

**THE OLD VICARAGE, GRAINTHORPE
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code: OVGL 06
LCCM Acc No: 2007.5
NGR: TF 38602 96730
Planning ref: N/062/01519/05
PCA Job No: 06-272

Report prepared for
Mr D Frow & Mrs M Lalor

by

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for an extension at the rear of the Old Vicarage, Grainthorpe, Lincolnshire.
- The development site lies towards the southern limits of the modern village, to the north west of the parish church.
- A single pit was recorded, and one pot sherd of late 13th to 15th century manufacture was recovered from this feature.

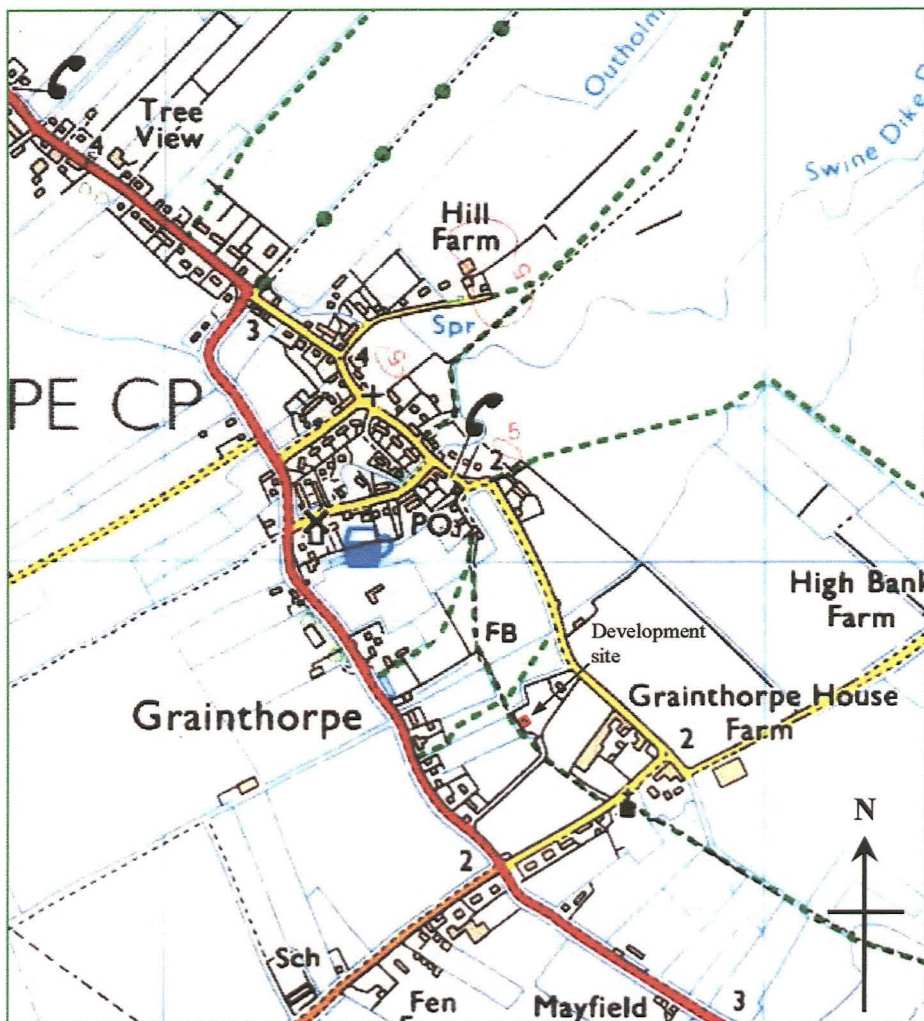


Fig. 1: Location map at scale 1:12 500. The development site is marked in red.

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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mr D Frow and Mrs M Lalor to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for an extension to the Old Vicarage, Grainthorpe, Lincolnshire.

This report is consistent with the recommendations of current national guidelines including *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, 1990)* and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IFA, 1994 as revised)*, and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the client, the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and Lincolnshire County Council. Reports will also be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Grainthorpe is within the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 16km southeast of Grimsby and 16.5 km northwest of Mablethorpe. It is located in the Lincolnshire Marsh approximately 6.5km from the coast itself.

The development site lies to the south side of the modern village, approximately 200m northwest of the parish church, to the northeast of Main Road. The site of the new extension is on the north side of the Old Vicarage, a Grade II listed building. Before work commenced the site had been a paved terrace, raised approximately 0.3m above the level of the lawn to the north.

The drift geology of the site is Marine and Estuarine Alluvium (clay, silt or undifferentiated), which overlies a solid geology of Burnham Chalk laid down in the Upper Jurassic period. (British Geological Survey, 1990).

National Grid Reference: TF 38602 96730.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission and listed building consent was granted for the construction of an extension to the Old Vicarage (planning ref. N/062/01519/05). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Grainthorpe is located in the Lincolnshire Marsh, an area associated with salt production from the Late Bronze Age to the end of the Middle Ages.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 provides the earliest documentary reference and lists the settlement as *Germundtorp*, which derives from the personal name *Germund* and the Old Danish word *-thorp* and is interpreted as 'Germund's secondary settlement'. (Cameron, 1998).

The Domesday Survey records the land use in Grainthorpe as both arable and meadow land, probably with the arable land inland and the meadow as seasonally inundated land – outmarsh is traditionally regarded as good grazing. The taxable population comprised 28 households. The land was divided between three very important landowners – the king, the Bishop of Durham and William de Percy – but none of them held it directly: all three estates were sokeland, under the administration of, but partially independent from, a manor elsewhere. This may reflect the significance of salt manufacture: all estate owners wanted access to coastal land. However, active saltworks are only recorded on the king's land, where 6 salt pans brought in a yearly tax of 6 shillings.

The Lincolnshire Historical Environment Record (HER) lists the settlement itself (HER No. 46052), two areas of surviving ridge and furrow 850m WSW of the site (HER no. 46045) and 350m SW of the site (HER no. 46074).

The Church of St Clement, which lies 200m to the southeast of the site, is dated around 1200AD, and is mostly in Perpendicular style, with some Early English and Decorated detail (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

The village contains many listed buildings. These include Tithe Farm House, near to the church; the much altered remains of a 15th century timber framed building, along with its 18th century barn. Several 17th century buildings, originally of mud and stud or timber-framed construction, now encased in brick are also listed (these include Kitts Farm Cottage, Fen Cottage, Fen Farm House) along with two brick-built cottages (White Cottage and Corner Cottage). Grainthorpe Hall and its associated stables are of 18th century date.

The Old Vicarage is Grade II listed and the entry reads *'Former vicarage, now house. 1816, altered and enlarged 1830 by W. Coulam, surveyor and builder of Louth. Red brick with painted stucco dressings. Concrete tiled roof with coped gable and stack and hipped left hand end. L-plan. 2 storey, 3 bay front, central 6 panelled door with traceried overlight with fluted pilaster doorcase and dentillated hood, flanked by single glazing bar sashes. To first floor 3 similar windows. All windows have splayed rusticated stucco lintels with fluted keyblocks.'* (Lincoln Archives)

A number of other listed buildings in the village are of 19th century date, including farm buildings at Grainthorpe House, The Forge (the former schoolhouse) and the Canal Warehouse, located on the Louth Navigation Canal 2km southwest of the village.

5.0 Methodology (fig. 2)

The groundworks took place on 31st July when the area of the extension was stripped of the modern terrace, hardcore, and underlying topsoil, and 1st August 2006 when the

foundation trenches for the extension were excavated. This work was undertaken using a mini-excavator employing a 1.2m wide flat bucket for the initial levelling and a 0.65m bucket for the footings trenches. The trenches were generally 0.7m wide and a maximum of 1.2m deep. This work was monitored continuously to ensure that any archaeological features exposed were identified and recorded.

All archaeological deposits identified were subjected to limited excavation to assess their nature/dimensions and to attempt to recover datable materials. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each deposit on *proforma* context record sheets, and a series of scale drawings. A colour photographic record of all groundworks monitored was also maintained: a selection of colour plates is reproduced in Appendix 1.

6.0 Results (figs. 3 and 4)

The lowest layer exposed during the watching brief was a compact mid orange brown banded fine sand/sandy clay - context (005). This was interpreted as a natural marine deposit, and was cut by a pit [003] seen in the northern foundation trench. Pit [003] was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy clay which contained occasional chalk and charcoal flecks (004).

A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the pit fill (004). This was a base sherd of a jar or pipkin of Toynton Medieval Ware, and has been dated to the late 13th to 15th century (appendix 2).

Pit (003) was sealed below a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt subsoil (002), which in turn lay below a dark greyish brown sandy clay topsoil (001). This topsoil had been buried below the modern terrace over the majority of the area, but was exposed on the west side, under the lawn.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The watching brief exposed a sequence of layers, which, with the exception of the topsoil, were of natural origin. A single pit was observed in the northern foundation trench, the fill of which produced a single medieval pot sherd

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed proved adequate to determine that no significant archaeological features were present on the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Mr D Frow and Mrs M Lalor for this commission, and their building contractors for their co-operation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1990, *Grimsby: England and Wales Sheet 90/91, Solid and Drift Edition. 1:50 000 Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham.

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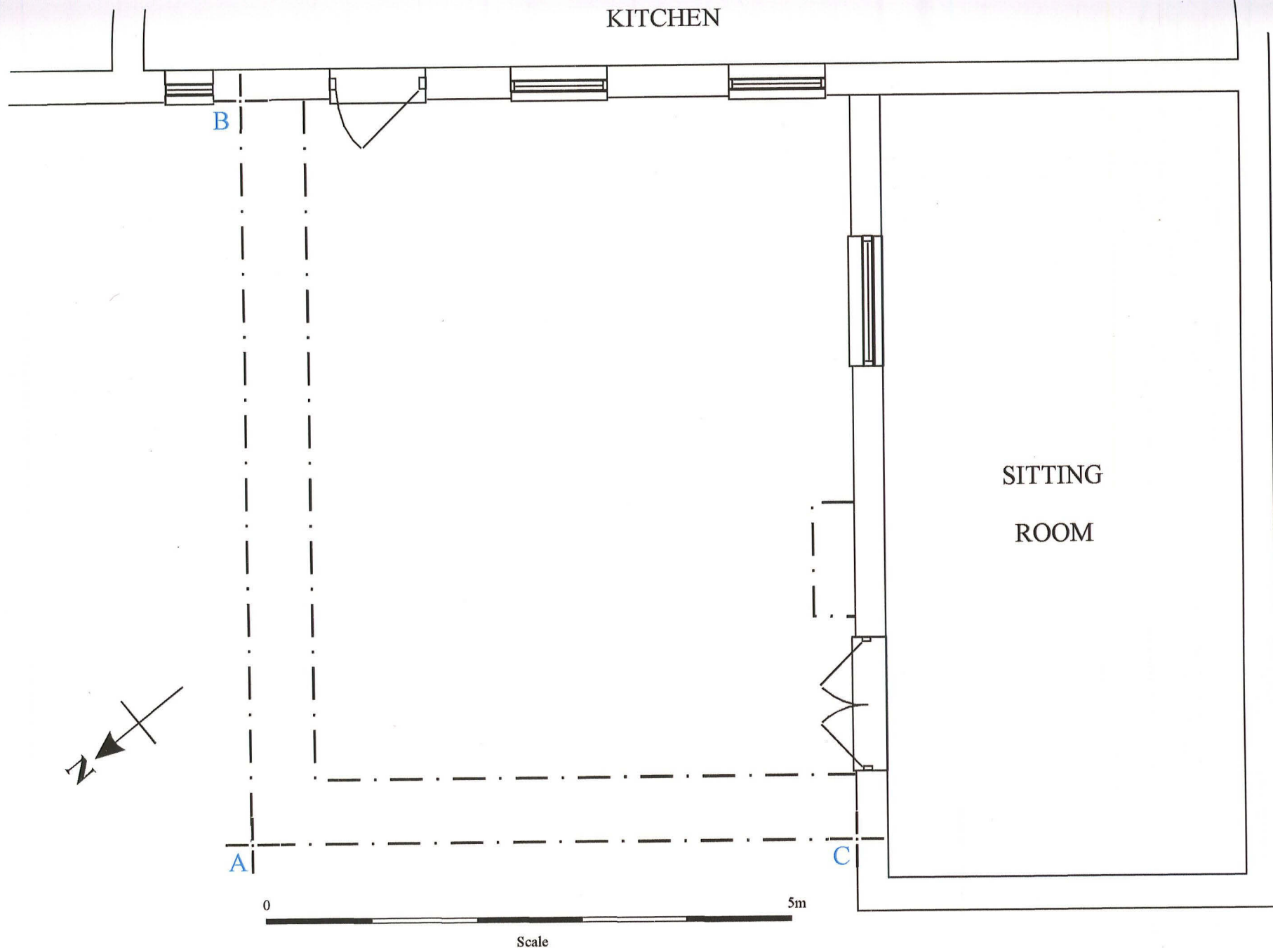


Fig. 2: Plan showing the foundation trenches for the extension. Scale 1:50

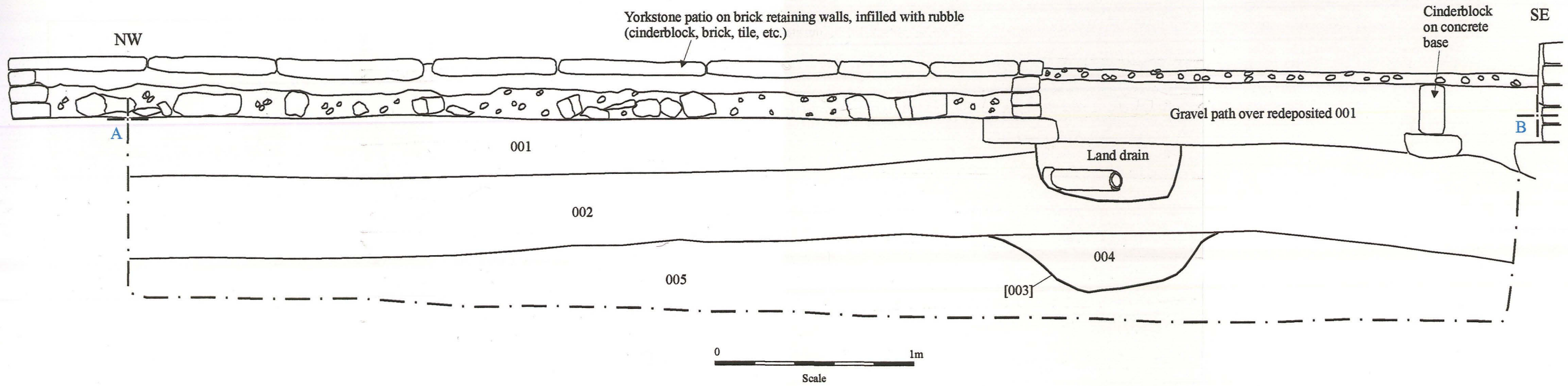


Fig. 3: North eastern foundation trench section, with pit [003]. Scale 1:20

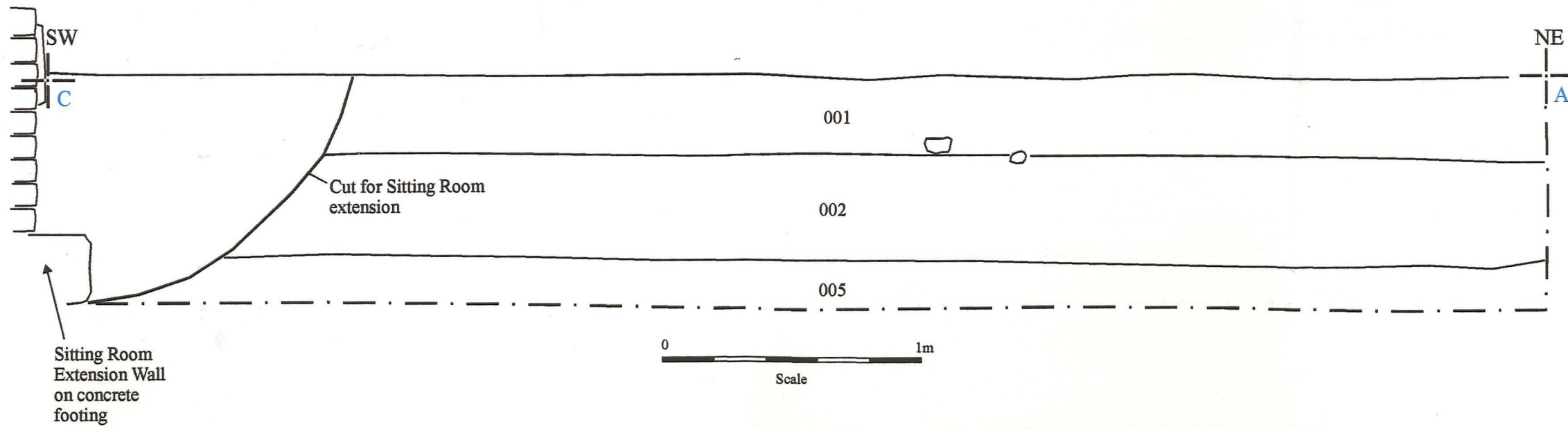


Fig. 4: North western foundation trench section. Scale 1:20

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1 (left): General view of the frontage of the Old Vicarage, looking northwest.



Plate 2 (right): General view of the site during the machining, looking south.



Plate 3 (left): General view of the completed footings trenches for the extension, looking south.



Plate 4 (above): The northeastern foundation trench, looking east.

Plate 5 (above right): Pit [003], looking northeast.

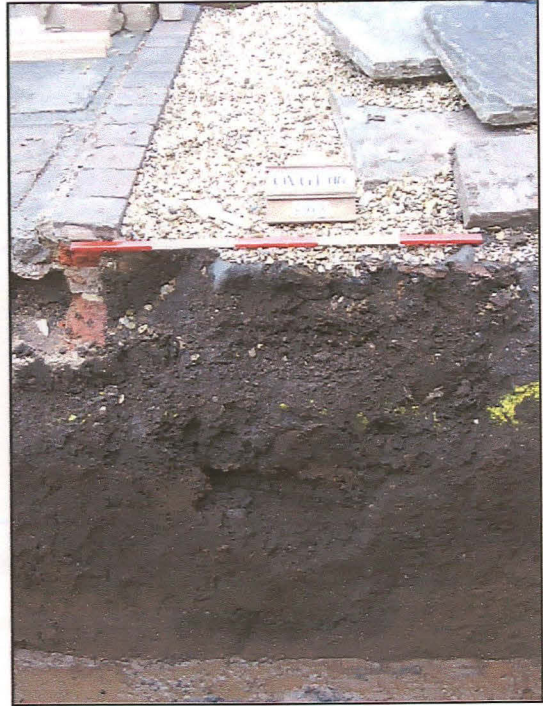
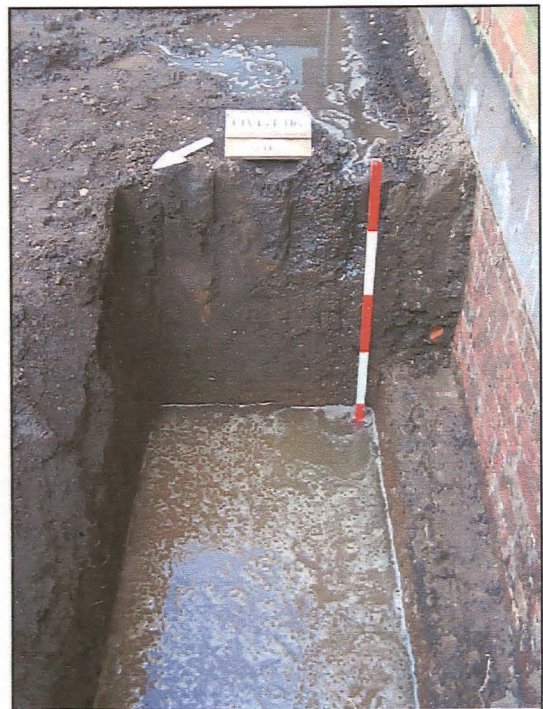


Plate 6 (above): The northwestern foundation trench, looking west.

Plate 7 (above right): Footing trench for stanchion against the sitting room wall, looking southeast.



Appendix 2

Pottery Archive OVGL06

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
004	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	A ?	jar/pipkin	1	85	base	untrimmed base	late 13th to 15 th

Appendix 3: Context summary.

Context	Description
001	Topsoil – very dark greyish brown sandy clay, occasional small brick and tile fragments and shell flecks.
002	Subsoil - dark greyish brown sandy clay, occasional shell flecks.
003	Pit – regular 40-50° sides break gently to flat, slightly sloping base.
004	Fill of pit [003] – very dark greyish brown sandy clay, occasional shell and charcoal flecks.
005	Natural - mid orange brown sandy marine clay, fine sand laminations, frequent shell inclusions, occasional rusty patches.

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