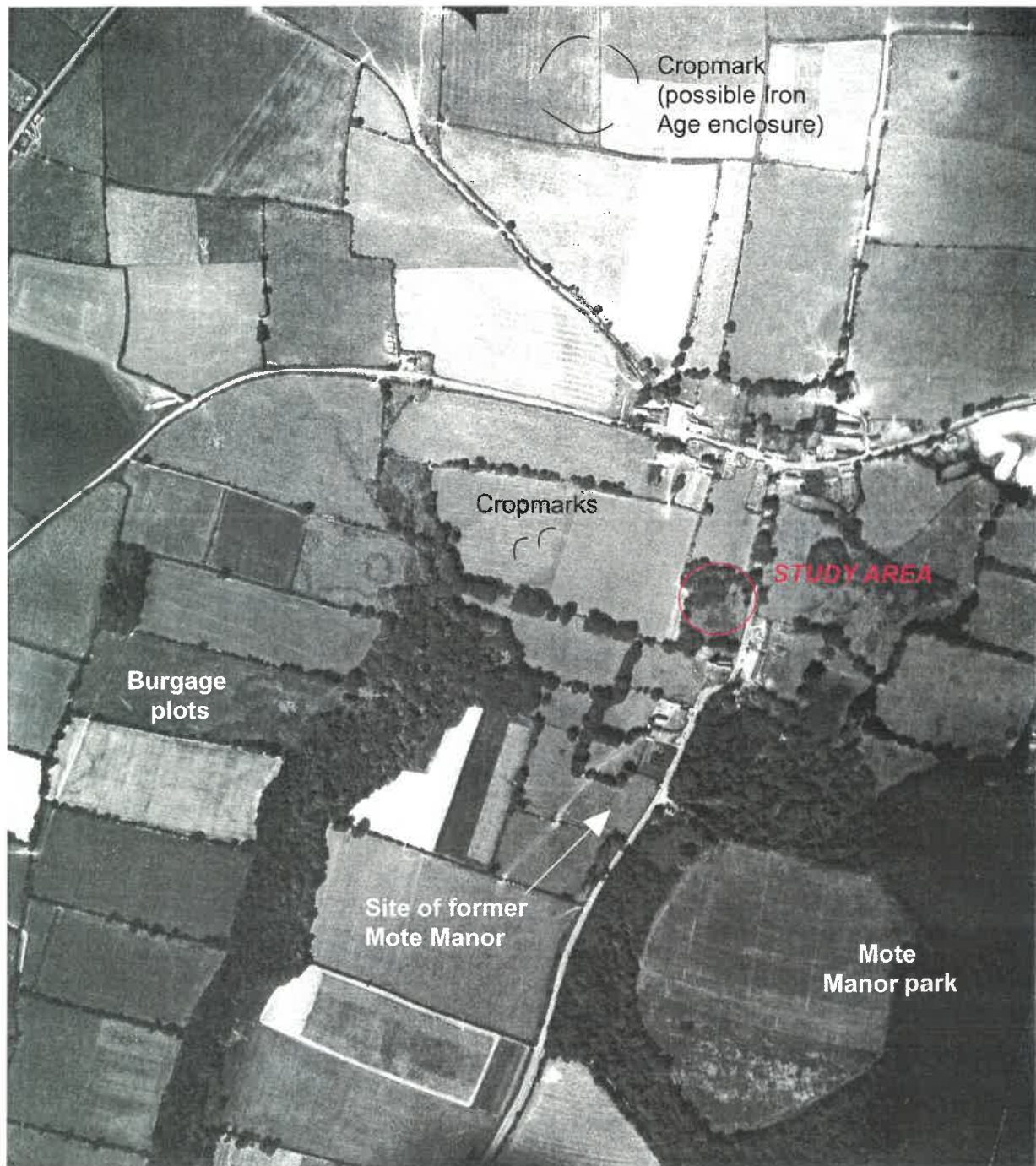


Figure 3 Ordnance Survey Map of 1908



**Figure 4** Ordnance Survey Map of 1908





**Figure 5** Aerial Photograph of 1955 with anotted cropmarks.

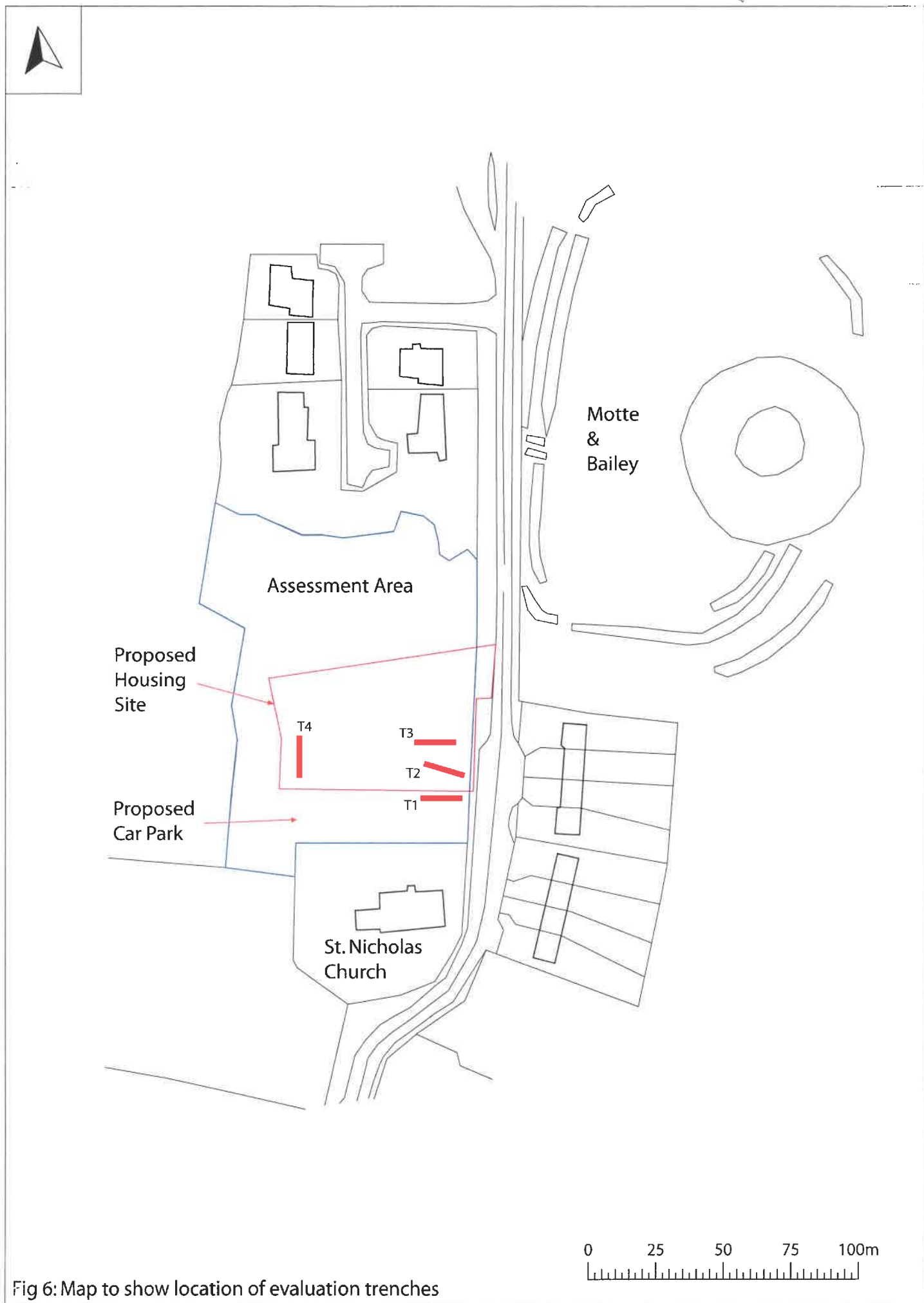
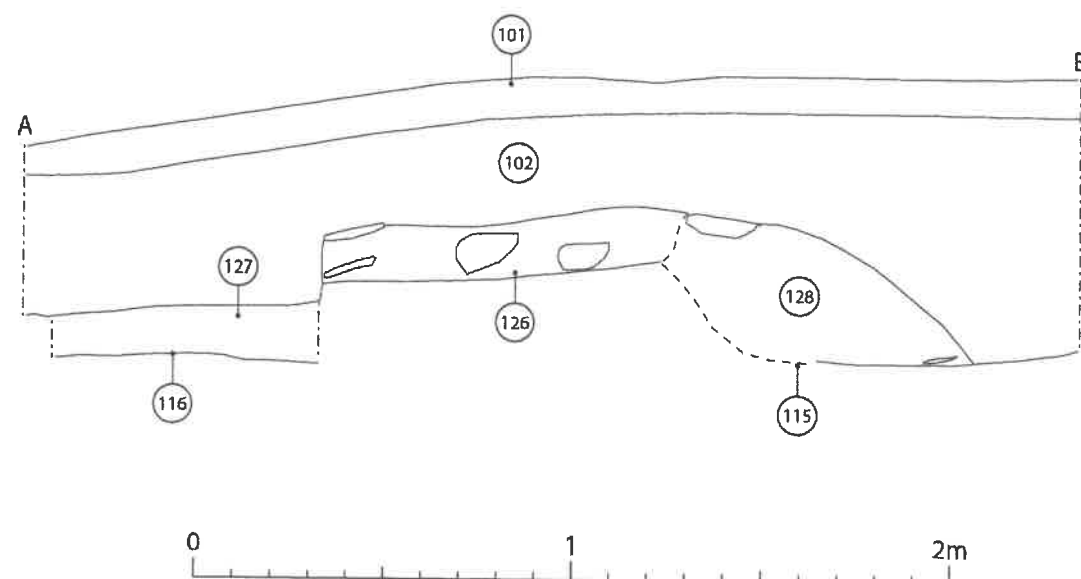
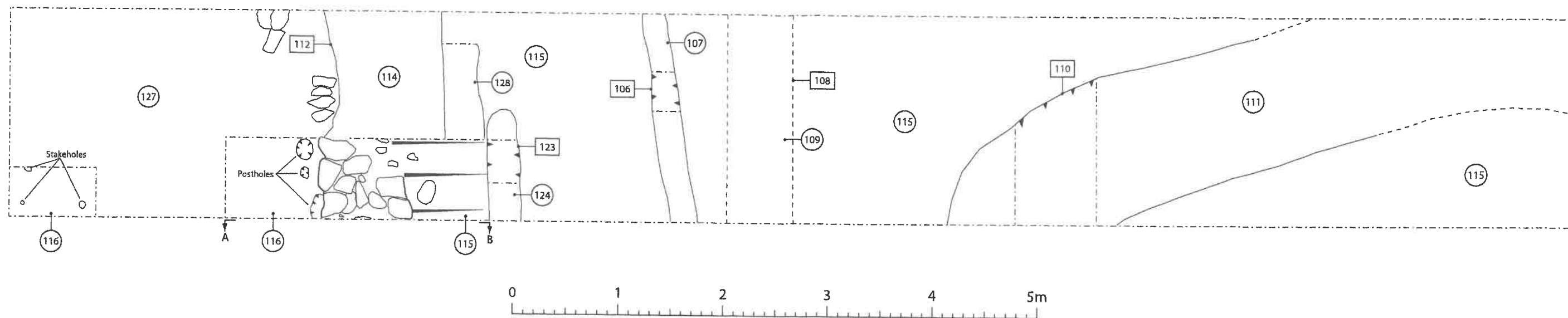


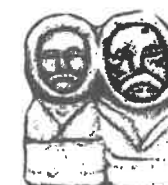
Fig 6: Map to show location of evaluation trenches

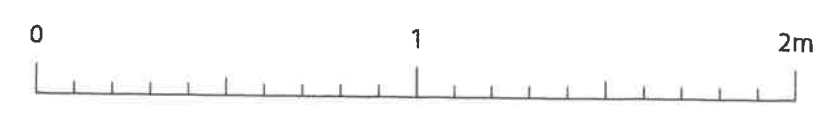
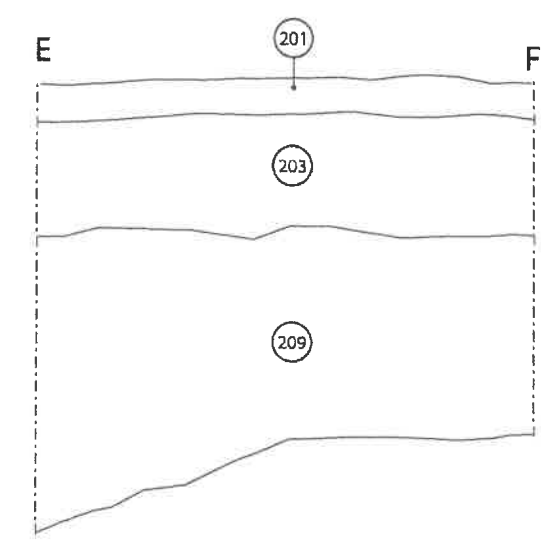
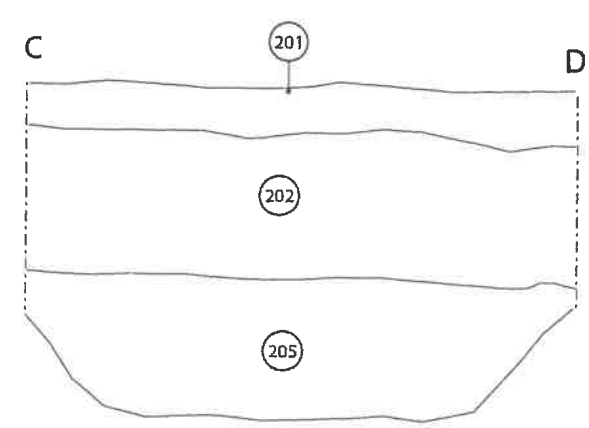
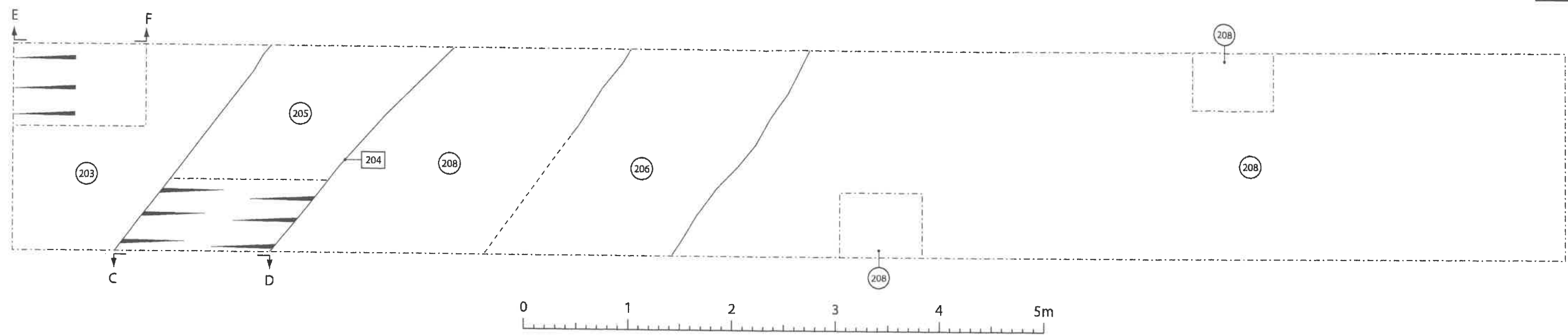


Job Title:	New Moat
Drawing Title:	Trench 1
Date:	14/09/06
Drawn By:	C E Smith
Scale:	Plan 1:40, Section 1:20

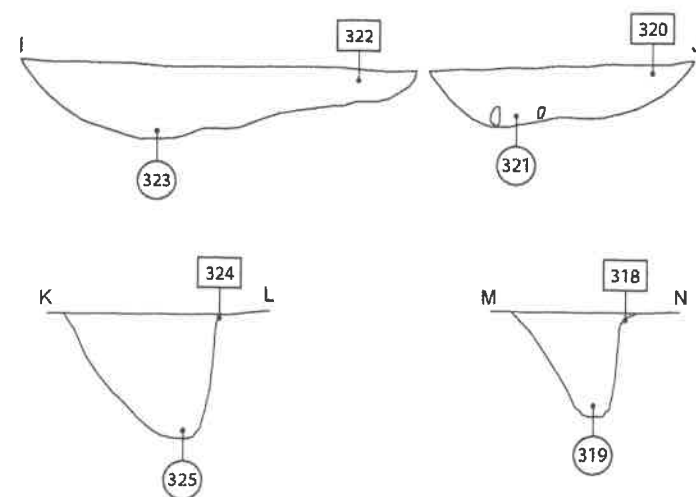
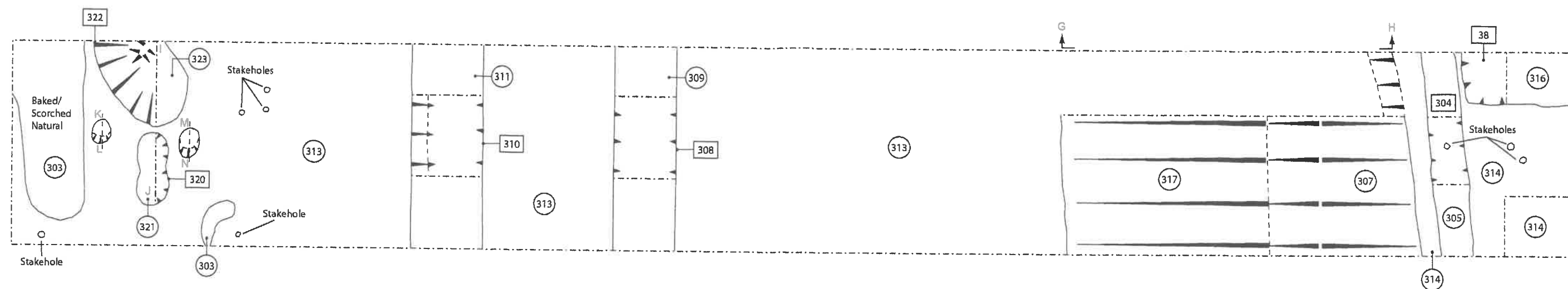
Figure 7:

Cambrian  
Archaeological  
Projects  
Limited



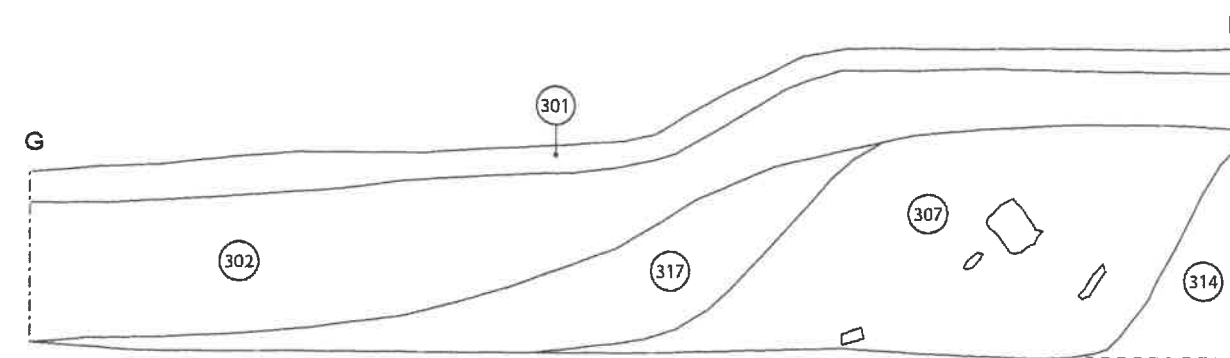


Job Title:	New Moat
Drawing Title:	Trench 2
Date:	14/09/06
Drawn By:	C E Smith
Scale:	Plan 1:40, Sections 1:20
Figure 8:	



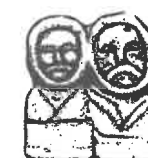
Pit Sections

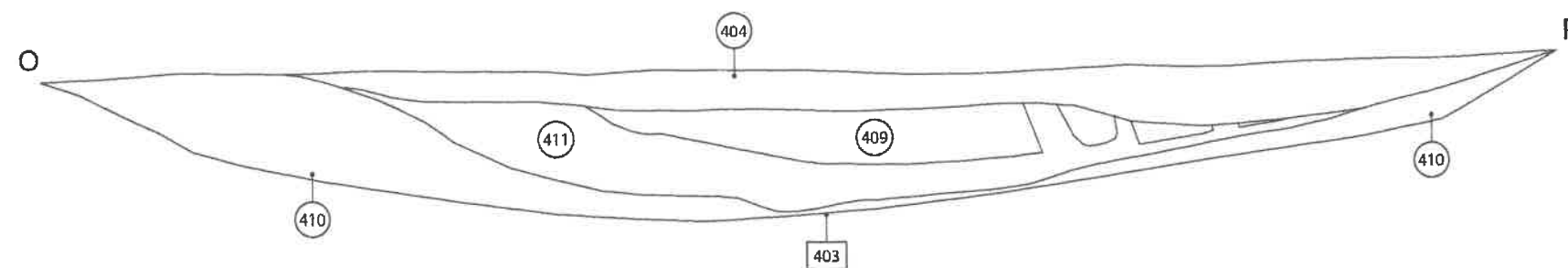
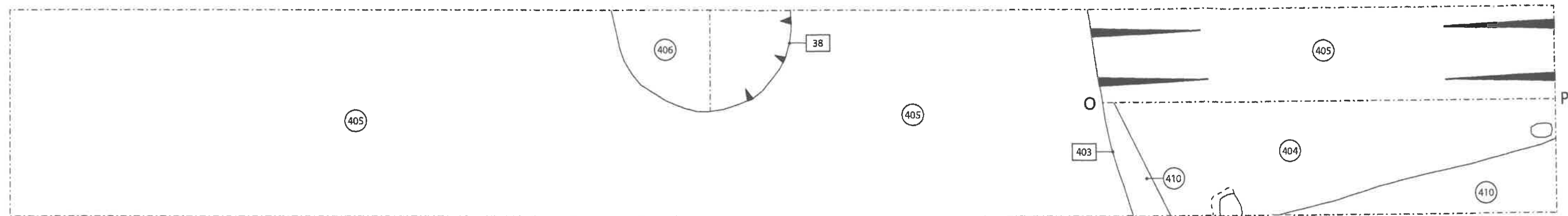
Post Hole Profiles



Section showing soil accumulation against platform edge

Job Title:	New Moat
Drawing Title:	Trench 3
Date:	18/9/06
Drawn By:	C E Smith
Scale:	Plan 1:40, Sections 1:20
Figure 9 :	
Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited	






Job Title:	New Moat
Drawing Title:	Trench 4
Date:	18/9/06
Drawn By:	C E Smith
Scale:	Plan 1:40, Section 1:20
Figure 10:	
<div><div>Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited</div><div></div></div>	





Plate 1: General View of Trench 1, scale 1 x 1m, looking west



Plate 2: View of raised 'platform' area in trench 1, scale 1 x 1m looking east





Plate 3: View of floor (116) adjacent to wall (126), Trench 1, note post/stakeholes adjacent to wall (126), scale 1 x 1m, looking north west



Plate 4: View of excavated area within platform area, trench 1, note second sondage containing floor levels in foreground, scale 1 x 1m, looking west



Plate 5: General view of trench 2, scale 1 x 1m  
looking south east



Plate 6: View of sondage sunk through (203) to  
natural (208), scale 1 x 1m, looking south east





Plate 7: Trench 3 general view, scale 1 x 1m  
looking west



Plate 8: Trench 3, view of excavated features on  
platform area, scale 1 x 1m, looking west



Plate 9: View of platform area & section cut through soil accumulation in trench 3, scale 1 x 1m, looking east

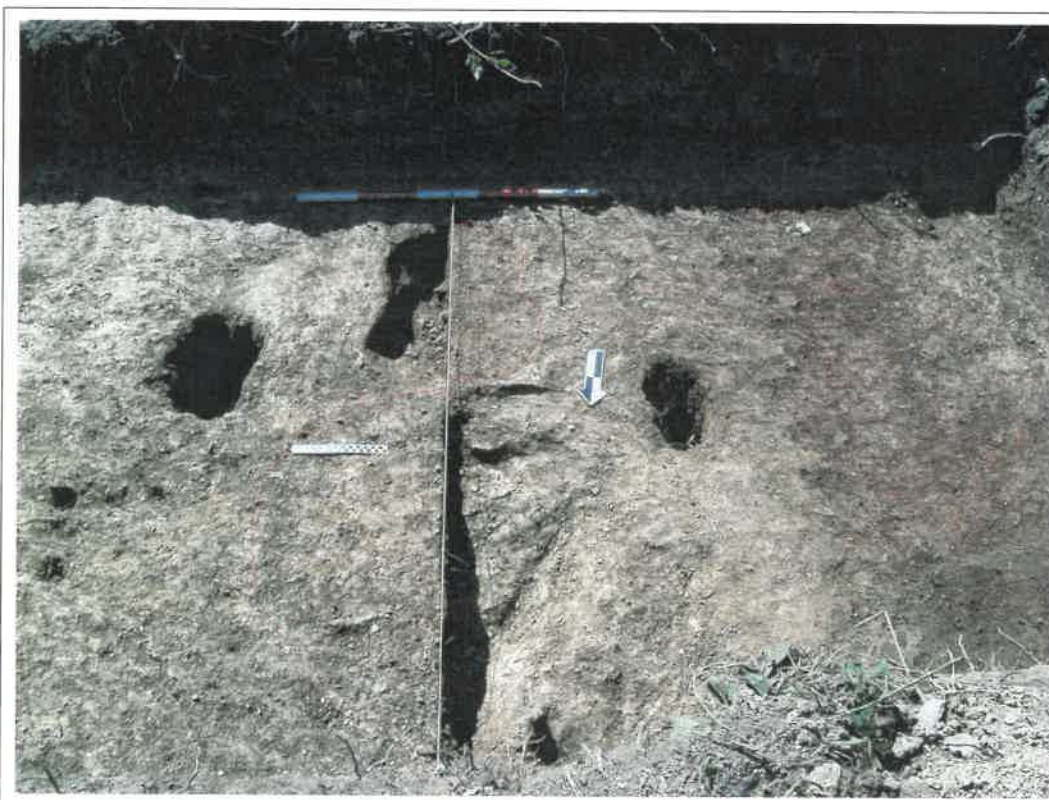


Plate 10: View of small pit and posthole complex in trench 3, note presence of baked natural adjacent to pit features, scale 1 x 1m, looking south





Plate 11: View of area of baked/scorched natural (303) in trench 3, scale 1 x 1m, looking west



Plate 12: General view of trench 4, scale 1 x 1m looking south



Plate 13: View of section cut through ditch [403] in trench 4, scale 1 x 1m looking east



## **APPENDIX I:** **Archaeological Chronolgy**

# Archaeological Chronology

Present-day

First Humans

Earth-4,500 million years old

Archaeological Chronology

Geological Chronology

\*NATURAL\*

Modern  
Industrial  
Post-Medieval  
Medieval  
Early Medieval  
Roman Britain  
Iron Age  
Bronze Age  
Neolithic  
Mesolithic  
Palaeolithic

AD  
BC

Modern (1901-Present)  
Industrial (1700-1901)  
Post-Medieval (1547-1700)  
Medieval (1066-1547)  
Early Medieval (450-1066)  
Roman Britain (AD43-450)  
Iron Age (700BC-AD43)  
Bronze Age (2300-700BC)  
Neolithic (4,000-2300 BC)  
Mesolithic (10,000-4000 BC)  
Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000 BC)

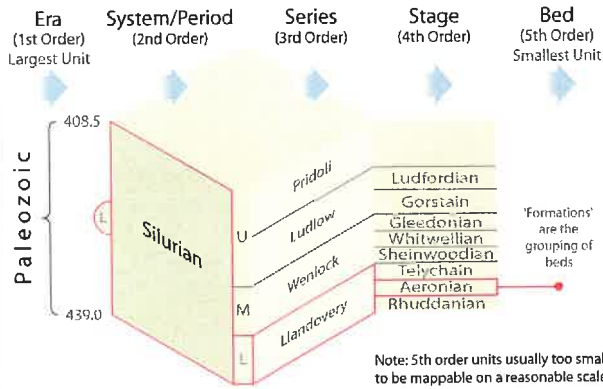




## **APPENDIX II:** **Geological Chronolgy**

# Geological Chronology

## Lithostratigraphic Units



Present-day  
First Humans

