

ERECTION OF TWO DETACHED DWELLINGS,
LAND TO THE REAR OF THE COTTAGE, WATER LANE,
HEMINGBROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2013, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Kevin Merrison of Minsterbuild Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of two new dwellings, garages and access to the rear of The Cottage, Water Lane, Hemingbrough, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 67520 30899). The watching brief was made a condition of outline planning permission, granted by Selby District Council on 29th March 2010 (application 2009/0585/OUT).

Despite the area in question having some archaeological potential, the watching brief produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2013, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Kevin Merrison of Minsterbuild Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of two new dwellings, garages and access to the rear of The Cottage, Water Lane, Hemingbrough, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 67520 30899).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of outline planning permission, granted by Selby District Council on 29th March 2010 (application 2009/0585/OUT). The condition (number 3) stated that: "No development will take place within the application area 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 by the Planning Authority". A 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (WSI) was subsequently produced by EDAS (see Appendix 2), and a copy was sent to the Heritage and Environment Section at North Yorkshire County Council on 1st August 2013, in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the District Council.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies to the rear of 'The Cottage', a former Victorian farmhouse located on the north side of Water Lane, just west of its junction with Back Lane in Hemingbrough (NGR SE 67520 30899) (see figures 1 and 2). Water Lane runs east from the main north-south street through the village, now called Main Street but formerly 'Town Street'. The site lies within the Hemingbrough Conservation Area. Prior to development, the 0.088 hectare site was part of a large garden to the rear of 'The Cottage'; this garden was predominantly lawn with a number of over-mature fruit trees and surrounded by a mixture of walls, fences and hedges.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was defined by the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (see Appendix 2). More general advice produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) was also considered. The aim of the work was to monitor the groundworks (topsoil stripping and excavation of foundation and service trenches), in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth and significance of any archaeological features which might be present and which might be damaged by the development.
- 3.2 The excavations for the house foundations and service trenches were dug with a small tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The turf was initially stripped from the north-south alignment of the 5.50m wide access road, and the main service trench (Trench 1) was then excavated from the street frontage down the central line before curving round to the west to the rear of a garage; this trench was excavated on 3rd September 2013 and it measured c.36.00m long by 0.30m wide and between 0.60m-1.00m deep. The house foundations were excavated either directly through the grass or in a previously stripped area over two days (16th-17th September 2013). Plot 1, on the east side of the site, measured c.10.00m long by c.8.70m wide overall while Plot 2, on the west side of the site, measured c.11.50m long by 8.60m wide; in both cases, the foundation trenches measured 0.60m wide and between 0.90m-1.10m deep (Trenches 2 and 3).

- 3.3 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual three digit context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of nine archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of the monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:50 scale, and two representative sections were drawn at 1:10 scale. A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera. In view of the lack of archaeological material seen in the main drainage trench and the two sets of foundations (see below), it was decided not to monitor the further groundworks associated with localised drains and soakaways.
- 3.4 Given the absence of any archaeological results or finds, no archive for the project was deposited with a registered museum, although site notes, plans and photographs have been retained by EDAS (site code WLH 13).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 Information from the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council notes that the proposed development site lies within the historic core of Hemingbrough village, which is known to date from the post-medieval period but which may have earlier roots in the medieval period.
- 4.2 The village may actually have pre-medieval origins, as Romano-British remains have been found in the vicinity and tradition states that a Roman fort was established here to control passage along the river Ouse which formerly ran much closer to the west side of the settlement, along the line of the now abandoned 'Oldways Lane' (see figure 1). The firmer higher ground overlooking the river Ouse may also have attracted an early 'stronghold' of possibly Anglian or Scandinavian date, as evidenced by the place-name. The village is named in the 12th century Domesday Book, and the some elements of the Norman church remain in the predominately 13th and 15th century structure. The village subsequently expanded along a main street running parallel to the river, but in the early medieval period the Ouse cut a shorter course across the neck of a wide meander and the village lost the advantage of a riverside site. In 1379 there were more than 150 poll-tax payers in Hemingbrough, and 59 households were recorded in the hearth tax of 1672 (Allison 1976, 37-39)
- 4.3 The manor of Hemingbrough was held by the King at the Domesday Survey, but it was given by William I to the Bishop of Durham in 1086-87. It subsequently passed to Durham Priory, and the church was made collegiate in 1427, for a provost, three prebendaries, six vicars coral and six clerks; at the dissolution, the manor and windmill were worth about £39 and the college £84. The priory were probably responsible for the planned layout and development of the village, and they controlled access across the Ouse and Derwent. The manor was kept in priory ownership until 1614, when it was granted to Sir Arthur Ingram and Martin Freeman (Allison 1976, 39-40).
- 4.4 Most of the older properties in the village lie along the closely built-up Main Street (formerly Town Street), with plots extending west to Oldways Lane and east to Back and Garth Ends Lanes. Several cross streets, including Water Lane, connect the Main Street with the back lanes. A number of 18th century buildings survive in the historic core of the village.

- 4.5 Given the potential history of the village, and its morphology, it was therefore possible that the proposed development site might contain evidence for medieval and earlier occupation.

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

Drainage Trench (Trench 1) (see figure 3)

- 5.1 As previously noted, this right-angled trench measured c.36m long, was 0.30m wide and between 0.60m-1.00m deep. It was excavated through the stripped area of the new access road (see plate 1) on a north-south alignment before turning sharply to the west, to run to the rear of an existing garage (see plates 2 and 3). The purpose of this trench was to provide service connections to the two new house plots.
- 5.2 The earliest deposit encountered (103) was a mid-yellow brown sandy clay, which was intermittently visible in the base of the north-south section of the trench - this was a natural deposit. This was sealed by a loose good quality very dark brown silty loam topsoil (102), up to 0.80m thick; the base of this topsoil was not reached in the east-west section of trench. The upper sequence at the south end of the north-south section of the driveway consisted of a c.5.00m square concrete slab (100) located on the street frontage. Beyond this, for a distance of c.2m, was a thin spread of modern demolition material (101), comprising a 0.05m thick brick surface over 0.10m thick chalk hardcore deposit, overlying the topsoil (102). No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench.

Plot 1 Foundations (Trench 2) (see figure 4)

- 5.3 This trench consisted of the foundations for the external and internal walls of house plot 1 on the west side of the site (see plate 4). The maximum depth of the trenching was 1.10m to the rear (north) of the plot reducing to 1.00m in the remaining areas; the trench was 0.60m wide. The earliest deposit encountered was a firm yellow brown clay (202), a natural deposit, seen in the base of the deeper trench. On the south side of the plot this natural was overlain by a 0.10m thick mid-grey clayey sand subsoil with moderate iron pan (201). Above this was a thick band (up to 1.00m deep) of a very dark brown silty loam topsoil (200), towards the top of which were occasional broken modern ceramic land drains. A typical length of section can be seen on plate 6. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench.

Plot 2 Foundations (Trench 3) (see figure 4)

- 5.4 This trench consisted of the foundations for the external and internal walls of house plot 2 on the east side of the site (see plate 5). To the north it was excavated to a depth of 1.10m, elsewhere the overall depth was 1.00m. Once again, the earliest deposit was the natural firm yellow brown clay (301). This was present in all lengths of the trench except for the westernmost external wall where it lay beyond the base of excavation. This illustrates a substantial fall in the natural ground surface across the site from east to west. The natural was sealed by a very dark brown silty loam topsoil (300) up to 1.00m deep. Cutting the surface of this material were three modern ceramic land drains. A typical length of section can be seen on plate 7. Once again, no archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief carried out during the groundworks excavated for the two new dwellings and an associated access road produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were uncovered.

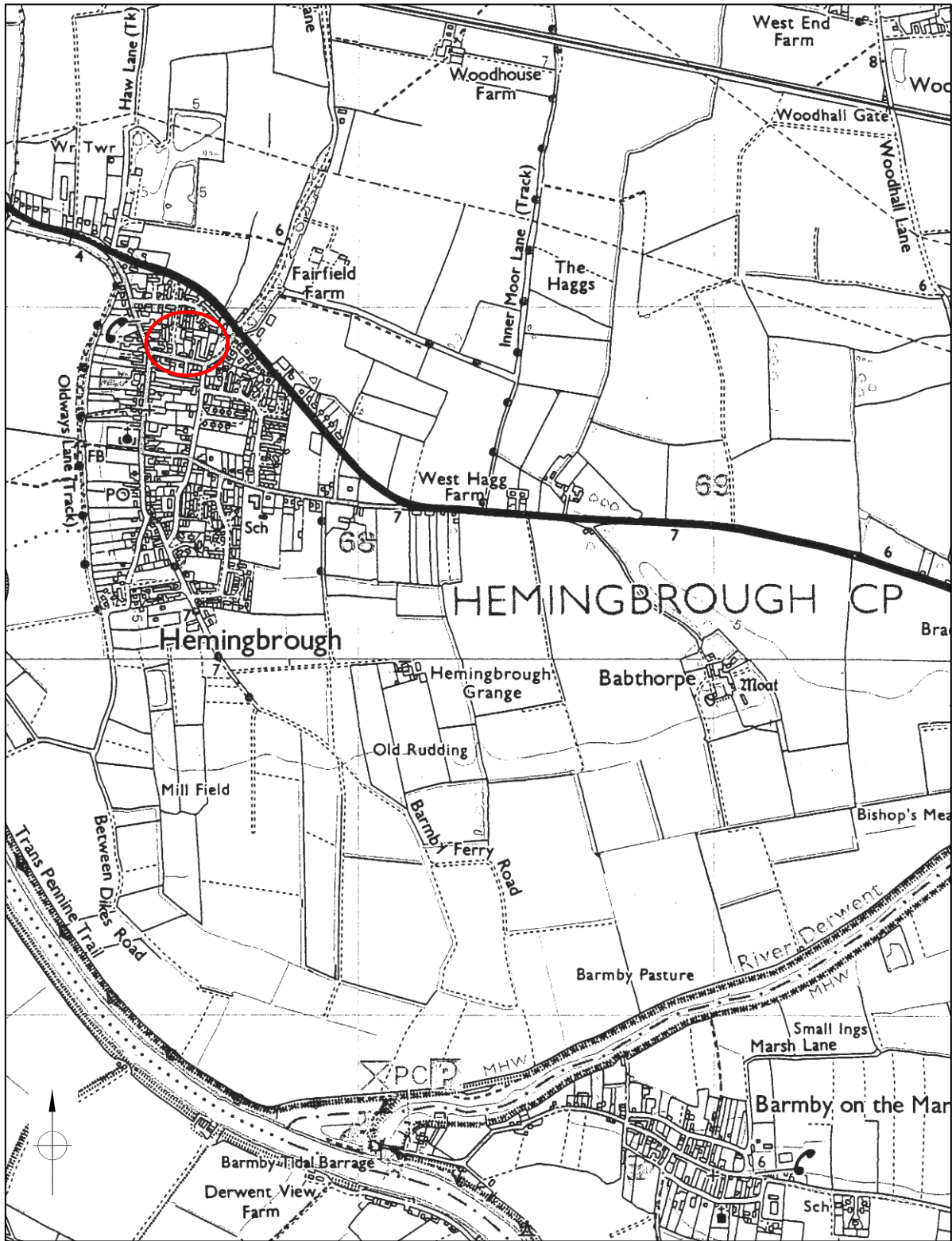
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allison, K J 1976 'Hemingbrough'. In Allison, K J (ed) *A History of the County of York, East Riding* vol 3, 37-55

IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

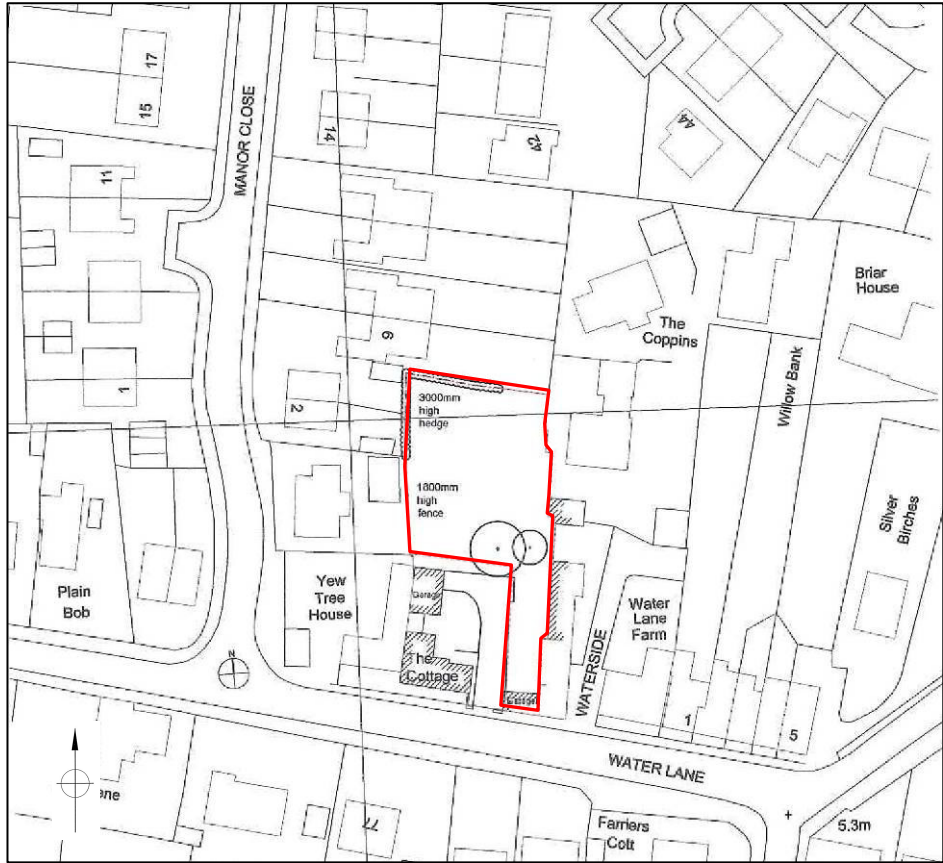
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was commissioned and funded by Mr Kevin Merrison of Minsterbuild Ltd, and EDAS would like to thank him and the site contractors for their co-operation in carrying out the work. The site recording was undertaken by Tim Robinson of On site Archaeology on behalf of EDAS, and he produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.



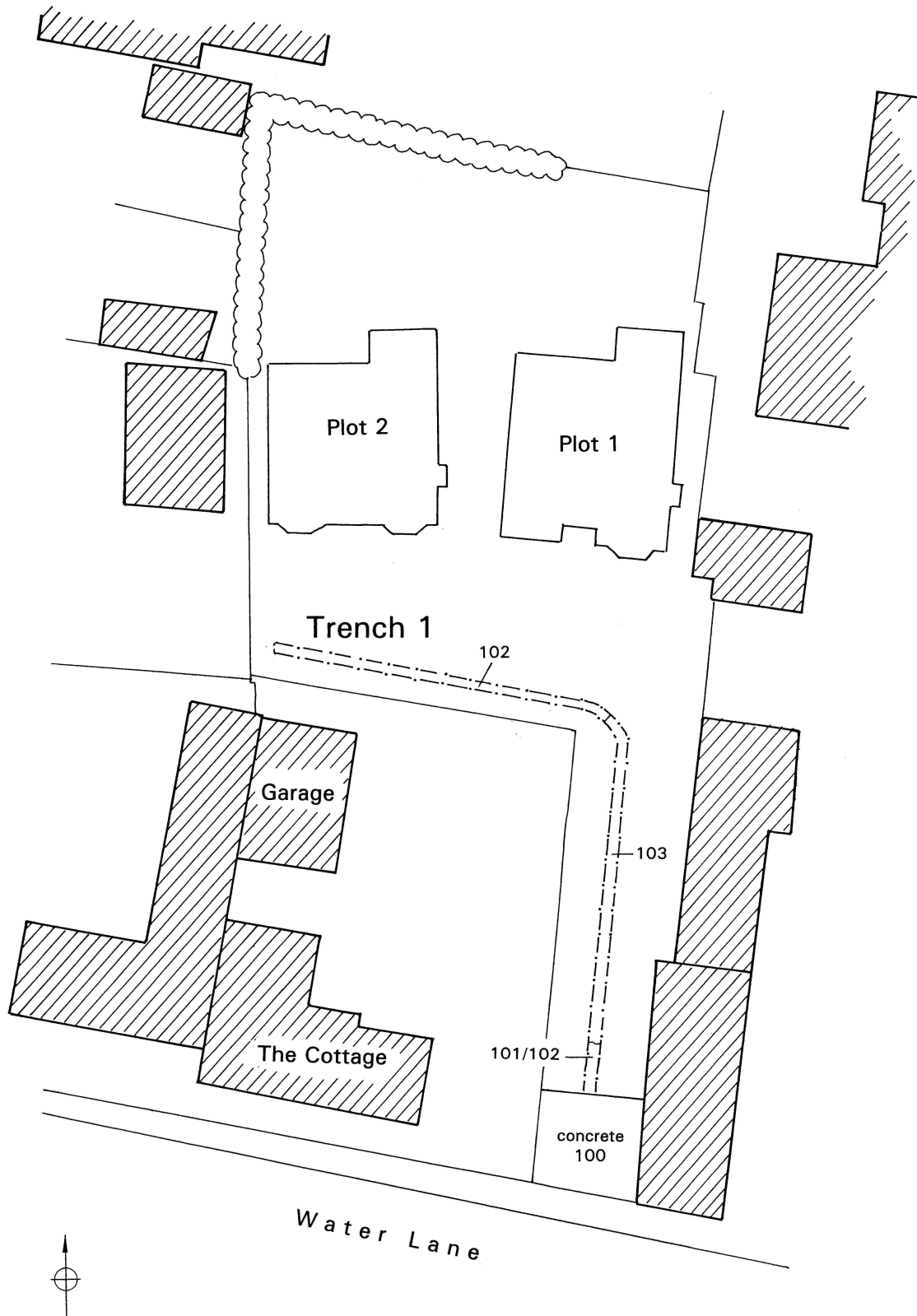
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PROJECT		WATER LANE, HEMINGBROUGH	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	NOV 2013
EDAS		FIGURE	1

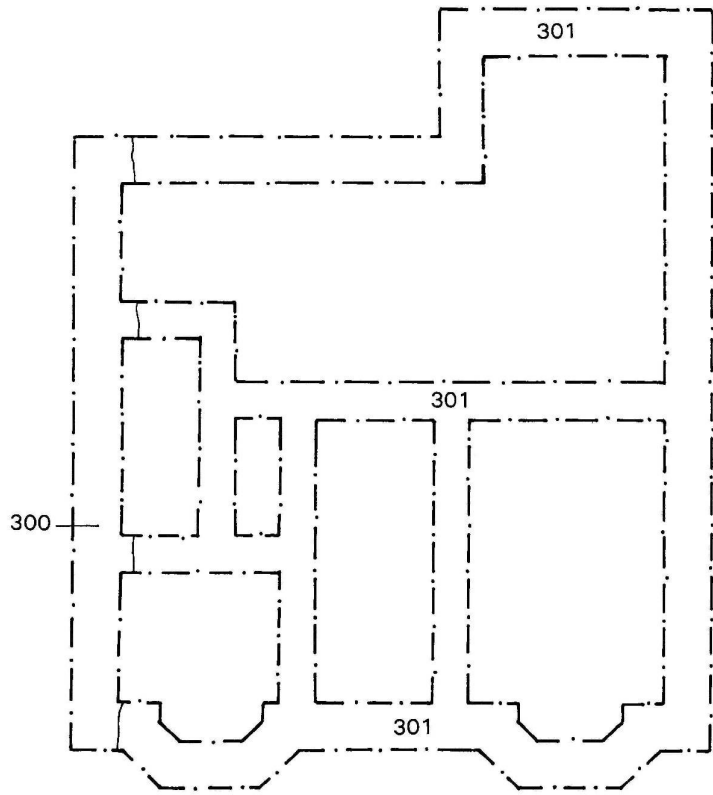


Plan supplied by Peter Goss
Architectural Services.

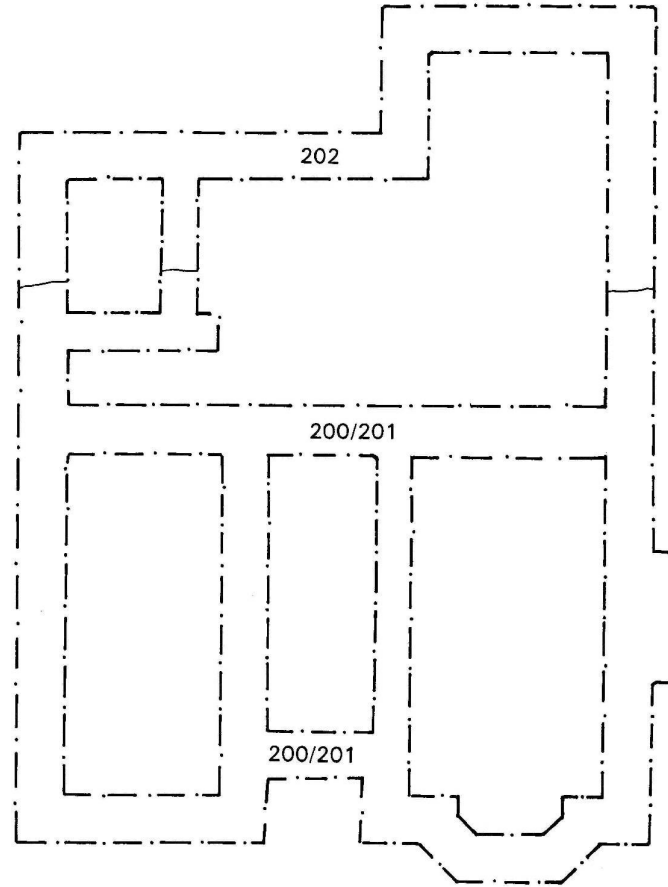
PROJECT		WATER LANE, HEMINGBROUGH	
TITLE		SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	NOV 2013
EDAS		FIGURE	2



PROJECT	
WATER LANE, HEMINGBROUGH	
TITLE	
GENERAL SITE PLAN	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	NOV 2013
EDAS	FIGURE
	3



Plan of Plot 2 (Trench 3)



Plan of Plot 1 (Trench 2)



PROJECT		WATER LANE, HEMINGBROUGH	
TITLE		PLANS OF TRENCHES 2 & 3	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	NOV 2013
	EDAS	FIGURE	4



Plate 1: Topsoil strip for access road and drainage trench (Trench 1), looking N.



Plate 2: Excavation of south end of Trench 1, looking N.



Plate 3: Excavation of west end of Trench 1, looking W.



Plate 4: Foundation trenches for Plot 1 (Trench 2) completed, looking NE.



Plate 5: Foundations for Plot 2 (Trench 3) under excavation, looking SW.



Plate 6: Typical section of Trench 2, on east side of Plot 1, looking E.



Plate 7: Typical section of Trench 3, in north-west corner of Plot 2, looking N.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Area of site</i>
100	Modern concrete slab, c.5.00m square.	Trench 1
101	Spread of modern demolition debris, formed by 0.05m thick brick surface overlying 0.10m thick chalk hardcore.	Trench 1
102	Loose very dark grey silty loam, up to 0.80m thick - topsoil	Trench 1
103	Mid-yellow brown sandy clay - natural	Trench 1
200	Loose very dark brown silty loam, up to 1.00m thick - topsoil	Trench 2
201	Mid-grey sand subsoil with moderate iron pan, 0.10m thick.	Trench 2
202	Firm yellow brown clay - natural.	Trench 2
300	Loose very dark brown silty loam, up to 1.00m thick - topsoil.	Trench 3
301	Firm yellow brown clay - natural.	Trench 3

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: EDAS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF) DURING ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS WITH GARAGES, REAR OF THE COTTAGE, WATER LANE, HEMINGBROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the work required to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief), to be carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of two new dwellings to the rear of The Cottage, Water Lane, Hemingbrough, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 67520 30899). This written scheme has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the developer, Kevin Merrison of Minsterbuild Ltd, and the work would be undertaken by EDAS.
- 1.2 This document forms the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' stipulated in condition 3 of the planning permission (application 2009/0585/OUT), approved by Selby District Council on 29th March 2010.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposed development site lies to the rear of 'The Cottage', a former Victorian farmhouse located on the north side of Water Lane, just west of its junction with Back Lane (see figure 1). Water Lane runs east from the main north-south street through the village, now called Main Street but formerly 'Town Street'. The site lies within the Hemingbrough Conservation Area.
- 2.2 A Design and Access Statement, drawn up to accompany the planning application, notes that the site is currently part of a large garden to the rear of 'The Cottage'. The proposed development site covers 0.088 hectares, and contains a number of over-mature fruit trees - the relatively flat garden is surrounded by a mixture of walls, fences and hedges.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Outline planning permission for the development was approved by Selby District Council on 29th March 2010. Condition 3, which relates to archaeology, states: "*No development will take place within the application area 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 by the Planning Authority*".

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 Information from the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council (who advise Selby District Council on archaeological matters) requested the imposition of the planning condition as the proposed development site lies within the historic core of the village, which is known to date from the post-medieval period but which may have earlier roots in the medieval period.
- 4.2 The village may actually have pre-medieval origins, as Romano-British remains have been found in the vicinity and tradition states that a Roman fort was established here to control passage along the river Ouse which formerly ran much closer to the village, along the line of the now abandoned 'Oldways Lane'. The firmer higher ground overlooking the river Ouse also may also have attracted an early 'stronghold' of possibly Anglian or Scandinavian date, as evidenced by the place-name. The village is named in the 12th century Domesday Book, and the some elements of the Norman church remain in the predominately 13th and 15th century structure. The village subsequently expanded along a main street running parallel to the river, but in the early medieval period the Ouse

cut a shorter course across the neck of a wide meander and the village lost the advantage of a riverside site. In 1379 there were more than 150 poll-tax payers in Hemingbrough, and 59 households were recorded in the hearth tax of 1672.

- 4.3 The manor of Hemingbrough was held by the King at the Domesday Survey, but it was given by William I to the Bishop of Durham in 1086-87. It subsequently passed to Durham Priory, and the church was made collegiate in 1427, for a provost, three prebendaries, six vicars coral and six clerks; at the dissolution, the manor and windmill were worth about £39 and the college £84. The priory were probably responsible for the planned layout and development of the village, and they controlled access across the Ouse and Derwent. The manor was kept in hand until 1614, when it was granted to Sir Arthur Ingram and Martin Freeman.
- 4.4 Most of the older properties in the village lie along the closely built-up Main Street (formerly Town Street), with plots extending west to Oldways Lane and east to Back and Garth Ends Lanes. Several cross streets, including Water Lane, connect the Main Street with the back lanes. A number of 18th century buildings survive in the historic core of the village.
- 4.5 Given the potential history of the village, and its morphology, it is therefore possible that the proposed development site may contain evidence for medieval and earlier occupation.

5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The Design and Access Statement notes that the development involves the construction of two modestly sized 'family' homes with garages, served from a new private drive leading north from Water Lane. A small outbuilding on the street frontage will be demolished to create the new access. The new drive will turn west along the front of the of the two new houses (see figure 2).
- 5.2 The foundation design will incorporate standard strip foundations 0.65m wide for external walls and 0.55m wide for internal walls, which will be excavated to a depth of c.0.90m (depending on site conditions and the requirements of Building Control officers). A certain amount of landscaping will also be required around the new properties, as well as the laying of paved surfaces. A separate drainage plan has been produced (see figure 3), and this includes a soakaway to the north of each property (each 1.50m diameter by 1.50m deep) as well as 100mm foul and surface water drains; a new foul water drain is proposed to run south along the new access road to connect with existing services.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development. In addition to the detailed methodology set out below, more general advice produced by the Institute for Archaeologists in relation to watching briefs (IFA 1999) will also be considered.
- 6.2 Any foundation, topsoil strip and/or drainage trenches etc excavated for the new dwellings will be subject to archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. Where mechanical equipment is to be used for the excavations (e.g. JCB or mini-digger), the Building Contractor will use a toothless bucket, to facilitate the archaeological recording.
- 6.3 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in the site, the recording work may be halted, in consultation with the Curatorial Officer of the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council. However, if structures, features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, EDAS will be allowed time to clean, assess, and hand excavate, sample

and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate according to the nature of the remains, to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised. Excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded, and EDAS has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

- 6.4 The archaeological recording work should not cause undue delay to the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the Building Contractor. However, the Building Contractor and client will ensure that EDAS has sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this WSI. It is likely that the archaeological recording will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits, the number and duration of which will be determined by the speed of the development and/or excavations. Access to the site will therefore be afforded to EDAS at all reasonable times.
- 6.5 Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development should be given to EDAS, who will then inform the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council.
- 6.6 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by digital photographs, scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate), and written descriptions as judged adequate by EDAS, using appropriate pro-forma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 6.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this WSI, immediate contact will be made with the developer and the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned; these amendments might, for example, include the requirement to sample archaeological and/or environmental deposits, and/or detailed excavation of specific structures. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries will be discussed with the client and Building Contractor in advance of the development, and sufficient time and resources will be made available to EDAS to ensure that proper recording is made prior to any removal.
- 6.8 If human remains are encountered during the course of the groundworks, they will be removed under the conditions of a Ministry of Justice burial licence, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity. The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long-term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.
- 6.9 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the client in advance of the project commencing.

7 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 7.1 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.

- 7.2 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, following the guidelines produced by English Heritage. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive should also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the landowner, and depending on whether significant artefacts are recovered, the site archive may be deposited with the Yorkshire Museum. A copy of the Archive Index and the name of the recipient museum will be sent to the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council. EDAS will make an allowance for a minimum of one box in calculating estimates for the museum's storage grant.
- 7.3 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act - see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed with the client in advance of the project commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum.
- 7.4 Within six weeks of the completion of the site work, an EDAS archive report will be produced. This report should include the following (as appropriate):
- A non-technical summary;
 - Site code/project number;
 - Planning reference number;
 - Dates for fieldwork visits;
 - Grid reference;
 - A location plan, with scale;
 - A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
 - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
 - General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
 - A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
 - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 7.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the client, the Local Planning Authority and the Heritage and Environment Section of North Yorkshire County Council. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive. A copy of the final report, as well as other relevant project details, will also be uploaded to English Heritage's OASIS (Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) project.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

- 8.1 EDAS will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the archaeological recording work, and Health and Safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters.
- 8.2 The site is privately owned, and EDAS would indemnify the landowners in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the project, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

9 REFERENCES

IFA (Institute for Archaeologists) 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (and subsequent revisions)

E Dennison, EDAS
31 July 2013



FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION
(not to scale - plan supplied by Peter Goss Architectural Services)

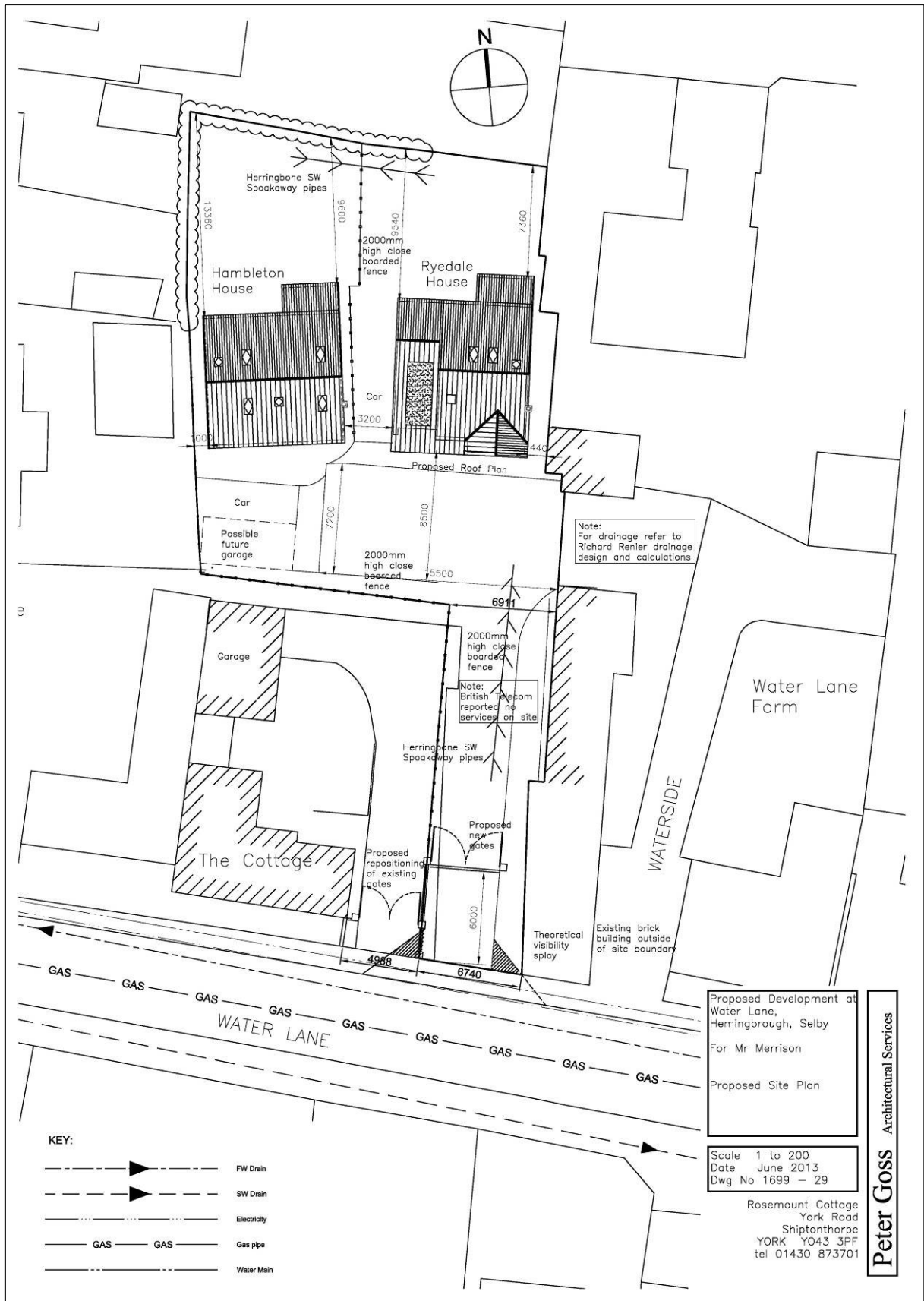


FIGURE 2: SITE AS PROPOSED
 (not to scale - plan supplied by Peter Goss Architectural Services)

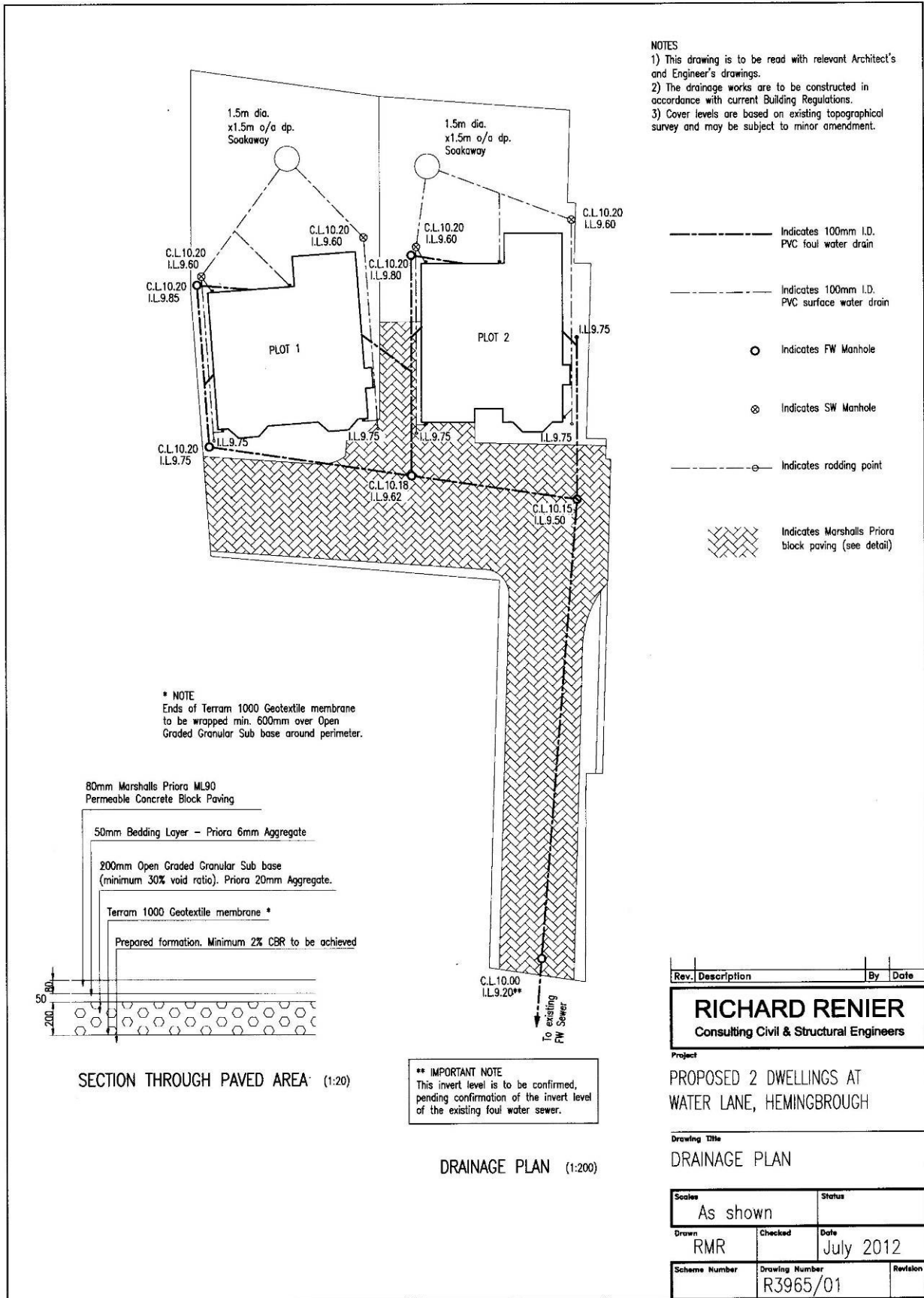


FIGURE 3: DRAINAGE PLAN AS PROPOSED (not to scale - plan supplied by Richard Renier)