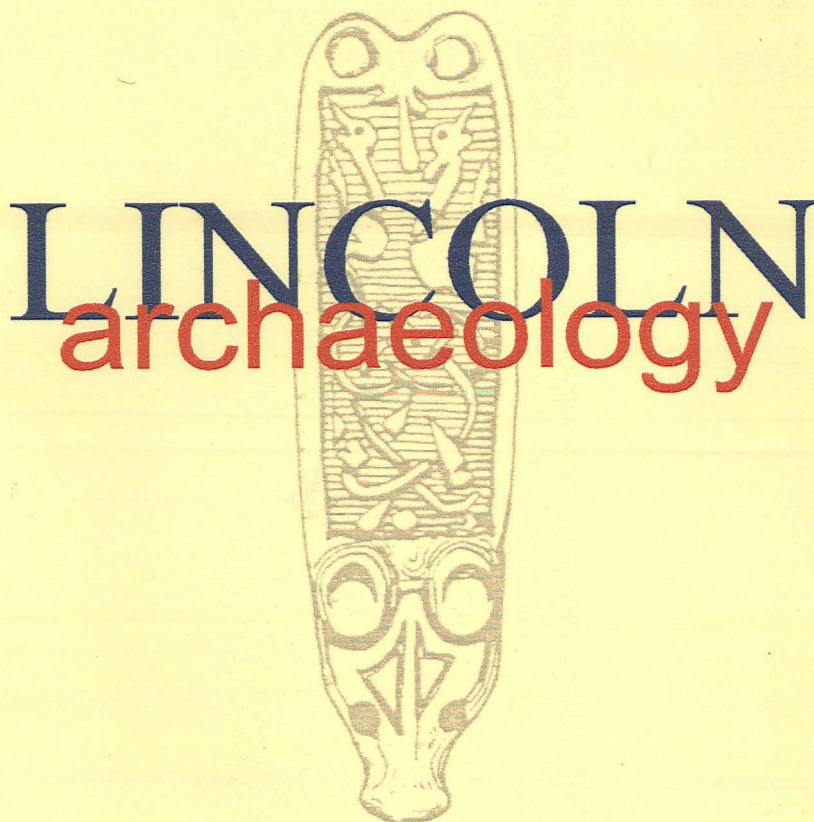


A Report to Mr & Mrs Crouch

March 2004



**New Detached House & Garage (Plot 1),
Glebe Farm, Church Lane,
Spridlington, Lincolnshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

By K Wragg

Report No.: 531

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New Detached House and Garage (Plot 1), Glebe Farm, Church Lane, Spridlington, Lincolnshire

Site Code: SPRB03

LCCM Accession No.: 2003.255

Planning Application No.: M01/P/0992

NGR: TF 0065/8453

Archaeological Watching Brief

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3.0 RESULTS.....	4
4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS.....	5
5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	5
6.0 SELECTED REFERENCES.....	5
7.0 LHA NOTES/ARCHIVE DETAILS.....	6
7.1 LHA Note details.....	6
7.2 Archive details.....	6
<i>APPENDIX A</i> Archive deposition.....	7
<i>APPENDIX B</i> Colour Plates.....	8
<i>APPENDIX C</i> Ceramic Building Material: Archive listing, by Jane Young, Lindsey Archaeological Services.....	10

List of illustrations

Fig. 1 Site location plan	Scale 1:50000 & 1:2500
Fig. 2 Plan of development including main service connections	Scale 1:200
Fig. 3 South-west facing section, water main trench	Scale 1:10

NEW DETACHED HOUSE AND GARAGE (PLOT 1), GLEBE FARM, CHURCH LANE, SPRIDLINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Spridlington, Lincolnshire. The village lies in the administrative district of West Lindsey approximately 11km north of Lincoln.*
- *The site originally formed part of Glebe Farm, and is bounded by Church Lane to the south, open farmland to the north, and existing properties (including the farm) to the east and west.*
- *The development proposals included the construction of a single detached dwelling with integral garage block, a new access road, and all associated drains and services.*
- *The village lies within a rich historic landscape, with the possibility of encountering archaeological remains on the site. In view of this, West Lindsey District Council, in consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks.*
- *The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was approached by the owner/developers on the 1st of May 2002 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, although the project was then suspended on the 10th of May. However, upon reactivation in June 2003, CLAU was commissioned to provide a watching brief, and attendance on the site was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 25th of June and the 6th of October 2003.*
- *Unfortunately, in spite of the apparent potential of the site, the results of this watching brief have provided no evidence for ancient occupation.*
- *The only stratified deposits revealed were of either recent or natural (i.e., geological) origin, with the limited artefactual evidence suggesting an 18th to 20th date for the upper layers.*
- *However, the evidence for earlier occupation in the surrounding areas still suggests that any future developments in the immediate vicinity have a high probability of encountering archaeological remains.*

NEW DETACHED HOUSE AND GARAGE (PLOT 1), GLEBE FARM, CHURCH LANE, SPRIDLINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Spridlington, Lincolnshire. The village lies in the administrative district of West Lindsey approximately 11km north of Lincoln.

The site originally formed part of Glebe Farm, and is bounded by Church Lane to the south, open farmland to the north, and existing properties (including the farm) to the east and west (see Fig. 1).

The development proposals included the construction of a single detached dwelling with integral garage block, a new access road, and all associated drains and services (see Fig. 2).

The village lies within a rich historic landscape, with the possibility of encountering archaeological remains on the site. In view of this, West Lindsey District Council, in consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks (see 2.0, below).

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was approached by the owner/developers on the 1st of May 2002 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, although the project was then suspended on the 10th of May. However, upon reactivation in June 2003, CLAU was commissioned to provide a watching brief, and attendance on the site was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 25th of June and the 6th of October 2003.

NOTE

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Lincoln City Council cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and The Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage, 1991).

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2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Situated 11km north of Lincoln, the parish of Spridlington, a strip covering 930 ha, spans the east-facing dip slope of the Jurassic limestone ridge, from the former Roman Ermine Street at 55m OD in the west, to about 12m OD in the east near the rivers Langworth and Ancholme. The village itself lies 4km east of Ermine Street at an elevation of c. 20m OD.

The Domesday Book lists two manors in *Sperlin(c)tone* or *Spredeintone*, which, together with other evidence, suggests that the present village was formed from the merger of two early medieval settlements. Two medieval churches are recorded, S^t Hilary being associated with the north manor and S^t Albinus with the south. The parishes were united in 1417 and the church of S^t Albinus, which was located south of S^t Hilary's church, was demolished.

Interpretation of the overall pattern represented by prominent earthworks in and around the village, and the Enclosure Map has suggested that Spridlington might have had an east-west grid plan with the north-south road as its spine. However, it is not known if this results from gradual expansion or deliberate planning during the early medieval period or at the time the two parishes were united in the early 15th century.

Evidence for earlier occupation is derived almost totally from the examination of historical records and other documentary sources, records of casual finds held by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the survey record and description of settlement remains contained within *Change and Continuity* published by the RCHM(E) (see 6.0, below).

This body of information has recorded human activity in the surrounding area dating from the Neolithic period to the recent past.

The earliest finds range from a Neolithic stone axe, two flint scrapers and other worked flints, to a possible barrow cemetery with at least 6 single ring-ditches recorded with a large double ring-ditch as their focus. Nearby are 3 or 4 ditched enclosures and other features including what might be a square barrow and at least one building.

While there is no record of Roman occupation or settlement in immediate proximity to the site the evidence from the wider region demonstrates extensive land-use and local settlement during this period.

A carinated shield boss found in association with human remains beneath a garden wall at Spridlington House is thought to represent a burial from the early Saxon period.

While the possibility of pre-historic and/or Romano-British occupation or land-use cannot be entirely discounted the bulk of accumulated evidence suggests that the principal remains contained within the site are probably associated with medieval settlement and the subsequent expansion and decline of the village during the later medieval period.

A more complete account of the historical and archaeological background to the site can be found in CLAU Archaeological Report 65, as detailed in 6.0, below.

Discussions with Mr J. Bonnor and Dr B. Lott of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section (archaeological advisors to West Lindsey District Council), revealed that the site itself had been the subject of an archaeological evaluation in 1998.

This work revealed a soil horizon containing pottery sherds dating to the 14th and 15th centuries, with the remains of medieval industrial activity uncovered in the south-west corner of the site. Based on this, it was considered likely that the wider site might contain further evidence for medieval occupation and/or land use.

As the focus of this activity seemed to be limited to the southernmost half of the site, a mitigation strategy was agreed with the local planning authority restricting development in this area. It was however acknowledged that access roads and/or service connections would probably need to cross this part of the site, and measures to record any archaeological remains uncovered by the groundworks were specified in the planning consent.

Although no formal archaeological brief was established by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) for this particular project, *Part II - Particulars of decision* of the Planning Permission issued by WLDC on the 25th of February 2002 (application no. M01/P/0992) included the following condition:

11. The applicant shall arrange for an archaeologist recognised by the district planning authority to carry out an archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance in accordance with a scheme to be submitted to, and approved by that authority before development is commenced. Such arrangements shall include provision for the observation, recording and recovery of artefactual evidence and post-excavation analysis.

The reason for this condition was given as:

11. In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site.

3.0 RESULTS

The watching brief was carried out in conjunction with the contractor's groundworks, which comprised: excavations required for the provision of services, including water, electricity, and telephone; and the formation of a new access road/driveway (see Fig. 2).

In general, all archaeological recording during the watching brief was carried out by means of trench-side observation, with access only for the purpose of artefact recovery or investigation of features. All trenches were machine-excavated.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature was issued with a unique *context number* (e.g., context [100]), and described in detail on recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

The stratigraphic sequence revealed during the course of the groundworks was extremely basic and consistent across all of the excavated areas (see Fig. 3).

The earliest deposit comprised a moderately compacted, mid orange-brown mottled sandy clay, [102], which was between 300mm and 400mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.). This layer contained only occasional small gravel and limestone inclusions, and is assumed to represent the upper extent of the natural (*i.e.*, geological) strata.

[102] was overlain by [100], a moderately compacted mid-brown sandy silt/loam topsoil. This contained occasional pebble and limestone inclusions, fragments of modern brick and tile, and frequent roots, and bore a covering of rough grass and weeds at its upper boundary. Four pieces of ceramic building material recovered from [100] date to the late 18th to 20th centuries (see *Appendix C*, below).

The final deposit revealed on the site comprised the 100mm-200mm thick layer of hardcore and concrete, [101], which formed an area of hardstanding and the existing access road on to the site.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, in spite of the apparent potential of the site, the results of this watching brief have provided no evidence for ancient occupation.

The only stratified deposits revealed were of either recent or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin, with the limited artefactual evidence suggesting an 18th to 20th date for the upper layers.

However, the evidence for earlier occupation in the surrounding areas still suggests that any future developments in the immediate vicinity have a high probability of encountering archaeological remains.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr & Mrs Crouch for kindly funding this project; Mr J. Bonnor and Dr B. Lott, of the Archaeology & Conservation Section, Highways & Planning Directorate, Lincolnshire County Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DN; Mr N. Burnett (Site Manager) and all on-site staff.

6.0 SELECTED REFERENCES

Everson, P L, Taylor, C C, & Dunn, C J (eds), 1991 *Change and Continuity. Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire*, RCHM(E)

Hockley, J, 1993 *Land adjacent to Church View Farm Cottage, Faldingworth Road, Spidlington, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Investigation*, CLAU Archaeological Report 65, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Lincoln

West Lindsey District Council, 25th of February 2002 *Planning Permission, Town and Country Planning Act 1990: Planning application to erect detached house and garage. Glebe Farm, Church Lane, Spidlington*

Wragg, K, 1996 *Church View Farm Cottage, Spidlington, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CLAU Archaeological Report 248, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Lincoln

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: SPRB03

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: M01/P/0992

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: TF 0065/8453

CIVIL PARISH: Spridlington

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 25th June 2003 to 6th October 2003

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr & Mrs Crouch

7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2003.255

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
3	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1 set	Colour Print Photographs

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,
Charlotte House,
The Lawn,
Union Road,
Lincoln,
Lincolnshire,
LN1 3BL**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2003.255, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of trench for new water main - looking north-west

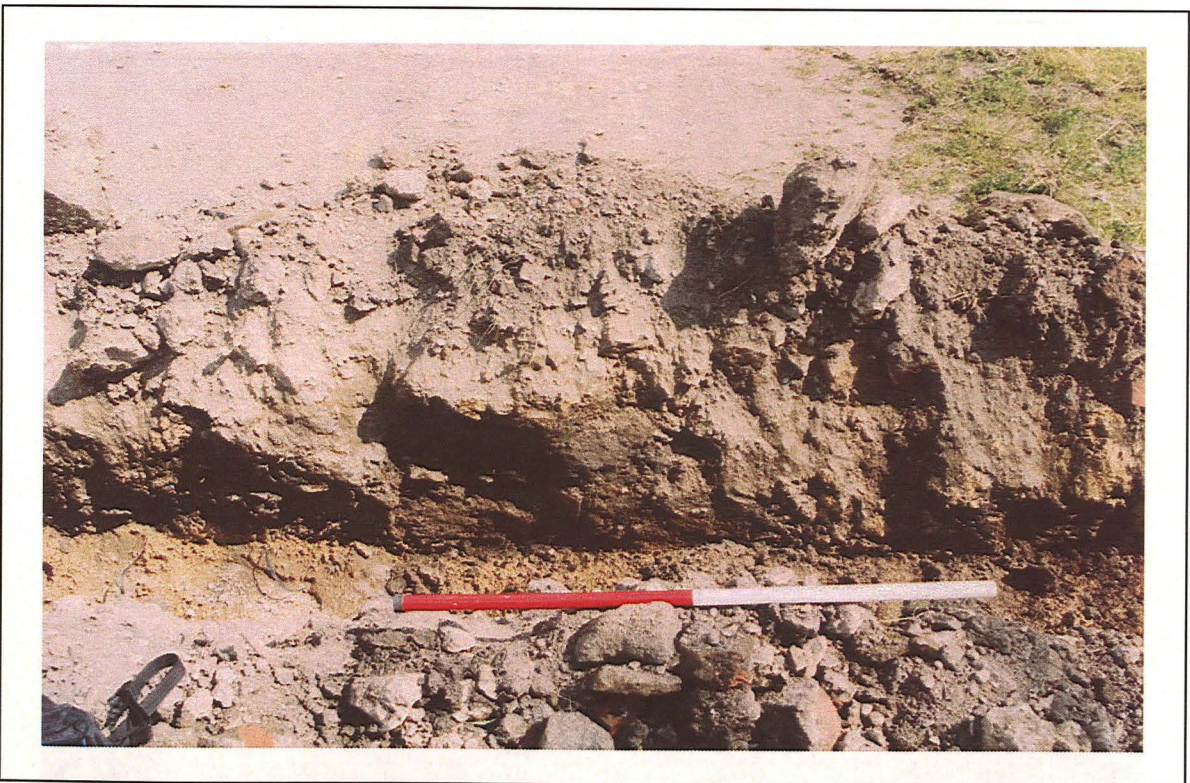


Plate 2: General view of stratigraphic sequence, water main trench - looking north-east

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES (continued)



Plate 3: General view of stratigraphic sequence, telephone cable duct trench - looking west



Plate 4: General view of stripped area for new driveway - looking south-east

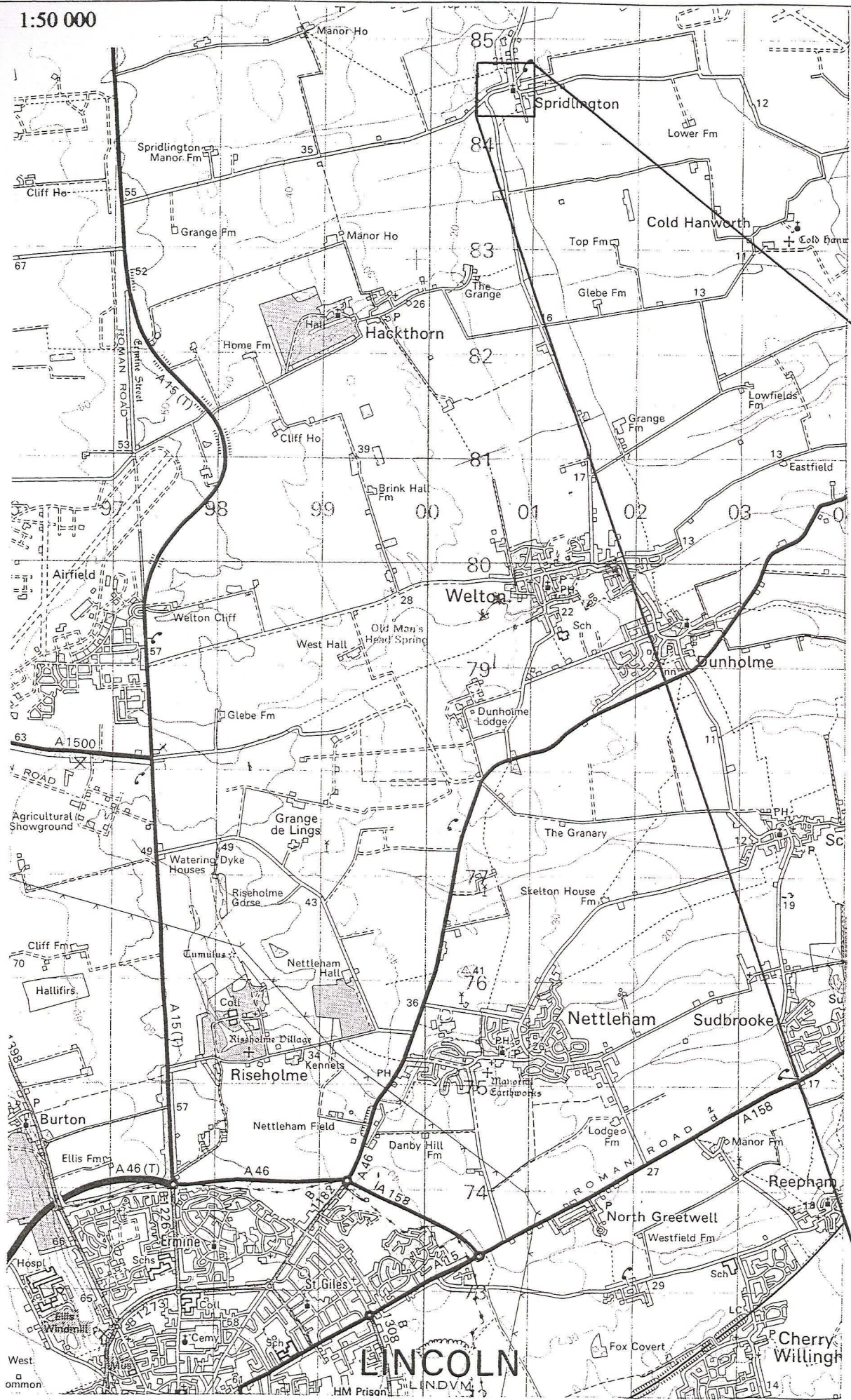
APPENDIX C - CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL: ARCHIVE LISTING

Jane Young, Lindsey Archaeological Services

Ceramic Building Material Archive

Context Number	Cname	Full name	Fragments	Weight (g)	Description	Date (century)
[100]	MODTILDISC	Modern tile (discarded)	1	3	White ceramic wall tile	Modern
[100]	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)	3	236		late 18 th to 20 th

1:50 000



1:2500

KEY



Location of Site

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: **SPRB03** PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

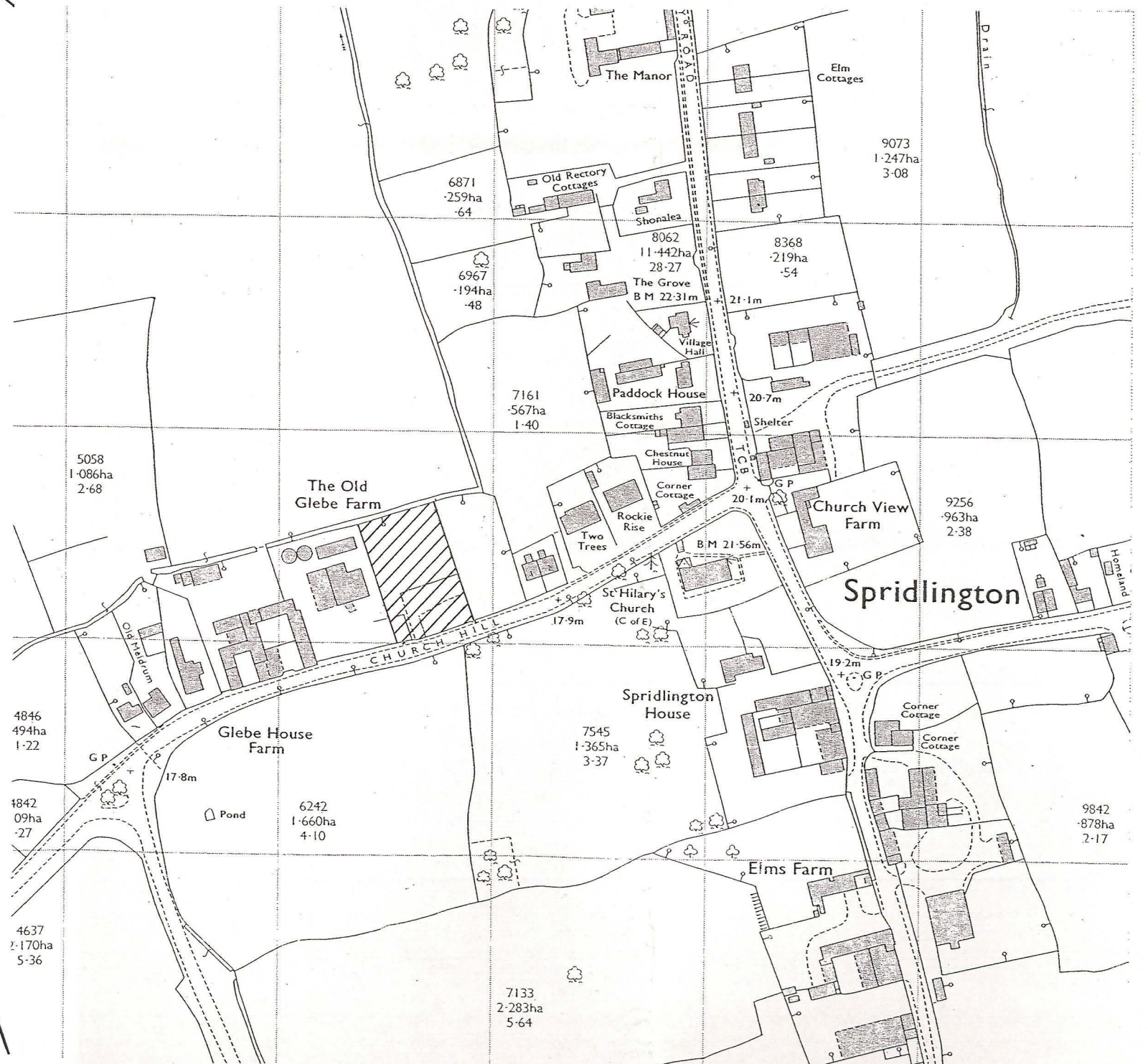
CLIENT: **Mr and Mrs J. Crouch**

DESCRIPTION:
Site Location Plan

SCALE: ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

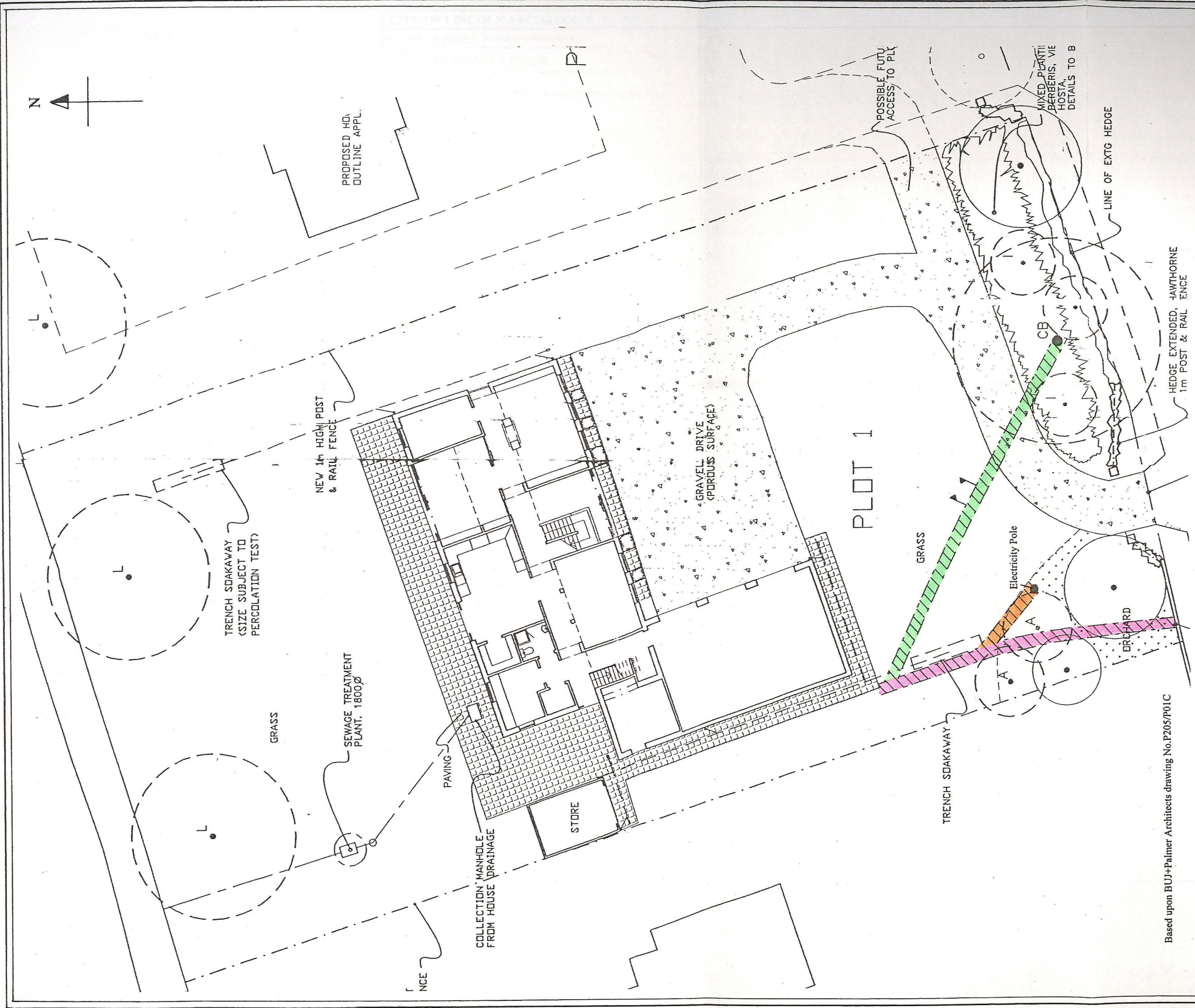
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: **2003.255**



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Fig.1



Based upon BUJ+Palmer Architects drawing No.P205/P01C

KEY

-  Trench For Telephone Cable Duct
-  Trench For Electricity Supply Cable
-  Trench For Water Main
-  Section Location

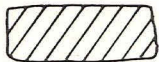



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT	
SITE CODE: SPRB03	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:
CLIENT: Mr and Mrs J. Crouch	
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Development Including Main Service Connections	
SCALE: 1:200	ARCHIVE NO:
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED: DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2003.255	

Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SPRB03	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr and Mrs J. Crouch		
DESCRIPTION: SW-Facing Section, Water Main Trench		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 25/06/03
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2003.255		

KEY

-  **Brick**
-  **Tile**
-  **Clay**
-  **Sand**

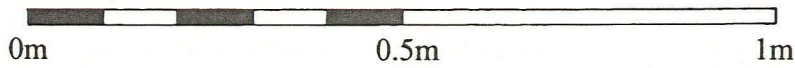
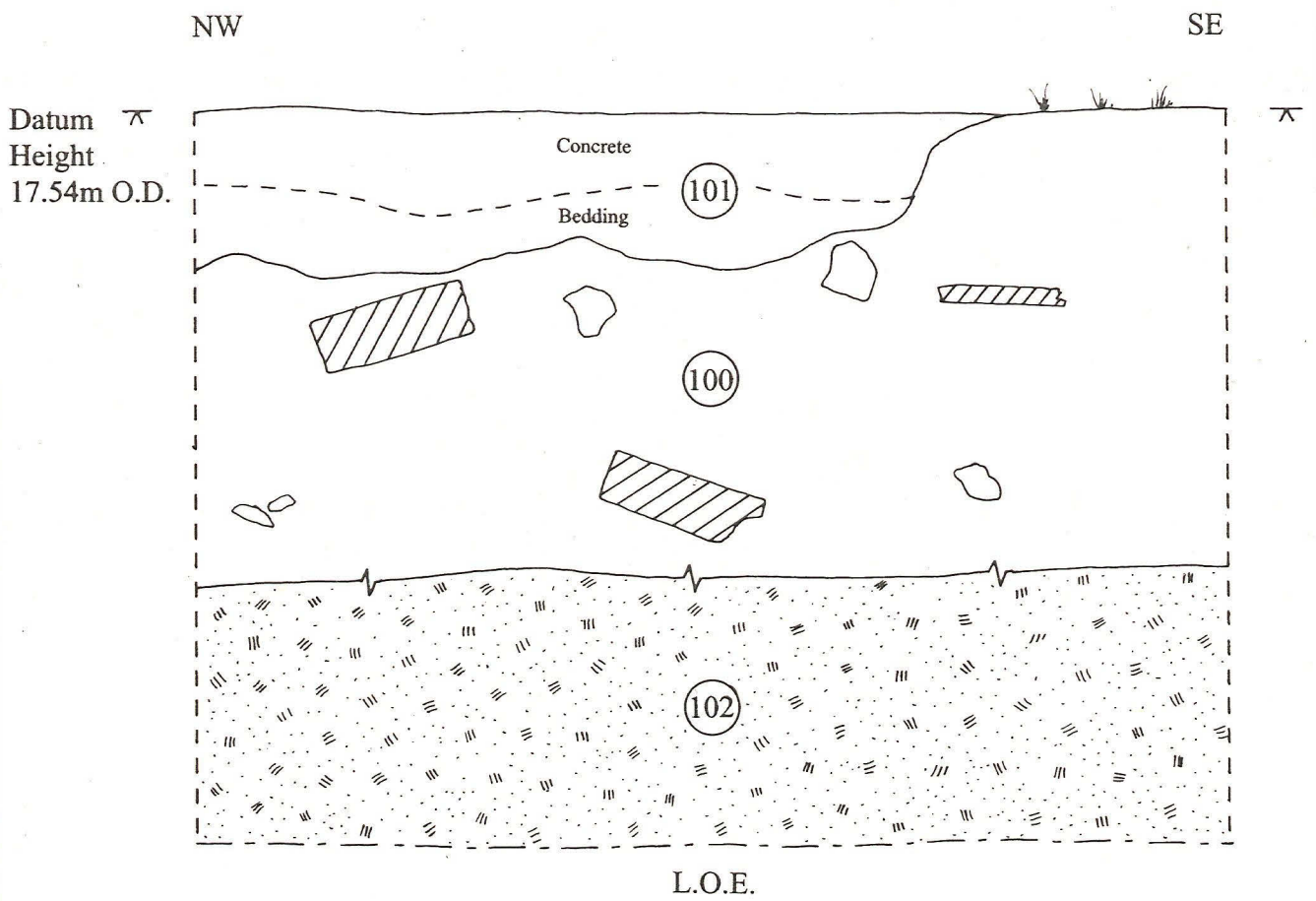


Fig.3