

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:  
THE CROFT, HARDWICK PARK, DERBYSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 12/0073/FUL  
NGR: SK 4588 6333  
AAL Site Code: HAPC 13  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-144945



Report prepared for the National Trust

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2013024

March 2013



Allenarchaeology



## Contents

Executive Summary	1
<b>1.0</b> Introduction	2
<b>2.0</b> Site Location and Description	2
<b>3.0</b> Planning Background	2
<b>4.0</b> Archaeological and Historical Background	2
<b>5.0</b> Methodology	3
<b>6.0</b> Results	3
<b>7.0</b> Conclusions	4
<b>8.0</b> Effectiveness of Methodology	4
<b>9.0</b> Acknowledgements	4
<b>10.0</b> References	4
<b>List of Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1: Colour Plates	5
Appendix 2: Context Summary List	6

### List of Figures

**Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red

**Figure 2:** Site location plan, with development area in red and new extension shaded green

**Figure 3:** Plan of groundworks and representative section A-B

### List of Plates

**Plate 1:** General site shot, looking north

**Plate 2:** Northwest facing representative section (Figure 3). Scales are both 1m.

**Plate 3:** Excavation of foundation trenches, showing the modern sewer pipe (Figure 3). Looking southeast.

### Document Control

Element	Name	Date
Report prepared by:	Mike Wood BA (Hons) MLitt MIfA	18/03/2013
Illustrations prepared by:	Mike Wood BA (Hons) MLitt MIfA	18/03/2013
Report edited by:	Chris Clay MA (Hons)	19/03/2013
Report Reviewed by:	Rachael Hall (National Trust)	22/03/2013
Report produced by:	AAL 2013024	22/03/2013

Allen Archaeology reports are printed double sided on 100% recycled paper to reduce our carbon footprint

## Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of buildings at The Croft in Hardwick Park in Derbyshire.
- The Croft is located at the southern entrance to Hardwick Park and lies directly west of Hardwick Inn, a Grade II listed building, which retains much of its 17<sup>th</sup> century historic fabric. No previous archaeological interventions are known from The Croft; however, find spots of worked flint and Romano-British pottery are known from the wider area.
- The watching brief uncovered no artefacts, features or deposits of archaeological significance. The groundworks exposed a modern concrete encased sewer pipe and made ground probably representing previous clearance work.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the redevelopment of The Croft buildings from Base Camp accommodation to offices.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (IfA 1994, revised 2008) as well as a specification prepared by the National Trust (Hall 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed.
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be deposited with The National Trust as part of the Hardwick Hall Archive within six months of the submission of this report for long-term curation.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 Hardwick Park lies approximately 11km southeast of Chesterfield and 7km northwest of Mansfield in the parish of Ault Hucknall in Derbyshire. The Croft lies directly west of Hardwick Inn and is bounded to the southwest by the River Doe Lea. The central National Grid Reference of the development area is SK 4588 6333, and the site was formerly a small extension, demolished prior to the commencement of this watching brief. The site lies at approximately 110m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology consists of Lower Magnesian Limestone deposits of the Hardwick-Pleasley Plateau. This is overlain by superficial geology of clay, silt and gravel alluvium ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google.html)).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted for the redevelopment of buildings at The Croft, converting Base Camp accommodation to offices (Planning Application Reference 12/00073/FUL). The application was granted by Bolsover and Ashfield District Council, subject to conditions, including the requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). Subsequently, a written scheme of investigation was produced by the East Midlands Archaeologist for the National Trust and approved by Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council.

## **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity near The Croft. However, a programme of fieldwalking within 1km to the east did produce a range of flint tools and debitage ranging from Palaeolithic to Bronze Age in date. Fieldwalking also produced sherds of Romano-British pottery suggesting at least limited activity in the area (Hall 2012).

- 4.2 At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD, the parish of Ault Hucknall was divided into three estates comprising: Hardstoft, Rowthorpe and Stainsby. The lands passed from Stenulf to Roger de Poitou after the conquest (Chris Burnett Associates 1997 and Williams and Martin 2002). Roger de Poitou's land also included Blingsby Gate, approximately 1km to the northeast of Hardwick Hall, where earthworks of a deserted medieval village have been identified (Smith and Beamish 1985).
- 4.3 Hardwick does not appear in the Domesday Book, with the manor first mentioned in 1203, when it was granted by King John to Andrew de Beauchamp. The manor passed to the Hardwick family in 1330 (Smith and Beamish 1985), with the place name deriving from the Old English *heorde-wic*, meaning sheep farm (Cameron 1959).
- 4.4 A hall existed at Hardwick since at least 1527, with parts of this structure incorporated into Hardwick Old Hall, built between 1578 and 1590 (Smith and Beamish 1985). This structure was left unfinished and the New Hall built between 1590 and 1594, surrounded by parkland grazed by deer and cattle.
- 4.5 The Croft lies at the southern entrance to the Hardwick Hall grounds, adjacent to Hardwick Inn, a Grade II listed building built of locally quarried stone in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which has retained much of the historic fabric from this period in its current state.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Robert Evershed and Edward Oakley of Allen Archaeology Limited on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundworks entailed removal of overburden over the entire site and excavation of a foundation trench (Figure 3). All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Sections recorded were marked with string and nails and allocated an individual drawing number. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced. All sections were drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 5.3 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique three digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.
- 5.4 All archaeological deposits and features were recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, and appropriate metric scale. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 A 0.6m thick layer of dark grey made ground 100 was present across the site, which contained occasional fragments of modern drainage pipe. Below the made ground was a layer of natural mid brown clay, 101 (Figure 3).

- 6.2 A modern sewer pipe encased in concrete was revealed during excavation of the foundations. This pipe transects the south-eastern foundation trench and required an onsite adjustment of the trench position to avoid damaging the pipe (Figure 3). No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the groundworks.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The excavation uncovered no artefacts, features or deposits of archaeological significance. The presence of a thick layer of built up made ground with limited modern material suggests the site may have been subject to clearance in the past and levelled back up to the modern ground surface.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that the watching brief has had a negligible impact on the local archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank the National Trust for this commission and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

## **10.0 References**

Cameron, K., 1959, *The Place names of Derbyshire*, English Place-Name Society, vol. XXVIII

Chris Burnett Associates, 1997, *Hardwick Park. The History of Hardwick Park and outline restoration strategy*.

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

Hall, R, 2012, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological and Historic Buildings Monitoring during redevelopment work at The Croft, Hardwick Park, Derbyshire*. National Trust

IfA, 2008, *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Smith, L. and Beamish, H., 1985, *The National Trust Archaeological Survey: Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, East Midlands*, The National Trust

Williams A. and Martin G.H., 1992, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, Alecto Historical Editions, London

**Appendix 1: Colour Plates**



**Plate 1:** General site shot, looking north



**Plate 2:** Northeast facing representative section (Figure 3). Scales are both 1m.

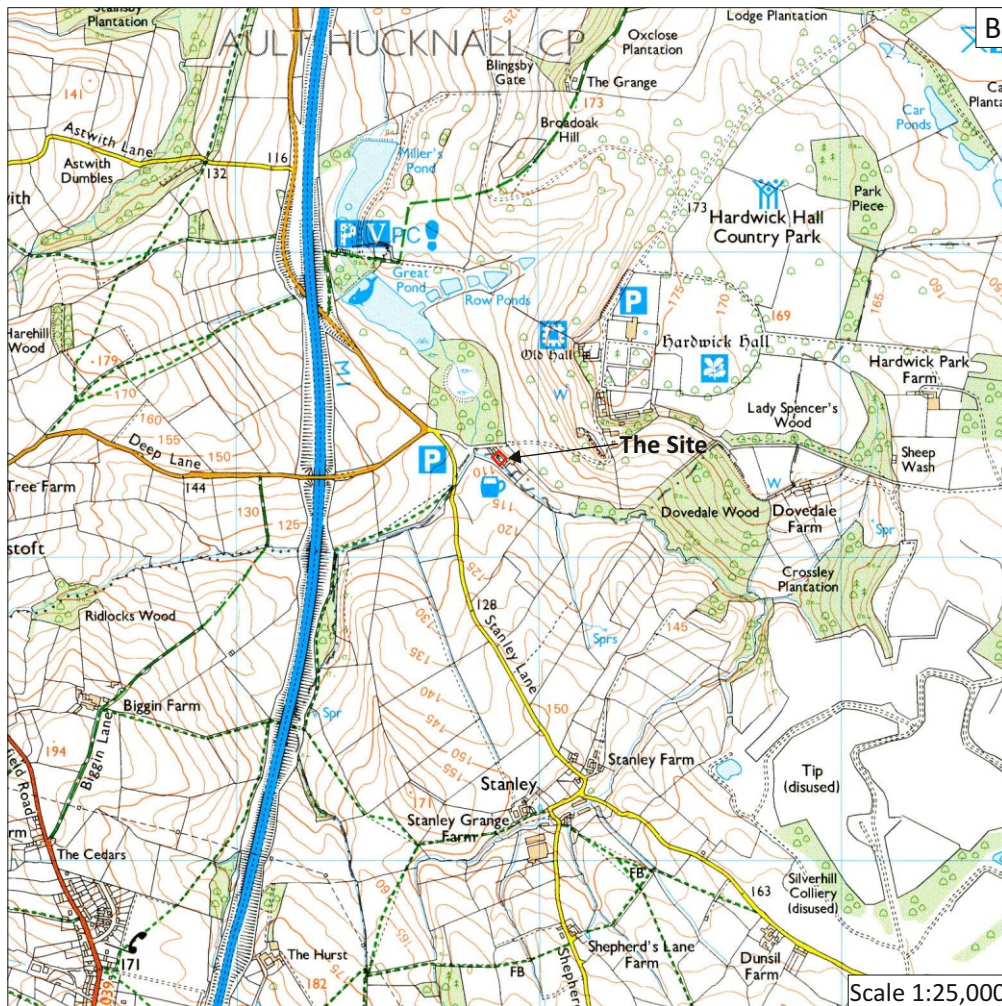
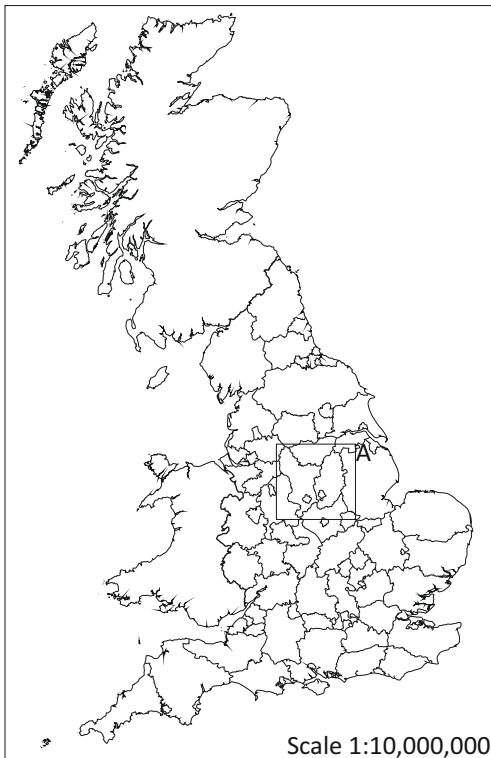


**Plate 3:** Excavation of foundation trenches, showing the modern sewer pipe (Figure 3). Looking southeast.



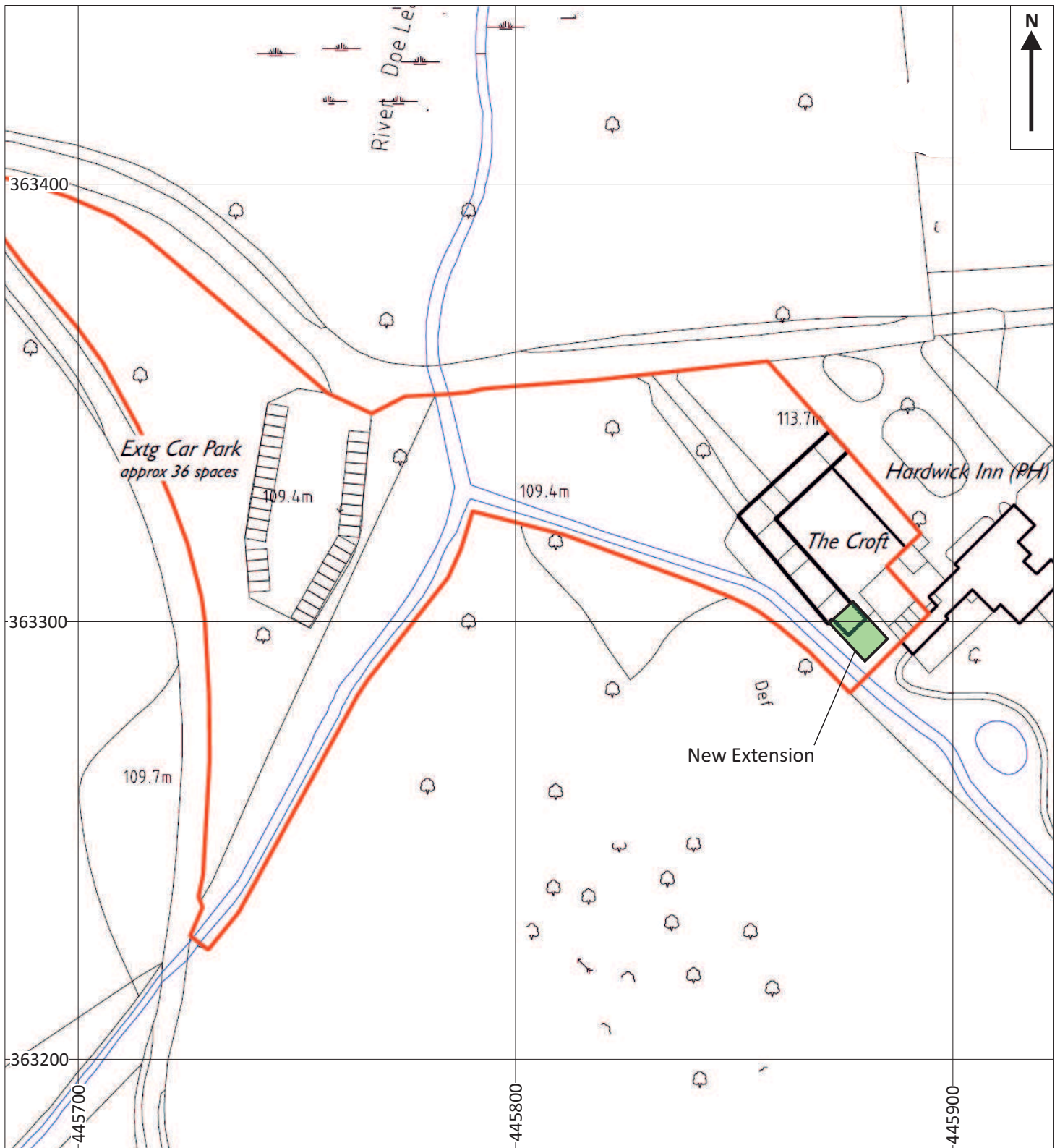
## Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt, 0.6m thick. Seals 101	Made ground
101	Layer	Firm mid brown clay. Sealed by 100	Natural geology



**Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red  
 © Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

Site Code	HAPC 13	 Lincoln Birmingham Cambridge Southampton <a href="http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk">www.allenarchaeology.co.uk</a>
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4	
Drawn by	M Wood	
Date	18/03/13	



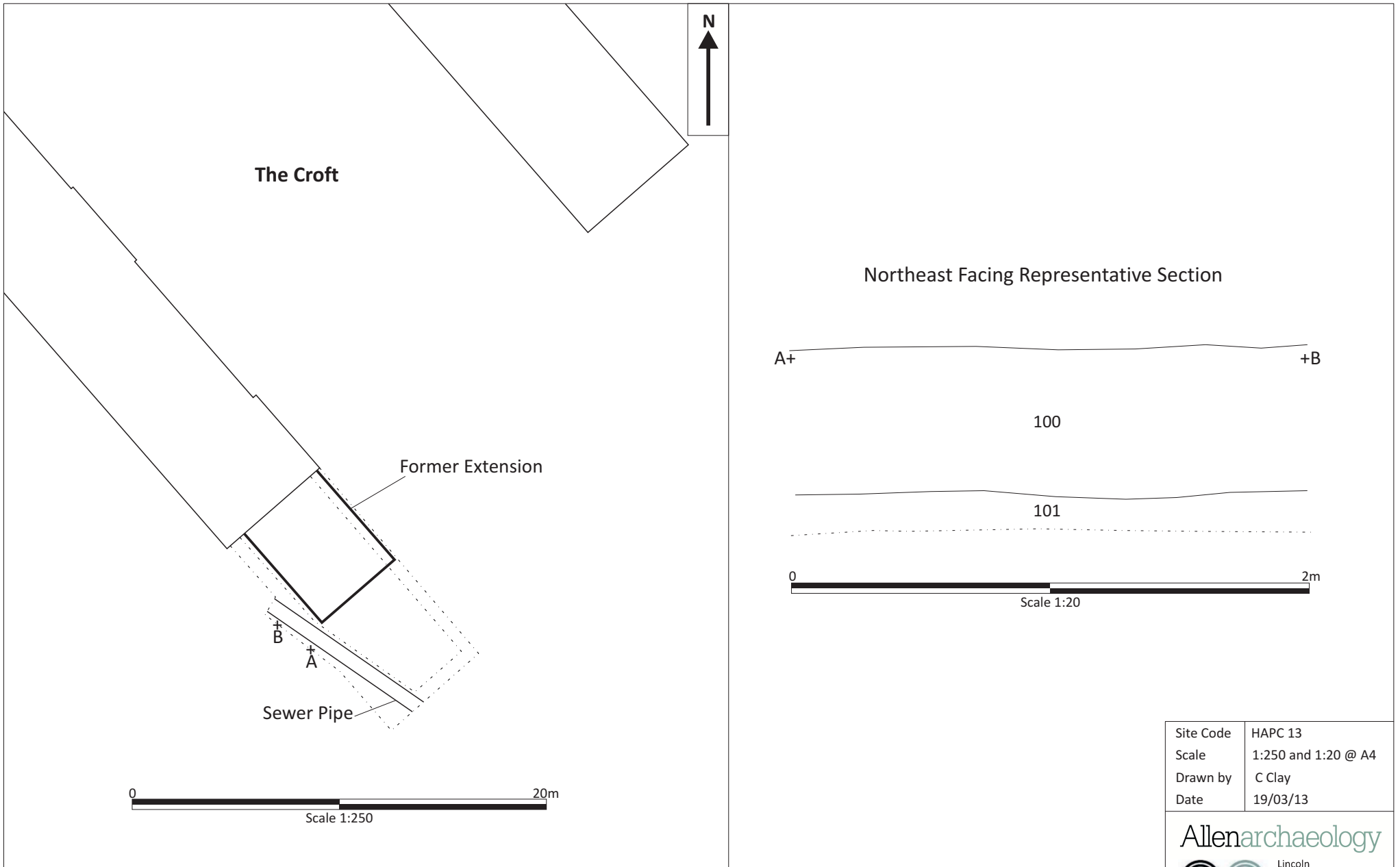
**Figure 2:** Site location plan, with development area in red and new extension shaded green

Site Code	HAPC 13
Scale	1:1250 @ A4
Drawn by	C Clay
Date	19/03/13

Allenarchaeology



www.allenarchaeology.co.uk



**Figure 3:** Plan of groundworks and representative section A-B

Site Code	HAPC 13
Scale	1:250 and 1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	C Clay
Date	19/03/13

**Allenarchaeology**  
 Lincoln  
 Birmingham  
 Cambridge  
 Southampton  
[www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.allenarchaeology.co.uk)



Allen Archaeology Limited  
Website: [www.allenarchaeology.co.uk](http://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](mailto:info@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

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

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

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