

1.0 PARISH	Southwick & Widley (formerley Widley, then Cosham)
2.0 HUNDRED	Portsdown
3.0 NGR	465900 107400
4.0 GEOLOGY	London Clay; Alluvium to north, Reading Beds to south.

5.0 SITE CONTEXT (Map 2)

5.1 Widley, as a settlement, is almost impossible to identify. There is no longer a parish church and there are no principal buildings with the exception of the C18 Fort Widley, which is adjacent to the northern margin of the B2177. The fort is situated on the east / west ridge of Portsdown (100m AOD) and from this lofty perch it looks down upon Portsmouth to the south. North of Fort Widley the land drops gradually away to the heartland of the former Widley parish. This is a landscape of scattered farmsteads with irregular plantations of mixed woodland beyond, perhaps indicative that this was once a part of the medieval Forest of Bere.

5.2 The recent history of the parish of Widley has been chequered. In 1894, it was amalgamated with Wymering and Cosham to form the parish of Cosham (VCH 3: 171). Subsequently, the greater part Widley parish has been joined with Southwick to become the parish of Southwick and Widley in Winchester City District.

6.0 PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION (Maps 3, 4, & 5)

Church and farm

6.1.1 Map 1 shows Widley as an odd-shaped parish unit squeezed between Wymering (west) and Cosham (east). The greater part of the C19 parish stretched northwards from the ridge of Portsdown whilst a relatively narrow strip of land gave access to the sea and the littoral marshes. This shape conveys the impression that it was very much a product of medieval boundary arrangements that involved a number trade-offs and adjustment until access to a range of resources was achieved. Davey *et al* (1999: 9) state that Cosham was historically part of Wymering and this would make sense if they had once comprised a single unit. In Domesday Book Wymering and Cosham are listed consecutively, but Widley, which lay between them, is not mentioned at all. The reason for this omission can be explained if Widley was a part of another estate or manor in the late 1080s, probably Wymering. The Domesday entry for Wymering is incomplete and this makes it all the more difficult to resolve the problem (see Paragraph 14.1). However, it is possible that Widley was a late creation (first mentioned 1242) having been forged from a once larger Wymering, and perhaps from Cosham too. If so then this substantial re-organization of land allotment might have occurred during C13 when Widley church was built (first mentioned 1291; VCH 3:172).

6.2 There are no upstanding buildings of known medieval origin in the former parish of Widley. For this reason the site of the manor house remains speculative. It might have been on the site of Mill Farm simply because it shares the same low knoll as the demolished parish church. However, 200m due west of the farm there is a large pond, marked as a *Fishpond* on the OS First Edition of 1870. The SMR suggests that the pond is of medieval origin and mentions associated earthworks (Paragraph 10.0, No. 75A). The coincidence of the medieval church and the fishpond emphasises the archaeological importance of the Mill Farm area. The pond remains visible as a sub-rectangular feature (Map 5). *Widley Farm, c.* 500m south-east of Mill Farm, is an alternative manor house site (Paragraph 10.0, No. 85). Here, the earthworks of a settlement are visible on air photographs. Whatever their respective status might have been, both Mill Farm and Widley Farm would be consistent with a medieval landscape of small farmstead communities, possibly assarts, within the royal forest of Bere (see Paragraph 15.0).

NB Mill Farm is so named after a windmill that was situated nearby.

6.3 *Site visit conditions:* overcast (4.4.2001)

7.0 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL** (Map 5)

7.1 *AsAP*

7.1.1 An extended area around the north, west and south of the site of the demolished medieval church and encompassing all of the buildings on Mill Farm.

7.1.2 The fishpond and associated earthworks west of Mill Farm. The area of archaeological potential of Mill Farm is not easy to define and it would be possible to justify any opportunities for Watching Briefs or Evaluations at any point between 7.1.1 and 7.1.2.

NB See also Widley Farm (Paragraph 10.0, Nos 85 and 94).

7.2 *AsHAP*

7.2.1 The medieval church site extended to take into account the probable limit of the churchyard and the principal buildings on Mill Farm. Mill Farm, being adjacent to the church, is probably of medieval origin.

8.0 **CHURCH & CHURCHYARD**

St Mary Magdalene

- First mentioned in 1291 (VCH 3: 172);
- 1849 rebuilt in imitation C 12 style (*architect:* J Coulson) but now demolished. The foundations can be detected between Mill Farm and the road known as Widley Walk.

9.0 BUILDINGS (Map 4)

PRN	Details	Dates	Grade
6739	Fort Widley	1860	II
6919	No. 108, The Old Rectory, London Road	mid C18	II

10.0 SMR DATA SW 465700 107200, NE 466200 107800 (Map 4)

SU 60 NE	No.		
	24A	466000 106870	Iron Age. Scatter of burnt flints.
	24B	466000 106870	Iron Age. Fragments of oyster shell associated with 24A.
	24C	466000 106870	Iron Age. Two pot sherds, probably of Iron Age date associated with 24A and B.
	46	465000 106600	Iron Age. Pot sherds now in Portsmouth City Museum. Acc. Nos 33/55 and 44/55.
	68	465250 106620	Undated. Flint foundations located in 1920.
	75A	465700 107400	Undated but probably medieval. Sub-rectangular earthworks west of church.
	75B	465700 107400	Undated. Mill Farm. Site of windmill in 1823.
	76	465700 107400	Medieval. Mill Farm. Site of former church of St Mary Magdalen.
	84	465820 106800	Undated. Lynchets visible on air photographs as running north / south. HCC AP ref: su37e. South of Mill Farm by 0.5km.
	85	466200 106800	Undated. Lynchets visible as linear features on air photographs. HCC AP ref: su37e 199 (2) AP ref: OS4/60NE. Widley Farm.
	94	466000 107000	Medieval. Possible settlement site visible on air photographs. Near to Widley Farm.

10.1 Hampshire Romano-British Settlements survey

Hants No.	NGR	Parish	NAR / NMR Nos
None listed.			

10.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

SAM No.	NGR	Site
None.		

11.0 ADDITIONAL SITES / FEATURES (Map 4)

None identified. Foot and Mouth disease restrictions were in place here at the time of the visit.

12.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map 21M65/F7/256/2 (1838 / 1840)
- GSGB 316 Fareham
- OS 1: 2500 SW 465700 107200, NE 466200 107800
- OS 1: 25000 Explorer: Meon Valley, Portsmouth, Gosport & Fareham.
- OS 1: 10,560 First Edition, 1870

13.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Coates R 1989 *Hampshire place-names* London, Batsford
- Davey R *et al* 1999 Wallsworth: a Lost Village? *Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Newsletter* **32**: 9-11
- VCH 3: 171-2

14.0 PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES**14.1 Domesday Book**

Not mentioned. Probably a post-Conquest unit created from a portion of Wymering (see Paragraph 6.0).

14.2 Subsidy Rolls

1334		£0.12.2	(Widley)
		£2.2.10	(Walsworth)
1524	<i>1st survey:</i>	£0.12.10	(11 taxpayers)
	<i>2nd survey:</i>	£0.11.6	(10 taxpayers)

14.3 Manorial Documents

Widley was a single manor.

14.4 Hearth Tax 1665

<i>Widley</i>	28 hearths chargeable (16 houses) 6 hearths not chargeable (5 houses). Total: 21 houses.
<i>East Cosham</i>	8 hearths chargeable (6 houses) 3 hearths not chargeable (2 houses). Total: 8 houses.
<i>Wal(l)sworth</i>	29 hearths chargeable (14 houses) 0 hearths not chargeable (0 houses). Total: 14 houses.

15.0 PLACE NAME

1242 *Wydelig*; 1256 *Wydelegh*. OE / ME *Widan leage* ‘at the (broad) clearing / wood (Coates, 1989: 175). Much of the parish was carved out of the Forest of Bere (IH).

16.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

None taken

17.0 OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS**17.1 Pre-Conquest Charters & Writs**

None.

17.2 Other parish settlements include (including Southwick in the Winchester City District):

<i>Name</i>	<i>MSP No.</i>	<i>NGR / map ref.</i>	<i>First recorded</i>
Beckford (Lower)	2258	463100 110700	1236
Belney Farm	2255	464700 109800	1263
Cooper Hill	2256	466000 108000	1350
Creech Farm	2257	463700 110200	1236
Hookheath Farm	0683	464900 190810	1380
New Lands Farm	2260	466500 108600	1234
Offwell Farm	2261	462100 107900	C13
Paulsgrove	0684	463900 106100	1300
Pinsley Lodge (Coppice)	2262	464000 107000	1351
Plant Farm	2263	467400 109100	C13
Plash Wood Place	2264	463000 109000	1285
Potwell 1248	0685	465300 107800	

Sheepwash Farm	2265	465700 109500	1269
Upper Backford	2267	463200 111100	1236
Walton Heath / Mitchelland	2270	461800 109600	1391
Wanstead	2271	464200 109400	1201
Ward's Farm	0072	Not given	1361

17.3 Enclosures*Parliamentary:*

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Act</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
14014	50 G ^{Eo} III cap. ccxviii, 1810		1814	4,137.31 acres (actual), plus 600 acres allotted to the King. 8,000 acres (Act).
14160	52 Geo III cap. 40, 1812		1815	801.13 acres actual, 772 acres (award). Widley Field in Widley.

Formal Agreements:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None known.			

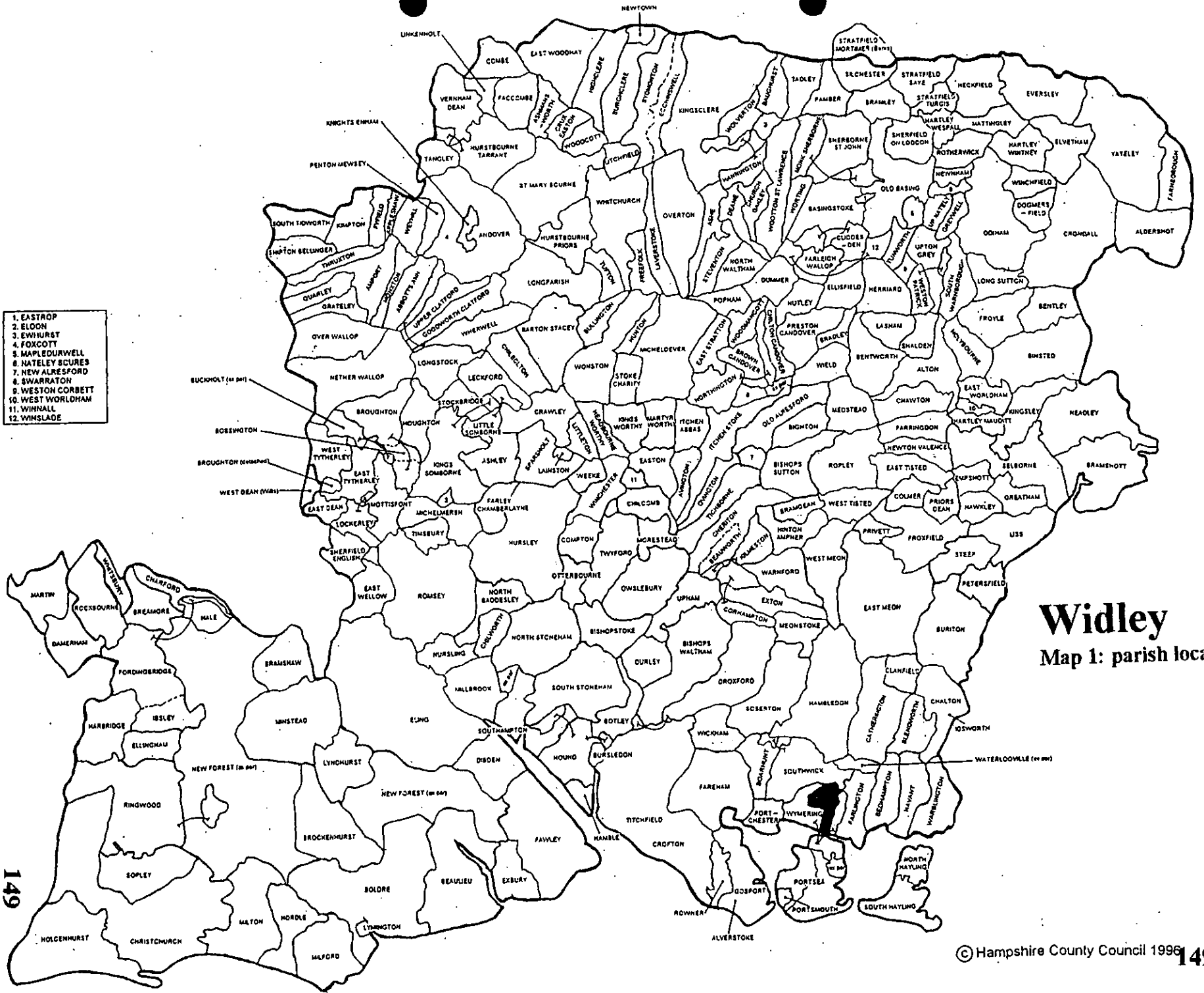
17.4 Commons & Greens (residual)

None known.

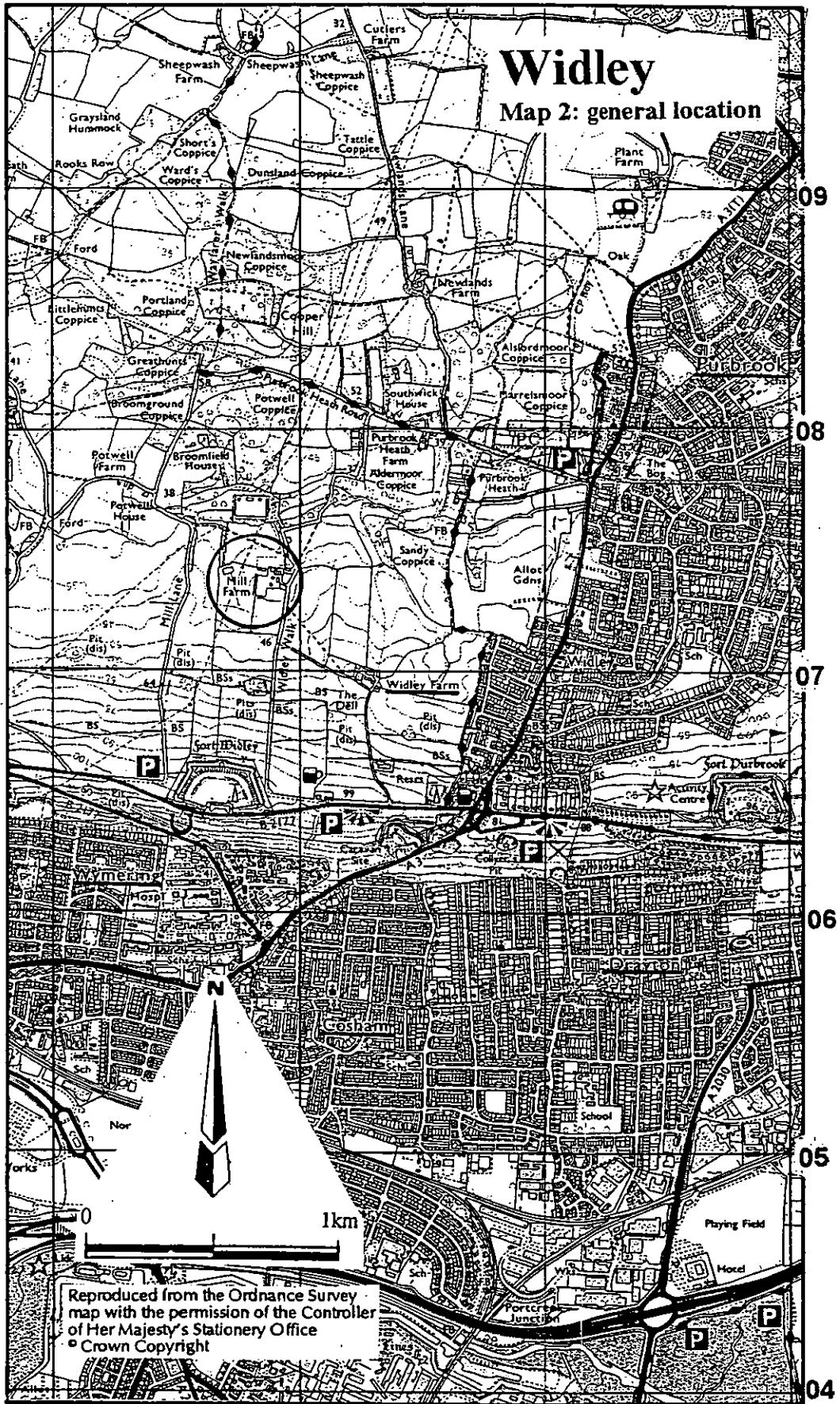
18.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Map 1: Parish location (not to scale)
- 2 Map 2: Settlement location at 1: 2500
- 3 Map 3: 1838 Tithe Map transcribed at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 4 Map 4: Development & archaeological features at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 5 Map 5: Areas of archaeological potential at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%

1. EASTROP
2. ELDON
3. EWHURST
4. FOXCOTT
5. MAPLEOURWELL
6. NATELEY SCURES
7. NEW ALRESFORD
8. SHARRATON
9. WEST CORBETT
10. WEST WORLOHAM
11. WINNALL
12. WINSLADE

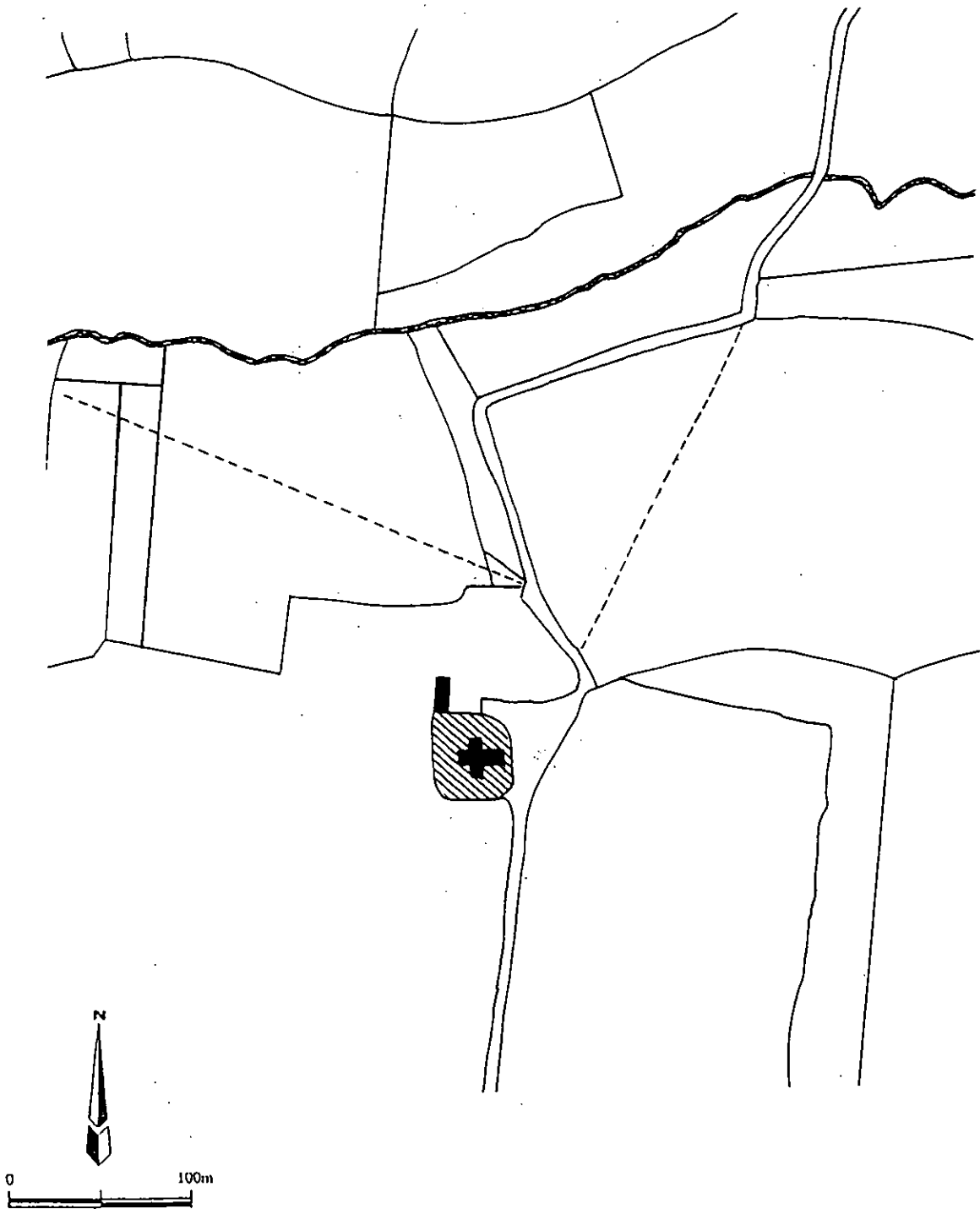


Widley
Map 1: parish location



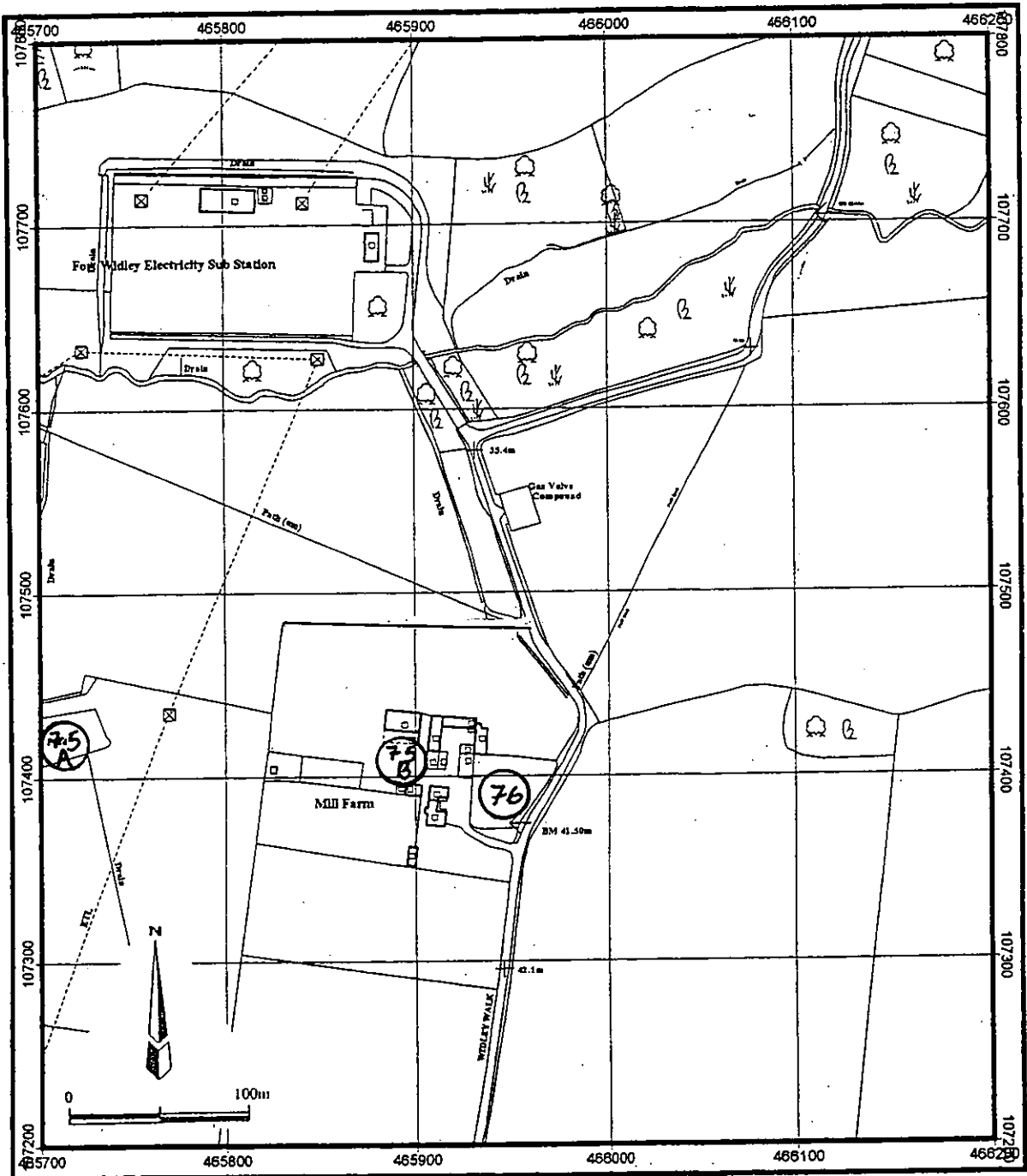
Widley

Map 3: transcribed from the
Tithe Map of 1838



Widley

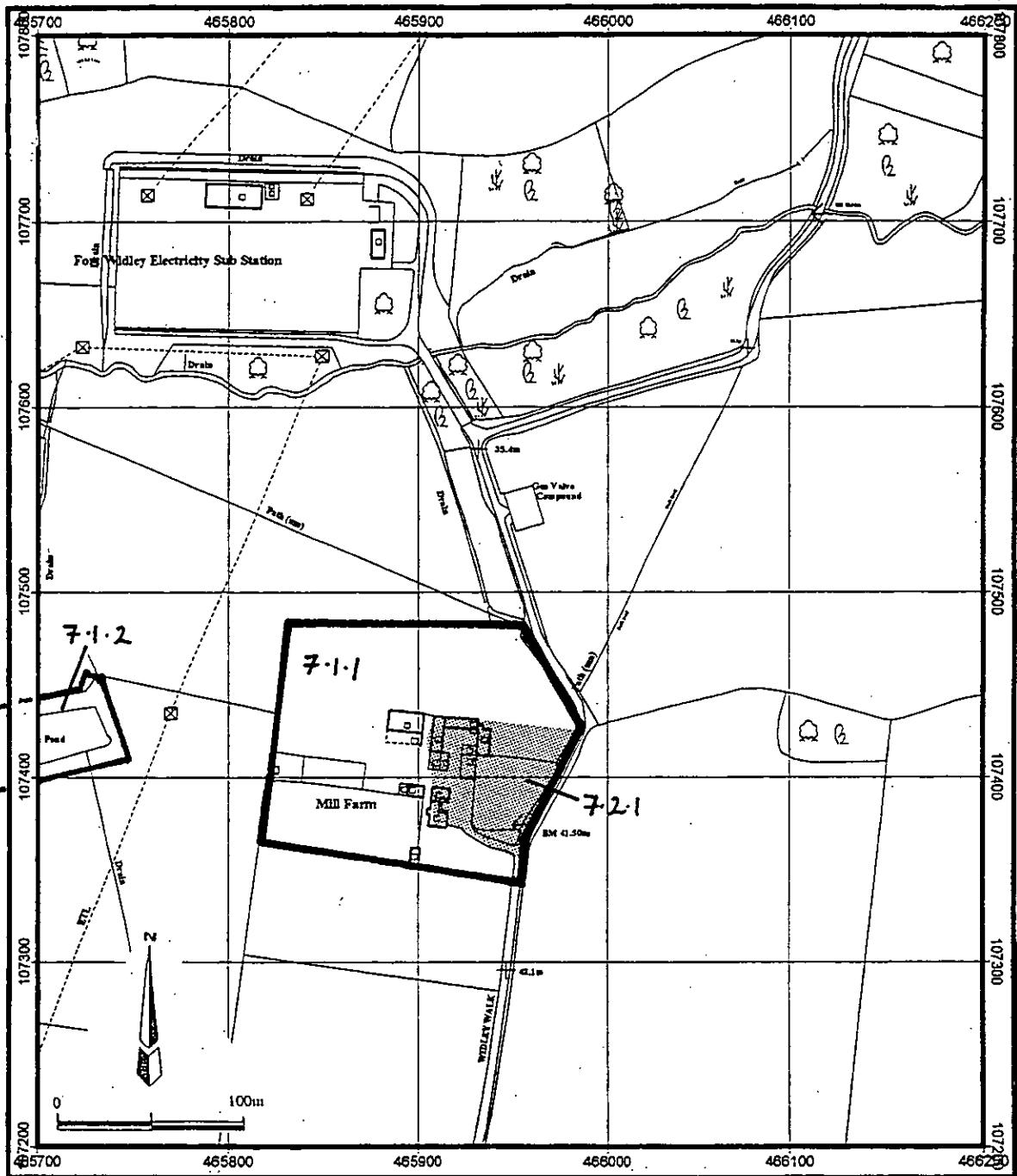
Map 4: development & archaeological features



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Widley

Map 5: areas of archaeological potential



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