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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

## Church Farm, High Street, Fillingham, Lincs.

NGR: SK 9470 8675 SK 9473 8575

Site Code: FCF 02

LCNCC Museum Accn Code: 2002.482

WLDC Planning Application No.: M02/P/0123

+ M00/P/0501

## Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for  
Lindum Homes

By  
D Young and G Tann

LAS Report No. 741

April 2004

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Conservation  
Services  
11 MAY 2004  
Highways & Planning  
Directorate

EVENT L15631

INTERVENTION: L19794

EXCAVATION: L19795

CON: L17610

PRN: 54241 - Saxon

51121 - (Settlement)

medieval  
post medieval  
modern

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## **Development at Church Farm, High Street, Fillingham, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: SK 9470 8675**

**Site Code: FCF 02**

**LCNCC Museum Accn Code: 2002.482**

**WLDC Planning Application No.: M02/P/0123**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a housing development on land to the south of High Street, Fillingham identified a number of small Anglo Saxon features. This suggested a focus of settlement probably lying North-east of the development site*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in November 2002 by Lindum Homes to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a housing development south of High Street, Fillingham, Lincs. The watching brief was required by the local authority to fulfil a condition on the planning permission.

### **Planning Details**

Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for construction of 13 dwellings and associated services at the above site.

### **Site Location and Description**

Fillingham village is located on the spring line at the western foot of the limestone escarpment on the edge of the Trent valley. The soils are till over lias clay.

The development comprises a piece of land c.1 ha. in area located on the south of the High Street in the centre of the village (Pl. 1). It lies near the centre of the modern village to the south of the Parish church.

The site incorporates the southern part of what was formerly Church Farm yard which is hard standing, a small paddock to the north-east and buildings and a silo to the south. West of the yard is an area of pasture with a further area of garden to the north-west, including a wooded/orchard area. Access will be provided from the west side of the site to the south of the village hall and from the north leading off the High Street.

### **Archaeological Background**

The village of Fillingham is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086 and its origins lie in the Anglo-Saxon period. In 1086 there were five manorial holdings in Fillingham and the settlement appears to have had at least two focii, with an early medieval cemetery site indicating a possible second church location. Interpretation of the village layout, and air photographic evidence of related earthworks, is hampered by the extensive lake and other 18<sup>th</sup> century landscaping.

The development site is 150m SW of St Andrew's Church, but the arrangement of land boundaries suggests that it lay at the SE edge of a separate land block. The site was formerly part of Church Farm.

#### **The Watching Brief**

Groundworks were monitored by Doug Young (20/11/02, 9/12/02, 10/12/02, 11/12/02, 13/1/03, 14/6/03), Dave Marshall (12/02.03), Geoff Tann (17/4/03) and Richard Pullen (12/8/03). House Plots 14, 16, 17/18, 19/20 and 21/22 were not watched. Prior to the first watching brief visit the site had been extensively landscaped, with demolition material from the former brick farm buildings redeposited amongst the topsoil (Pl. 2). Excavation of foundation trenches was by JCB with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket, and general stripping of topsoil / subsoil for the compound and the road areas was with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, (Appendix 1), and these are used, in bold, in the text.

#### **Site access and road clearance**

The first area to be monitored was the stripping of the site entrance and towards the south-east corner of the site. From approximately 30m south of High Street inside the development the area had been recently stripped to the limestone natural and a layer of imported topsoil 0.35 – 0.40m deep was seen to be covering this area of the site (Pl. 3). This topsoil extended across the site towards plots 11 and 25 before thinning to nothing. This is thought to have been a part of the landscaping immediately after the demolition of some of the farm buildings, and certainly within the last 10 – 20 yrs.

The stripping of the road for the remainder of the site began on 12/2/03 and was monitored by D. Marshall. The area was stripped to 0.7m deep using a JCB excavator with a 1.8m-toothed bucket. This revealed a limestone brash natural with two large intercutting pits (2) and (3) containing fills (1) and (4), and each approximately 1.5m in diameter (Pl. 4). Three sherds of pottery were collected, two were 18<sup>th</sup> century and a single sherd of glazed pottery dated late 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century. (Appendix 2, Post-Roman pottery archive, J. Young.)

In the southeast corner the *in situ* topsoil was seen to be a very dark grey/black material containing early modern building demolition. This was removed using a JCB 360 excavator with a 1.8m toothless bucket to the subsoil level. No features were seen at this level in this area.

#### **The northern boundary wall (eastern end). (Fig. 3)**

The trench for the Plot 11 boundary wall was excavated using a JCB excavator with a 0.6m toothless bucket. The portion of wall trench monitored ran from the eastern boundary with the Old Rectory for 35m to the west. The topsoil (1100) was a sandy dark grey/brown clay loam of 0.2 - 0.25m in depth. This was sealing a sandy, mid-brown, subsoil (1101) containing frequent limestone pieces and 0.3 –



0.4m in depth. A close examination of (1102) the natural clay beneath showed three small features, (1103, 1105, 1107), (Fig. 3).

(1103) (Pl. 5) proved to be a shallow ditch / gully of 0.4m wide and 0.25m in depth. (Fig. 4). A small section of the fill (1104) was excavated but with no finds, Pl. 6. Small posthole (1105) produced no finds. (1107) was a narrow shallow gully 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep. Its fill (1108), produced two small animal bone fragments and a single piece of Anglo Saxon pottery.

#### House Plot 11 (Fig. 7)

The trenches for Plot 11 were excavated using a 0.6m toothless bucket. The topsoil and subsoil layers (1100, 1101) were removed to reveal a series of soilmarks cutting into the mixed clay natural (1102). (1109), contained fill (1110), a dark brown loose sandy clay, to a depth of 0.35m, (Pl. 7). It's fill contained two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and nine small animal bone fragments. A pit/soakaway, (1131), had a very grey/brown sandy clay fill (1132), containing brick and tile fragments associated with the early modern farm buildings. This was removed with the aid of the JCB excavator to a depth of 1.2 m.

The remainder of the features were recorded in plan, (Fig. 7), but because of time constraints were not excavated. Of these there were twelve possible gullies, (1109, 1111, 1113, 1117, 1119, 1123, 1129, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1141, 1143), and seven possible pits (1115, 1121, 1125, 1127, 1131, 1139, 1145). More details appear in the context list (Appendix 1).

#### House Plot 12

It was apparent that the ground surface in the SE corner of the site had been severely disturbed prior to excavation of the house foundation trenches. A fairly uniform 0.5m thick layer of redeposited topsoil with some demolition material remained across the area of Plot 12, presumably derived from clearance of the previously constructed house plots. Beneath this layer was the *in situ* topsoil layer, varying in surviving thickness between 0.05m and 0.3m, but it produced no finds.

The topsoil covered a thick layer of loam (1200), varying in colour from light-brown to brown, and darkest on the western side of the plot. Its thickness was 0.35-0.4m, and it can probably be interpreted as subsoil. No finds were seen in this material. Below the subsoil was an orange clay, (1201), with fragments of brash. This was a weathered interface between the subsoil and the bedrock (which was not exposed on this house plot).

Apart from a recent ceramic land drain, and a 3.2m wide, 2m deep trench backfilled with twentieth century demolition material, only one archaeological feature was revealed in the trench faces. Close to the SW corner of the house site, a 0.25m thick band of stone rubble (1202) was observed, apparently within the subsoil layer (Pl. 8). It was seen across a 4m length of trench face, but was only exposed

across a width of about 0.75m. It may have been the foundation of a stone wall, but could equally have represented a path or track.

#### House Plots 13 and 23/24.

These plots were watched but no archaeological features or finds were seen.

#### House Plot 15

The topsoil (1501) was removed to a depth of 0.4m by machine. This gave way directly to a limestone brash, (1502), typical for a site so close to the Lincolnshire Edge. One feature only was apparent, a shallow pit, (1503), cutting into the topsoil. The pit fill (1504) contained five fragments of pottery of early modern date and a single sherd of green-glazed pottery from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century

#### House Plot 25 (Fig 8)

The area around Plot 25 had been severely damaged because of adverse weather conditions and the tracking of plant vehicles prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches. This made it necessary to strip the whole area of overburden (2500) contained within the house footprint. This material revealed an area of tarmac and crushed concrete (2501), (2502), that had previously been some kind of yard or courtyard associated with the farm buildings. Beneath this was an orange-brown sandy layer (2503), above the limestone brash (2504) and the solid limestone natural. Two modern features were evident during the stripping of the foundation trenches. (2511), a trench containing service pipes and cables, and a large foul-smelling pit (2525). This was probably some form of soakaway, measuring 6m x 2.2m, and at least 1m deep, associated with the agricultural buildings previously on the site. In several of the sections there appeared to be possible archaeological features but the absence of finds also makes it a possibility that these were natural undulations and depressions formed by geological means or caused by the root action of large trees. Of these there were six possible gullies and four possible small pits. Pl. 9 shows a typical section make-up for plot 25 and (Pl. 10) shows a section of (2505), a possible ditch/gully.

#### Discussion

The presence of some definite archaeological features containing Anglo-Saxon pottery principally in the north-east corner of the site (Plot 11), and many possible features fairly close by, (plot 25), suggest a possible Anglo-Saxon occupation with its focus beyond the limits of the development, possibly one of the sites mentioned in the Domesday Book. Full investigation of these features was not possible within the timescale available during a watching brief.

Doug Young and Geoff Tann,  
Lindsey Archaeological Services,  
April 2004.



### **Acknowledgements**

Doug Young wishes to thank Dave Franklin and the staff from Lindum Homes for their help and co-operation during the period of the watching brief. This report was written with the help of Dave Marshall and Richard Pullen. Illustrations were by Mike Garrett and the report edited by Naomi Field. Post-Roman pottery report by Jane Young.

### **References**

Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*.

### **Archive Summary**

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field plans and section drawings

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 02/130/22-31, 02/133/26a-37a, 03/06/3a-36a, 03/13/1-3, 03/51/5-18, 03/84/1a-9a, 03/99/ 19a-36a. (including those used in this report).



## APPENDIX 1



Context	Type	Description	Fill Description	Finds	Date
<b>Road Area</b>					
1	Fill	Fill of (2)		pottery	18-20th, residual medieval
2	Cut	Pit, approximately 1.5m dia			
3	Cut	Pit, approximately 1.5m dia			
4	Fill	Fill of (3)			
<b>Boundary Wall</b>					
1100	Layer	Topsoil			
1101	Layer	Subsoil			
1102	Natural	Limeston Clay Mix			
1103	Cut	North-South ditch / gully			
1104	Fill	Fill of (1103)			
1105	Cut	Posthole			
1106	Fill	Fill of (1105)			
1107	Cut	North / South gully / Narrow Ditch			
1108	Fill	Fill of (1107)		Pottery, animal bone	8th - 9th c
<b>Plot 11</b>					
1109	Cut	East / West ditch / gully			
1110	Fill	Fill of 1109		Pottery, Animal Bone	8th - 9th c
1111	Cut	Possible ditch / pit			
1112	Fill	Fill of 1111	Dark brown sandy clay		
1113	Cut	Ditch / pit			
1114	Fill	Fill of 1113	Dark brown sandy clay		
1115	Cut	Small pit			
1116	Fill	Fill of (1115)	Dark brown sandy clay		
1117	Cut	Ditch			
1118	Fill	Fill of (1117)	Dark brown sandy clay		
1119	Cut	East / West ditch / gully, 1.2m wide			
1120	Fill	Fill of (1119)	Dark brown sandy clay		
1121	Cut	Small pit, 1.3m n/s			
1122	Fill	Fill of (1121)	Very sandy clay		
1123	Cut	North-east / South-west linear			
1124	Fill	Fill of (1123)	mid-brown sandy, limestone pieces		
1125	Cut	Small pit, 1.3m E/W			
1126	Fill	Fill of (1125)	Mid-brown very sandy clay with limestone fragments and small pebbles		
1127	Cut	North / South linear, possible pit			

Context	Type	Description	Fill Description	Finds	Date
1128	Fill	Fill of (1127)	mid to dark brown, loose, very sandy clay		
1129	Cut	East / West linear, small pit			
1130	Fill	Fill of (1129)	Mid to dark brown very soft, loose, very sandy clay		
1131	Cut	Soakaway			
1132	Fill	Fill of (1131)	Dark grey-brown sandy		
1133	Cut	Small pit, north/south gully, 1.3m wide			
1134	Fill	Fill of (1133)	Mid brown very sandy clay with limestone pieces		
1135	Cut	Small north/south linear 1.1m			
1136	Fill	Fill of (1135)	mid brown sandy clay		
1137	Cut	North-east / south-west linear, 1.2m wide			
1138	Fill	Fill of (1137)	mid brown sandy clay		
1139	Cut	Small pit, 1.1m wide			
1140	Fill	Fill of (1139)	soft brown sandy clay		
1141	Cut	Linear feature, 1.3m wide			
1142	Fill	Fill of (1141)	Soft brown very sandy clay with limestone pieces and charcoal flecks		
1143	Cut	Pit / linear feature, 1.3 m wide			
1144	Fill	Fill of (1143)	Brown very sandy clay		
1145	Cut	Small pit			
1146	Fill	Fill of (1145)			
<b>Plot 12</b>					
1200	Layer				
1201	Layer				
1202	Layer				
<b>Plot 15</b>					
1501	Layer	Topsoil		Pottery	18th - 20th c, residual medieval
1502		Limestone natural			
1503	Cut	Pit			
1504	Fill	Fill of (1503)		Pottery, glass bottles	18-19th c
<b>plot 25</b>					
2500	Layer	Topsoil, machine debris		Pottery, animal bone	18th - 20th c
2501	Layer	Disturbed tarmac			
2502	Layer	Demolition of farm buildings			
2503	Layer	Subsoil			
2504	Layer	Natural			
2505	Cut	Possible ditch, 1.1m wide			



Context	Type	Description	Fill Description	Finds	Date
2506	Fill	Fill of (2505)	Orange brown very sandy clay with limestone fragments		
2507	Cut	Possible east/west gully, 1.2m wide			
2508	Fill	Fill of (2507)	Orangey brown sandy clay with limestone fragments		
2509	Cut	Possible east/west gully			
2510	Fill	Fill of (2509)	brown-orange very sandy clay with limestone fragments		
2511	Cut	Service trench			
2512	Fill	Fill of (2511)			
2513	Cut	Cut of possible pit, 1m diameter			
2514	Fill	Fill of (2513)			
2515	Cut	Possible linear, 0.75m wide, 0.25m deep			
2516	Fill	Fill of (2515)	Orangey-brown sandy clay		
2517	Cut	Possible linear, 0.6m wide, 0.15m deep			
2518	Fill	Fill of (2517)	Brown sandy clay		
2519	Cut	Possible linear, 1.2m wide, 0.15m deep			
2520	Fill	Fill of (2519)	Orange brown sandy clay		
2521	Not used				
2522	Not used				
2523	Not used				
2524	Not used				
2525	Cut	Large pit / soakaway			
2526	Fill	Fill of 2525		Pottery, animal bone	18th- 19th c
2527	Cut	Possible pit, linear, 1m wide, 0.2m deep			
2528	Fill	Fill of (2527)	Brown sandy clay		
2529	Cut	Possible pit, 1.3m diameter, 0.25 deep			
2530	Fill	Fill of (2529)	Brown very sandy clay		
2531	Cut	Possible pit, 1.3m diameter , at least 0.9m deep			
2532	Fill	Fill of (2531)	Brown, very sandy clay with limestone fragments		
2533	Cut	Possible pit, 0.6m diameter, 0.15m deep			
2534	fill	Fill of (2533)	Brown very sandy clay		



## APPENDIX 2



# Pottery Archive FCF02

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
0001	SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware		dish/plate	1	1	7	moulded rim edge	rim		early/mid to late 18th
0001	SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware		mug	1	1	61	beaded rim;moulded ext panels	rim		mid to late 18th
0001	LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware		jar	1	1	78		rim	part int glaze;poss not St Mark's production;long everted rim	late 14th to 15th
1108	MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	U	?	1	1	4		BS	thick int carbonised deposit	8th to mid 9th
1110	MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	U	lugged jar	1	1	50		rim	flat Top rim;2 post firing holes to right of lug;large frag;soot;abun fine shell in black fabric	8th to mid 9th
1110	MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	B	jar/bowl	1	1	8		BS	leached ext;part int soot	8th to mid 9th
1501	WHITE	Modern whiteware		bowl	1	1	6	blue edged	rim		19th to 20th
1501	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug/jar	1	1	18		BS		13th to 14th
1501	WHITE	Modern whiteware		mug ?	1	1	40		rim	yellow glaze	19th to 20th
1501	MISC	Unidentified types		wall tile	1	1	11		BS	brown glaze	late 19th to 20th

context cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
1501	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	jam/lard jar	1	1	85		rim		late 19th to 20th
1504	PORC	Porcelain	cup ?	1	1	10	pink ext glaze with over glaze paint	BS		late 18th to 19th
2500	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	bowl	2	1	20		BS		late 18th to 19th
2500	TPW	Transfer printed ware	?	1	1	2		BS		19th to 20th
2500	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	large vessel	1	1	55	machine dec	BS	grey int glaze	19th
2526	TPW	Transfer printed ware	open	1	1	8		base		19th to 20th
2526	CREA	Creamware	mug	1	1	22		rim		late 18th to early 19th
2526	BL	Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	1	48		rim		18th to 19th
2526	TPW	Transfer printed ware	saucer/small dish	1	1	6	brown trans print	BS		late 18th to early 19th



## THE FIGURES



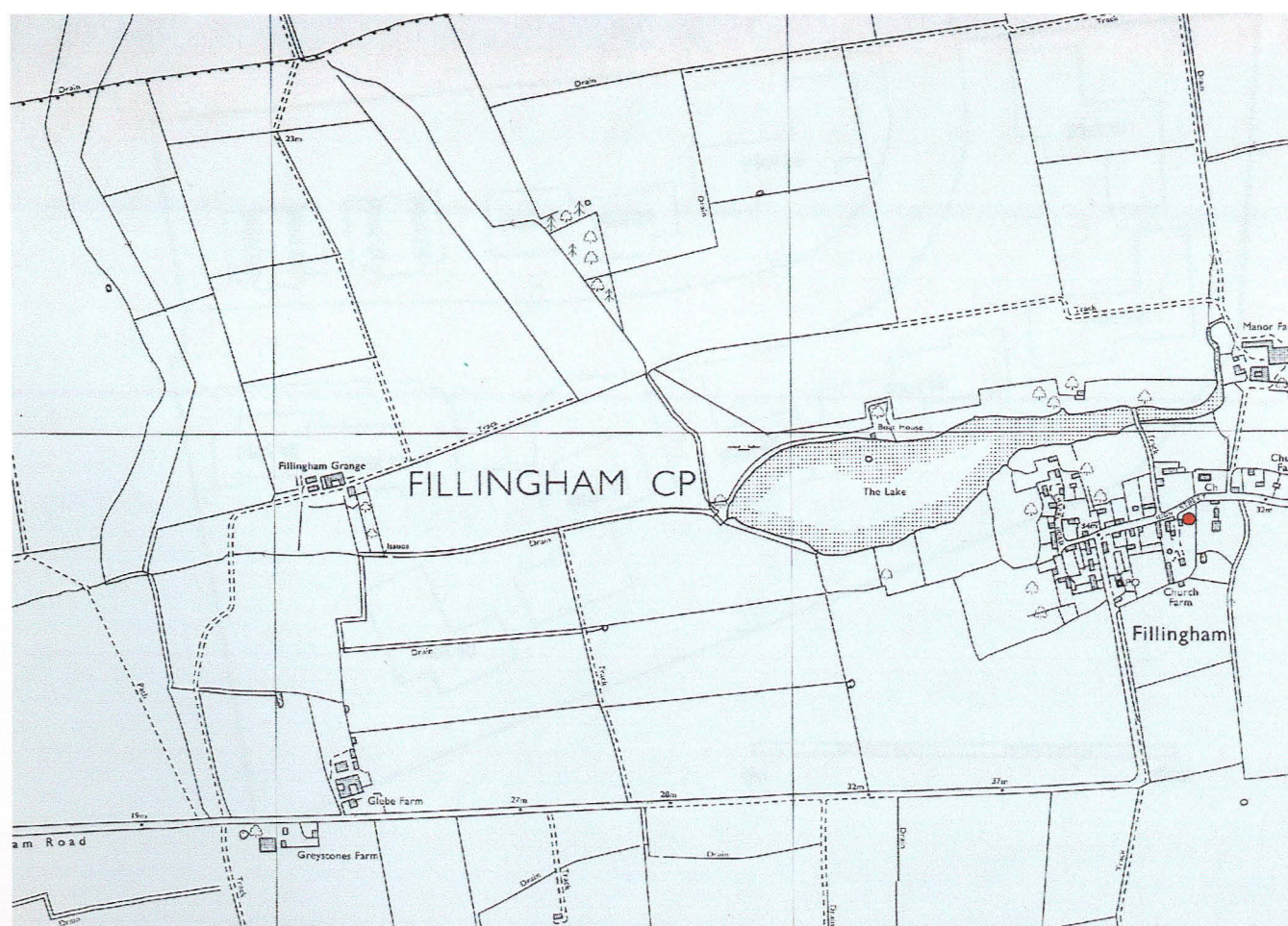
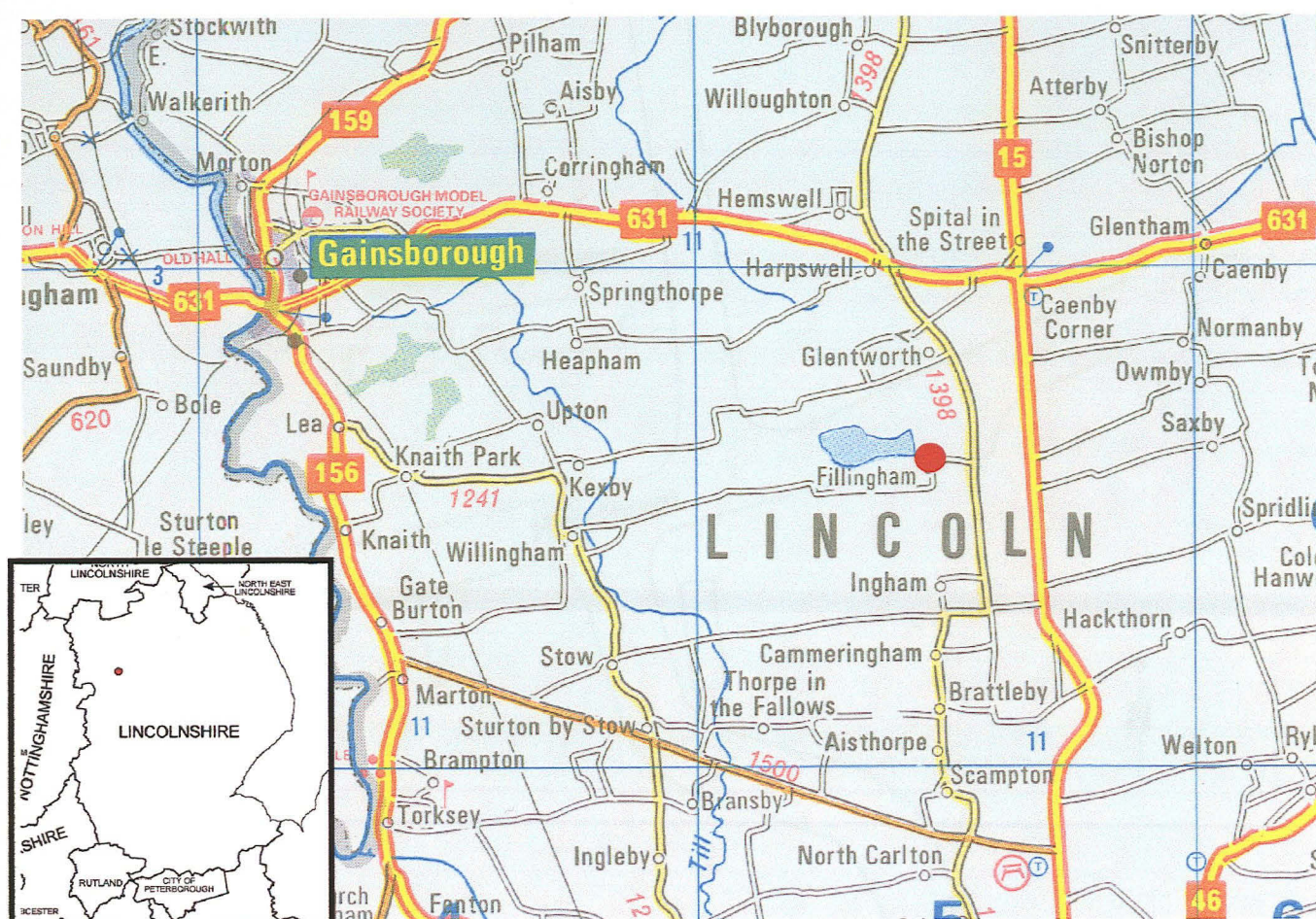
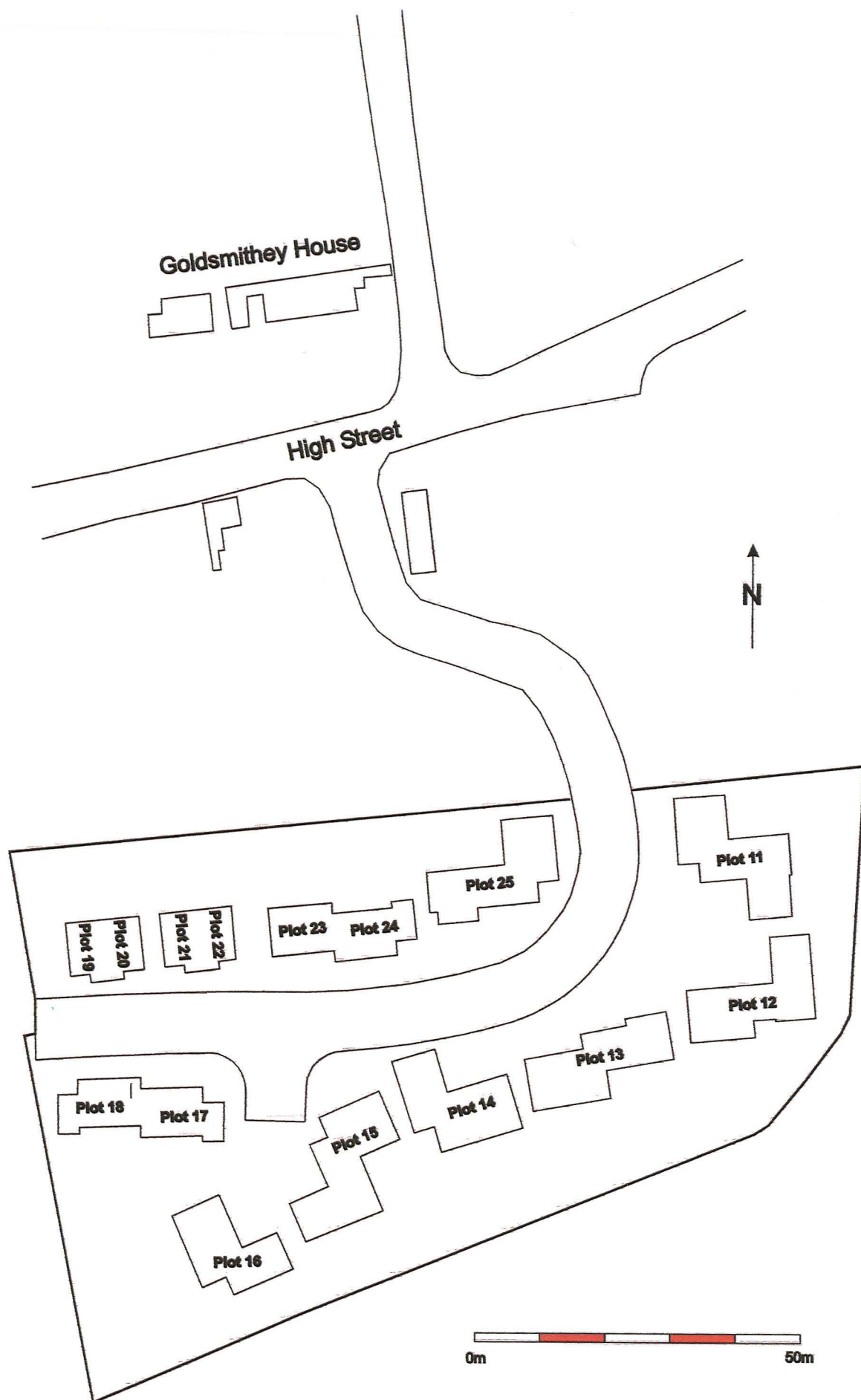
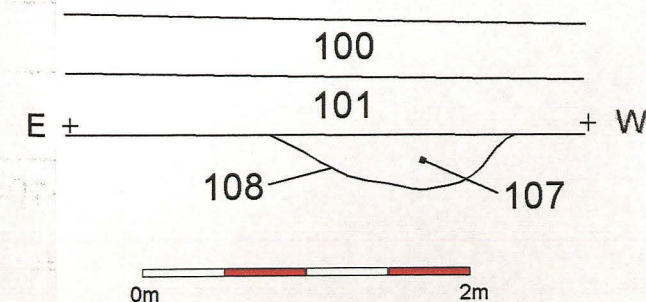
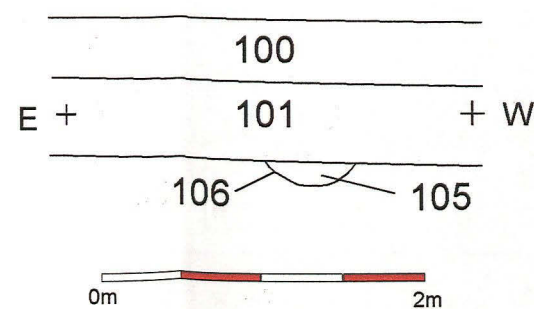
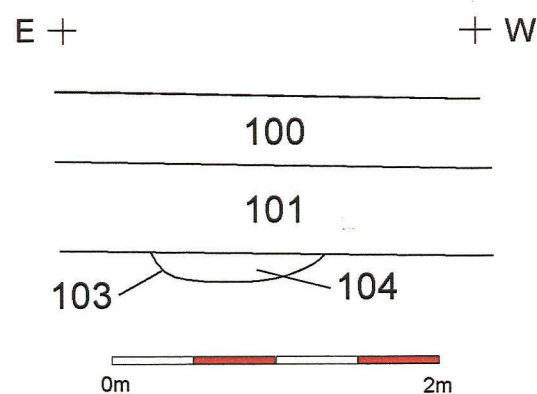
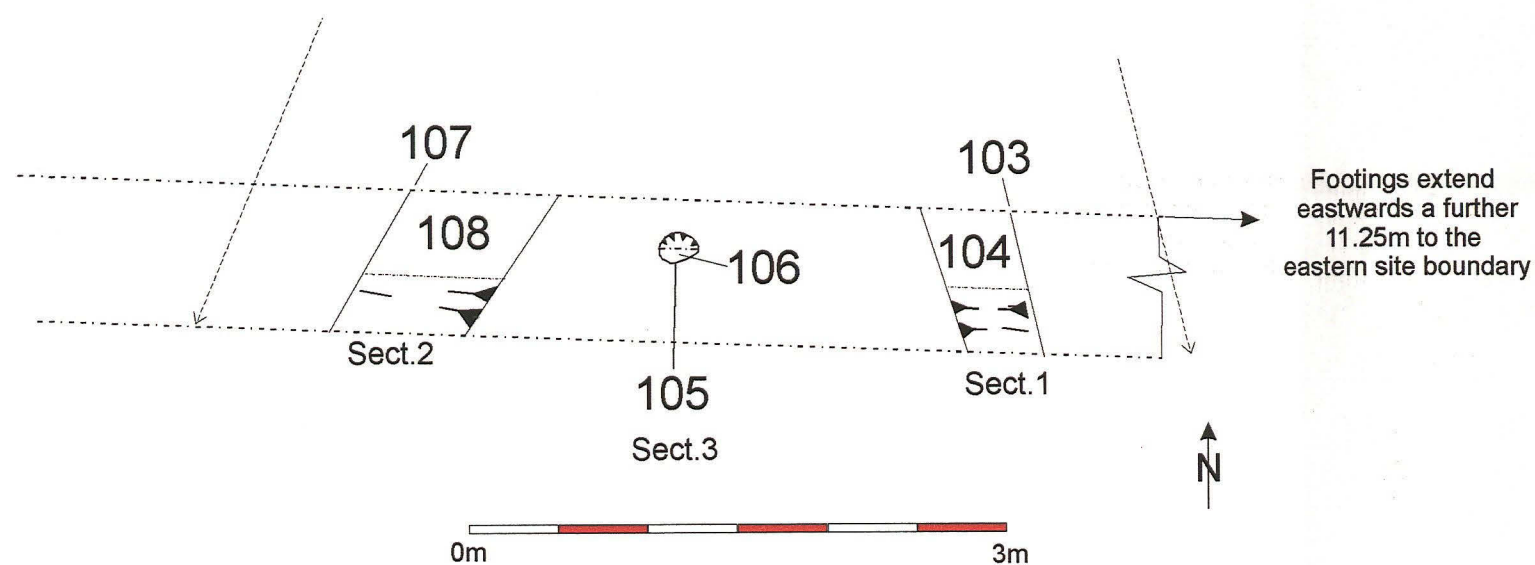
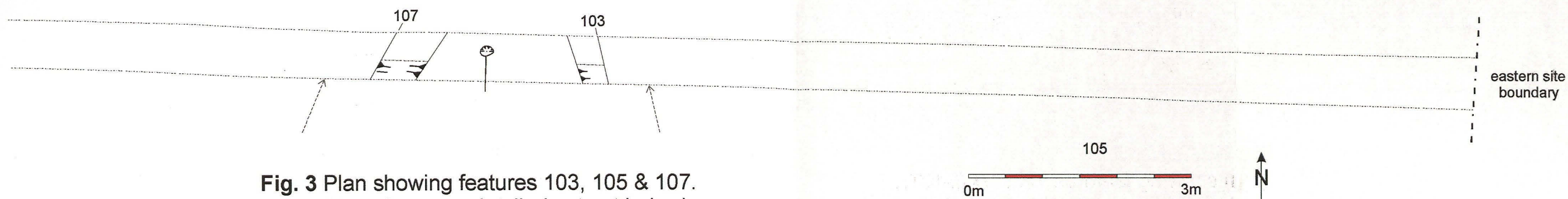


Fig. 1 Location of Fillingham, based on the 1955 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).





**Fig. 2** Plan of the development site, showing the position of each house plot (taken from a drawing supplied by the developer).





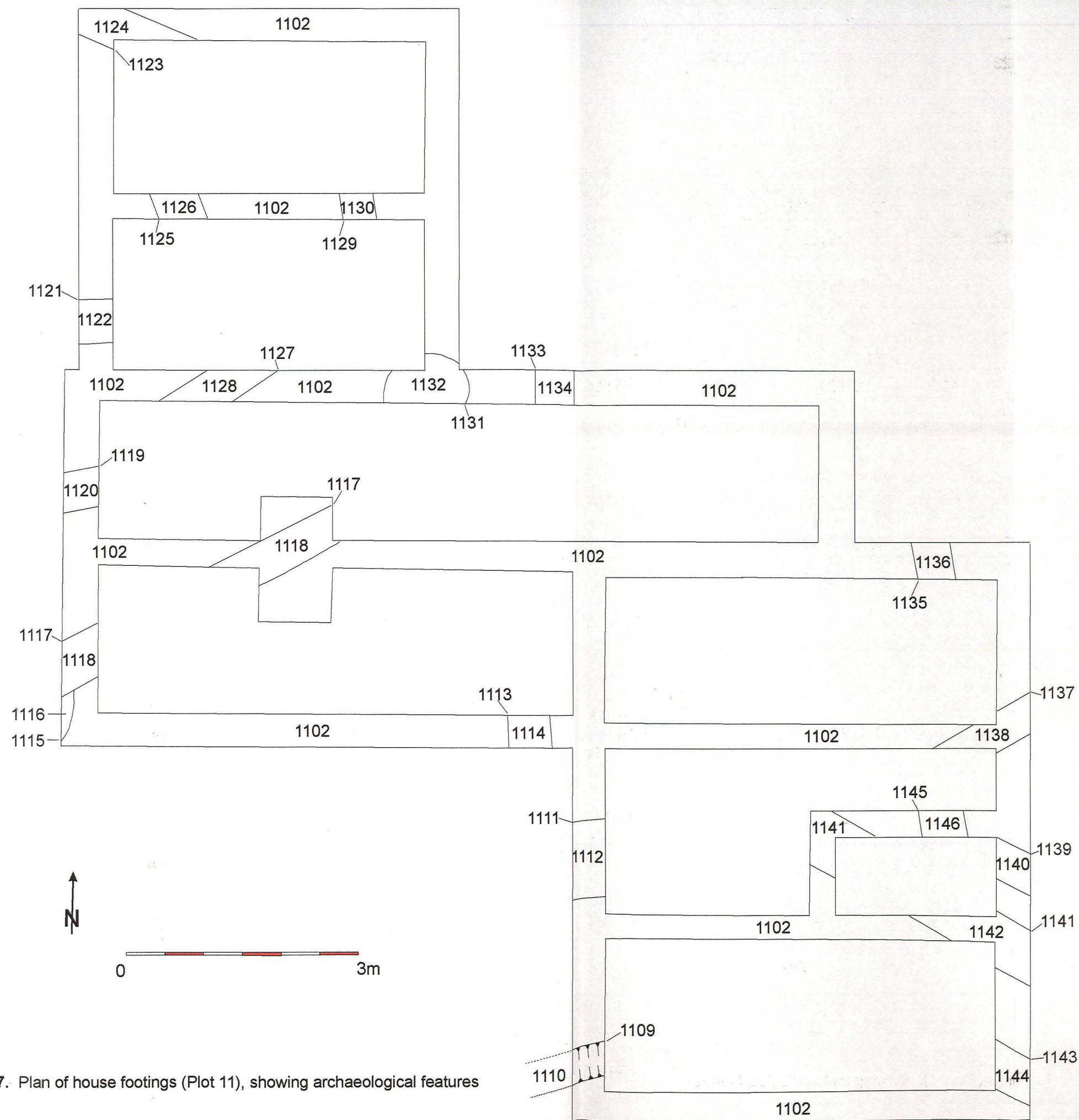


Fig 7. Plan of house footings (Plot 11), showing archaeological features



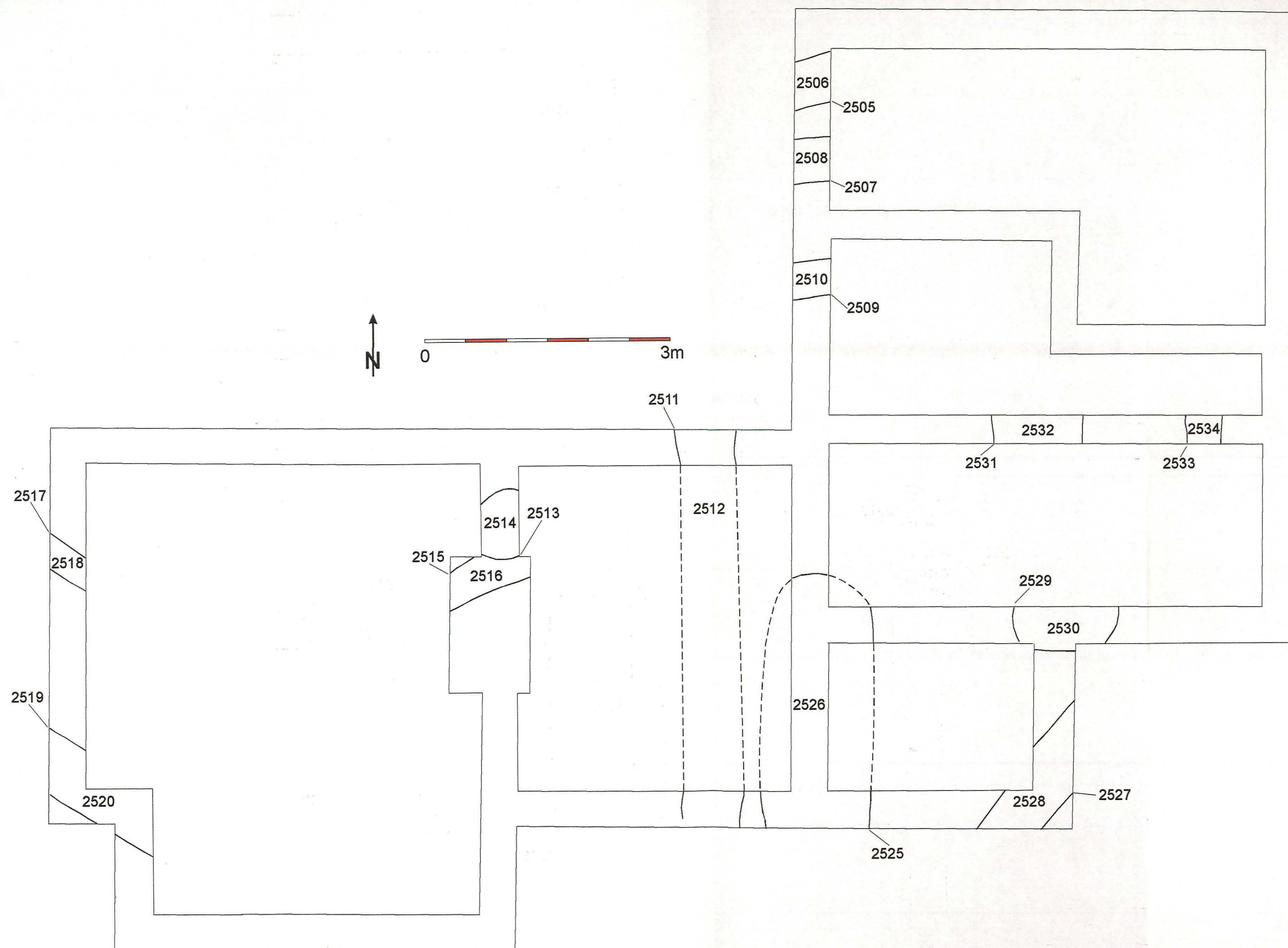


Fig. 8 Plan of house footings (Plot 25), showing archaeological features



## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 General view of the site entrance from the High Street. (Looking southwards)



Pl. 2 Stripped road area showing redeposited topsoil with brick demolition beneath. (Looking westwards)





Pl. 3 Imported topsoil on the limestone brash inside the site entrance.



Pl. 4 Pits (2) and (3) cut into the access road. (Looking westwards).





Pl. 5 Gully (1103). (Looking eastwards). Scales 0.3m and 0.2m.



Pl. 6 Excavated section of (1103). Looking southwards. Scales 0.3m and 0.2m.





Pl. 7 Excavated section of (1109). (Looking westwards.) Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 8 Limestone rubble layer (plot 12). (Looking northwards). Scales 1m and 2m.





Pl. 9 Typical section (plot 25). (Looking northwards). Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 10 west facing section (2505). Scales 1m and 2m.