

Archaeological Report No.: 41

Site Code: CVHK08

LCCM Accession No.: 2008.72

Planning Application No.: M05/P/0264

NGR: TF 06290 92710

A Report to Mr & Mrs Johnson

December 2012

Replacement Outbuildings, Church View House, Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

By K Wragg

Archaeological Watching Brief Final Report



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Replacement Outbuildings, Church View House, Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief - Final Report

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ Church View House lies close to the centre of the small village of Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 5km north-west of Market Rasen, 25km north-east of Lincoln and 25km east of Gainsborough. It is situated immediately south of the main road through the village, and as the name suggests, is in close proximity to the parish church of S^{t.} Andrew. The site lies at the rear of the property and is bounded to the east and west by existing residential properties, and by open pasture to the south.
- ❖ Planning Permission for the replacement of two existing storage structures with a new range of outbuildings comprising tractor storage, timber store, workshop and storage rooms encompassing a total area of *c*. 241m² was sought on the 17th March 2005 and subsequently granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 24th of January 2006.
- ❖ Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to WLDC) determined that while there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, there were a number of recorded sites and find-spots of interest in close proximity, and the site was therefore archaeologically sensitive. They recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance, and the planning consent was conditioned accordingly.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the owner/developers, Mr & Mrs Johnson, on the 23rd of April 2008 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was initially undertaken on the 16th of May 2008. Unfortunately, it was not possible to complete the entirety of the groundworks at this time, and the project was therefore put on indefinite hiatus following the initial phase of excavation.
- ❖ In mid 2010, the client expressed a desire to restart construction, with a view to completing the building work in the areas excavated in 2008 by the end of 2010, followed by excavation of the remaining foundation trenches sometime in the following year.
- ❖ In view of the considerable period of time elapsed since the initial programme of observation, however, it was decided by WLDC, in consultation with Mrs Waite of LCC Conservation Services, that an interim report should be produced before any further work be allowed to commence, with a final report then required upon completion of the eventual second phase of trenching, thereby allowing the planning condition to be fully discharged. In accordance with this request, an interim report (LAT Archaeological Report No. 38) was produced in July 2010.
- ❖ The final phase of groundworks was eventually undertaken on the 12th of June 2012, and this report presents the combined results of the two phases of excavation undertaken between 2008 and 2012.
- ❖ In the course of the excavation, six stratified deposits and seven linear cut features of indeterminate date were revealed, together with a large rubbish pit, a possible drain and a brick-built well of relatively recent date.
- Unfortunately, while the presence of the cut features indicates some form of activity in antiquity, a complete lack of dating evidence from any of the buried deposits makes further interpretation very difficult. While it may be postulated that the nature of the features themselves suggests they are associated with agriculture most likely field boundaries or drainage ditches and the apparent absence of any occupation deposits (beyond the relatively late well) may be taken as evidence that any focus of habitation lies elsewhere, any assessment of the period or periods during which this activity was undertaken is impossible.

Replacement Outbuildings, Church View House, Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief - Final Report

1.0 Introduction

Church View House lies close to the centre of the small village of Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 5km north-west of Market Rasen, 25km north-east of Lincoln and 25km east of Gainsborough. It is situated immediately south of the main road through the village, and as the name suggests, is in close proximity to the parish church of S^{t.} Andrew. The site lies at the rear of the property and is bounded to the east and west by existing residential properties, and by open pasture to the south (see Figure 1).

Planning Permission for the replacement of two existing structures (an $89m^2$ storage shed and a $72m^2$ workshop) with a new range of outbuildings comprising tractor storage, timber store, workshop and storage rooms encompassing a total area of c. $241m^2$ (see Figure 2) was sought on the 17^{th} March 2005 and subsequently granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 24^{th} of January 2006.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to WLDC) determined that while there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, there were a number of recorded sites and find-spots of interest in close proximity, and the site was therefore archaeologically sensitive. They recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance, and the planning consent was conditioned accordingly (see 2.0 and 4.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the owner/developers, Mr & Mrs Johnson, on the 23rd of April 2008 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was initially undertaken on the 16th of May 2008. Unfortunately, it was not possible to complete the entirety of the groundworks at this time, and the project was therefore put on indefinite hiatus following the initial phase of excavation.

In mid 2010, the client expressed a desire to restart construction, with a view to completing the building work in the areas excavated in 2008 by the end of 2010, followed by excavation of the remaining foundation trenches sometime in the following year.

In view of the considerable period of time elapsed since the initial programme of observation, however, it was decided by WLDC, in consultation with Mrs Waite of LCC Conservation Services, that an interim report should be produced before any further work be allowed to commence, with a final report then required upon completion of the eventual second phase of trenching, thereby allowing the planning condition to be fully discharged. In accordance with this request, an interim report (LAT Archaeological Report No. 38) was produced in July 2010.

The final phase of groundworks was eventually undertaken on the 12th of June 2012, and this report presents the combined results of the two phases of excavation undertaken between 2008 and 2012.

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

Planning Permission for the scheme was granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 24th of January 2006 (application number M05/P/0264 - a re-submission of an earlier application: M04/P/1002).

The Planning Permission included the following condition relating to archaeology:

2. The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist recognised by the district 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 that authority before development is commenced. Such arrangements shall include provision for the observation, recording and recovery of artefactual evidence and post-excavation analysis. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the district planning authority prior to the commencement of works. A report of the archaeologist's findings shall be submitted to the district planning authority within two months of the last day of the watching brief, or such longer period as may be agreed by the authority, and shall include arrangements for the conservation and long-term storage of artefacts removed from the site.

The reason for the 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 policy G1 of the West Lindsey Local Plan and policy STRAT1 of the emerging local plan.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is situated close to the centre of the village, at a nominal elevation of 19.50m OD. The geology of the immediate area comprises chalky till overlain by soils of the *Beccles 1* association - slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils (Mackney *et al*, 1983; Hodge *et al*, 1984).

3.1 Historical background

Prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066, Kirkby was administered as part of the *wapentake* of Walshcroft 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, however, does not include Kirkby in its own right, although land in the immediately neighbouring settlements of Kingerby and Osgodby was held by the Bishops of Bayeux and Lincoln, Ivo Tallboys, Roger of Poitou, Jocelyn, son of Lambert, Ralph Pagnell (or Paynel), and Svartbrandr and other thanes (Morgan & Thorn, 1986a & b).

In Kirkby, the church of S^t . Andrew has a tower in the Early English architectural style (1190-1250), a chancel dating from c. 1300, and a nave constructed c. 1790. Inside are effigies and grave monuments dating from the later 14^{th} century (Pevsner & Harris, 1978, p.286), while in the churchyard, a medieval cross and its socketed base are designated as a scheduled ancient monument.

The modern place-name 'Kirkby' was recorded variously in the 12th and 13th centuries as *Kyrchebeia*, *Kirkebi* and *Kirkeby*, all of which derive from the Old Danish compound word *kirkju-by*, meaning 'the village with a church' (Cameron, 1998).

3.2 Archaeological background

The earliest finds discovered from the area surrounding Kirkby have included a number of important Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds, including Neolithic flint scrapers found to the south of the village close to the A1103 (ADS, 2009).

During the Roman period, the site lay between the major Roman road running north from Lincoln ('Ermine Street', now the A15), and the Roman settlements at Market Rasen, Caistor, and further to the east, Louth. Approximately 0.5km to the west of Kirkby, limited excavation in the grounds of Kingerby Hall in 1993/4, uncovered remains apparently associated with a 2nd-3rd century Roman settlement, including two burials and a number of cut features probably representing field/property boundaries and drainage ditches. There was also evidence for the re-occupation of the site from the mid-late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods, in

addition to the remains of a moated manor, which appears to have replaced an earlier castle at the beginning of the 13th century (Wragg, 1995).

A similar moated manor lay to the east of the site, close to Osgodby in the area now occupied by Manor Farm, while in Kirkby itself, early aerial photographs showed earthworks (which have since been destroyed) to the north of S^t. Andrew's church that were part of the original medieval village. To the south of the church, the enclosure award map of 1806 recorded the remnants of a triangular layout of streets, that have similarly now disappeared (EH, 2010).

A number of finds of medieval to post-medieval date have been recorded in proximity to the site, including a quantity found several years ago during a metal detecting rally held at Kingerby and Kirkby (Karen Waite, pers. comm., 2nd May 2008).

Additionally, a watching brief was carried out by the author (while working for The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit) in 1997 on the neighbouring plot to the east of the present site, during the construction of a new bungalow on an area of former agricultural land.

This work revealed a total of fourteen linear features of various alignments, which all appeared to represent drainage and/or enclosure ditches. Unfortunately the features yielded no secure dating evidence, with the only finds limited to tile and pottery fragments of apparent 17th century date recovered from the topsoil deposit (Wragg, 1997).

4.0 Methodology

This scheme of investigation and recording was carried out to a specification approved by Karen Waite of LCC Conservation Services on behalf of WLDC on the 12th of May 2008, and designed in accordance with the then requirements (2008) of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* issued by LCC Conservation Services (LCC, 1998, since revised). This latter document referred to The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, produced in 1994 (revised 2001), which defines an archaeological watching brief as:

A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Accordingly, this project 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;
- b) Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum (*The Collection*, Lincoln) together with a client report;
- c) Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire County Historic Environment Record (HER).

To achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech attended site to observe all enabling groundwork (*e.g.*, removal of top-soil or other overburden and/or any general lowering of ground levels), foundation trenching, and excavation for services/drainage as required.

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, as required.

The groundworks for this project involved the machine excavation of a network of c. 600mm wide foundation trenches to an average depth of 1.2m below the existing concrete yard surface (see Figure 3). In the course of the excavation, six stratified deposits and seven linear cut features of indeterminate date were revealed, together with a large rubbish pit, a possible drain and a brick-built well of relatively recent date (see *Appendix B*, below, for detailed context descriptions).

The stratigraphic sequence (from earliest (i.e., oldest) to latest) was as follows (see also Figures 4, 5 & 6):

The earliest deposit, [106], was revealed in the base of the trench, most noticeably across the northern half of the site, and comprised a layer of well compacted light yellow-brown clay. It was at least 100mm thick to the limit of excavation (LOE), containing only very infrequent small pockets of shattered stone (chalk?), and is assumed to represent the upper boundary of the prevailing undisturbed natural (*i.e.*, geological) deposit for the area.

In the south-east corner of the excavated area, [106] was overlain by a layer of moderate-well compacted, mid grey silty clay, [114], which contained no obvious inclusions and was up to 300mm thick, while across the northern half of the site, it was cut by a series of seven linear cut features. Of these, five were aligned generally east-west ([107], [109], [110], [111] and [112]), one north-east to south-west ([108]), and the last, north-west to south-east ([113]).

[107], [109], [111] and [112] were all approximately 600mm wide (it is possible that [111] and [112] are parts of the same feature, but as there was no sign of a continuation in an intervening trench, this could not be confirmed), while [108], [110] and [113] were somewhat narrower, at 200mm to 400mm.

Each of the cut features was overlain by a layer of subsoil, [104], a well compacted, sticky mid yellow-brown clayey silt, which was at least 600mm thick and contained only occasional small stone and pebble (flint?) inclusions and very occasional small flecks of yellow clay. It is, of course, likely that the various features were actually cut from a higher level than the surface of the natural clay, but the overlying deposit was sufficiently homogeneous that no positive distinction between the fills and the surrounding subsoil layer could be determined in the field.

[104] was in turn overlain by a buried topsoil layer, [103], which comprised a moderate-well compacted, mid-dark (slightly grey-) brown clayey, silty soil with only very infrequent small-medium sized stone inclusions. This was present across the excavated area, with a thickness of approximately 500mm on the southern part of the site, increasing to c. 600mm as trenching progressed northwards.

Towards the centre of the southernmost foundation trench, [103] was cut by [105], a circular and slightly conical well, made of 'standard' machine-made red clay building bricks with at least nine courses remaining to LOE. The bricks themselves appeared 'dry-laid', with no evidence of mortar bonding, and the use of straight rather than specially-curved bricks resulted in the interior (and exterior, where revealed) having a 'stepped' profile. The well's diameter was c. 600mm at the top widening to approximately 800-900mm at the lowest visible point, and although a small amount of rubbish was present within, it was open to a depth of at least 1.5m from the uppermost surviving brick course. The top of the well was capped with two 600mm x 450mm concrete paving slabs, which lay approximately 500mm below the existing yard surface, at 19.17m

In the easternmost foundation trench, [103] was cut by what appeared to be a large rubbish pit fill, [115], comprising a moderately compacted, friable, mixed deposit of mid-light brown clayey, silty soil and modern dumped material - pieces of stone, modern tin cans, leather shoes, bottles, red clay bricks, pieces of concrete, roots and pieces of wood - which was present to almost the limit of excavation with a thickness of c. 1.2m.

At the base of [115], a possible land-drain [116] was revealed, comprising a thin bed of waterlogged fine gravel overlain by a single thickness sheet of polythene (damp-proof membrane or similar - all stained black by organic material and with a strong odour of hydrogen sulphide). This feature was between 100mm and 200mm thick and present at LOE.

The remains of the well, rubbish pit, and more generally, the upper surface of the buried topsoil layer [103] were then overlain by a layer of crushed/broken modern red brick (c. 80-90%) and concrete (no more than 10%) pieces, [102], which was up to 150mm thick and formed the bedding layer for the existing concrete yard surface/floor, [101].

A further context number, [100], was issued in order to identify any unstratified finds found during the course of the groundworks, but ultimately no such material was revealed.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

As detailed in the preceding section, the watching brief successfully identified a series of buried deposits and features, which were recorded in accordance with the aims and objectives established at the outset of the project (see 4.0, above).

Unfortunately, while the numerous cut features revealed on the site indicate some form of activity in antiquity, a complete lack of dating evidence from any of the buried deposits makes further interpretation very difficult.

While it may be postulated that the nature of the features themselves suggests they are associated with agriculture - most likely field boundaries or drainage ditches - and the apparent absence of any occupation deposits (beyond the relatively late well) may be taken as evidence that any focus of habitation lies elsewhere, any assessment of the period or periods during which this activity was undertaken is impossible.

7.0 Acknowledgements

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

Thanks are also due to: Mrs K. Waite of the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council.

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9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code: CVHK08 **Museum Accession Number:** 2008.72

Planning Application Number: M05/P/0264 (re-submission of earlier application: M04/P/1002)

Supervising Archaeologist:K. WraggNGR:TF 06290 92710Civil Parish:Osgodby

Date of Intervention: 16th May 2008 - 12th June 2012 (intermittent)

Type of Intervention: Archaeological Watching Brief

Undertaken for: Mr & Mrs Johnson, Church View House, Kirkby-cum-Osgodby, Market

Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3PH

Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of western part of site - looking north-west



Plate 2: General view of central and eastern parts of site - looking north-east

Colour Plates (continued)



Plate 3: General view of completed section of trenching at eastern end of site (with remaining original shed in area still to be excavated) - looking south-east



Plate 4: General view of well [105] in south-facing trench section - looking north-east

Colour Plates (continued)



Plate 5: General view of Section 1 - looking north



Plate 6: General view of cut features [107] and [108] in base of trench - looking east

Colour Plates (continued)



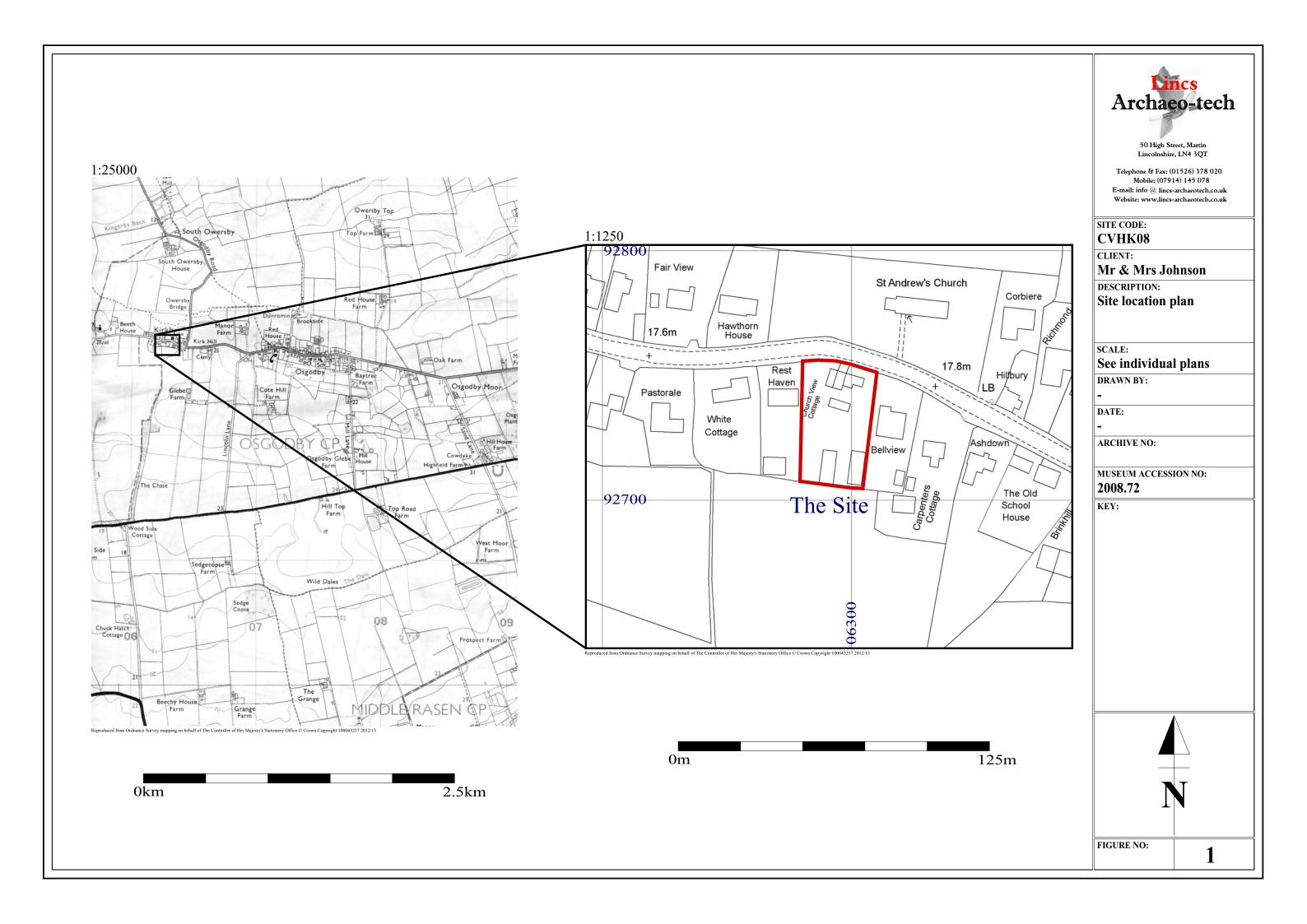
Plate 7: General view of south-east corner of excavated area (Section 3) - looking east

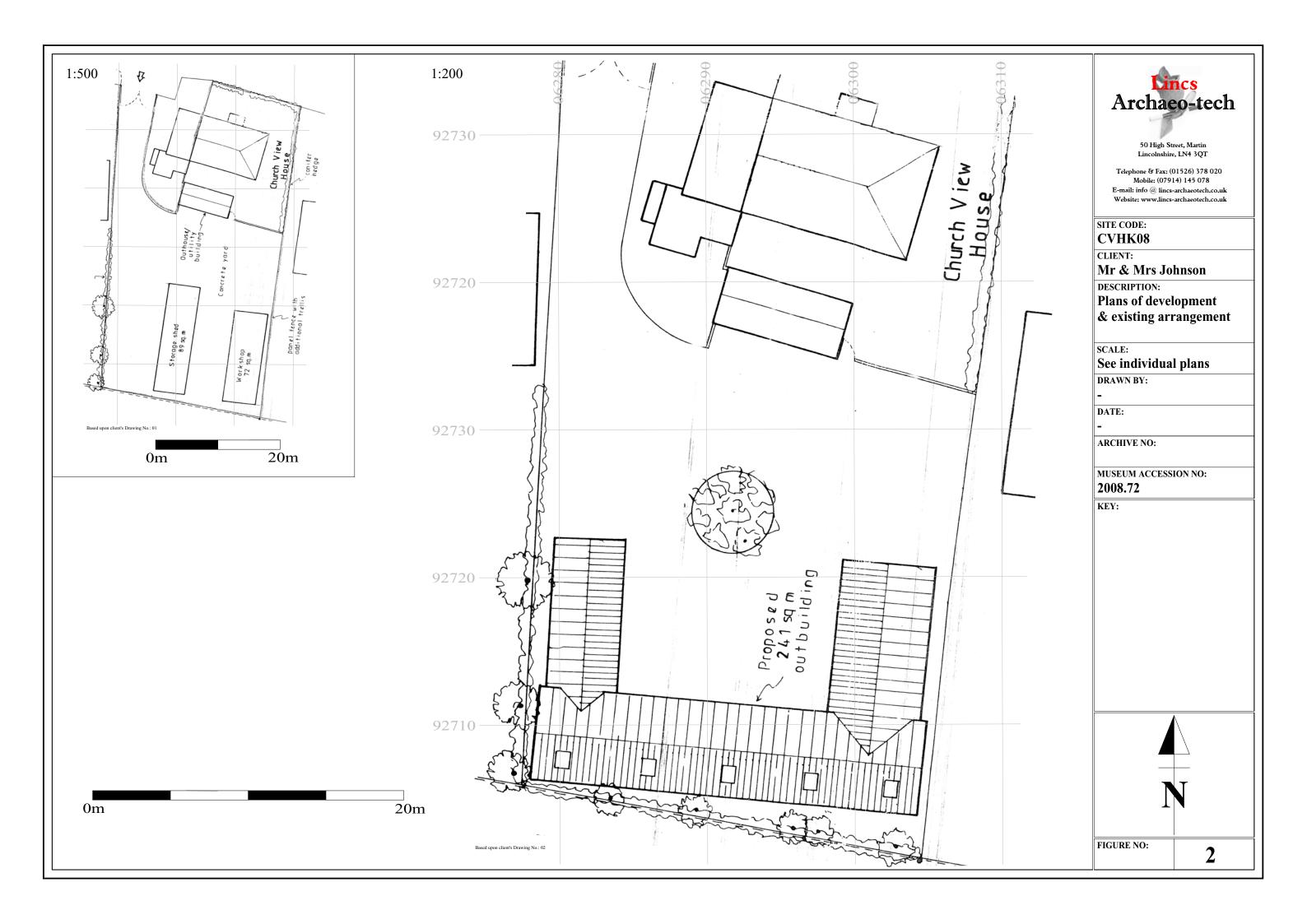


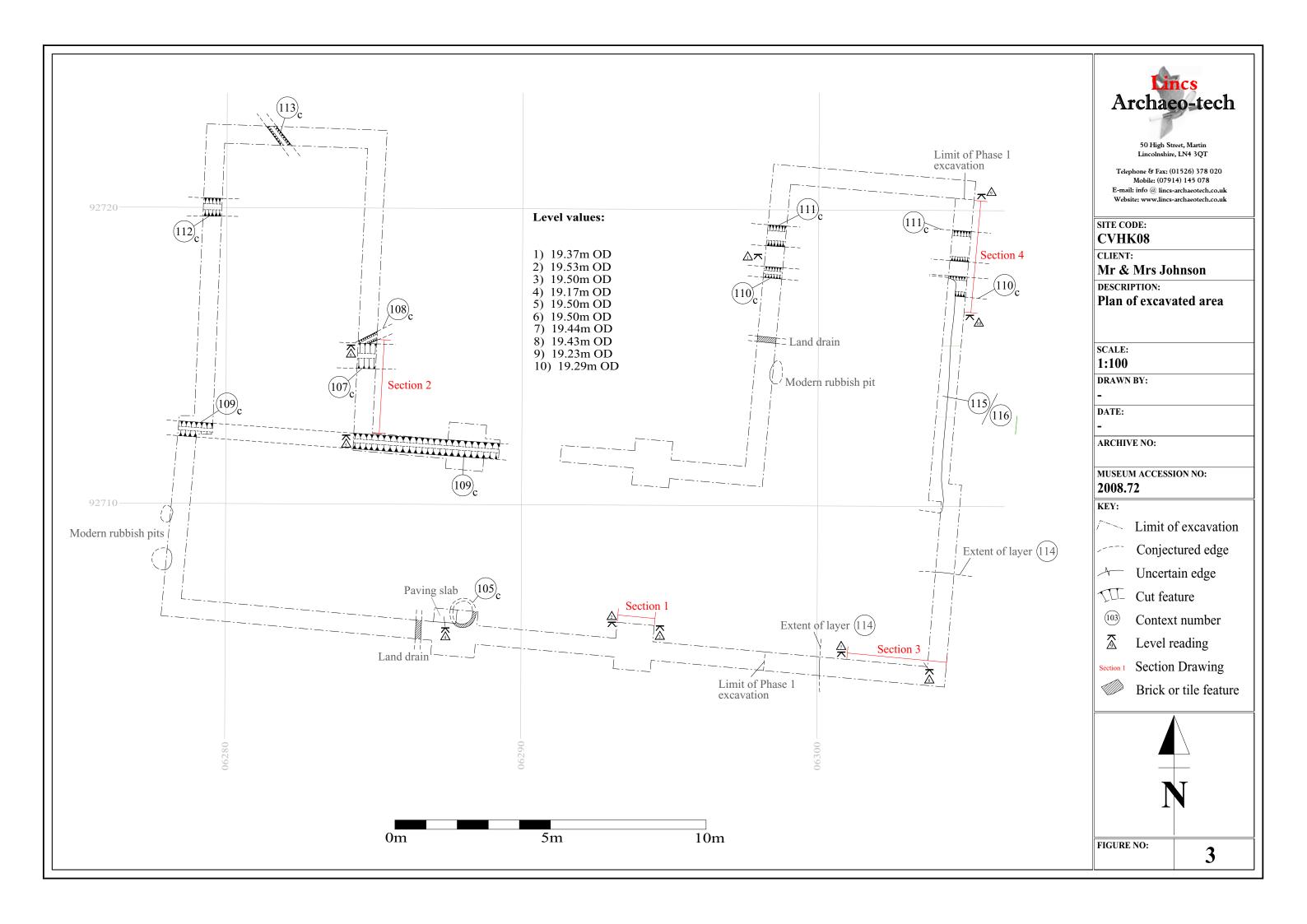
Plate 8: General view of trench along eastern side of excavated area - looking south

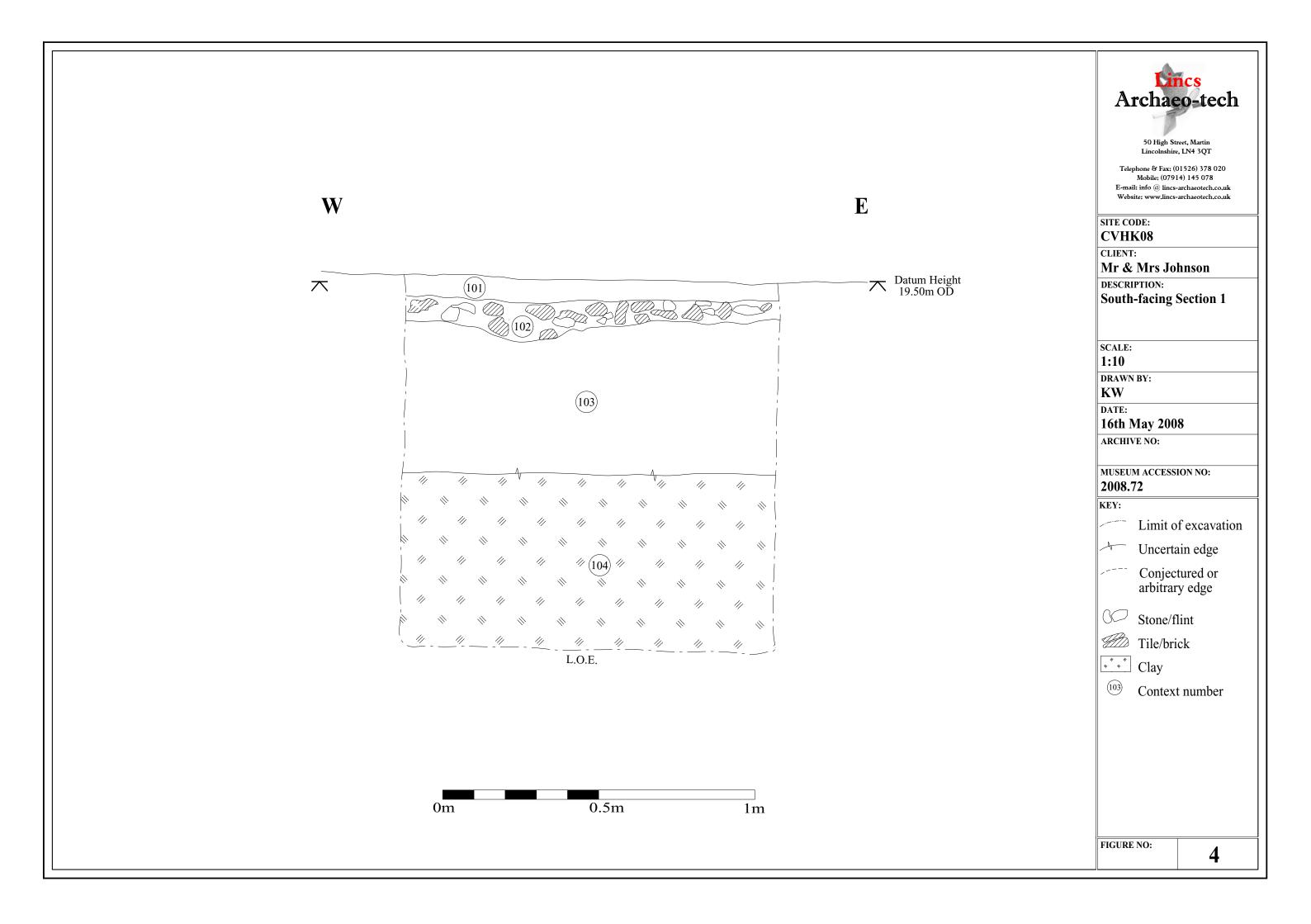
Context Listing

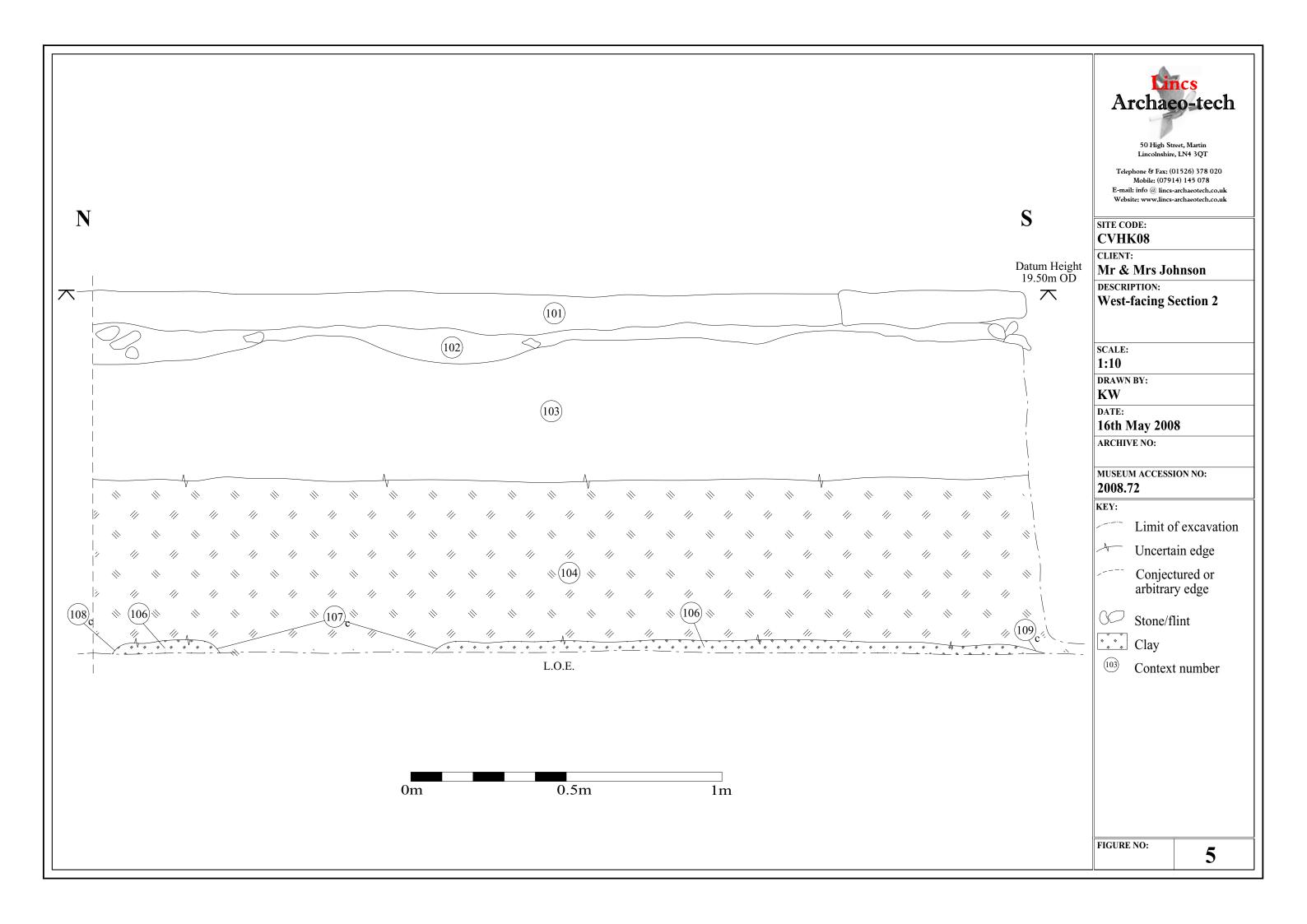
Context No.	Description	
[100]	Unstratified finds - from general site area	
[101]	Existing concrete yard surface/floor - up to 150mm thick	
[102]	Bedding layer for [101] - present intermittently across site; comprises crushed/broken modern red brick (c. 80-90%) & concrete (no more than 10%) pieces; up to 150mm thick	
[103]	Buried topsoil layer - moderate-well compacted, mid-dark (slightly grey-) brown clayey, silty soil; contains only very infrequent small-medium sized stone flecks & pieces; approximately 500mm thick on south side of site, increasing to <i>c</i> . 600mm at north side	
[104]	Subsoil layer - well compacted, sticky mid yellow-brown clayey silt; contains occasional small stone & pebble (flint?) inclusions & very occasional small flecks of yellow clay; at least 600mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.)	
[105]	Circular & conical brick-built well - made of 'standard' machine-made red clay building bricks, with at least nine courses remaining to L.O.E.; bricks are dry-laid, with no evidence of mortar bonding, & the use of straight rather than curved bricks has resulted in the interior (& exterior, where revealed) having a 'stepped' profile; diameter is c. 600mm at the top & c. 800-900mm at the lowest visible point; although some rubbish is present within the well, it does not appear to have been backfilled & is open to a depth of at least 1.5m from the uppermost surviving brick course; capped with two 600mm x 450mm concrete paving slabs	
[106]	Natural (<i>i.e.</i> , geological) clay layer - well compacted light yellow-brown clay containing only very infrequent small pockets of shattered stone (chalk?); present in base of trench mainly across northern half of site, at least 100mm thick to L.O.E.	
[107]	E-W linear feature - only seen at L.O.E.; approximately 600mm wide	
[108]	NE-SW linear feature - only just seen at L.O.E.; c. 300mm wide at maximum	
[109]	E-W linear feature - only seen at L.O.E.; approximately 500mm wide to section (truncated)	
[110]	E-W linear feature - only seen at L.O.E.; approximately 400mm wide	
[111]	E-W linear feature - only seen at L.O.E.; approximately 600mm wide	
[112]	E-W linear feature - only seen at a depth of c . 1.0m (possible continuation of [111]); approximately 600mm wide	
[113]	NW-SE linear feature - only seen at L.O.E.; approximately 200mm wide	
[114]	Subsoil layer - moderate-well compacted, mid grey (slightly brown) silty clay containing no obvious inclusions; up to 300mm thick	
[115]	Dump layer/rubbish pit fill - moderately compacted, friable, mixed deposit of mid-light brown clayey, silty soil & modern dumped material - pieces of stone, modern tin cans, leather shoes, bottles, red clay bricks, pieces of concrete, roots & pieces of wood; present from base of layer [102] to almost the limit of excavation - c. 1.2m thick	
[116]	Possible land-drain - thin bed of waterlogged fine gravel - stained black by organic material (with strong odour of hydrogen sulphide) - overlain by a single thickness sheet of polythene (damp-proof membrane or similar); between 100mm & 200mm thick; present at L.O.E.	

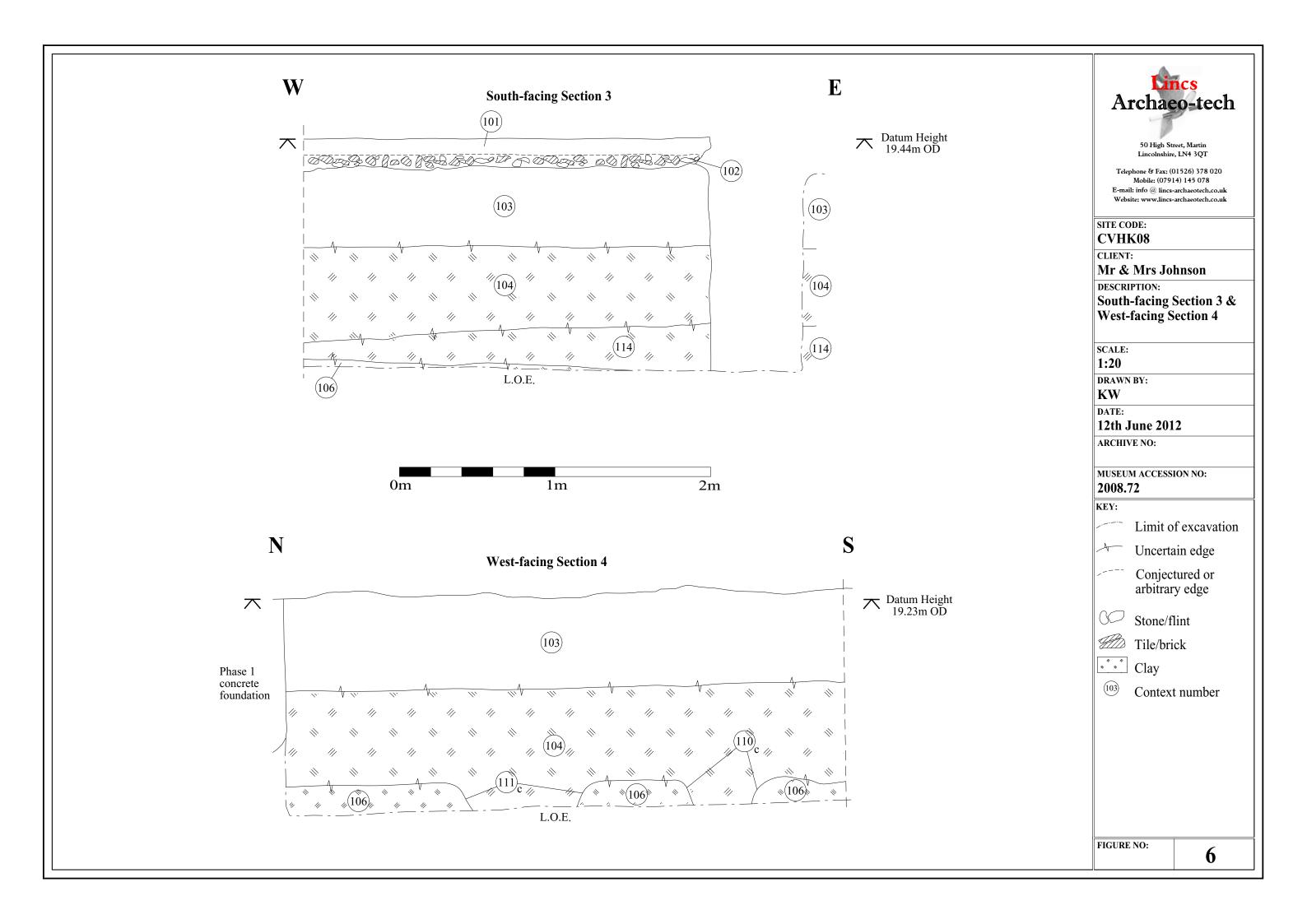














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