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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Plot 4, Alford Rd, Huttoft, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

*NGR: TF 5108 7644*

*Site Code: HUAR 03*

*LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2003.90*

*WLDC Planning Application No.: N/089/02089/02*

**Report for**

**Mr Graves**

**by**

**D. Britchfield & N. Field**

Conservation  
Services  
  
22 JUL 2003  
  
Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 669**

**July 2003**

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## The Figures

**Fig. 1** Location of Huttoft (c based on the 1992 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF 57NW. © 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 reduced scale).

**Fig. 3** Trench layout of house plot 4 showing position of recorded remains. (K. Dennis, after Field).

## The Plates

**Pl. 1** Site preparation, view looking north east.

**Pl. 2** Excavation of the northern third of the site illustrating the extent of the rubble infill (facing north-east). Scales 2m and 0.5m.

**Pl. 3** Section through rubble fill (102) at north end of site, along the north-east rear wall. Scales 2m and 0.5m.

**Pl. 4** View of the eastern half of the excavated foundation footprint of Plot 4 (facing north-east). Scale 2m.

**Pl. 5** Common sequence of deposits along the rear eastern wall trench of Plot 4 (facing east). Scale 2m

**Pl. 6** Spread of burnt natural disappearing beneath the southern baulk edge. Scales 2m and 0.5m

# Plot 4, Alford Rd, Huttoft, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches and associated services at the above site. A common stratigraphy was recognised, comprising topsoil overlying a subsoil and natural sandy clay. Modern truncation of the topsoil had occurred within the northern third of the site, cutting the natural to a depth greater than 1.0m below the existing ground level. A spread of undated burnt natural was present within the southern area of the foundation footprint, providing the possibility of a burnt pit or bonfire beneath the southern baulk edge.*

## **Introduction**

In April 2003, Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr Graves 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 following an application for planning permission (Planning Application No. N/089/02089/02)

Groundworks for the house plot were monitored by Naomi Field on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2003.

## **Site Location**

Huttoft is located at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Marsh, some 3km from the coast, approximately 6km east of Alford. The development site consists of an area approximately 1ha in size, which has been divided into 16 individual plots. Each plot is subject to a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring.

Located just north-west of the village church at approximately 7.5m AOD, the site has been the subject of modern disturbance associated with former farm buildings and general landscaping. There has been recent development of a former crewyard to the north of the site, and there are bungalows to the south and SE.

## **Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted by East Lindsey District Council for construction of a single dwelling 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 east, 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. Subsequent watching briefs recorded ephemeral traces of medieval activity, within the south-west of the development site (Plot 1, Tann 2003), along with 19th century truncation of natural deposits further to the east (Plot 13, Britchfield & Tann 2003)

### **The Watching Brief**

Excavation of the house foundation trenches was by JCB with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket, to a depth of approximately 1.0m. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used, in bold, in the text (Appendix 1). Service trenches were excavated using a 360° mini-digger.

### **The House Plot (Fig. 3)**

Ground preparation prior to excavation of the foundation trenches was required in order to create a level platform for the house (Pl. 1). Up to 0.30m was removed from the south end of the site using a toothed bucket (the ground was too hard to use a flat blade). Modern pottery and very fragmentary animal bone was seen during this phase of work. The bone was not retained.

A spread of modern demolition rubble (**102**), probably associated with the former farm building, filled a depression within the northern third of the site, overlying, and partially truncating, the topsoil (Pls 2 and 3). A common stratigraphy was recognised across the plot, consisting of mid-dark brown silty clay topsoil (**100**), with occasional inclusions of grit, to a depth of 0.3m below the existing ground surface. Situated beneath, the subsoil (**101**) comprised light brown silty clay, hard and dry in consistency with iron pan mottling, overlying the natural mid red/brown sandy clay (**103**) (Pls 4 and 5). The depth of the subsoil (**101**) within the eastern half of the trench was such that the natural was only visible within the western half of the foundation footprint. No glacial drift sand, as recorded in Plot 1 (Tann 2003), was present.

Situated within the southern end of the foundation, adjacent and within the proposed chimney stack, a spread of burnt natural and charcoal (Pl. 6) presented the possibility of a pit or bonfire (**104**). This deposit was sealed by the overlying subsoil (**101**), appearing to continue beyond the foundation to the north. No finds were associated with this deposit.

### **Drainage Trenches**

These trenches, alongside the northern 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. No artefacts were seen during these groundworks.

### **Conclusion**

The archaeological monitoring carried out during the development of Plot 4 revealed a common stratigraphy comprising topsoil overlying a subsoil and natural sandy clay. Modern truncation of the topsoil had occurred within the northern third of the site, cutting the natural to a depth greater than 1.0m below the existing ground level. A spread of undated burnt natural was present within the northern area of the foundation footprint, providing the possibility of a burnt pit or bonfire beneath the southern baulk edge.

Despite the levels of truncation, the preservation of archaeological horizons was of a relatively good standard. The lack of any secure features or finds, however, would suggest that the focus of medieval activity within the area was concentrated further to the east, on the higher ground within the medieval core of the village. That is not to say that peripheral areas of occupation do not exist, a point reinforced by the presence of the burnt natural.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful to Mr Graves, for commissioning and funding the project and to Nick Burton and the team for on-site co-operation and assistance. Illustrations were prepared by Karen Dennis, and the report was edited by Naomi Field.

David Britchfield  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
July 2003

### **References**

- Britchfield, D. and Tann, G. 2003 *Plot 13, Alford Rd, Huttoft, Lincs: Archaeological Watching Brief*. LAS Report No. 670
- 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.
- Tann, G. 2003 *Plot 1, Church Lane, Huttoft, Lincs: Archaeological Watching Brief*. LAS Report No. 658.

**Archive Summary**

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field plans and section drawings

Archaeological finds: pottery

Specialists' archive lists: pottery

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 03/48/21-27; 03/54/5-7

**APPENDIX 1**



## APPENDIX 1

### Plot 4, Alford Rd, Huttoft (HUAR 03)

#### Context Summary

Context	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
100	Layer	Above (101), below (102)	Topsoil. Mid -dark brown silty clay.	4 sherds pottery
101	Layer	Below (100) & (102)	Subsoil. Light brown silty clay, hard and dry in consistency, with iron pan mottling	
102	Layer	Above (100), below (101)	Redeposited modern demolition material	
103	Layer	Below (104) & (101)	Natural mid red/brown sandy clay	
104	Layer	Above (103), below (101)	Spread of burnt natural, containing frequent inclusions of charcoal.	

**APPENDIX 2**

# Pottery Archive HUAR03

*Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
100	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		jar	2	1	27	base		18th to 19th
100	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	Fabric G	jug	2	1	23	BS	abraded	15th to 16th

**THE FIGURES**

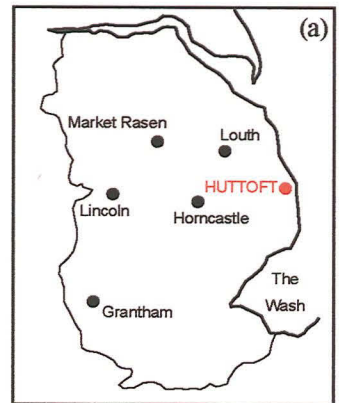
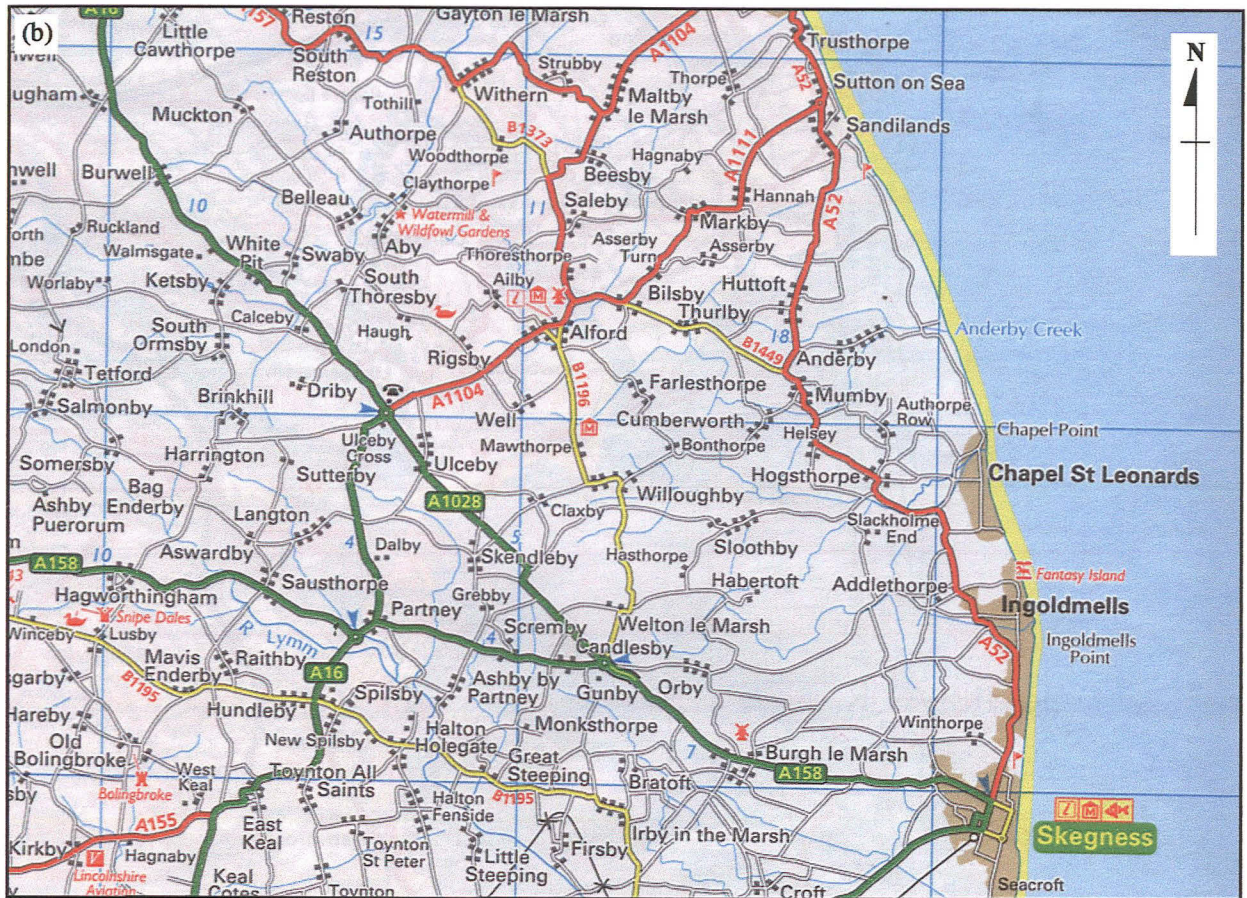


Fig. 1 Location of Huttoft (c based on the 1921 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF 57 NW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

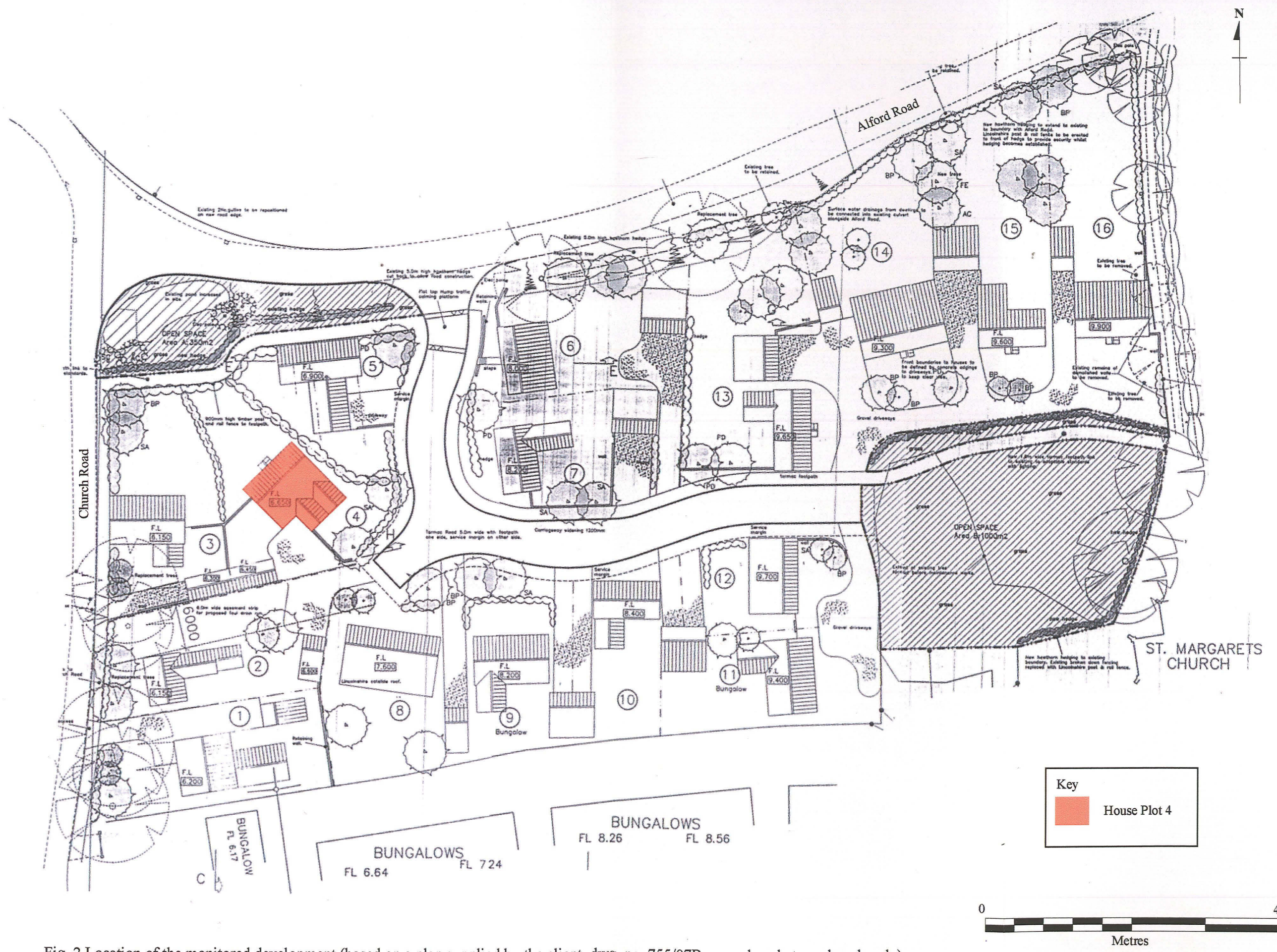


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored development (based on a plan supplied by the client, dwg. no. 755/07B, reproduced at a reduced scale).

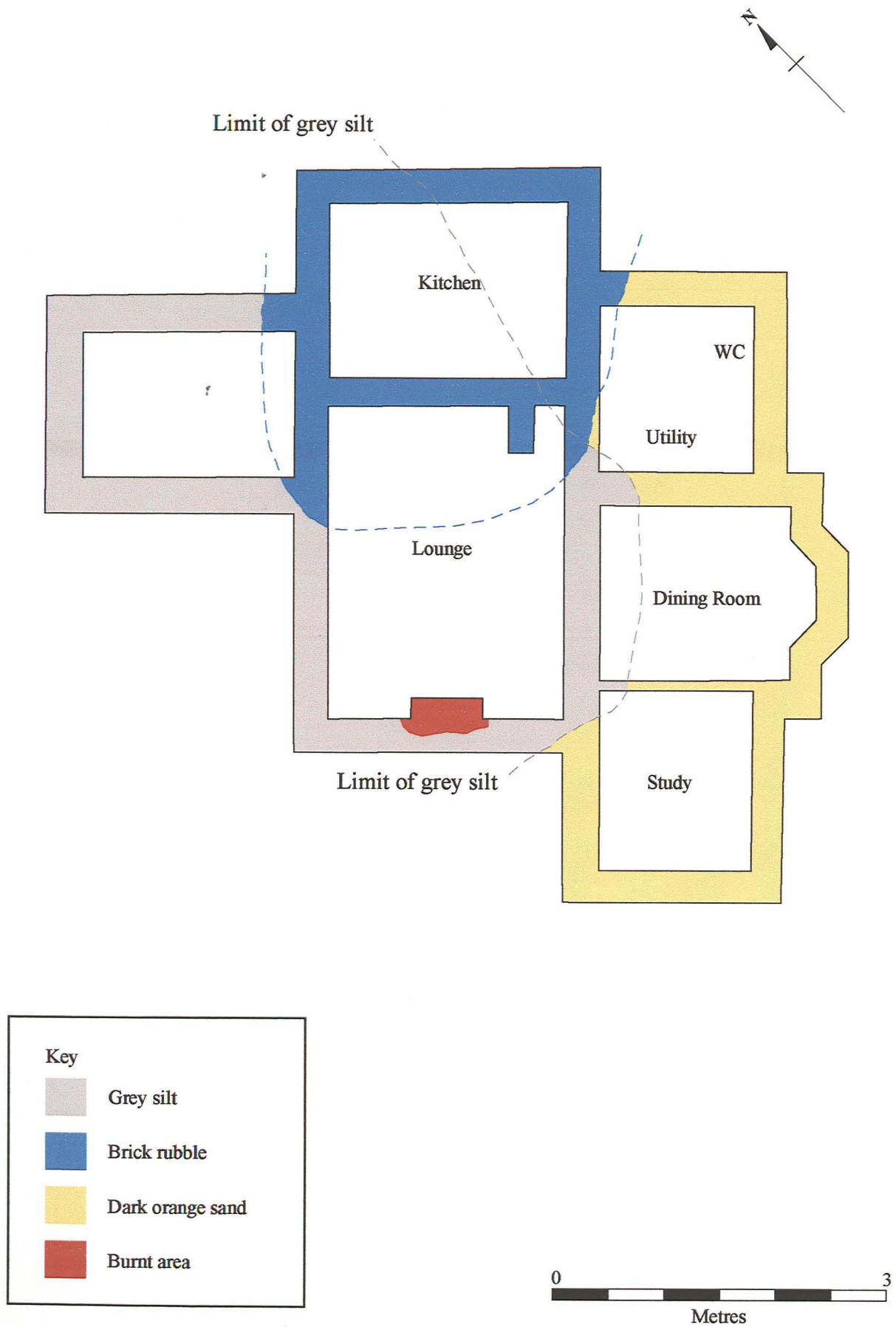


Fig. 3 Huttoft, Plot 4. Plan of foundation trenches showing the position of the archaeological features

**THE PLATES**





Pl. 1 Site preparation, view looking north-east.



Pl. 2 Excavation of the northern third of the site illustrating the extent of the rubble infill (facing north-east). Scales 2m and 0.5m.



Pl. 3 Section through rubble fill (102) at north end of site, along the north-east rear wall. Scales 2m and 0.5m.



Pl. 4 View of the eastern half of the excavated foundation footprint of Plot 4 (facing north-east). Scale 2m.



Pl. 5 Common sequence of deposits along the rear eastern wall trench of Plot 4 (facing east). Scale 2m.



Pl. 6 Spread of burnt natural disappearing beneath the southern baulk edge. Scales 2m and 0.5m.