

Archaeological Report No.: 40

Site Code: SUN11 LCCM Accession No.: 2011.32 Planning Application No.: 121620 NGR: TF 08540 89460

A Report to Turnkey Developments Ltd.

April 2011

Development at Rear of 'Sunnydene', North Street, Middle Rasen, Lincolnshire

By K Wragg

Scheme of Archaeological Works: Monitoring and Recording



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Scheme of Archaeological Works: Monitoring and Recording

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Development at Rear of 'Sunnydene', North Street, Middle Rasen, Lincolnshire

Scheme of Archaeological Works: Monitoring and Recording

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ The development site lies at the north-west corner of the village of Middle Rasen, which sits astride the River Rase in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 20km north-east of Lincoln and 26km east of Gainsborough. It is located in a part of the village originally known as Middle Rasen Tupholme, c. 200m to the west of the parish church of S^t. Peter and S^t. Paul.
- ❖ The somewhat irregularly-shaped plot is based around a generally rectangular core measuring approximately 20m (N-S) x 38m (E-W), and is bounded by an orchard to the north, and by existing properties, gardens and/or fields to the remaining sides. The remains of an earlier storage building were also present along the northern side of the site. Prior to redevelopment, the majority of the site was laid to coarse grass with numerous weeds and quantities of building detritus also in evidence.
- ❖ An application was submitted on the 21st of February 2008 for planning permission to demolish the existing building and erect a detached dormer bungalow with detached garage.
- Full consent for the scheme was granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 1st of July 2008, with a condition requiring the 'implementation of a programme of archaeological work' to ensure the 'investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site'.
- ❖ Alexandra Thornton, the Lincolnshire County Council planning archaeologist responsible for overseeing the project on behalf of WLDC, determined that a scheme of archaeological works envisaged to involve monitoring and recording of all groundworks should be undertaken in conjunction with the developer's groundworks programme. This would initially entail the archaeological monitoring of all topsoil stripping, and the recording of any archaeological remains revealed, with the provision for further monitoring and investigation, as required.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the developer, Turnkey Developments Ltd. to provide the required archaeological services, with site attendance undertaken on an intensive basis on the 15th and 16th of March 2011.
- In spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, however, the results ultimately provided no evidence for ancient occupation.
- ❖ Of the five features revealed, three almost certainly date to the very recent past, while the remaining two are unlikely to date to earlier than the beginning of the 20th century. In a similar vein, the deposits uncovered were all either undated, or of modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.

Development at Rear of 'Sunnydene', North Street, Middle Rasen, Lincolnshire

Scheme of Archaeological Works: Monitoring and Recording

1.0 Introduction

The development site lies at the north-west corner of the village of Middle Rasen, which sits astride the River Rase in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 20km north-east of Lincoln and 26km east of Gainsborough. It is located in a part of the village originally known as Middle Rasen Tupholme, c. 200m to the west of the parish church of S^t. Peter and S^t. Paul.

The somewhat irregularly-shaped plot is based around a generally rectangular core measuring approximately 20m (N-S) x 38m (E-W), and is bounded by an orchard to the north, and by existing properties, gardens and/or fields to the remaining sides. The remains of an earlier storage building were also present along the northern side of the site (see Figure 1). Prior to redevelopment, the majority of the site was laid to coarse grass with numerous weeds and quantities of building detritus also in evidence.

An application was submitted on the 21st of February 2008 (Application No.: 121620) for planning permission to demolish the existing building and erect a detached dormer bungalow with detached garage (see Figure 2).

Full consent for the scheme was granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 1st of July 2008, with a condition requiring the 'implementation of a programme of archaeological work' to ensure the 'investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site' (see 2.0, below).

Alexandra Thornton, the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Planning Archaeologist responsible for overseeing the project on behalf of WLDC, determined that a scheme of archaeological works envisaged to involve monitoring and recording of all groundworks should be undertaken in conjunction with the developer's groundworks programme. This would initially entail the archaeological monitoring of all topsoil stripping, and the recording of any archaeological remains revealed, with the provision for further monitoring and investigation, as required (see 4.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the developer, Turnkey Developments Ltd. to provide the required archaeological services, with site attendance undertaken on an intensive basis on the 15th and 16th of March 2011.

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.
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2.0 Planning Background

An application for planning permission was submitted to West Lindsey District Council on the 21st of February 2008, with full (conditional) consent for the scheme subsequently granted on the 1st of July 2008 (Application No.: 121620).

The Planning Permission included the following condition relating to archaeology:

9. No development shall take place within the site until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

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 in accordance with West Lindsey Local Plan First Review policy NBE7.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Middle Rasen lies at a nominal elevation of 20m O.D. upon a geology of chalky till overlain by soils of the Holme Moor association - fine sandy, stoneless soils, overlying clays (Mackney *et al*, 1983; Hodge *et al*, 1984).

3.1 Historical background

Prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066, Middle Rasen was administered as part of the *wapentake* of Walshcroft (Pitman, 2006) in the so-called 'Five Boroughs' of the Danelaw - the historical name given to the part of Great Britain in which the laws of the 'Danes' were observed between the 9th and 11th centuries.

The Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, lists six major landowners in Middle Rasen - the Bishop of Bayeux, Roger of Poitou, Alfred of Lincoln, Jocelyn, son of Lambert, Ralph Pagnell (or Paynel), and Durand Malet - and gives a population of over sixty households, together with a church and attendant priest (Morgan & Thorn, 1986a & b).

The existing grade II* listed church of S^{t.} Peter and S^{t.} Paul was built by monks from Tupholme Abbey during the 12th century and was originally dedicated solely to S^{t.} Peter (Pitman, 2006). It retains several Norman features - specifically the south doorway and the chancel arch - while the north arcade dates from around 1200 (Pevsner & Harris, 1978, p.316).

In the 14th century, the lord of the manor, William Paynell, commissioned the building of a second church, in this case dedicated to S^{t.} Paul, which was subsequently gifted to Drax Priory in Yorkshire. By the 19th century, however, both churches were in a state of disrepair and in 1860 it was decided to demolish S^{t.} Paul's and use some of the recovered material to restore S^{t.} Peter's, which was then re-dedicated to both saints (Pitman, 2006). The chancel north window and its reticulated tracery originate from the demolished church, together with an early 14th-century effigy of a Priest on a low tomb-chest (Pevsner & Harris, 1978, p.316).

The building of the second church divided the village into two ecclesiastical parishes and townships which became known as Middle Rasen Drax and Middle Rasen Tupholme, with each settlement featuring regular layouts of apparently planned origin: Middle Rasen Drax had two major elements - an irregular group of streets around its church and a regular block to the south-west; while Middle Rasen Tupholme was laid out along a single east-west street with long tofts to the north of the road and shorter tofts backing onto the River Rase to the south (Everson *et al*, 1991, p.21; LCC, 2009).

The modern place-name 'Rasen' has been variously recorded throughout history as *æt ræsnan*, *Resne*, *Rase*, *Rasa* and *Rasne*, which can be translated as 'at the planks', derived from the dative plural *ræsnum* from the Old English word *ræsn*, 'a plank'. It is thought that this is perhaps a reference to a plank bridge or planks laid across marshy ground.

Middle Rasen itself has been recorded as *Media Rasa*, *Middelrasen'*, *Middel Rasen Drax* and *media Rasyn Tupholme*, the latter two reflecting the ownership of land in the parish by Drax Priory and Tupholme Abbey, respectively (q.v.) (Cameron, 1998).

3.2 Archaeological background

A variety of chance finds have been made in the areas surrounding Middle Rasen, including a small Neolithic polished stone axe found in 1957, a Roman coin from the rule of Emperor Gratian (AD 375-383), and pieces of Romano-British pottery. Earthworks have also been identified from aerial photographs which suggest the presence of medieval or post-medieval settlement remains comprising ridge and furrow fields, crofts and ponds (ADS, 2009; LCC, 2009), and an archaeological watching brief carried out in 2000 by Lindsey Archaeological Services at the junction of Church Street and North Street uncovered a series of Saxo-Norman ditches of unknown function (LCC, 2009; Tann & Angus, 2000).

More recently, and in much closer proximity to the site, an archaeological investigation was undertaken by Lincs Archaeo-tech on a residential development in the former garden of 'Sunnydene' itself. This work, undertaken in 2009, involved the monitoring of all topsoil stripping in the areas of an access road, parking spaces and new-build 'footprint', but while a series of buried deposits was uncovered, the results unfortunately provided no evidence whatsoever for ancient occupation (Wragg, 2009).

4.0 Methodology

In the course of discussions prior to the commencement of the project, Alexandra Thornton, of the LCC Historic Environment Team, determined that a 'scheme of archaeological works envisaged to involve monitoring and recording of all groundworks' should be undertaken in conjunction with the developer's groundworks programme.

Section 5.12 of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook (revised November 2010) (LCC, 2010), defines an archaeological Scheme of Monitoring and Recording as follows:

This entails the appointed archaeologist watching all groundworks on a site in order to record any archaeological remains which may be disturbed. Allowances should also be made to allow the archaeologist sufficient time to record any archaeological finds and features on site.

In this case, this would initially entail the archaeological monitoring of all topsoil stripping, and the recording of any archaeological remains revealed, with the provision for further monitoring and investigation, as required.

In accordance with these requirements, the scheme of investigation was designed to:

a) Produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme, and the particular development design.

Specifically, the investigation would attempt to:

- (i) identify and record any archaeological features and artefacts exposed during construction work;
- (ii) determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- (iii) determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- (iv) recover dating evidence from any archaeological features;
- (v) establish the stratigraphic sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site;
- (vi) retrieve any environmental evidence relating to the historic environment and economy of the site;
- (vii) interpret any archaeological features and finds within the context of the known archaeology of the site and surrounding area;
- b) Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report;
- c) Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

To achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech (hereafter 'the Archaeologist') attended site on an intensive basis during all site stripping and enabling works in order to observe and record any buried archaeological deposits and/or features.

All excavated areas were closely inspected for archaeological deposits, features and artefacts, with each discrete archaeological deposit or feature issued with a unique context number (e.g., context [100]) and described in detail on pro-forma recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Site spoil heaps were also checked for displaced artefacts, general/detailed record photographs taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced (with appropriate levels tied to the OS datum), as required.

5.0 Results

The monitored groundworks for the project were limited to the stripping of topsoil and other overburden across the nominal 'footprint' of the new building to a depth of between 300mm and 500mm below the existing ground level, together with the excavation of a small section of foundations for an internal fireplace and chimney, measuring approximately 2.5 m (N-S) x 1 m (E-W), to depth of c. 400mm below the stripped surface.

The stratigraphic sequence revealed during the course of the works (from earliest (*i.e.*, oldest) to latest) was as follows (see *Appendix C*, below, for detailed context descriptions; also Figures 3 & 4):

The earliest deposit, [105], was revealed at the base of the fireplace foundation trench and in a small exploratory trench excavated in the south-west quadrant of the site, and comprised a layer of well compacted, sticky light brown/yellow-brown clay with veins of orange-brown coarse sand. It was at least 200mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and contained no obvious inclusions, and is assumed to represent the upper boundary of the prevailing undisturbed natural (*i.e.*, geological) deposit for the area.

Above [105] was a layer of moderately compacted, slightly mottled mid-light brown/grey-brown clayey, silty soil, [107], which was seen to be up to 200mm thick and was present across the site. It was very homogeneous in appearance and contains no obvious inclusions apart from occasional small flecks of red brick/tile and charcoal at its very uppermost boundary, which appeared to be intrusive material from the overlying topsoil.

At the south-west corner of the excavated area, [107] was cut by a large possible pit feature (or natural depression), [106], which while only partially revealed (north end and east side), appeared to be generally oval in shape, with its long axis oriented approximately N-S. It was not fully excavated, but appeared to have very shallow sloping sides and a rounded base, and measured at least 8m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W), with a depth of up to 300mm.

[106] was infilled by a series of three deposits, the first of which comprised a moderately compacted, mid grey-brown clayey, silty soil, [104]. This was up to 100mm thick and contained moderately frequent small charcoal flecks, small brick/tile pieces and flecks, and flecks of yellow-brown clay, and possibly represents redeposited [107]. Above [104], a 100mm thick deposit of moderately compacted, mixed and mottled midorange sand and mid grey-brown sandy, clayey silt, [103], was in evidence. This contained only infrequent small brick and tile flecks, and was itself overlain by [102], a moderate-well compacted, slightly friable, mixed yellow-brown clay (80%) and mid-grey silty clay (20%), which contained moderately frequent inclusions of modern building rubble, including fragments of brick and tile, and mortar pieces and flecks, and was up to 200mm thick.

The uppermost fill deposit of cut [106] lay immediately beneath the topsoil layer [101], which comprised a moderately compacted, mid-dark grey-brown clayey, silty soil, which was up to 400mm thick and was present across the site. It contained infrequent small flecks/pockets of yellow clay and sand, rounded pebbles and small flecks of charcoal, occasional-moderately frequent small fibrous roots and rootlets, and occasional modern brick/tile inclusions (with some other surface concentrations of dumped modern material at various location), and carried a sparse covering of coarse turf at its upper boundary.

A series of intrusive features and deposits were then in evidence cutting through or sealing the topsoil layer. Towards the centre of the excavated area, a small oval pit and the remains of a well were present. The pit, [108], measured approximately 600mm (N-S) x 900mm (E-W) and was filled with modern rubbish including fragments of transfer-printed white china and other crockery, rusted tin cans, broken glass, and similar material. The well, [109], was circular in plan and slightly conical in cross-section, with a diameter of c. 600mm at the top (widening to c. 800-900mm at the lowest visible point), and was open to a depth of at least 5m from the uppermost surviving brick course. It was formed of 'standard' (i.e., non-curved) machine-made red clay building bricks (thereby giving a somewhat angular, 'stepped' appearance to the inside profile), with at least seven courses visible to the surface of the water. The bricks were dry-laid, with no evidence of

mortar bonding. It had been capped with a 600mm x 450mm concrete paving slab on its eastern side and by an arrangement of several red clay bricks and part of a concrete paving slab on its western side.

To the south of these features, the linear trench for a modern land-drain, [111], was in evidence, oriented approximately east-west, while at the south-east corner of the site, an oval pit, [110], was partially revealed. This was again filled with a variety of modern rubble and general rubbish - bricks, brick/tile pieces, broken glass, *etc.* - and measured approximately 600mm (N-S) x 900mm (E-W) (to the section edge).

Finally, at the north-east corner of the excavated area, the remains of a hard-packed clay floor or surface, [112], were present. This covered an area measuring at least 12m (E-W) x 5.5m (N-S) and appeared to be constrained between the remaining foundations of the large shed originally present on the site and is therefore likely to represent the remains of the floor of this structure. It was not excavated, but appeared to be up to 300mm thick with its upper surface approximately 100mm-200mm below existing ground level.

A further context number, [100], was issued to identify any unstratified finds found during the course of the groundworks, but in the absence of any such material, remained unused.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

During the course of the groundworks associated with this development, a series of seven deposits and five features were recorded in accordance with the aims and objectives established at the outset of the project (see 4.0, above). In spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, however, the results ultimately provided no evidence for ancient occupation.

Of the five features revealed, three almost certainly date to the very recent past, while the remaining two are unlikely to date to earlier than the beginning of the 20th century. In a similar vein, the deposits uncovered were all either undated, or of modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Turnkey Developments Ltd. for funding this project, and in particular Messrs. K. Keyworth and C. Goodwin of Turnkey Developments Ltd. for their support and assistance during the works.

Thanks are also due to Alexandra Thornton of the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council.

8.0 Selected References

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9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code: SUN11 2011.32 **Museum Accession Number:** Planning Application Number: 121620 **Supervising Archaeologist:** K. Wragg NGR: TF 08540 89460 Middle Rasen Civil Parish:

15th & 16th March 2011 **Date of Intervention:**

Type of Intervention: Scheme of archaeological works: monitoring and recording

Turnkey Developments Ltd., Westbrook Farm, Station Road, North **Undertaken for:**

Thoresby, Lincolnshire, DN36 5QS

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

No.	Description	
1	Site diary	
13	Context records	
4	Scale drawings	
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)	
1 set	Colour photographic prints and negatives	
1 set	Colour digital photographs (on CD)	
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 Collection* - the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire - Danes Terrace, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2011.32, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Colour Plates





Plate 2: General view of site at commencement of stripping - looking north-east

Colour Plates (continued)



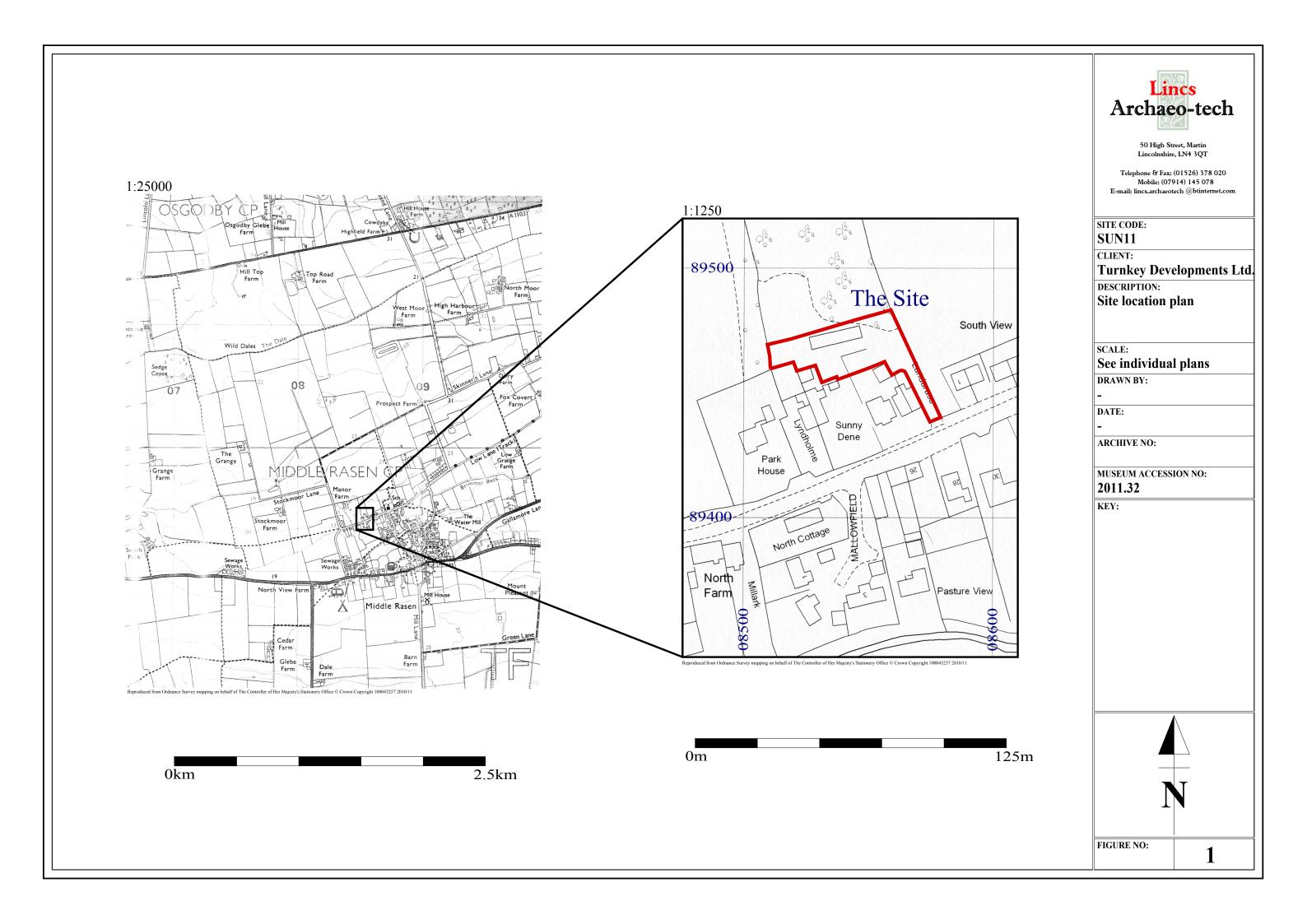
Plate 3: General view of natural clay layer [105] in base of exploratory trial hole - looking west

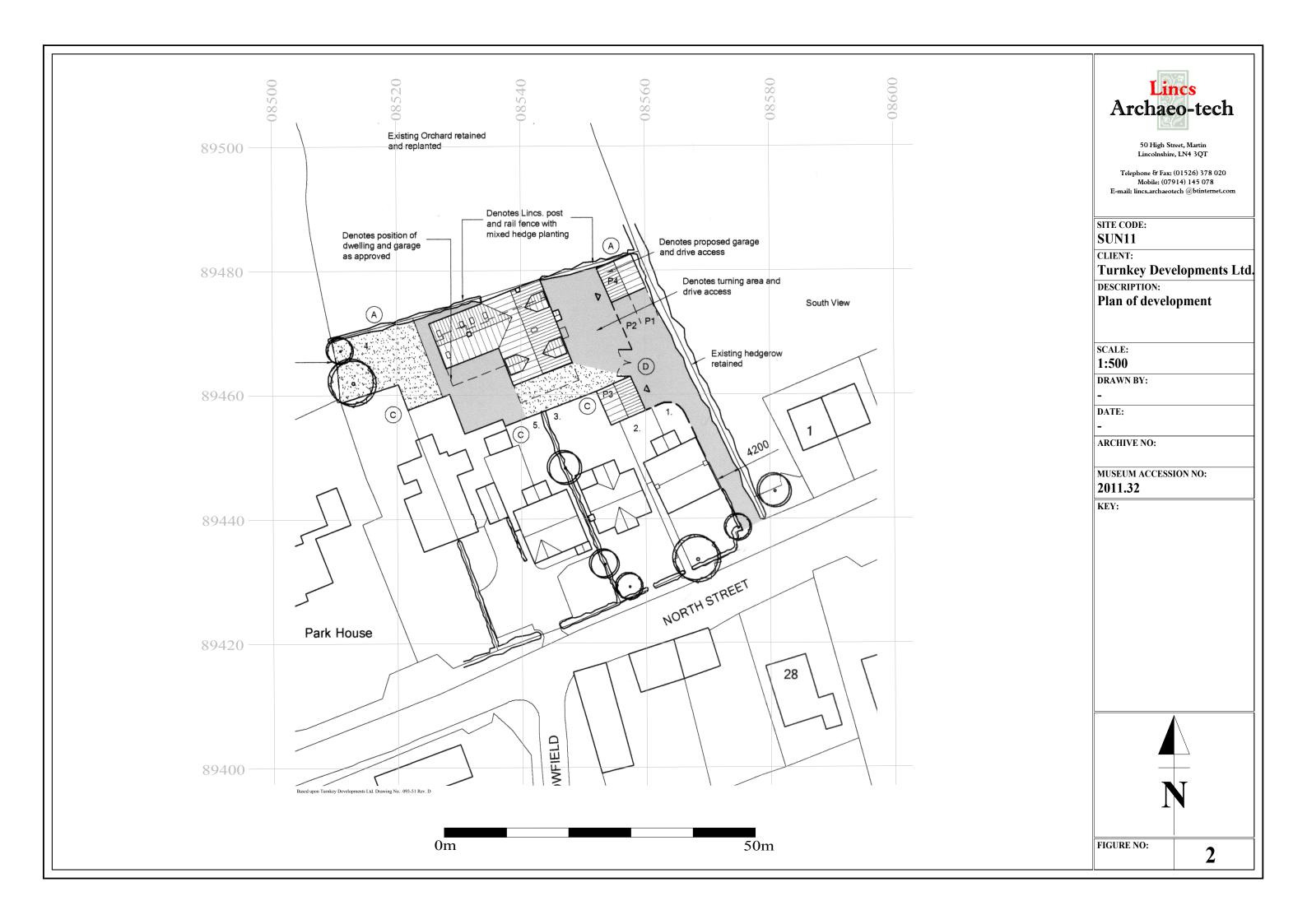


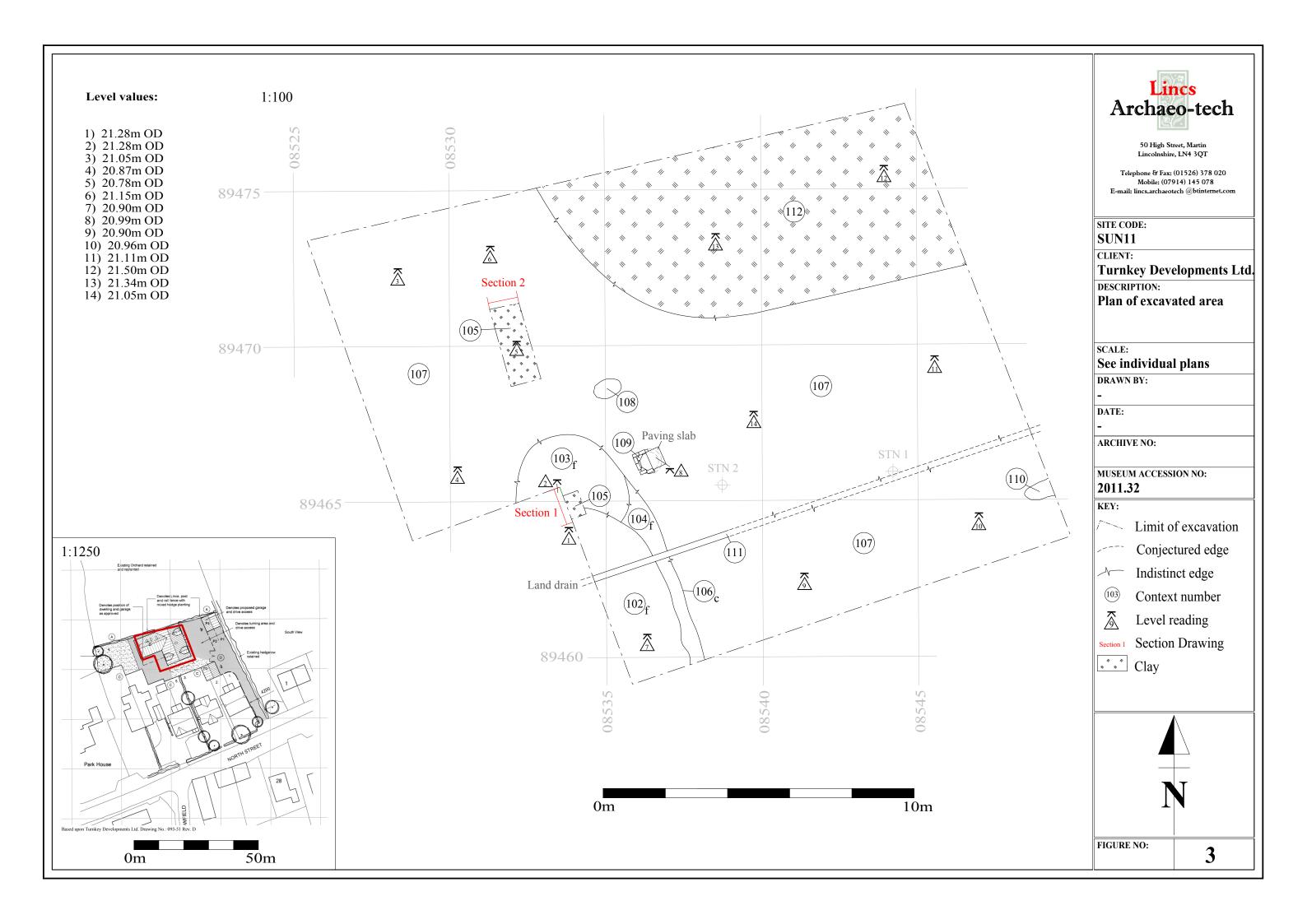
Plate 4: General view of completed stripped area - looking north-west

Context Listing

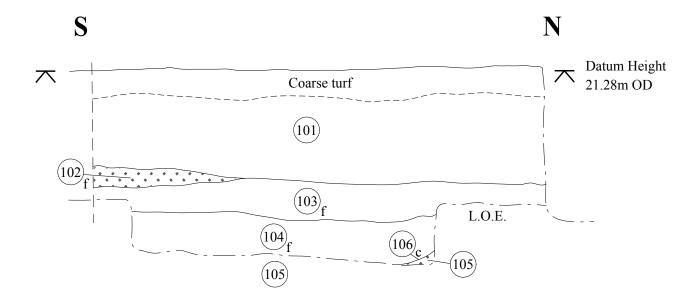
Context No.	Description	
[100]	Unstratified finds - from general site area & spoil-heaps - unused	
[101]	Topsoil layer - moderately compacted, mid-dark grey-brown clayey, silty soil; contains	
[101]	infrequent small flecks/pockets of yellow clay & sand, rounded pebbles & small flecks of	
	charcoal, occasional-moderately frequent small fibrous roots & rootlets, & occasional	
	modern brick & tile inclusions (also some other concentrations of dumped modern	
	material at various location); bears a sparse covering of coarse turf at its upper boundary;	
	up to 400mm thick and present across the site	
[102]	Dump/fill deposit - moderate-well compacted, slightly friable, mixed yellow-brown clay	
[]	(80%) & mid-grey silty clay (20%); contains moderately frequent inclusions of modern	
	building rubble, including fragments of brick & tile, & mortar pieces & flecks; not fully	
	excavated, but up to 200mm thick	
[103]	Dump/fill deposit - moderately compacted, mixed & mottled mid-orange sand & mid grey-	
[]	brown sandy, clayey silt; contains only infrequent small brick & tile flecks; up to 100mm	
	thick	
[104]	Dump/fill deposit - moderately compacted, mid grey-brown clayey, silty soil; contains	
r · J	moderately frequent small charcoal flecks, small brick/tile pieces & flecks, & flecks of	
	yellow-brown clay; up to 100mm thick; possibly redeposited [107]?	
[105]	Natural (i.e., geological) clay layer - well compacted, sticky light brown/yellow-brown	
. ,	clay with veins of orange-brown coarse sand; contains no inclusions; at least 200mm thick	
	to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.)	
[106]	Possible large cut feature (or natural depression) - only partially revealed (north end & east	
	side) at south-west corner of the site; appeared generally oval in shape, with long axis	
	oriented approximately N-S; not fully excavated, but appeared to have very shallow	
	sloping sides breaking gently from the surface & merging to form a rounded base;	
	measured at least 8m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W), with a depth of up to 300mm	
[107]	Subsoil layer/natural - moderately compacted, slightly mottled mid-light brown/grey-	
. ,	brown clayey, silty soil; contains no obvious inclusions apart from occasional small flecks	
	of red brick/tile & charcoal at its very uppermost boundary, which appears to be intrusive	
	material from the overlying topsoil; very homogeneous in appearance; not fully excavated,	
	but seen to be up to 200mm thick	
[108]	Small oval pit filled with modern rubbish - fragments of transfer-printed white china &	
	other crockery, rusted tin cans, broken glass, etc.; not excavated; measured approximately	
	600mm (N-S) x 900mm (E-W)	
[109]	Circular & conical brick-built well - made of 'standard' (i.e., non-curved) machine-made	
	red clay building bricks, with at least seven courses visible to the surface of the water;	
	bricks are dry-laid, with no evidence of mortar bonding; diameter is c. 600mm at the top &	
	c. 800-900mm at the lowest visible point; does not appear to have been backfilled & is	
	open to a depth of at least 5m from the uppermost surviving brick course; capped with a	
	600mm x 450mm concrete paving slab on its eastern side & by several red clay bricks &	
	part of a concrete paving slab on its western side	
[110]	Oval pit partially revealed at the south-east corner of the site; filled with a variety of	
	modern rubble & rubbish - bricks, brick/tile pieces, broken glass, etc.; not excavated;	
	measured approximately 600mm (N-S) x 900mm (E-W) (to the section edge)	
[111]	Modern land-drain - linear trench oriented approximately E-W; not excavated; measured	
	approximately 200mm wide (N-S) & extended for at least 15m (E-W)	
[112]	Modern clay floor/surface - hard-packed clay floor or surface present at north-east corner	
-	of the excavated area; appears constrained between the remaining foundations of the large	
	shed originally present on the site & therefore likely to represent the remains of the floor	
	of this structure; not excavated; appears to be up to 300mm thick with upper surface	
	approximately 100mm-200mm below existing ground level	



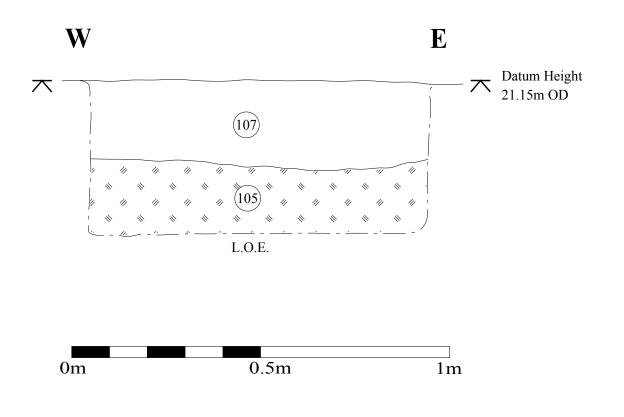




East-facing Section 1



South-facing Section 2





50 High Street, Martin Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020 Mobile: (07914) 145 078 E-mail: lincs.archaeotech @btinternet.com

SITE CODE:

SUN11

CLIENT:

Turnkey Developments Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:

Section drawings

1 & 2

SCALE:

1:10

DRAWN BY:

KW

DATE:

16th March 2011

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

2011.32

KEY:

Limit of excavation

Conjectured or arbitrary edge

Clay

103

Context number

FIGURE NO:



50 High Street, Martin, Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

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