



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Lincoln Road, Faldingworth, Lincs.**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*NGR: TF 068 848*

*Planning Application: M06/P/0386*

*Site Code: FWLR 06*

*LCNCC Accn No. 2006.153*

**Report for  
Mr D. Nelstrop**

**by G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 939**

**September 2006**

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06 OCT 2006

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# **Lincoln Road, Faldingworth, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief**

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## **Summary**

*Groundworks for a new house beside Lincoln Road revealed a western boundary ditch and numerous small pits across the building plot. No features could be dated earlier than the post-medieval period, but five thirteenth-fifteenth century pottery sherds were found on the site after removal of topsoil. A brick well probably represents the pump marked on a late nineteenth century map, but no trace was found of any building on the site frontage.*

## **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr D. Nelstrop in July 2006 to undertake a watching brief during development of a plot of land at Faldingworth. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998). The watching brief was conducted by Geoff Tann on two visits (July 10th, 24th and 25 2006).

## **Site Location and Description**

Faldingworth village is located on the A46 between Lincoln and Market Rasen, c. 12 miles north-east of Lincoln. The development site is situated to the south side of Lincoln Road, in the centre of the village (Pls. 1 and 2). The footprint of the new development had been stripped of topsoil before monitoring began; some topsoil had been cleared and tipped at the southern end of the plot when concrete footings for a house were laid some years ago.

## **Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a four-bedroomed house and detached garage with associated services, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

## **Archaeological Background**

At the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 Faldingworth was the centre of three manors (estates). The settlement clearly dates back to the Saxon/pre-Conquest period. It was possible that groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling would disturb evidence for medieval or earlier occupation of the site.

## **The Watching Brief**

### **Site clearance**

Within the development site, the house plot had been stripped of topsoil before archaeological monitoring began. LAS understands that a previous site owner had cleared the site of topsoil, creating low mounds to the rear of the plot. The present developer scraped vegetation from the plot but removed very little soil.

The stripped surface sloped down towards Lincoln Road, with survival of a thin layer of topsoil towards the rear of the plot, and five medieval and two seventeenth-eighteenth century sherds were collected from the layer. Beyond the limits of the stripped area, the surviving topsoil was up to 0.5m thick. Elsewhere, naturally laid orange sandy material (clayier to the east) was visible. The thick topsoil, but an absence of an identifiable subsoil, suggested that the site had been truncated or heavily cultivated in the past; this would seem to pre-date the previous topsoil stripping as no subsoil was seen around the perimeter of the site.

Thin concrete slab foundations **7** were overlain by the topsoil towards the rear of the stripped house plot. These 0.2m thick x 0.6m wide foundations had been laid by a previous site owner, in trenches dug to about 0.7m from the ground surface (0.25m – 0.35m below the stripped level). It is not known whether any buildings were cleared from the site prior to that development, but no spreads of brick rubble or building foundations were seen, and a well represents the only structure revealed by the groundworks.

### **Post-medieval well 25**

A brick-lined well **25** was found within the central wall foundation trench, 2.5m back from the Lincoln Road frontage, and 4m from the western boundary (Pl. 3). The well was 1.2m in diameter, and was constructed with red and yellow unfrogged hand-made bricks. The brick dimensions were 230mm x 110mm x 75mm. The well had been backfilled with brick rubble, and one large piece of late nineteenth or early twentieth century chimney pot was retrieved from its fill. Its base was 2m below the stripped surface.

This feature was the most convincing evidence for prior habitation of the site seen during the watching brief. The brick rubble filling it may have been from the well sides, but it seemed from the quantity that bricks demolished from another structure may also have been tipped into it.

A pump is shown at the western edge of this plot on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map surveyed in the late 1880s, published in 1891 (OS 1891).

### **Boundary ditch 6**

The eastern side of a substantial north-south aligned feature was identified at the south-western corner of the house plot, immediately adjacent to the site boundary and a public footpath separating



the site from another property. The feature was at first thought to be a pit, but its characteristics and its position could represent a property boundary ditch **6** extending below the footpath. Unfortunately, the western foundation trench was dug to a depth of up to 2.7m below the ground surface and conditions were unsafe for detailed investigation and recording. Within the development, the ditch was 2.3m wide, and extended 10.5m from the south-west corner of the house footprint towards Lincoln Road. It is possible that it continued further in each direction, on an alignment diverging slightly to the north-west of the present property boundary.

The eastern side of the feature was recorded in the southern foundation trench, and exhibited a slight shelf 1.2m below the ground surface, with its base at 1.7m. The dark brown clay loam fill **2** was very similar but slightly less stony than an earlier adjacent pit fill. Fill **2** contained two sherds of pottery, of eighteenth century date or slightly later. Towards the northern end of the western foundation trench the base was level, sloping gradually up to the north.

#### **Feature 43**

Excavation of the western foundation trench was conducted with difficulty as underlying deposits were unsuitable for use as a foundation. It was impossible to establish whether a 1m thick black silt layer **44**, with orange sandy lenses, represented natural horizons or fill of a feature (Pls. 4 and 5). The edges of the silt deposit were not confirmed and may well have continued below the higher orange sand layers **16** and **33**. The depth and mixed nature of the material suggested that it was part of a much larger feature containing layers of orange sands and gravels, but it may have been a 5m wide ditch with upcast material **16** on the northern side; no similar deposits were seen elsewhere on the plot.

#### **Pits 5, 10, 15, 18, 20, 23, 31, 34, 35, 37, 39, 41**

Twelve features seen in the foundation trenches were interpreted as pits. These were located around the perimeter of the new house footprint, with none present in the central foundation trench. This could indicate that they were contemporary with whatever site use included post-medieval well **25**, except no artefacts were found in any of the pits. The only dateable pit was **10**, near the north-west corner, which was stratigraphically later than the eighteenth century or later ditch **6**. All the other pits with stratigraphical relationships were earlier than that ditch.

Most of the pits were small features, with diameters of usually between 0.7m and 2.5m. Pit **31** exhibited the greatest visible dimensions (over 5m west-east x 0.8m deep x 0.65m), and cut through the fills of **5**, **20**, **34** and **23** (Fig. 6; Pl. 6). In practice, this feature may have been levelling of previously pitted ground rather than a separate pit. Pit **15**, in the northern foundation trench, was 4.3m wide and 0.65m deep (Fig. 7; Pl. 7). Only pits **6** and **20** were deeper than 1m below the stripped surface.

No pit contained ceramics or animal bone finds or charcoal, and their fills were similar to the topsoil layer **1**. Although the features had been cut into the natural, in some places this was clay and

elsewhere it was sandier or sand with gravel. In no instance did the pits appear to represent deliberate quarrying for sand or gravel.

### **Conclusion**

The watching brief identified considerable evidence for previous activity on this site but was unable to explain why the site was so disturbed by small pits. The well was probably associated with a dwelling (and the late nineteenth century Ordnance Survey map marks a building along the site frontage) but the previous site clearance appeared to have removed all other signs of that structure and any precursors.

The presence of medieval pottery sherds on the site is not unexpected, as this plot is alongside the main street close to the settlement core. Ditch **6** and possibly feature **43** may have medieval origins, but there was no evidence of this.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Mr Nelstrop and his contractors. The pottery was identified by Anne Boyle (Archaeological Project Services), and the illustrations produced by Doug Young.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
September 29th 2006

### **References**

OS 1891 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map.

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Correspondence  
Annotated developer's site plan  
Field plan and sections  
Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 06/127 (digital)



## APPENDIX 1



## APPENDIX 1

### Faldingworth, Lincoln Road (FWLR 06)

#### Context Summary

Context No.	Area	Type	Relationships		Description	Depth of base below stripped surface (m)	Diameter/width (m)
1	Southern foundation trench	Layer	above 7, 29		very dark brown loam topsoil		
2	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 6	?cut by 10	dark brown clay loam		
3	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 31	below 8	lense of white sand, probably redeposited natural		
4	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 5	cut by 31	dark brown loam		
5	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 4	cuts 16, 33	pit	1	0.8
6	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 2	cuts 8	?boundary ditch	1.3	2.3
7	Southern foundation trench	Structure	cuts 8	below 1	concrete foundation		
8	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 31, above 3	cut by 7	dark brown sandy loam		
9	Western foundation trench	Fill	fill of 10	below 29	white sand		
10	Western foundation trench	Cut	filled by 9, 29	?cuts 2	pit	0.8	1.2
11	Western foundation trench	Cut	filled by 2, cuts 12, 13	?same as 6	pit	1	
12	Western foundation trench	Layer (natural)	cut by 11	?same as 13	orange sand and gravel		
13	Western foundation trench	Layer (natural)	cut by 11	?same as 12, below 16	white sand		
14	Northern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 15	below 1	dark brown loam		



15	Northern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 14	cuts 17	pit	0.65	4.3
16	Western foundation trench	Layer (?natural)	cut by 6	?same as 33, above 13	orange sandy clay		
17	Northern and central foundation trenches	Layer (natural)	cut by 15, 18, 27		orange sand and gravel		
18	Northern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 19	cuts 17	pit	0.5	1.3
19	Northern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 18	below 1	dark brown loam		
20	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 21	cuts 22	pit	1.1	1
21	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 20	cut by 31	dark brown loam		
22	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 34	cut by 20	grey sandy clay		
23	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 24	cuts 33	pit	0.7	0.7
24	Southern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 23	cut by 31	dark brown loam		
25	Central foundation trench	Fill/structure	fill of 27	below 26			
26	Central foundation trench	Fill	fill of 25	below 1			
27	Central foundation trench	Cut	filled by 25, 26	cuts 17		2	
28	Central foundation trench	Land drain	below 1	cuts 17	Horse-shoe type land drain		
29	Western foundation trench	Fill	fill of 10	above 9, below 1	dark brown clay loam		
30	not used						
31	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 3, 8	cuts 32	?pit	0.7	5
32	not used						

33	Southern foundation trench	Layer (natural)	cut by 5	?same as 16, 17	yellow clayey sand		
34	Southern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 22	cuts 33	pit	1	0.8
35	Eastern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 36	cuts 17	pit	0.3	1
36	Eastern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 35	below 1	dark brown loam		
37	Eastern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 38	cuts 17	pit	0.5	1.4
38	Eastern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 37	below 1	dark brown loam		
39	Eastern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 40	cuts 17	pit	0.4	1.8
40	Eastern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 39	below 1	dark brown loam		
41	Eastern foundation trench	Cut	filled by 42	cuts 17, 33	pit	0.4	0.9
42	Eastern foundation trench	Fill	fill of 41	below 1	dark brown loam		
43	Western foundation trench	Cut	filled by 44	cuts 16	?natural feature	2.2	5
44	Western foundation trench	Fill	fill of 43	cut by 6	black silt with orange sand inclusions		



## APPENDIX 2



# POTTERY ARCHIVE - LINCOLN ROAD, FALDINGWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (FWLR06)

ANNE BOYLE\*

contex	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherd	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
001	BL	Black-glazed wares		bowl	1	1	32		BS	staffordshire / ticknall type; internal glaze	17th to 18th
001	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	cream	press moulded dish	1	1	13	brown trailed and combed slip	BS	unusual red slip under white slip	17th to 18th
001	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	B	jug	1	1	49		handle	grooved oval with thumbing at UHJ; cu mottled glaze; abraded	13th to 14th
001	HUM	Humberware		small jug / jar	1	1	11		BS		late 13th to 15th
001	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jug / jar	1	1	7		BS		13th to 15th
001	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jug / jar	2	1	11		BS	internal surface missing; ? ID as bright orange fabric	13th to 15th
002	BL	Black-glazed wares		bowl	1	1	32		BS	staffordshire / ticknall; internal flaked glaze	18th to 19th
002	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed		cup / posset	1	1	38		base		late 17th to 18th
002	ENG5	Unspecified English Stoneware		jar	1	1	131		base		18th to 19th

\*Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, NG34 9RW

Monday, October 02, 2006

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# CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ARCHIVE - LINCOLN ROAD, FALDINGWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (FWLR06)

ANNE BOYLE\*

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
003	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	hard red + fe + rounded chalk / limestone	1	20	flat roofer; bedded on fine sand	13th to 15th
026	CHIMN	Chimney pot	hard red	1	789	heavy internal soot and on external rim; discarded	late 19th to 20th

\*Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, NG34 9RW  
Telephone: 01529 461618 Fax: 01529 469444 Email: enquiries@apsarchaeology.co.uk

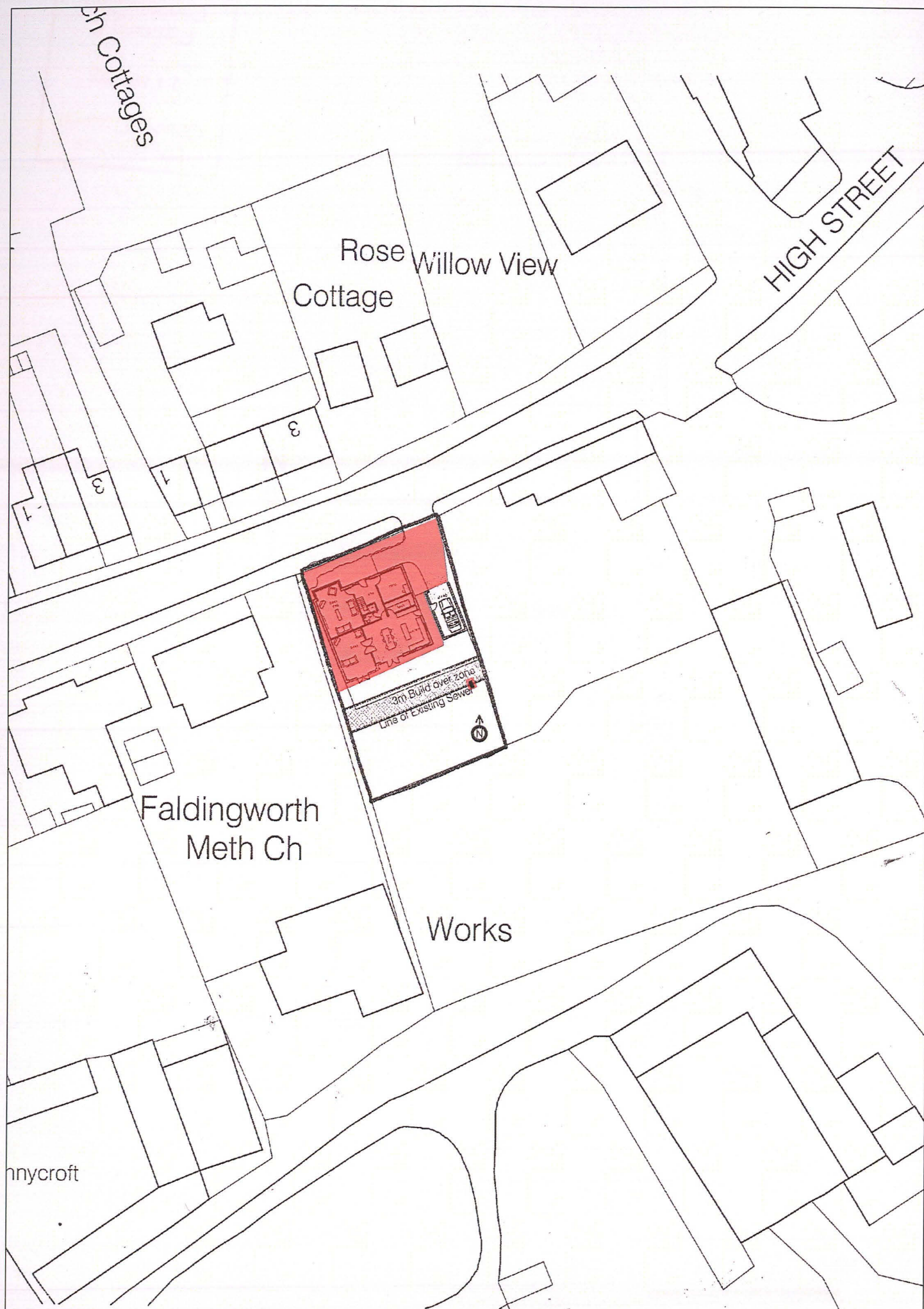


## THE FIGURES









**Fig. 2** Location of the monitored plot, showing the layout of the development (based on Hodson Architects dwg. no. 1921-07 Rev E, supplied by the client).



Lincolnshire  
County Council  
Planning &  
Conservation  
21 NOV 2006



Section  
Fig. 5

Concrete footings



Features shallower than  
foundation trench



Features deeper than  
foundation trench



Brick lining

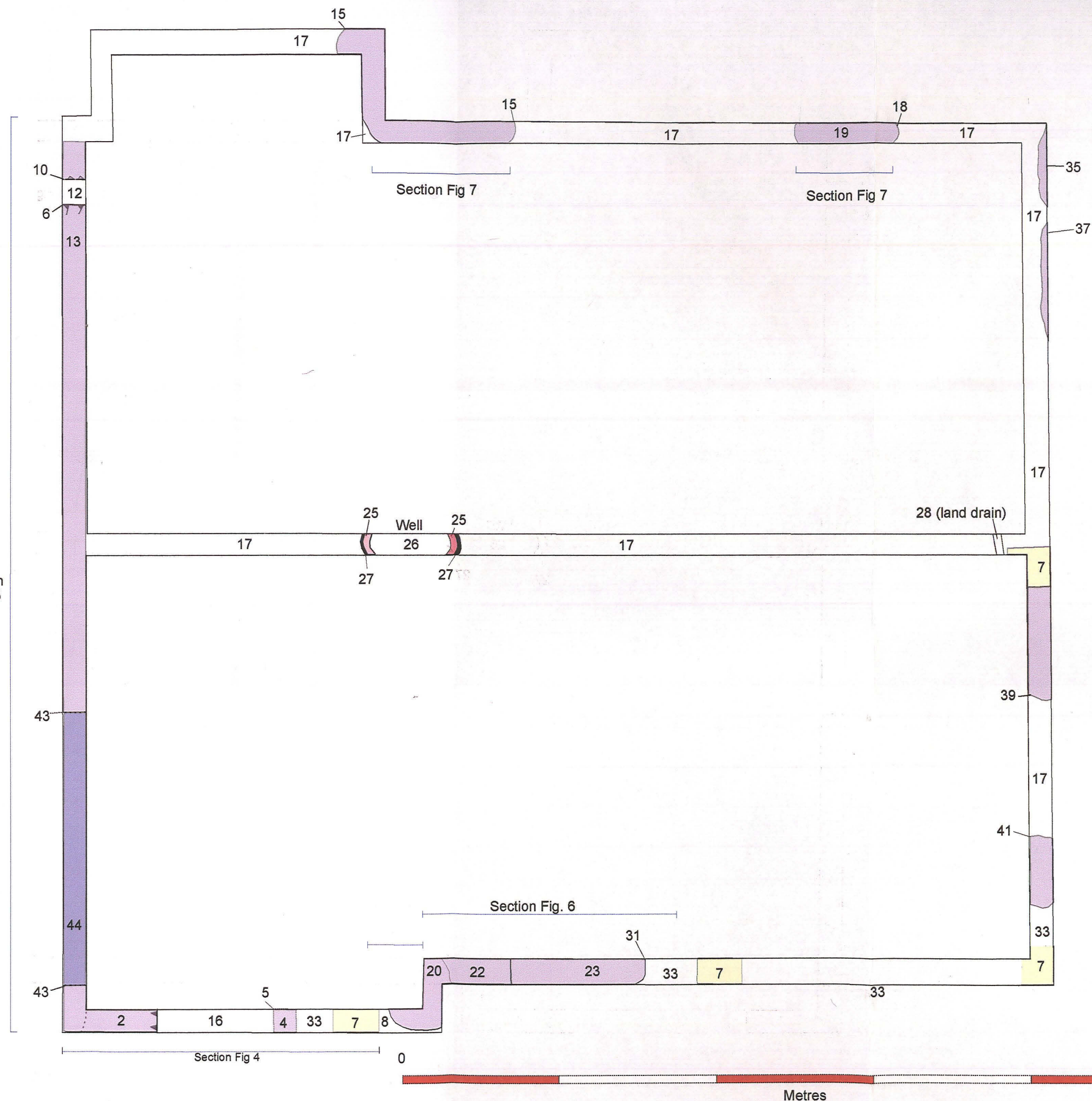
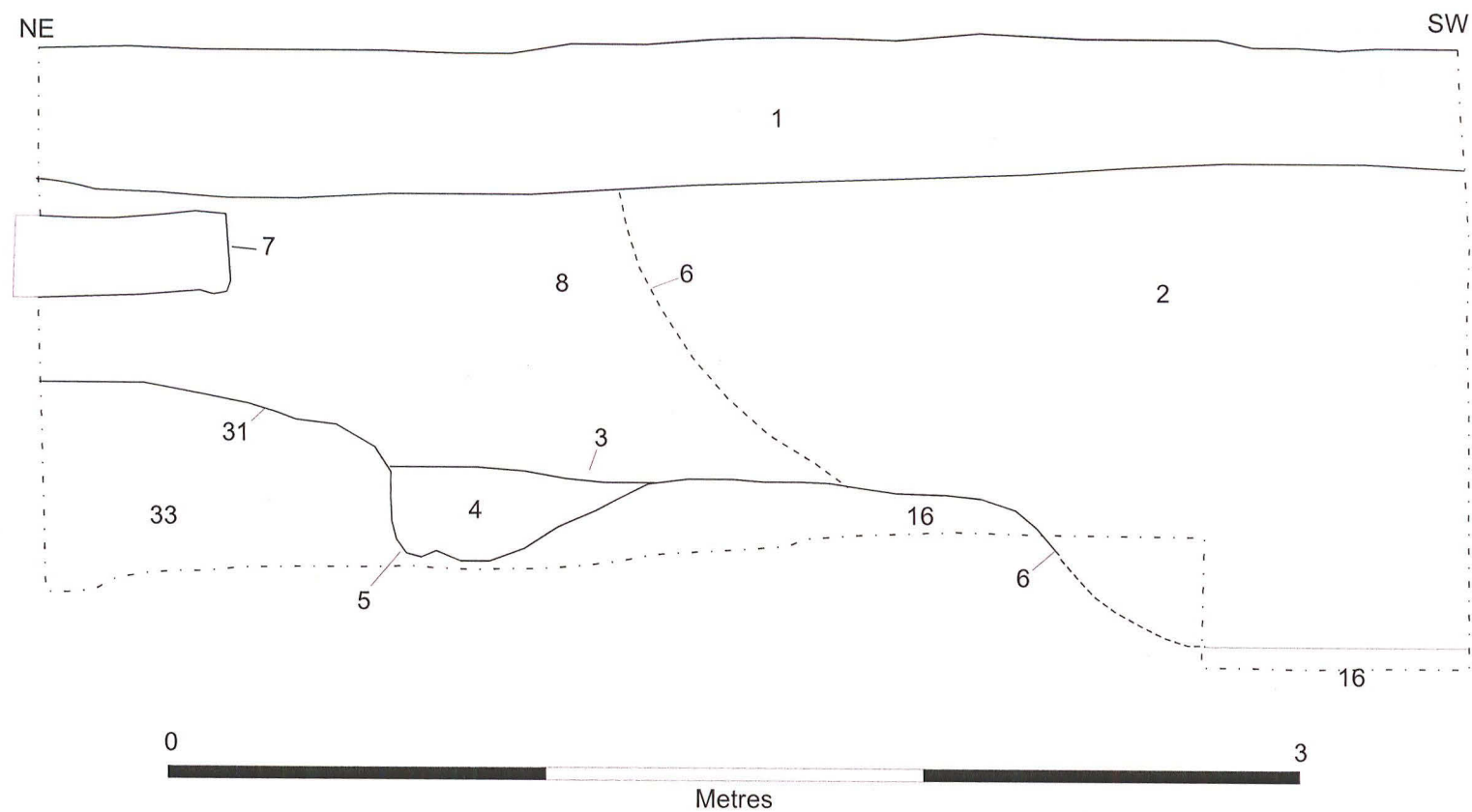
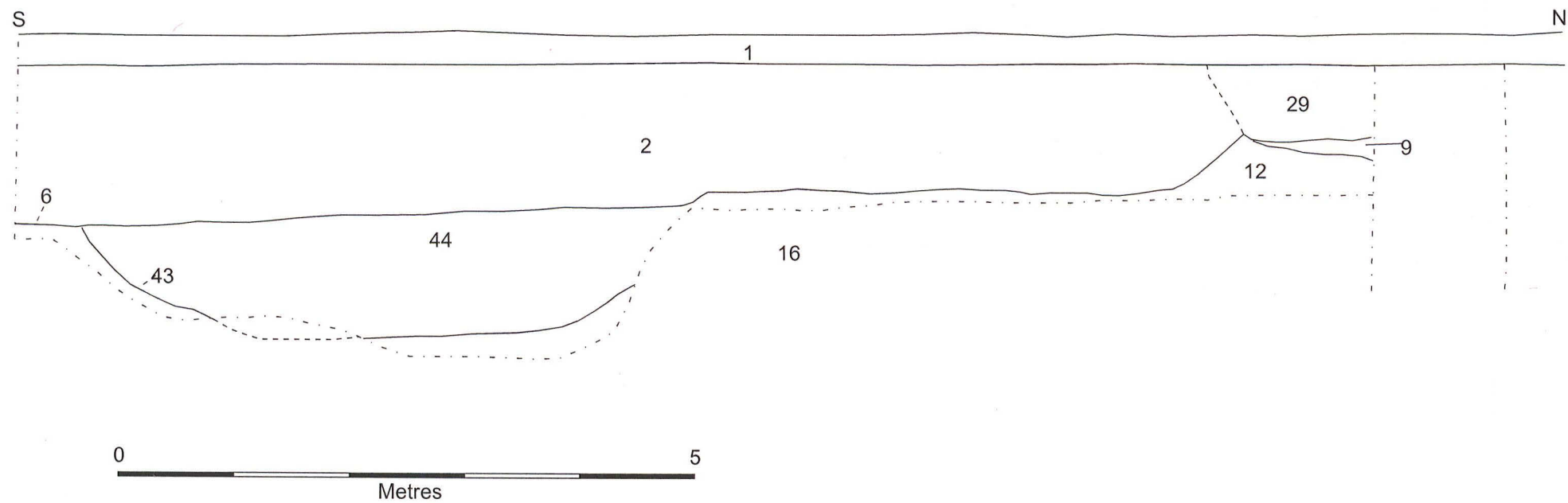


Fig. 3 Plan of the house foundation trenches, showing the positions of archaeological features (Young, after Tann).



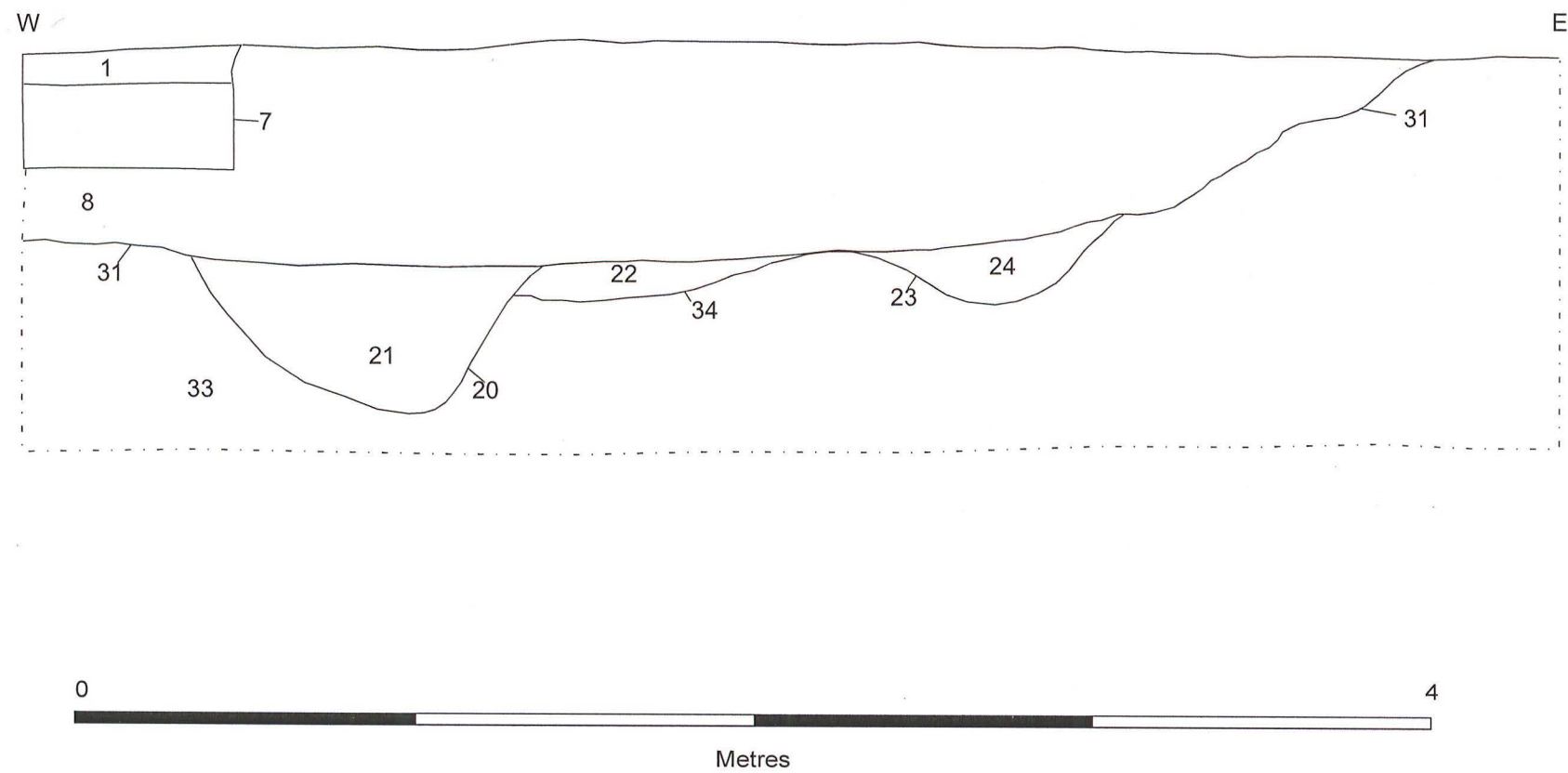
**Fig. 4** Section across deposits at the western end of the southern foundation trench, showing the edge of Ditch 6 (Young, after Tann).





**Fig. 5** Reconstructed section across deposits visible in the western foundation trench (Young, after Tann).





**Fig. 6** Sections across the deposits in part of the southern foundation trench, showing pits 20, 23, 24 and 31 (Young, after Tann).



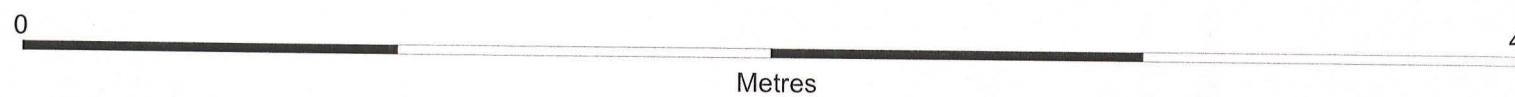
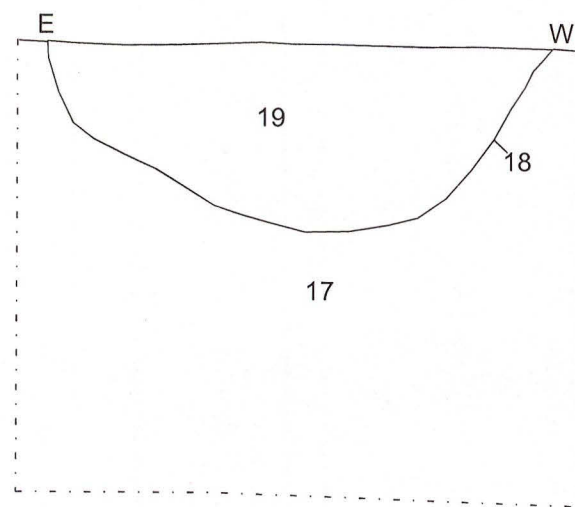
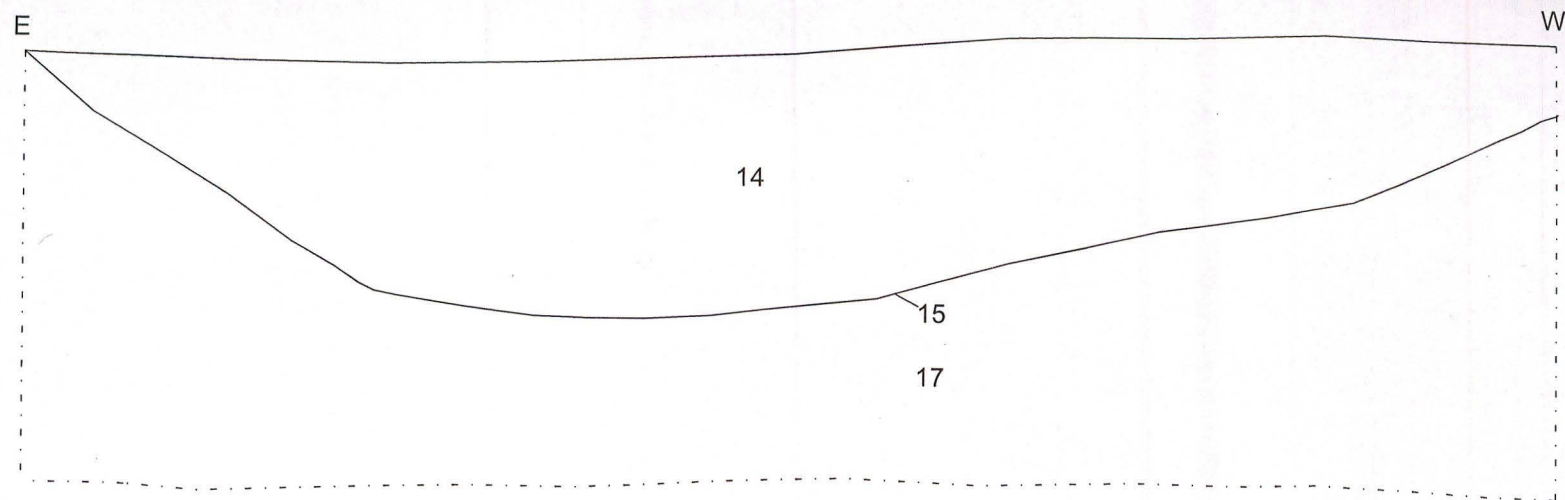


Fig. 7 Sections across Pits 15 and 18 (Young, after Tann).



## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 Location of the development site, south of Lincoln Road (looking south-west).



Pl. 2 Location of the development site, south of Lincoln Road (looking south).





**Pl. 3** Well 025 in the central foundation trench (looking east).



**Pl. 4** Feature 43 in the central part of the western foundation trench (looking north).





Pl. 5 Feature 43, western foundation trench (looking west).



Pl. 6 Fill of feature 15 in the northern foundation trench (looking south-east).





**Pl. 7** Eastern edge of 20, southern foundation trench (looking north).



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Lincolnshire  
County Council

06 OCT 2006

Planning &  
Conservation

## Project details

Project name Lincoln Road, Faldingworth, Lincs.

Short description of the project Groundworks for a new house beside Lincoln Road revealed a western boundary ditch and numerous small pits across the building plot. No features could be dated earlier than the post-medieval period, but five thirteenth-fifteenth century pottery sherds were found on the site after removal of topsoil. A brick well probably represents the pump marked on a late nineteenth century map, but no trace was found of any building on the site frontage.

Project dates Start: 10-07-2006 End: 25-07-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes FWLR06 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 2006.153 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Research project

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Research

Postbook Ref:	196.577.
Officer Dealing:	Beryl KD
Date Reply Required:	
Date Replied Via:	
CRM Transaction No.	

## Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY FALDINGWORTH Lincoln Road, Faldingworth, Lincs.

Postcode LN8 3XX

Study area 250.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 068 848 53.3490152259 -0.395408749559 53 20 56 N 000 23 43 W Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design Naomi Field



## originator

Project director/manager Geoff Tann

Project supervisor Geoff Tann

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr D. Nelstrop

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LCNCC

Physical Archive ID 2006.153

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient LCNCC

Paper Archive ID 2006.153

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Report'

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