

**An Archaeological Watching Brief At  
30, Church Street, Wymeswold,  
Loughborough, Leicestershire  
(SK 604 235)**

Planning Application No. 00/2530/2

Dr. Roger Kipling

For

**University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services**

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Loughborough, Leicestershire (SK 604 235).  
Planning Application No. 00/02530/2**

## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ULAS on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2001 in order to monitor the carrying out of groundworks associated with construction of a residential property on land to the rear of 30, Church Street, Wymeswold, Loughborough, Leicestershire. No evidence of archaeological deposits or features were encountered during these groundworks, with the sole exception of a post-medieval stone-lined well. The archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service under the accession number X.A78.2001.*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of the planning conditions (Planning Application No. 00/0235/2) connected with construction of a residential property at 30, Church Street, Wymeswold, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Work was carried out on the recommendation of the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, as the site falls within an area of archaeological interest, namely the historic village core, and with access onto a main street frontage. Hence, it was deemed that the proposed groundworks would have a damaging effect on any archaeological deposits present within the application area.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 142 indicates that the underlying geology consists of sand and gravel.

## **Aims and Methods**

The aim of the watching brief was to ascertain whether any archaeological deposits were present within the area of development via the monitoring of groundworkings. Inspection was in accord with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

The watching brief was undertaken on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2001 by Dr. Roger Kipling, development consisting of the excavation of wall foundation. Work was carried out with full archaeological supervision throughout; the excavation of trenches was constantly monitored for evidence of archaeological deposits or remains and removed soil examined for artefacts.

## **Results**

A JCB excavator with a toothed ditching bucket was employed to excavate foundation trenches for the groundworks of a two-storey private residence, involving disturbance of an overall area of approximately 10m by 12m. Trenches were excavated to a depth

of 1m below the present ground surface, work involving the removal of c.20cm of dark grey silty loam (topsoil) and c.30cm of mid-brown silty clay loam (disturbed subsoil). The remaining excavated 50cm consisted of natural clay, an extremely fine and silky pale pinkish-brown silty clay. Both topsoil and subsoil contained brick fragments and clinker, charcoal and mortar inclusions, consistent with horticultural use. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during this work.

A stone-lined post-medieval well (Figures 4 & 5) had been identified and, on the advice of a Building Inspector, promptly backfilled for safety reasons prior to the watching brief. Located c.2m west of the angle between the NW-SE and N-S property boundary walls, the well was constructed from roughly-shaped, unbonded Upper Lias (?) limestone blocks of variable size and shape, forming a structure some 1.10m in diameter and over 8m in depth. Coursing was somewhat irregular and loosely-packed. The well subsequently received a low brick superstructure in order to house slate capping slabs, work associated with the nineteenth-century construction of greenhouses for the cultivation of vines, the remains of which were cleared prior to the commencement of house construction. The well has parallels with others discovered to the rear of properties fronting onto Church Street; the local archaeological society believes these structures to be of pre-1786 date (*pers comm.*). Although building work was not deemed a threat to the structure, its location ensuring its preservation beneath the garage floor of the new property, infilling of the well was deemed necessary for structural safety.

## **Conclusions**

The undertaking of groundworks at 30 Church Street revealed a complete lack of archaeological evidence, either in terms of artefacts or archaeological deposits. In addition, as the undisturbed natural clay was encountered in all groundworks trenches, it can be concluded that the area is devoid of archaeological activity. However, the discovery of a post-medieval well was of interest, and with parallels to similar structures previously encountered in the locality.

## **Illustrations**

Figure 1. Location of the Site at Wymeswold. Scale 1: 10 000

Figure 2. Location of the Development Area. Scale 1: 1250

Figure 3. Site Layout. Scale 1: 200

Figures 4 & 5. Stone-Lined Well (*Photos courtesy of Mrs. G. Westcott*)

## **Archive**

The archive, consisting of site notes and illustrative material, is to be held by the LMARS under the accession number X.A78.2001.

## **Publication**

A version of the Summary (see above) will be published in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course.

## **Acknowledgements**

Dr. Roger Kipling of ULAS undertook the watching brief on behalf of Mrs. G. Westcott, who kindly supplied the photographs of the well. The project manager was Dr. Patrick Clay.

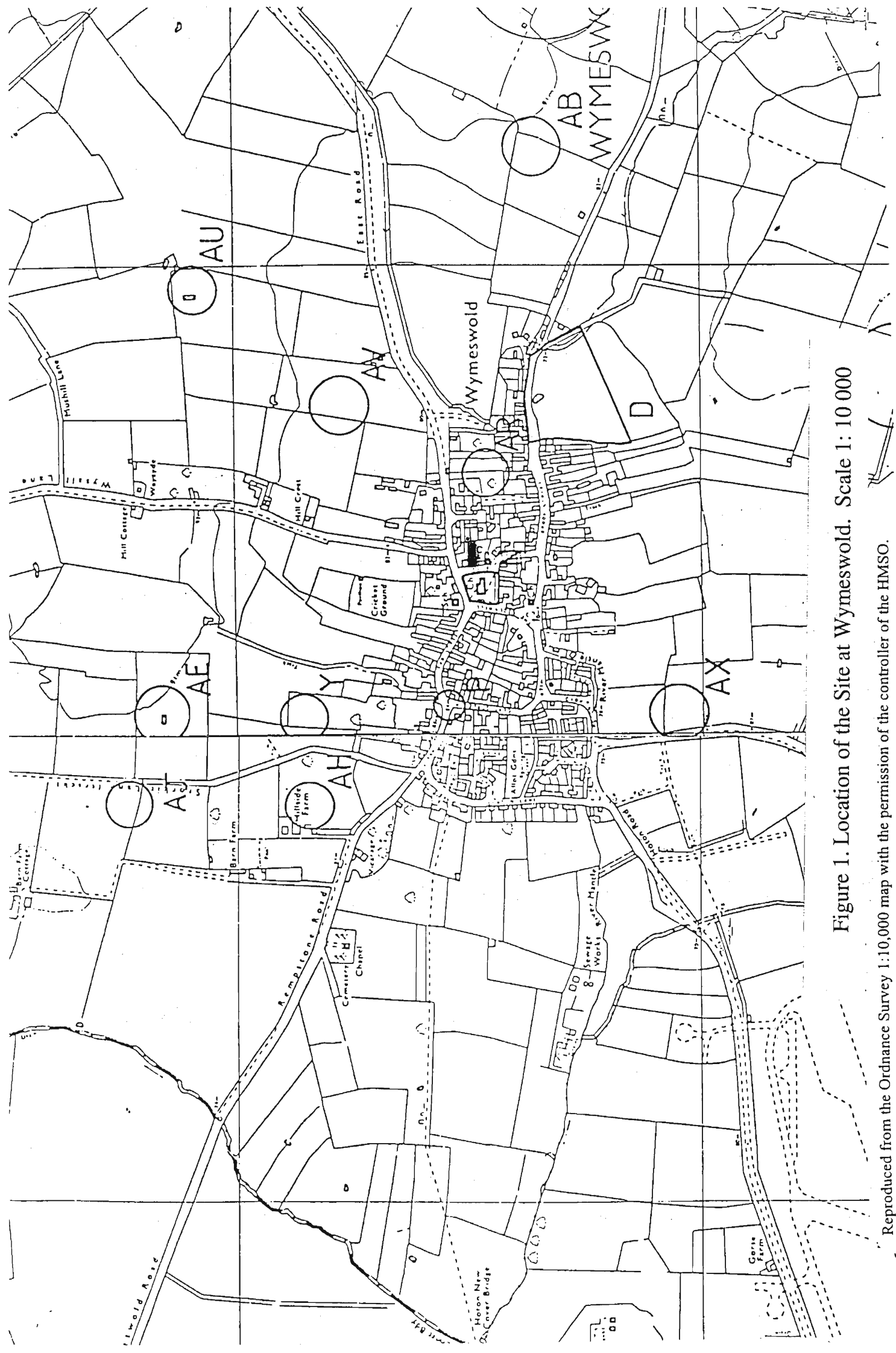


Figure 1. Location of the Site at Wymeswold. Scale 1: 10 000

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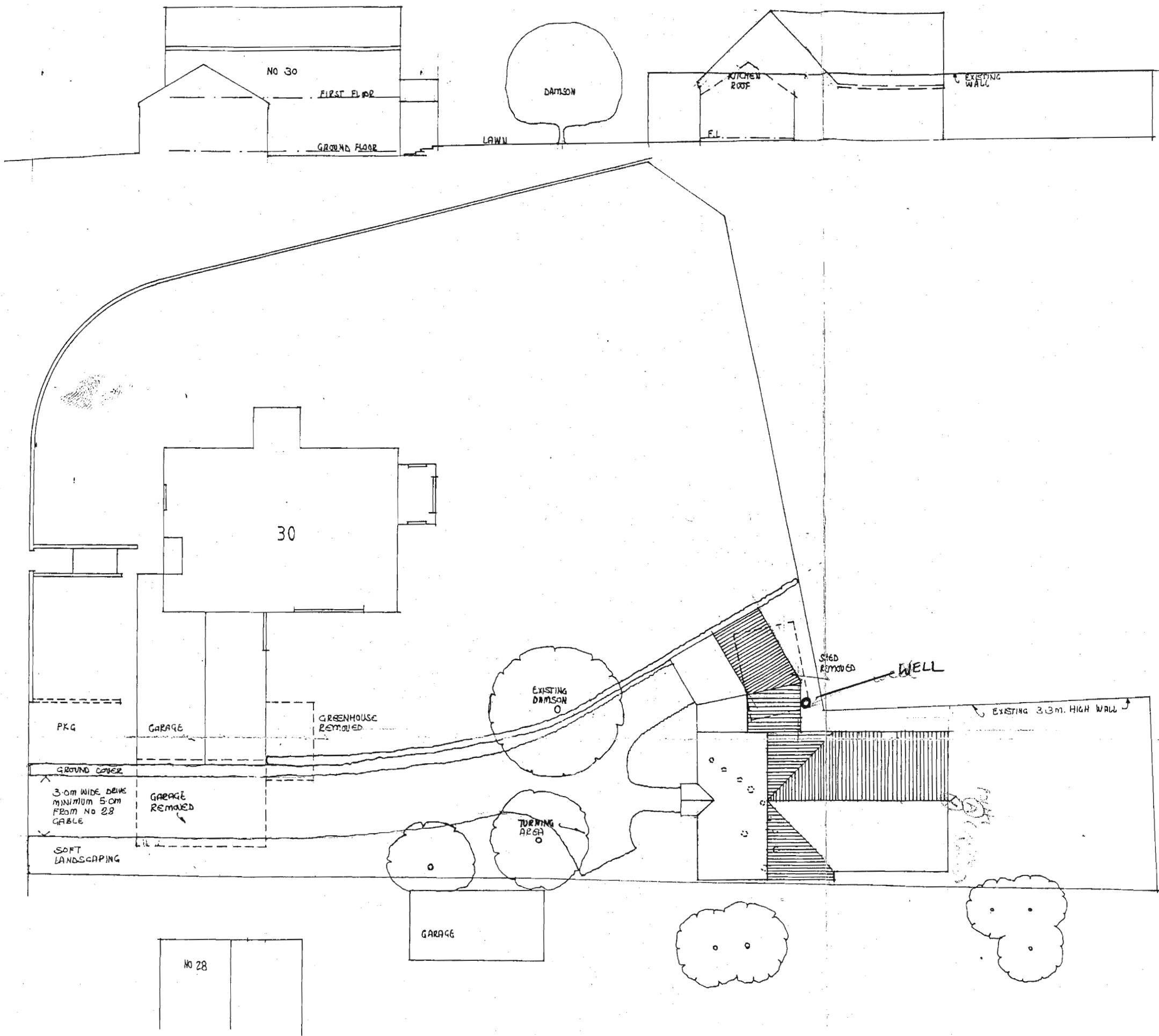
PROPOSED DWELLING ADJACENT 30, CHURCH STREET,  
WYMESWOLD

Figure 2. Location of the Development Area. Scale 1: 1250

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200723 : 1 A

PITCH LOWERED: EAST  
ELEVATION AMENDED



MRS. G. WESTCOTT.

PROPOSED DWELLING, ADJACENT  
30, CHURCH STREET, WYMESWOLD.

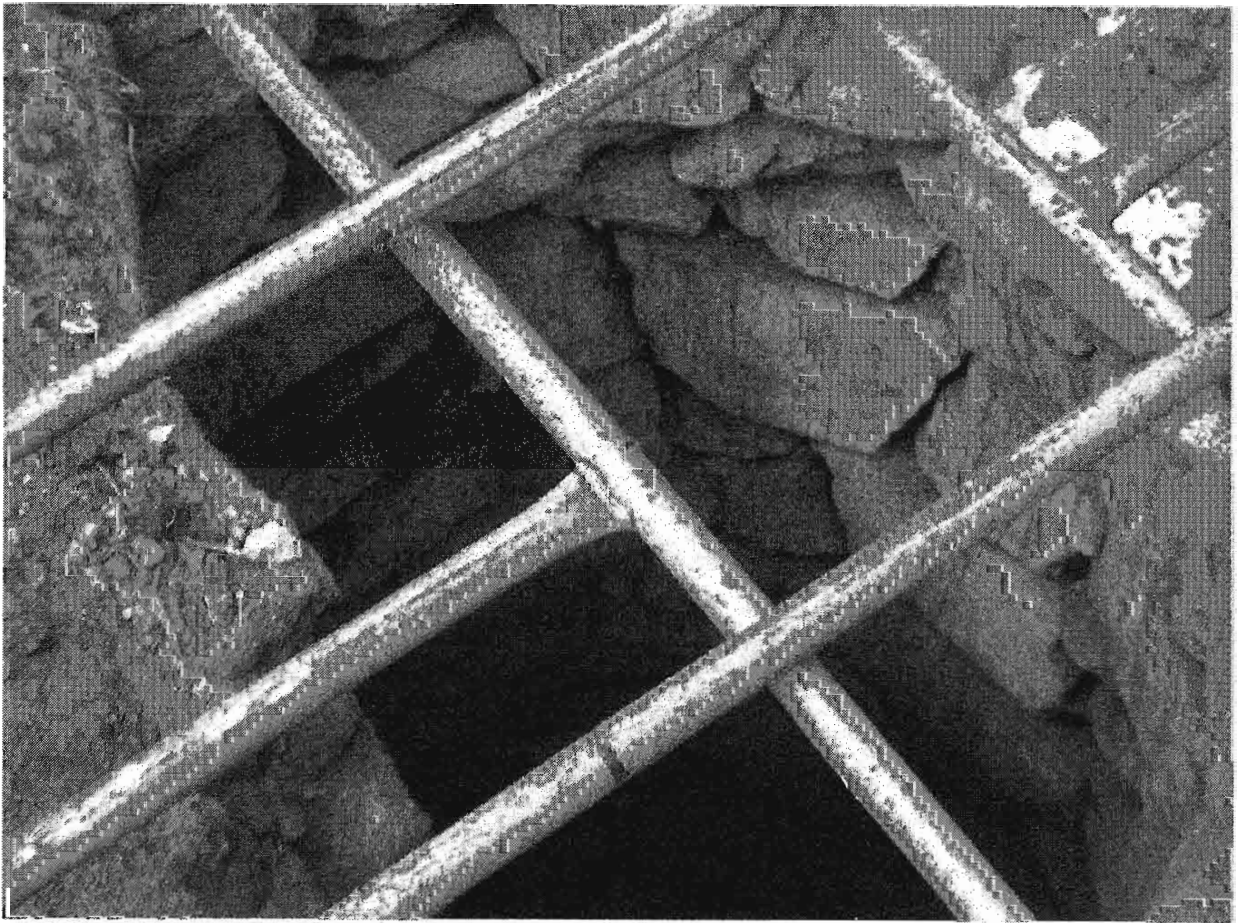
SITE LAYOUT

1: 200

9. 2000.

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Figure 3. Site Layout. Scale 1: 200



Figures 4 & 5. Stone-Lined Well (*Photos courtesy of Mrs. G. Westcott*)