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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Westfield Avenue, North Greetwell

NGR: TF 0170 7365

Site Code NGR 99

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 97.99

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for

R. and S.L. North (Builders) Ltd

LAS Report No. 409

June 2000

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Summary

A watching brief during groundworks for a single house plot and service trench identified the remains of medieval ridge and furrow field system, a later complex of gullies, possibly used as drainage, several undated pits and a possible pond located at the eastern end of the site.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned in April 1999 by R. and S.L. North (Builders) Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during excavation of house foundations, and service trench, on a building plot south of Wragby Road, North Greetwell (Figs. 1 and 2). 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 north of the development site. Air photographs show that there are extensive cropmarks of ditched enclosure systems in the vicinity of Greetwell.

The Watching Brief

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

House Plot 1 (Figs. 3 and 4)

The building plot sloped slightly downhill from west to east (Pl. 1). The topsoil across the area of the house plot was 0.26m - 0.30m thick, an earlier brown clay subsoil layer **10**, about 0.30m thick was noted at the northern end of the house plot, possibly the result of an earlier site clearance.

Close to the west corner of the house plot, a north east - south west aligned narrow gully **3** had been excavated into the chalky clay, 0.35m below the ground surface (Pl. 2). The 0.75m wide feature had been backfilled with light red brown clay loam **11**. 1m to the south east was a 0.33m deep pit **5** (Pl.2) with a shallow north side and steep south edge, backfilled with light brown clay loam **12**.

A possible ditch **1** (Pl.3), located c.2m north east of the west corner of the house was recorded. Its sole fill **9** was a light brown clay similar to the subsoil

but contained a higher percentage of brash. The backfilled ditch was overlain by the modern topsoil layer. The gully is probably not a recent feature but a post-medieval date is likely.

Immediately north east of **1** was **13** (Pl.3), a possible pit, 0.45m wide, 0.35m deep, filled with similar material (**14**) to that of **9** but with considerably more brash. Unlike **1** it had a brown red clay silt primary fill **16**.

At the north corner of the foundation trench, a 0.15m deep and 1.25m wide (exposed) shallow depression **2**, orientated east to west, was sealed by the subsoil layer and had been cut into the chalky clay (Pl. 4). The grey clay loam fill **8** had limestone brash inclusions. This feature would appear to be a plough furrow.

A second furrow-like feature **4** (Pl.5) was seen crossing the southern side of the house plot. It was 1.10m wide, 0.42m deep, and contained a grey brown upper fill **6** which sealed a dark grey brown clay **7**. Primary fill **15** was a light grey clay. **4** was on the same alignment as **2**, suggesting it was contemporary.

House Plot 2 (Fig. 3)

House plot 2 was situated to the north east of plot 1. A c.0.50m wide, north west - south east aligned gully **20**, was recorded cutting the surface layer at the plots southern end. As the gully cut topsoil it can be assumed that it is of quite recent date.

A treebole, **22**, was noted in the south east corner of the plot. Two pieces of Roman pottery, one sherd being second century samian ware, were recovered from the topsoil in this plot.

Services Trench (Figs. 3 and 5)

Excavation of the trench began at the west end, c.2m from the north west boundary fence. Full depths of the features could not always be recorded due to the shallowness of the service trench. As the trench progressed eastwards the ground became increasingly sodden.

A series of features **101**, **107**, **113**, **117** (Pl.6) and **118** (3.5m-5m wide) were revealed within the trench. The mid to dark brown clay silt fills had a general depth of 0.30m. Their shallow sloping sides and wide spacing suggests that these features might be part of the ridge and furrow spotted in the house foundations. **101** may even be the continuation of **2**.

A sequence of shallow, narrow gullies was also recorded along the length of the service trench (**100**, **102**, **104**, **105**, **106** (Pl.7), **108**, **110**, **111** and **112**). All had a width of c.1m and were filled by a dark brown clay silt. Spacing was approximately 3m from centre to centre, but some gaps were noted. Gullies **110**, **111** and **112** best demonstrated the sequence. The gully complex appears to terminate at **112**, the features further east becoming increasingly larger and more natural in origin. The gully system may well be later than the ridge and furrow as **105** was clearly seen to cut **118**.

Possible ditch **114** (Pl.8) was 6m wide, filled by slightly humic dark brown clay silt and probably represents an earlier boundary ditch which may have defined the limit of dry ground.

Features **115** and **116** (Pl. 9) were very wide (7.6m - 23m) and became progressively humic and later in date, until **116** (the latest) was filled with very humic topsoil. **116** was cut by the channel at the east end of the site. These features probably represent natural hollows which would have been waterlogged if not pond-like.

Conclusion

It seems likely that the site lies over part of a late medieval field system (ridge and furrow). The low level of the present site in relation to land to the east might not have been a recent development as reflected by the presence of drainage ditches (**100, 102, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, 111** and **112**) on the site. These appear to mark a later phase of land usage.

The length of **116** would seem to suggest that the east end of the site would at one point have been waterlogged, possibly with standing water in some features. Ditch **114** appears to be an attempt at managing any possible flooding of the land which might have occurred.

The earliest evidence for activity on the site dated from the late medieval period, and was probably related to agricultural land use.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for R. and S.L. North (Builders) Ltd for their co-operation. Visits to the site were made by the author, Mark Williams, Jeremy Mordue, Liz Davis and Naomi Field. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid
Lindsey Archaeological Services
June 2000

References

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

Tann, G. 2000 *74 Wragby Road, North Greetwell. Archaeological Watching Brief*. LAS developer report. Unpublished.

Archive Summary

Correspondence
Developer's plans and annotated copies
Context sheets
Field plan and section drawings
Photographs: LAS colour print film nos.
99/20/9-15
99/23/0A-36A
99/26/00-3
99/44/0-1

Context Number	Type	Contains	Plot
1	Ditch	9, light brown clay	1
2	Plough furrow	8, grey clay loam	1
3	Gully	11, red brown clay loam	1
4	Plough furrow	6 and 7, grey brown clays and 15, light grey clay	1
5	Pit	12, light brown clay loam	1
10	Subsoil	brown clay	1
13	Pit	14, light brown clay and 16, brown red clay silt	1
20	Gully	21, dark brown clay	2
22	Treebole	23, dark brown clay	2
100	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
101	Plough furrow	brown clay silt	Service trench
102	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
103	Subsoil	brown clay	Service trench
104	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
105	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
106	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
107	Plough furrow	brown clay silt	Service trench
108	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
109		not used	
110	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
111	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
112	Gully	brown clay silt	Service trench
113	Plough furrow	brown clay silt	Service trench
114	Ditch?	brown clay silt	Service trench
115	Hollow	brown clay silt	Service trench
116	Hollow	brown clay silt	Service trench
117	Plough furrow	brown clay silt	Service trench
118	Plough furrow	brown clay silt	Service trench

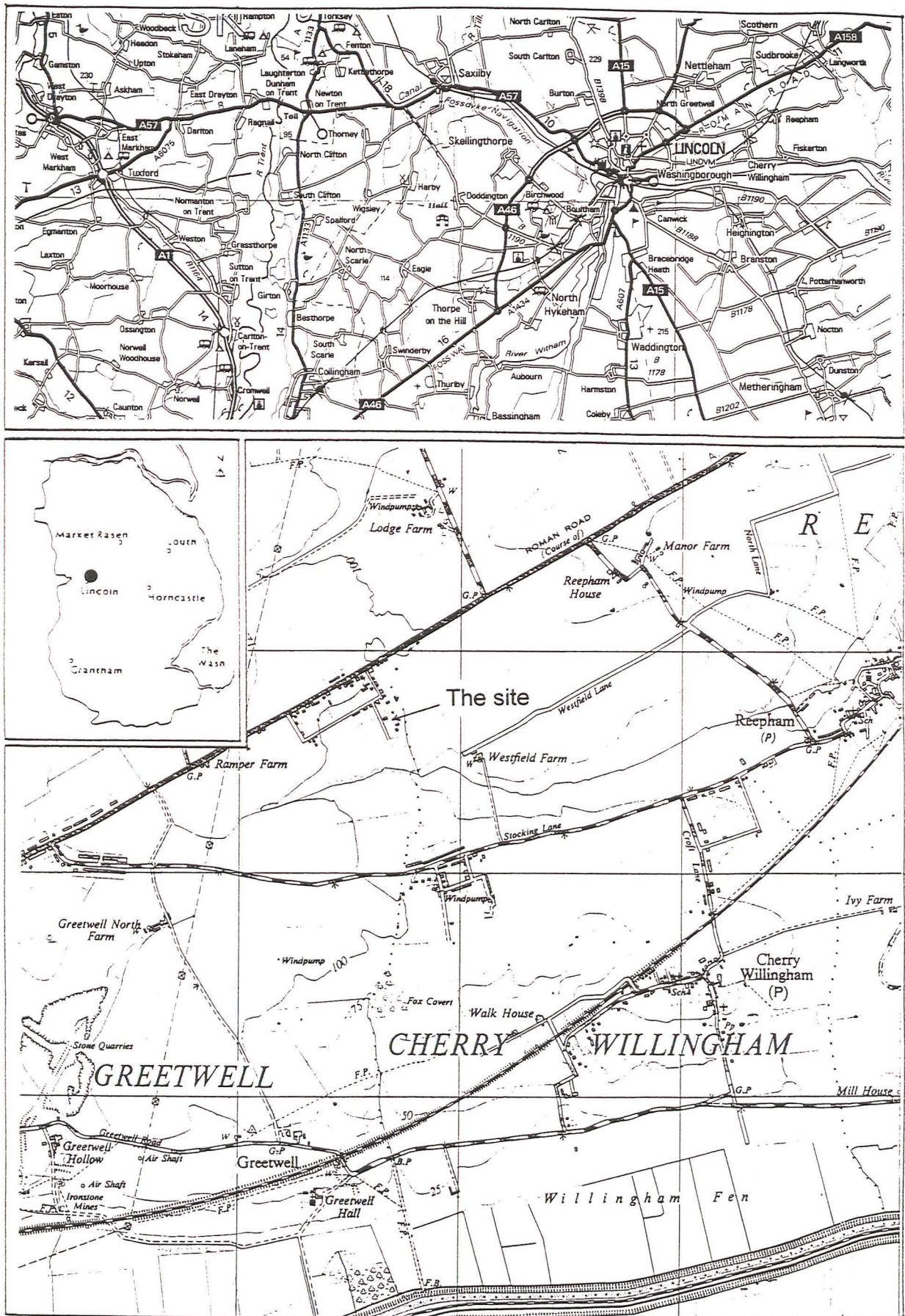


Fig. 1 Location of North Greetwell (Inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF07. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

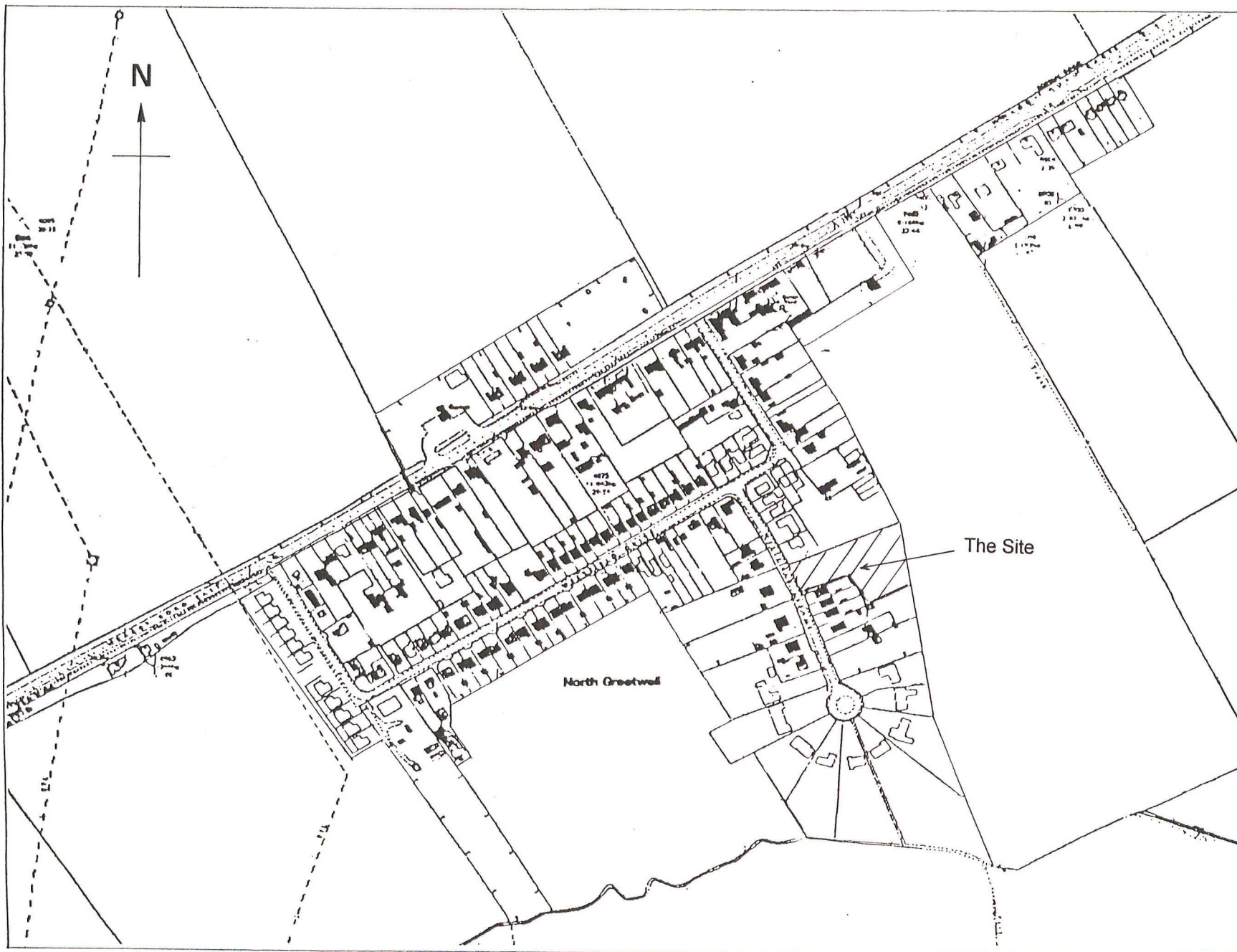


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored site (based on a reduced scale copy of the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

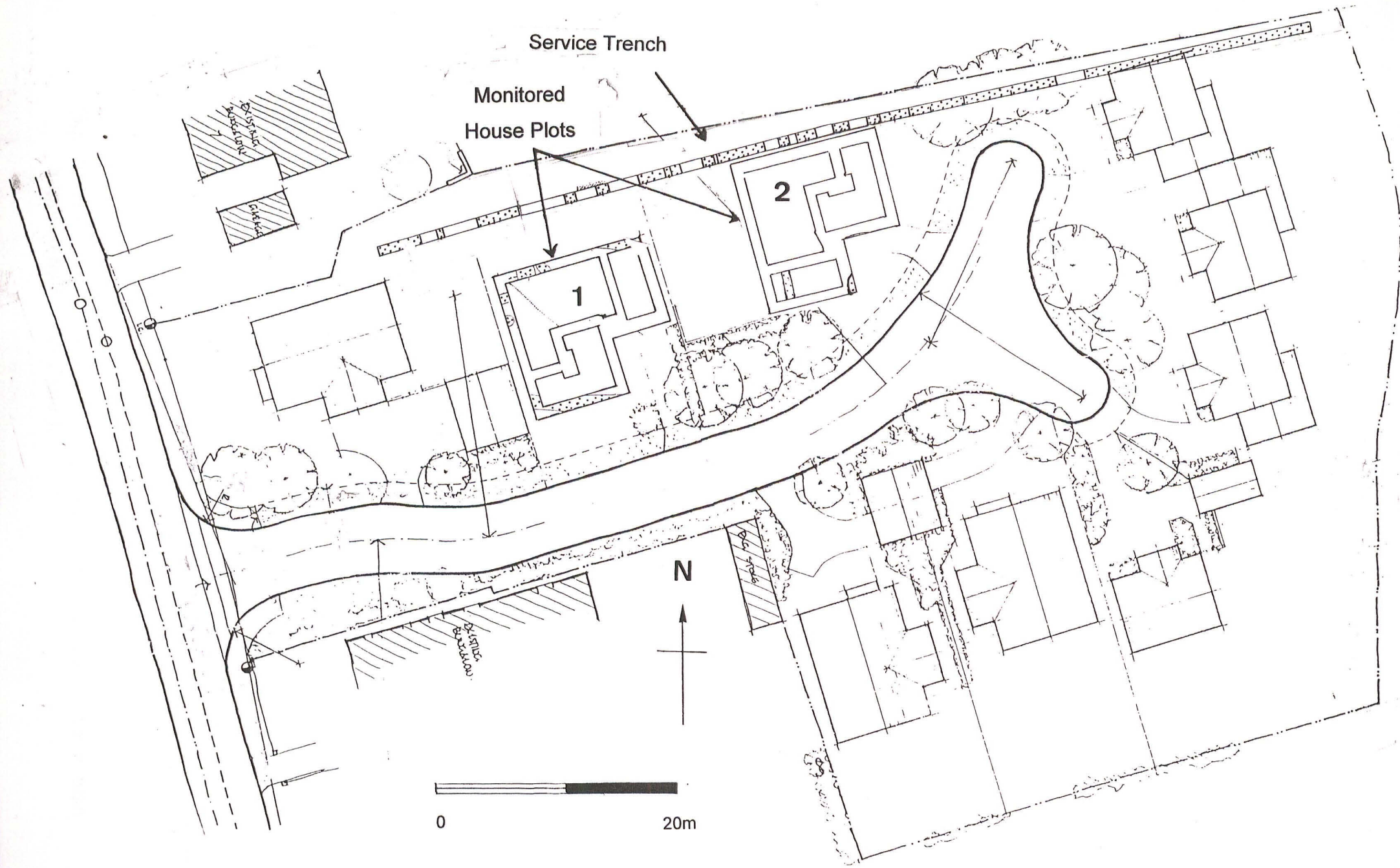


Fig. 3 Location of the monitored areas (McDaid, based on a plan supplied by the developer).

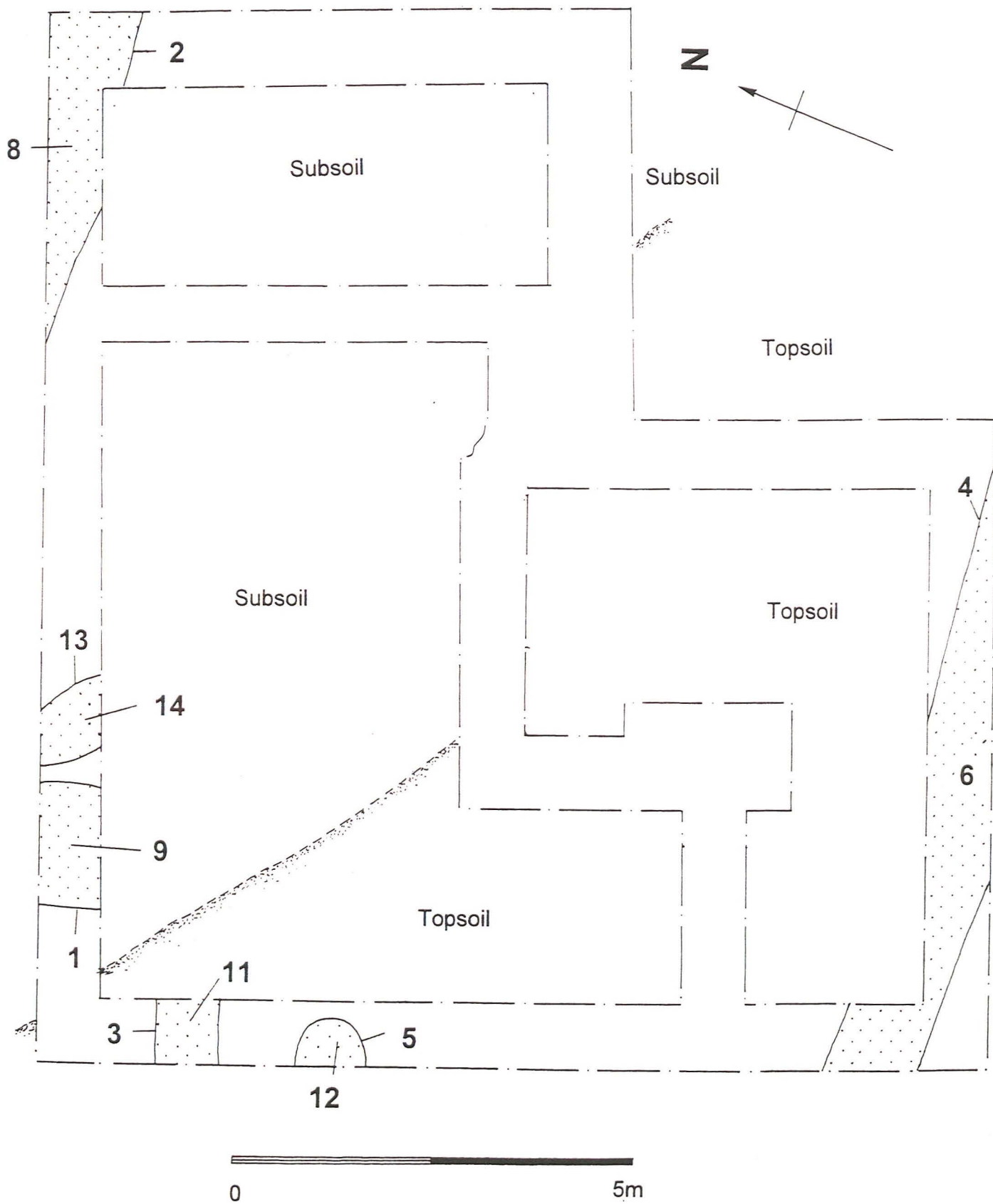


Fig. 4 Plan of features observed in house plot 1 (based on a plan supplied by the developer).

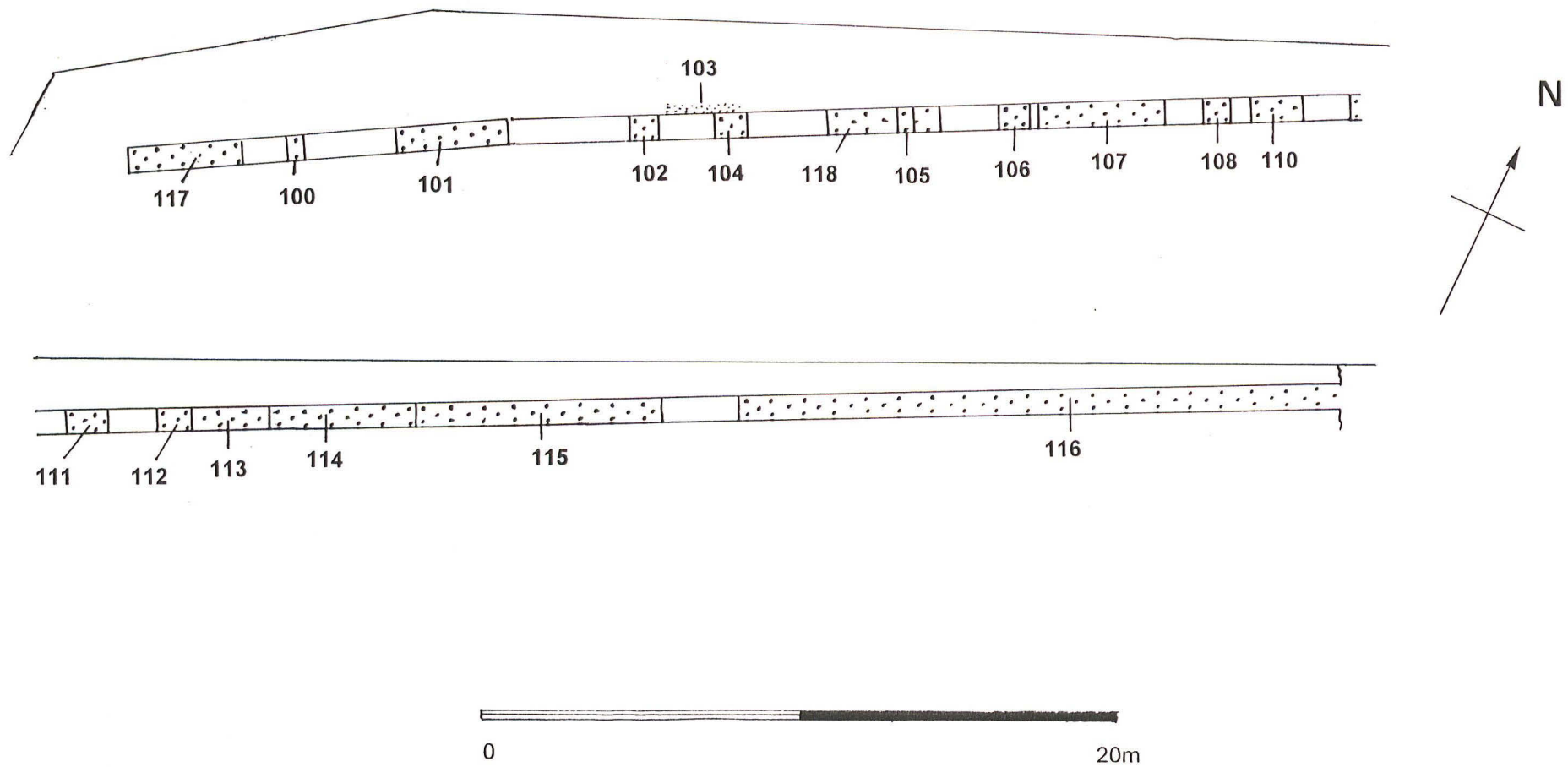
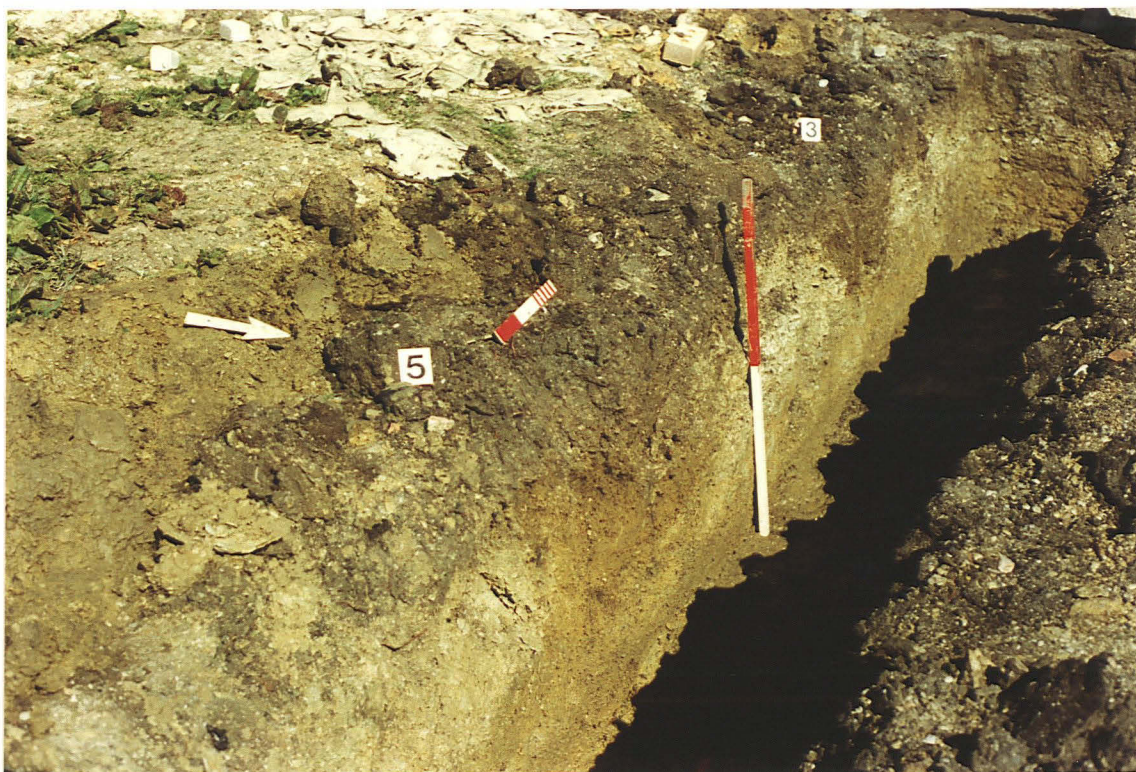


Fig. 5 Plan of features observed in the service trench.



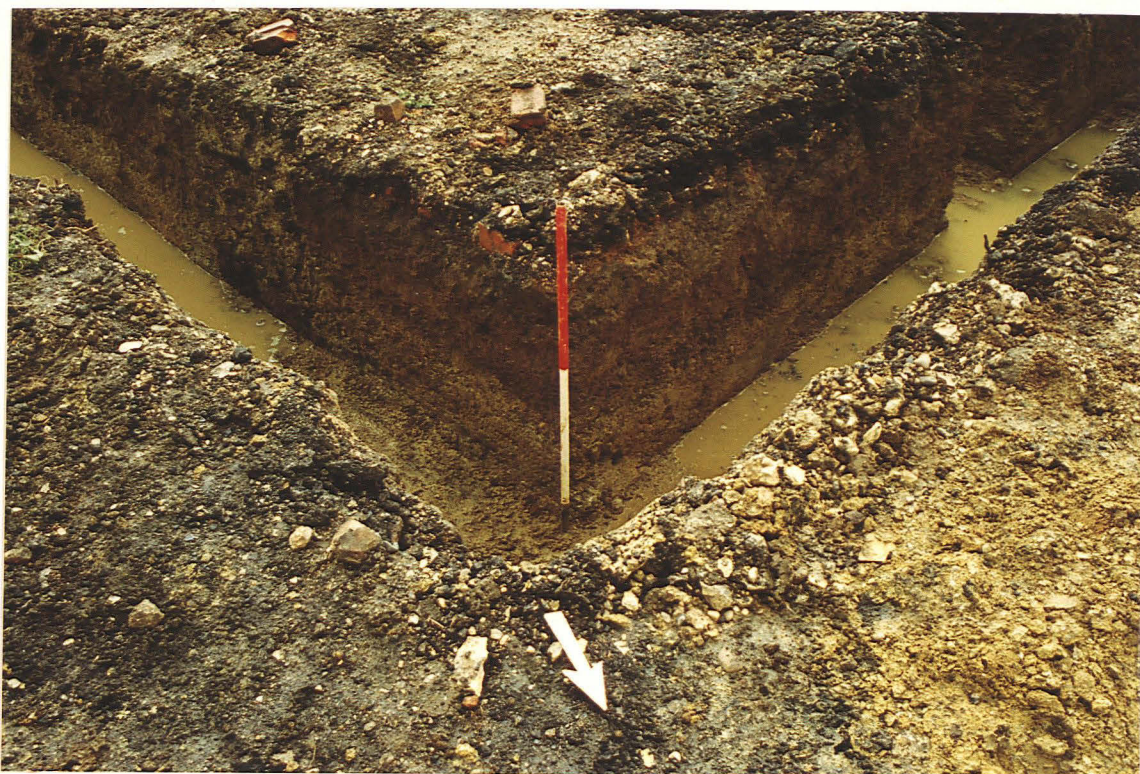
Pl. 1 Site of Plot 1, looking south.

Pl. 2 Plot 1. North east foundation trench (looking north west). Ditch 3 lies in the background a short distance from pit 5. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.30m.





Pl. 3 Plot 1. North west foundation trench (looking north west). Ditch 1 lies to the west pit 5 to the east. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scales 0.30m.



Pl. 4 Plot 1. Furrow 2, sealed by subsoil (looking south east, scales 1m).

Pl. 5 Plot 1. Possible furrow 4, looking south west. Vertical scale 0.30m, horizontal scale 1m.





Pl. 6 Dark fill of furrow 117 (looking west, vertical scale 0.30m, horizontal scale, partially visible 1m).

Pl. 7 Dark brown clay silt fills of 105 and 106 (looking west, vertical scale 0.30m, horizontal scale 1m).





Pl. 8 Ditch 114, location marked by scales (looking west, vertical scale 0.30m, horizontal scale 1m).

Pl. 9 Possible water channel remains 116. View north. Vertical scale 0.20m, horizontal scale 2m.

