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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



**LAND AT CHURCH VIEW, ALL SAINTS
LANE, NETTLEHAM, LINCS.**

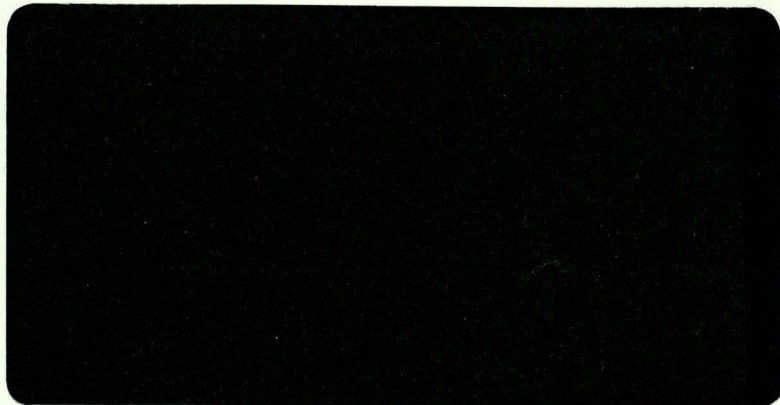
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By R Trimble

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 363

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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A
Report to
Wheatley Construction Ltd.

November 1998

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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MONUMENTAL SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension, new wooden decking and new access roads at an elderly private house at Church View, All Saints Lane, Westbury. The work was commissioned by Woodley Construction Limited in response to an archaeological condition of planning consent set by West Wiltshire District Council and was completed during the period 22 June 1998 - 12 August 1998.

The village of Westbury lies within the administrative district of West Wiltshire, at a distance of c 5 km to the north-west of Tisbury city centre. Church View (NGR TR 080294) is situated to the north of All Saints Lane, at a distance of approximately 100m south of the church of All Saints. Archaeological recording was carried out primarily during work to raise a new compound area, during groundworks prior to the construction of new access roads and during groundworks relating to the construction of the extension, situated to the north of the existing Church View property.

A brief watching brief programme of excavation was carried out in a north-south direction, extending between the existing compound area and the extension, to the south of the main site. There was no evidence of archaeological significance, deposits or artefacts, the only remains in the sequence being a level of subsoil, the surface of which is the top of the existing site. Despite the absence of archaeological significance, the watch brief identified substantial quantities of deposit characteristic of the site of the village of

LAND AT CHURCH VIEW, ALL SAINTS LANE, NETTLEHAM, Lincs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension, new warden's bungalow and new access roads at an elderly persons home at Church View, All Saints Lane, Nettleham. The work was commissioned by Wheatley Construction Limited in response to an archaeological condition of planning consent set by West Lindsey District Council and was completed during the period 23 June 1998 - 19 August 1998.

The village of Nettleham lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey, at a distance of c.5 km to the north-east of Lincoln city centre. Church View (NGR TF 008/754) is situated to the north of All Saints Lane, at a distance of approximately 100m north of the church of All Saints. Archaeological recording was carried out primarily during work to form a site compound area, during ground reductions prior to the construction of new access roads, and during groundworks relating to construction of the extension and bungalow to the north of the existing Church View building.

A fairly uniform stratigraphy of limestone brash, overlain by a thick deposit of probable ploughsoil representing medieval/post medieval arable land use, and then topsoil was recognised over the entire site. There was no evidence of archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts, the only variation to the sequence already outlined being the modern pits to the east of the extension plot. Despite this absence of archaeologically significant remains, the project has contributed substantially to knowledge of deposit characteristics in this part of the village of

Nettleham. This information may be used to inform future archaeological resource management decisions.

LAND AT CHURCH VIEW, ALL SAINTS LANE, NETTLEHAM, Lincs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during groundworks relating to the construction of an extension, new warden's bungalow and new access roads at an elderly persons home at Church View, All Saints Lane, Nettleham. The watching brief was commissioned by Wheatley Construction Limited in response to an archaeological condition of planning consent set by West Lindsey District Council and was maintained during all major groundworks carried out over the period 23 June 1998 - 19 August 1998. In the light of information from this work, indicating a low probability for disturbance of archaeologically significant deposits, the watching brief was discontinued with the agreement of the Assistant County Archaeological Officer.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY (see Fig.1)

The village of Nettleham lies within the administrative district of West Lindsey, at a distance of c.5 km to the north-east of Lincoln city centre. Church View (NGR TF 008/754)

is situated to the north of All Saints Lane, at a distance of approximately 100m north of the church of All Saints. The site consisted of the existing two-storey building with lawns to the front extending to All Saints Lane to the south and an access road to the east and north. A small car park to the north of the adjacent Linelands buildings came within the area for redevelopment as did a much overgrown garden to the north of Church View. The latter area, comprising approximately one third of the site, was separated from Church View by a 1.5m high stone wall. The site and its immediate surroundings overlie a geology of Lincolnshire Limestone of the Lower Oolite.

3.0 THE SCHEME OF REDEVELOPMENT

The scheme of redevelopment consisted of the construction of a north-south extension in the area to the north of the existing Church View buildings, with a new warden's bungalow to be built in the eastern part of the previously enclosed garden. This entailed the demolition of the stone wall forming the existing property boundary. The construction of a replacement access road to the west necessitated the demolition of some small outbuildings immediately to the west of the Church View building. Enabling works included the construction of a small contractor's compound close to the eastern entrance to the site.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Casual finds, including a polished stone axe (SMR Ref. 52383), attest to archaeological activity from the Neolithic period onwards in the immediate vicinity of Nettleham. The Romano-British period is also well represented with the discovery of a possible temple and other buildings in gardens to the east of the village (SMR Ref. 50639). Further finds to the west of the village at NGR TF 0052/7527 (SMR Ref. 52380) and in the area of the Medieval Bishop's Palace (see below) indicate Romano-British settlement in the area.

An Early Anglo-Saxon copper brooch (NGR TF 0100/7590, SMR Ref. 52413), a fragment of possible annular brooch (NGR TF

0110/7570, SMR Ref. 52394), a Late Anglo-Saxon loomweight (NGR TF 0048/7520, SMR Ref.52379), and Middle and Late Saxon pottery from the Police Station site indicate continuation of archaeological activity during the Anglo-Saxon period. Further evidence for Anglo-Saxon as well as Saxo-Norman occupation was recovered during excavations on the site of the Bishop's Palace (see below).

The focal point of the medieval settlement of Nettleham appears to be a large green (now two thirds infilled by later development) to the north east of the church, which may originally have been placed alongside a regular two row east-west street plan (Everson P, Unpublished Archive Notes). Earthwork remains of the former Bishop's Palace, a Royal Manor granted in 1101 to Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln, lie to the south of the High Street at TF 006/752. Limited excavation on the site was carried out in 1959. A small bronze pilgrim badge of 15th century date was found a short distance to the north west of Church View in a garden in North street at NGR TF 0068/7557 (SMR Ref. 52396).

Recent archaeological work in the village includes a watching carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services during installation of replacement water mains along the High Street (Tann, 1996). No evidence for medieval settlement was recovered during this work.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Intermittent site visits were timed to coincide with all substantial elements of groundwork. A drawn, written and photographic record was made of the principal stratigraphic horizons.

The main areas of ground disturbance can be summarised as follows;

- 1) Ground reduction to create a level surface for a site compound.
- 2) Ground reduction during construction of the new access road to the west of Churchview, and deeper excavations for associated kerbing.
- 3) Ground reduction prior to construction of the new extension to Churchview and the Wardens bungalow, and subsequent excavations for foundations.

6.0 RESULTS (See Fig.2)

For ease of reference the results of the watching brief are set out below in accordance with the areas of major ground disturbance outlined in the previous section.

6.1 The Compound Area

Ground reduction for the site compound extended over a 9.40m x 5.30m area and was carried out to a maximum depth of 450mm. Topsoil containing modern glass and whiteware pottery extended to the lower limit of excavation. Severe truncation, from modern services leading to a manhole within the area of excavation, was visible at the level of the trench base.

6.2 The New Access Road

A c. 450mm depth of material was stripped in advance of the construction of the new access road which passed to the west of Church View to link with an existing small car park and access road leading to All Saints Lane.

In general, a friable, light yellowish brown silty sand containing frequent limestone fragments occupied the lower extents of the stripped areas, extending to below the lower limit of excavation. This deposit may be interpreted as a relict ploughsoil of medieval and/or post-medieval date representing an arable use of the land prior to expansion of the village. A 400mm depth of topsoil (friable, mid grey silty sand) then extended to existing ground level.

6.3 The Garden Area

Initial ground reduction over the garden area to the north of Church View was carried out to a depth of c.200mm below the tarmac car park which lay to the west. Within the footprint of the extension (measuring c.28m N-S x c.15m E-W) a further 350mm reduction below the already stripped level was necessary to allow for the formation of the floor. Foundation trenches were generally 500mm wide. Those which lay within the eastern part of the structure were excavated to a depth of c.600mm below the stripped level, while those to the east were excavated to a depths of 1.2m - 1.7m due to the unsuitable nature of the ground in the immediate area (see below). The bungalow to the east occupied an area c.10m square and required foundation trenches with a depth of 1.10m below the access road level to the south.

Limestone brash was encountered at c. 550mm below existing ground level over the western part of the extension (See Section 1, Fig.3), but lay at a greater depth of c.1.10m to the east, in the area of the bungalow. This material was overlain by a moderately compact, slightly sandy silt containing roots, limestone and pebbles varying in thickness between 0.40m to the west (See Fig.3) and 0.25m to the east. This deposit was itself overlain to the east by a 0.30m thick layer of moderately compact mid grey-brown silty sand containing occasional roots and occasional small stones. A loose dark grey-brown silty sand topsoil deepening to 0.50m in the area of the bungalow then extended to ground level (See Fig.3).

Several large pits, probably of comparatively recent origin, were cut from immediately below the turf horizon, truncating the aforementioned stratigraphy within the eastern part of the extension. The pits typically attained a depth of c.1.5 m below the stripped level and were filled by what appeared to be redeposited topsoil containing modern material, including corrugated iron, glass bottles, white chinaware and window glass. A similar feature measuring 2.5m across (max.) and at least 2m deep (not bottomed) was encountered at the SE corner of the bungalow plot.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A fairly uniform stratigraphy of limestone brash, overlain by a thick deposit of probable ploughsoil representing medieval/post medieval arable land use, and then topsoil was recognised over the entire site. There was no evidence for archaeologically significant deposits or artefacts, the only variation to the sequence already outlined being the modern pits to the east of the extension plot. Despite this absence of archaeologically significant remains the project has contributed substantially to knowledge of deposit characteristics in this part of the village of Nettleham. This information may be used to inform future archaeological resource management decisions.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Clive Grantham of Wheatley Construction Limited for his cooperation at all stages during the fieldwork element of the project, and the staff of the County Archaeology Section for assistance in locating background information relating to the site.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pevsner, P and Harris J (revised by Antram, N) 1989 *The Buildings of England. Lincolnshire*, Penguin Books

Tann, G 1996 *Nettleham Village Mains Replacement Scheme: Archaeological Monitoring at Washdyke Hill and High Street*, Lindsey Archaeological Services Report

**10.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE
DETAILS**

10.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: NAS98

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: *****

FIELD OFFICER: R.Trimble

NGR: TF 008/754

CIVIL PARISH: Nettleham

SMR No.: ****

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 23/6/98 -
19/8/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological
Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Wheatley Construction
Limited

10.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln
Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The
Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County
Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 141.98

ACCESSION DATE: -*****

**APPENDIX - COLOUR
PLATES**



Plate 1: General view of the stripped compound area (looking south)



Plate 2: Excavation in progress for the access road to the west of Church View (looking north/ north-east).

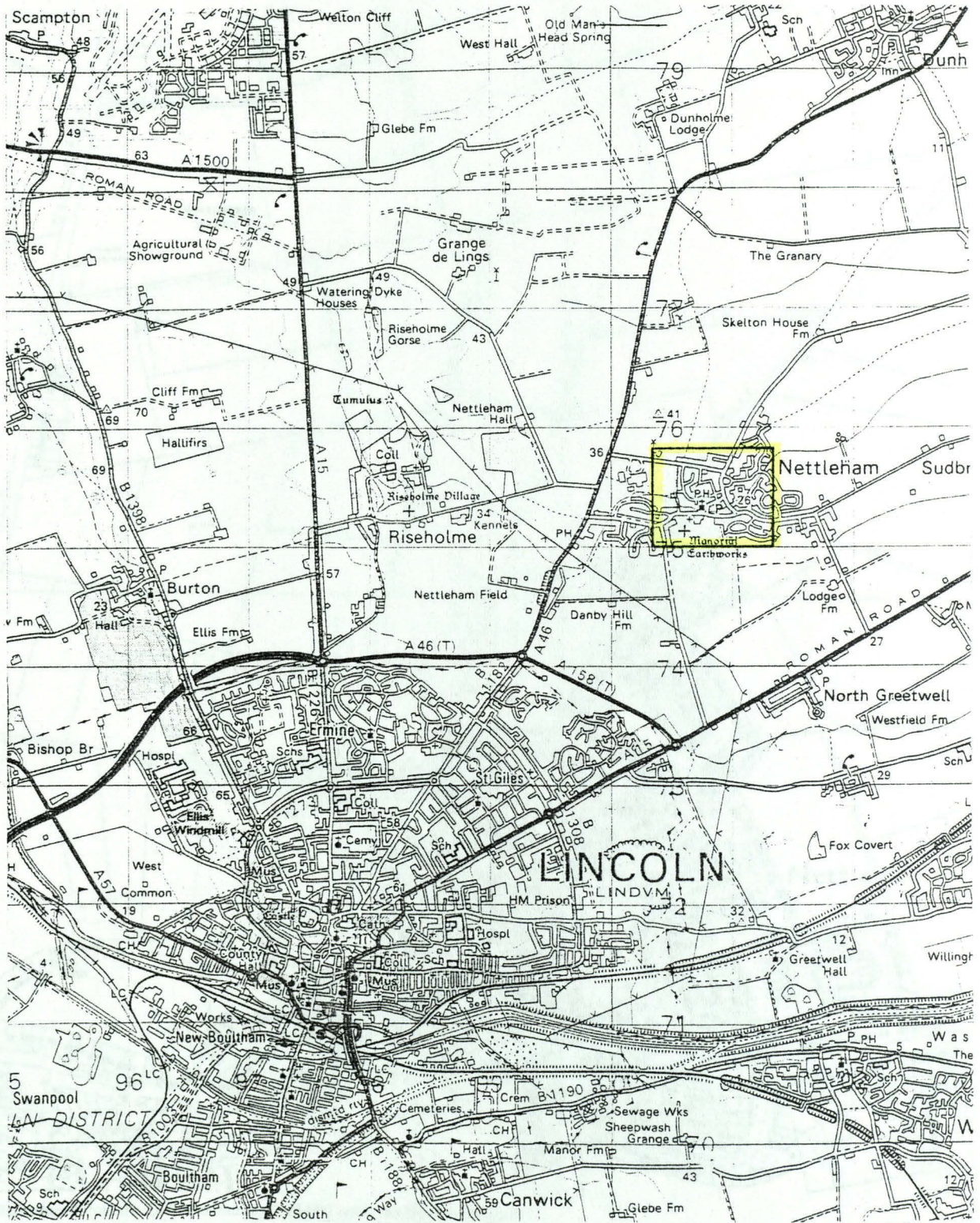
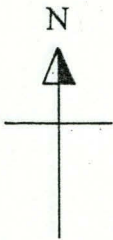
**APPENDIX - COLOUR
PLATES (Cont.)**



Plate 3: General view of work in progress over the extension plot area (looking south-east)



Plate 4: Section 1 showing stratigraphy at the north-west corner of the extension plot (looking north).




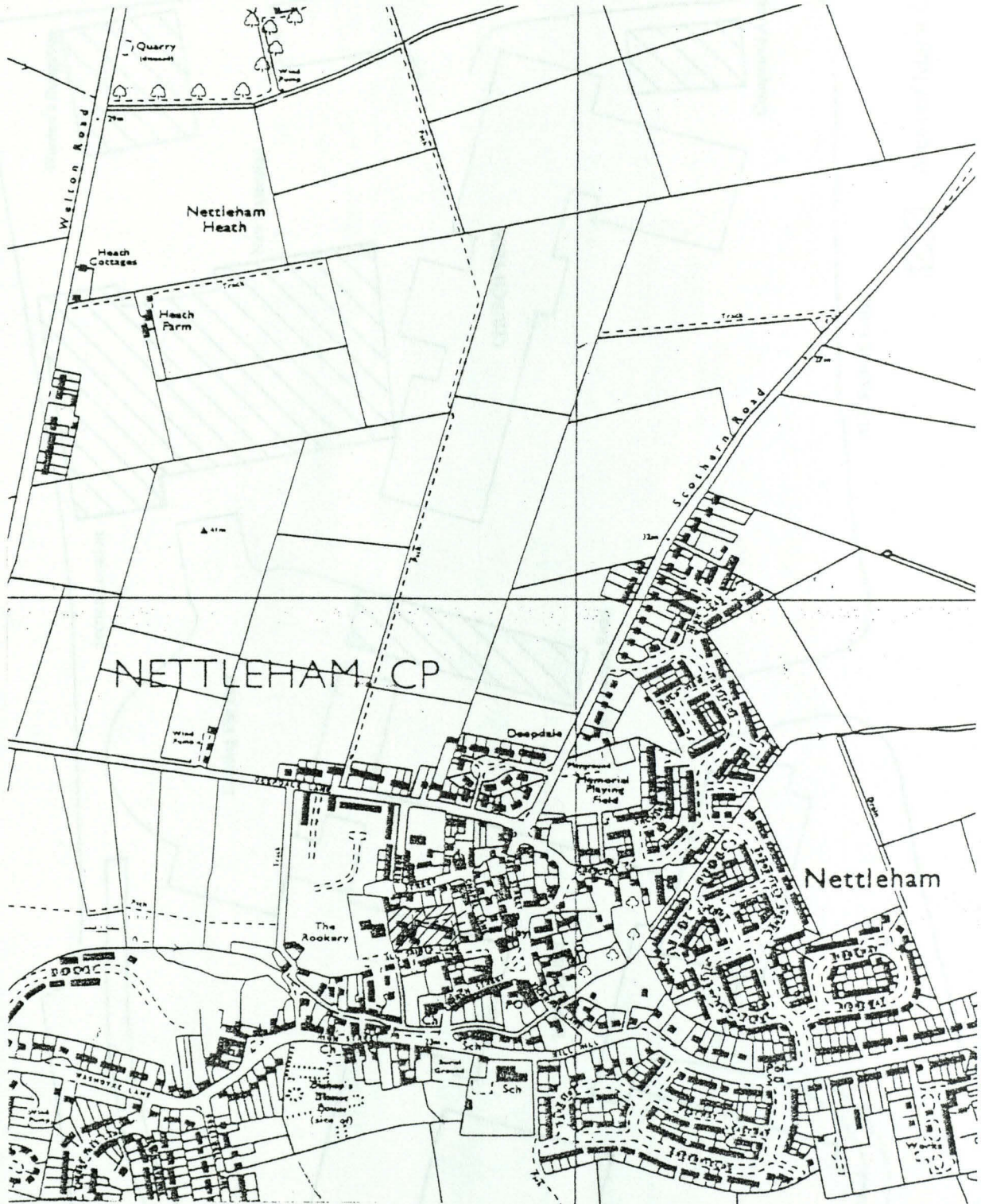
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General Location Map Scale 1:50 000

Fig.1



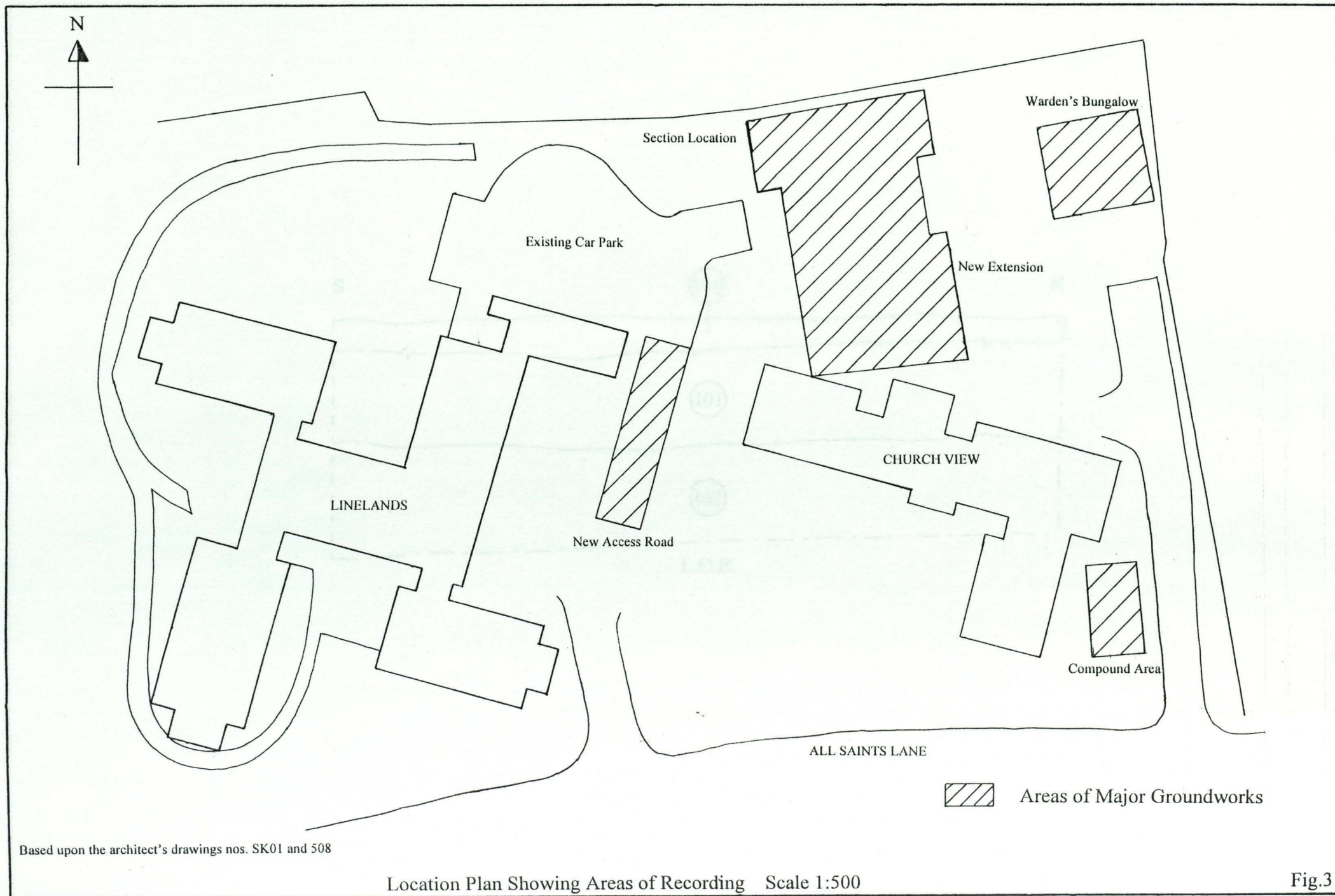
 Location of Site

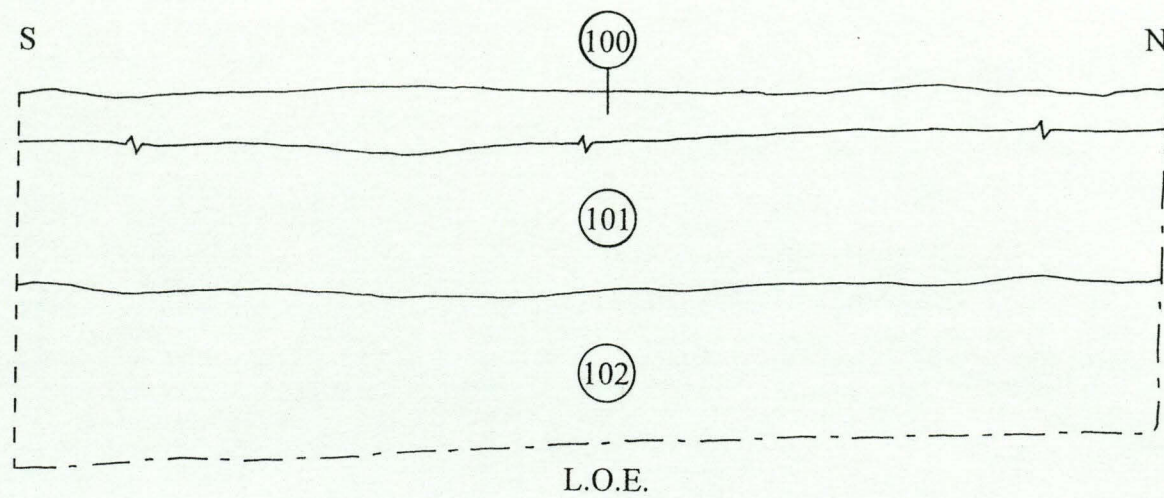


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Site Location Plan Scale 1:10 000

Fig.2





East-Facing Section Scale 1:20

Fig.4