

NAME Sopley  
PARISH Sopley  
HUNDRED Christchurch  
NGR SZ 157968  
GEOLOGY Valley Gravels

**SITE CONTEXT** Sopley lies on the E side of the River Avon with the church sited in a prominent position on a knoll with a height of 10m OD. The land falls away sharply from the churchyard on the W and S and gently to the E. To the N of the church the road has created a cutting which leaves the churchyard raised above the road but on the N side of the road the land continues at a similar height to the churchyard. The village lies to the NE at around 5m OD.

**PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION** Irregular agglomeration.

The church is sited away from the core of the village on a site that has good views across the river and to some extent to the E as well. The village nucleus is at a junction of three roads around which there is a group of houses and a farm. A second, smaller focus exists just to the N of the main centre where several houses lie along a lane which leads to the N. There are several other properties scattered around the village, many of them in plots which suggest that they were taken in from roadside waste. There is no evidence for regulation within the plan.

#### AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The AHAP covers the church area and extends to the N along the ridge to cover the possibility that earlier settlement had been on the higher ground near the church. The SMR (11) refers to the possible site of the medieval manor house but there is no field evidence for a manor house on this site. It appears as though much of the ground to the S of the church has been dug away for some purpose. The AHAP also covers the core of the existing village with the road loop at it's centre.

A small AAP covers the field along the S side of the road to the E where there are some possible earthworks and the site of what was probably an agricultural outbuilding.

**CHURCH & CHURCHYARD** St Michael. N transept C13.

Sopley church was founded at the expense of Earl Godwin c.1050 within the parochia of Christchurch (Hase, 1994, 62).

The land immediately to the S of the churchyard appears to have been quarried away leaving the churchyard with a feel of greater prominence that may have originally been the case.

## BUILDINGS

(Listed)

Sabines Court Avon C18 possibly earlier core C19 II  
Avon Fmhse B3347 C17 C19 II  
Barn and farm ranges SE C18 or early C19 II  
Avon Tyrell House 1891 I  
Stableblock 30m E 1892 II  
Avon Cottage C17 C18 C19 II  
Burnthouse Fmhse and barn Burnthouse Lane C18 C19 II  
Church of St Michael and All Angels II\*  
Sopley Mill Church Lane 1878 II  
Granary in front of the Byre Derrett Lane C17 II  
Old Manor Fmhse London Lane Avon C18 early C19 II  
Old Blacksmiths Shop C18 or C19 II  
Ringwood Lodge North Ripley Late C19 II  
11 Priest Lane C18 II  
9 and 10 C18 II  
8 Smugglers C18 C18 II  
The Woolpack C18 C19 II  
19 and 20 Ringwood Rd C18 II  
31 and 32 Ripley Once 1 1784 II  
The Laurels Early C19 II  
Brook Cottage C18 possibly earlier II  
North lodge Sopley Park Mid C19 II  
Shirley House Late C15 C17 C18 C19 II  
All Saints Church Thorney Hill 1906 I  
Lodge at entrance to Moorlands Bible College 1868 II

(Un-listed)

There has been quite a lot of development along the NE side of the road to the NW.

## SMR DATA

### SZ19NE

9	15609669	C19 watermill
11	15679665	Possible site of med manor house
13	15309660	Med watermeadows
14	15609670	Med village mentioned in Domesday Book
16	15659671	Med church
22	15659743	BA ring ditch AP site

### Ripley

#### SZ19NE

10	16109829	Med barn (Demolished)
15	16209860	Medieval settlement mentioned in Domesday Book
18	15519860	Trackway Date unknown
19	15859871	Enclosure Date unknown

## ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

- 1 15699709 Small area of earthworks. Scarp slopes and level changes
- 2 15809665 Site of a cottage shown on OD 1st Ed 6" map
- 3 15889692 Site of a large outbuilding shown on OS 1st Ed 6" map. At the E end of this field there are some 'humps and bumps' which may be earthworks
- 4 15729702 Earthworks. There are 'humps and bumps' in the paddock within the road loop, especially at the N end

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES Tithe map 21M65/F7/211/2 (1843); OS 1st Ed 6" 1870; OS 1:2,500 SZ 1597, 1596.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

**Domesday** William son of Stur. Edric held it from King Edward in freehold. Then it paid tax for 7 hides; now for 1 hide and half a virgate. Land for 2 pl. In lordship 1 pl; 3 villagers and 6 smallholders with 2 pl. 1 slave; a mill at 10s; 875 eels; meadow, 60 acres less 1. Value before 1066 £10; later 40s; now 50s; however it pays 100s. The King has 4 hides and the whole of the wood of this manor in his Forest. Value of all this 110s.

### Subsidy Rolls

1334	1. 4. 0
1524	3. 2. 6 (18 taxpayers)

**Manorial Documents** Manors of Sopley, North Avon of Avon Tyrell (2 Domesday estates and Southavon. Ripley was never a manor.

### Hearth Tax

1665	50 hearths chargeable (26 houses) 6 hearths not chargeable (6 houses) Total 32 houses
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PLACE NAME 1086 *Sopleie* OE *Soppnanleah* 'Soppa's wood/clearing'.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

### OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS

1592 4 mills recorded but in 1687 only 2 existed.

Other settlement in the parish includes:

Avon/Avon Tyrell First recorded 1086 1327 LS 27 taxpayers; 1334 3. 12. 7.

Court Farm First recorded 1540

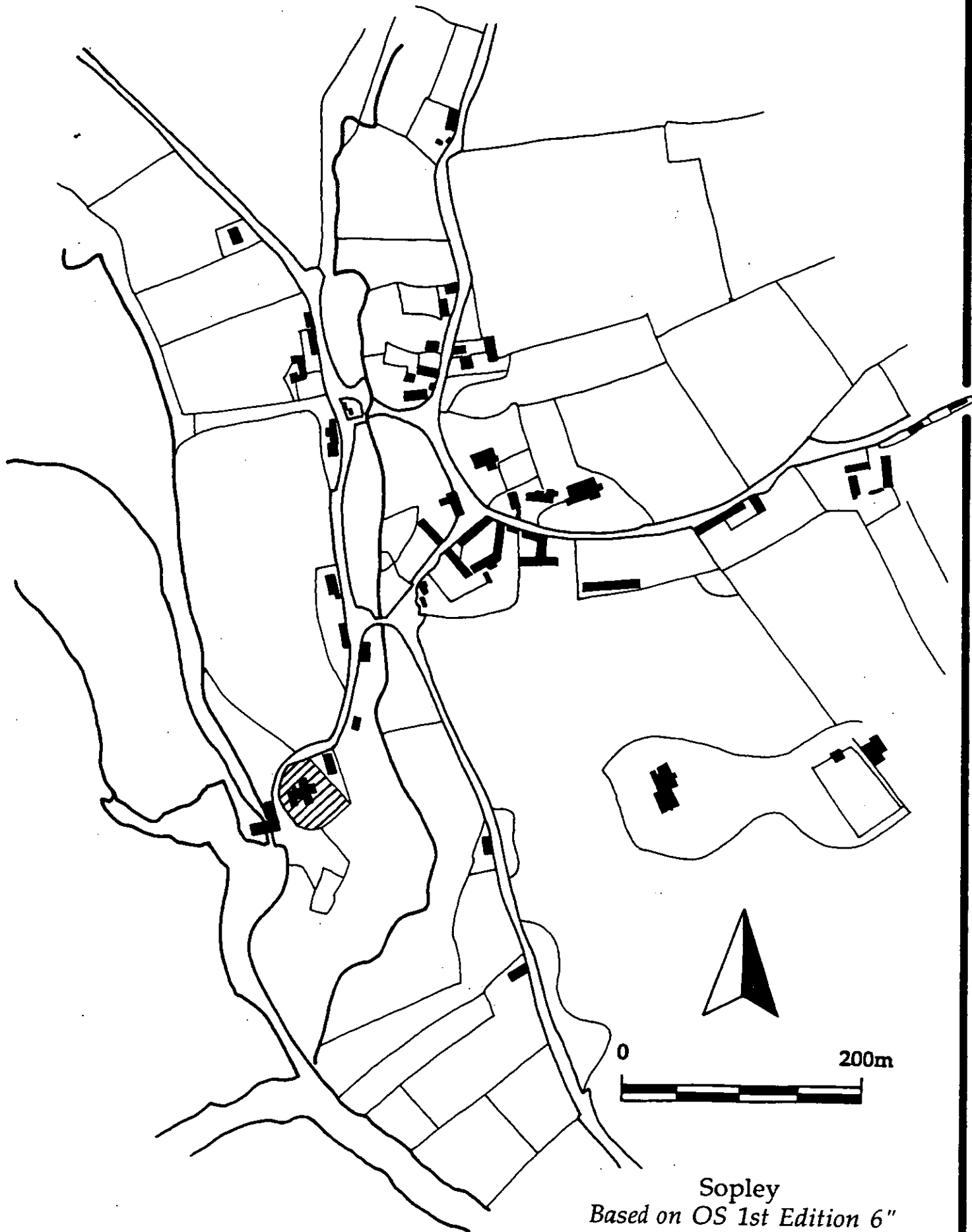
Pithouse Farm First recorded C13 (Ralph atte Putte)

Ripley First recorded 1086

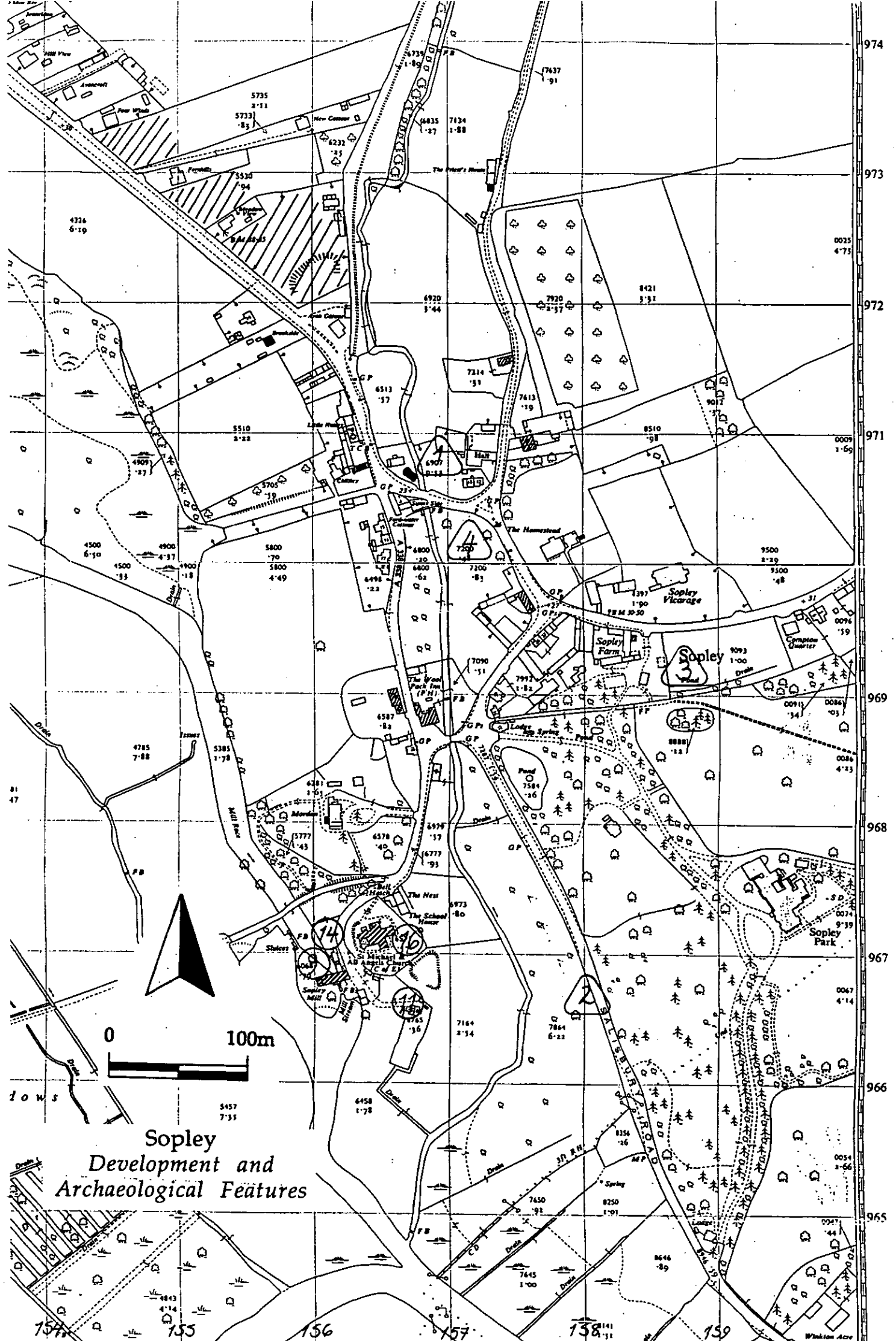
Shirley First recorded Temp John

Whitefield Farm First recorded 1532 (Whitefyld Possibly not med settlement but field name)

"The reported manor house was standing about 50 years ago on the low ground S of the mound on which the church stands" (50 years prior to 1912) (VCH 1912 Vol V 128-9).



Sopley  
Based on OS 1st Edition 6"  
map of 1870



**Sopley  
Development and  
Archaeological Features**

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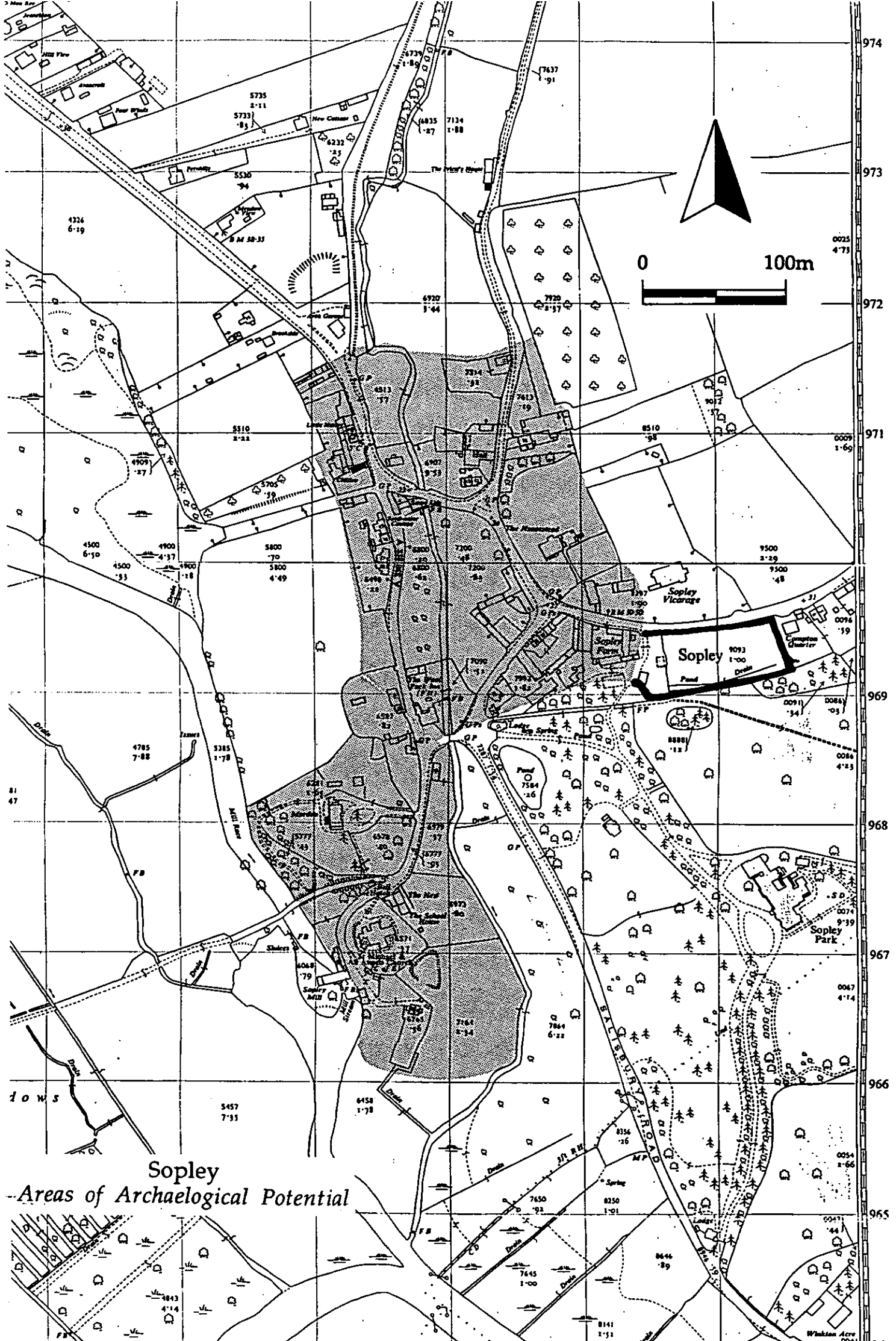
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Winton Ave



Sopley  
Areas of Archaeological Potential

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