
Site Code: MLT06
LCCM Accession No.: 2006.177
Planning Application No.: S/177/01496/01
NGR: TF 33015/74505

**A Report to
Louth Building
Services Ltd.**

April 2008

**Land adjacent to 'Brookside',
Mill Lane, Tetford,
Lincolnshire**

By K Wragg

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Land adjacent to 'Brookside', Mill Lane, Tetford, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ This project resulted from plans to develop an area of land in the village of Tetford, Lincolnshire. Tetford lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey towards the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 13km south of Louth and 9km north-east of Horncastle.
- ❖ The site lies close to the centre of the village, at a nominal elevation of 50m OD, and is bounded by open pasture to the north and east, Mill Lane to the south, and an existing residential property ('Brookside') to the west. It encompasses an area measuring approximately 700 square metres, and was until recently itself used as pasture.
- ❖ Planning permission was sought for the construction of a new detached bungalow with attached single garage, new vehicular access and all necessary services, with full planning consent subsequently granted by East Lindsey District Council on the 8th of November 2001.
- ❖ Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to the District Council) considered that while there is no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, the development might still reveal important archaeological evidence due to its proximity to known prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval remains and artefacts. In particular, it was noted that the site lies close to the line of a former Roman road, with quantities of Roman pottery found in the immediate vicinity. The site of a medieval water-mill is also thought to lie nearby, while the remains of a substantial medieval moated site and associated settlement are present to the north and north-east.
- ❖ In view of this potential, East Lindsey District Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech was approached by the developer, Louth Building Services Ltd., on the 18th of July 2006 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, and subsequently commissioned on the 31st of July.
- ❖ Attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 31st of October 2006 and the 30th of January 2007, but in spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, the project unfortunately revealed no evidence whatsoever for ancient occupation in the areas investigated.
- ❖ The deposits that were uncovered appeared to have lain undisturbed for a considerable period of time, and it seems probable, therefore, that the site has been used simply as pasture for many generations. Anecdotal information gleaned from local inhabitants also suggests that the site was subject to periodic deliberate flooding in order to provide a sufficient reservoir of water to power the watermill to the east of the site, which would also contribute to its preservation.
- ❖ Notwithstanding this generally negative localised result, however, the outcome of this project obviously does not negate the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which continues to suggest that future developments will have a significant likelihood of encountering culturally important archaeological remains.

Land adjacent to 'Brookside', Mill Lane, Tetford, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1.0 Introduction

This project resulted from plans to develop an area of land in the village of Tetford, Lincolnshire. Tetford lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey towards the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 13km south of Louth and 9km north-east of Horncastle.

The site lies close to the centre of the village, at a nominal elevation of 50m OD, and is bounded by open pasture to the north and east, Mill Lane to the south, and an existing residential property ('Brookside') to the west. It encompasses an area measuring approximately 700 square metres, and was until recently itself used as pasture (see Figure 1).

Planning permission was sought for the construction of a new detached bungalow with attached single garage, new vehicular access and all necessary services, with full planning consent subsequently granted by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) on the 8th of November 2001 (see **2.0**, below).

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to ELDC) considered that while there is no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, the development might still reveal important archaeological evidence due to its proximity to known prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval remains and artefacts. In particular, it was noted that the site lies close to the line of a former Roman road, with quantities of Roman pottery found in the immediate vicinity. The site of a medieval water-mill is also thought to lie nearby, while the remains of a substantial medieval moated site and associated settlement are present to the north and north-east (see **3.0**, below).

In view of this potential, East Lindsey District Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks (see **2.0** and **4.0**, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was approached by the developer, Louth Building Services Ltd., on the 18th of July 2006 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, and subsequently commissioned on the 31st of July. Attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 31st of October 2006 and the 30th of January 2007.

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 8th of November 2001 (application number: S/177/01496/01)

The Planning Permission included the following condition relating to archaeology:

9. Before development commences the developer must commission an archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during the carrying out of all groundworks and excavations and who must record any archaeological finds or artefacts revealed. A copy of the record must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority before the dwelling is occupied (sic).

The reason for the condition was given as:

To ensure that the archaeological interest of the site is recorded and not lost (sic).

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The local geology in the area of the site comprises soils of the *Cuckney 2* Association - typically permeable and well-drained brown sands and ferritic brown loamy soils over soft sandstone and ironstone (Hodge *et al*, 1984; Mackney *et al*, 1983).

3.1 Historical background

While there is evidence for occupation dating from the prehistoric period throughout the parish, the first known written record of Tetford is in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, at which time the land was owned by the Archbishop of York (with tenants Aelmer, Earnwine and Gilbert), Earl Hugh de Avranches (who also had jurisdiction over Tetford and the surrounding area), and Jocelyn, son of Lambert (with tenants Beorhtnoth and Walter) (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). In *Domesday*, the village is referred to by the earlier names of *Tesforde* and *Tedforde* which are derivations of the combined Old English words *thēod* and *ford* - translated literally as 'the peoples' ford', indicating a public river crossing, possibly on an ancient north-south road from Horncastle towards Louth (Cameron, 1998).

Domesday also records a church in the village, indicating a Saxon predecessor to the current church of S^t Mary which was erected in the 14th and 15th centuries (although most likely on the same site), and a mill which probably occupied the site of the existing 17th century watermill (to the east of the development site).

3.2 Archaeological background

According to records held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER), the site lies close to a variety of known or suspected sites of archaeological importance, each identified either through field investigation or from the detailed study of aerial photographs. Numerous artefacts have also been recorded across the area.

The earliest evidence points to activity from the Palaeolithic ($\geq 10,000$ BC) to Neolithic (*c.* 4,500-3,300BC) periods, including two possible pit alignments and a ring-ditch seen as cropmarks, together with finds of microliths, scrapers and flint flakes, numerous stone axes and a perforated stone hammer, and sherds of Neolithic pottery.

From the Bronze Age (*c.* 2,300-700BC), the sites of several round barrows and enclosures, pottery sherds and flint implements have been recorded (or are suspected), while a possible Iron Age (*c.* 700BC to 43AD) or Roman settlement consisting of an enclosure and a hut circle have been seen as cropmarks. Also from the Roman period, are finds of Romano-British pottery and a coin, and the remains of a Roman road which runs along the northern edge of the village, the alignment of which is preserved by the present Platts Lane, and parts of White Gate and North Road.

Anglo-Saxon pottery has been recovered in small quantities, which with the *Domesday* reference to an existing church implies continuing occupation into the medieval period, which is also well represented in and around Tetford, with evidence for an extensive settlement possibly containing two moated enclosures, crofts, ridge and furrow, and other enclosures seen as cropmarks and earthworks, together with pottery and brick finds.

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 initial groundworks on the site comprised stripping and levelling in the area of the proposed new driveway, followed by larger-scale excavation to divert an existing sewer away from the proposed line of the new bungalow foundations (see Figure 2).

While the driveway formation involved the removal of no more than 450mm of topsoil and overburden, the sewer diversion resulted in the stripping of a 'wayleave' up to 3m wide and 1.2m deep, followed by the excavation of a trench which reached depths in excess of 4m and extended across the full east-west width of the site (nominally 60m).

The stratigraphic sequence revealed by these works, however, was consistent across the site and comprised only three stratified deposits. Context descriptions are presented as **Appendix C**, below, while the stratigraphic sequence itself (from earliest (*i.e.*, oldest) to latest) was as follows (see also Figure 3):

The earliest deposit was a substantial layer of moderately compacted, friable, mixed/mottled fine-grained sand, [103], which ranged in colour from off-white, through yellow-brown to orange-brown. It was at least 3m thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and appeared to represent the upper extent of the natural (*i.e.*, geological) strata.

This was overlain by a layer of mid-light (slightly orange-) brown silty, sandy subsoil, [102], which was between 300mm and 500mm thick, and was in turn sealed by a layer of mid (slightly grey-) brown, sandy, silty topsoil, [101]. This deposit contained only frequent tree/plant roots and occasional rounded/angular pebbles, and was between 300mm and 400mm thick.

A further context, [100], was issued to identify any unstratified finds recovered during the course of the excavation, but by the end of the watching brief, no such material had been revealed.

Following these initial enabling works, it was then proposed to construct the foundations for the new bungalow using a combination of driven 'mini-piles' and a shallow concrete ring-beam. As this was likely to cause minimal ground disturbance (and in view of the negative outcome of the watching brief thus far), it was decided by Ms. Jennings of LCC Conservation Services that this work did not warrant further observation, and the project was therefore terminated at this point.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

In spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential - suggested by the considerable evidence for multi-period occupation in the surrounding areas - the project unfortunately revealed no evidence whatsoever for ancient occupation in the areas investigated.

The deposits that were uncovered appeared to have lain undisturbed for a considerable period of time, and it seems probable, therefore, that the site has been used simply as pasture for many generations. Anecdotal information gleaned from local inhabitants also suggests that the site was subject to periodic deliberate flooding in order to provide a sufficient reservoir of water to power the watermill to the east of the site, which would also contribute to its preservation.

Notwithstanding this generally negative localised result, however, the outcome of this project obviously does not negate the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which continues to suggest that future developments will have a significant likelihood of encountering culturally important archaeological remains.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Louth Building Services Ltd. for funding this project, and for their 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 Colin and Derek (groundworks contractors), for their assistance and co-operation during the groundworks.

8.0 Selected References

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

Hodge, C A H, Burton, R G O, Corbett, W M, Evans, R, Seale, R S, 1984, *Soils and their use in eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**, Harpenden

LCC, 1998, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincoln

Mackney, D, Hodgson, J M, Hollis, J M, and Staines, S J (eds), 1983, *Soils of England and Wales 1:250,000 Soil Map Series: Sheet 4 - Eastern England*, Lawes Agricultural Trust (Soil Survey of England and Wales), Harpenden

Morgan, P, and Thorn, C (eds), 1986, *Domesday Book 31 - Lincolnshire (parts one and two)*, Phillimore and Co. Ltd., London and Chichester

9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code:	MLT06
Museum Accession Number:	2006.177
Planning Application Number:	S/177/01496/01
Supervising Archaeologist:	K. Wragg
NGR:	TF 33015/74505
Civil Parish:	Tetford
Date of Intervention:	31 st October 2006 to 30 th January 2007
Type of Intervention:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Undertaken for:	Louth Building Services Ltd., Cannon Street, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9NL

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
4	Context records
3	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour photographic prints and 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 2006.177, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of stripping & levelling works to form new driveway at eastern end of the site - looking north-east



Plate 2: General view of site - looking east

Colour Plates (continued)



Plate 3: General view showing trenching for main sewer diversion in progress - looking west

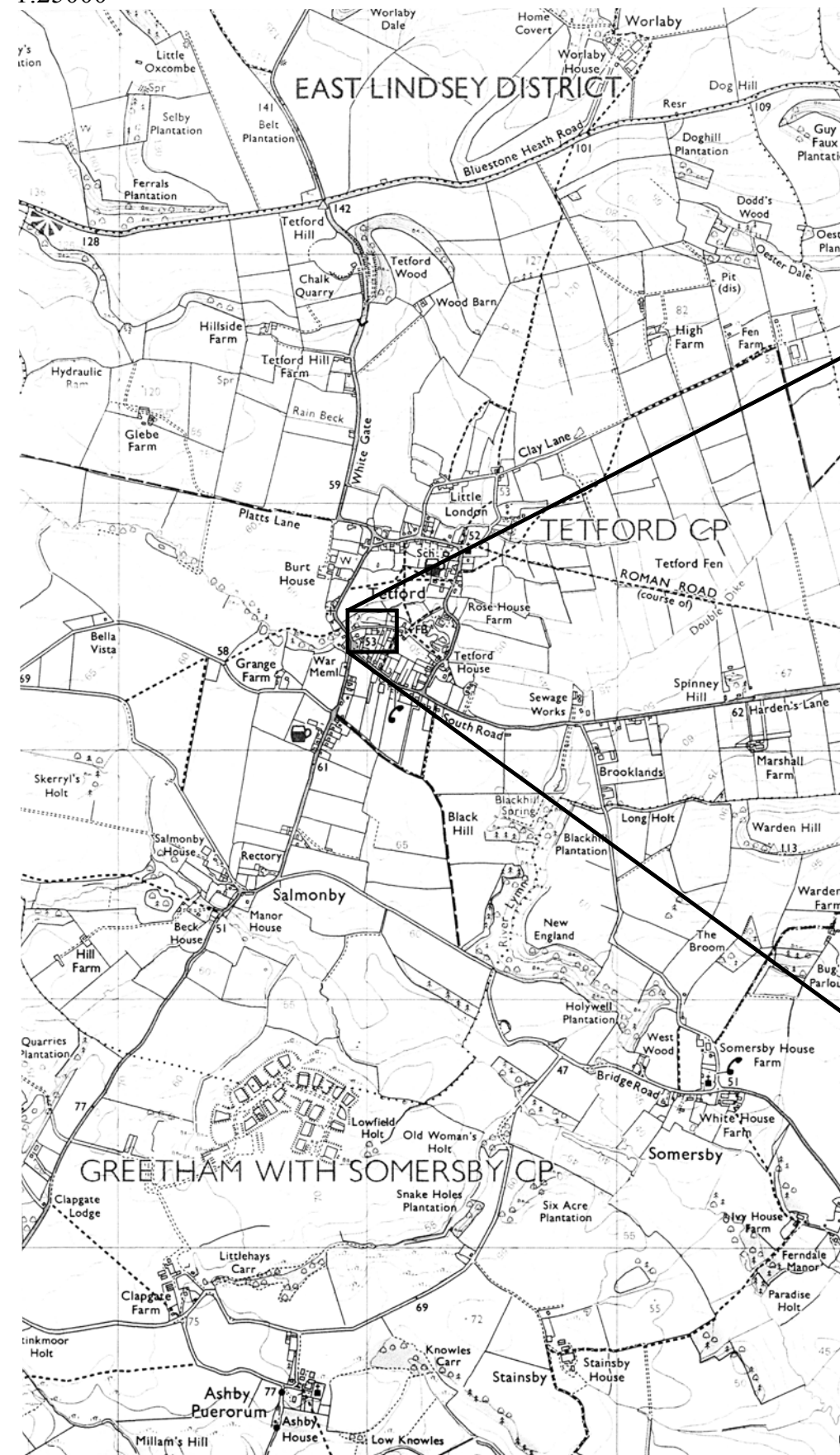


Plate 4: General view of exposed north-facing section at southern boundary of site adjacent to Mill Lane - looking south-east

Context Listing

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
[100]	Unstratified finds - general site area
[101]	Topsoil layer - moderately compacted, mid (slightly grey-) brown, sandy, silty soil; contains only frequent tree & plant roots, & occasional rounded/angular pebbles; bears a covering of coarse turf at upper boundary; between 300mm & 400mm thick
[102]	Subsoil layer - moderately compacted, mid-light (slightly orange-) brown silty, sandy soil; contains no obvious inclusions; indistinct lower boundary; between 300mm & 500mm thick
[103]	Natural (<i>i.e.</i> , geological) sand layer - moderately compacted, friable, mixed/mottled off-white/yellow-brown/orange-brown fine sand; no obvious inclusions; at least 3m thick to limit of excavation (L.O.E.)

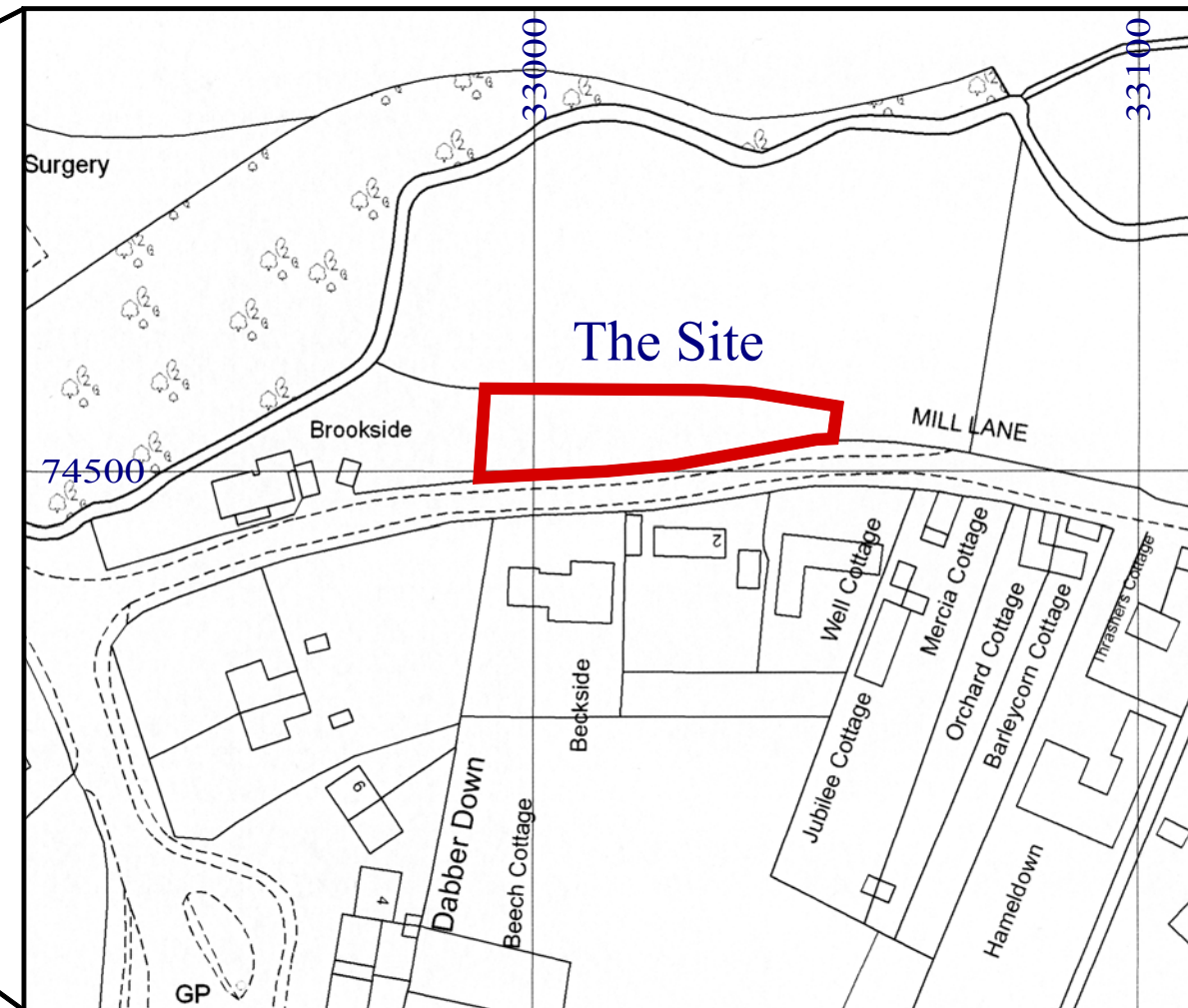
1:25000



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0km 2.5km

1:1250



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0m 125m

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SITE CODE:
MLT06

CLIENT:
Louth Building Services

DESCRIPTION:
Site location plan

SCALE:
See individual plans

DRAWN BY:

DATE:

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2006.177

KEY:

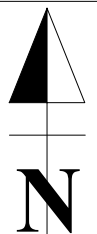


FIGURE NO:

1

SITE CODE:
MLT06

CLIENT:
Louth Building Services

DESCRIPTION:
**Plans of proposed
development & sewer
diversion arrangement**

SCALE:
See individual plans

DRAWN BY:
-

DATE:
-

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2006.177

KEY:
--- Line of existing sewer
--- Line of diverted sewer

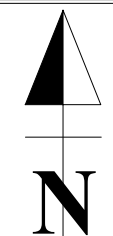
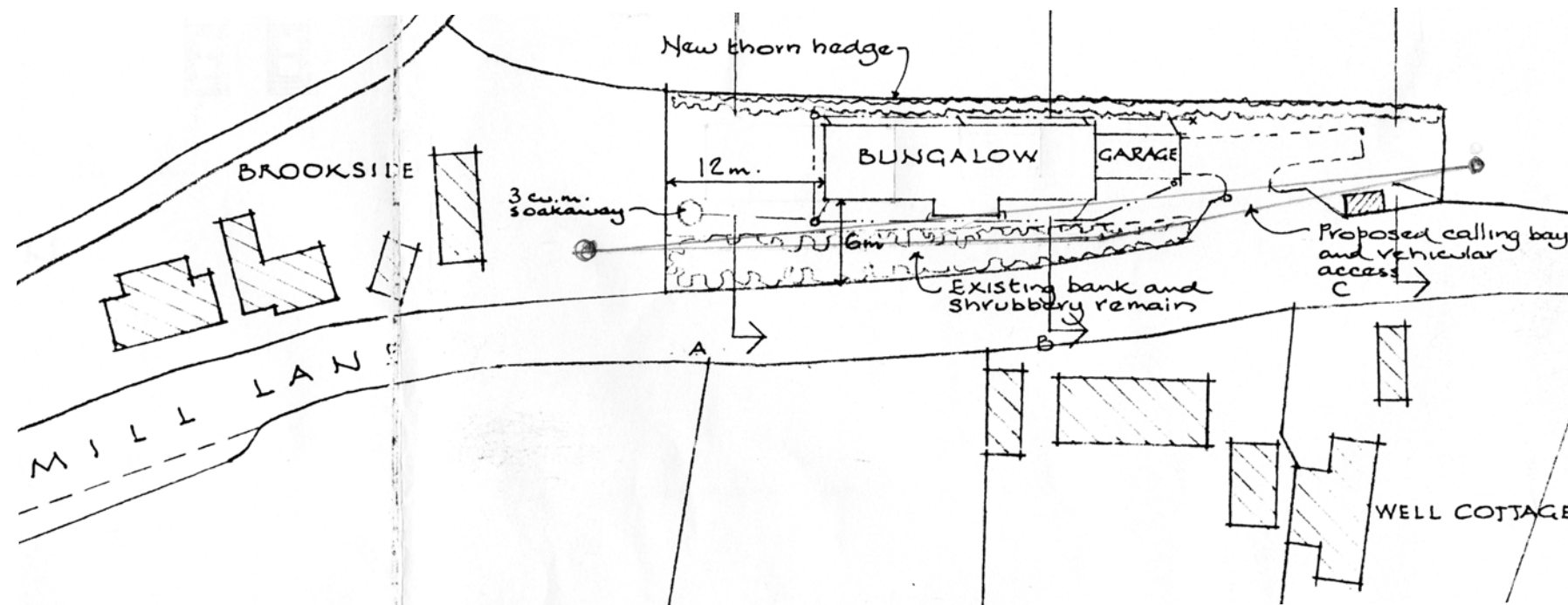


FIGURE NO:

2

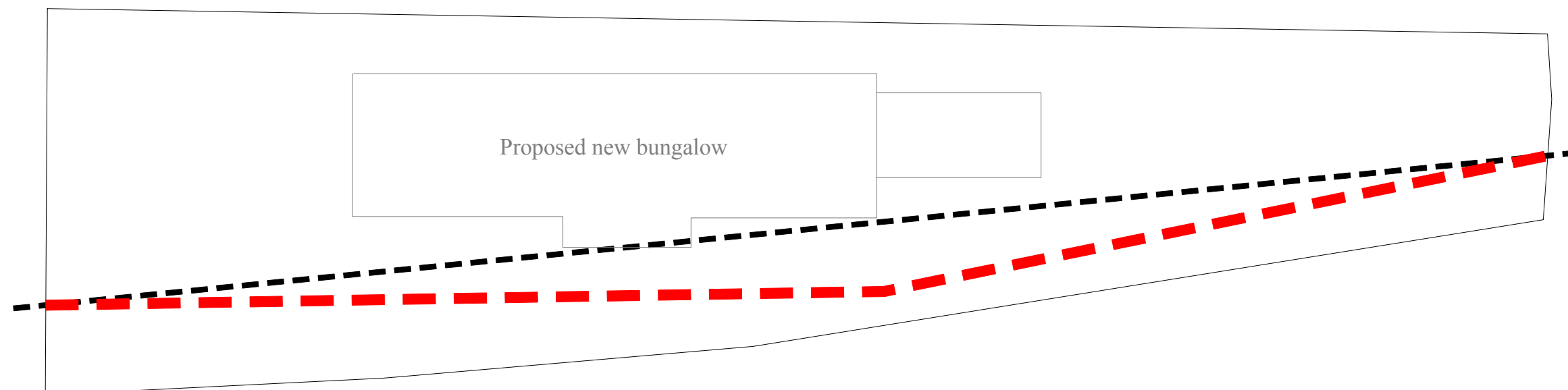
1:500



Based upon J. S. Grant Building Surveyor Drawing No. D.8-2001.5



1:200



N

S

Lincs
Archaeo-tech

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E-mail: lincs.archaeotech @btinternet.com

SITE CODE:

MLT06

CLIENT:

Louth Building Services

DESCRIPTION:

West-facing Section 1
(at eastern end of sewer
diversion trench)

SCALE:

1:20

DRAWN BY:

KW

DATE:

15th Dec 2006

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

2006.177

KEY:

— Limit of
excavation

— Uncertain edge

— Sand

(103) Context number

(103)

(101)

(102)

L.O.E.

0m 1m 2m

FIGURE NO:

3



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