



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

00/5 neg  
Elev LI1193  
Source LI5848  
LI5849

**74 Wragby Rd, North Greetwell**

**NGR: TF 0165 7390**

**Site Code: NGWR 99**

**LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 198.99**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report prepared for**

**Mr P. Harrison**

**LAS Report No. 387**

**February 2000**

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
07. FEB 00  
ack 7/2/00

## List of Figures and Plates

### Figures

**Fig. 1** Location of North Greetwell (Inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF07. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

**Fig. 2** Location of the monitored site (based on a reduced scale copy of the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

**Fig. 3** Plan of features observed in the foundation trenches (McDaid after Tann, based on a plan supplied by the developer).

### Plates

**Pl. 1** Site of the new house and garage (looking north to Wragby Road).

**Pl. 2** Garden landscaping and remains of brick structures to west of the house plot.

**Pl. 3** Feature 1, interpreted as a post-medieval gully or more recent mole drain (looking south, scale 0.5m).

**Pl. 4** Eastern foundation trench of the new house (looking north). The 1m red/white scale marks the position of 2, with a small marker beyond it above 3. The darker fill of 4 is visible at the northern end of the trench.

**Pl. 5** Orange sandy clay fill of depression 2 (looking east, scale 1m).

**Pl. 6** Dark fill of gully or mole drain 3 (looking east, scale 0.5m).

**Pl. 7** Dark brown clay fill of 4 (looking east, scale 1m).

**Pl. 8** Sloping deposits at 5, interpreted as glacial outwash fills of a natural deep depression extending over the eastern side of the building plot. (Looking south, scale 1m).



**74 Wragby Rd, North Greetwell**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
**NGR: TF 0165 7390**  
**Site Code NGWR 99**  
**LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 198.99**

Planning Application.  
98/P/0319

**Summary**

*A watching brief during groundworks for a single house plot identified no dateable features of archaeological interest. Two undated drainage gullies were recorded. The trenches exposed a very mixed drift geology on the site.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned in August 1999 by Mr P. Harrison to conduct an archaeological watching brief during excavation of house and garage foundations, and service trenches, on a building plot to the south of Wragby Road, North Greetwell. The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition of the planning permission granted by West Lindsey District Council. The watching brief was conducted according to the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

**Archaeological Background**

North Greetwell is a modern settlement along the Wragby Road 4km east of Lincoln, in Greetwell parish. The Wragby Road follows the line of a Roman road (Margary 27) to Burgh-le-Marsh (Margary 1973, 238-9), and Roman finds have been made on land NW and south of the development site. Air photographs show that there are extensive cropmarks of ditched enclosure systems in the vicinity.

**The Watching Brief**

The building plot sloped slightly downhill from north to south (Pl. 1). The 5-bedroomed house and garage were constructed on land which had previously been occupied by minor buildings and a garden; brick building foundations had been cleared from land to the west of this house plot (Pl. 2).

The topsoil across the area of the house plot was 0.22m - 0.3m thick, but there were slight signs that a small mound of topsoil had been spread in the past in the SW part of the plot. This may have been when the brick building footings to the west were constructed, or possibly during later site clearance. Beneath the topsoil is a brown clay subsoil layer, about 0.15m thick.

Several anomalies in the deposits revealed in the trench sides were examined. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used on the plan and sections.

1. At the SW corner of the Family Room, a north-south aligned narrow gully or mole drain had been excavated into the chalky clay, 0.3m below the ground surface (Pl. 3). The 0.4m wide feature had been backfilled with dark brown clay loam, with a small pocket of chalky clay above it. A shallower shelf to the east, backfilled with light brown clay loam, may have been an earlier form of



the same feature. Although this appeared to be a post-hole, it was visible in other foundation trenches across the house plot.

The backfilled gully was overlain by the subsoil layer and the modern topsoil. As the subsoil is probably the result of cultivation, the gully is probably not a recent feature; a post-medieval date is likely. A mole drain might have produced the same sequence of deposits, however, in which case a twentieth century date is probable.

2. At the eastern side of the kitchen foundation trench, a 0.25m deep and 2m wide shallow depression was sealed by the subsoil layer and had been cut into the chalky clay (Pls. 4 and 5). The orange sandy clay loam fill, with no obvious humic content, suggests that this is a naturally filled post-glacial irregularity in the ground surface.

3. A second gully-like feature was seen crossing the eastern side of the house plot, but was not visible in the western foundation trench of the garage (Pls. 4 and 6). The 0.3m wide, west-east aligned gully contained a fill which was indistinguishable from the subsoil layer, apart from a pocket of chalky clay immediately under the topsoil. This material indicated disturbance of the subsoil, and this is evidence for the 0.65m deep feature being relatively recent. Its shape was narrower and more pointed than 1, and the two are unlikely to be associated.

4. At the NE corner of the foundation trench for the new building, a 2m wide, 0.5m deep feature was seen. It had sloping sides, a broad flat base and a narrow, almost central, slightly deeper point (Pls. 4 and 7). The fill was an orange/brown sandy clay. This feature was overlain by the subsoil layer (which thinned slightly above it) and had been cut into white chalky clay. If this depression had been visible to the west of the lounge area, it would have been interpreted as a medieval or post-medieval plough furrow. As it was only seen in the easternmost trench, it was recorded as a small anomaly of the original ground surface, and probably not of archaeological origin. It may have been filled deliberately in a levelling exercise.

5. Close to the SW corner of the rear wall, the trench cut through very mixed deposits which appeared to be filling a depression to the east (Fig. \*; Pl. 8). Initially, these were interpreted as fills of an archaeological feature, but no artefacts were found and the eastern side of the feature was not located. It now seems probable that it represents natural deposits close to the edge of a glacially filled depression, and that all the other deposits recorded to the east are later fills of the same depression.

### **Conclusion**

The naturally deposited material on this site was so mixed that it was frequently difficult to tell whether a sandy inclusion indicated an archaeological feature or a variation in the chalky clay. It seems likely that the building plot lies at a point where glacial deposition was particularly mixed, with an amalgam of chalk, sand, gravel and clay. The relative drainage

properties of these materials may be responsible for the former pond at the site's frontage, and for the need for various drainage features within the site.

The property slopes up abruptly at the frontage towards Wragby Road, possibly reflecting the raised Roman road and adjacent ditch. No evidence of any features associated with the Roman road were found on this plot. The earliest evidence for activity here dated from the post-medieval periods, and was probably related to agricultural land use.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Mr Harrison, Karen Buttery, and their contractors. The illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
3rd February 2000

### **References**

Margary, I. D. 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*. Third edition. London.

### **Archive Summary**

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field plan and section drawings

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 99/109/18-37 (including those used in this report).



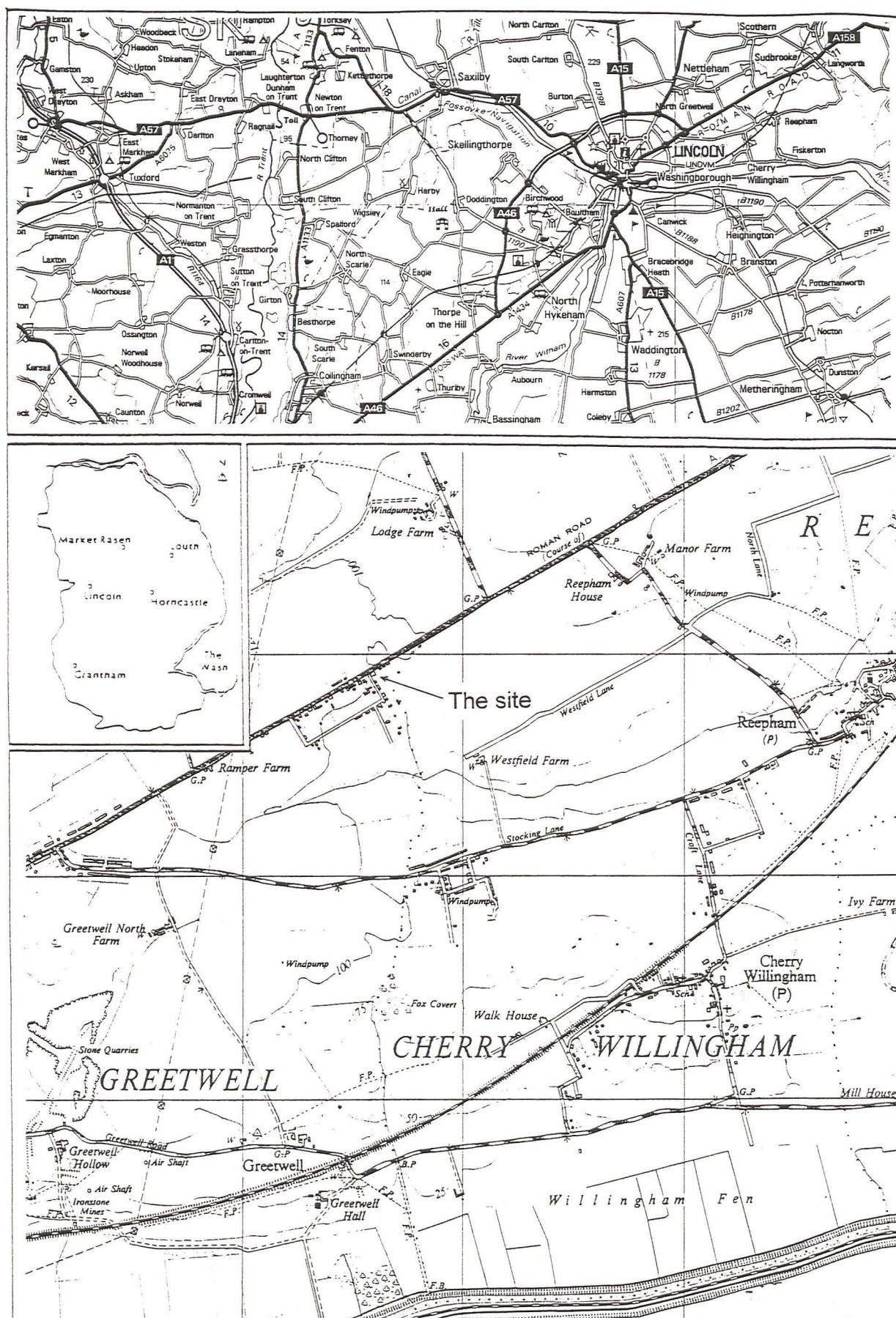


Fig. 1 Location of North Greetwell (Inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF07. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



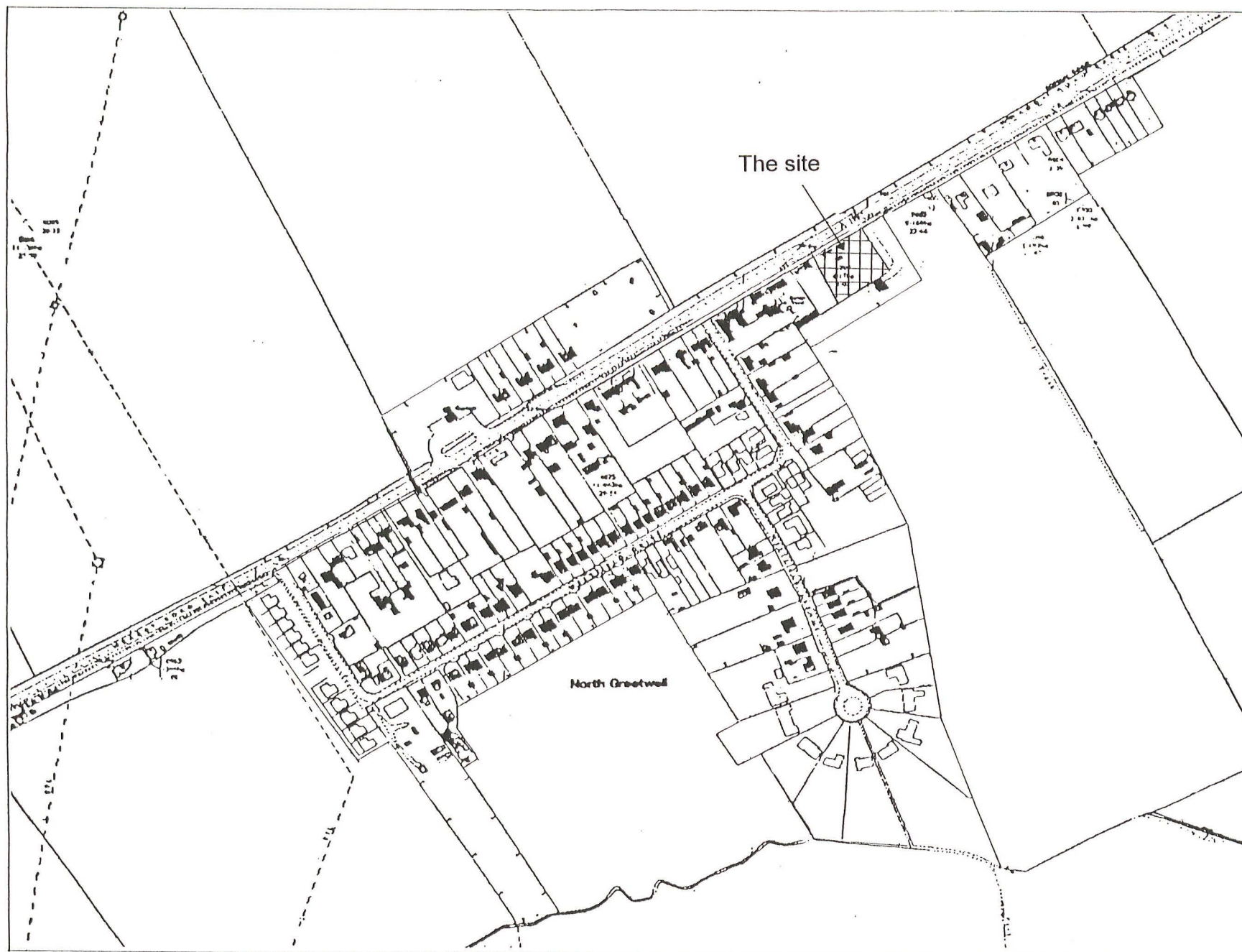


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored site (based on a reduced scale copy of the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



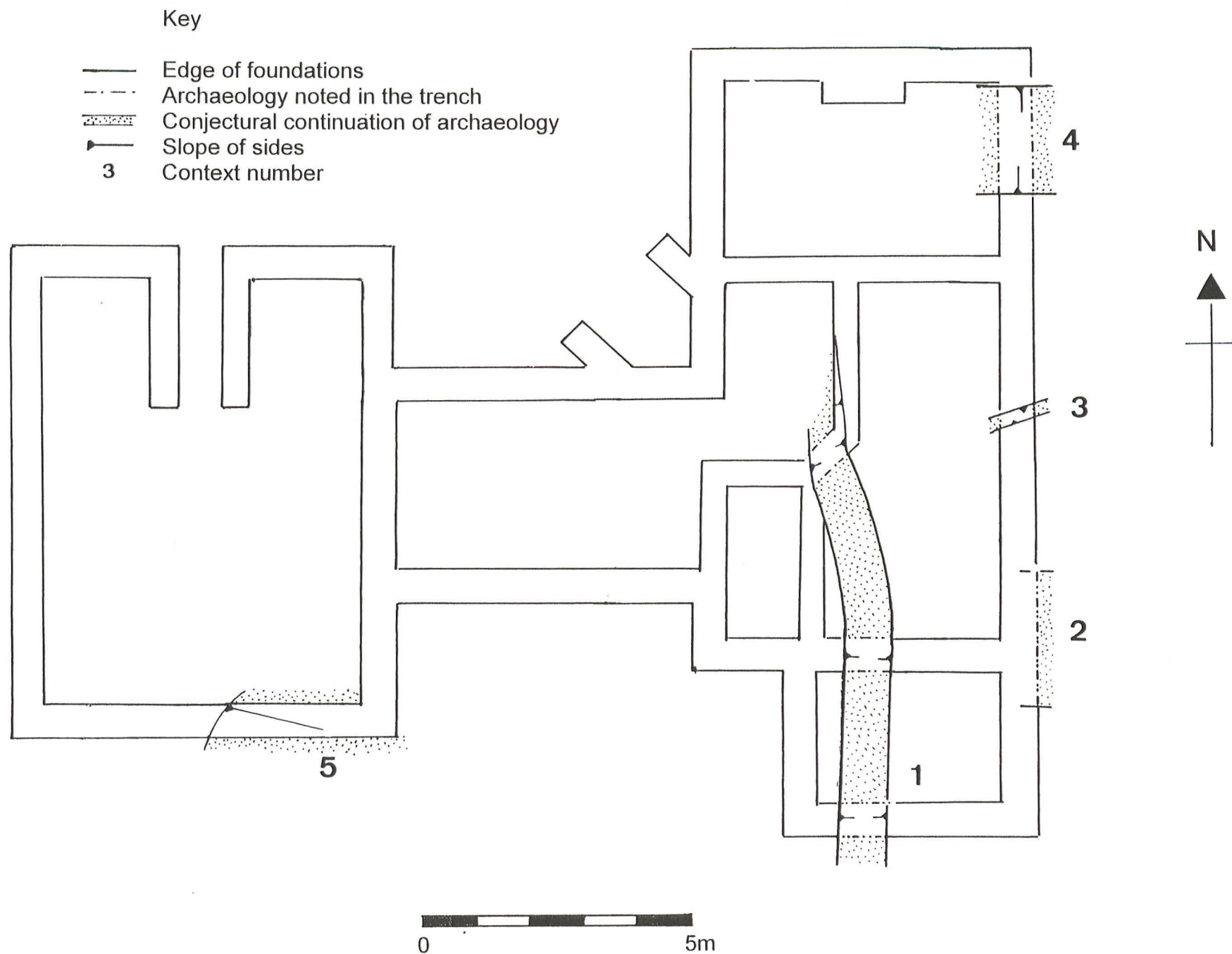
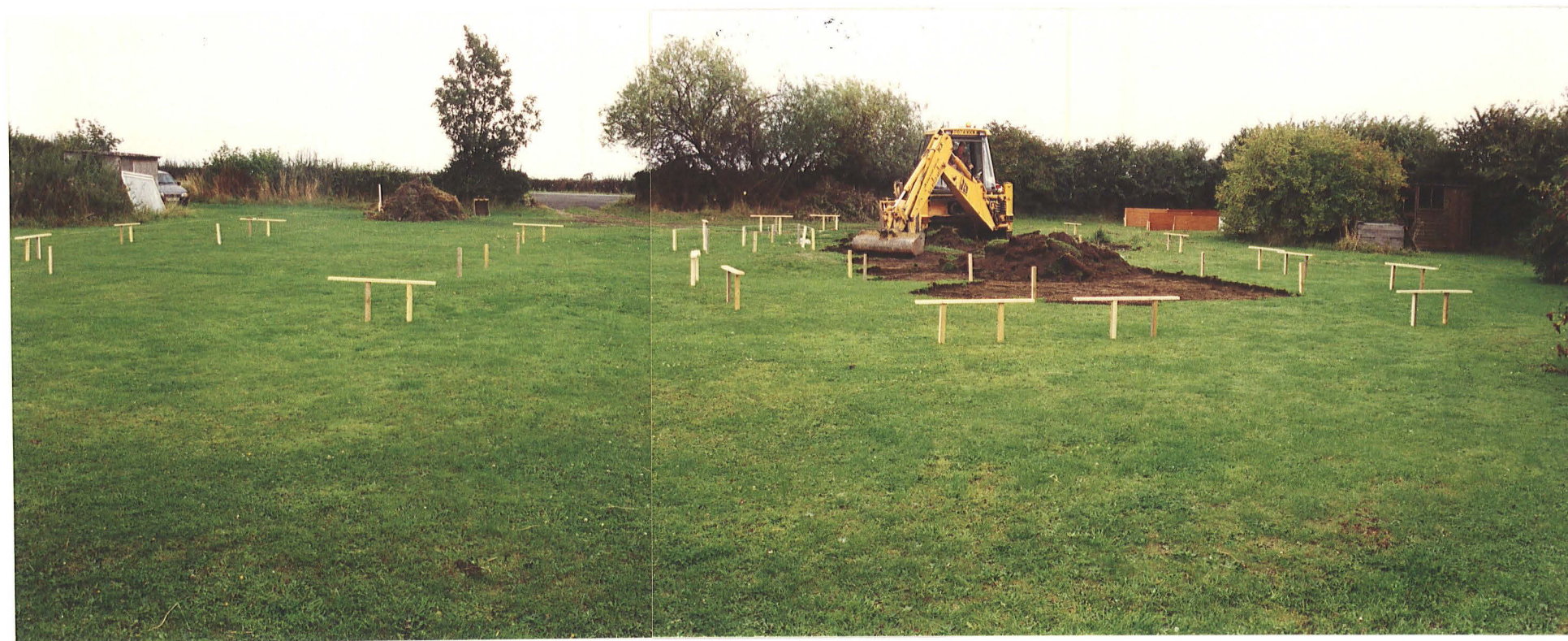


Fig. 3 Plan of features observed in the foundation trenches (McDaid after Tann, based on a plan supplied by the developer).



**Pl. 1 Site of the new house and garage (looking north to Wragby Road).**





**Pl. 2 Garden landscaping and remains of brick structures to west of the house plot.**

**Pl. 3 Feature 1, interpreted as a post-medieval gully or more recent mole drain (looking south, scale 0.5m).**







Pl. 4 Eastern foundation trench of the new house (looking north). The 1m red/white scale marks the position of 2, with a small marker beyond it above 3. The darker fill of 4 is visible at the northern end of the trench.

Pl. 5 Orange sandy clay fill of depression 2 (looking east, scale 1m).







**Pl. 6 Dark fill of gully or mole drain 3 (looking east, scale 0.5m).**





Pl. 7 Dark brown clay fill of 4 (looking east, scale 1m).





Pl. 8 Sloping deposits at 5, interpreted as glacial outwash fills of a natural deep depression extending over the eastern side of the building plot. (Looking south, scale 1m).