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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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## South Cockerington, East of South View Farm

*NGR: TF 3794 8889*  
*Site Code: SCSV 01*  
*LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2001.38*  
*ELDC Planning Application No. N/158/1656/00*

### Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report for John Stainton, Architect**  
**(on behalf of Rodden and Cooper)**

**by G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 506**  
**February 2001**

1966

1966

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Anderson Co. Oregon



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### **Summary**

*Foundation trenches for a new house revealed an undated small rubbish pit, a post-medieval rubbish pit and two mid-twentieth century animal burial pits. Part of a Bronze Age flint scraper was found. The subsoil layer produced a sherd of Toynton/Bolingbroke type pottery, suggesting a post-medieval date for occupation on the farm site.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by John Stainton, Architect (on behalf of Rodden and Cooper) in January 2001 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of house footings immediately east of South View Farm, South View Lane, South Cockerington (Figs. 1-3).

Full planning permission for the development was granted by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) in December 2000 (Application Number N/158/1656/00), subject to a condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of development involving ground disturbance. A Project Design was prepared by LAS and approved in January 2001.

A monitoring visit was made by the author on 1st February 2001, when excavation of the house foundation trenches took place. As a result of this visit, the County Council archaeological officer (archaeological advisor to ELDC) was contacted by telephone, and it was agreed that further monitoring of groundworks on the development was not needed.

### **Site Location and Description**

The parish of South Cockerington lies 5km east of Louth, east of the Lincolnshire Wolds. This was an area of dense settlement and the parishes are characteristically elongated in order to exploit a range of environments from the high ground on the Wolds to the low lying areas in the east.

The new house site lies to the north of South View Lane, immediately NE of South View Farmhouse. The NW-SE aligned plot forms part of the former farmyard, with standing farm buildings at its northern end (Pls. 1 and 2). Similar plots to the NE have been developed recently.

The plot slopes down marked from the NW to its lowest point where the new house is sited (Pl. 3). The slope is not uniform, and the ground also slopes from west to east. These slopes seem to be at the western end of a 40m wide SW-NE depression extending into adjacent properties, and possibly



associated with a depression and slope marked on Ordnance Survey maps 70m to the NE. It was suspected that this site might contain part of an extensive natural or artificial feature.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

There is very little evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, although, two plots to the NE, a previous archaeological watching brief produced a partially worked flint, thought to be of Bronze Age date (Healey 1994). A watching brief in 1997 by LAS on the adjacent plot to the NE produced three sherds of post-medieval pottery (Williams 1997).

Cockerington is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but there is no distinction between North and South Cockerington. There are six entries which record six Saxon manors held by four Saxon lords in 1066 and four Norman lords in 1086. This complex series of holdings is reflected in the earthworks which are located around both North and South Cockerington (Field 1996). The site lies 250m NW of St Leonard's Church, away from the cluster of established settlement around the church and Hall Farm.

The parish originally had two open fields (east and west). The relatively early enclosure of the village (the Enclosure Award of 1766 recorded that only 25% of the village remained unenclosed) may explain the large amounts of ridge and furrow which exist as earthworks in the area (Healey 1994).

There is a hint from the arrangement of field boundaries on recent maps that a cluster of holdings developed around West View Farm, but that this community did not extend as far as South View Farm. South View Farm could represent a late medieval or post-medieval farmstead outside the area of the village, and only incorporated gradually since. The brickwork of South View Farmhouse may be eighteenth century in date.

### **The Watching Brief**

The foundation trenches were excavated on January 31st 2001; external trenches were dug with a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket, while the internal trenches were dug 0.45m wide (Fig. 4). Trench depth varied from about 1m to over 2m where modern disturbances were encountered. Context numbers were assigned by LAS to features and fills for recording purposes; these numbers appear in the text in bold, and are listed in Appendix 1. A red/brown chalky boulder-clay **7** was present below the identified features.

### ***Farmyard Features***

The previous use of the house area was as a crewyard associated with South View Farm. The stubs of steel stanchions for a twentieth century structure were visible along the eastern and northern side of the house site, set into concrete foundations; this building may have been open-sided, serving as a covered yard area. Within this structure, the ground surface had been stripped of a concrete surface before monitoring began. Beneath the concrete was a layer of chalk rubble with brick rubble



inclusions 1, especially at the base of the layer. Although no brick foundations were seen *in situ*, it was suspected that brick outbuildings had been demolished either from the site of the crewyard or from beside it, and the rubble spread as hardcore for the concrete yard. The brick rubble appeared similar in colour and texture to bricks in the farmhouse wall, and may have derived from contemporary buildings.

Two cattle burial pits 11 and 12 were uncovered by the foundation trenches. The pits were about 2.2m x 1.5m, and about 2m deep, in line with each other and probably contemporary. At the base of each pit were skeletal remains of a cow (or similar sized beast) within a powdery lime surround: this was interpreted as an indication that a complete but diseased animal had been buried, and no attempt was made to examine the remains. It was noted that the most easterly pit stopped at a concrete foundation, which appeared to indicate a mid-twentieth century date for the burials.

#### ***Post-medieval Rubbish Pit***

Close to the NW corner of the house site, a small pit 9 containing nineteenth/twentieth century crockery fragments 10 was exposed in the trench sides, below the hardcore for the covered crewyard (Appendix 2). The 1.5m diameter pit was 0.35m deep. It probably represents a domestic rubbish pit associated with the farmhouse.

#### ***Undated Pit*** (Fig. 5; Pl. 4)

The only feature of any archaeological interest revealed in the foundation trenches was a 2m diameter pit 4, located in the Family Room area, at the NE part of the new house. This contained one piece of animal bone (not collected, but from a sheep or young cattle) but nothing indicative of date. The fill was a fine grey/green silt 3 and was probably derived from domestic refuse; it may have been a post-medieval deposit. After this feature had been backfilled, a slight depression above it was filled with a brown silt 2, possibly a topsoil but more probably a crewyard deposit.

#### ***Brick Rubble Spread***

Towards the southern side of the new house site, an internal foundation trench exposed a spread of brick rubble 8 beneath a soil layer below the rubble base of the crewyard surface (Pl. 5). The rubble here appeared to have been laid at an earlier date than that found amongst the chalk rubble layer 1. Below the rubble was a single sherd of fourteenth-seventeenth century pottery in a thin deposit of brown silt 13.

The rubble and surrounding soil appears to have been fill consolidating a localised surface depression in the farmyard, prior to construction of the covered crewyard.

#### ***Worked Flint***

A single fragment of a broken worked flint was found in the backfill 6 around a post-medieval land drain 5 crossing the house site. The poor quality flint material had probably been damaged when the

drain was dug, as well as by the mechanical excavator when the foundation trenches were dug. The flint may be part of a Bronze Age scraper.

### **Conclusion**

This monitoring exercise produced two useful pieces of information. It increased the evidence for Bronze Age activity in South Cockerington, and indicated that occupation of the South View Farm farmstead site may have begun after the fourteenth century, and perhaps up to about three centuries later. It is apparent that population in the Cockeringtons has undergone more than one phase of expansion and contraction since the Saxon period, with South View Farm being established on undeveloped land.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS appreciates the full co-operation which was received from John Stainton, Steve Rodden and the builders on site. Further help was forthcoming from Dr. Beryl Lott.

This report benefited from discussion with Naomi Field and Rob Armour-Chelu about the damaged flint artefact. The pottery was identified by Jane Young. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
14th February 2001

### **References**

- Field, N. 1996 *North Cockerington Earthwork Remains: Fieldwalking and Earthwork Survey*. LAS Report No. 178, February 1996.
- Healey H, 1994 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at South Cockerington, Lincolnshire*.
- Williams, M. 1997 *South View Farm, South Cockerington: An Archaeological Watching Brief*. LAS Report No. 244, August 1997.

### **Archive Summary**

- Correspondence
- Field section drawing
- Field sketch plan
- Copies of developer's site and foundation plans
- Colour photographs: LAS film no. 01/9/10-17 (including those used in this report)



## Context Summary: SCSV 01

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	Above 2	0.18m thick layer of chalk rubble and brick rubble	brick rubble	late 20thC
2	Layer	Below 1, above 3; ?cut by 5	0.1m thick brown silt		?19th/20thC
3	Fill	Below 2, cut by 5	0.5m thick blue/grey silt	animal bone	?post-medieval
4	Pit	Filled by 3, cut 7	0.5m deep, 2m diameter steep sided pit with uneven base		?post-medieval
5	Land Drain	Filled by 6, cut 3; ?cut 2	SW-NE aligned		?19thC
6	Fill	Fill of 5		Bronze Age flint scraper	?19thC
7	Natural		red/brown boulder-clay		
8	Layer	Below 1, above 13	red brick rubble, 0.15m thick	brick rubble	?18th/19thC
9	Pit	Filled by 10, cut 7	1.5m diameter, 0.35m deep pit		19th/20thC
10	Fill	Fill of 9, below 1	dark brown silt	pottery sherd	19th/20thC
11	Pit	Below 1, cut 7	2.2m long, 2m deep, filled with dark brown silt and lime powder near base. Skeletal remains	cattle burial	mid-20thC
12	Pit	Below 1, cut 7	2.2m long, 2m deep, filled with dark brown silt and lime powder near base. Skeletal remains	cattle burial	mid-20thC
13	Layer	Below 8, above 7	0.08m thick brown silt	1 sherd pottery	14th/17thC



# Pottery Archive SCSV01

*Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
10	LPMDISC	Early modern (discarded)	large bowl	1	86	rim	blackware	19th to 20th
10	LPMDISC	Early modern (discarded)	large vessel	1	19	base	blue glaze on upper surface	19th to 20th
13	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	jar/jug	1	30	base	probably not Toynton product	14th to 17th

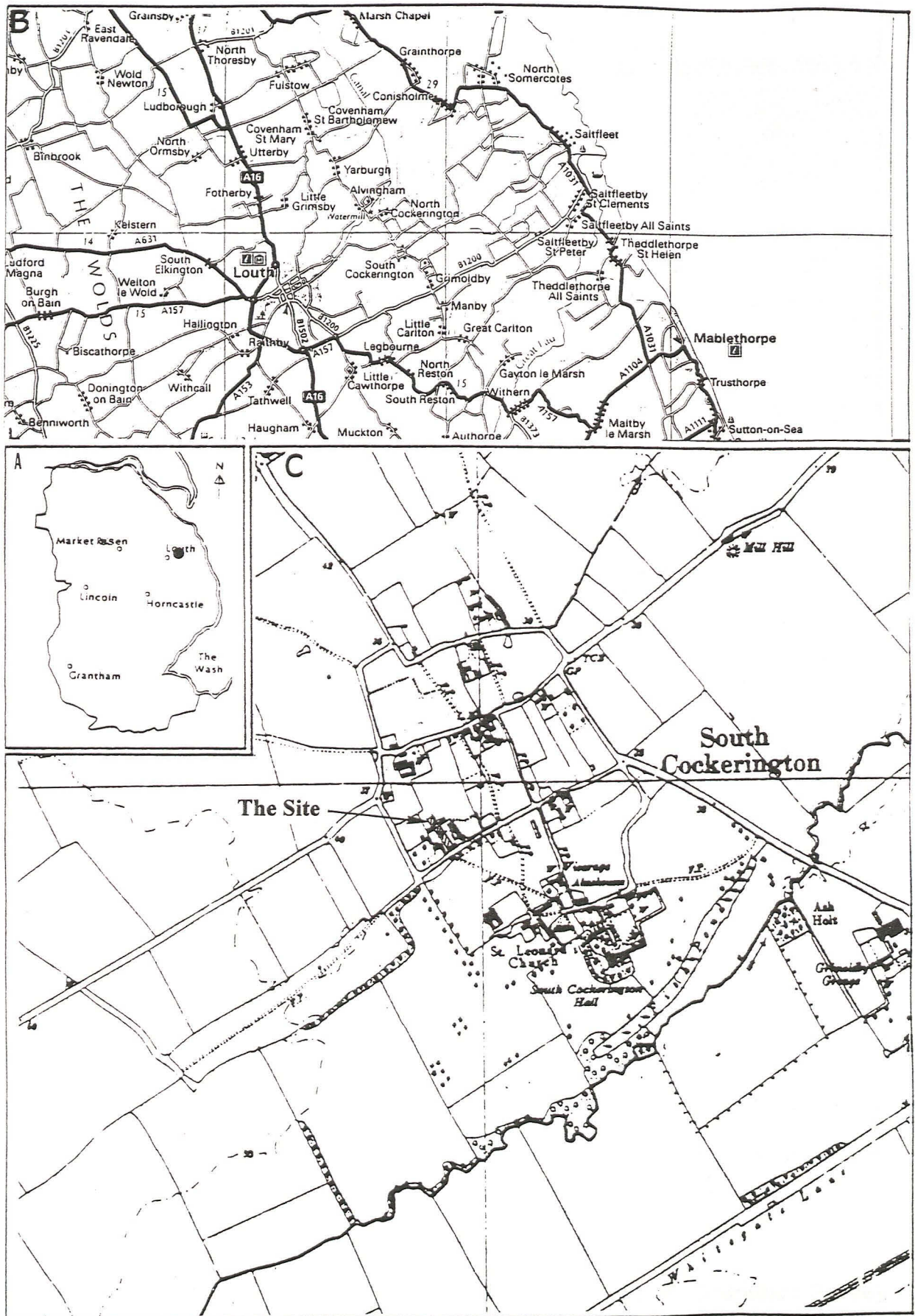


Fig. 1 Location of South View Lane, South Cockerington (C based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, Sheet TF 38NE; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



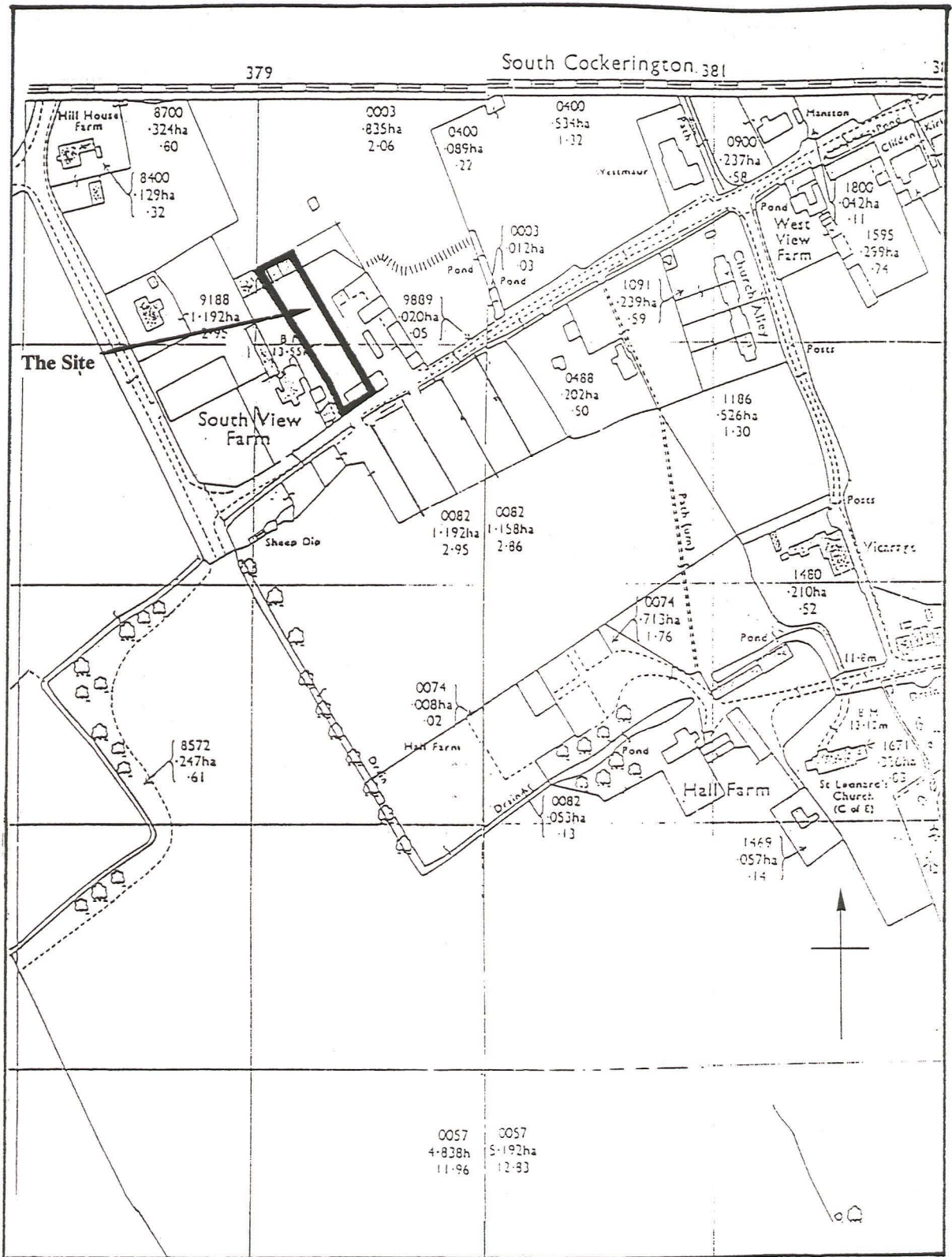


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored development (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



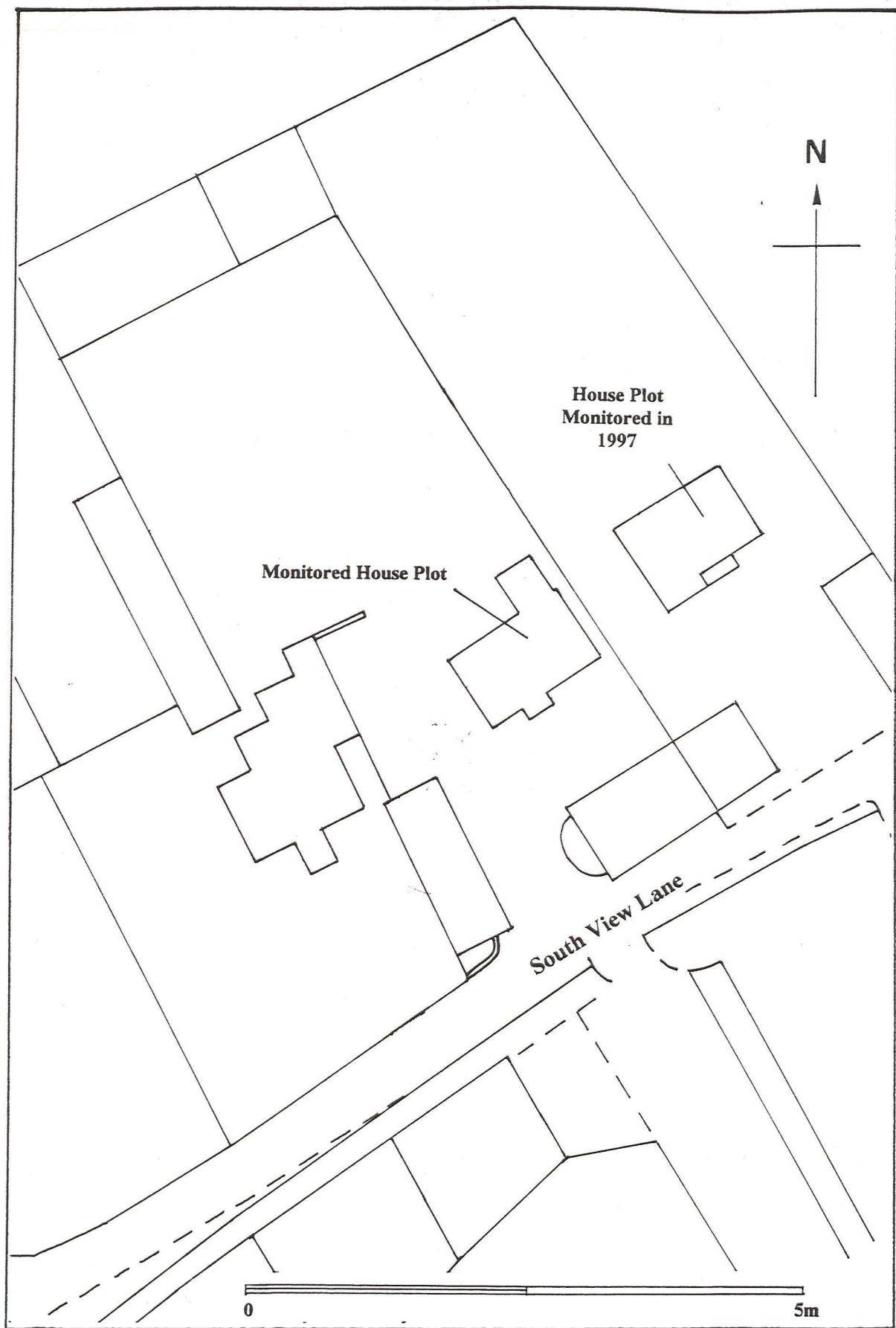


Fig. 3 Position of the new house plot (McDaid, after a plan supplied by the client)

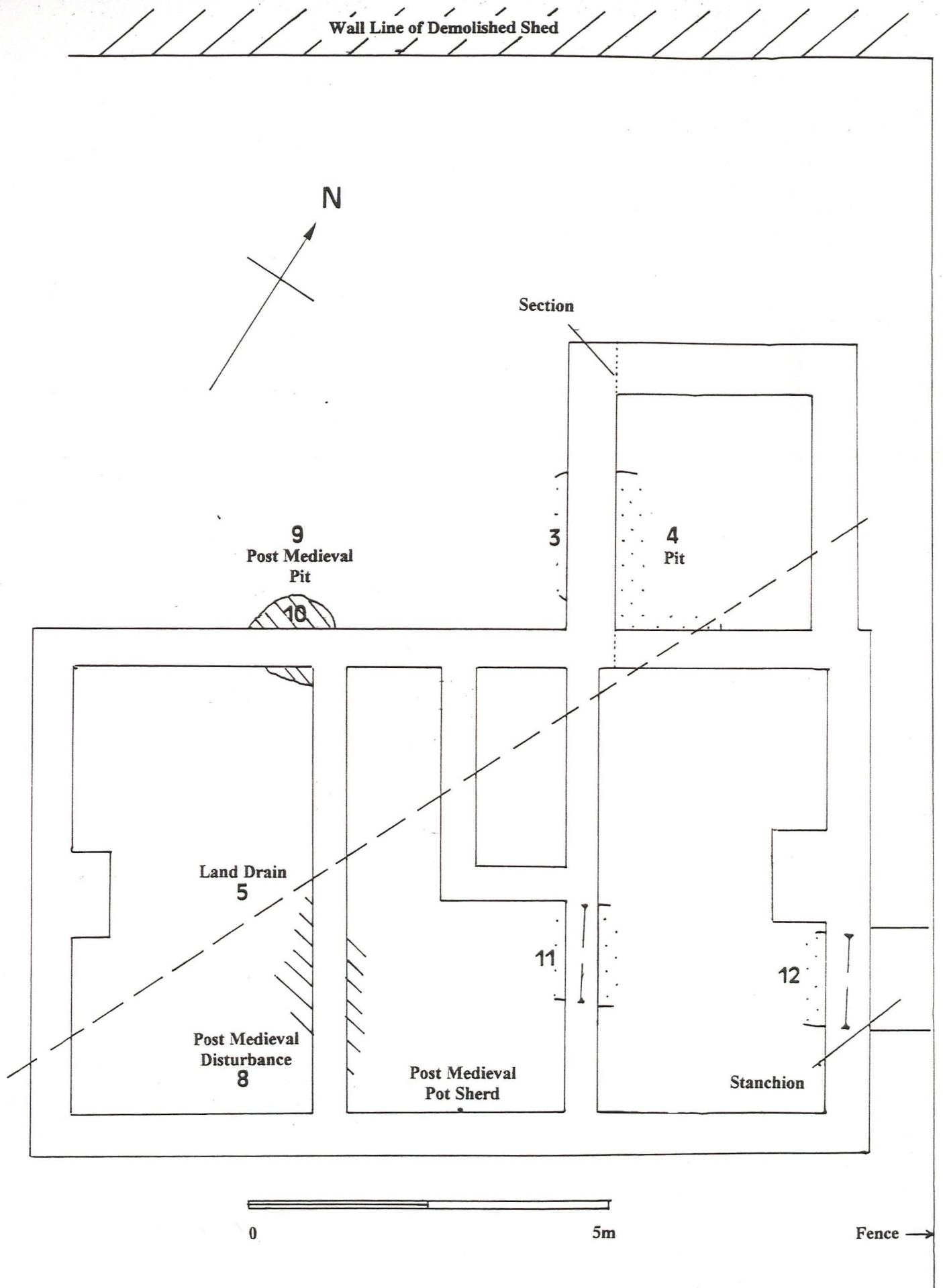


Fig. 4 Plan of the monitored foundation trenches, showing identified archaeological features (McDaid, after Tann; based on a plan supplied by the client).

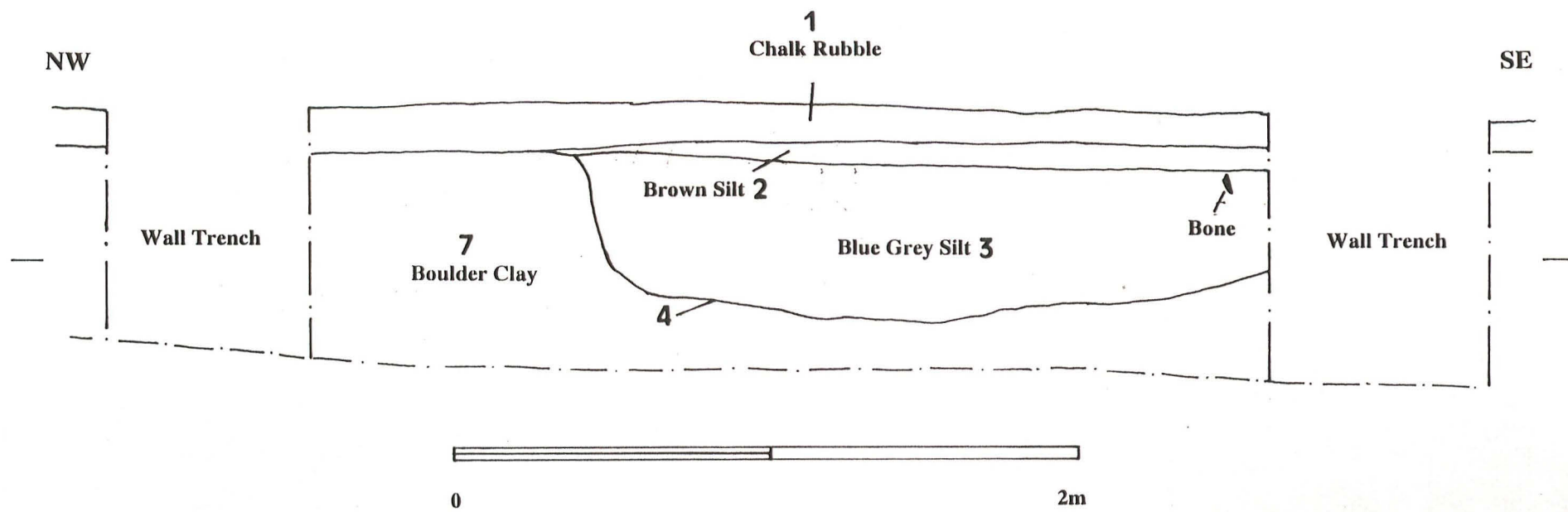


Fig. 5 Section across undated pit 4, as revealed in the face of a foundation trench (McDaid, after Tann).





Pl. 1 The development site after removal of part of the concrete crewyard surface (looking NW).

Pl. 2 The development site, looking SE towards South View Lane). South View Farmhouse is on the right.







**Pl. 3** The new house foundation trenches, showing the sloping ground (looking NW).

**Pl. 4** Grey fill of undated Pit 4, as visible in the foundation trenches (looking NE, scale 1m).







**Pl. 5 Brick rubble layer 8, below the crewyard surface.**