



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plot 2 Station Rd

Leake Commonside, Old Leake, Lincs.

Archaeological Watching Brief

TF3970 5262

NGR: TF 3960 5260

Planning Application Nos. B/02/0586/FULL

Site Code: OLST03

Accession No.: 2003.25

Report

for

J & J Hadwick (Building Contractors)

by

D. Britchfield

Conservation
Services

23 JUL 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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**Plots 1 and 2 Station Rd,
Leake Commonside, Old Leake, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: TF 3960 5260
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Summary

In January 2003 Lindsey Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a detached house with integral garage located on land adjacent to The Beeches, Station Road, Old Leake Commonside, Boston. Excavations revealed recently truncated natural deposits of laminated silts. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by J & J Hadwick (Building Contractors) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground penetrating works associated with the construction of two detached residential properties. Planning permission was granted by the Boston Community Archaeologist of Heritage Lincolnshire, subject to a condition that required archaeological monitoring during all phases of ground disturbance.

Site Location and Description

Leake Commonside is situated in the in the East Fen between the A16 and the A52 12km north-east of Boston. It lies some 2.5km north-west the settlement at Old Leake, in the same parish. The development site is a rectangular block of land situated on the northern side of Station Road at its junction with Church Lane (Figs. 1 and 2). The site was formerly a crewyard which was demolished and cleared in c.1976. Since then the plot has remained open ground.

Archaeological Background

The area around Old Leake was at the centre of the medieval salt industry and at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 it is recorded that Leake had 41 saltpans. It is likely that Leake Commonside developed as an outlier of the village resulting from seasonal work on the saltpans. Archaeological monitoring of development within 0.3km of the development site has revealed evidence for salt making, providing the possibility that groundworks for this development may have revealed additional evidence.

Methodology

Work commenced on the 29th January 2003, with a duration of 1 day. Supervision of the groundworks was at all times carried out by an experienced archaeologist. Excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The lack of archaeological features meant that detailed sections and profiles were not necessary, although the location and extent of truncation was recorded. A full photographic record was taken to support the written archive.

Results

The building plot was for two houses. Plot 2 is the easternmost of the two plots and was the subject of the watching brief (Pl. 1). The house was set back from the road by c.21m in line with the adjacent property built in 2002. The garage was positioned in front of the house, some 8m back from the road frontage.

Trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.95m, with a width of 0.85m (Fig. 3). A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site, comprising a dark brown/black silty topsoil (1), 0.20m in depth, overlying a red brown laminated silt subsoil (2), 0.50m in depth. Brick and modern glass formed the inclusions with layer (1). The natural geology (3) consisted of laminated silts, similar to (2) above, but progressively more grey with occasional iron rich lenses. A modern pit (5) was present in the easternmost north-south foundation trench, with an associated plastic pipe running westwards across the house plot (Pls 2 and 4)).

Evidence for the former crewyard buildings was seen in the southern half of the house plot where part of a north-south wall (6), approximately 4m in length, was seen running parallel with the internal partition of the new building. It returned along the south wall and a small part of a north wall was also recorded between the internal partition wall. Beneath the topsoil within the area defined by the walls was a bedding layer of sand (4), approximately 0.10m deep, presumed to represent the base for a removed yard/floor surface (Pl. 3).

No archaeological finds or features were found during the course of the works.

Excavation of the garage plot revealed the same sequence of deposits as recorded on the main house plot to the north. The south-east corner and the eastern foundation trench were heavily disturbed by the foundation for the garage constructed on the adjacent plot in 2002. Excavations had to be deepened on the instruction of the Building Inspector which resulted in water pouring into the base of the trench making observation of any potential archaeological layers below a depth of 1m impossible (Pl. 5).

Discussion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits, in particular features associated with medieval salt production, the disturbed areas of the site proved to be archaeologically sterile. It is possible that such activity is focused further to the east. However, the nature and therefore limited impact of the development will only provide a pin-hole assessment of this particular area.

Conclusion

To conclude, the development along with the associated garage and service trenches had no impact on archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank J & J Hadwick (client) for commissioning the project and Rebecca Wilcox (Boston Community Archaeologist) for her input and advice. Monitoring was carried out by Naomi Field, who also edited this report. David Britchfield prepared the illustrations.

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Context Sheets 6

Site plan supplied by developer

Photographs. LAS film and negative nos 03/08/

David Britchfield
Lindsey Archaeological Services
July 2003

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Plot 2, Station Rd, Leake Commonside, Old Leake (OLST03)

Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description
1	Topsoil	Dark brown/black silt
2	Subsoil	Red brown laminated silt
3	Natural	Red brown laminated silt, with grey mottling and iron rich lenses
4	Layer	Layer of sand. Most likely contemporary with the adjacent modern wall (6).
5	Cut	Modern pit
6	Masonry	Modern wall.

THE FIGURES

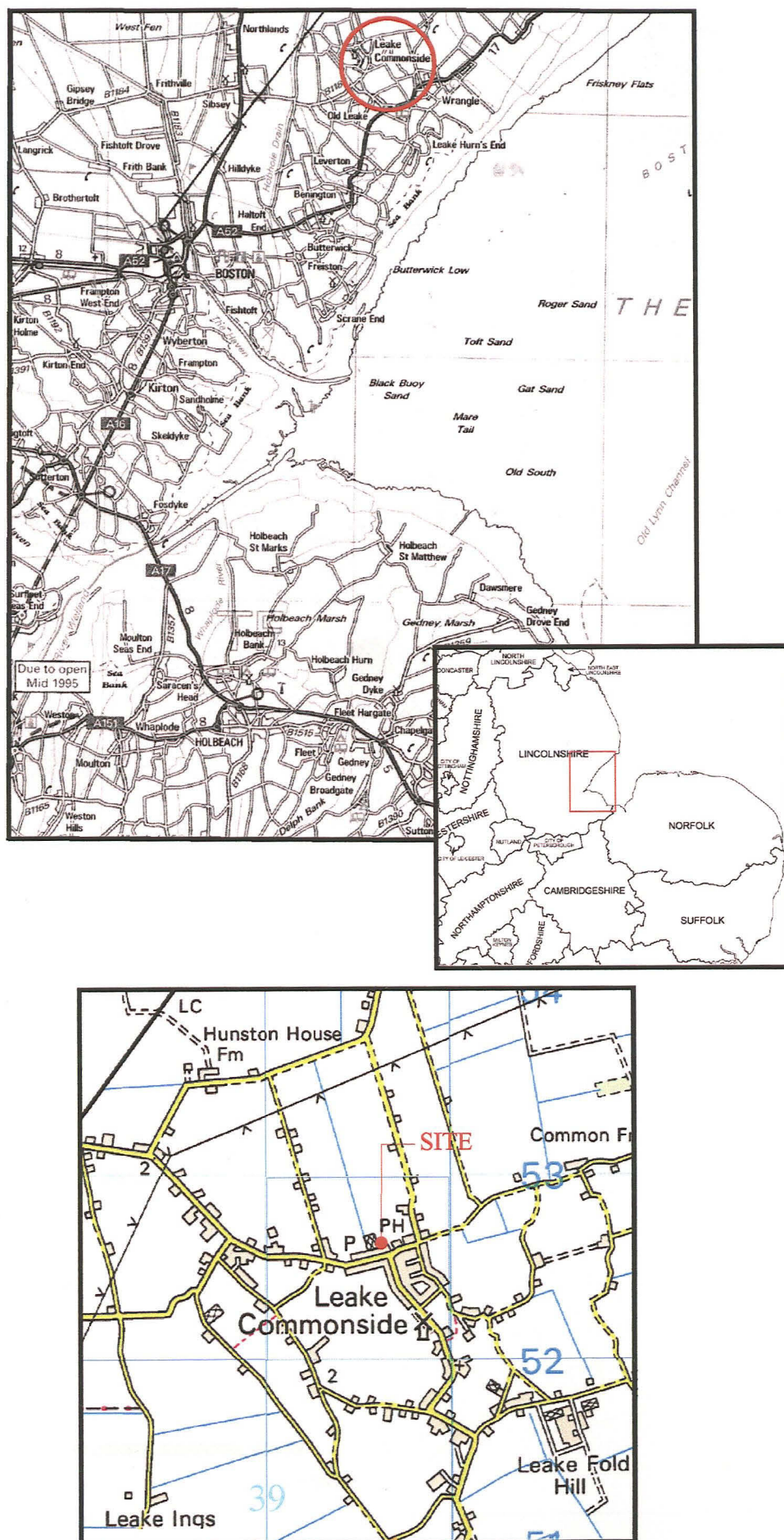


Figure 1. Leake Commons Location Plan. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. 100002165

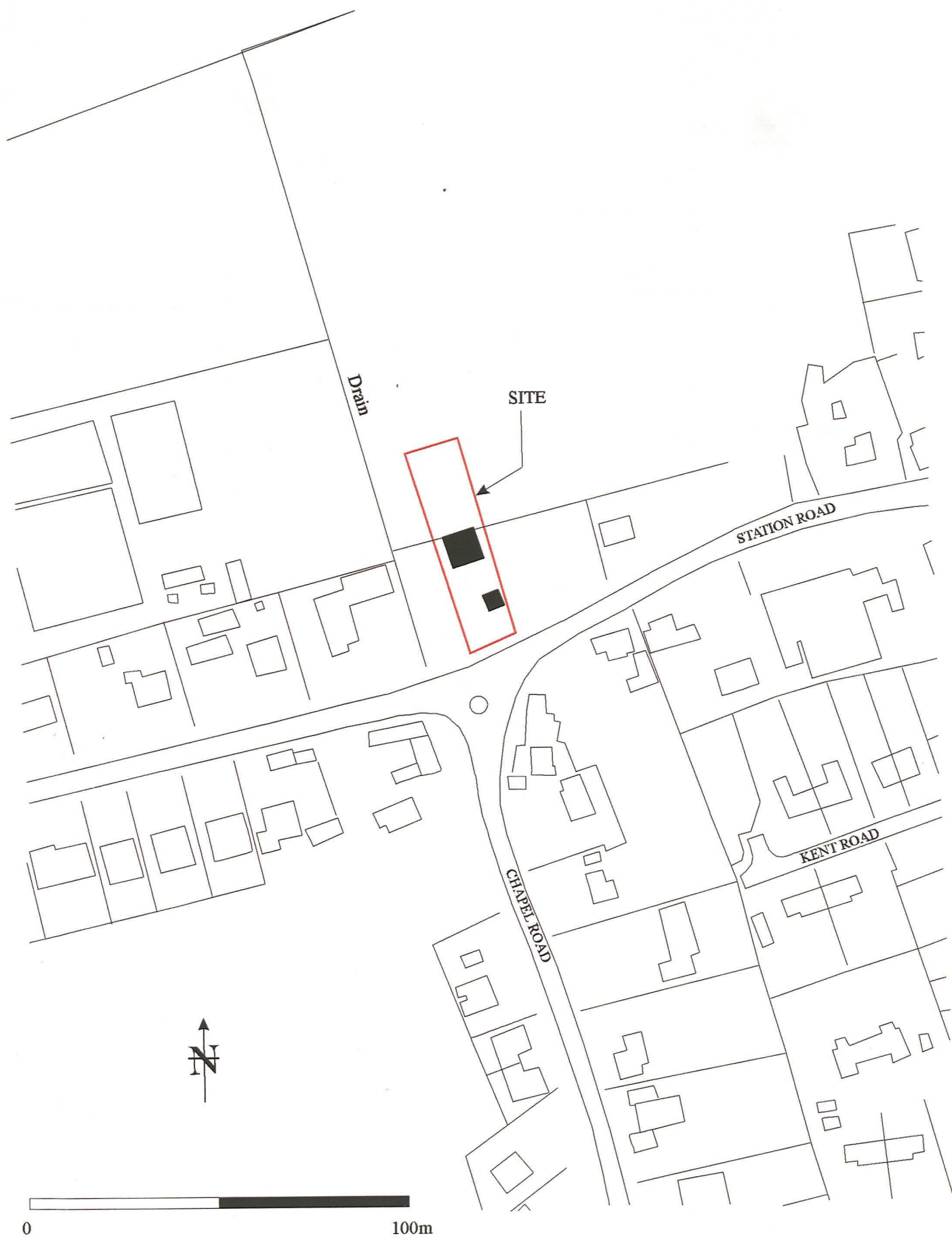


Figure 2. Site Location Plan

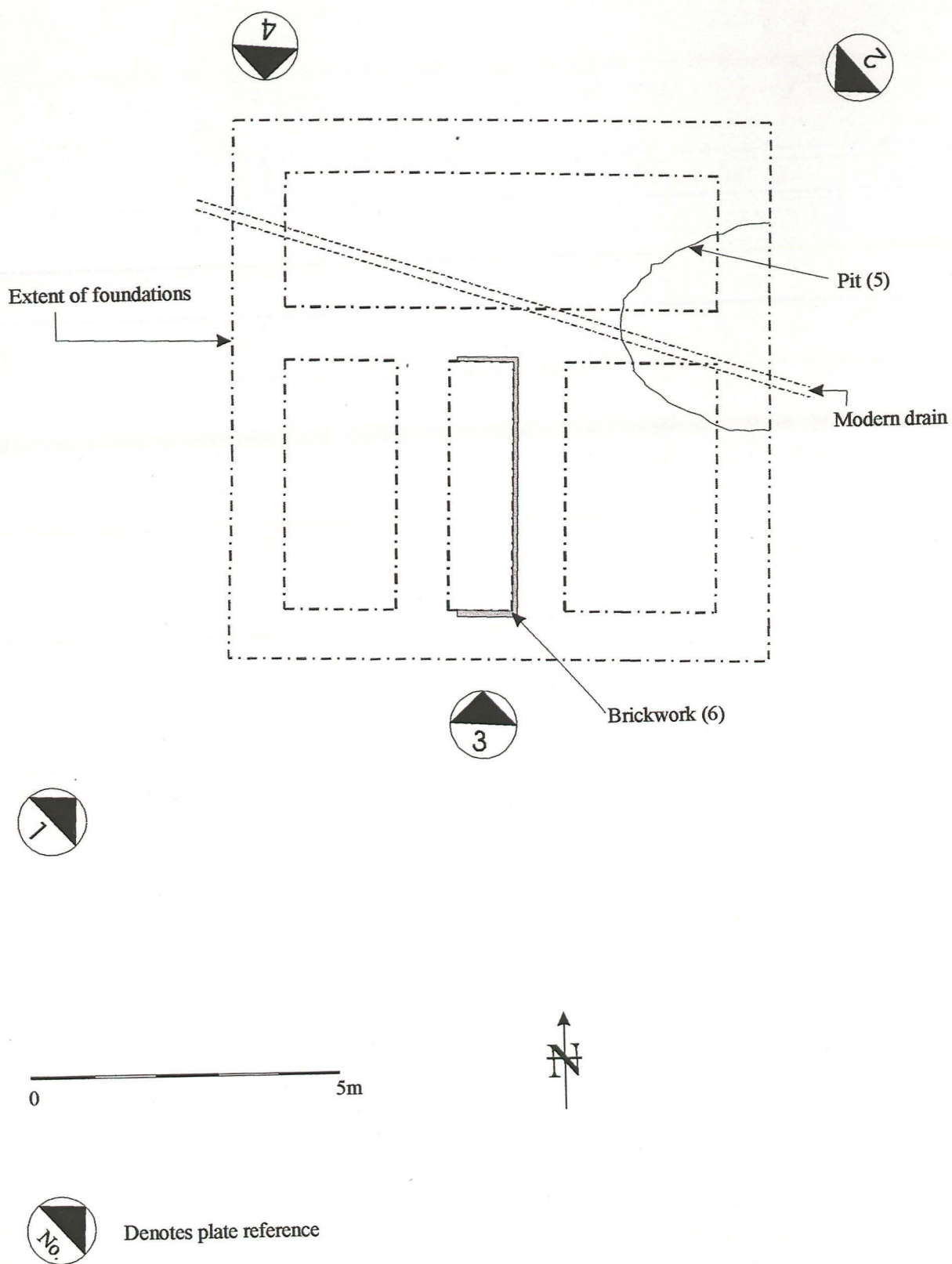


Figure 3. Trench plan

THE PLATES



Pl.1 General view of the site, facing north east



Pl.2 View from the northeastern corner of the site, facing southwest. Note the modern pit in trench section, adjacent to the shovel



Pl.3 Above. Southern foundation, facing north, showing truncating wall (6) and the associated sand layer (4)



Pl.4 Left Truncation caused by an east-west orientated drain along the western foundation trench



Pl.5 Excavation of garage foundations showing disturbed ground along east trench (right) and ingress of water