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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land South of The Laurels,  
Main Road,  
Toynton all Saints  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 3942 6335  
Site Code: TOTL 02  
LCNCC Accession No.: 2002.259  
Planning Application BR/185/00378/0/FP**

*S/185/0221/02*

**Report for  
Mr G. Burbridge and Ms S. Bowman**

**By D. Young**

**LAS Report No. 613**

**January 2003**



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Fig. 1 General location of development site. Inset C based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, sheet TF 36 SE. © Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165,

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Fig 3 Position of the house within the building plot.

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Pl. 2 Excavated foundation trenches looking south.

Pl. 3 South facing section of the house north wall foundation trench.

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief carried out on land south of The Laurels, Main Street, Toynton All Saints during late June and early July 2002, found no evidence of pottery manufacture on the site.*

**Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of Mr G. Burbridge and Ms S. Bowman in accordance with the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (August 1998), and the planning conditions set out by East Lindsey District Council.

**The Site**

Toynton all Saints is situated c. 2km south of Spilsby at the south east tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds (Fig.1). The development site is located on the west side of Main Street (Pl.1), south of the school, at the southern end of the village and on land adjacent to 76, Main Street (Fig. 2).

**Planning Background**

Planning consent was granted, subject to archaeological recording, for the construction of a house with granny annexe, swimming pool and detached garage, with associated vehicular access and services, including a septic tank. It is set back c. 22m from the street frontage. The ground was previously agricultural.

**Archaeological Background**

Excavations in the late 1950s located a medieval pottery kiln and waster heap at the Roses site on the opposite side of the road. The output of this kiln, known as the Roses kiln, is easily identifiable and has been found in pottery assemblages all over Lincolnshire as well as Yorkshire and East Anglia. It has also been found as far afield as Scandinavia and Belgium. In the field to the south of the proposed development two more kilns were excavated in 1976, and evidence of wasters and another kiln was found on development plots on the west side of Main Street, immediately north of the Laurels. The potential for further evidence of the pottery industry being present on this site was considered to be high. Evidence for pottery production was also found during housing development immediately north of Laurels in 1999.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches at the above site. Archaeological features were to be excavated, and drawn where appropriate, depending upon safe access. views.

## **Method**

A watching brief took place during late June and early July of the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the house, garage and the swimming pool (Fig. 3; Pl.2). The excavation for the driveway, the drains and the septic tank were carried out without archaeological monitoring.

The site had been scraped prior to the watching brief beginning, removing most of the topsoil along with general scrub. The foundation trenches were machine-excavated on June 19, 20, 21 and July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002. Trench depths varied between 0.6m and 1.1m because of the falling away of the site of up to 0.7m towards the south and the west, with the depth of some trenches needing to be stepped down to comply with building regulations. Also, some parts of the site had a small amount of redeposited topsoil from other parts of the building plot. All trenches were machined in stratigraphical sequence as near as was possible, and all levels were checked before machining continued.

Finds located in archaeological features or horizons were identified accordingly with a context numbering system for archaeological remains in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full photographic record was made of the progress of the groundworks, with general site

## **Results**

All the observed trenches revealed the same sequence of deposits which comprised topsoil (100), subsoil (101), an orangey-brown compact clay natural, (102), and a grey compact clay natural, (103) (Fig. 4; Pl.3). The difference in the two natural clay layers occurred at the general level of the water table. The layers varied in depth across the site because of the natural fall of the land from the North East towards the South and the West.

A small amount of local pottery was collected from the topsoil and from the subsoil levels, but no evidence was found of either any features or of any possible structures on the site.

## **Discussion**

The land appeared to have been agricultural until very recently, and the normal ploughing and agricultural processes would account for the spreading of the pottery from the surrounding

pottery areas. Despite evidence for pottery production to the north, south and east of the site there was no evidence for such activity on the site.

**Acknowledgements**

LAS wish to thank Ms. S. Bowman and Mr. G. Burbridge for their help during the period of the excavations. Jane Young (medieval pottery), Drawings and photographs were prepared for publication by Mick McDaid and Mark Williams. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

D. Young  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 2003

**THE APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX 1

## Archive Report on the Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from Land Adjacent to the Laurels, Main Street, Toynton-All-Saints, Lincolnshire (TOTL02)

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

### Introduction

A total of forty sherds of pottery representing thirty-eight vessels was recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the medieval to the post-medieval period. The pottery was examined under a x20 binocular microscope then recorded on an Access database using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

### Condition

The pottery is in poor condition with almost all the sherds being very abraded. Eight vessels are mis-fired wasters and the general appearance of the rest of the material suggests that it too, is discarded waste material.

### Overall Chronology and Source

Only two identifiable pottery ware types were found on the site, both of which are Toynton products. The type and general date range for these fabrics together is shown in Table 1.

codename	full name	earliest	latest	Sherds
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke	1450	1750	16
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1250	1450	24

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd or fragment count

The majority of identifiable vessel types were jugs although bowls, jars and a possible saggur were also found. Only one of these vessels (a decorated jug from context 101) could be paralleled by material recovered from Kiln 1 (the 'Roses Kiln'), thought to date to between the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. None of the remaining vessels had distinctive attributes that enable them to be placed within a tighter date span than that given to the general ware type. Twenty-three other sherds (TOY) are of medieval type and include baluster jug bases similar to wasters found in Field 135 in the village. A slightly smaller number (sixteen sherds) of post-medieval vessels (TB) was recovered; none of these need date later than the 16<sup>th</sup>



century. The Toynton-type wares have been subdivided into lettered fabric groupings, in an attempt to understand the complexities of attributing a source to and dating featureless body sherds. Twenty eight vessels are in Fabric B, seven in Fabric G and the remaining two vessels in fabrics A/C, and D.

### **Recommendations**

The pottery recovered probably represents material from different production groups deposited on the site, possibly as part of localised levelling. All of the pottery is badly damaged due to the action of ploughing.

All of the material should be retained and should be studied further as part of any future general work on Toynton ware pottery.

**APPENDIX 2**

**Land South of The Laurels, Main Road, Toynton all Saints (TOTL02 )**

**Context List**

Context No	Context Type	Description
100	Topsoil .2m deep	Dark grey / brown very solid clay.
101	Subsoil .3m deep	Mid-brown mixed clay, firm
102	Natural .2m - .4m deep	Orange-brown clay, some sand.
103	Natural	Grey-brown clay

**THE FIGURES**

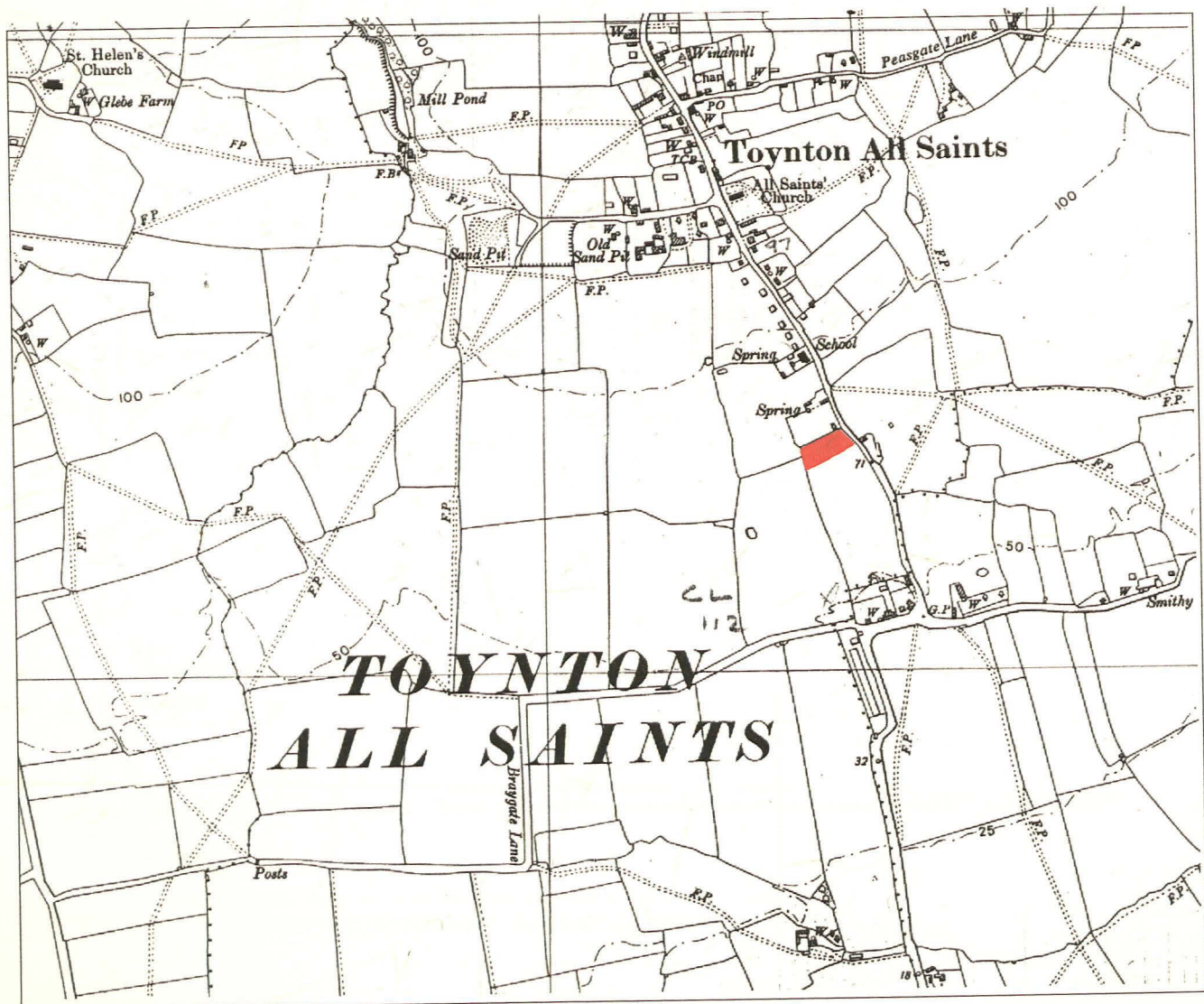
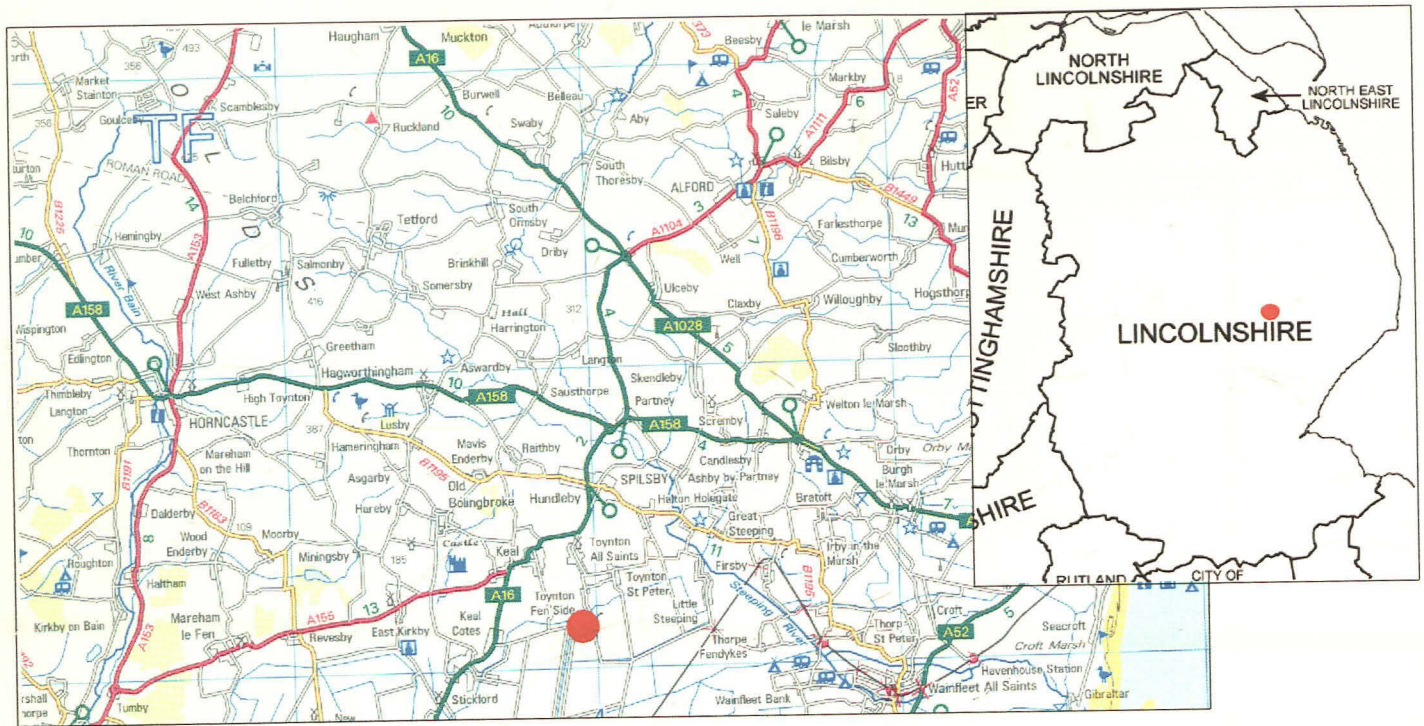


Fig 1. Toynton all Saints, The Laurels, site location. Inset C based on the 1956 OS 1:10,560 map, sheet TF 36SE. © Crown copyright reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence no. AL 10002165.

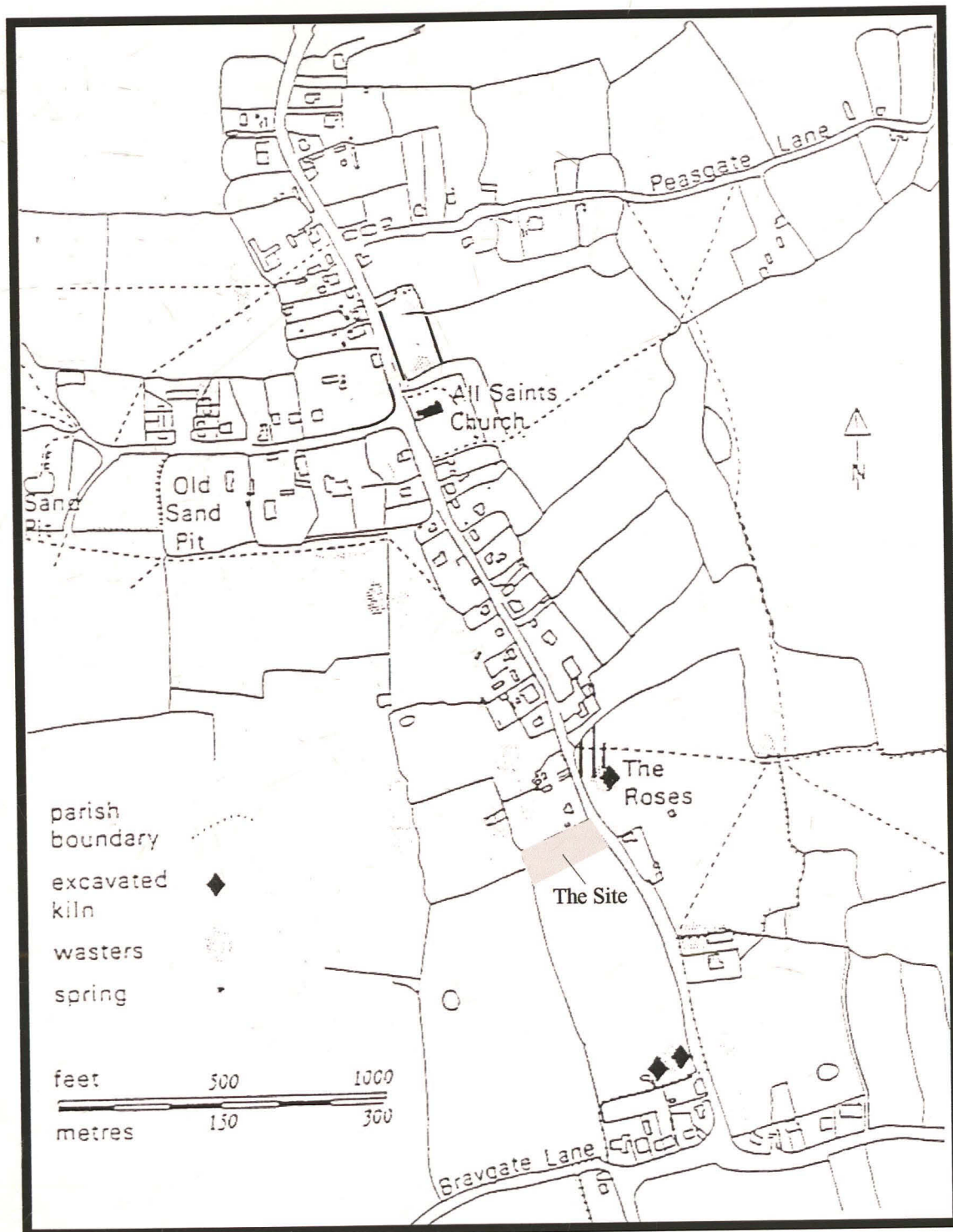


Fig. 2. Location of the development site within Toynton All Saints, also showing the position of the kilns within the village.

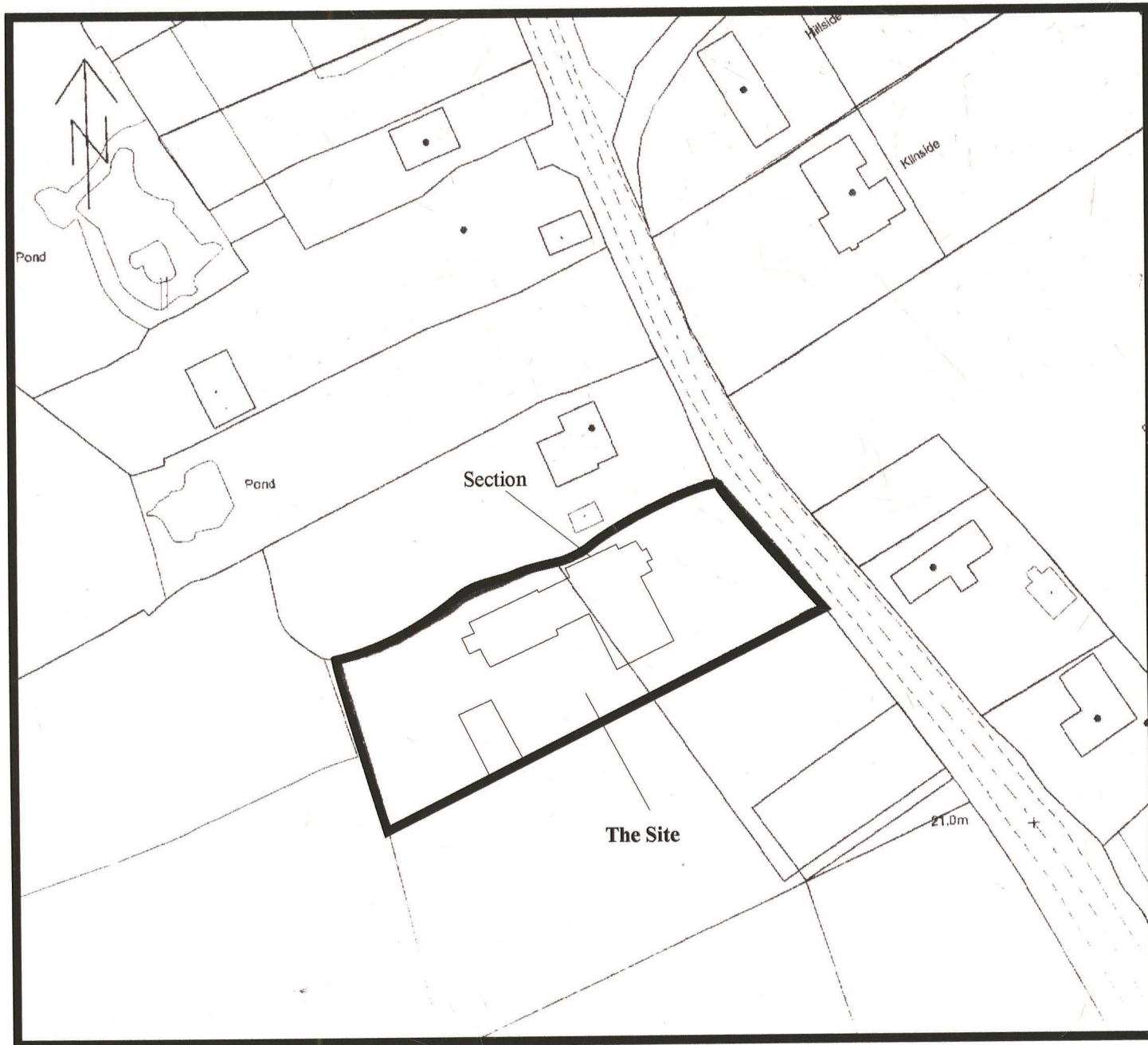


Fig. 3. Position of the house within the building plot.

W

E

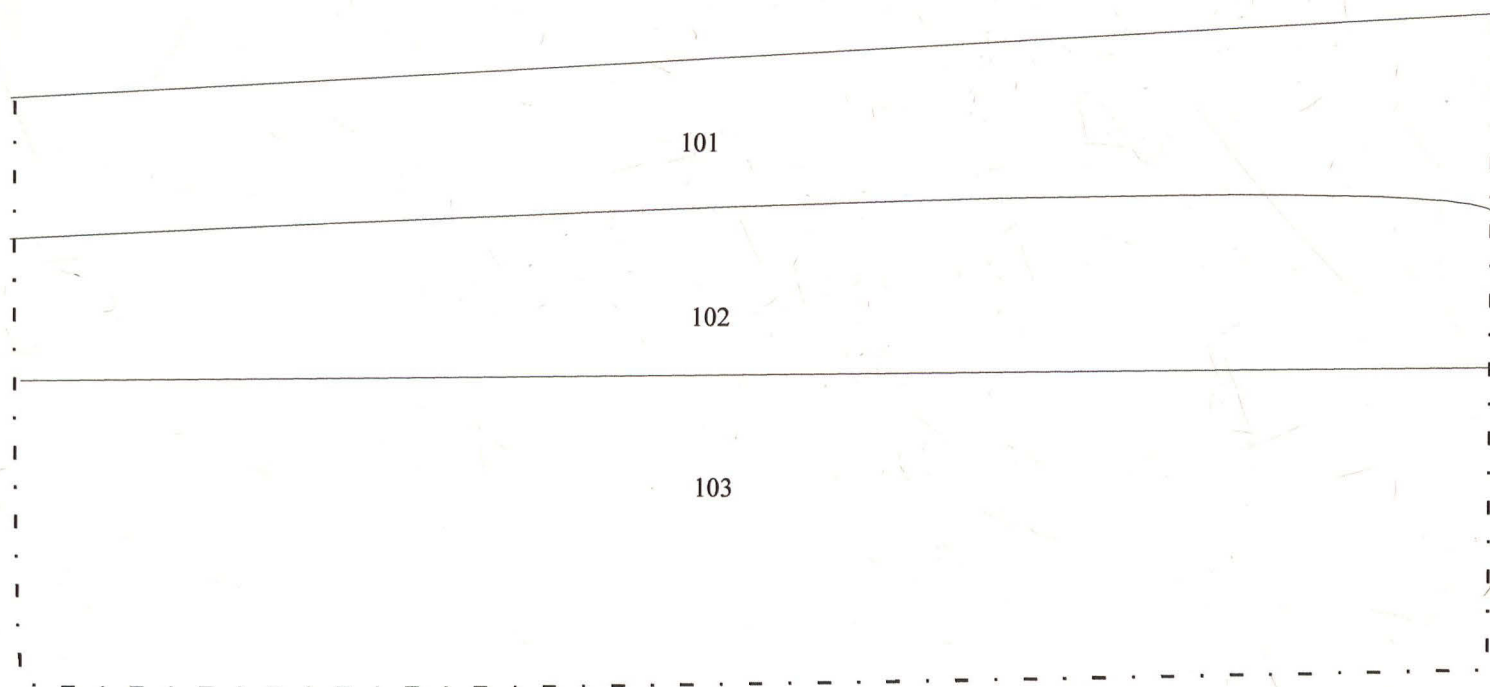


Fig. 4. Typical stratigraphy within the foundation trenches.

**THE PLATES**

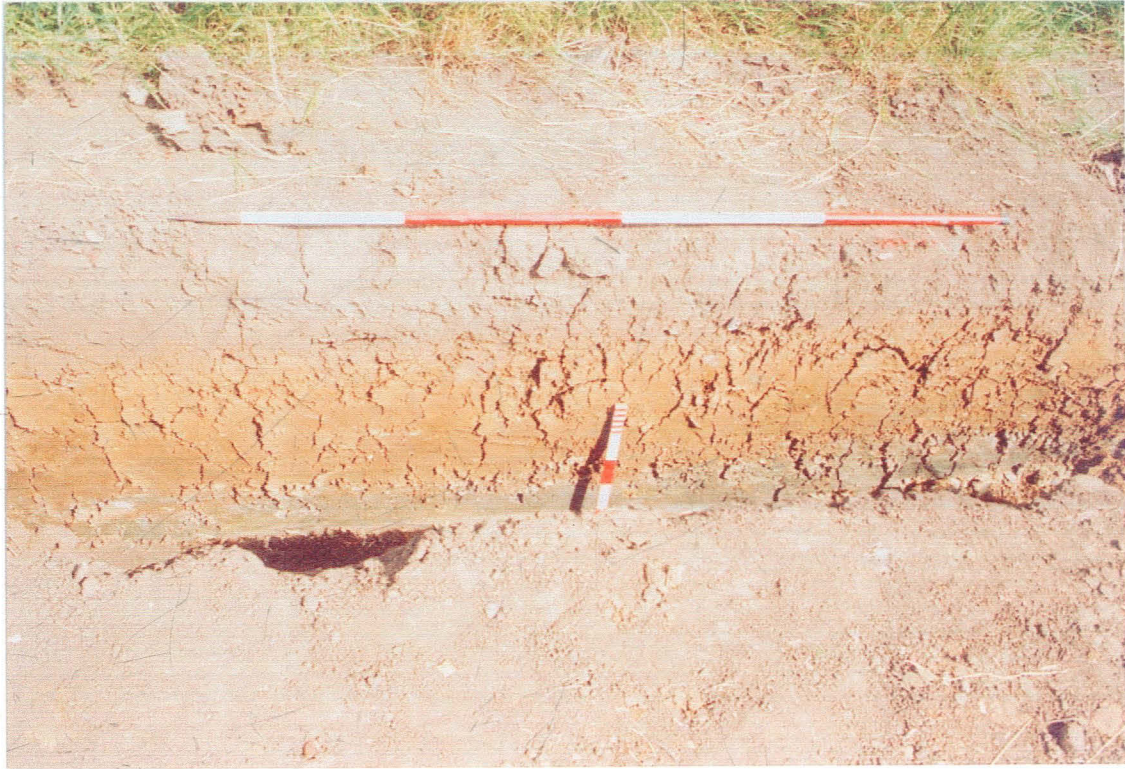




Pl. 1. General view of the site looking west.



Pl. 2. Excavated foundation trenches, looking south.



Pl. 3. South facing section of the house north wall foundation trench.