



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Plot 1, West End, Gunby Road, Orby**

**NGR: TF 4878 6737**

**Site Code: OGRA 01**

**LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.106**

**ELDC Planning Application No.: S134/019/31/99**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report for**

**Mr R. Kirkland**

**by Geoff Tann**

**LAS Report No. 530**

**May 2001**

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EVENT L12291

SOURCES L16968 L16969

43716

44031 L181907

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# **Plot 1, West End, Gunby Road, Orby**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 4878 6737**

**Site Code: OGRA 01**

**LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.106**

**ELDC Planning Application No.: S/34/019/31/99** LI 5059

### **Summary**

*A broad and deep backfilled medieval plough furrow was identified in foundation trenches for a new bungalow. A sherd of thirteenth century pottery were found in the associated subsoil layer. A continuation of this furrow can be seen in the pasture field north of this development. An undated narrow linear feature was also seen but could not be recorded; this may have been a land drain, but no pipe was detected. No evidence for medieval occupation or earlier archaeological activity was present.*

### **Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Geoff Tann of Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) for Mr R. Kirkland on 8th May 2001, during groundworks for a new bungalow and garage at West End, Gunby Road, Orby (Figs. 1-3).

Planning permission for the bungalow and garage was granted by East Lindsey District Council, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during groundworks. The watching brief was conducted according to the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

### **Site Location and Description**

Orby lies 2km north of Burgh le Marsh, with Gunby Road leading through the village towards Ingoldmells. The 720 sq. m (approx) site lies 300m NW of Orby Church, and almost immediately opposite the former Church Farm; its elevation is about 8m AOD (Pl. 1). Rigcroft, with farm buildings, lies 100m to the north. This building plot is the furthest west of three adjacent building plots, formed from a pasture field fronting Orby Road.

### **Archaeological Background**

A geophysical survey of a larger area including this plot was conducted in 1998 (Johnson 1998). The survey identified an east-west boundary wall or track aligned with the rear of adjacent properties to the east. North of the boundary was ridge and furrow from medieval ploughing, and in the SE angle of the survey area were traces interpreted as the site of a Primitive Methodist chapel of mud and stud construction, demolished in the late nineteenth century. Further small anomalies were interpreted as possible pits.

The geophysical survey report noted that the site of the chapel was marked on deeds held by the site owner. During this watching brief, the author was told that the owner of the neighbouring



property to the east of the three development plots thought that the chapel had been on their land, as building remains had been disturbed when the site was cleared prior to construction of the dwelling. This description appears to be at variance with the building's position as marked on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4; OS 1906).

The watching brief was to check that no building remains or other archaeological material would be affected by excavation of foundations.

#### **The Watching Brief** (Figs. 5 and 6)

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes; these are used on the illustrations and photograph captions, and in bold in the report text (Appendix 1). Monitoring was halted after the first day of groundworks, with the verbal agreement of Dr Beryl Lott.

#### ***The Bungalow Area***

Turf was removed from the area of the bungalow and garage, but because of the thickness of the topsoil **1** (in total, 0.25-0.30m), the underlying layer was not exposed (Pl. 2). A spread of gravel, chalk and brick rubble was seen on the western side of the house plot, but it was unclear whether this was material relating to the existing field access track (immediately west of the development plot) or a separate deposit.

The western foundation trench cut through the remaining topsoil to expose a 0.35m thick layer of tarmac pieces, with brick and chalk rubble **2**, the base of which sloped up towards the east. This was the source of the disturbed rubble seen below the turf. It remained impossible to interpret this layer conclusively, but as it extended 3m eastwards across the field, it is considered to have been material imported to level a north-south depression in the field surface.

Beneath the rubble layer was a band of dark grey/brown silt loam **3**, with a fairly uniform thickness of 0.15m. It exhibited the same sloping profile as the overlying rubble (Figs. 6a and 6b; Pls. 3 and 4). The dark layer was interpreted as a twentieth century topsoil layer that had become buried during levelling of the site some years previously. An underlying associated yellow/brown silt subsoil, **4**, varied in thickness from 0.15m to 0.35m, and produced a fragment of green-glazed thirteenth century pottery and a scrap of fired clay (Appendix 2). It is suspected that this layer derives from medieval cultivation, and that the finds represent domestic rubbish carted to the arable field with manure.

Below the subsoil was **5**, a light yellow/brown silty clay with some chalk flecks. In places this seemed to be a weathered version of the underlying mixed boulder-clay **6**, but the sloping profile seen at the eastern side of the depression suggested that it was also cultivated soil, forming the earliest fill of the incised feature. No finds were seen in this layer.

The north-south aligned linear depression **7** was identified as a medieval plough furrow, with its base 0.2m below the highest surviving undisturbed boulder-clay. The furrow was considerably over 3m wide and over 0.6m deeper than the surface of the buried topsoil. The width of the accompanying ridge to the east could not be ascertained within this house plot as no other furrows were present. The remains of broad and deep plough furrows can be seen in the pasture field to the north of the development site, and the farm name of Rigcroft indicates medieval cultivation earthworks (Pl. 5).

With the exception of a modern trench for a black alkathene water pipe (serving a cattle water trough on the southern field boundary) only one other feature was seen. A west-east aligned trench, gully or ditch **8** was seen in the base of the eastern foundation trench for the bungalow, cutting into the boulder-clay and filled with material indistinguishable from **5**. At the trench base it was about 0.5m wide, but investigation was hampered by the water-table. Very small fragments of a red brick were seen, and the depth of the feature was not established but was thought to be about 1.2m below the stripped ground surface. The brick fragments did not appear to be earlier than the eighteenth century in date. Although there was no sign of a land drain, and no continuation of the feature was visible in the western trench, this may have been a land drain laid deeper than investigated.

### ***The Garage***

Excavation of the northern wall trench of the garage was monitored. The 0.6m wide trench was dug to a depth of 0.7m from the turf surface, through 0.25m of topsoil **1** and into **4**. No features or finds were seen.

### **Conclusion**

The watching brief showed that the development plot had been part of a medieval arable field, with no recognisable earlier or later significant archaeological features. The land-use illustrates that the medieval settlement of Orby had not extended this far from the church site, despite the Church Farm on the opposite side of Gunby Road. The considerable depth of the recorded plough furrow has been produced by a combination of numerous ploughing episodes and the wet clay ground conditions.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Mr Kirkland and his son, and their contractor. Further help was given by Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team. The pottery was identified by Jane Young. The illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
14th May 2001

## References

Johnson, A.E. 1998 *Land at West End, Orby, Nr. Skegness, Lincolnshire*. Geophysical survey report by Oxford Archaeotechnics, January 1998.

OS 1906 *Ordnance Survey* 1:2,500 map, Sheet Lincs. 83.4. Surveyed 1888, revised 1904.

## Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field sketch plan and notes

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 01/29/11-20 (including those used in this report).

Archaeological finds: pottery sherd and fired clay fragment



## APPENDIX 1

### Context Summary

## APPENDIX 1

**Context Summary: OGRA 01**  
**Plot 1, West End, Gunby Road, Orby**

Context	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	Above 2	Topsoil		modern
2	Layer	Below 1, above 3	Tarmac, bricks and chalk rubble levelling layer		modern
3	Layer	Below 2, above 4	Dark grey brown silt loam, buried topsoil deposit		?post-medieval
4	Layer	Below 3, above 5	Yellow/brown silt subsoil	1 piece 13thC pottery, 1 fragment fired clay	medieval
5	Layer or fill	Below 4, cut by 8, above 7	Light yellow/brown silty clay with chalk. Looked natural but thought to be medieval cultivation soil		?medieval
6	Natural	Cut by 7	Boulder-clay		natural
7	Cut	Filled by 5, cuts 6	N-S aligned plough furrow		medieval
8	Cut	Filled by 4, cuts 5	W-E aligned gully or ditch		?medieval

## APPENDIX 2

### Pottery and Tile Archive List Jane Young

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# Pottery Archive OGRA01

*Jane Young*

*Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	decoration	part	description	date	condition
004	YORK	York glazed ware/York White ware	jug	1	shoulder cordon	BS	? ID	13th	abraded

# Tile Archive OGRA01

context	cname	frags	weight
004	FIRE CLAY	1	1







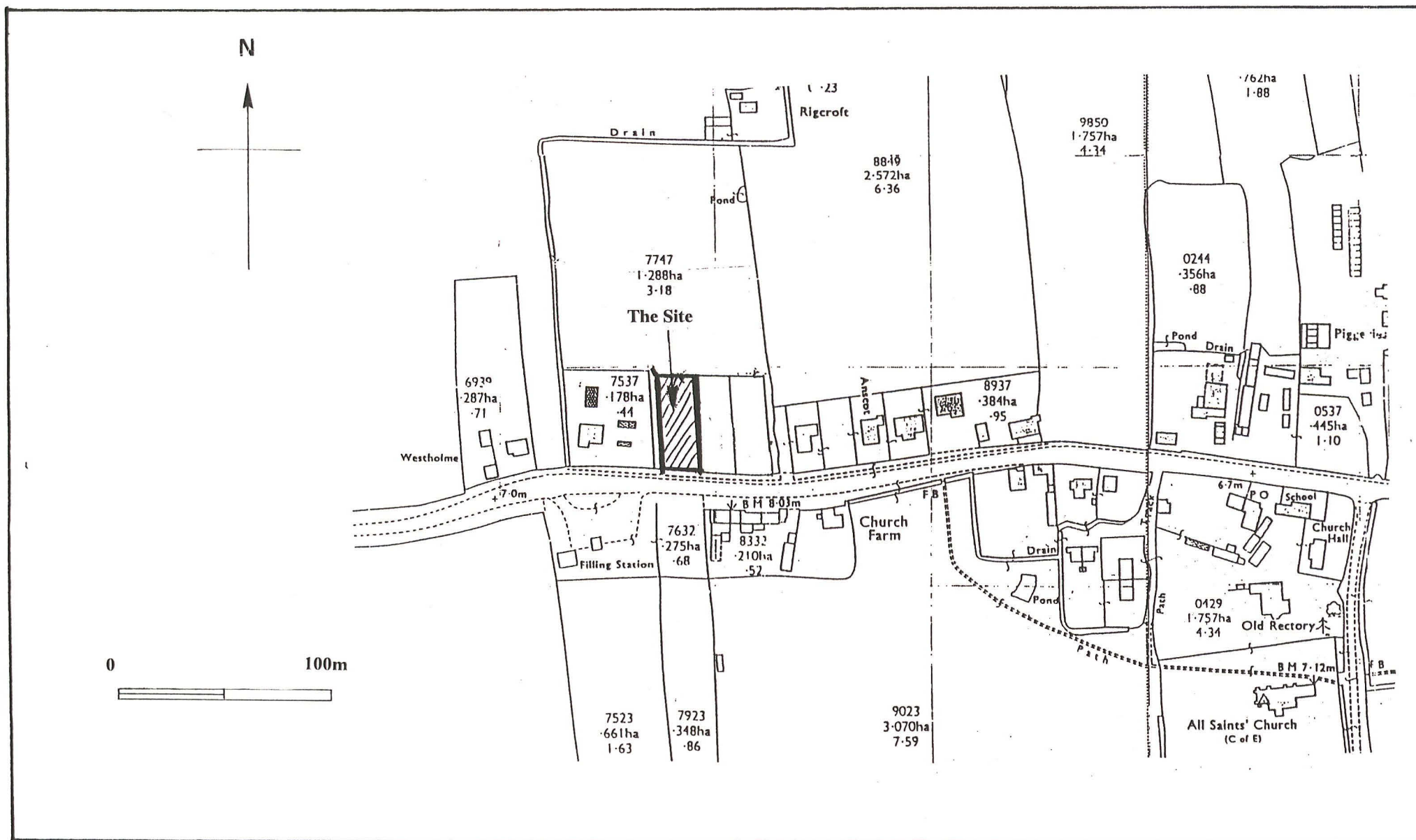


Fig. 2 Location of the development site, Gunby Road (based on the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

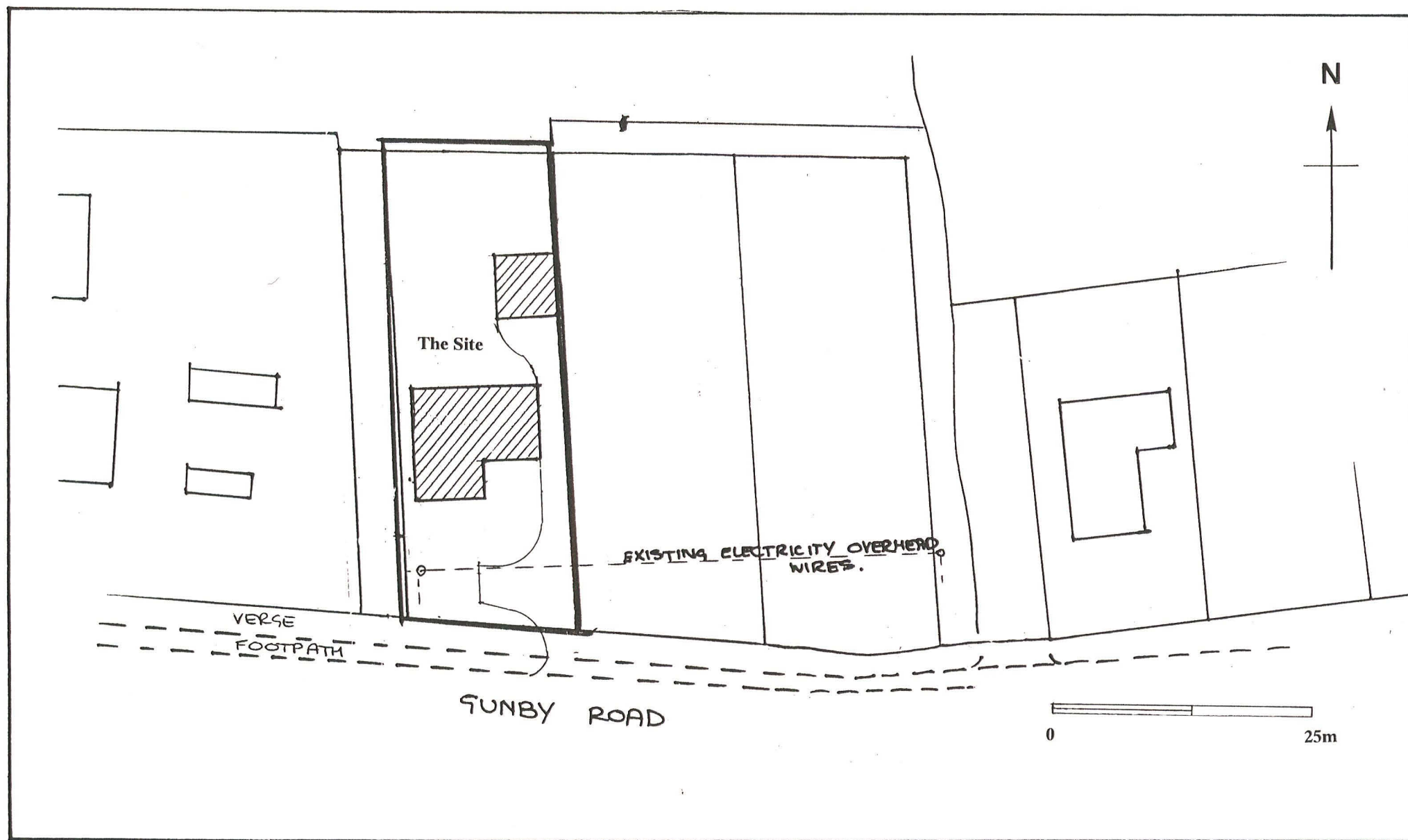


Fig. 3 Position of the monitored bungalow plot and garage (reproduced from a plan supplied by the client).

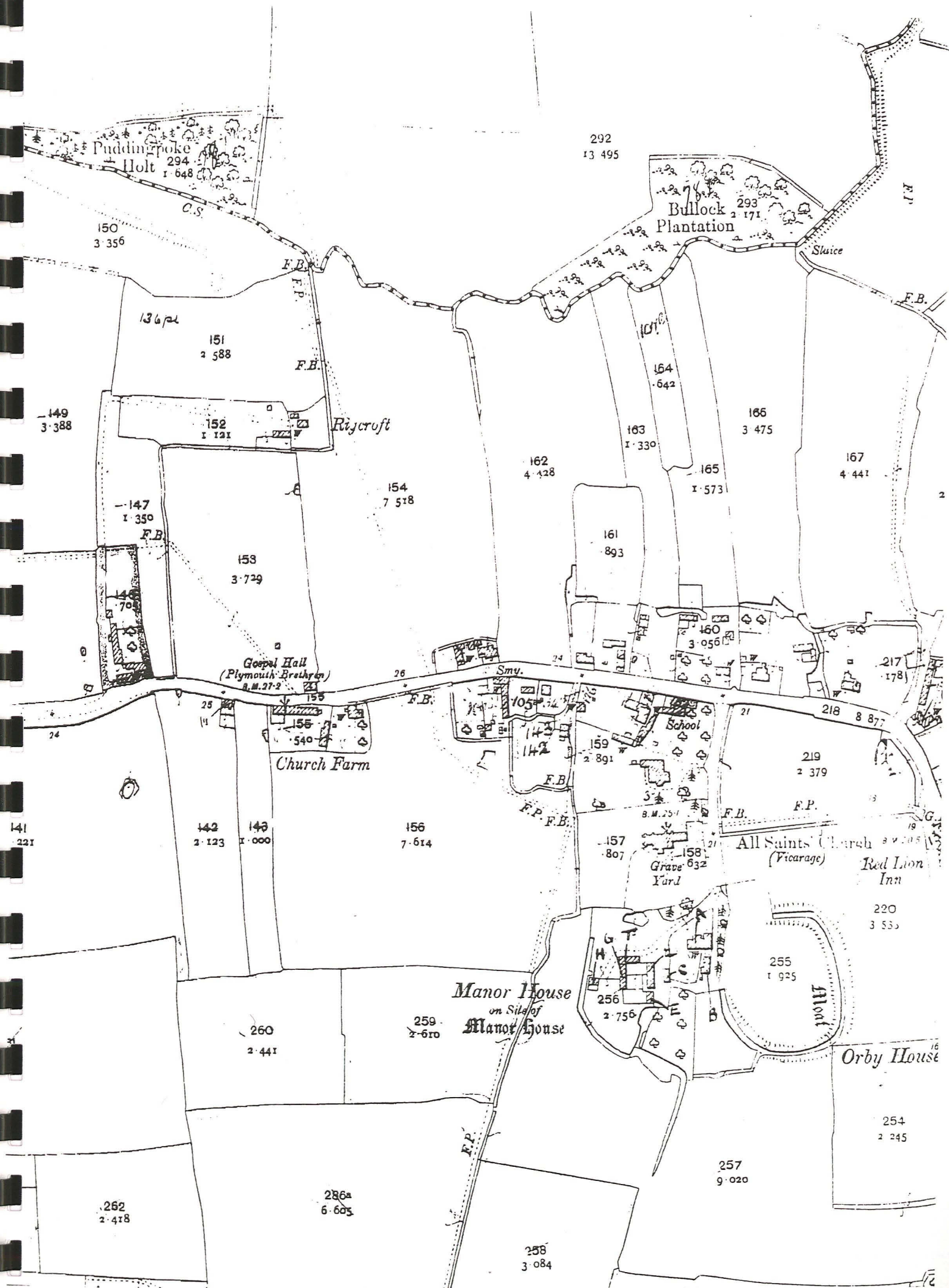


Fig. 4 Position of the former chapel (OS 1906).



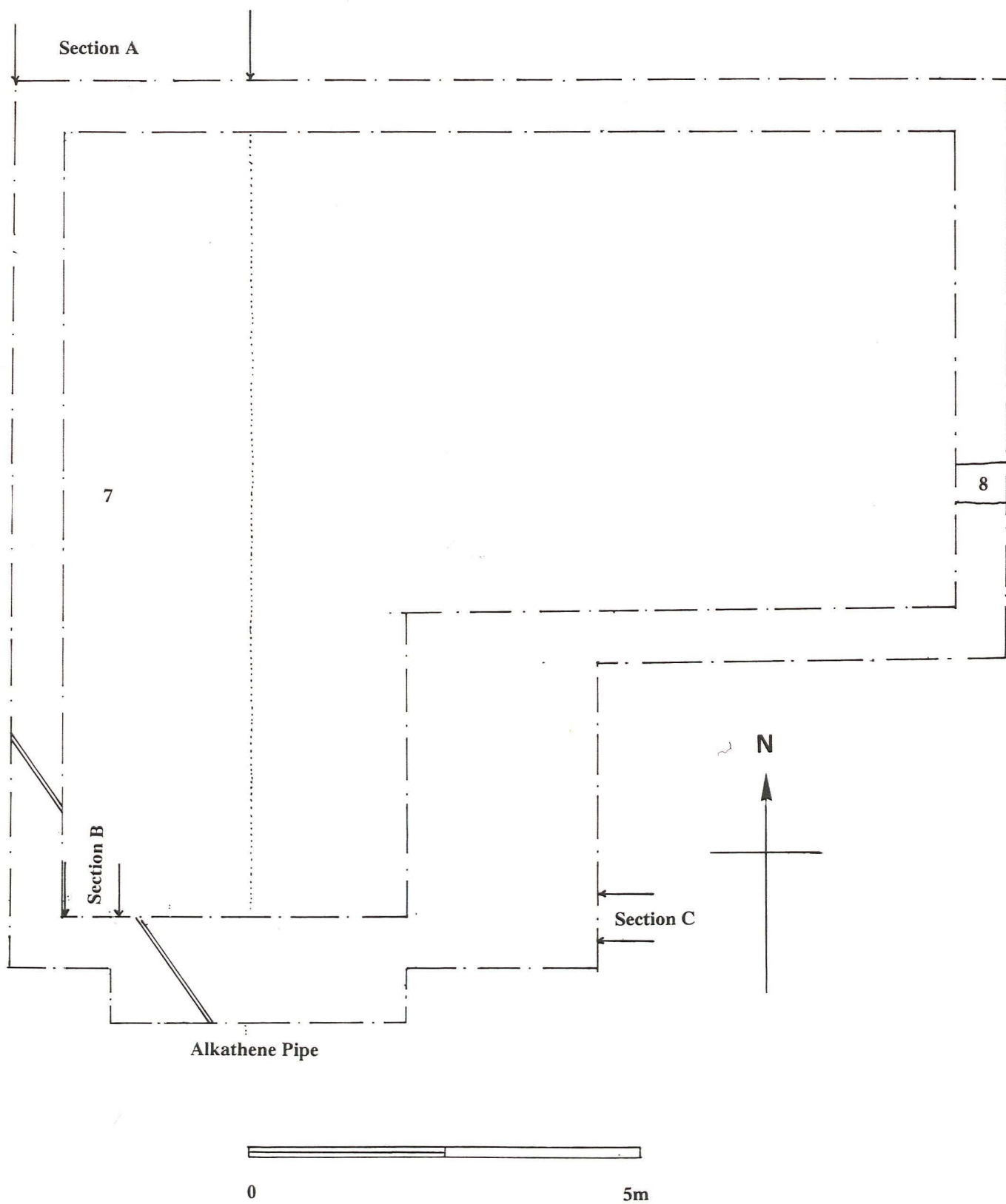


Fig. 5 Plan of the excavated bungalow foundations, showing positions of recorded sections and alignment of medieval plough furrow 7 (McDaid, after Tann).

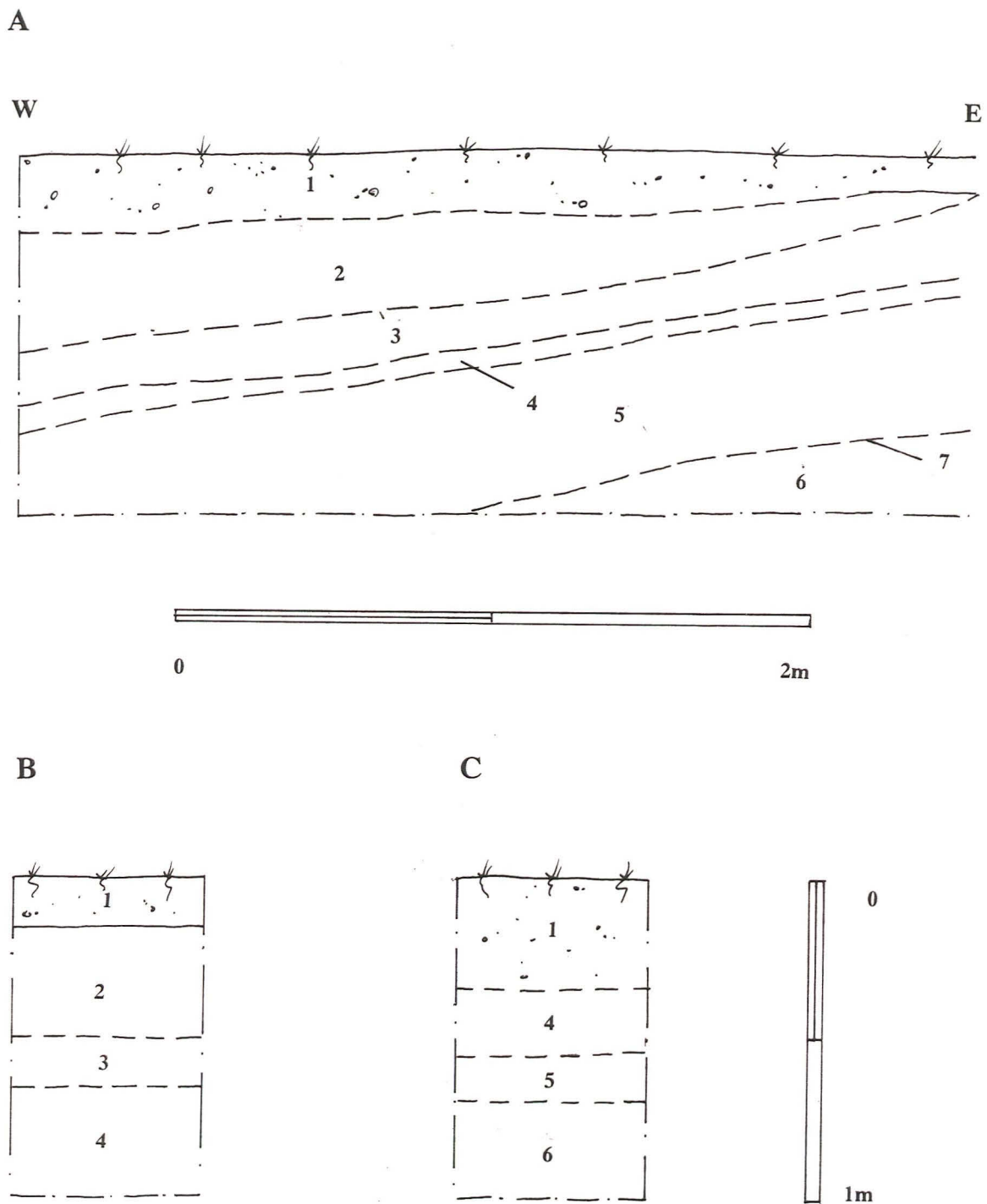


Fig. 6 A) Section across deposits filling the eastern side of plough furrow 7, recorded at the NW corner of the bungalow plot; B) Deposits in the furrow, SW corner of bungalow plot; C) Soil sequence on the plough ridge, recorded at the SE corner (McDaid, after Tann).





Pl. 1 The monitored site, prior to groundworks (looking NW from Gunby Road verge).





**Pl. 2 Bungalow plot, stripped of turf (looking NE).**

**Pl. 3 Dark brown buried topsoil layer, as upper fill of plough furrow 7 at NW corner of the bungalow foundations. Looking NE.**







**Pl. 4** Plough furrow 7 at the SW corner of the foundations, overlain by rubble and tarmac deposit 2 (looking north).





**Pl. 5** Ridge and furrow earthworks extending into the undeveloped pasture area north of the development site (looking north).