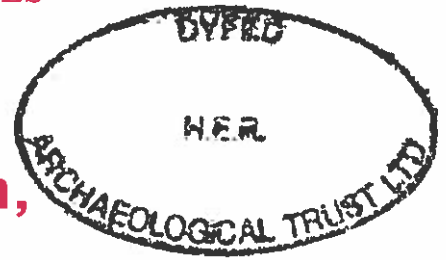


**Honey Hill,
East Williamston,
Pembrokeshire.**



Archaeological Watching Brief



EVENT ARN 62926

*By
Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA, MIFA)*



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Honey Hill, East Williamston, Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

By
Richard Scott Jones (*BA Hons, MA, MIFA*)

Prepared for:
Mrs Wendy Williams,
4 Green Meadow Close,
East Williamston,
Tenby,
Pembrokeshire.

On behalf of:

Date: June 2007

HRSW Report No: 114



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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mrs Wendy Williams, the owner of Honey Hill, East Williamston. The work was part of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for a new extension to the existing dwelling.

The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

No archaeological deposits nor finds earlier than the late 20th century were recorded from the excavations for the footings of the proposed new extension.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during the ground work for a new extension to the existing dwelling of Honey Hill, 4 Green Meadow Close, East Williamston, Tenby, Pembrokeshire.
- 1.2 After being contacted by Mrs Wendy Williams, owner of Honey Hill, to undertake the work, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in June 2007. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in June 2007.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Pembrokeshire County Council (*Application numbers: 05/1314/PA*) to Mrs Wendy Williams, owner of Honey Hill, to extend the existing dwelling (NGR: SS 0980 0480) into the rear garden area. A condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to this permission.

Site Description (*see Figs 1, 2, & 3*)

- 1.5 The location of the proposed extension lies in the rear lawned garden of the existing house (NGR: SS 0980 0480). The garden lies at approx. 65m O.D on a flat area of land that eventually runs down southwards toward a stream. Approximately 150m to the east of the site is East Williamston Church and and grave yard, which has a medieval foundation. Immediately between the church and Honey Hill is Church Farm At the time of the Watching Brief, the greater part of the top soil of the proposed area under investigation had already been removed by mechanical excavator which revealed that much of the area had already been disturbed by earlier service trenches.

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of both Langsettian and Bolsopian rocks of the Carboniferous period. Local geology indicates an area of clays, sands and mud stones.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 Records held in the regional Archaeological Trust at Llandeilo show that the proposed development lies in close proximity to a medieval motte (PRN: 4407) located to the south of the site. Sites such as these are often associated with a larger defended enclosure known as a bailey, an area which would usually have contained, many of the main buildings such as halls, granaries, Chapel etc. In addition, the site may have formed the focus for extended settlement and consequently, information regarding street patterns, building

sequences, evidence of industrial activity, gardens, etc. may also be present.

- 1.8 According to Samuel Lewis's *Topography of Wales 1833*, East Williamston falls inside the parish of Begelly..... BEGELLY (BUGELI), a parish, in the union of and hundred of NARBERTH, county of PEMBROKE, SOUTH WALES, 5 miles (S. by E.) from Narberth, on the road to Tenby; containing, with the chapelry of Williamston, which supports its own poor, 1159 inhabitants. The substratum of the soil in this parish is coal, of excellent quality, and in great request for the drying of malt and hops by the proprietors of breweries and distilleries: it is chiefly procured by a company under Sir R.B.P. Philipps, Bart., and J.M. Childe, Esq., who are the chief proprietors of the soil, and receive one-sixth part, as their share of the produce: there are also some smaller proprietors, who exact one-fifth, and even one-fourth, part from those who work only on a limited scale. A railway leads over King's Moor to Saundersfoot, in the parish of St. Issels, and greatly contributes to promote the interests of the surrounding neighbourhood. Iron-ore is also found, both above and below the strata of coal, and during the existence of the Pembrey Iron Company, was procured in great quantities and with considerable benefit to the proprietors; but, since the stoppage of those works, the search for it has been discontinued. The shale which is found with the coal exhibits many interesting specimens of the fern and reed plants, and pyrites of iron have also been discovered. The rateable annual value of the whole parish has been returned at £1770. 10. 2., but the portion exclusively of the chapelry of Williamston, at £1104. 12. 5. The living is a discharged rectory, rated in the king's books at £12. 19. 2.; present net income, £216; patron, Sir R.B.P. Philipps. The church is an ancient structure, in the early style of English architecture, with a lofty tower, and is pleasantly situated near Begelly Hall, by the trees surrounding which it is partly concealed. The chapel of Williamston is a rude structure without a tower, standing in the hamlet of that name. The parsonage-house is situated on part of a stratum of coal, which has been wrought all round it, and, if the excavation had been continued, it would have endangered the stability of the building. There is a place of worship for Calvinistic Methodists. Here is a day school, in which from 20 to 30 children are instructed at the expense of their parents; and there are two Sunday schools conducted gratuitously, and in one of which, in connection with the Established Church, are about 220 children; and in the other, which belongs to the Calvinistic Methodists, are about 25. Near the parsonage-house are the remains of a cromlech, which has been thrown down; and in its vicinity is a tumulus, supposed to have been raised to the memory of some unknown chieftain." (*Samuel Lewis's Topography of Wales 1833*)

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological watching brief are
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
 - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 2.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the watching brief, the ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 1 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist..
- 3.2 After the foundations had been dug, limited cleaning of the trenches was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.
- 3.4 Recording of the trenches was undertaken in three formats:
 - i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format in Black and White was also appropriated
 - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
 - iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.
- 3.5 An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figs 5,6 and 7)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report.
- 4.2 The cutting for the foundations of the new extension involved a series of connecting trenches at the rear of the existing dwelling (see site plan). Much of the area had already been heavily disturbed by earlier service trenches, both drainage and foul that lead to a septic tank in the southern area of the garden. Each trench was approx. 0.60m wide and reached a depth of approx. 0.60m.
- 4.3 Once the top soil had been removed (101), immediately a natural mid brown/orange silty sandy clay deposit became exposed (102). This deposit averaged a depth of approx. 0.20m as was shown in the sections of all of the cut trenches. Below this deposit was another natural pale orange clay with mudstone inclusions (104). This appeared to average a depth of approx. 0.60m across the entire site. Below this deposit was a natural mud stone deposit (105). Within the section A-B at the far west end there was evidence of a former tree root bowl, whose bowl was filled with a dark dirty slate material (103).
- 4.4 No features or finds were recovered from the excavation earlier than the late 20th century. These were all recovered from the top soil (101).

Summary of results

- 4.8 No features or finds were recorded in any of the excavated trenches. All finds recovered were no earlier than the late 20th century.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief at Honey Hill, East Williamston recorded no archaeological features or finds within any of the trenches. The only recovered finds was late 20th century material from the top soil.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr and Mrs Williams , the owners of Honey Hill for their patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work. Also thanks to Bill Nixon, the contractor.

7 Bibliography

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.



APPENDIX I:

Figs & Illustrations



Figure 1. Location map showing location of Honey Hill, East Williamston, Pembrokeshire. (OS 1:25000 map)

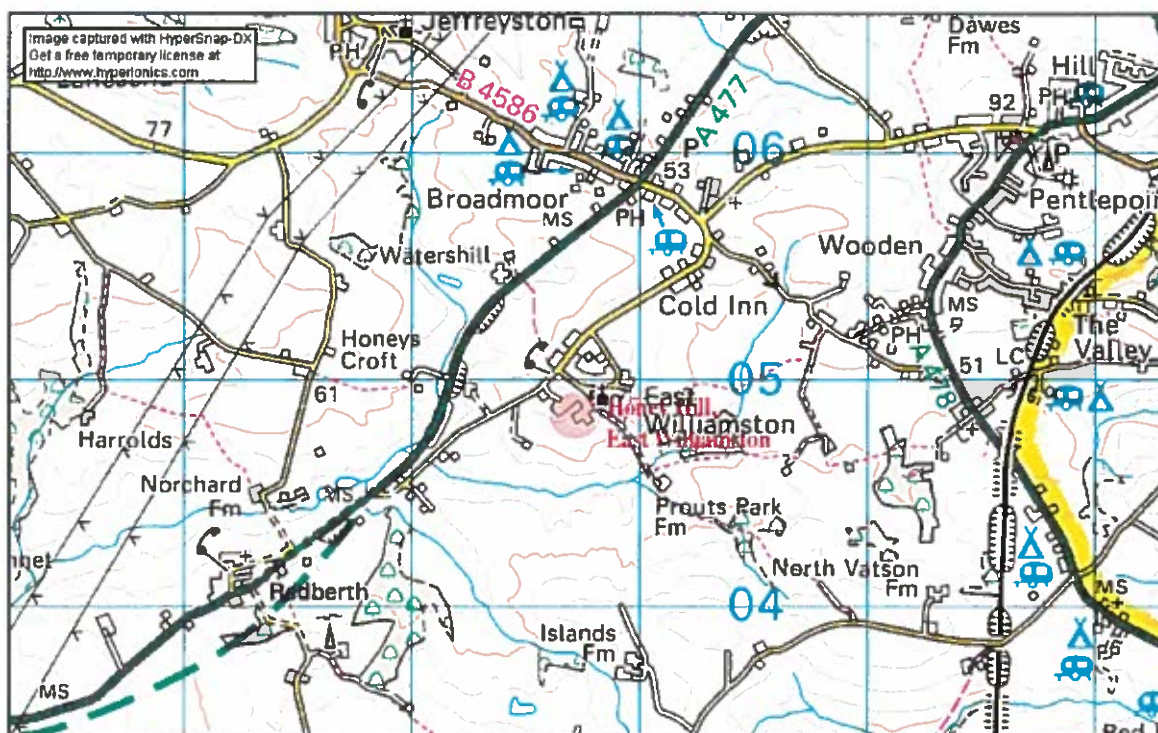


Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing location of Honey Hill, East Williamston, Pembrokeshire. (OS 1:25000 map)

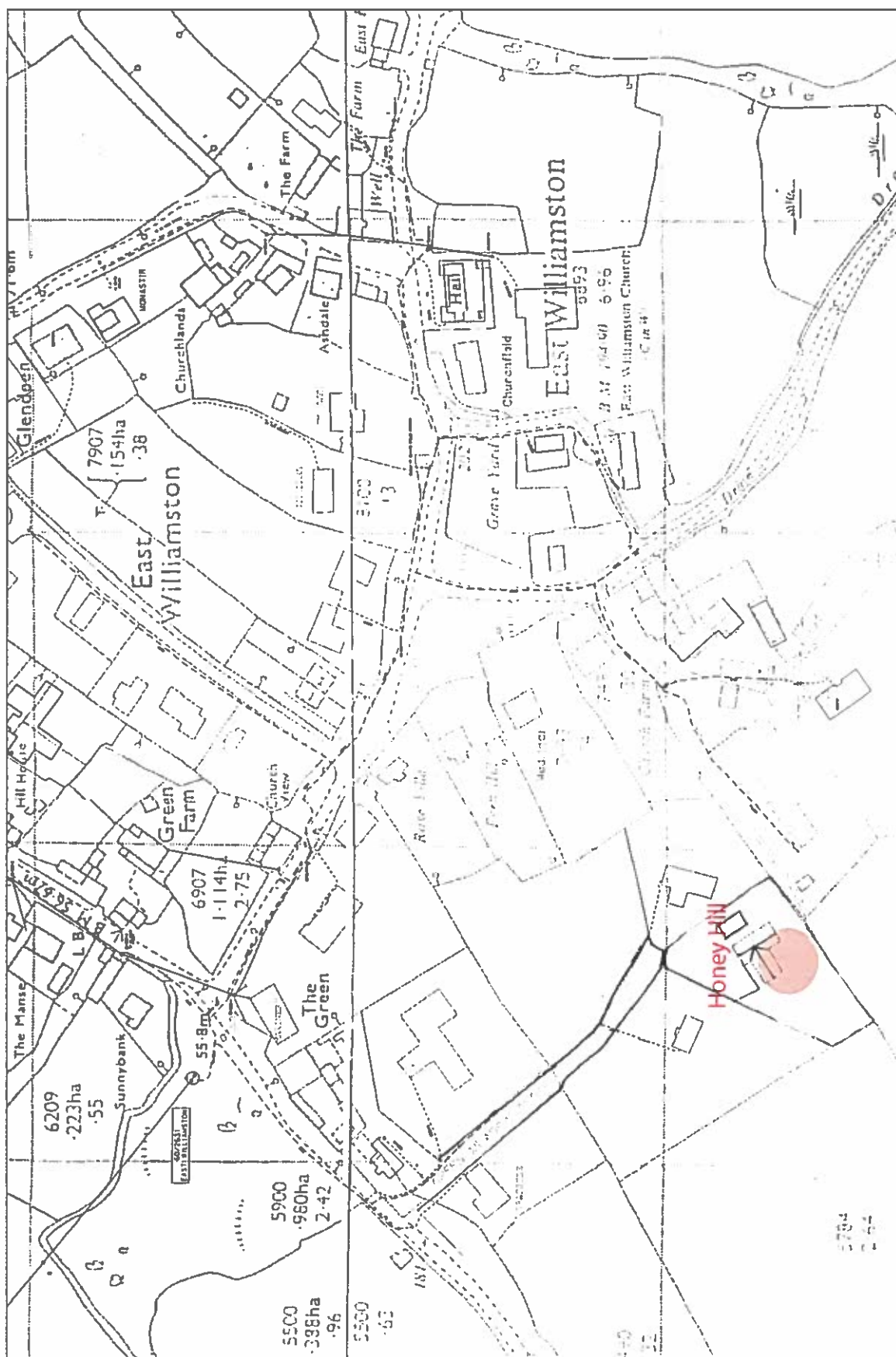


Figure 3. Site plan showing location of proposed development at Honey Hill, East Williamston, Pems..
(OS 1:25000 map)



Figure 4. Site plan showing area of proposed extension at Honey Hill, East Williamston, Pembrokeshire.
(OS 1:10000 map)



Figure 5. Site plan showing area of foundation trenches for new extension (OS 1: 10000 map)

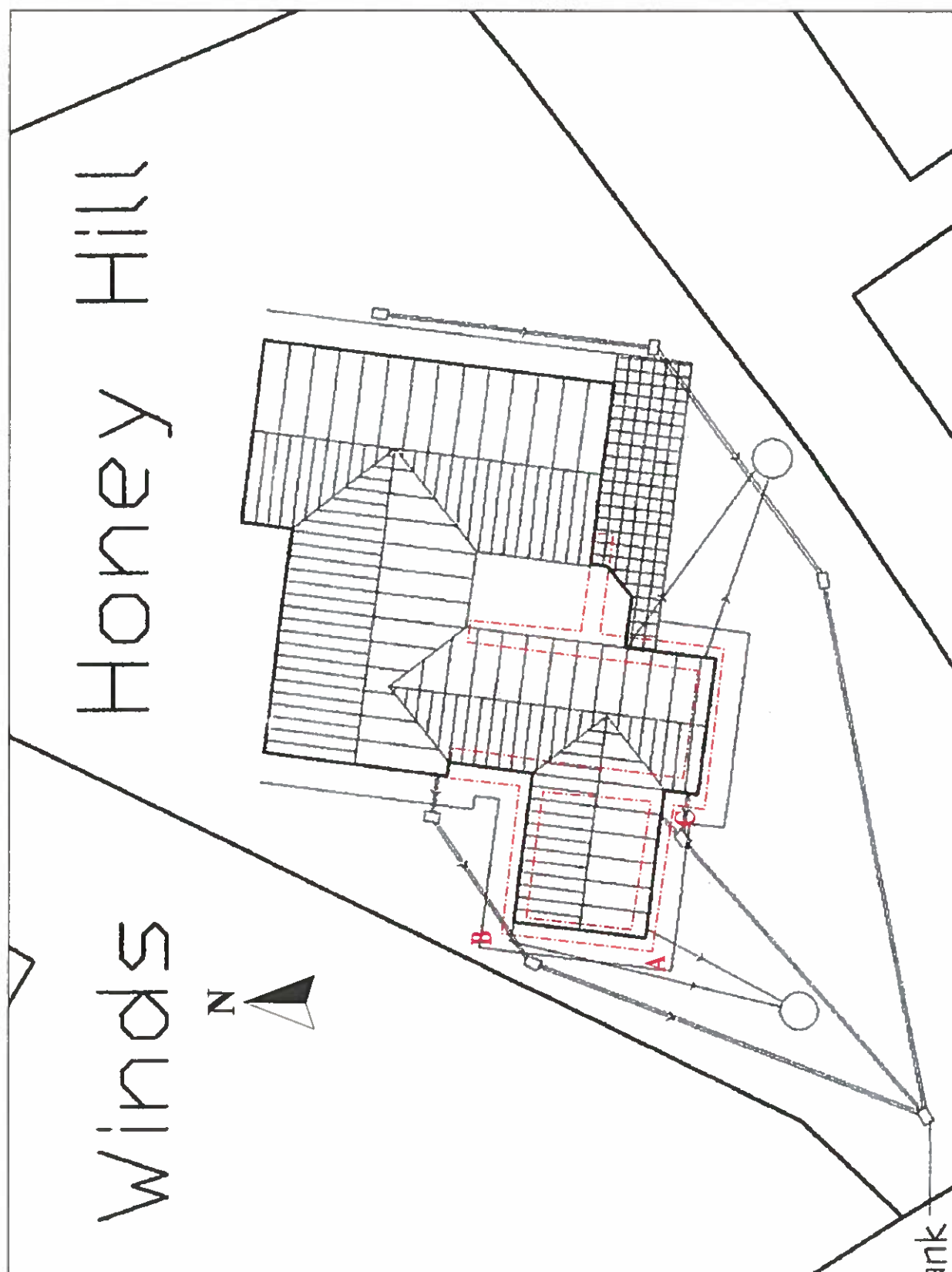


Figure 6. Site plan showing foundation trenches for new extension with positions of section drawings shown A-B and B-C (OS 1: 10000 map)

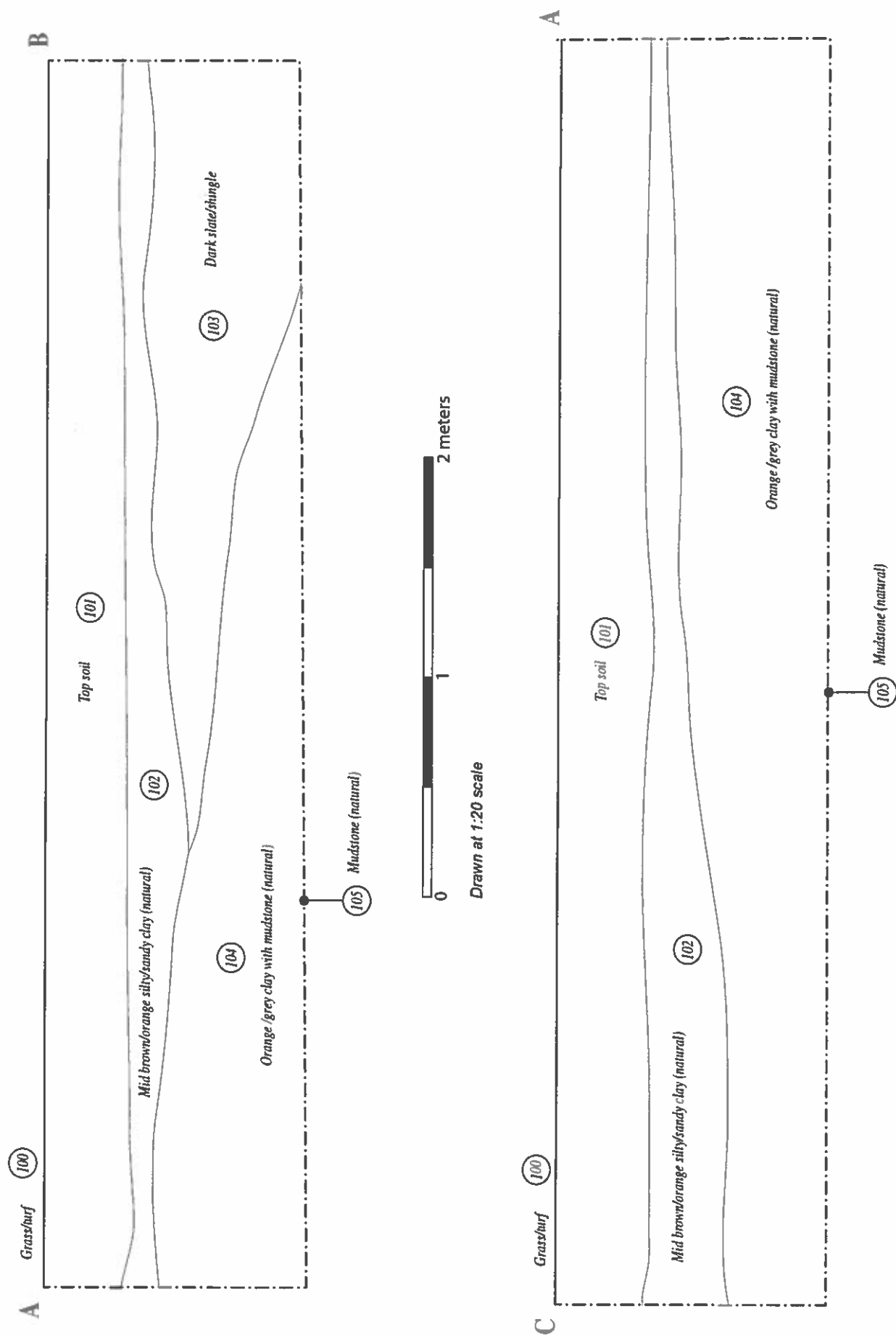


Figure 7. Section drawings A-B and A-C (see figure 6).



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. Area of extension prior to digging of foundation trenches. Looking northward.



Plate 2. Top soil strip completed and former service trenches re-exposed. Looking southward.



Plate 3. Area of extension following soil strip. Looking northeasterly.



Plate 4. Western foundation trench north-south transect (see section drawing A-B).



*Plate 5. Southern length of foundation trench east - west transect
(see section drawing C-A).*



*Plate 5. Western foundation trench, north-south transect
(see section drawing A-B).*



Plate 8. far east end north-south foundation trench. Looking northwards.



Plate 7. East end of southern end foundation trench .



Plate 9. Area of extension following completed cutting of foundation trenches. Looking northward.



Plate 10. Area of proposed new extension following cutting of foundation trenches. Looking easterly.



APPENDIX III: Context Register

