

EU 6838

SLI 5284 1695

43238, Patrick
97/11



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Woodhall Spa: Roeze Close (off Witham Road)

NGR: TF 1803 6219

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: **WSW 95**
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **194.95**

Planning Application No. **S/215/1375/95**

Report prepared for Ray Jackson Builders

October 1997

Contents

Lists of Figures and Plates

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| The Watching Brief | 1 |
| Conclusion | 3 |
| Acknowledgements | 3 |
| References | 4 |
| Archive Summary | 4 |

List of Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of the monitored development (Inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheet TF 16. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).
- Fig. 2** Plan of the Roeze Close development, showing the main features found in the 1996 evaluation trenches (based on plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.04).
- Fig. 3** Plan of the features revealed in foundation trenches for house plots 9 and 10 (McDaid after Field, based on Ground Floor Plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.05).
- Fig. 4** Plan and section of the features revealed in foundation trenches for house plots 3 and 4 (McDaid after Tann, based on Ground Floor Plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.05).

List of Plates

- Pl. 1** Area of unmonitored plots 1 and 2, looking NE.
- Pl. 2** Excavation of footings, plots 9 and 10, looking NW.
- Pl. 3** Dark fill of modern disturbance **101**, plots 9 and 10 (looking north).
- Pl. 4** Dark fill of **102** cutting sand in the trench base, plots 9 and 10 (looking NE).
- Pl. 5** Iron-panned sand **103** in northern corner of trench, plots 9 and 10.
- Pl. 6** Excavation of footings for house plots 3 and 4 (looking north).
- Pl. 7** Dark soil **104** in the SE corner of house plots 3 and 4. Looking NW, scale divisions 0.2m.
- Pl. 8** Partly excavated natural feature **104** at the SE corner of house plots 3 and 4. Looking NW, scale divisions 0.2m.
- Pl. 9** Alignment of ditch **105**; house plots 3 and 4. Looking north towards Witham Road, scale divisions 0.2m.
- Pl. 10** Light brown fills of ditch **105** (centre) and shallower feature **106** (left). Looking NE, scale divisions 0.2m.

Roeze Close (off Witham Road), Woodhall Spa:

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 1803 6219

Site Code: **WSW 95**

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **194.95**

Planning Application No. **S/215/1375/95**

Summary

A watching brief during excavation of house foundations found small ditches, tree throw-holes and other features which contained no dating material. The edge of a large late Iron Age ditch found during a previous evaluation of the site may have extended across the edges of two house plots. Other gullies or small pits were present at the edge of that ditch close to Witham Road. The ditch apparently acted as a boundary to an Iron Age site extending further SE.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in May 1996 by Mr Robert Lowe Chartered Architect (on behalf of Ray Jackson Builders Ltd) to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of house footings and an access road on a residential development at Roeze Close, south of Witham Road on the outskirts of Woodhall Spa (Figs. 1 and 2).

An archaeological evaluation of part of the development site was conducted by LAS in January 1996, which identified Late Iron Age features containing pottery and animal bone (Taylor and McDaid 1996). The evaluation trenches extended into the areas of house plots 8 and 10.

As a result of these earlier findings a second phase of archaeological work, a watching brief during groundworks, was required to satisfy a condition of the planning permission.

The Watching Brief

Archaeological monitoring was conducted by Naomi Field on May 29th 1996, and by Geoff Tann on 9th July 1997. Sequential numbers were assigned to archaeological contexts and observations for recording purposes.

Plots 1 and 2

These plots were situated within the area of cattle pens on the former farmyard (Pl. 1). The ground here was very disturbed where building rubble had been removed and the foundation trenches were not monitored.

Plots 9 and 10 (Pl. 2; Fig. 3)

The trench depth varied between 0.65m in the NE corner to 0.95m in the SW corner. White sand was visible at the trench base.

100. At the SW corner the trench cut through part of an upcast bank beside an existing field ditch (which is aligned along the rear boundary of the development).

101. In the NW corner, the sand was grey and discoloured, reflecting a modern disturbance sealed by brick rubble (Pl. 3).

102. Another area of discoloration 2.5m long was exposed in the western trench (Pl. 4). This represented the fill of a modern feature cut through the existing topsoil.

103. There was no sign of the expected Iron Age ditch, although at the northern corner the trench base revealed sand which contained some clay and had become iron-panned (Pl. 5).

The Post Office

At the SW corner of this plot (in its revised position at the centre of the development) the trench cut through compact brick rubble. The white sand deposit was encountered 0.65m below the surface.

Plots 3 and 4 (Fig. 4; Pl. 6)

The last house plot to be constructed occupied the Witham Road street frontage and had been crossed by an access track. The trenches were excavated with a 0.75m wide toothed bucket to a depth of about 0.65m below the existing surface. Below the 0.2m thick modern topsoil/levelling deposit was a layer of medium-sized rounded pebbles, apparently a cobbled yard surface 0.1m thick. This sealed a layer of orange/brown sandy loam 0.14m thick which may have been a buried ploughsoil. Below this was the white sand layer seen elsewhere on the site, with underlying yellow sand.

104. Blue/grey clay was revealed beneath the brown sandy loam in the SE corner of this plot (Pl. 7). This formed a sub-circular spread 1.2m diameter and up to 0.14m deep; on the NE edge of the clay was a small deposit of dark brown loam. This feature was initially thought to be a small pit, or a post-hole with post-pipe. Upon excavation it proved to be amorphous and was reinterpreted as the root system left by an uprooted small tree (Pl. 8).

105. At the northern end of the central trench, a NE-SW aligned ditch was revealed below the buried ploughsoil (Pl. 9). The ditch was up to 0.27m deep and about 1.2m wide at the level of truncation; the flat base was 0.72m below the modern ground surface. The feature was backfilled with a dark brown sandy loam, noticeably redder than the overlying soil (Pl. 10). No finds were recovered from this fill.

This ditch was not identified in any of the trenches to the west, and it must be assumed that it terminated immediately beyond this trench. The ditch may be contemporary with **106**, and possibly also with **107**.

106. At the NE side of **105**, the foundation trench clipped the western edge of another feature extended to the north. No relationship was visible between the two features and they may have been contemporary; both fills appeared similar. In the northern foundation trench the fill extended across to the corner, indistinguishable from the fill of **107**.

This feature was interpreted as the western edge of a feature turning towards the north, possibly part of or contemporary with **107**.

107. A broad feature was exposed at the northern end of the eastern trench. The southern edge was identified, cut into the white sand layer and overlain by the buried ploughsoil. The dark brown sandy loam fill was similar to that of **105** and **106** but the feature was larger and deeper than **105**. It may have formed part of the same ditch which became shallower towards the western terminal.

The load-bearing qualities of the ground on this site become poorer as greater depth is reached. In view of the compact nature of this filled feature it was decided that it need not be emptied. A small test-hole was dug 0.55m into the fill, which showed that the base was greater than 1m below the present ground surface; no finds were apparent.

The fill extended to the house corner where it merged with the identical fill from **106**. The nature and extent of this feature are not known.

Conclusion

Interpretation of the various features exposed during the excavation is difficult because such a small part of them was visible. No dating material was found in them and although they could be Late Iron Age in date (contemporary with features investigated in the evaluation trenches) any date up to the early post-medieval period is possible. Post-medieval farmyard surfaces and metalled accesses to the barns provided an identifiable deposit which sealed the features.

The only probably significant features found during this final phase of archaeological investigation were **103**, **105**, **106** and **107**. **103** and **107** may represent part of the deep linear ditch **63** found in the evaluation (Taylor and McDaid 1996). **105** and **106** could be lesser features on the edge of that ditch.

Construction of this development seems to have caused only limited damage to part of the Late Iron Age site known from cropmarks which extend into the adjacent field. If ditch **63** served as a boundary to that settlement, the area examined was peripheral and this would explain the absence of occupation features.

Acknowledgements

LAS was grateful for the co-operation and interest expressed by Ray Jackson Builders. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid from site drawings by N. Field and G. Tann. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Naomi Field and Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
21st October 1997

Reference

Taylor, C. and McDaid, M. 1996 *Witham Road, Woodhall Spa: Archaeological Evaluation* Unpublished report by LAS.

Archive Summary

section drawings

site notes and field observation sheets

dyeline plans of development and house layout, annotated

correspondence

photographs LAS colour print film nos. 96/36/2-10; 96/73/4, 5; and
97/52/10-17

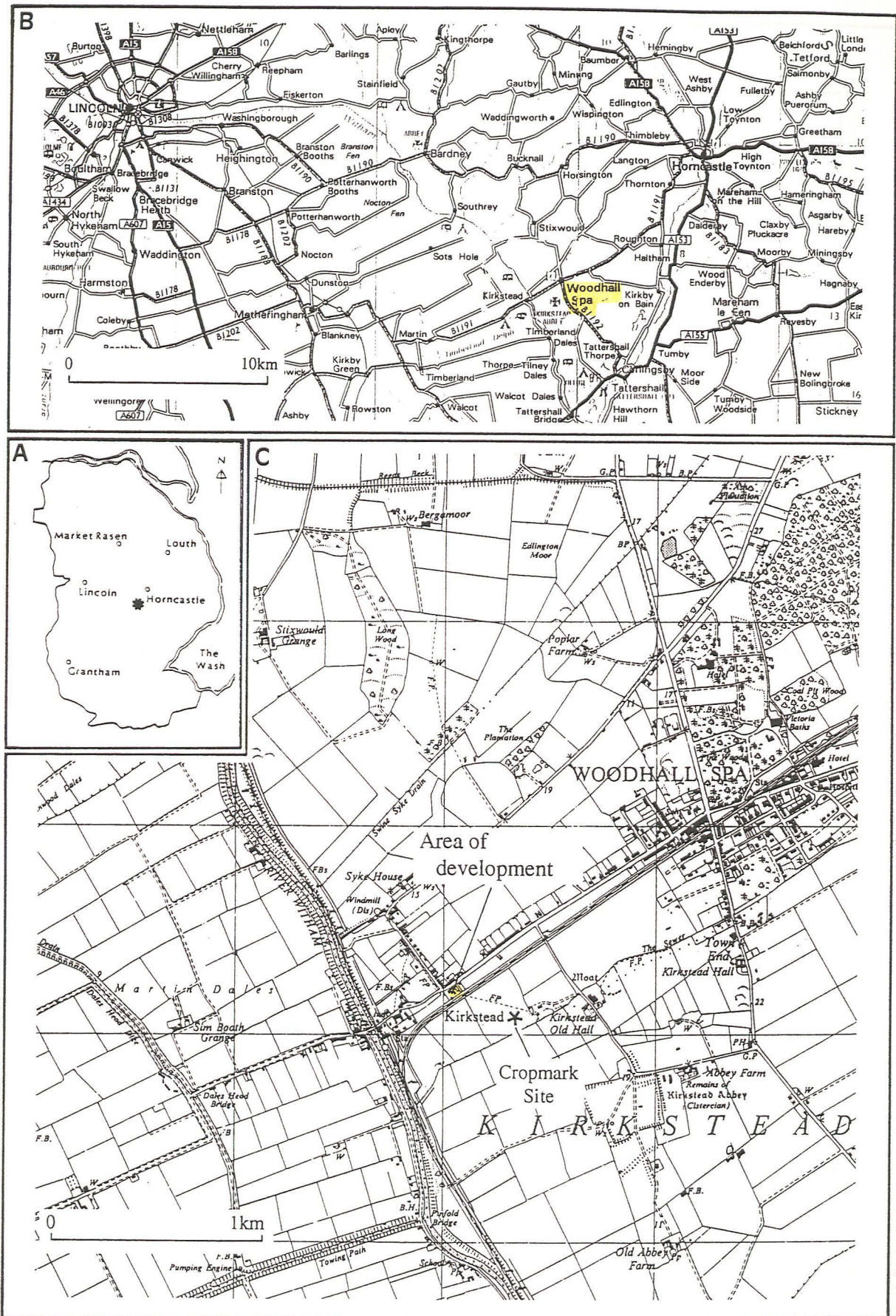


Fig. 1 Location of the monitored development (Inset C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheet TF 16. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

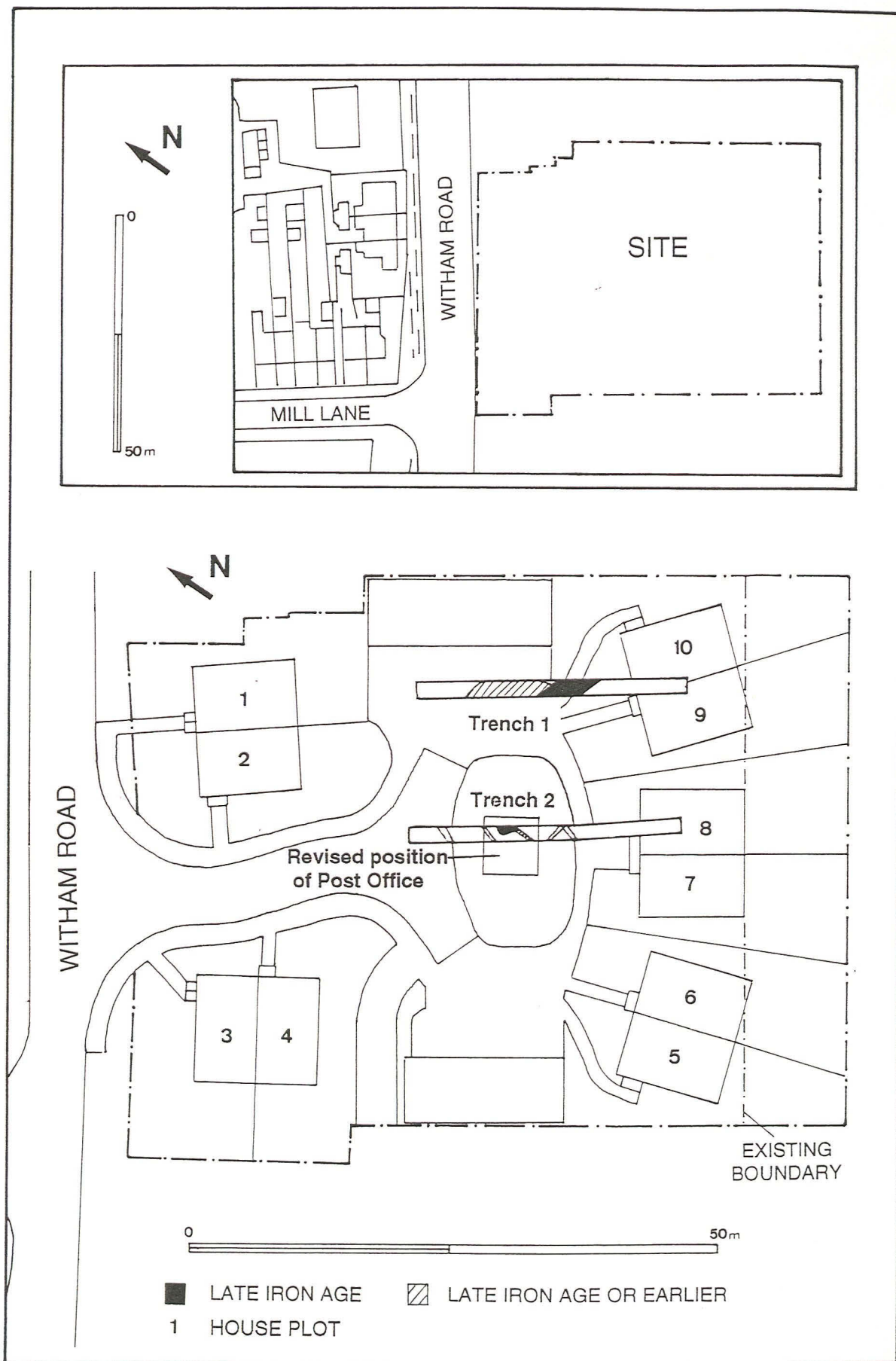


Fig. 2 Plan of the Roeze Close development, showing the main features found in the 1996 evaluation trenches (based on plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.04).

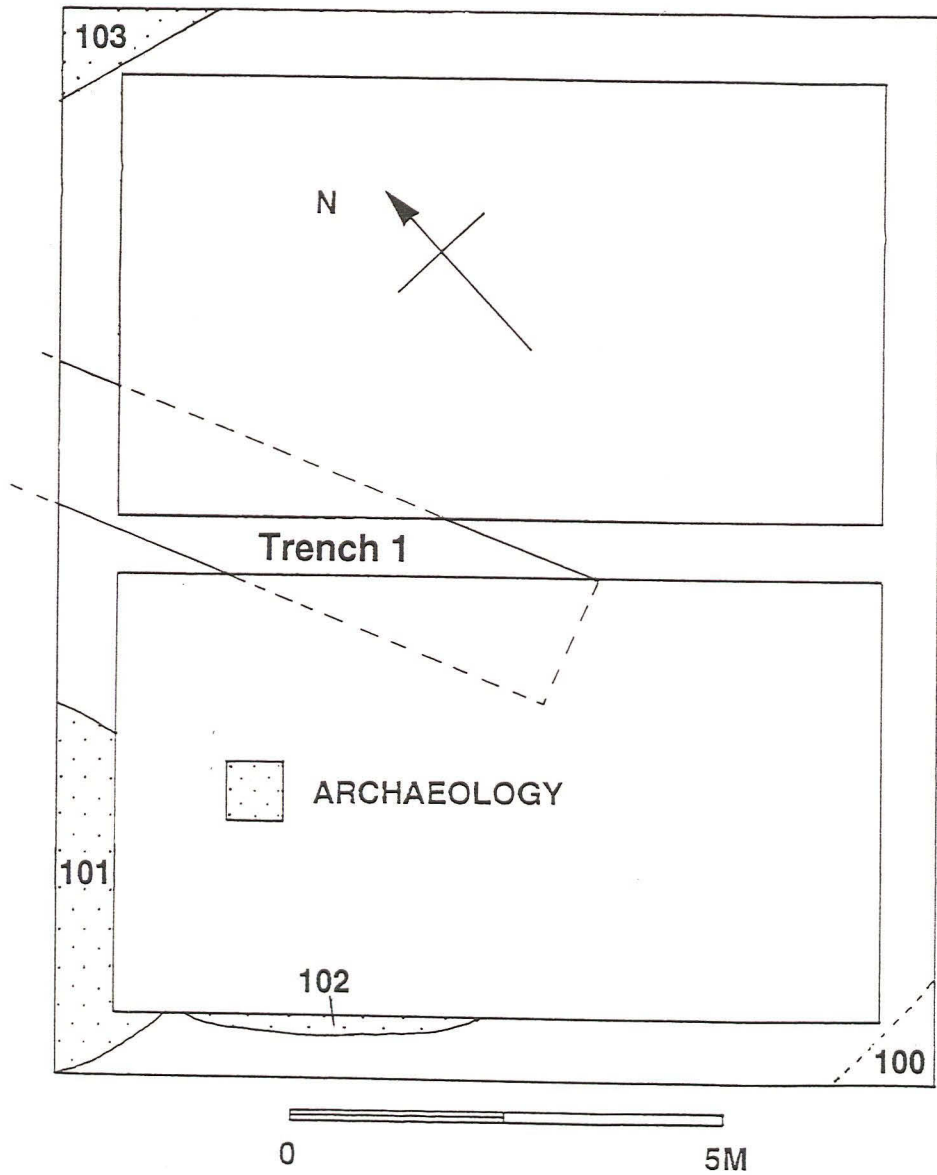


Fig. 3 Plan of the features revealed in foundation trenches for house plots 9 and 10 (McDaid after Field, based on Ground Floor Plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.05).

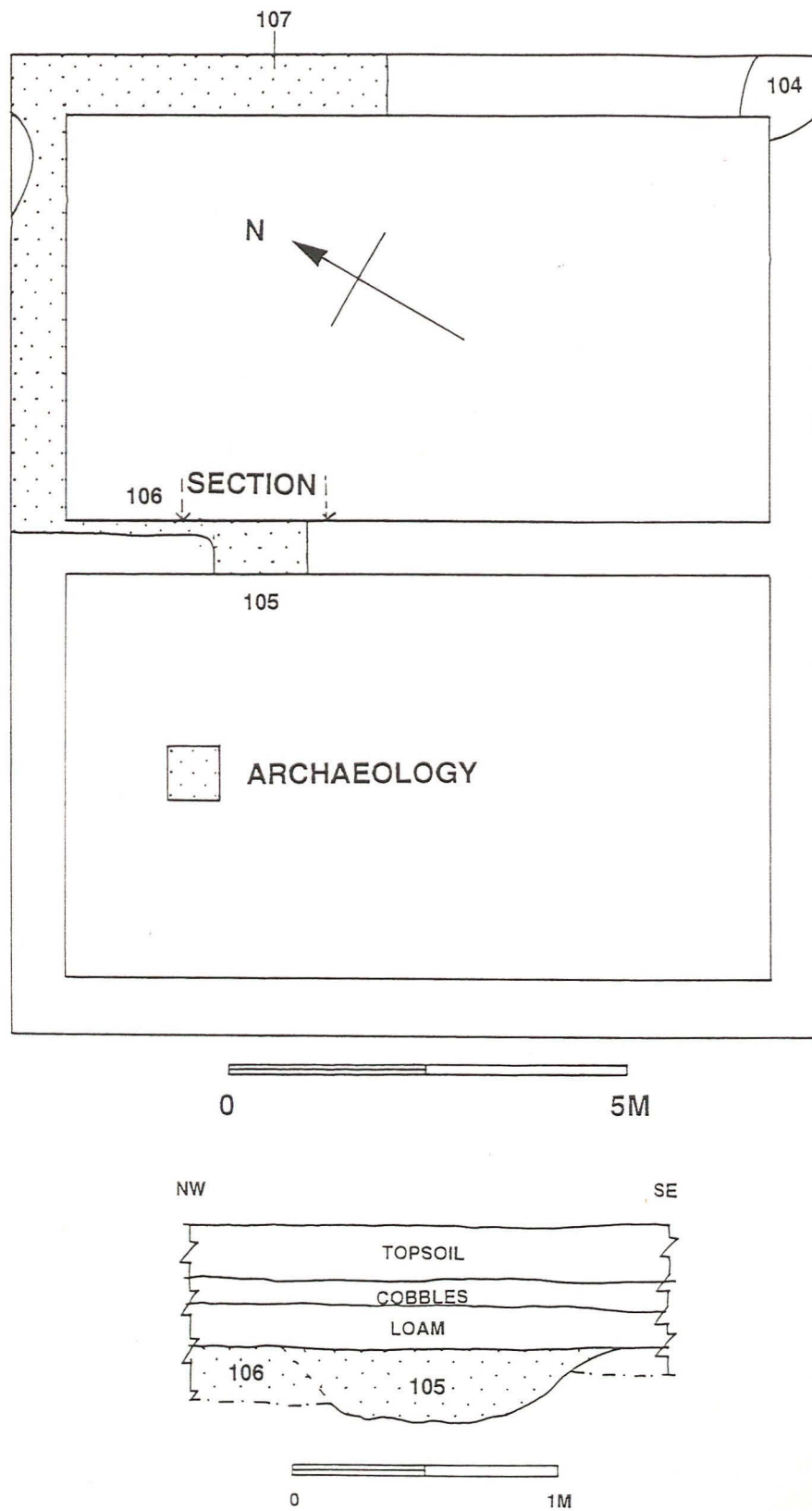


Fig. 4 Plan and section of the features revealed in foundation trenches for house plots 3 and 4 (McDaid after Tann, based on Ground Floor Plan by R. Lowe dwg. no. 9452.05).



PI. 1 Area of unmonitored plots 1 and 2, looking NE.

PI. 2 Excavation of footings, plots 9 and 10, looking NW.





Pl. 3 Dark fill of modern disturbance 101, plots 9 and 10 (looking north).

Pl. 4 Dark fill of 102 cutting sand in the trench base, plots 9 and 10 (looking NE).





Pl. 5 Iron-panned sand 103 in northern corner of trench, plots 9 and 10.

Pl. 6 Excavation of footings for house plots 3 and 4 (looking north).





PI. 7 Dark soil 104 in the SE corner of house plots 3 and 4. Looking NW, scale divisions 0.2m.

PI. 8 Partly excavated natural feature 104 at the SE corner of house plots 3 and 4. Looking NW, scale divisions 0.2m.





Pl. 9 Alignment of ditch 105; house plots 3 and 4. Looking north towards Witham Road, scale divisions 0.2m.

Pl. 10 Light brown fills of ditch 105 (centre) and shallower feature 106 (left). Looking NE, scale divisions 0.2m.

