

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

LAND AT FLEET FARM, 47 WEST STREET, WEST BUTTERWICK, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: SE 83209 05807

AAL Site Code: WEBU 12

Planning Application: PA/2011/0777

OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-123740

North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code: BWAE



Report prepared for Mr David Moore

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2012033

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Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Robert Evershed and Chris Clay	23/04/2012
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr David Moore to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension and swimming pool at Fleet Farm, West Butterwick in North Lincolnshire.
- The site is situated in the historic core of the medieval village, close to an area where inhumations of possible 17th century date have been identified.
- The watching brief revealed a number of modern animal burials, a large undated pit and a number of dumps and levelling layers associated with the construction of the adjacent house and with general farmyard activities.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr David Moore to undertake an archaeological scheme of works during the construction of an extension and swimming pool at Fleet Farm, West Butterwick in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The fieldwork, recording and reporting will be carried out in a manner consistent with current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavations*' (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008) and '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), and English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006). All English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.3 A copy of the report and the full project archive will be submitted to North Lincolnshire Museum within twelve months of completion of the project, and will be stored under the North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code BWAE.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 West Butterwick is on the west bank of the River Trent, approximately 7km south-west of the centre of Scunthorpe. Fleet Farm lies immediately to the south of West Street, with the development area centred on NGR SE 83209 05807. The site is fairly flat and low lying within the River Trent floodplain at approximately 2m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area is recorded as Mercia Mudstone, overlain by a superficial geology of alluvium (British Geological Survey 1969).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to North Lincolnshire Council for the '*demolition of an existing conservatory and erection of a family room, swimming pool, shower and changing facilities at Fleet Farm, West Butterwick, Near Scunthorpe, DN17 3JZ*' (Planning Reference PA/2011/0777). The application was granted permission subject to a number of conditions, including the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), which was in place when the planning condition was issued, and with the guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which superseded PPS5 in March 2012 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012)

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity, although the English Heritage database PastScape records that a Bronze Age palstave was found at West Butterwick in 1840 (Monument No 60853).

- 4.2 There are no records of Roman activity in the surrounding landscape.
- 4.3 The place-name is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD as *Butruic*, from the Old English and meaning 'a dairy farm' (Cameron 1998). At this time the estate was in the ownership of Geoffrey of la Guerche, and was a jurisdiction of an estate at Owston Ferry. A mill is also recorded at this time (Morgan and Thorn 1986). East and West Butterwick are situated on either side of the River Trent, and the first mention of West Butterwick as a distinct entity was as *Westbutterwyk* in the Assize Roles of 1305, thereby suggesting that the settlement was formed later than East Butterwick. The medieval settlement of West Butterwick was created on a raised alluvial levee of the River Trent (Elliott *et. al.* 2004).
- 4.4 Immediately to the south of the site there is place-name evidence for a possible medieval deer park associated with the Sheffield family, who inhabited a tower house in West Butterwick in the 16th and 17th centuries (North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, hereafter NLHER, Reference 21732).
- 4.5 At the end of the 19th century a 'large number of corpses' were exposed near to a house occupied by a J. Threadgold (NLHER reference 21450). At the time a local historian, Mr Sidney Morle, recorded that following assessment of the remains by several experts, they were most likely victims of a plague from around 200 years previously. It was suggested that the remains may have been those of prisoners of Lord Mulgrave, the President of the Council of the North in 1625. The location of these inhumations is not known but it is believed to be in the vicinity of the site.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological monitoring was carried out by Robert Evershed of AAL on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th March 2012. The extension and swimming pool area were excavated with a tracked 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless 1.5m wide bucket. The excavated area for the swimming pool measured approximately 15m x 8.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of c.1.3m. Foundation trenches for the extension area were excavated to the same depth.
- 5.2 All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for any archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence. Each context observed was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by section drawings at appropriate scales. A photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief with selected shots included as an appendix to this report (see Appendix 1).
- 5.3 Each layer, deposit or feature was allocated a unique three digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results (Figure 4)

- 6.1 The majority of the site was covered by a silty clay topsoil 100, with a thickness of up to 0.45m. At the western end of the site the uppermost deposits comprised a modern patio 104 with an underlying bedding layer 105 and a sequence of ground raising dumps, 106 – 109.
- 6.2 Below 100 and appearing across the entire site was 101; a slightly sandy silt layer with a maximum thickness of c.0.7m. This contained inclusions of small stones, modern CBM (ceramic

building material, e.g. brick and tile) and 20th century pottery sherds, all probably debris from former building works and localised rubbish dumping.

- 6.3 Layer 101 was cut by a series of pits containing recent animal burials. These burials included a horse as well as a number of dog burials, these being the remains of the pets of the current owner's father. A cat burial was also identified and this was the remains of the current owner's pet.
- 6.4 101 sealed an undated slightly clayey sandy silt, 102, with a maximum thickness of 0.6m. This is likely to represent alluvial material deposited during flooding from the Trent. Towards the west side of the site the two layers 101 and 102 were separated by a thin lens of black silty clay 108 with small fired clay inclusions, probably representing a spread of hearth waste of unknown date.
- 6.5 Layer 101 and 102 were also cut by a large steep sided pit, [112], observed in the north facing section of the site. It contained an undated primary dumped deposit of black clayey silt, 103, with frequent fired clay flecks, interpreted as a dump of domestic hearth waste. It was sealed by a brown/grey silty clay backfill, 111, very similar in composition to layer 101.
- 6.6 At the base of the sequence and sealed by layer 102 was a natural deposit of brown clay, 110.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The watching brief revealed few features and deposits of archaeological interest, largely representing activities related to the adjacent house and farm. These comprised a number of recent animal burials as well as a large pit containing a dump of probable domestic hearth waste. Although undated the feature was cut through layer 101 which contained a mixed assemblage of 20th century pottery and CBM, and is therefore likely to be of recent date. This layer itself is likely to represent a deposit that has accumulated gradually through the dumping of rubbish and soil associated with building work in the vicinity and general farmyard activities.
- 7.2 Below layer 101 was an alluvial deposit, 102, which is likely to represent the deposition of material through flooding that formed the raised levee upon which the village formed.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The watching brief was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has shown that the groundworks have had a negligible impact on the limited archaeological resource on the site and that no human remains are present on the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr David Moore for this commission, and for the cooperation of the groundworkers during the fieldwork. Mr Malcolm Biltcliffe is also thanked for his help throughout the scheme.

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot of excavated area, looking north-west



Plate 2: West facing representative section, 4.1 – 4.2, looking east. Scales are 1m



Plate 3: North facing representative section, 4.3 – 4.4, looking south. Scales are 1m

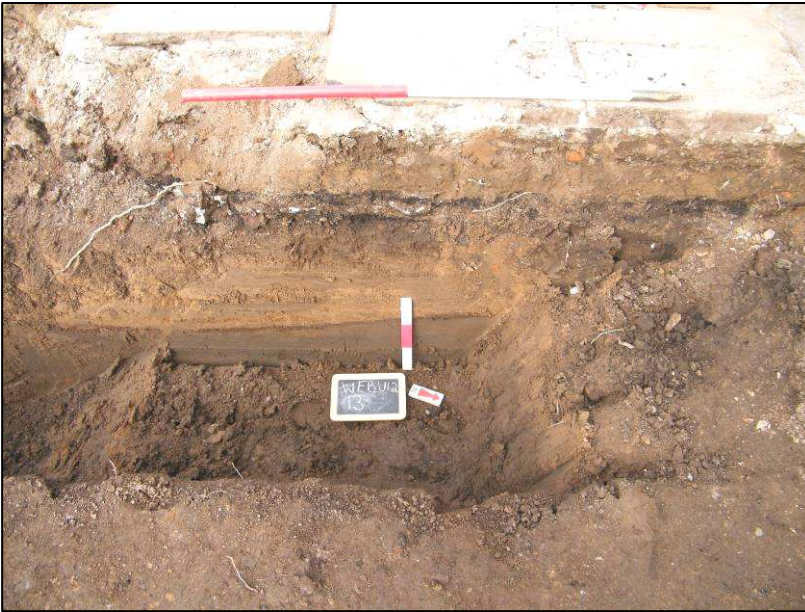


Plate 4: East facing representative section, 4.5-4.6, looking west. Horizontal scale is 1m and vertical scale is 0.3m



Plate 5: East facing representative section, 4.7 – 4.8, looking south-south-west. Scales are 1m

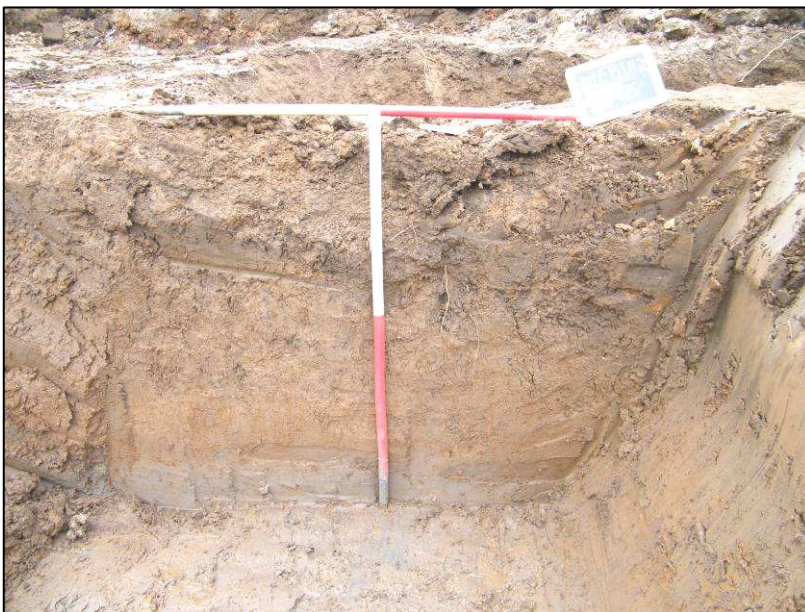


Plate 6: East facing representative section, 4.9 – 4.10, looking west. Scales are 1m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Compact dark brown silty clay with occasional building rubble/pottery sherds and rare charcoal. Seals 101	Topsoil/garden soil
101	Layer	Compact mid brown slightly sandy silty clay with occasional stones, pottery sherds and CBM. Sealed by 100, seals 102	Dump/levelling layer
102	Layer	Compact light/mid brown sandy silty clay. Seals 110	Alluvial deposit
103	Fill	Compact black clayey silt with frequent fired clay fragments. Sealed by 111	Primary dumped deposit in pit [112]
104	Layer	Concrete tiles. Seals 105	Patio for existing dwelling
105	Layer	Moderately compact light/mid brown/yellow sandy silt with some brick inclusions. Sealed by 104, seals 106	Levelling layer for patio 104
106	Layer	Compact mid brown clay with some brick and charcoal inclusions. Sealed by 105, seals 107	Dumped deposit/ levelling layer
107	Layer	Moderately compact black silty charcoal layer with brick and stone inclusions. Sealed by 106, seals 109	Dumped deposit
108	Layer	Moderately compact black silty clay with small fired clay inclusions. Sealed by 101, seals 102	Lens of burnt material, spread of domestic rubbish
109	Layer	Moderately compact grey/mid brown silty clay with some brick and charcoal inclusions. Seals 101, sealed by 107	Dumped deposit
110	Layer	Compact mid brown clay. Sealed by 102	Natural clay
111	Fill	Mottled brown/grey silty clay. Rare fired clay flecks. Seals 103, sealed by 100	Secondary backfill of pit [112]
112	Cut	Steep sided cut with irregular concave base. Contains 103, 111, cuts 101	Pit cut

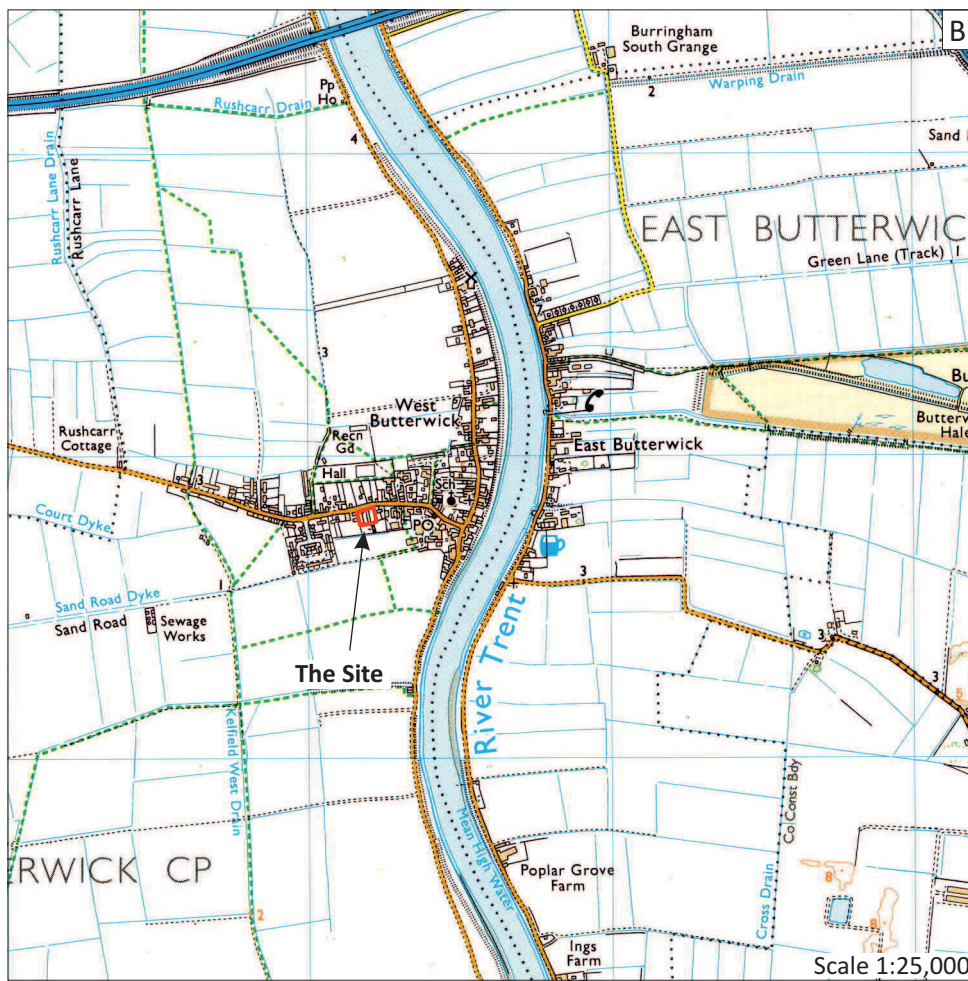
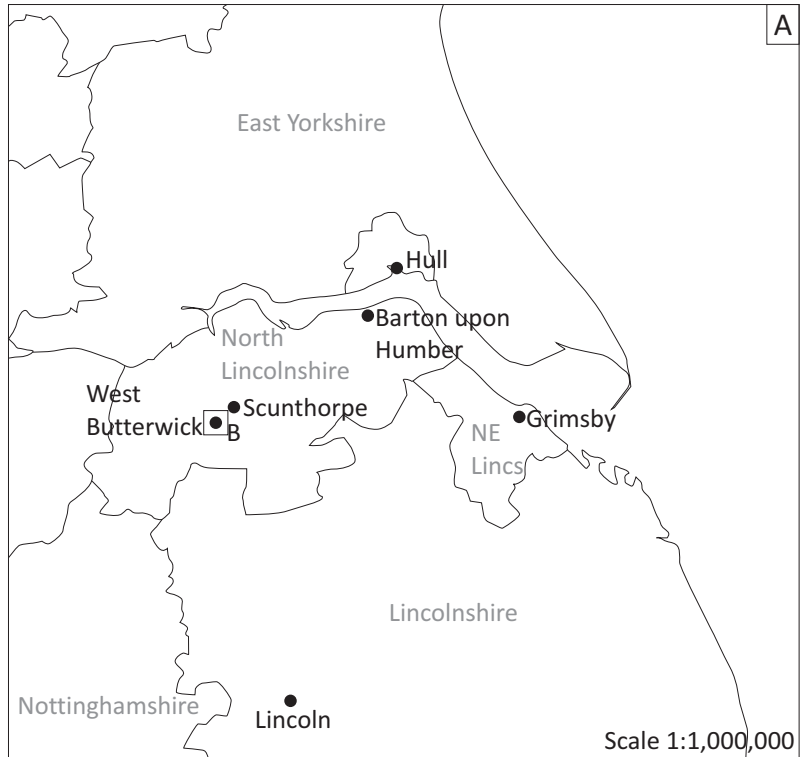
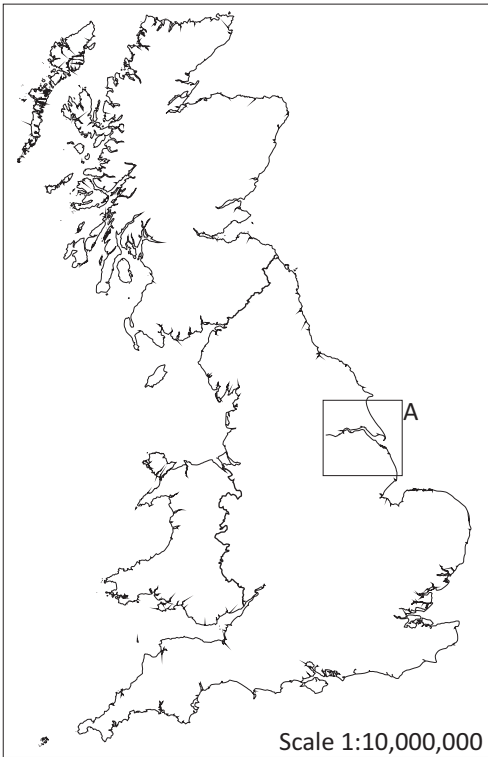
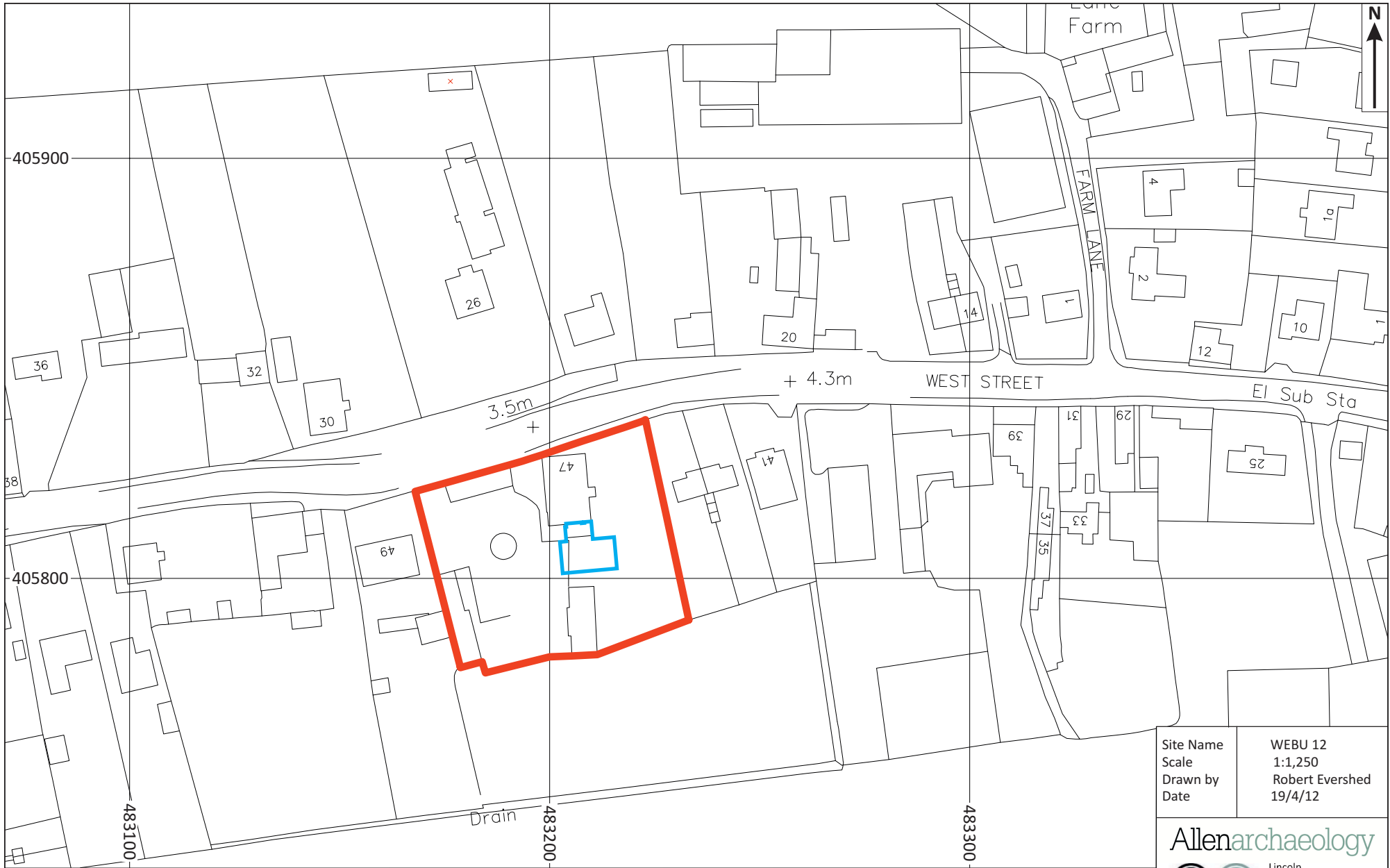


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red
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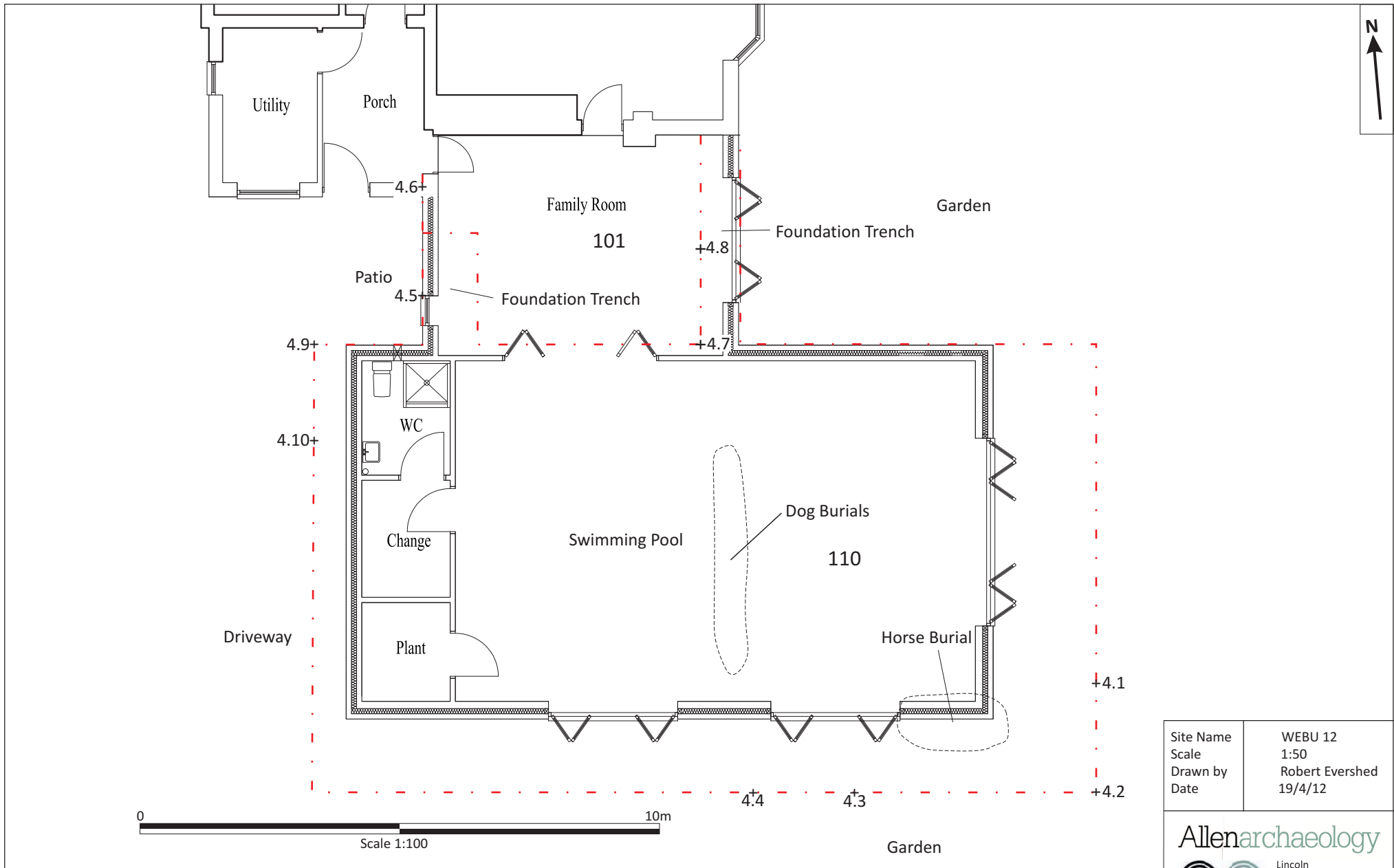
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Scale	1:1,250
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	19/4/12

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Figure 2: Site location plan at scale 1:1,250 with the site outlined in red and the new building in blue



Site Name	WEBU 12
Scale	1:50
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	19/4/12

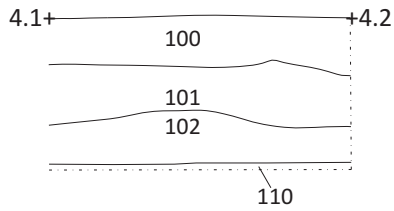
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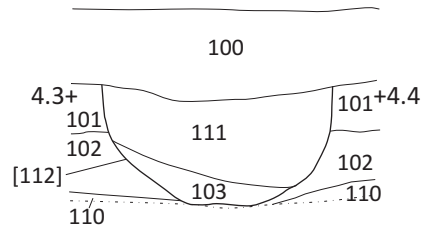
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Figure 3: Site location plan at scale 1:100, showing the excavated area in red superimposed over the new building

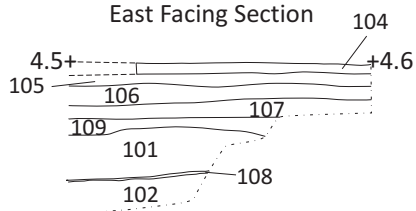
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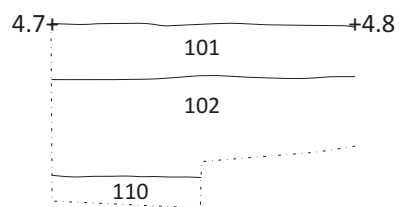
North Facing Section



East Facing Section



East Facing Section



East Facing Section

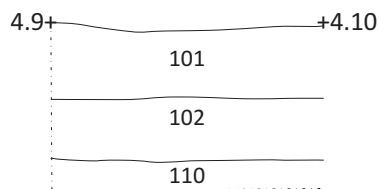


Figure 4: Sections at scale 1:50. Located on Figure 3

Site Name	WEBU 12
Scale	1:50
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
Date	19/4/12

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Allen Archaeology Limited
Website: www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln
Unit 1C
Branston Business Park
Lincoln Road
Branston
Lincolnshire LN4 1NT

Birmingham
Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG

Cambridge
Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
CB1 1BH

Southampton
International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 794400
Email: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
Email: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
Email: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
Email: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk