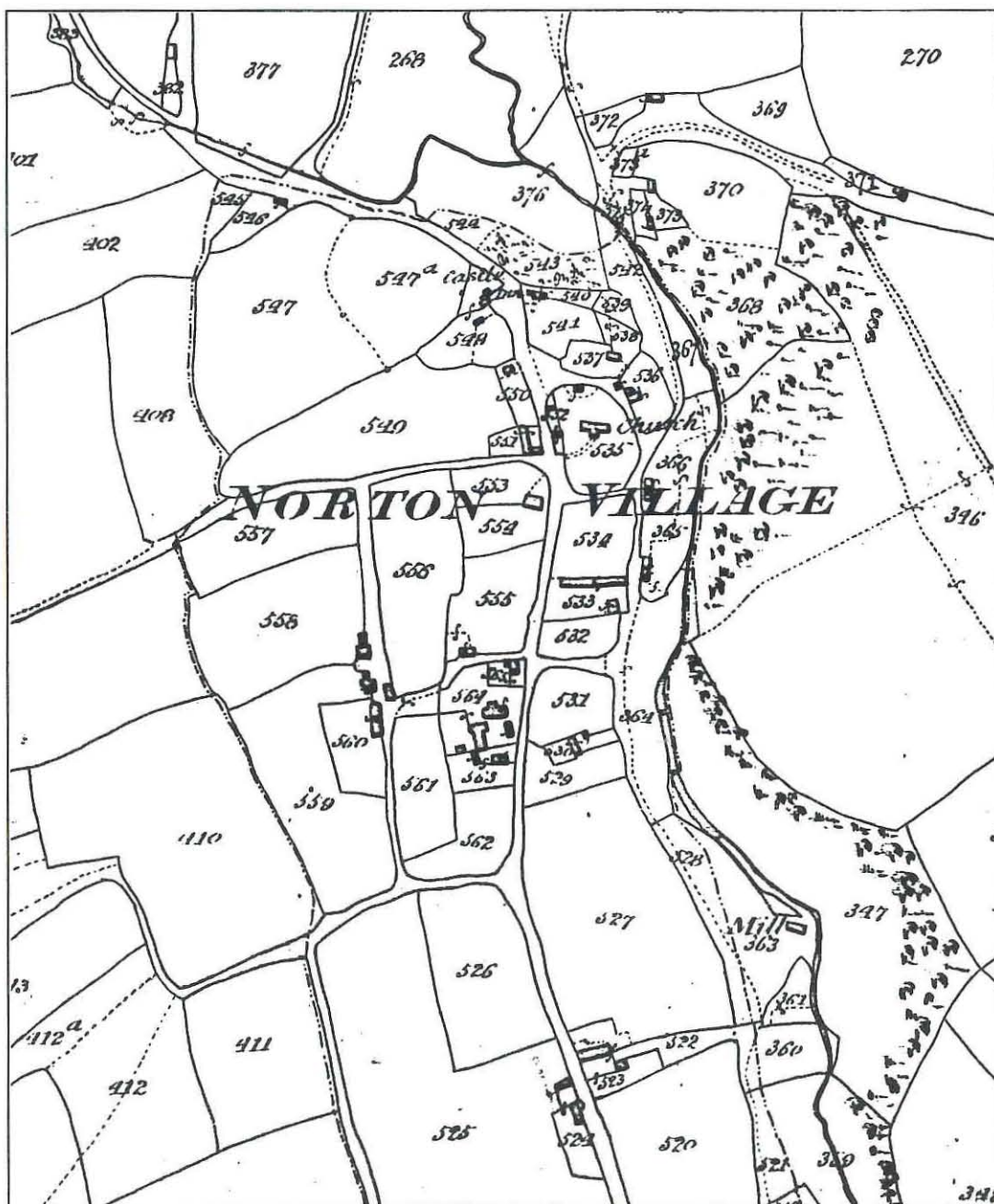


Land adjoining Rose Cottage, Norton,  
Presteigne, Powys  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**CPAT Report No 428**

**Land adjoining Rose Cottage, Norton,  
Presteigne, Powys**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**R Hankinson and NW Jones**  
June 2001

Report for Mr J Wilding

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Land adjoining Rose Cottage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys: Archaeological Evaluation		
CPAT Project Name	Rose Cottage, Norton		
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	name	signature	date
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### Internal memo


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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2001 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by Garner Southall Partnership, on behalf of their client, Mr Wilding, to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Rose Cottage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys. The quotation was accepted in May 2001 and the evaluation undertaken during the following month.
- 1.2 The evaluation had been recommended by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, in relation to a planning application (PR5715/00) for the construction of a new multi-purpose amenity building. A Brief (EVB 411) had been prepared detailing the nature of the archaeological works required.
- 1.3 The Brief originally specified three evaluation trenches, although following discussions with the Curator it was agreed by all the parties concerned not to proceed with the northern trench as this area was now under different ownership.

## 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The site of the proposed development lies towards the southern end of the village of Norton, adjacent to Rose Cottage (SO303669), on the west side of the main street (B4355). The plot is currently pasture with the remnants of an old orchard. A new access was constructed in the northern part of the plot during 2000.
- 2.2 The plot lies at approximately 196m OD and slopes slightly to the south-west. Soils consist of typical argillic brown earths of the Rowton Association (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984).

## 3 DESKTOP STUDY

- 3.1 Stage one of the evaluation involved the examination of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic and photographic sources. Repositories consulted included the following: The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells. Relevant sites are depicted in Fig. 1.
- 3.2 The village of Norton is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Nortune', or North farm. Although there is no evidence for the development of the settlement after this period it is possible that it was deliberately planned as there is a degree of regularity in the street layout, and by analogy this would have been established perhaps in the 12th or 13th century. The layout of lanes and small plots, particularly evident on the Tithe Map of 1843 (Fig. 2), almost certainly reflects a pattern of considerable antiquity. The castle and the church lie at the northern end of the settlement, with the single road running due south on a straight alignment. The ground between the street and the almost parallel back lanes still bears some indications of being divided into regular, narrow plots.
- 3.3 Norton Castle (PRN 308), at the northern end of the village, consists of a substantial motte surrounded by a ditch and an outer bank on the south side. It was recorded in 1191 and was taken by the Welsh in 1262. Leland, in the mid-16th century, recorded 'a little pilet or turret', presumably on top of the motte (Silvester 1994, 132). Further earthworks to the north, extending to Norton Brook, may define the bailey, which could also have extended to the east of the castle.
- 3.4 During the Middle Ages Norton had a classic open-field system of agriculture, with three or four fields divided into strips (Silvester 1994, 132). Several fields retain some earthwork evidence for former strip fields, land boundaries and ridge and furrow cultivation (Fig. 1, PRNs 16272, 16311, 72799). The Tithe Map provides further evidence of the former existence of strip fields to the west of the village where remnants of a sub-divided arable field system are shown as a series of strips (plots nos 412a-416, Fig. 2). The large plot (no 525) at the southern end of the village was known as Townsend Meadow, seemingly indicating the divide between the properties in the medieval village and the land associated with them.



- 3.5 The earlier history of the development site, which lies at the southern end of the possible medieval planned settlement, is obscure. There are no known early estate maps for the village and its environs, and as with many places in Radnorshire, the earliest large-scale mapping is the Tithe survey of 1843. At that time the L-shaped block of land (plot no 562, Fig. 2) was called 'Plock', a not uncommon term for a piece of land within a settlement. At that date it was under cultivation, unlike most of the surrounding fields which were recorded as meadows and orchards. To the north of the site is Rose Cottage (plot no 563; Plate 1), recorded simply as a cottage and garden.
- 3.6 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 of 1889 (Fig. 3) shows the boundaries of the development area unchanged since 1843, although this field, and those surrounding, would appear to be orchards. Later editions of the Ordnance Survey revealed no change in plan or use for the site.
- 3.7 On the opposite side of the street from the development site is a terrace (Plate 2) built in 1871 which incorporated the village school (PRN 39350), which later became the village hall, in the centre (Fig. 3). To either side are three estate houses (PRNs 39347-9, 39351-3) for Norton Manor Estate.
- 3.8 The available aerial photography, though extensive, provides no additional information. Without exception the photographs, the earliest of which date from 1946, show what appears to be a rather sparsely planted orchard with no visible evidence of any earlier features.

#### 4 EXCAVATION

- 4.1 Stage two consisted of a field evaluation with the excavation of two trial trenches (Fig. 4), the size and location of which were determined by the brief. The trenches were excavated using a machine excavator to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation was conducted by hand.
- 4.2 Each context was recorded on individual record forms and photographed as appropriate. All site planning and levelling was undertaken using digital total station surveying related to Ordnance Datum and with respect to boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps. The contents of the site archive is listed in Appendix 1.

##### **Trench A (12 x 2m and 7.5 x 2m ; Fig. 5; Plates 3 & 4)**

- 4.3 Trench A was L-shaped, with the longer arm running parallel to the village street. The dark grey topsoil (1) was removed by machine to a depth of approximately 0.2m, revealing a brown clayey loam (2) containing post-medieval and 19th/20th-century pottery. Following consultation with the curator this layer, which was between 0.5 and 0.75m thick, was removed by machine, revealing the surface of the natural orange subsoil (3). A single sherd of probable Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the upper part of layer (2), together with sherds of medieval pottery (see below), but its lower half was largely devoid of finds. A single feature was identified in the base of the trench, cut into the natural subsoil and sealed beneath context 2. This was an oval scoop (4), measuring 0.7 x 0.5m, and 0.09m deep, filled with orange-brown slightly clayey loam (5); no finds were present in the fill.

##### **Trench B (18 x 2m; Fig. 6; Plates 5 & 6)**

- 4.4 Trench B was aligned approximately parallel to the main street and was situated in the centre of the development site. A linear earthwork was apparent in this area of the site, aligned roughly north-south, and coinciding with a field boundary further to the north (Fig. 4).
- 4.5 Two layers were entirely removed by machine, the upper consisting of a recent dump of grey soil and rubble (6) up to 0.25m thick, partially filling the linear earthwork at the southern end of the trench and overlying a layer of topsoil (7) up to 0.25m thick.
- 4.6 At the southern end of the trench the removal of topsoil layer 7 revealed a layer of brown-grey silty loam (8), while to the north this directly overlay the undisturbed gravelly subsoil (9). A narrow section excavated through context 8 revealed a narrow linear hollow interpreted as a probable wheel rut (10) at the base of the linear feature identified on the surface, which may therefore have been a trackway (11).



## 5 FINDS

- 5.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the excavations, all of which came from Trench A, generally ranging in date from the medieval period to the 19th or 20th centuries, although including one sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery from context 1. Eleven sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, together with 4 sherds of a late medieval or early post-medieval jar. Several of the sherds were considerably abraded, and all were from residual contexts. It is interesting to note that context 2 produced no pottery later than the 15th or 16th centuries, which may suggest that the layer accumulated through cultivation during this period. The topsoil in this area of the site (context 1) contained some sherds of medieval pottery, but also included a range of pottery dating from the 17th or 18th centuries to the 19th or 20th centuries. A full list of finds is contained in Appendix 1.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 There is clear evidence of settlement at Norton from at least the 11th century and the street plan may suggest that the present village originated as a deliberately planned settlement dating from the 12th or 13th centuries. The development site itself is situated at the southern end of the presumed medieval settlement, fronting the west side of the main street. The earliest cartographic source for this area is the Tithe Map of 1843 which records the plot as being under arable cultivation. From the later 19th century to the present day the site appears to have been an orchard.
- 6.2 Within the site there is earthwork evidence for a possible trackway (11) running roughly north-south, following the alignment of a field boundary immediately to the north. Further evidence of this feature was revealed in Trench B, within which a possible wheel rut (10) was identified. This feature runs parallel to, and midway between, the main street and the back lane depicted on the Tithe Survey.
- 6.3 A single feature (4) was identified in Trench A, consisting of a shallow undated scoop cut into the subsoil. However, the finds recovered from this trench suggested a period of cultivation during the medieval and early post-medieval period, during which a layer of soil (2) accumulated to a depth of up to 0.75m.
- 6.4 It may be of some significance that finds were only recovered from Trench A, possibly due to its proximity to the modern street frontage. The position of the medieval street frontage is not known, although the local topography would suggest that it may have been slightly further to the east than the present boundary of the development plot. The present road level at this point is lower than that of the development site and the footpath on the west side of the street has been cut into the original ground surface, with the battered cut extending to the present boundary. It is therefore conceivable that any medieval street frontage may have been largely removed by the construction of the footpath. However, although medieval pottery was recovered from Trench A, the sherds were all residual and may have been spread in the ploughsoil rather than resulting directly from occupation. The only feature identified consisted of a shallow undated scoop, with no indication of further features which might normally be associated with the rear yard area of a medieval street frontage building.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the following for their assistance and co-operation: Glyn Owen and Will Logan for assisting during the excavation; Bob Silvester for assistance with the desktop study; the owner, Mr Wilding; the staff of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth and National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

## 8 REFERENCES

### Published sources

Rudeforth, C C, Hartnup, R, Lea, J W, Thompson, T R E, & Wright, P C, 1984. *Soils and their use in Wales*, Bulletin No. 11. Harpenden: Soil Association of England and Wales.

Silvester, R J, 1994. *Radnorshire Historic Settlements Survey*. CPAT Report No. 92.

### **Cartographic sources**

1843 Tithe Map and Apportionment for Norton (National Library of Wales)  
Ordnance Survey 1:2500

1889 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500, Radnorshire 18.11

### **Aerial Photographic sources**

National Monument Record, Aberystwyth

#### *Verticals*

CPE/UK 1873/ 5031. 4 December 1946 1:10,000 (approx)

CPE/UK 2095/ 4100. 28 May 1945 1:10,000 (approx)

OS 72 251/265. 17 July 1972 1:8,300

OS 75 252/108. 13 June 1975 1:12,000

MAFF 8461. 28 June 1976 1:10,000 (approx)

Meridian 07/81/075. 16 April 1981 1:10,000

CUCAP RC8 Kn Co 121. 19 July 1990 1:10,000 (approx)

#### *Obliques*

965090-42



## APPENDIX 1

### SITE ARCHIVE

#### Site data

10 Context Record Forms  
1 black and white negative film  
1 colour print film  
1 colour slide film  
photographic catalogue

#### Finds

##### Context 1

4 sherds medieval pottery (15g), green glazed, sandy micaceous fabric  
1 sherd ? medieval pottery (5g), unglazed  
1 sherd post-medieval ?plate (4g), stamped polychrome decoration  
1 sherd Coal Measures Buff ware (17g), 17th/18th-century  
2 sherds Developed Whiteware (11g), 19th/20th-century  
1 sherd Industrial Whiteware (5g), 19th/20th-century  
1 brick fragment (9g)  
1 iron nail (6g)

##### Context 2

1 sherd prehistoric pottery (8g)  
1 medieval rim sherd (24g), traces of internal/external glaze  
4 sherds medieval jug body (8g), from 3 different vessels  
1 sherd? medieval cooking pot base (7g)  
4 sherds late medieval/early post-medieval internally glazed jar (58g)  
2 iron nails (8g)

#### Digital survey data (Penmap)

Norton.pts  
Norton.dxf

#### Digital plans (AutoCAD13)

937plan.dwg Trench locations and site survey  
937plan.dxf  
937plan.tab  
trencha.dwg Trench A plan and section  
trencha.dxf  
trencha.tab  
trenchb.dwg Trench B plan and section  
trenchb.dxf  
trenchb.tab

#### General

Evaluation brief (EVB 411)  
Specification  
Terms and Conditions  
Quotation 505 and 506  
General correspondence

## APPENDIX 2

### LAND ADJOINING ROSE COTTAGE, NORTON, PRESTEIGNE, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a new multi-purpose amenity building on land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys (Powys CC Planning Application PR5715/00). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposals on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a Brief has been prepared (EVB 411 dated 06/02/01) which details the works required.
- 1.2 The development site lies within the historic core of the village, as defined by the Radnorshire Historic Settlements Survey (CPAT Report 92), and it is thought likely that buried archaeological deposits may survive which relate to street frontage occupation.

#### 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
  - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a combination of desk based study and field evaluation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.2 to record any archaeological sites identified during the field evaluation;
  - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology.

#### 3 Methods

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, photographic and oral sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Powys County Archives, Llandrindod Wells.
- 3.2 Stage two will take the form of a field evaluation consisting of three trial trenches, the size and location of which are described in the brief. It should be noted that Trench 1 is located outside the development plot and access may not be forthcoming. Any alterations to this scheme will only be undertaken following full consultation with the curator and developer.
- 3.3 The excavations will be undertaken using a machine excavator where possible to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. All archaeological contexts identified will be adequately sampled to define their function, date and relationship to other features, in so far as these aims are possible.
- 3.4 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographic record as appropriate. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible.

- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. A draft report will be forwarded to the curator and client prior to the production of the final report.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

#### **4 Resources and Programming**

- 4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that stage one of the evaluation will be completed within 3 days, the evaluation will be completed in 5 days, and the report will be completed within 4 days. A copy of the report will be deposited with the Regional SMR. CPAT will not be in a position to undertake any part of the evaluation until April 2001. The curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring if required.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones  
19th February 2001



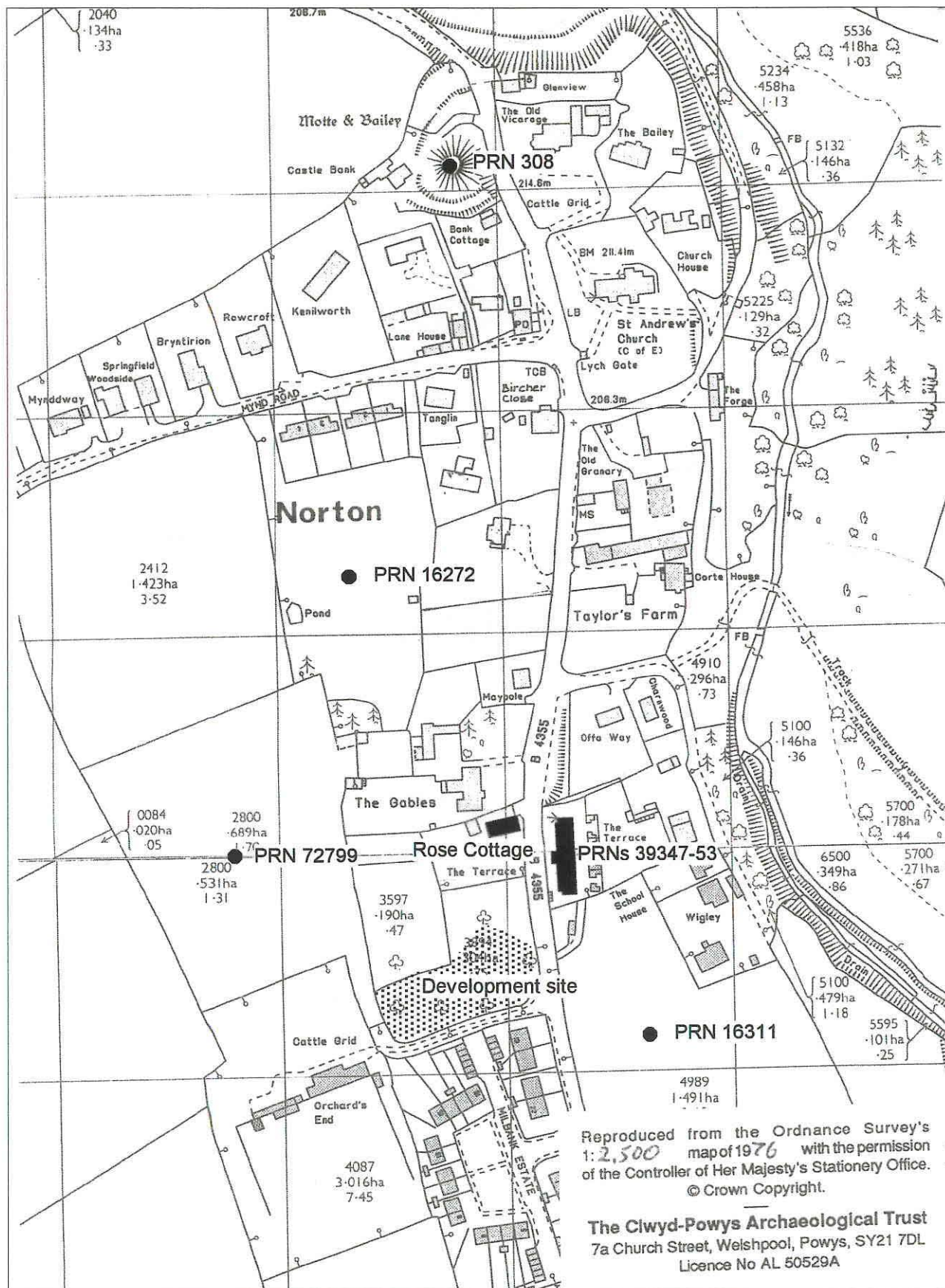


Fig. 1 Location map 1:2,500

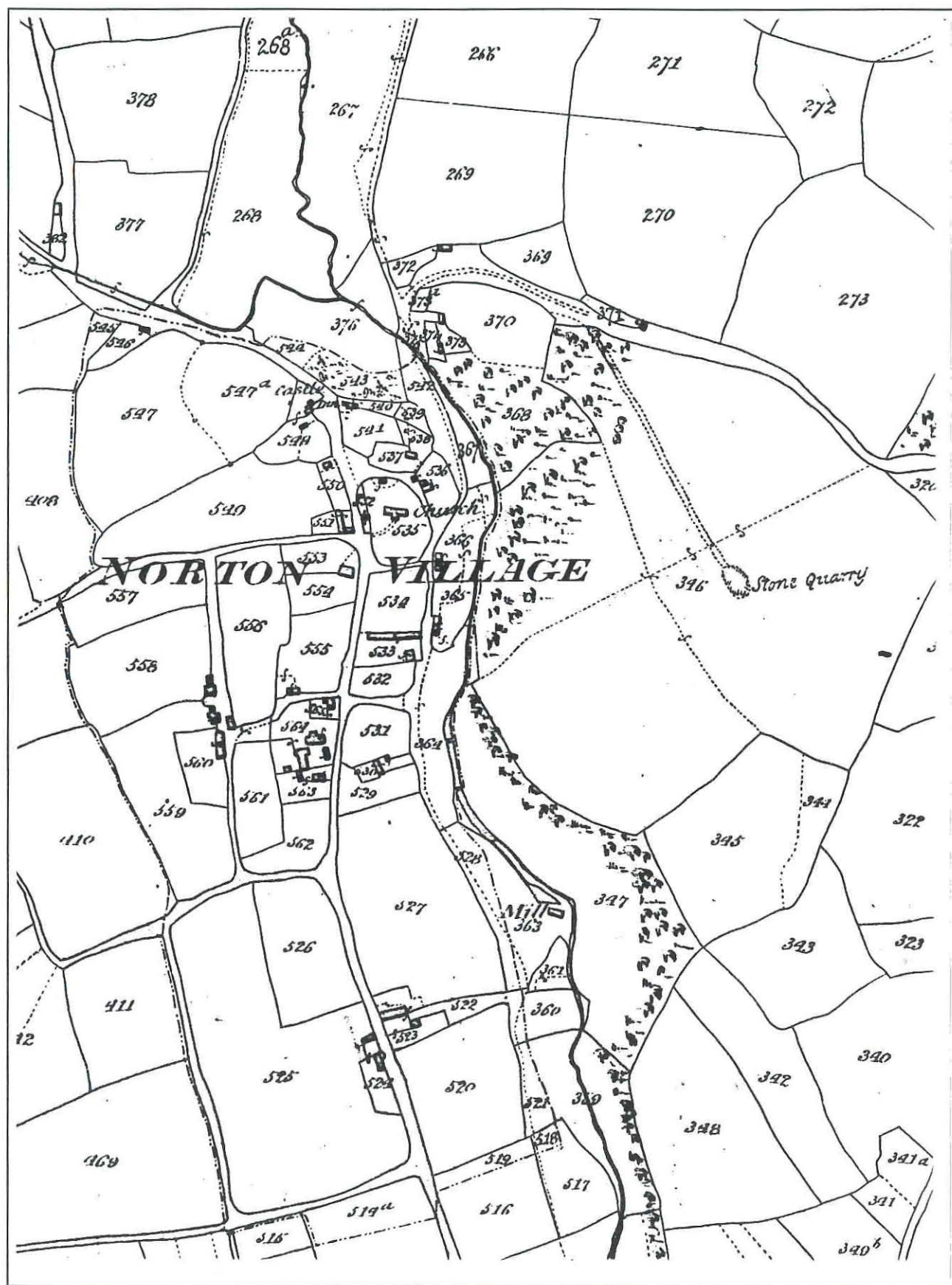


Fig. 2 Tithe Map of Norton Parish 1843



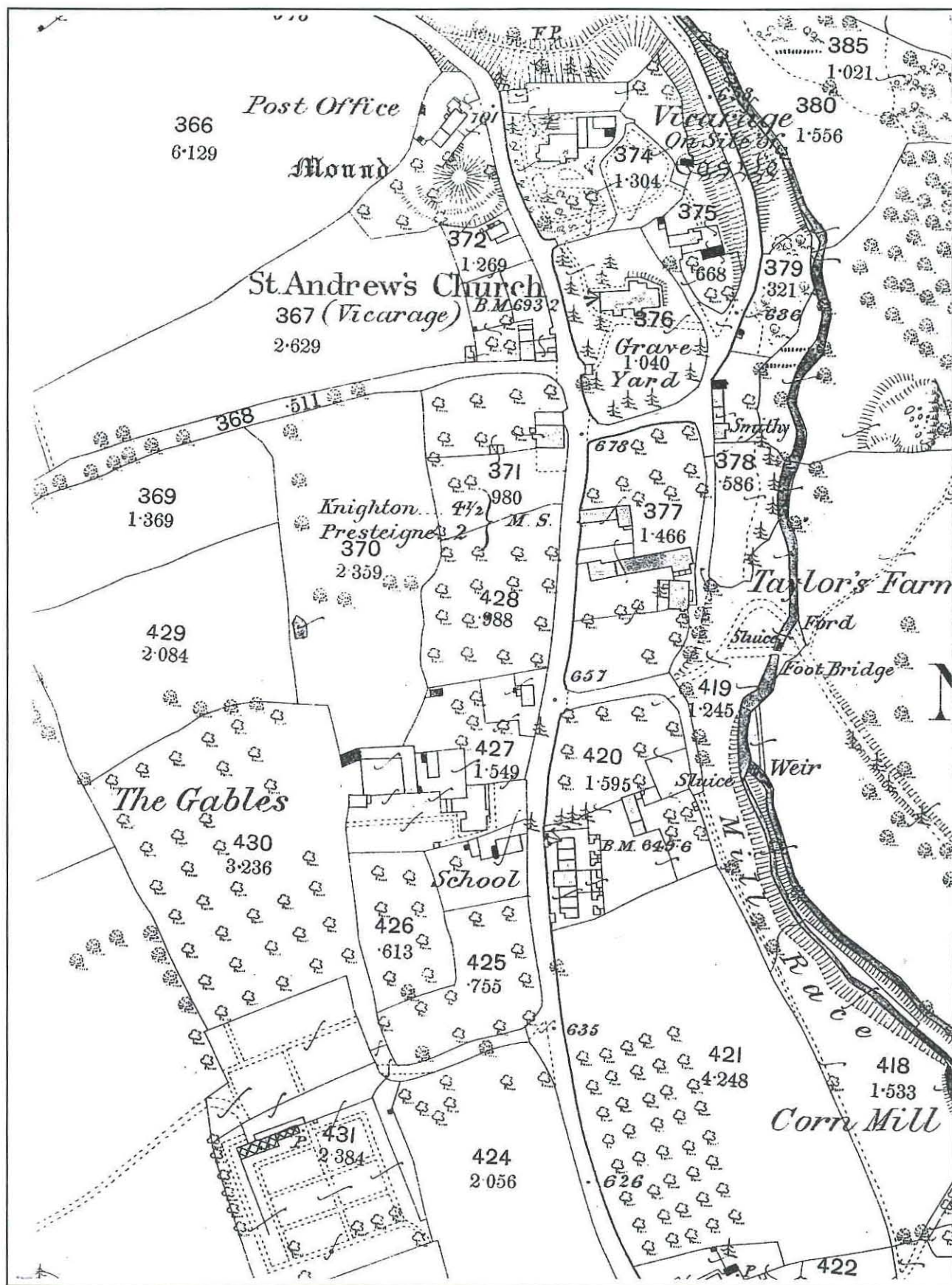


Fig. 3 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 1889 (Radnorshire 18.11).



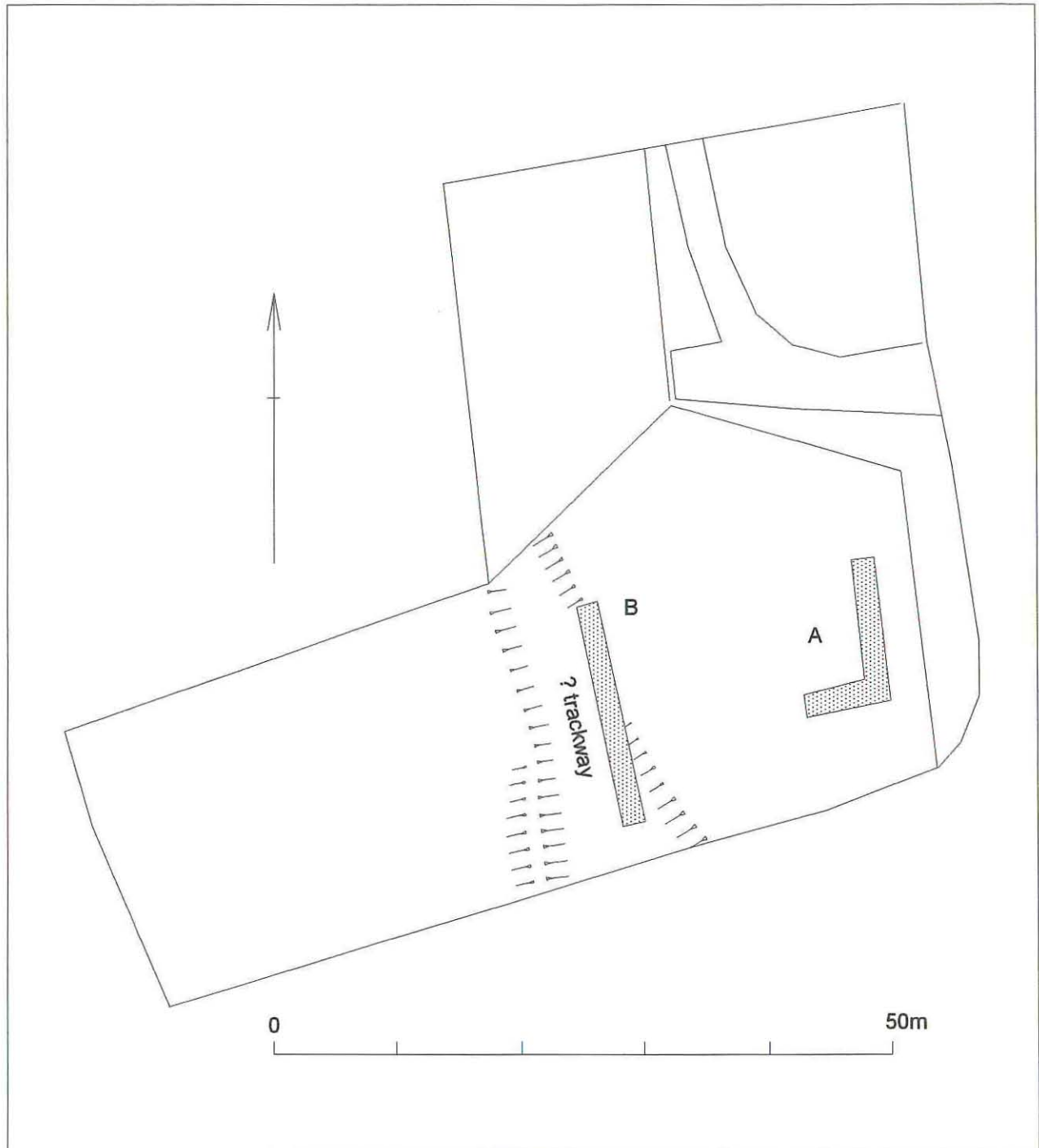


Fig. 4 Trench location, scale 1:500

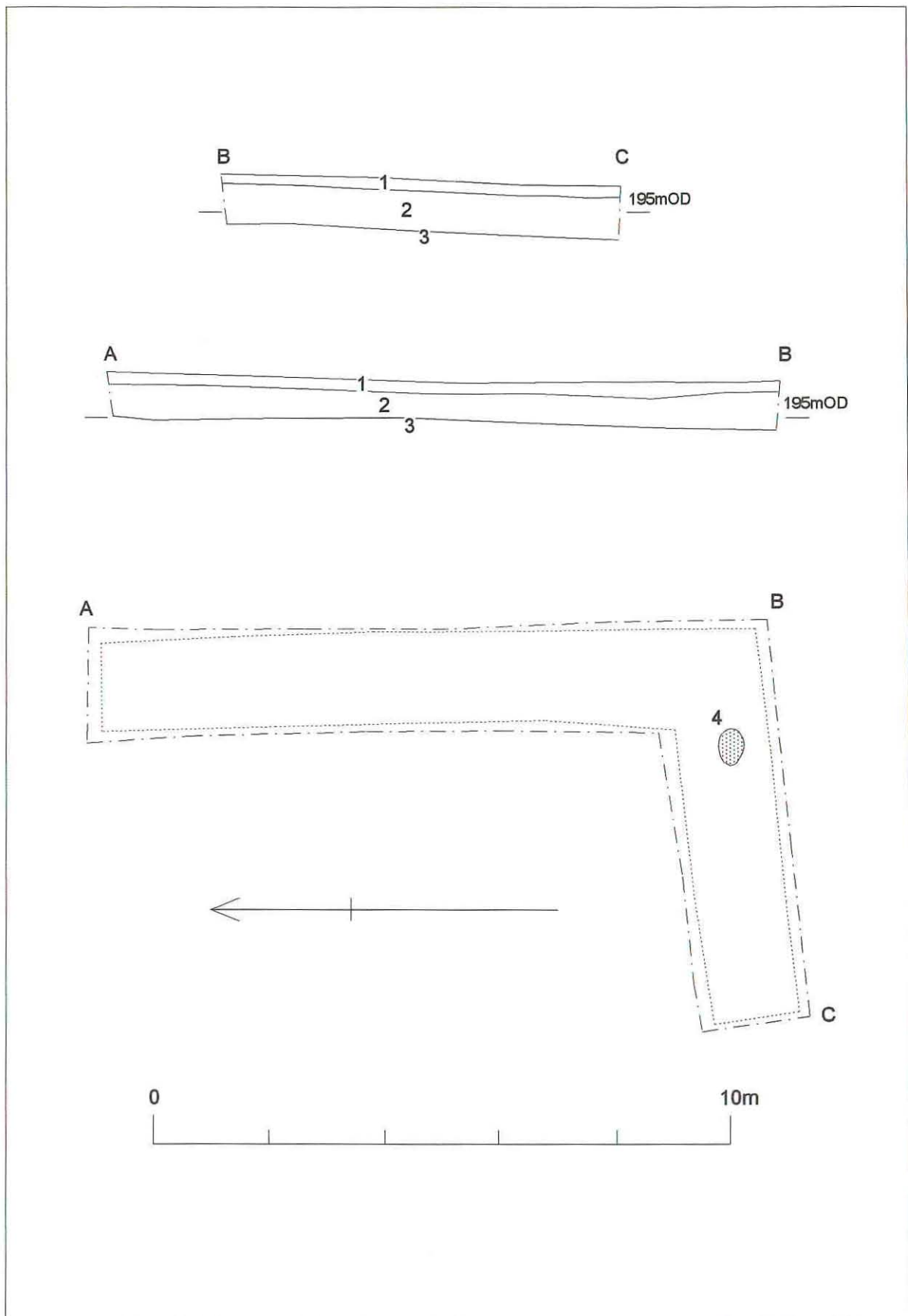


Fig. 5 Trench A plan and section, scale 1:100

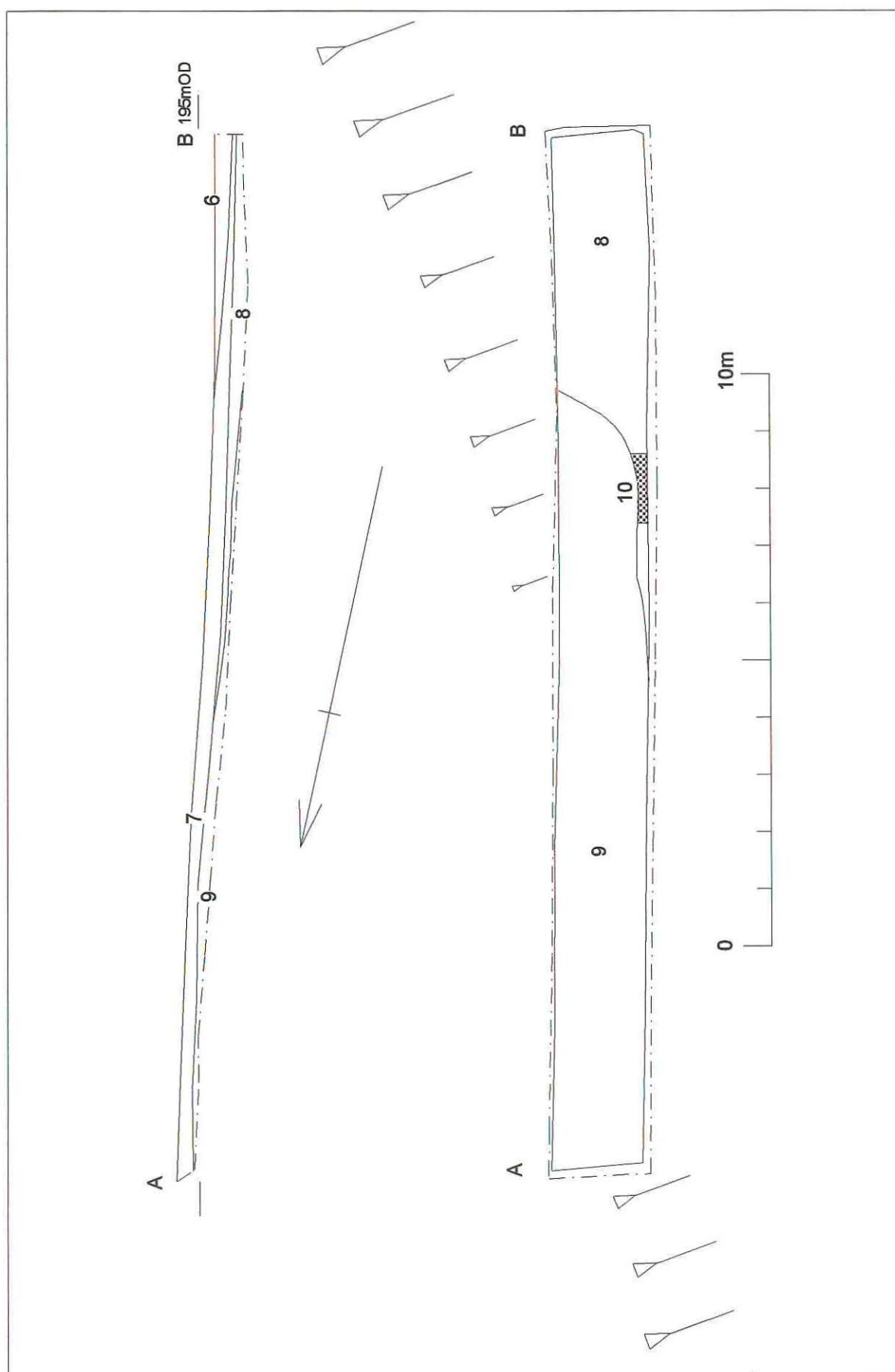


Fig. 6 Trench B plan and section, scale 1:100





Plate 1 Rose Cottage, from the south-west: Photo CPAT 1067.20



Plate 2 Terrace incorporating the former village school (PRNs 39347-53): Photo CPAT 1067.23





Plate 3 Trench A (northern arm), from north: Photo CPAT 1067.11



Plate 4 Trench A (western arm), from east: Photo CPAT 1067.12





Plate 5 Trench B, from south: Photo CPAT 1067.06



Plate 6 Trench B (probable wheel rut), from south-south-east: Photo CPAT 1067.15