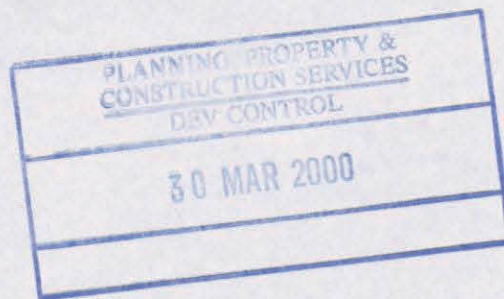


Samuel Rose





ARCHAEOLOGY  
DESKTOP ASSESSMENT  
Land at the The Gables,  
Charndon,  
Buckinghamshire

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*Abbreviations*

DB: Domesday survey AD 1086

Ass: Assize Rolls, in this case AD 1227

FA: Feudal Aids. Rolls Ser. AD 1899 ff

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is the result of a desktop study of the archaeological evidence and an assessment of the potential for further discoveries on 'Land at The Gables, Charndon, Buckinghamshire'. The site is centred at SP 672 648
- 1.2 The report was commissioned by Mr R Kilsby of W R Davidge (ref: RFK/JMJ) on 28th January 2000.
- 1.3 The report was prepared by Michael Dawson, Principal Archaeologist at Samuel Rose.
- 1.4 The site was visited on Monday 21st February 2000 and a brief inspection made.
- 1.5 There is one historical site, the Roebuck Inn, known on the site.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location

2.1.1 The land at the Gables is located on the northern edge of the village of Charndon on the corner between the High Street and School Hill (the road to Charndon Lodge Farm). The site is situated in an area of predominantly arable and livestock farming, which has been gradually encroached upon by quarrying. The site is currently occupied by a single dwelling dating to the early 20th century which originated as a public house to replace an earlier Roebuck Inn. The surrounding land is garden and brick built outbuildings.

2.1.2 Historically the site is located on the route of a medieval road, High Street, recorded later by Jeffrey's in 1788. The Gables is located where the High street meets a drove road which was metalled to the east but remains grassed to the west.

2.1.3 The village of Charndon is mentioned in Domesday as *Credendone* [DB] which by the 13th century had become *Chardone* [1227 Ass] and by 14th century *Charndone* [1316 FA]. The first element of the name probably derives from *carn* meaning stoney (Ekwall 1980).

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 The desktop study

3.1.1 The desk top study collates the results of enquires made at two archive sources held by the following:

*The County Sites and Monuments Record.*

The County Archaeological Service  
Environmental Services  
County Hall  
Walton Street  
Aylesbury  
Bucks HP20 1UU

*Buckingham County Records Office.*

Buckinghamshire Records and Local Studies Service  
County Hall  
Walton Street  
Aylesbury  
Bucks HP20 1UU

3.1.2 The following documents were examined:

*Buckinghamshire SMR.*

#### **Maps:**

OS 1:10,560 SMR plot for Charndon  
OS 1:10,560 Ridge and Furrow plot for Charndon  
OS 1:10,000 Field name register for Winslow

#### **Aerial Photographs:**

3136 CPE/UK/2159/13 June '47 by 82 Sqdn (x3)  
RC8 - H1 141 12th March 1985  
J K St Joseph AFL 73

*Buckinghamshire CRO*

OS 1st edition 6" 1885 (Roebuck Inn)

OS 2nd edition 25" 1900

OS 2nd edition 6" 1900

OS 6" 1926 edition

OS 6" 1950 edition

OS 1:10560 scale base for ridge and furrow plot by B Stainton 12/5/1982 (based on RAF photographs from 1940s and 1950s).

Jeffrey's map Buckinghamshire 1788

Bryant's map Buckinghamshire 1825

Plan of Charndon and Poundon estate (Wenham) 1906 [DIL/xvii/f/1]

Inclosure Award 22nd April 1776 Act (Geo III)

"Domesday Survey" (1910) Finance Act by DVO

Wenham Estate Auction catalogue 1910

*Published Works:*

Ekwall E 1980 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* Oxford, Clarendon Press

Lewis C, Mitchell-Fox P, Dyer C, 1997 *'Village, hamlet and field'* Univ Manchester Press

VCH (Victoria County History) *Buckinghamshire* Vols I & IV 1927

## 4 LAND AT THE GABLES A BRIEF HISTORY

4.1 Aerial photographs and records of the village of Charndon reveal no evidence of activity on the site except the location of the early Roebuck Inn. The first surviving record of this structure on the land at the Gables may be on Jeffrey's' map 1788, where a rectangular structure is shown at the northern end of the village. The village is portrayed as surrounding a large green.

4.2 In 1904 the Roebuck Inn was replaced by a new building, the present house, which was subsequently sold when the Wenham estate was dispersed in 1910.

4.3 The lack of direct evidence for historical activity at the site means that at this stage it is impossible to reconstruct a useful history of the site. This means that only a more general history of the village can provide the basis on which to suggest the location of trial trenches, required as part of the evaluation.

4.4 A snapshot of medieval settlement history. Royal administration was organised in an hierarchy of shires, hundreds and vills which may have been fully developed by AD 1000. Ecclesiastical authority was exercised through parishes which developed between the 9th and 12th centuries AD, by the end of the 12th century the parish, approximately co-terminus with the vill, was responsible to rural deaneries which roughly equated to the hundred. Deaneries were grouped as archdeaconries under the diocese. Lordship was expressed through the manor in terms of social and economic control.

4.4 Historically Charndon is located in the hundred of Buckingham. The earliest record of Charndon is from the 11th century, when, prior to the Norman conquest, the manor of Charndon, was held by Eingar one of Earl Harold's men. By 1086 (Domesday) it was held by Ralf de Fougeres. Subsequently the manor became part of the Wenham estate until it's disposal in the early 20th century.

4.5 Although Charndon is known from both secular and ecclesiastical sources the physical character of the village prior to Jeffrey's map of 1788 can be interpreted only in the light of archaeological data. The principal source of the latter is aerial photography (see 3 above) together with a sketch earthwork plan (surveyed 1977) held in the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR2505) although the latter does not extend to cover the area of the Gables. In brief, prior to 1788 the village appears to surround a large open space or green, indicated by Jeffrey's map. At least two building platforms and hollow ways on the west side of the High Street seem to mark an early limit to the village which is co-terminus with ridge and furrow oriented east to west. On the eastern side of the High Street earthworks extend along the side of a, now dry, water course and may mark the eastern side of the proposed green. On the east the ridge and furrow reaches the edge of the earthworks (Stainton 1982). However although not plotted the RAF photographs of 1959 seem to show the ridge and furrow extending across the field to the east of the Gables indicating that this area is probably beyond the early village.

4.6 A major change occurred at Charndon at the end of the 18th century and by the time of Bryant's map 1825 the village has become much more linear in its layout. Most buildings are now sited along the High Street, closer to the modern layout, although a shadow of the green

*Land at the Gables, Charndon.doc*

remains in a crescent of four buildings in the north east quadrant. The changes noted in the late 18th century were no doubt due to effects of enclosure and the widespread change from arable to pasture.

4.7 It is impossible reconstruct the boundaries of the enclosure awards in detail as no map survives, although the site was part of the Wenham Estate in the late 18th century. Some indication of the changes which occurred can be gauged by comparing the ridge and furrow layout with modern day boundaries, the latter no doubt reflecting the changes of enclosure.

## 5 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 In assessing the archaeological potential of the land at the Gables to produce further archaeological evidence several factors have been considered:

- Proximity to the limit of the village
- Proximity to the droveway (School Hill) and High Street
- Positioning adjacent to medieval ridge and furrow
- Location with respect to post medieval map information
- Archaeological evidence to date

5.2 Sites close to the boundary of medieval villages or later boundaries may be the focus for a range of farming related activity. There is a windmill site on Bryant's Map 'Charndon Mill', north west of the Gables. As with the Gables peripheral village sites they may also provide the location for other services related to the passing trade such as hostelry. Probably the most significant aspect of the site is the potential it has to provide evidence relating to the early limit of the village, whether this in fact relates to the Saxon period or later.

5.3 In conclusion it seems that one trial trench in accordance with the specification should be placed so as to run perpendicular to the ridge and furrow on CPE/UK/2159 and another to run parallel. Both will be placed within the proposed area of development and have the potential to provide evidence of any boundaries or structural evidence on the site (see fig 8).

5.4 The limited potential of the site and the indication that the ridge and furrow in the field to the east of the proposed development continues into the development area, suggests the trial trenches could be carried out once consent had been granted. Any mitigation could then be dealt with as part of an agreed programme of works.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1 Location of the application site.

Fig 2 Location of the present Gables and the Roebuck Inn 1904.

Fig 3 Aerial photograph taken by Cambridge University.

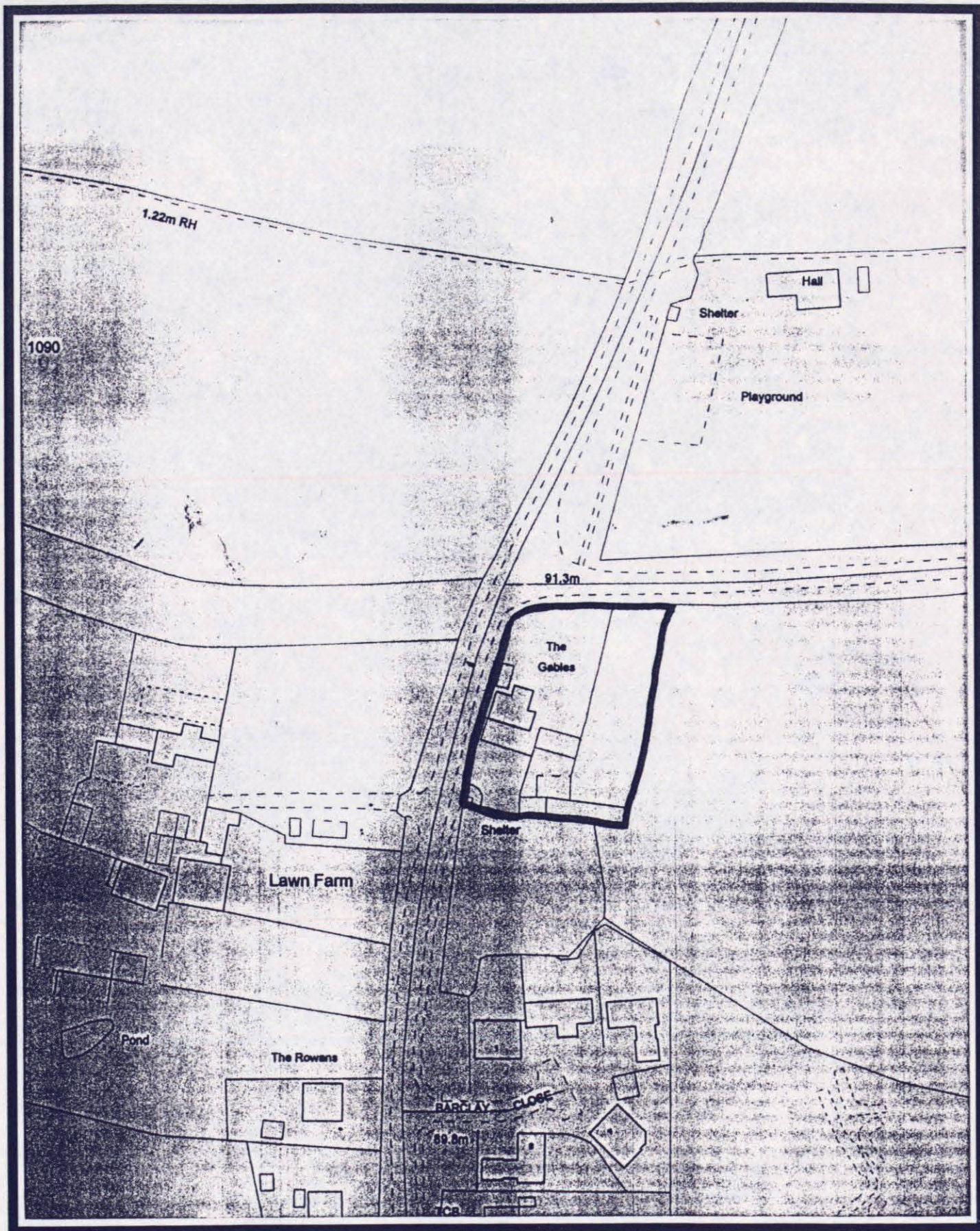
Fig 4 Excerpt from Bryants' map of Buckinghamshire 1825. Charndon (in the south west quadrant) shown as a linear settlement similar in layout to today.

Fig 5 Excerpt from Jeffrey's map of Buckinghamshire 1788. Shows the layout of Charndon (on the fold in the northern half of the plan) around what appears to be a large green.

Fig 6 1:10,000 scale plot of ridge and furrow around the village of Charndon. The ridge and furrow is derived from aerial photographs and shows the extent of open field systems around the village prior to enclosure. The field to the east of the Gables (Roebuck Inn on this map) has ridge visible on aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1959.

Fig 7 Extract from the Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record showing the earthworks visible around the centre of the village. Note that the Gables site is off this plan to the north.

Fig 8 Plan showing the current layout of the site together with a *proposed* layout for 40m of trial trenching.



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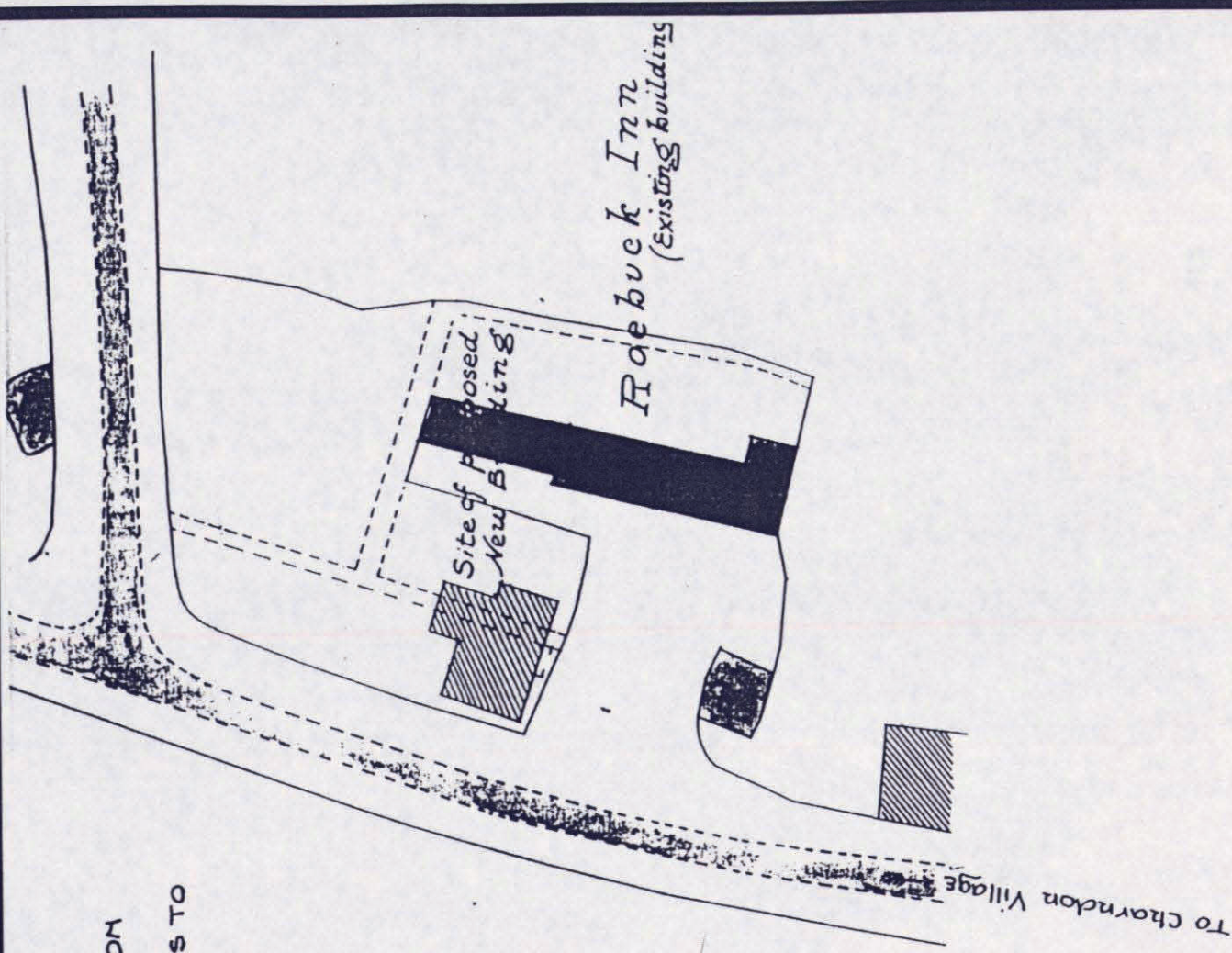
Title Fig 1. location plan.

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED SITE UPON  
 WHICH "THE ROEBUCK" CHARNDON IS TO  
 BE REBUILT  
 AUGUST 1904.



*read and approved  
 10th 1904  
 J. J. Roberts  
 J. J. Roberts  
 J. J. Roberts*

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Title Fig 2. The Gables and the  
Roebuck Inn.  
 Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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Title Fig 3.

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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Title Fig 4 Bryant's Map 1825.

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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Title Fig 5 Jefferys Map 1788.

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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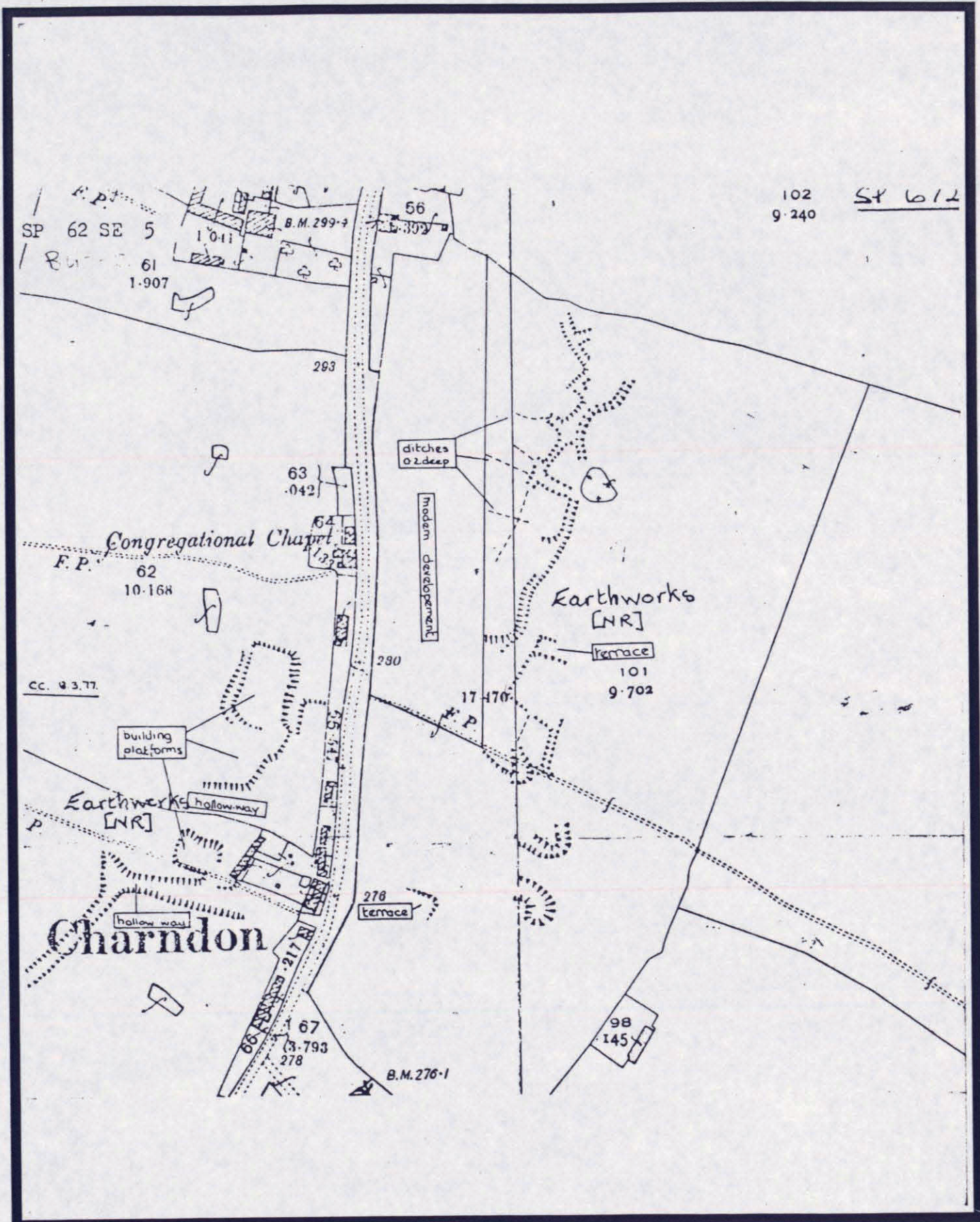
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Title Fig 6 Ridge + furrow (Strinton 1782)

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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Title Fig 7, Charndon visible earthworks.

Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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Title Fig 8, present layout and suggested location of trial fences.  
 Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Reference \_\_\_\_\_

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