AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERIM REPORT: LAND OFF THORNTON ROAD, SOUTH KELSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: TRSK 05
NGR: TF 0415 9795

Report prepared for Alison and Cadle

by

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April 2008

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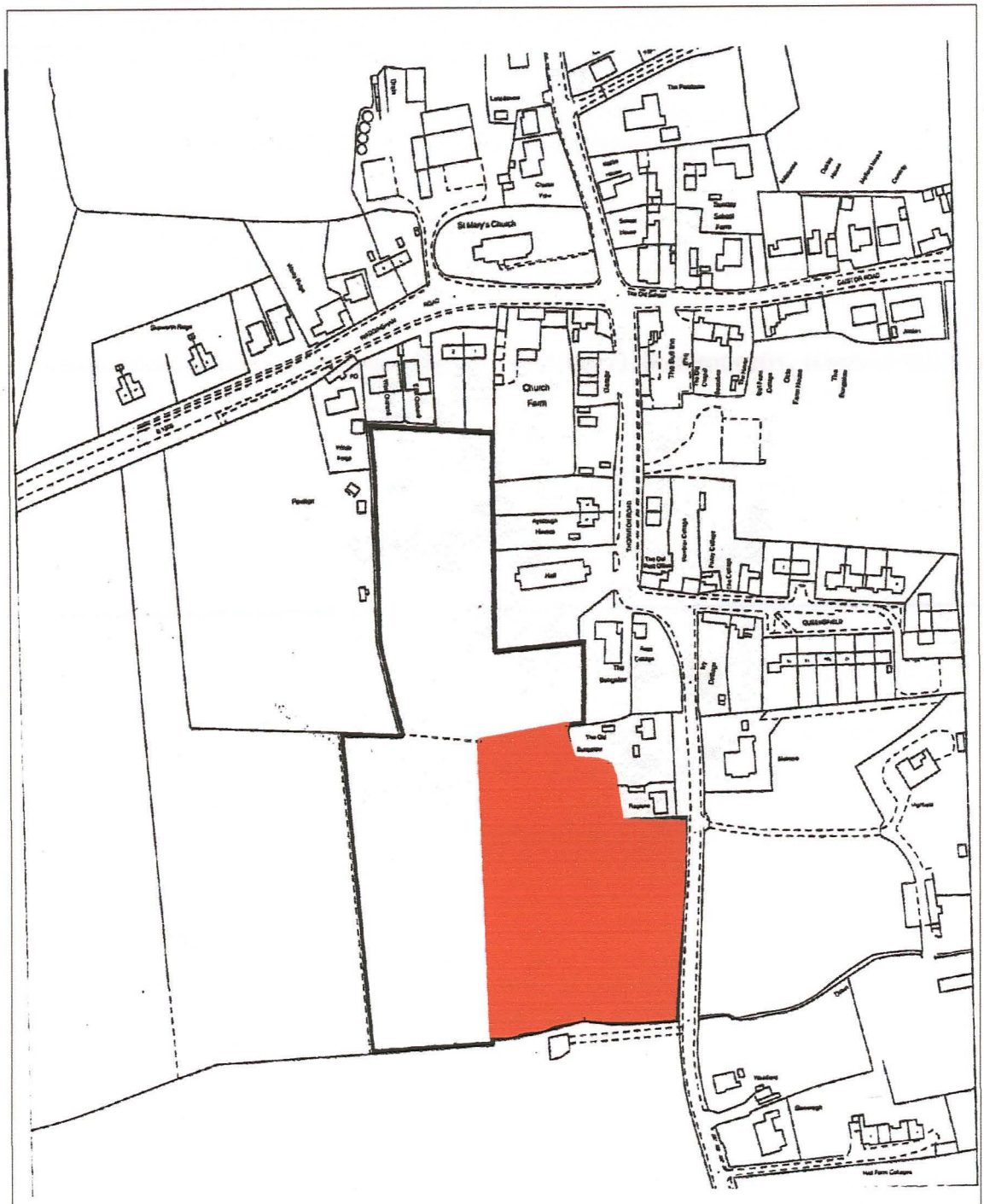
Interim Report for Land off Thornton Road, South Kelsey



Development site outlined in red
Map at scale 1:2500 (OS Copyright Licence no; AL 515 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

The contents of this document represent an interim report for a watching brief on a housing development carried out by Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), for Allison & Cadle, on land off Thornton Road, South Kelsey.

Two house plots (3 and 7) were monitored between 30th March 2005 and 10th January 2007. The results of which will be discussed briefly here, and in more detail in the final report.

2.0 Planning background

West Lindsey District Council granted outline planning permission for the erection of nine detached dwellings, affordable housing and associated landscaping on land off Thornton Road, South Kelsey (planning ref: 98/P/1017). Subsequently, reserved matters have been granted on plots 1,3,4,10 & 11 (ref: M03/P/1379; M03/P/1443 & M04/P0508) and full planning permission on plot 7 (ref: M04/P/1447).

Permissions are subject to conditions, with condition 10 of the original outline and condition 7 of the full permission requiring the provision of an archaeological watching brief.

3.0 Site location and description

South Kelsey lies in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 26km northeast of Lincoln. The site is centered on NGR TF 0415 9795, averaging approximately 20m AOD. It is comprised of an irregular parcel of land south of Waddingham Road and west of Thornton Road.

The site fronts onto Thornton Road and is bounded by existing development to the north and northeast, with open fields to the west, south and southeast.

4.0 Archaeological Context

South Kelsey lies on a north-south ridge formed by the intersection of glacial till to the west and cover sands to the east. Almost every period of human occupation is represented within the locality.

Flint tools dating to the Mesolithic period were found approximately 4km to the east of the site. The Neolithic and succeeding Bronze Age were also represented by the discovery of flint tools.

Later prehistoric and Romano British remains have been identified on the site of Wingale Priory approximately 1.5km to the southwest. The Priory site has also yielded evidence for the middle Saxon period in the form of pottery, faunal remains and slag from metal working.

South Kelsey appears in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Chelsei* but it is not clear if this name is derived from Old English or Scandinavian. What is certain, however, is that its inclusion in the survey points to a pre-conquest foundation for the settlement.

5.0 Results

5.1 Plot 3

Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded in house plot 3.

The stratigraphic sequence of the plot was recorded in drawings 1-4 (Fig 3) which are included in this report.

The earliest deposit recorded was a layer of natural geology (005). This was comprised of blue brown boulder clay with frequent chalk flecks and nodules of flint.

Overlying (005) was a layer of mid yellow, silty sand drift geology (003). This was sealed by medieval ridge and furrow. The cut [006] which was filled by (004) (a homogenous brown silty clay) was evidenced in the north and south facing sections (Drawings 1 and 3).

A layer of topsoil sealed the ridge and furrow and formed the modern ground surface in this area of the development.

5.2 Plot 7

Plot 7 contained two features.

Cutting into the boulder clay geology (005) was ditch [013] which was orientated north/south. Its profile revealed a gradually sloping cut, 95 cm wide with a 45cm deep concave base that terminated within the southern most extent of the plot (Fig 2).

The ditch contained a single fill (014) of orangey brown naturally accumulated silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

Overlying (014) at the south of the plot was a layer of buried top soil [015]. This was dark brown friable sandy silt.

Also cutting (005) and located at the north of the plot, was a second ditch [012]. This was similar in size to [013] and also appeared to terminate within the footings (Fig 2). However, the fill (011) appeared to be very pale in comparison with (014) although the matrix was analogous. This suggested that ditch [012]

may have been earlier than [013] and subjected to leaching by water for a prolonged period.

Sealing (011) was a layer of dark brown silty clay subsoil (009). Cutting this was ridge and furrow.

Forming the modern ground surface at the north of plot 7 was a rubble leveling layer (017).

6.0 Discussion and conclusion

The results of the watching brief to date has recorded evidence for what appear to be two undated field boundaries possibly defining the western extent of landholdings aligned upon Thornton Road. This might suggest an early medieval origin based upon documentary evidence for the foundation of the settlement and the overlying medieval ridge and furrow.

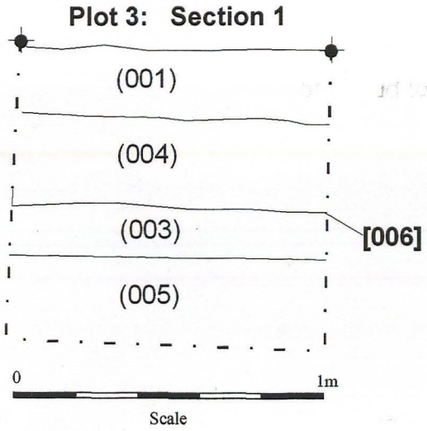
The two ditches recorded from within the foundation cut for plot 7, may be considered as a sample of the archaeological potential of the site as a whole. Whilst the character of these ditches may be considered as indicative of a low level of archaeological potential across the broader scope of the site, such a limited sample cannot be considered as definitive.

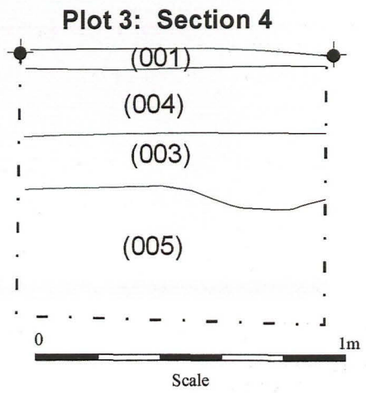
No figure 2

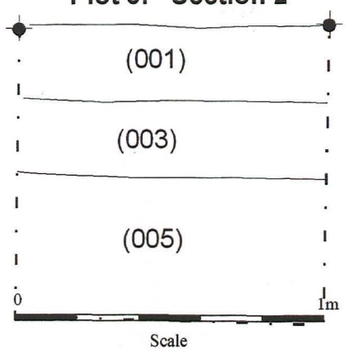
Figure 2 illustrates that neither of the ditches extend into the footprint of the adjacent plot number 6, therefore monitoring of the foundation cut may not be considered as a priority. The location of plot 4 to the rear of the negative plot 3 is also likely to be of negligible archaeological potential.

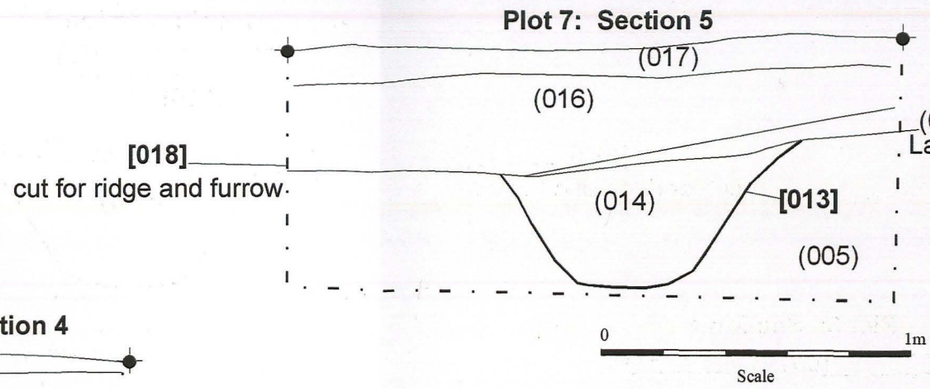
Plots 8 and 5 in contrast fall within the projected courses of the ditches and archaeological monitoring may encounter significant dating evidence for these features.

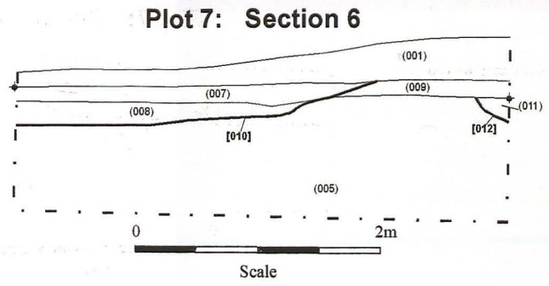
The results provided by the scheme of archaeological works carried out to date, has demonstrated that an archaeological watching brief is an appropriate level of mitigation for this development.

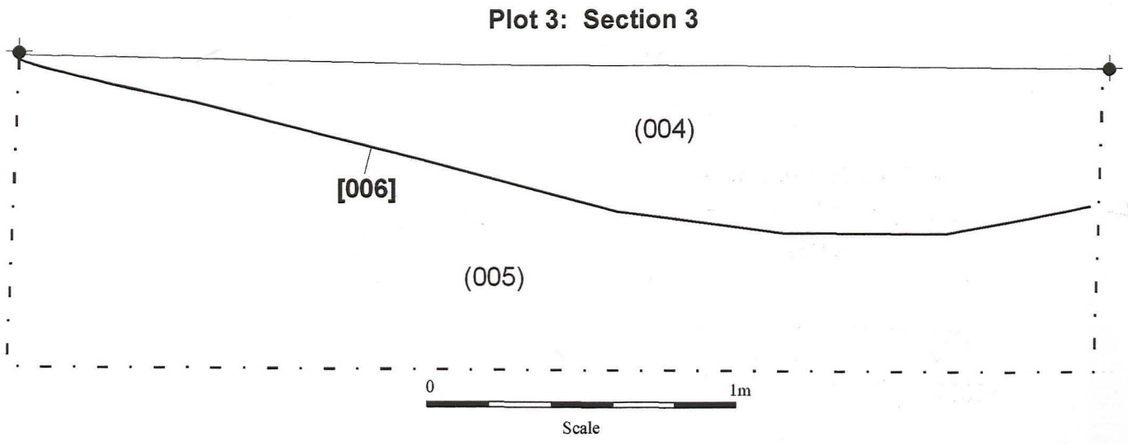












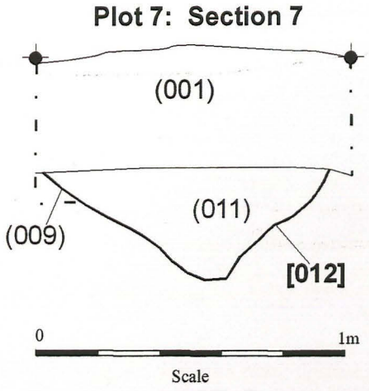


Fig 3

Plot 3

1 North facing section at scale 1:20
2 West facing section at scale 1:20
3 South facing section at scale 1:20
4 East facing section at scale 1:20

Plot 7

5 North facing section at scale 1:20
6 South facing section at scale 1:50
7 South facing section at scale 1:20

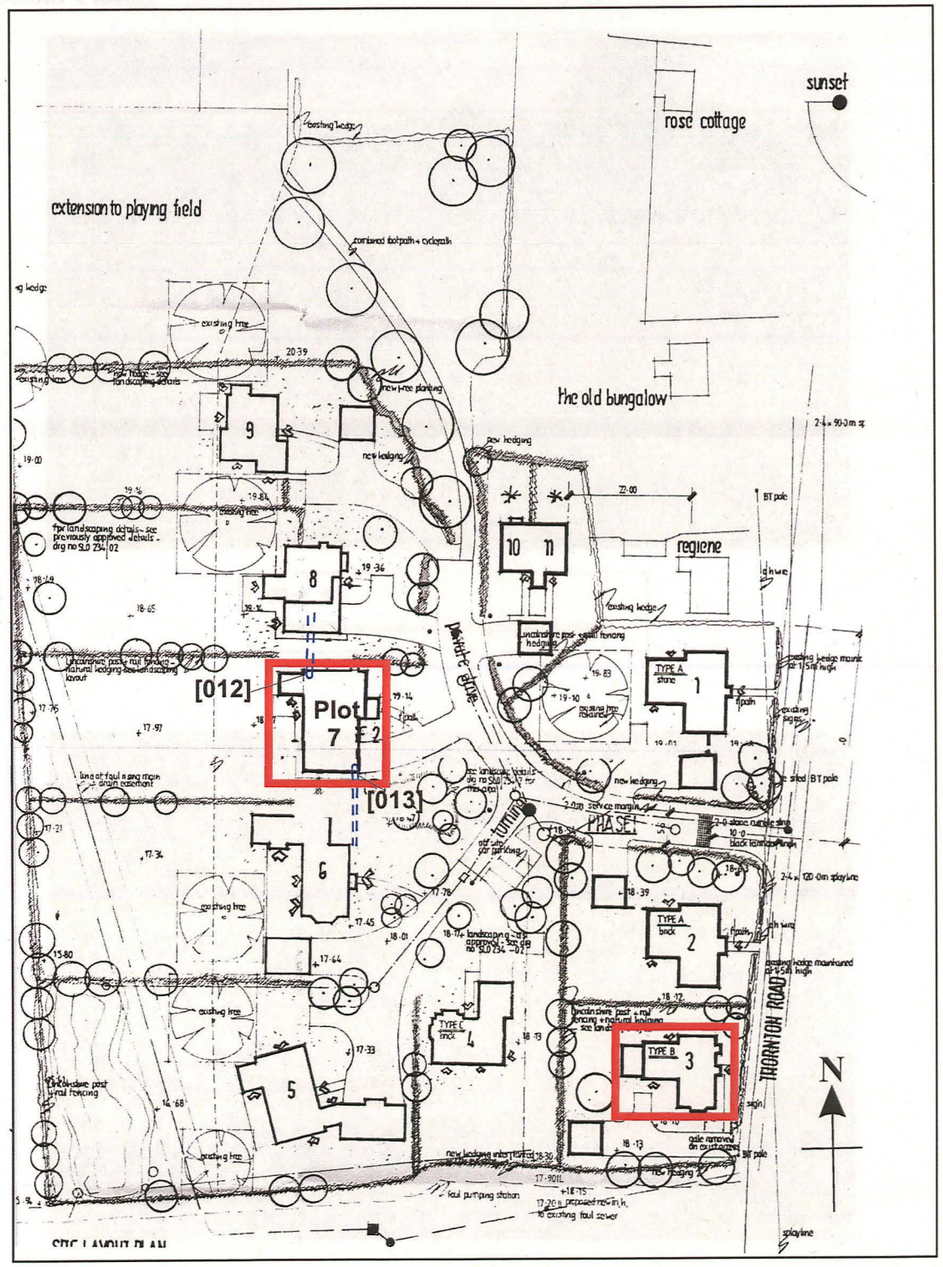


Fig 2:

Plots monitored outlined in red
archaeology in blue
scale 1:1,000

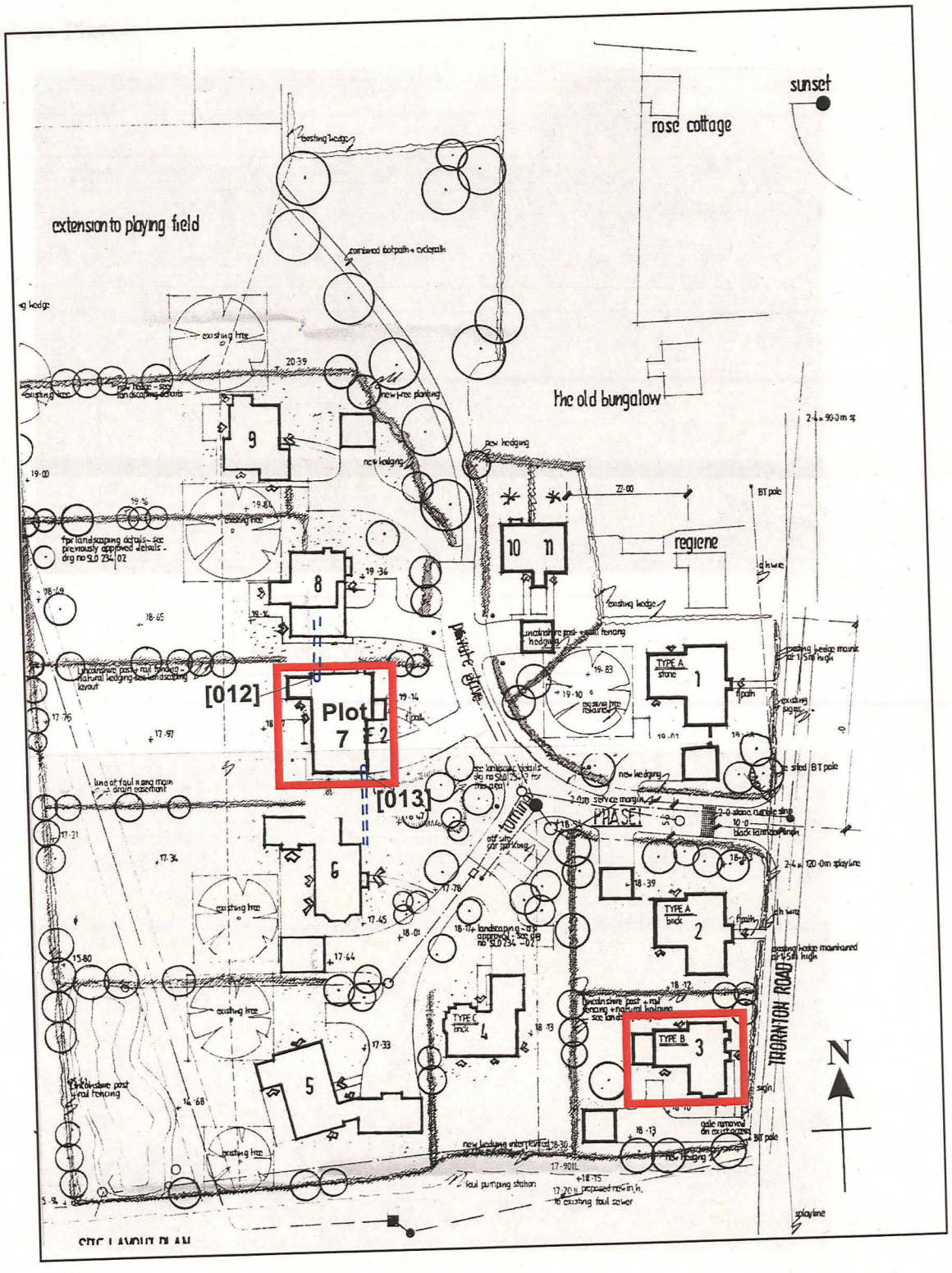
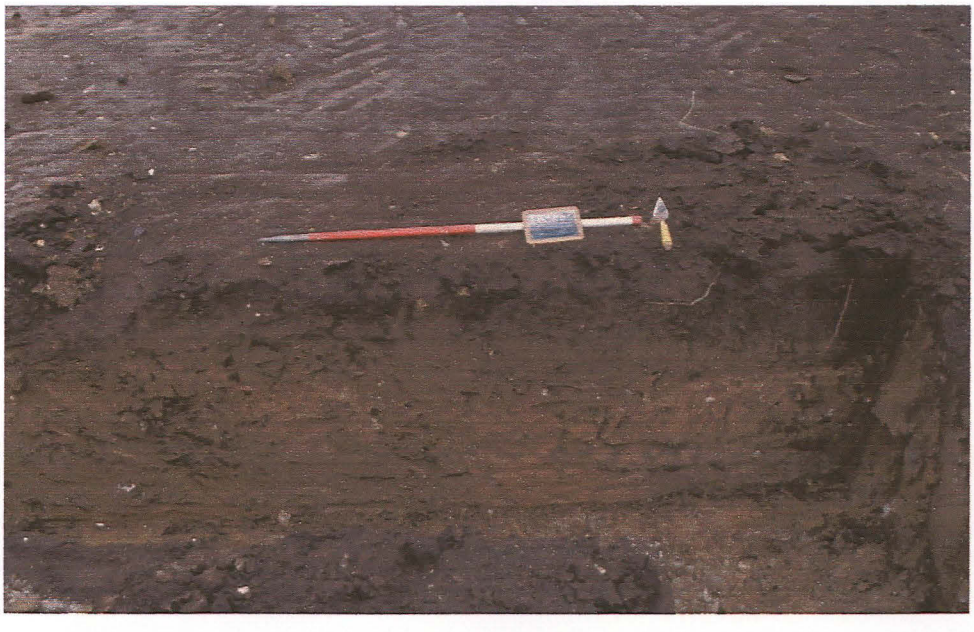


Fig 2:

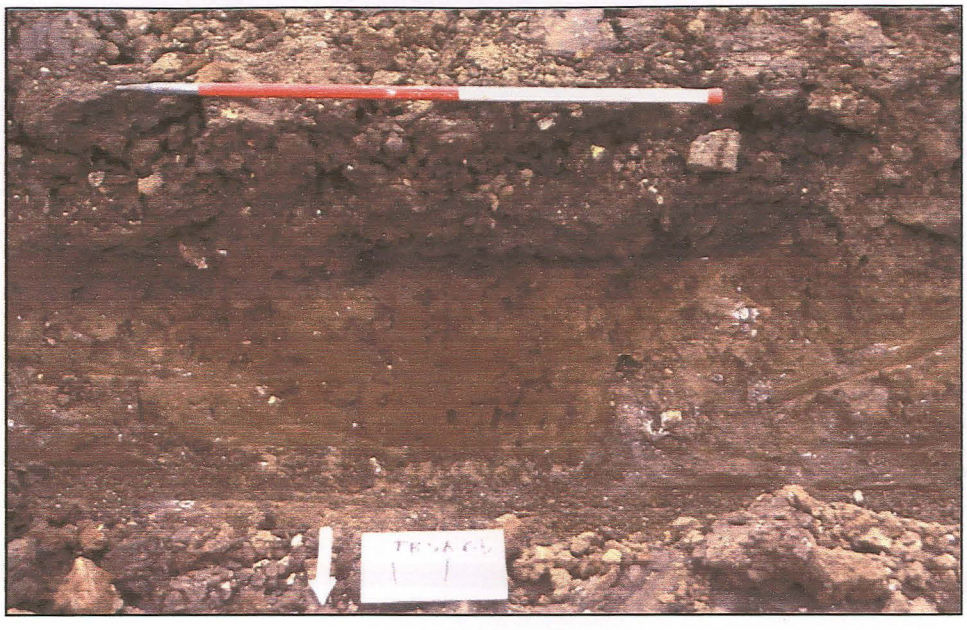
Plots monitored outlined in red
archaeology in blue
scale 1:1,000

Colour Plates:

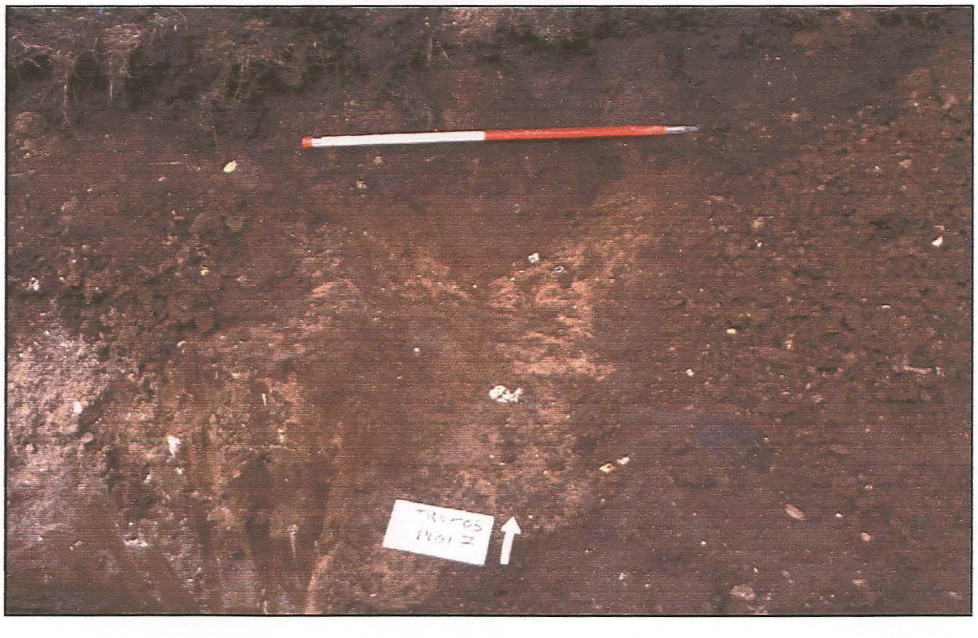
Plot 3
General view looking south west



Plot 3
South facing section looking north



Plot 7
North facing section of ditch (013) looking south



Plot 7
South facing section of ditch [012] looking north