
Site Code: WRW05
LCCM Accession No.: 2005.159
Planning Application No.: S/215/01147/05
NGR: TF 1790/6210

**A Report to
Mr K. Maltby**

December 2006

**New Bungalow adjacent to
185 Witham Road,
Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire**

By K Wragg

Archaeological Watching Brief



New Detached Bungalow & Garage on land adjacent to 185 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire

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<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Non-Technical Summary.....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Planning Background.....	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology.....	4
5.0 Results.....	4
6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions.....	5
7.0 Acknowledgements.....	5
8.0 Selected References.....	5
9.0 Summary of Site Details.....	6

<i>Appendices</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>APPENDIX A</i> Archive Deposition.....	7
<i>APPENDIX B</i> Colour Plates.....	8
<i>APPENDIX C</i> Context Listing.....	9

List of illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location Plan	Scale 1:25000 & 1:1250
Figure 2	Plan of Development	Scale 1:500

New Detached Bungalow & Garage on land adjacent to 185 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ Woodhall Spa is a large village situated in the Lincolnshire district of East Lindsey, approximately 30km south-east of Lincoln, and c. 30km north-west of Boston.
- ❖ The development is situated at the western edge of the village, c. 2km to the south-west of its centre, and c. 250m to the east of Kirkstead Bridge and the River Witham. Witham Road (B1191) lies 90m to the north, and the site is bounded by existing commercial and residential properties to the north, east and west, with a land drainage ditch lying to the south. The area to be developed measures approximately 35m (N-S) x 85m (E-W), and originally formed part of the garden of 185 Witham Road. Prior to the present works, the area was largely under grass with a large pond occupying the majority of the western half of the site.
- ❖ Planning permission was sought for the erection of a bungalow and detached garage, together with the construction of a new vehicular access driveway.
- ❖ Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services had shown that the site lay within an 'archaeologically sensitive' landscape, with the conjectured line of a prehistoric causeway approximately 90m-100m to the south of the site, nearby cropmarks of possible Iron Age origin, and the ruined remains of the medieval Cistercian Abbey at Kirkstead approximately 600m to the south-east.
- ❖ In view of this potential, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the groundworks, and Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the owner/developer, Mr Maltby, on the 3rd of August 2005 to provide the required archaeological services.
- ❖ Intermittent site attendance to observe the groundworks was undertaken between the 20th of September and the 14th of October 2005, but in spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, the project did not reveal any direct evidence for ancient occupation with all of the deposits present apparently of either modern/undated or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.
- ❖ The negative outcome of this particular project, however, does not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which still suggests that future developments may have a significant chance of encountering important archaeological remains.

New Detached Bungalow & Garage on land adjacent to 185 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1.0 Introduction

Woodhall Spa is a large village situated in the Lincolnshire district of East Lindsey, approximately 30km south-east of Lincoln, and c. 30km north-west of Boston (see Figure 1).

The development is situated at the western edge of the village, c. 2km to the south-west of its centre, and c. 250m to the east of Kirkstead Bridge and the River Witham. Witham Road (B1191) lies 90m to the north, and the site is bounded by existing commercial and residential properties to the north, east and west, with a land drainage ditch lying to the south. The area to be developed measures approximately 35m (N-S) x 85m (E-W), and originally formed part of the garden of 185 Witham Road. Prior to the present works, the area was largely under grass with a large pond occupying the majority of the western half of the site (see Figure 1).

Planning permission was sought for the erection of a bungalow and detached garage, together with the construction of a new vehicular access driveway (see Figure 2).

Consultation with Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services had shown that the site lay within an 'archaeologically sensitive' landscape, with the conjectured line of a prehistoric causeway approximately 90m-100m to the south of the site, nearby cropmarks of possible Iron Age origin, and the ruined remains of the medieval Cistercian Abbey at Kirkstead approximately 600m to the south-east.

In view of this potential, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the groundworks, and the planning consent was conditioned accordingly (see 2.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the owner/developer, Mr Maltby, on the 3rd of August 2005 to provide the required archaeological services, and intermittent site attendance to observe the groundworks was undertaken between the 20th of September and the 14th of October 2005.

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 scheme was granted by East Lindsey District Council on the 25th of July 2005 (Application No.: S/215/01147/05).

Part II - Particulars of decision of the Planning Permission includes the following condition:

9. No development shall commence on site until the applicant 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 and in accordance with Policy C6 of the East Lindsey Local Plan Alteration 1999.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies on the eastern flood-plain of the River Witham on soils of the *Beccles 2* Association - slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine and coarse loamy over clayey soils - which overlie a geology of chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al*, 1984).

The area surrounding the site originally lay within the ancient parish of Kirkstead, until it was absorbed into the parish of Woodhall Spa in the early 1980s.

While the composite name of the village 'Woodhall Spa' (and indeed the village itself) is an early 19th century creation, its root is possibly drawn from the small settlement of Old Woodhall, situated to the north east of the present village. The name Woodhall is derived from a combination of the Old English (OE) words *wudu* 'a wood' and *hall* 'a hall', meaning 'the hall in the wood' (perhaps indicating a hall where the forest court met).

Closer to the site, the name Kirkstead is a partially Scandinavianised form of the OE *cirice-stede* 'the site of the church', with the replacement of the OE *cirice* by the cognate Old Norse word *kirkja* (Cameron, 1998).

Numerous find-spots and/or known (or suspected) sites of archaeological importance have been recorded in the vicinity of the present development, representing activity from the prehistoric period through to the present day.

The earliest finds have included a spearhead and a looped and socketed axe, both dating from the Bronze Age, while an evaluation (and subsequent watching brief) undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services between 1995 and 1997 at Roeze Close (approximately 200m to the east of the site) revealed evidence for a late Iron Age settlement.

Further finds including a sword with Saxon inscription, a dagger, and an iron spearhead - all of Anglo-Saxon or Danish origin - have been found in the Witham to the north-west of the site.

The pattern of these finds (and others) recovered from the River Witham in this area has led to the site's inclusion in a group of ten 'complexes' all probably associated with prehistoric causeways along the river and its tributaries (WVARC, 2003; Stocker & Everson, 2003, 271-288). While the physical existence of a causeway at Kirkstead remains unproven, its conjectured line (based largely on the line of the existing road/causeway to the west) lies approximately 90m-100m to the south of the development site (Louise Jennings, pers. comm.).

In addition to the metal finds recovered from the areas of the suggested causeways, there also appears to be a correlation with early church sites, which may have been built to supersede much earlier, pre-Christian, religious sites (Stocker & Everson, 2003, 271-288). In the case of the conjectured Kirkstead causeway, its 'associated' religious house is the medieval Cistercian Abbey of S^t Mary which lies approximately 600m to the south-east of the site.

Kirkstead Abbey was originally founded in 1139, but moved to its present site in 1187. It appears to have flourished during the late 12th and 13th centuries, but its prosperity faltered during the 14th century, in common with most of the Cistercian abbeys in England, although it was still considered to be among the greater monasteries of Lincolnshire.

Kirkstead was suppressed, however, in 1537, after the Abbot and three of his monks were implicated in the Lincolnshire Rebellion and condemned to death. Following its dissolution, its roof was stripped of its lead and the buildings were left to fall into ruin, and today only a fragment of the Abbey survives, with the remainder represented by extensive earthworks. The only complete structure to survive is the gate chapel - possibly built as a chantry chapel in memory of Robert de Tattershall who died in 1212 - which is now the parish church of S^t Leonard.

Of more recent vintage, the southern boundary of the site is demarcated by the remains of The Horncastle & Woodhall Junction Railway - a branch line from Woodhall Junction to Horncastle which opened for traffic on the 11th of August 1855 and finally closed in April 1971.

4.0 Methodology

This scheme of investigation and recording was designed in accordance with the requirements of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* issued by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (LCC, 1998). This document refers 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/Sites and Monuments Record (HER/SMR).

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.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature thus revealed was 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. Any disturbed artefacts were recovered from site spoil heaps and, where present, from stratified deposits. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

5.0 Results

The groundworks for the development comprised three distinct elements, which included:

- 1) the construction of a bungalow, with a footprint measuring a maximum of 10m x 16m;
- 2) the construction of a detached garage, with a footprint measuring a maximum of 6m x 6m;
- 3) the creation of a new vehicular access drive between the site and Witham Road to the north.

The stratigraphic sequence revealed by these various works, however, was consistent across the site and comprised only two stratified deposits (see *Appendix C*).

The earliest of these was a layer of mixed/mottled sand and gravel, [102], which was present across the whole excavated area, and represents the upper extent of the natural (*i.e.*, geological) strata.

It ranged in colour from light yellow through to rich orange-brown and mid-dark brown, and also contained occasional areas of hard, brittle ferruginous/mineralised sand and infrequent patches/pockets of mid brown/light grey clay.

[102] was seen to be at least 700mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and was overlain by the present topsoil layer across the site, [101].

This was a moderately compacted, friable mid-brown sandy, silty soil, which contained only pebble inclusions and very occasional small pieces of broken modern clay land-drain. It originally bore a sparse covering of coarse grass at its upper boundary, and was between 200mm and 300mm thick.

A further context, [100], was issued to identify any unstratified finds recovered during the course of the excavation, but in the event no such material was revealed.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

In spite of this site's apparent archaeological potential, the results of the project have not revealed any direct evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with the deposits features present all appearing to be of either modern, undated or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.

Notwithstanding this generally negative result, however, the outcome of this project does not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which still suggests that future developments may have a significant chance of encountering important archaeological remains.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Mr Maltby for funding this project, and for his support and assistance during the works.

Thanks are also due to: Louise Jennings, Historic Environment Officer, Conservation Services, Highways & Planning Directorate, Lincolnshire County Council; and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record.

8.0 Selected References

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*, English Place-Name Society

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Owen, D M, 1971 *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire, **V**, Lincolnshire Local History Society, Lincoln

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WVARC, 2003 *Archaeological Research Design for the Witham Valley*, Witham Valley Archaeological Research Committee, Lincoln

9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code:	WRW05
Museum Accession Number:	2005.159
Planning Application Number:	S/215/01147/05
Supervising Archaeologist:	K. Wragg
NGR:	TF 1790/6210
Civil Parish:	Woodhall Spa
Date of Intervention:	20 th September to 14 th October 2005
Type of Intervention:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Undertaken for:	Mr K. Maltby, 185 Witham Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6QX

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
3	Context records
2	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour photographic negatives
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 2005.159, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of completed foundation trenches - looking generally east

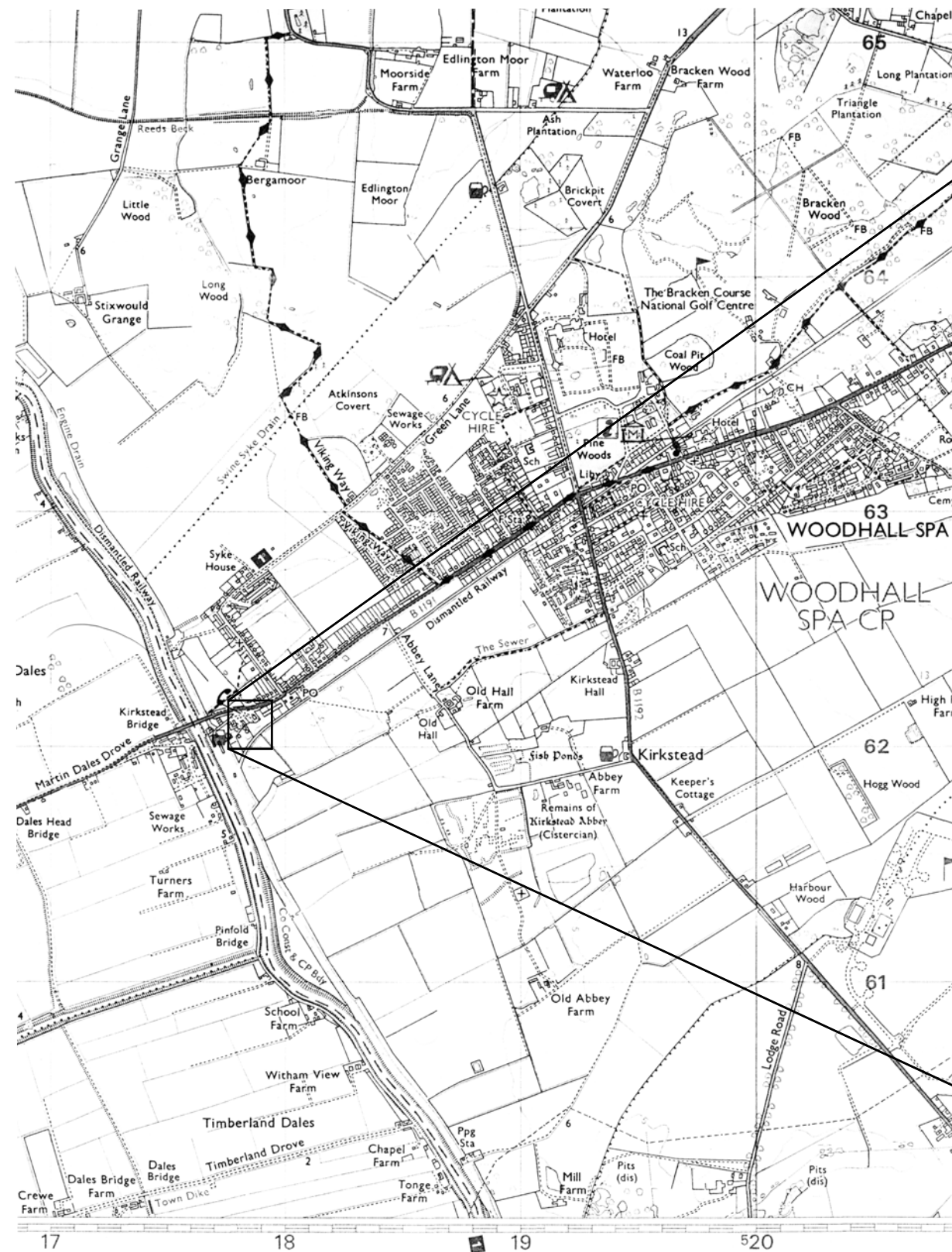


Plate 2: General view of south-facing section, c. 6m from NW corner of building footprint - looking north

Context Listing

Context No.	Description
[100]	Unstratified finds - general site area
[101]	Topsoil layer - moderately compacted, friable, mid-brown sandy, silty soil; contains moderately frequent small rounded & sub-rounded pebble inclusions, & very occasional small pieces of broken modern clay land-drain; originally bore a sparse covering of coarse grass at the upper boundary; up to 200mm thick (from stripped surface)/c. 300mm thick (prior to stripping)
[102]	Natural (<i>i.e.</i> , geological) sand & gravel deposit - moderately compacted, friable, mixed/mottled sand - ranging in colour from light yellow, through orange/orange-brown to rich orange-brown & mid/dark brown - mixed with frequent rounded & sub-rounded pebbles; also contains occasional areas of hard, brittle ferruginous/mineralised sand & very occasional patches/pockets of mid brown/light grey clay towards the limit of excavation (L.O.E.); at least 700mm thick to L.O.E.

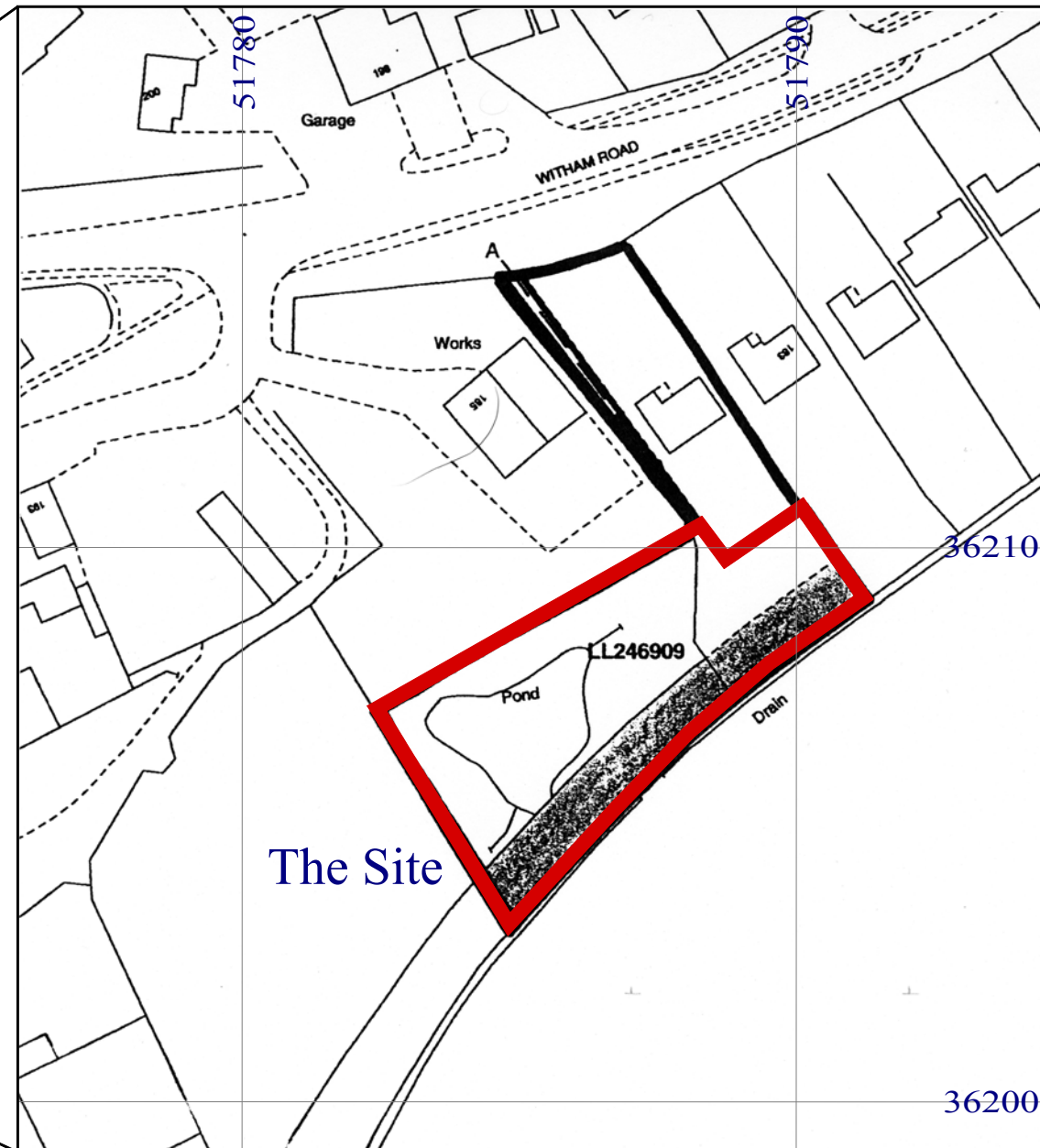
1:25000



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0km 2.5km

1:1250



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0m 125m

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SITE CODE:
WRW05

CLIENT:
Mr K. Maltby

DESCRIPTION:
Site Location Plan

SCALE:
See Individual Plans

DRAWN BY:
-

DATE:
-

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2005.159

KEY:

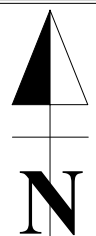
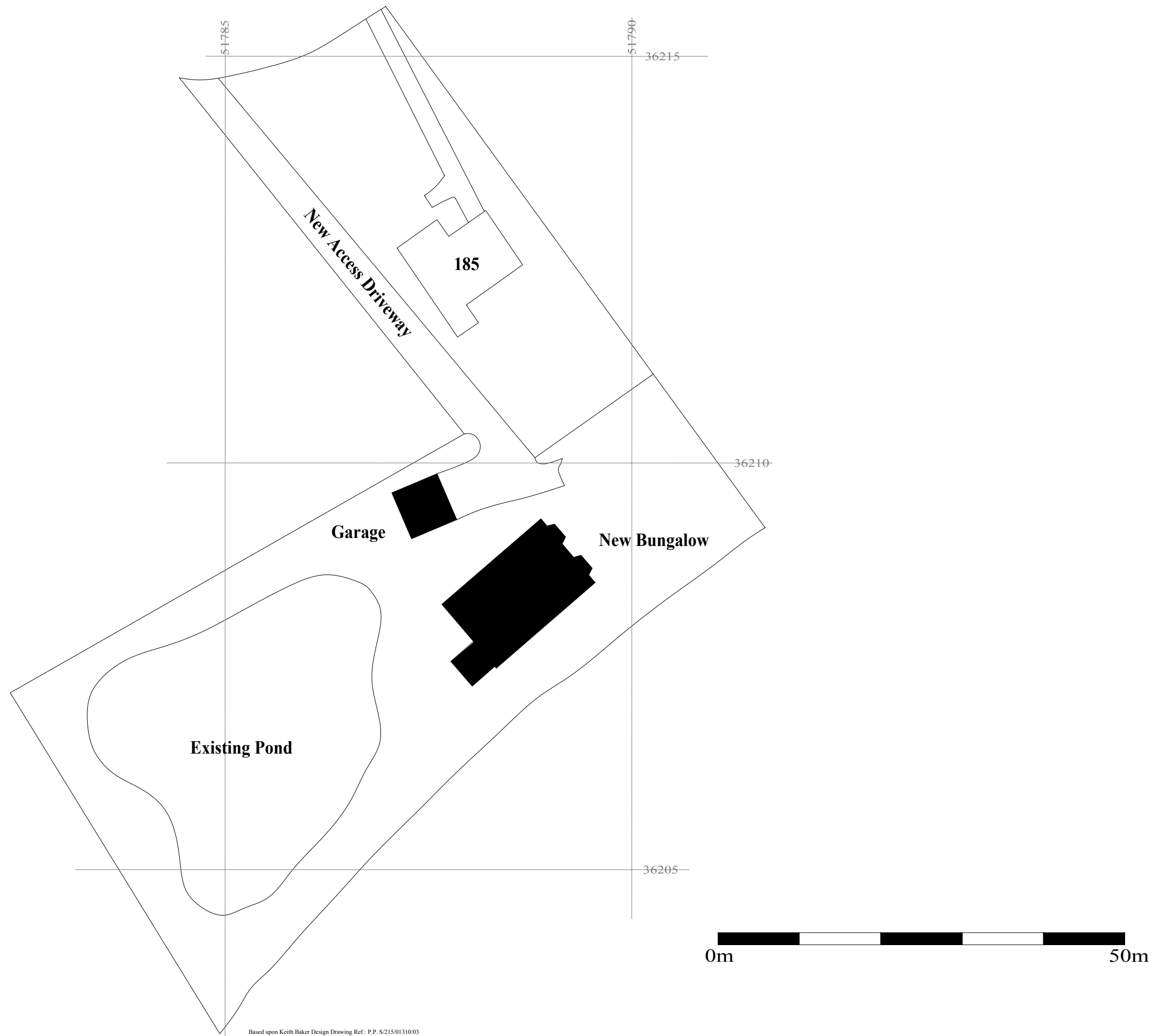


FIGURE NO:

1



Based upon Keith Baker Design Drawing Ref.: P.P. S/215/01310/03



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SITE CODE: WRW05
CLIENT: Mr K. Maltby
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Development
SCALE: 1:500
DRAWN BY: -
DATE: -
ARCHIVE NO:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2005.159

KEY:

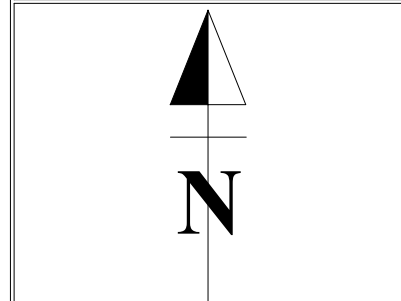


FIGURE NO:	2
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