

# Archaeological Monitoring at 101 Lynn Road, Grimston, Norfolk.



Prepared for Andrew English

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## Archaeological Monitoring of an extension to the rear of 101 Lynn Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1AG.

<b>Location:</b>	Grimston
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	TF 7123 2272
<b>NHES Event No:</b>	ENF131235
<b>Date of fieldwork:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2013

### 1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Malcolm Williamson of Williamson Developments on behalf of the owner Andrew English, to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with an extension to the rear of 101 Lynn Road, Grimston (Planning Ref. 12/01304/F).

The plot size for 101 Lynn Road is c. 650m<sup>2</sup>. The house is located in an area where pottery of Late Saxon and medieval date have previously been recorded, most significantly in the adjacent area of housing along Lynn Road; where the sub-surface remains of a possible medieval wall were noted prior to residential development.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF44328\_2) on behalf of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council. The aim of the monitoring work was to record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features identified during groundworks. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed and an archaeological interpretation of the results.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

### 2.0 Summary of Results

Despite homogenisation of subsoil by the presence of a former Orchard on the site, a curving section of a wide U-shaped ditch of uncertain function was identified, along with two post-holes which are thought to predate post-medieval activity on the site. No datable finds were recovered from these features, although the presence of mussel shell within one of the postholes suggests that some, or all of the features are later in date than prehistoric period and a medieval date is currently proposed.

Although by no means conclusive, these features can be postulated as additional evidence of former medieval activity in the area of the site, which augment medieval finds and a possible wall noted ahead of development in the adjacent orchard during the 1980s. The site of a further green-edge settlement or medieval manor in the vicinity of the site would complement the known distribution pattern of local medieval settlement, although more convincing evidence for such a focal site is yet to be identified.

A small number of medieval to post-medieval pottery sherds were collected from subsoil deposits, the earliest of which are Grimston-type wares of likely 13th to 14th century date.



Figure 1: Site Location Plan

### 3.0 Geology and Topography

The site is located in west Norfolk in the parish of Grimston. 101, Lynn Road is situated on the southern side of Lynn Road, c.75m west from its junction with Low Road. Congham Hall Hotel grounds and a Cricket Pitch are located on the northern side of the road. No.101 is one of several residential properties whose plots front onto Lynn Road. To the rear of these properties are agricultural fields, separated by a trackway known as Back Lane. The site lies on relatively level ground at an elevation of c. 17.7m OD (based on an OS benchmark located at the front boundary wall of No. 97 Lynn Road).

The deeper underlying geology is of a north to south zone of Gault Formation Mudstone with other Cretaceous period deposits to the west in the form of Greensands and Carrstone with Chalk formations to the east. Superficial deposits comprise of poorly sorted gravel and sands, mostly formed by solifluction and/or hillwash and soil creep (Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50, [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)).

The west half of the Grimston parish as a whole lies upon a solid geology of the Lower Cretaceous series (Funnell 2005) with areas of overlying blown sand, shingle and river gravels (Corbett & Dent 1994). The eastern half lies upon a Lower and Middle Chalk solid geology (Funnell 2005).

The western two thirds of the parish lie within the West Norfolk Lowland soil landscape that is a very mixed landscape including distinctive orange brown sands on the Carstone and heavy soils on Boulderclay (Corbett and Dent 1994).

The sub-surface geology of the site encountered during the fieldwork can be characterised as a soft, medium grained sand with frequent flint clasts.

### 4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

No.101 Lynn Road (also known as *Northdene*) was constructed in the 1970s and, along with the plots for Nos. 97 & 99, was once part of a square subdivision of land adjacent to a larger enclosure defined by Lynn Road and Back Lane. Aerial photographs of the 1940s show the square block as an orchard with a single north to south aligned building (either a farmhouse or agricultural building) fronting Lynn Road on what is now the plot of No. 93. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS plan of 1885 depicts this same arrangement of land division and also the same building with the nearest domestic housing being the former public house at the end of a row of 19<sup>th</sup> century homes at the junction with Low Road. The OS plans of the 1950s indicate that both fields were orchards. The larger adjacent field remained undeveloped until the 1980s when the whole of it was given over to housing.

The villages of Grimston and Pott Row, in the centre of the parish, are flanked by Grimston Heath in the east of the parish, and Grimston Warren in the west. Several sites of deserted medieval villages and former manor sites are also known across the parish.

During the Late Saxon period, Grimston was one of several locations, including Fransham and Bircham, where a rural pottery industry producing Thetford ware developed. Grimston continued as an important pottery production site throughout the medieval period, with evidence for several production sites identified by both surface finds and excavation within the parish. By the 13th to 14th centuries, the Grimston pottery industry reached its zenith, with exports found as far as Sweden and Norway. The industry began to decline during the 15th century and had disappeared by the 16th century.

A parish summary of the large amount of information held for Grimston's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website. The parish has

generated over 200 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity of most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

**Sites in the immediate proximity or of particular relevance or interest which fall in close proximity to the site (c. 500m) include:**

*The following information has been sourced from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER)*

NHER 19410: **Wall foundations and multi-period pottery** (from the former Orchard adjacent to the site). The foundations of a possible wall of unknown date (constructed of flint, mortar and sandstone) were revealed in a pipe trench in 1983. A whetstone and pottery dating from the Late Saxon to the post medieval periods have been found on the site (including 13<sup>th</sup> century Grimston ware) which was developed for housing in 1986. [c. 25m W].

NHER 35070: **Nuremburg jetton**. A Post-medieval (17th century) jetton was recovered from the garden of 93 Lynn Road in 1999. [c. 50m E].

NHER 31969: **Congham Hall Park**. This 25 acre historic parkland is known as The Lawn and The Pasture. It was ornamentalised between 1814 and 1838. Parts of the pleasure grounds and the walled garden still remain. The Pasture has been in use as a cricket ground since 1946. [c.15m N]

NHER 3605: **Congham Hall**. Congham Hall was built between 1794 and 1812 and was extended in 1838 to 1890 and in 1946 house. In 1934 a medieval cross was recorded in the grounds; this originally came from Roydon. The hall is now a hotel. [c. 180m NW]

NHER 13383: **Medieval Cross**. This is the site of a medieval cross marked on the 1780 enclosure map of Congham at the intersection of Lynn Road and Low Road. [c. 75m E].

NHER 50395: **Evaluation (Negative Results)**. In 2007 an Archaeological Evaluation ahead of a single house development at 98 Lynn Road revealed natural sands at a depth of c. 0.65m, with the water table c. 100mm above it. [c. 125m E].

NHER 11987: **Medieval Pottery &? Medieval building**. Fragments of medieval pottery, including part of a possible chalice, were found in the garden of 'Pachedi' in 1969 with further sherds in the 1970s. The foundations of a medieval building have also been recorded at this site. [c.125m E].

NHER 17386: **Medieval pottery**. Several sherds of medieval pottery were found during the 1980s in the gardens of 'Treetops' on Low Road. These include Grimston ware and a stamped/decorated piece. [c.125m E].

NHER 17001: **Late Saxon/Medieval Pottery**. Thetford and 13<sup>th</sup> century wares have been found at this general location on Low Road. [c.125m ENE].

NHER 3580: **Kiln Site**. In 1967 kiln waste and pottery sherds of Late Saxon to Medieval date were found here indicative of a pottery production site. Linear cropmarks of uncertain function and date are also recorded here. [c.100m S]

NHER 3581: **Kiln Site**. In 1967 kiln waste and pottery sherds of Late Saxon to Medieval date were found here indicative of a pottery production site. [c.425m SW]

NHER 17000: **Roman Tile**. In 1957 a single fragment of Roman tile was found on agricultural land here. [c.200m SE]

NHER 21505: **Medieval Coin**. A halfpenny of Edward III minted in London was found on the surface of a field to the east of the Congham Hall Park in 1985. [c. 325m NE]

NHER 11790: **? Medieval moated site**. A possible medieval moated site with outer enclosures is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the north-east of Vong Farm. Metal detecting and fieldwalking at this location have recovered a Saxon or medieval knife, medieval and post medieval metal finds, pottery dating from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval periods, and medieval and post-medieval coins. [c. 450m SSW]

NHER 19619: **Site of medieval settlement and post-medieval barn**. An excavation carried out in 1983 under an 18<sup>th</sup> century barn off Low Road revealed evidence for medieval settlement. Pottery dating from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval periods was found, as well as other medieval finds. Large, fresh sherds of Late Saxon and early medieval pottery were found close to here north-east of the Methodist Chapel in 1948 (NHER 3578). [c. 425m E]

NHER 14250: **Multi-period finds**. Late Saxon and medieval pottery fragments were found on the surface of a field north of Low Road. Metal detecting in 2008 recovered Iron Age, Late Saxon, Medieval and post medieval metalwork (including an Iron Age/Roman brooch, a Late Saxon stirrup mount and medieval coins). [c. 375m ENE]

NHER 18106: **? Medieval Manor**. The possible site of a medieval manor located close to Manor House Farm. Several rectangular ditched enclosures are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the site. [650m E]

## **5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)**

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during machine excavation of the footing trenches for the extension. As existing service runs were utilised to serve the extension no additional monitoring work was required.

The trenching was carried out by a small 'JCB'-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, with spoil removed from site during the course of the works via a mini-dumper used to load a trailer. In addition to the footing trenches for the extension, a trench was excavated to underpin a weakness in the rear wall. Furthermore, two inspection trenches were excavated (c. 0.45m by 0.6m); one against the north-west corner of the house and the other against the north-east corner to assess the existing footings (to the depth of the natural sands).

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector (Minelab XTerra 705). All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. The trench location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

## **6.0 Results (Appendix 1a)**

### **Main Soil Horizons**

- **'Natural deposits'**

A natural stony sand (11) was revealed at a depth of between 0.85m and 1m, within both the confines of the footing trenches and the test-pits. This soft sand was a mottled pale yellow to mid-orange and was encountered only around 100mm higher than the current water-table (all excavated features quickly filled with water).

- **Subsoil**

Above the natural was a well homogenised subsoil of mid greyish-brown silty-sand which contained frequent clasts of medium to large stones. This layer measured up to 0.5m in depth and is suspected to have been subject to significant floralturbation.

- **Garden soil**

Above the subsoil was a more active layer of very sandy-loam below the modern turf line. It measured c.0.2m in depth and contained residual inclusions of recent activity in the form of modern glass, ceramics, charcoal, coal, burnt clay and brick flecks. This deposit had a distinct lower boundary with the subsoil below; this may indicate that this material may have been imported onto this particular area of the site as a relatively recent levelling activity.

### **Archaeological Features**

A small number of shallow features were investigated and recorded in the western area of the footing trenches. The upper definition of these features appeared to have been lost to active processes within the subsoil, possibly the result of floralturbation associated with the former presence of an orchard on the site.



- **Ditch**

A curving segment of ditch was recorded which had a concave profile and contained a mid-brownish-grey silty-sand (02 & 06). The only evidence of human activity recovered from the ditch was a very small quantity of burnt flint.

- **Postholes**

Two postholes of uncertain date were revealed in close proximity to the ditch. Both were oval in plan and while one contained no notable inclusions ([07]) the other contained a darker-brown silty-sand with flecks of charcoal and degraded mussel shell ([03]).



Plate 2: Ditch [05] & PH [07] (looking west)  
[1x1m & 1x0.3m Scales]

### **Modern Features**

Two 20<sup>th</sup> century soakaways were revealed by the footing trenches. The first was located in the south-east corner of the extension footprint and comprised of a rubble filled galvanised metal water tank, this was removed with the use of a toothed bucket. The second was a circular brick-lined soakaway, caught by the main east to west footing trench.

## **7.0 Finds Analysis** (Appendix 2a)

- **Pottery** (Appendix 3)

### **Introduction**

Eight sherds of pottery weighing a total of 63g were collected from just two contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric:

Description	Fabric	No	Wt/g
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	2	10
<i>Total medieval</i>		2	10
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	1	19
<i>Total later medieval</i>		1	19
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	4	30
Local early post-medieval wares	LEPM	1	4
<i>Total post-medieval</i>		5	34
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric

### **Methodology**

Basic quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight only. All fabric types follow the post-Roman fabric series after Sue Anderson with form terminology following MPRG (1998). A catalogue with quantification by sherd and context is presented as Appendix 3.



## Conclusions

All of the pottery collected was from the subsoil layer (10 & 12) and represents a mix of residual material indicative of local activity of medieval to post-medieval periods. The majority of sherds are post-medieval in date, although two pieces of externally glazed medieval Grimston-type ware were collected. One of these exhibits an applied strip of iron-oxide scale pellets and may be sourced from a decorated jug of a type commonly produced in Grimston in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century (Jennings 1981, 50).

- **Faunal Remains**

A single small example of an oyster shell was collected from the subsoil (12) and a single cockle shell was collected from the same horizon (10). A single fragment of pig tusk from a mature male pig or boar was also collected from the subsoil (10). These are minor inclusions which simply testify to the presence of residual food waste of likely medieval to post-medieval date. The presence of degraded mussel shell was also noted within the fill of posthole [03].

- **Burnt Flint**

Five pieces of burnt flint were collected from archaeological features. Each piece was examined by eye and with the aid of a hand lens (x6 magnification) before being catalogued and discarded.

Four of the fragments have elements of a thin cortex remaining with all five pieces sharing a similarly reddened and sugary textured heat affected appearance. None of the pieces show signs of working and all may have been produced in association with localised burning activity of uncertain date.

Context	Type	Qty	Weight (g)
02	Burnt fragment	2	11
04	Burnt fragment	1	7
06	Burnt fragment	2	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>

Table 2. Flint

- **Lead**

A single flat fragment of puddled lead of unknown date was collected from the subsoil which weighed 26g. It is possible that the piece may represent very minor residual waste from lead working or simply residue from the burning of rubbish.

## 8.0 Conclusions

The monitoring work recorded a deposit sequence which suggests that the former presence of an orchard on the site may have severely homogenised subsurface deposits with surviving features only identifiable where they cut deeper into the natural sands.

A curving section of a wide U-shaped ditch of uncertain function was identified, along with two post-holes which are thought to predate post-medieval activity on the site. No datable finds were recovered from these features, although the presence of mussel shell within one of the postholes suggests that some, or all of the features are later in date than prehistoric and a medieval date is currently proposed.

Although by no means conclusive, these features can be postulated as additional evidence of former medieval activity in the area of the site, which augment medieval finds and a possible wall noted ahead of development in the adjacent orchard during the 1980s (NHER 19410). Several former medieval settlement and manor sites are known across the parish with nearby sites located in practically every direction; at Vong Farm (to the south), Pott Row (to the south-west), Manor House Farm (west), Congham (north), 'Long Row Green' (east), and The Old Rectory at Manor Farm (south-east). The site of a further green-edge settlement or medieval manor in the vicinity of the site would complement the known distribution pattern of local medieval settlement, although more convincing evidence for such a focal site is yet to be identified.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Andrew English who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due to Malcolm Williamson and his colleagues for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER data was gathered directly from the records held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

## 10.0 Bibliography

- |                                |      |   |
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### ***Appendix 1a: Context Summary***

Context	Category	Fill of	Brief Physical Description	Interpretation	Period
01	Cut		Linear, (E-W) shallow concave profile, 0.7m wide, c. 0.3m deep	Ditch	?Medieval +
02	Deposit	[01]	Soft, mid-brownish-grey silty-sand (mottled by pale greyish yellow), freq. stones, fairly wet	Fill	
03	Cut		Oval, U-shaped profile, est. 0.5m in length by 0.38m width, orientated N-S. c. 0.18m deep	Posthole	?Medieval +
04	Deposit	[03]	Soft, wet, dark-brown silty-sand, freq. stones, rare charcoal flecks, rare degraded mussel shell	Fill	
05	Cut		Continuation of Ditch [01] curving to the NW	Ditch (same as [01])	?Medieval +
06	Deposit	[05]	Same as (02)	Fill	?Medieval +
07	Cut		Shallow concave base of an oval posthole aligned E-W, c. 0.35m by 0.3m, c. 0.12m deep	Posthole	
08	Deposit	[07]	Soft, mid-brownish-grey silty-sand, mod. stones, fairly wet	Fill	?Medieval +
09	Deposit		Soft (dense), dark reddish-brown v.sandy-loam, occ. stones, rare flecks of coal/burnt-clay/cbm/chalk, c. 0.2m deep	Garden soil	Modern
10	Deposit		Soft, mid-greyish-brown silty-sand, freq. stones (25%), up to 0.5m deep	Subsoil	Med. to post-med.
11	Deposit		Soft, medium grained stony sand, mottled pale-yellow to mid-orange (damp to wet) – exposed just above water table	Natural	
12	Deposit		Similar to (10) but slightly stonier	Subsoil	Med. to post-med.

### ***Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table***

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)*	Postholes	2
	Ditch	1

\*Not securely dated

### ***Appendix 2a: Finds by Context***

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
02	Burnt flint	2	11	7g + 4g
04	Burnt flint	1	7	
06	Burnt flint	2	22	15g + 7g
10	Animal bone	1	1	Pig tooth frag.
10	Lead	1	26	Puddled
10	Shell – cockle	1	3	
10	Pot	7		Medieval to P.med
12	Pot	1	6	Medieval
12	Shell – oyster	1	2	

### ***Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table***

Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Animal bone	1
	Flint – burnt	5
	Lead	1
	Shell	2
Medieval (1066 to 1539AD)	Pottery	2
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Pottery	6

### ***Appendix 3: Pottery***

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Sherd date range	comments
09	GRE		4	30	16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Moderate abrasion
	GRIM		1	5	L.12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c.	Fairly abraded
	LEPM		1	4	16 <sup>th</sup> c.	
	LMT		1	19	15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> c.	Thick body sherd from a ?jug or storage jar
12	GRIM		1	5	L.12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> c.	Applied strip of iron oxide scale pellets, prob. From a decorated jug, such as a face-jug. Fairly abraded.

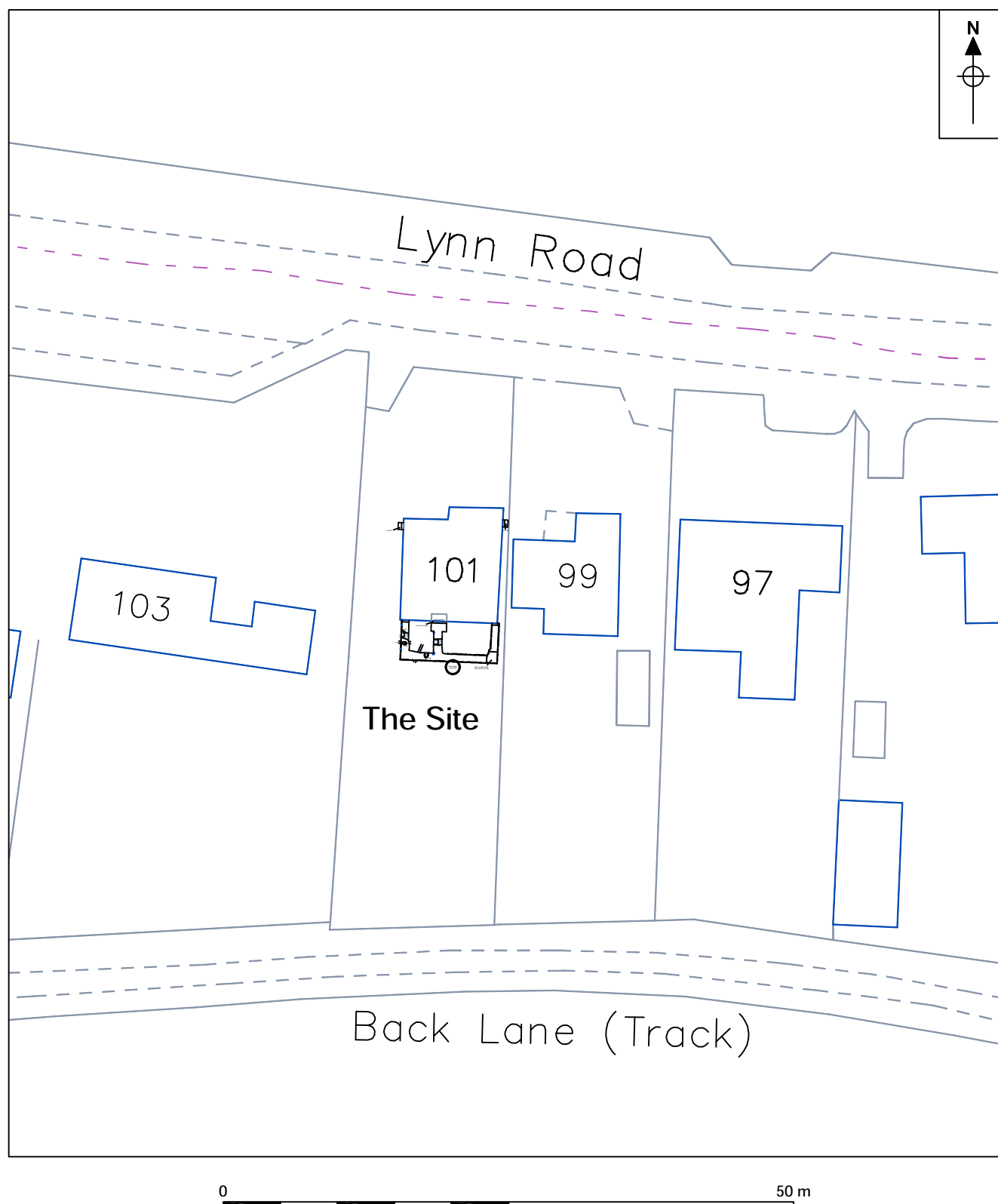


Figure 2. Trench location plan. Scale 1:500

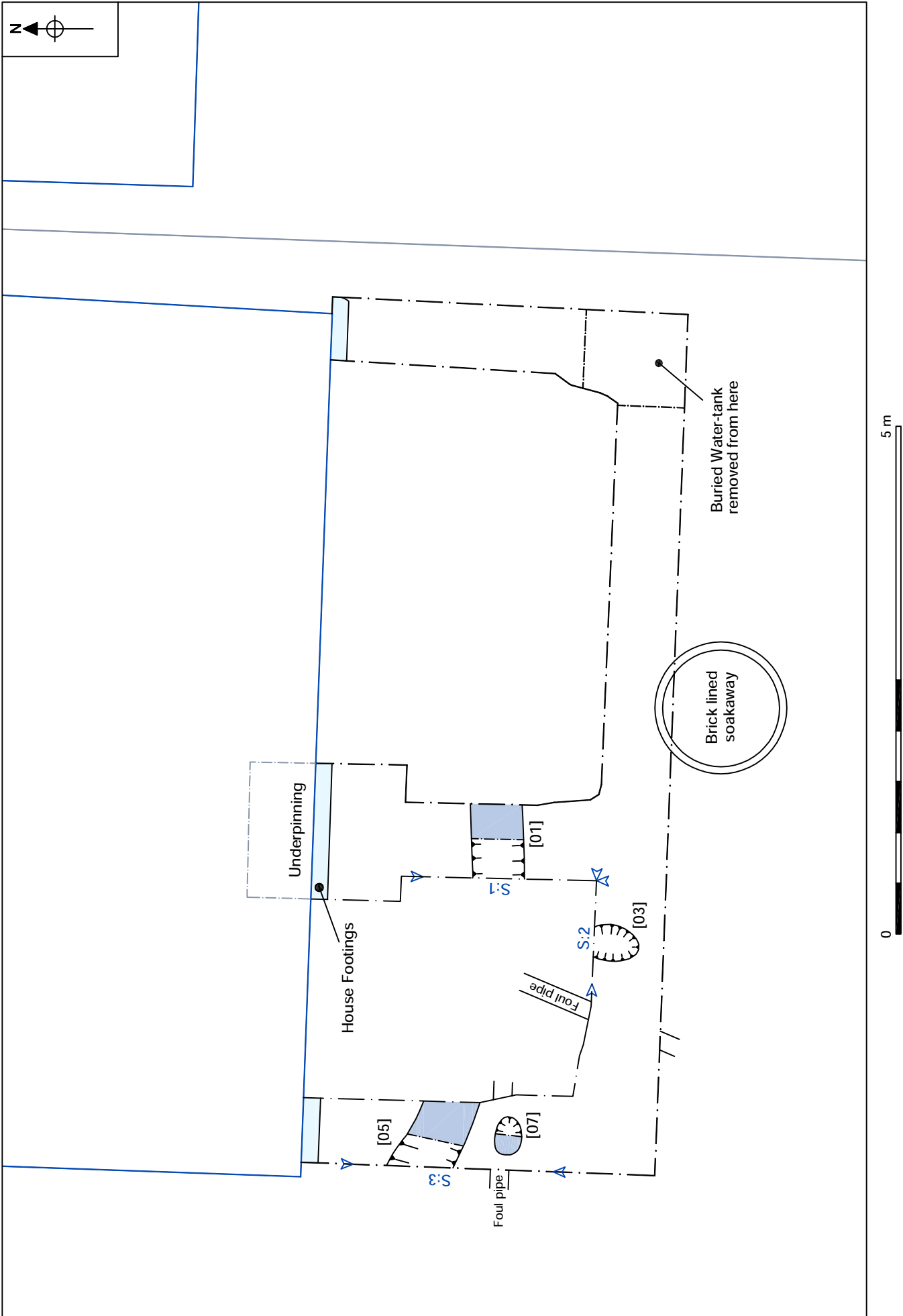
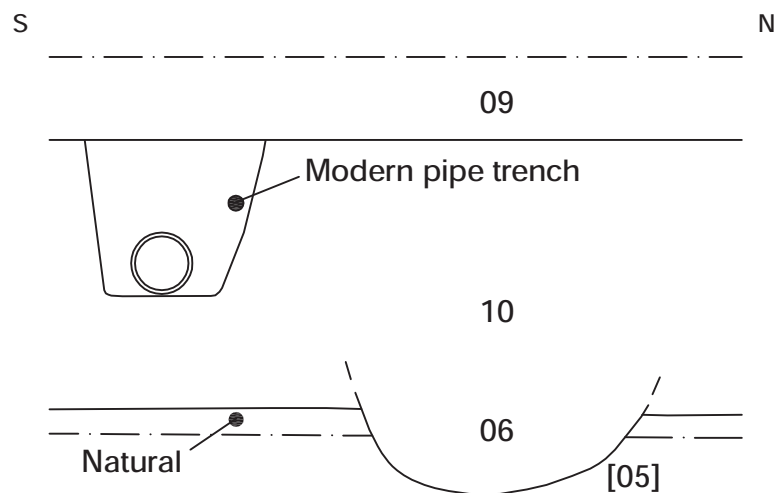


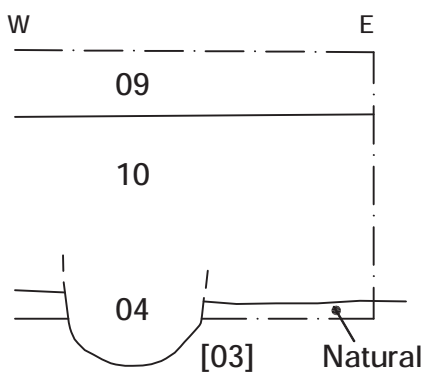
Figure 2. Site plan. Scale 1:50



'SECTION 3: E Facing Section of Ditch [05]'



'SECTION 2: S Facing Section of PH [03]'



'SECTION 1 E Facing Section of Ditch [01]'

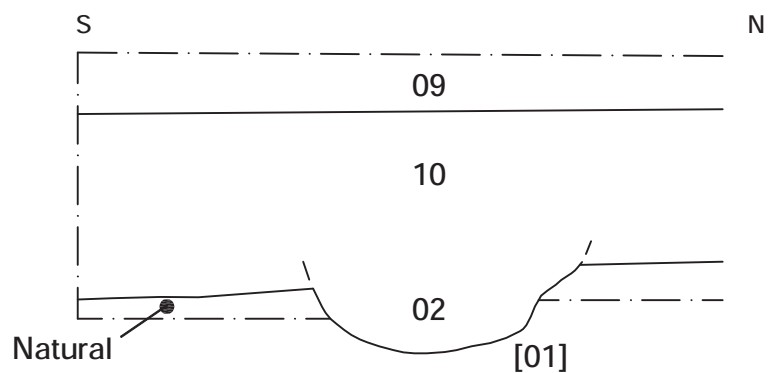


Figure3. Recorded Sections. Scale 1:20