

~~SR~~ M4/12

9/12



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Wainfleet All Saints, St John Street
(Land adjacent to the Methodist Church)**

NGR: TF 4990 5896
Site Code: WMC 03
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2003.94
WLDC Planning Application No.: S/194/00705/02

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report prepared for
J and J Hadwick**

by

G. Tann

Conservation
Services

16 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Conservation
Services

08 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

LAS Report No. 716

March 2004

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

Contents

List of Figures and Plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Archaeological Background	1
The Watching Brief	2
Discussion	3
Conclusion	3
Acknowledgements	3
References	4
Archive Summary	4
Appendix 1: Context Summary	
Appendix 2: Pottery Archive List (J. Young)	
Appendix 3: Assessment of the Fired Clay from St John Street, Wainfleet All Saints (Dr A. Vince)	
The Figures	
The Plates	

Conservation
Services

16 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

List of Figures and Plates

Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of Wainfleet (C based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1: 10,560 map, Sheets TF 45 NE and TF 55 NW; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 2** Layout of the development, superimposed onto the previous buildings, and showing the position of the evaluation trenches excavated in 2000.
- Fig. 3** The monitored development (based on a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 4** Plan of the four-unit house block, showing the position of archaeological features (K. Dennis, after Tann).
- Fig. 5a** Section across ditch or pit **1** (K. Dennis, after Tann).
5b Section across pit **6** (K. Dennis, after Tann).
5c Deposits visible at the west edge of **8** (K. Dennis, after Tann).
- Fig. 6a** Sequence of deposits at **15** (K. Dennis, after Tann).
6b Sequence of deposits at **11** (K. Dennis, after Tann).
6c Sequence of deposits at **10** (K. Dennis, after Tann).

Plates

- Pl. 1** Position of the monitored four-unit house block (looking east).
- Pl. 2** Dark fill of pit or ditch **1**, as seen in the northern foundation trench (looking NE).
- Pl. 3** Pit or ditch terminal **6**, in the northern foundation trench (looking NW).
- Pl. 4** Fired clay and ash inclusions in **8**, seen in the western foundation trench (looking west).
- Pl. 5** Western edge of **8**, with the dark brown fill **15** containing ash and fired clay (looking north).
- Pl. 6** Dark fill of ditch **11**, visible at the base of the southern foundation trench (looking east).
- Pl. 7** Fired clay fragments in the silt at **10**.
- Pl. 8** Fired clay and ceramic fragments at **14** (looking west).

**Wainfleet All Saints, St John Street
(Land adjacent to the Methodist Church)
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: TF 4990 5896
Site Code: WMC 03
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2003.94
WLDC Planning Application No.: S/194/00705/02**

Summary

Flood-transported fired clay and ceramic material was found at the NE part of the development site, in association with late medieval and early post-medieval pottery. Examination of the fired clay has identified salt residues, and the material is similar to briquetage found on medieval sites elsewhere in Wainfleet. This site was probably on the periphery of a saltern.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by J and J Hadwick Building Contractors in April 2003 to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development. The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition on the East Lindsey District Council planning permission. A monitoring visit was made by G. Tann on 9th April 2003, when foundations for the four-unit house block at the NE corner of the site were excavated by machine.

LAS asked to be informed in advance of further groundworks on this development. In the absence of any notification, several unsuccessful attempts were made to contact the developer (most recently in November 2003). This report only relates to the four-unit block, and it is unknown whether any further groundworks have taken place.

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of six residential units subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

Site Description

The development site is situated north of the Methodist Church on St John Street, about 100m NE of the Market Place (Figs. 1 and 2). It comprises two pieces of land, the smaller of which is 88m² adjacent to the St John Street frontage (which is currently in use as a car park). The larger site to the rear comprises 184m² of rough ground. The approved development is for 6 houses.

Archaeological Background

Wainfleet is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and has its origins in the Saxon period. It became an important port and market centre in the medieval period, declining after the sixteenth century as silting progressively affected Wainfleet Haven. Despite some archaeological recording in and outside the town, early development of the settlement is poorly understood. The development site is located close to the presumed medieval centre.

Evaluation of the site by LAS in 2000 revealed pits and ditches, dated by pottery to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (Williams 2000). Near the street frontage, pottery dating to the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries was found, sealed beneath a flood deposit, together with a single redeposited sherd of locally produced tenth to twelfth century pottery. The evaluation demonstrated that there was late medieval and early post-medieval activity on the site, and that a relatively late flooding episode may have masked earlier remains.

The Watching Brief

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes (Appendix 1).

Four-unit House Block (Pl. 1)

Trenches for the four-unit house block foundations were excavated with a JCB with 0.9m wide, toothed bucket, apart from the 0.45m wide NE-SW internal partition wall foundation (Figs. 3 and 4). Some topsoil **4** had been stripped from across the plot, but where it survived at the northern side of the plot, it was 0.3m thick. It covered a 0.3m thick layer of brown silt subsoil **5** across the house plot. The subsoil contained one sherd of shell-tempered ware, dated to the medieval period (Appendix 2).

The backfill of the 2000 archaeological evaluation Trench 2 was identified close to the northern side of the plot, with its base about 0.05m above the machined foundation trenches. Effectively, this had removed most deposits within the centre of the house block. There was a particularly clear correlation between ditch **202** from that evaluation, and a 1.5m wide feature **1** seen in the northern foundation trench, but not further south (Fig. 5a; Pl. 2). Its fill **2**, a mixed brown silt, was similar to the subsoil layer, and this may explain the discrepancy in its stratigraphical relationship with that layer between the evaluation (which recorded it, in drawn section and photographically, as sealed by the subsoil) and the watching brief (where it was thought to cut that layer). No other features seen during the monitoring of the house foundation trenches for this plot could be equated with those from the evaluation trench.

The southern edge, or terminal, of a 3.3m wide pit or ditch **6** was seen 4m to the west of ditch **1** (Pl. 3). Its base was identified in a small trial hole, 0.4m below the base of the foundation trench. This feature had sloping sides, and contained a mixed, dark brown silt fill **7**, with fragments of mostly mid fifteenth-sixteenth century pottery and brick. Its fill was sealed by the subsoil layer (Fig. 5b).

An extensive spread of ash lenses **18**, **9** and **15** interspersed with thin clean brown silt layers, covered the SE part of the house site. Layer **9** containing 6 sherds of late 15-16th century pottery from the local Toynton/Bolingbroke kilns and a single sherd of Raeren ware from Germany of similar date (Appendix 2). The deposit also contained pieces of ceramic building material, identified as fragments of handmade bricks typical of those made between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries (Appendix 3). It was overlain by the subsoil layer **5**. The uppermost ashy layer **12** (containing coal fragments) was about 0.6m below the unstripped ground level, and these deposits extended below the trench base.

Within the foundation trenches, this material was seen extending 5m north-south, and at least 10m east-west, but its actual extent was difficult to determine because of the intervening clean silt bands. It was also unclear whether it was a series of layers covering a ground surface, or the fill of a large feature. Where the apparent edges of this material were identified, there was an abrupt slope against the underlying light brown silt 3, suggesting that it had accumulated within a natural depression or artificial feature 8 (Figs. 5c and 6a; Pls. 4 and 5).

At the west end of 8 was a west-east aligned ditch 11, only seen in the southern wall trench (Fig. 6b; Pl. 6). This feature was sealed by light brown silt 16, and was filled with a very dark brown silty clay 12 with charcoal and coal fragments. Only the very top of this feature was seen in the foundation trench.

Amongst the burnt material on the site were 25 fragments of fired clay from 10, possibly from an oven or hearth, which appear to have been associated with salt production (Appendix 3; Fig. 6c; Pl. 7). Other fragments of thin, flat-sided, fired clay, at 14, appeared to be related to brick or tile manufacture (Pl. 7). Rapid investigation of the fired clay concentrations found no structural elements, and they seemed to represent redeposited material from destruction of a hearth, oven, or other industrial activity. The thin banding of this material is probably a result of local flooding, responsible for the levelling and transporting of a waste heap, or *in situ* feature, in the close vicinity.

Discussion

The area monitored contained indications of late medieval/early post-medieval industrial activity, possibly associated with salt production followed by a flooding episode which had resulted in the movement of quantities of ceramic waste material. Insufficient of the material was seen to enable the nature of the industry to be determined, although it did not appear to be salt processing. A sherd from 9 had glaze over a break, but there was no other indication of pottery wasters.

Conclusion

The watching brief confirmed the discoveries of the evaluation indicating medieval activity on the site. No evidence for occupation which is not surprising given that the area was susceptible to flooding. The discovery of pieces of briquetage indicative of salt production in the vicinity adds to the body of evidence for the medieval salt industry in this area.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank J and J Hadwick Building Contractors, and Jim Bonnor (Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council [Highways and Planning Directorate]) for their help. The fired clay was identified by Dr Alan Vince and the pottery was examined by Jane Young. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid. The report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
5th March 2004

References

Williams, M. 2000 *The Methodist Church St John Street, Wainfleet All Saints, Lincs.: Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS Report No. 414, April 2000.

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Archaeological finds:

Field plans and sections

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 03/54/8-22

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary (WMC 03)

Context No.	Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Findings
1	4-unit block	cut	filled by 2, cuts 3	1.7m wide north-south ?ditch	
2	4-unit block	fill	fill of 1, below 4	mixed brown silt	
3	4-unit block	layer	below 5	light brown silt; ?natural	
4	4-unit block	layer	above 2	dark brown loam; topsoil	
5	4-unit block	layer	below 4, above 7, cut by 1	dark brown silt; subsoil	1 sherd 12-15thC pottery
6	4-unit block	cut	filled by 7, cuts 3	2.5m wide pit or southern ditch terminal	
7	4-unit block	fill	fill of 6, below 5	mixed dark brown silt with fragments of brick and pottery	8 sherds 14th - 16thC pottery
8	4-unit block	?cut	cuts 3, filled by 9		
9	4-unit block	layer/?fill	fill of 8, below 5; ?same as 18	dark brown silt with charcoal flecks and coal fragments	7 sherds 15th- 16thC pottery; 1 fragment iron waste; 6 fragments brick; piece of shale, stone cobble
10	4-unit block	layer/?fill	below 16	2.5m wide	25 fragments fired clay
11	4-unit block	?cut	filled by 12, cuts 3	2.3m wide, north-south aligned	
12	4-unit block	fill/layer	fill of 11, below 16	very dark brown silt with charcoal flecks and coal fragments	
13	4-unit block	?cut	filled by 14, cuts 3		
14	4-unit block	layer/?fill	fill of 13, below 16	concentration of red ?brick fragments	
15	4-unit block	layer	below 19; ?same as 9	ash lenses	
16	4-unit block	layer	below 4, above 10 and 12; ?same as 5	light brown silt	
17	4-unit block	layer	below 4, above 18; ?same as 5	dark brown silt	
18	4-unit block	layer	below 17, above 19; ?same as 9	ash and charcoal in dark brown silt	
19	4-unit block	layer	below 18, above 15	very pale brown silt	

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive, WMC 03

(J. Young)

A small group of mainly late to early post-medieval pottery. The sherds are slightly worn but show no signs of water abrasion. The pottery from both contexts form cohesive groups dating to between the late 15th and mid 16th centuries with the assemblage from context 9 probably being slightly later than that from context 7. The single sherd from context 5 is of medieval date, probably 13th to 14th century.

context	cname	full name	sherds	weight	part	description	date
5	SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware	1	4	BS		late 12th to 15th
7	CIST	Cistercian-type ware	1	2	BS		mid/late 15th to mid 16th
7	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1	59	bung	internal deposit	mid 15th to mid 16th
7	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1	22	base		mid 15th to mid 16th
7	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	16	BS		late 15th to 16th
7	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1	7	BS		mid 15th to mid 16th
7	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1	6	BS		14th to 16th
7	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1	3	BS		mid 15th to mid 16th
7	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1	2	BS		14th to 16th
9	RAER	Raeren stoneware	1	14	BS		late 15th to mid 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	1	BS		15th to 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	40	BS		mid 15th to 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	47	BS		mid 15th to 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	88	base	soot ext and part int	late 15th to mid 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	7	BS		late 15th to mid 16th
9	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1	8	rim/edge	? Vessel if so then a large rect lid/cover; glaze over break	late 15th to mid 16th

APPENDIX 3

Assessment of the Fired Clay from St John Street, Wainfleet All Saints

Alan Vince

A collection of fired clay recovered from an archaeological watching brief carried out at St John Street, Wainfleet All Saints (Site Code WMC 03). The material was recovered from two contexts. That from context 10 filled a ditch or similar feature whilst that from context 9 was recovered from a spread of ash, interleaved with layers of silt, which appeared to fill a wide inlet.

Description

The finds were examined using a binocular microscope at x20 magnification and classified according to fabric and form. A record was then made of material by context, fabric and form quantified by sherd count, number of objects represented and weight in grams. Table 1 summarises the finds by weight.

Table 1

Cname	9	10	Grand Total
FCLAY		534	534
IRON	37		37
MTIL	185		185
STONE	159		159
Grand Total	381	534	915

Fired clay (FCLAY)

All the finds from context 10 have a similar fabric and probably all come from the same object type. The fragments are composed of a very silty clay in which there are abundant round holes. These normally run through the fragments in the same direction but this is not always the case. There are also some clear impressions from straw or grass. The fragments have all been burnt but the degree of burning varies considerably. All of the fragments are oxidized, however, and there is no sign of carbonised material within either the round-sectioned holes or the straw/grass impressions. In the case of the lowest-fired pieces the matrix of the fragment has eroded leaving a halo surviving around the holes. This suggests that the holes were cemented in some way.

Some of the fragments had a flat surface, and some had two flat surfaces at right angles. Because of the condition of the material there was no detail remaining of the nature of the surface (i.e. hand-smoothed, cut with an implement or broken along naturally blocky fractures).

A handful of small pieces had been heavily burnt, giving them a light green colour. This is often found on calcareous ceramics fired in the presence of salt.

Appendix One

Context	Nosh	NoV	Weight	cname	class	Form	subfabric	Description
9	1	1	37	IRON	IRON	WASTE		SLAG LUMP
9	2	2	23	MTIL	CBM	BRICK		VITRIFIED
9	1	1	27	MTIL	CBM	BRICK		2 FACES
9	1	1	17	MTIL	CBM	BRICK		1 FACE
9	2	2	118	MTIL	CBM	BRICK		3 ORTHOGONAL FACES
9	3	3	11	STONE	STONE	WASTE	CM SHALE	BURNT
9	1	1	148	STONE	STONE	COBBLE	FINE GREY SEDIMENTARY	HEAT-SHATTERED OVERFIRED GREENISH TINGE
10	6	6	40	FCLAY	CBM	SUBSOIL?		NO FACES
10	11	11	220	FCLAY	CBM	SUBSOIL?		ONE FACE
10	4	4	124	FCLAY	CBM	SUBSOIL?		TWO FACES
10	4	4	150	FCLAY	CBM	SUBSOIL?		

Iron (IRON)

A fragment of vitrified clay from context 9 may have been a lump of iron slag, but is perhaps more likely to be clinker from the burning of a coal-fuelled fire.

Ceramic building material (MTIL)

Fragments of handmade bricks, made in a silty clay containing straw inclusions, were found in context 9. None of these had a thickness surviving but in appearance they are typical of late and post-medieval bricks, of 15th to 17th century date. Two of these fragments were heavily vitrified. This level of overfiring might be found in a domestic hearth but is perhaps more likely in an industrial context.

Stone (STONE)

A fragment of a rounded cobble of a dark grey fine-grained sedimentary rock was recovered from context 9. This fragment had been shattered and discoloured through heat.

A number of fragments of Coal Measures shale, all with evidence of burning, were recovered from context 9.

Assessment

The finds from context 10 are associated with late or post-medieval salt working and are very similar to those published by McAvoy from Wainfleet. According to his interpretation, they result from the digging of turf blocks (and attached subsoil) which were used to create a hypocaust-like structure underneath a trough in which brine was evaporated. Exactly what date this technique was introduced is not clear since most briquetage is much earlier (Iron Age or early Roman) and there is a lack of evidence for the detail of salt extraction in the later Roman, Anglo-Saxon and earlier medieval periods.

The finds from context 9 might be simply domestic debris – house bricks and the rakings of domestic coal fires. However, the vitrified brick fragments and the occurrence of the material interleaved with natural silting suggests that this debris may also come from salt working, at a time after fired bricks and coal had been introduced.

THE FIGURES

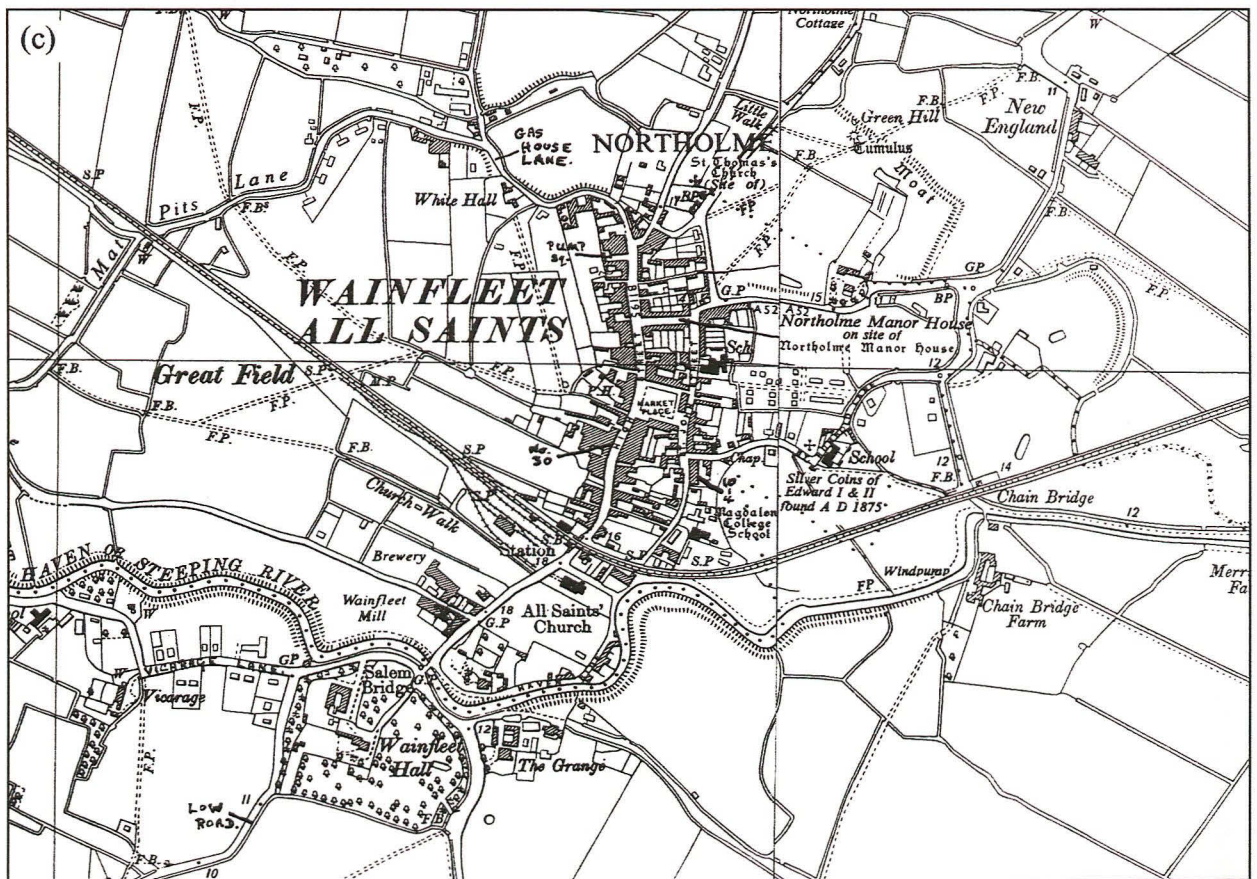


Fig. 1 Location of Wainfleet (c based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, Sheets TF 45 NE and TF 55 NW; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



Fig 2. Layout of the development, superimposed onto the previous buildings, and showing the position of the evaluation trenches excavated in 2000.

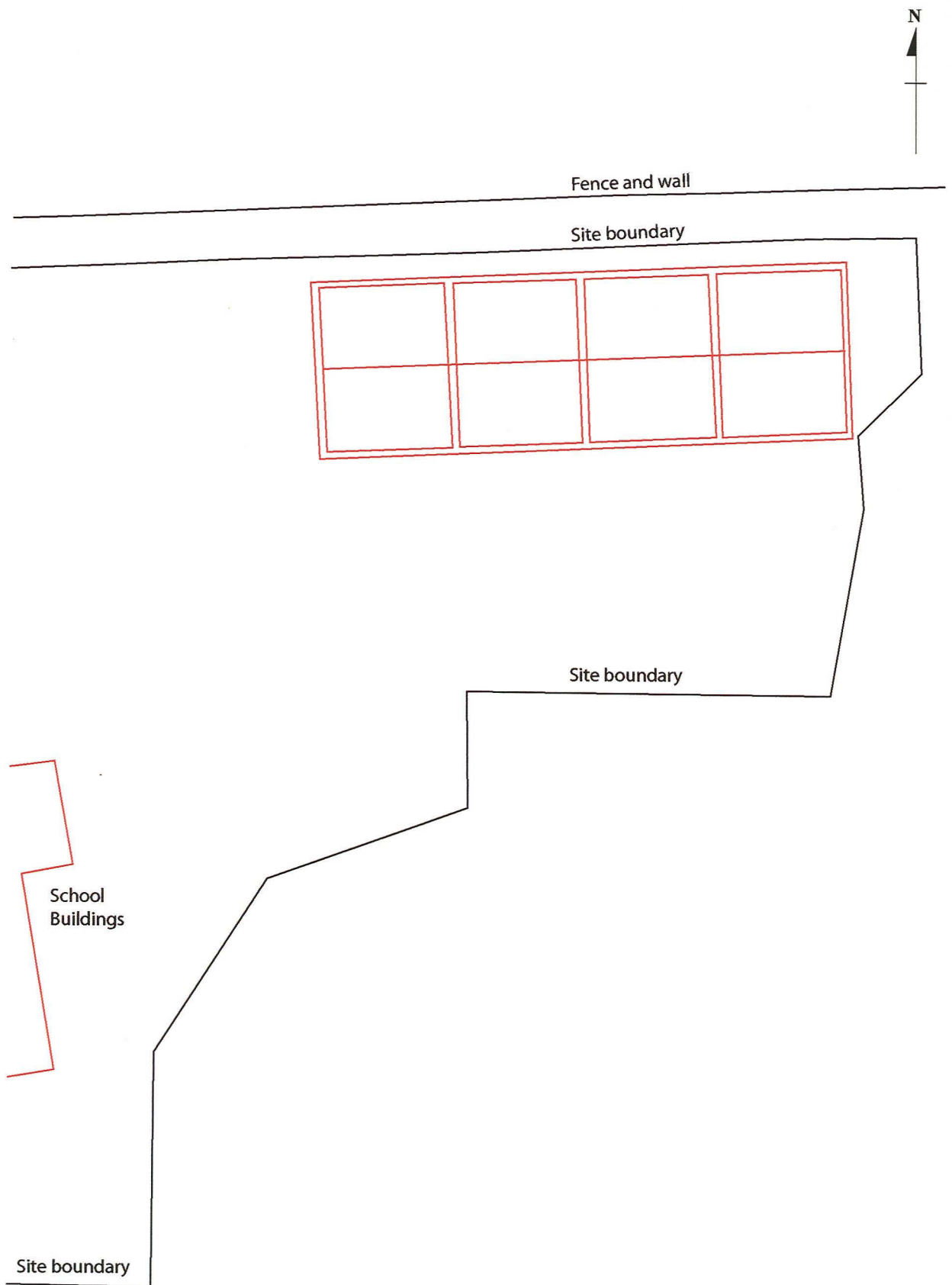


Fig 3. The monitored development (based on a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

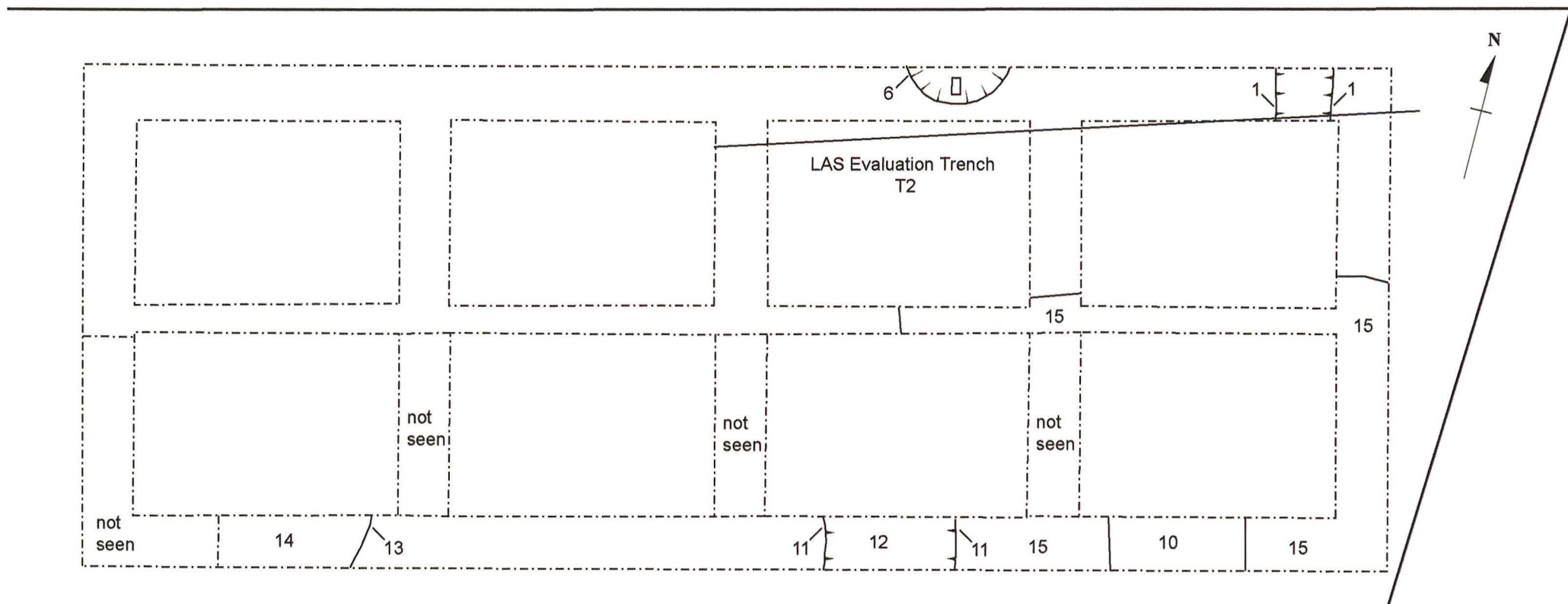


Fig. 4 Plan of the four-unit house block, showing the position of archaeological features (K. Dennis, after Tann).

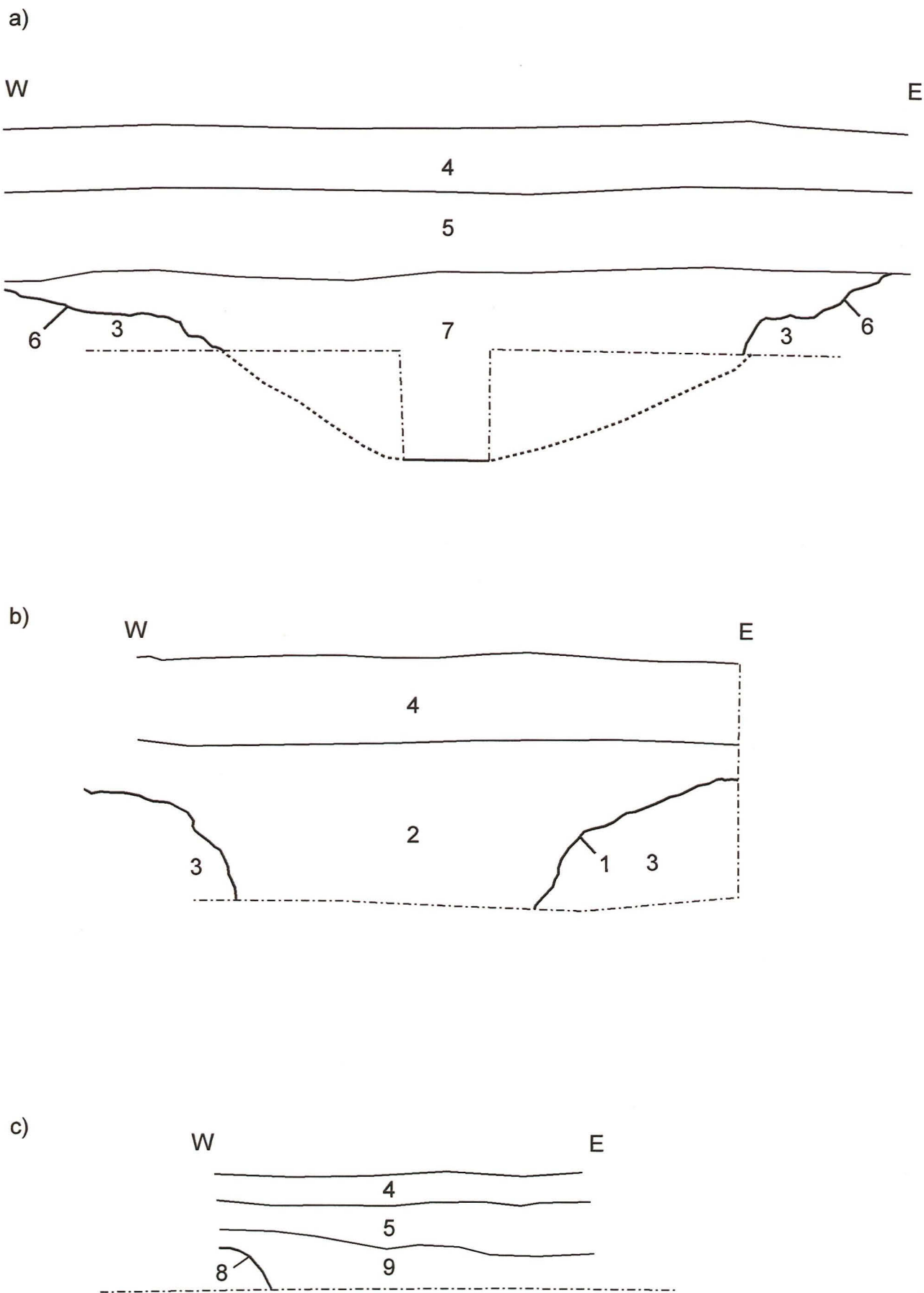


Fig. 5 a) Section across ditch or pit 1 (K. Dennis, after Tann).
 b) Section across pit 6 (K. Dennis, after Tann).
 c) Deposits visible at the west edge of 8 (K. Dennis, after Tann).

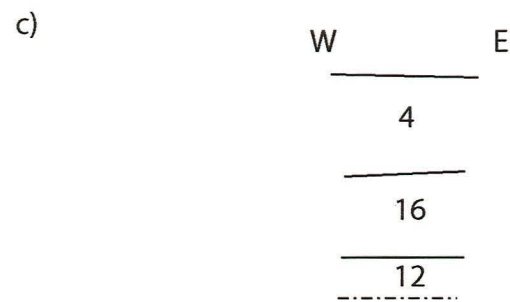
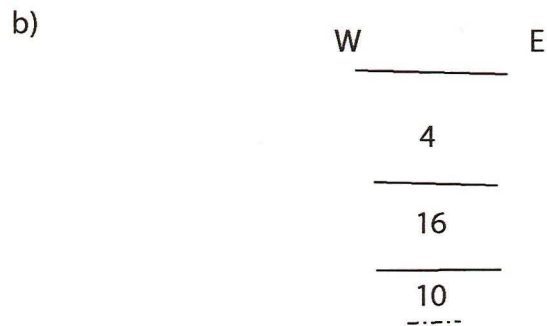
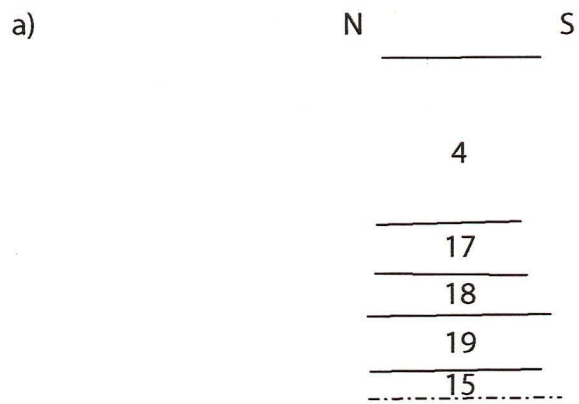


Fig. 6 a) Sequence of deposits at 15 (K. Dennis, after Tann).
 b) Sequence of deposits at 11 (K. Dennis, after Tann).
 c) Sequence of deposits at 10 (K. Dennis, after Tann).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Position of the monitored four-unit house block (looking east).



Pl. 2 Dark fill of pit or ditch 1, as seen in the northern foundation trench (looking NE).



Pl. 1 Position of the monitored four-unit house block (looking east).



Pl. 2 Dark fill of pit or ditch 1, as seen in the northern foundation trench (looking NE).



Pl. 5 Western edge of **8**, with the dark brown fill **15** containing ash and fired clay (looking north).



Pl. 6 Dark fill of ditch **11**, visible at the base of the southern foundation trench (looking east).



Pl. 7 Fired clay fragments in the silt at 10.



Pl. 8 Fired clay and ceramic fragments at 14 (looking west).