

Rec'd 07/03/02

2041

Plan app: 2/00/041/0828

NYE 353

NYS 6930

**Long Street  
Easingwold  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

NYCC HER	
SNY	6930
ENY	353
CNY	669
Parish	2041
Rec'd	07/03/2002

**MAP 01-03-01  
February 2002**

**Long Street  
Easingwold  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	3
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	4
4. Results	6
5. Conclusions	9
6. Bibliography	10
Appendices	
1. Context Listing	21
2. Finds Catalogue	22
3. Photographic Catalogue	23
4. Archive Listing	24

## Figure List

		<b>Page</b>
1.	Location Plan	11
2.	Development Site	12
3.	Watching Brief Areas	13
4.	1812 Enclosure Award Map	14
5.	1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map	15
6.	1913 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map	16
7.	Ditch Sections	17
8.	Monitored Areas	18

## Plate List

1.	General View of Development Site. Facing East	19
2.	Ditch 1. West Facing Section. Facing East	19
3.	Ditch 2. West Facing Section. Facing East	20
4.	Brick Well. Facing South	20

**Long Street  
Easingwold  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**1. Introduction**

The Archaeological Watching Brief on the excavation of the access road, sewers and Blocks A - I at the Long Street Development (SE 5351 7151: Figs. 1 - 3 & 8 ) was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. from March to November 2001 in accordance with planning condition No. 3 of Decision Notice 2/00041/0828B.

All work has been funded by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd..

The maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

**2. Site Description**

The development site fronts on to the south side of Long Street, Easingwold, North Yorkshire (SE 5351 7151 : Fig. 1). The site boundaries are Long Street to the east, Crawford House, the Royal Oak Inn and properties on Catherine Dove Drive to the south, residential properties and gardens to the west and the back garden of 107 and 109 Long Street to the north (Fig. 2). Covering an area of approximately 1.5 hectares the majority of the development area was formally occupied by a succession of garage buildings, and their associated forecourts prior to re-development.

The site stands on soils of the Newport 1 Association, mottled brown sandy soils, which overlie glacio-fluvial (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983).

### **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

#### **3.1 Historical Background**

The name of Easingwold is thought to derive from Old English meaning the highland of the Esingas' with 'Esingas' being 'the people of Esa', and 'ing' referring to his followers (Smith 1969). In Domesday (1086) Easingwold is recorded as 'Eisicewalt' or 'Eisincewald', and as Hesingwald in the Twelfth century, Esingewald and Easingwaud in the Thirteenth century and Esyngwold and Easingwould in the Sixteenth century (VCH 1968).

The northern part of the Easingwold is known as Uppleby. Place-name evidence suggests that Uppleby was settled during the Anglo-Scandinavian period, most likely between the Ninth and Tenth-century, as suggested from the Old Norse word 'by' meaning 'clearing in woodland' (Smith, 1969). This practise of adding to a pre-existing settlement is very common during this period throughout eastern Britain, and nearby examples include Thirsk and Sowerby.

Prior to 1066 the manor was held by the Earl of Morcar and was valued at £32, suggesting that during this period the manor was both prosperous and of some importance. In Domesday (1086) the manor was held by the king and assessed at 12 carucates but the value had fallen to only 20 shillings, largely due to a series of rebellions across the north of England which resulted in 'the harrying of the north' in 1069.

The manor remained the property of the Crown until 1219 when it was granted by Henry III to Robert, Abbot of Toumay. From 1259 to his death in 1265 Simon de Montfort held Easingwold, it then passed to Edmund First Earl of Lancaster whose family retained it until 1361 when the manor passed to John of Gaunt, and then to Edward IV in 1399, who granted it to Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland. Easingwold remained a royal manor until the reign of James I when it passed to a series of owners, Royal, ecclesiastical and finally private (Page 1968).

By 1221 a weekly market was being held in the town and in 1291 Edmund obtained a grant for a yearly fair. In 1639 Charles I granted Easingwold a weekly market and two annual fairs.

From the early Eighteenth century until the middle of the Nineteenth century, the town continued to flourish due to its location within the developing coaching network. This must have been considered to be of great importance as an Act of Parliament was passed in 1753 to improve the roads. Also during this period, the remaining medieval dwellings around the market place were demolished and replaced with new houses (Gill 1852).

The remaining feature of the medieval period, the 'open-field' agricultural system, was enclosed in 1808.

The Enclosure Award map (Fig. 4) of 1812 provides no information on the shape of plots fronting Long Street, but it does record that the plot is owned by Thomas Crawford.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1856 (Fig. 5) shows a series of buildings fronting onto Long Street and also extending into the rear of two of the plots. By the 1913 edition (Fig. 6) buildings on the rear of the plot have been removed and one of the buildings fronting Long Street has been demolished and rebuilt.

### 3.2 Archaeological Background

The majority of this information has been obtained from the vicinity of the town, and also include some chance finds (Whyman 1993). The earliest of these being a group of Bronze-Age finds, including flint axes and pottery. However, their actual location is unknown and it is given as "within the vicinity of the town" (Cowling 1967).

An extensive late Iron-Age settlement was located during the construction of the A19 Easingwold Bypass to the west of the town. The remains consisted of houses, stock enclosures, field-systems and track-ways. One of these was thought to have been the course of an earlier 'ridgeway', believed to have run from Malton to Aldborough (Whyman 1993).

This route continued in use throughout the subsequent Roman period, and further roads have been located within the northern and western parts of the town, the latter of which ran close to the current development area. This is believed to have followed the course of Long Street,

and was a branch of the main route to the north of Britain on the lowland area between the North Yorkshire Dales and Moors. This must have been an important road as it ran from the port at Brough-on-Humber, bypassing York, and then continuing northwards before terminating at Hadrians Wall (Margary 1973).

There have also been numerous other finds of this period within a 5 km radius of the town, including those from a villa site at Oulston (SE 565 738 : Clark 1935, 119 & Hayes 1988, 42) and other occupation sites at Spring House Farm, Raskelf (SE 485 686 : Clark 1935, 121 & Hayes 1988, 43), and Foxfoot Hay (SE 558 771 : *ibid*, 42).

The Anglian period is represented by two chance finds of a copper alloy escutcheon plate for a hanging bowl, and a sandstone sundial located within the outer west wall of St. John's church. Both finds have been dated to between the Fifth and Seventh century respectively.

There have been no archaeological finds from the early medieval period, although late Thirteenth century pottery was recovered during excavations close to the site of the second manor house, demolished in 1826, at the west end of Uppleby, immediately to the north of High Street (YAT 1998). Some walls, the moat and fishponds are still visible.

#### 4. Results

A Watching Brief was undertaken during the stripping of the access road and excavation of the drainage runs (Fig. 3 : Pl. 1). A number of archaeological features were observed and recorded. At a later date further areas of the site were observed during construction work (Fig. 8).

##### Access Road

The access road measured 96m in length by 7.5m in width and was excavated down to a depth of 1.1m below the existing ground surface. This level was artificially higher due to the general spreading of rubble derived from the demolition of the garage and associated buildings. Excavation cut through a deposit of mottled brown to yellow sand which

represented the natural subsoil (context 1001) and which was located at depths between 0.45m and 0.55m below the existing ground level.

At a distance of 10m from Long Street, a linear feature (context 1002 - Ditch 1) was observed within the west facing section 0.10m from the present ground surface. Ditch 1 was aligned east to west and measured approximately 2.30m in width and was approximately 1.50m deep, cut into the subsoil. The northern side of the ditch had been disturbed by the excavation of a previous drain associated with the garage. Ditch 1 possessed two distinct fills, a mid grey brown sandy silt (context 1003) and a grey brown sand (context 1004) with a layer of cobbles separating the two fills. The unstable nature of the trench resulted in only a sketch plan and photographic record being made (Fig. 7 & Pl. 2). Finds from Ditch 1 were restricted to a single sherd of Brandsby Type ware of Thirteenth to Fourteenth century date from context 1003.

A further linear feature (context 1016 - Ditch 2 : Fig 7 & Pl. 3) was observed at a distance of 20m from Long Street, again at a depth of 0.10m from the present ground surface. Ditch 2 although on the same alignment as Ditch 1 was slightly smaller being just under 2m in width and cut in to the subsoil to a depth of 0.80m. Three fills were recorded (Fig. 00 : contexts 1005, 1030 & 1031). Fills 1005 and 1031, grey brown sands were separated by a layer of redeposited subsoil (context 1030). Finds from Ditch 2 were restricted to a single sherd of Brandsby Type ware of Thirteenth to Fourteenth century date from context 1031.

In addition to the two ditches a number of much later features were recorded cutting the subsoil (context 1006 to 1010). These features represented pits which contained variable quantities of animal bone from the skeletons of cows, sheep, pigs and a dog. The fills of these pits were identical grey brown sands (contexts 1011 - 1015) with associated finds of pottery and glass of late Eighteenth and Nineteenth century date. The exception was a single sherd of Gritty Ware pottery from the fill of grave containing the dog (cut 1006, fill 1011) which is felt to be residual.



All of these features were overlain with a layer of modern overburden consisting of a brown mixed silty clay and brick rubble, which varied in thickness of between 0.25m and 0.35m with associated finds of modern pottery and glass.

### Drainage Trenches

Evidence for the location and constructional detail for previous buildings on the site was observed and recorded within the drainage run along the route of the access road (Fig. 3). The foundation trench (context 1021) for the western and southern walls (context 1022) of the demolished garage was observed. The individual bricks were still in place to a depth of 0.70m from the present ground surface, and the wall was 0.40m in width. The finds from this feature were all Twentieth-century in date, confirming this identification. This was overlain with modern overburden (023) to a depth of 0.25m, and no earlier archaeological features were observed or finds recovered.

No archaeological features were observed along the second drainage run which was located to the west of the access road, only a small quantity of pottery, glass and bone was recovered of Nineteenth and Twentieth century date.

Observation of stripping in the south-eastern area of the site, 15m from the terminal of the access road, revealed an unmortared brick-lined well (Pl. 4) capped with a sandstone slab (context 1043). This feature has been constructed by excavating a 1.55m diameter pit (cut 1040), followed by the construction of the well. Up to sixteen courses, down to a depth of 3.5m from the present ground surface, were observed above the water level each consisting of thirty-seven bricks, forming an internal diameter of 1.30m. The fill of the well pit consisted of re-deposited subsoil (1042) containing Eighteenth century pottery and glass. The type of brick used also suggested this date.

Immediately west of Crawford House, and adjacent to Long Street a brick surface (1046) visible for several metres was observed. The bricks were unmortared, and the same type as those observed within the well, suggesting a similar date. It seems likely that this feature was a hard standing area in the back yard of Crawford House.

### **Block A**

During the Watching Brief on the access road and drainage runs two features interpreted as ditches had been observed immediately to the west of **Block A**. Unfortunately it was not possible to trace these features within **Block A** due to the high degree of disturbance and contamination caused by the siting of the former petrol station in this area of the site.

### **Blocks B - G**

No archaeological features were observed nor finds recovered from these areas of the site.

### **Blocks H & I**

Although no features were observed during the excavation of the footings for these blocks a single sherd of **Brandsby** type pottery of Fourteenth - Fifteenth century A.D. was recovered from the fine sandy subsoil.

### **Block J**

This area of the site had been badly disturbed during the insertion of the petrol tanks for the garage. Due to this high degree of disturbance the removal of the tanks were observed, but it was felt that the actual observation of the excavation of the footings would be non productive.

## **5. Conclusions**

Only a small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, of which only three were from stratified contexts (Ditches 1 and 2), suggesting a Thirteenth - Fourteenth century date and a single sherd of Fourteenth-Fifteenth century date from **Block H**. The paucity of finds and archaeological features suggests that the two recorded ditches represent field boundaries associated with **Easingwold's** open fields and that settlement activity in this part of the town is a relatively recent phenomenon.

## 6. Bibliography

Clark, M.K. 1935 The Gazetteer of Roman Remains in East Yorkshire. Roman Malton and District Report No. 5. Leeds

Cowling, G.C. 1967 The History of Easingwold and the Forest of Galtres. Penguin, London.

Gill, T. 1852 'Vallis Eborances' : Comprising the History and Antiquities of Easingwold and it's Neighbourhood.

Hayes, R.H. 1988 Northeast Yorkshire Studies : Archaeological Papers. Antiquities Section, Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

Jarvis, R.A. *et al*, 1983 Soils and their use in Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales, Bulletin Number 10. Harpenden, London.

Margary, I.D. 1973 Roman Roads in Britain. John Baxter Publishers Ltd, London.

Page, W 1968 Victoria County History. A History of the North Riding. Volume 2

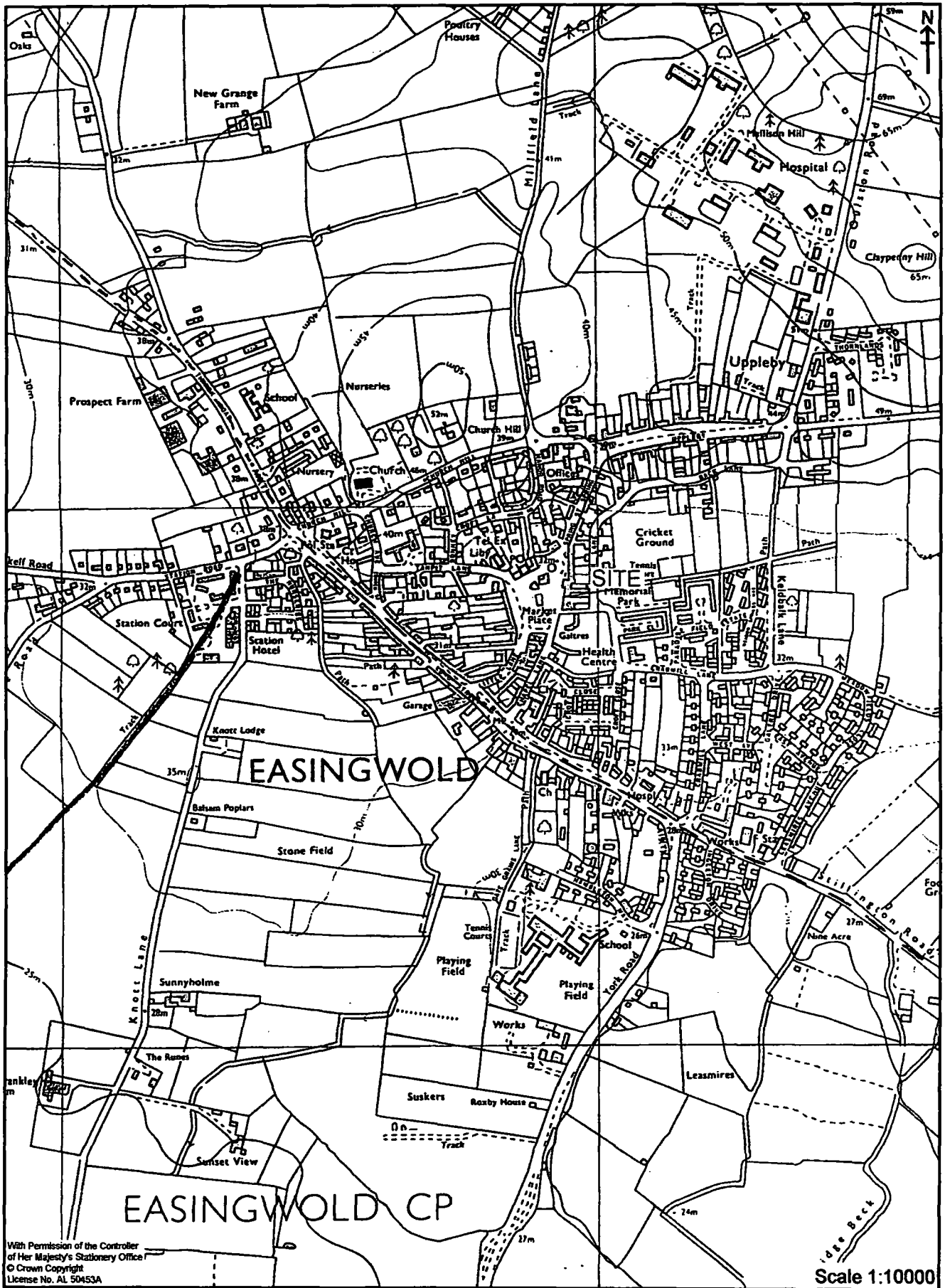
Smith, A.H. 1969 The Place Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire. The English Place Name Society, Volume 5. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Tyler, A. 1990 Historic Town Studies - Archaeological Priorities and Needs. Easingwold.

Whyman, M. 1993 Easingwold By-pass (Interim Report), Volume 8, Number 3. York Archaeological Tmst.

Y.A.T., 1988 Millfields Recreation Area. Field Report Number 38. York Archaeological Tmst.

Y.A.T., 1998 Easingwold Manor, Millfield Lane, Easingwold, North Yorkshire (Report on an Archaeological Desk-Top Study). Field Report Number 33. York Archaeological Tmst.



With Permission of the Controller  
of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright  
License No. AL 50453A

Figure 1. Site Location.



Figure 2. Development Area.

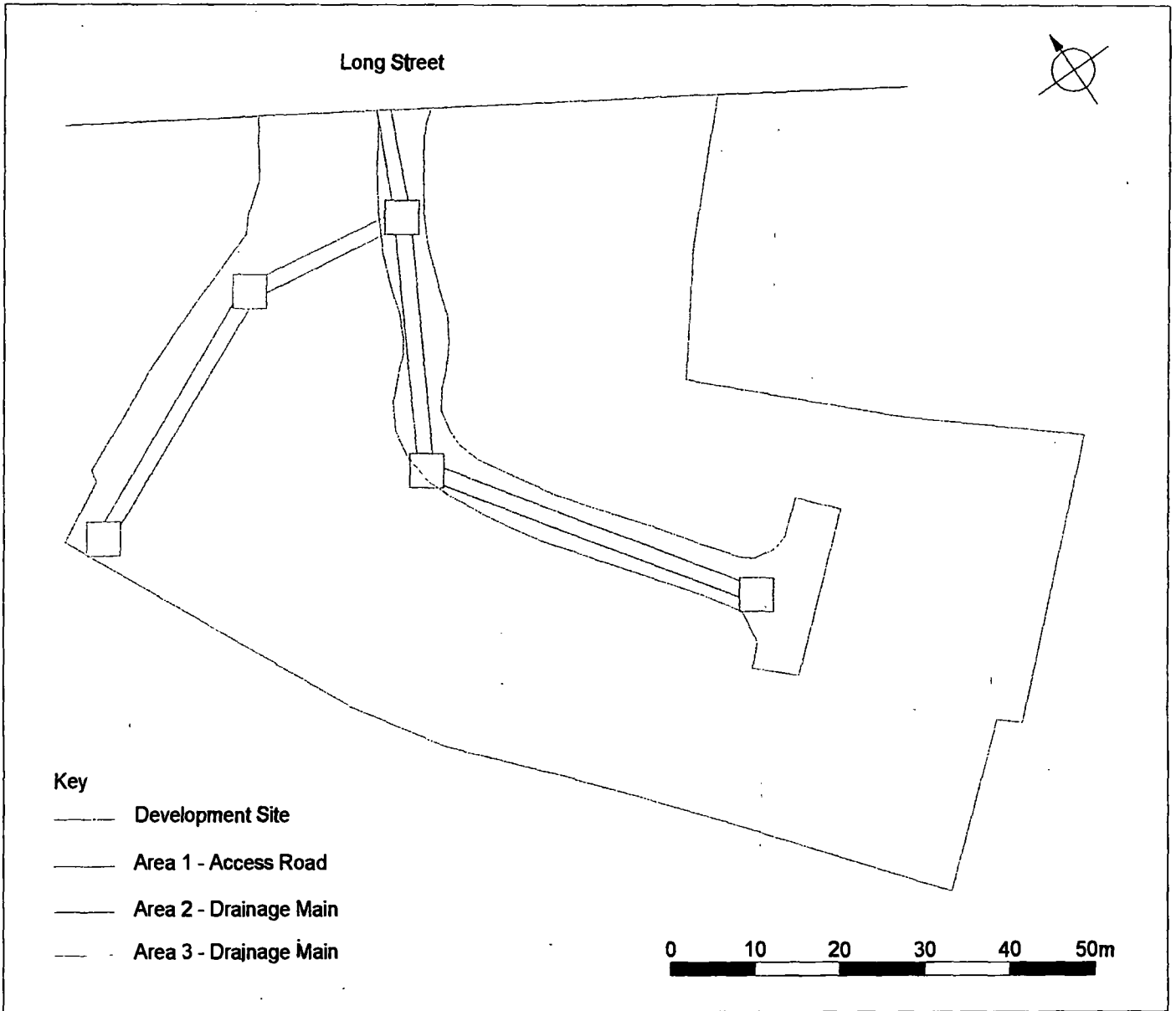


Figure 3. Watching Brief Areas.

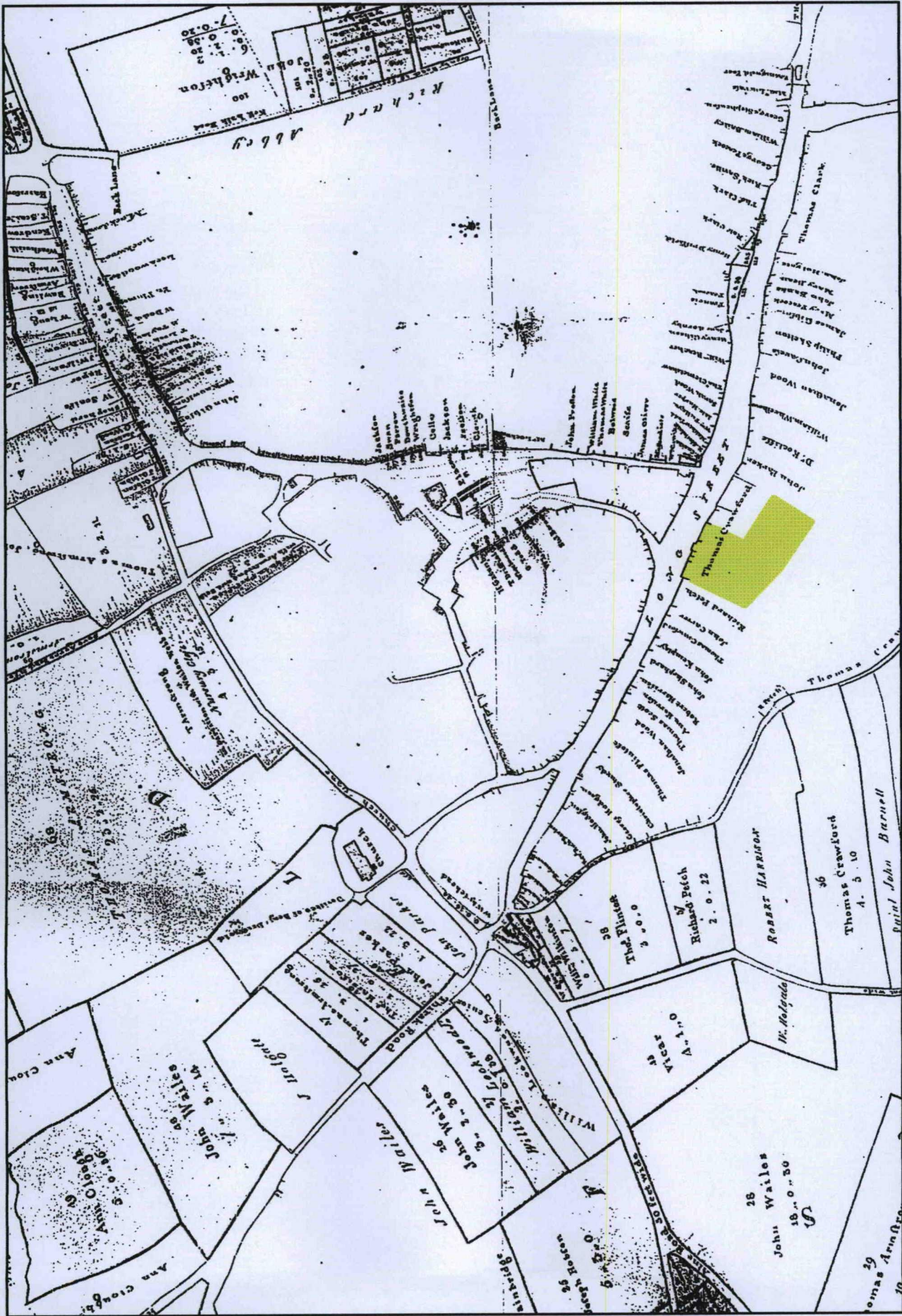


Figure 4. Enclosure Plan of Easingwold, 1812.



Figure 5. Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1856.



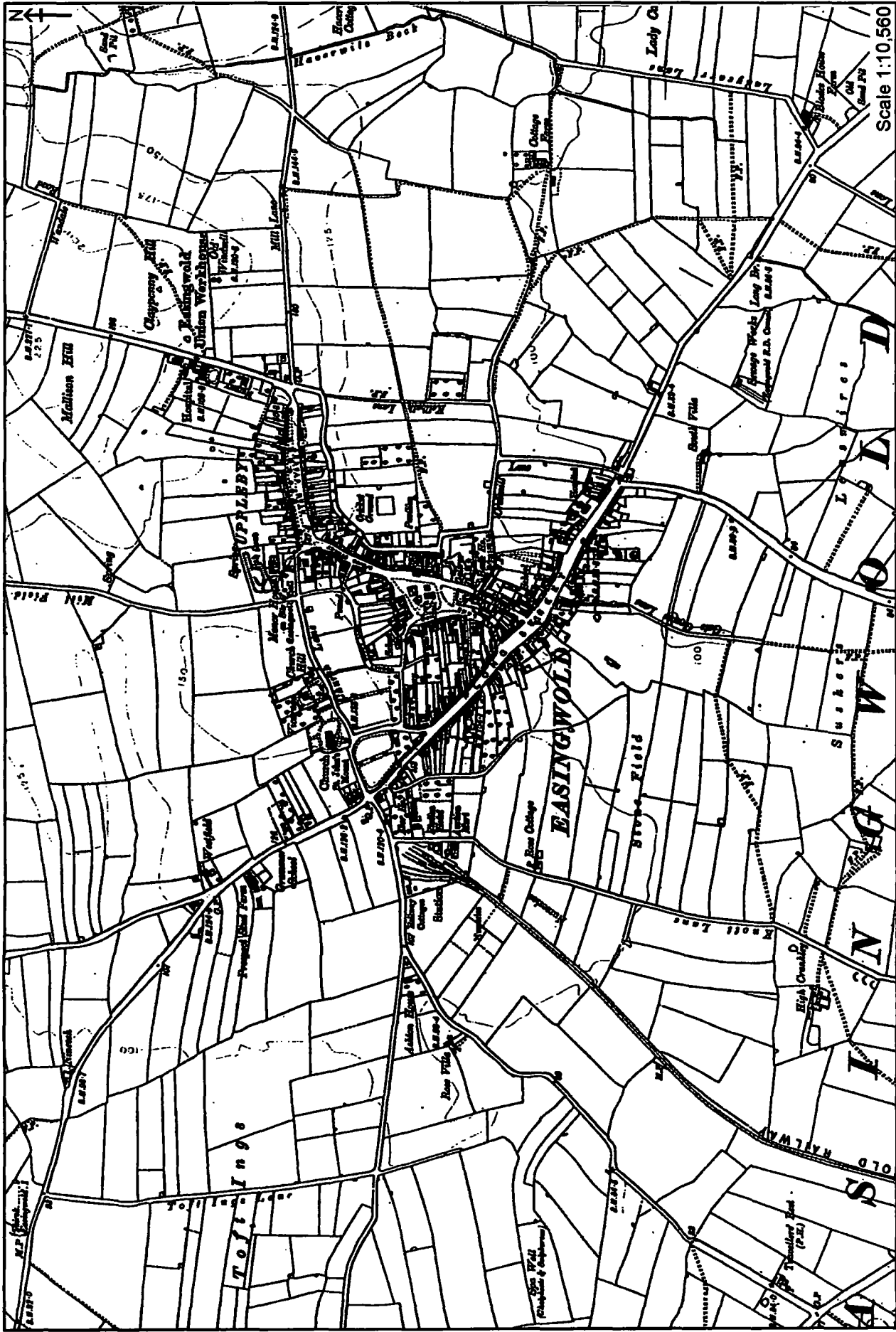


Figure 6. Extract from the County Series Ordnance Survey Map, 1913.

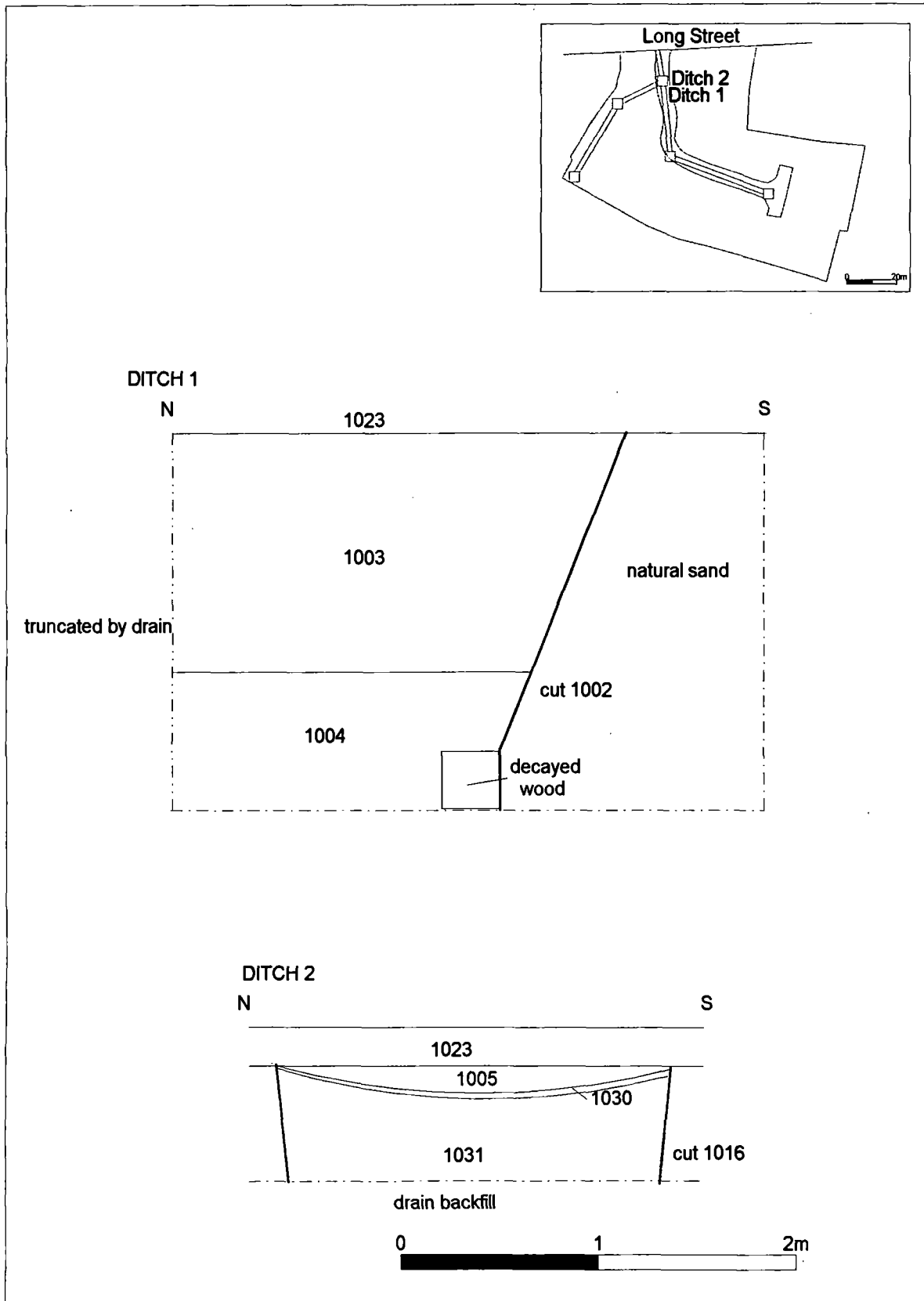


Figure 7. Sketch Sections of Features 1 and 2.

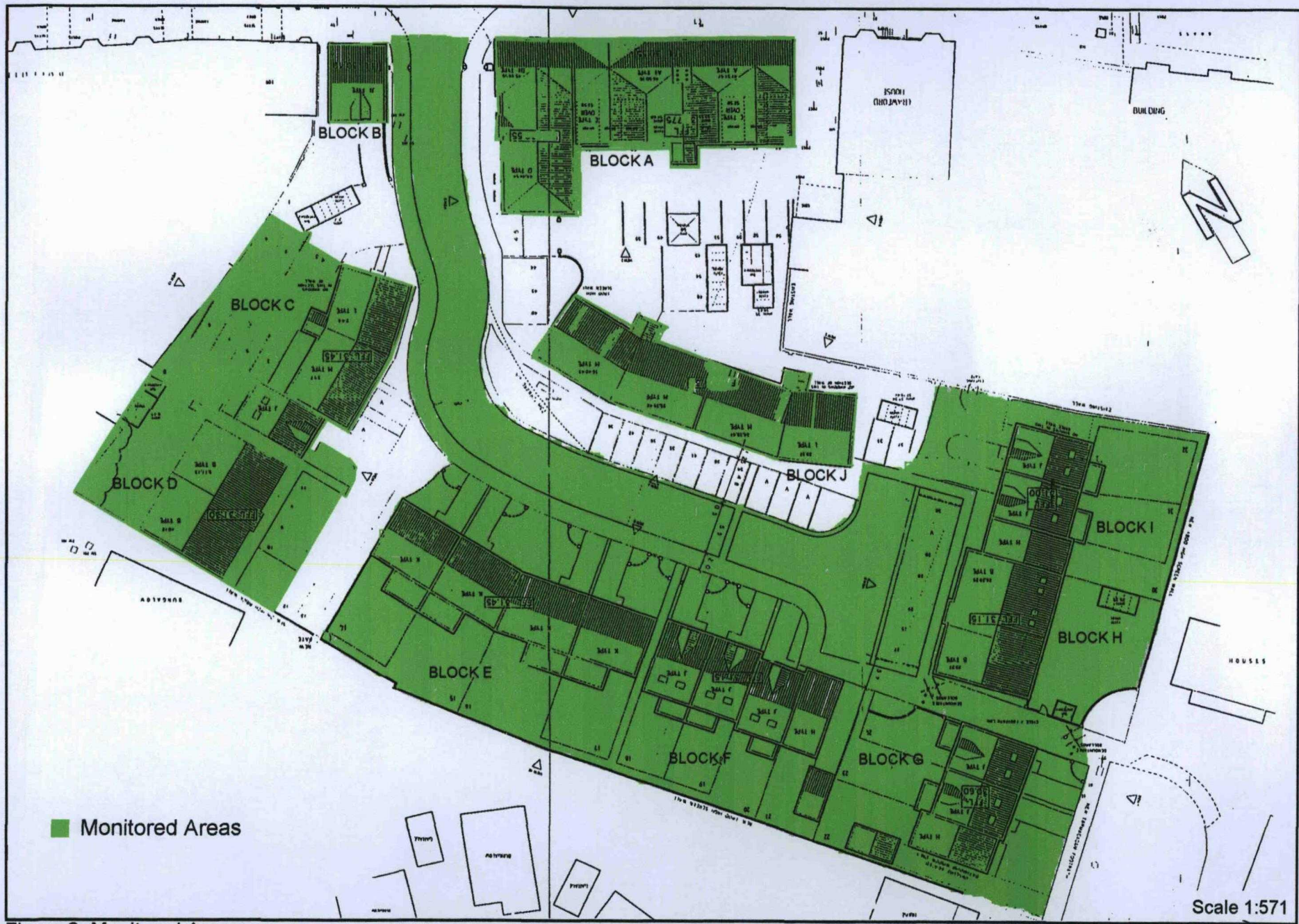


Figure 8. Monitored Areas.