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Earthworks at Bishton Farm, Tidenham

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Other finds

A few architectural stone fragments, and some animal bone were also found.

Note

The full catalogue of finds will be deposited with the site archive.

Acknowledgements

The assistance of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society in funding the watching brief is acknowledged, as is the on-site help of Jane Dineen, Rosamund Southwood, and Bernard Willoughby. The finds are deposited with Tewkesbury Museum. Copies of the site records are lodged with the County Sites and Monuments Record. The plan was drawn by Trevor Pearson.

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T. COURTNEY AND E. LINNELL

EARTHWORKS AT BISHTON FARM, TIDENHAM (FIG. 1)

During a watching brief on a water pipeline in 1978 an earthwork site was noted to the south of Bishton Farm (ST 545953), 1 km from Offa's Dyke to the west. The underlying geology is Keuper Marl, and the ground slopes from north to south, levelling out at the southern limit of earthworks. The area of earthworks is confined to the south side of the road though the fields to the north have been regularly ploughed. Banks define the limits of the site to the south, while to the east the two rectangular platforms beyond the bank are reported to have been tennis courts. Features within the boundary banks are ill-defined except for the rectangular platform at A, where there is a suggestion of stone walling along the top of the south side of the platform. A map of the Duke of Beaufort's estate in 1769 (G.R.O. photocopy 840) shows a small farmhouse and outbuildings at this point on the south side of the road junction. The farmhouse was described as ruined in 1813 (Elrington 1972, 59). Bishton Farm to the north appears to be 18th century in date. Twenty-three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the ground disturbed by the pipe trench. Three fabrics were distinguishable by eye. None were glazed and all appeared to derive from 12th- to 14th-century cooking pots. Post-medieval pottery was also present. The recorded earthworks indicate medieval linear settlement along the road west of Bishton farm with a possible nucleus at the farm itself.

I am grateful to Anthony Clemence for assisting with the planning of the site, and to Dr N. Herbert for his comments on this note.

Reference

Elrington, C.R. 1972. *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire. Vol. X.*

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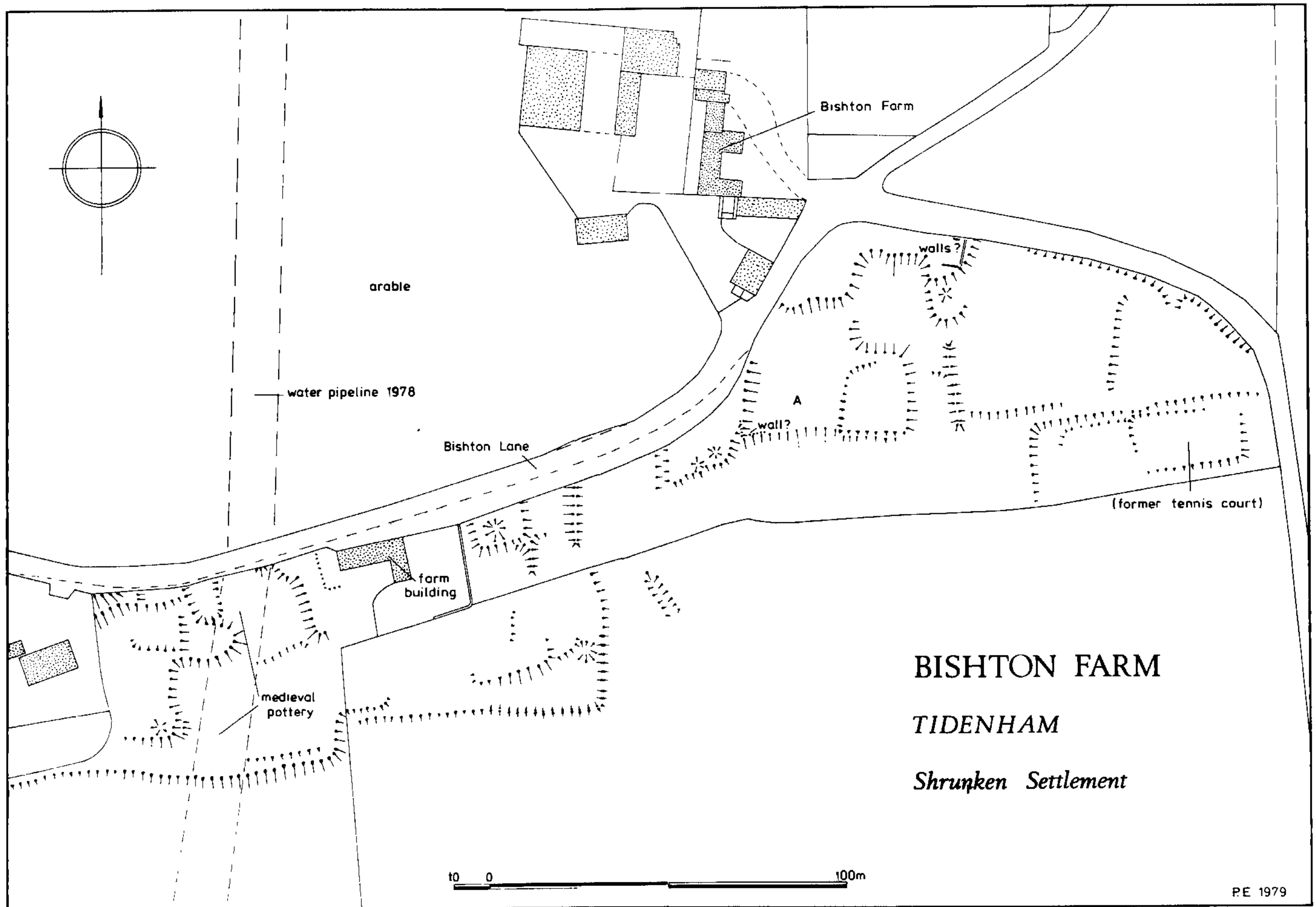


FIG. 1 Bishton Farm, Tidenham: medieval settlement remains.