

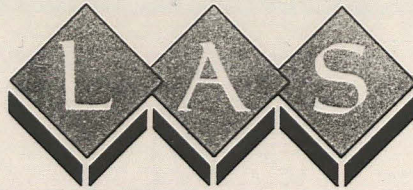
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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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OLD BOLINGBROKE
Corner plot Hagnaby Lane
(Accn no. 184.94)

TF 35132 64925

Archaeological Evaluation

for

D. L. S. (Holdings) Ltd

February 1995

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Pl. 2 Hagnaby Lane trench, view N.

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Old Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire

Corner plot Hagnaby Lane

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

The following specification has been prepared on instruction of Mark A. Damms Architectural Technician on behalf of D.L.S (Holdings) Ltd, Europa House Sheepbridge Lane, Mansfield, Nottingham, NG18 5DX. The evaluation will be carried out to provide supporting information for outline Planning Applications at the above sites.

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- determine the quality and extent of any remains
- determine extent of modern disturbance to the site
- determine the level of further archaeological recording required prior to development

Archaeological Background

The village of Bolingbroke is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 when it was a substantial settlement with a market, church and 3 mills. The proposed development site lies just east of Bolingbroke Castle which was built in c.AD1220 and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The proposed development sites lies on the SE corner of staggered cross-roads east of the church and castle but potentially close enough to these medieval areas to lie within the Saxon and medieval curtilage of the settlement. Scattered prehistoric and Roman remains have been found in the parish but on present available information it was considered unlikely that substantial remains of these periods would be present on the site.

Site Description

The proposed development site lies at the junction of Main Rd and Hagnaby Lane covering an area of c. 800 square metres (Fig. 1). There is an outline proposal for the construction of a single dwelling. The site is overgrown, which meant that evaluation by fieldwalking was not possible.

A detailed assessment of the medieval development of the village has not been undertaken. Much of the documentation for the village is held at the offices of the Duchy of Lancaster in London or at the Public Records Office. The Lincolnshire Archives Office holds a photocopy of a plan dating to 1788 (LAO MCD 851/10) the Enclosure Award dating to c.1800 (LAO 851/14B/1 +2). Both plans show a single building in the NE corner of the plot. The development site lies within plot 104 marked on the enclosure plan (Fig. 2) . This area was not investigated during the evaluation because the proposed new building lies towards the west end of the plot.

A postcard, dating to the turn of the century shows part of the corner plot, with a Victorian greenhouse in the NW corner (Pl.1). This was only demolished in the last 40 years and local inhabitants state that the plot has been used as a vegetable garden for at least the last 70 years. This suggests that the building marked on the two maps must have been demolished before c. 1920.

EXCAVATION

A single trench 3.60m long and 1.50m deep was excavated using a standard 1.5m wide ditching bucket towards the west end of the site in the area of the proposed new dwelling (Pl.2). It was positioned perpendicular to Hagnaby Lane (N-S) to check for the presence of remains along the road frontage.

Beneath the grass was a thick deposit of topsoil 1.12m in depth (Pl.4). It contained a scattering of pottery sherds, one of which may be medieval in date but was too small to identify. There were 10 sherds of pottery which were local products, probably from the kilns at Bolingbroke, dating to the 17th-18th centuries. There were three stoneware sherds of the 19th century and two clay tobacco pipe stems, also of 19th century date. The sherds were small in size and consistent with material associated with manuring of land.

The topsoil overlay a blue-grey silty clay. The north end of the trench was particularly wet and water seepage occurred immediately on excavation. The trench bottom was covered in water after only 3 hours (Pl.3). There may have been a drain along the north boundary of the plot.

The poor drainage in this part of the village was well-illustrated during a flash flood in 1987 when the whole area along Main Rd and Hagnaby Lane was inundated with water (Pl. 5).

THE FINDS

The pottery was examined by Jane Young of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit.

1 sherd medieval pottery (?Toynon/Bolingbroke)

1 pancheon rim

1 base sherd

8 body sherds

TOTAL 10 sherds of Bolingbroke pottery, dating to the 17-18th centuries and representing 10 vessels.

The closest known kiln site is that just south east of the development site at TF 352648. A 17th century kiln was found west of the castle at TF3480 6501 and a further kiln and 2 waster pits have been recorded to the north of the Rectory, 0.5km east of the development site at TF 356 648. Little detailed analysis of the kiln products has taken place and it is not currently possible to date the pottery more closely.

Later finds

- 1 sherd 19th century stoneware
- 2 sherds 19th century brown stoneware
- 1 brick fragment
- 2 clay tobacco pipe stems

DISCUSSION

The topsoil on this site was unusually deep and the history of land use on this plot as a vegetable garden, certainly in the 20th century if not for longer, suggests that the plot may have been double-dug. There was no indication of any structural remains in the form of building debris in the trench. The handful of pottery sherds found are in keeping with use of the land for cultivation.

The eastern end of the plot was not investigated and there may be remains of the building shown on the two maps described above. However, if this building was of mud and stud construction then very little would survive below ground. A late 19th century photograph of Hagnaby Lane shows a number of mud and stud cottages but unfortunately the study area is not visible.

In conclusion, no archaeological remains were encountered in the evaluation trench.

Naomi Field
February 15th 1995

References

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- Whitwell, J. B. and Wilson C. M., 1966, ' Archaeological Notes 1965', *Lincs. History and Archaeology* 1, 49
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- Whitwell, J. B. and Wilson C. M., 1968, ' Archaeological Notes 1967', *Lincs. History and Archaeology* 3, 31

Primary Sources

- Plan of Bolingbroke dated 1788. Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO) ref. MCD 851/10. Original held at the Public Records Office (PRO ref. MPC 118)
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO) ref. 851/14B/ 1+2 Copy of Enclosure Award map held at the Public Records Office (PRO ref. MPL 76)

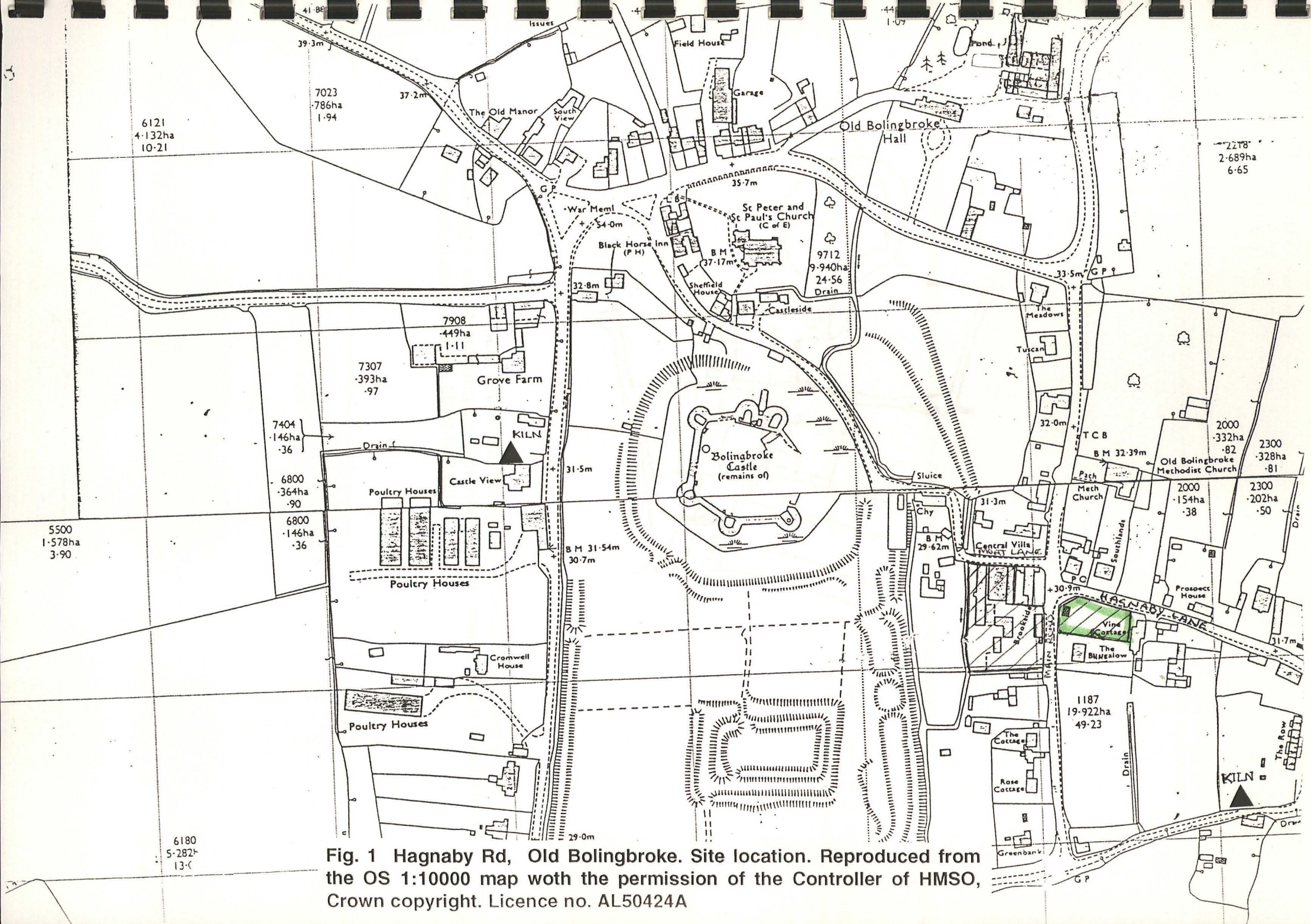


Fig. 1 Hagnaby Rd, Old Bolingbroke. Site location. Reproduced from the OS 1:10000 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. Licence no. AL50424A

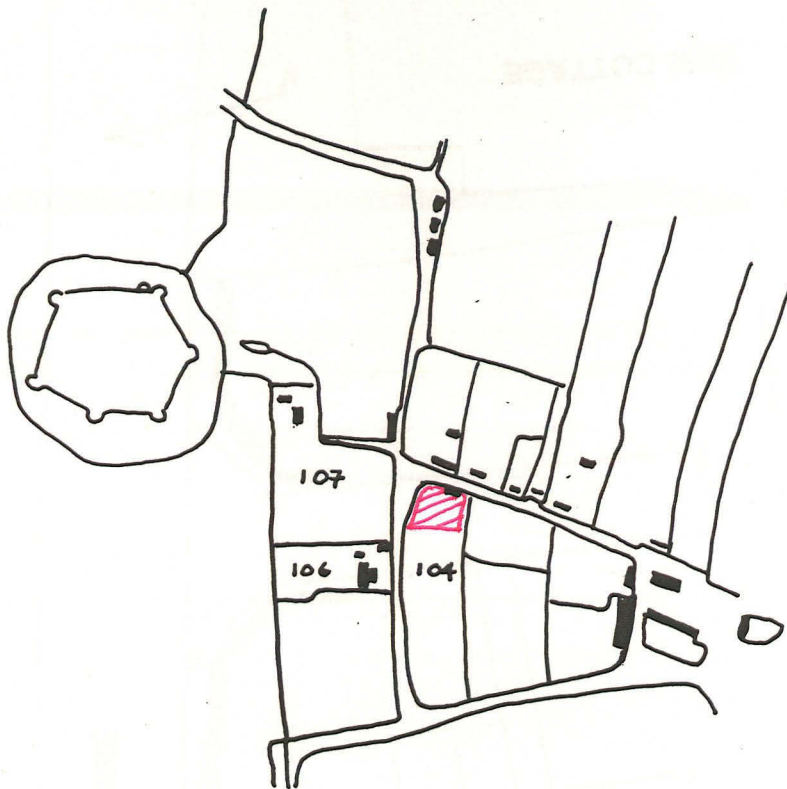


Fig. 2. Tracing of part of the Old Bolingbroke Enclosure Award of 1800 showing a single building on Plot 104 at the corner of Main Road and Hagnaby Lane (LAO ref. 851/14B/1+2).

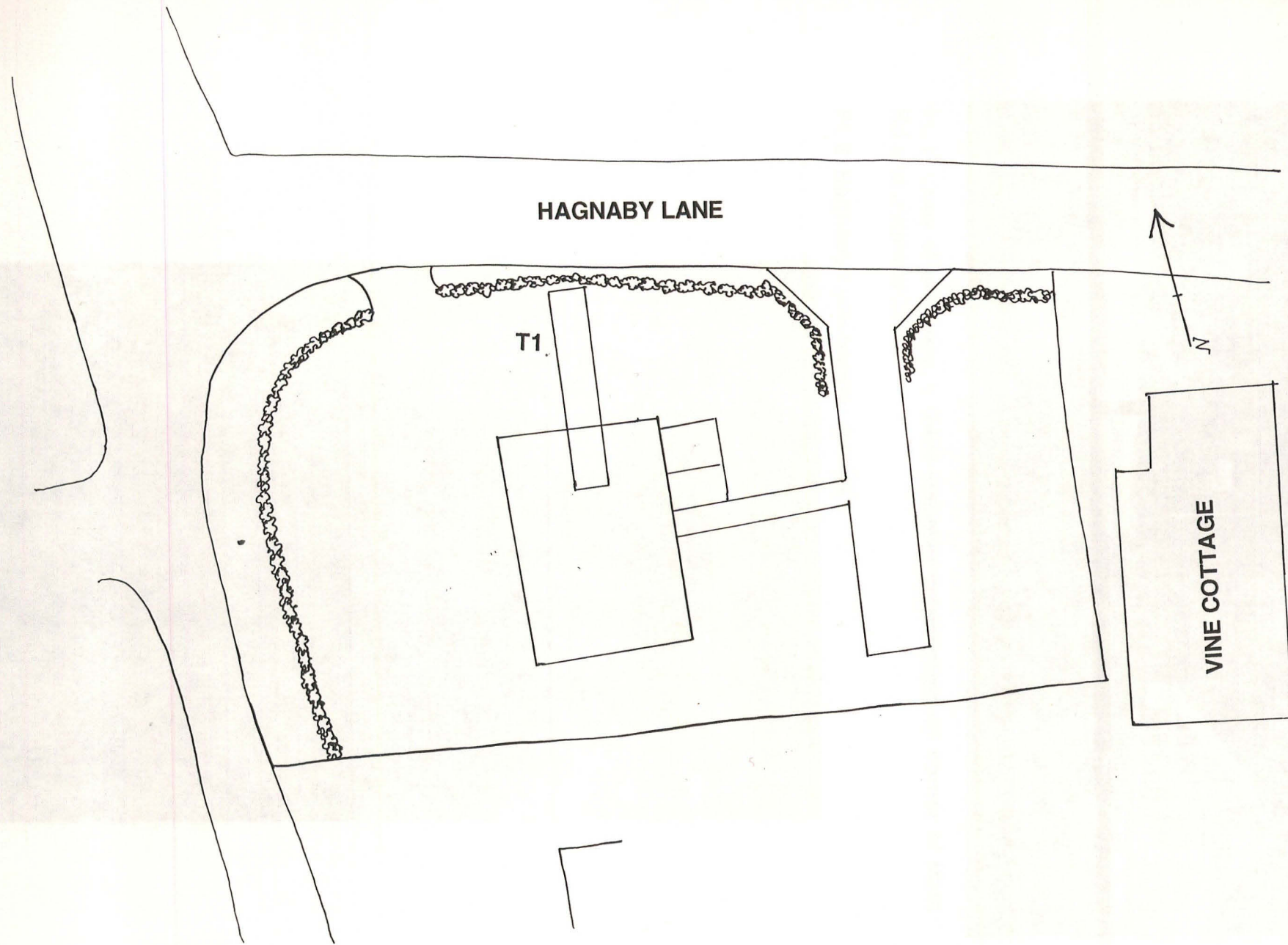


Fig. 3 Trench location in relation to proposed new dwelling.



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Pl. 2 Hagnaby Lane trench, view N.





Pl. 3 Hagnaby Lane trench, view N. Same view as Pl. 2 after 3 hours, showing water seepage.

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Pl. 5 Copy of photograph taken in 1987 after flash floods. View of Main Rd looking S (Hagnaby Rd and site to left).