

M2/5



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land next to Petriburg, Linwood Road, Market  
Rasen, Lincs.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 1085 8867**

**Planning Application: M00/P/0505**

**Site Code: LRMP 01**

**LCNCC Accn No.: 2001.243**

**REPORT**

**for**

**Mr and Mrs Bycroft**

**by**

**Naomi Field**

**LAS Report No. 571**

**February 2002**

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*snr*

Event L12854

Sowe L1533

L1534

Mon L152736

L15144

Conservation  
Services

07 FEB 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

Event L12854

Source L1533

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Mon L152736

L15144

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**Land next to Petriburg, Linwood Road, Market Rasen, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a house and garage at the rear of the plot, which revealed two parallel ditches 10m apart. One contained Roman pottery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date and it is possible that the second ditch was also Roman in date. Roman pottery was found close to the road frontage but there was no evidence for any buildings or pottery kilns even though the site is opposite the old cattle market where kilns were found in 1998. The site was probably on the periphery of any Roman industrial activity or occupation site.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Bycroft to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the above site, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998). The watching brief was carried out on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2001.

**Planning Details**

Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for the construction of a single bungalow and detached garage subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

**Site Location and Description**

Market Rasen is situated 22km NE of Lincoln and 24km west of Louth, in the West Lindsey District of Lincolnshire. The development lies south-east of Market Rasen town centre on the east side of Linwood Rd between the properties named Petriburg (to the north) and Lansdowne House to the south. The land is currently a grass paddock. The eastern site boundary was created when new housing was constructed within the last 2 years.

**Archaeological Background**

An archaeological condition was attached to planning permission for this development because of the presence of an extensive area of Romano-British pottery kilns in the vicinity. Evaluation of land opposite revealed several Roman pottery kilns, in the paddock north of Highfield and on open ground south of the former cattle market (Williams 1998). Geophysical survey in the paddock to the south of Lansdowne house in 1994 failed to locate any archaeological remains. The extent of Roman industrial activity is not known and it was

thought possible that groundworks for the bungalow would reveal further archaeological remains. The site lies beyond the area of the medieval settlement and in the area known as the Lammas Leas (meadows) before enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

### **The Watching Brief**

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to supervise earthmoving operations. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn at a scale of 1:20. Finds located in archaeological features were identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was used. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views.

Topsoil was stripped from the area of the garage and the house plot. The ground levels along the access road were already close to those required and the topsoil was removed from this part of the site. Six sherds of Roman pottery were collected from the stripped ground surface (**100**) which were 2<sup>nd</sup> century in date. The only other find was a worn Victorian halfpenny.

A narrow trench for a water pipe had been dug along the southern boundary of the site (Pl. 1). The trench contained numerous tree roots and the base of the trench did not penetrate the topsoil. Several sherds of Roman pottery, dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century were found in the spoil at the west end of the site close to the road (context 108) and towards the east end of the trench (context 109), see Appendix 1.

The garage was located in the north-east corner of the plot 1m from the north and eastern boundaries at the lowest point on the site and water collected in the base of the trench (Pl. 2). It measured 8.89m x 6.51m in area and the foundation trenches were 0.50m wide and 0.70m deep. The topsoil **100** was 0.30m thick and overlay a leached grey/beige sandy subsoil (**102**) c.0.25 thick which overlay the natural orange sand (**101**). At the north-east corner of the garage site was the edge of a ditch (**103**) crossing the garage footings diagonally. Its fill (**104**) was a mixture of the dark topsoil and the paler subsoil. The full profile of the ditch was not revealed but it was at least 0.70m deep and a minimum of 4.60m wide. There were no finds. The line of the ditch clipped the corner of the house foundations to the south-west (Fig. 3).

The bungalow foundations were set at an angle to the plot boundaries with the main entrance to the south-west. The foundation trenches were 0.50m wide and varied in depth from 0.60m-0.90m with ground being built up around the outside of the building. A broad shallow depression, up to 0.35m lower than the surrounding ground was noted crossing the plot. A



20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic drainage pipe was revealed during the foundation excavations which followed the same alignment. However, the drain cut through the fill of an earlier ditch (106), which contained 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery, also on the same alignment. The modern drain was presumably inserted to deal with the water which would have collected along the line of the depression in the modern ground surface caused by this early feature.

The Roman ditch was c.6.1m wide and was an estimated 1.50m deep (A minimum of 0.60m was exposed to the base of the trench.)

### **Discussion**

Ditches 103 and 106 were 10m apart and almost exactly parallel. They are not aligned to any modern boundaries or earlier mapped boundaries. Although ditch 103, recorded in the garage foundations, contained no finds it is possible that they were both Roman. It is remarkable that the filled-in ditch was still visible as a depression in the ground. The presence of 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery in the spoil from the water pipe trench indicates activity in the vicinity but there was no evidence for buildings or industrial features, such as kilns.

### **Conclusion**

The watching brief established that this plot of land on the periphery of any Roman industrial activity or occupation site.

Naomi Field  
February 5<sup>th</sup> 2002

### **Reference**

Williams M. 1998 *Former Cattle Market, Linwood Road, Market Rasen. Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS Report 326.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mrs Bycroft for supplying the ground plan and the building contractors P.G.Duke for their assistance and co-operation on site. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid.

### **Summary of Site Archive**

Site Notes

10 context sheets

Photographs Film no. 01/74 Negs. 0-11

Architect's plan

Correspondence

**THE APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX 1

### Land next to Petriburg, Linwood Rd, Market Rasen (LRMP 01)

#### Context summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Findings
100	Layer	Dk Grey brown sandy soil. Topsoil	2 pot sherds, Victorian 1/2d
101	Layer	Orange sandy clay. Natural	
102	Layer	Pale grey/beige sandy soil	
103	Cut	Ditch in corner of garage plot	
104	Fill of 103	mid-brown sandy soil	
105	Fill of 103	Grey-brown sandy soil below 104	
106	Cut	Ditch crossing house plot	
107	Fill of 106	Mid -brown sandy soil	Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> century pot sherds
108	unstratified	Spoli from water pipe connection near road	2 <sup>nd</sup> -mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> century pot sherds
109	unstratified	Spoil from waterpipe trench	2 <sup>nd</sup> -mid 3 <sup>rd</sup> century pot sherds

**REPORT 95 ON POTTERY FROM LAND ADJACENT TO  
PETRIBURG, LINWOOD ROAD, MARKET RASEN,  
LRMP01**

**for LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.**

**15 January 2002**

**QUANTITY AND CONDITION**

The pottery came from four contexts, and amounted to 26 sherds weighing 0.439 kg. Some sherds are very abraded, especially those from context 109. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*.

A copy of the archive database is below (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study.

**DISCUSSION**

Two contexts, the topsoil Cxt 100 and the fill of a ditch Cxt 107, can be dated to the 2nd century, probably mid to late 2nd century. The two unstratified contexts 108 and 109 appear to date within the range of 2nd to possibly the mid 3rd century, the sherds from 109 being very abraded.

Context 107 contains a rim from an unusual form, probably a beaker, slightly reminiscent of Parisian ware types, which should be drawn. A narrow-necked jar from context 108 is almost exactly paralleled by one from the kiln site across the road (MRA66, Austin's Field, Darling forthcoming, illustration No 7). All other identifiable vessels are types already seen in the Market Rasen assemblages.

The emphasis appears to lie in the 2nd century, with notably thin walled vessels, including a rusticated jar. The only evidence to suggest a 3rd century is the occurrence of fragments which may be from wide-mouthed bowls, none conclusively identifications. Two fired clay fragments occurred, but there appears to be no evidence to suggest pottery manufacture in the area.

**Bibliography**

Darling forthcoming *Roman pottery kilns at Market Rasen: excavations 1965-68.*

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## ARCHIVE DATABASE

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Manuf+	Ves	D?	Details	Shs	Weight
100	GREY	JEV	-	-	-	RIM FRAG;HEAVY MR TYPE;ABR	1	26
100	GREY	J	STAB	-	-	BS SHLDR W VERT.STAB DECOR;THIN WALL	1	6
100	GREY	-	-	-	-	BSS ABR	3	32
100	SAMCG?	-	-	-	-	TINY CHIP;MOST SURF LOST;PROB CG	1	1
<b>100</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>ML2?</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
107	GRFF	BK	-	-	-	RIM/WALL;NR PART TYPE?;DKGRY FAB;LT SURFS;SKETCH	1	19
107	GREY	-	-	3	-	BSS	3	18
107	GREY	-	-	-	-	BASE FRAG;FTM;DKGRY	1	6
<b>107</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>M2+?</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
108	GREY	JNN	-	-	-	RIM>CORDON SHLDR;THIN WALL;DIAM 7;CF MR ILLUS 7	1	9
108	GREY	JBWM	-	-	-	RIM FRAG ONLY;CURVED;THIN WALL	1	13
108	GREY	JL?	-	-	-	BS;LGEISH JAR	1	92
<b>108</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>2-M3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
109	GREY	JLS	-	-	-	RIM FRAG;VABR;NR J105 TYPE	1	46
109	GREY	JEV	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	1	18
109	GREY	BDTR	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	1	7
109	GREY	JRUST	RLIN	-	-	BS;THIN WALL S'WICH FAB	1	7
109	GREY	-	-	-	-	BSS;ALL VABR	5	45
109	GREY	JB	-	-	-	BASE PROB BWM;VABR	1	64
109	FCLAY	-	-	-	-	LUMPS;LTBN;SOFTISH	2	30
<b>109</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>2-M3?</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
109	ZZZ	-	-	-	-	ALL VABR	0	0
	Total						26	439

## THE FIGURES

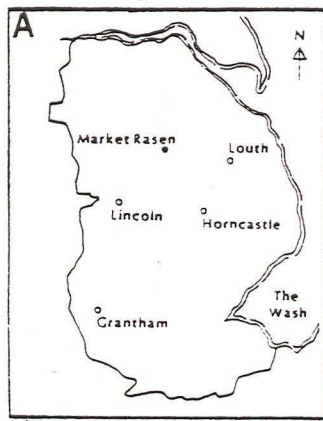
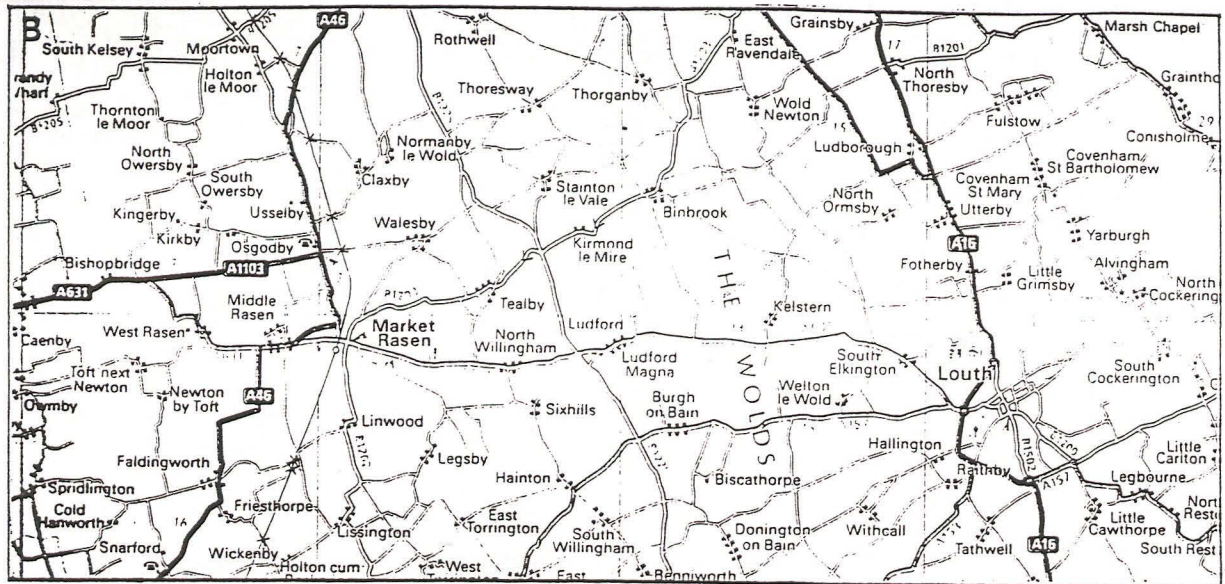


Fig. 1 Location of Market Rasen. Based on the 1956 O.S. 1:10560 map sheet TF18 NW, with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. AL10002165

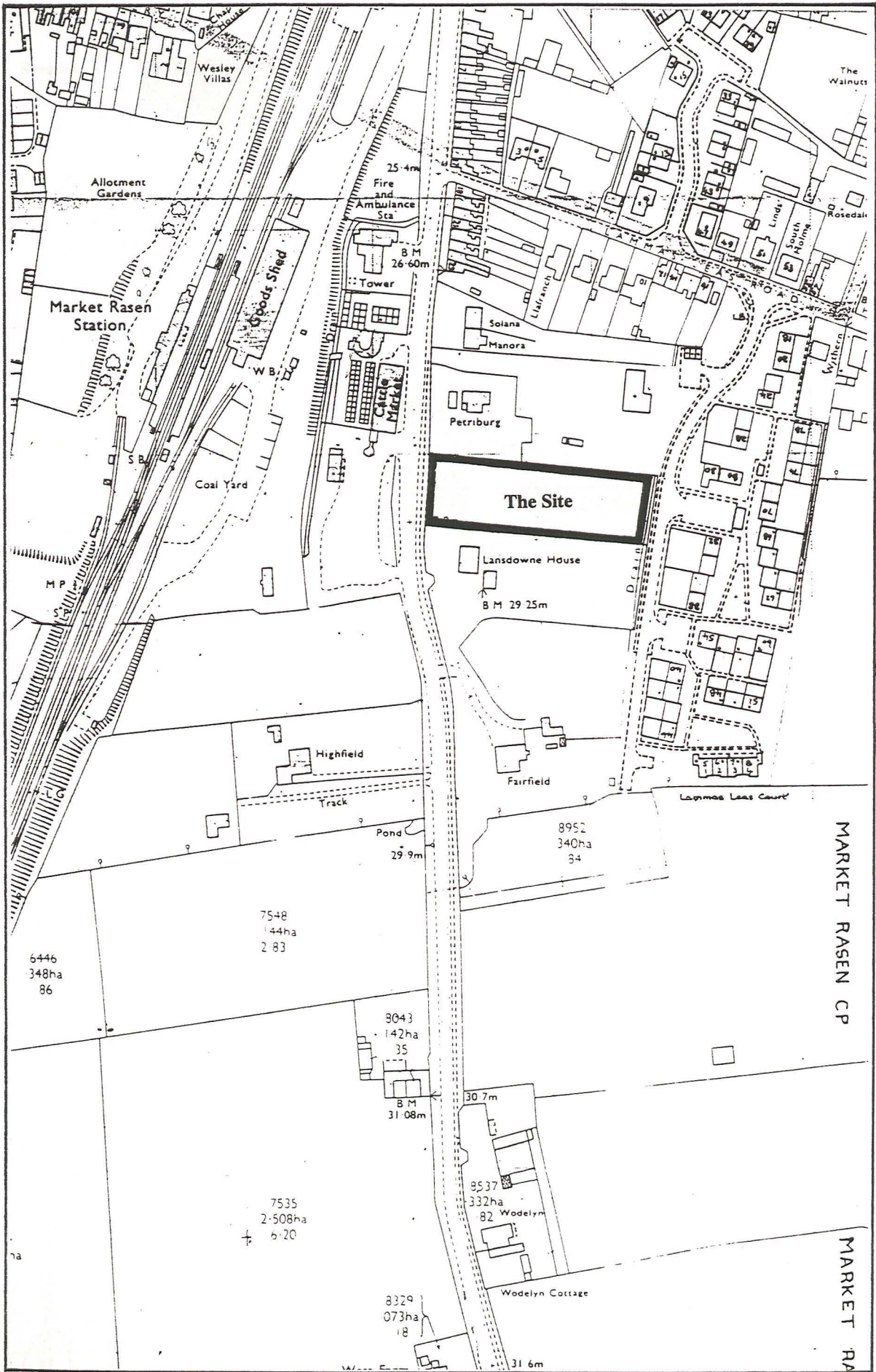


Fig. 2 Site location. Based on the O.S. 1:2500 map, with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS Licence No. AL10002165



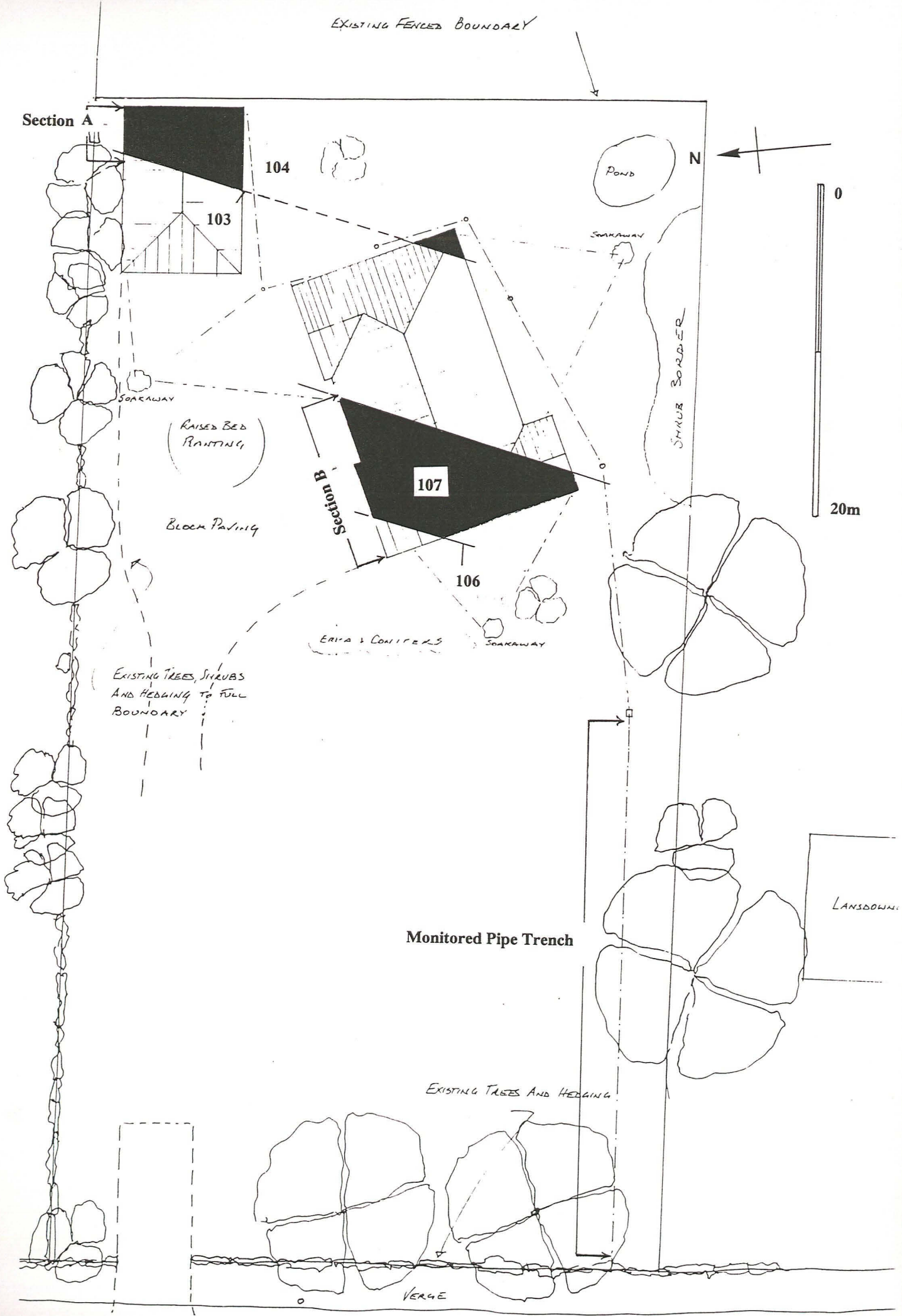


Fig. 3 Ground plan showing position of ditches. Based on plan prepared by R. P. Patchett, Planning and Design Services and supplied by the client. Scale 1:200

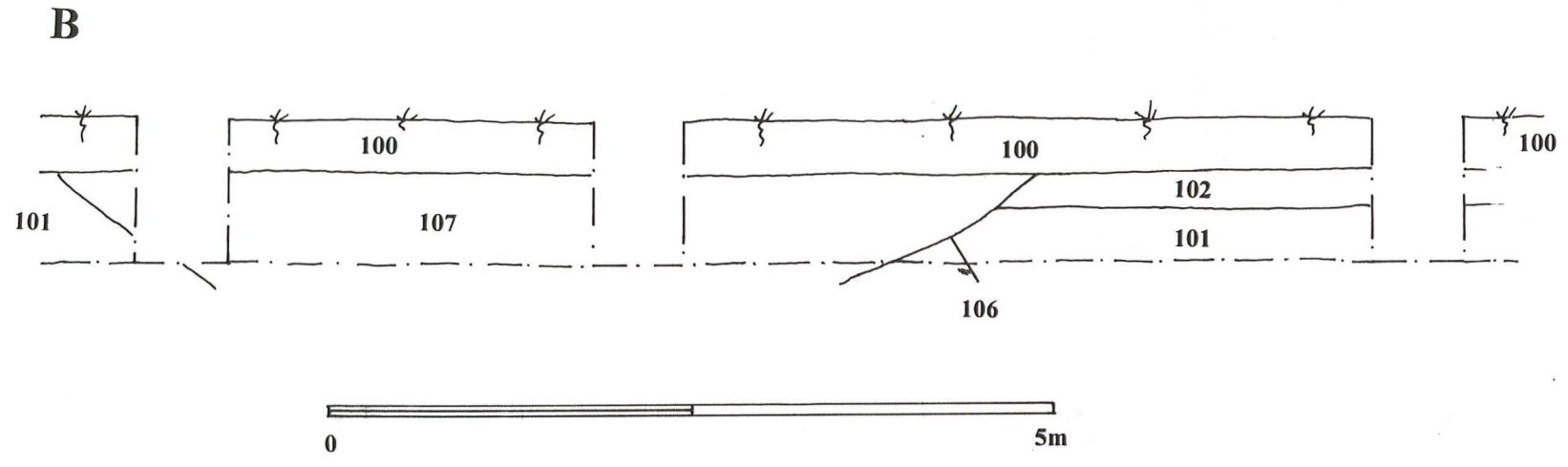
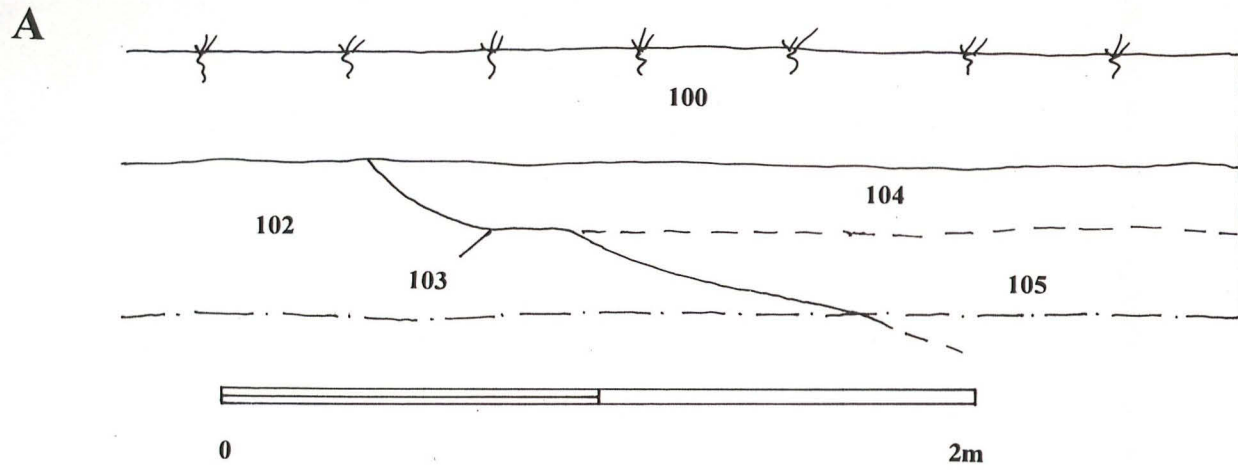


Fig. 4 a) Ditch section in north-east corner of garage plot. b) ditch section in north wall trench of house plot.

THE PLATES



**Pl. 1** General view looking east showing water pipe trench running along southern boundary of the site.

**Pl. 2** General view of the house plot at the east end of the site, looking east, garage plot to left, beneath JCB.





Pl. 3 North trench of the garage, looking east showing water in base of trench.

Pl. 4 Edge of ditch 103 in north-east corner of garage plot, looking north-east. Scales 1m and 0.50m.





**Pl. 5** Ditch fill in southern foundation trench of garage plot, looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.50m.

**Pl. 6** General view of house plot looking south-west showing depression in ground surface which contains 20<sup>th</sup> century drain but overlies Roman ditch.





Pl. 7 House plot foundation trenches, looking north-west.

Pl. 8 Edge of ditch 106 at north-west corner of house plot. Scales 1m and 0.50m.





**Pl. 9** View along north side of house plot showing ditch 106 crossing the foundation trench. Scales 1m and 0.50m.



**Pl. 10** View along west side of house plot showing ditch 106 crossing the foundation trench. Scales 1m and 0.50m.