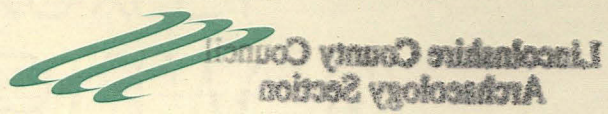


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North Hykeham:

Archaeological Watching Brief during Groundworks at

379 Newark Road

NGR: SK 9328 6619

Site Code **NHN 97**

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **187.97**

Planning Application No. N/43/1019/96

Report prepared for Mr and Mrs Wallhead

July 1997

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Summary

A watching brief during the excavation of foundations for extensions to an existing house beside the course of the Fosse Way identified no archaeological remains. Small features were recorded but these were interpreted as tree holes or of no obvious origin.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs Wallhead in July 1997 to conduct a watching brief during the mechanical excavation of house footings for an extension on either side of the house at 379 Newark Road, North Hykeham (Figs. 1 and 2).

The watching brief was required to satisfy a Condition of North Kesteven District Council's full planning permission N/43/1019/96. This stipulated a watching brief, for which a brief was prepared by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer in January 1997. LAS prepared a specification dated 21st February 1997 which was approved.

The bungalow at 379 Newark Road is sited on the northern side of Newark Road (A1434) to the west of the Fox and Hounds public house. The existing house was built to replace older brick buildings which remain to the north of its garden. It is positioned 30m from the present highway. Land to the west of the house and garden has been recently developed as a housing estate.

Archaeological Background

Newark Road is aligned along the course of the Roman road known as the Fosse Way. As with most major Roman roads, it was flanked by a substantial ditch; the northern ditch beside 379 Newark Road was backfilled to produce a flatter garden when the house was built.

A Roman pottery kiln was found 500m NW of the site during sand and gravel extraction, and further activity of this date was possible close to the Roman road. Archaeological investigations on the development west of this site have produced artificial features (ditches and post-holes) of unidentified date (S. Membury, pers. comm.).

The Watching Brief (Figs. 2 and 3)

After machine stripping of turf and 0.15m of a mixed levelling deposit of topsoil and small rubble from the area of this extension, the excavated external wall foundations were excavated to a depth of no greater than 1.2m below the modern ground surface with a 0.65m wide toothed bucket.

The games room

An extension 7m x 10m in area, added to the eastern side of the house, had been intended as a swimming pool. Since planning permission was granted, the client had decided to use this area for a games room and the pool was not excavated.

Below the most recent levelling deposit (dating to construction of the bungalow) a buried topsoil 0.22m thick was present. This overlay a dark orange sand layer which was interpreted as a subsoil horizon associated with the buried topsoil. No finds were recovered from either layer. Below the orange sand was an apparently natural yellow sand deposit.

1. 4.5m north of the existing house, a west-east aligned feature was observed at the base of the buried topsoil layer (Pl. 1). The feature was 0.75m wide and 0.18m deep, backfilled with a dark orange/brown sand. No finds were seen. This feature was assumed to be a minor drainage ditch or property sub-division, probably of post-medieval date. Its position does not coincide with any surviving sub-division to the rear of the adjacent public house.

2. At the front of the new extension, a trench dug 29m north of the front hedge boundary revealed a topsoil depth of 0.75m, implying that soil had extended as far north as here when the levelling of the Roman roadside ditch took place in the recent past.

The western extension (Pl. 2)

The trenches excavated for this extension cut through a deposit of turf and topsoil mixed with light grey clay. At the northern side it was about 0.4m thick, increasing to about 0.7m thick near the southern corner. This material had been imported from Bardney sugar factory in order to raise and level the garden area west of the house. Vertical gravel concentrations were noted, and these were explained by the client as the result of filling holes made with a post-hole borer, in an attempt to drain the imported soil.

Beneath the redeposited topsoil was a layer of topsoil 0.4m thick, which produced no finds. Yellow sand was reached 0.75m below modern ground level at the NW corner and 0.85m deep at the SW corner. No trench cut through this layer and its thickness here is not known.

3. The only identified anomaly in these trenches was close to the SW corner, where the buried topsoil covered a 0.2m thick deposit of light grey sand on the western side of the trench, cut into the yellow sand (Pl. 3). Rapid investigation found the grey sand to be filling irregular narrow channels and

scoops, and the feature was dismissed as the root system left by a small tree or bush.

Drainage for the new extensions was connected to existing services and no trenches were dug closer to Newark Road. The exact position of the Roman road and its ditch were not ascertained during this monitoring.

Conclusion

The site showed evidence of a low level of activity prior to construction of the existing bungalow. Apart from tree root disturbances, to be expected on such light soils, the only feature recorded was a west-east ditch which contained no dating evidence. It is possible from its position that this was a medieval plough furrow.

Acknowledgements

LAS was grateful to Mr and Mrs Wallhead, their builder and the plant operator from Roehire for the co-operation received.

Information was provided by S. Membury on behalf of K. Orr.

The report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
29th July 1997

Archive Summary

photographs (LAS 97/52; 20, 22, 23)
annotated copy of developer's plan
field notes
correspondence

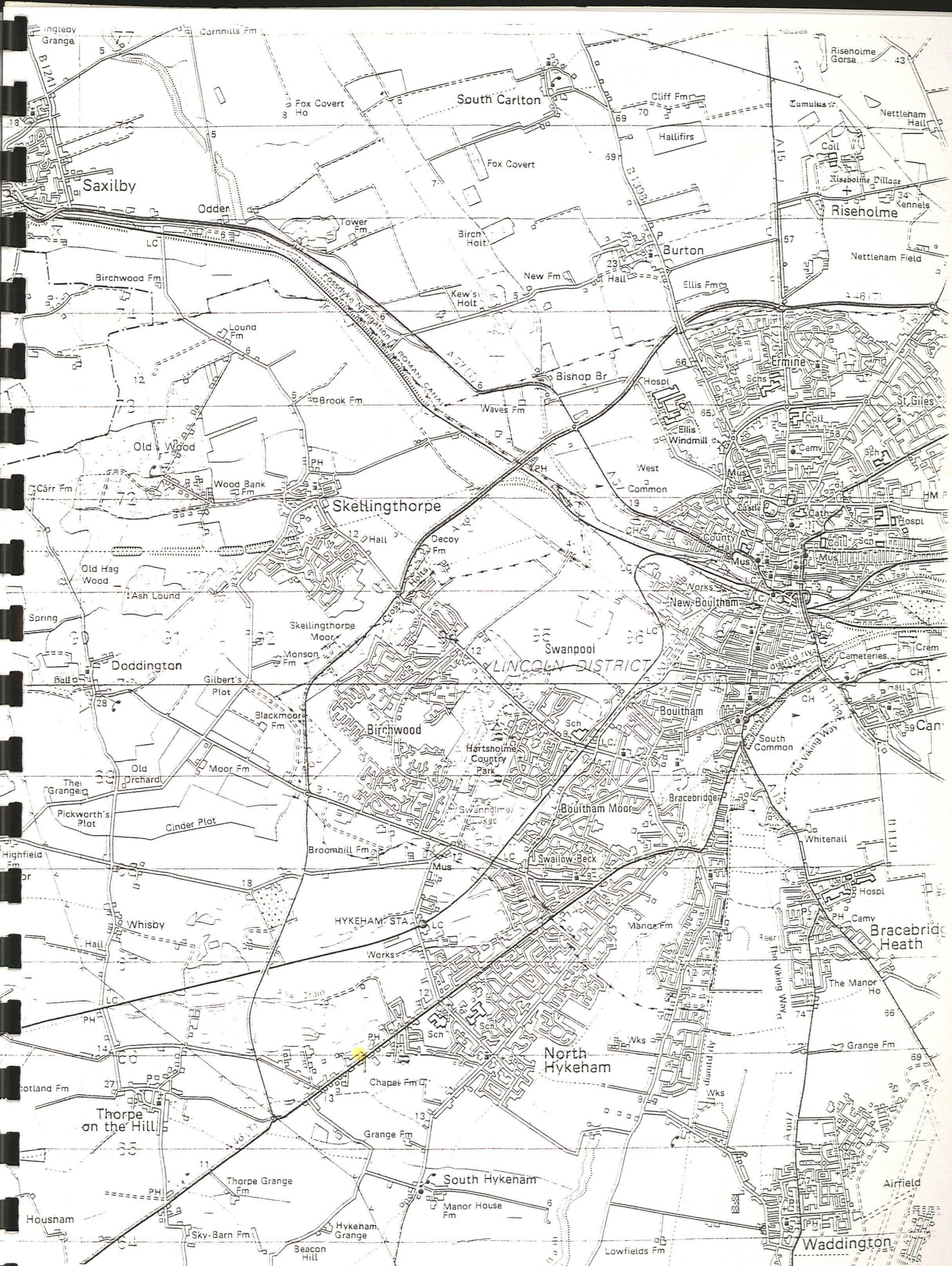


Fig. 1 Location of Newark Road, North Hykeham (based on the 1989 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 121. Crown copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. Licence No. AL50424A).

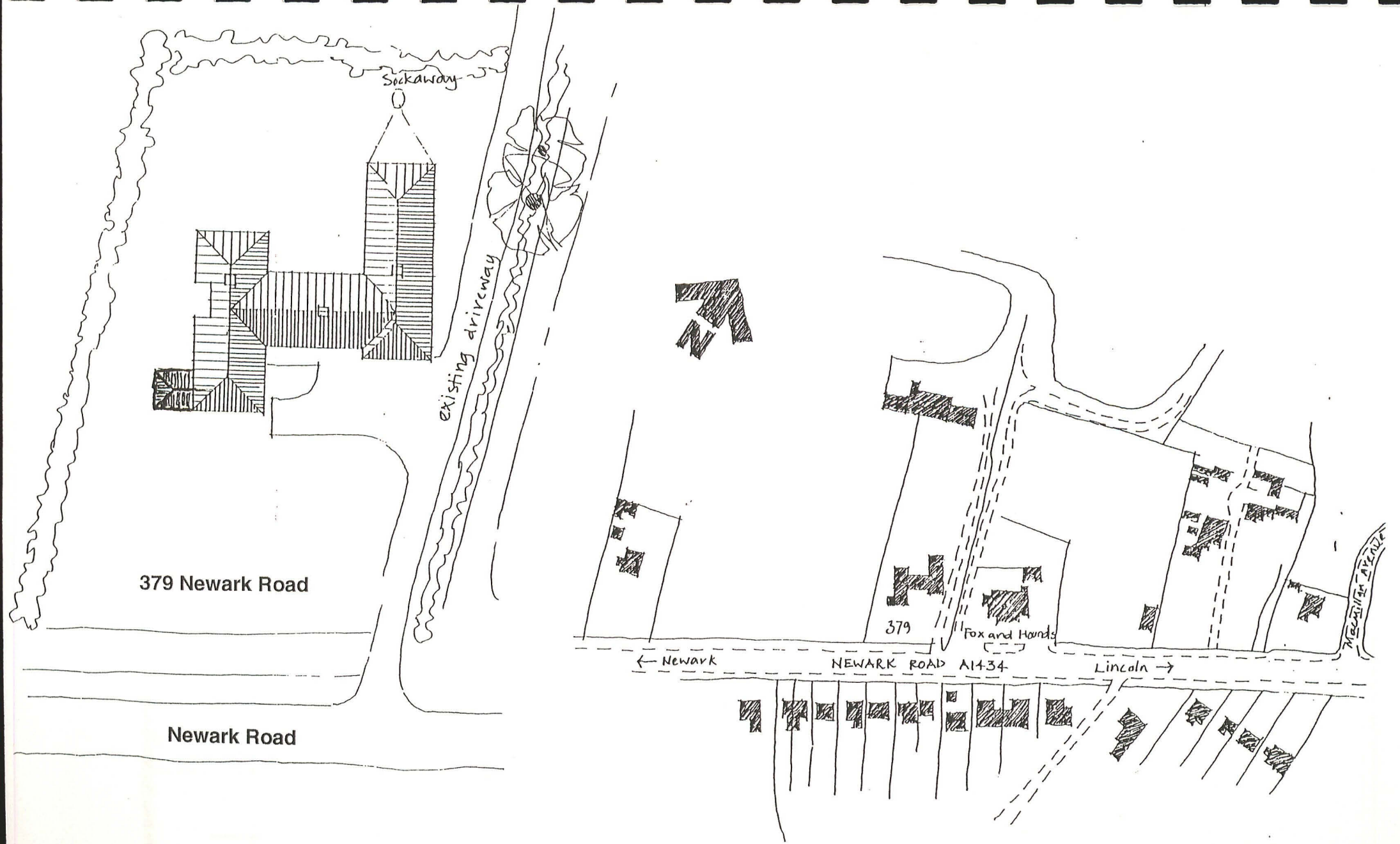


Fig. 2 Plans of the location of 379 Newark Road and the new bungalow extensions (plan supplied by the client).



monitored trenches

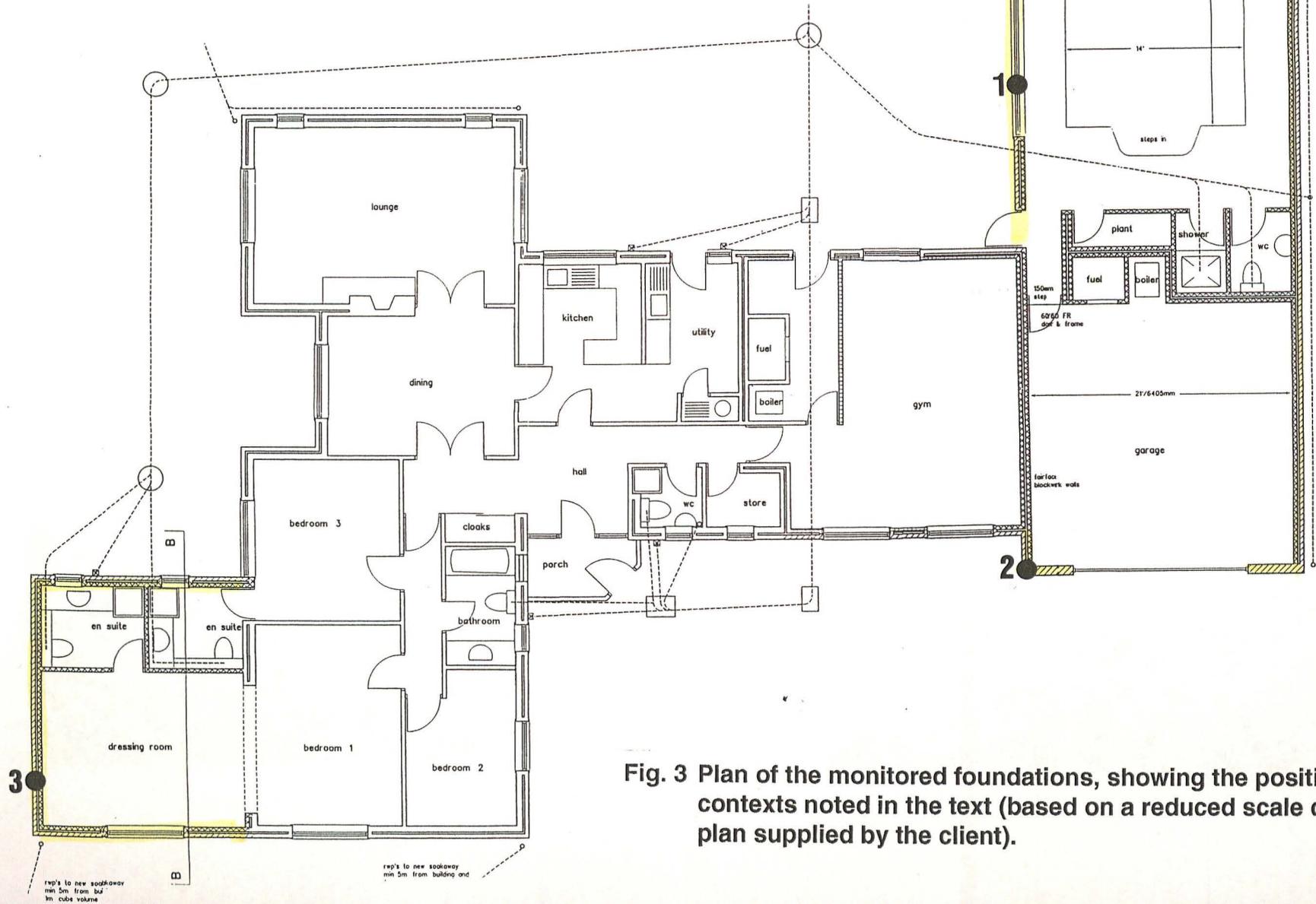


Fig. 3 Plan of the monitored foundations, showing the position of contexts noted in the text (based on a reduced scale copy of the plan supplied by the client).



Pl. 1 Dark brown fill of ditch 1 cut into sand deposits north of the bungalow (looking east, scale divisions 0.2m).

Pl. 2 Excavation of foundations for the extension west of the bungalow (looking south towards Newark Road).





Pl. 3 Trench stratigraphy west of the bungalow: the thick layer of imported clayey topsoil is evident at the top of the section. Mixed dark sand at the trench base fills the channels of undated tree roots 3 (looking west, scale divisions 0.2m).