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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plot 1, Church Lane, Huttoft, Lincs.

NGR: TF 5100 7641

Site Code: HCLB 02

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.465

WLDC Planning Application No.: M01/P/1112

072 N/089/1574/01

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for Mr A. Thorndyke

by G. Tann

Conservation Services
02 JUN 2003
Highways & Planning Directorate

LAS Report No. 658

May 2003

25 WEST PARADE LINCOLN LN1 1NW

L17121
L19091

EVENT L14215
SOURCES L18734
L18375

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- Pl. 2** Calcined bone and fired clay in post-hole **8** (looking east, scale divisions 0.1m).

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new house identified small areas of disturbance. Two features may have been medieval, but most were probably of twentieth century date; a single medieval/post-medieval pot sherd was found, in addition to undiagnostic daub fragments. Backfilled post-medieval ditches were observed at the southern and western edges of the plot.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in October 2002 by Mr A. Thorndyke to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a self-build residential development at Huttoft, Lincs. (Figs. 1 and 2). The watching brief was required by East Lindsey District Council to fulfil a condition on the planning permission.

Groundworks for the house plot were monitored by Geoff Tann on 28th October 2002. A further visit was made on 4th May 2003 when drain trenches were being excavated.

The Development Site

Huttoft lies 6km east of Alford in the Lincolnshire Marsh, 3.5km west of the present coastline. The development site, at about 7.5m OD, fronts onto Church Lane to the west of Huttoft, 120m from the church. There has been recent development of a former crewyard to the north of the site, and there are bungalows to the south and SE. The development forms part of a self-build estate extending from Church Lane to close to St Margaret's Church.

Planning Details

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

Archaeological Background

The village of Huttoft is located at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Marsh. Huttoft is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086 and is a settlement which originated in the Saxon period or earlier. The placename indicates a toft (Old Danish for the site of a house and its outbuildings) on a spur of land (Cameron 1998). The church and the adjacent land immediately to the west, upslope from this development plot, are in an elevated position overlooking the surrounding landscape. It is very likely that the core of the early settlement is likely to have been located somewhere on that high spot.

The Enclosure Award map of 1779 (LAO Lindsey Award 43) shows that the area around the Church comprised old enclosures, with a single building in the SE corner. The stables, barn and the stackyard, known as Church Farm, were demolished between 1989 and 1993.

An archaeological evaluation of the development area was conducted by LAS in 1995 (Field and McDaid 1995). This identified early Saxon pottery and a late Saxon ditch, indicative of early occupation. Where early features survived, they were very shallow. No trenches were excavated within the area of Plot 1.

The Watching Brief

Excavation of the house foundation trenches was by JCB with a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket. The drain trenches were excavated with a mini-digger. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used, in bold, in the text (Appendix 1).

The House Plot (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Turf had been stripped from the area of the new house but most of the topsoil layer **1** remained. This layer varied in thickness up to about 0.5m thick. In the SE corner of the house foundations, the northern edge of a west-east aligned ditch **6**, backfilled with topsoil, was visible. This 0.7m wide and 0.6m deep ditch appeared to represent a former field boundary, virtually coinciding with the southern edge of the building plot. There was no visible distinction between the topsoil and its fill, and this feature may have been levelled when the previous use of the site ended.

A second backfilled ditch **14** was seen along the site frontage. Several former hedgerow trees had been removed from the eastern edge of this feature, and the ditch was interpreted as a roadside ditch. Removal of the trees, and their root systems, had considerably disturbed this area.

At the NE corner of the Breakfast Room was a 2m diameter pit **5**, 0.8m deep, filled with burnt material and plastic containers, from development of an adjacent property. Other localised irregularities in the topsoil depth, as at **7**, may also have been caused by twentieth century features. Iron slag was seen in the topsoil SW of the Kitchen.

Two earlier features were seen. A 0.4m wide, 0.15m deep, possible post- or stake-hole **8**, NW of the Study, contained calcined bone, whitened and crazed by sustained intense heat (Pl. 2). Burnt soil, charcoal fragments and a small scrap of fired clay were found with the bone. Topsoil had become mixed with most of the fill **5** of this feature (Fig. 4a; Appendix 2).

A thin spread of dissimilar red fired clay **10**, perhaps daub from a building, was found below the topsoil at the NW corner of the Hall. The 0.06m thick layer or fill extended across about 1m of the trench face, and was associated with a base sherd of thirteenth-sixteenth century pot (Fig. 4b).

The topsoil layer **1** covered a compacted pale cream-coloured sandy clay layer **2**, 0.15m thick. This contained no archaeological material, and may have been a weathered version of the underlying orange sandy clay deposit **3**. Close to the trench base, about 1m below ground level, the sand content was highest. Red/brown chalky boulder-clay **4** was exposed at the trench base at the front of the house site, where the ground sloped down to Church Lane. This indicated that the sandy material was probably of glacial origin.

The Garage Plot

After archaeological monitoring of the house site, Dr Beryl Lott agreed that no watching brief would be necessary when foundations for the garage were excavated.

Drainage Trenches

These trenches, alongside the southern wall of the house, were too shallow to reveal archaeological features beside the new house, although much of the material below the topsoil had been disturbed. Part of a backfilled roadside ditch was seen to the west of the house, but its backfill appeared to be recent. No artefacts were seen during these groundworks.

Conclusion

The slight traces of medieval activity on this house plot were too ephemeral to indicate past occupation, despite previous excavation of Saxon and later features further up the slope to the east.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Andy Thorndyke and his team from Focus Signs. The pottery was identified by Jane Young, and the animal bones were examined by Richard Moore and Wendy Booth. Illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Bentley and Karen Dennis, and the report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
28th May 2003

References

- Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*.
Field, N. and McDaid, M. 1995 *Alford Road, Huttoft: Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS Report No. 135, July 1995.

Archive Summary

Correspondence
Developer's plans and annotated copies
Field plans and section drawings
Archaeological finds: pottery, animal bone
Specialists' archive lists: pottery and animal bone
Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 02/119/33-37; 02/121/00-7

APPENDIX 1

Plot 1, Church Lane, Huttoft (HCLB 02)
Context Summary

Context	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
1	layer	above 2	dark brown clay loam topsoil	
2	layer	cut by 5, 6 and 7	pale yellow sandy clay	
3	layer	below 12, above 4	orange sandy clay, ?weathered natural	
4	layer/natural	below 3	red/brown clay, natural boulder-clay	
5	fill	fill of 8, below 1	very dark brown loam with calcined bone, fired clay and charcoal flecks	10 fragments animal bone, 3 fragments fired clay/daub
6	cut	filled by 1	northern edge of west-east boundary ditch	
7	?cut	cuts 2	small area of deeper topsoil	
8	cut	cuts 12, filled by 5	post-hole or small pit	
9	cut	cuts 2, below 1	modern pit 0.8m deep	
10	fill	fill of 11, below 1	fired clay	1 sherd medieval pot, 11 frags fired clay
11	cut	filled by 10, above 2		
12	layer	cut by 8, above 3	yellow clay, probably a weathered form of 3	
13	fill	below 3, above 4	brown clay	
14	cut	filled by 15	roadside ditch	
15	fill	fill of 14	very dark brown loam with modern debris	

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive HCLB02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
10	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine sandy;hard	jar	1	26	base	rough base;sooting from charcoal ?;fabric incl fine quartz & modlarge fe inclusions	13th to 16th

Ceramic Building Material Archive HCLB02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

<u>context</u>	<u>cname</u>	<u>frags</u>	<u>weight</u>	<u>description</u>
05	FIRED CLAY	1	2	very soft silty fabric almost inclusionless
05	FIRED CLAY	2	22	possibly handmade brick or duab;soft fabric with occ quartz mod rounded chalk/limestone & occ shell
10	FIRED CLAY	11	82	possibly handmade brick or duab;soft fabric with occ quartz mod rounded chalk/limestone & occ shell

THE FIGURES

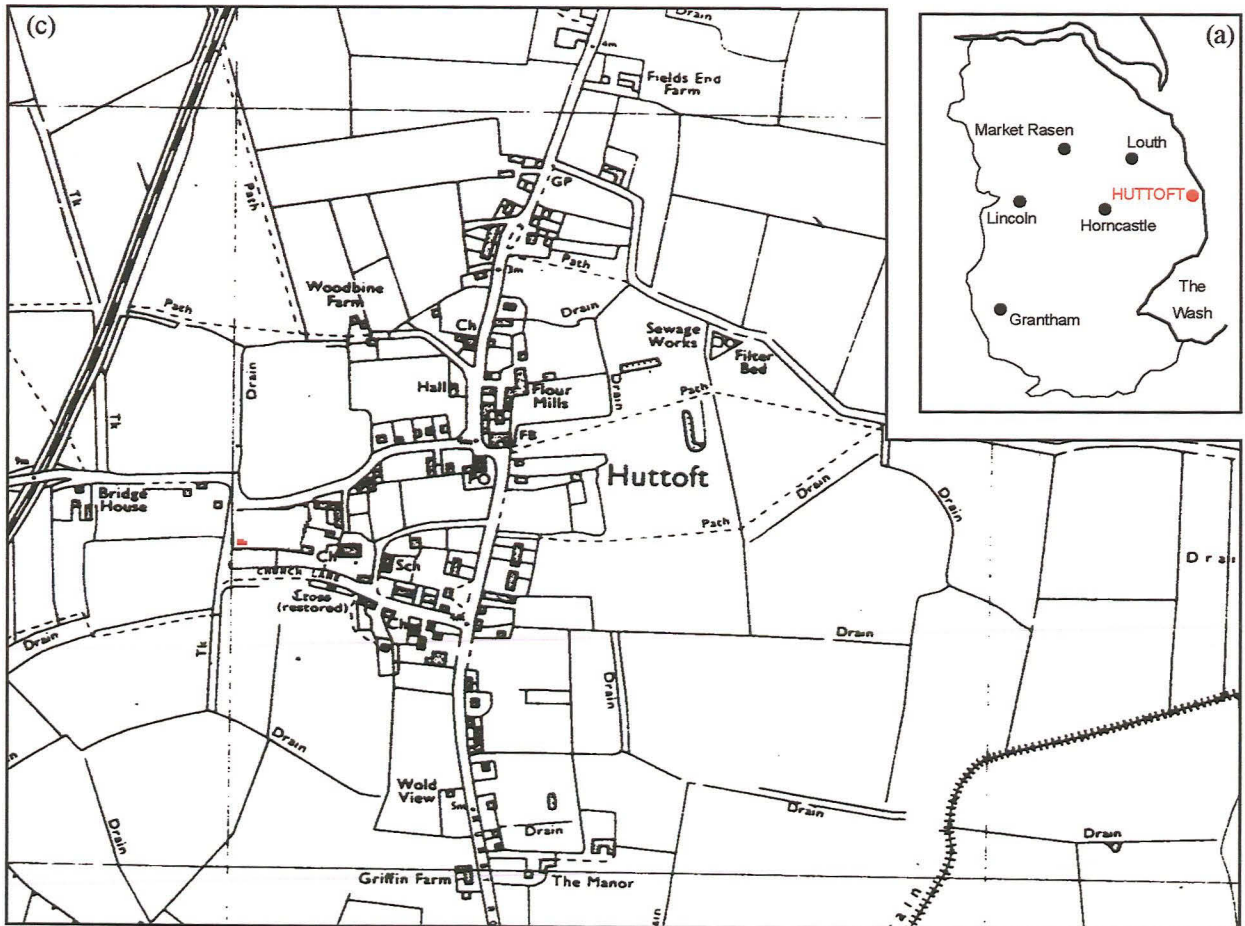


Fig. 1 Location of Huttoft (c based on the 1992 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF 57 NW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

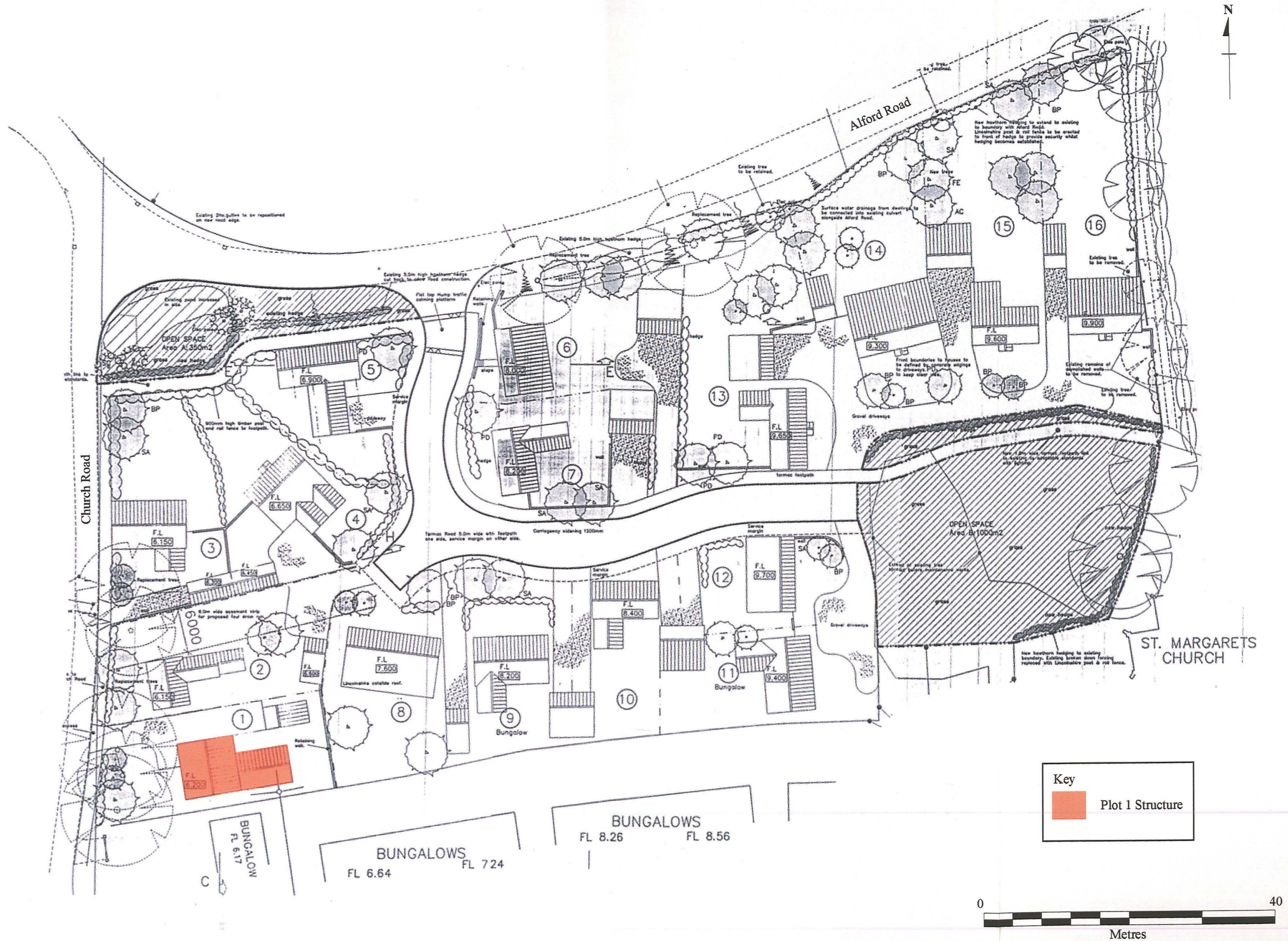


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored development (based on a plan supplied by the client, dwg. no. 755/07B, reproduced at a reduced scale).

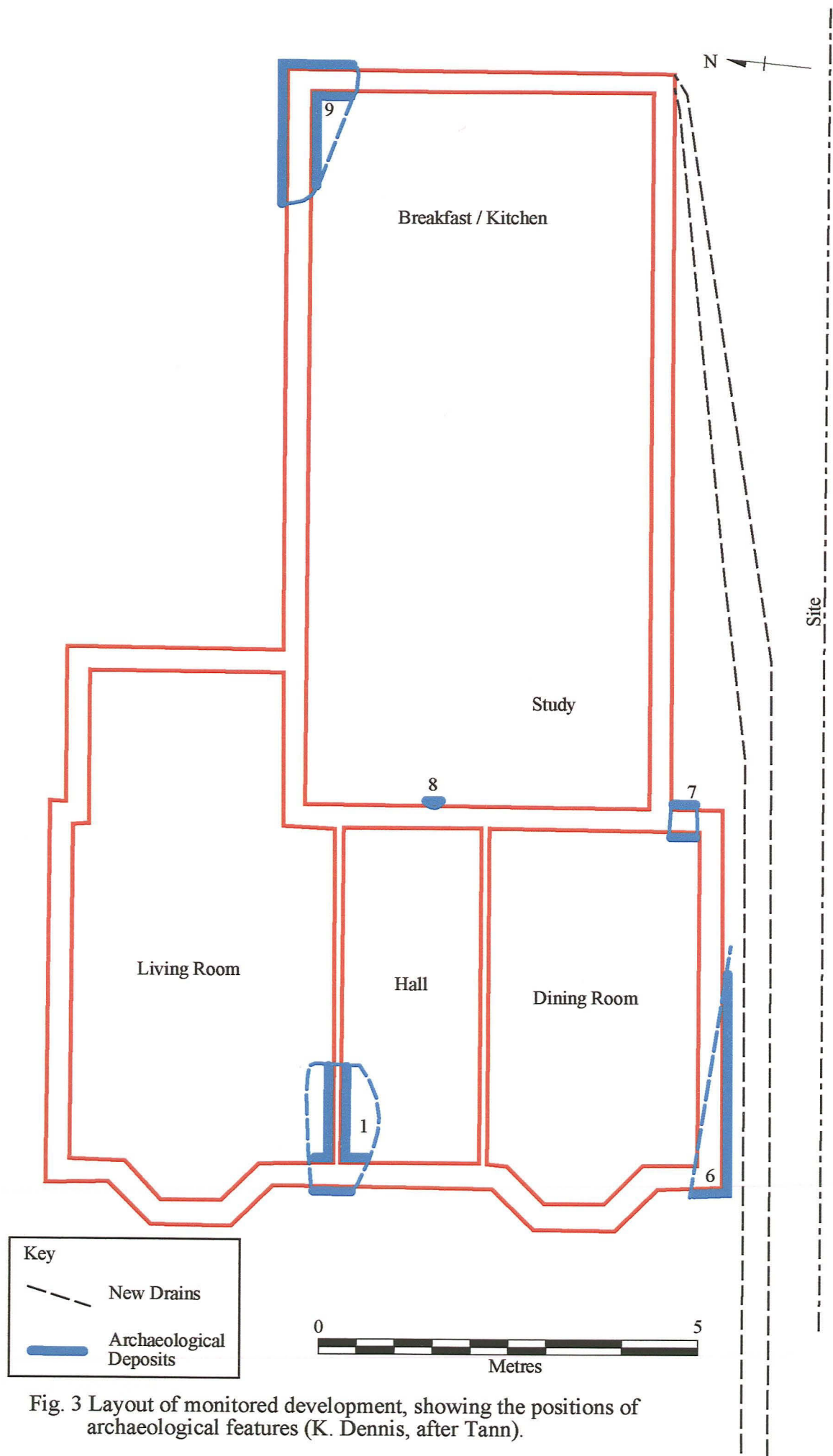


Fig. 3 Layout of monitored development, showing the positions of archaeological features (K. Dennis, after Tann).

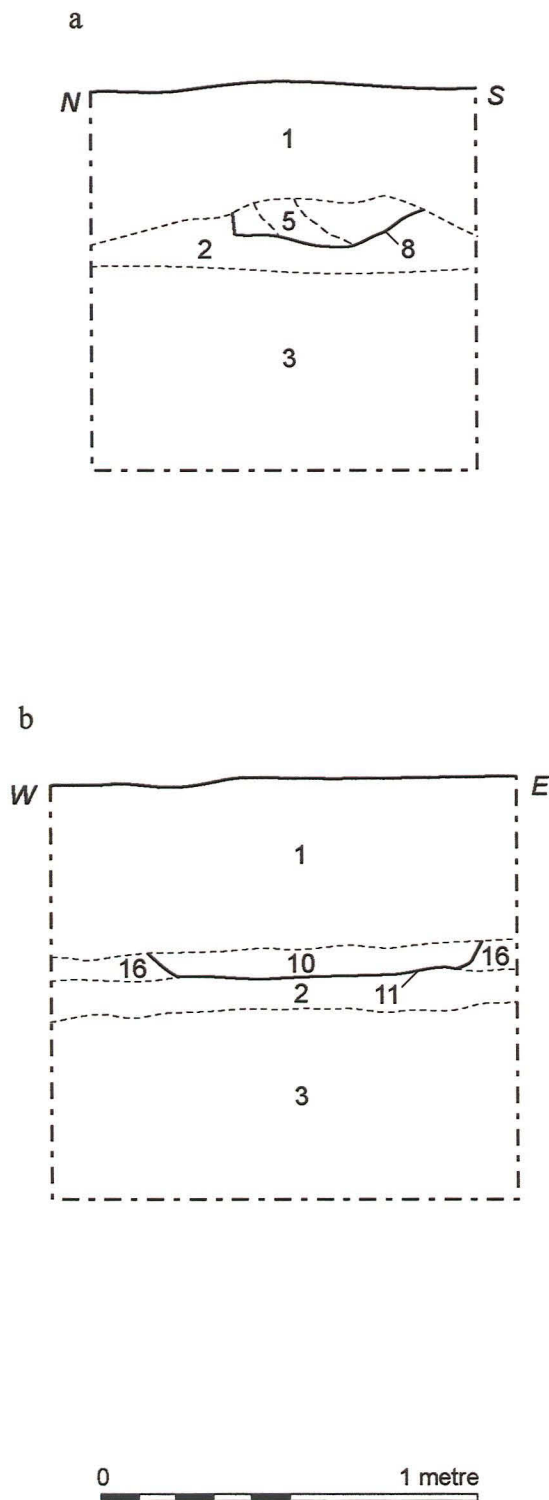


Fig. 4 Sections across selected archaeological features: a) post-hole 8; b) fired clay deposit 10.
(C Bentley, after Tann)

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Position of the new house, Plot 1 (looking east towards St Margaret's Church).



Pl. 2 Calcinated bone and fired clay in post-hole 8 (looking east, scale divisions 0.1m).