

**GRANGE COTTAGES POND, MOOR POND WOODS,
PAPPLEWICK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**



For: The Friends of Moor Pond Woods

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Summary

- The Friends of Moor Pond Wood, in partnership with Trent and Peak Archaeology, excavated and recorded a trench in the Grange Cottage woods area, where a holding pond was once in existence. The centre of the excavations were located at grid reference SK 54858 50428, south of Papplewick Lane, Papplewick. The works were carried out over 3 days in July 2014. The excavations at Grange Cottage Woods are part of a larger Heritage Lottery Fund project to investigate and interpret the archaeology of the entire Moor Pond Wood area.
- The water system for the Robinson Mills was constructed between 1778 and 1830, although there may have been a mill (or mills) on this site before that. Evidence on the 1835 Sanderson map and the 1841 Linby Tithe map, suggest that a holding pond confined within Grange Cottages Wood may have acted as storage, and a leat which then transferred water to the mill which is known to have stood to the south of this site.
- Excavations revealed the gentle sloping base of the pond, but the alluvial build up has been disturbed by numerous deposits of clinker, ash and miscellaneous finds, such as bottle and pottery.
- The two main refuse deposits were dated to the turn of the century and the mid 20th century.
- The base of the pond sloped up to meet the eastern edge of the leat, suggesting that the pond was established through excavation, but the leat may have also provided a bank to create extra pond depth.
- More work needs to be completed in the area to establish the link between the pond and the leat, and how water got from these features to the Grange mill to the south

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Since 2000, the Friends of Moor Pond Woods have been working to establish the extent and the complexity of a water system and its associated cotton mills built by the Robinson family in the 1770's. With the help of a Local Heritage Initiative grant scheme, a number of areas have been investigated, recorded and conserved. In this latest phase of community oriented works funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Friends, in association with Trent & Peak Archaeology and a number of volunteers from the wider community, have investigated the Grange Cottage Wood pond, an area currently not thoroughly understood.
- 1.1.2 The work took place over one weekend in July 2014 coinciding with the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology. The project was an opportunity to present to the general public the notion of archaeology on their doorstep, and the results from previous excavations in the Moor Pond Wood area, whilst building a capacity within the group by providing training in archaeological field techniques, surveying and recording.
- 1.1.3 The work comprised a single excavation through the edge of the pond. The centre of the site is located at NGR SK 54858 50428 (Figures 1 and 2). The level of the site was approximately 69.8m ordnance datum (OD) prior to excavation.

2 Project Background

2.1 Research context

- 2.1.1 In 1999, the Papplewick Parish Council's Millennium Committee decided to develop the Moor Pond Wood area as a 'valuable permanent recreational resource' by focussing on three themes:

'To improve access for all, especially elderly and disabled people;

To protect and improve the wildlife value of the woodland and water features;

To restore and interpret the archaeological features of the site.'

Friends of Moor Pond Woods (2014)

- 2.1.2 Over £100,000 has been raised and used to achieve these three themes in the past 15 years.
- 2.1.3 Trent & Peak Archaeology first became involved with the project in 2001 undertaking a desk based assessment (Sheppard, 2001). This led onto a complete site survey, which identified and recorded remaining features and identified areas for further investigation (Sheppard 2003). One of these areas identified was the Grange Cottage Wood area, where a leat, immediately west of Grange Cottage pond, runs south of Papplewick Lane before terminating at a sluice and culvert. The leat terminus was highlighted again in 2004 in an appraisal of the potential for future archaeological works on the site (Sheppard 2004) identifying it to be an area warranting further investigation. It was noted from the survey that there was no obvious connection between the Grange Cottage pond and the leat which ran to the west of it (Figure 3).

3 Site Topography and Geology

3.1 Topography

- 3.1.1 Centred at NGR SK 54858 50428, the Grange Cottage site lay within the Moor Pond Wood area of Papplewick, immediately west of Moor Road, and immediately south of Papplewick Lane (Figure 2). This part of the site has been designated a wild meadow area and so is mostly open and relatively flat. The site prior to excavation was approximately 69.8m OD maintaining this level east up to Moor Road. To the immediate west of the excavation the ground rises rapidly due to the start of the leat bank, which reaches a height of 73m OD. The leat itself runs south from Papplewick Lane for 60m, where it starts to curve towards the east before terminating. To the west of the leat, the ground level falls away into a gully, at a height of 67.45m OD.

3.2 Geology

- 3.2.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of Edlington formation mudstone and sandstone, and the superficial deposits consist of Leen sand and gravel and alluvial clays and silts. (British Geological Survey 2015)

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

4.1 Historical

- 4.1.1 Papplewick is recorded as having two water mills and a mill dam in 1540 (Walker 1970, 231) and it is probable that the latter was located above Walk Mill, part of which still remains today to the north of Papplewick Lane (SK 547 505). The area of the former Walk Mill Pond still shows in the fields to the northwest of the Grange Cottage Woods.
- 4.1.2 George Robinson and sons probably took over the lease on the Walk Mill in the 1770s. In 1778, a new lease was made between the landowner Montagu and Robinson, allowing the latter to:

‘to make a Cut or Canal from the said Dam or River Leen to and for the use of a large building then erecting ... intended to be used or employed as a Mill for spinning of Cotton, Silk, Flax or Wool.’

This new mill was situated close to the present-day Grange Farm, south west of Grange Cottage Woods, today only its footings remain buried under grassland and gardens. Robinson’s second mill, Top Mill, was built in 1782, along with new ponds (Top Upper Dam and Upper Dam), close to the parish boundary with Linby. This building was Robinson’s smallest mill and, being castellated, was also known as Castle Mill (Walker and Sheppard 2011). The Middle Mill was also built at this time and had a small pond which was probably fed by water transferred via the leat system from Top Upper Dam. Forge Mill, which had a pond fed by the river Leen, dates from 1787. A second Grange Mill was built in 1790. This became known as New Mill to differentiate it from the existing Old Mill at the Grange. This mill seems to have used the water from Top Upper Dam. The final mill to be developed, in 1794, was the Forest Mill at Bulwell (Walker, 2015).

- 4.1.3 The 1835 Sanderson map (Figure 4) and 1841 Linby Tithe map (Figure 5), suggest that there was a holding pond confined within an embanked area in the Grange Cottages Wood. This pond may have acted as storage, and a leat transferring water to the mill is known to have stood to the west of this site (Walker 2015).
- 4.1.4 What began as a simple water control and storage system in the 1770’s appears to have quickly been altered and adjusted as additional demands were placed upon it. The system

is estimated to have reached its maximum extent by 1830. It continued to supply water to Top Mill and Forge Mill but it is not known when specific areas of the system fell into disuse (Walker 2015).

- 4.1.5 The Ordnance Survey maps from 1887 and 1938 (figures 6 and 7) show the transition of the Grange Cottage pond from an area of marshland surrounded by a visible bank, to a flat area of grassland. The Grange Cottage Pond area was, and still is by some of the older members of the community, known locally as a bottle dump, which could be a main cause of the infilling of the pond from 1887 to 1938.

4.2 Archaeological

- 4.2.1 Since 2002 fieldwork has been carried out around Moor Pond by volunteers from the Friends of Moor Pond Woods, Scouts, Air Cadets and the Leen Valley Conservation Group.
- 4.2.2 Between July 2011 and July 2014, the Friends of Moor Pond Wood, in partnership with Trent and Peak Archaeology, excavated and recorded an exposed sluice and culvert situated at the terminus of the leat, located 60m south of Papplewick Lane, Papplewick, at grid reference SK 54860 50374, immediately west of the Grange Cottage Pond.
- 4.2.3 Excavations revealed two damaged stone sluice walls, aligned north-south, approximately four metres wide and angled to form a funnel. A cross wall and arch were revealed to connect the two sides of the sluice together, however only the brick 'springer' courses of the arch remained intact. The western side of the cross wall appeared to have been keyed in with the western face of the sluice.
- 4.2.4 A brick culvert was revealed below the cross wall rubble, both ends of which had been badly damaged, possibly so that it could be covered up during landscaping. It is unknown as to why the culvert was built, however it is suggested that it was either due to the arch collapse necessitating another through flow, or that it was built to narrow the passage to compensate for a decrease in flow. It is unknown when the culvert and cross wall were destroyed and subsequently buried and how the pond links to this structure and its use.

5 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1.1 The main aims of the works within Grange Cottages Wood were:

To establish the original depth and profile of the Grange Cottages pond

To ascertain how the pond was established, either through excavation or through bank build up

To provide the local community with opportunities to become involved with the project by offering training in excavation, recording and surveying techniques to volunteers and by interpreting the structures uncovered and making this information accessible to all.

6 Methodology

- 6.1.1 The work at Grange Cottages pond was carried out in July 2014 by members of Trent and Peak Archaeology, the Friends of Moor Pond Wood, the Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers (LVCV) and volunteers from the wider community.

- 6.1.2 All work met with requirements and standards set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (MoRPHE PPN3) (English Heritage 2008), and the requirements and standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in their Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material (CIfA 2014b); Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014c) and Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA, 2014d).
- 6.1.3 The trench was excavated by a 180° wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, whose progress was monitored by trained Trent and Peak staff. The excavation was taken down to a safe depth before sides were stepped so that sondages could be excavated to get the true base of the pond.
- 6.1.4 The trench base and sections was entirely hand cleaned using trowels and shovels. All features and deposits were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography. Sections of excavated features were recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. The plan of the trench was recorded at a scale of 1:50. Spot heights were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.1.5 The excavation area was approximately 7m in length east-west and 4m in width north-south in total. Where the trench needed to be excavated to a deeper depth than the standard 1.2m, the sides were stepped, and a sondage was excavated,
- 6.1.6 Features were located and levelled using either a Leica GSIS/CSIS GPS or theodolite.
- 6.1.7 The location of any artefacts recovered in the subsoil or in features was recorded by context and located on a plan or on section drawings. All artefacts were treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines and First Aid for Finds (1998).

7 Results

- 7.1.1 The 7x4m trench was excavated to a total depth of 2.4m including the sondage that was dug at the south facing section to establish the maximum depth of the pond in this area of Grange Cottage Wood (Figure 8)
- 7.1.2 Below the 46-80cm of topsoil and subsoil, they were four clear event horizons, each of which will be described below.
- 7.1.3 The base of the pond [0015] was uncovered at an approximate maximum depth of 67.39m OD at the north east corner of the excavation area. This measurement is from the deepest point of the pond revealed during excavation, and it therefore could be deeper towards the centre of the pond. The base was slightly uneven and sloped up at an angle of approximately 20° in the south facing section of the excavated trench. The basal fill of the pond (0012) was mid brown sand silt (Plates 3 and 4). The silt layer above this (0009) was dark grey black in colour, due to leaching from the deposits above. The pond base cut through a fine grained orange pink sand.
- 7.1.4 The even sloping edge of a modern refuse site [0014] cuts through fill (0009) of the pond. It slopes at approximately the same angle as the pond base. The fill of this cut (0004) consisted of a loose deposit of black, grey and orange ash, clinker containing a large amount of bottles and pottery dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 7.1.5 The remains of the pond [0015] and the refuse site [0014] were badly disturbed to the west by later deposits of clinker and ash (0007) and (0008). This disturbance can be clearly seen on the south facing section of the excavation (Figure 9)

- 7.1.6 Refuse deposit [0014] and later disturbances (0007) and (0008) were then covered over by another deposition event consisting of loose black, grey and orange ash and clinker, with a higher percentage of silt, containing large amounts of bottles and pottery dating to the mid 20th century

7.2 Finds

- 7.2.1 A large number of bottles and frequent fragments of pottery were recovered from deposit (0004) within earlier refuse cut [0014]. One of which was a rectangular medicine bottle with the inscription 'Carefully prepared by KEYBELLS DERBY'. The manufacture date of this particular bottle is unknown but is associated with deposits dating from 1905-1915, and therefore dating the context to early 20th Century.

- 7.2.2 There were also finds recovered from the deposit (0003) above [0014], however these are as yet undated, but the deposit itself must be later than the early 20th Century

- 7.2.3 Many of the finds retrieved came from the spoil heaps during the sieving process. A couple of examples retrieved are described below:

A mug sherd, simply decorated with a transfer printed blue RAF logo. The 'Mintons' stamp on the base indicates a manufacturing date of between 1912 and 1950, the RAF stamp first appearing in 1919.

3 sherds of a commemorative cup of the coronation of George VI, dating to c. 1937

A rectangular brown bottle of 'Daddies' Sauce, which was launched in 1904

A medicine bottle with the inscription Veno's Brand Lightning cough cure, dating to the 1920's

- 7.2.4 Other examples of finds can be seen in plate 5.

- 7.2.5 No finds were recovered from the basal fills of the pond

8 Discussion

- 8.1.1 Grange Cottage pond would have still been a visible feature into the mid 19th century and could potentially still have been retaining water. It is unclear as to whether the pond had already silted up prior to a large hole being dug to deposit material, or whether the material was dumped into the existing depression of the pond. However when considering the map evidence (figures 4-7), it seems more likely that the various deposits of ash and clinker were used to fill in the marshy pond and level the site as the area changed in its land use, such as maintaining livestock.

- 8.1.2 The dateable evidence from the ash and clinker deposits suggests that refuse was no longer dumped on the pond site after the mid 20th century.

- 8.1.3 The slope of the base of the pond seemed to be consistent with the bank of the leat to the west of the excavation, which suggests that the pond was manually excavated and the bank may have been built up as a continuation of the base of the pond. This could be an indication that the two features are contemporary with each other; however more work would need to be done to confirm this relationship.

9 Conclusions

9.1 Additional work in the Grange Cottage Woods

9.1.1 Possible future work in this area now includes:

- 9.1.1.1 Undertaking a detailed examination of the south of the pond site and of the slope at the southern end of the sluice to establish how the water got to the mill from the Grange Cottages pond and the leat terminus
- 8.1.1.2 Excavating a section through the leat bank to confirm whether the leat and the pond were contemporary features
- 8.1.1.2 Establishing the true depth of the Grange Cottage Pond by undertaking a borehole survey around the meadow area of the Grange Cottage Woods. A bore hole survey would also indicate the size of the 19th and 20th century refuse sites.

9.2 Community engagement

9.2.1 Approximately 20 volunteers from the Friends of Moor Pond Wood and members of the wider community were involved at some stage over the excavation, and have learned new skills, including finds processing, outreach and interpretation. The project has also featured within the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA) Festival of Archaeology, using displays and tours of the site to help local people become more aware of their local heritage.

10 Acknowledgements

10.1.1 Thanks are extended to the Friends of Moor Pond Wood for their invaluable assistance with the excavation. Thanks are also extended to Stephen Walker for his support with the interpretation and evaluation of the site, and to Gareth Davies who managed the project.

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Plates



Plate 1: The excavation of the trench. Looking north east (S. Walker, 2014)



Plate 2: Plan of trench excavated. Looking west (L. Binns 2014)



Plate 3: South facing section of trench. Looking North (L. Binns 2014)



Plate 4: North facing section of trench. Looking south (L. Binns 2014)



Plate 5: Collection of bottles and pottery retrieved during excavations (S. Walker 2015)

Figures

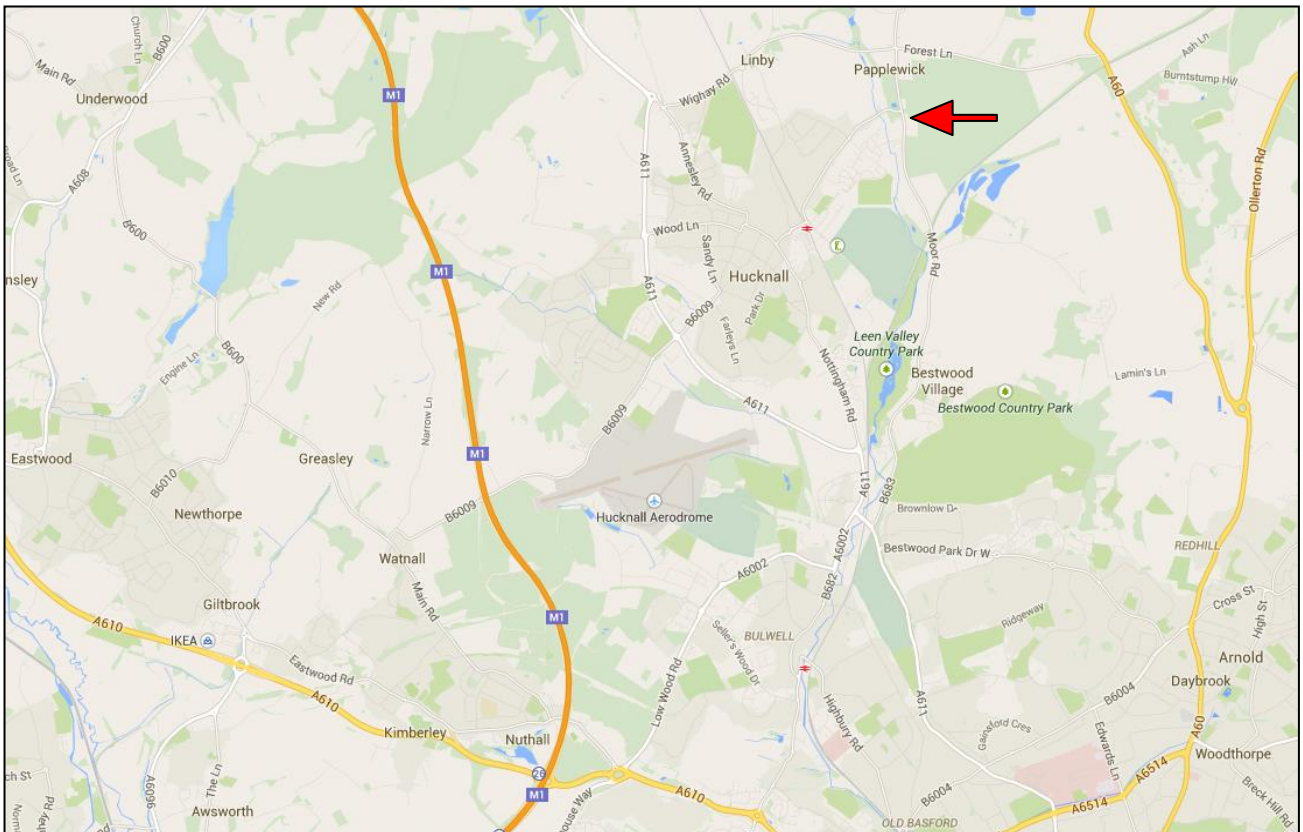


Figure 1: Location map of Grange Cottage woods, Papplewick, Nottinghamshire. (Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright License No. AL 100020618).

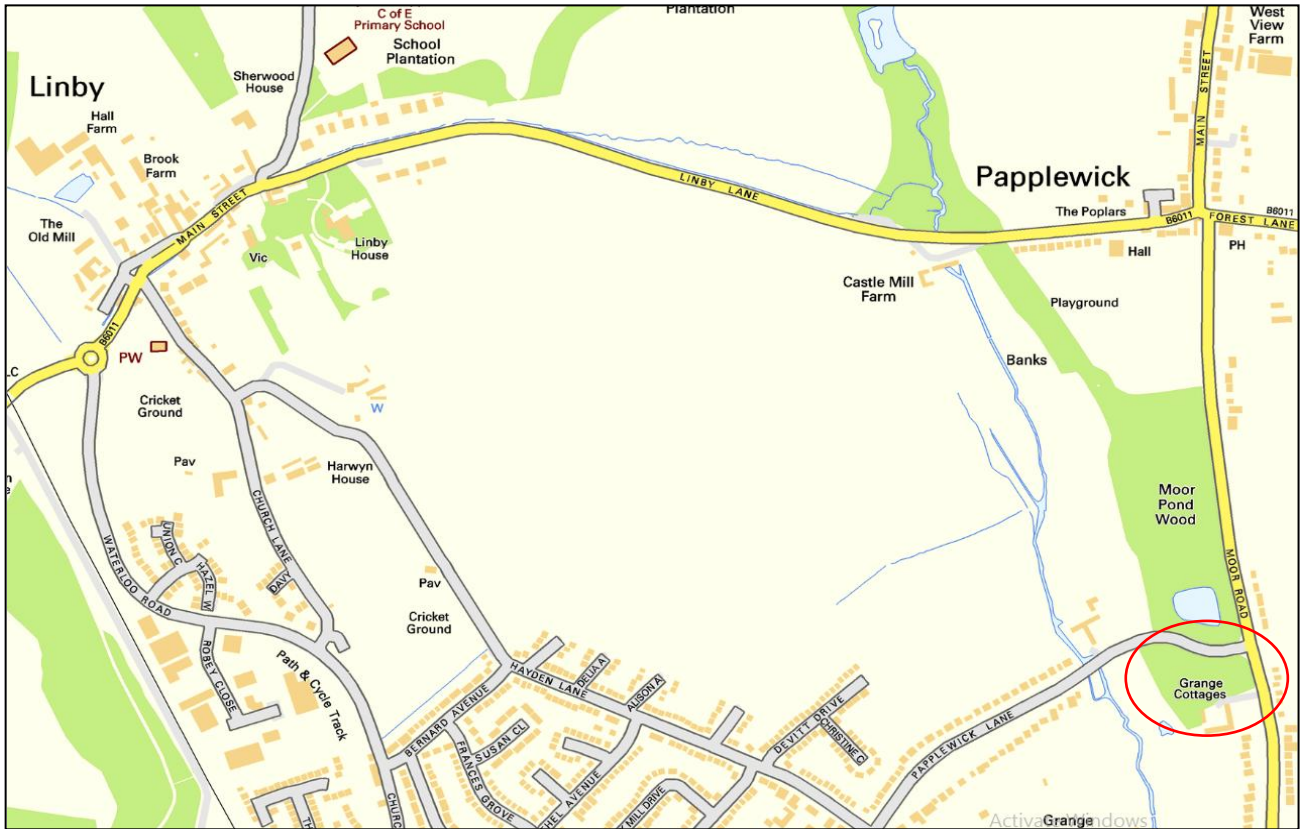


Figure 2: Location of Grange Cottage woods within the Moor Pond wood area (Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright License No. AL 100020618).

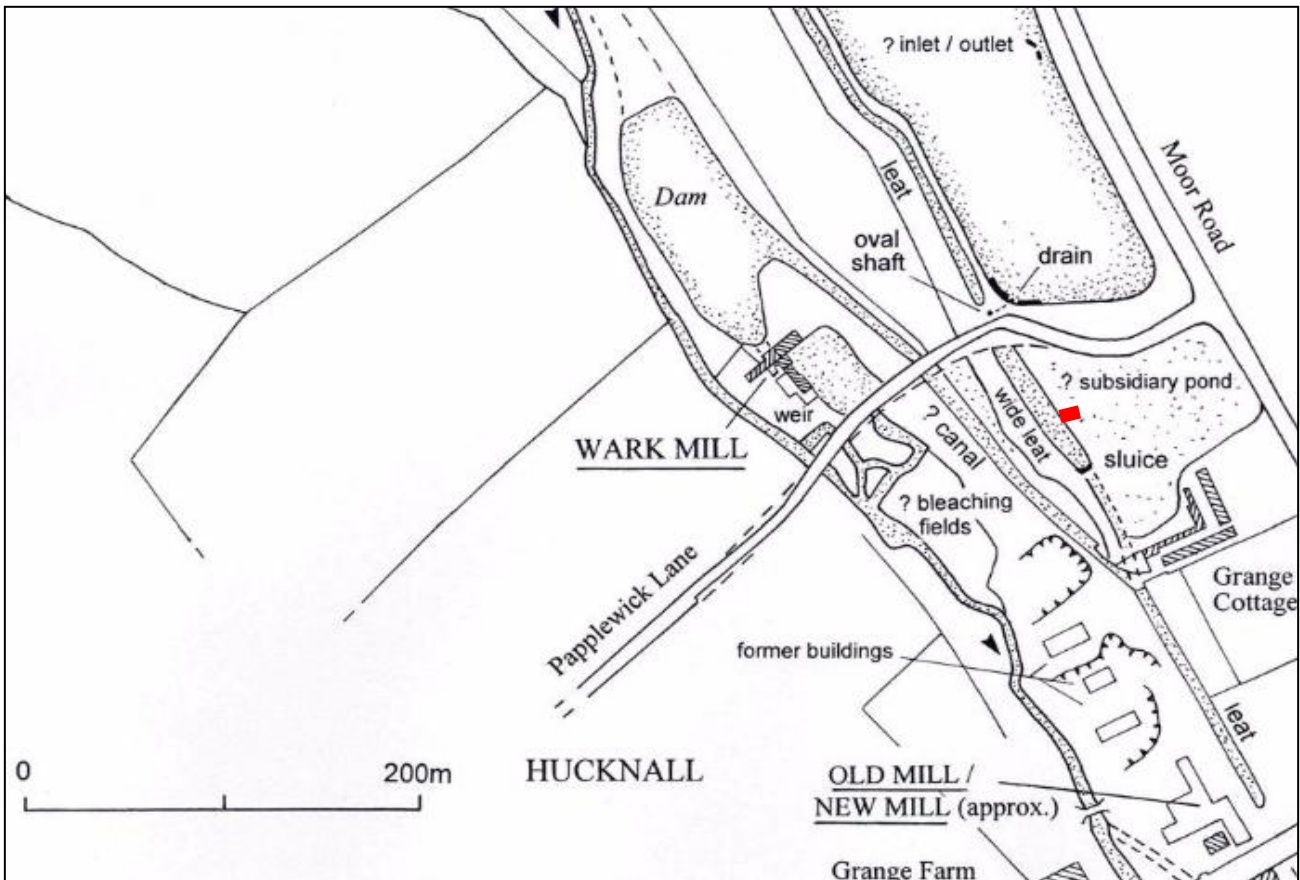


Figure 3: The location of the trench within Grange Cottage Woods pond (see figure 8), in relation to the mills and associated features in the area in the late 18th Century. Scale 1:4,000. (After Sheppard, 2011).

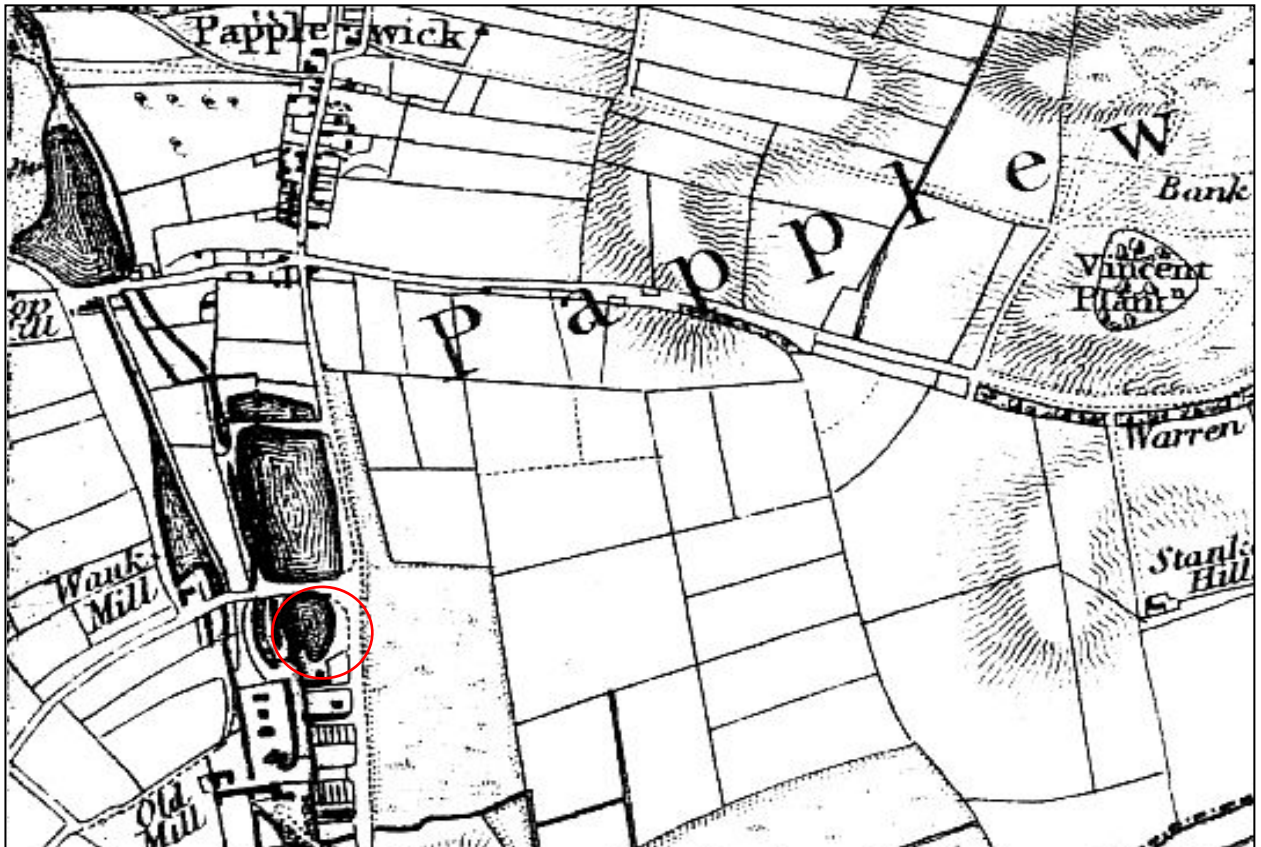


Figure 4: Sanderson's map of Nottingham 1835. The Grange Cottage holding pond is clearly visible. Not to regular scale.



Figure 5: Linby tithe map of 1841 showing Moor pond, Papplewick lane and a smaller but substantial pond to the south in the Grange cottage area



Figure 6: Ordnance survey 25 inch map of 1887 showing the Grange cottage pond to now be an area of marshland. However the sloping edge of the pond is still visible. Scale 1:5000

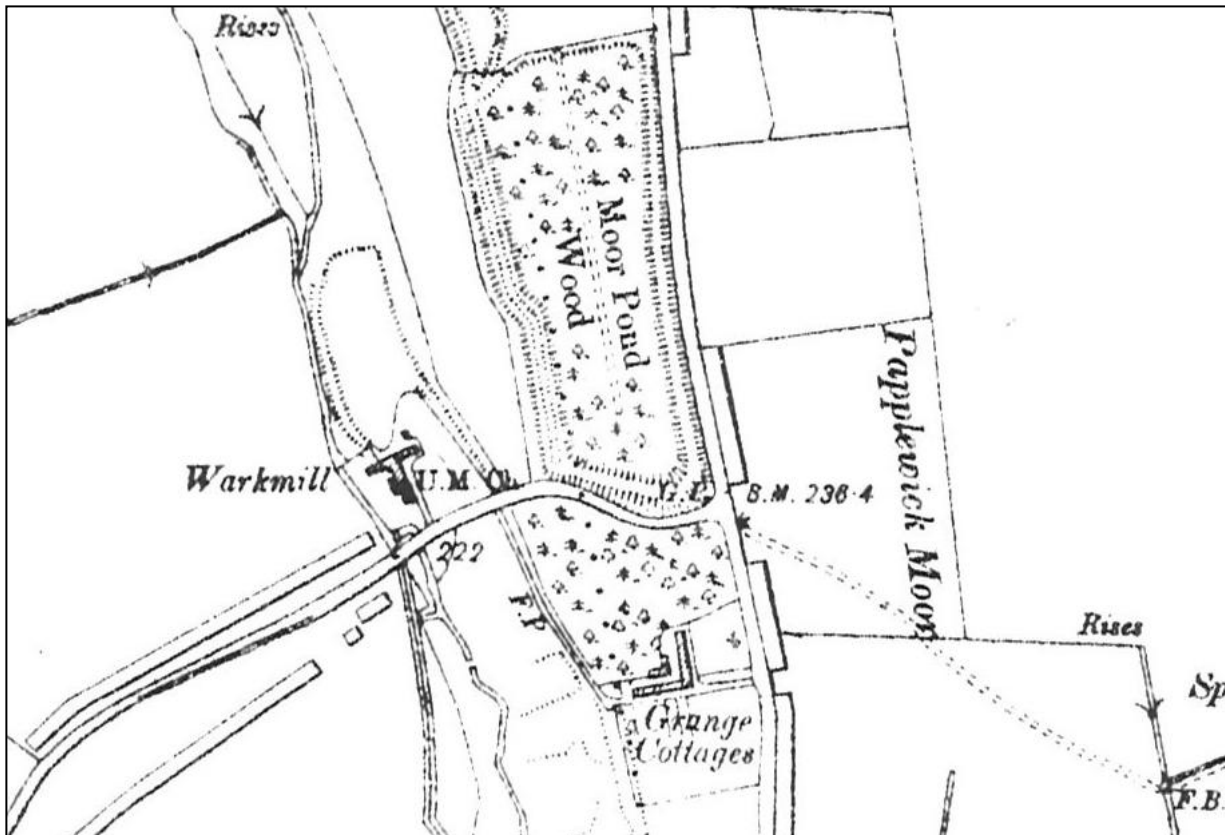
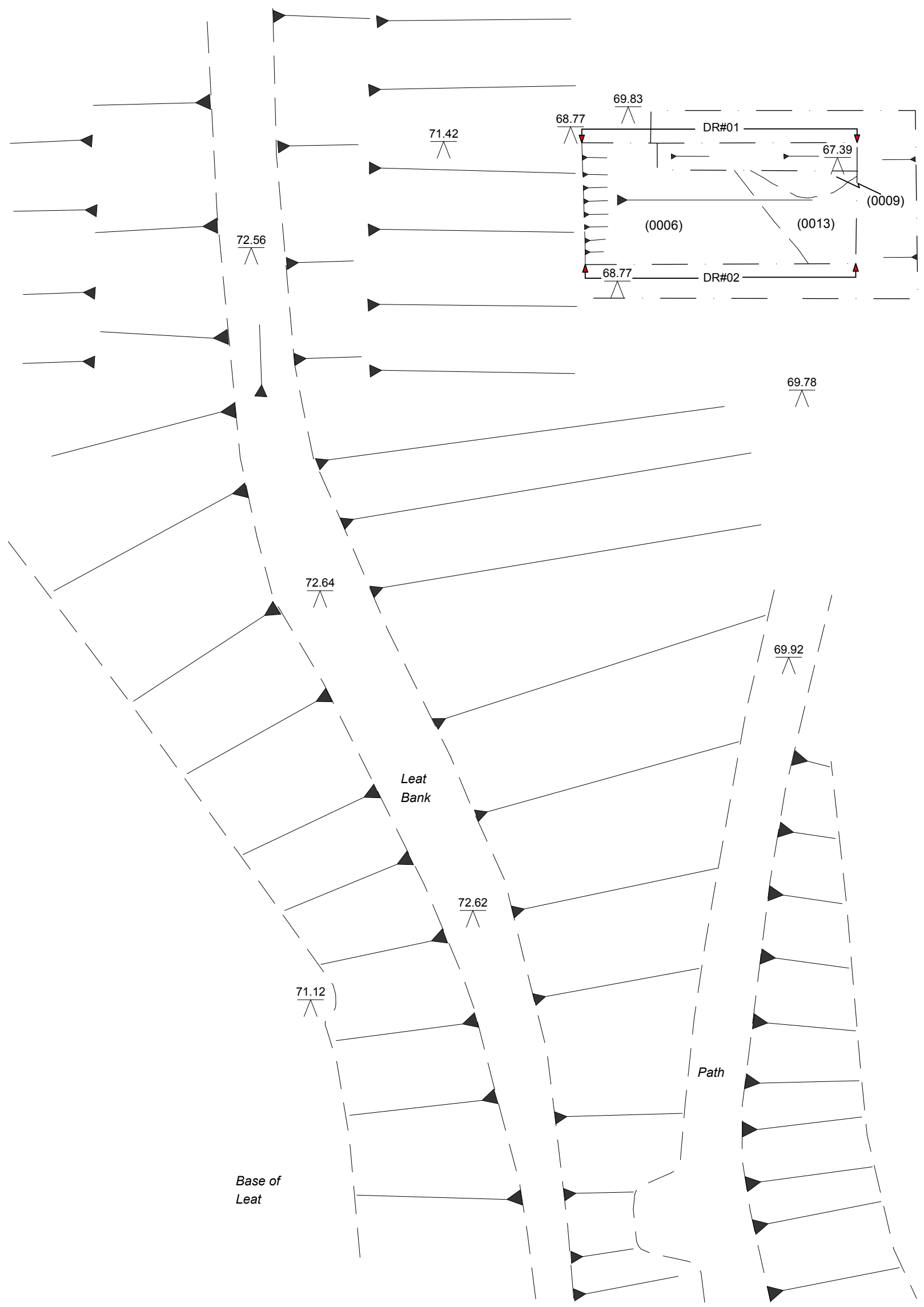
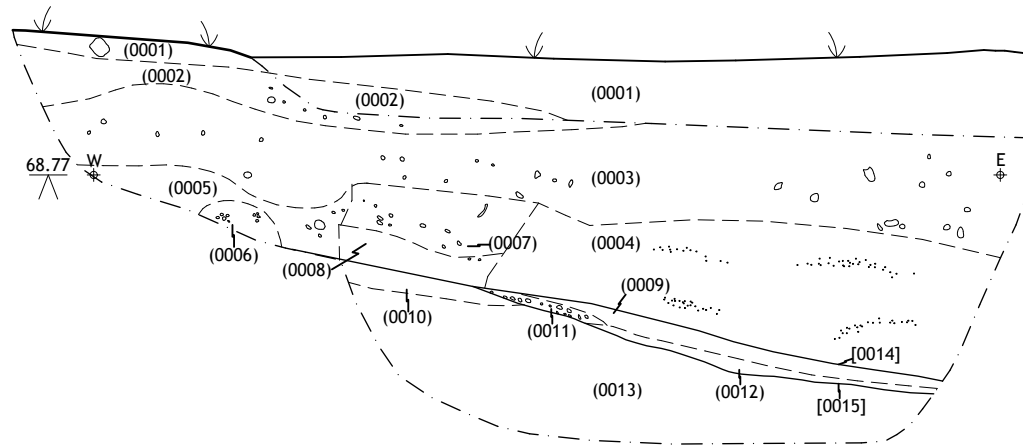


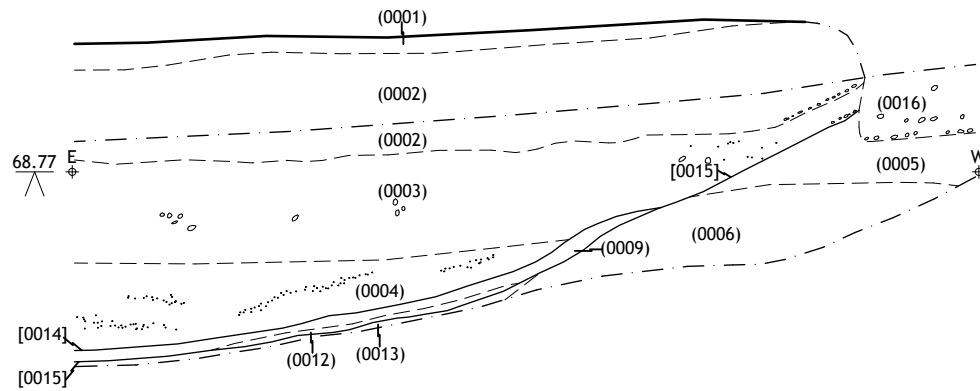
Figure 7: Ordnance survey 6 inch map of 1938 showing the Grange cottage pond to now be a field with no traces of a bank. Scale 1:5000



Dr. 01
South Facing Section of [0014] and [0015]



Dr. 02
North Facing Section of [0014] and [0015]



Appendix 1: Context list

Context	Category	Description
0001	Layer	Silt topsoil
0002	Layer	Sandy silt subsoil
0003	Deposit	Waste deposit containing ash, clinker, bottles and ceramic
0004	Fill	Ash and clinker deposit containing bottles and ceramics
0005	Layer	Mid yellow brown sandy loam
0006	Layer	Loose orange sand
0007	Fill	Brown sandy silt slippage down embankment
0008	Fill	Mottled sand loam lens
0009	Fill	Friable dark silt
0010	Layer	Firm cream white sand
0011	Fill	Mid grey brown stoney silt sand
0012	Fill	Mid brown sand loam basal fill of pond
0013	Layer	Natural loose pink mottled sand
0014	Cut	Cut of original Victorian dump
0015	Cut	Base of pond/ edge of embankment
0016	Deposit	Modern dump of sand and stones