



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

## Plot 4, The Old Scrapyard, Nelson Road, Fiskerton

OSOS 7186

NGR: TF 0495 7186

Site Code: NRFA 01

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.70

WLDC Planning Application No.: M00/P/1086/01

## Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for  
Mr and Mrs Depledge

by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 523

May 2001

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## **Plot 4, The Old Scrapyard, Nelson Road, Fiskerton Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 0495 7186**

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**WLDC Planning Application No.: M00/P/1086/01**

### **Summary**

*A watching brief during groundworks for a single house plot identified no features of archaeological interest. Medieval features did not appear to extend onto this part of the site, and any earlier archaeological remains are buried below wind-blown deposits.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in March 2001 by Mr and Mrs W. Depledge to conduct an archaeological watching brief during excavation of house and garage foundations, and a service trench, on Plot 4, The Old Scrapyard, Fiskerton (Figs. 1-3). The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition of the planning permission granted by West Lindsey District Council, and was conducted according to the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

The watching brief was undertaken by G. Tann on March 28th 2001 in dry weather conditions.

### **Site Location and Description**

The plot is one of five located at the east end of Nelson Road on the south side of the village, approximately 300m north of the present course of the river. Its most recent use has been as a scrapyard, although for several years the site has been derelict open ground.

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a single bungalow and garage with associated access and drainage, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

### **Archaeological Background**

Significant archaeological remains of several periods have been found in Fiskerton since the early 1980s. The tops of timber stakes had protruded above the shrinking peat beside the North Delph, and these had been encountered during ploughing. A metal detector user reported a sword from 200m south of the development site in 1981, and an archaeological excavation was mounted to determine the context of the find. This exercise uncovered part of a well-preserved alignment of posts interpreted as a causeway leading from the higher land at Fiskerton across wet ground to the river edge. A combination of radiocarbon dating and dendrochronology (tree growth-ring dating) has shown the structure to have been in use during the Iron Age and Roman periods. A forthcoming publication describing the excavation and the significance of this site suggests a connection between flood episodes and intermittent renovation of the structure (Field and Parker Pearson,



forthcoming). Quantities of metalwork, tools and other items of intrinsic value lay between the posts, and these may have been deliberately discarded to propitiate river deities. The alignment was traced across part of the field to the south of this development, but its extent is unknown. It presumably led from a road on higher ground near the present settlement, and may lie below the old scrapyard.

In 1994, an archaeological field evaluation approximately 100m to the west of the present development (in advance of proposed development to the rear of the former Five Mile House public house) exposed remains of a rubble hard of Roman date, which lay north of a relict course of the river. It is not known what relationship that site had to the causeway.

Fiskerton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when the manor was held by Peterborough Abbey and fisheries and a church were recorded in the village. Its name derives from Old English elements meaning 'farmstead or village of the fishermen'.

Archaeological evaluation and excavations within the former scrapyard site in 1999 and 2000 revealed evidence for a substantial medieval stone building, possibly of twelfth-thirteenth century date (Palmer-Brown 1999, 2000). It was replaced in or after the fourteenth century by another building that may have remained in use until the eighteenth century. Pottery from the tenth century was found on the scrapyard site during the evaluation. It is possible that the buildings may have been associated with the manorial complex of the village. It has been suggested that Inglenook, a house to the west of the development, may incorporate medieval fabric within its walls.

### **The Watching Brief**

The development site slopes downhill from north to south, with an abrupt change in level along the northern and eastern sides (Pl. 1). This difference in level may be the effect of a medieval moat around the site boundary, with an external upcast bank breaking the natural ground slope; a possible moat was identified during the 1999 evaluation (Palmer-Brown 1999, Fig. 2). The bungalow and garage on Plot 4 were to be constructed on land which had previously been occupied by a scrap yard; brick rubble from a rough west-east aligned track was present across the northern side of the bungalow site. A raft foundation had been designed for this building in order to avoid deep foundations likely to affect archaeological remains on the site.

Topsoil had been stripped from the southern side of the house plot before archaeological monitoring began (Fig. 4). The stripped surface had been beaten by rainfall but a rapid inspection was made and no features were visible. This area was to be raised with imported hardcore before the raft was constructed, and no further groundworks took place here.

On the northern side of the house plot, foundation trenches for the bungalow were excavated from ground level to a maximum depth of 0.4m and a width of 0.6m, using a toothed bucket (Pls. 2-4). The garage foundations were excavated up to 0.35m deep.

The topsoil around the house plot was up to 0.15m thick. Across most of the area which was monitored, it overlay a brick rubble spread which is understood to have been a rough track within the scrapyards. At 1, near the NW corner of the plot, the rubble was slightly deeper in two places, each of which was about 0.15m wide; this could have represented the footings for a small shed, or rubble within vehicle ruts.

A very localised area of grey silty sand 2 was seen at the NW part of the plot, 0.33m below the surface (Figs. 4 and 5a). It was only 0.05m thick and appeared to be the result of waterlogged soil, but there was no evidence that it was the fill of a ditch or pit. A similar area of grey/brown silt 3 was noted at the SW corner of the garage but no further information could be obtained as the garage footings were only 0.35m deep (Figs. 3 and 5b).

The sewer trench 4 was excavated to a width of 0.25m, falling from 0.7m below ground level beside the bungalow to 1.2m deep 12m further north (Figs. 3 and 5c). The remainder of this trench is expected to be excavated by the developer of Plot 3. Ground either side of the trench cracked and prepared to subside during excavation and only limited recording of the visible layers was possible. Beneath the 0.15m - 0.2m thick topsoil was a 0.23m thick brown sand, possibly a former cultivated subsoil. This layer covered a 0.35m thick white sand, above yellow sand which was at least 0.4m thick. No peat or archaeological deposits were exposed in this trench. The deposits appeared undisturbed, but the former owner of the site said that the instability was the result of an archaeological evaluation trench in that position.

At the SW corner of the house plot, a small diameter auger hole 5 had been sunk to about 0.7m deep (Fig. 4). The spoil beside the hole contained a compacted peat, understood to have been from a 0.05m thick band close to the base of the hole. Peat was found in Trench 3 of the 1999 evaluation at a depth of about 0.8m, 15m from this position.

### **Conclusion**

As intended, the foundations for the new buildings remained above any medieval or earlier archaeological features. The excavated length of sewer trench also caused no damage to significant deposits, although its gradually falling extension to the north could affect underlying remains.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Mr and Mrs Depledge, and their contractor. Information about previous work on the site was provided by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).



Further help was given by Sarah Grundy, (Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Assistant [Records]). The illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
10th May 2001

### References

- Field, N. and Parker Pearson, M. [forthcoming] *Fiskerton: An Iron Age Timber Causeway with Iron Age and Roman Votive Offerings*.
- Palmer-Brown, C.P.H. 1999 *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report, Land off Nelson Road, Fiskerton, Lincolnshire*. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Report, January 1999.
- Palmer-Brown, C.P.H. 2000 *Archaeological Excavation Report, Medieval Manor, Nelson Road, Fiskerton*. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Report, April 2000.

### Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field sketch plan and notes

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 01/21/0-10' (including those used in this report).

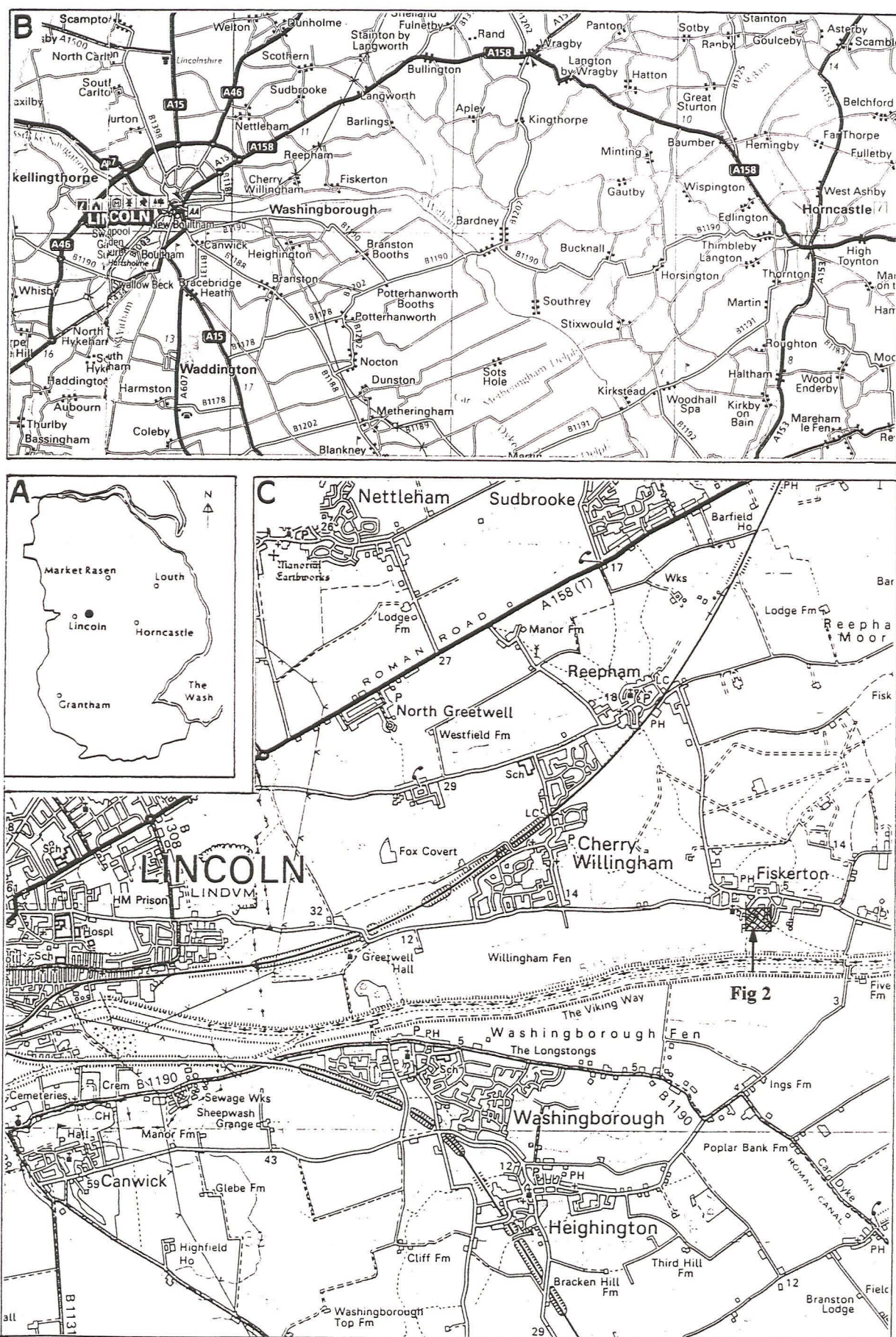


Fig. 1 Location of Fiskerton (Inset C based on the 1989 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, Landranger Sheet 121. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



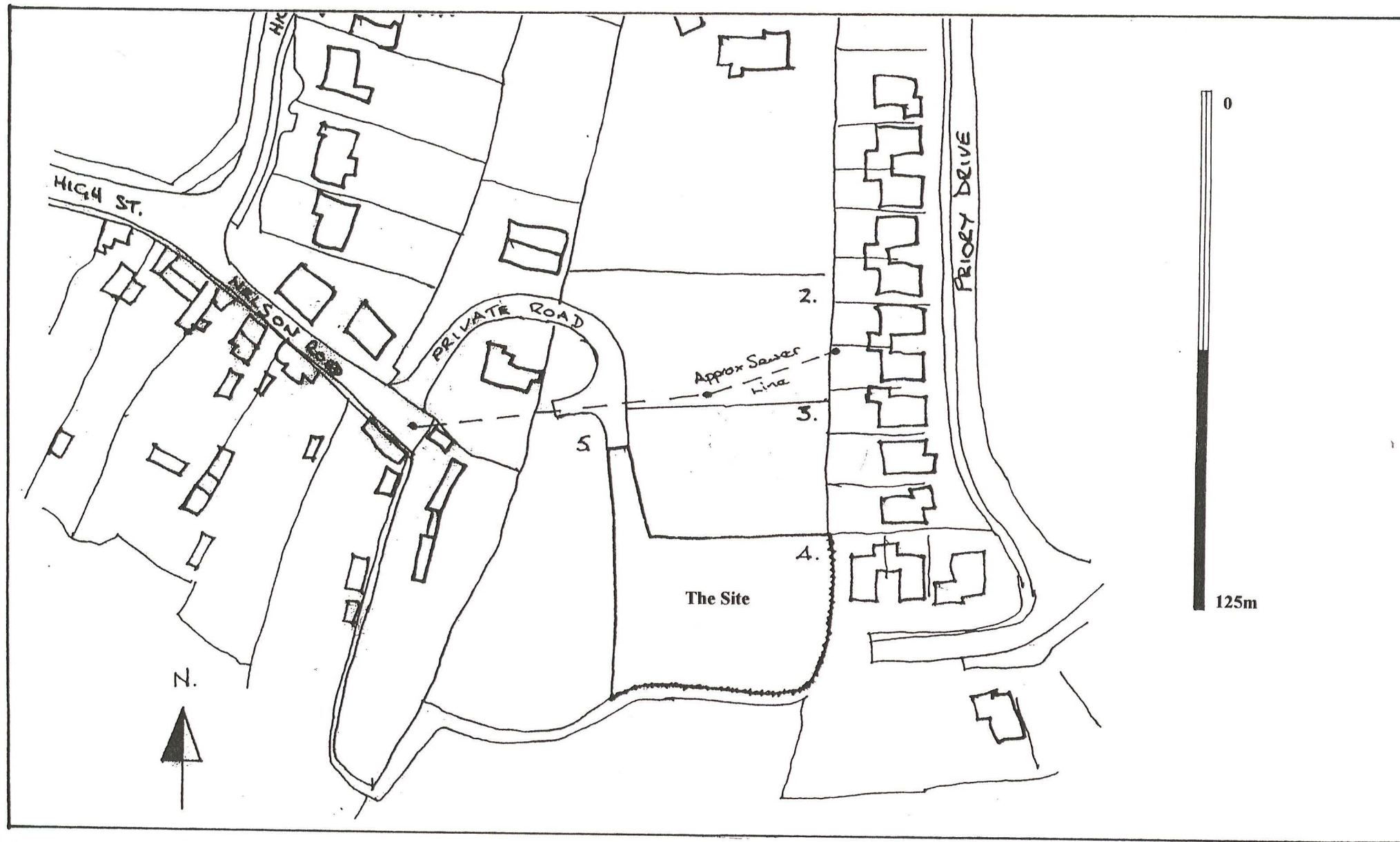


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored plot (based on a plan supplied by the client).



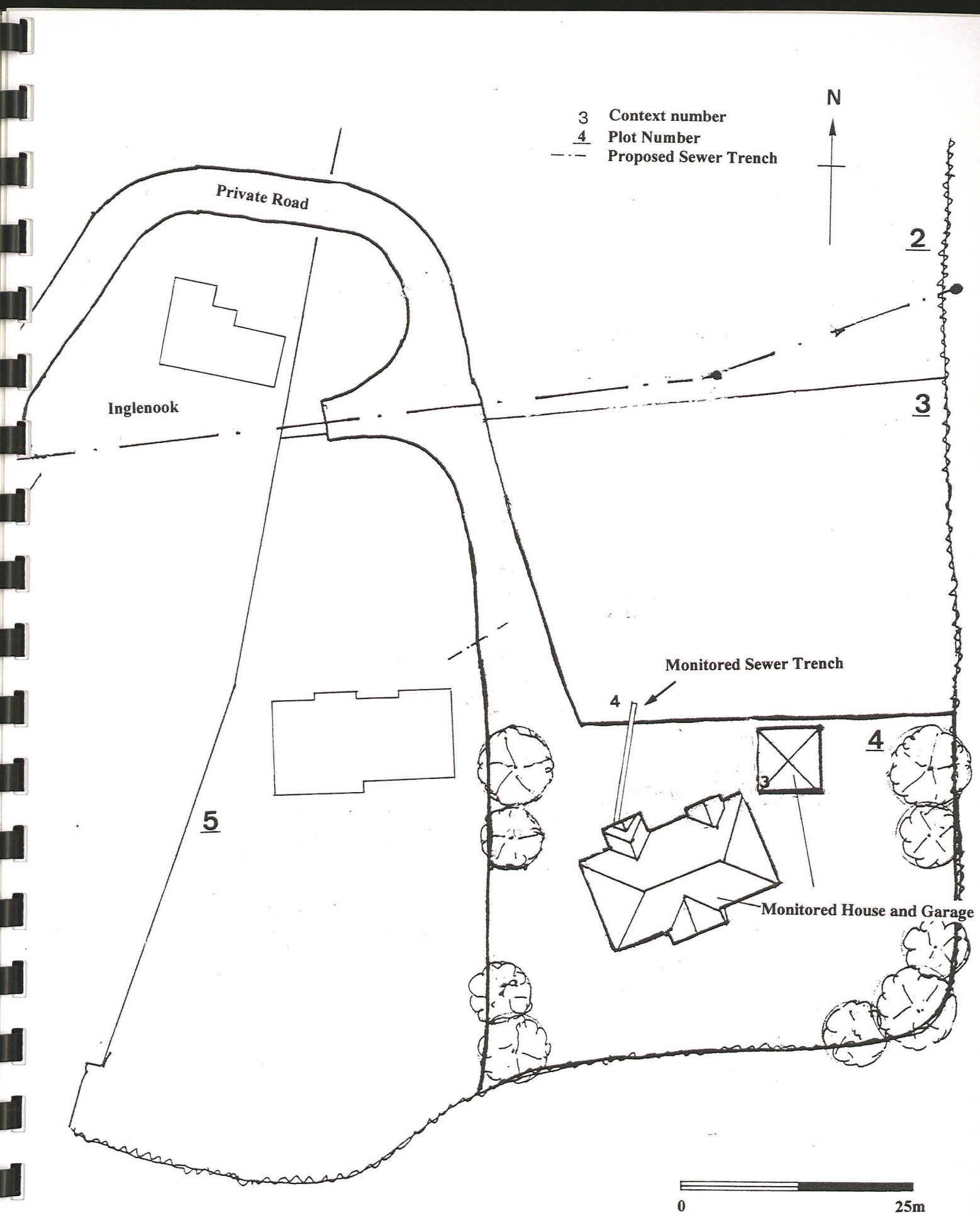
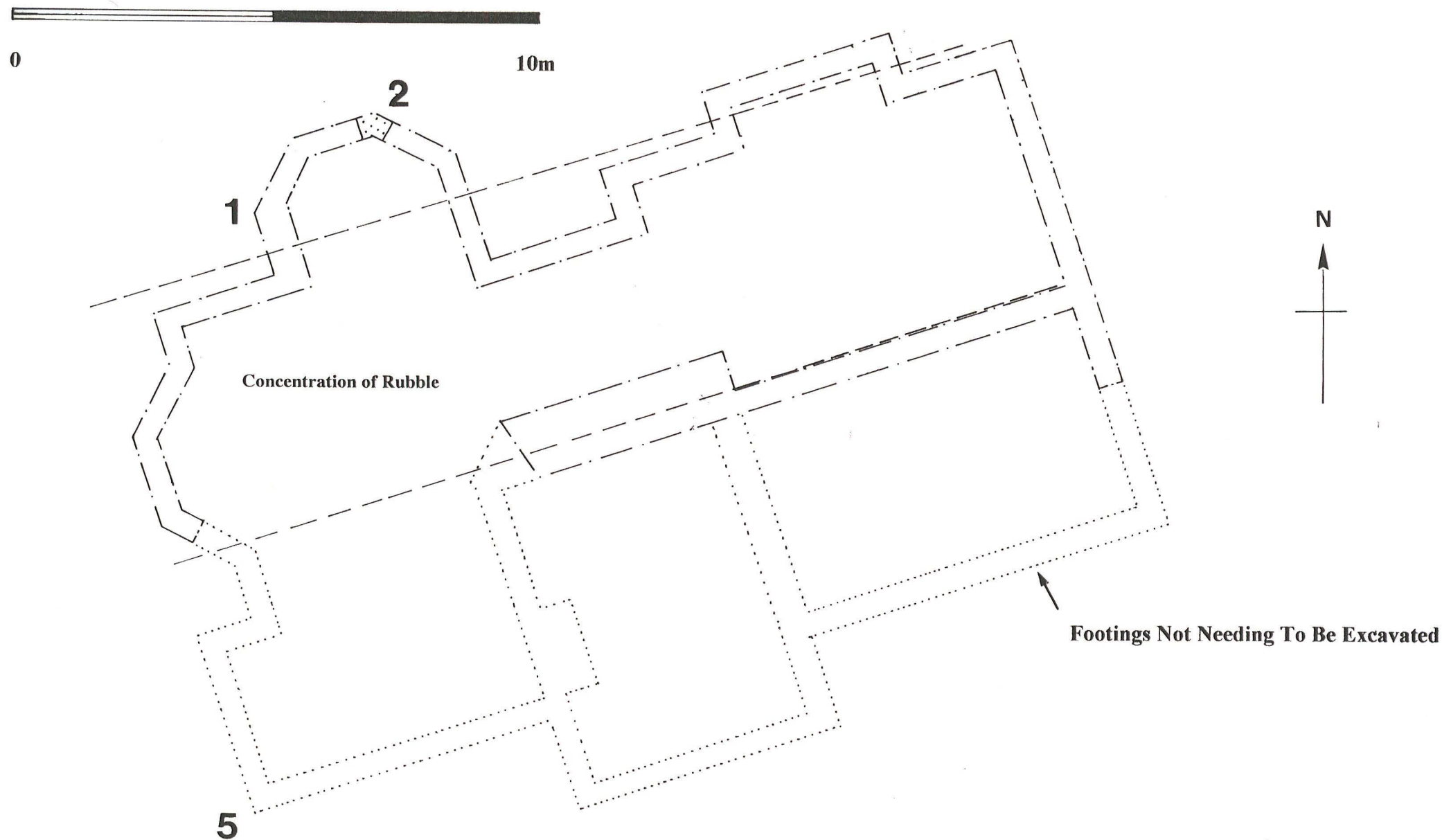


Fig. 3 Position of the house and garage, showing the position of the monitored sewer trench (based on a plan supplied by the client).



**Fig. 4 Plan of the bungalow footings, showing the position of features noted in the report (McDaid, based on a plan supplied by the client).**

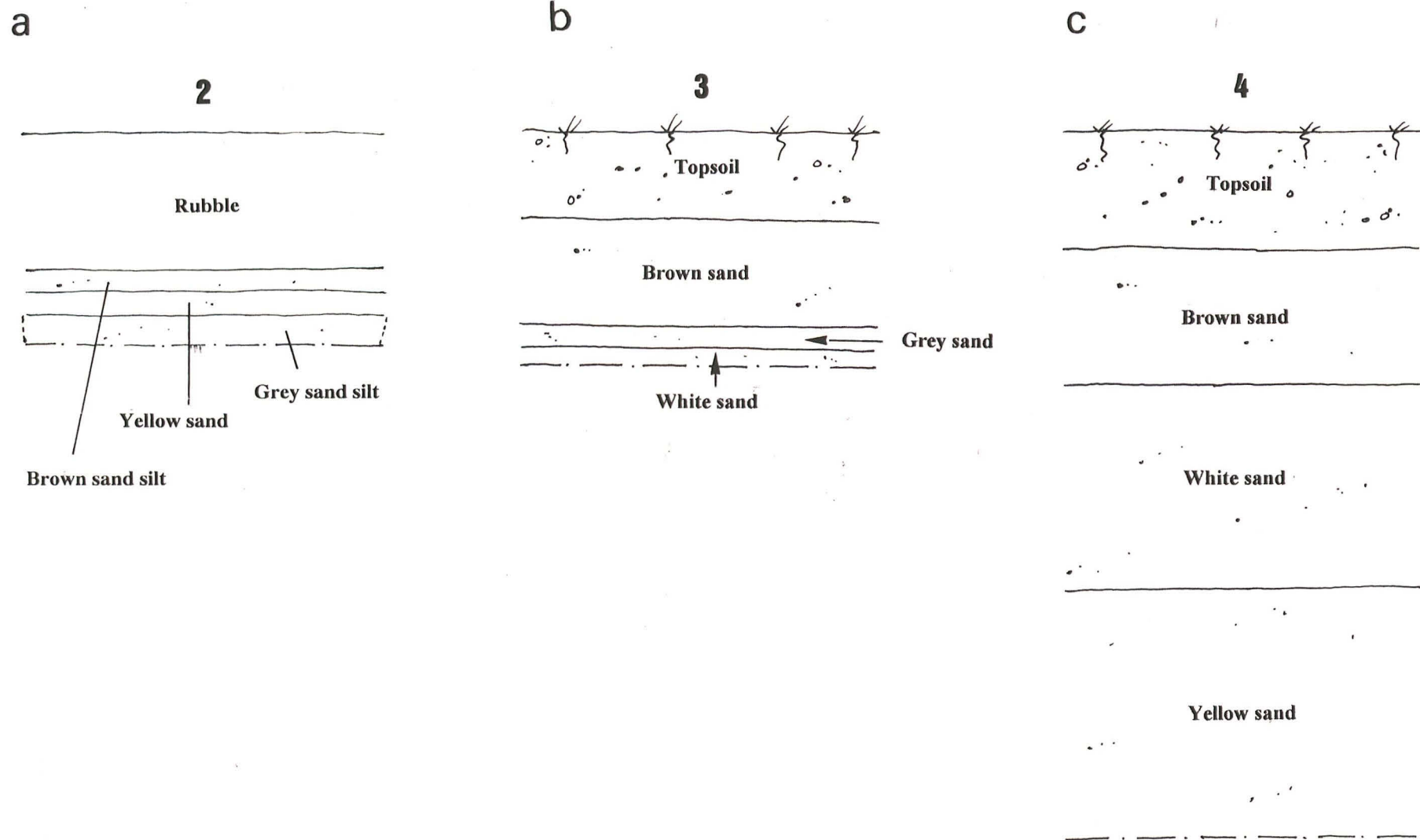


Fig. 5 Sequence of deposits seen in: a) NW end of the bungalow foundations; b) the garage foundation trench; c) sewer trench (McDaid).





**Pl. 1 The Old Scrapyard development site (looking south). The monitored plot was in the far left side of the site.**

**Pl. 2 Shallow footings for the NW corner of the new bungalow. The wheelbarrow is on the part of the site stripped of topsoil but not needing further reduction (looking east).**







**Pl. 3 Brick rubble from a scrapyard track exposed within the area of the new garage (looking SW).**





**Pl. 4 Site of the monitored development, looking west towards the new house built on the site of a medieval building.**