



Site Code: PRM07
LCCM Accession No.: 2007.204
Planning Application No.: N/113/02042/05
NGR: TF 39690/87100

**A Report to
Louth Building
Services Ltd.**

April 2008

**Land at 2 Provost Road,
Manby, Lincolnshire**

By K Wragg

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Land at 2 Provost Road, Manby, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-Technical Summary

- ❖ The village of Manby is situated in the Lincolnshire administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 5.5km to the east of the market town of Louth. It lies at a nominal elevation of 10m OD, and at the time of the 2001 Census was recorded as having a population of 733.
- ❖ The development site is in the northern half of the village in an area once part of the former RAF Manby. The houses here were built as homes for the RAF personnel at the base, but since its closure have been sold into private ownership. The site lies close to the western end of Provost Road and originally formed part of the garden of 2 Provost Road. It is bounded to the north, east and west by existing residential properties and by a footpath and Provost Road to the south.
- ❖ Planning permission for the construction of a new detached house with integral single garage and associated vehicular access was applied for, and subsequently granted by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) on the 11th of October 2005.
- ❖ Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to ELDC) assessed the archaeological potential of the scheme, and reported that a number of previous archaeological discoveries had been made in the vicinity of Manby. These ranged from individual artefacts to evidence of settlement remains and earthworks, and represented possible activity dating from the late Iron Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval periods. While, in general, the discoveries were concentrated at the southern end of the village, and there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, it was still considered possible that the development might reveal important archaeological evidence due to its proximity to these known (or suspected) areas of archaeological activity.
- ❖ In view of this potential, East Lindsey District Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks and Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the developer, Louth Building Services, on the 1st of October 2007 to provide the required archaeological services.
- ❖ Attendance was subsequently carried out on an intermittent basis between the 12th and 14th of November 2007, but while the investigation successfully secured an archive record of all buried deposits exposed by the development (in accordance with its original remit), the results unfortunately provided no evidence for ancient occupation on the site.
- ❖ Notwithstanding this generally negative result, however, the outcome of this project does not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which still suggests that future developments in or around Manby may have a significant expectation of encountering important archaeological remains.

Land at 2 Provost Road, Manby, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1.0 Introduction

The village of Manby is situated in the Lincolnshire administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 5.5km to the east of the market town of Louth. It lies at a nominal elevation of 10m OD, and at the time of the 2001 Census was recorded as having a population of 733 (see Figure 1).

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Planning permission for the construction of a new detached house with integral single garage and associated vehicular access was applied for, and subsequently granted by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) under application number N/113/02042/05 on the 11th of October 2005 (see Figure 2).

Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to ELDC) assessed the archaeological potential of the scheme, and reported that a number of previous archaeological discoveries had been made in the vicinity of Manby. These ranged from individual artefacts to evidence of settlement remains and earthworks, and represented possible activity dating from the late Iron Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval periods. While, in general, the discoveries were concentrated at the southern end of the village, and there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, it was still considered possible that the development might reveal important archaeological evidence due to its proximity to these known (or suspected) areas of archaeological activity (see 3.0, below).

In view of this potential, East Lindsey District Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in conjunction with the development groundworks (see 2.0 and 4.0, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the developer, Louth Building Services, on the 1st of October 2007 to provide the required archaeological services, with attendance subsequently carried out on an intermittent basis between the 12th and 14th of November 2007.

Notes:

- 1) This document is presented on the understanding that further data pertaining to this site may subsequently emerge, which may affect the conclusions drawn herein. Lincs Archaeo-tech, its employees, and/or principals cannot therefore be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising from use of any information contained in this report.*
- 2) Lincs Archaeo-tech has adopted, and subscribes to, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and its Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.*
- 3) All maps and extracts are reproduced under Ordnance Survey Copyright Licence Number: 100043257 unless otherwise credited.*

2.0 Planning Background

Full planning consent for the scheme was granted by East Lindsey District Council (Application No.: N/113/02042/05) on the 11th of October 2005.

The Planning Permission included the following condition relating to archaeology:

6. No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The reason for the condition was given as:

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to accord with Policy C6 of the East Lindsey Local Plan Alteration 1999.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The local geology in the Manby area comprises soils of the *Holderness* Association - slowly permeable fine loamy soils and moderately permeable coarse loamy soils (sometimes seasonally waterlogged) with narrow strips of clayey alluvial soils - which overlie a geology of chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al*, 1984; Mackney *et al*, 1983).

3.1 Historical background

Manby is recorded (as *Mannebi*) in the *Domesday Book* of 1086, at which time the majority of the land was claimed directly by the King (Morgan and Thorn, 1986). *Mannebi* itself means 'Manni's farmstead' or '...village', and is derived from a combination of the Old Norse personal name *Manni* and the Old Danish word *by* (Cameron, 1998).

The present settlement extends as far north as the B1200 road (known as Manby Middlegate), with the neighbouring village of Grimoldby lying immediately to the north of the same road. The oldest part of the village, however, lies further to the south in the vicinity of S^t Mary's church, which retains evidence of its 14th to 16th century origins in its west tower and nave. The chancel is a much later addition, dating to 1889, but features a relocated 10th/11th century grave cover and marker set into its north wall.

Manby is probably best known locally as the site of a former Royal Air Force station which was built during the so-called 'expansion period' immediately preceding the Second World War. RAF Manby became operational as a training airfield in 1938, and was home variously to the Empire Air Armament School, the Joint Services Bomb Disposal School (training both army and navy personnel, in addition to those of the RAF), and the College of Air Warfare, which operated at the base until its closure in 1974.

Following closure, the buildings of the former base have been used for a variety of purposes, with Tedder Hall forming the main offices of East Lindsey District Council and several of the remaining hangars used as grain stores and for industrial uses. The disused airfield itself has been used as a showground and, most recently, as an off-road driving centre.

The majority of the houses forming the northern half of the village, including the area surrounding the proposed development, were originally built as homes for the RAF personnel at the base, but since the closure have been sold into private ownership.

3.2 Archaeological background

A number of previous archaeological discoveries have been made in the vicinity of Manby, ranging from individual artefacts to evidence of settlement remains and earthworks.

In general, however, these have been concentrated at the southern end of the village, most notably on Church Lane where a series of archaeological investigations undertaken in 1997 revealed a variety of features and deposits dating from the late Iron Age, Roman, and medieval periods (Johnson, 1997; Palmer-Brown, 1997). To the north-east and south-east of the village, further possible medieval settlement remains have been identified from aerial photographs, apparently comprising crofts/tofts and ridge and furrow earthworks.

In proximity to the site itself, an early 4th century Roman coin has been recorded.

4.0 Methodology

This scheme of investigation and recording was designed in accordance with the requirements of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* issued by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (LCC, 1998). This document refers to The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, produced in 1994 (revised 2001), which defines an archaeological watching brief as:

A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Accordingly, this project was designed to:

- a) Produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme, and the particular development design;
- b) Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum (*The Collection*, Lincoln) together with a client report;
- c) Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire County Historic Environment Record/Sites and Monuments Record (HER/SMR).

To achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech attended site to observe all enabling groundwork (e.g., removal of top-soil or other overburden and/or any general lowering of ground levels), foundation trenching, and excavation for services/drainage as required.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature thus revealed was issued with a unique context number (e.g., context [100]), and described in detail on *pro-forma* recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Any disturbed artefacts were recovered from site spoil heaps and, where present, from stratified deposits. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

5.0 Results

The results of the investigation are presented below, with the stratigraphic sequence described from earliest (i.e., oldest) to latest (see also Figure 3). For more comprehensive context descriptions, see **Appendix C**.

The earliest deposit revealed across the site was [103], a substantial layer of moderate-well compacted, mid-brown, slightly sandy, silty clay containing no obvious inclusions. This was at least 700mm thick to the limit of excavation, and represents the upper boundary of the natural (i.e., geological) strata.

Above [103] was a thin lense/layer of mid-dark grey/black slightly clayey silt, [104], which was in turn overlain by [102], a layer of moderately compacted mid-brown clayey, silty subsoil. This latter deposit was up to 500mm thick and contained brick rubble inclusions towards the southern part of the site. This rubble perhaps represents debris associated with the construction of the RAF housing during the post-war years, with layer [104] possibly a remnant of the original ground surface.

The final deposit recorded was [101], a moderately compacted, mid-dark brown clayey, slightly silty, topsoil, which contained only very infrequent small pebble inclusions. This layer was originally up to 300mm thick, bearing a covering of lawn turf at its upper boundary, but had been stripped from the majority of the site as part of the enabling works leaving a residual thickness of only c. 100mm.

A further context, [100], was issued to identify any unstratified finds that might be recovered during the course of the excavation, but in the event no such material was revealed.

6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

This investigation has successfully secured an archive record of all buried deposits exposed by the development, in accordance with its original remit (see 4.0, above).

In spite of the apparent potential, however, the results of the project have unfortunately provided no evidence for ancient occupation on the site, with all the deposits and features present apparently of either modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.

Notwithstanding this generally negative result, however, the outcome of this project does not undermine the body of existing evidence for preserved archaeological remains in the wider area, which still suggests that future developments in or around Manby may have a significant expectation of encountering important archaeological remains.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Louth Building Services Ltd. for funding this project, and for their support and assistance during the works.

Thanks are also due to: Louise Jennings, Historic Environment Officer, Conservation Services, Highways & Planning Directorate, Lincolnshire County Council; and all on-site staff of Louth Building Services Ltd., for their assistance and co-operation during the groundworks.

8.0 Selected References

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Johnson, S C, 1997, *Archaeological field evaluation report (Part 2): Land North of Church Lane, Manby, Lincolnshire*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, Newton-on-Trent

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Morgan, P., and Thorn, C. (eds), 1986, *Domesday Book 31 - Lincolnshire (parts one and two)*, Phillimore and Co. Ltd., London and Chichester

Palmer-Brown, C, 1997, *Archaeological field evaluation report (Part 1): Land North of Church Lane, Manby, Lincolnshire*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, Newton-on-Trent

9.0 Summary of Site Details

Site Code:	PRM07
Museum Accession Number:	2007.204
Planning Application Numbers:	N/113/02042/05
Supervising Archaeologist:	K. Wragg
NGR:	TF 39690/87100
Civil Parish:	Manby
Date of Intervention:	12 th to 14 th November 2007
Type of Intervention:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Undertaken for:	Louth Building Services Ltd., Cannon Street, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9NL

Archive Deposition

The archive comprises:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
5	Context records
3	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour photographic prints and negatives
Various	Miscellaneous supporting documentation

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**Lincs Archaeo-tech,
50 High Street,
Martin,
Lincolnshire,
LN4 3QT**

It is intended that transfer to *The Collection* - the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire - Danes Terrace, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2007.204, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of site - looking north-west



Plate 2: Overall view of stratigraphy at north-eastern corner of site (Section 1) - looking generally south

Colour Plates (continued)



Plate 3: Overall view of stratigraphy in eastern half of site (vicinity of Section 2) - looking generally south

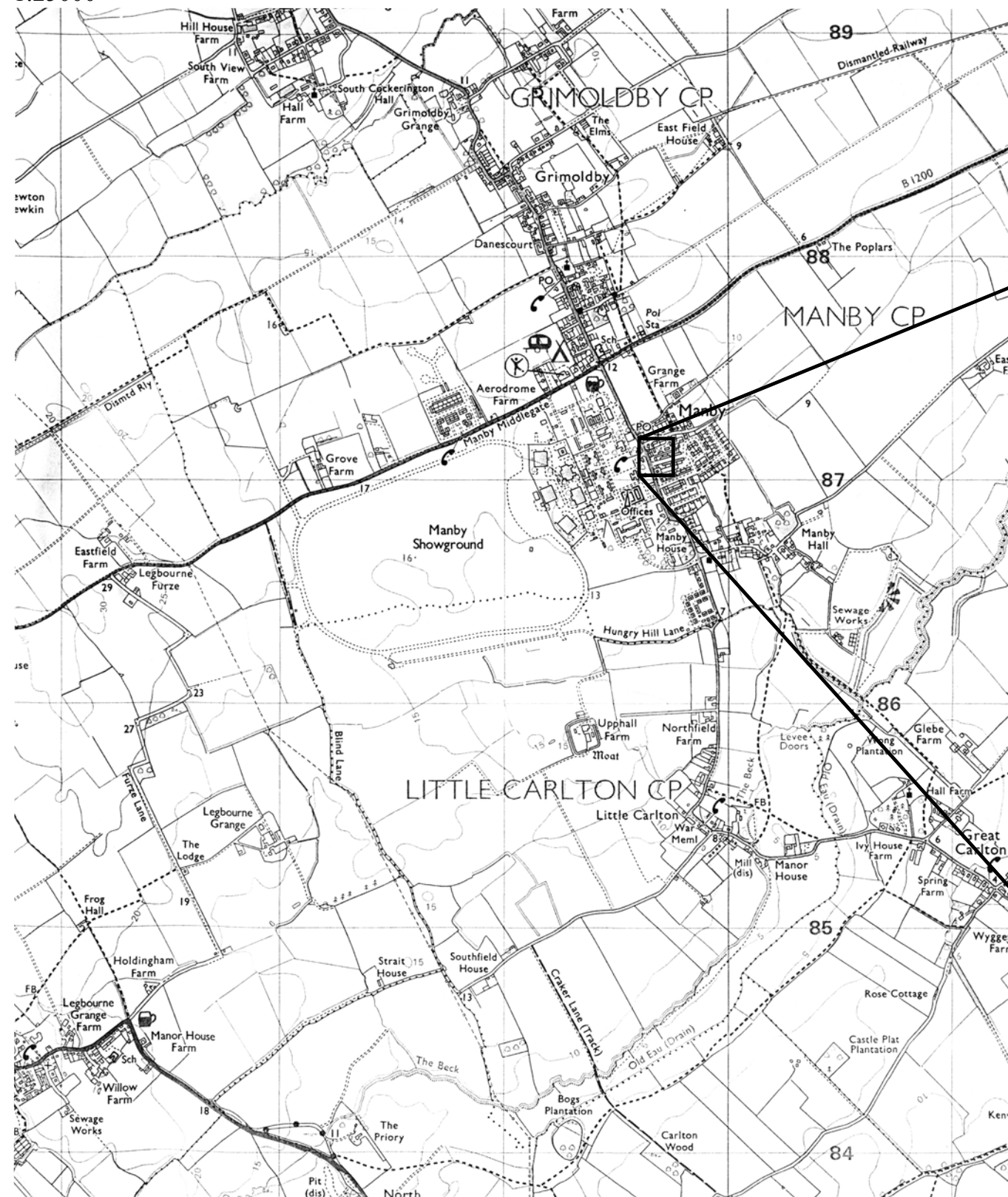


Plate 4: Overall view of stratigraphy on south side of site (Section 3) - looking generally north

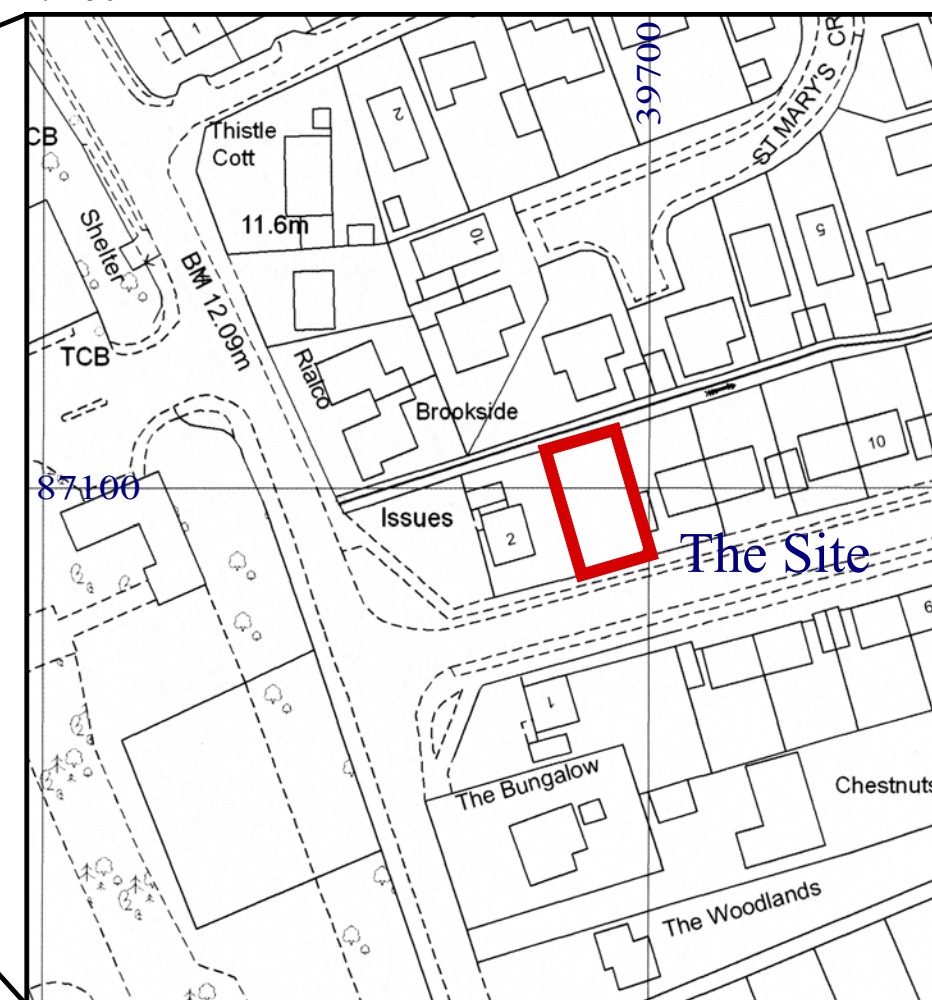
Context Listing

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
[100]	Unstratified finds - general site area
[101]	Topsoil/turf layer - moderately compacted, mid-dark brown clayey, slightly silty, topsoil; contains only very infrequent small pebble inclusions & bears a covering of lawn turf at upper boundary; original thickness <i>c.</i> 300mm, but now stripped from the majority of the site leaving a residual thickness of only <i>c.</i> 100mm (with very indistinct boundary with underlying topsoil)
[102]	Subsoil layer - moderately compacted, slightly friable, mid-brown clayey, very slightly sandy, silty soil; contains very infrequent small fibrous rootlets & possible small flecks of ?chalk? throughout, & some brick rubble towards the southern part of the site; appears to be <i>c.</i> 500mm thick, but has very indistinct upper & lower boundaries
[103]	Probable natural (<i>i.e.</i> , geological) clay layer - moderate-well compacted, mid-brown, slightly sandy, silty clay; contains no obvious inclusions; appears to be <i>c.</i> 700mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), but has very indistinct upper & lower boundaries
[104]	Thin lense/layer of mid-dark grey/black slightly clayey silt; contains no obvious inclusions; present between [102] & [103], with a maximum thickness of <i>c.</i> 100mm - perhaps represents remnant of original ground surface (or shallow pond?) predating the construction of the RAF housing

1:25000



1:1250



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0m 125m

0km 2.5km

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SITE CODE:
PRM07

CLIENT:
Louth Building Services

DESCRIPTION:
Site location plan

SCALE:
See individual plans

DRAWN BY:

DATE:

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2007.204

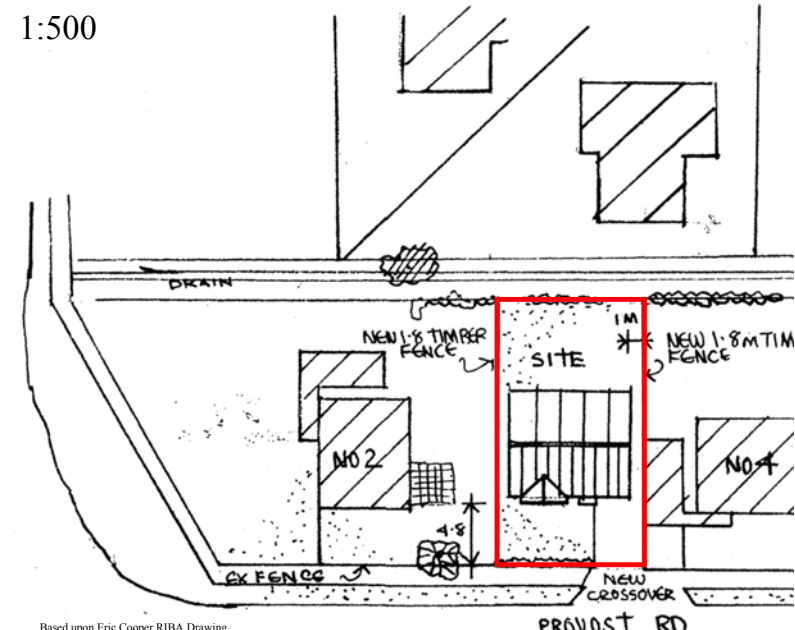
KEY:



FIGURE NO:

1

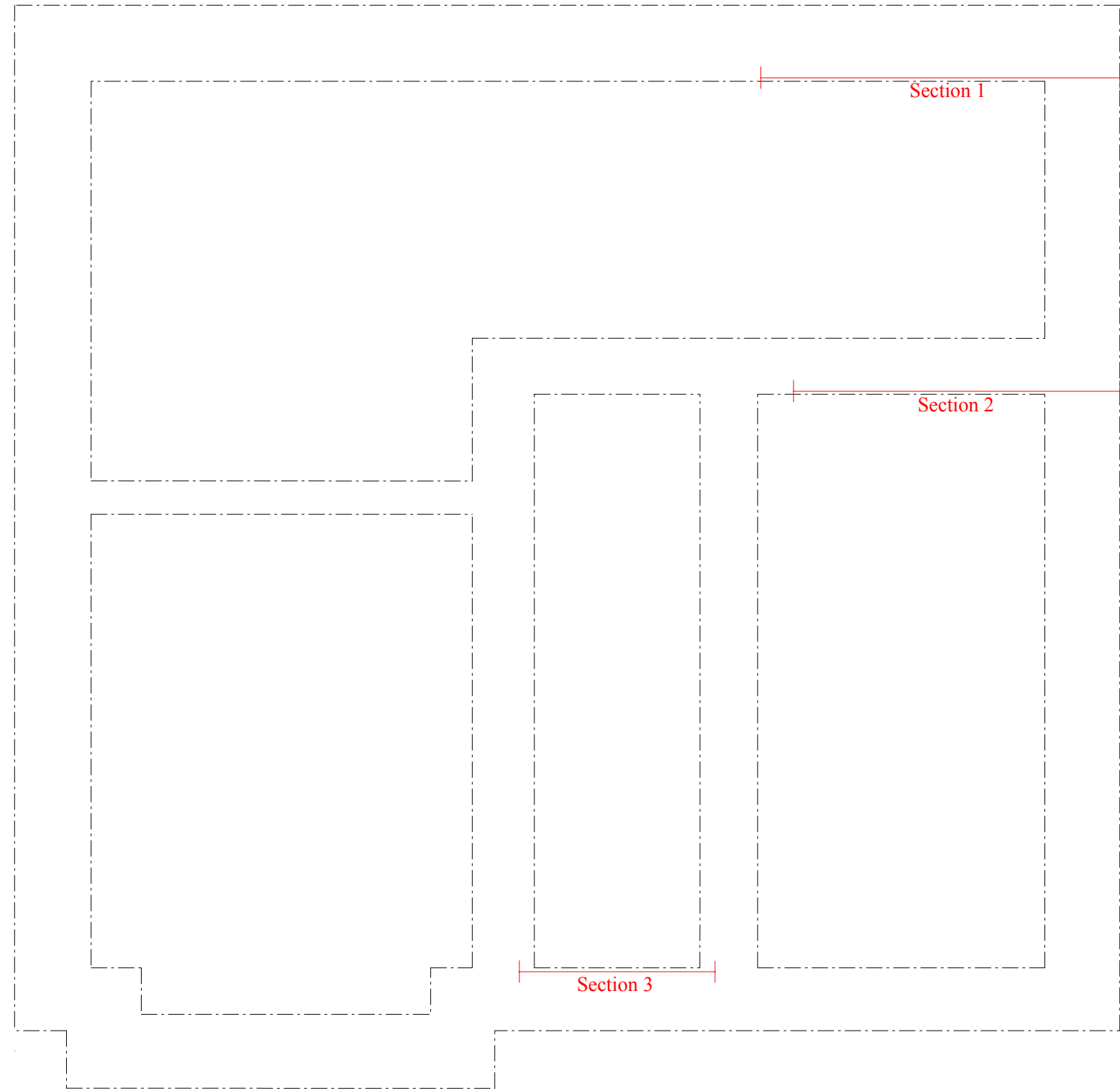
1:500



Based upon Eric Cooper RIBA Drawing

0m 20m

1:50



0m 5m



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SITE CODE:	PRM07
CLIENT:	Louth Building Services
DESCRIPTION:	Plans of development & foundation trench layout
SCALE:	See individual plans
DRAWN BY:	-
DATE:	-
ARCHIVE NO:	
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	2007.204

KEY:	Limit of excavation
Section 1	Section Drawing

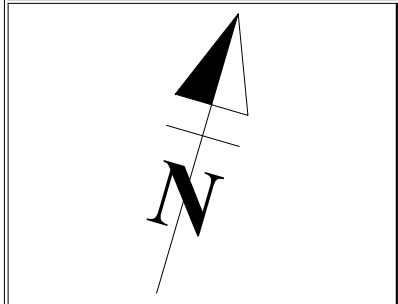
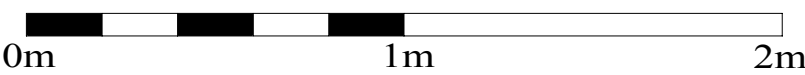
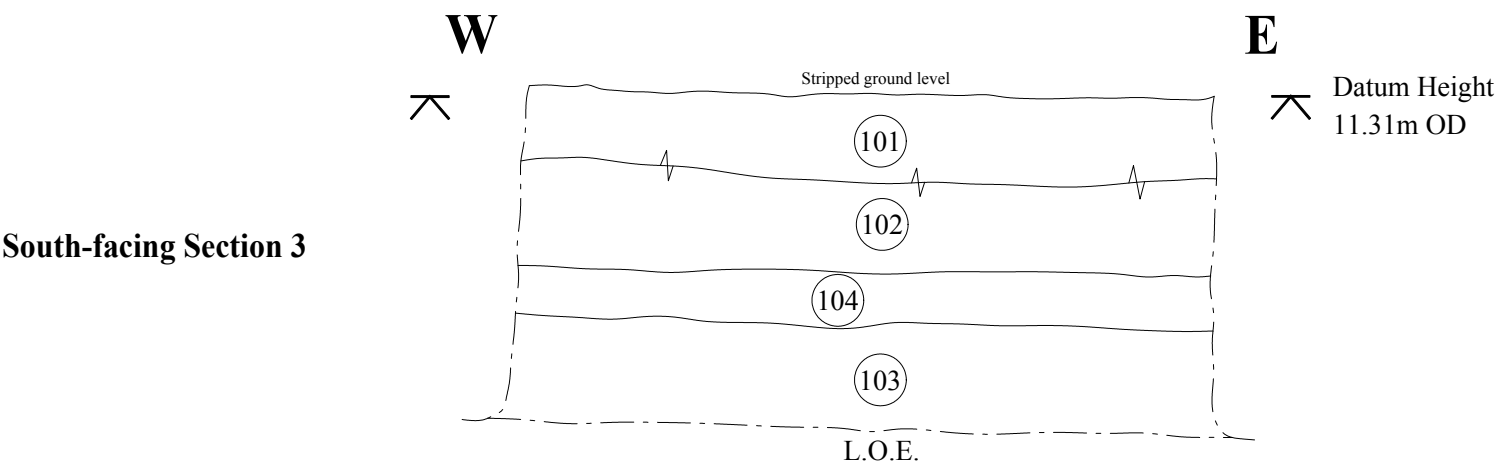
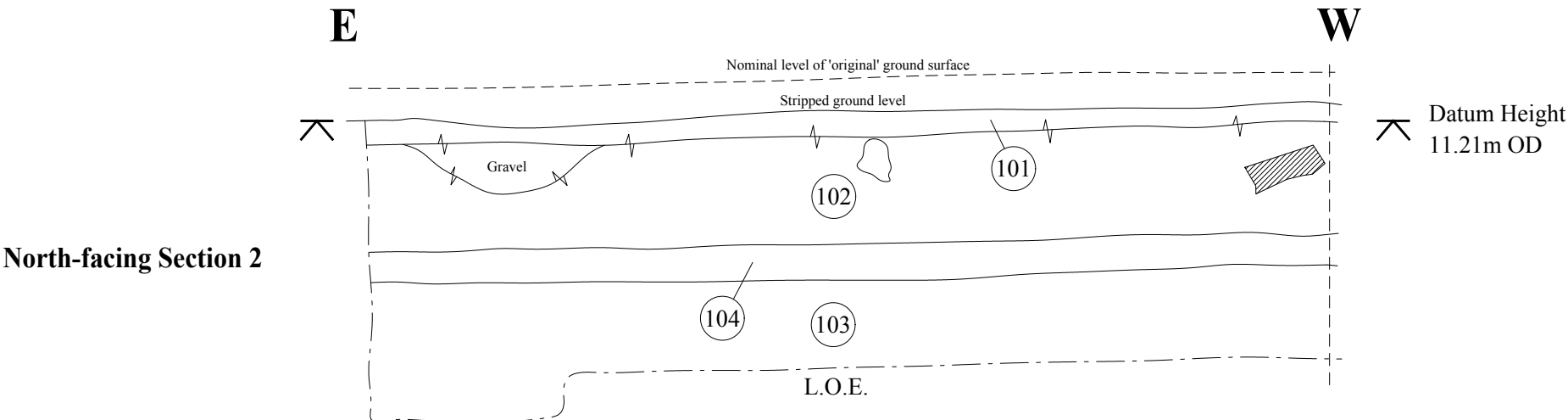
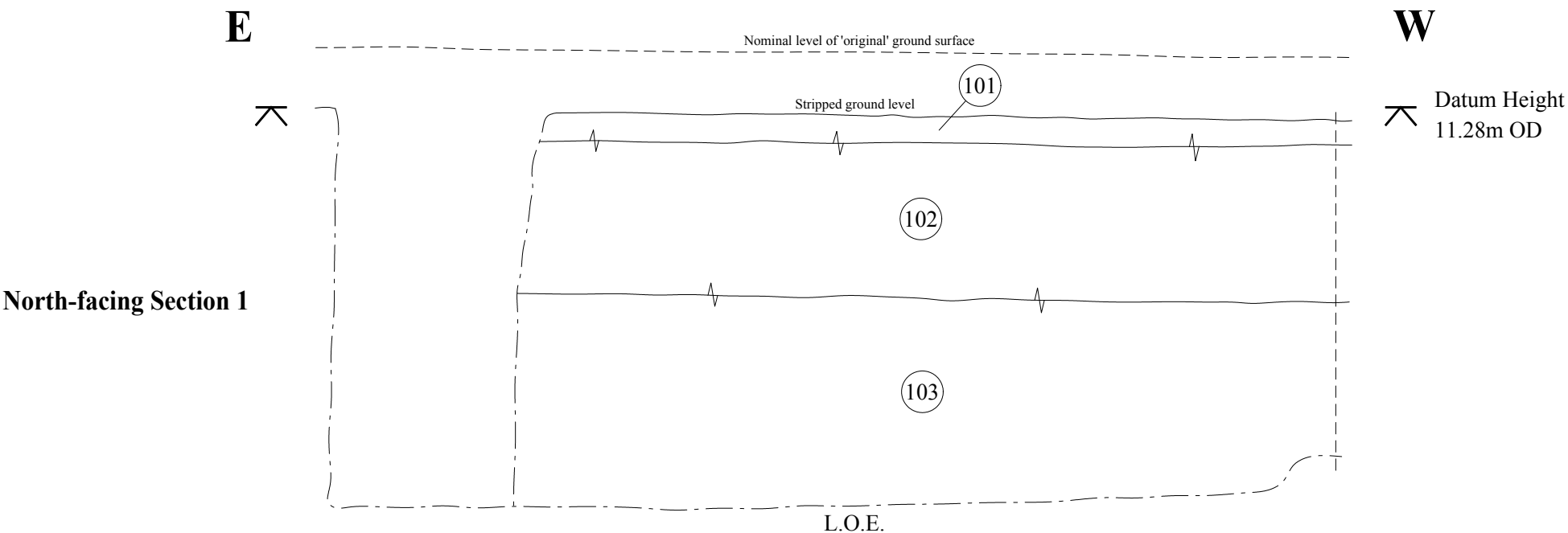


FIGURE NO:	2
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SITE CODE:
PRM07

CLIENT:
Louth Building Services

DESCRIPTION:
North-facing Sections 1
& 2, South-facing Section 3

SCALE:
1:20

DRAWN BY:
KW

DATE:
12th-13th November 2007

ARCHIVE NO:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:
2007.204

- KEY:**
- Limit of excavation
 - Uncertain edge
 - Arbitrary edge
 - Stone
 - Brick or tile
 - Sand
 - Context number

FIGURE NO:
3



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