



**Lincs**  
**Archaeo-tech**

**Archaeological  
Report No.: 18**

Site Code: CLSW05  
LCCM Accession No.: 2005.252  
Planning Application No.: B/03/0808/OUTL  
NGR: TF 2372/4006

**A Report to  
Lindum Homes**

March 2006

**Residential Development at  
Church Lane, Swineshead,  
Lincolnshire**

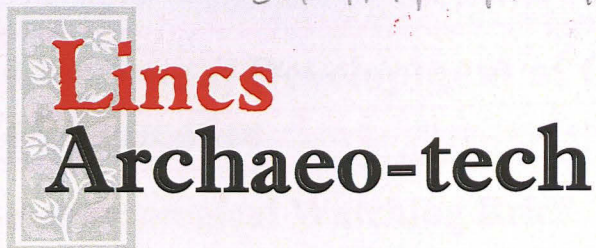
*By K Wragg*

Archaeological Watching Brief

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## Residential Development at Church Lane, Swineshead, Lincolnshire

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### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
Non-Technical Summary.....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Planning Background.....	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology.....	4
5.0 Results.....	4
6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions.....	5
7.0 Acknowledgements.....	5
8.0 Selected References.....	5
9.0 Summary of Site Details.....	5

<i>Appendices</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>APPENDIX A</b> Archive Deposition.....	6
<b>APPENDIX B</b> Colour Plates.....	7
<b>APPENDIX C</b> Context Listing.....	9
<b>APPENDIX D</b> Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material: Archive Listings, by Jane Young & Anne Boyle, Ceramic Consultants.....	10
<b>APPENDIX E</b> Bulk Finds: Archive Listing, by Yvonne Rose, <i>Lincs Archaeo-tech</i> .....	11

### *List of illustrations*

<b>Figure 1</b>	Site Location Plan	Scale 1:25000 & 1:1250
<b>Figure 2</b>	Plan of Proposed Development	Scale 1:200
<b>Figure 3</b>	Plan of Archaeological Features, Plots 1 & 2/3	Scale 1:100
<b>Figure 4</b>	West-facing Sections 1 & 2, Plot 2/3	Scale 1:20



# Residential Development at Church Lane, Swineshead, Lincolnshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### *Non-Technical Summary*

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- ❖ This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Swineshead, which lies immediately to the east of the A17 trunk road, c. 10km south-west of Boston. The parish of the same name is one of eighteen that form the administrative district of Boston Borough, and covers almost 3000 hectares of flat, open fenland.
- ❖ The site is situated close to the centre of the village, approximately 100m south of the parish church of S<sup>t</sup> Mary, and lies adjacent to Church Lane to the north. It encompasses a roughly 'L' shaped area of c. 1800 sq m, formerly the site of a doctor's surgery.
- ❖ Development plans include the demolition of the existing redundant surgery building, and the construction of one semi-detached and five detached dwellings, associated detached garage blocks, a new access roadway, and all necessary services.
- ❖ The project brief produced by the Boston Borough Council Planning Archaeologist indicated that the site was located in an area of archaeological potential, and it was therefore requested that an archaeological watching brief be implemented in conjunction with all groundworks.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was approached by the developer, Lindum Homes, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, and was subsequently commissioned on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 to carry out the work. Intermittent site attendance to observe the groundworks was undertaken in conjunction with the contractor's programme between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2005.
- ❖ In spite of its apparent potential, however, the results of this project ultimately provided no direct evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with the majority of deposits and/or features found to be of either modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin. The only notable exception to this was an east-west drainage ditch revealed at Plot 3, which appears likely to date to between the mid/late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- ❖ Notwithstanding this generally negative result, however, the results of this project do not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the vicinity. This still suggests that any future developments in the village and surrounding area have a significant chance of encountering archaeological remains.



# Residential Development at Church Lane, Swineshead, Lincolnshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### *1.0 Introduction*

---

This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land in the village of Swineshead, which lies immediately to the east of the A17 trunk road, c. 10km south-west of Boston. The parish of the same name is one of eighteen that form the administrative district of Boston Borough, and covers almost 3000 hectares of flat, open fenland (see Figure 1).

The site is situated close to the centre of the village, approximately 100m south of the parish church of S<sup>t</sup> Mary, and lies adjacent to Church Lane to the north. It encompasses a roughly 'L' shaped area of c. 1800 sq m, formerly the site of a doctor's surgery (see Figures 1 & 2).

Development plans include the demolition of the existing redundant surgery building, and the construction of one semi-detached and five detached dwellings, associated detached garage blocks, a new access roadway, and all necessary services (see Figure 2).

The project brief produced by the Boston Borough Council Planning Archaeologist indicated that the site was located in an area of archaeological potential, and it was therefore requested that an archaeological watching brief be implemented in conjunction with all groundworks (see 2.0 & 3.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was approached by the developer, Lindum Homes, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2005 to provide a quotation for the required archaeological services, and was subsequently commissioned on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2005 to carry out the work. Intermittent site attendance to observe the groundworks was undertaken in conjunction with the contractor's programme between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2005.

#### **Notes:**

- 1) This document is presented on the understanding that further data pertaining to this site may subsequently emerge, which may affect the conclusions drawn herein. Lincs Archaeo-tech, its employees, and/or principals cannot therefore be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising from use of any information contained in this report.*
- 2) Lincs Archaeo-tech has adopted, and subscribes to, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and its Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.*
- 3) All maps and extracts are reproduced under Ordnance Survey Copyright Licence Number: 100043257 unless otherwise credited.*



## 2.0 Planning Background

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Outline planning permission was granted by Boston Borough Council (Application No.: B/03/0808/OUTL) for a programme of works to demolish the existing redundant surgery building, and redevelop the site for residential use. Development proposals involve the construction of one semi-detached and five detached dwellings, two associated detached garage blocks, a new access roadway, and all necessary services.

The project brief produced by the Boston Borough Council Planning Archaeologist indicated that the site lay in an area of archaeological potential. Previous investigations, both on the site itself and in the immediate vicinity, have revealed a variety of remains including medieval pottery, and buried features and deposits.

The Planning Archaeologist determined that a condition should be applied to any subsequent planning consent, requesting the implementation of an archaeological watching brief. The reason for the archaeological planning condition was given as follows:

*The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential. The site is situated 100 metres from the medieval church and medieval pottery has been found in the vicinity of the development area. Two undated features have also been encountered on the site. The development therefore has the potential to impact on deposits related to the history and development of Swineshead and an archaeological watching brief is therefore requested on all groundworks.*

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

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The village of Swineshead lies at a nominal elevation of 3m OD, predominantly on soils of the *Agney* Association - calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium. These overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clay (Hodge *et al*, 1984).

The name Swineshead itself probably derives from a combination of the Old English words *swīn* and *hēafod*, and is literally translated as 'the source of the creek' (Cameron, 1998).

In the immediate vicinity of the village, the results of previous archaeological investigations and records of chance finds, together with the more obvious physical evidence presented by preserved ancient monuments illustrate that Swineshead lies within an important historic landscape.

To the south of the village, evidence for a Roman salt works, including pottery and saltern material, was discovered at Coney Hill, while findspots of Romano-British pottery have been recorded at several locations in the parish.

To the east of the village, the scheduled remains of Manwar Ings, a medieval castle believed to have been constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the remains of the Abbey of S<sup>t</sup> Mary, a Cistercian monastery founded in 1134, give testament to the relative importance of the area during the medieval period.

Within the village, numerous investigations have uncovered evidence for occupation throughout the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods, including field ditches, domestic occupation, pottery and tile, and structural remains, including the base of a 14<sup>th</sup> century market cross. Immediately to the north-east of the site, the parish church of S<sup>t</sup> Mary still retains some evidence of its medieval origins in spite of extensive rebuilding in 1848 (Pevsner and Harris, 1989).

A watching brief undertaken on the site itself in 1997, and similar projects on neighbouring plots along Church Lane carried out in 1995, have, however, been less productive. In these cases, discoveries were limited to naturally occurring alluvial deposits, buried medieval or post-medieval soils, undated features, and a possible post-medieval ditch.



## 4.0 Methodology

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This scheme of investigation was designed to:

Produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme, and the particular development design;

Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report;

Provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

In order to achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech attended site to observe all enabling groundwork (*e.g.*, removal of top-soil or other overburden and/or any general lowering of ground levels), foundation trenching, and excavation for services as required.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature thus revealed was issued with a unique context number, and described in detail, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Any disturbed artefacts were recovered from site spoil heaps and, where present, from stratified deposits. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

## 5.0 Results (see also Figures 3 & 4; Colour Plates 1 to 4)

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The stratigraphic sequence revealed during the course of the groundworks was broadly consistent across the site, and comprised a total of one unstratified, and ten stratified contexts (see *Appendix C*).

The earliest deposit comprised a layer of mid brown fine silt, [104], which contained no obvious inclusions. This was up to 1.1m thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and is assumed to represent the upper extent of the naturally occurring marine alluvial deposits.

This layer was sealed by a 150mm thick mid-dark grey-brown very silty (slightly clayey) soil, [103], which appears to represent the buried remains of the original topsoil deposit. Two pieces of pottery, and three of brick or tile recovered from [103] range in date from between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although a 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date seems to be most likely (see *Appendix D*). Both [103] and [104] were seen in each of the individual house plot foundation trenches.

At Plot 3, [103] was then cut by [107], a large linear feature oriented approximately east-west. This feature extended *c.* 2.4m (N-S) x 8m+ (E-W) (continuing beyond the excavated areas), and was revealed in several sections. It had a depth of between 1.3m and 1.5m, and probably represents the remains of a land drainage ditch.

[107] was filled initially by [106], a 400mm thick, waterlogged, sticky mid-grey organic clayey silt, containing no obvious inclusions. This was in turn overlain by a secondary fill, [105], which took the form of a dark grey-black organic clayey peat, with identifiable plant remains at its interface with [106]. This upper fill was up to 950mm thick, and contained occasional brick/tile flecks, rounded pebbles, isolated shell fragments, and two small pieces of clay tobacco pipe which date to between the mid/late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (see *Appendix E*).

The remaining five contexts recorded during the investigation were all associated with the former surgery building and its demolition. These included: the remains of east-west oriented concrete foundations, [108] and [109], revealed at Plots 1 and 2; layers of limestone hardcore and sand, [101] and [102], associated with the original construction of the surgery building and its car-park; and finally, demolition debris associated with the removal of the redundant structure, [110].

Context number [100] was also allocated to identify any unstratified finds recovered during the course of the excavation, but in the event no such material was discovered.



## 6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

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As indicated above, this investigation was designed to secure an archive record of any archaeological material threatened by the development, and in that respect has proved to be an appropriate response under the circumstances.

In spite of its apparent potential, however, the results of this project have provided no direct evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with the majority of deposits and/or features found to be of either modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin. The only notable exception to this was an east-west drainage ditch revealed at Plot 3, which appears likely to date to between the mid/late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Notwithstanding this generally negative result, however, the results of this project do not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the vicinity. This still suggests that any future developments in the village and surrounding area have a significant chance of encountering archaeological remains.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

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Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Lindum Homes for funding this project.

Thanks are also due to: Messrs. C. Brown (Building Surveyor/Project Manager) & J. Pearson (Site Manager) of Lindum Homes, for their support and assistance during the works; & Ms. J. Young (Boston Borough Council Planning Archaeologist).

## 8.0 Selected References

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Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*, English Place-Name Society

Hodge, C A H, Burton, R G O, Corbett, W M, Evans, R, Seale, R S, 1984 *Soils and their use in eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13, Harpenden

LCC, 1998 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincoln

Pevsner, N, and Harris, J, 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised by Antram, N, Penguin Books, London

Young, J, 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2003 *Brief for archaeological observation and recording (watching brief) at Church Lane, Swineshead*, Boston Borough Council

## 9.0 Summary of Site Details

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Site Code:	CLSW05
Museum Accession Number:	2005.252
Planning Application Number:	B/03/0808/OUTL
Supervising Archaeologist:	K. Wragg
NGR:	TF 2372/4006
Civil Parish:	Swineshead
Date of Intervention:	7 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2005
Type of Intervention:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Undertaken for:	Lindum Homes, Lindum Business Park, Station Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 3QX



## ***Appendix A***

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### **Archive Deposition**

The archive comprises:

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1	Site diary
11	Context records
4	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour negatives
1 assemblage	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (as detailed in <i>Appendix D</i> , below)
1 assemblage	Bulk finds (as detailed in <i>Appendix E</i> , below)
Various	Miscellaneous supporting documentation

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**Lincs Archaeo-tech,  
50 High Street,  
Martin,  
Lincolnshire,  
LN4 3QT**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, 12 Friars Lane, Lincoln, LN2 5AL, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2005.252, will be undertaken following completion of this project.



## *Appendix B*

### **Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** General view of site - looking north-east



**Plate 2:** General view of north-facing section at south-east corner of Plot 6 - looking south-west



**Colour Plates**



**Plate 3:** General view of modern wall foundation [108], Plot 2 - looking north-east



**Plate 4:** General view of east-facing section, western side of Plot 1 - looking north-west



## Appendix C

### Context Listing

Context No.	Area	Description
[100]	-	Unstratified finds - general site area
[101]	Site	Modern hardcore deposit/layer - moderately compacted, mid-light (slightly grey-) yellow-brown limestone hardcore & 'dust'; up to 150mm thick - remains of original surgery car-park base
[102]	Site	Modern hardcore deposit/layer - fine limestone 'dust' & hardcore mixed with mid-brown sand; up to 50mm thick - 'blinding' layer for original surgery car-park base
[103]	Site	Buried topsoil layer - moderately compacted, mid-dark grey-brown very silty (slightly clayey) soil; contains only isolated fragments of pot & tile/brick; up to 150mm thick - appears to represent the buried remains of the original topsoil deposit
[104]	Site	Silt layer (alluvium?) - moderately compacted, friable, mid (very slightly orange-) brown fine silt; no obvious inclusions; up to 1.1m thick to L.O.E.
[105]	Plot 3	Secondary fill of ditch [107] - moderate-well compacted, slightly friable, dark (slightly blue-) grey-black organic clayey peat; contains some identifiable plant remains at interface with [106], occasional very small brick/tile flecks, occasional rounded pebble inclusions, isolated shell fragments, & two small pieces of clay tobacco pipe; up to 950mm thick
[106]	Plot 3	Primary fill of ditch [107] - moderate-well compacted, waterlogged, sticky mid-grey organic clayey silt; contains no obvious inclusions; up to 400mm thick
[107]	Plot 3	E-W linear cut feature/ditch - south side slopes initially at 60° to the horizontal, but becomes less steep (at c. 45°) towards the base; north side slopes at approximately 60° to the horizontal throughout; both sides appear to break sharply from the surface & merge to form a slightly rounded (concave) 'v'-shaped base (although waterlogging & machine over-cutting make this difficult to confirm); dimensions: c. 2.4m (N-S) x 8m+ (E-W) x 1.3m-1.5m (depth)
[108]	Plot 2	Modern reinforced concrete foundation - oriented generally E-W; approximately 600mm wide, with generally flat upper surface appearing c. 500mm below the existing (stripped) ground surface
[109]	Plot 2	Construction cut for [108] - oriented generally E-W; vertical sides break sharply from the surface; base not revealed; dimensions: c. 600mm (N-S) x 9m+ (E-W) x 600mm+ (depth)
[110]	Plot 2	Fill of modern 'robber trench' - mixed redeposited topsoil, limestone hardcore, concrete debris, and brick rubble; up to 500mm thick - demolition debris from removal of original surgery structure



## Appendix D

### Post-Roman pottery & ceramic building material: Archive Listings

Jane Young & Anne Boyle, Ceramic Consultants

#### Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Context number	Cname	Form type	Sherds	Weight (g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date (century)
[103]	BERTH	large jar	1	129		base	coarse fabric; mottled brown glaze; Staffs ?	17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>
[103]	TPW	cup/small bowl	1	8	black print	rim		19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup>

#### Pottery glossary

BERTH Brown glazed earthenware (1550-1800)

TPW Transfer printed ware (1770-1900)

#### Ceramic Building Material Archive

Context Number	Cname	Fabric	Fragments	Weight (g)	Description	Date (century)
[103]	PNR	fine oxid	1	39	flat roofer; fine oxid fabric with mod fe & occ ca; poss Beverley	12 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>
[103]	BRK	oxid	1	11	corner; flake; strike marks on upper; comm fe fine in oxid fabric; salt surfacing; sharp arrises; handmade	15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup>
[103]	BRK	fine oxid	1	6	flake	15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup>

#### Ceramic building material glossary

PNR Peg, nib or ridge tile

BRK Brick



## *Appendix E*

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### **Bulk finds: Archive Listing**

*Yvonne Rose, Lincs Archaeo-tech*

#### **Bulk Finds Archive**

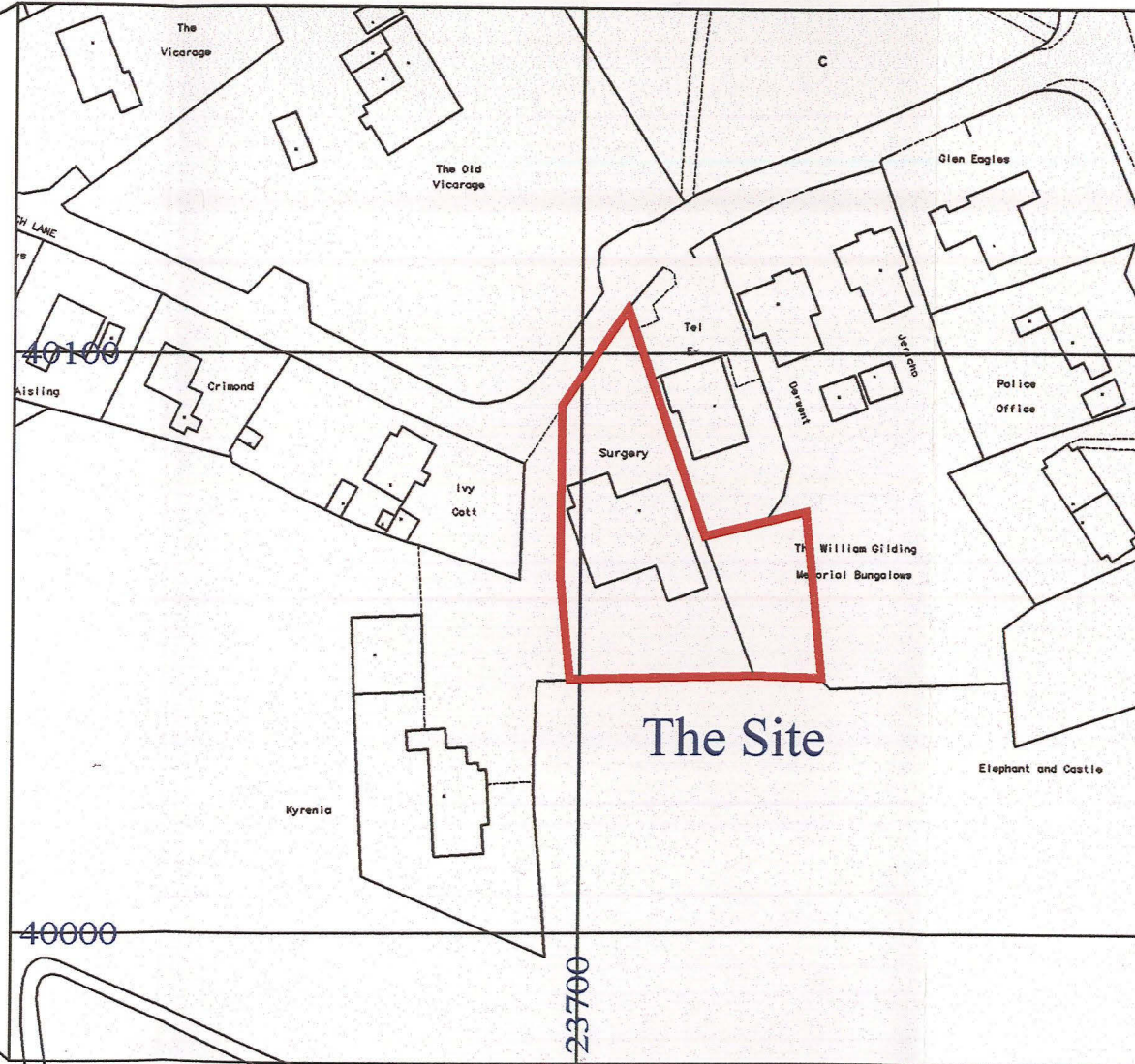
Context number	Category	Count	Comments/Weight (g)
[105]	Tobacco Pipe	1	Post-medieval; mid/late 17 <sup>th</sup> - early 18 <sup>th</sup> century; stem; joins bowl
[105]	Tobacco Pipe	1	Post-medieval; mid/late 17 <sup>th</sup> - early 18 <sup>th</sup> century; c. 1660-1710; bowl
[105]	Shell	1	Fossilized oyster shell fragment; discarded



1:25000



1:1250



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SITE CODE:  
**CLSW05**

CLIENT:  
**Lindum Homes**

DESCRIPTION:  
**Site Location Plan**

SCALE:  
**See Individual Plans**

DRAWN BY:

DATE:

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:  
**2005.252**

KEY:



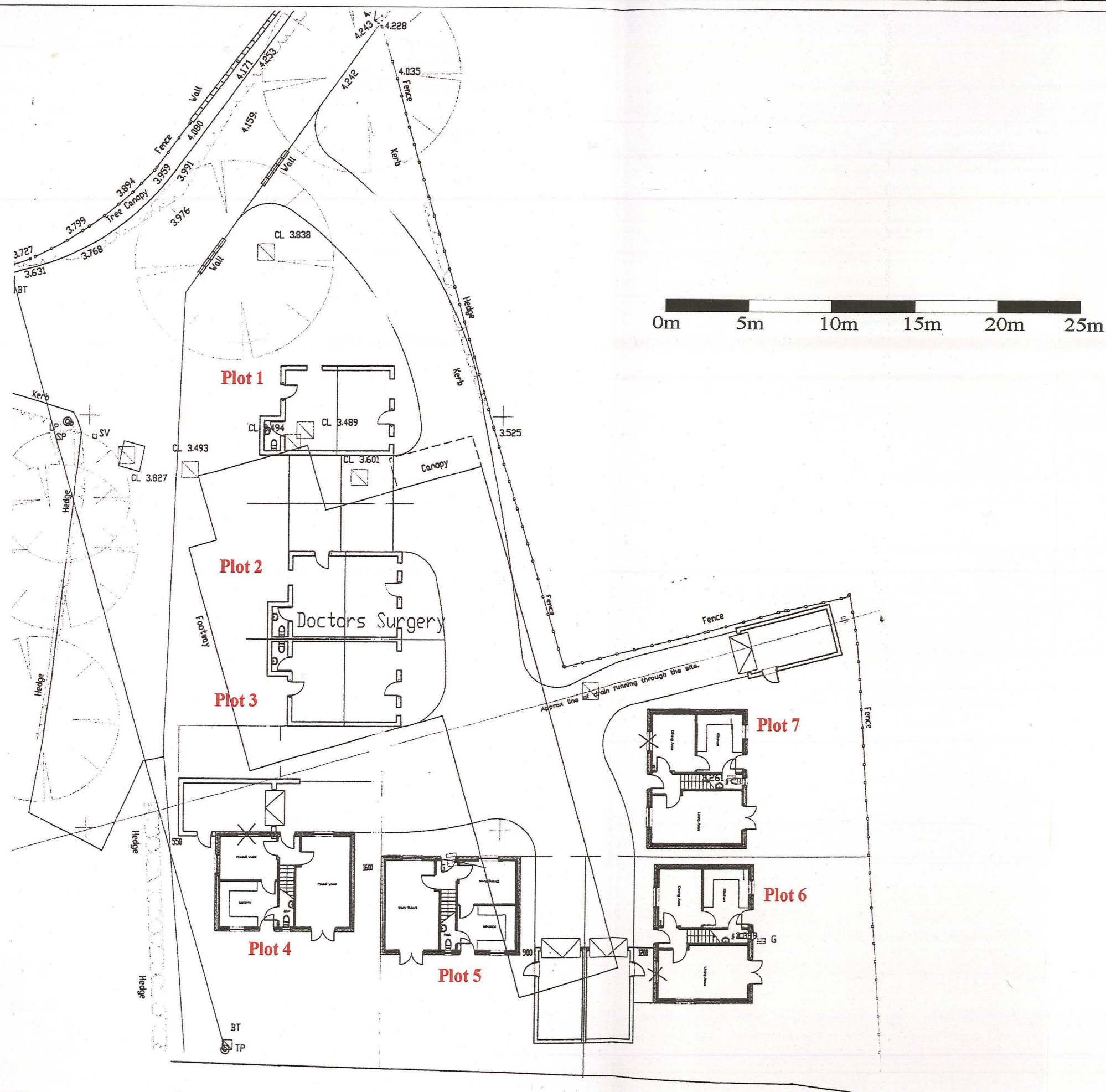
FIGURE NO:

**1**



**DESCRIPTION:**  
**Plan of Development**

**KEY:**





SITE CODE:  
**CLSW05**

CLIENT:  
**Lindum Homes**

DESCRIPTION:  
**Plan of Features,  
Plots 1 & 2/3**

SCALE:  
**1:100**

DRAWN BY:  
**KW**

DATE:  
**13th December 2005**

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:  
**2005.252**

KEY:








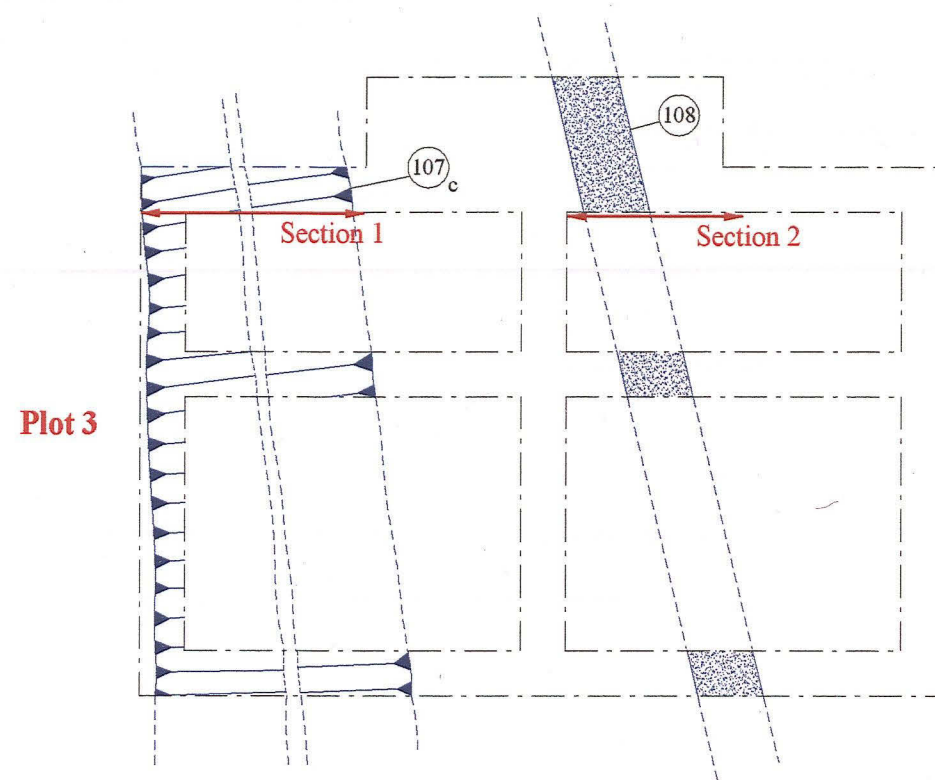
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-  Conjectured Line
-  Concrete
-  Cut feature
-  Context number
-  Section 1
-  Section Drawing

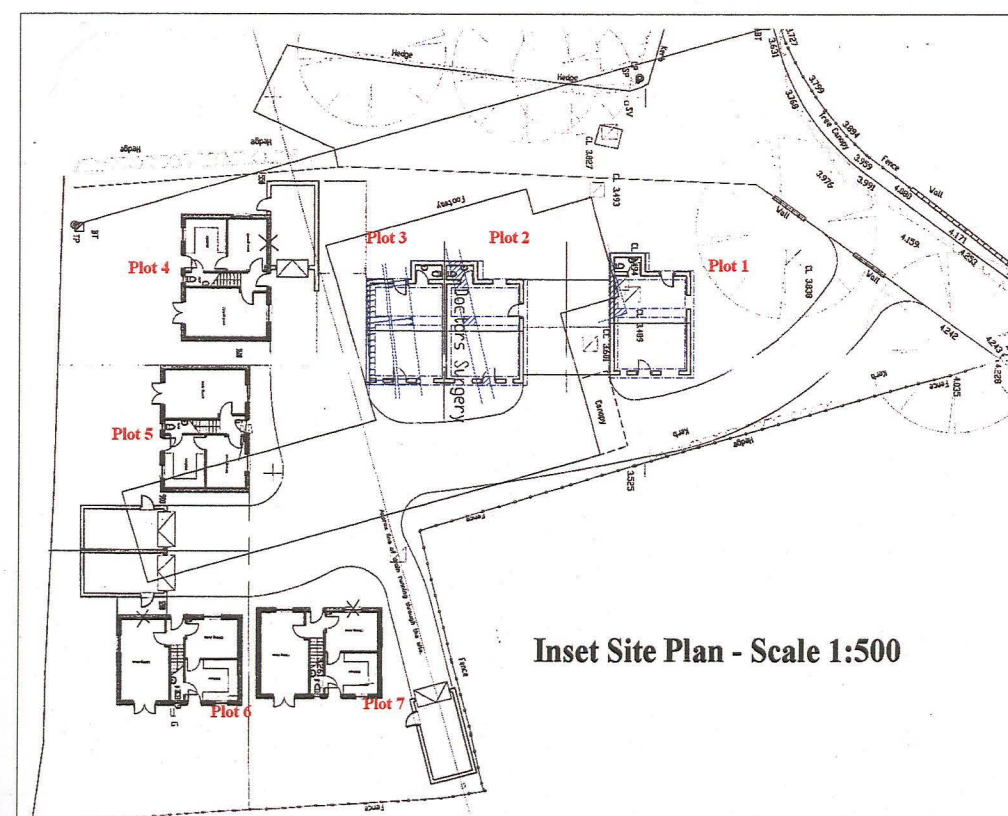
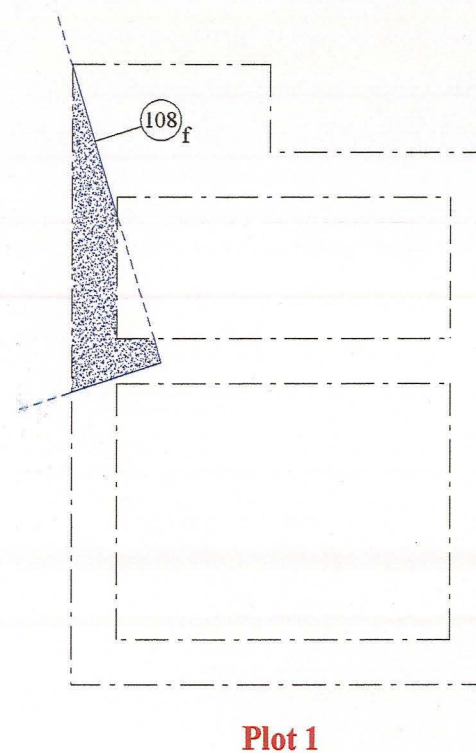


FIGURE NO:

**3**



**Plot 2**





SITE CODE:  
**CLSW05**

CLIENT:  
**Lindum Homes**

DESCRIPTION:  
**West-facing Sections 1  
& 2, Plot 2/3**

SCALE:  
**1:20**

DRAWN BY:  
**KW**

DATE:  
**13th December 2005**

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:  
**2005.252**

KEY:  
— Limit of excavation  
⑩ Context number

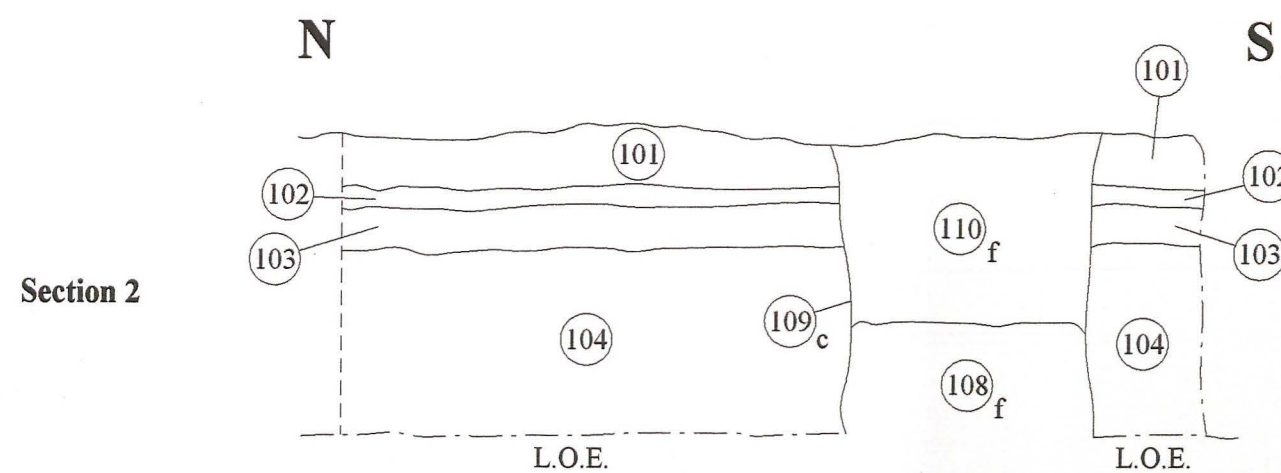
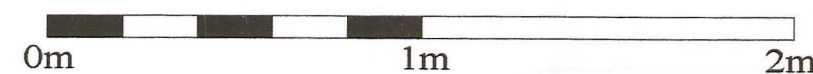
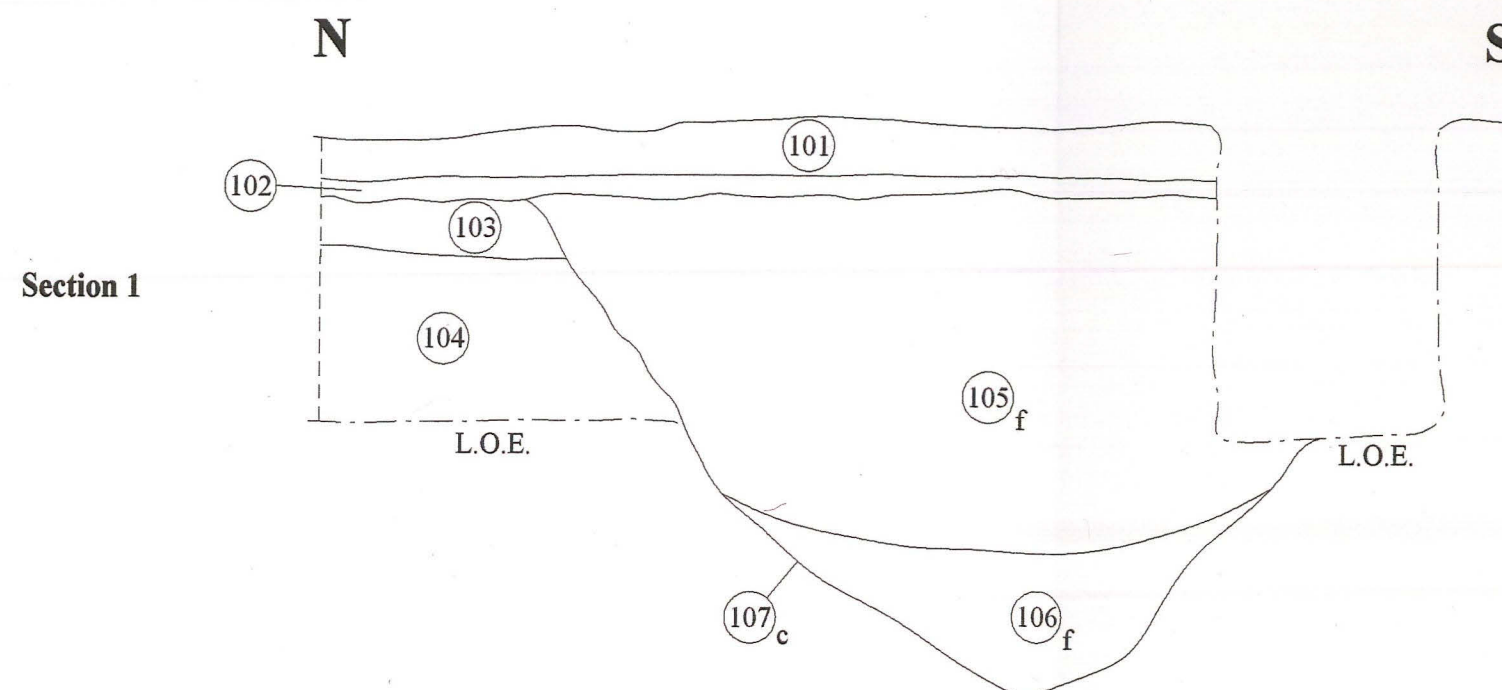


FIGURE NO:

**4**