

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT PHASE 3:

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, LINCOLN

NGR: SK 9710 6950  
AAA Site Code: LSCC 09  
LCCM Accession Number: 2008.80  
OASIS Reference: allenarc 1-45346



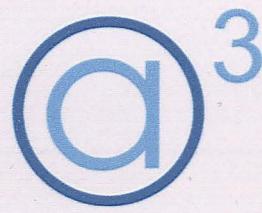
Report prepared for Lindum Group Limited

By

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### Document control

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## Summary

- Allen Archaeological Associates was commissioned by Lindum Group Limited to carry out a third phase of archaeological excavation at St Catherine's Church in Lincoln. These works were requested in order to expand the previous excavation area in advance of the construction of a structure to support a glass viewing floor over the previously identified elements of the medieval priory of St. Katherine's.
- The previous phases of evaluation revealed a sequence of deposits and structural remains dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and included a medieval glazed water pipe within a stone-lined culvert.
- This phase of work extended part of the excavation area to the north and south by c.0.3m. It exposed further elements of the stone walls previously recorded, and showed that the glazed water pipe had been broken at both its north and south ends.



**Figure 1: Site location in red at scale 1:25,000**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeological Associates (hereafter AAA) was commissioned by Lindum Group Limited to undertake a third phase of archaeological excavation during the renovation of St Catherine's Church in the city of Lincoln. The works were undertaken in order to expand the excavation area to allow for the construction of a structure to support a proposed glass viewing floor.
- 1.2 Although not initiated as part of the planning process, the site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations*' (IfA 2001) and procedures that are detailed in the Lincolnshire County Council publication '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' (LCC 1998).
- 1.3 The archive from the current phase of work will be incorporated into the records for the previous two phases and submitted to the museum in Lincoln (The Collection) for long-term storage under the global accession number 2008.80.
- 1.4 This report forms an addendum to the previous phases of archaeological investigation at the Priory Centre, and so should be read in conjunction with the associated reports (AAA 2008a and AAA 2008b).

## 2.0 Site location and description

- 2.1 The Priory Centre is situated to the south of the centre of the city of Lincoln, to the west of St Catherine's (the modern A15) and north of Colegrave Street, within the low-lying floodplain of the River Witham Valley. The church is a Grade II Listed Building (Listing Reference 1941-1/5/319) and lies within Conservation Area 4, with the area of works located within the church nave. The site centres on NGR SK 97127 69558 at a height of approximately 7m AOD.
- 2.2 The local geology of the area comprises undifferentiated river terrace sand and gravel, overlying a solid geology of Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone (British Geological Survey 1973).

## 3.0 Planning background

- 3.1 The scope of the current programme of works falls outside the normal planning process, and was agreed through discussions between the City Archaeologist, the Priory Centre, and the main contractor, Lindum Group Limited. The extent of the works was confined to the extent of the structure that would support the proposed glass viewing floor.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background for this site has been discussed in detail in the first phase of archaeological investigation (AAA 2008a and 2008b). A summary of the previous phases of work is presented below.
- 4.2 The first phase of archaeological work was carried out to evaluate the potential of exposing remains of the former medieval priory of St. Katherine during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site. The works comprised the hand excavation of a 10m by 1.5m long trench, broadly in the centre of the church. The trench exposed a series of structural remains of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date, comprising stone walls, possible floor surfaces, and a glazed ceramic



water pipe set within a stone culvert. These were overlain by a sequence of demolition and robbing events dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, very likely evidence of the decommissioning of the priory during the Dissolution under Henry VIII (AAA 2008a).

- 4.3 Following completion of the first phase of archaeological work it was decided that a glass floor would be incorporated into the renovation of the church, to display the stone walls and glazed water pipe exposed in the centre of the trench. As a result, a second phase of excavation was undertaken, to expand a 3m long section of the evaluation trench to a width of 2.5m. This second phase of work exposed further intact sections of two phases of stone walls, as well as exposing more of the glazed ceramic pipe. This phase of work indicated that the south end of the glazed pipe had been truncated, probably by a robber cut identified in the previous phase of work (AAA 2008b).

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 After completion of the second phase of works the archaeological features that were to be displayed below the glass floor were covered with polythene sheeting and soft sand and the trench backfilled. Prior to the current phase of works, the majority of the backfill was removed by the site contractors. Contractors also removed brick sleeper walls that ran the length of the church nave and supported the former floor, and had constrained the width of the previous phase of works.
- 5.2 The current phase of excavation works entailed the extension of the Phase 2 works by in excess of 0.3m to the north and to the south of the existing trench to create an open area measuring approximately 3.2m by 3.2m. The uppermost deposits were removed by the site contractors in advance of the works. The remaining site works were carried out by Chris Clay and Maria Piirainen over a period of two days; Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009.
- 5.3 Hand excavation of the north and south baulks was carried out by hand, and all loose backfill was removed from the excavation area. Polythene sheeting, which was used in the previous works to cover and protect the exposed archaeological remains, was then removed and the exposed deposits were thoroughly hand cleaned. Following excavation the additional data gleaned from the expansion of the trench area was added to the existing site records.
- 5.4 Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs incorporated scales, and a directional arrow. A selection of plates has been included as an appendix to the report (Appendix 1).

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 As with the Phase 2 works, this phase did not expose any additional archaeological features. Further elements of the previously identified structures were recorded however. Wall 115 and surface 112 both continued beyond the northern limit of excavation, whilst wall 104 continued beyond the southern limit of excavation. To the west of wall 104, the wall foundation or demolition layer 102, also continued to the south.
- 6.2 The previous phase of works had shown that the southernmost section of the 14<sup>th</sup> century glazed ceramic pipe in the trench had almost entirely been removed, leaving only its collar adjoining the section to the north. No further elements of the pipe itself were recorded during the extension of the trench to the south, although the clay bedding layer 137 and the stone culvert 117 remained in situ.



- 6.3 The extension of the trench to the north showed that the final section of pipe had been broken at its northern end, very close to the northern limit of excavation. The stones along the eastern side of the culvert had also been removed at this point.
- 6.4 Further dating evidence was recovered from several of the layers previously identified. Demolition layer 101 contained a single sherd of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century Lincoln Glazed Ware pottery, as well as nine fragments of roof tile and a small fragment of glazed water pipe. Demolition layer 134, which directly overlay the water pipe trench and the adjacent wall 115, produced a discrete group of fifty seven fragments of roof tile, including one glazed example. The majority was dated to between the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a single late 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century fragment. A spread of tile had previously been identified during Phase 2 of the works, overlying demolition layer 134 and directly adjacent to wall 104, and it seems likely that this deposit represents part of this layer. The tile group is thought to represent a deliberately deposited surface, rather than a lens of demolition material. The groundworkers also retained a jug handle of 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 15<sup>th</sup> century date and a late 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century glazed roof tile fragment, recovered during removal of the backfill.

## 7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Although no further archaeological deposits or features were encountered during this phase of archaeological works, additional information was forthcoming that allows some further interpretations of the remains. On further investigation of the two possible wall foundations 102 and 104, it may be considered that they represent two elements of a single structure. Foundation 104 appears to be more solidly constructed, with several large roughly-dressed blocks in its make-up, whilst 102 appears to more irregular and comprises smaller stones set in a more random pattern to 104. It seem likely therefore that although 104 can still be considered as the truncated remains of a wall, 102 is more likely to represent an associated deposit, of either demolition material, or an episode of collapse of the remnants of wall 104.
- 7.2 The Phase 2 works (AAA 2008b) identified a deposit of tile immediately to the east of wall 104, a further element of which was exposed in the current phase of works. The tile appeared to have been deliberately laid to form a surface rather than representing a demolition layer or a dump of material. Dating evidence from both phases of work suggested this material was largely 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date, significantly earlier than wall 104, which dating evidence and stratigraphy suggests was constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It seems likely therefore that the tile was reused from an earlier demolished structure to form a surface contemporary with wall 104.
- 7.3 Further investigation of the glazed pipe showed that there was no southern continuation of the pipe beyond that identified in the previous works (AAA 2008a and 2008b). It was observed however that the clay bedding layer and the stone culvert remained *in-situ*, indicating that the pipe had been removed with some care, perhaps for re-use elsewhere.
- 7.4 The northern extension of the site showed that the pipe had also been damaged at its north end. The c.0.5m length of pipe remaining *in-situ* was similar to the length of the complete pipe sections exposed, suggested that it was only the splayed collar at the end of the pipe that had been broken off. Adjacent to this damage, the stones forming the east edge of the culvert had been removed, with a small spread of stone rubble to the east suggesting that the culvert had been disturbed to allow access to the pipe.



## 8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The methodology employed for this phase of works was appropriate to the requirements of the St Katherine's Heritage Project, and has indicated, as expected, that the archaeological features previously identified continue beyond the excavated area. The works have also provided additional information to aid the interpretation of the deposits encountered in the previous phases of archaeological investigation.

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeological Associates would like to thank Lindum Group Limited for commissioning this work and for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

## 10.0 Bibliography

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LCC, 1998, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincolnshire County Council

## 11.0 Site archive

- 11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeological Associates. It will be submitted to 'The Collection' in Lincoln within six months of the completion of the project, where it will be stored under the global accession number 2008.80.



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view of the extended excavation area, looking west-north-west.



**Plate 2:** Northern end of the glazed water pipe, looking west-north-west. The pipe has been broken off at its northern end, close to the limit of excavation.



**Plate 3:** Southern end of the glazed water pipe, looking west-north-west. The pipe has been broken off close to the collar, but the clay lining of the culvert remains *in-situ*.



## Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Assessment

By Jane Young

### Pottery Archive

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
101	LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware		jug	1	31	BS		mid/ late 14th to 15th
u/s	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		large jug	1	99	rod handle	plugged UHJ; amber glaze with cu specks	14th to mid 15th

### CBM Archive

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	action	description	date
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	194		flat roofer; thick reduced glaze; mortar	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	WPIPE	Waterpipe	LSW		1	31		end; reduced glaze	13th to 14th ?
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	near vitrified		1	237		flat roofer; corner; finger pressing; mortar	late 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 14		1	111	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	179	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 13		1	125	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	late 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12		1	14	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		1	72	discarded	flat roofer	mid 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	25	discarded	flat roofer	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12		1	205	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	late 12th to 14th
129	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 7	moulded	1	85	discarded	left corner	mid 12th to mid 13th
129	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12		1	138	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12		1	113	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 13		3	218	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 13		3	115	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 13		1	93	discarded	flat roofer; corner	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 14		1	40	discarded	flat roofer; abraded	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	vitrified		1	125		flat roofer; thick tile	mid 12th to 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 12		1	48	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		6	359	discarded	flat roofer	mid 12th to mid 13th



context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	action	description	date
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		6	375	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 14		1	114	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 7	Nib Type 1/2	1	96	discarded		mid 12th to mid 13th
134	PEG	Peg tile	Fabric 13	round peghole	3	325		corner; hole 15mm across; unusual	late 12th to 13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 7	Nib Type 4E ?	1	233		mismoulded; left corner	13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 13 ?	moulded nib	1	253		left corner; mismoulded; near vitrified; salt surfaced; mortar	late 12th to 13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 1/7	Nib Type 4E	1	114		right corner	13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 7	Nib Type 4E	1	245		right corner; distorted & overfired	13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 1/7	moulded ?	1	196		right corner; mismoulded	late 12th to 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7		1	129	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 13th
134	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	78		flat roofer; mortar; cloth impression on underside	mid 12th to mid 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		3	159	discarded	flat roofer; mortar	mid 12th to mid 13th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 1	moulded & folded	1	121	discarded		late 14th to 16th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 14	moulded	1	58	discarded		late 12th to 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 14		1	76		flat roofer; corner	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	49		flat roofer; impression on underside	mid 12th to mid 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 13		1	170		flat roofer; cloth impression on underside	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	177		flat roofer; corner; mortar	mid 12th to mid 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	158		flat roofer; corner	mid 12th to mid 13th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 14		1	120		flat roofer; salt surfaced	late 12th to 14th
134	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		10	594	discarded	flat roofer	late 12th to 14th
134	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 14	Nib Type 4E	1	83	discarded	left corner	13th
u/s	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	267		thick reduced green glaze; flat roofer	late 12th to 13th



### Appendix 3: Context summary and deposit model

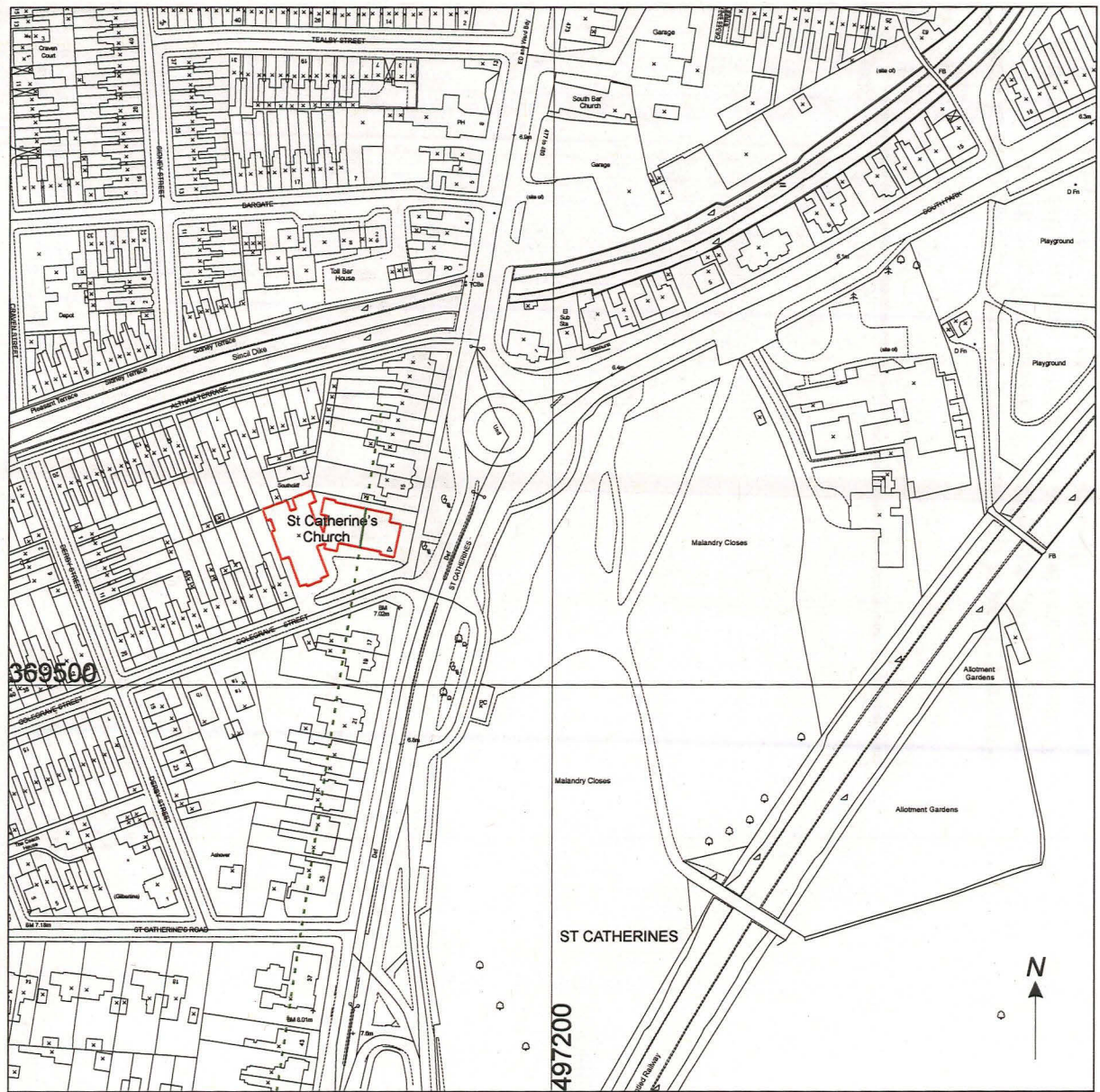
Context summary list from previous evaluation (AAA 2008a) included for reference

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation	OD height	Deposit model code
100	Layer	Very compact, mid brown silty sand with frequent limestone rubble. Sealed by 109, seals 107	Demolition layer	6.73m	LMEDT
101	Layer	Compact, mid brown sandy silt with moderate limestone rubble. Cut by [105], seals 128	Demolition layer	6.56m	LMEDT
102	Structure	Aligned N-S, pitched lime stones, tightly packed. Sealed by 101, contained by [103]	Wall foundation abuts wall [104] - probably contemporary	6.35m	LMEDT
103	Cut	N – S aligned construction cut. Cuts 134, contains 102	Construction cut for wall [102]	6.35m	LMEDT
104	Structure	Single course, tightly packed pitched platy lime stones, aligned NE – SW. Sealed by 128, contained by [103]	Wall foundation that abuts probably contemporary structure [102]	6.35m	LMEDT
105	Cut	Sub oval cut of a pit with stepped irregular sides and irregular base. Contains 107, cuts 101	Cut of a possible robber pit	6.45m	LMEDT
106	Structure	Very compact limestone surface made of sub-angular stones. Sealed by 101, seals 126	Limestone surface, probably contemporary with [102]	6.31m	LMEDT
107	Fill	Fairly compact, mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of sub-angular chalk- and limestone fragments, moderate CBM and pottery and occasional bone fragments. Sealed by 100, fill of [105]	Backfill of possible robber pit [105]	6.45m	LMEDT
108	Cut	N – S aligned construction cut, cuts 134	Construction cut for wall 104	6.35m	LMEDT
109	Structure	Mortar surface covering church floor. Seals 100	Latest (Victorian) mortar floor surface, associated with existing church	6.77m	MODT
110	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown clay silt with frequent pottery, CBM and limestone fragments. Sealed by 101, fill of [132]	Backfill of robber cut for culvert [132]	6.32m	HMEDT
111	Layer	Compact, mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular chalk and limestone fragments, frequent pottery, CBM and bones. Cut by [130] and [132], seals 122 and 125	Demolition layer	6.25m	HMEDT
112	Structure	Compact limestone surface. Cut by 113, seals 139	Limestone floor associated with wall [115]	5.77m	HMEDT
113	Cut	Sub-square cut of posthole. Cuts 112, contains 114	Posthole	5.77m	HMEDT
114	Fill	Very compact, mid brown sandy silt with rare chalk flecks. Sealed by 126, fill of [113]	Fill of posthole	5.77m	HMEDT
115	Structure	Un-bonded compact limestone rubble wall with pitched stones along the west edge. Sealed by 134, contained by [118]	Limestone wall	6.13m	HMEDT
116	Void				
117	Structure	Water pipe culvert with sides and top of undressed platy limestone. Sealed by (133), contains (137), (138), contained by [118]	Water pipe culvert		HMEDT
118	Cut	Cut of culvert and wall containing structures [115], [139] and [117]. Cuts (129)	Construction cut for wall 115 and culvert 117.	6.22m	HMEDT
119	Structure	Limestone surface, same as 120. Sealed by 111, seals 123	Limestone surface or working floor	5.86m	HMEDT
120	Structure	Limestone surface, same as 119. Cut by [121] and [124]. Seals 123	Limestone surface or working floor	5.86m	HMEDT
121	Cut	Subcircular pit like feature exposed at east end of trench. Contains 122, cuts 120	Cut of possible robber pit	5.75m	HMEDT
122	Fill	Compact, mid brown, sandy clay with rare chalk fragments. Sealed by 111, fill of [121]	Fill of pit	5.75m	HMEDT
123	Layer	Compact friable, mid yellowish brown sand. Sealed by 127, 119 and 120	Wind blown natural sand	5.82m	TBD
124	Cut	Cut of large, shallow pit with slight concave sides and flat base. Contains 125, cuts 120	Large, shallow probable robber pit	5.75m	HMEDT
125	Fill	Very compact, light brown sandy silt. Sealed by 111. Fill of [124]	Fill of large, shallow robber pit [124]	5.75m	HMEDT

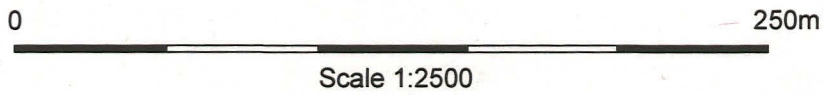


Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation	OD height	Deposit model code
126	Layer	Compact friable, mid greyish brown silt with moderate sub-angular limestone and chalkstone fragments, frequent CBM and pottery. Sealed by 134, seals 112	Demolition layer	6.31m	LMEDT
127	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown silty sand with frequent stone tile, moderate sub-angular chalk fragments and charcoal flecks. Sealed by 126, seals 123	Demolition layer probably same as 111	5.92m	LMEDT
128	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Sealed by 101, seals 104	Demolition deposit	6.38m	LMEDT
129	Layer	Compact, mid yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate sub-angular lime- and chalkstones Sealed by 111	Demolition layer	5.86m	HMEDT
130	Cut	Possible robber trench with steep sides and a concave base. Contains 131, cuts 111	Cut of possible robber trench probably contemporary with [132]	6.31m	LMEDT
131	Fill	Very compact, mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk and limestone fragments. Sealed by 128, fill of [130]	Backfill of robber cut [130]	6.31m	LMEDT
132	Cut	Cut of a possible robber trench with steep sides running to a flat base. Contains 110, cuts 111	Cut of possible robber trench to remove water pipe in [136] probably contemporary with [130]	6.31m	LMEDT
133	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown silt with frequent sub-angular limestone. Sealed by 134, seals [117], fill of [118]	Backfill deposit of [118]	6.23m	LMEDT
134	Layer	Compact mid yellowish brown silt with frequent limestone fragments. Cut by [103] and [108], seals 115 and 133	Demolition layer	6.32m	LMEDT
135	Fill	Plastic blueish brown clay Cut by [132], fill of [136]	Residual clay lining of culvert trench [136]	5.65m	HMEDT
136	Cut	Cut of a robbed out drain with vertical sides and flat base. Contains 135, cuts 119, 120	Probable cut for former culvert and water pipe, later robbed out by [136]	5.82m	HMEDT
137	Fill	Bluish brown clay packed around water pipe 138 in culvert 117. Seals 138, sealed by 117, fill of [118]	Water pipe packing in culvert 117	5.78m	HMEDT
138	Pipe	Green glazed ceramic water pipe. Sealed by 138, contained by 118	Water pipe	5.64m	HMEDT
139	Structure	Un-bonded limestone rubble foundation. Sealed by 112, fill of [118]	Wall foundation	5.90m	HMEDT
140	Cut	N – S aligned linear cut, contains 129	Possible robber cut associated with the demolition of the primary phase of construction on the site.	5.86m	HMEDT



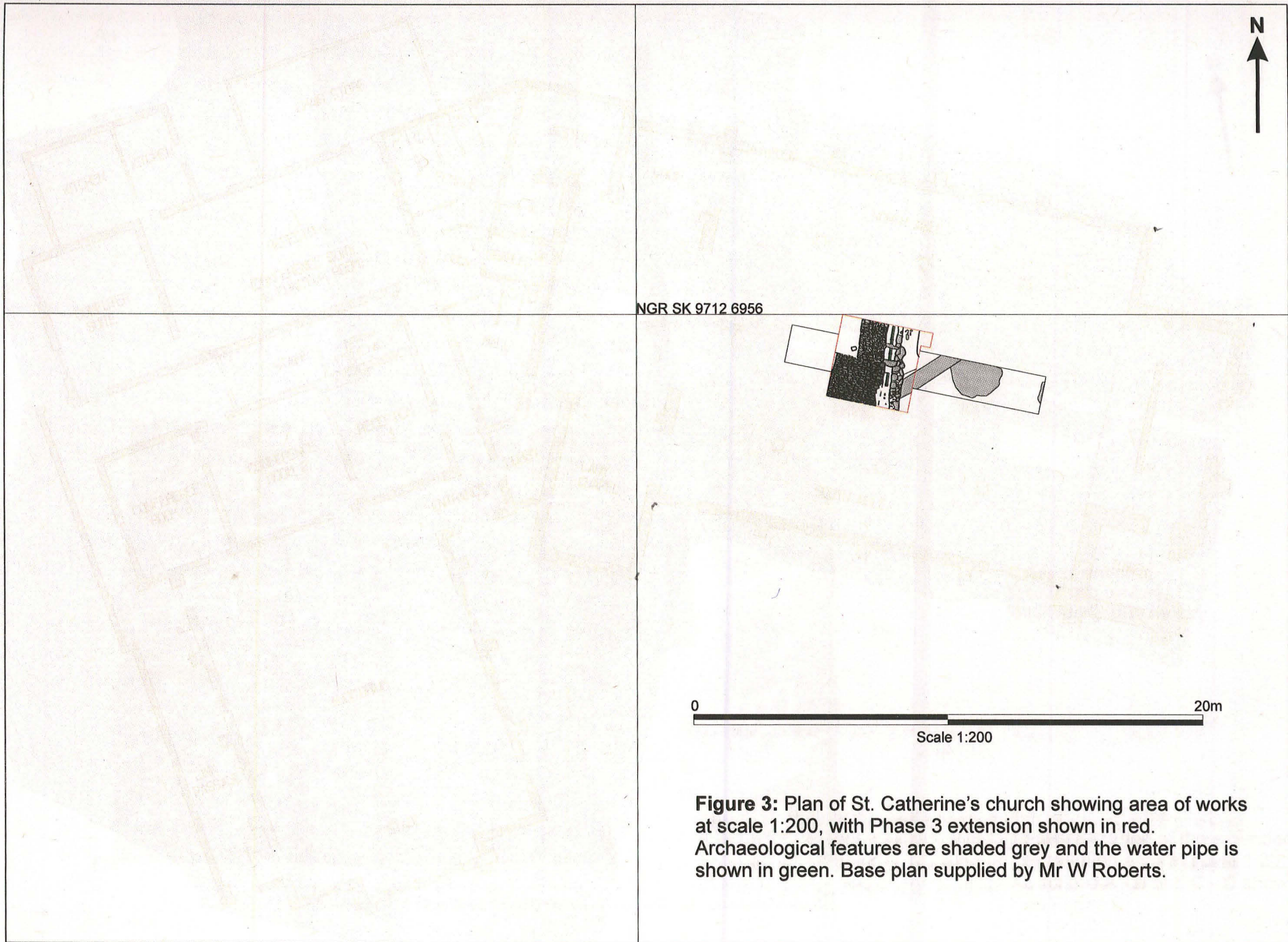


Projected line of  
14th century water pipe



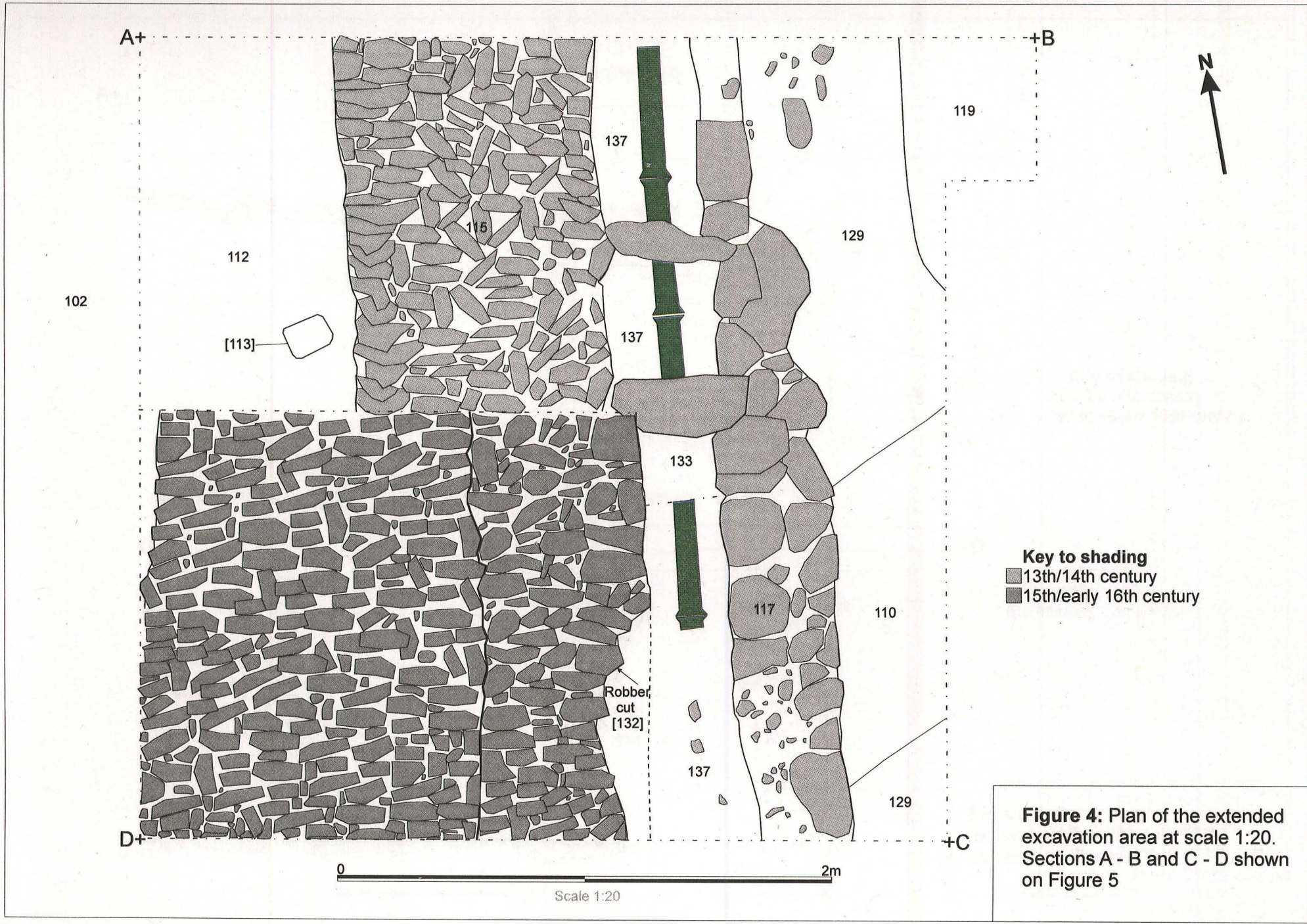
**Figure 2:** Location of St Catherine's Priory (shown in red) at scale 1:2500. Projected line of 14th century water pipe shown in green





**Figure 3:** Plan of St. Catherine's church showing area of works at scale 1:200, with Phase 3 extension shown in red. Archaeological features are shaded grey and the water pipe is shown in green. Base plan supplied by Mr W Roberts.





A+

+B



119

137

115

112

129

102

[113]

137

133

117

110

Robber cut  
[132]

137

129

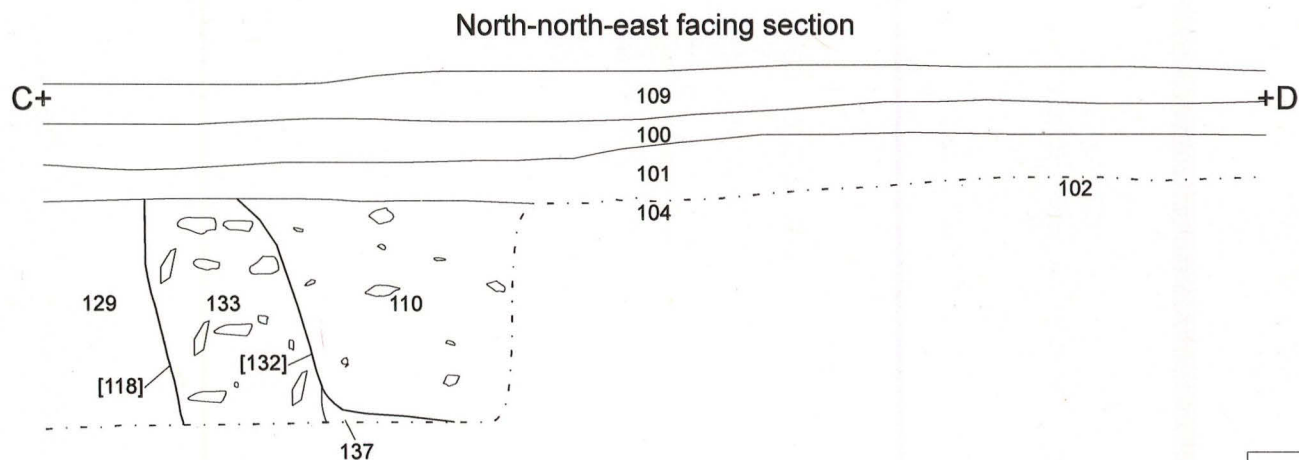
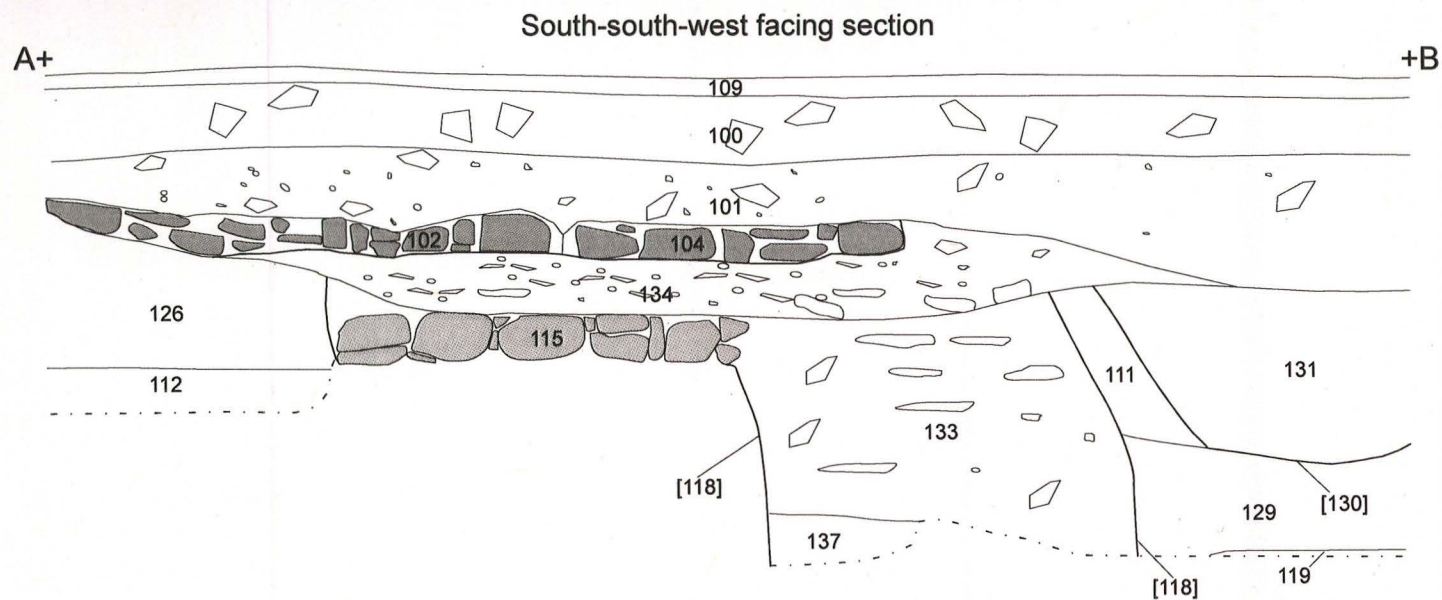
D+

+C



Scale 1:20





**Figure 5:** Sections of the extended excavation area at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 4