



Lincs
Archaeo-tech

Archaeological
Report No.: 1

Site Code: TPS04
LCCM Accession No.: 2004.185
Planning Application No.: N/208/00275/04
NGR: TF 4975/7085

A Report to
Mr & Mrs Ralph

October 2004

The Paddock, High Lane,
Sloothby, Lincolnshire

By K Wragg

Archaeological Watching Brief



Lincs Archaeo-tech

Negative.

Conservation
Services

24 NOV 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

The Paddock, High Lane, Sloothby, Lincolnshire

Site Code: TPS04

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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The Paddock, High Lane, Sloothby, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Sloothby, Lincolnshire. The village lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey approximately 50km east of Lincoln, and c. 7km south-east of Alford.
- ❖ The site comprises a rectangular parcel of former grazing land measuring c. 40m N-S x c. 12m E-W. It is bounded by existing residential properties to the east, Sloothby High Lane to the south, and farmland to the north and west.
- ❖ The development proposals included the construction of a single detached dormer bungalow, new access road, and all associated drains and services.
- ❖ The village lies within a rich historic landscape, and it was considered that the site had significant potential for the discovery of archaeological remains due to the proximity of known medieval settlement and boundary remains.
- ❖ In view of this, East Lindsey District Council, in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services, requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks.
- ❖ The watching brief was designed to secure an archive record of any archaeological remains, deposits and/or artefacts which might be disturbed or destroyed by development on the site; to produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report; and to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the owner/developers, Mr and Mrs Ralph, in July 2004 to carry out the required archaeological services, and attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 30th of July and the 2nd of August 2004.
- ❖ In the event, however, while the watching brief proved an appropriate response to the threat posed by the development, the results have provided no evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself.
- ❖ The majority of the dating evidence was residual, no structural remains were revealed, and the single feature that was uncovered appeared to be the remains of a natural pool, probably used to water livestock.
- ❖ Notwithstanding this however, the results do serve to add to the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the vicinity, and this suggests that any future developments in the village and surrounding area still have a significant chance of encountering archaeological remains.

The Paddock, High Lane, Sloothby, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1.0 Introduction

This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Sloothby, Lincolnshire. The village lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey approximately 50km east of Lincoln, and c. 7km south-east of Alford.

The site comprises a rectangular parcel of former grazing land measuring c. 40m N-S x c. 12m E-W. It is bounded by existing residential properties to the east, Sloothby High Lane to the south, and farmland to the north and west (see Figure 1).

The development proposals included the construction of a single detached dormer bungalow, new access road, and all associated drains and services (see Figure 2).

The village lies within a rich historic landscape, and it was considered that the site had significant potential for the discovery of archaeological remains due to the proximity of known medieval settlement and boundary remains (Dr B. Lott, LCC Conservation Services; letter of 23rd of July 2004) (see also 3.0, below).

In view of this, East Lindsey District Council, in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services, requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks (see 2.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAtech) was approached by the owner/developers, Mr and Mrs Ralph, on the 22nd of June 2004 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services. LAtech was subsequently commissioned on the 29th of July 2004 to carry out the work, with attendance undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 30th of July and the 2nd of August 2004.

Notes:

1) This document is presented on the understanding that further data pertaining to this site may subsequently emerge, which may affect the conclusions drawn herein. Lincs Archaeo-tech, its employees, and/or principals cannot therefore be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising from use of any information contained in this report.

2) Lincs Archaeo-tech has adopted, and subscribes to, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and its Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

3) All maps and extracts are reproduced under Ordnance Survey Copyright Licence Number: 100043257 unless otherwise credited.

2.0 Planning Background

Full planning consent for the erection of a detached dormer bungalow and construction of a vehicular access was granted by East Lindsey District Council, on the 10th of May 2004 (Application No.: N/208/00275/04).

The planning permission included the following condition in Part II - Particulars of decision:

8. *The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist recognised by the Local Planning Authority to carry out an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and approved by the authority before development is commenced. Such arrangements shall include provision for the observation, recording and recovery of artefactual evidence and post-excavation analysis...*

The reason for this condition was given as:

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy C6 (Archaeology) of the East Lindsey Local Plan Alteration 1999.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The village of Sloothby lies at an elevation of c. 4m OD, and overlies drift deposits consisting of glacial till (boulder clay), with an underlying solid geology of Spilsby Sandstone and Carstone.

The name Sloothby probably derives from a combination of the Old Norse personal name *Slōthi* and the Old Danish *by*, and is literally translated as 'Slōthi's farmstead' or '...village' (Cameron, 1998).

At the beginning of the medieval period, the *Domesday Book* of 1086 refers to land at *Slodebi*, and shows the major landowners as the Bishop of Durham, Ivo Tallboys, Gilbert of Ghent, and Hugh, son of Baldric (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). By the 12th century, a parochial chapel was in existence, with a gild chapel later founded during the 13th century. In the early 16th century, however, it was reported that the parish church at Willoughby was refusing to honour its obligation to provide a parochial chaplain and service to Sloothby (Owen, 1971).

Within an approximate radius of 1km around the site, twelve findspots and/or known (or suspected) areas of archaeological potential are recorded in the Lincolnshire County SMR, together with other evidence derived from aerial photographs. These include: isolated finds or scatters of pottery and metal artefacts; cropmarks indicating the probable locations of buried archaeological features, including late medieval and Post-medieval tofts, crofts and field boundaries; documentary and other evidence for medieval buildings; and remnants from Britain's wartime past.

In brief, the SMR results can be summarised as follows (see also Figure 1):

<u>SMR No.:</u>	<u>Description:</u>
41988	Roman coins (2 nd and 3 rd century)
41991	Medieval pottery, including green-glazed and shelly-ware, and a scatter of stone rubble
41993	Roman pottery, including Greyware, Samian-ware and Dales-ware
41994	Early/late medieval pottery, and a possible unfinished spindle whorl
41998	Roman Greyware pottery
42001	Documented medieval parochial chapel (not shown on plan - location unknown)
42005	Roman brooch
42006	Romano-British ring and pendant
42012	Place-name evidence for manor house
43277	Pillbox (not shown on plan)
44502	Medieval and Post-medieval field boundaries (see also sitecode HRS99, below)
44559	Ridge & furrow earthworks

Two archaeological watching briefs have also been carried out in close proximity to the site in recent years. Both of these projects were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), and both lie to the south-west of the present site, on Hasthorpe Road (see Figure 1).

The most recent of the two investigations took place in May and June 2000 (Sitecode: HRS00; Grid reference: TF 49630/70790) on Plot 1, Hasthorpe Road, during the course of the construction of a new dwelling. In this case, however, little or no evidence for preserved archaeological deposits was found, with only deposits of recent or geological origin being recorded (Brett, 2001).

In contrast, the earlier project, carried out in 1999 on land adjacent to 'Threeways', Hasthorpe Road (HRS99; TF 49605/70774), did reveal archaeological features and artefacts. Two apparent field boundary ditches were recorded, together with a small quantity of late medieval/Post-medieval pottery dating generally to the 17th-18th centuries (plus a single sherd dating to between the 14th-16th centuries). The remains of what appeared to be a possible natural pool feature were also uncovered (Albone, 1999).

4.0 Methodology

This watching brief was designed in accordance with the requirements of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* issued by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services.

It was designed to secure an archive record of any archaeological remains, deposits and/or artefacts which might be disturbed or destroyed by development on the site; to produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report; and to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

The watching brief was carried out solely on the foundation groundworks for the new structure. All excavations required for the provision of services, including water supply, drainage, electricity, and telephone; and the limited ground level reduction for the new access road/driveway had already been completed some time prior to the commencement of the site attendance. All trenches were machine-excavated, using a wheeled 'backhoe' excavator.

During the excavation phase of the watching brief, trench-side observation was carried in conjunction with the machining, with provision made to halt the excavator should any obvious archaeological features or deposits be revealed. Following the completion of the trenching, each section was inspected for features and/or artefacts. Any areas of particular interest were then manually cleaned and recorded in detail.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature was issued with a unique *context number* (e.g., context [100]), and described on recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required. Finally, level readings were taken at selected points across the site area, and all drawing locations were referenced to the British National Grid.

5.0 Results (see Figures 3-5; and Plates 3-4)

The stratigraphic sequence revealed during the course of the groundworks comprised a total of five stratified, and two unstratified contexts (see *Appendix C*, below).

The earliest deposit comprised a layer of silty clay, [102], which was mid-light orange-brown in colour, and up to 900mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.). This contained occasional-moderately frequent small chalk & flint pieces, and is assumed to represent the upper extent of the natural (*i.e.*, geological) strata.

[102] was cut/sealed by [105], a large, probably natural, depression/cut feature present across the western/central area of site. This feature extended *c.* 10m (N-S) x *c.* 7m (E-W) (to edge of site), and appeared to be circular/oval in plan, although this could not be positively confirmed. It was present in several sections, with a maximum depth of *c.* 700mm, and is thought to probably represent the remains of a pond.

A discontinuous 'layer' of small-medium sized, irregularly shaped chalk/limestone pieces, [104], was then present in base of 'pond' [105]. This was contained within a 100mm-150mm thick layer of mid-light slightly yellow/green-brown clayey silt, [103], which contained no other obvious inclusions.

Three pieces of pottery recovered from layer [103] date to between the 14th and 15th centuries (see *Appendix D*, below).

These deposits were then overlain by [101], the topsoil layer present across the site, which both infilled feature [105], and raised the ground level between 200mm-400mm above the surface of the natural clay [102], which lay at between 3.40m and 3.65m OD.

The topsoil contained occasional fibrous rootlets, small pieces of flint/stone, and bore a covering of rough grass and weeds at its upper boundary. As part of the groundworks contract, the upper 100mm-200mm of this deposit was removed prior to the commencement of the foundation trenching.

Finally, contexts [100] and [106] were issued to identify unstratified finds, recovered respectively from the general area of the building 'footprint', and the excavated spoil heaps. Pottery and ceramic building material recovered from these locations was found to date to between the 13th-14th and 18th-20th centuries (see *Appendix D*, below).

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

As outlined above, this investigation was designed to secure an archive record of any archaeological material impacted by the development, and in that respect has proved an appropriate response to the threat.

Unfortunately, in spite its apparent potential, the results of this watching brief have provided no evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with the majority of the dating evidence appearing residual, and no structural remains revealed.

The single feature that was uncovered appeared to be the remains of a natural pool, probably used to water livestock, as could be still be seen with a similar feature in the neighbouring field to the west.

Notwithstanding this however, the results of this project add to the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the vicinity. This suggests that any future developments in the village and surrounding area still have a significant chance of encountering archaeological remains.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Mr & Mrs Ralph for funding this project, and for their continued support during the works.

Thanks are also due to Dr Beryl Lott (Curatorial Archaeologist) of Conservation Services, Highways & Planning Directorate, Lincolnshire County Council, for her advice prior to the commencement of the project; and to Ed Lewis & Sarah Grundy for their assistance when consulting the Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record.

8.0 Selected References

- Albone, J, 1999 *Land adjacent to Threeways, Hasthorpe Road, Sloothby, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
- Brett, A, 2001 *Plot 1, Hasthorpe Road, Sloothby, Alford, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
- Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*, English Place-name Society
- East Lindsey District Council, 10th of May 2004 *Full Planning Permission, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Application Number N/208/00275/04: Planning Permission - Erection of a detached dormer bungalow and construction of a vehicular access. Site adjacent to Carousel, Sloothby High Lane, Sloothby, Alford*
- Morgan, P, and Thorn, C (eds), 1986 *Domesday Book 31 - Lincolnshire (parts one and two)*, Phillimore and Co. Ltd., London and Chichester
- Owen, D M, 1971 *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire, V, Lincolnshire Local History Society, Lincoln

9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code:	TPS04
Museum Accession Number:	2004.185
Planning Application Number:	N/208/00275/04
Supervising Archaeologist:	K. Wragg
NGR:	TF 4975/7085
Civil Parish:	Willoughby with Sloothby
SMR Number:	n/a
Date of Intervention:	30 th July to 2 nd August 2004
Type of Intervention:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Undertaken for:	Mr & Mrs Ralph, The Paddock, High Lane, Sloothby, Alford, Lincolnshire, LN13 9NR

Appendix A

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
7	Context records
5	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour negatives, colour contact print, & CD containing photographic images
1 assemblage	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (as detailed in <i>Appendix D</i> , below)
Various	Miscellaneous supporting documentation

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**Lincs Archaeo-tech,
50 High Street,
Martin,
Lincolnshire,
LN4 3QT**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, 12 Friars Lane, Lincoln, LN2 5AL, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2004.185, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Appendix B

Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of site prior to commencement of trenching - looking north-west



Plate 2: General view of completed foundation trench - looking north-west

Appendix B (continued)

Colour Plates



Plate 3: General view of stratigraphic sequence in south-facing trench section, including feature [105] (drawn as western half of Section 2, see Figure 5) - looking north

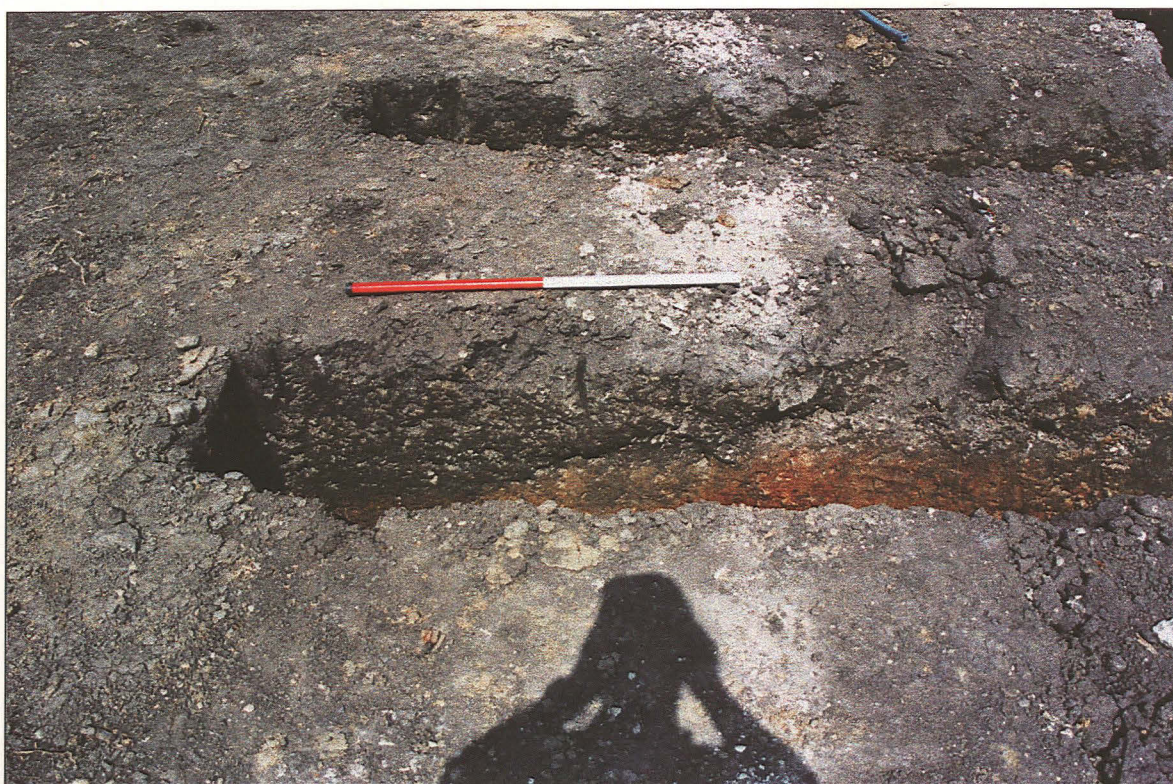


Plate 4: General view of stratigraphic sequence in south-facing trench section, including feature [105] (drawn as eastern half of Section 2, see Figure 5) - looking north

Appendix C

Context Listing

[100]	Unstratified finds - building 'footprint'
[101]	Topsoil layer - moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown humic topsoil; contains occasional fibrous rootlets, and occasional small pieces of flint/stone; forms secondary fill of [105]
[102]	Silty clay layer/subsoil - moderate-well compacted mid-light (dull) orange-brown slightly silty clay; contains occasional-moderately frequent small chalk & flint pieces; present to L.O.E.
[103]	Moderate-well compacted mid-light slightly yellow/green-brown clayey silt; contains no obvious inclusions, but overlies/merges with [104]; between 100mm and 150mm thick
[104]	Intermittent 'layer' of small-medium sized, irregularly shaped chalk/limestone pieces present in base of 'pond' [105]; present in various locations across feature; single 'course' only
[105]	Large, probably natural, depression/cut feature present across western/central area of site; shape in plan not revealed, but likely to be circular/oval; present in several sections, with a maximum depth of c. 700mm; appears to extend c. 10m (N-S) x c. 7m (E-W) (to edge of site); sides are generally flat with only a very gentle slope, merging into a slightly rounded base; very, very gradual break of sides at the surface - probably represent the remains of a pond
[106]	Unstratified finds - spoil heaps

Appendix D

Post-Roman pottery & ceramic building material: Archive Listings

Jane Young, Ceramic Consultant

Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Context number	Cname	Sub fabric	Form type	Sherds	Weight (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date (century)
[100]	BL		?	1	6		BS	Abraded	17 th - 18 th
[100]	FREC		Drinking jug	1	4		BS		Mid 16 th - 17 th
[100]	GRE		Large bowl	1	38		Rim	Folded rim	Late 17 th - 18 th
[100]	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX; fine-med sandy; hard	Jug/jar	1	18		Base	Abundant fine quartz mod med occ-mod fine ca mod fe; reduced glaze; fabric type series	13 th - 14 th
[100]	MEDLOC	oxid or OX/R/OX; med sandy; hard	Jar	1	6		BS	Taken for fabric type series; comm med subround quartz moderate larger rounded occ white clay streaks; ? TOY	13 th - 14 th
[100]	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX; fine-med sandy; hard	Jug/jar	1	10		BS	Comm med subround quartz moderate larger rounded; ? TOY	13 th - 14 th
[100]	MEDX	OX/R; fine sandy; hard	Jug	1	2		BS	Abundant fine quartz mod fine ca; abraded; Beverley ?	13 th - 14 th
[100]	TOY		Jug/jar	1	15		BS	Reduced fine fabric; hard fired; ? Toynnton product	13 th - 14 th
[100]	TOYII		Jug	1	68		Base	Stacking scar of rim	Mid 15 th - mid 16 th
[103]	TOY	C	Small jug	1	49		Handle	Small oval ribbed handle	14 th - 15 th
[103]	TOY		Jug	1	28		BS	Fabric type series; fabric incl comm ca lumps & white clay streaks	14 th - 15 th
[103]	TOY		Bowl	1	48		Rim	Fabric type series; sloping hollow rim with internal groove at neck; fabric incl large ca lumps	14 th - 15 th
[106]	MEDLOC	dull oxid; med sandy; hard	Jar	1	8		Neck	Fabric type series; moderate med subround quartz mod fe streaky clay	13 th - 15 th
[106]	NCBW		Bowl	1	13	slip banded	Rim		19 th
[106]	TOY		Jug/jar	1	38		BS	? ID as unusual hard fired fabric	Late 13 th - 15 th
[106]	TOYII		Jug	1	51	pressed strip under rim	Rim	Everted rim; top of rim knocked off where stuck in firing	Mid 15 th - mid 16 th
[106]	WHITE		Cup/small bowl	1	4	blue sponged	BS		19 th

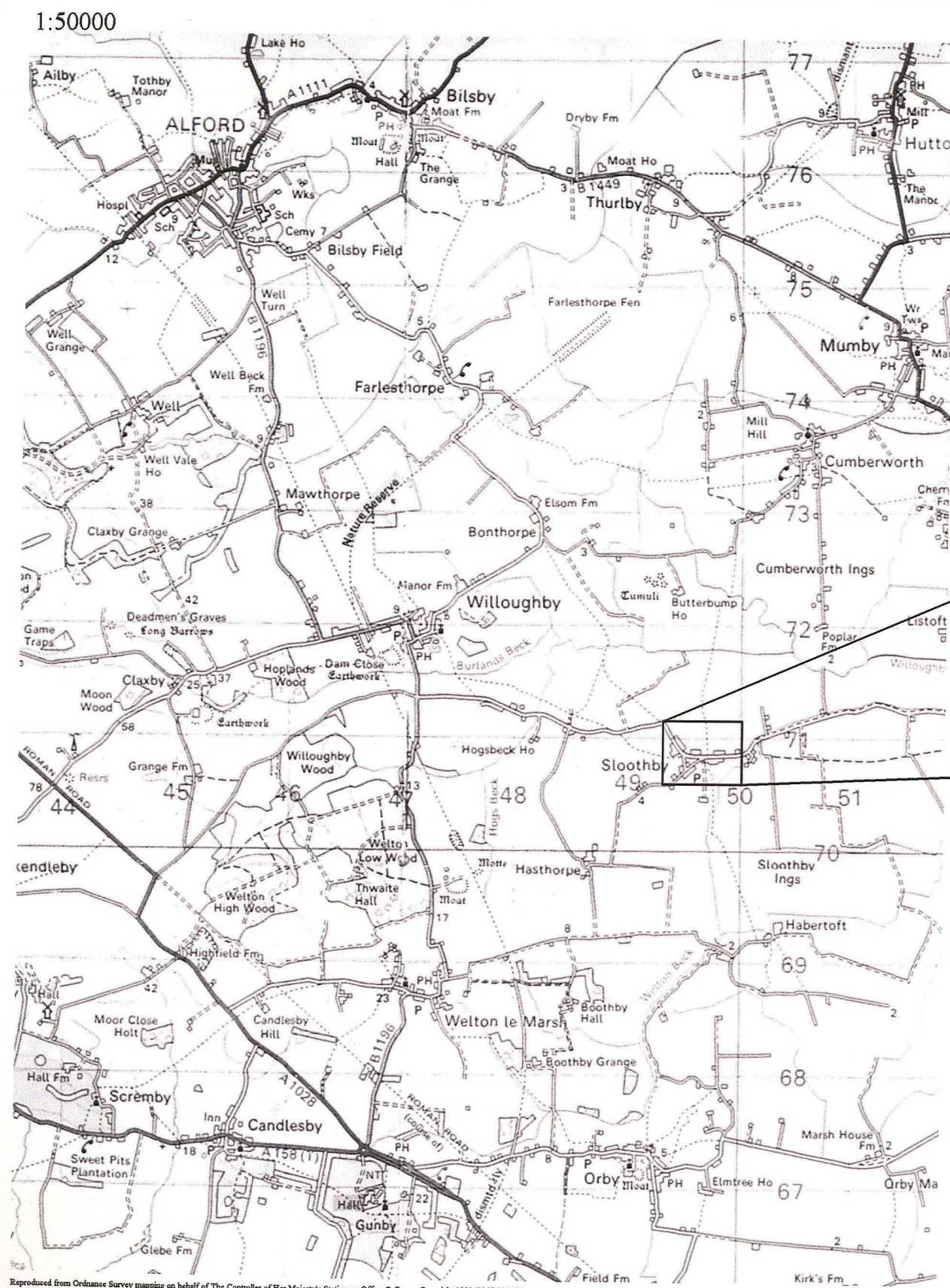
Ceramic glossary

BL Black-glazed wares (1550-1750)
 FREC Frechen stoneware (1530-1680)
 GRE Glazed red earthenware (1500-1650)
 MEDLOC Medieval local fabrics (1150-1450)
 MEDX Non-local medieval fabrics (1150-1450)

NCBW 19th century buff ware (1800-1900)
 TOY Toynnton medieval ware (1250-1450)
 TOYII Toynnton late-medieval ware (1450-1550)
 WHITE Modern whiteware (1850-1900)

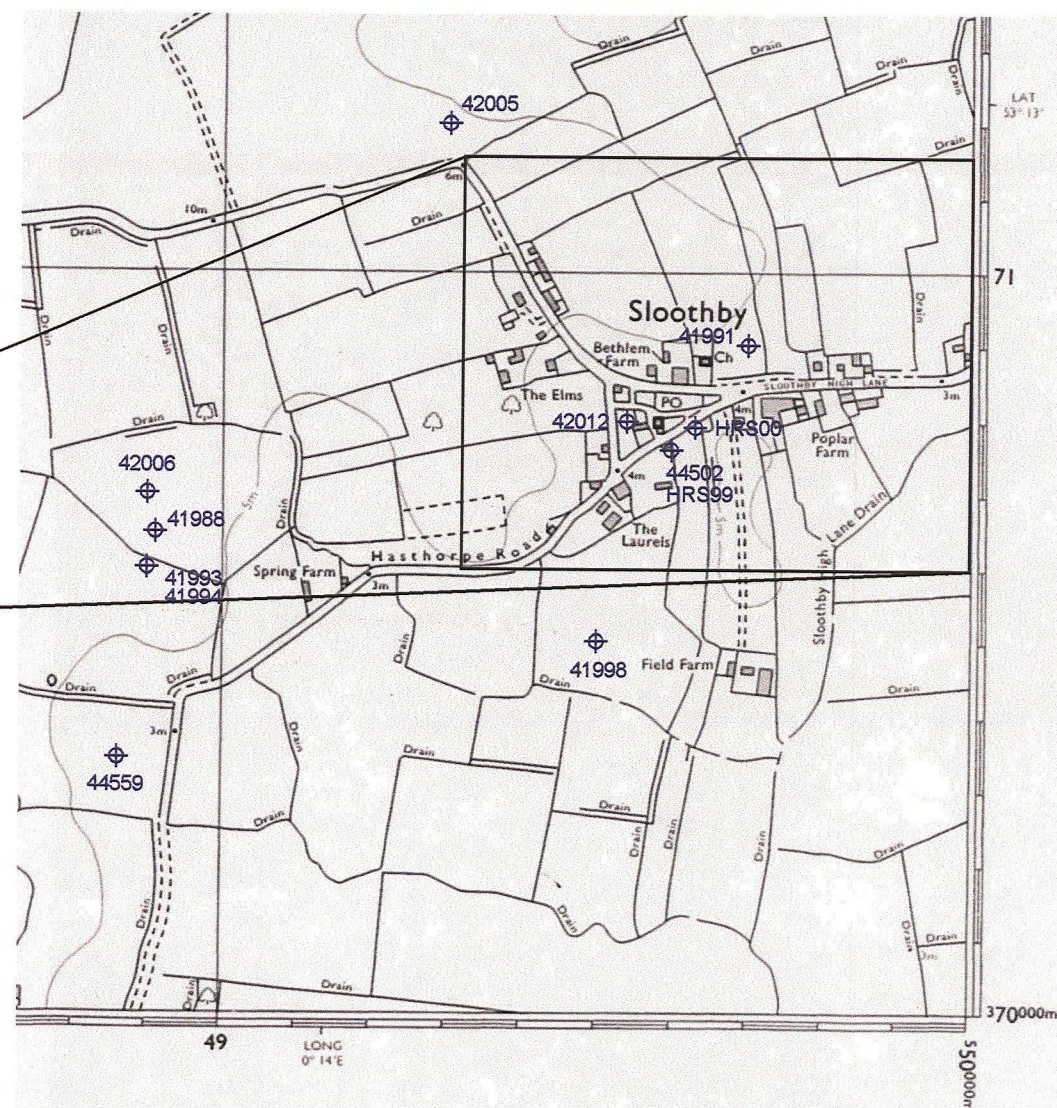
Ceramic Building Material Archive

Context Number	Cname	Full name	Fabric	Fragments	Weight (g)	Description	Date (century)
[100]	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile		1	54	Shaped; early modern	Late 18 th - 20 th
[106]	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fine oxid	1	18	Flat roofer	13 th - 16 th



0m 5km

1:10000



0m 1km

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SITE CODE:
TPS04

CLIENT:
Mr & Mrs Ralph

DESCRIPTION:
Site Location Plans

SCALE:
See Individual Plans

DRAWN BY:

DATE:

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2004.185

KEY:
⊕ SMR Reference
41998



FIGURE NO:

1

SITE CODE:

TPS04

CLIENT:

Mr & Mrs Ralph

DESCRIPTION:

**Plan of
Development**

SCALE:

1:200

DRAWN BY:

-

DATE:

2nd August 2004

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACC. NO:

2004.185

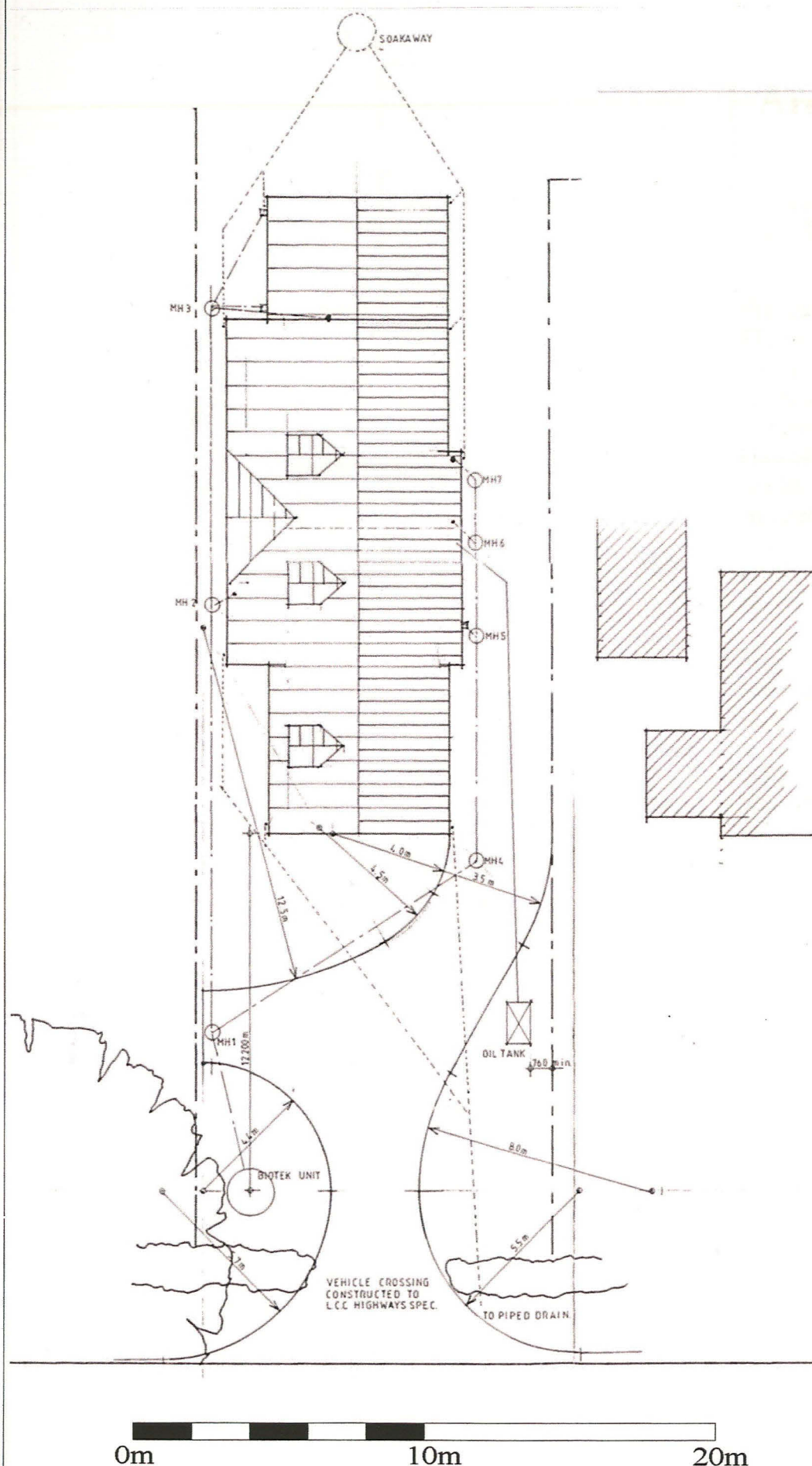


FIGURE NO:

2

SITE CODE:
TPS04

CLIENT:
Mr & Mrs Ralph

DESCRIPTION:
**Plan Showing
Archaeological Feature
and Section Locations**

SCALE:
1:100





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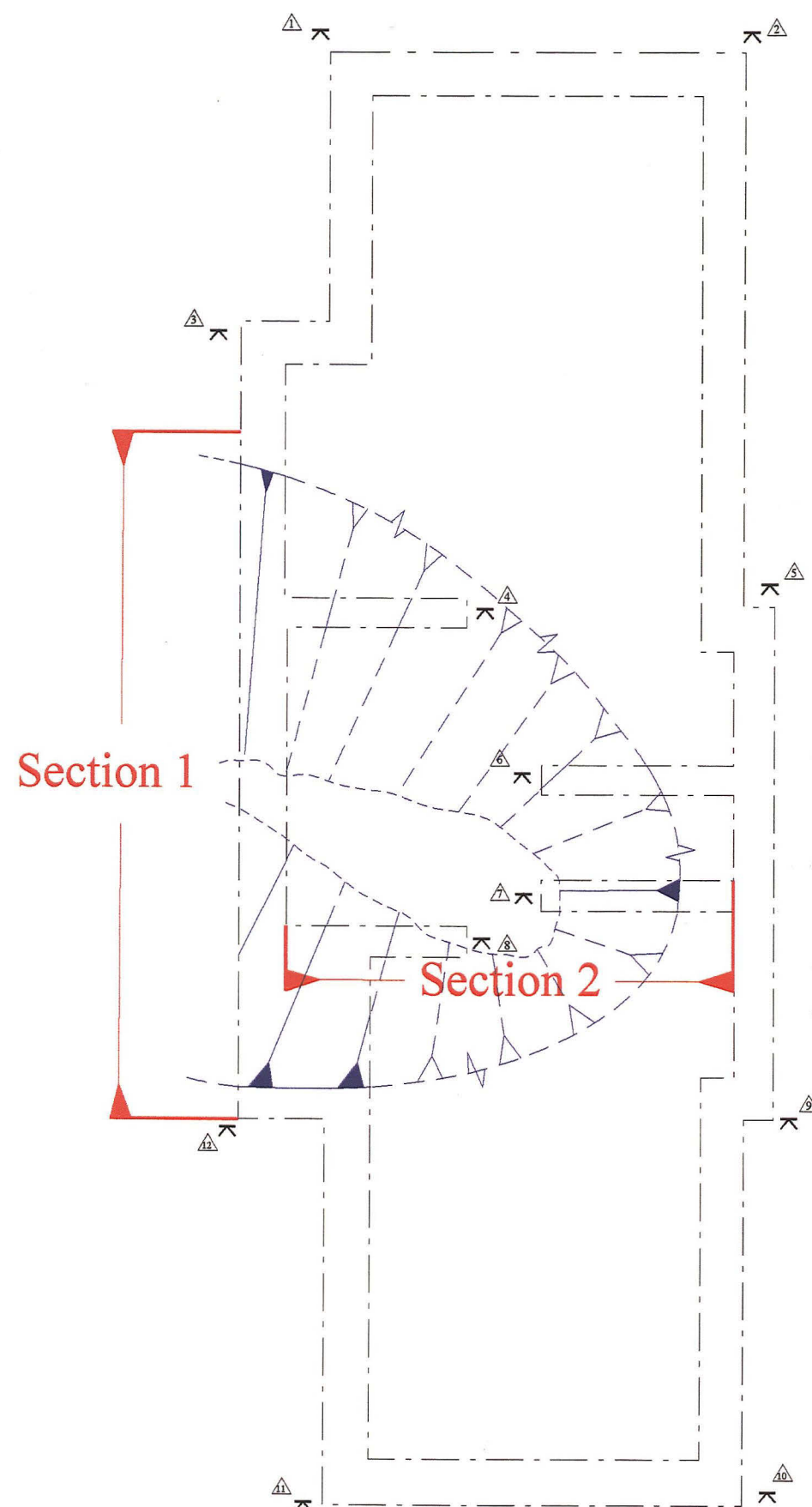
DATE:
2nd August 2004

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2004.185

KEY:

-  Limit of excavation
-  Cut feature
-  Conjectured edge
-  Spot level



Level values:

- 1) 3.50m OD
- 2) 3.73m OD
- 3) 3.56m OD
- 4) 3.59m OD
- 5) 3.69m OD
- 6) 3.66m OD
- 7) 3.67m OD
- 8) 3.66m OD
- 9) 3.73m OD
- 10) 3.72m OD
- 11) 3.57m OD
- 12) 3.75m OD

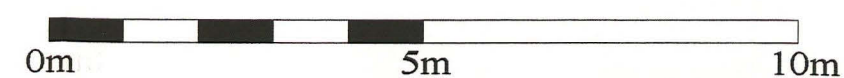


FIGURE NO:

3

SITE CODE:

TPS04

CLIENT:

Mr & Mrs Ralph

DESCRIPTION:

East-facing Section 1

SCALE:

1:20

DRAWN BY:

KW

DATE:

2nd August 2004

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

2004.185

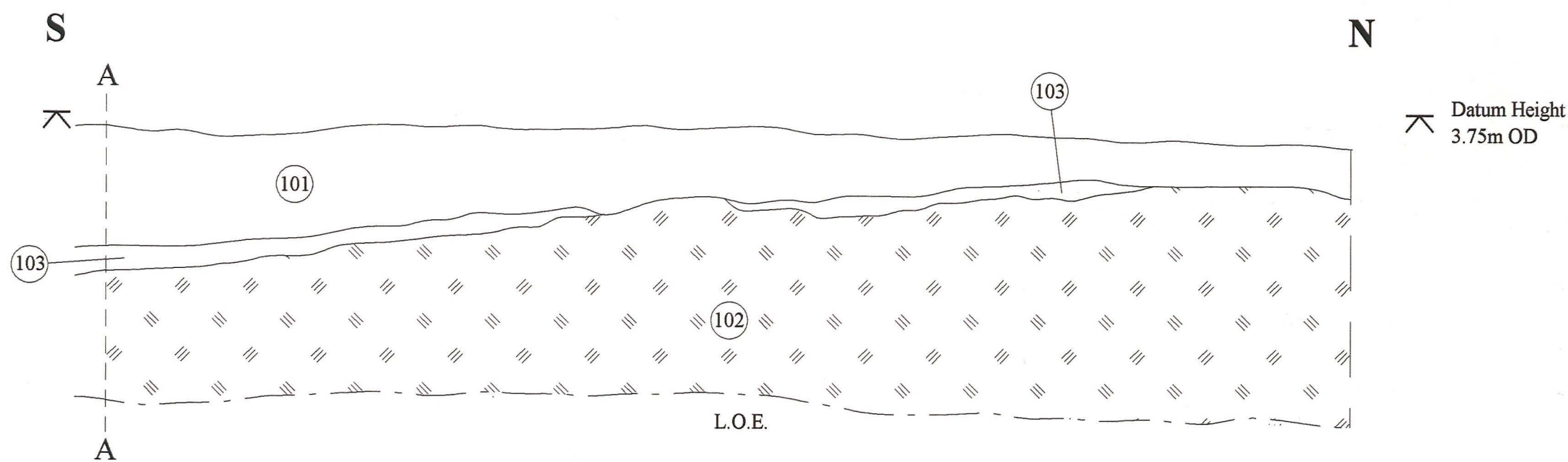
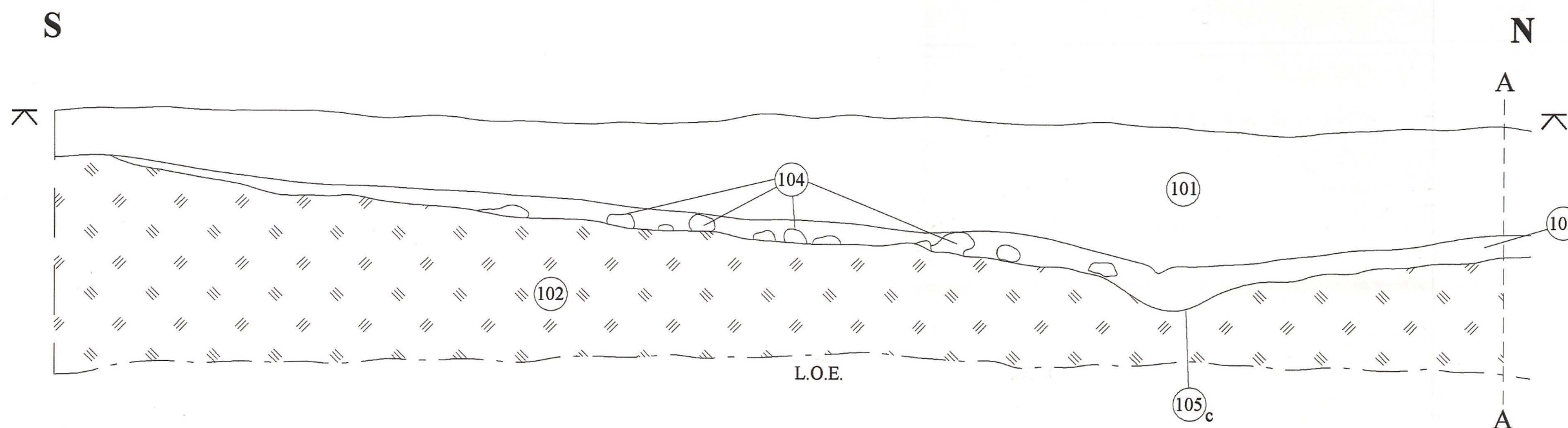
KEY:

Limit of excavation

Clay

Stone inclusions

Context number



Datum Height
3.75m OD

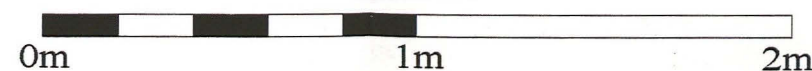


FIGURE NO:

4

SITE CODE:
TPS04

CLIENT:
Mr & Mrs Ralph

DESCRIPTION:
**South-facing Composite
Section 2**

SCALE:
1:20





DRAWN BY:
KW

DATE:
2nd August 2004

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2004.185

KEY:

-  Limit of excavation
-  Clay
-  Stone inclusions
-  Context number

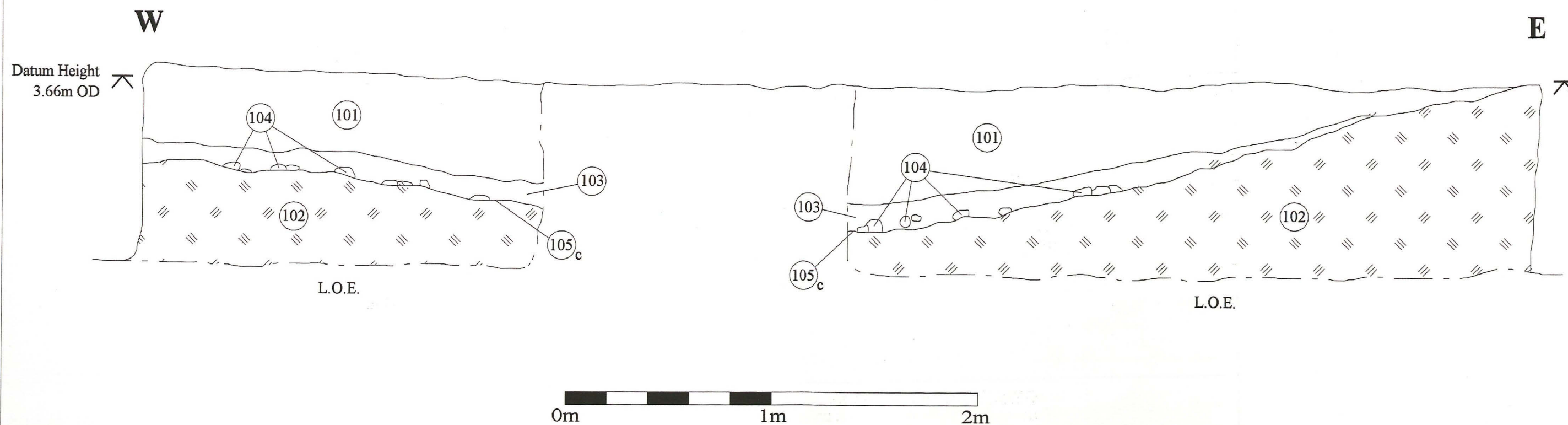


FIGURE NO:

5