



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Water Mill Lane, Toynton All Saints, Lincs**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 3920 6375

Site Code: TWM 01

LCNCC Museum Accession No: 2001.295

ELDC Planning Application S/185/1364/01

L17398

**Report for**  
**Mr G. Howden**

**by**  
**R. Pullen**

**LAS Report No. 556**

**December 2001**

Conservation  
Services

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Highways & Planning  
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## **Water Mill Lane, Toynton All Saints, Lincs**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

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**LCNCC Museum Accn No.:2001.295**

**ELDC Planning Application: S/185/1364/01**

#### **Summary**

*Excavation of two trial trenches on the study site revealed no archaeological features of any kind. However, several abraded fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from within the topsoil and subsoil layers of Trench 1 and from the topsoil of Trench 2. The relatively small amount and sparse concentration of medieval pottery recovered probably suggests medieval farming practices or debris from surrounding production/occupation areas rather than evidence for industrial production or long-term habitation on the site.*

*The proposed final formation level of c.0.60m will mean that the proposed development should have no impact on any concealed archaeological deposits. The evaluation has demonstrated that if any archaeological remains are present they must be below the base of the deepest trench which had a maximum depth of c.1.30m. If any as yet undiscovered deposits do exist in the area of the main build they will remain undisturbed and in situ, the only area for concern being any excavations undertaken for the installation of a septic tank where deep, below ground disturbance is more likely.*

#### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) were commissioned by Mr G. Howden in October 2001 to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land off Water Mill Lane, Toynton All Saints (Fig.1 and 2). The work was conducted in accordance with the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council, as set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (August 1998), and the planning conditions set out by East Lindsey District Council.

#### **Site Location and Description**

The village of Toynton all Saints is situated at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds approximately 2km south-west of Spilsby (Fig. 1). The site is at c.44.00m O.D. on the northern side of Water Mill Lane, close to its junction with Main Street and directly opposite to the parish church of all saints. The site is currently part of a garden under lawn, mainly flat and level, but sloping down to the south and east. The geology of the area is mainly 551c Cuckney 2 typical brown sands and red/brown clay and 711m Salop typical stagnogley soils (SSEW 1983 Sheet 4). An application for a single dwelling and attached garage has been

made (ELDC Planning Application S/185/1364/01).

### **Archaeological Background**

Toynnton All Saints has long been recognised as the centre of an important medieval pottery industry which flourished from the 13th-15th centuries, whose wares have been identified on sites across the country and beyond. Archaeological excavations in the late 1950s located a medieval pottery kiln and waster heap (reject pots) at 'The Roses' site on the opposite side of Main Road c.300m to the south of the current study area. Two other pottery kilns were excavated in Toynnton in 1976. Medieval wasters and pottery sherds have been found in the area surrounding Water Mill Lane (Fig. 2).

An archaeological evaluation of a kiln site on the adjacent building plot was conducted by LAS in 1996. The evaluation succeeded in locating pottery finds ranging in date from the early thirteenth to the early eighteenth centuries (Field 1996).

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish whether there is any evidence for pottery production on the site and if there are any settlement remains.
- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area.
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact that development will have on them.
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.

### **Method**

#### ***Recording system***

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of two experienced archaeologists. Each trench was machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. The trenches were hand cleaned to reveal features in plan. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans and sections. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past twenty years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

#### **Evaluation Trenching**

Two trenches were machine excavated to the first archaeological horizon by a mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation of both Trenches 1 and 2 was



undertaken under constant observation by an experienced archaeologist. However, the work was hampered by the presence of trees, a hedge-line and mechanical problems with the machine, limiting the practicable length of each of the finished trenches to c.11m.

Context numbers for deposits, were assigned by LAS for recording purposes (Appendix 1). These numbers are used in the report text and on the plans and sections.

## **Results**

### ***Trench 1*** (Fig. 4, Pl. 1, and 2)

Trench 1 was excavated to a length of c.11.00m and an overall width of 1.80m on the easternmost edge of the site running east down the slope towards Main Street. The topsoil **100** had an average depth of 0.50m and was a dark grey/brown sandy/clay silt which contained occasional abraded medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments. Layer **100** sealed a dark reddish brown sandy silt subsoil **101** with an average depth of c.0.12m. Layer **101** also contained occasional small abraded pottery fragments. Layer **101** sealed a deposit of compacted sand **102** and red/brown clay **103**. These deposits represent the first archaeological horizon. No features were observed cut into layer **102** or **103**. An exploratory sondage was excavated into deposit **103** at the easternmost end of the trench to an overall depth of 1.00m from the surface. No change in colour or material type was observed. Therefore, it can be concluded that deposits **102** and **103** either represent the natural geology or a substantial build-up of wind blown sand and alluvium.

### ***Trench 2*** (Fig. 4, Pl. 3, and 4)

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of c.11.00m and a width of 1.80m on the southernmost edge of the site running down the slope to Water Mill Lane. The topsoil **200** had a depth of c.0.65m and was characterised as being a dark grey/brown sandy/clay silt which contained occasional abraded medieval pottery fragments and modern bottle glass. Layer **200** sealed a dark reddish brown sandy silt subsoil **201** with an average depth of c.0.30m. Layer **201** sealed a deposit of compacted sand **202**. This deposit represents the first archaeological horizon. No features were observed cut into layer **202**. An exploratory sondage was excavated into deposit **202** at the northernmost end of the trench to an overall depth in excess of 1.30m from the surface. No change in colour or material type was observed. Therefore, it can be concluded that deposit **202** either represents the natural geology or a substantial build-up of wind blown sand.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

The evaluation established a general sequence of deposits within the application area. The topsoil and subsoil overlie a build-up of sand and clay. If these deposits are not the natural geology, they represent deposits of wind blown and natural silting from elsewhere. The sondages excavated into the bases of both Trenches 1 and 2 failed to locate a change in

material. The deposits showed no signs of laminatory sequencing and probably represent a rapid deposition of sealing material as opposed to a series of seasonal or gradual events.

No archaeological features were uncovered in either of the two trenches excavated off Water Mill Lane. Although wasters have been recovered from several locations within the village, the main focus of medieval pottery production would seem to be in the south of Toynton All Saints, away from the application area. The close proximity of the originally Saxon parish church of All Saints could suggest the possibility of occupation of the site and the surrounding area and given the probability of wind blown and colluvium deposits at a depth of over 1.00m, archaeological remains may still exist. Should these deposits exist they are well below the final formation level of the majority of the proposed development and will be preserved *in situ*.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mr. Howden for his co-operation. The excavation and recording was undertaken by Richard Pullen and Doug Young. Finds processing was carried out by Richard Pullen, and the post-Roman pottery report was by Jane Young. This report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Richard Pullen MA PIFA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2001

### **References**

Field, N. 1996 *Proposed Residential Development, Main Street, Toynton All Saints*. LAS Report No. 213, November 1996.

Tann, G. 2000 *Land South of 72 Main Road, Toynton All Saints: Archaeological Watching Brief*. LAS Report No. 401, March 2000.



### **Archive Summary**

Archaeological finds: pottery, modern glass and animal bone

Specialist's report: pottery

Plans: 2

Sections: 2

Context Sheets: 7

Notes

Photographs: LAS film nos. 01/112/01-21; 01/113/02-21 (including those used in this report)

Correspondence

## THE APPENDICES

## Appendix 1

### Water Mill Lane, Toynton all Saints (TWM 01) Context List

Context	Trench	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.50m	Topsoil
101	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.12m	Subsoil
102	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	N/A	Natural sand deposit
103	1	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.50m +	Natural clay deposit
200	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.65m	Topsoil
201	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	0.30m	Subsoil
202	2	Layer	Trench	Trench	N/A	Natural sand deposit



# Pottery Archive TWM01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date	condition
100	BL	large jar	1	1		rim		18th	
100	ENGs	?	1	1		base		19th	
100	TOY	jug	1	1		BS		13th to 14th	very abraded
100	TOY	jug	1	1		BS		13th to 14th	very abraded
100	TOY	jug	2	1		BS		13th to 14th	
100	TOY	jug	3	1		BS		13th to 14th	
100	WHITE	small bowl	1	1		rim		19th to 20th	
100	WHITE	wall tile ?	1	1		BS		20th	
101	TOY	bowl	1	1		rim	hollow rim	13th to 15th	very abraded
101	TOY	jar	2	2		BS		13th to 15th	
101	TOY	jug	1	1		BS		13th to 15th	
101	TOY	jug	1	1		base		13th to 15th	very abraded
200	ENGs	small jar	1	1		base		19th	
200	TB	bowl	1	1		BS		14th to 17th	
200	TB	bowl	1	1		base	thick glaze	15th to 17th	
200	TB	jug	1	1		base		14th to 17th	
200	TB	jug	1	1		base		14th to 17th	
200	TB	jug	1	1		BS		14th to 17th	

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date	condition
200	TOY	jar	1	1		base	soot	13th to 15th	
200	TOY	jar/urinal	1	1		BS	int glaze	13th to 15th	
200	TOY	jug	1	1		base		13th to 15th	very abraded
200	TOY	jug	1	1		base		13th to 15th	
200	TOY	jug	1	1	vert painted strips	BS	oxid	13th to 14th	
200	TOY	jug	1	1	frilled base	base	? TOYII	14th to 15th	

#### Key to Ceramic Codenames

BL	Black Glazed Earthenwares	18th to 19th
ENGs	English Stoneware	18th to 19th
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke	14th to 17th
TOY	Toynton ware	13th to 15th
WHITE	White Glazed Earthenwares	19th to 20th

## THE FIGURES



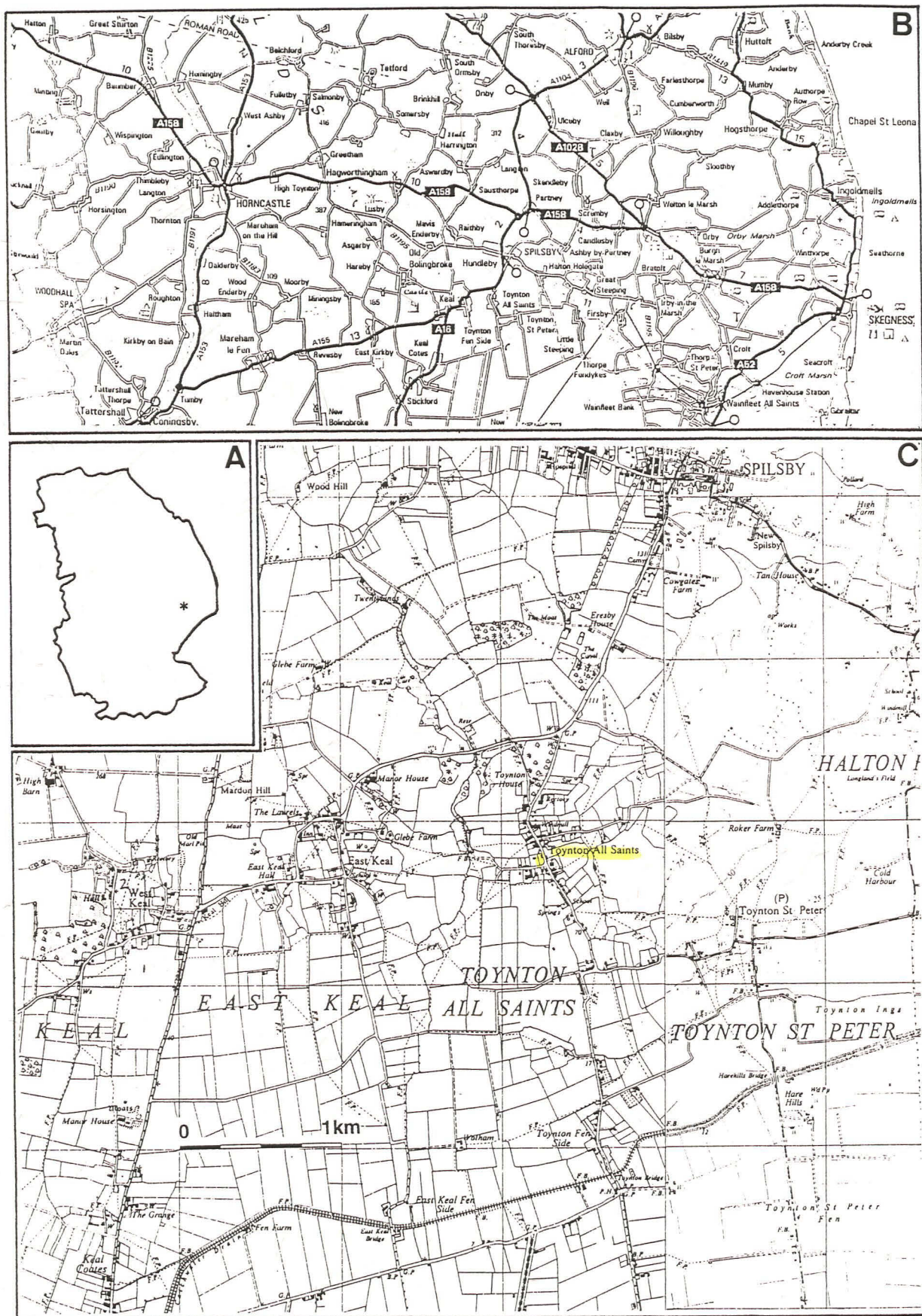


Fig. 1 Location of proposed development site. Insert C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF 36. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



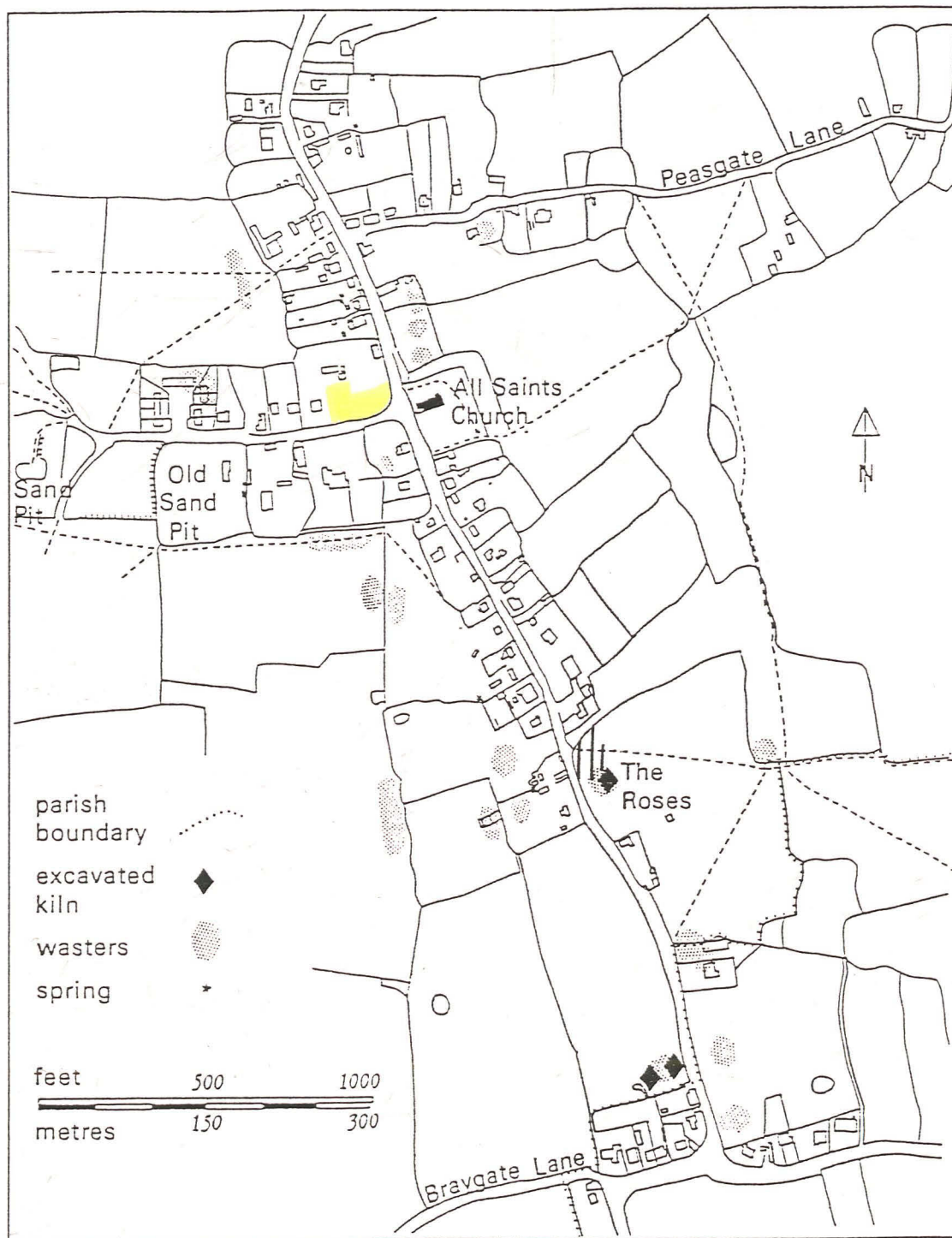


Fig. 2 Village plan showing location of proposed development site with excavated kilns and waster sites marked.

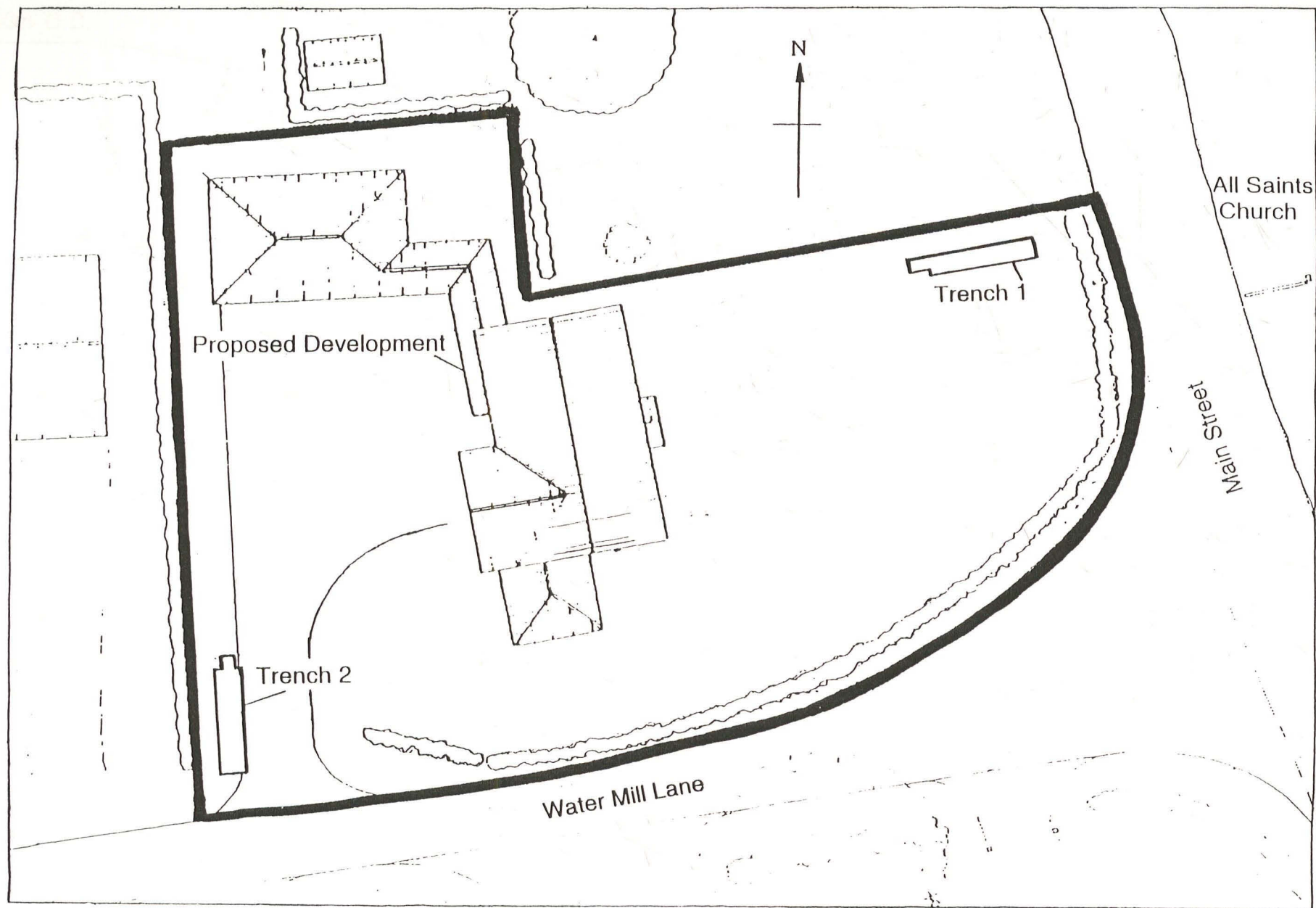


Fig. 3 Plan of proposed development showing trench locations (Based on a plan supplied by the client).



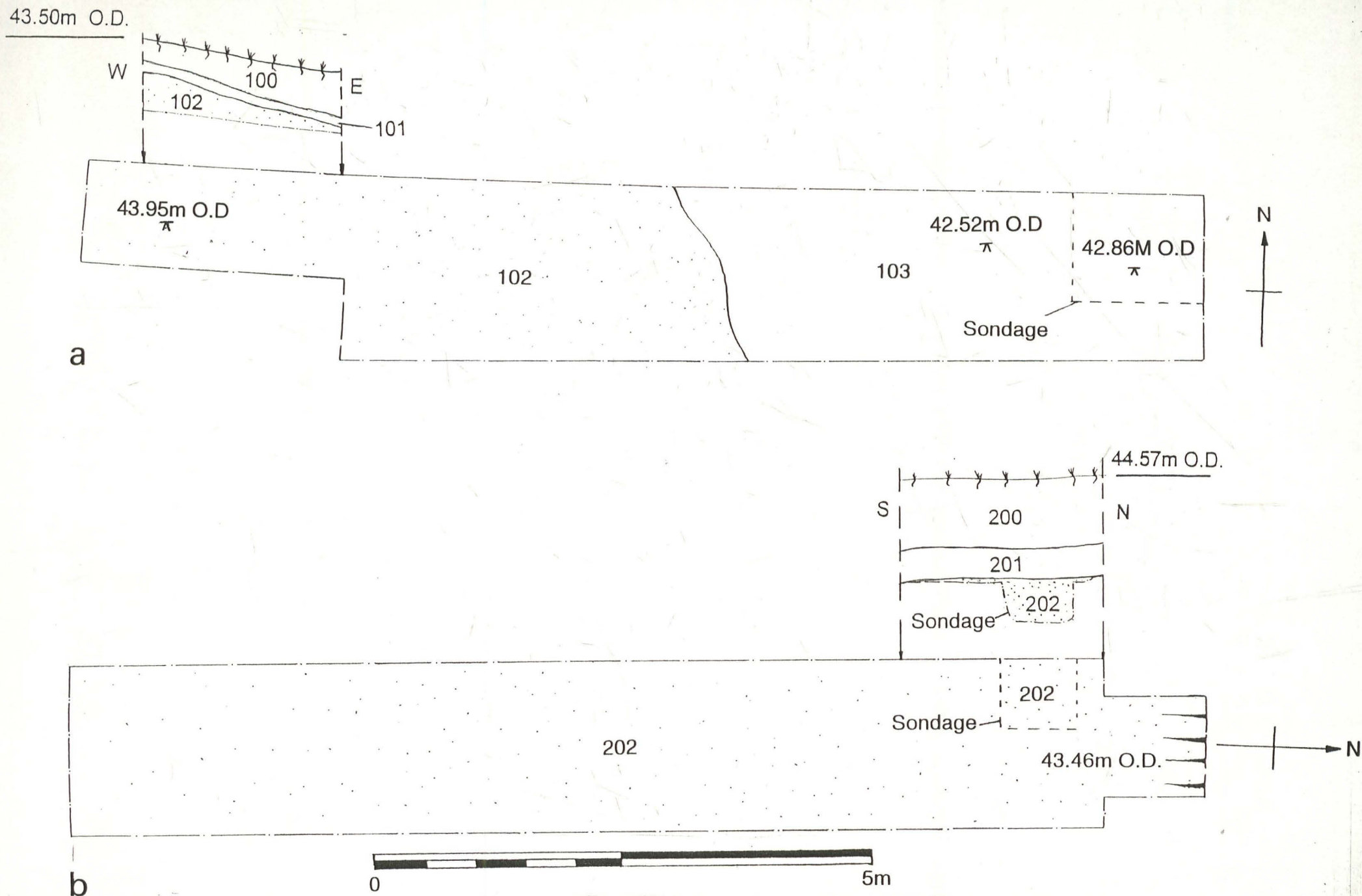


Fig. 4 a) Trench 1 plan and section; b) Trench 2 plan and section.

## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 View along trench 1 (looking west).

Pl. 2 Typical section in trench 1 (looking north).







Pl. 3 View along trench 2 (looking south).

Pl. 4 Typical section in trench 2 (looking west).

