



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Jasmine Cottage  
18 High Street, Scampton, Lincolnshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**LCNCC Accn N°.: 2005.104  
Site Code: JCS 05  
NGR: SK 950 793 (Centre)  
Planning application N°.: MO3/P/1201**

**Report**

**for**

**Mr. S. Alexander**

**by**

**Richard Pullen MA PIFA**

**LAS Report N°. 820**

**June 2005**

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Event: L16167 INTERVENTION: L110198  
EXCAVATION: L110199

CON. L19527

Jasmine Cottage 18 High Street, Scampton, Lincolnshire.  
Archaeological watching brief

negative

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the machine excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling on land to the rear of Jasmine Cottage at 18 High Street, Scampton, Lincolnshire. The foundation trenches were 0.60m wide and to 1.00m deep from the present ground surface, except along the eastern boundary of the site where the presence of conifer trees in the adjacent property necessitated a deeper trench with a final formation level of 1.40m below the present ground surface.*

*Nothing of an archaeological nature was observed during the watching brief, the only below ground disturbance being a large tree bole, two subterranean electricity cables and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit.*

**Introduction**

In August 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr. Simon Alexander to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the above site (fig 1) in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

**Site Location and Description**

The village of Scampton is situated approximately 12km north-west of Lincoln off the A15. The study area is located close to the centre of Scampton village. The village itself is centred at around 30m A.O.D. The development consists of a single detached dwelling on level grass pasture to the rear of Jasmine Cottage 18 High Street, Scampton (fig 2).

**Planning Background**

Outline approval (Planning application: MO3/P/1201) for the construction of a single detached dwelling has been granted by the West Lindsey District Council. Due to the possibility for the survival of archaeological remains in the area, an archaeological watching brief was requested during initial groundworks.

**Archaeological Background**

The village of Scampton lies at the base of Scampton Cliff to the north-west of the intersection between two known Roman Roads, the A15, Ermine Street running north south and the A1500

branching off from the A15 and traveling west. Many archaeological sites have been located along the two roadways including prehistoric remains, Roman farms, villas and military outposts.

Scampton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when the village is described as having land for 10 ploughs, a mill, a church and a resident priest.

The Parish Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and parts of the existing building date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Like many others, the church was heavily restored during the Victorian period with the interior and exterior restoration being complete for Queen Victorias 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee year in 1877.

The site is located in the centre of the village close to the Parish Church and the potential for Roman and medieval remains was thought to be high.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

### **Method**

Overlying vegetation and approximately 0.10m of topsoil **100** were removed from the development area prior to the archaeological watching brief (Pl. 1 and 2). The excavation of the foundation trenches was undertaken by a JCB 3CX Sitemaster 4 Turbo equipped with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket. For the majority of the foundation plan the trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.00m from the present ground surface. Along the eastern boundary of the site the presence of conifer trees in the adjacent property necessitated a deeper trench with a final formation level of 1.40m below the present ground surface. All machining was monitored by LAS Archaeological Project Officer Richard Pullen MA PIFA. Foundation works were undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and took one day to complete. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

### **Results**

The topsoil **100** was a dark grey/brown silty clay that contained occasional small sub-angular sandstone fragments and demonstrably modern material including pottery sherds and window glass. The topsoil **100** had an overall depth of 0.25m. Beneath the topsoil a mid brown clay silt subsoil **101** was noted. Subsoil **101** had a depth of c.0.55m (Pl.3 and 4).

With the exception of a 0.45m deep early 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit (see Fig. 3) no finds or features of an archaeological nature were observed cutting into layer **101**. A single tree bole c.6.00m in diameter was noted at the southern end of the development. A mature horse chestnut tree had been removed by the land owner prior to the beginning of any work. The natural disturbance caused by root action and retained ground water in this area was substantial, but of little consequence archaeologically due to the obvious lack of any remains (Pl.4 and 5). Two unarmoured and unmarked electricity cables were

noted running north-south across the site at a depth of just 0.15m below the present ground surface (Pl. 3). The cables proved to be disconnected from any supply. At a depth of c.0.80m from the original ground surface a mid to light brown clay layer **102** was observed. Layer **102** represents the natural geology and continues undisturbed beyond the maximum final formation depth of 1.40m (Pl. 3 and 4).

An archaeological presence was maintained on site during the entire trenching operation. No archaeological finds or features were noted at any point during the works.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, with the exception of a large tree bole, two subterranean cables and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit, no below ground disturbance has occurred in the observed areas to the rear of 18 High Street, Scampton and that no archaeological finds/features of pottery or structural remains were encountered during the watching brief.

### **Acknowledgements**

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful for the full co-operation given by the contractors and individuals who assisted in the completion of the works, particularly the developer Mr Simon Alexander. The illustrations were prepared by the author from plans supplied by the client.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2005

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Colour Photographs from LAS film N<sup>o</sup>. 05/31  
Correspondence  
Developer's site plan

**THE FIGURES**

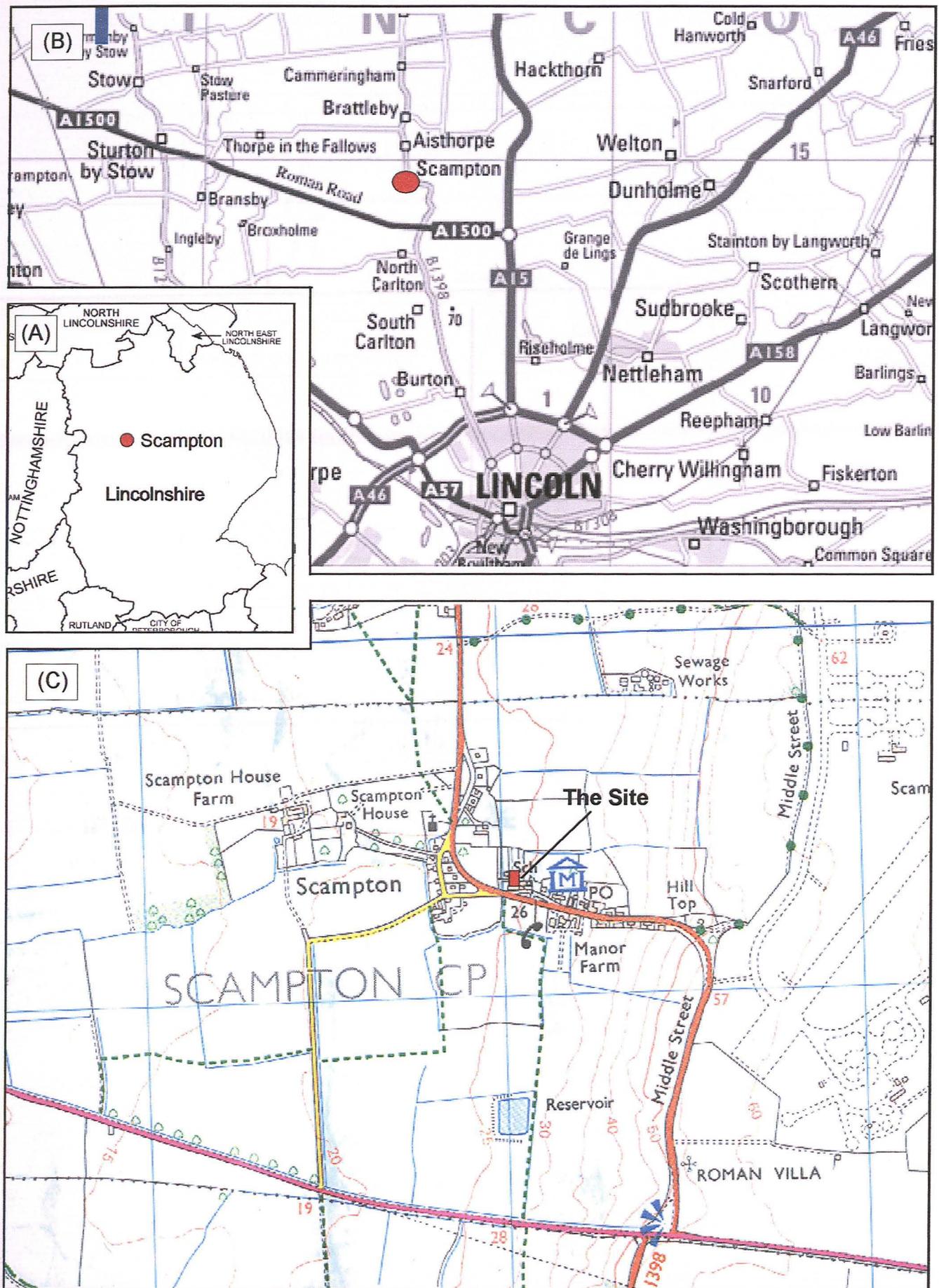


Fig.1 Location of Scampton (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer map 272. © Crown copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. LAS Licence No: 100002165).

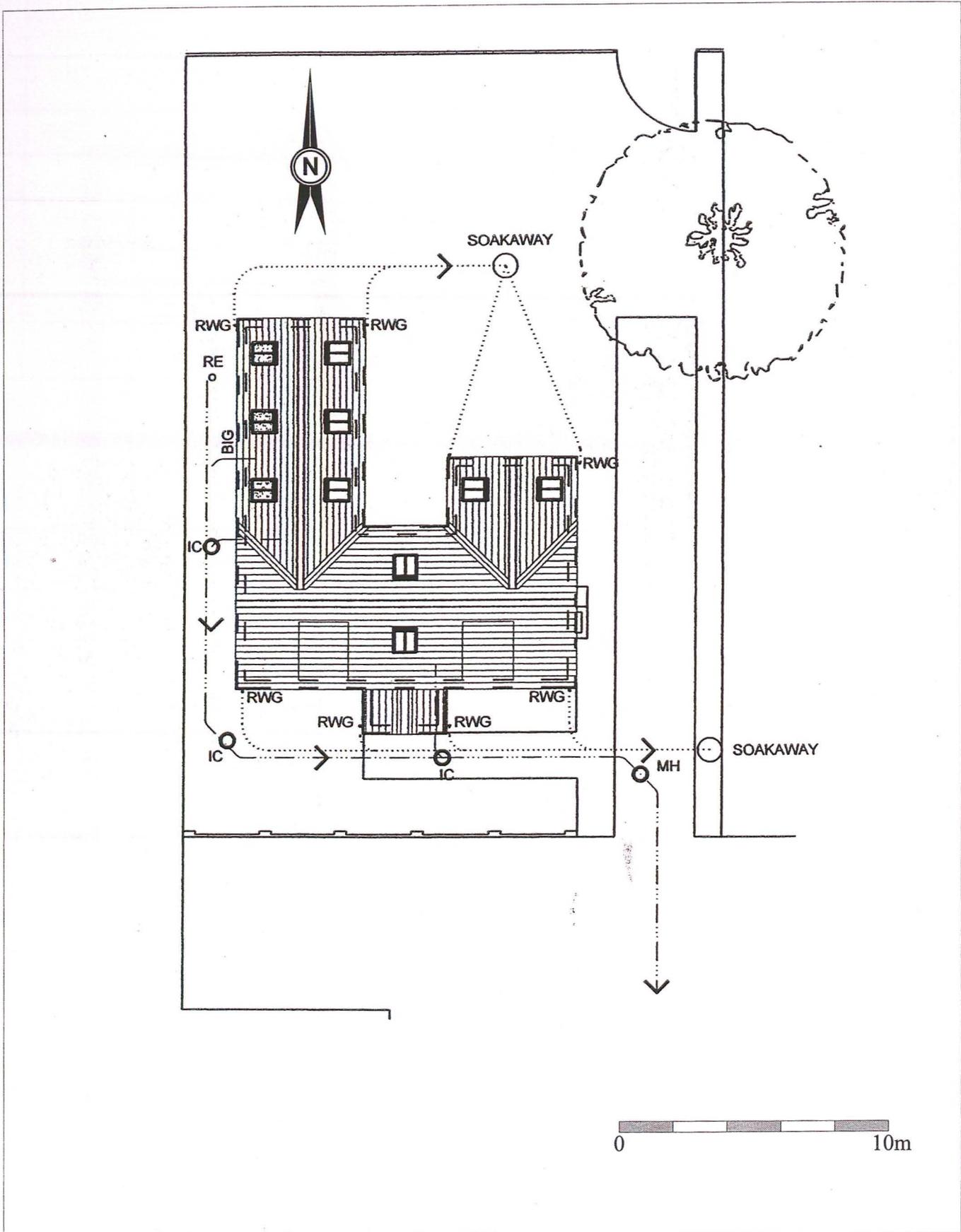


Fig. 2 Plan of the development area showing the location of the new house.

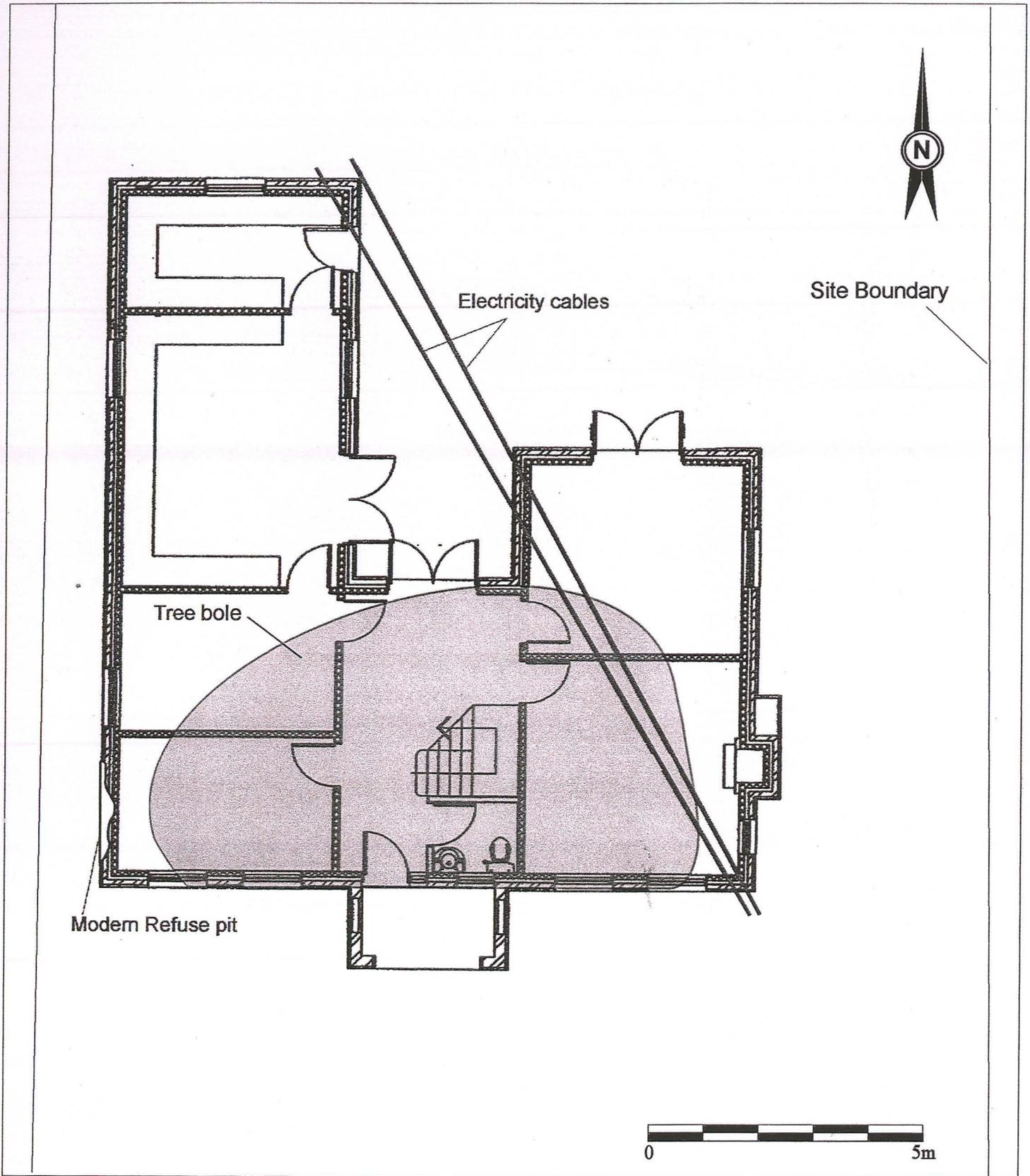


Fig. 3 Plan of the house footings and observed features (taken from a plan supplied by the client)

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Looking north-east across the stripped site



Pl. 2 Looking north-west across the development site



Pl. 3 The horizontal stratigraphy of the eastern baulk of the site and one of the two cables noted during the watching brief.



Pl. 4 Root action and stratigraphy in the southern baulk



Pl. 5 Looking north-east across the excavated foundations showing root damage in the foreground



Pl. 6 A general view looking south at the finished foundation trenches