

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
26 WATER LANE, BASSINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 12/0249/FUL
NGR: SK 9106 6022
AAL Site Code: BAWL 12
LCNCC: 2012.172
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-147478



Report prepared for Mr Paul Rea

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2013035

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Allenarchaeology



Contents

Executive Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site Location and Description	2
3.0 Planning Background	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	4
7.0 Conclusions	4
8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology	4
9.0 Acknowledgements	4
10.0 References	5
List of Appendices	
Appendix 1: Colour Plates	6
Appendix 2: Context Summary List	7

List of Figures

- Figure 1:** General location at scale 1:25,000, with the development area in red
Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:250
Figure 3: Plan of foundations and representative section at scale 1:200 and 1:20

List of Plates

- Plate 1:** General site shot, looking northwest
Plate 2: View of excavated footings looking north
Plate 3: Representative section looking north. The scale is 1m.

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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Paul Rea to carry out a programme of monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling on land at 26 Water Lane, Bassingham in Lincolnshire.
- Bassingham has known cultural heritage assets including Roman and Saxon remains. The development site lies just outside of the medieval village core and work at nearby 33 Water Lane found evidence for post-medieval sand and gravel quarrying. As such, the North Kesteven Senior Historic Environment Officer required a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks.
- The watching brief uncovered no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance. A substantial depth of topsoil was noted and several tree stumps within the deposit indicated the possible former use of the site as an orchard.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Paul Rea to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling on land at 26 Water Lane, Bassingham in Lincolnshire.
- 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 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed.
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be deposited with The Collection within twelve months of the submission of this report for long-term curation, where it will be stored under the Accession Number: LCNCC: 2012.172. A copy of the archive listing will also be submitted to the Lincolnshire HER.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Bassingham is located in the administrative district of North Kesteven District Council, approximately 13km southwest of central Lincoln. The proposed development area is situated to the west of the village centre, on the north side of Water Lane and is centred on NGR SK 9106 6022.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises bedrock deposits of Lower Lias clay, shale and rare limestone, overlain by superficial deposits of older river sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 1973).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission was granted by North Kesteven District Council for '*erection of dwelling and re-roofing of outbuildings*' at 26 Water Lane, Bassingham (Planning Application Reference 12/0249/FUL). The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks for the scheme by a suitably competent archaeologist, and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively '*preserving the archaeology by record*'. 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).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity nearby, with small quantities of lithic material recovered from residual contexts during monitoring at Grange Farm, c.200m to the south of the site (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference 65628).

- 4.2 Roman activity is well-represented in the study area, with a series of ditched enclosures recorded at Hall Field, c.200m to the southwest. A number of burials were also recorded on the site (LHER Reference 60576). Further Roman ditches and post holes were recorded a similar distance to the south at Grange Farm (LHER References 65629, 65630).
- 4.3 Anglo-Saxon activity was also recorded at Grange Farm, comprising two ditches and seven post holes containing pottery of 5th to 9th century date (LHER Reference 65631). Several scatters of Anglo-Saxon pottery are recorded around the historic core of the village, further to the south (LHER Reference 60611). The place name is of Old English origin, meaning 'the homestead, the estate of the *Basingas*' (a local tribal grouping) (Cameron 1998).
- 4.4 By the time of the Domesday Book of 1086, Bassingham was a royal estate, and was relatively populous with 44 villagers of varying status (along with their dependents). The estate also included two mills and a church with a priest (Morgan and Thorn 1986).
- 4.5 The historic core of the medieval settlement is to the south of the site, centred around the parish church of St. Michael, which has some 11th and 12th century elements surviving but was extensively rebuilt in 1835 (Pevsner and Harris 2002).
- 4.6 The Hall Field site to the southwest has exposed a number of early medieval field boundaries, replaced in the 13th century by a moated enclosure adjoining the river, with a number of buildings in the interior. The buildings were abandoned in the 15th or 16th century, refurbished in the 17th century and abandoned again in the 18th century and subject to robbing of the building materials (LHER Reference 60578).
- 4.7 Archaeological interventions at 33 Water Lane have recorded evidence for sand and gravel quarrying, with several pits containing pottery of post-medieval and later date (LHER Reference 60787).
- 4.8 A semi-derelict barn and cottage lie within the development area, facing Water Lane. Both are probably 19th century date and appear on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 Groundworks were monitored by Mike Wood of AAL over a single day; Thursday 4th April 2013. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundworks entailed removal of overburden and excavation of foundation trenches. All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.2 Accurate scale drawings (plan and section) were produced (at 1:20 or 1:50) of a 'natural' profile to illustrate the site soil stratigraphy. A base plan was also produced, at an appropriate scale.
- 5.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded photographically, with an identification number board, appropriate scales and a directional arrow. General site shots were also be taken to show the location of the groundworks.
- 5.4 Standard AAL context recording sheets were used to record all context information (e.g. deposits, archaeological features, stratigraphic relationships).

6.0 Results

- 6.1 Dark brown silty topsoil 001 was present across the site to a depth of approximately 0.7m. Evidence of tree root disturbance and occasional rotten tree stumps were noted throughout the topsoil, suggesting this may have been a former orchard. The topsoil is remarkably good quality, indicative of previously cultivated land or former orchard and directly overlies natural deposits.
- 6.2 Occasional bricks were noted in the topsoil towards the western side of the development area, derived from a former brick structure, thought to have been a pig pen. This structure seems to have been formed from unfrogged bricks with lime mortar, based on evidence from bricks stored on site, and does not appear to have had any foundations as none were revealed within the excavated trenches.
- 6.3 The earliest layer revealed was natural sand and gravels 002, representing old river deposits, which are known to overlie the solid geology in this area.
- 6.4 No archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed during groundworks.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Groundworks uncovered no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance. The presence of a probable orchard, and possible previous cultivation, may have removed any more ephemeral archaeological features within the area.
- 7.2 A small brick structure of likely 19th century date has been removed prior to groundworks commencing; however, this structure had no visible foundations and was probably a simple store or animal pen.
- 7.3 Two other probable 19th century buildings remain within the development site, representing a barn and former cottage facing Water Lane. Neither of these structures is intended for development at this time, beyond being re-roofed. At a later stage, the barn will be refurbished as a garage and the cottage re-used as a bike store.

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 groundworks have had a negligible impact on the local archaeological resource.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Paul Rea for this commission and the groundwork team led by Simon Devos of Devos J Ltd for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General site shot, looking northwest



Plate 2: View of excavated footings looking north



Plate 3: Representative section looking north. The scale is 1m.

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer	Friable dark grey brown silt clay with occasional small stones and 19 th -20 th century bricks from recent removal of a pig pen. Topsoil measures, 0.7m thick. Seals 02	Topsoil
002	Layer	Compact yellow brown sandy gravel, 0.2m thick.	Natural sands and gravels

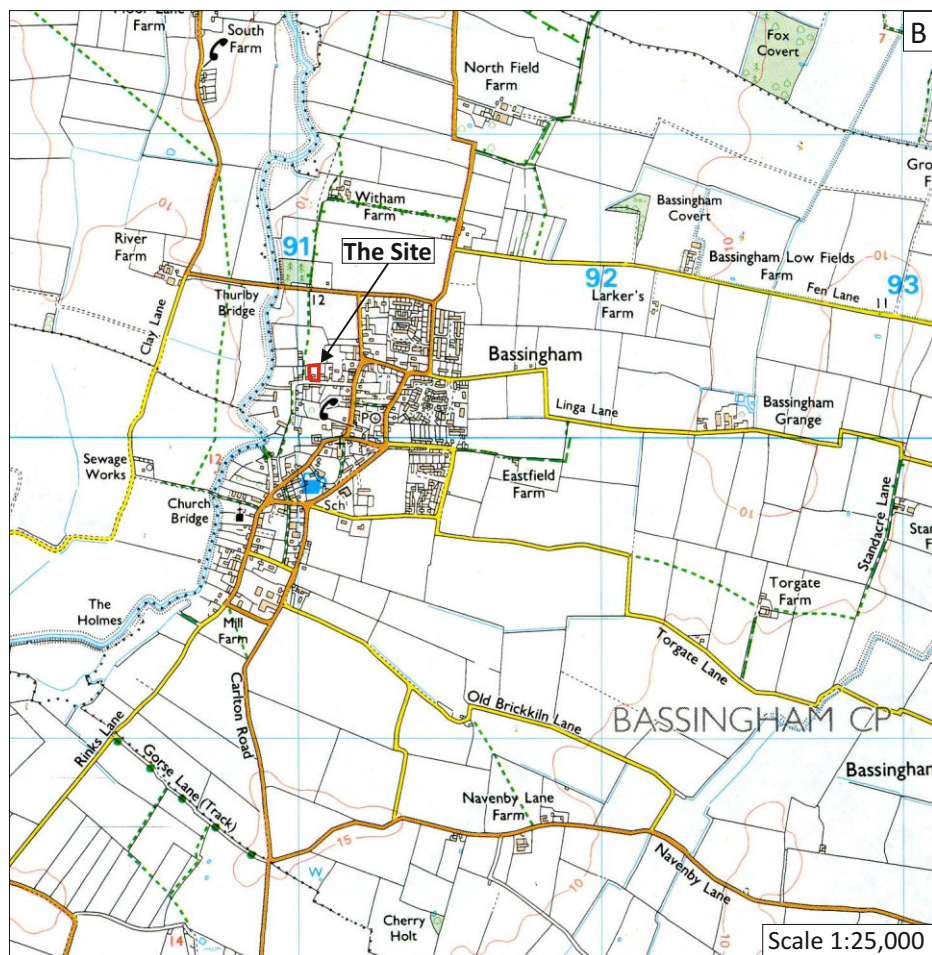
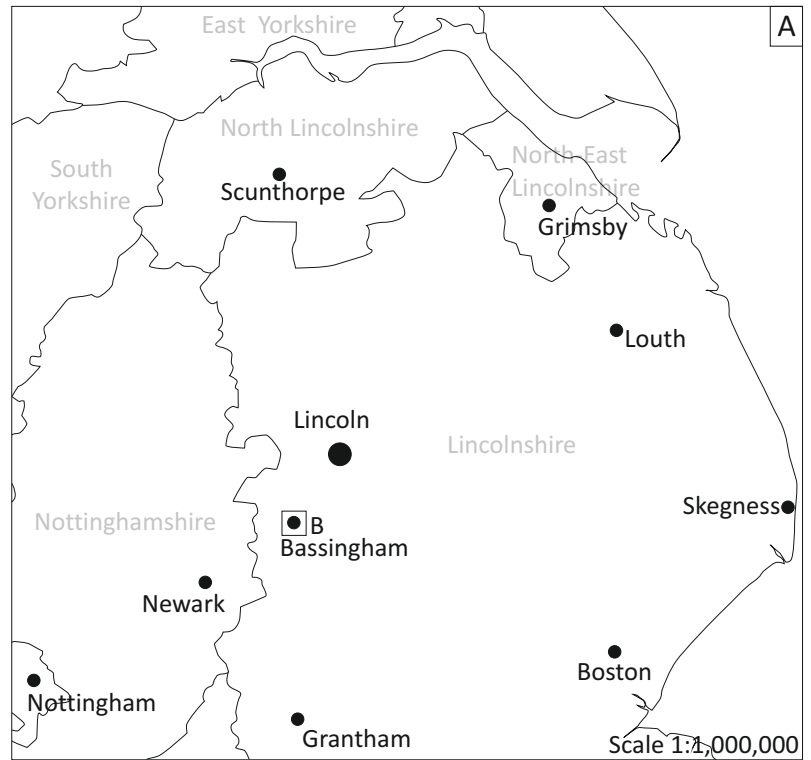
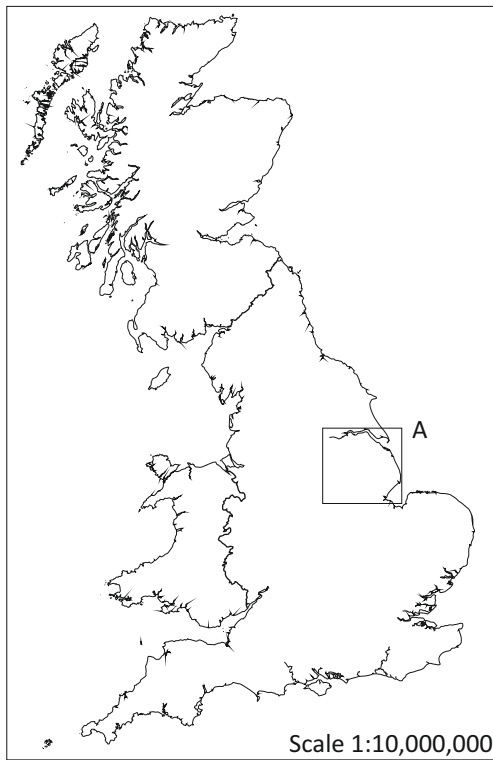


Figure 1: Site location, with the site outlined in red
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Site Code: BAWL 12
Scales: 1:10,000,000
1:1,000,000
1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by: M. Wood
Date: 05/04/13



Figure 2: Site Location

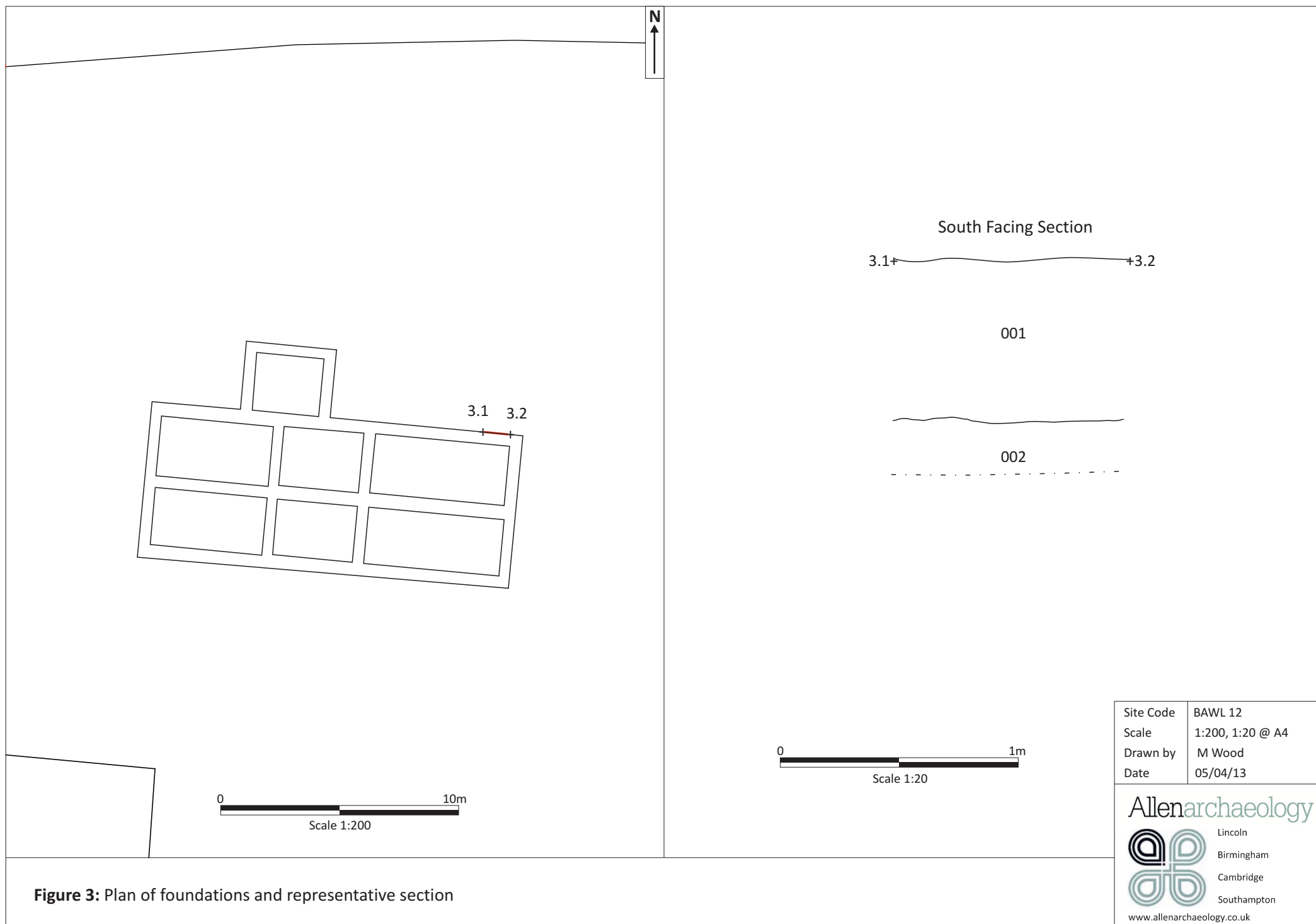



Figure 3: Plan of foundations and representative section

Site Code	BAWL 12
Scale	1:200, 1:20 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	05/04/13



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