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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Lower Road, Hough On the Hill
Plot between Cherry Cottage and Hillside**

NGR: SK 92524 46489

SKDC Planning Application No.: S00/0167/46

Site Code: HHLR 00

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.14

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

for

**Michael L. Sims
(on behalf of Mr and Mrs T. Lord)**

**LAS Report 495
January 2001**

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London
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London

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The Figures

Fig. 1 Hough on the Hill, location. Based on the 1956 OS 1:10,560 map (Crown copyright ©, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

Fig. 2 Lower Road, Hough on the Hill, site location. Based on the OS 1:2500 map (Crown copyright ©, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

Fig. 3 Plan of new property based on drawing supplied by the architect (M. Sims). Scale 1:200.

The Plates

Pl. 1 Hough on the Hill. General view of site looking west showing site access from Lower Road.

Pl. 2 General view of site looking north-east showing ground sloping to the west .

Pl. 3 Area next to Lower Road stripped of topsoil looking south. Grey soil discolouration near spade is associated with modern tree roots.

Pl. 4 Topsoil clearance in centre of site, looking south.

Pl. 5 General sequence of deposits (topsoil over light ochrous brown clay)

**Lower Road, Hough On the Hill
(Plot between Cherry Cottage and Hillside)
Proposal for Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SK 92524 46489
SKDC Planning Application No.: S00/0167/46
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Lower Road, Hough on the Hill during topsoil removal and ground levelling for a new house and detached garage. There were no archaeological remains present except for one sherd of Roman pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief by Michael L. Sims, on behalf of Mr and Mrs T. Lord, in accordance with a brief supplied by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (dated March 2000), and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

The development site is to the west of Lower Road, opposite Eastfield Farm, Hough on the Hill (Fig. 1). It occupies a plot of land north of Cherry Cottage, and south of Hillside. The site lies NW of the High Road/Lower Road (Carlton Scroop road) junction (Fig. 2).

Planning Details

Full planning permission for a single dwelling on the site, with access drive and garage, was granted by South Kesteven District Council (14/6/00), subject to Condition 7, which requires an archaeological watching brief during groundworks. A brief for the work was supplied by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (dated March 2000).

Archaeological Background

The site lies to the east of the medieval motte and bailey castle site, and some distance east of the church and manorial complex (Fig. 2). Although the plot appeared to have little potential for features associated with the castle and manorial site, Lower Road may have been the medieval route through the east side of the village, in which case ribbon development along it was thought likely. Eastfield Farm was probably named after a medieval open-field, but it is unclear whether it extended westwards to the watercourse east of the castle, or only to the present Lower Road.

Scope of Work

The specification required that topsoil clearance, foundation excavation, service trenches and other groundworks on the development site would be monitored. In the event initial clearance of the site reached the natural clays and after consultation with the S. Kesteven Community Archaeologist it was agreed to terminate the watching brief.

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the watching brief was to

- monitor the groundworks
- identify archaeological deposits, features and artefacts exposed by the groundworks, and produce an appropriate record of them, insofar as safety and time constraints permit

Site Description

The plot of land is a grass field on the west side of Low Road. It is rectangular in shape and has a pronounced ridge through its centre with land falling rapidly to the west towards a stream which lies beyond the plot boundary (up to 1.30m) and more gradually towards the road (up to 0.60m), which forms the eastern boundary of the plot.

The land also falls in height from south to north (c.0.30m). The northern boundary is of some age but the southern boundary is modern and two brick cottages to the north of Cherry Tree Cottage straddled the present boundary. They were demolished a few years ago

This plot is an infill site with 19th century properties to north and south. The land used to belong to the Brownlow estate and a covenant was placed on the land c.30 years ago, prohibiting development of the site, in order to prevent blocking of the view from Eastfield Farm which is situated opposite, also in the ownership of the Brownlow Estate. The covenant was removed when the land was sold recently (Mr Lord, pers.comm.).

Watching Brief

The watching brief was carried out on November 13th and 14th. Archaeological deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in the text in bold type.

The whole building footprint and associated access areas were stripped of topsoil (**100**) to provide a level area from which to excavate the foundation trenches. In some places at the edge of the footprint (to the west and east) the topsoil was not penetrated. Towards the middle of the site 0.20-0.30m of the natural clay (**101**) was removed in order to achieve the correct level.

A single piece of medieval pottery (Stamford ware) and a piece of unidentifiable Roman

pottery were retrieved at the interface between the topsoil and the natural clay at the north end of the site (Fig. 3). Several pieces of 19th century pottery were retrieved from the topsoil in the area close to the site access (See Appendix 2). This was formerly the site of two semi-detached cottages which were demolished in recent years. Some demolition rubble was still present in the topsoil.

An area of discoloration in the soil close to the hedgeline proved to be the burnt remains the roots from a tree or bush. No other features were seen during the topsoil stripping. Given that the vast majority of the area had been stripped to the natural clay the watching brief was abandoned.

Discussion

Topsoil stripping of a substantial proportion of the plot of land failed to identify archaeological features of any date. Older houses in the modern village appear to lie to the west of the church and this part of the village may never have been occupied in the medieval period.

Eastfield Farm is probably the oldest building in this part of the village and its name suggests it may have been built in an area that was formerly part of the open fields of the village. It may also have been the focus for 19th century and later house building around it.

Conclusion

Construction of a new dwelling and garage did not disturb any archaeological remains.

Naomi Field
January 12th 2001

APPENDIX 1

Archive Summary

Photographs LAS Film no. 00/101 /16A-24A

Correspondence

Architect's plans and elevations

3 drawings prepared for report

Site notes

2 Context sheets

3 sherds of pottery

APPENDIX 2

Pottery and Tile Archive

By

Jane Young

Pottery Archive HHLR00

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
1	LPMDISC	Early modern (discarded)		6	6		BS		19th
1	LPMDISC	Early modern (discarded)	-	1	1	transprint	BS		early to mid 19th
1	STMO	Staffordshire/ Bristol mottled-glazed	hollow	1	1		BS		18th
2	R	Roman pottery		1	1		BS	? ID	Roman
2	ST	Stamford Ware	jar/pitcher	1	1		BS	? ID;patchy glaze	11/12th

Tile archive HHLR00

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	date
1	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	24	undated

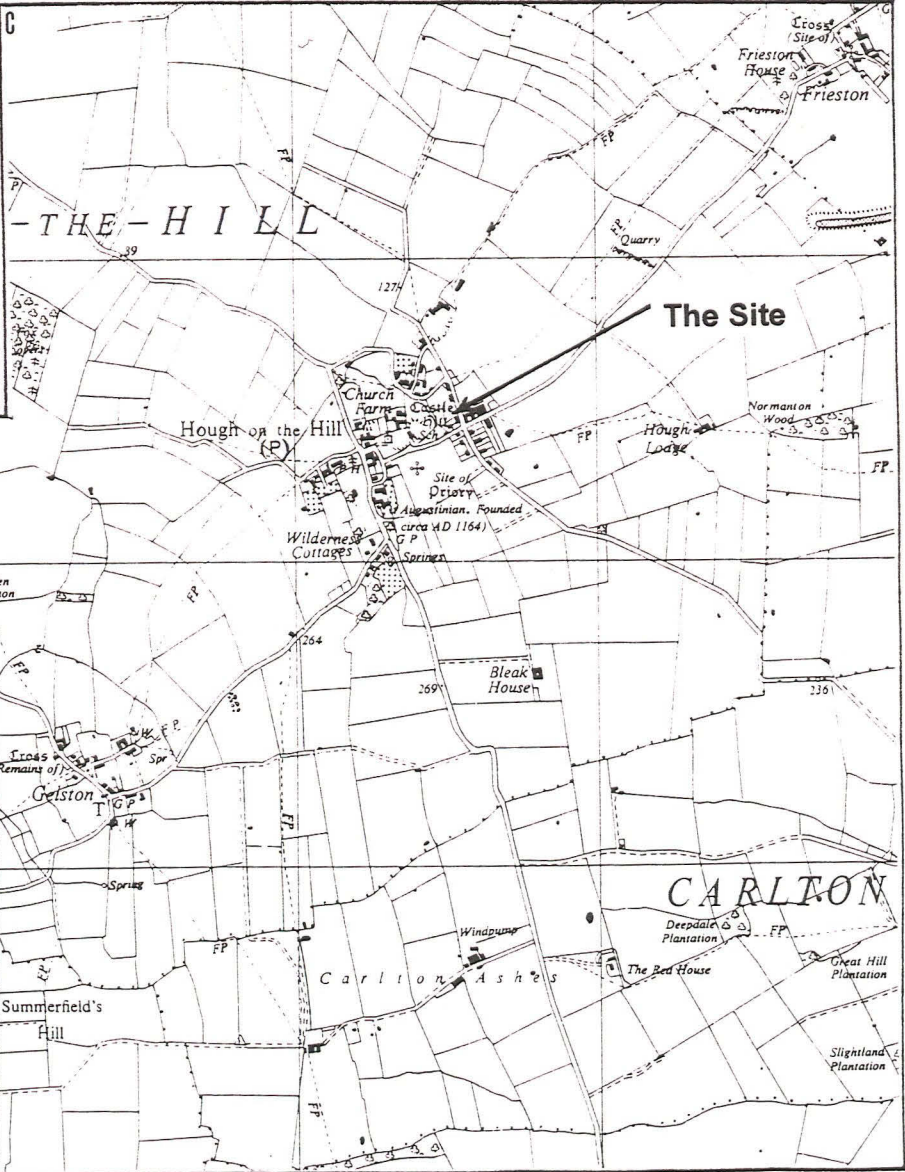
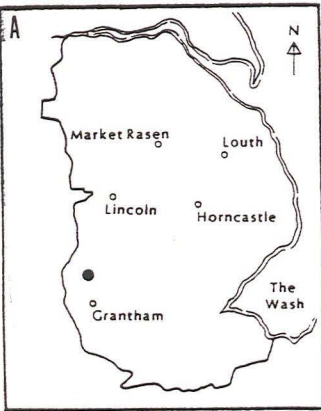
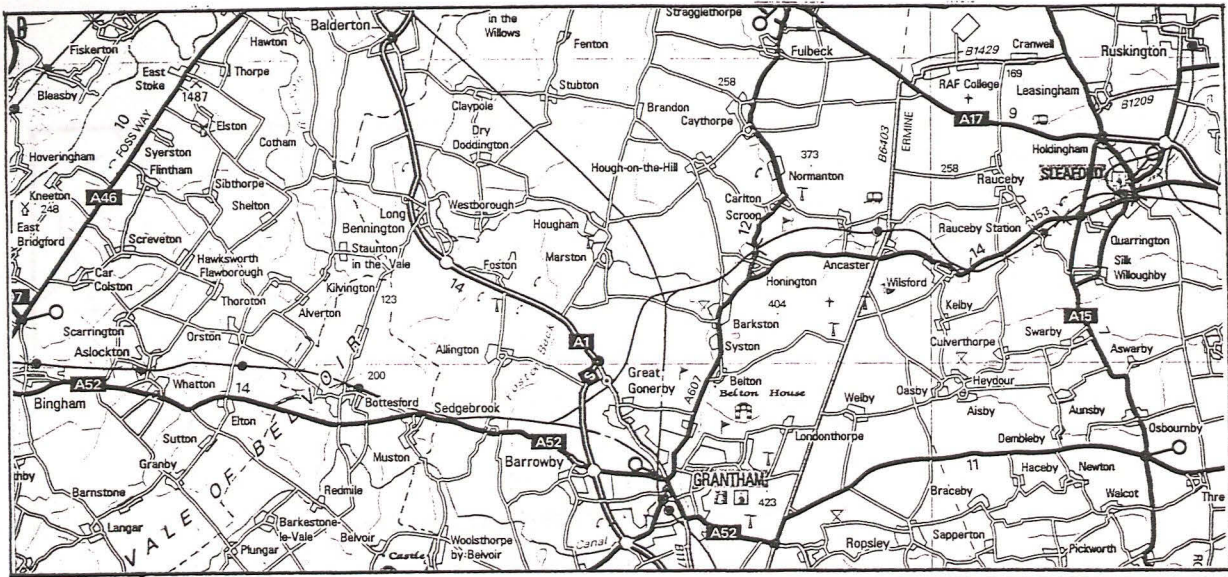


Fig. 1 Hough on the Hill, location. Based on the 1956 OS 1:10,560 map (Crown copyright ©, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

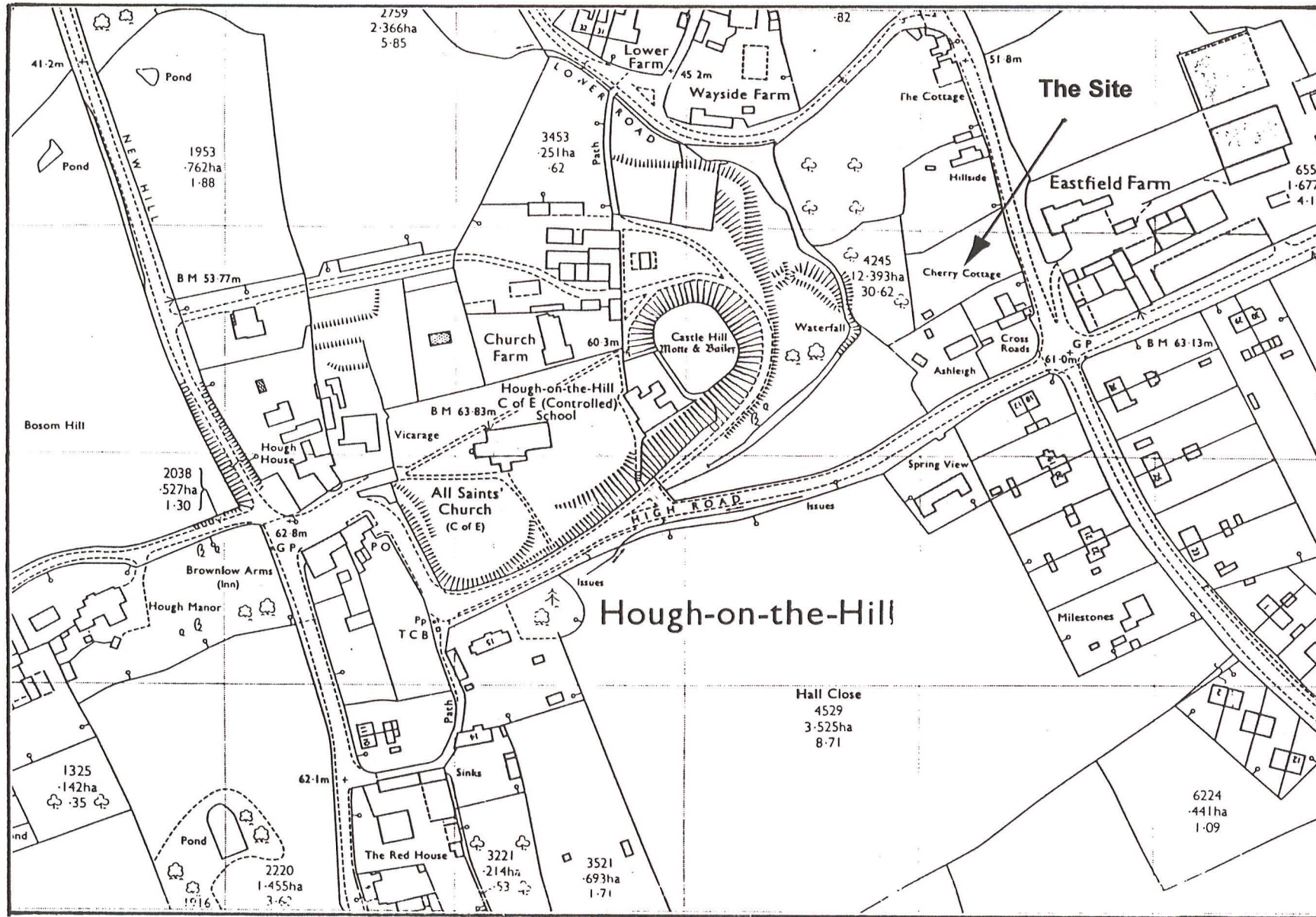


Fig. 2 Lower Road, Hough on the Hill, site location. Based on the OS 1:2500 map (Crown copyright ©, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

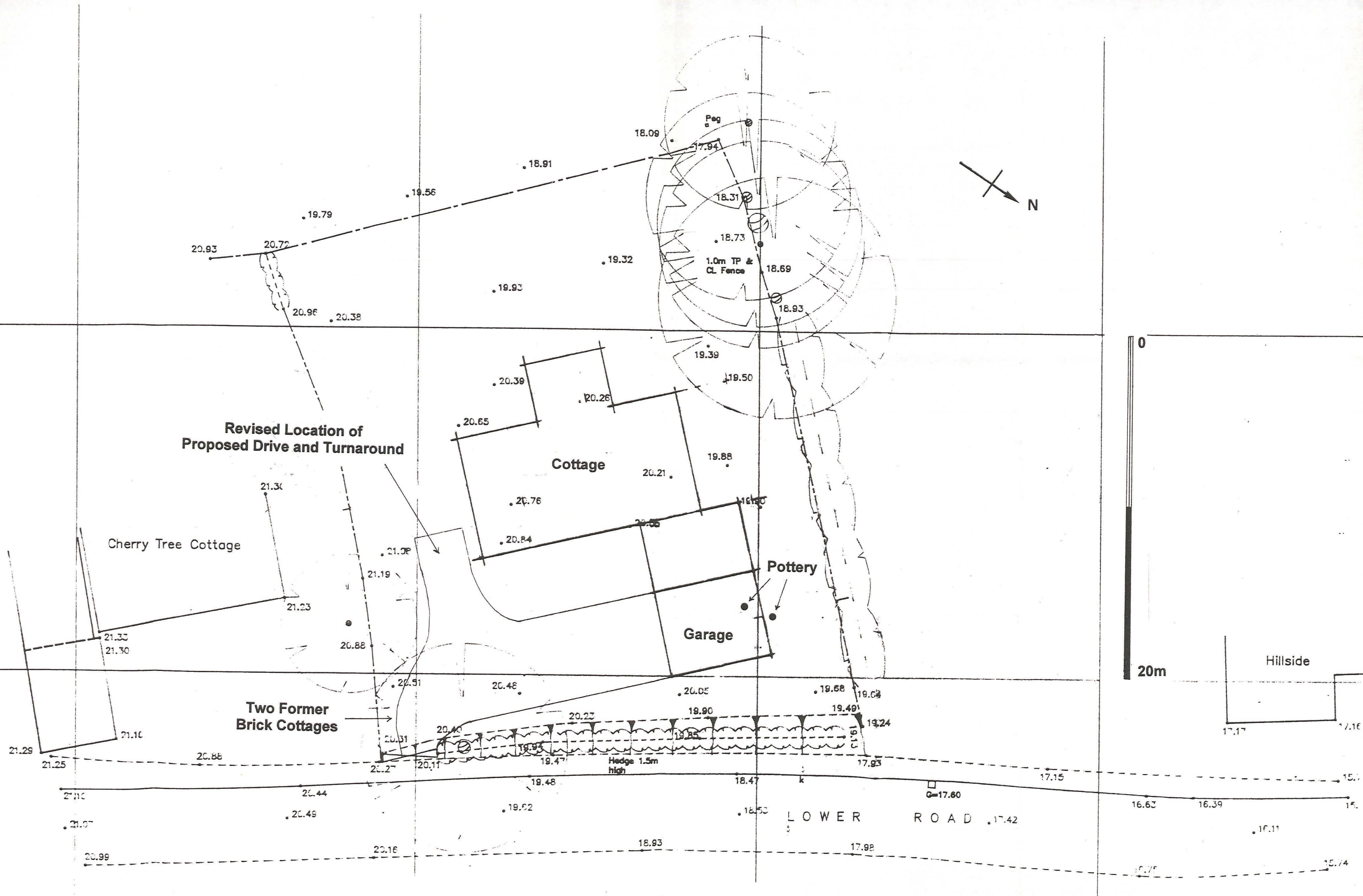


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