

NAME Freefolk
PARISH Laverstoke
HUNDRED Evingar
DISTRICT Basingstoke and Deane
NGR SU 490482
GEOLOGY River and Valley gravels interface with Upper Chalk.

SITE CONTEXT The majority of the village lies on the N bank of the River Test at around 80m OD. The old church and a few houses lie on the S bank of the river at a little below 80m OD. To both the N and S the land rises to over 110m OD.

PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION Church and Manor Farm complex on the S side of the river and an irregular row on the N.

There were two manors here: Freefolk Manor on the S side of the river in what was Freefolk parish in the C19 and Freefolk Priors on the N side of the river which was in Whitchurch parish at the time of the Tithe Apportionment.

Freefolk Manor consists of a Manor Farm with the church close-by, a rectory and a cottage. This was probably the situation in the C17 as the Hearth Tax records only three houses. Earthworks suggest that the settlement may have been slightly larger.

Freefolk Priors is ranged along an E-W road but the line of the buildings at the E end of the settlement suggests that there has been a change in the course of the road, probably when the road was made into a turnpike. At the W end of the settlement there is a small group of buildings lining the first part of a small lane to the NW opposite Priory Farm. Along the E-W road the buildings are unevenly spaced in irregular plots. Most of the occupation is on the N side of the road but there is one cottage on the wetter S side of the road.

AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The area surrounding the church and Manor Farm, including the areas of earthworks, is an AHAP. This is the area known as Freefolk Manor in the 1665 Hearth Tax Assessment.

On the N side of the river there are two AHAPs. One covers the concentration of settlement around the junction of the E-W road and the lane to the NW on the W edge of Freefolk Priors and the second covers the area of the complex of buildings shown on the Tithe map the site of which is E of the primary school. As the site is now within woodland, the archaeological remains are likely to be well preserved. The buildings probably represent a farm complex but as the Tithe map made no differentiation between domestic buildings and outbuildings it is uncertain whether any of the buildings shown was actually the farm-house.

CHURCH & CHURCHYARD St Mary. 1896.

St Nicholas, Freefolk. Nave and chancel in one without any help in dating.
Redundant

In 1267-8, a Bull of Pope Clement IV records permission to build a chapel in Freefolk as it was difficult to get to the parish church in winter due to floods. In the C16 the chapel as described as being 'ruined and profaned' (VCH Vol IV p 57).

BUILDINGS

(Listed)

No 9 Freefolk Priors C17 early C19 II
No 11 Early C19 II
Priory Fmhse Late C18 early C19 II
Nos 15 and 16 C18 II
The Priory Late C18 C20 II
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Freefolk 1896 II
Primary School 1855 II
The Old Rectory 1858 II
Church of St Nicholas I
Batts Cottage Late C18 II
Nos 6 and 7 Laverstoke Lane Late C18 early C19 II
Nos 11 and 12 Late C18 C19 II

(Un-listed)

SMR DATA

3	48734860	Med church
33	48804860	Med village mentioned in Domesday Book

ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

1	48854880	Site of a complex of buildings at the end of a N-S road shown on Tithe map
2	48804855	Earthworks. Extensive earthworks in the field SE of the church and also to the SW of the church. The field to the SW has a scarp slope bounding a large level area
3	48524876	Site of buildings shown on Tithe map
4	48434875	ditto

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES OS 1:2,500 SU 4848-4948; Tithe map 21M65/F7/

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

Domesday Under the entry for Whitchurch: Ralph son of Sifrid holds 1 manor which is called Freefolk; it was for the monks' supplies. Ednoth held it from the Bishop; he could not go whither he would. Then it answered for 9 hides; now for 4 hides with the other above-mentioned (hides). Land for 5 pl. In lordship 2 pl; 2 villagers and 17 smallholders with 2 pl. 5 slaves; a mill at 20s; meadow, 4 acres. Value before 1066 and later £16; now £10.

Subsidy Rolls

1334 1. 13. 10
1524 6. 5. 4 (8 taxpayers) 1st survey
1. 2. 2 (14 taxpayers) 2nd survey

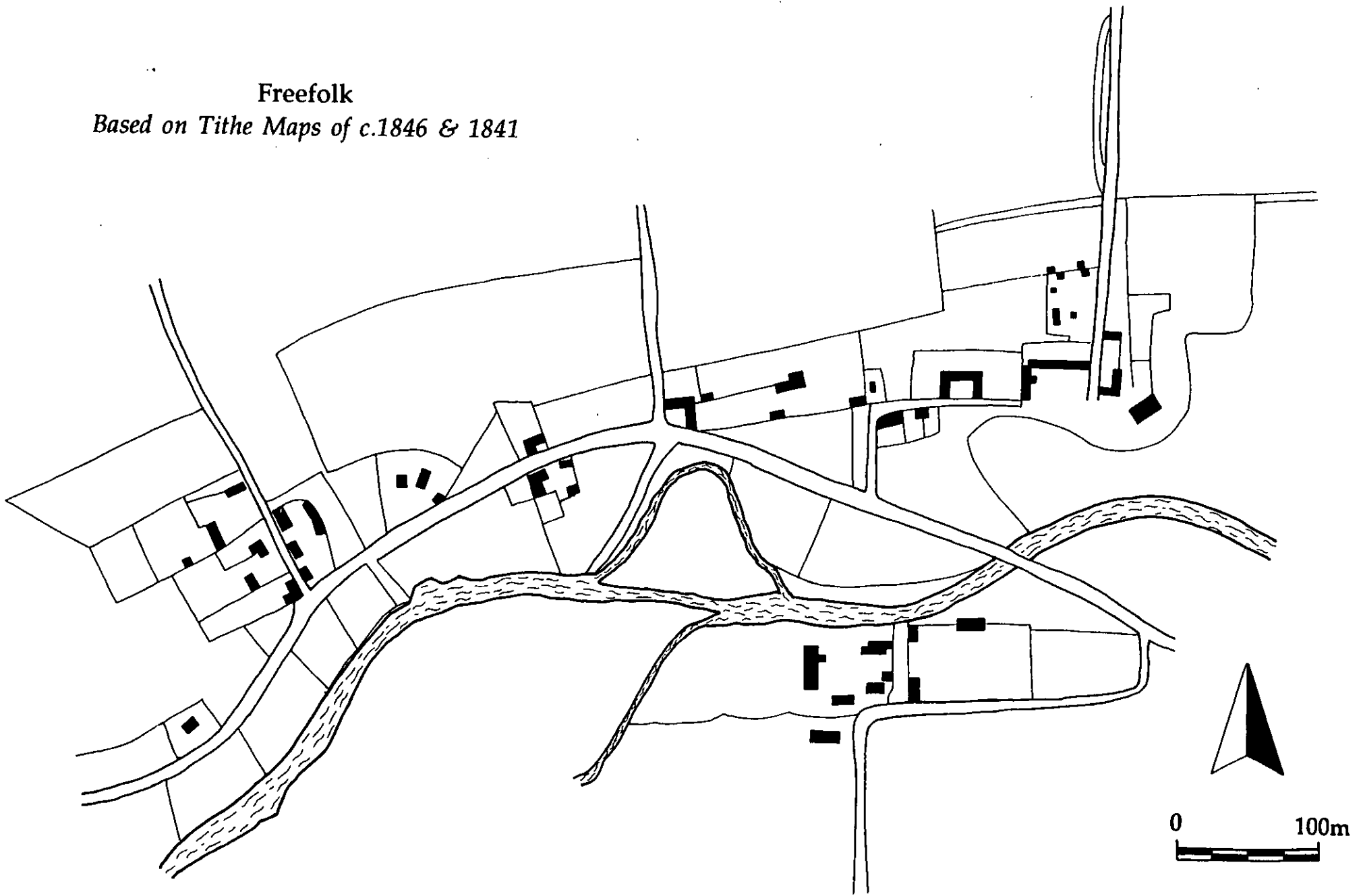
Manorial Documents**Hearth Tax**

1665 23 hearths chargeable (3 houses) (Freefolk Manor)
23 hearths chargeable (12 houses) (Freefolk Priors)
3 hearths not chargeable (3 houses) Total 18 houses

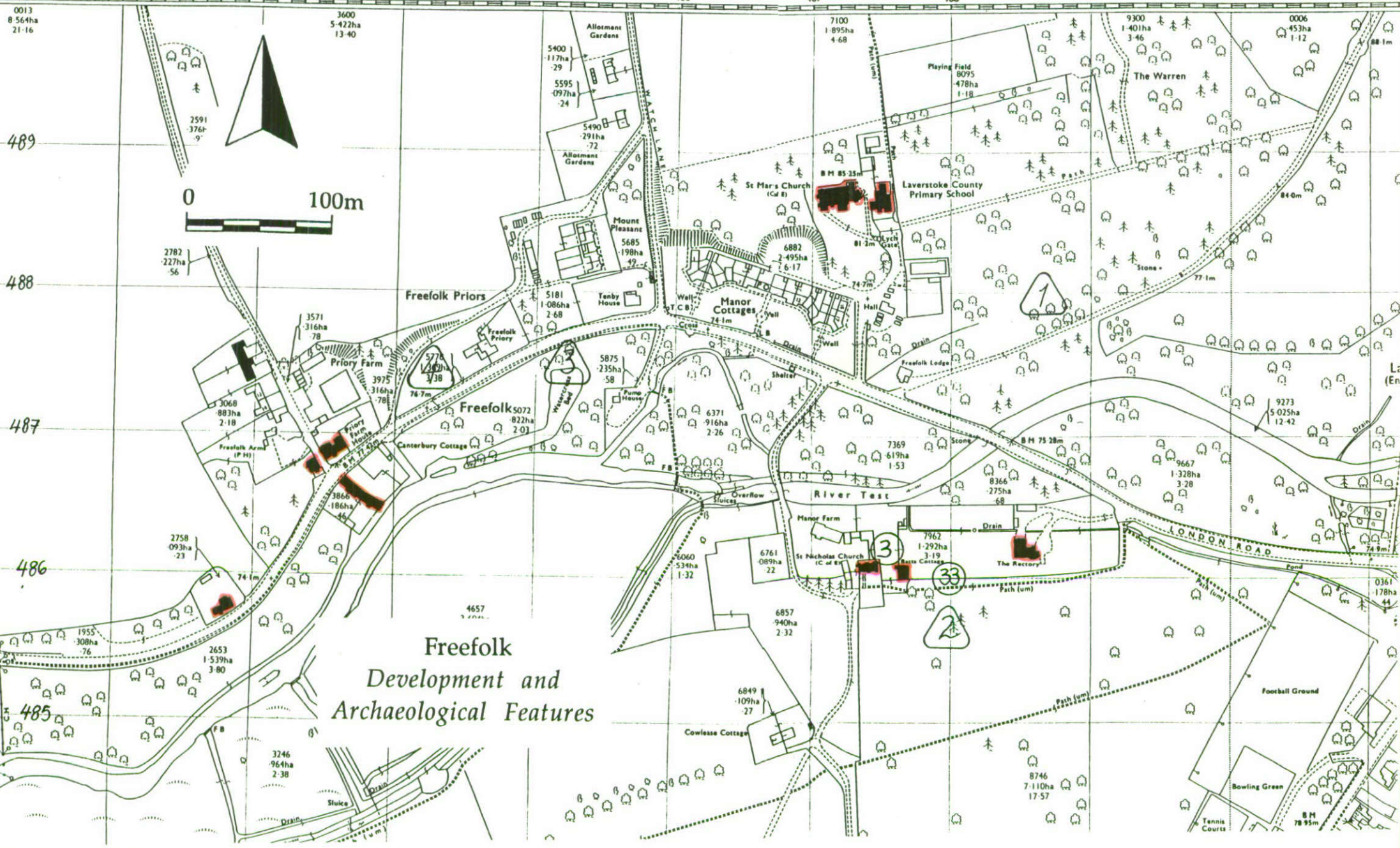
PLACE NAME 1086 *Frigefolc* OE 'farm of Froda' a man's name. The present form appears in C17

PHOTOGRAPHS**OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS**

Freefolk
Based on Tithe Maps of c.1846 & 1841



481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491



Freefolk
Development and
Archaeological Features

489

488

487

486

485



2782
227ha
56

2758
093ha
23

2653
1-539ha
3-80

3246
964ha
2-38

3600
5-422ha
13-40

3571
316ha
78

3068
883ha
2-18

3866
186ha
46

4657

3246
964ha
2-38

Freefolk Priors

Freefolk

Freefolk
Development and
Archaeological Features

4657

3246
964ha
2-38

5400
117ha
29

5595
097ha
24

5490
291ha
72

5181
1-086ha
2-68

5875
235ha
58

6060
534ha
1-32

6849
109ha
27

5400
117ha
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6849
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8366
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8746
7-110ha
17-57

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17-57

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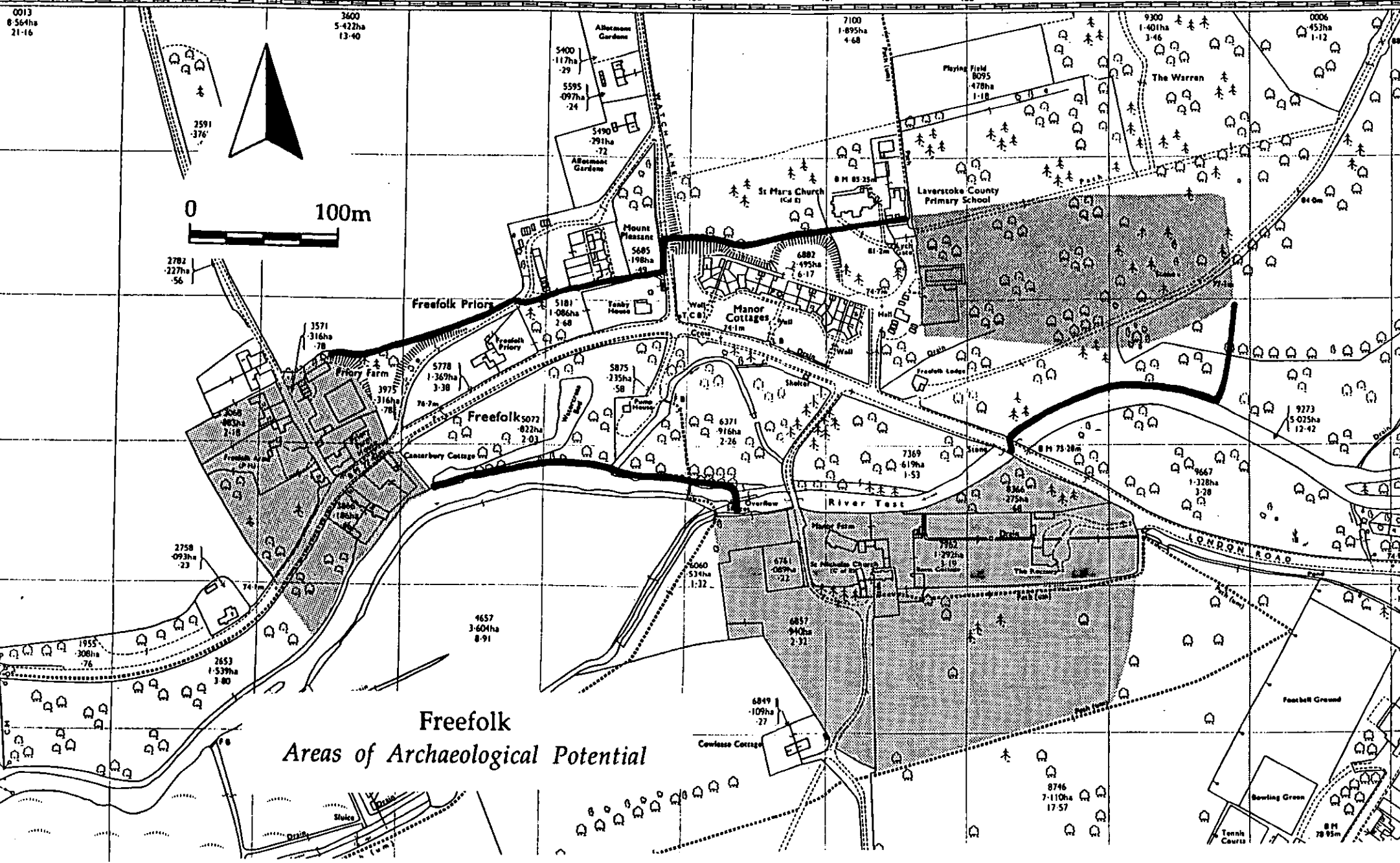
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Freefolk
Areas of Archaeological Potential