

Site Code: SUN09
LCCM Accession No.: 2009.59
Planning Application No.: 123273
NGR: TF 08540/89440

**A Report to
Turnkey Developments Ltd.**

July 2009

**Development at ‘Sunnydene’,
North Street, Middle Rasen,
Lincolnshire**

By K Wragg

**Scheme of Archaeological Works:
Monitoring and Recording**



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

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Scheme of Archaeological Works: Monitoring and Recording

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Development at ‘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 lies astride the River Rase in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 20km north-east of Lincoln and 26km east of Gainsborough. It lies in a part of the village originally known as Middle Rasen Tupholme, approximately 200m to the west of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul.
- ❖ The site comprises a generally rectangular parcel of land (with ‘missing’ north-western corner) measuring approximately 33m (N-S) x 20m (E-W). It is presently laid to grass with numerous small shrubs and other herbaceous planting, having originally formed part of the garden of ‘Sunnydene’, and is bounded by North Street to the south, and by existing properties and/or gardens to the remaining sides.
- ❖ Planning permission was sought for the construction of a pair of semi-detached residential properties (with a combined ‘footprint’ of approximately 9m square), revised site access arrangements, driveway and parking/turning area, and a new detached garage for ‘Sunnydene’.
- ❖ Full planning consent for the scheme was granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 24th of March 2009 (Application No.: 123273), 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. An archaeological brief produced by Karen Waite of the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Historic Environment Team (acting as archaeological advisers to WLDC) on the 14th of April 2009 specified that the initial phase of work should entail the monitoring of all topsoil stripping in the areas of the access road, parking spaces and foundations. Any requirement for subsequent work on the site would then be dependent on the results of this investigation.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the developer, Turnkey Developments Ltd., on the 17th of April 2009 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis on the 30th of April and the 5th of May 2009.
- ❖ During the course of the investigation a series of buried deposits was uncovered and recorded in accordance with the aims and objectives established at the outset of the project, but in spite of the site’s apparent archaeological potential, the results unfortunately provided no evidence whatsoever for ancient occupation.

Development at ‘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 lies astride the River Rase in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey, approximately 20km north-east of Lincoln and 26km east of Gainsborough. It lies in a part of the village originally known as Middle Rasen Tupholme, approximately 200m to the west of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul.

The site comprises a generally rectangular parcel of land (with ‘missing’ north-western corner) measuring approximately 33m (N-S) x 20m (E-W). It is presently laid to grass with numerous small shrubs and other herbaceous planting, having originally formed part of the garden of ‘Sunnydene’, and is bounded by North Street to the south, and by existing properties and/or gardens to the remaining sides (see Figure 1).

Planning permission was sought for the construction of a pair of semi-detached residential properties (with a combined ‘footprint’ of approximately 9m square), revised site access arrangements, driveway and parking/turning area, and a new detached garage for ‘Sunnydene’ (see Figure 2).

The proposed groundworks for the development included:

- 1) site-stripping to a nominal depth of 300mm from the areas of the access driveway, parking areas and footprint of the new build properties - an area of approximately 330m² - to remove all existing plants, shrubs and other overburden;
- 2) excavation for foundation trenches for the new properties (including garage) and any associated services.

Full planning consent for the scheme was granted by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) on the 24th of March 2009 (Application No.: 123273), 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. An archaeological brief produced by Karen Waite of the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Historic Environment Team (acting as archaeological advisers to WLDC) on the 14th of April 2009 specified that the initial phase of work should entail the monitoring of all topsoil stripping in the areas of the access road, parking spaces and foundations (LCC, 2009b). Any requirement for subsequent work on the site would then be dependent on the results of this investigation (see **2.0** and **4.0**, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the developer, Turnkey Developments Ltd., on the 17th of April 2009 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 30th of April and the 5th of May 2009.

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

An application for planning permission was submitted to West Lindsey District Council in November 2008, with full consent for the scheme subsequently granted on the 24th of March 2009 (Application No.: 123273).

The Planning Permission included the following condition relating to archaeology:

7. No development shall take place within the area indicated on the submitted plan 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 in compliance with West Lindsey Local Plan First Review policy NBE 7.

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 St Peter was built by monks from Tupholme Abbey during the 12th century (Pitman, 2006), and 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 church dedicated to St 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 St Paul’s and use some of the recovered material to restore St Peter’s (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, 2009b).

The modern place-name ‘Rasen’ has been variously recorded throughout history as *aet ræsan, 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, 2009b).

In the immediate vicinity of the site, a watching brief carried out in 2000 by Lindsey Archaeological Services at the junction of Church Street and North Street uncovered a series of Saxon-Norman ditches of unknown function (LCC, 2009b; Tann & Angus, 2000).

4.0 Methodology

This project was designed to satisfy the requirements of the archaeological brief produced by Mrs Waite of the LCC Historic Environment Team on the 14th of April 2009, which requested that a scheme of archaeological works be undertaken on the site.

Section 4.9.1 of the *Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Handbook* (LCC, 2009a) states that a ‘Scheme of Works’ condition is:

To be used where known archaeology is to be disturbed or where pre-planning work is not possible. The scheme of works condition is generic which can apply equally to any size of archaeological scheme, whether it be archaeological monitoring of a single house plot or full excavation for a larger residential scheme. This condition is also recommended for building recording. The exact requirements for any particular scheme will be stipulated in the brief which will be supplied by the planning archaeologist. In addition a scheme of works condition allows sufficient leeway for satisfactory recording when unexpected remains of national significance are identified. This type of condition should however be used with some caution. It should not be used to avoid the established procedure of desktop, field evaluation and field project.

Section 5.12 qualifies this further, as follows:

When a request for a scheme of works is made it could potentially mean a variety of different works. The exact type of work that is required by use of this wording should always be confirmed by the relevant planning archaeologist. There should never be an attempt made by any third party to assume what work is required.

Often a scheme of works will be used when a Scheme of Monitoring and Recording is required. 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 specific case, the brief required archaeological monitoring of all topsoil stripping in the areas of the access road, parking spaces and building footings, and recording of all archaeological remains and/or artefacts. The results of this initial phase of investigation would then be used to determine the need for any subsequent work required on the site, as follows:

- a) if the stripping exposed the natural ground surface across the site, and no evidence for archaeological activity was found, then it was likely that no further fieldwork would be necessary, and the watching brief might then be terminated at the discretion of the LCC Historic Environment Team;
- b) if, however, the stripping did not reveal the natural deposits (*i.e.*, if topsoil and/or subsoil were still present), or if archaeological remains were uncovered, then the watching brief would be expected to continue through to the end of the foundation groundworks stage (including any associated works, services, *etc.*) to allow any buried archaeological remains to be properly recorded and reported upon.

In either case, the site investigation would then be followed by a comprehensive written report, supported by any specialist reports as appropriate, to client, local planning authority and LCC Planning Archaeologist/Historic Environment Record (HER), and the submission of the completed archive to the appropriate museum (*The Collection*, Lincoln)

To achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech (hereafter ‘the Archaeologist’) attended site on an intermittent basis during 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, as required.

5.0 Results

The groundworks for this project involved topsoil removal in three areas of the site, as follows (see Figure 2):

- 1) a ‘full depth’ strip across the ‘footprint’ of the new building at the northern end of the site - stripped to a depth of between 300mm and 400mm (Area ‘A’);
- 2) a ‘reduced level’ strip in the area of the access road and parking spaces at the south-western corner of the site - stripped to a depth of between 200mm and 300mm (Area ‘B’);
- 3) a ‘vegetation’ strip in the garden area to the south of the proposed new dwellings - removing only approximately 100mm from the original surface (Area ‘C’).

In addition, there was also an exploratory trench - measuring 2m x 1m with a depth in excess of 1m - dug at the southern corner of Area ‘A’ to ascertain the position of an existing drain.

In two of these areas - ‘B’ and ‘C’ - only topsoil was encountered, but in Area ‘A’ a sequence comprising four stratified deposits was revealed, although it must be noted that part of this area was heavily waterlogged and had been badly churned-up during the machining making recording very difficult (see *Appendix C*, below, for detailed context descriptions).

The stratigraphic sequence (from earliest (*i.e.*, oldest) to latest) was as follows:

The earliest deposit, [103], was revealed at the base of the exploratory trench and comprised a layer of moderately compacted mid orange/orange-brown sand (very slightly silty/clayey in places). This was at least 100mm-120mm thick to the limit of excavation (LOE), and contained only occasional small-medium sized flint pieces and pebbles. It was heavily waterlogged and is assumed to represent the upper boundary of the prevailing undisturbed natural (*i.e.*, geological) deposit for the area.

This was then overlain by two layers of apparently natural subsoil, [102] and [104], the first of which was present mainly across the southern part of the site, while the second was confined to the northern half.

[102] comprised a loose-moderately compacted, friable, mid-grey silty soil with occasional mid-light orange-brown sand pockets/mottles, which contained occasional small flint pebbles and some fibrous roots. It was very similar in appearance to the overlying topsoil layer ([101]) and appeared to be up to 300mm thick, although an indistinct boundary between the two deposits made differentiation difficult.

By contrast, [104] was a moderately compacted, mottled mid-brown and mid-grey, slightly clayey, silty soil, which contained occasional small flint pebble inclusions, small fibrous roots, and small pockets/patches of mid grey-brown clay.

Both of these deposits were then sealed beneath a layer of topsoil, [101], which comprised a loose-moderately compacted, friable, mid-dark grey silty soil which was present across the site. This contained only occasional small irregularly-shaped flint pebbles and numerous fibrous roots and rootlets and was up to 400mm thick.

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

Following completion of this phase of the groundworks, and in the absence of any sign of archaeological activity, it was agreed with Mrs Waite that the project could be terminated at this point without the need for further observation.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

During the course of the groundworks associated with this development, a series of buried deposits was uncovered and 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, with all of the deposits apparently of either undated, 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 Mr K. Keyworth of Turnkey Developments Ltd. for his support and assistance during the works.

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

8.0 Selected References

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9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code: SUN09
Museum Accession Number: 2009.59
Planning Application Number: 123273
Supervising Archaeologist: K. Wragg
NGR: TF 08540 89440
Civil Parish: Middle Rasen
Date of Intervention: 30th April - 5th May 2009
Type of Intervention: Scheme of archaeological works: monitoring and recording
Undertaken for: Turnkey Developments Ltd., Westbrook Farm, Station Road, North Thoresby, Lincolnshire, DN36 5QS

Appendix A

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
5	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 2009.59, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Appendix B

Colour Plates



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



Plate 2: General view of site - looking north-east

Colour Plates (continued)



Plate 3: General view of layer [104] at north-eastern corner of stripped area - looking north-west



Plate 4: General view of south-west facing section 1 - looking north-east

Appendix C

Context Listing

Context No.	Description
[100]	Unstratified finds - from general site area
[101]	Topsoil layer - loose-moderately compacted, friable, mid-dark grey silty soil; contains only occasional small irregularly-shaped flint pebbles and numerous fibrous roots and rootlets; up to 400mm thick and present across the site
[102]	Subsoil layer - loose-moderately compacted, friable (when dry), mid grey silty (very slightly clayey) soil with occasional mid-light orange-brown sand pockets and mottles; contains only occasional small flint pebbles and some fibrous roots; very similar to overlying [101] with indistinct boundary interface; up to c. 300mm thick
[103]	Natural (<i>i.e.</i> , geological) sand layer - moderately compacted mid orange/orange-brown sand (very slightly silty/clayey in places); contains only occasional small-medium sized flint pieces and pebbles; heavily waterlogged; at least 100mm-120mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.)
[104]	Subsoil layer/natural - moderately compacted, mottled mid-brown and mid-grey, slightly clayey, silty soil; contains occasional small flint pebble inclusions and small fibrous roots and rootlets, also some small pockets/patches of mid grey-brown clay at northern edge of site; not excavated

50 High Street, Martin
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

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

SITE CODE:
SUN09
CLIENT:
Turnkey Developments Ltd.
DESCRIPTION:
Site location plan

SCALE:
See individual plans

DRAWN BY:
-

DATE:
-

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2009.59

KEY:

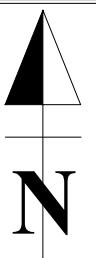


FIGURE NO: **1**



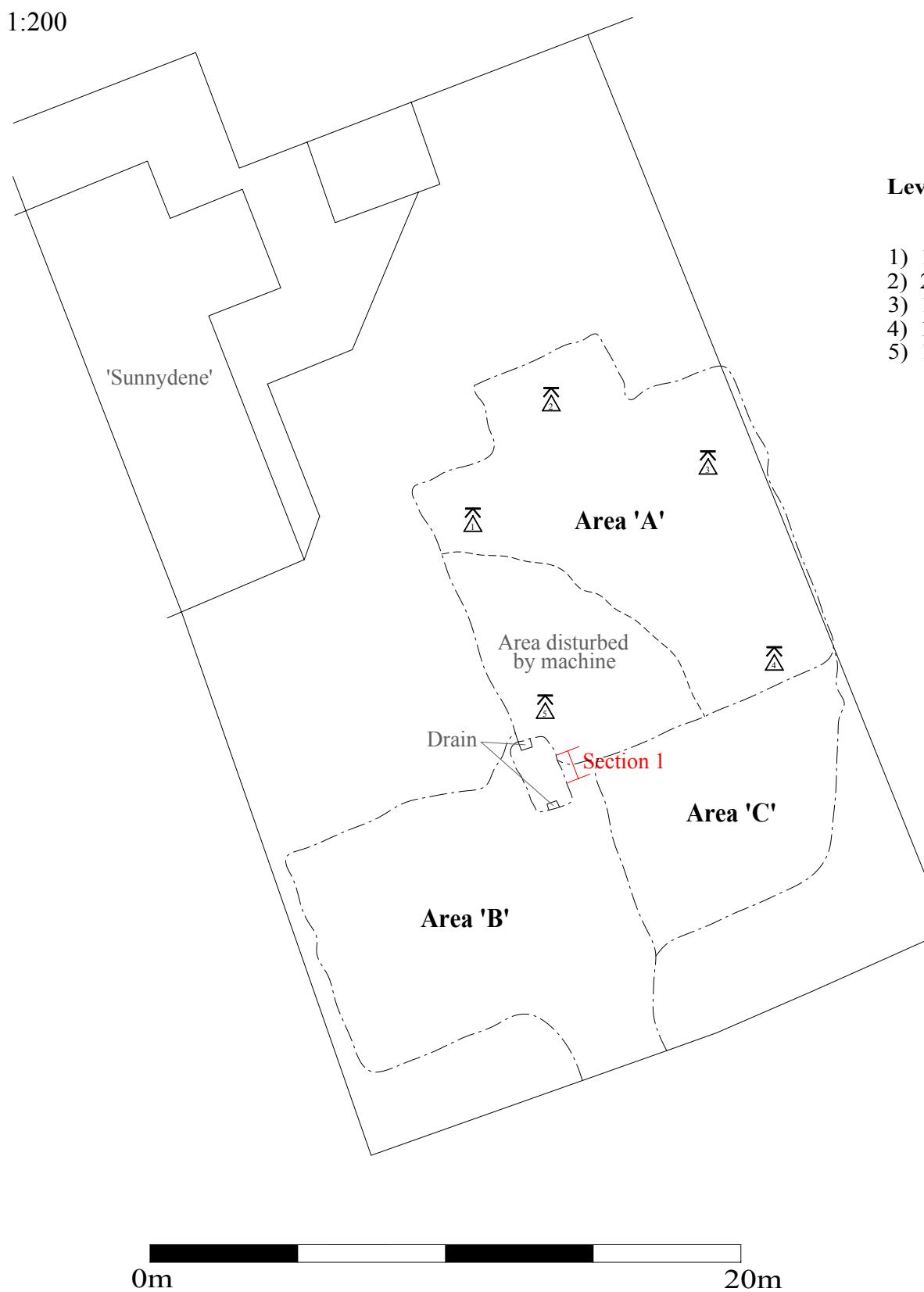
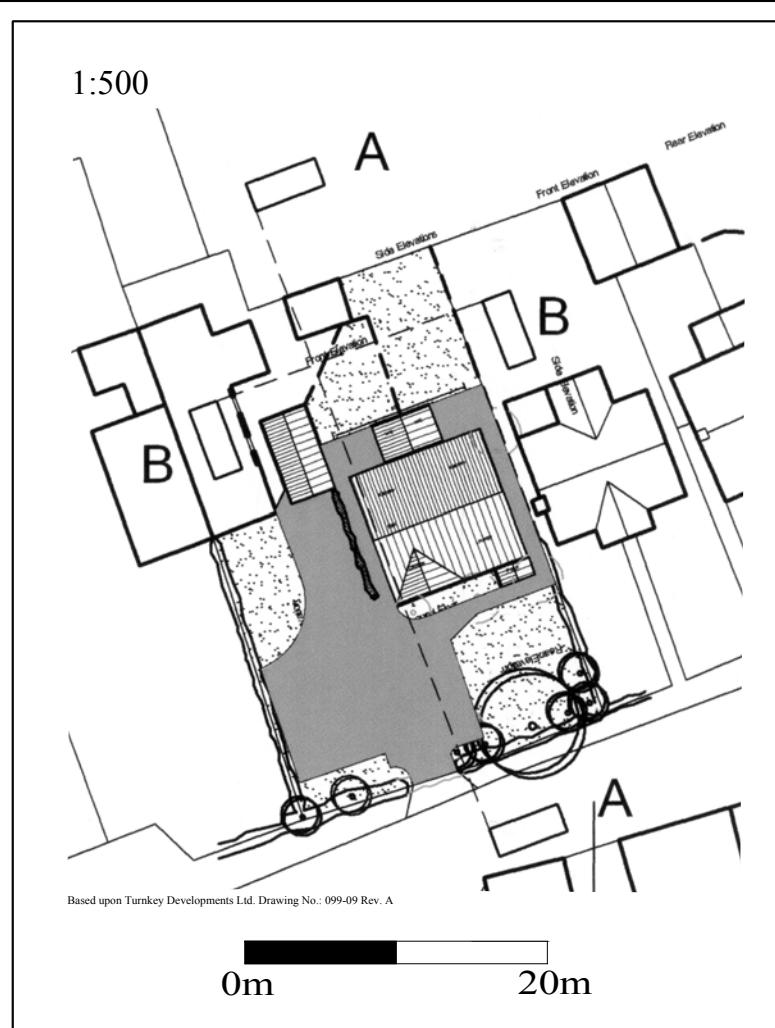
0km

2.5km



0m

125m



Level values:

- 1) 19.73m OD
- 2) 20.00m OD
- 3) 19.90m OD
- 4) 19.76m OD
- 5) 19.54m OD

50 High Street, Martin
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

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

SITE CODE:
SUN09
CLIENT:
Turnkey Developments Ltd.
DESCRIPTION:
Plans of development & excavated areas

SCALE:
See individual plans

DRAWN BY:

-

DATE:

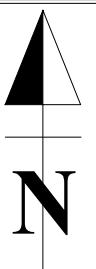
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ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2009.59

KEY:

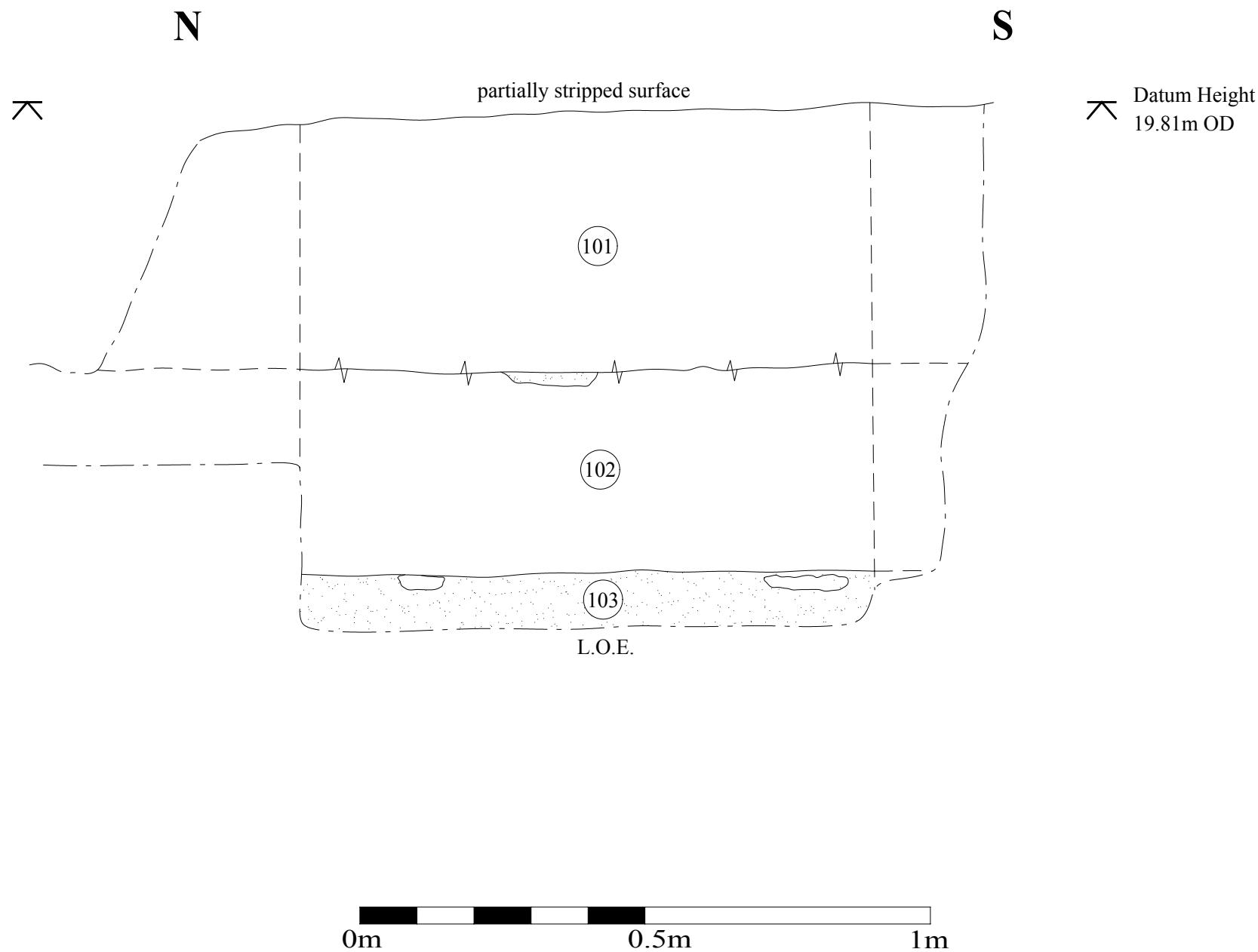
- Limit of excavation
- ▲ Level reading
- Section 1 Section Drawing



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Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

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

SITE CODE:	SUN09
CLIENT:	Turnkey Developments Ltd.
DESCRIPTION:	(South-) West-facing Section 1
SCALE:	1:10
DRAWN BY:	KW
DATE:	30th April 2009
ARCHIVE NO:	
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	2009.59
KEY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Limit of excavation ↗ Uncertain edge - Conjectured or arbitrary edge ○ Stone/flint ▨ Sand (103) Context number





50 High Street, Martin, Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020

Mobile: (07914) 145 078

E-mail: info@lincs-archaeotech.co.uk